



AXIS of DISRUPTION

Issue VI

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DISASTER MANAGEMENT

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Adopting Global Policies On Disaster Risk Reduction In Maldives

AZINA ABDUL MATHEEN | COHORT XV

The Maldives is known to be a vulnerable country as 75% of its area is only 1 meter above sea level as per the Centre for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, 2021. It comprises small low-lying islands scattered across the Indian Ocean which got severely impacted by the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. Undergoing the disruptions caused by the Tsunami, National Disaster Management Center (NDMC) was set up in 2004 which coordinated the national response. The concern for disaster management grew rapidly after the incident and NDMC was changed to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). In addition to it, the Centre for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian

Assistance was also established later. Together the national authorities came up with Disaster Management Act which was revised in 2015. It covered various aspects of disaster management such as; disaster risk reduction strategies, preparedness, resilience, collaboration with international communities for assistance and support etc. Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015) was simultaneously adopted in order to incorporate Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR)

strategy and Decentralization Act 2010 was also utilized for decentralizing the roles and responsibilities of disaster management. Among the various laws and policies developed for disaster management in the country, Hyogo Framework for Action's 5 priorities was greatly utilized as a soft law in order to address the vulnerabilities, reduce development threats and inculcate resilience within the governance in Maldives. In spite of its successful implementation, some of the challenges faced by the country created obstructions such as the country's weak institutional integration, lack of understanding among agencies regarding their roles and responsibilities, limited funds, political instability etc.

In 2015, Maldives reviewed CBDRR and changed it to DRR strategies based on the Sendai Framework. It was incorporated in the National Disaster Management Plan which not only focused on Sendai Framework but also on SDG and Paris Agreement. Many reports were published soon after in accordance with the Sendai Framework, SDG and Paris Agreement where one of the 2019 DRR reports stated that the Maldives is dominated by meteorological and hydrological events which were responsible for 45% of human losses and 79% of economic



losses between 1988 - 2005. Flooding and sea-level rise are the most common phenomenon along with oil spills and fires. Climate change is also responsible for exacerbating the impact of various disasters. In order to address such challenges, a Multi-Hazard Warning System was installed along with 20 automated stations and 3 tide gauge which provides real-time data to operators and implementation of a Numerical Weather Prediction model to generate a short-range forecast. Additionally, climate change risk profiles were created through vulnerability and environment assessments. In spite of the progress made, there were again certain challenges which created hurdles such as; lack of field expertise, lack of technical capacity, lack of data management, lack of resources etc. Nevertheless, interrelating DRR, CCA and SDG proved to be useful for Maldives leading to easy implementation.

In conclusion, Maldives has implemented and progressed at large in strategising DRR and implementing SDG to achieve build back better. To achieve greater success, the UN Maldives need to increase economic growth, create employment, carefully monitor reclamation projects, effectively conduct waste management, and ensure strong coordination and cross-sectoral collaboration. Continued political support, commitment and broadband participation are critical for driving sustainable development agenda and disaster management strategies forward

The Impact Of Microcredit On Women's Empowerment In Bamiyan, Afghanistan

MOHAMMAD TAHER NAWROZ | COHORT XVI



On average, one out of three people in the world are exposed to natural disasters, yet disasters affect men and women differently. As per Neumayer and Plumper, 2007, women are more severely affected during disasters as evident by the differing death rate that the authors studied in their work. In the context of Afghanistan, the cultural norms and values, power dynamics and patriarchal structure puts women in Afghanistan economically and socially in a more disadvantageous position and are therefore they are more likely to be severely affected during disasters. There is a stark difference between men and women in terms of exposure, capabilities, sensitivity to risk and access to economic assets and

resources. As a result, women are unlikely to have the necessary resources to anticipate, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. In order to address it, a well-designed poverty reduction policy can serve as an effective disaster risk management plan. Microcredit is widely considered a useful tool to help reduce poverty and build women's resilience in the face of natural disasters (The United Nations 2005). Microcredit programs tend to shift the responsibility of poverty alleviation to the poor and marginalized hence, the concept has been under extensive debate. The ones who support it consider it to be an effective tool for combating poverty and giving options to women but the critics consider it to be

insufficient as poor people require more than just financing resources like education and training to use their loans productively. As a part of my term paper for the IFRC -TISS Programme, I worked on analyzing a microcredit program in Bamiyan. In my research on the microcredit program, I was able to observe that the literate women recipients with work experience used the loan productively and were able to earn marginal profits in their work for various economic activities. While women with low literacy levels found it challenging to utilize the credit effectively. Most of them identified that the lack of business skills and education proved to be a challenging factor for them to utilize the support given by the program even though they had certain skills which could be marketed.

Based on my study I observed the following points – Firstly, the majority of women do not have formal education and training which leads to a lack of financial literacy and experience to use microcredit. Secondly, in Afghanistan, microcredit faces a religious hurdle since payment or acceptance of interest fees is strongly prohibited in Islamic law. Women mostly refrain to participate in the program, especially in rural areas. Thirdly, most of the organizations tend to function in major cities in order to lower their operational costs leaving the most vulnerable women in the rural area out of the area of coverage.

Lastly, infrastructure is not well maintained to support microcredit and microfinance services. The logistical hurdles like the closing of roads during winter reduce their business accessibility to greater towns and cities due to which they are forced to work locally for lower prices or wait till spring.

Link Between HDI, Poverty And Inequality In The Context Of Disasters

MARIANA BARRAGAN DE LA CRUZ

“Poverty is a human state, not a human condition, where individuals display significant well-being impairment, but it is often described as the inability to possess enough resources to satisfy basic needs and the social exclusion from community participation and cooperation as a consequence of it.” (Barrientos, 2011)

According to the Human Development approach, all individuals must be empowered to expand their abilities to the fullest, in order to put them to the highest use in life. The Capacities approach is similar but wider: The well-being of a person depends on the availability of goods and services provided by the Government and how they use them to achieve personal attributes (healthy, literate, etc.). The former approach focuses on “Ability”, where development leans exclusively on the person, but the latter approach reflects on “Capability”, where development relies on a fair political, social, and economic status for capacities to flourish. That is why concepts of inequality and, consequently, poverty are critical in this matter (Sen, 1988, pp.15–20).

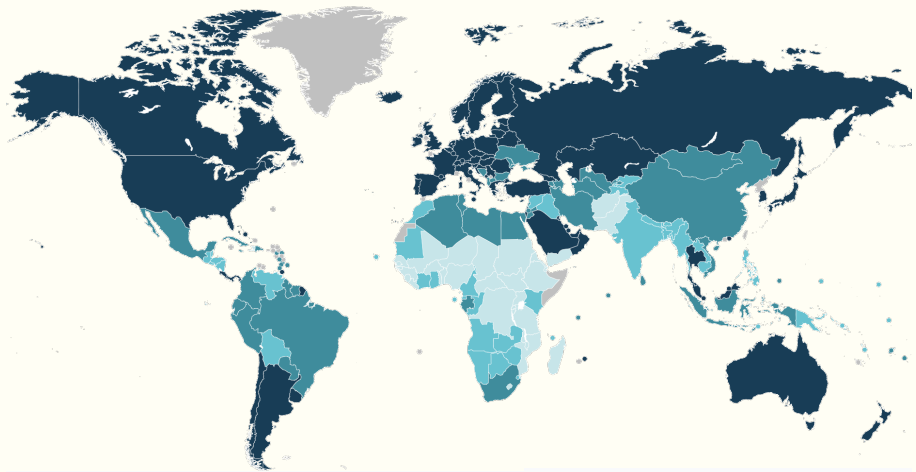
The concept of “Equity” means giving society equal access to opportunities, therefore, “Inequity” can be understood as the society’s restriction or limitation of access to chances and choices. All of these asymmetries can lead to poverty (ulHaq, 1996, pp.13–23).

Coming to the Human Development Index (HDI), it was designed to accentuate that people’s capabilities are the pivotal criteria to evaluate and estimate a country’s development regardless of the isolated economic growth. The HDI is segmented into three dimensions;

- The standard of living dimension (GNI per capita)
- The health dimension (Life expectancy at birth)
- The education dimension (Years of schooling)

Although it is an efficient brief to catch human development with the “Capabilities Approach”, inequalities and poverty is excluded from the measuring (UNDP, 2021).

Poverty can be measured with the socially defined minimum standard called “The Poverty Line”, which calculates the number of households whose income or consumption is below it and group them together as a proportion of the total population. However, it is substantial to compare



World map representing Human Development Index categories (based on 2021 data, published in 2022)

Very high (≥ 0.800)	Medium (0.550–0.699)
High (0.700–0.799)	Low (≤ 0.549)

the poverty line with the scarcities experienced by those in poverty to avoid a massive gap of information (Barrientos, 2011).

These concepts discussed above are intertwined and represented in the disaster discourse as “Vulnerability”. Vulnerability is the conditions (physical, social, cultural, economic, political, and environmental) that make communities susceptible to a hazardous event and restrain their ability to prepare, resist, respond and recover from its impact. In other words, vulnerabilities are the long-term hidden inequalities and silenced poverty state of a society, which only manifest when a calamity materializes (disproportionate productive asset distribution, imbalanced income distribution, gender-related barriers, ethnic-related barriers, the excessive political power of the elite minority)

(Wisner, 2016).

Inequality and poverty transfer people to a general marginalization (remote rural residence) that makes them hard-to-reach targets in disaster management missions. Therefore, if inequalities and poverty were tackled and dealt with, the disaster management process would automatically improve. In addition, amelioration in disaster management can also be possible if disaster specialists interact with risk-bearers. A trustful and respectful dialogue between facilitators and locals is crucial to exchange expert and empirical knowledge. This action would help to identify threads and inequalities in a more effective way and to involve the community in the disaster management cycle (Wisner, 2016).

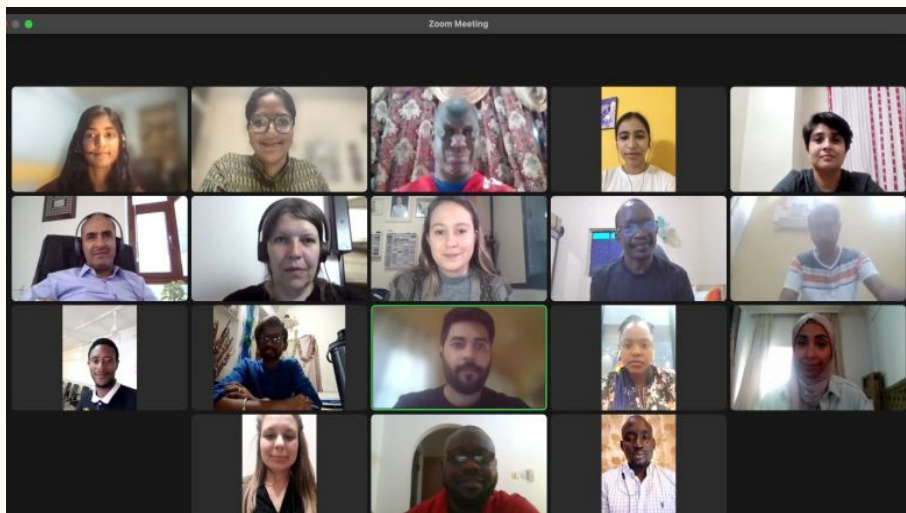
Coping Strategies Of The Pastoral Community In Response To Climate Change: The Case Of Afdem District, Somali Region, Ethiopia

HUSSIEN FARAH ODOWA | COHORT XVI

In a study on the coping strategies of the pastoral community in the Afdem district of the Somali regional state (S.R.S). as a part of the term paper for the IFRC-TISS Programme in Disaster Management. I focused on identifying the response and the adaptation strategies employed by the community. The study analyzed the indigenous climate variability, and drought coping mechanisms and examined the contribution of such strategies to risk reduction at the household level. The study collected data from 25 respondents using semi-structured interviews from the pastoralist community from four Kebeles of Afdem district, which is in a drought-prone area. These communities have been neglected by policymakers and development actors for decades as the marginalized community and resulting in livelihoods insecurity. Despite all these, they have managed their natural resources and livelihoods through customary institutions by practising different indigenous coping and adaptation mechanisms to mitigate the impacts of climate change and variability. The data indicated that mobility, herd diversification, splitting of herds and

families and engagement of alternative income sources are some of the adaptation strategies employed by the community in the study area. Using the empirical results from a multinomial probit model the data indicated that age; household size, gender, livestock holding and level of education were important factors influencing the selected household's choice of coping strategies. Lack of climatic information, lack of credit or savings, limited social support system; lack of market accessibility and lack of recovery capital were some constraints which the respondents identified as deterrents for selecting more efficient adaptation strategies (as identified by the researcher). The study concludes that indigenous coping and adaptation strategies have a significant contribution to household climate variability and drought risk decrease in the study area. The study, therefore, advocates that policies and development interventions should address these barriers to encourage better utilization of indigenous coping mechanisms in the pastoral system.

Semester News

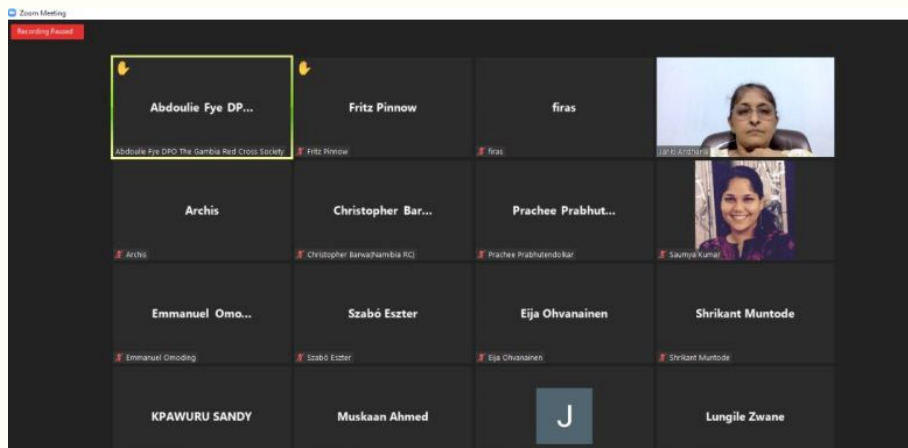


This academic year we welcomed 40 students from nearly 22 different countries from across the world to Cohort 19 of the IFRC-TISS Programme. Our participants are primarily working with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement specifically in National Societies from Brazil, Finland, Germany, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Namibia, Nigeria, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Turkey, and Yemen among others.

The cohort started with an online session by Prof. Janki Andharia where different concepts and theories of development were covered. The relationship between disasters and development was also drawn out along with a discussion on widespread inequality on a global scale which determines the level of development

among countries and their ability to cope with disasters. The session was very interactive as the participants shared their inputs based on their experience and understanding of development policies and disasters in their home country. For module two weekly classes over zoom were conducted by Saumya Kumar to summarise the concepts and topics covered on Humanitarian Laws and

Standards in Disaster Management. As a part of the assignment for this module, participants shared their understanding of the work done by different UN organizations in their home country on disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. This cohort is currently studying module three on Hazard, Vulnerability and Disaster is expected



and the participants are expected to conduct a simple Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessment in the coming month. Meanwhile, this academic year at JTSDS is also in full swing with the start of face-to-face classes for the Master's program as students of the senior and the junior batch joined the campus in July 2022.

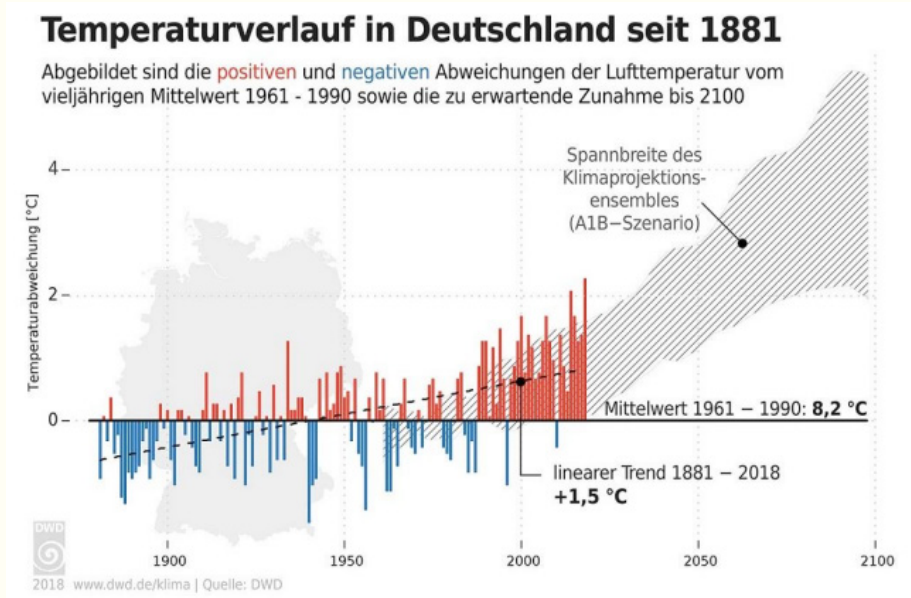
Mid-semester we had some very unfortunate news as we lost our former director Professor S Parasuraman in

September 2022. As the director, he was responsible for the restructuring the Institute and starting multiple academic programmes and supporting partnerships like the IFRC TISS Programme. The IFRC-TISS Project Team remembers his support and contribution to the programme at its inception and his continued encouragement to the team and the partnership with IFRC. We offer our deepest condolence to the family.



Reportage on Heat Waves in Europe

GERMANY - FRITZ | COHORT XIX



Sweltering heatwaves across Europe have caused devastating impacts like wildfires, droughts, and heat-related deaths. Governments across countries have taken various measures in response to the alarming situation.

Cohort 19 participant, Fritz Pinnow, talks about the circumstances in Germany and the various measures undertaken in the country

The key points discussed are;

1. Germany is considered a nation with a rather average climate, being located at the heart of central Europe, weather extremes are an

exception. However, in the south of Germany now new record temperatures have been measured, crossing the 40°C thresholds

2. Since the 2000's heatwaves have become more frequent and extreme reaching their peak in 2019 when 41.2°C marked the hottest day in German history (DWD, 2018).

3. The German population is not adequately prepared to handle these temperatures for a longer period of time, because the infrastructure is rather laid out to withstand immense cold during the winter.

4. The German government has so far not considered the hot conditions to be hazardous, however, tips on how to handle the extreme weather conditions are provided by public broadcasting entities and websites. Legally, a space measuring 30°C or more is not considered to be adequate as a workspace, therefore, companies are either forced to cool down workspaces, send workers home or provide the option of working from home.

5. The German emergency health infrastructure, however, has proven to withstand the sharply rising cases of heat strokes and other heat-related medical emergencies. Every large event must be accompanied by paramedical emergency services, by law, and this prevents massive complications for individuals with heat-related medical emergencies.

ITALY - MIRIAM BOUSSAIRI | COHORT XIX

Italy is one of the most affected countries by the anomalous heatwaves that are alarming Europe. This scorching heat, not only endangers the health and lives of people and animals but is also causing water shortages and droughts that will have a negative impact on agriculture and beyond.

In response to such an alarming situation, the Government at a national, regional, and local level has



put in place a series of measures, campaigns, and emergency decrees. An important role is also played by the Italian Red Cross, the Italian Civil Protection, and the environmental organization Legambiente, along with many other public and private actors.

To monitor the situation, the Italian Ministry of Health releases daily bulletins for 27 cities with forecasts at 24, 48, and 72 hours. It uses a scale from 0 to 3 levels of risk: 0 or green means no risk, 3 or red, means that the whole population is at risk.

In the Ministry portal, an Android application link has been made available for heatwave alerts and updates. 10 useful tips have also been shared;

1. Avoid direct exposure to the sun



and keep them protected from direct sunlight

As the north of the country is majorly affected by water shortage and droughts, where the Po River reached its lowest record in 30 years, and five regions have declared a state of emergency, the Ministry of Ecological Transition has launched a campaign called “Ho rispetto per l'acqua”, whose aim is to provide information and tools, and propose concrete actions.

2. Shield the windows facing south and south-west and keep air conditioning between 25-27 degrees Celsius

3. Remain hydrated

4. Moderate caffeine intake and avoid alcohol consumption

5. Consume light meals

6. Dress comfortably and protect your eyes with UV filters

7. Ventilate the car before starting a journey and never leave babies, children, or pets in the car

8. Avoid physical exercise during the hottest hours of the day

9. Offer assistance to people at greater risk and report situations

10. Give pets plenty of fresh water

The Italian Red Cross (ITRC) and Legambiente played a major role by joining the IFRC campaign #BeatTheHeat and in the meantime relaunched its campaign “Cresce il caldo, cresce la prevenzione”.

Dialogic Praxis

NITI MISHRA, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, JTSDS

Our faculty Niti Mishra writes on Dialogic Organisation Development to give an insight on the significance of a dialogic mindset in organizations and explore the significance it can have in humanitarian organizations. Dialogic Organisation Development The Dialogic mindset is a new orientation in the practice of Organisation Development (OD) which is not associated with any specific method. The Dialogic mindset has set up various methods and approaches. The key eight premises are :

- Reality and relations are socially constructed
- Organizations are meaning-making systems- social interaction create and re-create multiple truth and truths/reality.
- Language matters- Forms of expression such as words, writing and symbolism create meaning.
- Creating change requires conversation
- Structure participative inquiry and engagement such that difference and coherence are seen – participation, engagement and reflection are designed to bring diversity, perspective and motivation without privileging one, and allow convergence and

coherence to develop.

- Groups and organizations are continuously self-organizing – organization is continuous in flux and the rate of change may vary.
- Transformational change is more emergent than planned – transformation is moving towards an unknown that requires the intention of change.
- Consultants are part of the process – Consultants need to be aware of their immersion, reflect on the meaning they are creating, and the narratives their actions will privilege and marginalize.

The dialogic method includes three core change processes that may occur singly or in combination to result in a successful change in OD. It goes beyond ensuring good dialogue and space for speaking and listening to create transformation.

1. *Disruption for a more Complex Reorganisation*

Transformation cannot take place without planned or unplanned disruption in the meaning-making process. Disruptions can be planned or unplanned, nonlinear and when planned leads to unintended

consequences. The outcome is positive if self-organise and transformation occur, therefore the disruption cannot be without the mean-making process.

Approaches are designed in Dialogic OD to create containers in which disruption can cause or result in change for people engaged in the process. The closer the organization is to chaos the more it will retain its structure until pushed to an unpredictable limit. This is where the bifurcation leap takes place, where the organisation dissolves to leap forward as a new system. Practitioners in Dialogic OD attempt to build relationships and trust to help people find common and complementary interests and make meaning in complex situations

2. *Change in narratives*

The Dialogic OD assumes that reality is socially constructed and words shape thinking perception and sense-making.

The everyday communication and conversation in an organisation is where the social reality is created, and maintained and change takes place. This change happens when new words enter the vocabulary and when meaning and other discursive phenomena change. The Dialogic mindset assumes that transformational

change is possible with the emergence of new, socially agreed upon narratives and support of new reality and possibilities upheld by those in authority.

3. *Change process 3: Generative Image*

Generative means the power to generate, produce and originate. In a dialogic mindset, transformative change requires new ideas, conservation, ways of looking and interest in capabilities and processes that generate these. It allows people to imagine alternative decisions and action that was not possible before. A highly significant aspect of the generative image is that it compels people to act on new opportunities that the generative images evoke. A compelling image invites people to imagine new possibilities beyond the prevailing narratives and social agreements that define currently possible in a particular situation.

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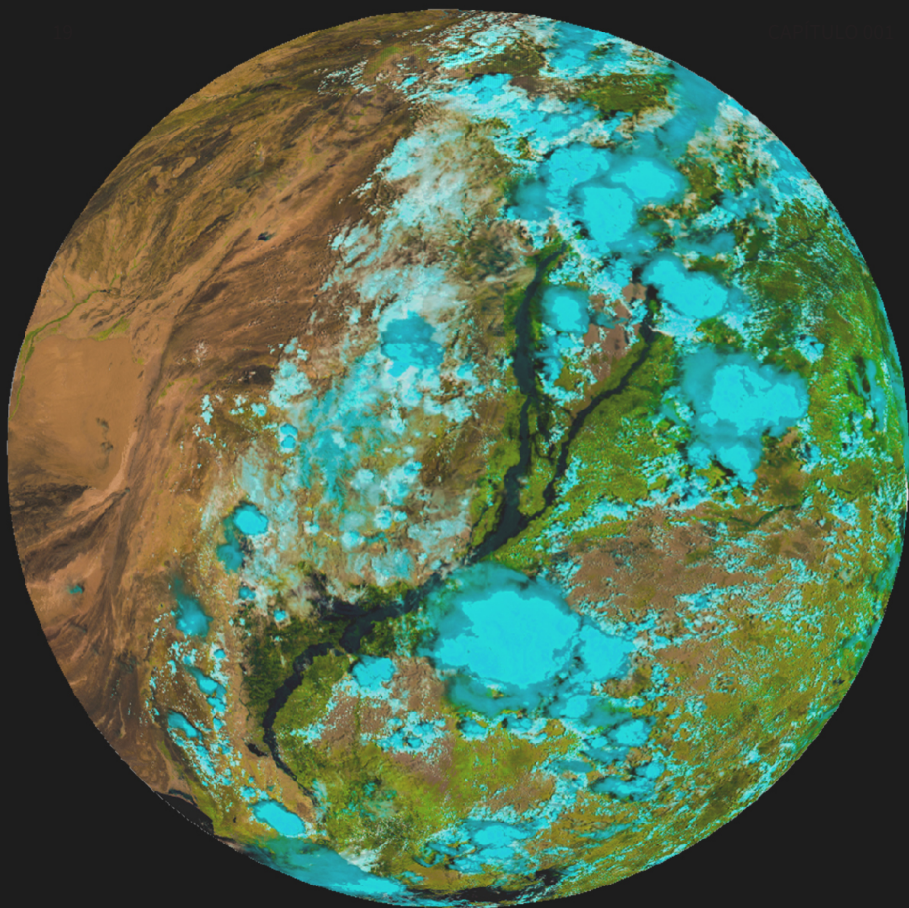
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