

Programme: Official Project Launch
“Building Urban Climate Resilience in South-Eastern Africa”

Tuesday 23 June 2020 10am-12pm EAT

Virtual Venue: Interprefy

<https://interprefy.interpret.world/login=S-UNH.AF-MAINS>

Background

Africa is the world’s fastest urbanizing region, manifesting itself in the growth of its megacities as well as its smaller towns and cities. The continent is expected to experience a total population increase of about 60% between 2010 and 2050, with the urban population tripling to 1.23 billion during this period. Around 2030, Africa’s collective population will become 50% urban.

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 C19 crisis, urban areas are generally more vulnerable to risks than rural areas due to denser populations, concentration of assets, and 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.

This project will assist four countries to build their urban resilience including a mix of city-level infrastructure projects and national-level capacity-building. 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 on Likangala River in Zomba (Malawi), constructing safe havens in Chokwe (Mozambique) and improving solid waste management in informal neighborhoods of Moroni (Comoros).

Leveraging the practical implementation of the project at the city level, 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 will include elements of training and capacity-building for both central and local authorities to start laying the foundations for building urban climate resilience.

Given that most of the extreme climate events affecting south-eastern Africa are transboundary, there is a need to enhance inter-country collaboration to mitigate the impact of natural hazards. This project promotes inter-country experience sharing and cross-fertilization and establishes a knowledge platform on urban resilience related issues that can be disseminated in the sub-region, through the Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience Centre (DIMSUR)

Objectives for the Launch:

- Officially launch UN-Habitat’s first multi-country Adaptation Fund project “Building Urban Climate Resilience in South-Eastern Africa”
- Discuss the multifaceted challenges and opportunities for resilience building using the examples of Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and the Union of Comoros
- Build a community of practice to support the successful implementation and replication of the project

Agenda

9:45			Arrival, registration, and technical briefing
10:00	-	12:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Official Launch of the Project: “Building Urban Climate Resilience in South-Eastern Africa”</p> <p><i>Welcome Remarks:</i> Raf Tuts, Director of the Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat</p> <p><i>Video Message:</i> Mikko Ollikainen, Manager of the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (TBC)</p> <p><i>Video introduction of the project</i></p> <p><i>Opening statement:</i> Victor Kisob, Deputy Executive Director, UN-Habitat</p> <p><i>Participants Poll:</i> <i>What do we mean by urban resilience?</i></p> <p><i>Overview of the project</i> and a brief presentation</p> <p>Presenters: Fruzsina Straus, Project Manager, UN-Habitat Nellie Nyangwa, Regional Director, Oxfam Southern Africa</p> <p><i>Roundtable Discussion on Urban Resilience in South-East Africa: Key Challenges and Opportunities</i> A moderated dialogue between representatives from the national governments and city administrations of the project’s participating countries.</p> <p>Moderator: Mathias Spaliviero, Snr. Human Settlements Officer, UN-Habitat</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speakers:</p> <p>Madagascar: Harimanana Rabe, Dir. General of Regional Planning, MATP Morondava: Désiré Armand Raharison, Municipality of Morondava</p> <p>Malawi: James Chiusiwa, Director, Disaster Risk Reduction, DoDMA Zomba: Benson Bulla, Mayor and Fred Nankuyu, Director of Planning and Development, Zomba City Council</p> <p>Mozambique: Emilia Fumo, Perm. Sec. of the Min. of Land and Environment Chokwe: Lidia Cossa Camela, Mayor</p> <p>Union of Comoros: Mohamed Daoudou, Minister, Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization Moroni: Arimyat Mattoir, SG Mayor of Moroni</p> <p>Southern African Development Community: Thembinkosi Mhlongo Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration (TBC)</p> <p><i>Open discussion and exchange of ideas</i></p> <p><i>Closing remarks:</i> Oumar Sylla, Regional Representative for Africa, UN-Habitat</p>

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

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