



POSTAL STRATEGY COMMITTEE (SC)
PAPU/SC/DRM/01/2025 - Doc No. 05

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

28TH MARCH 2025 (ONLINE) 09:00 GMT

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT

Subject: PAPU initiatives on Disaster Risk Management during Cyclones Chido, Dikeledi and Jude and floods	References/paragraphs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PAPU Action Plan (2022-2025)
1. Decisions expected <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take note of the report;• Give advice/guidance as necessary.	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Disaster Risk Management Working Group is entrusted with the task of coming up with strategies, approaches and mechanisms for Safety and Resilience, before, during and after a disaster or a pandemic strikes. The Risk Register attached as **Annex 1** provides a global coverage of the continent's identified risks.

1.2 Accordingly, the Consolidated Action Plan for the Period 2022-2025, the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Working Group is mandated to fulfil, benchmark on each other's experience and share knowledge as well as coming up with initiatives that will enable Members better prepare for disasters and/ or pandemics. These initiatives are shared for the sole purpose of complementing other Agencies' efforts (not necessarily to substitute them) in

handling DRM issues for Posts to be more resilient and, once affected, swiftly recover from them.

1.3 The PAPU General Secretariat undertakes a number of initiatives which include finding suitable mechanisms for dealing with various natural disasters for the entire risk management lifecycle, that is, risk prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

1.4 In view of the foregoing, in Africa, four (4) natural disasters occurred during the period under review. These were Tropical Cyclones, Chido (December 2024), Dikeledi (December 2024 -January 2025) Jude (March 2025) and floods (April 2025).

1.5 PAPU, through the DRM Working Group, therefore keenly followed up these disasters in line with its mandate with a view to identifying risks, monitoring the situation and preparing for recovery interventions and mechanisms with the affected Member States.

2.0 PAPU INITIATIVES

2.1 Cyclone Chido

2.1.1 Cyclone Chido was an intense tropical cyclone that caused widespread devastation in Mozambique, Malawi, and Mauritius's Agaléga in December 2024. The phenomenon was first sighted on 5th December 2024 and steadily gained momentum as it swept south-westwards. The powerful tropical cyclone Chido made landfall on Agaléga archipelago on 11th December, before striking Madagascar. Thereafter, the Cyclone Chido hit Mozambique's coast on 15th December, before sweeping inland towards southern Malawi causing damage and disruption.

2.1.2 Subsequently, PAPU through Disaster Risk Management Working Group commiserated with the affected DOs on 16th December 2024 on the hardships and damage caused by the phenomenon, while reminding them to stay alert and brace up for any unfolding events after noting that the Cyclone had already caused damage to property and was likely to strike some more areas in other Member States. Fortunately, no Designated Operator reported any damage to property and personnel by the time it receded at the end of December 2024.

2.2 Dikeledi

Tropical Cyclone Dikeledi was a long-lived tropical cyclone that traversed the southern Indian Ocean in December 2024 and January 2025. It affected 2 countries, namely Madagascar and Mozambique as follows:

a) Madagascar

National authorities reported Dikeledi made a landfall on Madagascar on 11th January 2025 and caused damage to some roads, cutting off access to affected areas. It was also reported that the cyclone caused deaths, displacements, flooding, damage to property, landslides, strong winds and experience a dangerous sea, among many other calamities.

b) Mozambique

In Mozambique, authorities reported that the rainfall accumulations were most severe in Nampula province where it claimed 11 lives and affected more than 70,423 people with more than 15,000 houses damaged and at least 3,381 completely destroyed, 67 kilometers of road damaged and a bridge rendered impassable. Forty-three health facilities and 105 schools were affected in addition to many customers who were left without electricity. Agriculture, one of the main economic activities in the region, was severely affected, compromising food security.

The Cyclone weakened by the end of January with no report of damage to property and personnel from any of the 2 affected DOs.

2.2 Cyclone Jude

Tropical Cyclone Jude was a deadly tropical cyclone that impacted Mozambique and Madagascar. It originated from the Chagos Islands on 6th March 2024. The natural cyclone affected 2 PAPU Member States, namely Mozambique and Malawi as detailed below

a) Mozambique

Cyclone Jude made landfall in Mozambique's Nampula province on 10th March 2025, bringing heavy rainfall and strong winds. As of 13th March, the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGD) in Mozambique recorded 375,214 people affected and 81,149 houses either damaged or destroyed. Severe flooding and extensive infrastructure damage had been reported in Nampula and Zambezia provinces, further exacerbating vulnerabilities in communities already struggling with food insecurity, displacement, and limited access to essential services.

In addition to displacement concerns, health risks rose. For example, as of 14th March 2025, fifty-six (56) cholera cases had been reported in severely affected Nampula province.

b) Malawi

Nearly 20,650 people were affected by Cyclone Jude, with three missing and 4,883 displaced when Cyclone Jude hit the country between 10th and 12th March 2025, according to the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA). The tropical storm impacted nine districts in the southern part of the country. Cyclone Jude had caused 21 deaths, 130 injuries and 4 people missing

The cyclone receded in time just as PAPU General Secretariat was preparing a circular to alert DOs on the likelihood of an attack. So far, no negative report was received from any DO.

2.3 Floods in DRC

From 4th to 7th April 2025 heavy rainfall affected Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, causing flooding and landslides that resulted in casualties and damage. According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), 33 people had died and 46 were injured due to the overflow of the Ndjili River, affecting 13 out of 24 municipalities in Kinshasa city area. Several roads and houses were destroyed or damaged, the city experienced power outages and the water supply had been cut off. Homes, schools and agricultural land had been destroyed, leaving thousands without shelter or livelihoods. Stagnant and contaminated floodwaters upsurged the risk of disease outbreaks, with reported cholera cases in the province already six times higher than during the same period last year.

The floods also wiped-out key crops like cassava, maize, and peanuts, worsening an already serious food insecurity situation in the country.

PAPU was in contact with the DO in Democratic Republic of the Congo to assess whether postal property and personnel was affected and also that appropriate interventions could collaboratively be made. Fortunately, it was reported that no adverse development came up as a result of the floods for the Postal Operator.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are therefore drawn from the analysis:

- a. Postal Authorities should be alert for early warning announcements of a looming disaster communicated by their Meteorological Organizations or any competent authorities;
- b. DOS to activate DRM Plans when a catastrophe is looming or strikes and follow up on the interventions and mitigatory measures already put in place;
- c. Always maintain effective communication channels with stakeholders
- d. PAPU to set up a DRM Experts Team of 10 Members to be consolidated with the current Task Team which is comprised mainly of Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mozambique, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

4.0 DECISIONS EXPECTED

The Working Group is hereby requested to:

- Take note of the Report;
- Approve the Recommendations made in the Report
- To take note of the African Posts Risk Register
- Provide advice/guidance as necessary.

Annex 1



A RISK REGISTER FOR AFRICA POSTS

#	RISK CATEGORY	RISK TITLE	DESCRIPTION OF RISK
A) NATURAL DISASTERS			
1.	GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE	Hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violent cyclonic system that forms in the tropics
		Flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flooding is the overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. It can happen during heavy rains, when sea levels are excessively high, when snow melts too quickly for the rivers to move the resulting volumes of water within their normal water course.
		Tornadoes-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A mobile destructive vortex of violently rotating winds
		Earthquakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> it's a sudden and violent shaking of the ground as result of movements within the earth's crust and tectonic plates or volcanic action
		Wildfires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An uncontrolled and destructive fire which burns in the ush or forest or rural areas
		Tsunamis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a Japanese word meaning 'habour wave'

		Volcanic eruptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spew hot and dangerous gases, ash, lava and rock, with devastatingly destructive consequences and potentially high fatality
		Pandemics/ Influenza Pandemics (COVID-19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An influenza pandemic is a global outbreak of a new influenza A virus. A pandemic is a disease epidemic that has spread across a large region, for instance, multiple continents or worldwide
2.	CIVIL UNREST	International Conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wars or Terrorist activities
B) CORPORATE RISKS			
3.	STRATEGIC RISKS	Inappropriate Business Model.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The risk of transacting agency business where there is no direct control of the products and services. Engaging in unrelated business lines leading to loss of business growth and profitability. Lack of appropriate technology leading to lack of business migration
		Projects Failure Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caused by lack of finance, support from stakeholders or poor project management skills The organization is not generating enough revenue to fund working capital or to meet its financial obligations
4.	FINANCIAL RISKS	Vulnerable Financial Management System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The risk that financial reports are not accurate, sufficient, reliable, timely leading to poor decisions and non-compliance with regulatory expectations
		Liquidity risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk that the organization will have cash flow problems owing to poor sales volumes Poor revenue flows to fund working capital or to meet company financial obligations.
		Currency risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The risk that the company may suffer a financial loss due to currency depreciation against other currencies
		Funding risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The risk that the company may fail to get funding to finance its various projects and operating expenses
		Interest rate risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The risk of financial loss due to unpredicted interest rate volatility
		Bankruptcy/Insolvency risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When the company incurs a loss or has a working capital deficit.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Material financial uncertainty casting doubt on company's going concern status
		Poor Debt Management Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous debt accumulation due to weak internal controls and financial indiscipline
		Financial Management Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Software risks People integrity challenges Systems and procedures shortfalls
		Supplier Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non- existence of an approved vendor list leading to haphazard vendor selection, which might lead to improper selection or kick-backs Inability to vet vendors upfront for quality, resulting in inconsistent quality of services delivered by vendors.
5.	HUMAN RESOURCES RISK	People and Culture	Risk of having a wrong calibre of employees, culture and occupational health and safety issues
		Loss of skilled and competent staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to high staff turnover Failure to attract highly competent staff
		Failure meet individual performance targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk that staff may fail to meet the agreed performance targets
		Lack of or inadequate succession planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk that the company may fail to continue operating if key personnel leave the company Poor handover procedures Lack of continuity on resignations
		Poor industrial relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of work stoppages as a result of strikes by employees
		Fines and Penalties, Litigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of noncompliance with rules and regulations resulting in penalties and interest
		Accidents and injuries at the work place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of financial loss due to claims by injured employees against the company
6.	OPERATIONS RISK	Security risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of fraud/ theft/ burglary at post offices, Cash-In-Transit heists or fire/accident if the cash is not secured
		Reputational and image damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The risk of losing customers due to poor customer relations or poor service
		Lack of technological-fit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to make full utilization of new technologies in business transactions Low level of digitalization.

7.	TECHNOLOGICAL RISK		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of antiquated technology which lags behind technological innovations.
		Lack of IT-Digital training and capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk that IT utilization may be reduced due to lack of training and skills
		ICT System and Data Security System Failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue loss arising from down time caused by IT system failure and business interruptions. • The risk of loss of all financial records and financial information due to a system failure • Data security breaches and hacking which is an inherent risk on cloud-based storage facilities, failure to protect the privacy of customer information. • Risk of financial loss due to fraud committed using the IT system
8.	SOCIO-POLITICAL RISK	Demographic Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk that new tastes and product preferences lead to low demand
		Political Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The risk that business objectives may not be achieved due to political instability in the country • Policy and legislative changes; • Regulatory framework changes
		HIV/AIDS risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of working hours being shortened due to HIV/AIDS or pandemic related issues
9.	COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING RISKS	Reputational Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reputational and image damage due to poor quality
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bad Image due to poor branding
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to gain market share for the new products and services (Agency Business)
		Business viability risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Losing value due to other factors in the market resulting in loss in market share • Uncertain market conditions caused by e.g. changes in consumer tastes
		Market Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient financial support for marketing and promotional activities • Lack of product innovation
		Branding Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of competitiveness and visibility.
		Compliance Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Losses arising from penalties for failing to follow policies, procedures, regulations, contractual

10.	LEGAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK		obligations, laws and non-payment of statutory obligations
		Exposure to biohazardous materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthrax and other dangerous mail or goods e.g., bombs etc;