



Disaster Mitigation for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (DiMP)



DiMP is located in the Environmental and Geographical Science (EGS) Building at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. In association with EGS, DiMP has offered its graduate programme in Disaster Risk Science since 2004.



Courses Offered

- Honours EGS (DRS) & MA/MSc EGS (DRS)
- Courses have strong synthesis of biophysical & social development fields
- Builds on learners' environmental science & human geography backgrounds
- Residential type programme
- Usually 5-10 honours & 4-6 masters students accepted



Short courses

- Aimed at disaster management and development professionals
- Disasters and Development (6 days)
- Community Risk Assessment (8 days)
- GIS course to be offered soon
- Adult Education Courses to be offered soon (accredited as part of Diploma Adult Education)

Student Profile

- Hons/masters students accepted immediately after graduation
- Meet entry requirements for Science Faculty
- Graduates track into climate adaptation or humanitarian organisations

Teaching and Learning

- Seminar style sessions
- Engagement with critical literature
- Professional risk assessment reports from informal settlement
- Service-learning in informal settlement
- Externally reviewed theses

Sources of Financial Support

- Externally resourced/cross financed by contract research
- Modest internal support

Support Services by DiMP:

- Wide ranging support across Africa (ie. AURAN, ProVention research grants)
- Extensive research on extreme weather events

Vision of Course Development: next 5 years

- Expanded student numbers
- Increased multi and interdisciplinary teaching
- More direct engagement with international DRR & HA policy development

Outcomes/Competencies Developed by Graduates

- Analysing and assessing trends in:
 - natural hazards,
 - environmental endangerment,
 - socioeconomic vulnerability
- Strategic integration of information from diverse data sources to shape risk reduction planning

Constraints

- Intellectual and academic conservatism
- Lack of qualified additional teaching capacity and field experience
- Lack of General Operating Budget support