

# DRR4AFRICA

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION:  
A RESILIENCE AGENDA 4 URBAN AFRICA

FUNDER



IMPLEMENTER



## CAPE COAST

### CAPE COAST: SUMMARY INFORMATION

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in weather patterns, which lead to more extreme weather events, such as heavier floods, longer droughts, and stronger storms. The main cause of climate change is global warming, which is driven by human activities such as burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas) and agriculture, amongst others. These activities release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere that trap heat around the earth like a blanket. This warming disrupts natural weather systems, impacting our environment, health, and livelihoods.

### CAPE COAST IS AT RISK OF



Floods (flash, riverine and coastal)



Tidal waves



Storms



Droughts



### POPULATION GROUPS MOST IMPACTED BY CLIMATE HAZARDS

- **WOMEN AND GIRLS:** Responsible for fetching water, they face greater exposure to waterborne diseases and violence during floods and droughts.
- **STUDENTS:** Floods disrupt education, forcing longer commutes that pose physical and psychological risks.
- **ELDERLY:** Limited mobility increases their risk of injury during evacuations.
- **PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES** face heightened challenges, including economic disruptions.
- **SICK INDIVIDUALS** experience worsening health due to disrupted access to medication and medical services.
- **FISHERS:** Storms and tidal waves force longer trips for resources, increasing danger; boats may also be damaged.
- **LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS:** High risk of livelihood loss with slow recovery, deepening poverty.
- **HOMELESS PEOPLE** lack safe shelter, heightening exposure to hazards and worsening health and economic conditions.

### CITY'S CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTIONS

- Temperatures are forecast to increase steadily, with mean daytime temperatures reaching 32°C by 2100.
- Increased rainfall variability will result in both early onset and delayed rainy seasons.
- Some years will experience prolonged dry spells.

### ADAPTATION VISION

By 2030, Cape Coast will be a resilient coastal city with an advanced capacity to prevent and manage disasters and develop sustainable livelihoods for all its people.



### IMPACT OF CLIMATE HAZARDS ON CAPE COAST

- **EDUCATION & ECONOMY:** Extreme climate hazards disrupt academic and business activities, affecting financial stability.
- **COASTAL EROSION:** Rising sea levels damage infrastructure, property, and livelihoods - hitting women, youth, and tourism hardest.
- **TRANSPORT:** Sea level rise and flooding hinder infrastructure, increase accidents, and alter travel behavior.
- **WATER SCARCITY:** Higher temperatures and saltwater intrusion reduce freshwater availability.
- **HEALTH RISKS:** Rising heat, humidity, and water contamination increase health threats.
- **ECOSYSTEM STRESS:** Forests, wetlands, mangroves, and lagoons suffer from rising temperatures.
- **AGRICULTURE:** Erratic rainfall, drought, and heat threaten food security and livelihoods.
- **FISHING:** Unstable fish stocks and shorter seasons disrupt the industry.

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## WHAT TO DO BEFORE A FLOOD

### Know your settlement

Familiarise yourself with households at risk of flooding, your communities' strengths and challenges when dealing with floods, and who to call for help. Identify streams, unstable ground, and drains.

### Manage water flows

Install stormwater drains and channels to direct water away from populated areas. Slow water movement with sandbags, old tyres and carpets. Create retention ponds to store excess water.

### Prepare a community flood response plan

Identify vulnerable areas and people, safe evacuation routes, relocation sites, flood alert signals, and clear roles and responsibilities.

### Grow and maintain trees & crops

Vegetation stabilises soil and encourages water absorption, reducing the intensity of flooding.

### Do not build in risky areas

Building close to a river, on soft soils, or steep slopes increases flood risk.



### Protect important documents

Store identity documents, birth certificates and clinic cards in a waterproof box on a high surface.

### Build relationships

Establish points of contact with your municipality, community members, local universities and aid organisations that can assist during floods.

### Remove waste from drains and streams

Work with your community and municipality on a waste management plan. Remove litter from streams and desilt drains to avoid blockages - especially before heavy rain.

### Stay connected and informed

Keep phones charged and find signal spots. Follow weather alerts from NADMO or local officials. Listen to Eagle FM, Radio Central, or ATL FM for flood updates. Share info with neighbors.

### Report problems

Infrastructure maintenance is essential for managing flood risk. Report issues to NADMO, the Works Department, or Urban Roads.

## WHAT TO DO DURING A FLOOD

### Alert others

Use selected flood warning signals. Flashing torches can guide people in the dark.

### Stay calm and follow the plan

Established leaders should keep people calm, executing and adapting the flood response plan as needed.

### Share reliable information

Only share information that comes from a trustworthy source. False information can negatively impact yourself and others.

### Move to safety

Head to higher ground, avoiding floodwaters, power lines, and unstable structures. Safe sites in Cape Coast: Jubilee School, Philip Quaque Boys & Girls Schools, Pedu Basic, & Nkanfoa Methodist

### Help those around you

Particularly vulnerable individuals such as the elderly, disabled, sick and young.



## WHAT TO DO AFTER A FLOOD

### Prioritise safety

Check yourself and others for injuries and seek medical assistance if needed. Only go back to your home once you know it is safe.

### Identify damage and hazards

Report fallen power lines, unstable buildings, or sewage leaks. Avoid damaged structures; turn off electricity/gas if safe. List displaced community members with house, ID, and phone details

### Health precautions

Use boiled or bottled water until safe. Disinfect items touched by floodwater and wash hands often. Seek medical help for waterborne illness symptoms.

### Seek support and aid

Follow local updates and register with aid groups (Ghana Red Cross, CRAN, ANOPA) for supplies. Seek counseling and support others' well-being.

### Clean up, if it is safe

Remove stagnant water to prevent mosquitoes and further damage. Wear gloves, boots, and face masks.

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Fire service:  
0556790109

NADMO:  
0242813136 / 0291901139

Ghana Police - Cape Coast North:  
0244434090

Ghana Police - Cape Coast South:  
0241207566

Ambulance Service:  
0299375589  
0592071200  
0593222890