



PAPU/ATC/SC/01/2024 – Doc No. 06

**STRATEGY COMMITTEE (SC)
5, 6 JUNE 2024 ARUSHA, TANZANIA**

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (DRM) WORKING GROUP REPORT

1. Subject Disaster Risk Management Report (DRM) Report	References/Paragraphs PAPU Action Plan 2022-2025
2. Decisions expected: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt the Report.• Consider the Recommendations of the Working Group.	

1. INTRODUCTION

The Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Working Group held a virtual meeting on 12th March 2024. During the DRM meeting, three (3) main issues on the agenda were discussed and deliberated on, as indicated under item 2 below.

2. THE MAIN ISSUES TABLED AND DISCUSSED

The following salient issues were deliberated on during the meeting:

- Disaster Management: Disaster Experiences and Responses;
- Capacity Building Initiatives;
- Africa Postal Sector Risk Register & Mitigatory Measures.

3. REPORT SUBMISSION

The detailed report for the Working Group meeting is annexed herewith as **Annexure 1**.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 On Disaster Experiences and Responses

- a) During disasters, affected Members are encouraged to complete the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Assessment Forms for the General Secretariat to immediately inform the DRM Working Group to convene and spur into action;
- b) A Disaster Contingency Fund should be created to help cushion the effects of natural disasters. In this regard, Members should collectively work as a team to come up with a proposal to be tabled to potential donors for funding to contain the effects of disasters. The proposal should consider the matter from short, medium, and long-term perspectives.
- c) Each subregion should have volunteer Members on the Task Team for the initiative to create the Disaster Contingency Fund.

4.2 On Capacity Building initiatives

- a) A Capacity Building Plan be crafted on disaster handling considering the frequency and severity of damage caused to postal activities and infrastructure during those situations;
- b) Collaboration be established with Donor countries and/or organizations working with the countries, e.g., CARE, World Vision (WV), etc., to assist in Capacity Building initiatives at country level;

4.3 On Africa Postal Sector Risk Register and Mitigation Measures

- a) Members are called upon to share their top ten (10) risks quarterly, considering that risks are of different magnitudes from one country to another at any time. This will create a platform from where members can share experiences in terms of how to manage risks as they arise;
- b) It was also proposed that Member States comply with the Global Climate Change (Paris Agreement) provisions on fleet management to contribute to carbon emission reduction. Therefore, this calls for incorporating climate change and sustainability issues in the Africa Postal Sector Risk Register and Mitigation Measures Plan.

5. DECISIONS EXPECTED

This document is submitted for the Committee to:

- Adopt the Report.
- Consider the Recommendations of the Task Force.



DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (DRM) WORKING GROUP MEETING REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

The Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Working Group held its virtual meeting on 12th March 2024 pursuant to the PAPU Consolidated Action Plan for the Period 2021-2025, which mandates it to undertake Recovery Interventions and Mechanisms where necessary.

Against this background, the Working Group undertook some Disaster Risk Management interventions, especially disaster experiences and responses to Morocco and Libya, which the General Secretariat shared during the meeting.

The meeting also discussed two (2) other matters specific to DRM within the PAPU Consolidated Action Plan for 2021-2025. These were:

- Capacity Building Initiatives;
- Africa Postal Sector Risk Register & Mitigatory Measures

This Report covers the three (3) items deliberated during the Working Group Meeting.

2. OPENING REMARKS

2.1 Welcome Remarks by the Chairperson

The interim Chair, Mr. Bennie Aggrey Saka (Malawi) called the meeting to order and commenced the deliberations for the day at 08:20 hrs. (GMT). He welcomed all participants to the meeting and expressed gratitude for the honor of chairing this important meeting, albeit impromptu. He underscored the importance of the Working Group, which is to ensure that Members can handle disasters before, during, and after they occur. He also stressed the need to respond to disasters within 48 hours, which is in line

with UPU recommendations. Finally, he called upon participants to feel free and contribute positively to the deliberations during the meeting.

2.2 Opening Remarks by the Secretary General

The Secretary General welcomed participants and thanked Mr. Bennie Aggrey Saka -Rapporteur) for accepting to stand in as Chair on behalf of South Africa (Chair), Mozambique (1st Vice Chair) - who were not present due to other equally important and unavoidable engagements, and Madagascar - who could not join at the commencement of the meeting due to circumstances beyond their control. He further thanked participants for sparing time to attend this edition of the DRM Working Group Meeting and called upon them to be active as usual to achieve the aspirations and goals at the end of the meeting. He reminisced that the Working Group is entrusted with coming up with strategies, approaches, and mechanisms for Safety and Resilience before, during, and after disasters or pandemics strike. Specifically, the Working Group is mandated to fulfill that task by engaging in risk identification and risk management framework development, undertaking recovery interventions and mechanisms, and ensuring the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and competencies and sharing. Therefore, he stressed that these tasks are intended to complement other agencies' efforts (not necessarily to substitute them) in handling DRM issues so that posts can be more resilient and swiftly recover from them once they are affected. He then thanked the entire Bureau and members for their commitment to the objectives of the Working Group. He continued by saying that the General Secretariat is poised to undertake some initiatives including, but not limited to, Capacity Building and finding suitable mechanisms for financing various natural disasters during the entire risk management lifecycle: risk prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Finally, he stated that the General Secretariat will always provide the necessary support for the success of the work of the Working Group.

3. CONFIRMATION OF BUREAU

The General Secretariat confirmed the composition of the Bureau as follows:

CHAIR:	SOUTH AFRICA
1st VICE CHAIR:	MOZAMBIQUE
2nd VICE CHAIR:	MADAGASCAR
RAPPORTEUR:	MALAWI
SECRETARIAT:	GENERAL SECRETARIAT

The Chair (South Africa) and the first Vice Chair (Mozambique) were not present due to other engagements taking place at the same time. The second Vice Chair (Madagascar) could not join at the beginning of the meeting due to some challenges beyond their control. Thus, Malawi steered the Meeting as interim Chair.

4. Participation

4.1 Member States

Over 48 participants attended the meeting from the following PAPU Member States: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Congo Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Egypt, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

4.2 PAPU General Secretariat

The Secretary General, Dr. Sifundo Chief Moyo, and the General Secretariat Team attended the meeting.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda below was adopted as presented.

- a) Opening Remarks;
- b) Confirmation of Bureau;
- c) Disaster Management Activities:
 - ✓ Disaster Experiences and Responses:
 - Morocco
 - Libya
 - ✓ Capacity Building initiatives;
 - ✓ Africa Postal Sector Risk Register and Mitigation Measures.
- d) Date and Venue of the Next Meeting;
- e) Any Other Business;
- f) Closing.

6. DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

6.1 Disaster Experiences and Responses

The General Secretariat presented an overview of the Disaster Experiences and Responses vide **PAPU/SCDRM/01/2024- Doc No. 2**, highlighting that an emergency virtual DRM Working Group Bureau Meeting was held on 14th September 2023 to discuss the earthquake and floods that affected Morocco and Libya on 8th and 11th September 2023, respectively. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the two disaster situations and examine the disaster recovery measures for the Post in light of the emergency caused by the quake in the Kingdom of Morocco and the floods in the State of Libya.

The salient points of the effects of the disasters were reported to be as follows:

a) Kingdom of Morocco

The devastating earthquake in the Kingdom of Morocco happened on Friday, 8th September 2023. It left more than 2,800 people dead and injured 2,500, and many more were missing. Two postal facilities were destroyed, while fifteen (15) other properties sustained minor damages. Despite the widespread damage caused by the earthquake, postal and banking services could still carry out their activities. A few postal employees' homes were destroyed due to the tragedy, and Post Maroc was extending aid to those affected during the disaster. Post Maroc also provided trucks to distribute humanitarian assistance and built mobile branches to offer services to the affected areas. Therefore, the postal and financial services situation was under control. Post-Maroc could function within the zone despite the challenging situation since the area is mountainous, making it difficult for people to receive the services offered by the post.

b) The State of Libya

The aftermath of catastrophic flooding caused by rainfall caused by a heavy storm (Storm Daniel) in Shahhat City, the State of Libya, on 11 September 2023 resulted in approximately 2,000 deaths and thousands more people missing. There was no report about the effects of the floods on postal services. It was reported that the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) assessment forms were shared with both Morocco and Libya. Thus, the two (2) countries were encouraged to complete the assessment forms to collect information and share it with the DRM Working Group and the General Secretariat. Furthermore, the affected countries were urged to seek assistance whenever disasters occur.

After deliberations, and in addition to the above specific actions that were taken for Morocco and Libya, the meeting agreed on the following recommendations:

- i. In cases of Disasters, affected Members are encouraged to complete the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Assessment Forms for the General Secretariat to immediately inform the DRM Working Group to convene and spur into action;
- ii. A Disaster Contingency Fund should be created to help cushion the effects of natural disasters. In this regard, Members should collectively work as a team to develop a proposal to be tabled to potential donors for funding to contain the effects of disasters. The proposal should consider the matter from short, medium, and long-term perspectives.
- iii. Each sub-region should have volunteer Members in the Task Team for the initiative to create the Disaster Contingency Fund. Additional Member States are required to join those that volunteered to be part of the Task Team, namely, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mozambique, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe

6.2 Capacity Building Initiatives

The General Secretariat's presentation observed that effective capacity building generates greater sustained abilities to plan and implement Disaster Risk Management (DRM), ultimately decreasing vulnerability. To this end, it was reported that the General Secretariat has been engaging the UPU in line with the provisions of the PAPU/UPU MoU to conduct a Workshop for PAPU Members. A joint Disaster Risk Management workshop with the UPU will be held for PAPU Members in 2025. In addition to engagements with the UPU on DRM training, other organizations that were earmarked for engagements on possible training opportunities are the following:

- a) United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA);
- b) Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent;
- c) USAID;
- d) UK Government through DFID;
- e) German Government through GIZ;

After deliberations on Disaster Management Activities, it was agreed as follows:

- i. A capacity building plan be made to look seriously at how disasters can be handled considering the frequency and severity of damage caused to postal activities and infrastructure;
- ii. Donor countries working with the countries, e.g., CARE, World Vision (WV), etc., can assist in Capacity Building initiatives, as well as resource mobilization drives at the country level;
- iii. The countries that volunteered to be part of the Task Team to work on the Contingency Fund and Capacity Building were the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mozambique, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe.

6.3 Africa Postal Sector Risk Register and Mitigation Measures

The General Secretariat presented the Africa Postal Sector Risk Register, and Mitigation Measures vide **PAPU/SC/DRM/01/2024- Doc No. 3**.

After deliberations, the presentation on Africa Postal Sector Risk Register and Mitigation Measures was adopted with the following comments:

- a) Members were called upon to share their top ten (10) risks quarterly, considering that risks are of different magnitudes from 1 country to another at any given time. This will create a platform from where members can share experiences in terms of how to manage risks going forward;
- b) It was also proposed that Member States comply with the provisions of the Global Climate Change (Paris Agreement) on fleet management to contribute to carbon emission reduction. Therefore, this calls for the incorporation of climate change and sustainability issues in the Africa Postal Sector Risk Register and Mitigation Measures Plan.

7. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The General Secretariat will communicate the Date and Venue of the next meeting once consultations with the Chair are concluded. However, the Working Group Report will be tabled to the Strategy Committee in June 2024 ahead of the 42nd PAPU Ordinary Session of the Administrative Council in Arusha, Tanzania.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Secretary-General invited participants who volunteered to be members of the Task Team to work on the Disaster Contingency Fund proposal and a Capacity Building Plan to share their contacts with the General Secretariat.

9. CLOSING

9.1 Secretary General

In his closing remarks, the Secretary General thanked Mr. Bennie Aggrey Saka, the interim Chair, for coming in to rescue the situation and steering the meeting with tenacity. He also thanked the participants for joining the meeting, stressing that all disasters leave a trail of pain. He indicated that it is heart-warming to see a massive turnout of Members during such meetings.

Going forward, he emphasized the need for more interaction so that, from time to time, all Members can tap into each other's experience and expertise as people on the ground. Finally, he reiterated that the General Secretariat is always available to support the Working Group and countries in disaster situations.

9.2 Chair

In his closing remarks, the Chair thanked participants for their useful contributions, which made the meeting a success. He also thanked the Secretary General and his team for organizing this important meeting.

He declared the meeting closed at **09:50 (GMT)**.