

WATER ADAPTATION COMMUNITY WEBINAR



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PUTTING WATER AT THE CENTER OF ADAPTATION: AN URGENT NEED FOR A STRATEGY FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

Tuesday, 31th May 2022, 9:30–11:00AM CET



Leveraging Water Adaptation : COVID19

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Water

Water underpins life

Through water the impacts of climate change cascade to all sectors

90% of natural disasters are water related

500 million – 3 billion additional people will experience water stress in 2050

SDG's related to water are off track

3 in 10 people could not wash their hands with soap and water at home during the COVID-19 pandemic (WHO/UNICEF)

Investments in water climate adaptation need scaling up

US\$300 – US\$500 billion needed for water adaptation per annum in 2050

COVID recovery to scale up and accelerate water climate adaptation



COVID RECOVERY

Examples

- April 2020 to April 2021 MDBs committed over over \$250 billion .
- In March 2020, the European Central Bank €750 billion pandemic emergency purchase programme. On 4 June 2020, with an additional €600 billion.

WHO: Recommendations from the COP26 Special Report on Climate Change and Health, by WHO, 2021

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- 1 Commit to a healthy recovery.** Commit to a healthy, green, and just recovery from COVID-19.
- 2 Our health is not negotiable.** Place health and social justice at the heart of the UN climate talks.
- 3 Harness the health benefits of climate action.** Prioritise those climate interventions with the largest health-, social- and economic gains.
- 4 Build health resilience to climate risks.** Build climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health systems and facilities, and support health adaptation and resilience across sectors.
- 5 Create energy systems that protect and improve climate and health.** Guide a just and inclusive transition to renewable energy to save lives from air pollution, particularly from coal combustion. End energy poverty in households and health care facilities.
- 6 Reimagine urban environments, transport, and mobility.** Promote sustainable, healthy urban design and transport systems, with improved land-use, access to green and blue public space, and priority for walking, cycling and public transport.
- 7 Protect and restore nature as the foundation of our health.** Protect and restore natural systems, the foundations for healthy lives, sustainable food systems and livelihoods.
- 8 Promote healthy, sustainable, and resilient food systems.** Promote sustainable and resilient food production and more affordable, nutritious diets that deliver on both climate and health outcomes.
- 9 Finance a healthier, fairer, and greener future to save lives.** Transition towards a wellbeing economy.
- 10 Listen to the health community and prescribe urgent climate action.** Mobilise and support the health community on climate action.

WHO Recommendations from the COP26 Special Report on Climate Change and Health II



Prioritize health

- Commit to a healthy recovery.
- Our health is not negotiable.
- Harness the health benefits of climate action.

Build climate resilience

- Build climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health systems and facilities.
- Reimagine urban environments, transport, and mobility.
- Promote healthy, sustainable, and resilient food systems.

Healthy environment

- Create energy systems that protect and improve climate and health.
- Protect and restore nature as the foundation of our health.

Enabling Environment

- Finance a healthier, fairer, and greener future to save lives.
- Listen to the health community and prescribe urgent climate action.

Health as a pathway to scale up water adaptation

Prioritize health

- Climate resilient drinking water and sanitation services.
- **Example:** Water Supply and Sanitation Program III in Uganda. AfDB.

Build climate resilience

- Increase flood resilience in cities. Climate resilience Irrigation services.
- **Example:** N'Djamena Flood Resilience Project. WB. Borana Resilient Water Development for Improved Livelihoods Program: Ethiopia. AfDB

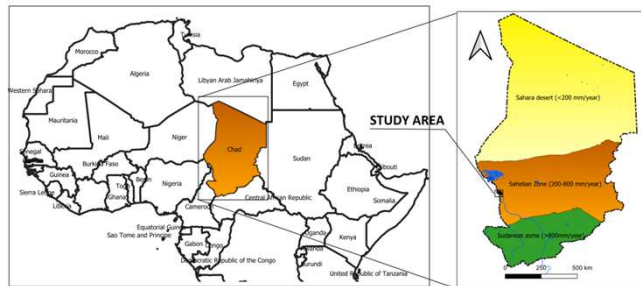
Healthy environment

- Create energy systems that protect and improve climate and health.
- **Example:** Desert to Power Project for the Sahel. AfDB.

Enabling Environment

- Locally Led Adaptation. Communities driving their own development. Mobilizing climate finance.
- **Example:** Liberia Urban Resilience Program – LLA toolkit for informal urban settlements; Mobilizing GCF finance for Freetown Water Supply project.

City Adaptation Accelerators :Building Urban Resilience in fragile environments

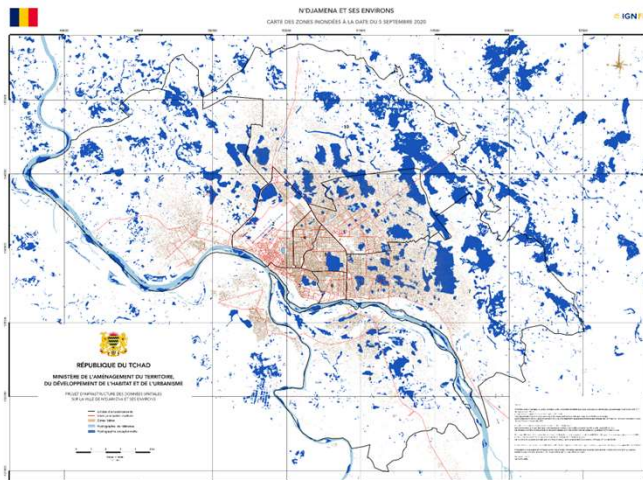


N'Djamena Integrated Urban Resilience Project

- World Bank. US\$150 million (IDA grant)
- The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to reduce the impact of flood risk and reinforce climate resilient urban services and planning in N'Djamena.

GCA technical assistance

- Gender risk vulnerability assessment to inform measures to close gender gap.
- Assessment of climate risks to services and – vulnerable – people to prioritize flood Investments, specifically focusing on Nature-based Solutions (NBS) to mitigate floods risks. Focus on vulnerable groups and informal settlements.
- Development of strategy to enhance participation local communities. To be included in Project Operational Manual



**UNDERSTAND
CLIMATE RISK**

**STRATEGIZE, PLAN, AND
PRIORITIZE FOR
ADAPTATION**

**FINANCE
FOR RESILIENCE**

**BUILD CAPACITY
FOR
SUSTAINABILITY**

Conclusions



- The COVID-19 recovery is an opportunity to invest in water adaptation. Climate and development related impacts on health are fundamentally underpinned by water.
- Scaling up and acceleration of water climate adaptation and SDGs is urgent and doable.
- A water -based planning requires a cross-sectoral response and financing.

Recommendations



- Frame health risks as a systemic risk formed by multiple sectors and underpinned by water.
- Develop innovative implementation and investments models for entire landscapes.
- More focus on water-based planning including water allocation in river basins and urban catchments. This is a political process.
- Ensure that investing in water resilience create jobs and increases the resilience of vulnerable and exposed communities.



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