



European  
Commission

# REDUCING CLIMATE DISASTERS

EU GCCA+ The Alliance for a changing world

#GCCAPlus #EUClimateAction #EUGreenDeal

2021

## KEY ISSUES

Climate change is a **major risk factor for natural hazards** as it accelerates sea level rise, causing coastal erosion, flooding, and population displacement; extreme weather events (droughts, floods, cyclones, and ecosystem destabilisation, notably for forests and land degradation.

**Disasters are becoming more frequent.** Globally, the UN office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) counts there were around **6,700** climate-related disasters in the time-period **2000-2019** compared to 3,600 climate-related disasters compared to the time-frame 1980-1999. About 90% of all disasters in the last 20 years were caused by floods, storms, droughts, heatwaves and other **extreme weather events** causing over five million extra deaths a year.

When disaster strikes, women suffer more because of their relative lack of control over farmlands and food sources. The concern for **better disaster risk management** is often reflected in international agreements and even in local legislation. Yet, it also often lacks national budgets and planned practical action.

## EU GCCA+ ACTIONS

EU GCCA+ implements Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) related actions in **53 countries**, representing 34% of the programme's portfolio.

EU GCCA+ actions include the **construction and rehabilitation of protective infrastructure** such as drainage systems, stabilisation systems, coastal protection structures, erosion control works, shelters or cyclone resilient buildings, as well as **nature-based solutions** like the conservation and restoration of protective vegetation (mangroves, riverine forests, mountain forest).

Some EU GCCA+ programmes **support institutions** through capacity building and trainings, and through the development of **policies and regulations**, other produce **knowledge building and research** (climate data, climate modelling, forecasting mechanisms, risk and vulnerability assessments).

Other actions are **early warning systems**, response mechanisms to flooding, cyclones, storm surges, forest fires, drought and famine, as well as the **development of social protection systems** like insurances, or emergency funds.



## Protecting paradise in the Dominican Republic

In Miches, on the northern coast of the Dominican Republic the sun-drenched, pure white sandy beaches are nearly empty. Despite the island staying open for visitors, Covid-19 has taken its toll on the tourism industry. However, it's not the pandemic which worries Yonattan Mercado. He's more concerned about the impacts of climate change and unsustainable development, and in particular the devastating hurricanes, which increasingly batter the coastline. The EU GCCA+ programme aims to enhance the resilience of Miches and the surrounding area of El Seibo to climate change and natural disasters. After an initial pilot, the five-year, five million-euro programme will be rolled out across the country. See the full story on [gcca.eu/stories](https://gcca.eu/stories)

The province of El Seibo is affected by storms, increased sea level, floods and other extreme climate events. The Yeguada river mouth is prone to flooding and has negative impacts on community housing and local fishermen for small-scale fishery as their main livelihood.

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# THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

## EU commitment for DRR

The most cost-effective forms of DRR investment tend to be non-structural approaches, such as land use planning, water and weather information, warning systems, and household-level change.

Since 2015, the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction** is the main international reference to prevent and reduce disaster risks. It calls for action in economic, social, and environmental policy areas.

The **EU Action Plan on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030** proposes a disaster risk-informed approach for all EU policies. It directly addresses various policy areas, including **civil protection, humanitarian aid, climate, development, research, health.**



## International Developments

The **Common Ground Between the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework** (OECD-DAC) underlines the increased coherence between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

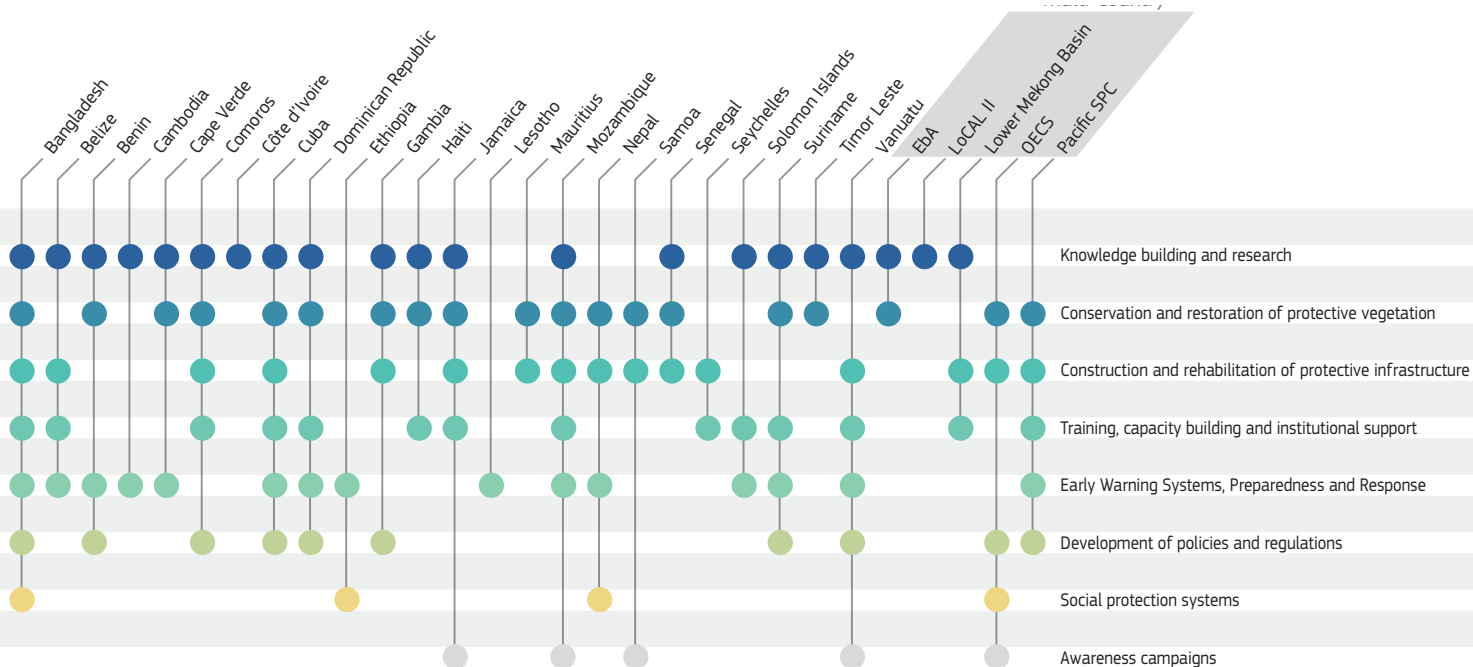
The **UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** indicates that extreme event, such as droughts, fires and floods, are increasingly making each other event worse, most likely as a consequence of human influence. The UNFCCC report **Interconnected disaster risks** analyses 10 major disasters from 2020/2021 and concludes they are all interconnected.

Other international agreements integrate DRR in their strategies. Still, at practical level, progress is still to be done. For instance, although there are examples of **regional insurance schemes** for disasters related to natural hazards (e.g. the African Risk Capacity and the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility), there is currently no global insurance scheme.



## EU GCCA/GCCA+ AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

**33** projects    **53** countries    **35%** of GCCA/GCCA+ portfolio    **192** million euros



[www.gcca.eu](http://www.gcca.eu)

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