

PRESS RELEASE

PROJECT LAUNCH: BUILDING URBAN CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN SOUTH-EASTERN AFRICA

Tuesday 23 June 2020 1000 – 1200 (East African Time)

Virtual Venue <https://interprefy.interpret.world/login=S-UNH.AF-MAINs>

#UrbanResilience #DiMSUR

Monday 22 June 2020 – UN-Habitat is kicking-off a four-year USD 14 million project to address critical issues related to urban resilience, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and the Union of Comoros. The project will work with four cities, the four national Governments and a regional institution to implement a mix of city-level resilient infrastructure projects, national-level capacity building, and a regional mechanism for learning and collaboration. It is anticipated that the project will directly benefit the lives and livelihoods of around 350,000 people in the four countries.

Through a two-hour virtual event, the project '**Building Urban Climate Resilience in South-Eastern Africa**' will be launched tomorrow. It is funded by the Adaptation Fund and implemented by UN-Habitat alongside the four Governments, OXFAM, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Technical Centre for Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience (DiMSUR). The launch event will include high-level speakers from the four Governments and mayors and city leaders from the cities of Morondava (Madagascar), Zomba (Malawi), Chokwe (Mozambique) and Moroni (Comoros), SADC (tbc) and Oxfam. Participation is expected from diplomats, donors, UN partners, civil society, academic institutions and the media.

Today, the majority of the world's fastest growing cities are in Africa. Due to climate change, disasters affecting Africa - such as cyclones, floods, droughts and disease outbreaks - are increasing in frequency, unpredictability, severity and impact. As it has been very clearly illustrated by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, urban areas are generally more vulnerable to risks than rural areas due to denser populations, concentration of assets, and a variety of activities within comparatively smaller geographic areas. These events impact a range of sectors from water supply to food and health systems, and disproportionately affect marginalized and vulnerable populations. While cities face the biggest disaster risk, cities are also where the solutions are because cities are where people are. The solution is to build resilience.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the New Urban Agenda together provide a road map for a more sustainable and resilient world.

DiMSUR

At the request of the four beneficiary countries of this project, UN-Habitat facilitated the establishment of the Technical Centre for Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience (DiMSUR). It was endorsed at the ministerial level by the four member countries.



Headquartered in Maputo, Mozambique, DiMSUR aims at fostering the development dissemination of knowledge and solutions as well as developing capacities for disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and urban resilience. <http://dimsur.org/>

UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat works in over 90 countries supporting people in cities and human settlements for a better urban future. Working with governments and local partners, its high impact projects combine world-class expertise and local knowledge to deliver timely and targeted solutions. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes a dedicated Goal on cities, SDG 11, to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

City Resilience Action Planning (CityRAP)

This project is an evolution of a process that started several years ago, when UN-Habitat and DiMSUR developed the CityRAP tool, and piloted it in the four target cities. CityRAP is a participatory planning tool used for training city managers and municipal technicians in small to intermediate sized cities. It encapsulates a 3 to 4-month process which enables city authorities and communities to understand and plan together actions aimed at reducing risk and building resilience through the development of a Resilience Framework for Action (RFA). The city-level activities of this project were developed based on the priorities identified by the cities and communities through CityRAP. Today, CityRAP has been implemented in 30 cities in 11 African countries. <https://unhabitat.org/project/the-city-resilience-action-planning-tool>

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