

## INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

Press Release No: 150/2022

Date: 29 July 2022

Venue: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

### Training of Trainers Held to Impart Skills and Knowledge on the Africa Multi-hazard Early Warning and Action System for Disaster Risk Reduction



The Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Action System Situation Room (AMHEWAS) situation room on Disaster Risk Reduction conducted a one-week Trainer of Trainers Workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 18 - 22 July, 2022. The workshop drew participants from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD) and selected Member States of Mozambique and Tanzania.

The participants were trained on the functioning, the mechanisms, and the tools for the AMHEWAS. The training was conducted by the African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with the International Center for Environmental Monitoring (CIMA) Research Foundation. The training was financed by the Italian Government through the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Regional Office for Africa (ROA). While opening the 5-day exercise, Mr. Gatkuoth Kai, DRR Technical Coordinator, at the AUC, relayed the greetings of the ARBE Commissioner, H.E. Josefa L. Sacko, who was instrumental in the establishment of the AMHEWAS Situation



Room, and Mr. Harsen Nyambe, Director for Sustainable Environment whom Mr. Kai represented in the opening ceremony.

On behalf of the Commissioner, the Coordinator emphasised on the need and the benefits of continued collaboration among the partners to build and strengthen a cadre of early warning experts on the continent. He noted that “The support from the Italian Government and UNDRR Africa has been pivotal in supporting the establishment of Multi-hazard Early Systems in Africa. Building on the technical support by CIMA Foundation; the science-policy interface can be cited as a best practice anchored on international cooperation”.

The UNDRR representative, Mathewos Tulu, on his part expressed his satisfaction with the progress so far in Africa towards the operationalisation of multi-hazard early warning systems for early action at Continental, regional and country levels. He also indicated that the MHEWS partnership is taking root with more capacity building of DRR and hydromet officers in impact-based multi-hazard early warning for early action being organised in the near future. Echoing the UNDRR remarks was Marco Massabo of the CIMA Foundation who emphasised the importance of setting up of another regional situation room, in the near future, at ECOWAS.

After the opening, participants delved into five intensive days of training where they gained more background knowledge behind early warning systems, and the solutions for DRR developed within the AHHEWAS framework. They were also introduced to the technical tools offered by the System including the mydewetra platform, which they utilised to produce early warning products as part of the practical sessions.



The closing ceremony was graced by H.E. Amb. Josefa Sacko, the AU Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE). Commissioner Sacko is credited with the establishment of the AMHEWAS situation room as part of her legacy at the AUC. In 2021, she promised Africa Heads of State and Government that upon her re-election, she would establish a

continental MHEWS to ensure African citizens have access to early warning and risk information to protect lives, livelihoods, development gains and the environment.

In congratulating the participants for successful completion of the training, the Commissioner noted that it was part of the larger AU vision for comprehensive coverage on the Continent on early warning. She encouraged the participants to share the knowledge further by saying “now that you have gained the knowledge and understanding of the AU vision on multi-hazard early warning systems, please share

this knowledge generously to save lives and reduce losses from disasters among our member states”.

**For media enquiry:**

**Mr. Molalet Tsedeke** | Information and Communications Directorate | African Union Commission | Mobile: +251-911-630 631 | Email: [Molalett@africa-union.org](mailto:Molalett@africa-union.org) | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**For further information, please contact:**

**Mr. Gatkuoth Kai** | Technical Coordinator for Disaster Risk Reduction | Directorate of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy, Department for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment | E-mail: [KaiG@africa-union.org](mailto:KaiG@africa-union.org) | WhatsApp: +251 909537884

**Information and Communication Directorate** | African Union Commission | **E-mail:** [DIC@africa-union.org](mailto:DIC@africa-union.org)

**Web:** [au.int](http://au.int) | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | **Follow Us:** [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)