# NoE Online Summer School for Disaster Risk Professionals in Africa

## Background

The Africa Network of Centres of Excellence for Disaster Risk Reduction (NoE), launched in March 2023, is a framework for members and institutions to collaboratively develop, deliver and share customized tools, services, products and training for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) to respond to the needs of African institutions whose mandate and focus is DRR, early warning and anticipatory action (AA).

During 2024, two localized trainings were delivered to national stakeholders in Uganda and Mozambique, covering a broad range of topics such as climate forecasting, anticipatory action and indigenous knowledge systems. To broaden the reach of this training effort to the wider network of African DRR practitioners and policy makers, a free of cost online summer will be held in 2025, offering live sessions, online courses, recordings of lectures from the two national trainings, and online exchange among participants.

## Objectives

This online summer school aims to:

- Capacity Building: Strengthen national and regional capacities with advanced knowledge and practical skills in disaster risk reduction
- Knowledge Exchange: Facilitate cross-country learning and collaboration among African disaster risk professionals, researchers and policy makers
- Technology Integration: Promote the use of digital tools, remote sensing, early warning systems and data analytics in disaster risk management
- Policy and Practice Linkages: Strengthen the connection between scientific research, community-based practices and policy making in disaster risk reduction
- Indigenous Knowledge and Inclusion: Encourage inclusive participation by promoting the role of youth and women as well as integrating indigenous knowledge

## Outcomes

The programme is expected to have the following outcomes:

- Enhanced Professional Competence: Improved understanding and ability to apply principles of disaster risk reduction
- Actionable Projects: Development of context-specific projects or action plans to be implemented in participants' countries or institutions
- Community: Establishment of a pan-African Community of Practice of disaster risk professionals for ongoing collaboration, mentorship and knowledge exchange
- Digital Learning Package: Access to a curated repository of learning materials for continued professional development
- Certification: Certificate of completion for qualifying participants



### Programme

The online summer school will take place from June 23<sup>rd</sup> to July 9<sup>th</sup>.

Date	Time (CAT)	Description
Mon	15:00-16:00	Opening workshop
23/6		Keynote speech
		Introductions
		Presentation of the programme and
		learning platform
		Questions and answers
Tue 24/6	All day	Self-study: Course 1
		Watch online course
		Engage in online discussion
		Prepare presentation for share fair
	15:00-16:00	Expert session: Course 1
		<ul> <li>Involving additional experts and partners</li> </ul>
		• Direct experiences, case studies, etc.
Wed	All day	Self-study
25/6	15:00-16:00	Expert session
Thu 26/6	All day	Self-study
	15:00-16:00	Expert session
Fri 27/6	All day	Self-study
	15:00-16:00	Expert session
Mon	All day	Self-study
30/6	15:00-16:00	Midterm workshop
-		Questions and answers
Tue 1/7	All day	Self-study
	15:00-16:00	Expert session
Wed 2/7	All day	Self-study
-	15:00-16:00	Expert session
Thu 3/7	All day	Self-study
	15:00-16:00	Expert session
Fri 4/7	All day	Self-study
		Prepare presentation
Mon 7/7	10:00-12:00	Share fair presentations
	14:00-16:00	Share fair presentations
Tue 8/7		
Wed 9/7	15:00-16:00	Closing
		Closing remarks
		Certification
		Evaluation













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## **Online Courses**

The following online courses are available:

## Observing and forecasting seasonal and weather-related climate extremes, and developing triggers for anticipatory action

The implementation of effective disaster preparedness, early warning systems, and anticipatory action (AA) policies relies on a good understanding of climate hazards and the availability of reliable climate and weather data.

This first course will therefore introduce you to seasonal climate and weather forecasting and related concepts that underpin the development and use of AA trigger models for climate-related hazards.

#### Anticipatory action

With the help of forecasts and suitable trigger models, we can anticipate disasters and take action before they happen, which will prevent or reduce humanitarian impacts and economic costs.

The course will equip you with concepts and skills to shift from ex-post response to ad-hoc anticipation of climate-related hazards.

#### Cross-cutting aspects of disaster risk reduction

Disasters and disaster impacts are caused by the complex interaction of natural and manmade factors, including socio-economic systems. Disaster risk management principles and practices need to take these diverse factors into account.

This course will introduce and discuss four important aspects that should be considered in the planning and implementation of strategies for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and management (DRM):

- 1. Economics for disaster prevention and preparedness
- 2. Social inclusion in DRM: gender dimension as part of the policy imperative in contingency planning
- 3. Nature-based solutions in DRR and DRM
- 4. Geospatial technologies in support of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and emergency response preparedness (ERP)

## Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in Inclusive and Holistic Gender-Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strategies

For centuries, local communities have had their own systems of anticipating weather and climate hazards. Integrating indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) into DRR strategies ensures inclusion, participation, and enhanced efficiency and trust.

This course will provide you with an understanding of the nature and relevance of indigenous knowledge as a knowledge system in promoting inclusive and holistic gender-responsive disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies, including:

- Nature, characteristics and significance of indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) in sustainable community livelihood and development
- A comparative understanding of the cultural and place/local community-based nature of early warning systems and anticipatory action in weather and climate driven hazards (e.g. floods, droughts, etc.) and related comparative impacts in global regions



## Network of Centres of Excellence for Disaster Risk Reduction (NoE)

• Comparative cultural and place-based case studies of integrating inclusive, holistic, and gender-responsive local/indigenous knowledge approaches into anticipatory action measures

#### Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) for Africa

**Module 1: Introduction to African Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (AMHEWS)** Goal: Understand the concepts and components of Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment

#### Module 2: Early Warning Systems and Technologies

Goal: Explore the tools and approaches of MHEWS

#### Module 3: Policy Development, Resources Mobilization, and Sustainability

Goal: Foster and strengthen Policy Development, Resources Mobilization, and Sustainability in EWS

#### Tools and Methods of Generating Multi-Hazard Risk Information

**Module 1: Crowdsourcing and management of climate risk data** Goal: Enhance the speed, accuracy, and effectiveness of data collection, hazard detection, warning dissemination, and anticipatory actions

## **Module 2: Data Analysis tools for building Multi-hazard Risk Information** Goal: Improve skills in the use of one or several tools to generate multi-hazard risk information

#### Impact-based multi-hazard forecasting and warning services

#### Module 1: Impact-based multi-hazard forecasting (IbF)

Goal: Provide more actionable and targeted information to support decision-making by various stakeholders, including governments, emergency management agencies, and the public.

#### Module 2: Disaster Risk Financing of Weather-Related Multi-Hazards in Africa

Goal: Create Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) strategies and forecast-based financing (FbF) applications



### Quizzes

Following each course, participants take a short quiz (e.g. multiple choice, drag and drop) to test their understanding of the topic and increase knowledge retention.

## **Online Forum Discussion**

In addition to the courses, the forum discussions provide an opportunity for participants to engage in knowledge exchange by responding to questions such as:

- Present the current state of disaster risk management in your country.
- What have you learned from the online lectures that could improve preparedness in your country?

## Expert Exchange

For each of the online courses, there is an online session (1 hour) with the experts where participants can ask questions and discuss the topic in more depth.

## Share Fair – Learning by Sharing

The share fair allows participants to present specific initiatives or actions that can serve as examples and best practices for others. During the summer school, participants will work individually or in groups to choose a case study or programme from their country and prepare a presentation. At the end of the summer school, they will give a short presentation (3-5 minutes) on their example.

## Certification

Participants will receive a digital certificate based on the following criteria:

- Attend the opening, midterm and closing workshops
- Complete at least three online courses and attend the corresponding expert sessions
- Contribute to the online discussion
- Present at the share fair

