



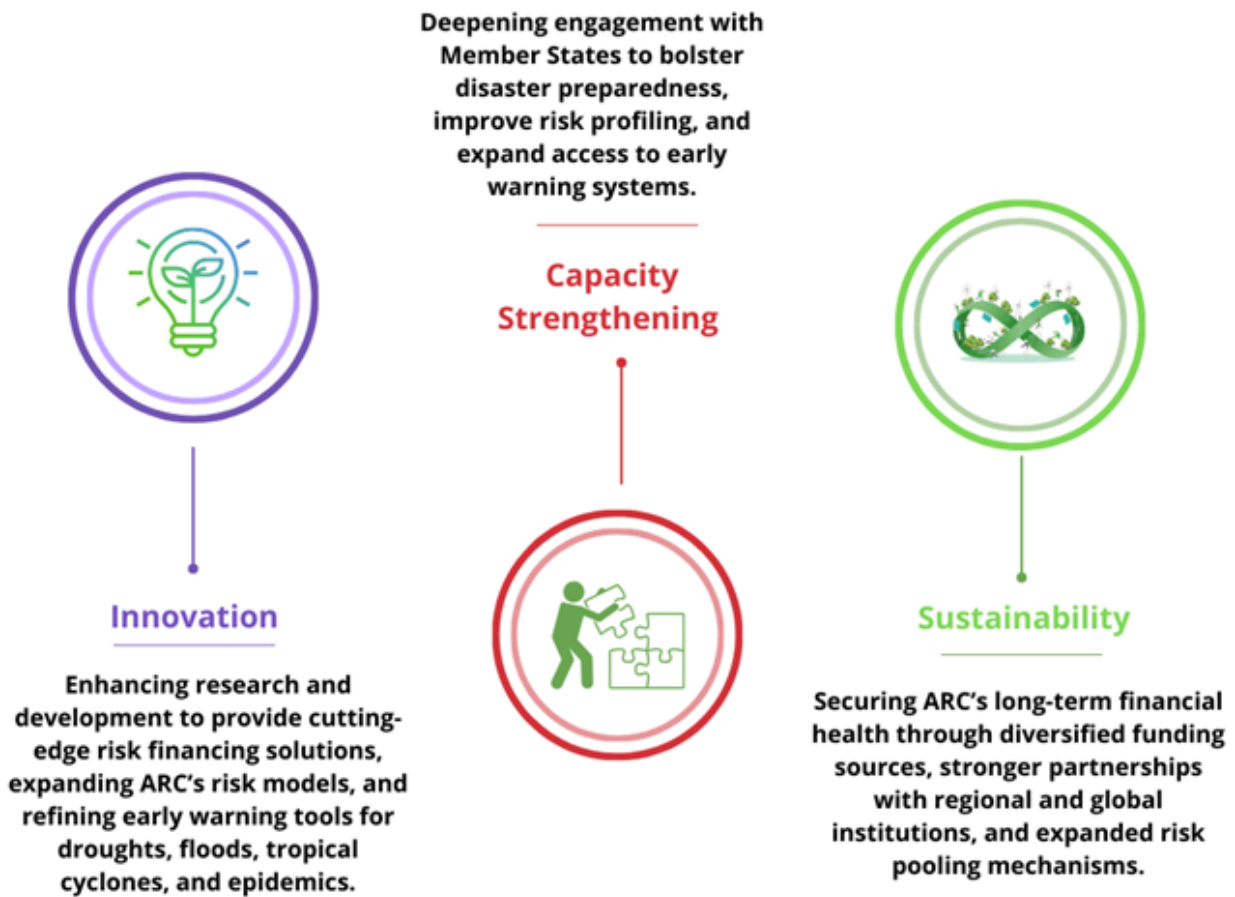
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ARC GROUP'S 2025-2029 STRATEGY: SCALING UP INNOVATION, STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE, AND ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY

As the ARC Group has just completed the development of a new five-year strategy for the period 2025-2029, designed to position ARC as the leading African partner in disaster risk management, climate resilience, and epidemic response solutions. The strategy builds on past successes while introducing bold new approaches to scaling up impact, strengthening Member States' capacities, and ensuring long-term financial sustainability.

At its core, the strategy is anchored on three key pillars: Innovation, Capacity Strengthening and Sustainability



Cross-cutting initiatives will focus on gender mainstreaming, knowledge management, and strategic communication to ensure that resilience-building efforts are inclusive, data-driven, and widely accessible. By 2029, ARC aims to scale its impact across Africa, empowering governments with the tools and financial security to manage disasters proactively.

The journey ahead is ambitious, but with strong partnerships, innovative solutions and sustainable financial support, ARC is ready to transform Africa's disaster risk management landscape.

RESULTS FROM THE RECENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE ARC GROUP

Recently, Oxford Policy Management (OPM) released the results of Impact Assessment of the ARC Group conducted in 2023 and 2024. This is part of a 10-year independent evaluation of ARC, financed by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office which was initiated in 2015. The evaluation, planned for the period 2015-2024, has allowed for the study of developments in ARC as an organisation, the uptake of ARC products and services over time, ultimately showing the impact ARC can have on reducing vulnerability to disasters across Africa. As the ARC Group works to scale up its operations, this study is especially important in shaping strategies and operations.

The Impact Assessment sought to assess the extent to which ARC's capacity building and payouts are contributing to improving the delivery of assistance to vulnerable households in ways that mitigate crisis impacts. The assessment focused on the 11 countries that received a payout from ARC in the period 2020 to 2023. Contingency plans and secondary data were reviewed for all the payouts, and in three case-study countries (Mauritania, Malawi, and Madagascar) more in-depth key informant interviews and community-level focus group discussions were conducted on five recent payouts.

Click on link below to see the outcomes of the Impact Assessment

[Deploying insurance payouts to reduce the impact of climate disasters](#)



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE: REFLECTING ON ARC'S GENDER MAINSTREAMING THROUGHOUT ITS PROGRAMME

2025 marked the 10th anniversary of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, an annual observance adopted by the United Nations General Assembly to promote full and equal access to, and participation of, women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. This initiative aims to foster gender equality and empower women.



For ARC, which operates in the climate and disease response space, a field that is heavily reliant on science, this day holds particular significance. ARC takes pride in supporting women as they excel in areas traditionally dominated by men. Guided by its gender mainstreaming strategy, ARC has made significant progress in ensuring inclusion in all aspects of its programme. ARC advocates for gender inclusivity by involving women in aspects such as in-country Technical Working Groups, focal points, and other Disaster Risk Management (DRM) structures, ensuring that gender matters are systematically addressed.

Recognising the critical role that women play in DRM, ARC has worked actively to increase women's participation in TWGs, ensuring that their voices and expertise contribute to policy development and risk modelling in countries. Through targeted capacity building initiatives, and advocacy efforts, there has been a notable increase in the number of women in the TWGs. More women are now taking on leadership roles in TWGs, influencing decision-making processes that shape the customisation, risk profiling and risk transfer mechanism.

"ARC is highly committed to ensuring the active participation of women in these structures, and the progress we are witnessing underscores our dedication to inclusive governance, equity, and sustainable development, highlighting the significance of gender-responsive approaches," stated John Gavlo, ARC's Head of Technical Support. "ARC will continue to advocate for a broader representation of women within TWGs in member countries," he concluded.

ARC AT THE 38TH AU SUMMIT: STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE AU FOR AFRICA'S RESILIENCE

In February, the ARC Group actively participated in the 38th African Union (AU) Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, reinforcing its commitment to advancing disaster risk financing, climate resilience, and epidemic preparedness across the continent. As Africa confronts increasing climate shocks, ARC took the opportunity to engage African governments, regional bodies, international development partners and key partners to explore new country collaborations and contribute to high-level discussions on risk management and resilience-building.

In addition to high-level engagements, ARC participated in key speaking engagements, contributing expertise on disaster preparedness, risk pooling mechanisms, and gender-inclusive resilience strategies. The conversations underscored the importance of scaling up anticipatory action and ensuring African nations have financial and technical resources to effectively mitigate climate and epidemic risks.

As ARC works to scale up its operations and increase its reach and impact across the continent, these engagements are critical in improving the visibility of our work and ultimately ensuring that more AU Member States can access ARC's capacity-building programmes, early warning systems, and insurance mechanisms to safeguard lives and livelihoods.

This summit also marked a significant transition in leadership within the AU, presenting a pivotal moment for institutional collaboration and alignment. As the new AU leadership takes office, ARC looks forward to deepening its engagement with the African Union Commission (AUC), strengthening policy integration, and working closely with AU structures to position disaster risk financing as a core pillar of Africa's resilience agenda. ARC's collaboration with other AU agencies will explore areas of complementarity, aiming to streamline our collective efforts while avoiding duplication of efforts.



BURKINA FASO STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY RESILIENCE WITH ARC INSURANCE PAYOUT

Following an insurance payout from ARC, in January 2025, Burkina Faso officially launched the distribution of food supplies and livestock feed, reinforcing the essential role of innovative risk financing mechanisms and strategic partnerships in addressing climate-related crises. The Government's decision to participate in ARC risk pools, strengthens the resilience of its communities against climate disasters.

The Government of Burkina Faso received a payout of 2,676,884,195 FCFA, enabling assistance for 75,500 people and 25,500 animals through food and livestock feed distribution. In addition, Replica partner, The World Food Programme (WFP), also received a payout of USD2,628,004 to provide food assistance to 31,130 people. These figures underscore the tangible impact of proactive disaster risk management and the effectiveness of anticipatory financing in mitigating climate shocks.

Burkina Faso's participation in ARC risk pools was partially funded by the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), which contributed USD1 million, highlighting the importance of international solidarity and strategic partnerships in supporting African nations to build resilience.

"This payout is more than financial relief; it is a critical step in preventing drought-affected families from falling further into vulnerability. Distributing food and livestock feed lays the foundation for greater resilience against future climate shocks," stated Eva Kavuma, ARC's Acting Group Director General. "Importantly, continuous commitment to the ARC mechanisms is key to building resilience," she concluded



THE IMPACT OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN EL NIÑO-DRIVEN DROUGHT ON FOOD SECURITY: THE CASE FOR MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique is one of the southern African countries currently grappling with the severe repercussions of El Niño-driven drought. In November 2024, in response to this urgent humanitarian crisis, a multisectoral team comprised of several government departments, initiated an ex-ante assessment of the food security challenges faced by families in the agro-ecological zones insured under the ARC programme. The assessment sought to establish a clear understanding of the extent of crop losses due to drought and gauge the food security situation among affected families. It focused on three zones in the Zambezia province: Maputo, Gaza, and Sofala, covering 25 localities across 12 districts.



To obtain vital data, assessors engaged local communities, visited crop fields and conducted interviews with heads of households. Local leaders helped identify families that had suffered crop losses, enabling a deeper understanding of the broader implications of food insecurity in these areas. Key indicators such as the number of meals that families consume daily provided insights into the nutritional status and overall hardship experienced by these households.

Preliminary findings show alarming statistics: numerous families have lost their crops, leading to heightened food insecurity, underscoring the need for urgent intervention and support mechanisms. The data collected during this assessment will serve as a crucial foundation for developing comprehensive strategies to address food insecurity and enhance resilience against future climatic threats. It will also inform both local initiatives and broader policy frameworks dedicated to tackling food insecurity in the region.

As the country prepares to implement activities from an ARC drought insurance payout of \$5 512 522, the results from this assessment confirm the need for the ARC mechanism to complement other in-country drought response efforts.



ARC INITIATES DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA

In February 2025, ARC initiated its kick-off mission in Kigali, Rwanda, marking a significant step forward in our collective efforts to strengthen Rwanda's resilience against climate-related disasters and infectious disease outbreaks. The country has consistently demonstrated its commitment to innovative, inclusive, and sustainable solutions to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events and epidemics.

ARC's partnership with Rwanda, supported by key ministries such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), the Ministry of Emergency Management (MiNEMA), and the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC), is a testament to the power of collaboration in addressing some of the most pressing challenges facing our continent. During the mission, we engaged with national stakeholders to discuss how ARC's Outbreaks and Epidemics (O&E) programme and climate-related products can be effectively implemented to safeguard the lives, livelihoods, and food security of Rwanda's most vulnerable populations. We explored ways to enhance gender-responsive and transformative solutions in disaster risk management, ensuring gender inclusivity in all activities.

A big thank you to the representatives of Rwanda Biomedical Center, the UNDP, WHO and the Government of Rwanda who were part of this engagement. Discussions centred around improving sovereign disaster risk financing mechanisms, leveraging ARC's cutting-edge tools such as risk modelling, contingency planning, and risk transfer mechanisms. By transferring the financial burden of disasters from governments to international markets, ARC aims to eventually reduce a government's reliance on foreign aid and build a more self-reliant Africa.



ARC LTD.'S MISSION ACROSS WEST AFRICA: STRENGTHENING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

From 3 to 7 February 2025, ARC Ltd., led by CEO, Lesley Ndlovu, embarked on a mission across three west African countries: Senegal, The Gambia, and Côte d'Ivoire. The tour reinforced ARC's commitment to strengthening partnerships and enhancing Inclusive Insurance Solutions tailored to the needs of vulnerable communities facing climate risks. The engagements focused on expanding agricultural insurance, increasing financial literacy, and developing innovative risk management tools to protect farmers and communities.

- **Senegal: advancing agricultural insurance and climate resilience:** Strategic discussions were held with key stakeholders, including the Compagnie Nationale d'Assurance Agricole du Sénégal (CNAAS), the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Family and Solidarity. The objective was to strengthen agricultural insurance mechanisms and develop Inclusive Insurance Solutions that protect communities from climate-induced disasters. Key outcomes include: (i) plans to co-develop innovative insurance indices tailored to local needs; (ii) commitment to training local stakeholders to enhance financial literacy; (iii) discussions on mutual insurance models, urban flooding insurance, and African-led reinsurance strategies; (iv) emphasis on micro- and meso-level insurance to support vulnerable communities; and (v) a proposal to digitise and map agricultural plots to improve risk assessment.
- **The Gambia: Scaling Up Microinsurance for Small-Scale Farmers:** The Gambia mission focused on fostering partnerships to expand microinsurance programmes aimed at protecting small-scale farmers. The delegation met with the Central Bank of The Gambia and the World Food Programme (WFP), highlighting the critical role of inclusive insurance in climate resilience. Key outcomes include: (i) the successful launch of a pilot programme covering 3,070 farmers; (ii) securing \$5 million in funding from the African Development Bank for climate resilience initiatives; (iii) plans to scale up insurance programmes to support more farmers; (iv) emphasis on capacity-building activities to prepare communities for upcoming agricultural seasons; and (v) strengthening communication strategies to enhance stakeholder and beneficiary engagement.
- **Côte d'Ivoire: Expanding Agricultural Insurance for 125,000 Producers:** In Côte d'Ivoire, meetings reinforced partnerships with key actors, including SanlamAllianz, the Ministry of Environment, WFP, and UNDP Côte d'Ivoire. Discussions centred on expanding agricultural insurance coverage and strengthening food systems to enhance climate resilience. Key outcomes were as follows: (i) discussions on aligning insurance initiatives with the country's five-year strategic plan; (ii) plans to expand insurance programs to cover 10,000 additional beneficiaries; (iii) review of agricultural insurance programmes covering 125,000 producers; (iv) commitment to participatory approaches to ensure community involvement in disaster risk management; (v) Training programmes aimed at enhancing local capacity in agricultural insurance.

By working closely with governments, financial institutions, and development partners, ARC is driving forward innovative insurance solutions that protect communities from climate-related shocks. The successful outcomes of this mission pave the way for deeper collaboration and more effective insurance mechanisms that empower African nations to build sustainable, climate-resilient economies.



DRIVING FINANCIAL INNOVATION IN HUMANITARIAN RESILIENCE

On 6 February 2025, ARC Ltd took part in the high-level dialogue: Beyond Grants: Unlocking Transformative Finance Models for Humanitarian & Fragile Settings, held in Copenhagen. Co-hosted by the Nordic Office of the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the Danish Red Cross, this crucial gathering brought together over 75 experts to discuss new financial strategies that can reshape humanitarian funding and development cooperation.



With the global humanitarian funding gap widening, it is imperative to move beyond traditional grants and adopt more sustainable, localised, and accountable financial models. Representing ARC Ltd at the event, Gloria Womitso, Head of Humanitarian Insurance, shared insights into how disaster risk financing and parametric insurance can contribute to closing this gap and building resilience in Africa.

The discussions focused on three critical priorities which closely align with ARC's mission to empower African nations with financial tools that mitigate disaster risks and enhance preparedness: (i) sustainability – ensuring long-term solutions for humanitarian funding by shifting from reactive aid to proactive risk financing (ii) localisation – strengthening local actors and decision-making to make funding mechanisms more context-driven and effective; and (iii) accountability – creating fairer and more transparent financial systems to ensure aid reaches those who need it most.

At the heart of ARC Ltd's participation was the commitment to scalable financial innovations that protect vulnerable populations against climate shocks and other crises. The organisation highlighted the power of blended finance, insurance, and disaster risk financing as game-changing tools for resilience-building. As governments, international organisations, and financial institutions seek new pathways to bridge funding gaps, ARC remains at the forefront of revolutionising humanitarian finance.

PACAN ROADSHOW 2025, TRANSFORMING DEBT INTO DISASTER RELIEF FOR TOGO AND BEYOND

From 11 – 16 February, ARC Ltd, represented by Anaïs Symenouh (Head of Legal) and Sandile Mahagane (Actuarial Analyst), participated in the PACAN Programme 2025 Roadshow, a high-level initiative aimed at showcasing how innovative financial solutions can enhance disaster response financing in Africa. The roadshow, which covered Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, and Togo, brought together government officials, financial institutions, and development partners to explore the impact of the Programme d'Atténuation et de Conversion des Arriérés en cas de catastrophe (PACAN) and discuss its expansion across the continent.



A key highlight of the roadshow was the official event in Lomé, Togo where €6.6 million in debt repayments to the Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD) were cancelled under the PACAN programme. This financial relief, triggered by severe floods and heavy rains in October 2024, will allow Togo to redirect critical resources toward supporting disaster-affected communities and enhancing resilience strategies.

Discussions showcased the success of PACAN in providing financial relief to countries facing climate disasters, elaborated on opportunities to scale the programme to other African nations and explored how to strengthen partnerships for more sustainable disaster financing solutions. The event reinforced PACAN's potential as a transformative tool for disaster risk financing, offering African governments flexibility in responding to climate shocks while alleviating financial burdens. Unlike traditional insurance, PACAN is an innovative debt-relief mechanism that allows countries to convert financial obligations into direct support for disaster-affected communities.

With the support of ARC Ltd, BOAD, KfW, Munich Re, and the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, PACAN is paving the way for a more financially resilient Africa. As climate risks continue to rise, ARC Ltd remains committed to expanding innovative financial solutions that empower governments to respond swiftly and effectively to disasters.

EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH INCLUSIVE INSURANCE: THE ARC GROUP AND IFC EXPAND TRAINING PROGRAMME

Women in emerging markets remain disproportionately vulnerable to economic shocks and climate-related disasters despite their growing financial influence. Recognising the urgent need for gender-sensitive insurance solutions, the ARC Group, in partnership with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), is strengthening its training programme to empower regulators and drive inclusive financial policies across Africa.

As part of this initiative, ARC Group and IFC have already conducted successful training sessions in Zimbabwe, Côte d'Ivoire, and Rwanda. The most recent session took place in Madagascar from February 13 to 14, 2025. This two-day session brought together insurance regulators and key industry stakeholders to discuss and implement inclusive insurance solutions that better protect women against economic and climate-related risks. The training sought to raise awareness on gender-sensitive disaster risk management, train regulators to promote inclusive insurance policies, and encourage data-driven reforms to ensure women's financial protection.

Opening the session, Ange Nothando Chitate emphasised the critical role of inclusive insurance in building resilience, particularly for women in vulnerable communities. Throughout the training, participants engaged in dynamic discussions, practical case studies, and strategy development, demonstrating a collective commitment to integrating gender considerations into disaster risk financing.

Women in many African markets still face barriers to financial security, often lacking access to insurance products tailored to their needs. By training regulators, advocating for data-driven policies, and reinforcing the importance of inclusive insurance, ARC Group and IFC are taking concrete steps toward closing this gap.

In her closing statement, Dr Christiana George said: "This initiative is beyond just about policy reform—it is about empowering women, strengthening resilience and ensuring that financial protection mechanisms work for all".





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