
**MISSION TO STRENGTHEN POLITICAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND
ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR INTEGRATED
MANAGEMENT OF FLOOD AND DROUGHT RISKS IN THE
VOLTA BASIN**

**DELIVERABLE 6: CONTRIBUTION TO THE
COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION
MECHANISM ON NATIONAL AND
TRANSBOUNDARY DRR AND CCA POLICIES,
PLANS AND GUIDELINES**

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Acronyms

AF	-	Adaptation Fund
CCA	-	Climate Change Adaptation
CSOs	-	Civil Society Organizations
CWP	-	Country Water Partnership-Ghana
DRR	-	Disaster Risk Reduction
EPA	-	Environmental Protection Agency
MMDAs	-	Metropolitan Municipal District Assemblies
NADMO	-	National Disaster Management Organization
VBA	-	Volta Basin Authority)
VFDM	-	Volta Flood and Drought Management
VRA	-	Volta River Authority
WMO	-	World Meteorological Organization
WRC	-	Water Resources Commission

1. Context and Rationale

The Volta Flood and Drought Management (VFDM) project, implemented by organizations including the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Volta Basin Authority (VBA), aims to address flooding and drought issues in the Volta Basin. Spanning from June 2019 to mid-2024 and funded by the Adaptation Fund (AF), this project focuses on capacity building, early warning system development, and integrated risk management. Key activities include the creation of the VoltAlarm platform for forecasting and warning, the production of information bulletins, and the formulation of a regional strategy for flood and drought risk management in collaboration with stakeholders.

In line with a series of activities to close the project, a National Consultant and investigators were recruited to conduct the *“Mission to strengthen the political, institutional and organizational capacities for integrated management of flood and drought risks in the Volta basin”* in Ghana. The mission was conducted through field surveys and focus group discussions in three selected areas of the Ghana portion of the Volta basin in April 2024. This was followed by three local and two national workshops to present and collect insights on the contribution to the coordination and collaboration mechanism on national and transboundary Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) policies, plans and guidelines of the VFDM project. The workshops were strategically facilitated by the National Consultant in collaboration with the Country Water Partnership-Ghana (CWP-Ghana) and the Water Resources Commission (WRC), ensuring alignment with national policies and stakeholder engagement.

2. Methodological Approach

This report outlines the methodological approach employed to gather feedback to capture a comprehensive understanding of the coordination and collaboration mechanisms on national and transboundary DRR and CCA strategies through organizing deliberative workshops at both local and national levels.

To maximize participation and ensure that a diverse range of perspectives was captured, the workshops employed a variety of interactive techniques including the following:

- Brainstorming sessions allowed participants to freely generate ideas and suggestions, fostering a creative and open environment for discussion. This method encouraged the sharing of innovative solutions and collective problem-solving approaches. Participants

also shared their experiences and these discussions were instrumental in highlighting practical insights, challenges encountered, and successful strategies that could be replicated or scaled up.

- Presentations were made which ensured that all participants had a clear understanding of the project's scope, objectives, and existing guidelines, which informed subsequent discussions and feedback.
- In-depth group discussions were facilitated to explore the coordination and collaboration mechanisms in more detail. These discussions enabled participants to delve deeper into specific issues, exchange ideas, and develop well-rounded solutions. The diversity of the groups ensured that various perspectives were considered, enhancing the robustness of the feedback.
- A plenary feedback session was conducted to synthesize the input from all participants.

These interactive techniques and sessions helped in building consensus and identifying common themes and recommendations. The collaborative nature of these sessions ensured that the feedback was comprehensive and reflective of the collective wisdom of the participants for meaningful dialogue, and produced actionable insights.

The outcomes of these workshops, based on the interactive approaches employed, are detailed in the subsequent sections of this report, highlighting the coordination and collaboration mechanisms in place with proposals for improving the mechanisms at the VFDM pilot sites.

3. Analysis of Coordination and Collaboration Mechanisms in Place at Local, National and Regional Levels

Coordination and collaboration mechanisms across local, national, and regional levels play a critical role in enhancing disaster preparedness and response. At the regional level, initiatives such as the Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan (2020-2025) underscore the importance of proactive measures in mitigating the impact of disasters, particularly floods and drought in an integrated manner. Transboundary agreements like the Volta Basin Water Charter (Section 7) further emphasize the need for collective action in managing shared water resources.

National-level interventions encompass a range of policies and frameworks aimed at addressing various aspects of disaster management. Relevant policies include:

- The Environmental Sanitation Policy
- Road Map to Climate Infrastructure
- Ghana Wash Sector Development Programme
- National Climate Change Policy

Additionally, regulatory measures like the National Building Regulations and Land Use and Spatial Planning Regulations provide a framework for sustainable development and risk reduction.

The coordination of disaster management efforts involves multiple stakeholders, including government agencies, regulatory bodies, and security services. Entities such as the Ghana Hydrological Authority, National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) play pivotal roles in data collection, early warning systems, and risk assessment. Furthermore, the involvement of security services ensures swift response and evacuation in times of crisis.

Transboundary cooperation is essential for addressing shared challenges and optimizing resource allocation. Institutions like the WRC and Volta River Authority (VRA) facilitate dialogue, collaboration and coordination between Ghana and its riparian states. Through platforms like the Disaster Risks Management Committee, horizontal integration ensures seamless collaboration in planning, preparation, and recovery efforts.

At the local level, Metropolitan Municipal District Assemblies (MMDAs) serve as frontline responders, mobilizing resources and coordinating relief efforts. Civil society organizations (CSOs) and traditional authorities also play vital roles in community mobilization and information dissemination. By fostering synergy among stakeholders, from national agencies to grassroots organizations, the resilience of communities to disasters can be significantly enhanced.

In conclusion, effective coordination and collaboration mechanisms are fundamental to building resilience at all levels of governance. By aligning policies, sharing resources, and fostering partnerships, stakeholders can collectively address the complex challenges posed by natural disasters and climate change. From regional strategies to local response plans, a cohesive approach is essential to safeguarding lives and livelihoods in the face of evolving risks.

4. Proposal for Improving the Mechanisms

The proposals put forward from the group discussions aim to enhance collaborative mechanisms for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation across various levels, encompassing resource mobilization, capacity building, and technological innovation.

The key themes identified in the proposals revolve around:

- effective resource mobilization and funding,
- capacity building and public awareness,
- collaboration across different levels, and the
- importance of long-term national action plans.

These themes highlight the multi-faceted approach required to address the challenges posed by disasters and climate change in the Volta Basin communities. By implementing these proposals, collaborative mechanisms can be strengthened and resilience enhanced, ultimately fostering sustainable development and saving lives. Among the key recommendations, include:

4.1 Resource Mobilization and Funding

It is crucial to ensure that activities related to DRR and CCA are explicitly budgeted for, avoiding integration into broader initiatives. While external funding remains vital, internal resources should be prioritized. Developing a comprehensive master plan with clear needs assessment and gap analysis, along with sustainable data collection, is imperative. This plan should also include provisions for insurance plans and packages to address sovereign risks of floods, ensuring clarity on who pays for premiums. Moreover, harmonizing projects and promoting communal resource mobilization are essential for effective resource management.

4.2 Capacity Building and Public Awareness

Strengthening capacity and public awareness involves various strategies, including education and sensitization through educational institutions and the formation of green climate clubs. Building coping capacity at the community level and integrating DRR into spatial planning are essential steps. Furthermore, emphasizing the importance of emergency preparedness plans and advocating for nature-based solutions can enhance resilience. Monitoring and evaluating early warning systems are critical for ensuring their effectiveness.

4.3 Transboundary, National, and Regional Collaboration

Collaboration across different levels is paramount for effective DRR and CCA. At the transboundary, national, and regional levels, efforts should focus on capacity needs assessments, training, and information-sharing platforms. Strengthening coordination among relevant agencies and promoting inter-ministerial coordination is crucial for fostering collaboration and coherence in action.

4.4 Long-Term National Action Plan

A long-term national action plan is essential for building resilience capacities in communities vulnerable to floods and droughts. This plan should support systemic interventions and prevent excessive expenditure on disaster recovery. By fostering development and saving lives, resilience capacity building contributes to overall preparedness and sustainability.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

Effective disaster preparedness and response rely heavily on robust coordination and collaboration mechanisms across local, national, and regional levels. Regional initiatives like the Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan (2020-2025) and the Volta Basin Water Charter emphasize the necessity of proactive and collective disaster management measures.

National-level policies such as the Environmental Sanitation Policy, Road Map to Climate Infrastructure, Ghana WASH Sector Development Programme, and National Climate Change Policy provide comprehensive guidelines for disaster management and risk reduction. Regulatory frameworks like the National Building Regulations and Land Use and Spatial Planning Regulation underpin sustainable development and mitigate disaster risks.

Key stakeholders, including government agencies such as Ghana Hydrological Authority, NADMO, EPA, regulatory bodies, and security services, play essential roles in disaster data collection, early warning systems, and risk assessment. Transboundary cooperation through entities like the WRC and the VRA facilitates resource optimization and coordinated disaster management among riparian states. Metropolitan Municipal District Assemblies (MMDAs) act as frontline responders, essential in mobilizing resources and coordinating local relief efforts. CSOs

and traditional authorities significantly contribute to community mobilization and information dissemination, enhancing community resilience.

Platforms like the Disaster Risks Management Committee ensure horizontal integration, promoting seamless collaboration in planning, preparation, and recovery efforts. Effective disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation require strengthened collaborative mechanisms across various levels. The proposals emphasize resource mobilization, capacity building, and technological innovation as essential components for enhancing resilience in the Volta Basin communities.

The key themes identified include effective resource mobilization and funding, capacity building and public awareness, collaboration across different levels, and the importance of long-term national action plans. These themes underscore a multifaceted approach necessary to address the complex challenges posed by disasters and climate change. Collaboration across transboundary, national, and regional levels is crucial for effective DRR and CCA. Efforts should focus on capacity needs assessments, training, information sharing, and strengthening coordination among relevant agencies. A long-term national action plan is essential for building resilience capacities in communities vulnerable to floods and droughts. This plan supports systemic interventions, prevents excessive disaster recovery expenditure, and fosters sustainable development.

5.2 Recommendations

By implementing the suggestions and recommendations below, the resilience of Volta Basin communities can be significantly enhanced, improving coordination and collaboration efforts while fostering sustainable development.

- 1. Strengthen Regional Coordination:** Enhance regional coordination mechanisms by leveraging existing frameworks like the Volta Basin Water Charter and the Flood Risk Management Strategy. Regular regional meetings and shared platforms for data exchange can improve preparedness and response.
- 2. Improve National Policy Implementation:** Ensure the effective implementation of national policies through regular monitoring and evaluation. Policies should be updated to reflect the latest climate data and disaster risk assessments.

- 3. Enhance Stakeholder Engagement:** Foster greater involvement of stakeholders at all levels. Regular training and capacity-building workshops can equip local and national agencies with the necessary skills and knowledge. Encourage active participation of CSOs and traditional authorities in disaster management planning and response.
- 4. Develop Integrated Early Warning Systems:** Invest in advanced early warning systems that integrate data from various sources. Such systems should be accessible and user-friendly for both national agencies and local communities.
- 5. Foster Transboundary Cooperation:** Strengthen transboundary cooperation by establishing joint action plans and protocols for disaster management. Regular cross-border exercises and simulations can improve coordinated response efforts.
- 6. Ensure Sustainable Funding:** Secure sustainable funding for disaster management activities. This includes advocating for increased national budget allocations and exploring international funding opportunities.

Also, there is a need to develop a comprehensive master plan with clear needs assessments and gap analysis.

