



Africa Urban Resilience Programme (AURP)

Africa's focus on building urban resilience is an urgent, and a critical development issue. The AU's Africa Urban Resilience Programme (AURP) is providing the framework to achieve this goal.



Background

Africa's rapid urbanisation has intensified disaster risks, with cities increasingly vulnerable to some of the world's most severe climate and hazard impacts.

To address these pressing issues, the **African Union Commission (AUC)**, with the financial support from the **Government of Sweden** and the technical support of the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and has developed the **Africa Urban Resilience Programme (AURP)**. This robust and continent-wide framework which was designed to guide and support urban resilience initiatives across Africa, has been endorsed by AU Member States and the Executive Council.



Reframing Urban Resilience in Africa

AURP's key considerations and opportunities

A better understanding of urban resilience:

Resilience-building through the inclusion of supporting functions in community and society moves resilience beyond merely the scientific analysis of systems. It brings to attention the embeddedness of "management" risk through the role of governance, institutions and the ability to gather knowledge and learn.



1

Scale, spatial distribution and geographic diversity:

The diversity in spatial distribution and local manifestations of disaster risks allows for a deeper understanding of the interconnecting and cascading effects that disasters often set off. These should be taken into consideration to contextualise proposed strategies and action plans.



2

Rural-urban linkage of urban risk:

This programme focuses on addressing urban risks in Africa, recognising the relationship, connection and driving factors of rural areas to the production of urban risk is important. Understanding the interconnectivity between rural and urban dimensions contributes to an appreciation of the wider systems of urbanisation within which risks and development manifest.



3

Gender and social inclusion dimensions of disaster risk:

Gender and youth are important dimensions for any efforts aimed at reducing vulnerabilities of communities, highlighting that social inclusion is fundamental to building resilience. It is therefore important that this is reflected through data and analytics, institutional, capacity building, programmatic and implementation lens at different levels (regional, national and local).



4

Risk assessments and risk-informed data:

The utility of risk assessments, tools and data to support risk-informed decision-making and policy also requires the requisite political support, which the AUC can provide in a targeted fashion. It calls for support for a more comprehensive approach to collecting risk and disaster data at the urban and intra-urban level as well as support for the use of participatory approaches by local policymakers to verify and triangulate information and build the capacities of constituencies to support better data collection processes.



5

Conflict and urban disaster risk

There is a need to recognise and address the strained capacity and preparedness of local governments in addressing basic welfare needs, services or disrupted livelihoods of people who have been displaced or migrating in conflict-affected areas. Peace and security are fundamental requirements for governance systems to operate to deliver resilience-building measures.



6

Gender and social inclusion dimensions of disaster risk:

Gender and youth are important dimensions for any efforts aimed at reducing vulnerabilities of communities, and social inclusion is fundamental to building resilience. It is therefore important that this is reflected through data and analytics, institutional, capacity building, programmatic and implementation lenses at different levels (regional, national and local).



7

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8

Emergent shocks and manifestation of urban risk:

Emergent shocks as COVID-19, re-emphasised the need for accelerated efforts to provide resilient basic services such as safe water and sanitation in urban areas and how that is essential to curbing cascading impacts such as the spread of infectious diseases and contributing to wellbeing and resilience.



9

Impact

The programme will contribute to a **substantial reduction in urban disaster losses** in Africa. Reduced disaster losses through risk-informed interventions in an inclusive, transboundary, multidisciplinary and participatory context will support thriving socio-economic development in urban centres across Africa.



Overall programme objective

The overall objective of the AURP is to **strengthen urban resilience** in Africa through integrated, evidence-based and risk-informed planning and practice.



Pillars/objectives

The AURP is built on five core pillars, each serving as a fundamental building block to improve resilience across African cities and urban centres:

Cities and urban centres have improved capacities for disaster risk assessment

Cities and urban centres have functional multi-hazard early warning and early action systems

Cities and urban centres integrate disaster risk reduction into their development planning

Cities and urban centres have functional recovery, adaptation and building back better mechanisms

Cities and urban centres have improved risk transfer to reduce vulnerabilities to disaster risk



Expected results

Pillar/ objective

1

Cities and urban centres have improved capacities for disaster risk assessment



Result 1A: Harnessing **local and indigenous knowledge and systems** for risk assessment



Result 1B: Improved **risk education** and **capacity building**



Result 1C: Development of **multi-risk indices** and integrated **vulnerability assessments**



Result 1D: Updated **risk profiles** using enhanced tools and methods



Result 1E: Streamlined **risk information, knowledge management platforms**



Result 1F: Improved **advocacy** for urban resilience in Africa

Pillar/ objective

2

Cities and urban centres have functional multi-hazard early warning and early action systems



Result 2A: Enhanced contingency and **urban disaster preparedness**



Result 2B: Streamlined **risk communication channels and tools**



Result 2C: Strengthened cross-institutional **coordination of disaster (and crisis) response**

Pillar/ objective

3

Cities and urban centres integrate disaster risk reduction into their development planning



Result 3A: Improved strategic and risk-informed **urban and regional planning**



Result 3B: Streamlined and strengthened **DRR institutional arrangements** across scales



Result 3C: Empowered and **resilient local communities**



Result 3D: Resilient basic and **social services and infrastructure**



Result 3E: Sustainable **management of natural resources and ecosystem** services



Result 3F: Addressing socio-economic **drivers of vulnerability and poverty**

Cities and urban centres have functional recovery, adaptation and building back better mechanisms

Pillar/ objective

4



Result 4A: Sustainable **post-disaster recovery**



Result 4B: Resilient **basic** and **social services and infrastructure** (for recovery)



Result 4C: Enhanced **capacities for Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNAs)**



Result 4D: Enhanced **resettlement, rehabilitation and re-integration** plans and processes

Cities and urban centres have improved risk transfer

Pillar/ objective

5



Result 5A: Promote innovative **municipal/local financing** for DRR.



Result 5B: Promote **insurance and risk transfer** to reduce vulnerabilities to disaster risk

Addressing urban risk and promoting resilience in cities and urban centres is integral to the achievement of key development goals such as the AU's Agenda 2063, the UN SDGs, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the New Urban Agenda, and the Paris Agreement - transforming them into thriving socio-economic hubs, on the path of sustainable long-term development.

Acknowledgements

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About Resilience Initiative Africa

The 'Resilience Initiative Africa' (RIA) is a regional project supported by Germany that aims to increase the capacities of regional, national, local state and non-state actors for risk-informed urban development in Africa. One crucial part of RIA is the support to the Africa Urban Resilience Programme (AURP). The project is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and its project partners. The production of this communication output was done with the generous support of GIZ through the RIA project.

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