

Country Brief

MADAGASCAR

2023

A better quality of life for all in an
urbanizing world



UN-HABITAT

A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL IN AN URBANIZING WORLD

We promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.



UN-HABITAT

Table of Contents

02

Country Overview
and Urban Context

04

UN Habitat Country
Priority Areas

07

UN Habitat Projects
in Madagascar

16

Impact Story

18

Upcoming Events,
Partners and Donors



URBAN CONTEXT AND TRENDS

Madagascar is the world's fifth largest island, situated in the Indian Ocean off the coast of southern Africa. Despite considerable natural resources, however, its population of about 28 million (2020) has one of the world's highest poverty rates (World Bank, March 2023).

Malagasy urban population is estimated to become more than 17.6 million by 2036. The urbanization rate has increased from 22% in 1993 to 37% in 2012 and should reach 50% in 2036. In 1993, there were only about fifty cities (7 big urban centers and 45 urban Communes), in 2015, there are 172 cities that include 72 urban Communes. These statistics show the rapid population growth in urban areas.

In this context of rapid and uncontrolled urbanization, most of cities have many problems: social problems, inadequate infrastructure, lack of development services, increasing land pressure in big city, dilapidated condition of streets and sewage systems, health problems due to air pollution and poor hygiene, etc. (UN Habitat, 2015).

A confluence of climate and urbanization trends in Madagascar is paving the way for new hazards, particularly in urban areas. Development in low-lying areas, for example, leads to greater exposure to the growing flood risks associated with increasing intensity of heavy rainfall, cyclone events and sea level rise. Development programming in Madagascar faces a range of climate risks, including drought in the southwest, cyclones and floods in the center and north, sea level rise and storm surges along the coasts, and heat stress in low elevation in land areas (World Bank 2016b).

In Madagascar, while migration and how it is governed should be an issue at the frontline of urban planning and sustainable development, it is still overlooked. Cities and local governments do not include migration or migrants in their urban development planning and implementation, and there is a disjuncture between national and local policies and urban planning processes. As a result, cities in Madagascar continue to present some of the worst development indicators: 72% of cities' inhabitants live in informal housing; 65% do not have access to energy; 60% do not have access to public transportation; and 40% lack access to drinkable water and basic sanitation facilities



Our Thematic Focus

We contribute to the achievement of sustainable urban development in Madagascar through the following areas:

Smart urban planning

Spatial planning at different geographical (national/region/city/commune) scales to prioritize strategic investments and reinforce the existing system through participatory planning to enable the implementation of integrated multi-sectoral interventions through an area-based approach. Planning will integrate climate risk, propose adaptation and mitigation solutions to enhance resilience (including in peri-urban ecosystem), cater for the sudden increase of urban population due to forced displacements, and catalyze financing mechanisms.

Increased job and income opportunities (green and smart)

Cities, including public institutions, private entrepreneurs and communities, can attract investments and generate green jobs and income opportunities while producing mitigation co-benefits through youth skills enhancement, waste management, renewable energy, urban agriculture, efficient use of natural resources and reducing the vulnerability to climate impacts.

Smart city and digital transformation strategies

Support to local governments to maximize the benefits of smart and digital technologies through strategic and active leadership, investment and aligning digital transformation initiatives with resilience and sustainability efforts.

Our Thematic Focus

We contribute to the achievement of sustainable urban development in Madagascar through the following areas:

Climate-resilient public infrastructure and facilities:

integrate climate risks/proofing into the infrastructural design (especially in drainage, roads and energy-supply facilities), integrate innovative approaches, such as a "sponge city" approach for flood risk reduction, improved drainage, ecosystem-based solutions for coastal resilience, and promote safer minimum construction standards in public buildings, in particular education and health facilities.



Access to adequate housing/shelter

Apply low-cost, simple, innovative, locally adapted, incremental and disaster-resistant housing/shelter construction techniques in informal settlements of major cities or in resettlement/new development areas, risk mapping to avoid new settlements in high-risk areas.



Sustainable mobility and connectivity

Non-motorized and smart public transport solutions, as well as road network and connectivity improvements, to enhance the circulation of people and goods.



Innovative ecological governance

Through participatory approach and awareness-raising, urban and peri-urban management plans consider fragile ecosystems, including the implementation of concrete measures to enhance ecological and socio-economic benefits.



Our Thematic Focus

We contribute to the achievement of sustainable urban development in Madagascar through the following areas:



Nature-based solutions and urban greening

technical and financial support for local authorities and communities to systematically integrate and implement hybrid solutions that include nature-based solutions in addition to hard infrastructure, as well as urban greening interventions (which have benefits for human health, climate mitigation and adaptation).



Clean energy and improved resource efficiency

Clean energy and improved resource efficiency, especially in the construction sector and in main cities.



Visit of raft construction for the proof flood elevated road in Morondava, December 2022

About Our Projects

Close and Ongoing
Projects



AF/SEA Building urban climate resilience project on South-Eastern Africa- 2020-2024



Donor: Adaptation Fund



Budget: 2,121,000 USD in Madagascar

Project achievements: a resilient and multipurpose safe haven in Morondava that can accommodate more than 200 people, drainage system for the whole city of Morondava improved, 34Ha of mangroves restored in Avaradrova, Andakabe, Andabatoara and Betania neighborhoods in March 2023, national launch event and 4 national project committee meetings for continuous improvement of project implementation.

This project, financed by Adaptation Fund, assists four (4) countries (Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Union of Comoros) to build their urban resilience including a mix of city-level infrastructure projects and national-level capacity-building.

In Madagascar, Morondava is the beneficiary city of eight (8) climate adaptation projects including mangroves rehabilitation, Urban greening interventions, City-wide floods Early Warning System, Multipurpose safe-haven construction, Flood-proof elevated road construction, three (3) Bridges reconstruction, City drainage capacity enhancement and Solid Waste Management improvement. The national component two (2) of the project has three (3) main activities, updates of national strategy for urban climate adaptation, national training in urban climate adaptation approaches and development of national guide for urban climate risks.



PSUP Participatory Slum Upgrading Program-phase III- 2020-2022

Donor: EU, Madagascar Government



Budget: 554,500 USD

The PSUP is a global partnership to transform the lives of one billion slum dwellers into sustainable, safe, inclusive and resilient cities and communities, an ACP Secretariat Initiative, funded by the European Commission and implemented by UN-Habitat.

PSUP phase III achievements:

- Transformative projects for the improvement of infrastructure and housing implemented:

1. In the commune of Moramanga: 574 ml sewerage canals rehabilitated; three (3) new box culverts constructed

2. In the city of Manakara: 54 Traditional Cases Resistant to Climatic Hazards CTRACs constructed

3. In the Urban Commune of Antananarivo: a construction of Multifunctional Community House (MCM) is in progress and 4,000 households sensitized on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and on the use of sewage sludge.

- Strategy for the establishment of Community-Managed Funds (CGF): sensitization of the community to set up a Community-Managed Fund (CGF) mechanism and its operationalization.

- Neighborhood development plan: Development of four (4) neighborhood development plan in a participatory and climate-resilient manner

- Income-generating activities: Training in Sewing for 20 women.

About Our Projects

Close and Ongoing
Projects



SIDA NBS Nature-Based Solutions and urban biodiversity actions in the context of informal settlements upgrading and climate resilience building in Morondava, Madagascar- February-July 2022:



Donor: SIDA



Budget: 50,000

This project is part of the regional flagship UN Habitat programme funded by Swedish International Development Agency SIDA, an integrated approach to strengthening climate action, improved urban environment, and resilient settlements for the urban poor in its work package 4, integration of nature-based solutions (NBS) in country level operations of RISE UP projects in Morondava/Madagascar, Lilongwe/Malawi and Honiara/Solomon Islands.

Project achievements: 89 Ha of mangroves restored in Lovobe and Kimony Bemanonga, 606 volunteers including 447 young people and 323 women planting mangroves, one first city park created in Menabe region- Marofotra and one urban garden rehabilitated in Nosy Kely Morondava, 44 outreach sessions on NBS as natural urban climate solutions and 4 broadcast radio programs.



NBS sensitization in Morondava street

PIPELINE PROJECTS-

Concept Notes



- Building urban resilience in most frequently impacted areas by natural disasters in Madagascar.
- Scaling up Nature-Based Solutions and Urban Biodiversity Actions in Building Resilience of Informal Settlements in Morondava Madagascar.
- Strengthening National Urban Climate Resilience in Madagascar.



First use of multipurpose safe haven in Morondava during Cheneso cyclone, January 2023

Building urban resilience in most frequently impacted areas by natural disasters in Madagascar

Objectives: To build urban climate resilience in most frequently impacted areas by natural disasters, Toamasina and Mananjary to effectively adapt to the negative effects triggered by climate change.

Overall situation

Madagascar faces several humanitarian challenges: in health, recurrent disease outbreaks of plague, the Covid 19 pandemic, malnutrition and mostly natural disasters with an average of 1.5 cyclones affecting Madagascar yearly, the highest number in Africa. During the first quarter of this year 2022, 5 cyclones and storms hit the eastern part of Madagascar resulting in flooding, damaging infrastructures including houses, schools, health centers, roads...destroying lot of hectares of rice fields. Severe cyclones Batsirai and Emnati struck the island's south-east of Madagascar in a 10-day interval not even giving the cities impacted recovery time.

The destruction of housing has not only left over 700,000 people displaced or homeless, but it has also halted economic activity, particularly in agriculture, and has disrupted key systems such as health and education. Flooding and wind damage to agricultural crops have generated concerns about food security in the months ahead.

In a country where approximately 78 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, urban resilience is critical since disasters affected not only people, but they also halted economic activity, particularly in agriculture, and disrupted key systems such as health and education.

Urgency

This project will tackle the main climate hazards and their negative impacts in Madagascar, particularly cyclones and storms that are expected to become more frequent and more severe in Indian Ocean. Indeed, the severe cyclones landing in Madagascar in 2022 hit at more than 100KM/H the East coast of Madagascar. For the upcoming years, severe climate hazards will be more frequent, and it is now urgent that Madagascar will be more prepared and become more resilient in natural disasters.

Unpredictability

Even if climate disasters are expected to become more frequent and of much higher magnitude with the current climate change, the projection and prediction tools of climate change and natural disasters available do not allow precise forecasting of the cyclones and storms hitting Madagascar as well as the exact places to be most affected in advance. However, for a vulnerable country with very poor settings like Madagascar, the unpredictability of natural disasters will be major contingencies interfering with the country's development plan at all level.

Necessity

The National Bureau for Risk and Disaster Management BNGRC stated during the launch of the construction of the 1st multipurpose safe haven in Madagascar by UN Habitat, that having such evacuation center would allow them to be able to provide emergency supply actions more easily and quickly: shelters with basic amenities for victims of natural disasters... Multiplying multipurpose safe havens and resilient infrastructures in Madagascar, reducing risks in preventing informal settlements in flood prone areas and strengthening institutional capacity will be crucial for the resilience of the country to the more frequent and severe climate hazards from the Indian Ocean over this next decade.

Unsubstitutability

Aiming to take advantage of the expertise of Japan in resilient infrastructures to natural disasters, this project would innovate in resilient infrastructure in poor setting and coastal context. This project becomes also very urgent with the frequent and more severe cyclones expected hitting Madagascar is a suitable candidate for Japan Supplementary Budget 2022.

Proposed budget : USD 1,750,000



Scaling up Nature-Based Solutions and Urban Biodiversity Actions in Building Resilience of Informal Settlements in Morondava Madagascar

Objectives

The current project aims to scale up resilience and strengthen climate action to improve the urban environment and provide more resilient settlements in Morondava through Nature-Based Solutions and Ecosystem-based adaptation.

Proposed approach

The following methodological approach will be employed:

- Strengthening capacity building of stakeholders:

The project will build the capacity of local governance structures and associations in nature-based solutions and EbA. Indeed, these key players will profoundly influence NbS and EbA.

- Increasing awareness to mobilize communities further to own nature-based solutions and EbA.

This approach will be achieved by increasing access to NbS and EbA information to ensure that the residents are better informed on their responsibilities and roles in creating resilient settlements. Awareness creation will be facilitated through training in the community population and broadcasts to reach a broader scale of people living in informal settlements. The communities will be trained on waste separation and encouraged to be more vigilant and act to reap its benefits.

Supporting regional division DREDD to update their data on mangroves and fostering the capacity building of local community associations for environment VOI that was set up by the DREDD.

Partnerships

The project seeks to partner with the Government of Madagascar through the Ministry of Territorial Planning and Land Services MATSF, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development MEDD, DiMSUR Madagascar, the Menabe region, the Municipality of Morondava, and the Municipality of Bemanonga.

Implementation period

The current project will be implemented within one year.

Beneficiaries of the project

The current project will benefit approximately 53,510 inhabitants of Morondava and 32,468 inhabitants of Bemanonga.



© UNICEF/Rindra Ramasomanana A flooded district of Antananarivo, Madagascar.



Strengthening National Urban Climate Resilience in Madagascar

Objectives

This project will tackle the two main climate hazards in Madagascar, (1) cyclones and storms that are becoming more frequent and more severe in Indian Ocean and (2) persistent and severe drought affecting the south of the country.

Proposed approach

Leveraging the existing activities being conducted at the national level and at the municipal level in Morondava of the ongoing UN-Habitat project on building climate resilience in South-Eastern Africa, this project aims (1) to further strengthen urban climate resilience at the national level and expand key resilient infrastructure interventions in areas frequently impacted by natural disasters and (2) to apply a humanitarian-development-peace HDP nexus approach to tackling climate change and migration for a sustainable response to the drought in the Grand-Sud.

MAIN EXPECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- 90% of regional authorities (23 regions), 60% of district (119 districts) at national level, 20 municipalities frequently impacted by natural hazards, 50% of the neighbourhoods of the 20 municipalities- trained in adaptation to climate change in urban areas.

- 100% of existing relevant national policies and legislations with concepts of urban resilience/climate change adaptation,
- 20 municipalities have plans for development (Plan Communal de Développement) integrating climate actions.
- 4 multipurpose safe havens in 4 cities frequently impacted by natural hazards
- 100% of regional, 70% of districts and 100% of Ambovombe Androy and Amboasary Anosy municipalities managers of public water services with strengthened capacity
- The construction of 5 rainwater collection-treatment-storage systems, distributed over the municipalities for the benefit of at least 583.286 inhabitants living in Ambovombe and Amboasary.
- Raising awareness and capacity building of at least 80% of members of local maintenance committees in the management of maintenance contracts of hydraulic infrastructure.
- Capacity building of at least 100 repair artisans per municipality targeted and involved in the maintenance and repair of the works to be carried out
- Ensure sustainable access to water for approximately 583.286 inhabitants in Ambovombe and Amboasary.



Inauguration of first city park in Menabe region by the Governor, Prefect and Mayors, July 2022



IMPACT STORY

Shelter and drainage system withstand Madagascar storm

Severe Tropical Storm Chensho made landfall in Madagascar on 19 January 2023 bringing with it a week of heavy rains and wind and causing significant flooding across the country. Chensho is putting to test the multipurpose safe haven and drainage system recently completed by UN-Habitat and its partner Oxfam in the vulnerable coastal city of Morondava. Inaugurated just over a month ago, the 200-person capacity safe haven is now fully occupied for the first time, lending refuge to vulnerable households, 80% of whom are women and children.

This is the first safe haven of its kind constructed in Madagascar, where schools are often used for emergency shelter during cyclone season, disrupting schooling for children sometimes for weeks at a time. The center is equipped with solar energy, pumped water, a sheltered outdoor kitchen, laundry basin and is fully accessible to persons with disabilities. UN-Habitat is working with the UN system, Oxfam and the national government, particularly the national disaster risk management center (BNGRC) in promoting and replicating this model of safe haven across Madagascar, which is vulnerable to storms and cyclones.

But the safe haven is only a part of the story. Resilience can only be built through integrated interventions blending green infrastructure, disaster preparedness measures and capacity-building and community mobilization that address the critical needs of a vulnerable urban area holistically and sustainably.

The project which has resulted in the safe haven, “Building Urban Climate Resilience in South-Eastern Africa” is funded by the Adaptation Fund, coordinated by UN-Habitat and with Oxfam as the main partner delivering resilience interventions at the city-level. Morondava also received drainage rehabilitation which is now keeping the streets safe from the floodwaters of Cheneso.

Six other interventions including solid waste management, mangrove rehabilitation, elevated roads and the construction of bridges are currently underway in Morondava to ensure that when the next cyclone season comes around the residents will be even better protected. Similar interventions are also being carried out by this project in three other cities, Zomba in Malawi, Chokwe in Mozambique and Moroni in the Union of Comoros.

As of 25 January, the impacts of Cyclone Cheneso at national level in Madagascar are 8 people dead, 20 people missing, 46,994 disaster victims (i.e. 10,807 households) spread over 13 Regions, 20,603 displaced people in 75 accommodation sites (i.e. 4,828 displaced households), 12,435 housing units flooded and 523 housing units destroyed. Many of these people are staying with relatives, but 200 of those in Morondava are protected by the safe haven.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July/September/October 2023: Inauguration of 3 bridges, flood-proof elevated road and 182 Ha of mangroves restored in Morondava, Madagascar

Partners and Donors



Contact Us

Fruzsina Straus

Regional Focal Point for Urban Resilience, Climate Action and DRR
Task Manager for African SIDS, Madagascar, Malawi and Namibia

E-mail: straus@un.org

Sandrine Andriantsimietry

National Programme Manager

E-mail: sandrine.andriantsimietry@un.org



A better quality of life for
all in an urbanizing world

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN
SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi 00100, Kenya
T: +254-20-76263120
E: unhabitat-info@un.org

www.unhabitat.org

