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Multi-Hazard Contingency Plan - a Hub for Collaboration among Stakeholders to Build Resilience in Communities at risk

TerresEauVie - Niger and Burkina Faso

Each year, Niger and Burkina Faso experience natural disasters such as droughts, floods, epidemics, cross-border animal diseases and economic crises. In recent years, the two countries have also endured repeated conflicts and terrorist attacks causing massive population displacements. These incidents result in loss of lives and destruction or deterioration of populations' livelihoods and consequently affect their food and nutritional security.

USAID's RISE II activity's TerresEauVie strengthens communities' resilience and reduces their vulnerability to various crises in the Sahel region of these two countries through support to its intervention municipalities. In partnership with government agencies in charge of managing these issues (the National Disaster Prevention and Management System and the Early Warning System Coordination Unit - EWS/CSC via regional secretariats in Niger; Permanent Secretariat of National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation - SP/CONASUR in Burkina Faso), TerreEauVie developed or updated the municipal multi-hazard contingency plans. TerreEauVie helps the municipalities improve their disaster plans with their partners and apply the plans in real life after a simulation exercise.



Magaria's municipal officials explore ways to mitigate risks in their communities, through multi-risk maps created in collaboration with TerresEauVie. Photo: WaterCan, February 2020, Magaria (Zinder region, Niger)

In September 2021, 15 municipalities in Burkina Faso and 21 in Niger approved their multi-hazard contingency plans. The municipalities' elaboration process followed all the steps required by the State. Documents are comprehensive and based on multi-hazard maps developed with stakeholders. They complement Municipal Development Plans (in Burkina Faso) and Municipal Development Plans (in Niger), primarily in investments required to prevent disasters. The municipal contingency plan is an operational planning tool for prevention, preparation and response to crises and disasters.

Together with their partners, and their human and financial resources available within the municipality, these documents provide municipalities with the appropriate tools to respond to and anticipate hazards. These plans clarify relationships and responsibilities among various actors in the municipality, technical services and humanitarian partners. These plans help avoid crises, for instance, by repairing

dams that are deteriorating or by taking measures to prevent floods. Based on their contingency plan, over 23 municipalities of intervention in Niger organized sanitation days. In 13 of them where there are gutters, this operation also allowed the clearing of canals that are often blocked by residents' garbage and sand accumulation that causes run-off water to flow into people' dwellings. Such actions, undertaken on the basis of identified risks by the municipalities, helped involve and empower the residents, particularly women and youth, in maintaining public sites and unclogging several miles of gutters.

Reduce intervention time and casualties.

Contingency plans facilitate coordination of actions when crises occur because municipalities are prepared. By identifying potential hazards and planning for preparedness and response, municipalities can reduce response times and casualties. Accordingly, the contingency plan clearly identifies municipal actors (Observatoire de Suivi de la Vulnérabilité / OSV in Niger and Comité Départemental De Secours d'Urgence et de Réhabilitation / CODESUR in Burkina Faso) as key players in the coordination of actors and their actions. This may or may not be straightforward, as each agency may have its own methodology for intervention.

- ▶ **The Prefect of Seytenga, a municipality in Sahel region-Burkina Faso**, noted: *" CODESUR's capacity building provided by TerreEauVie helped us be effective in managing a recent crisis. We were able to coordinate interventions. We had the data and different partners relied on CODESUR to have this information and plan responses. That is because we know our roles well and we have learned how to handle situations through training and contingency planning "*
- ▶ **The Mayor** concurred and added: *"During the security crisis that affected Seytenga, the fact that all partners were required to approach CODESUR for better crisis management initially bothered some organizations. But after witnessing CODESUR's effectiveness and leadership in managing the crisis, I received calls from some people congratulating me, saying that CODESUR in Seytenga was efficient and performed well."*

Contingency plans are **a collaborative hub** for all these factors: they are essential primary documents for all actors involved in crisis and disaster preparation and management. Humanitarian and development actors along with technical services can connect to the plans to support municipalities in preparation/prevention and to quickly initiate a response and recovery actions based on measures defined by municipalities.

« For every dollar invested in prevention, that's \$16 saved later. »¹

Contingency plans should not be buried away as they can, for example, improve cost-effectiveness of emergency funds. It is recognized that preparing for crises costs less than responding only when crises occur. Research shows that anticipating and preventing crises is the best investment the international community can make, according to a 2018 article published on the World Bank website, for every dollar invested in prevention, \$16 will be saved later¹ "

Contingency plans further reinforce the humanitarian-development-peace nexus related to risk management in municipalities. For these reasons, TerreEauVie seeks not only to inspire other actors

¹Investing in Prevention: World Bank Group Takes New Approach to Crises - July 26, 2018
<https://blogs.worldbank.org/fr/voices/investir-dans-la-prevention-le-groupe-de-la-banque-mondiale-adopte-une-nouvelle-approche-des-crises>

to provide this type of support to other municipalities (contribute to scalability) but also to motivate organizations involved in preparedness, rapid response, and recovery to use and implement these plans.

To promote these contingency plans and to facilitate the use of these plans by actors in the field of disaster preparedness and response, TerresEauVie organized a joint event with SP/CONASUR in Burkina Faso in October 2021.

[Tune into the Sahel Resilience Radio program on municipal multi-hazard contingency plans \(TerresEauVie - SP CONASUR partnership\)](#)

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