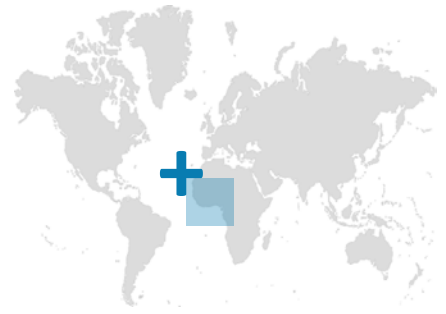


# INFOCUS

## Literacy: Urban Resilience Trainings



### SUBJECT

Rapid urban expansion in Ghana is impacting the environmental liveability and sustainability of the region. Measures to protect urban residents from emergencies and natural disasters are not keeping pace with this growth. Environmental risks such as floods and extreme heat have the potential to affect citizens' livelihoods and health, damage infrastructure, and disrupt critical services. To respond to these risks, public authorities and other stakeholders must be better trained in risk management within an urban environment context.

Urban resilience training and disaster risk management (DRM) training are particularly important in cities such as Accra, where recent floods and fires have had devastating impacts. Training that uses a participatory approach enables trainees to propose customised solutions for the risks they identify in their own

jurisdiction. This type of training provides knowledge that trainees can bring back to their municipalities for the practical implementation of good risk management practices.

To this end, in 2018, a Strategic Partnership was established between GIZ and Allianz Reinsurance under the initiative entitled Developing Risk Management Approaches for Climate Risk (SAGABI Project). The overall aim of the project was to prepare the ground for implementing risk transfer solutions within an integrated flood risk management approach for assemblies in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area (GAMA), Ghana. Recognizing the lack of sufficient risk management practices, the team jointly organised a training workshop for selected public sector workers from municipalities in Accra, as well as various further stakeholders.

On behalf of



## CHALLENGES

### Limited capacities for disaster management.

Often disasters are addressed when they happen. There is a limited capacity of cities to deploy anticipatory, preventive disaster risk management including, for instance, the development of robust contingency plans.

### Lack of knowledge on residual risk and associated mitigatory instruments.

Despite preventive DRM measures implemented, there will always remain a residual risk. Addressing residual risk usually requires the deployment of financial instruments such as insurance or contingency funds. However, there exists a substantial knowledge gap among most public authorities when it comes to residual risk within DRM as well as the deployment of financial instruments for risk transfer.

### Lack of connections between policies and practice.

Insufficient knowledge, financial constraints, and institutional inflexibility are all obstacles to actual implementation of urban resilience planning and DRM. For example, traditional insurance policies, while still largely inaccessible to the population, lack practice among insurers. Overlaps between urban resilience planning and DRM factors add further complexity.

## SOLUTIONS

### 1. A comprehensive training on urban resilience was conducted.

The training helped participants understand different terminologies for urban resilience. It helped to teach them to conduct risk assessments within their jurisdictions and provide tools for reducing and mitigating risks. The comprehensive training also offers insight into how to implement various financial and management mechanisms discussed during the training.

The training was delivered in four sessions: Introduction to Urban Resilience and DRM; Disaster Risk Assessment (Assessing Risk I and Assessing Risk II); Disaster Prevention and Mitigation; and Disaster Risk Retention/Transfer, and Disaster Preparedness. These four sessions provided participants with the skills to identify, analyse, and manage disaster risks faced by cities.

### 2. Use best practices from other successful programs to structure DRM training.

The Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRM) model had been successfully implemented in further projects facilitated by GIZ in China and Morocco. In Ghana, case studies of these projects were used to develop the training materials on the IDRM model in order to bridge knowledge gaps among public authorities.

### 3. Conduct separate trainings for specific stakeholder groups.

In order to best target the different needs for various stakeholder groups the training was conducted in various sessions of five different stakeholder groups:

- Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet) and Hydrological Service Department (Hydro) in Accra
- Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies in Greater Accra
- Ghana Police Service, Ghana Ambulance Service & Ghana Fire Service
- Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization & Rural Development (MLGDRD), National Insurance Commission, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), National Development Planning Commission (NPDC), National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), International Organisations (UNDP & World Vision)
- National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO)

### 4. Employ participatory learning methods to increase understanding among trainees.

During trainings, it is important to provide opportunities for trainees to ask questions and also apply their lessons in practical scenarios. This participatory approach applied reinforced trainees' learning and avoided the risk of training content being too dense for one session. Participatory activities also allowed stakeholders to exchange ideas and highlight the importance of collaboration in risk management and response.

## LESSONS LEARNED

### 1. Present training situations in the context of the target audience to increase understanding.

DRM training uses complex aspects like a disaster risk formula that includes elements like exposure, vulnerability, hazard, resilience targeting, and capacity. Depending on the country or location of the hazard, the exposure and vulnerability could be treated differently. Therefore, trainers should base examples, exercises, and lessons on the most relevant information for the region and the participants.

### 2. Help build technological tools and resources to match the training content.

Training authorities say that they do not have sufficient human capacity for implementing the systems and strategies they learned in the trainings, and therefore, the effectiveness of the training is reduced. Training teams should also assist in the provision of these systems and support tools to replicate the training takeaways.



### 3. Conduct multiple trainings over time adjusted for different stakeholder groups.

The training consultants suggested that training should not be a single event. Particularly for stakeholders such as police officers who may be less familiar with DRM, multiple training sessions should be conducted over an extended time period to increase their understanding and knowledge retention and allow continued practice with training content. Trainees mentioned that some training modules were dense with a lot of information to consume in one session. Therefore, multiple sessions would likely improve retention.

Training should also be provided for top managers. A one-day event for managerial staff, with key topline training content, could be useful and also not require too much of their time. Similar training sessions could be organized for other stakeholders like non-governmental organisations and community-based organizations, particularly those from low-income communities where the most vulnerable social groups live. This approach can promote community participation in planning and also provide vulnerable segments with the knowledge to demand accountability from city authorities.

### 4. Combined DRM and urban resilience training with further focus areas can lead to more sustainable urban development.

Addressing residual risk usually requires the deployment of financial instruments such as insurance or contingency funds. These are still unfamiliar and under-developed concepts in countries such as Ghana. Even when public authorities know they need disaster preparedness, there is little focus on prevention, retention, and transfer. Multidisciplinary training that integrates discussions of DRM, residual risk, insurance, and financial management can improve the implementation of effective urban resilience measures.





### Activity name

Literacy: Urban Resilience Trainings

### Focus area

Ghana – Greater Accra, Ashanti and Western Region

### Target group

Selected public sector workers from municipalities

### Contact persons

Akua Asante (GIZ)

E akua.asante@giz.de

Matthias Range (GIZ)

E matthias.range@giz.de, sv.fse@giz.de

### This activity was part of the project..

Developing risk management approaches for climate and health risks

### Project duration

01.01.2018 – 30.09.2021

### Photo credits

Photo 1-3: © GIZ

*September 2021*

For more information please refer to the factsheet “Developing Disaster Risk Management Approaches for Climate Risks in Ghana”.

### DISCLAIMER

This publication has been prepared by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in the frame of the project “Developing Risk Management Approaches for Climate and Health Risks” funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

