

DRR4AFRICA

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION:
A RESILIENCE AGENDA 4 URBAN AFRICA

FUNDER



IMPLEMENTER



PORT LOUIS

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, sea level rise, and coastal erosion. 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.

PORT LOUIS IS AT RISK OF



Cyclones



Sea level rise



Flooding



Droughts



POPULATION GROUPS MOST IMPACTED BY CLIMATE HAZARDS

- **MARITIME WORKERS & FISHERS** livelihood activities are severely impacted by cyclones, flooding and sea level rise as infrastructure and fish stock are affected.
- **CHILDRENS** education is interrupted by extreme climate hazards, resulting in further travel which may pose physical threats as well as psychological trauma. Children often collect water with mothers, exposing them to water-borne diseases in the event of a flood
- **YOUTH** particularly young men, are especially unsupported after hazard events. This leaves them vulnerable to depression, a feeling of powerlessness, and the influence of alcohol, narcotics, and criminality. The economic and academic activities of the youth are also disrupted by extreme hazards.
- **ELDERLY** face challenges evacuating during a cyclone or flood event, leaving them vulnerable to injury and exposure to water-borne diseases.

CITY'S CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTIONS

- Mean temperatures are forecast to increase by 2-3°C before 2100.
- Annual rainfall will become increasingly variable, with a long-term decreasing trend (decreasing by as much as 100mm/annum by 2100)
- Dry seasons are anticipated to become longer while summer rainfall is delayed.



IMPACT OF CLIMATE HAZARDS ON PORT LOUIS

- **TOURISM**: coastal erosion, sea level rise, cyclones, and flooding events damage local habitats and interrupt livelihoods, with impacts on tourism affecting the broader economy.
- Waterfront **DEVELOPMENT**, as well as the port itself, is at increased risk from sea level rise and storm surges, affecting national trade and livelihood activities.
- **FISHING** is affected by diminished catches. Climate change alters marine habitats, resulting in fish migration and changing reproduction patterns. .
- Shifting summer **RAINFALL PATTERNS** have significant implications for water security within the agricultural, tourism, industrial, and domestic sectors. This affects food security, human health, and livelihood activities.
- Increasing heavy rainfall events during the summer months may lead to flash floods which threatens the **HEALTH** and **WELLBEING** of vulnerable communities.

DRR4AFRICA

FUNDER



IMPLEMENTER



WHAT TO DO BEFORE A FLOOD

Know your community

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 Mauritius Meteorological Services for flood updates. Share info with neighbours.

Report problems

Infrastructure maintenance is essential for managing flood risk. Report issues to the Land Drainage Authority & National Development Unit for Drainage Infrastructure.



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.

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 such as the Mauritius Red Cross Society, St John Ambulance and other NGOs. 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

Emergency Response Service
SAMU:114, MFRS:115

Police
999/148