

Press Release

Angola steps up to ensure risk-informed and resilient future growth

UNISDR-CIMA Risk Modelling Workshop (Luanda, Angola, 27-31 August 2018)

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31 August 2018, Luanda –

The Government of Angola, with support from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the United Nations Country Team, opened a five-day Risk Modelling Workshop. The event was attended by four Ministers and more than 50 eminent senior officials from different line Ministries, including the National Authority for Civil Protection and other national and international organizations involved in disaster risk reduction and climate change. The workshop had a large mediatic coverage across the country national medias.

The CIMA Research Foundation and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction jointly facilitated the workshop which is implemented under the umbrella of the programme entitled “Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities”. Such programme is financed by the European Union in support of the Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States and aims at enabling African countries to operationalize the African Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction¹ and its Plan of Action. The approach builds on the United Nations Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction which fosters cooperation among UN system entities.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator stated that floods and droughts affected 1.5 million people in 2017, *with many deaths occurring especially in the South of the country*. Dr. Balladelli also declared: *“The loss of lives and livelihoods due to natural hazards significantly affect the economic growth of Angola”*. *It is extremely important to boost the resilience of the population, ensuring that disaster risk and climate change impact do not compromise efforts of countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Angola.”*



Luca Rossi, of the United Nations office for disaster risk reduction recalled that *“Sub-Saharan Africa represents two-thirds of the world’s Least Developed Countries and is prone to recurrent disasters. Over 80% of economic losses from disasters are due to weather-related hazards, amplified by the effects of climate change. Poorest countries often suffer the largest number of fatalities while transitional economies register highest direct and indirect economic losses. This can hinder development efforts and sustain the poverty of poor communities. Angola falls in this category”*.

¹¹African Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction¹ and its Plan of Action:

https://www.unisdr.org/files/13093_AFRICAREGIONALDRRSTRATEGYfullPDF.pdf

UNISDR and CIMA Research Foundation developed a multi-hazard probabilistic risk profile for Angola, with special focus on floods and drought. CIMA representative, Dr. Massabo, presented the country profile of Angola as a comprehensive overview of hazards, risk and the exposure of assets to floods and droughts in Angola, with some consideration on the changing climate trends and the socio-economic context, over the next 50 years: *“The aim of the workshop is to inform about the results of risk profiles to provide relevant decision-makers with tools and methodologies to make informed choices and to support the development of holistic risk reduction strategies.”*



On behalf of H.E. Dr. Angelo de Barros Veiga Tavares, Minister of Interior and Coordinator for the National Commission Civil Protection (NCCP), H.E. Secretary of State, Dr. Hermenegildo José Félix, reaffirmed Angola’s strong commitment in institutionalizing disaster risk reduction and climate change at the national, regional and local levels. He expressed gratitude for the participation of H.E. Ms. Cândida Teixeira, Minister of Education; H.E. Ms. Ana Paula de Carvalho, Minister for Urban Development and Housing, and H.E. Ms. Victória da Conceição, Minister of Family and Gender promotion.

Dr. José Félix also declared: *“This country suffers from recurring natural hazards that create vulnerabilities. Angola has no risk assessment plan yet, it is needed to understand the underlying risks in the country. Strengthening national capacity to manage human security and reduce exposure will mitigate the economic and social effects of disasters. Funding for integrated disaster risk management strategies should be addressed as a priority to generate a profitable growth in Angola”.*

The risk profile will enable the country to set a plan of action for cost-benefit analysis towards reducing disaster risk and climate change. It reveals an estimate of future economic losses under the current and future climate conditions, in different sectors of the economy. Sectors are the ones identified by the Sendai targets, namely: housing, health and education, agriculture, productive assets, critical infrastructures and transport. UNISDR representative, Dr. Rossi, praised the leadership of Angola’s inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change. Dr. Rossi declared: *“the workshop is a milestone in implementing the Sendai Framework in Angola, but additional efforts are required to achieve resilience of communities and sustainable development. UNISDR will avail its full support to make future investments in Angola disaster risk-informed and sustainable, also in light of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development as well as the Agenda 2063: the Africa We Want”.*

Architect Edson Fernando, Director of Deputy Commander of National Civil Protection office, and National Focal point for the Sendai Framework Monitoring, presented the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction of Angola that was approved by Presidential Decree in 2015. He commented on the previous Plan for preparation, contingency, response and recovery over 2015-2017 and explained that Angola is now decentralizing at the provincial level through comprehensive plans with actions and funding allocations by sectors. Mr. E. Fernando also referred to on-going projects that consist in including disaster risk reduction in school curricula, and the APCV for risk awareness at the local level. Finally, Mr. E. Edson concluded his intervention with a call to the private sector, donor agencies and the UN system for enhanced cooperation and coordination towards the continuity of projects and sustained funding.



During the workshop, participants exchanged views on the terminology, principles and methods in relation to disaster risk reduction through dynamic group discussions and exercises. The workshop also comprised a presentation on national budget analysis that aimed at accounting for disaster risk-

related investments. This session also generated interesting exchanges among province representatives. In conclusion, Angola has undertaken unprecedented steps to ensure that new investment decisions will be risk-informed and will contribute to generate long-term growth for the country. This process intervenes while Angola is negotiating new funding from the International Monetary Fund and finalizing the design of a new UN Development Plan for the period 2018-2022.

It is expected that Angola may serve as a role model in West Africa, in light of the development of disaster risk reduction sectorial and inclusive strategies which address one of the key targets of the Sendai Framework. This global agreement was adopted in 2015 and calls for a substantial increase in the number of local and national plans by 2020 to help curb disaster-related deaths, the number of people affected and the scale of economic losses.

In his concluding remarks, H.E. Secretary of State, Dr. Hermenegildo José Félix, praised the paramount importance of the Sendai Framework for Action 2015-2030 and asked the audience to consider its principles as key factors to inform the development of new development and adaptation strategies in all sectors. He stated: “We have been the first of sixteen countries in the context of the program, we shall therefore adopt a more interventional and proactive consideration for prevention, mitigation and preparation in the face of natural hazards. Since 2015, the civil protection commissions in Provinces have worked to ensure the integration of disaster risk reduction in local development plans, to reduce the vulnerability of communities. The combination of the country profile with local knowledge will inform effectively the decision/making process in the Provinces”.

