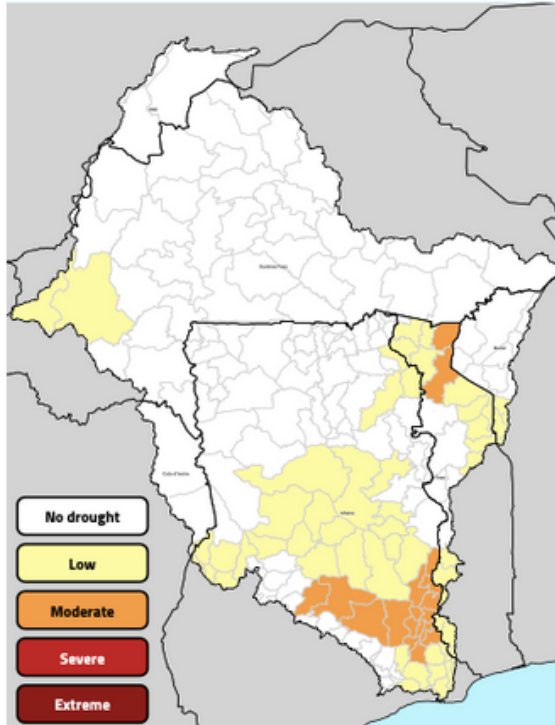


# Newsletter

Volta Flood and Drought Management

Assessment of drought conditions



## Drought monitoring training workshop and warning bulletin services. Côte d'Ivoire - November 2023

The regional training workshop organized between November 28th and December 1st 2023, in Côte d'Ivoire - Abidjan, provided opportunity to deliver theoretical knowledge on drought monitoring system (with combined drought indices) to the national and regional stakeholders of the Volta Basin. The workshop also provided opportunity to discuss and define the roles and responsibilities, test the procedures for the elaboration of bulletins and alert supports for droughts through the [myDewetra-VOLTALARM](#) platform.

It was also an opportunity to increase and strengthen the practical experience needed by hydrometeorological service providers and technicians in agriculture, livestock serving communities in the context of farming, livestock and agro-forestry activities to exploit the various products and other functions, experiences and supports already available in the myDewetra-VOLTALARM EWS operational platform. Ultimately, the training enabled the different participating institutions and actors to collaborate and work together for the monitoring and forecasting of hydrometeorological events and to provide warning services.

## MCH database regional workshop. Benin - February 2024 News 1

The MCH training workshop between the 27th of February and the 1st of March 2024 in Benin, provided necessary theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience to both hydrological, meteorological and climatological data providers and users in monitoring and forecasting hydro-meteorological hazards. Also, the workshop provided opportunity to deliver training on the [MyDewetra VOLTALARM Early Warning System \(EWS\)](#) mainly to present the functionalities and global and regional products available for flood forecasting and drought monitoring in the Volta Basin.

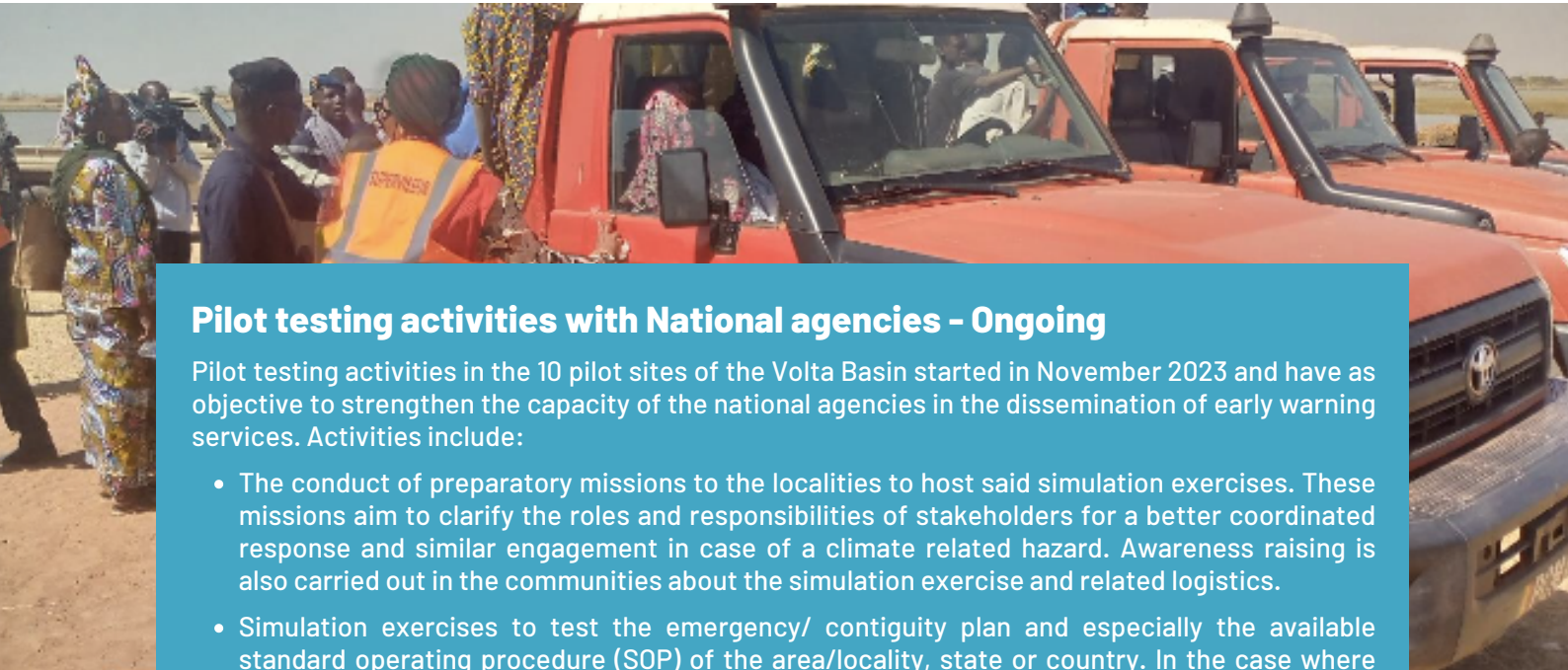
Once the MCH database management system is established and operational, the processed data and information from the MCH database will be visualized under the [MyDewetra VOLTALARM Early Warning System \(EWS\)](#) by National Agencies involved in flood and drought monitoring, forecasting, and warning services.



## Regional risk strategy validation workshop. Burkina Faso - March 2024

The regional risk strategy validation workshop was held from the 5th to the 6th of March 2024. The general objective of the workshop was to enable (i) the various experts in the fields of sustainable and resilient development to amend and validate the Strategy Document submitted for their assessment, through group work, (ii) learn about and discuss existing funding opportunities at the national and regional levels that can be mobilized for the implementation of the Strategy. Ultimately, the overall objective was to have final approval of the strategy at the regional level by the technical committee, which is a key step towards owning and hence, making the strategy operational at all levels (regional, national and local).

The Technical committee members representing each of the six (6) volta basin countries approved the strategy after a two-day assessment. It should be noted that this strategy before the approval by the technical committee had been approved through mini workshops at the local levels and at the national levels through national validation workshops thus engaging and collecting views from all stakeholders.



## Pilot testing activities with National agencies - Ongoing

Pilot testing activities in the 10 pilot sites of the Volta Basin started in November 2023 and have as objective to strengthen the capacity of the national agencies in the dissemination of early warning services. Activities include:

- The conduct of preparatory missions to the localities to host said simulation exercises. These missions aim to clarify the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders for a better coordinated response and similar engagement in case of a climate related hazard. Awareness raising is also carried out in the communities about the simulation exercise and related logistics.
- Simulation exercises to test the emergency/ contingency plan and especially the available standard operating procedure (SOP) of the area/locality, state or country. In the case where the emergency plan or SOP is not available, simulation exercises can lead to its development and include in detail (SOP) the steps to follow with the roles and responsibility of stakeholders in each of the steps and in brief (emergency plan) the measures to take in the case of a flood or drought event.
- The update and development by the NMHSs and Disaster Managers of early warning dissemination channels adapted to their context and the WMO CAP (Common Alerting Protocol) system. These warnings services are generated from the VOLTALARM (Hydrometeorological and Meteorological hazards) and other products of the NMHSs.
- National and local media training sessions to provide training to media people (TV, press, radio etc.) to better understand the warning and weekly bulletins and improve dissemination.
- The development of weekly bulletins for traders, farmers, and fisherman etc. and the conduct of advisory workshops to stakeholders on the rainfalls forecasted and related farming activities such as crops, drying of crops, or cutting of crops in case of untimely rainfall. Feedback on the communication process is also discussed.
- The development of national workshops – pre-monsoon and dry season to gather experience, verify and provide forecasts for the coming period with the involvement of various stakeholders to check the preparedness and needs for improving forecasts and warning services.

## Hydro-meteorological measurement regional workshop. Togo - March 2024

The National Hydrological and Meteorological Agency of Togo and the VFDM project partners (WMO, VBA and GWP-WA) organized between the 26th and 29th of March 2024 in Lomé, Togo, a regional training workshop aiming at understanding technical concepts and practical exercises on the installation of hydrometeorological observation instruments and best practices on data collection mechanisms.

The training included: hydrometric measurements: station and gauging, field exercises on a hydrometric station, hydrometric data analysis: calculations, rating curves, quality, and field exercises on meteorological stations.



## Voices from the field development. Benin - Ongoing



18 months after the conclusion of the activity "Floods and drought Community management in 6 pilot sites in the Volta Basin" (August 2021 to September 2022) in Tabota (Benin), Badara (Burkina Faso), Sangabili (Ivory Coast), Kunkua (Ghana), Kandé (Mali) and Doude (Togo), the Community Management Committee set up in Tabota continues its prevention and control activities of natural hazards. Gabriele Quinti (K&I) met some among its 21 members (including 8 women) as well as other residents of the community.

"We are continuing with reforestation and strengthening of plant cover and in raising awareness among the community about the risks they run in the Bas-Fonds or in the beds of watercourses," declared, among others, Sengo N' Tcha Armel, President of the Committee and teacher at the school. "Raising awareness among women continues and our awareness has clearly improved" according to Philomène M Betti, also a member of the Committee.

"This small project on flood and drought management provided an opportunity for significant growth in community; for institutional strengthening and to intervene in several areas, such as reforestation, hygiene and the promotion of popular knowledge" according to Théophile Djagbé of the NGO Alpha et Oméga, who, after the conclusion of the project, continued to maintain his relations with the Management Committee. "However, to preserve and continue to promote these achievements, support is needed" concluded Sengo N'Tcha Armel.



## WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON? CHECK OUT THE UPCOMING EVENTS!

Continuation of the pilot testing activities (pre-monsoon and post-monsoon workshop)

Pilot testing experience sharing regional workshop

Regional training workshop on drought impact-based monitoring system

Policies and plans update at the local, national and transboundary levels through GWP-WA and countries stakeholders

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<https://www.floodmanagement.info/volta-basin/>

## External Partners



In case of any queries and suggestions, please write at:  
support@vfdm.info

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