

13 OCTOBER 2017

**INTERNATIONAL DAY  
FOR DISASTER REDUCTION**

REDUCING THE NUMBER OF AFFECTED PEOPLE



# Proceedings

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK  
REDUCTION 2017**

African Union Commission, Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia, 13 October 2017

**HOME SAFE HOME: REDUCING  
EXPOSURE, REDUCING  
DISPLACEMENT**

# Proceedings

## **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2017**

### **HOME SAFE HOME: REDUCING EXPOSURE, REDUCING DISPLACEMENT**

**Organized jointly by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) and the Africa Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with:**

- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),**
- **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR),**
- **Christian Children Fund of Canada (CCFC),**
- **World Food Programme (WFP),**
- **United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF),**
- **Norwegian Refugees Council (NRC),**
- **Catholic Relief Service (CRS),**
- **University of Bahir Dar (UoB),**
- **Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS),**
- **World Vision (WV),**
- **GOAL Ethiopia,**
- **International Federation for Red Cross (IFRC),**
- **International Organization for Migration (IOM),**
- **CORDAID,**
- **Plan International,**
- **Danish Church Aid (DCA),**
- **the World Bank(WB) and**
- **Administration for Refugees and Returnees Agency (ARRA).**

# Partners



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



# CONTENTS

<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	5
<b>Summary</b> .....	6
<b>Background</b> .....	7
<b>International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDR)</b> .....	7
<b>International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2017 – Home Safe Home: Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement</b> .....	10
<b>Commemoration of the IDDR 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</b> .....	11
<b>Opening Remarks</b> .....	14
<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</b> .....	14
Welcoming Remarks by Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator .....	16
Welcoming Statement by Mrs. Amria El Fazil, Commissioner for Social Affairs and Acting Commission for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission .....	19
Opening Remarks by H. E. Ato Mitiku Kassa, Commissioner, National Disaster Risk Management Commission of the FDRE .....	22
Video Message: Mr. Robert Glasser, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction,.....	24
<b>Towards National Accountability for Disaster Displacement Risk</b> .....	26
<b>Panel Discussions</b> .....	29
Discussion questions to Ato Zeynu Jemal, Deputy Director, Head of the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office.....	30
Discussion Questions to Ato Tadesse Bekele, Senior DRM Advisor, National Disaster Risk Management Commission, Ethiopia.....	31
Discussion Questions to Gatkuoth Kal, DRR Technical Coordinator, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission .....	33
Discussion Questions to Ato Behigu Habte, IOM, Emergency and Post Crisis National Programme Officer.....	34
Discussion points to Ato Mathewos Hunde, Head UNISDR AU Liaison Office in Addis Ababa.....	36
Discussion points to Mr. Youcefait-Chellouche, IFRC Representative to the AU and IO .....	37
Discussion .....	39
<b>Exhibition</b> .....	41
Media Coverage.....	42
<b>Closing Remarks</b> .....	43
By: Ato Abera Kassa, National Disaster Risk Management Commission, Disaster Risk Reduction Directorate Director.....	43

## Acronyms

<b>AARA</b>	<b>Ethiopian Administration for Refugees and Returnee Affairs</b>
<b>AU</b>	<b>African Union</b>
<b>AUC</b>	<b>African Union Commission</b>
<b>CCFC</b>	<b>Christian Children’s Fund of Canada</b>
<b>CRC</b>	<b>Catholic Relief Service</b>
<b>DREA</b>	<b>Ethiopian Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture</b>
<b>FAO</b>	<b>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</b>
<b>FRDE</b>	<b>Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia</b>
<b>IFRC</b>	<b>International Federation of Red Cross</b>
<b>IDDR</b>	<b>International Day for Disaster Reduction</b>
<b>IDMC</b>	<b>Internal Displacement Monitoring Center</b>
<b>IDP</b>	<b>Internally Displaced People</b>
<b>IOM</b>	<b>International Organization for Migration</b>
<b>NDRMC</b>	<b>National Disaster Risk Management Commission</b>
<b>PoA</b>	<b>African Programme of Action</b>
<b>PSNP</b>	<b>Productive Safety Net Programme</b>
<b>SDGs</b>	<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>
<b>UNDP</b>	<b>United Nations Development Programme</b>
<b>UNICEF</b>	<b>United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund</b>
<b>UNHCR</b>	<b>The National Commissioner for Refugees</b>
<b>UNISDR</b>	<b>The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction</b>
<b>UNGA</b>	<b>The United Nations General Assembly</b>
<b>UNFCCC</b>	<b>United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change</b>
<b>WFP</b>	<b>World Food Programme</b>
<b>WB</b>	<b>World Bank</b>
<b>WV</b>	<b>World Vision</b>

## Acknowledgements

On Behalf of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) would like to acknowledge the AUC and the above mentioned partners for jointly organizing and celebrating the 2017 IDDR.

A special word of thanks goes to the 2017 IDDR Organizing Committee, led by NDRMC, for their technical support, mobilizing resources from partners and properly organizing the events.

Recognizing the fundamental importance of panel discussion and exhibition, NDRMC highly appreciated those agencies and individuals who took part in panel discussion and exhibition events.

Thus, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) and the Government of Ethiopia would also like to express its appreciation for international and national agencies including AUC, Administration for Refugees and Returnees Agency, Christian Children Fund of Canada, CRS , Dan Church Aid, Ethiopian Red Cross society, GOAL Ethiopia, International Federation for Red Cross, IOM, Ministry Of Education, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs ,Ministry Of Urban Development and Housing, National Meteorology Agency, Norwegian Refugees Council, Plan International, UNDP , UNHCR, UNICEF, UNISDR, World Bank, WFP and World Vision for the technical and financial support for successfully organizing the conference which created a favorable ground for sharing of experience and networking among stakeholders and partners. The Commission also expresses its warmest thanks to the representatives of government ministries, Non-governmental Organizations and to all the experts who attended the conference. The conference would not have been a success without the active and meaningful contributions of participants.

We also appreciate the contributions of Christian Children’s Fund of Canada (CCFC) and the media and communications team led by Mesai Mitiku for supporting and technically assisting the production of this proceeding.

## Summary

This summary captures a half day celebration program of the 2017 International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR).

On October 13/2017, the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) was observed at the African Union Commission (AUC), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Under the theme "Home Safe Home, Reducing Exposure, and Reducing Displacement", the half day event was jointly organized by the Ethiopian Government (National Disaster Risk Management Commission), the African Union Commission (AUC) and other partners including UN Agencies and Civil Societies.

The event was attended by over 250 participants drawn from Federal and Regional Government institutions of Ethiopia, African Permanent Missions, AUC, Regional and country UN organizations, international and local NGOs, media, Youth Group, private sector and academia including more than 10 African Universities organized under Periperi U.

The event was officially opened by H.E Mr. Mitiku Kassa, Commissioner, National Disaster Risk Management Commission of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, who said "the government of Ethiopia is implementing Sendai Framework and that of Africa Programme of Action among those Member States that continues to make great strides in the context of its National Disaster Risk Management Policy and Strategy to deliver on commitment to successfully achieve the expected target".

H.E. Mrs. Amira El Fazil, Commissioner of Social Affairs at the AUC highlighted that "risk reduction should not end with establishment of policies and structures alone; they must work to yield results that reduce the number of people affected by the natural and human induced hazards. This commemoration comes as yet another wake up call to the African governments and all stakeholders to take action that will see those policies being implemented".

Mr Samba Harouna, representative of the UN Country Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, called for urgent action to translate the commitments made to meet the 7 targets of the Sendai Framework and the Africa Programme of Action, including target B, and thus reduce exposure, vulnerability, and displacement, and build resilience. Mr. Samba also underline that the UN system is fully committed to supporting Ethiopia and the African Union Commission in their efforts to advance the DRR agenda in the context of the Sendai Framework and the Africa Programme of Action.

Following the opening remarks, the key video message from Mr. Robert Glasser, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and other IDDR related videos messages were delivered to the audience

The commemoration was marked with presentation, panel discussions, and exhibitions.

Finally the half day program culminated with official closing remarks.

## Background

### International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDR)

The International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) is an opportunity to acknowledge the substantial progress being made toward reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries. Such an outcome is the aim of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in March 2015.

The International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) is a day to celebrate how people and communities are reducing their risk to disasters and increasing the awareness of the importance of disaster risk reduction. Moreover, this is a day to urge all citizens and governments to be part in efforts to establish communities that will make more disaster- resilient nations.

#### **Genesis of IDDR**

The celebration of the IDDR started in 1989. That year, the General Assembly of the United Nations approved its celebration, after considering that the IDDR represents a way to promote a global culture of disaster risk reduction, which includes prevention, mitigation and preparation.

Originally, the IDDR is celebrated the second Wednesday of October, but in the year 2009 the General Assembly decided to establish the 13th of October of each year as the date in which the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction - IDDR would be celebrated.

#### **13th October**

The United Nations General Assembly has designated 13 October as International Day for Disaster Reduction to promote a global culture of disaster reduction, including disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness. For 25 years, the IDDR has been a major global awareness event to recognize progress and encourage further efforts to build disaster resilient communities and nations.



After the campaign titled Step Up, which started in 2011, each year was dedicated to a particular group of persons vulnerable to disasters - children and young people (2011), women and girls (2012), people with disabilities (2013), older people (2014) and indigenous group with indigenous knowledge (2015) and live to tell (2016)- UNISDR is currently launching the Sendai Seven campaign to promote each of the seven goals included in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, adopted in Sendai, Japan in March 2015.

Since 2016, the UN Secretary-General launched “The Sendai Seven Campaign” to promote each of the seven targets over seven years. This year’s target is focused on prevention, protection and reducing the number of people affected by disasters, Target (b). It concerns the safety of all but particularly those at greater risk of death, injury, ill-health, loss of livelihood, displacement and lack of access to basic services from disaster events including women and children, people living with disabilities, and older persons.

Similar to what happened during the One Step Forward Campaign, the success of the Sendai Seven campaign will depend on the participation of a wide range of stakeholders, in order to promote greater awareness of the Sendai Framework and the actions needed for its application and achieving its goals.

The Sendai Seven Campaign represents an opportunity for all actors, including national and local governments, community groups, civil society organizations, the private sector, international organizations and the UN family to promote best practice in the international, regional and national levels and in the various sectors, in order to reduce the risk of disasters and the losses disasters cause.

The successful implementation of the Sendai Framework is critical to the achievement of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, notably the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. To implement the SDGs, we need to match the progress we have made in reducing loss of life from disasters by making similar advances in reducing the numbers of people affected. Disasters are gateways to poverty and distress for many vulnerable people living in low and middle-income countries. Large-scale displacement can increase migration flows. Reducing the risks which accrue from rapid urbanization, poverty, environmental deterioration and climate change is best achieved by avoiding the creation of these risks in the first place. We are all responsible, and the success of the SDGs depends on it.

All stakeholders are urged to use the opportunity of October 13 to tell the world what you are doing individually and collectively to implement the Sendai Framework in order to reduce exposure and displacement, to enhance women empowerment and leadership, and improve health and economic outcomes for families at risk. This recognition that durable and sustainable change is possible will reinforce the dedication and commitment to reach the targets set for 2030 with substantially reduced numbers of people affected globally.

#### Key Questions to Consider:

- Are your actions and partnerships helping to reduce the numbers of people affected by disasters and how are you doing this?
- Do you provide open and timely access to risk maps, risk profiles, risk data and information to inform plans and decisions that prevent or mitigate disasters?
- Do you collect data on disaster affected persons by age, gender and disability?
- Are you facilitating coordination between various partners and stakeholders to reduce exposure and displacement?
- Are you improving how risk-informed people are about where they live and work?
- Have you been able to assist governments, local governments and the private sector to avoid locating homes and businesses in hazard prone locations?
- Have you been able to support, directly or indirectly, improvements in the standard of housing and/or support “build back better” initiatives in hazard-prone locations?

The five indicators adopted by the UN General Assembly for measuring achievement for the Sendai Framework target (b)

- Number of directly affected people attributed to disasters, per 100,000 population.
- Number of injured or ill people attributed to disasters, per 100,000 population.
- Number of people whose damaged dwellings were attributed to disasters.
- Number of people whose destroyed dwellings were attributed to disasters.
- Number of people whose livelihoods were disrupted or destroyed, attributed to disasters

# International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2017 – Home Safe Home: Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement

**Goal:** Use International Day for Disaster Reduction on 13 October 2017 to provide an advocacy platform to all governments, local governments, disaster management agencies, UN agencies, NGOs, Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, civil society groups, businesses, academic and scientific institutions, and other interested groups to demonstrate support for gender-sensitive implementation of the Sendai Framework and to highlight achievements and challenges in so doing with a particular focus on reducing the numbers of people affected by disasters.

While not every natural hazard has devastating consequences, a combination of natural, cultural, social and political factors contributes to disasters. Over the last twenty years, over 1.35 million have died as a result of their vulnerability and exposure to natural hazards with women and girls bearing a heavy toll; and over four billion have been displaced and left homeless, injured or in need of emergency assistance. Deaths due to disasters from weather- and climate-related events (floods, storms and heatwaves in particular) account for the majority of disaster deaths in most years and there has been a sustained rise, more than doubling, over the past forty years. More than half of disaster mortality is caused by extreme geophysical disaster events, primarily earthquakes, including tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions. Source: CRED – UNISDR (2016). Poverty & Death: Disaster Mortality 1996-2015.

The 2017 campaign will seek to raise global awareness about effective actions, policies and practices taken to reduce exposure to disaster risk at the community level thereby contributing to saving homes and livelihoods. This is a considerable challenge which can be accomplished only through coordination, cooperation and collaboration among many stakeholders. Yet it is apparent that taking action on Target (b) will be amplified by having a positive impact on saving lives Target (a), reducing economic losses Target (c) and damage to critical infrastructure Target (d). It will also provide evidence that strategies are in place at national and local level Target (e).

## Commemoration of the IDDR 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The commemoration of the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) 2017 was on Friday, 13 October 2017 at African Union Commission. The main objective of the IDDR 2017 commemoration was to provide a platform to African Union Commission, Ethiopia and other African Union Member States and partners to draw on lessons learned and tap into wealth of experiences and best practices in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and its Africa Programme of Action with a particular focus on reducing the numbers of people affected by disasters.

The African Union has a number of instruments, including the African Programme of Action (PoA) for the implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, adopted by its Member States, including Ethiopia, which, if implemented effectively can enable the continent to reduce the number of disaster affected people meaningfully, thus achieve target (b) of the Sendai Framework and that of the African Programme of Action-*Reducing the number of people affected successfully*. Moreover, continental instruments such as the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, also known as the Kampala Convention are landmark instruments that captured provisions for the protection and assistance of disaster displaced people.

International Day of Disaster Reduction is an opportunity to acknowledge the substantial progress being made towards reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihood and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, business, communities and countries. Such an outcome is the aim of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 in Africa.

Ethiopia is also among those Member States that continues to make great strides in the context of its National Disaster Risk Management Policy and Strategy to deliver on its commitment to the Sendai Framework and its Africa Programme of Action, including by successfully achieving this target.

All other partners have been also playing a pivotal role in supporting the African Union Commission, Ethiopia other African Union Member States in their efforts to effectively implement the PoA as well as national disaster risk reduction and management policies,

strategies, programmes, and plans, and thus achieve target (b) – *Reducing the number of people affected.*

All these are pointing to the fact that the continent has a lot of experiences and best practices in implementing Sendai Framework and its Africa Programme of Action that Member States and partners can tap into.

The IDDR 2017 Commemoration event has provided a platform for AUC, Ethiopia and other Member States and partners to draw on lessons learned and tap into a wealth of experiences and best practices in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and its Africa Programme of Action with a particular focus on preventing disaster displacement and reducing the numbers of people affected by disasters.

The IDDR commemoration was attended by the African Union Commission, UN agencies, representatives of Civil Society Organizations and the NDRMC of the Ethiopian Government. The event was organized by a committee composed of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, international and national development partners. The event was attended by over 250 participants drawn from Federal and Regional Government institutions of Ethiopia, African Permanent Missions, AUC, Regional and country UN organizations, international and local NGOs, media, Youth Group, private sector and academia including more than 10 African Universities organized under Periperi U.

During the celebration, the six major events that were colorfully executed include welcome and conference opening, Video Messages, PPT Presentation, panel discussion, exhibitions, media coverage and official closing of the conference.



IDDR 2017 Ethiopia Organizing Committee



Group Photo of IDDR 2017 Ethiopia

## Opening Remarks

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

W/o Rahel Asfaw, Director, Response and Rehabilitation Directorate, NDRMC, served as Master of Ceremony in the IDDR 2017 commemoration held in Addis Ababa. She commenced her role by highlighting the significance of the event saying, *"Excellences, ladies and gentlemen, the slogan of 2017 International Day for Disaster Reduction is Home Safe Home - reducing exposure and reducing displacement which all we need to carry as we go along in meeting this target. While in Africa countries including Ethiopia have made significant progress in reducing disaster mortality and within target A including, we still have a long way to go to make similar progress in meeting target B - Reducing the number of people affected by Disaster.*



*"In today's commemoration, we will have welcoming remarks and a message from the United Nation's Secretary and a Special Representative of the UN secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction. Video shows, panel discussions and exhibition are parts of today's event. As displacement is not an option, we have to think and do our homework because this is homework for the whole world, not only for Africa, America, Asia or any part of the world - but for all us - human beings. This is a-day-to-day assignment."*



Partial view of participants of the IDDR 2017, Addis Ababa



## Welcoming Remarks by Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator



### Ms Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie Welcoming Remark was delivered by Mr. Samba Harun, Representative of UN Resident Coordinator

Mr. Harun initially conveyed Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie's apology for not being able to attend the event due to other commitment. After welcoming participants on behalf of the UN system in Ethiopia, and on her behalf, Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie's message outlined the historical beginning and intention of the International Day for Disaster Reduction. IDDR began in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote a global culture of risk awareness and disaster reduction. Held every 13th October, the day celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disaster and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face.

In an effort to promote the effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, the UN Secretary General launched "The Sendai Seven Campaign" in 2016, to promote each of the seven targets of the Framework over the seven years.

Embedding prevention of displacement in national DRR programmes, provisions of protective measures and recognition of the importance of reducing injury and ill-health as consequence of disaster events, protecting livelihoods and places of work in hazard-prone areas, holding public discourse to promote attitudinal and behavioral change towards disaster risk management and creating awareness on the role key actors play in reducing disaster risk are additional key focus areas of IDDR 2017 and beyond.

The deadline for target (e) of the Sendai Framework is fast-approaching and thus the integration of DRR into national legislation should also remain a high priority going forward, Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie urged. She then insisted on that all need to carry the slogan of the 2017 International Day for Disaster Reduction: Home Safe, Reducing Exposure, and Reducing Displacement, 'as we go along towards meeting the target'.

While many African countries, including Ethiopia, have made significant progress in reducing disaster mortality (target A) including as a result of efforts geared toward enhancing the early warning response system, Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie advised African countries to make similar progress in meeting Target B – Reducing the number of people affected by disaster by 2030. Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie acknowledged that the weather related crisis of the 2015/2016 El-Nino phenomenon, which hit Ethiopia severely did not cause loss of human life due to the efforts made under the leadership of the Ethiopian Government to improve the early warning system and built resilience in the context of its growth and transformation programme.

Natural and human induced disasters continue to affect millions of people in Africa, leading to displacement, food and nutrition insecurity and other related consequences that negatively impact livelihoods. Ethiopia is no exception, where currently 8 million people are still suffering the effects of El-Nino, and are in need of food assistance.

According to the Africa Status Report on DRR:

Losses reported in Africa between 1985-2015 ranges from US\$3.5 Billion to US\$22 Billion

A total of 2,147 natural hazards were recorded and 210,000 human lives were lost during the same period

Close to 196,000 people were injured with around 400 million people in need of immediate assistance and 8 million people left homeless

Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie underlined that these are only partial figures as many disasters go unreported and undocumented. Since 2000, Sub-Saharan Africa has recorded an average of two disasters per week, affecting around 12.5 million people every year. Disasters, mainly floods, are also reported to have displaced over one million people in 33 African countries in 2015 alone.

Africa is among the most vulnerable and affected regions and reinforce the need to understand risk through better tracking of disaster losses and risk profiling to help support the development of effective disaster risk management plans and promote risk informed development and investment at all levels.

'This calls for an urgent action to translate our commitments to meet the 7 targets of the Sendai Framework and the Africa Programme of Action, including target B, and thus reduce exposure, vulnerability and displacement while building resilience,' Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie underscored.

In conclusion, Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie underlined the paramount importance of delivering commitments to the Sendai Framework as it helps to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development and Agenda 2063. She also expressed her wishes for Ethiopia's realization of the vision of the country becoming a middle income country.

The UN system is fully committed to support Ethiopia and Africa Union Commission in their efforts to advance the DRR agenda in the context of the Sendai Framework and the Africa Programme of Action, she disclosed.

"Let us work to make every Home a Safe Home, by Reducing Exposure, and Reducing Displacement! Happy International Day for Disaster Reduction!"

## Welcoming Statement by Mrs. Amria El Fazil, Commissioner for Social Affairs and Acting Commission for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission



Mrs. Amria El Fazil welcomed participants and noted the gathering as the day is another day to commemorate the International Day for Disaster Reduction and reminder for Africa of the urgent need to implement aggressive disaster risk reduction initiatives in order to protect its citizens from ever-evolving vulnerabilities and exposures to multiple hazards.

She then expressed that the African Union Commission (AUC) is delighted for hosting the special event, at its Headquarters. The AUC commends the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for establishing the National Disaster and Risk Management Committee in 2015. It was a positive step towards the commitment to manage and reduce the impact of disasters on the social and economic growth of the country. The AUC is glad to see such progress, which is a milestone towards

implementation of the Africa Programme of Action for the implementation of the Sendai Framework 2015-2030.

As the Commission, 'we would be happy to render the support the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic may need,' Mrs. Amria El Fazil expressed. She, however, noted that risk reduction should not end with establishment of policies and structures alone; they must work to yield results that reduce the number of people affected by the natural and human induced hazards. In Africa, she reminded that there are abundance of policies and decisions yet the continent continues to remain the most vulnerable to hazards. Thus, Mrs. Amria El Fazil underlined 'the commemoration comes as yet another wake up call to the African governments and all stakeholders to take action that will see those policies being implemented.'

The Africa Programme of Action for the implementation of Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), which was adopted by the AU in January 2017 has key targets that countries should be pursuing, to reduce the negative impact of natural and human induced hazards. She expressed her hope that the framework will one day help the continent to overcome such calamities through its implementation.

The year's focus of the IDDR is on the second target of the Sendai Framework, which is prevention, protection and "reducing the number of people affected by disasters" with specific focus on the family home. She reminded the gathering that the slogan for the year, which is 'Home Safe Home' has sadly come too late for over 1000 Sierra Leonean citizens who perished in deadly mudslide and families of the DR Congo Village which was wiped out by a mudslide just 2 months ago, leaving only 5 of 75 houses standing. "Home Safe Home" may be a far cry to those 280 children from that village who lost their homes and families while at school.

She reminded that the Commission donated USD 100,000 to Sierra Leone to show solidarity and two epidemiologists have been deployed for one month to give assistance. Mrs. Amria El Fazil reiterated that the IDDR day not to be just another celebration where people gather but a solemn reminder of the grim realities in Africa in general and Ethiopia in particular. She emphasized that talks and gatherings would not keep hazards at bay. However, 'foresight and action' should be the philosophy to become resilient to natural hazards. "Hope for the best and plan for the worst". She urged the need to start taking such kind of philosophy seriously as African communities, especially with anticipated worsening climate change.

She also mentioned rapid urban growth as one of the key concerns. While infrastructural development is every African country's dream, there is need for us to look at the potential impact of rapid urban growth, which may place too much pressure on already limited resources and thus elevate the risks associated with hazards.

Urban sprawl which is not well managed and planned has potential to force poor people or informal settlements into uninhabitable lands. Informal and illegal as these may be, they are homes to human beings. It is this human consideration that must push us all: the government, development partners, regional and international agencies, as well as communities to action that finds solutions to preventing disasters like the Addis Ababa mudslide of March 2017.

The AUC establishes DRR structure and policies in the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture to guide Africa's vision on DRR in close collaboration with the AUC's Departments of Political Affairs, Social Affairs and Peace and Security. These departments are working together to ensure integration of DRR into sectorial and development policies. She then called upon African governments and stakeholders to take further steps in integrating DRR in their different sectors as DRR is a cross-cutting issue.

She strongly urged the involvement of urban and regional planners, the health sector, and all other conceivable stakeholders to work together and develop plans that are compliant with the environmental realities of the continent, and thus start building homes that will be resilient to the various hazards we encounter.

She concluded her message by quoting an American Scientist who said, "Earthquakes don't kill but buildings do". She told that the scientist said that during his CNN interviews, three weeks ago regarding the recent Mexico's Earthquake, which killed over 200 people. Indeed buildings kill hence the need to revisit the way we do business given the changing climate and the realities of our environmental capacity. I urge all our governments across the continent to urgently take into account the need to build resilient infrastructures through proper planning and compliance to the building codes. That way we shall have 'Home Safe Home', and thus reduce the number of people affected by disasters'.

She finally wished a thoughtful day and May participants continue to ponder over the issues even beyond the IDDR event.

## Opening Remarks by H. E. Ato Mitiku Kassa, Commissioner, National Disaster Risk Management Commission of the FDRE



After welcoming participants, H.E. Mr. Mitiku Kassa noted that the IDDR commemoration aims to create awareness enhance efforts in building disaster resilient communities. He reminded the gathering that his country is celebrating the IDDR for 8<sup>th</sup> time in collaboration with development partners and for 3<sup>rd</sup> time jointly with AUC. The eight years have created a national awareness and the commemoration encourages more efforts to build disaster-resilient communities.

Ethiopia is continuing in implementing the Sendai Framework and that of Africa program of action in the context of the country's national disaster risk management policy so as to achieve the targets. He added that the country is working to withstand the impact of hazard through comprehensive and coordinated disaster risk management system.

Despite the country's economic growth the pace of disaster and risks continue at alarming rate being one of the biggest challenges facing the country, the Commissioner acknowledged.

El-Nino and La-Nina weather phenomena induced drought in Horn, East and Southern Africa pushed millions of people into crisis. Over eight million people are still suffering the consequences in Ethiopia alone.

Another concern according to H.E. Mr. Mitiku Kassa is the number of refugees the country is hosting as consequences of the crises. Ethiopia is generously hosting close to one million refugees and asylum seekers mainly from south Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan and Yemen. In addition, since September 2017 over 400,000 refugees have crossed into Ethiopia following the recent outbreak of conflict in South Sudan. Despite the significant constraints of resources in the country, Ethiopia continues to receive additional refugees, most of them women and children including children who are either been separated from their parents or traveled alone.

H.E. Mr. Mitiku Kassa reiterated that the Ethiopian government has adopted a policy for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) direction and strategy. He urged that since risk and disaster management is a cross cutting issue all concerned bodies must implement it by integrating it into their regular development activities.

He also mentioned the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) is empowered to develop at all administration and developmental levels in stream lining risk management system such as Woreda Disaster Risk Profile studies, early warning and response and recovery across all government sectors.

He closed the speech by giving a thank you message to those who gave technical and financial support and welcomed all to join hands. He then declared the official opening of the deliberation.



## Video Message: Mr. Robert Glasser, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction,



*Hello, the focus of this year's International Day for Disaster Reduction is very much on people as we draw attention to the growing numbers exposed to extreme weather events and earthquakes. Reducing the number of people affected by disaster is at the very heart of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and its*

*seven targets which were adopted two years ago by United Nations Member States.*

*Apart from death or serious injury there is nothing worse than a disaster situation than losing the family, home or the ability to earn a living but that is exactly the fate of millions of people every year. In fact, today, more people are forced from their homes by natural hazards than by conflicts. Some twenty countries have declared drought emergencies in the last eighteen months. The Horn of Africa is badly affected. Millions of people in the mainland USA and across the Caribbean are living with the consequences of the record breaking Atlantic hurricane season.*

*Flooding across Bangladesh, India and Nepal has made no more lives impossible, literally millions of people. International Day for Disaster Reduction is about reminding ourselves of the importance of building resilience to disasters. Everybody has the right to live and work in an environment that doesn't put the wellbeing and safety at risk. Disaster risk reduction is everybody's business and we must spread a great understanding of that risk in a world where poverty is entrenched, the environment is under attack, urbanization is often unplanned and institutions are lacking resources to manage disaster risk. Events which would result in the loss of many lives in the recent past are no longer. Thanks to the effective early warning systems, better preparedness, and enforcement of building codes and other prevention methods.*

*The Sendai seven campaigns named after the Sendai Framework is now focused on reducing the number of people affected by these events. As the UN General has said, 'it would be impossible to achieve the sustainable development goals if low or middle income countries are constantly recovering from extreme disasters. The answer to that problem lies on greater understanding of disaster risk in all its facets. Particularly the drivers of disaster risk are now amplified by the effects of climate change.*

*With climate change, the new normal is increasingly severe storm, drought and floods. From now on disaster prone parts of the world have to incorporate climate change in their preparation of plans, if are to break this vicious cycle of recurrent misery and distraction of lives and property.*

*But on this day, we also celebrate what works well the storm we stood with Hurricane Maria in the tiny Island of Barbuda, the self-helping farmers in Africa who are turning successfully to more drought resistant crops, the seven thousand people who attended India's first National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.*

*Resilience has many facets. It comes in all shapes and sizes to suit all climates and geography and budget. We need to get better and recognizing the added values it brings to our lives when we invest it wisely. Here at the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, we are very much looking for to hearing how you are marking this very important day for disaster reduction.*

*Thanks Very Much!*

## Towards National Accountability for Disaster Displacement Risk

By Ms. Bina Desai from Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC)



Ms. Bina Desai commenced her presentation by giving a brief account about Internal Displacement Monitoring Center. The Centre was established in 1998, to start bringing together of data on internal displacement across the globe. She emphasized, since there is no international agency to deal with internal displacement, the Center is vital to fill the gap that independent single bodies which can really do a data analysis and research which then provide back to the international community and to the member state as the public resource. She then shared

some findings of the Center particularly on disaster displacement researches of the recent years.

Every year the Center put out figures on global report on internal displacement and publishes the report. Starting from previous year internal displacement report particularly in Africa has been launched in collaboration with the African Union Commission. Based on the global reports on displacement, conflict and disaster is a global issue and the problem is spreading across the globe. And also it is concentrated disproportionately in a number of countries. For example large scale disaster is happened in South East and South Asia and also a number of large scale displacements are occurring in America and Africa on a regular basis. She also clarified that in Asia disaster displacement is heavily concentrated just in terms of absolute numbers but in terms of the relative numbers and the impact of displacement in the community, it is high in the Horn of Africa.

Ms. Bina Desai also asserted that regular new displacement is occurring due to both conflict and suddenly occurring disasters. Disaster displacement is related to floods,

earthquakes, cyclones and also tropical storms and tsunamis. Regarding the first 6 months of the year 2017, it was described that Africa had a number of hazards mainly floods, affected and displaced the community across the continent.

There is much greater need to understand displacement on the context of risk since most of the large displacement situations in Africa are really occurring in high risk countries. Therefore, Ms. Bina Desai announced that the Center is trying to build on the first ever probabilistic disaster displacement risk model. To get the full spectrum of risks, the model combines the analysis of historical data and future risks and the low impact against high frequently occurring events brought together with high impact against less frequently events.

As mentioned by Ms. Bina Desai, the model;

- Provides the global baseline and helps to evaluate progresses
- Helps to better understand the driving factor of risk and prepare for future events
- Allows to actually looking at disaster displacement risk across the globe in a different ways.

As explained in the presentation, the result from the model are matrix such average annual displacement and comparable with matrix at the insurance industries use for looking at average annual loss probably maximum loss but again that is to compare absolute disaster displacement risk versus relative to population size of the country. Thus, the absolute number of people affected by displacement is high in South and South East Asia and America and relative disaster risk in relation to population size is higher in the island state in Australia and Africa.

Displacement in the Horn of Africa is higher in absolute number in high population countries like Ethiopia, Tanzania, Sudan and Kenya. But displacement risk in relation to population size is higher in least population countries like Somalia. It is also stated that in regions like America the impact of disaster is basically mainly on economic issues and in the context of South Asia and Africa particularly in Sub Saharan Africa, disaster displacement risk is particularly on human issues. This comparison gives implication on how to deal with the issue.

According to the presentation, the model has a challenge since the situations are complex and multi-causal and needs a whole range of data over time to really

understand the phenomenon and calculate the risk over time including data on market, employment, education, health etc. She said that there is real opportunity to raise the awareness and political accountability potentially on internal displacement. It is mentioned that the Kampala Convention which was agreed in 2009 and ratified by countries in 2012 is a guiding principles.

In conclusion, Ms. Bina Desai underlined that the first step currently needed is to really strengthen the database by IDMC and also by governments and UN agencies and start developing common standards and raise the capacity to apply these common standards.

## Panel Discussions



The main objective of the panel discussion was to provide a platform to African Union Commission, Ethiopia and other African Union Member States and partners to draw on lessons learned and tap into wealth of experiences and best practices in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Africa Programme of Action with a particular focus on reducing the numbers of people affected by disasters.

Consequently the panel discussion was focused on reducing the number of disaster affected people with an emphasis on Home safe Home, protection from displacement and building resilience against disaster risk.

The moderator of the panel discussion was DR Elvis Paul from AUC.

Panel discussion participants were:

Ato Zeynu Jamal, Deputy Director, Head of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office

Ato Tadesse Bekele, Senior DRM Advisor, National Disaster Risk Management Commission, Ethiopia

Mr. Gatkuoth Kal, DRR Technical Coordinator, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission

Ato Behigu Habte, IOM, Emergency and Post Crisis National Programme Officer

Ato Mathewos Hunde, Head UNISDR AU Liaison Office in Addis Ababa

Mr Youcefait-Chellouche, IFRC Representative to the AU and IO

After explaining the objectives of the panel discussion, Dr Elvis Paul proceeded on putting discussion points to the panelists.

### **Discussion questions to Ato Zeynu Jemal, Deputy Director, Head of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office**

Ethiopia is one of the largest refugee hosting countries in Africa, with over 800 thousand refugees currently in the country.

Dr Elvis Paul put the following questions to Ato Zeynu Jemal:

What are the mechanisms that the government has put in place to engage refugees in disaster risk reduction measures to host communities?

Tell us about the government's plan to reduce the number of people affected by the disaster?

While reflecting, Ato Zeynu Jemal mentioned the long standing hospitality and old refugee hosting tradition, since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, in Ethiopia. According to him, currently Ethiopia is hosting more than 900,000 refugees coming mainly from neighborhood and 20 other countries. Regarding the policy, he pointed out the three policy directions of the government which are: (1) In-camp policy -which involves most of the operation (90%) (2) Out of camp policy – which involves mainly the Eritrean refugees and currently expanded to other countries, (3) Local Integration policy- which involves the most protracted refugees in Ethiopia

Explaining on the 10 years vision of the government of Ethiopia, he outlined as there is a plan to stave off from the first in camp policy and operation and advancing towards the other policies because 60% of the refugees are youth and children and needs to engage them into either in livelihood or other sort of self-sufficiency productive schemes.

He also explained that the government highly believes that averting risk and disaster can only be managed through developmental approach though it requires a lot of resource and management. Otherwise, according to him, the refugees will have no other things in the mind except opting into other dangerous alternatives like joining rebels group next to them, like Al-Shabab. Hence the government strongly stands for creating developmental strategies both for the host and refugee communities which can in turn create social cohesion involvement and power relation. Moreover resource can be attracted in the name of the refugees and use for both communities so that host community can have a good intention to the refugees, he noted

### **Discussion Questions to Ato Tadesse Bekele, Senior DRM Advisor, National Disaster Risk Management Commission, Ethiopia**

Dr Elvis Paul noted that Ethiopia has made significant progress in reducing disaster mortality (Target A) as results of efforts of the government to strengthen early warning system and build resilience. However, natural and human induced hazards and related disasters still continue affecting a significant number of people in the country.



He then put the following points to Ato Tadesse Bekele:

Tell us about the government plan to reduce the number of people affected by this disaster, thereby contributing to the achievement of Target B. What concrete steps are being taken to deliver on Ethiopia's commitment to the Sendai Framework as well as the Programme of Action for the implementation of Sendai Framework in Africa?

While reflecting to the questions, Ato Tadesse Bekele asserted that the government has the will, commitment and readiness to absorb the re-occurrence of major disaster mainly drought in the country. He added that even though recurrent drought is occurring in the country, the impact is being reduced from time to time as the government is dwelling on saving lives and livelihoods. In this regard, the government prefers to save livelihood than saving lives because saving life is the last resort, he noted.



Ato Tadesse Bekele said that currently the government has strong and empowered disaster and risk management institution to ensure that any hazard happening in the country is well addressed by the respective agencies. He explained, "What was designed is, we are able to identify our hazards not only drought and floods but also conflict, landslide, and rarely happened earthquake and some technological and hydrological hazards.

Whatever the hazards are, we assign lead agencies to make sure that these hazards are managed before it gets out of hand. If the hazards are beyond the capacity of the lead agencies and go to a level of a national concern then the national risk management will be on board."

In his discussion, Ato Tadesse Bekele pointed out the experience and strategy of the Ethiopian government to deal with drought. He said the government has shifted from food focus intervention to multi-sector and multi-hazard interventions. He added, 'during drought situation, there will be no clean water, children get out of school, acute water diarrhea will strike, malnutrition and other epidemics occur, there will be conflict over limited resources, and there is an issue of protection to girls and children. Thus the government has a strong policy, framework and initiative to mainstream the frameworks and intervene by encompassing all impacts with full involvement of multi sectors.'

In terms of the practical experiences, the productive safety-net model designed to enable the chronically food insecure people to be food self-sufficient rather than being dependent for food assistance for a number of years. In this regard, the program succeeded by graduating up to 2 million people to be food self-sufficient and the program has benefitted the government during the 2015/16 El-Nino situation in Ethiopia. The program also enabled the people in the program to at least absorb the shock they have faced compared to the emergency beneficiaries.

Ato Tadesse Bekele concluded noting that the Ethiopian Government is fully committed along with its partners in promoting the productive safety net program which enrolled 7.9 million people and needed to be scaled up and increase the number.

## Discussion Questions to Gatkuoth Kal, DRR Technical Coordinator, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission

Noting that as the custodian of the Programme of Action for the implementation of Sendai Framework in Africa, the panel moderator required explanation from Mr. Gatkuoth Kal about key milestone achievements recorded so far (under the leadership of AUC) to translate the continental framework into action at all levels.



Dr Elvis Paul also asked Mr. Gatkuoth Kal the position of Africa in terms of achieving the Target B of the Sendai Framework aimed in reducing number of people affected by disasters and requested explanation about the AUC plans to meet the target by 2030.

Mr. Gatkuoth Kal first pointed out that African Union has the program of action for the implementation of Sendai Framework in 2016-2030 which was drafted in a Republic of Mauritius by several African expats who were in the platform and it was

adapted by the African Union Head of States this year in the January 2017 summit. The African Union Commission has made significant progress towards operationalization of the Africa programme of action for the implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Mr. Kai further emphasized that such progress was made possible through the high level political commitments demonstrated by African Heads of State and Government and financial support from the European Union.

He then highlighted the significant progress the Commission realized in the disaster reduction and prevention activities as follows:

- Establishment of DRR dedicated structure within AUC
- A number of DRR coordination platforms including: (1) the Africa Regional Platform which provide a forum for all those engaged in disaster risk reduction to showcase practical applications for disaster risk reduction, exchange experience

and develop joint statements, strategies and action plans, which guide decision makers and practitioner (2) the Africa Working Group that provide coordination and technical support to AUC, RECs Member States and partners for the implementation of the Africa Program of Action. All the platforms are meant to bring the Member States, regional economic communities and all developmental partners to be able to come together and have strong prevention strategies with potentially avoiding duplication of resources

Moreover, Mr. Gatkuoth Kal added that the commission has very ambitious project to reduce disaster risks by developing continental disaster risk reporting and monitoring system. The project helps to monitor previous risks, identify a new risk and track the ongoing interventions.

As mentioned by Mr. Gatkuoth Kal, there are different programs aimed to build resilience and adaptation to the community. One of the programs is a program to build in disaster resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa. There are also strategies like climate change strategies and the Great Green Wall Program to reduce the number of affected people by disasters.

## **Discussion Questions to Ato Behigu Habte, IOM, Emergency and Post Crisis National Programme Officer**

The leading discussion points put to Ato Behigu Habte were the following:

Discuss IOM'S work in reducing disaster risk and displacement as well as reducing the number of people affected by disasters in Africa in general and in Ethiopia in particular.



Please explain the relations between climate change/disasters and migration/refugee/displacement and the role of IOM in reducing disaster induced displacement and building resilience.

Ato Behigu Habte began his reflections by describing the targets for IOM intervention which are the displaced persons, regular migrants and refugees. According to him the major challenge in terms of intervening

on internal displacement in Ethiopia was a lack of comprehensive information on the issue. Recognizing that IOM ruled out a system called displacement tracking matrix that tracks and monitors population mobility and displacement. The system is operational in over 60 countries worldwide and over 20 countries in Africa, including Ethiopia.

Moreover, IOM ruled out DTM in Ethiopia in 2012 which functions every 2 months in all the 9 regions and used to track age and sex disaggregated figures and information, multi sectors needs, responses and gaps, living condition of IDPs, protection concerns of IDPs. This system captures comprehensive information to provide tools to humanitarian partners, government and donors.

Recently, 51 percent of IDP cases in Ethiopia is attributed to drought and most of the IDPs have been in displacement situation for over a year. This shows that displaced communities have depleted capacity to cope up, and access to livelihood opportunities and access to recovery to the drought situation is limited. As a result many people are found in the protracted displacement situation. Ato Behigu also put the statistics figure in which 600,000 peoples were affected by the El-Nino drought in the period between august 2016 to September 2016 and were forced to flee from their residential areas. In addition Ato Behigu Habte added that recently over 6 million peoples were forced to flee their environment in the horn of Africa.

Accordingly Ato Behigu Habte, the Somali Region of Ethiopia carries the largest load of IDP numbers and IOM achieved the success that the regional government has endorsed a solution strategy for protracted IDPs which is the first in its kind in Ethiopia. He finally outlined the major works of the organization as;

The organization overlay a map that displays hot spot areas of regular migration and areas that were affected by drought and other climate induced disasters.

Establish emergency migrant response center in three regular migration routes and provide information, counseling, medical and other assistants for migrants and victims of trafficking and facilitate a safe return to their place of origins. The migration routes are;

Metemma: - migration route to north

Moyale:- Kenyan border to the south route

Semera

Organized 700 hundred community conversation groups to engage the community in tackling regular migration and trafficking.

Presents border entry point to provide transportation and border evacuation assistance for asylum seekers and refugees of Somalis, south Sudanese and Eritreans. The transportation is to designated refugee camps, health screening at entry points to determine those who are fit to travel.

## Discussion points to Ato Mathewos Hunde, Head UNISDR AU Liaison Office in Addis Ababa

Dr Elvis requested Ato Mathewos Hunde to reflect his views on the following questions;

How does UNISDR support advocacy and domestication, implementation, monitoring and review of Sendai framework in Africa in general and in Ethiopia in particular?

Tell us about UNISDR's role in ensuring coherence across post-2015 development agenda, including Sendai framework, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, Paris agreement on Climate Change

Ato Mathewos Hunde initially briefed that UNISDR is the UN focal point for disaster reduction and also the custodian of the Sendai Framework for risk reduction. In this regard, he mentioned that, the UNISDR is the custodian of the three SDG goals;

Goal 1: dealing with poverty aspects

Goal 11: dealing with Resilience aspects

Goal 13: dealing with climate change



According to Ato Mathewos, UNISDR is currently supporting to ensure the implementation of the Sendai Framework across the continent and mostly work closely with the Africa Union Commission in the liaison office in Addis Ababa and Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA).

At the regional level, the office employs regular economy communities as entry points and disaster reduction focal points officially designated by respective governments.

The major recent works of the UNISDR was outlined included;

UNISDR has been supporting the translation of the plan of action into practical implementation by member states.

Providing support to the African Union Commission and countries to be able to develop a monitoring framework for their respective disaster reduction program. In terms of this the office organized the training of trainers for member state and also the AUC that will take place very soon at the office training institute in Korea which will be help full that the trained persons will train others to contribute for the putting of a monitoring framework.

Support the AUC member states to make them able to collectively evaluate progress towards achieving the 7 targets of the Sendai framework including the Africa program of action which has additional 5 targets.

Ensuring coherence with the Paris agreement. In this regard UNISDR is working very closely with United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other some entry points like National Adaptation Plan and International Plan for loss and damage associated with climate change Impact.

Finally, Ato Mathewos Hunde lamented that 'the progress of target E which was built to develop a national strategy aligned with the Sendai Framework is unfortunately getting slow.'

### **Discussion points to Mr. Youcefait-Chellouche, IFRC Representative to the AU and IO**

The panel moderator, Dr Elvis Paul, noted that disaster primarily affect communities, especially those that are vulnerable and exposed to hazards and related risks and disasters. At the same time, communities play a pivotal role in preventing the creation of new risk, reducing existing risk, managing disasters, and building resilience.

He then put the following discussion points to Mr. Youcefait-Chellouche:

Tell us about how IFRC supports communities to reduce disaster risk and build resilience

How IFRC's work at the community level contributes to the achievement Target B – reducing the number of people affected by disasters – of the Sendai Framework and the PoA?



Mentioning some experiences in DRC and Rwanda, Mr. Youcefait-Chellouche pointed out that disaster affected community needs to have a safer home build in the safer places. Hence, he said that they are trying to build houses safe from future risks like floods and cyclones. Having the good house in the right place and the family access services like food, protection from disease, protection from war and civil conflicts is the major part of the work IFRC. It is working to ensure community disaster reduction.

He added that 'if homes are in a village where there is no safety; the home cannot be safe too. People affected by disaster like drought moves to cities and city slams and insecurity increase and create more complex analysis about risk.' In addition, IFRC also established functional warning system in which early warning is employed to protect the house and the family through the probabilistic science to predict the future risks. Moreover, providing basic social services and making the community resilient, which means the basic social services like electricity, water and children school during disaster times, should be one of the priorities to the disaster intervention works.

In conclusion, Mr Youcefait-Chellouche described the established partnership schemes while working in local community resilience interventions. In this regard, African Association of Mayors are the major partner in which to get the local decision making process in to the local action to reach the risk knowledge to the people generated by the science and academic approach and make them use the knowledge to improve their lives.

## Discussion





The discussions centered on the following issues:

Despite the fact that member states were able to achieve significant progress in terms of advancing disaster risk reduction agenda at all levels across the continent as the result of the implementation of the Sendai framework of action highlighted as success but it was recognized that more efforts are required to a meaningful progress towards reducing disaster related mortality.

The achievement of the target E in particular by member states to develop national and local strategies in line with the Sendai Framework and Africa program of action was identified as crucial step.

It was acknowledged that risk management should be knowledge based, skill based, community based and government led. In doing so, the vital role of bringing together the science, academic research and technology, communities and policy makers and practitioners towards achieving knowledge based risk reduction and sustainable development and resilient communities in Africa were identified as crucial instruments. So, the importance of taking into account the issue of ensuring coherence with other instruments like climate change adaptation and sustainable development was vital.

Integrating disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and ecosystem management restoration and all the programs need to be environmentally friendly and also inclusive of community sustainable development and poverty reduction programs.

## Exhibition

On the 2017 IDDR Commemoration Day, 12 agencies namely IFRC, UNISDR, IOM, NRC, AUC, NDRMC, CCFC, WV Ethiopia, DCA, CRS, WFP, and Red Cross Ethiopia were participated on exhibition and communicated advocacy messages on DRR with diverse groups who attended the commemoration. The Exhibition provided a face to face opportunity to interact with participants and created good awareness on the best practices and work mainly around the theme of the year.





## Media Coverage

The IDDR 2017 was adequately covered by the national media before and during the event. Both private and public media properly covered the different events of the 2017 IDDR and disseminated messages to a wider audience through Radio, TV and newspapers. Advocacy and awareness messages on DRR and the theme of the year was broadcasted and conveyed in English and different local languages.

## Closing Remarks

**By: Ato Abera Kassa, National Disaster Risk Management Commission, Disaster Risk Reduction Directorate Director**



*On behalf of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Commission, I am very pleased to deliver the concluding remarks on this important conference. For the first time, we are gathered in the AUC venue to celebrate the International Day for Disaster Reduction and the 8<sup>th</sup> time, with 'Home Safe Home' Reducing Exposure and Reducing Displacement theme.*

*It is my personal hope and conviction through the faithful implementation of the global Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Framework, the African Program of Action for the implementation of Sendai Framework and the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management policy and its strategic program investment program, during the coming years the number of people affected by disaster caused by natural and manmade disaster should be reduced compared to last decades. Also, hundreds of thousands of lives and millions of livelihoods will be protected in the rural and urban areas of the country.*

*National Risk Reduction Management Commission and other lead government agencies are fully committed to working hard in collaboration with its development partners to mainstream the Disaster Risk Management into sectors strategy, plan and programme so that resilience of communities is strengthened. To achieve the targets political commitment and financial supports are required consistently and sustainably.*

*Finally, I would like to express my sincerely thanks to all panelists and moderator for their commitments and contribution to promoting and creating awareness on disaster reduction. My deep appreciation goes to the organizing committee and national disaster risk management committee. I would also like to thank and acknowledge the financial and technical support from agencies including AUC, Administration for Refugees and Returnees Agency, Christian Children Fund of Canada, CRS, Dan Church Aid, Ethiopian Red Cross society, GOAL Ethiopia, International Federation for Red Cross, IOM, Ministry Of Education, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs ,Ministry Of Urban Development and Housing, National Meteorology Agency, Norwegian Refugees Council, Plan International, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNISDR, World Bank, WFP and World Vision for the technical and financial support for successfully organizing this conference which created a favorable ground for sharing of experience and networking among stakeholders and partners . And to all participants, thank you for your attention and participation and also making this conference a success. Once again I thank you very much for your attention and participation. Once and for last time such spirit of cooperation and complementation symbolizes the manner of which we move forward with Disaster Risk Management agenda in Ethiopia. Thank you very much”.*

## KEY MESSAGES

- The successful implementation of the Sendai Framework is critical to the achievement of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development, notably the Sustainable development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change – Global.
- Effective implementation of the PoA is crucial to achieving the AU Agenda 2063 – Continental
- Successful implementation of the Ethiopian – National disaster Risk Management Policy and Strategy is fundamental to realize the country's vision of becoming a middle income country by 2025 – National
- Need to match the progress we have made in reducing loss of life from disasters by making similar advances in reducing the numbers of displaced and people affected – 2017 Theme.