## Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission

# 2025 Annual Progress Report for UNDP Supported Projects

**Projects:**

1. **Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance and Recovery Capacities (EU-DRGRC)**
2. **Resilient Urban Futures**
3. **Strengthening Government and Community Capacities for Disaster and Climate Risk Governance (DCRG)**

## Submitted to:

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Ethiopia)

**December 2025**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

## Introduction

Ethiopia is increasingly exposed to natural hazards, driven by climate change, rapid urbanization, environmental degradation, and limited municipal capacity. Urban centers, particularly peri-urban areas and informal settlements, are highly vulnerable due to fragile infrastructure, inadequate sanitation, and weak environmental management. Industrial expansion without proper waste management and planning further elevates chemical, occupational, and environmental risks. These compounded challenges threaten sustainable development and highlight the need for evidence-based, risk-informed planning and resilient urban systems.

In response, the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) has forged strategic partnership with UNDP Ethiopia; and has been engaged in three projects, namely: 1) Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance and Recovery Capacities (EU-DRGRC); 2) Resilient Urban Futures; and 3) Strengthening. Together, these initiatives aim to enhance disaster preparedness, strengthen institutional and governance systems, and build community resilience by integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), and Risk-Informed Development (RID**)** into national and sub-national planning. Key interventions during the reporting year, a among others, include urban disaster risk profiling and the associated resilience investment planning in Hawassa City, support establishment of national disaster loss and damage tracking system, promotion of risk-informed development, supporting multi-hazard early warning systems, enhancing evidence-based urban planning, and community-centered, gender-responsive resilience actions.

Overall. UNDP's support has contributed to strengthening institutional capacities, improved coordination for disaster risk management, safeguarded critical infrastructure, and promoted adaptive livelihoods, particularly for vulnerable populations such as women and youth. By providing actionable risk information and fostering participatory approaches, the projects support Ethiopia's commitments under the Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement,

and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.** UNDP's strategic engagement positions it as a catalyst for sustainable, inclusive, and risk-informed development, ensuring that communities and institutions are better equipped to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to disasters while safeguarding long-term development gains.

## 1. Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance and Recovery Capacities Project in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is increasingly exposed to natural hazards, exacerbated by climate change, rapid urbanization, environmental degradation, and limited municipal capacity. Urban centers, particularly peri-urban areas and informal settlements, face heightened vulnerability due to fragile infrastructure, inadequate sanitation, and weak environmental management. Industrialization without proper waste management and urban planning has further increased chemical, occupational, and environmental risks, threatening the safety and livelihoods of communities. Against this backdrop, the Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance and Recovery Capacities (DCRG) project, implemented in partnership with the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) and supported by the European Union, has played a critical role in enhancing Ethiopia's resilience to disasters through evidence-based, inclusive, and risk-informed interventions.

The project's strategic approach has focused on integrating **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), and Risk-Informed Development (RID)** into national and sub-national planning and governance frameworks. By strengthening institutional capacity and fostering multi-sector coordination, the project has helped reduce vulnerabilities, promote policy coherence, and align national systems with global commitments, including the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. In 2025, the project placed particular emphasis on strengthening disaster risk governance, enhancing community preparedness, and supporting recovery strategies that promote "build back better"

principles, thereby ensuring that development gains are safeguarded even in the face of recurring hazards.

One of the most significant achievements during the reporting period was the advancement of **integrated risk-informed development planning**. Under Output 1.2, the project successfully raised risk awareness among federal and regional officials, enhanced institutional capacities, and created mechanisms for integrating DRR and CCA into development planning processes. Workshops conducted in Addis Ababa and Hawassa provided mid-level officials and trainers with practical skills to apply multi-hazard, multi-sector approaches to development planning. Localized learning materials and training-of-trainers packages were developed to ensure applicability at regional and Woreda levels, effectively establishing a national pool of RID champions capable of rolling out risk-informed development planning across Ethiopia. These initiatives have laid the foundation for a sustainable institutional framework to mainstream DRR and CCA into development planning and budgeting.

Another important achievement was the **harmonization of reporting requirements across global frameworks**. A national consultant was engaged to assess how Ethiopia reports on the Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement, and SDGs. The assessment revealed gaps in environmental and structural indicators, linked to limited data availability, financial constraints, and the complexity of systemic risks. To address these gaps, a validation workshop was convened in Adama from 20–22 November 2025, bringing together 22 representatives from government institutions, UN agencies, and private sector partners. The workshop successfully endorsed a draft harmonized reporting framework, clarified institutional roles and responsibilities, and developed a national roadmap for improving reporting coherence over the short, medium, and long term. This effort strengthened inter-institutional collaboration and reinforced the foundation for evidence-based policymaking in Ethiopia.

To complement technical assessments, the project also commissioned a **Political Economy Analysis (PEA)** to examine governance, socio-economic, and institutional factors affecting DRR and CCA implementation. Field missions were carried out in three phases, with early findings highlighting persistent bottlenecks in coordination, resource allocation, and institutional capacity within Ethiopia's decentralized governance system. Insights from the PEA are being used to inform context-specific adaptation measures that address key climate hazards, such as droughts and floods, while safeguarding development progress.

Strengthening national risk information systems was another major milestone. The project supported the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission in establishing the **ETH-DLD disaster loss and damage tracking system**, a government-owned platform that consolidates multi-sector disaster data to support evidence-based planning, monitoring, and reporting. During technical support missions, the ETH-DLD software was installed and customized, and 109 participants from 12 regions and key cities were trained in disaster loss and damage concepts, data management, and visualization. By enabling the generation of actionable information for decision-makers, ETH-DLD represents a critical shift from reactive crisis response to proactive risk management, ensuring that Ethiopia can better anticipate, prepare for, and respond to disasters.

On the community level, the project focused on enhancing disaster preparedness and promoting sustainable resilience interventions. Participatory risk assessments were conducted in 5 target woredas (covering 4 regional states), integrating indigenous knowledge with technical analyses to ensure locally tailored and context-specific solutions. Preparations were finalized for community-based resilience-building activities, including livelihood support for 786 households, 70% of whom are women. Interventions focused on cattle and shoat fattening, beekeeping, and apiary development, while 100 Community Animal Health Workers were trained to strengthen livestock health. In addition, assessment was conducted on innovative financing strategies—accordingly, tools such as micro-insurance schemes, community savings groups, and income-generating activities—were developed to reduce dependence on short-term aid and build long-term financial resilience.

These efforts not only enhanced household stability but also contributed to broader sustainable development objectives in the target woredas.

The project also placed strong emphasis on **communication, visibility, and stakeholder engagement**. Standardized banners, social media content, and formal acknowledgments ensured consistent recognition of EU support across events, workshops, and trainings. These efforts helped raise awareness of DRR and CCA issues while promoting collaboration between national institutions, regional administrations, UN agencies, and local communities.

Despite the many successes, the project faced challenges, including limited institutional capacity and coordination at the Woreda level and the sequential nature of multi-year interventions, where assessments must precede actionable interventions. Nevertheless, the project yielded important lessons: sustained capacity-building is essential for long-term institutional strengthening; cross-sectoral coordination is critical for effective DRR–CCA integration; participatory approaches foster local ownership and sustainability; and robust data systems enhance national accountability and evidence-based decision-making.

Overall, the achievements of the 2025 reporting period demonstrate that the DCRG project has significantly advanced Ethiopia's disaster risk governance and community resilience. By strengthening institutions, building technical capacities, integrating risk-informed planning, establishing national data systems, and implementing participatory community interventions, the project has positioned Ethiopia to better anticipate, prepare for, and respond to disasters. These efforts also ensure that development gains are protected, communities—particularly the most vulnerable—are empowered, and the country progresses toward sustainable, inclusive, and resilient development in alignment with global commitments under the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the SDGs.

# 2. RESILIENT URBAN FUTURES PROJECT

## 2.1. DRM/CCA/RID Community awareness training

As part of the risk informed urban development effort and disaster risk reduction exercise of the strengthening community capacity for Disaster Risk Management objective of the Resilient Uban futures project, EDRMC delivered public level awareness and education for 450 community representatives and sectorial level concerned experts and local level officials (254 men and 196 women) in Hawassa on the fundamentals of resilience, on boosting the ability of communities to bounce back from adversity and essential pillars of resilience, proactive risk management efforts, protecting critical infrastructures and building robust infrastructure, building effective emergency management systems, and community participation in every phase of DRM system and climate change adaptation to ensure risk informed urban development in all sectors and dimensions to ultimately enable realize resilient Hawassa city .

## 2.2. DRM/CCA/RID trainings for Vulnerable Groups

Another important millstone of the urban resilient futures project regarding building of the capacity of the community in Hawassa as part of strong engagement of community groups in all stages of DRM/CCA efforts was the capacity building training provided to 201 vulnerable group members (83 male and 118 female participants) such as women associations, youth associations, elderly organization, organization for people with disabilities, organization for people with HIV and AIDS, and people from government structures closely working with such vulnerable groups such as women, youth and children affairs office experts from city administration, sub city and kebele level structures on disaster risk management and its importance, disaster risks affecting vulnerable groups in Hawassa; community based resilience building (CBRB); the need for early warning systems and emergency preparedness; roles and responsibilities of community members and institutions in disaster risk management and the need for risk informed development planning. The training provided ensured increased community awareness and

understanding of DRM concepts; enabled participants to identify key disaster risks within their localities, such as flash floods, fire hazards, and waste management challenges; strengthened coordination among community members, kebele leaders, and city offices working on DRM; increased commitment of participants to apply DRM principles in their daily activities and local development efforts; and Community members developed initial action points for local disaster preparedness and response planning.

### 2.3. **Establishment of multi-stakeholder platform for urban resilience**

Resilient Urban futures project has established multi-stakeholder city resilience platform (MCRP), a collaborative approach involving various actors including government, private sector, academia, NGOs, civil society organizations (CSOs), and community groups with three layers of architecture (**Steering committee**- a high-level body that provides strategic direction, guide policy priorities, and ensure institutional ownership; **Secretariat-** who coordinates the day-to-day platform operations and **Technical Working Groups**-a group of thematic experts from relevant institutions, academia, civil society, and development partners who work to ensure information sharing, joint planning and implementing risk reduction measures. The most important functions of the MCRP include coordinating urban risk governance across sectors and levels of government; supporting integrated planning and risk-informed investment decisions; fostering knowledge exchange and innovation adapted to local contexts; play a pivotal role in advancing participatory governance and stakeholder engagement; advocate for necessary policy and regulatory reforms to address systemic risk drivers and support the development of robust mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, and accountability. This MCRP has been established to help ensure cross-sectoral and multi-level collaboration, institutionalize resilience within the city's governance systems, joint and concerted effort of stakeholders with complementary mandates/ resources to realize resilient urban futures, mitigate risks, enhance limited institutional capacity and inclusive urban governance that are more than technical fixes and sector specific responses. Training has been provided for platform members focusing on technical

aspects, policy integration, and community engagement that are foundational knowledge, practical tools and collaborative skills to help Hawassa city withstand and adapt to disaster and climate risks and stress. The training provided was on basic understandings of urban resilience and mainstreaming, multi-stakeholder collaboration, urban risk and vulnerability, climate change impacts, systems thinking, gender equality and social inclusion, institutional capacity, risk assessment and measurement, community participation, developing skills in systematic methodologies for creating resilience strategies and action plans, and exploring nature based ecological solutions.

### 2.4. Urban Risk profiling and Preparation of Multi-Years City Resilience Strategy and Investment Plan

UNDP's support through this project enabled preparation of comprehensive urban risk profiles and a strategic multi-years resilience investment plan for Hawassa City. Before conducting risk profiling, data collection tools (key informant interviews (KII), community group discissions (CGD), and household questionnaire (HHQ) prepared by the team of consultants have been reviewed and enhanced in a workshop by experts from EDRMC and academia closely working with EDRMC through various cross-sectoral DRM platforms. After reviewing the protocols, data collectors and supervisors have been selected together with city administration officials based on criteria. The selection of the supervisors and enumerators, in addition to their prior experience in rural risk profiling was done on headhunting based on their knowledge of the kebeles/villages/blocks so that they would easily and smoothly conduct the sampling, and interview the HHQ survey, the FGDs and KII. Many of them are health extension workers and urban agricultural extension experts who knew every corner of the city and households in every village/block of the city of Hawassa that help them easily find and contact households for interviews and FDG/KII. The city administration has addressed issues related to its mandate where all kebele level government structures such as youth, women, women development team, sub-city, kebele, village, and block level government structures are all informed to support to the utmost level they can to ensure the collection of timely and quality data collection. As part of the data quality assurance strategy, the selection of supervisors and enumerators, strict follow-up of

the supervisors and enumerators of the trainings was very crucial for the project to easily identify the missing elements, incorporate them where they are appropriate and exclude some elements in the data collection tools that seem to be irrelevant to the risk profiling exercise. The comprehensive nature of the tools that are tailored towards the context in Hawassa and the level that the tools are presented to and discussed by supervisors and enumerators was critical for the assessment as one measure of quality assurance. From among the 67 enumerators 59 of them were assigned for the HHQ survey and the remaining 8 were selected to conduct KII and FGD based on their English language and writing skill. After a one-day orientation for all the enumerators on the nature of the project and the need for context specific and evidence based multi-hazard and multi-stakeholder risk profiling, the risk profiling methodology, and the need for risk informed development in Hawassa city, the HHQ survey group was provided with a detailed explanation on each questions and the objective of inclusion of every question in to the survey questionnaire for about three days. This made the process very clear and familiarized the enumerators with every assessment question and intended objectives. The FGD and KII group were also provided with detail explanation of each question between lines, elaborated the intended objectives of each question, the way enumerators should summarize answers, the key and required data where the enumerators should focus in the process of the data collection. The 16 supervisors were selected based on their prior experience in rural risk profiling in the SNNPR and Sidama regions where some of them served as data collectors and some as supervisors.

The 8 sub-cities and 32 kebeles of Hawassa City were categorized into three groups with their respective supervisors to enhance the ability to effectively organize and synchronize the various levels of supervision structures and tasks to achieve the common goal of quality and timely data with minimal friction and maximum cooperation.

In terms the methodology, in a two days' workshop arranged in Bishoftu on August 2 to 3 / 2025, the lead consultant presented an overview of the methodologies for risk profiling and associated theoretical foundations, and its suitability to the contexts of Ethiopian cities. He further emphasized that, if at all there are questions and irrelevant remarks to the Ethiopian cities included in the developed risk profiling assessment tools, let the participants get

critically engaged in to the discussions and censoriously read the tools, add that are supposedly relevant points in the questionnaire and exclude from it that are not relevant to the context of Ethiopian cities in general and Hawassa in particular. Almost all the participants have prior experience in rural risk profiling that made it possible for them to methodically examine each line of the assessment tools and sifted out questions that are not relevant to the local context and added questions that are very relevant. There were both high level discussions focusing on generalities and the big picture of DRM and CBRB concepts on the one hand and there were also discussions that were getting bogged down in specific details or intricate complexities. This made the discussion very enlightened and enabled the participants to significantly improve the content as well as the context of the assessment tools. In the workshop, the Risk profiling assessment tools (FGD, KII and HHQ) were critically reviewed and standardized, the tools were properly contextualized to Ethiopian cities in general and Hawassa city in particular, the process was very interactive and learning where participants shared a lot in enhancing their understanding of risk profiling methodologies, It was very pivotal session where participants come into the same page in their shared knowledge and understanding of the methodologies. This made the risk-profiling assessment exercise easy, and it was conducted in a short possible time with relatively low cost and high-quality data. Furthermore, the methodology and approach risk profiling experiences of Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa city administrations have been reviewed, weaknesses identified and significantly improved in the Hawassa risk profiling exercises. Risk profiling household survey (HHS) data was collected from 4,015 households using random sampling methods proportional to the number of populations in the kebeles from eight (8) sub cities and 32 kebeles with key informant interviews (KII) and community group discussion (CGD). Thus, Hawassa risk profiling has been finalized, and draft report has been presented in a workshop in Hawassa from October 31 to November 1/2025 to EDRMC, Sidama DRMC and Hawassa city administration. The risk profiling findings appropriately identified the spatial distribution of nine **Major natural hazards** (flood, landslide, earthquake, subsidence/Fissures, heatwave, drought, groundwater pollution, and lake water pollution) and **Everyday hazards** (air pollutant, building collapse, conflict, Wukuro,

crime, environmental health problems, gender based violence, traffic accident, urban fire, and water pollutant) in the sub cities and envisaged using normalized hazard indices with comparative severity of hazards, and distinct spatial heterogeneity of hazards across kebeles of the Hawassa city. The spatial assessment of multi-hazard indicators such as hazard and exposure, composite risk index (CRI), coping and resilience index (CRF), social vulnerability index (SVI), hazard risk factor (HFR), and risk zonation combined captured Hawassa city's complex hazard landscape. Based on the risk profiling findings and the associated **five strategic priority programme areas identified** such as **(1)** Institutionalize a city-level Resilience Governance & Coordination Mechanism; (2) Mainstream Risk-Informed Spatial Planning & Climate-Sensitive Infrastructure Investment; (3) Build a City Resilience Knowledge & Data Architecture (Open, Operational, Decision-Oriented); (4) Elevate Social Inclusion & Community Resilience as a Strategic Pillar; and (5) Establish Sustainable Financing & Recovery/Build-Back-Better Frameworks) a **draft multi-year city resilience investment plan** (2026 - 2035) has been developed.

### 2.5. Various city level assessments that help ensure resilience building

In addition to urban risk profiling, various Hawassa city level assessments such as categorization and multi-criteria analysis of heat wave trends, projections, and vulnerability in Hawassa City to ultimately support risk-informed planning; Foundational Study for are of the application of digital technologies and innovations; protocols and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for multi-hazard emergency management and disaster preparedness for Hawassa City; assessment on Designing Digital/Innovative Solutions for Effective Municipal Governance for Hawassa City; comprehensive assessment and planning for application of digital tech and innovative approaches to build heatwave resilience and effective adaptation in water sector; comprehensive assessment, including digital mapping on water infrastructure and services to identify current gaps and emerging needs focusing on water for improved access to and effective delivery of water resources; and assessment on promotion of the application of digital technologies and innovations to improve municipal services, functionality, and governance for Hawassa City are being underway. These comprehensive assessments and the various institutional and community level capacity

building efforts are targeted at identifying the root causes of the urban risks in Hawassa and ensure catalytic resilience building action informed by evidence-based, community-centric, participatory, gender-responsive and environment sensitive approach to ultimately help realize resilient Hawassa city.

### 3. Strengthening government and community capacities for Disaster and Climate Risk Governance (DCRG) project

During the reporting period, the project made substantial progress in strengthening community resilience and improving national and local institutional capacity for disaster risk management. The year's activities focused on three major areas: support to disaster-resilient livelihoods for vulnerable women, enhancement of national capacity for geo-hazard preparedness, and strengthened national advocacy through support to the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDR). These activities were implemented in close collaboration with EDRMC, woreda and zonal administrations, and local community structures.

A major component of the project involved restoring and strengthening disaster-resilient livelihoods for vulnerable women. In Adama Zuria Woreda of Oromia Region, **50 women-headed households** were supported with start-up capital and technical assistance to establish climate-resilient goat-farming enterprises. These women had previously experienced significant livelihood losses due to climate variability and market shocks. The project provided them with financial support to purchase goats and establish necessary livestock structures, while also delivering technical training on animal health, feeding systems, sustainable pasture management, and basic business and financial literacy. Woreda extension workers and animal health experts conducted regular follow-up visits to ensure the proper adoption of improved practices and to strengthen the long-term viability of the livelihood activities.

Similarly, in the landslide-affected woredas of **Bule and Repi in the Gedeo Zone**, the project supported **65 vulnerable women** whose livelihoods had been severely disrupted by recurrent landslides. In these areas, the project introduced goat farming as a climate- and

disaster-resilient livelihood model and combined financial assistance with training on sustainable land management, soil stabilization, and controlled grazing practices. These environmentally responsible practices contributed directly to reducing the risk of future landslides while also enabling households to generate reliable income from milk, meat, and livestock reproduction. The approach strengthened both household-level economic resilience and the ecological stability of degraded landscapes.

The cumulative impact of these livelihood interventions was transformative. Across all target woredas, **115 women** significantly improved their food security, income stability, and overall household resilience. Many reported that the support restored their confidence and enabled them to regain control over their livelihoods. The income generated from goat-farming activities helped families meet basic household needs, invest in home improvements, and participate in local savings groups. In several communities, women beneficiaries emerged as leaders in local livelihood initiatives, reflecting increased self-reliance and social empowerment. These outcomes also contributed to broader community resilience by reducing dependency on humanitarian aid and stimulating local market activity.

In addition to supporting livelihoods, the project substantially strengthened institutional capacity for managing emerging geo-hazard risks. Recognizing the increasing threats posed by earthquakes and landslides, the project facilitated a comprehensive awareness-raising workshop for EDRMC staff, sectoral experts, and regional and local DRM officers. The workshop covered scientific concepts of geo-hazard formation, hazard mapping, exposure and vulnerability analysis, and early-warning mechanisms. Case studies from high-risk regions enabled participants to contextualize these concepts, while group exercises facilitated collaborative assessment and decision-making. The workshop underscored the importance of multi-sectoral coordination—particularly across agriculture, infrastructure, water, and environmental sectors—in preparing for and responding to geo-hazards. By the end of the training, participants demonstrated improved understanding of geo-hazard risks and increased confidence in integrating hazard considerations into sectoral plans and preparedness measures.

The project further contributed to national disaster risk reduction efforts by supporting Ethiopia's commemoration of the **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDR)**. The project assisted in developing information and communication materials, aligning key messages with global IDDR themes, and highlighting national achievements in community resilience and geo-hazard preparedness. Through these contributions, the project helped elevate public awareness, strengthen national advocacy, and foster dialogue among government institutions, development partners, and communities. This collaboration contributed to reinforcing a national culture of prevention and proactive risk management.

Collectively, the year's activities yielded several important cross-cutting achievements. Women beneficiaries reported greater autonomy, confidence, and participation in community decision-making processes, demonstrating the project's strong contribution to gender empowerment. The environmentally sustainable practices adopted in the Gedeo Zone supported ecological rehabilitation and reduced long-term hazard risks. At the institutional level, strengthened technical capacity within EDRMC and sector offices improved the country's preparedness posture and laid the foundation for a more risk-informed governance system. Enhanced collaboration across institutions—strengthened through joint workshops and national advocacy—helped reinforce the multi-hazard, multi-sectoral approach required for comprehensive DRM.

Overall, the project demonstrated a holistic and integrated approach to resilience building. By simultaneously supporting household-level livelihood recovery, institutional capacity development, and national awareness efforts, the project strengthened Ethiopia's ability to manage current and emerging risks. The combined achievements of 2025 contribute meaningfully to the national DRM reform agenda and reinforce the foundation for long-term, sustainable resilience.

**Concluding Summaries:**

Overall, through the three projects, UNDP has contributed towards the strengthening of Integrated and gender-responsive climate and disaster risk governance systems to reduce

risks and vulnerabilities, improve early warning systems (EWS) and enable rapid recovery. Towards this end, through its various activities UNDP has reached 5 regions alongside its work with the Federal level institutions.