

Côte d'Ivoire – Increasing resilience through improved urban infrastructure operation, maintenance practices and disaster risk management

Country

Côte d'Ivoire

ACP-EU Disaster Risk Management

Program Component

Increasing resilience through improved urban infrastructure operation, maintenance practices and disaster risk management

Amount Approved

€450 000

Duration

18.5 months

Context and Objectives

Côte d'Ivoire is urbanizing rapidly, yet secondary cities have not kept pace with Abidjan in infrastructure, services, and economic development. Aging networks, climate-vulnerable designs, and poor operation and maintenance practices undermine the resilience of urban systems. These shortcomings are heightened by institutional and financial constraints. Secondary cities and national authorities lack a comprehensive, coordinated approach to understanding and managing risks, with limited emergency services, weak crisis coordination, and constrained budgets. As a result, moderate hazards like seasonal floods cause major disruptions for vulnerable populations, underscoring the need to strengthen disaster risk management. The project aims to lay the groundwork for effective infrastructure operation and maintenance (O&M) in nine secondary cities, while strengthening disaster risk management to

reduce urban vulnerability to natural hazards and enhance overall resilience. This will be achieved by focusing on institutional and technical capacity building to manage and maintain resilient infrastructure.

Main Activities and Expected Results

Evaluation of current technical designs, and O&M practices for strengthening resilience

This activity will strengthen risk-informed decision-making by assessing the structural integrity, resilience, and standard designs of key urban infrastructure and evaluating technical O&M practices in Côte d'Ivoire's secondary cities.

Expected Results:

- Identification of vulnerabilities and overview of physical and social infrastructure
- An evaluation report providing cost-efficiency gaps and opportunities for resource optimization
- Informed decision making and management of infrastructure to reduce the impact of hazards on communities

Stakeholder mapping, and institutional review for enhanced disaster resilience and financial mobilization

This activity will examine the institutional frameworks pertaining to urban infrastructure. The diagnosis will map the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in infrastructure planning and ensure resilience is fully integrated into institutional frameworks.

Expected Results:

- Improved understanding of the capacity and effectiveness of resilient institutions involved in urban infrastructure
- Identification of gaps and weaknesses for better planning and an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction
- Improved disaster risk and climate resilience in targeted infrastructure for a safer urban environment

International best practices

This activity will review global best practices on urban resilience and O&M and compile those most relevant to Côte d'Ivoire's specific urban infrastructure challenges.

Expected Results:

- Enhanced understanding of good strategies for urban infrastructure at a global level
- Local authorities and stakeholders encouraged to improve operational and maintenance practices for urban resilience

Formulation of actionable recommendations

This activity will develop actionable recommendations to strengthen Côte d'Ivoire's infrastructure resilience, focusing on technical measures, institutional governance, policy improvements and cost-effective financing.

Expected Results:

- Improved resilient infrastructure practices (design and O&M) and policies
- Strengthened capacity of institutions responsible for infrastructure resilience and improved overall performance

Identification and analysis of local materials for climate-resilient construction

This activity will identify and assess available construction materials in the eight targeted secondary cities and region, evaluating their performance, durability, impacts, and cost effectiveness.

Expected Results:

- Better knowledge of alternative construction solutions adapted to the country's climatic conditions

Development of local material-based construction techniques and capacity building

This activity will identify practical, safe, and climate-responsive ways to use selected local materials in construction and will train local technicians and artisans in these methods through a dedicated capacity-building program.

Expected Results:

- Climate-appropriate and cost-effective building techniques
- Enhanced local capacity for resilient, climate-adapted construction

- Established skilled workforce capable of contributing to long-term infrastructure resilience and maintenance
- Strengthened local capacity to implement resilient and climate-adapted construction methods

Assessment of the DRM policy framework in Côte d'Ivoire

Through this assessment, the national disaster risk management framework will be reviewed. It will assess risk identification capacities, available knowledge, existing policies and institutions, as well as current preparedness, response systems, and financial resources. These findings will form the basis for strengthening disaster management and emergency response.

Expected Results:

- An improved understanding of the current state of the national DRM framework
- Increased capacity to effectively prepare for and respond to disasters

Knowledge sharing and large dissemination event

This activity will support a high-impact event that convenes national and subnational government authorities where resilient planning and disaster management will be discussed.

Expected Results:

- Improved coordination and collaboration
- Set of actionable recommendations for resilient infrastructure and disaster management

Partnerships and Coordination

The World Bank implements this project in close coordination with the Ministry of Sanitation, Ministry of the Interior and Security, Ministry of Finance and Budget and the Municipalities at the local level. Other government stakeholders will actively participate in the implementation of the project activities, such as the maintenance and local government authorities, universities, technical organizations and civil society representatives. The EU delegation in Côte d'Ivoire will collaborate with the World Bank on this project.

Finally, the project will inform the World Bank-financed Sustainable and Inclusive Secondary Cities Project (P177062)¹ which aims to address this disparity by improving access to green and climate-resilient urban infrastructure.

¹ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2023/04/04/cote-d-ivoire-fostering-the-sustainable-and-inclusive-development-of-secondary-cities>