

REGIONAL WORKSHOP

“Building Climate Resilience in South-Eastern Africa”

21-24 March 2022

in Blantyre, Malawi

BACKGROUND

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is one of the world’s fastest urbanizing region with the total share of urban population projected to increase to 60 per cent by 2050 from the current 40 per cent. This trend is driven by increasing rural-urban migration patterns, as people in rural areas are drawn to urban centres which offer better opportunities for employment, education and improved social status, but it also goes hand in hand with the sustained rapid population growth rate in the region. In this scenario, it is important to highlight that the fastest urban growth in SSA is registered in cities up to 1 million inhabitants.

Due to climate change, hazards affecting the region – such as cyclones, floods, droughts and disease outbreaks – are increasing in frequency, unpredictability, and severity. Cities are increasingly vulnerable to the impact of such events not only because of their high concentrations of people and assets, but also because of their complex patterns of economic infrastructure and services. These events impact a range of sectors from water supply to food and health systems, and disproportionately affect marginalized and vulnerable populations. Crisis like the ongoing COVID-19 add layers of vulnerability and complexity, especially in the context of urban settings as it has been demonstrated during the course of the pandemic. Nevertheless, what was also clear is that cities hold a huge potential to be the places where the resilient solutions are found, and innovation is sparked.

In the south-eastern part of Africa, many countries share the same challenges in terms of hazards, as natural events such as cyclones and floods are often transboundary affecting more than one country at a time. Additionally, these countries often share similar vulnerabilities related, for example, to socioeconomic conditions, informality, and governance.

Launched in June 2020, the four-year project “Building Climate Resilience in South-Eastern Africa” is funded by the Adaptation Fund and implemented by UN-Habitat together with the governments of Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and the Union of Comoros, one city in each country, Oxfam and the Technical Centre Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience (DiMSUR). The project is assisting the four countries to build their urban resilience including a mix of city-level infrastructure projects, national-level capacity-building and regional experience sharing and learning. Four cities with different types of vulnerabilities were selected in these countries to implement climate adaptation projects following a participatory resilience planning process. The pilot projects include 4-8 interventions in each city, for example rehabilitating mangroves in Morondava (Madagascar), constructing and

rehabilitating bridges and dams in Zomba (Malawi), constructing safe havens in Chokwe (Mozambique) and improving solid waste management in informal neighbourhoods of Moroni (Comoros).

Leveraging the practical implementation at the city level, by the end of the project best practices and guidelines will be derived to create the conditions for replication in other cities and towns at the national level. This national-level component includes elements of training and capacity-building for both central and local authorities to start laying the foundations for building urban climate resilience.

Given the transboundary nature of most of the extreme climate events affecting the region, there is a need to enhance inter-country collaboration to mitigate the impact of natural hazards. This project promotes experience sharing and cross-fertilization and establishes a knowledge platform on urban resilience related issues that can be disseminated in the sub-region, through DiMSUR.

Despite many challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the project succeeded to keep activities ongoing and on-track; the team has grown gaining valuable new members who have brought the project in its second year of implementation thanks to a concerted effort. The annual regional workshop provides the opportunity to bring all stakeholders together again after the inception workshop held in 2020, to work together and strengthen partnerships. In attendance will be representatives of the four national governments, local government officials from the participating four cities, representatives of the executing and partner organizations as well as UN system and development partners.

Main objectives:

- Three meetings in one:
 - Annual Regional Workshop for the project “Building Climate Resilience in S-E Africa”
 - 2nd Project Steering Committee
 - 7th DiMSUR Executive Board meeting
- Bring together the key partners and stakeholders from the city-, national- and regional-levels involved in the project.
- Provide updates on the project implementation for all the three components and discussion on the way forward.
- Exchange of best practices in each city and country and reinforce the mechanism for sharing information at the regional level.
- Conduct a site visit in Zomba to show the progress on the city-level activities.

For additional information or questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

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AGENDA

DAY 1 – 21st MARCH 2022	
Time	Item
8:30 – 09:00	Arrival and registration at the Amaryllis Hotel, Blantyre
Annual Regional Workshop for the project “Building Climate Resilience in S-E Africa”	
09:00 –09:30	<p>The opening ceremony:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks: Oumar Sylla, Director a.i., Regional Office for Africa, UN-Habitat /5 min, virtual/ • Welcome remarks: Dailes Judge, Oxfam, Southern Africa Programme Director /5 min, virtual/ • Intervention from Alex Banda, DRR Unit, SADC /5 min/ • Introductory statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Claudio Afonso, the National Directorate of Climate Change, Government of Mozambique ○ Mohamed Abdou, Directeur de l'Aménagement de l'Urbanisme et de l'Habitat, The Union of Comoros /3 min each/ • Official opening of the meeting Keynote statement: Government of the host country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Charles Kalemba, Commissioner for Disaster Management Affairs (TBC) /7 min/
09:30 –09:45	<p>Overview of the workshop structure & overall update of the project Fruzsina Straus, Project Manager, UN-Habitat /10 min/</p> <p>Updates on the regional component Silvia Testi, Project Coordinator (Oxfam/ DiMSUR) /5 min/</p>
9:45-10:00	Coffee/ tea break
10:00 –12:00	Project updates from the four countries (city and national levels combined):

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Malawi (20 min – 10 min discussions) 2. Mozambique (20 min – 10 min discussions) 3. Union of Comoros (20 min – 10 min discussions) 4. Madagascar (20 min – 10 min discussions)
12:00-13:00	Lunch
2nd Project Steering Committee/ 7th DiMSUR Executive Board meeting	
13:00 -13:30	<p>Introductory statement from Tiana Randrianasoloarimina, General Director of Territorial Planning and Land Services DGATE- MATSF, Government of Madagascar /3 minutes/</p> <p><u>Opening session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks and presentation of the meeting’s objectives, by the Executive Board (EB) Outgoing Chairperson, Union of Comoros /5 min/ • Introduction of the DiMSUR Secretariat and self-introduction of participants /15 min/
13:30- 14:00	<p>Adoption of the minutes of the 6th EB meeting and handover of chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading of the minutes of the 6th EB meeting, by DiMSUR Secretariat • Adoption of the minutes of the 6th EB meeting • Change of DiMSUR EB chairperson from the Government of Comoros to the Government of Madagascar • Endorsement of Executive Director appointment
14:00 –14:30	<p><u>Briefing on 2020-2021 DiMSUR activities (Progress Report on DiMSUR)</u></p> <p><i>PPT Presentation on the Progress Report of DiMSUR (by DiMSUR Secretariat)</i></p> <p><i>Open discussion</i></p>
14:00 –15:00	Family photo and Coffee/tea break
15:00 –16:00	<p><u>Strategic discussion on the way forward</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and adoption of the draft DiMSUR Biennial Action Plan 2022-2024 • Discussion of the financial sustainability of DiMSUR and the Adaptation Fund project (need for co-financing and joint resource mobilisation) • Expansion of DiMSUR’s membership to cover more SADC Member States and possible additions to the Executive Board/ establishment Consultative Group • Communications and outreach • Other business • Date and venue of 8th Executive Board Meeting
16:00 –16:30	Final reflection from the four government representatives and closing remarks from the Chair
16:45-17:30	<p>Launch of “Regional Assessment on Urban Vulnerability and Resilience in SADC Member States” Download the report here: https://we.tl/t-YXrDEh9NZa</p>

DAY 2 – 22 nd MARCH 2022 Site Visit to Zomba	
Time	Item
06:00	Express Breakfast at Hotel (or packed breakfast)
06:30	Depart Amaryllis Hotel
08:30- 12:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Site visits to project locations - Zomba city</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Sadzi ward - city drainage capacity enhancement > Chambo ward – river-focused interventions to prevent erosion and flooding > Chambo ward – Likangala bridge rehabilitation and Chambo evacuation centre
13:00- 14:30	Lunch in Zomba
15:00-16:30	The experience of Zomba – Q&A with City Council
16:30- 18:00	Return to Blantyre and arrive at Amaryllis Hotel

DAY 3 – 23 rd MARCH 2022 Thematic Discussions*	
Time	Item
8:30	Arrival and registration at Amaryllis Hotel, Blantyre
09:00 – 09:15	Plenary session – Setting the scene & overview of the day
09:15 – 10:45	Thematic discussion I – Drainage and solid waste management
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee/ tea break
11:00 – 12:30	Thematic discussion II – Early warning and evacuation
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:00	Thematic discussion III – Nature based solutions and community mobilization/ awareness
15:00-15:15	Coffee/ tea break
15:15-16:15	Thematic discussion IV – Strengthening the policy and legal framework for building urban resilience at the national level

16:15 – 16:30	Summary and closing remarks
Close of official programme	

DAY 4 – 24th MARCH 2022	
Project Team Retreat**	
Item	
9:00-12:30	UN-Habitat and Oxfam Team Retreat Session 1
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-17:00	UN-Habitat and Oxfam Team Retreat Session 2

* A detailed agenda for this day will be provided separately

**This day is only for staff of UN-Habitat and Oxfam

Information Regarding Online Participation in the Workshop

Schedule day 1: Monday 21st of March 2022, 8h30 - 17h30 – CAT time

Schedule day 2: Wednesday 23rd of March 2022, 8h30 - 16h30 – CAT time

Find your local time [here](#).

Language: English is the main language of the workshop; simultaneous interpretation will be provided to and from French and Portuguese.

Meeting platform: [Zoom](#)

Day 1: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89713563436>

Meeting ID: 897 1356 3436

Passcode: 323445

Day 2: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86045819606>

Meeting ID: 860 4581 9606

Passcode: 388896

Approach and technical guidance:

The online participants will have time to interact and participate in the Q&A sessions after the interventions. To optimize our time together, we are sharing a few notes on the format:

- We would advise you to log in on your PC/laptop, as mobile is typically less conducive for active participation.

- It would be ideal to install or update Zoom on your device ahead of the convening, as the desktop version is less responsive and user-friendly.
- All collaboration tools are accessible on browser for PC users. If you need to join on your mobile, it is best to download the mobile apps.

What we ask of you

1. **If you haven't done it yet, confirm your participation.** Should any change occur, **inform us** on time, otherwise we will expect to see you online next Monday.
2. You will soon receive the calendar invite for the workshop (with the meeting link), please make sure to **reserve these slots in your calendars.**
3. Please **reach out to us if you have any specific needs** we need to take into consideration. We will be happy to accommodate it so that the space is equally comfortable for all of us.
4. During the workshop, if possible and connection allows, **the camera should be turned on** and we rely on your active participation to make the best from this opportunity. Try to stay connected and report any technical problems that may occur.