

## Application of disaster loss data in support of early warning and early action in African countries

(Implementation period of the current activities: December 2021 – March 2022)

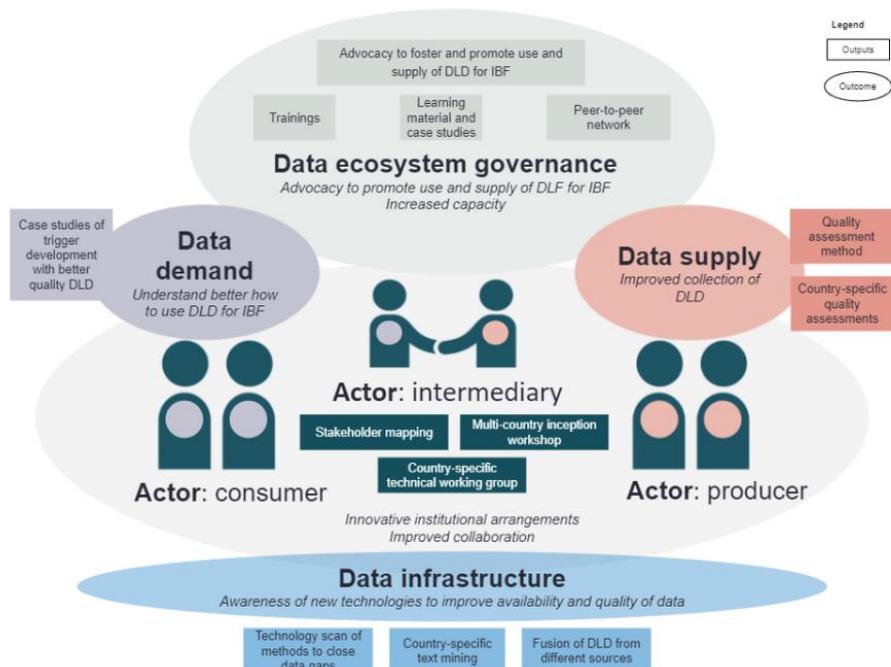
### Background

UNDRR supports Member States and DRR stakeholders at building Disaster Risk Reduction capacities in Africa, including for application of data to support Early Warning and Early Action (EWEA). Impact-based forecasting (IBF) is an essential component of an EWEA system. IBF provides a forecast of the potential consequences of a hydrometeorological event, in terms of its effects on people, agriculture, livestock, infrastructure, etc. Structured disaster loss data, *i.e.*, data on the impact of past disasters caused by natural hazards, are of paramount importance for IBF. The disaster loss data is used to calibrate and validate trigger models.

UNDRR focuses on the strengthening of continental, regional and national capacities for the collection and use of disaster loss data to inform the definition of thresholds and decision-making processes at the level of the African Union Commission (AUC), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and in national situation/operation rooms. In line with this effort, UNDRR initiated DesInventar, a global initiative to build national disaster loss databases based on open-source software. Through DesInventar, national authorities and stakeholders are supported to collect quality data on direct disaster impacts, analyse the data and use the resulting information in support of decision making. Although DesInventar is already in use by 25 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, there is a need for practical use cases on how to use loss data in the support of disaster preparedness and EWEA. The following project therefore aims to address this need in a selection of African countries.

### Project description

This project seeks to support DRR stakeholders in Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique and UR Tanzania, to increase the collection and application of disaster loss data and of risk information in the context of EWEA. This requires a well-functioning data-ecosystem, where data supply and demand of impact data are balanced among the different actors involved, with adequate governance mechanisms and data infrastructure.



Outcomes and outputs of the proposal in a data ecosystem framework with five dimensions actors, data supply, data infrastructure, data demand and data ecosystem governance. DLD = disaster loss data

This project includes a range of activities and outputs linked to the different aspect of the disaster loss data-ecosystem to improve the applicability of EWEA in the four countries.

Several multi-country and country-specific workshops will be organised; these are meant to scope the project, to map out key stakeholders per country and the current state of disaster loss data demand and supply and to provide a space for exchange and peer-to-learning. This input will be used to inventory and develop capacity building tools and materials to help stakeholders quickly identify and close gaps in their datasets. This work will be put into practice in greater depth during country workshops in collaboration with the national DRR authorities and stakeholders, to help them assess the quality of their own disaster data, compare different methods to fill the gaps (such as text mining), and explore potential applications of the data for trigger development. The lessons and recommendations developed through the county-level case studies will be translated into a tailored policy brief, targeting government stakeholders in charge of the management of nationally owned loss databases.

### **Stakeholders**

Targeted stakeholders to participate in this project are national disaster risk management authorities, DRR stakeholders, Early Warning officers, disaster loss data officers, data officers and technical staff at sectoral ministries.

### **Expected outputs and deliverables**

The following outputs and deliverables will be developed

- Multi-country Inception workshop
- Multi-country training and capacity building workshop including on application of loss data for EWEA
- Development of method for assessing disaster loss data quality and gaps
- Country-specific case studies about data quality and gaps
- In-depth country-specific workshops on loss data quality and application of loss data for EWEA
- Policy brief

### **Partners and Contact**

UNDRR's technical partner in this project is 510 - An initiative of the Netherlands Red Cross, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Anticipation Hub – German Red Cross.

For more information and questions about this project, please contact Katarina Mouakkid Soltesova ([katarina.mouakkidsoltesova@un.org](mailto:katarina.mouakkidsoltesova@un.org)) or Marc van den Homberg ([mvandenhomberg@redcross.nl](mailto:mvandenhomberg@redcross.nl)).