

Namibia – Enhancing Urban Resilience and Housing for Sustainable Development

Country

Namibia

ACP-EU Disaster Risk

Management Program

Component

Enhancing Urban Resilience and
Housing for Sustainable
Development

Amount Approved

€600,000 / \$695,000

Duration

18 months

Context and Objectives

In 2024, Namibia had an estimated population of 3.03 million¹. The country has experienced a high rate of urbanization, increasing from 27% in 1991 and projected to reach 75% by 2025. This rapid growth, averaging an annual rate of 4.3%, is largely driven by the rise in droughts affecting rural areas. Urbanization has strained the maintenance of basic infrastructure and services, contributing to a housing deficit. A large proportion of the population (67%) resides in informal settlements, which are often prone to hazards such as floods, extreme heat, and mudslides. Namibia can leverage green industrialization investments to drive inclusive, resilient urban growth and support a just green transition through better housing delivery and risk-informed city planning. However, limited local capacity and planning for resilient housing threaten the long-term sustainability of these investments.

The objective of this project is to support the Government of Namibia in preparing for green and resilient urbanization by developing key diagnostics and analytics, and to strengthen the knowledge base for evidence-based investments in urban areas.

Main Activities and Expected Results

Urban growth analysis and multi-hazard risk assessments

This activity will focus on key analyses on urban growth and its risks with particular emphasis on the impact of natural hazards on housing and informal settlements.

Expected Results:

- Improved understanding of urbanization trends/impacts of the green industrialization strategy
- Enhanced awareness of vulnerability hotspots (from risk assessment findings and population trends analysis).
- Mainstreaming of climate/DRM considerations in key urbanization and housing policy documents

Institutional Strengthening to support Resilient Urbanization and Housing

This activity will support the capacity of institutions on disaster risk management (including non-climate risks) in key Namibian cities in addition to identifying gaps in processes and opportunities in climate finance. The Local Authorities for land use planning and housing will receive targeted technical support to

¹ <https://data.worldbank.org/country/namibia>



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develop comprehensive resources that support all urban areas, with a special emphasis on strengthening capacity in the emerging towns of Lüderitz and Aus.

Expected Results:

- Improved institutional capabilities in risk reduction and response, facilitating targeted interventions and capacity building.
- Strengthened institutional frameworks and response mechanisms
- Enhanced collaboration among participating local authorities

Partnerships and Coordination

The World Bank implements this project in close coordination with the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD) and the Office of the Prime Minister Directorate Disaster Risk Management (OPM-DDRM). The World Bank coordinates this project with the EU Delegation in Namibia, so as to align with EU priorities in Namibia, including Global Gateway Initiatives. Coordination is also undertaken with with Vereniging van Nederlandse Gemeenten (VNG) and KfW on ongoing programs in Namibia specifically in Lüderitz. Finally, the project will inform the Namibia Urbanization and Housing Programmatic Advisory Services and Analytics (PASA) project (P509865), implemented with Namibia's MURD.