GLOBAL CENTER ON ADAPTATION

RAPID CLIMATE RISK ASSESSMENT (RCRA) FOR URBAN ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

Djibouti City, Djibouti

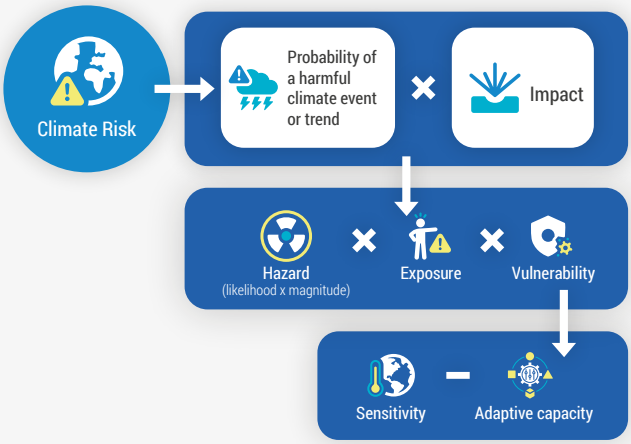
INTRODUCTION

The Global Center on Adaptation, in partnership with the government and other stakeholders, has conducted a Rapid Climate Risk Assessment (RCRA), revealing that extreme weather conditions such as high temperatures, drought, and floods are severely impacting lives and livelihoods in Djibouti City. These negative impacts of climate change are bound to get worse if the city does not adapt. Simple and affordable climate change risk management and adaptation measures that the city can implement were identified during the assessment.

CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS

Drought and water shortages, extreme temperatures, floods, cyclones, and storms pose a number of risks for Djibouti City residents. The risks that come with extreme temperatures include: loss of lives and livelihoods as the high temperatures cause health complications and hamper agricultural production; ecosystem degradation; water shortages and food insecurity. Flooding, combined with high temperatures, is enabling the spread of waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, and vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever. Other risks include destruction of infrastructure, and poor electricity supply due to drought.

What is climate risk?



Risk results from the interaction of climate hazards, exposure over time, and vulnerability (of the affected system)

Building Resilience in Djibouti City

Adapted from Groupe Huit (2022)

Main Risks

VULNERABILITY

Social inequalities based on gender and age mean women and young people are more vulnerable to the climate change risks. Residents of informal neighborhoods, who live in substandard housing conditions, are also highly vulnerable to risks associated with flooding. In terms of the environment, severe loss of vegetation results in minimal natural hazard control, while drying water sources exacerbate the challenge of accessing clean water. Economically, Djibouti residents predominantly depend on the harbor infrastructure, which currently is highly vulnerable to climate change hazards.

ADAPTATION ACTIONS

The city of Djibouti, according to the RCRA findings, already has some policies and laws in place to support adaptation measures. These include the Integrated Study of Urban Infrastructure and Climate Adaptation in the City of Djibouti, which was prepared in 2022. The following actions to strengthen the resilience of the city are based on and complement existing strategic planning documents and programs at national and local levels.

- Adopt nature-based solutions such as afforestation, and planting of vegetation that improves carbon sequestration
- Establish a risk management technical committee to coordinate adaptation activities and ensure consistency
- Ensure urban planning is responsive to risks associated with climate change
- To ensure reliable water supply to residents, develop a water master plan for the city while considering the available resources and existing climate change hazards
- Establish a scientific working group led by The Regional Research Observatory for the Environment and Climate to collect and disseminate information on climate change risks
- Raise awareness and train residents on climate change, and the actions that they can take to build resilience