3. Strengthening National and Local Disaster Risk Management Capacity, Resilience and Enhancing Preparedness and Early Warning System in Rwanda

The project aligned with the 4 priority areas of the Sendai Framework for DRR, aims at further honing in on the achievements of the previous programs, as well as to expand the scope of disaster management to go beyond reactive activities and include early warning systems for better preparedness.

This will involve:

- Technical and financial assistance for capacity development of central and local bodies dealing with disaster management, early warning and monitoring including the support to national institutions with a lean and efficient team of experts in coordination, M&E and reporting to strengthen overall coordination, information management and capacity building of staff.

- Increase knowledge and skills of risk of national and local institutions and population and high risk communities from evidence-based risk assessment.

- Enhance the national multi-hazard early warning system for efficient response and recovery.

- Reduce vulnerability to natural disasters of vulnerable Communities from selected high disaster-prone districts through community projects, livelihood and recovery intervention.

Additionally, cross-cutting issues related to gender, human rights, and sustainability will be considered and mainstreamed across all planned interventions.

The project aims at focusing on the following 4 identified priorities:

- Strengthen disaster management at the institutional level. It will work with all concerned stakeholders in developing capacity for their personnel, as well as ensure that policies reflect and mainstream DRR strategies that follow the Sendai Framework.

- Have a better understanding of the risks as well as at increasing awareness of DRR strategies at the local level. It will ensure that the Risk profiling exercise (National Risk Atlas) is updated and that its recommendations are implemented in the appropriate sectors and communities depending on evidence-based risk assessments, and that the local population is aware of these preparedness and mitigation strategies

- Set up quality early warning system in the country. Through the provision and improvement of both software and hardware the early warning system will be able to provide accurate forecasting based on reliable data, analysis and distribution systems for efficient response and recovery

- Improve resilience at the community level by working directly with and empowering the local population through mitigation, adaptation and response to disasters measures and providing them with socioeconomic to particularly vulnerable households from selected district prone to disasters.

The project will achieve the following four outputs:

Output 1: Institutions at national, district and community level have improved technical capacities to reduce risks, manage and respond to natural disasters and limit gender-differentiated impacts

Output 2: Population, local authorities and national institutions have increased knowledge and skills of risks from evidence-based disaster risk assessments

Output 3: Enhanced multi hazard early warning systems to enable effective preparedness, response and recovery

Output 4: Communities in selected high-risk districts have strengthened capacity to mitigate, adapt and respond to disaster risks.

To achieve the project key outputs, the project will undertake different activities following the already in place project's outputs:

1. Institutions at national, district, and community levels have improved technical capacities to reduce risks,   manage and respond to natural disasters and limit gender-differentiated impacts

- **The activities to be implemented under it are as follows:**

- Conduct DRR Capacity Needs Assessment of MINEMA, District staff, NPDM, Rwanda Meteorology Agency, DIDIMACs and SEDIMACs

- Develop the capacity development strategy and plan for MINEMA, Districts, DIDIMACs, SEDIMACs, NPDM, and Rwanda Meteorology Agency

- Enhance the capacity of DRR organizations involved in disaster management MIDIMAR, NPDM, Rwanda Meteorology Agency and local staff including disaster management committees

- Support the participation in the International Conference for DRR and study tours

- Support program personnel to manage and coordinate the program (MIDIMAR; SPIU Coordinator, Disaster Program Manager, Disaster Project Specialist, Operation System Specialist, Disaster Technical Adviser, SPIU Accountant) (Meteo: Program manager and accountant)

- Support to the effective operation of NPDM and to the development, update and dissemination of DM policies, strategies and plans

- Support to mainstream DRR and climate information into District Development Plans and Development Sectors

- Support district authorities in updating and reviewing Disaster Management Plans

- Support to developing and customizing MHEWS and sharing best practices

- Support to developing and customizing SOP for national early warning

  2. Enhanced multi-hazard early warning systems to enable effective preparedness, response and recovery

- This output will address the need for follow up on risk assessment and its recommendations.

- The interventions and actions to be implemented under this Output are the following

- Update and digitize National Risk Atlas

- Implementation of National Risk Atlas Recommendations

- Conduct vulnerability risk assessment in districts prone to disaster

- Conduct DRR awareness raising activities among population through TV/radio programmes and production

- Organize disaster risk management clubs in secondary school

3. Communities in selected high-risk districts have strengthened capacity to mitigate, adapt and respond to   disaster risks

This output will help put in place a quality early warning system through the provision of infrastructure and soft/hardware that will help increase the accuracy of forecasts.

The interventions and actions to be implemented under this Output are as follows:

- Provide infrastructure support for operation room

- Conduct simulation exercises on major hazards for readiness for the districts

- Upgrade national disaster communication system and provide real-time early warnings

- Support to improve the generation of weather forecasts and dissemination

- Support the improvement of a national climate database providing accurate data and information

- Support the setup of National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) provided

- Support the quality assurance capability

4. Communities in selected high-risk districts have strengthened capacity to mitigate, adapt and respond to disaster risks.

This output addresses the need for increased resilience at the local level. Vulnerable populations will also be supported to ensure their livelihood can be recovered or maintained.

The interventions and actions to be implemented under this Output are as follows:

- Assist districts prone to disasters in managing disasters where there is no District Disaster Management Officer (DDMO)

- Assess social and economic losses and damages from past disasters

- Production and dissemination of public awareness materials (i.e. brochures, pamphlets, flyers, pull up banners, banners, reports, picture frames, etc.)

- Support the implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures through community-based approach

- Support socioeconomic initiatives of population vulnerable to disasters

- Carry out demonstration and create awareness on fire and lightening prevention through installation of model lightning rods and fire extinguishers in public buildings

- Provide support to population affected by disaster

Stakeholder Engagement

- The key Target groups of this intervention are the National institutions in charge of Disaster Management and Early warning systems (MIDIMAR and METEO), local institutions (Disaster Prone-District authorities) and vulnerable communities.

- The identified national institutions being the intended beneficiaries are the Ministry in Charge of Disaster Management (MINEMA), the Rwanda Meteorological agency as well as the 10-selected high prone District areas authorities. Both MINEMA, Meteo as well as District authorities will be member of the Steering Committee.

- The Vulnerable communities will be identified in partnership with MINEMA and the District Authorities with the support of the District Disaster Management Officer but will mainly focus on poor female headed households, people living with disabilities from the selected 10 Disaster prone Districts in the country (10 Districts out of a total of 30 Districts).

- This intervention aims to respond to the need to further build local community resilience through community-based disaster mitigation, management and preparedness initiatives, trainings and awareness raising campaigns which contribute to community ownership and sustainability.