

ARDHI UNIVERISTY



PRESS RELEASE

Twelve African Universities Launch Risk Methods School to Tackle Disasters

(10th to 21st September 2018)

Recognising the pressing need for 'future-ready' skill-sets for Africa's fast-changing disaster risks, the *Partners Enhancing Resilience for People Exposed to Risks (Periperi U* <http://www.riskreductionafrica.org/>), which is a consortium of twelve African Universities will launch Africa's first Risk Methods School on 10th September 2018 at Ardhi University, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

This innovative collaboration brings together teaching staff from United Nations agencies and six universities drawn from across Africa. It deliberately aims to speed the development of urgently needed talent in the field by combining the disaster risk management expertise in Africa's higher education enterprise with the global perspectives of the international community.

Periperi U's African Risk Methods School is an institutionally inventive response to East Africa's rapidly changing risk profile – as the region urbanises, becomes more interconnected and must adjust to climate-related and other risks. This already calls for new, 'future-ready' skill-sets that are interdisciplinary, applicable and integrate diverse sciences.

The School will offer seven intensive courses on topics as diverse as *Urban Risk and Geographic Information Systems, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment in the Health Sector and Post Disaster Needs Assessment* to fast-track the capacity of emerging and established African researchers within the expanding fields of disaster, risk and resilience. Students include disaster risk related postgraduate students in African universities as well as practitioners and senior managers who wish to sharpen their risk and resilience research skills. Students at the first Risk Methods School represent eleven countries, including nine African countries.

This initiative is supported by USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID OFDA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the African Union/New Partnership for Africa's Development's Southern African Network of Water Centres of Excellence (AU/NEPAD SANWATCE) and Stellenbosch University's Africa Centre for Scholarship.

The next African Risk Methods School will be hosted by the University of Gaston Berger, St Louis, Senegal in February 2019.

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