

ENHANCING COLLABORATION IN FLOOD DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT: WELCOME TO THE COURSE

Source: Open Source



Welcome to the course “Enhancing collaboration in flood disaster risk management”. In this course you will be provided with the practical tools and background knowledge to improve multi stakeholder exchange, cooperation and collaboration in the specific area that you are working in. This way, you can contribute to making flood disaster risk management more effective and create a meaningful impact on your environment.

Flooding is one of the most threatening disasters the world faces. Over the past decade, urban flooding has become a major problem in many parts of the world due to its social, economic and environmental impact. Flood risk is increasing because of increase in population, economic growth, and climate change throughout the world.

Countries from the Global South are especially vulnerable to the effects caused by climate change, because their economic, social, and environmental systems are directly linked to climate change.

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Climate change is causing alterations in the occurrence, severity, and geographic spread of extreme weather occurrences like storms and floods. These changes are leading to various forms of losses and damage, encompassing economic and non-economic impacts also from cascading effects from critical infrastructure. For instance, the current decade has seen massive flood-related disasters unfold. In 2022, Pakistan witnessed the most devastating floods which submerged one third of the country, affecting 33 million people, half of whom were children. It damaged the water systems in the affected area, resulting in more than 5.4 million people being supplied with water from contaminated ponds and wells (Sands, 2022).

While the memory of this disaster was fresh, in 2023, Libya was taken over by deadliest flooding due to Tropical Storm Daniel leading to collapse of two dams. The death toll of the flood remains unknown with at least 4,000 people confirmed dead and 10,000 reported missing (Saeed, 2023). In Nigeria, floods caused 603 deaths and resulted in an economic cost of 4.2 billion US \$, while there were 544 flood-related lives lost in South Africa (CRED, 2022).

The reasons for increased flood risk are multi-faceted and highly region and context-specific. Often, floods can be associated with climate change, but also socio-economic factors such as land use and settlement patterns play a significant role.

6.8

million deaths caused by flooding (approx.) in the 20th century (Doocy et al., 2013)

6

billion \$ average flood losses in 2005 (Maio, 2018)

60

billion \$ average flood losses expected in 2050 (Maio, 2018)

33

million people were affected by flood in Pakistan in 2022

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Building resilience to flooding and improving disaster risk management systems is essential to sustain the well-being of humans and ecosystems. Hence, many policy-makers around the world as well as international agreements emphasize on resilience and flood risk mitigation while at the same time preserving the good status of water bodies (Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Paris Agreement,

EU Water Framework and the Floods Directives, European Green Deal).

Even though flooding is on the international agenda, some areas of the world are especially affected and prone to flood risk. Projections suggest that Southeast Asia and Africa are at particular flood risk under climate change and socio-economic development trends (Dottor et al., 2016). This situation is being exacerbated in developing regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa due to their lack of resources to deal with flood impacts. In those cases, effective and efficient flood disaster risk management is crucial to prevent damage, minimize economic losses and save lives.

Flood disaster risk management is at the intersection of social, environmental, economic and political issues.



Source: Bolgatanga, 2022

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Many countries are introducing adaptive and integrated systems of risk management. The integrated approach involves a wide range of stakeholders of central and local governments, private sector, academia, civil society organizations, and local communities.

There are various factors that contribute to effective flood disaster risk management.



Source: Schotten, 2022

This course puts the focus on stakeholder collaboration, cooperation, and communication. You will:

- get to know the most important barriers and enablers of efficient stakeholder engagement,
- learn how to map, activate and engage your flood disaster risk management-related network, and
- get an insight into interesting case studies and practitioner's perspectives from around the globe.

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AUTHOR(S): LENA RIEMANN, KHUSHBOO PAREEK

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