

A RISK EDUCATION NETWORK



Extending Connections

Reinforcing Resilience



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



IRDR ICoE
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk
International Centre of Excellence



Above: Disaster Management Masters and Postgraduate Diploma students from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria Nigeria.

Below: Short course attendees conduct a transect walk to observe and analyse hazards and risks in an informal settlement

ABOUT THE FRONT COVER:

The front cover shows a spider web in a rain-storm. Spider silk is known for its strength and elasticity, and spider-webs for their capacity to resist hurricane-force winds and rain. A spider-web is an intricate network of scaffolding and connections that confers protection from multiple threats. In the same way, the Periperi U partnership foregrounds the value of a focused risk education network in advancing and reinforcing resilience – and its contribution to Africa and beyond.



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About Periperi U

Periperi U is an Africa-rooted and-led initiative that began in 2006 in five universities in Algeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, South Africa and Tanzania. It aims to advance risk education in Africa by mobilising university talent across regions, disciplines and language groupings.

When we first suggested this approach, many viewed it as ambitious and unrealistic. Yet, the modules, courses and programmes have indeed emerged, and Periperi U now includes universities in Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda.

Key to Periperi U is the commitment to partnership. This not only applies to university cooperation, but also to our relationships with governmental officials and civil society organisations. It is reflected in community outreach activities that are often linked to student service learning. We are privileged to work closely with USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance as well as UNISDR, and to be active members of the African Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction.

We believe we have helped 'push the envelope' on integrated risk scholarship. Our postgraduate research has unlocked knowledge on African risks that was previously inaccessible. It has also built graduate capabilities in independent risk research that will become more vital as Africa urbanises and responds to changing climate risks. As IRDR's International Centre of Excellence for Risk Education and Learning (ICoE REaL), we see new opportunities for strengthening our focus on integrated risk research and education.

This short publication tells some of Periperi U's story. It speaks to the thinking that first prompted the collaboration, as well as its successes and obstacles. We invite you to contact the Periperi U secretariat or any of our partners to share feedback or suggestions on how we might improve our work.

Representatives of Periperi U and other organisations at Stellenbosch in 2013





Staff from Tanà assess damage caused by tropical cyclone 'Gafilo'

Navigating the abbreviations

Below we have provided a list of our partner universities along with their abbreviations.

ABU	Ahmadu Bello University
Ardhi	Ardhi University
BDU	Bahir Dar University
GBU	Gaston Berger University
Makerere	Makerere University
Moi	Moi University
Periperi U	Partners Enhancing Resilience for People Exposed to Risks
SU	Stellenbosch University
Tanà	University of Antananarivo
UDM	Technical University of Mozambique
UG	University of Ghana
USTHB	University of Science and Technology – Houari Boumediene

We have also used a limited number of disaster risk and academic abbreviations. These are also listed below, along with their full names.

BA	Bachelor of Arts
BSc	Bachelor of Science
CRA	Community Risk Assessment
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
GAR	Global Assessment of Risk
HEI	Higher Education Institution
ICoE	International Centre of Excellence
IRDR	Integrated Research on Disaster Risk
MDM	Masters in Public Health Disaster Management
MDRM	Masters in Disaster Risk Management
MPH	Masters of Public Health
MPhil	Master of Philosophy
MSc	Master of Science
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
REaL	Risk Education and Learning
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
WHO	World Health Organisation

Building Capacity – Reducing Risk

The imperative that prompted Periperi U was a shared awareness that recurrent disasters were seriously undermining Africa's development. This not only applies to high-profile famines, floods and protracted armed conflicts. It also includes the frequent, 'hidden' events that have seldom attracted international attention, but that derail local development and cause widespread hardship.

These include market and informal settlement fires that spread quickly and lead to deaths and property loss. They include communicable disease outbreaks caused by weak public health systems and poor water and sanitation services. They are also reflected in the flash floods that lead to deaths and displacement as well as crop and property damage.

Periperi U has committed itself to these concerns. For almost a decade, it has worked to bridge the divide between Africa's institutions of higher

learning (HEIs) and the practice fields of disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action. Now, in a major step-forward, Africa hosts a suite of accessible disaster risk-related academic programmes in fields as diverse as agricultural science, economics, engineering, public health and urban planning.

Now, in a major step-forward, Africa hosts a suite of accessible disaster risk-related academic programmes.

With courses offered in French, English and Portuguese as well as languages like Malagasy and Amharic, skilled human capital in the field has surged – as has access to locally relevant risk knowledge. Both of these are vital for effective disaster risk management and innovative risk science.

GBU students do fieldwork on agricultural risk and food security in the Senegal River Valley





Since 2000, The RADAR team at SU has run short courses to train disaster risk practitioners

A jump-start for risk education

For decades, African aspirations to manage the continent's complex 'risk-scape' have been slow to advance. In part, this has been due to limited human resources in disaster risk management. Periperi U partners argue that African higher education institutions should be more active in filling this capacity gap, given that disaster risk management and reduction are core areas of scholarship and practice. They also contend that African HEIs can help reframe Africa's self-view on disaster risk reduction, shifting this from aid dependency to awareness of emerging local capability.

This thinking has been the driving force behind the consortium's work in making disaster risk education and training and research locally accessible.

A snapshot of Periperi U activities in 2013-14 shows:

- 11 DRM-related academic courses offered in English, French and Portuguese.
- 18 DRM-related short courses that reached over 500 practitioners.

- 500 new students who enrolled in disaster risk courses.
- 160 staff who were involved in the participating universities.

These achievements would have been simply unthinkable ten years ago, when African students hoping to strengthen their disaster risk knowledge had few study options beyond costly education in Northern institutions.

These achievements would have been simply unthinkable ten years ago.

The Periperi U capacity building model was not hastily developed. It was deliberately conceptualised to harness three of the core elements of contemporary scholarship – teaching and learning, research, and social responsiveness (community outreach). Each of these was developed to produce relevant disaster risk-related capacity-building, research and outreach programmes that met local needs.

Why higher education and risk education?

Higher education has long played a pivotal but largely unrecognised role in disaster risk management. This includes the management of specialist databases, establishment of natural hazards research centres and the contribution of thought leaders who have led the field conceptually, methodologically and practically.

However, globally, universities have been slower to introduce identifiable disaster risk-related academic courses and programmes. This is partly due to the field's diverse scope, including its complex, cross-disciplinary and applied character. These attributes have also slowed its recognition as a credible domain of scholarship.

This situation has changed in recent years, as universities have become more active in disaster risk management, reflecting growing scholarly

interest in risk and resilience. It is also signalled by the number, variety and geographic spread of academic programmes now offering disaster risk-related qualifications. And it is reflected in a surge of new academic journals that reach beyond an earlier focus on natural hazards and emergency management.

While many African universities are keen to introduce new disaster risk-related courses, they also face pressure to address other competing needs. Recognising this, Periperi U partners have designed their courses to meet developmental capacity deficits as well as disaster risk priorities. Not only has this approach advanced socially responsive disaster risk scholarship. It has also increased prospects for institutional traction within the partner universities and the sustainability of programmes offered.

Makerere University, Uganda, is a leading centre of higher learning in Africa and member of Periperi U





Periperi U's participation in the GAR consultation process helped underline the value of DRM as an important field of scholarship for the University of Ghana

Because HEIs help bring disaster risk into the mainstream

Higher education institutions are crucial for driving disaster risk into academic and development mainstreams. They can produce graduates with the skill-sets and capacities to tackle local risks. Professional curricula that integrate disaster risk considerations can transform risk management practice. HEIs can achieve breakthroughs in risk knowledge through innovative post-graduate studies and multi-partner research.

However, it is often the **process** of introducing a new programme that has the greatest potential for change. HEIs do not lightly embark on new academic initiatives. The inclusion of an explicit risk perspective within an existing field, or the introduction of a cross-disciplinary DRM degree always involves institutional adjustments.

It requires extensive internal negotiation and approval within university planning and governance

systems, followed by the formal approval by a national qualifications assurer. This protracted process serves as an incremental, but powerful force for change. This is due to the demands for persistent and sustained advocacy that reinforce the field's academic value and relevance.

Often, the process of introducing a new programme has the greatest potential for change.

In Africa, higher education institutions must do even more. This is because in many countries the 'development mainstream' may be fragile at best. Periperi U's courses integrate risk considerations within disciplines (sectors) as well as in cross-disciplinary programmes. This ensures the curricula achieve the best value-added for both local development and risk reduction.

Partners' academic programmes...

1 Bahir Dar University, ETHIOPIA

Dept of Disaster Risk Management & Sustainable Development (DRMSD)

- BSc Disaster Risk Science & Sustainable Development
- MSc Disaster Risk Science & Sustainable Development

2 Makerere University, UGANDA

School of Public Health

- Masters in Public Health Disaster Management

3 Moi University, KENYA

Dept of Epidemiology & Biostatistics

- BSc Environmental Health

4 Ardhi University, TANZANIA

School of Environmental Science and Technology

- MSc Disaster Risk Management
- MSc Disaster Risk Management & Engineering
- Master of Disaster Risk Management (MDRM)

5 Universidade Técnica de Moçambique, MOÇAMBIQUE

Unidade de Produção e Gestão de Riscos de Desastres

- BSc Honours Environmental Engineering & Disaster Management
- MSc Technical Education, Development & Disaster Management

6 University of Antananarivo, MADAGASCAR

Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Economiques pour le Développement (CERED)

- BSc Honours Introduction to Disaster Economics
- MSc Multidisciplinary Disaster & Risk Management

7 Stellenbosch University, SOUTH AFRICA

Research Alliance for Disaster & Risk Reduction (RADAR)

- Disaster Risk Studies & Development (Honours Module)
- MPhil Disaster Risk Science & Development

8 Ahmadu Bello University, NIGERIA

Centre for Disaster Risk Management & Development

- Masters in Disaster Management
- postgraduate Diploma in Disaster Management

9 University of Ghana, GHANA

Dept of Geography & Resource Development (Undergrad Modules)

- Theories & Analytical Methods for Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction
- Policies & Strategies for Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction (MPhil Modules)
- Concepts & Methods in Advanced Integrated DRR
- Applied Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction in Urban Ghana

10 Gaston Berger Université, SENEGAL

UFR de Sciences Agronomiques, d'Aquaculture et de Technologies Alimentaires

- MSc in Prevention & Management of Risks Related to Food Security in West Africa

11 University of Science & Technology Houari Boumediene, ALGERIA

Built Environment Research Laboratory (LBE)

- MDRM Earthquake Engineering & Disaster Risk Management (Pending)

...from Algiers to Antananarivo



Africa 'cracks the code' on risk curricula...

In Africa, responsive risk management is a development priority that requires strong cross-disciplinary thinking and applied problem-solving skills. While the continent's universities acknowledge their role in this effort, they have faced real challenges in introducing disaster risk courses.

The Periperi U model argues there is 'no one size that fits all' curriculum.

This is because the disaster risk domain is complex, requiring an understanding and integration of both natural and social sciences. Instruction must also be informed by the local risk profile, as well as national policies and international frameworks. These factors are made more difficult by the continent's linguistic diversity, which affects the transfer of risk

knowledge captured in primarily English-medium materials and resources.

This is why the Periperi U model argues that there is '**no one size that fits all**' curriculum, and why the consortium's current courses are:

- explicitly aligned with sustainable development, or
- nested within applied disciplines, (eg engineering, public health and education), or
- firmly anchored in the disaster risk domain, or
- taught as modules integrated within an existing academic programme.

Such programmes are not introduced overnight, and require skilled, tenacious institutional navigation. For instance, Makerere successfully introduced its Masters of Public Health in Disaster Management in 2014, but only after five years of vigorous institutional advocacy.

Students engage with local councillors to understand capacity challenges in managing informal settlement risks





UG students carry out field research on flood risk in Accra

...and steps-up access to risk education

The active involvement of universities has transformed access to tertiary-level capacity building in DRM. Across Africa, there are now relevant cross-disciplinary disaster risk academic programmes in fields that include engineering, urban planning, economics, environmental science and public health. While a growing number of other universities are beginning to offer DRM programmes, a snapshot of the new Periperi U programmes is shown below.

National and continental firsts

- **Bahir Dar University** introduced Ethiopia's first disaster risk related courses – BSc and MSc degrees in Disaster Risk Management and Sustainable Development as early as 2005-2007.
- **Ardhi University** introduced the first MSc DRM degree in Tanzania in 2009.
- The **University of Mostaganem** offered Algeria's first Masters in Disaster Risk Management in 2009, in association with USTHB.
- The **University of Ghana** became Ghana's first HEI to offer applied DRR-related academic courses in 2010.
- The **University of Antananarivo** (Madagascar) introduced the first francophonic DRM degree in Africa, an MSc in Multidisciplinary Disaster and Risk Management (DMGRC) in 2010.
- The **Technical University of Mozambique** launched the continent's first lusophonic (Portuguese) MSc qualification in Technical Education, Risk Reduction and Development in 2013.
- **Makerere University** (Uganda) launched the continent's first Masters in Public Health Disaster Management in 2014.
- **Gaston Berger University** (Senegal) introduced the first francophonic MSc in the Prevention and Management of Food Security Risks in Africa in 2015.

Seizing student imagination...

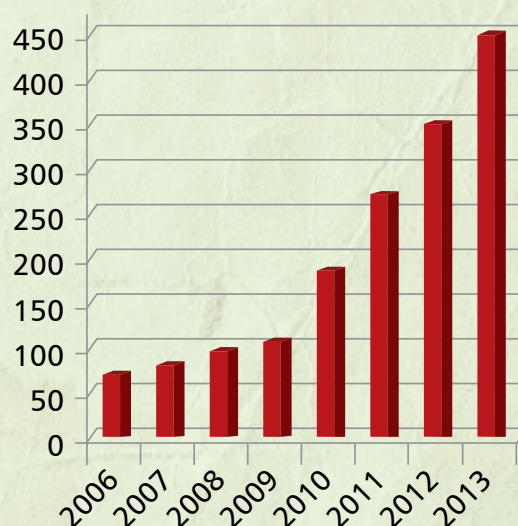
High-school leavers as well as adult practitioners have seized the new opportunities to take disaster risk-related courses. After 35 students graduated with new MSc DRM degrees from the University of Antananarivo in 2011, there were 100 applicants for the 2012 intake. In Ethiopia, over 80 applicants applied for the 2012 MSc DRMSD programme. From 2014-on, Bahir Dar responded by adding a distance education programme that now reaches nearly 30 students.

In 2010, the University of Ghana introduced modules in Integrated Environmental Health and Disaster Risk Reduction in Urban Areas. Although only 15 students enrolled, by 2012, the course convenor needed to 'cap' the course at 50 students. Similarly when Ardhi University in Tanzania first offered its DRM postgraduate degree in 2009, only two students registered. This had surged to 20 students by the 2014/15 academic year.

In Nigeria in 2014, Ahmadu Bello University registered 100 postgraduate students for its Masters in Disaster Management, with a further 26 enrolling for the postgraduate diploma. The rapid uptake and rising

demand for disaster risk-related teaching signals the field's rising stature in Africa. As local and national authorities step-up their efforts to manage risk, they recognise the need for more highly skilled staff. This has prompted both young people and experienced practitioners to seek-out formal qualifications for a field that offers a credible and engaging career path.

**New student enrolments in
Periperi U programmes 2006-2013**



BDU students attend an undergraduate lecture in disaster risk management





Passionate and committed staff have been core to Periperi U, as illustrated by UDM personnel

...with a surge in teaching staff

The rising demand for DRM-related academic programmes has brought huge pressure on available teaching resources. It has required expansion of core teaching staff as well as external faculty often drawn from government or nongovernmental organisations and the private sector. From 2010-2014, Periperi U's teaching and research staff more than doubled, with core staff numbers rising from 41 to almost 120 people.

The increase in human resources over this period also reflects the progression of younger teaching staff through their own masters and doctoral studies. This is a mentoring process that nurtures emerging scholars, and has enabled partner universities to deliberately 'grow their own timber' for teaching and research in the past five-ten years.

Periperi U's commitment to the sustainability of the new DRM programmes is also signalled

financially. While some activities are funded externally, most partners have committed resources directly from their universities' central operating budgets to support the new teaching and learning programmes.

From 2010 to 2014, Periperi U's core staff rose from 41 to almost 120 people.

This pattern departs markedly from many other disaster risk-related capacity building initiatives which rely heavily on donor support. It underlines the value of embedding DRM-related courses within committed HEIs to increase prospects of sustainability and expansion.

Advancing relevant community-based disaster risk management...

Community-based disaster risk management has long been a central component of disaster risk reduction efforts, and the focus primarily of nongovernmental or other civil society organisations. Yet, higher education institutions are also active in community-based work, with many Periperi U partners supporting risk reduction initiatives in highly vulnerable communities.

Participatory planning tools inform and improve local disaster risk management.

In Periperi U academic programmes, community engagement is an integral component of applied student coursework, and an important opportunity for service learning. For example, a core element of Stellenbosch University's Disaster Risk Studies and Development module requires students to

conduct a Community Risk Assessment (CRA) in an at-risk settlement. CRAs serve as a method of participatory research which enables marginalised settlement residents to share their risk experience with researchers and other stake-holders. Since 2012, SU students have carried out CRAs in at-risk communities facing diverse and difficult pressures. These have ranged from informal settlement flooding to farmworker retrenchment, or even job losses due to factory closures in poor fishing communities.

Student observations and analyses are not only assessed academically for a course mark. They are compiled into reports that are shared with community members and local government. These are valuable planning tools to inform and improve local disaster risk management.

Using aerial photographs, SU students discuss experiences of informal settlement risks with community residents





Between 2010-2014, Tanà's regular short courses have reached over 275 people

...and local capacity building for front-line practitioners

Disaster risk management involves a wide range of stake-holders that include specialised professionals such as architects and public health workers, as well as emergency responders and community development workers. It also relies on government workers and public officials who work with communities that face multiple risks. Periperi U has not overlooked these groups in its capacity-building work, recognising that these practitioners are on the front-line of local risk management.

For example CERED, a research centre at the University of Antananarivo (Tanà), has run DRM short courses in Madagascar since 2010. From 2010-2014, more than 275 people attended these 7-day sessions, from development ngos, local authorities UN agencies and other organisations. The practically-oriented courses combine classroom

teaching as well as fieldwork, and draw on Tanà's risk research expertise. They serve as local risk management planning opportunities as well, by identifying possible solutions that government officials and local residents can take forward.

The University of Ghana's courses also reach practitioners from many community and civil society groupings - in addition to organisations like the Ghanaian Red Cross Society, Ghana's National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), Ghana National Fire and Rescue Service (GNFRS), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Local Government's Environmental Health Unit. These sessions have not only helped practitioners to update their own risk understanding, but have also given them confidence to transfer new knowledge to their colleagues and co-workers.

Unlocking doors to risk knowledge

Accurate risk knowledge is essential for risk management planning. In other regions, universities have long been research partners in risk management efforts, often with support from government-funded scholarships and academic grants. This has helped to build stocks of locally applicable risk knowledge and to stimulate young talent to pursue active risk research careers.

Although similar risk science investments have not benefited African universities, many HEIs are now addressing local risk knowledge gaps. They are tackling this through post-graduate research and commissioned risk studies with a wide range of partners.

This surge in postgraduate and commissioned risk research has unlocked a wealth of previous unknowns on local risks in Africa. It has also strengthened human capacity by building graduate capabilities in independent research, analysis and written communication.

Most Periperi U partners carry out cross-disciplinary research, applying both quantitative and qualitative research methods. In one integrated risk study, Gaston Berger University is researching ways to better manage watersheds to reduce the risk of crop failure in Senegal's semi-arid zones.

While its primary focus is on the role of watersheds in providing soil nutrients, the study is also exploring resilience strategies adopted by local farmers to manage and overcome low soil fertility. Understanding both these processes is crucial to protecting food and livelihood security in semi-arid areas.

*Investment in disaster risk research
builds stocks of local risk knowledge.*

*GBU students learn how soil quality affects
agricultural risk in the Senegal River Valley*





USTHB's urban risk expertise draws from studies on events like the 2003 Boumerdes earthquake

Tackling urban vulnerability

As Africa rapidly urbanises, its risk profile is changing. This raises new and complex risk management challenges for local authorities, who need accurate risk knowledge. Periperi U's researchers and scientists recognise this urgency. Many are studying urban vulnerability and risk, not only publishing this in scientific journals, but also channelling the findings to local authorities and other groups to better inform local risk management.

For almost two decades, the University of Science and Technology Houari Boumediene has actively carried out research on the seismic vulnerability of buildings in Algeria. The importance of this work was underscored by the devastating Boumerdes earthquake of 2003. This disaster claimed over 2,000 lives, injured more than 10,000 people and left 200,000 people homeless.

Seismic engineering research following the earthquake revealed a host of structural deficiencies (or 'pathologies') in buildings located in Algiers and Boumerdes. These findings provided important evidence for new building codes. However, they also prompted USTHB to offer courses for non-engineers on how to visually assess earthquake building vulnerability.

Since then, hundreds of participants have attended the courses, including building managers, property owners, tenants and emergency services personnel. Although the courses are practical and accessible, the information on seismic vulnerability is underpinned by robust and scientific engineering research.

'Pushing the envelope' on cross-disciplinary scholarship...

Disaster risk scholarship is a cross-disciplinary domain. While educators and practitioners agree in principle that the field needs inter-disciplinary and transdisciplinary scholarship, this is challenging to implement in practice. It is even more difficult in Africa, where universities are highly resource-constrained, and where new cross-disciplinary academic programmes must overcome entrenched disciplinary silos.

Periperi U has intentionally 'pushed the envelope' on cross-disciplinary risk scholarship in Africa. This has led to new, vibrant, academic programmes that are not only changing DRM skill-sets and knowledge. They are also working to improve risk governance in disaster-prone countries.

In 2005, Bahir Dar University established its Department of Disaster Risk Management and Sustainable Development, becoming Ethiopia's first university to offer undergraduate and postgraduate

DRM degrees. These courses have successfully reached hundreds of students since their introduction, with almost 550 undergraduate and 170 postgraduate students respectively registering for the two degrees. In response to growing pressure to increase course accessibility, BDU has also added summer school and distance programmes for government officials and nongovernmental practitioners.

Vibrant, academic programmes can change DRM skill-sets and improve risk governance.

The MSc DRM's value goes far beyond the number of graduates. The MSc research outputs, usually focused on cross-disciplinary themes, have substantially advanced risk knowledge for disaster risk management planning.

BDU students carry out an urban risk assessment exercise for their "Perception, Identification and Communication of Risk" module





Qualified teachers advance their knowledge of DRR through postgraduate studies offered by UDM

...re-imagining development and disaster risk management

In Africa, universities play crucial roles in helping to reshape 'mainstream' development activities so these become more resilient.

Efforts by the Technical University of Mozambique (UDM) show how a new post-graduate degree can stimulate more wide-ranging sectoral change. In 2014, UDM launched its MSc in Technical Education, Risk Reduction and Development, with the strategic intent of reorienting primary and secondary education efforts more developmentally.

"We want more emphasis on disaster risk management... and education for social cohesion."
– UDM staff.

The rationale prompting the degree argued that a focus on risk reduction alone would be ineffective without major adjustments in the Education Sector. It also acknowledged the lasting legacies of Mozambique's civil war that saw the country's rural school network completely destroyed.

The curriculum is development-oriented, and includes development economics and risk management. 30 qualified teachers enrolled for the lusophonic MSc degree when it was first launched. UDM staff stressed "We want more emphasis on rural literacy, in teaching history and geography, teaching of disaster risk management... and education for social cohesion".

Makerere University in Uganda, and Moi University in Kenya have also sought to redefine the interface between health and disaster risk management. Makerere's Masters in Public Health Disaster Management (MDM) degree represents the first postgraduate public health degree in Africa with an explicit disaster risk management focus. Given Africa's risk profile, this integrated health and disaster risk management postgraduate course is long overdue.

Community outreach as catalyst for change

While Periperi U partners offer DRM short courses for professionals and practitioners, they also recognise the need to work with highly vulnerable communities as well as local partners to address 'real-world' problems.

In 2014, Stellenbosch University collaborated closely with the Cape Winelands District Disaster Management Centre to carry out a hazard awareness project in an impoverished rural area. This initiative, called "Danger through the Eyes of a Child", focused on 160 Grade 7 learners at a local primary school. It aimed at introducing the teenagers to concepts of hazards and risks, so they could recognise potentially dangerous situations that might arise everyday.

In addition to class input, groups of learners received disposable cameras and were asked to photograph situations they perceived to be dangerous. The feedback was overwhelming,

with pupils taking dozens of pictures depicting dangerous elements and hazardous scenarios. 100 of the best photographs were displayed in an exhibition at SU's student centre, which all 160 children attended.

Pupils took dozens of pictures depicting dangerous elements and hazardous scenarios.

In this way, the project achieved multiple objectives. Not only did it introduce the Grade 7s to the concepts of risk and risk reduction. It also provided valuable insights for SU and disaster risk managers on the range of hazards and risks young people face in poor communities. And, it helped bridge the socio-economic gap between young people from poor settlements and university students from more privileged areas.

This photograph of the "tunnel" was identified by children as a hotspot for robbery and abuse





Ardhi has run many DRM short courses – this one for the Bagamoyo District Council, July 2014

Engaged scholarship improves risk governance

Engaged scholarship is a central aspect of Periperi U's work. It anchors partner contributions in a wider social context, simultaneously enabling the co-production of risk knowledge. Since 2006, Periperi U's focus on engaged scholarship has underlined a clear commitment to multi-stakeholder engagement that cooperatively advances local and national risk governance.

Ardhi University has a long history of engaged DRM scholarship with national and local government. In addition to commissioned training and disaster planning exercises, this is reflected in research that (remarkably) informed two Disaster Management Acts. Ardhi's initial research on Disaster Risks and Capacity Needs Assessment for Zanzibar commissioned by the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar was the basis for the formulation of Zanzibar's Disaster Management Policy of 2011. The study findings have subsequently been accepted and are now operational.

A more recent Ardhi study on Disaster Risks and Capacity Needs Assessment for Mainland Tanzania also informed the review of the Tanzania's national Disaster Management Policy and subsequent Disaster Management Bill, which was tabled before Parliament in November 2014. This is now in the final stages of approval.

In both instances, Ardhi's disaster risk research results revealed how previous disaster management policies, plans and legal instruments as well as operational guidelines had focused disproportionately on disaster response rather than DRR.

The collaborations have not only advanced risk governance. They have also strengthened the risk knowledge base that underpins Ardhi's DRM academic programme and related short courses.

'Getting REaL' globally

Higher education institutions have a long tradition of cross-boundary partnership and knowledge networking. These knowledge partnerships have become even more crucial for navigating today's complex and interconnected development terrain. Periperi U illustrates an effective transnational knowledge consortium that has catalysed risk reduction efforts in Africa.

Periperi U's successes are also due to its capacity to mobilise across the continent and for collegial learning among its members. This has enabled new formal and non-formal disaster risk-related programmes to 'jump-start' quickly. It has also produced a continental architecture for the almost seamless transfer of disaster-risk knowledge across languages, disciplines and national borders.

Global recognition of Periperi U's capacity was underlined by its 2014 approval as Africa's first IRDR International Centre of Excellence (ICoE) with a focus on Risk Education and Learning (REaL). This acknowledged the value of grounded, integrated risk education for disaster risk scholarship, risk management as well as risk governance.

What is the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) Programme?

Established in 2010 to address the major challenges of natural and human-induced environmental hazards, the IRDR facilitates international, transdisciplinary and cross-hazard approaches to DRR research to reduce the impacts as well as losses induced by natural disasters. This initiative is co-sponsored by ICSU, the International Social Science Council and UNISDR.

"Changing risks call for new forms of research, teaching and application that integrate disaster risk with public health."

– Dr Tarande Manzila, WHO, at the Scientific, Academic and Technical Communities Session, Abuja, Nigeria.

The 2014 IRDR Conference on "Integrated Disaster Risk Science: A Tool for Sustainability," involved 200 experts and emerging researchers



INTEGRATED DISASTER RISK SCIENCE:
A TOOL FOR SUSTAINABILITY

IRDR CONFERENCE 2014
BEIJING, CHINA

JUNE 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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29	30					



Periperi U convened the Scientific, Technical and Academic Communities (STAC) session at the 5th Africa Regional Platform that preceded this ministerial consultation

Extending Connections – Reinforcing Resilience

Since its inception, Periperi U has worked to stretch risk scholarship beyond established borders. This applies to political and geographic limits, as well as language or disciplinary boundaries. It has also consciously extended risk scholarship by connecting with groups across a wide spectrum, embracing sustainable development, climate change and the humanitarian enterprise.

Periperi U has woven a web of curricula, courses, graduates, skill-sets, research and relationships.

Periperi U's disaster risk curricula have stretched and reoriented academic programmes by incorporating an explicit risk management perspective. And the partners' risk research methodologies have shifted to increasingly integrate approaches from natural and social sciences as well as public health and engineering.

For nearly a decade, Periperi U has woven a web of curricula, courses, graduates, skill-sets, research findings and relationships that have reframed risk management in many African countries. In

the process, it has incrementally built a cross-disciplinary, multi-lingual architecture for risk education and learning that spans the continent.

Periperi U's efforts have created a platform for extending risk education support within Africa, especially for HEIs that wish to introduce DRM-related programmes. This same architecture, through its IRDR links, has also opened the prospect of extending connections to risk research centres in the Americas, Asia, Oceania and Europe. These cross-continental collaborations now offer scope for innovative and globally relevant risk research and capacity building.

In this way, just as the spider's web confers protection from the storm, Periperi U underlines the value of a focused risk education network in advancing and reinforcing resilience – and its contribution to Africa and beyond.

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Poster to advertise the Klapmuts primary school "danger through the eyes of a child" photography project

Gevaar deur die oë van 'n kind



Please Support the Grade 7's from Klapmuts Primary by
voting in our photo competition poll!

1. Select the photograph that you feel **a)** best depicts a hazardous situation and **b)** that you also find artistically appealing
2. Fill in the number of the photograph, your name and cell number on a voting form and drop it in the 'voting' box
3. Stand a chance to win a Neelsie Voucher to the Value of R500.00 if you predict the winner

The child whose photograph is selected will also win a prize!!!



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Periperi U represents an innovative collaboration of African universities committed to strengthening strategic capacity to reduce and manage contextually-relevant disaster risks. It gives explicit priority to 'closing the gap' between Africa's institutions of higher learning, and contemporary disaster risk management policy and practice within countries and across the continent. Its members also work closely with many governmental partners as well as with bilateral and multilateral organisations and nongovernmental organisations.

The consortium provides a vehicle for disaster risk knowledge exchange across disciplines, risk profiles, national borders and regional groupings, and taps applied expertise from across Africa. It actively engages academic staff in eleven countries, working across diverse disciplines, including engineering, urban planning, economics, environmental science and public health. This diversity places it in a unique position to help develop the skilled human resources required to drive risk reduction in Africa through cutting-edge research and teaching that is contextually relevant, robust and responsive.

Find out more about Periperi U through our website:

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And contact us at the secretariat offices for any enquiries and information

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