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*Securing people's livelihoods against
disasters in Southern Africa*

WHAT IS DiMSUR?

An innovative Sub-regional Technical Centre for Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience in Southern Africa.

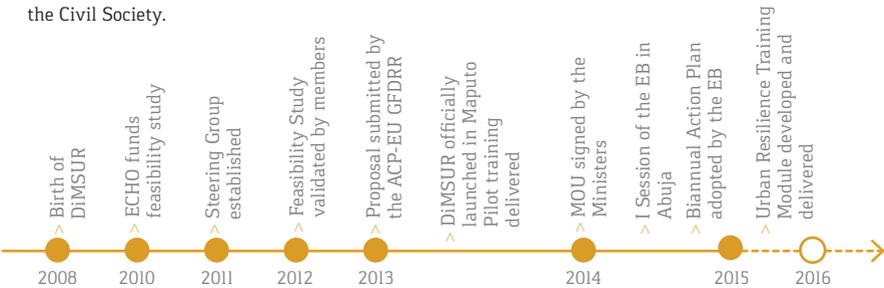
- Pioneered in 2008 and based in Maputo, its founding members are the Governments of Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and the Union of Comoros.
- Reinforces local, national and regional capacities to reduce vulnerabilities and build resilience through the provision of disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation (CCA) and urban resilience action plans.
- Operates as a non-profitable, autonomous, regional organization, international in status and non-political in management, staffing and operations.
- With a strong urban focus, DiMSUR provides training and capacity building, technical assistance, knowledge dissemination, awareness raising and advocacy.
- Conceived as a self-sustained Centre by offering an attractive array of innovative products and services, DiMSUR is integrated in the socio-economic development strategy of its members and collaborates with NGOs, UN, Academia and the Civil Society.

HOW IS DiMSUR STRUCTURED?

It is composed of four organs:

- 1 The Conference of Ministers, with Ministers from the member states;
- 2 The Executive Board (EB), composed by the four Member countries; SADC; University of Antananarivo; the Northwest University; UN-Habitat and a representative of Civil Society;
- 3 The Consultative Group, composed by a range of recognized experts and organizations;
- 4 The Secretariat, a team of technical experts headed by the Executive Director

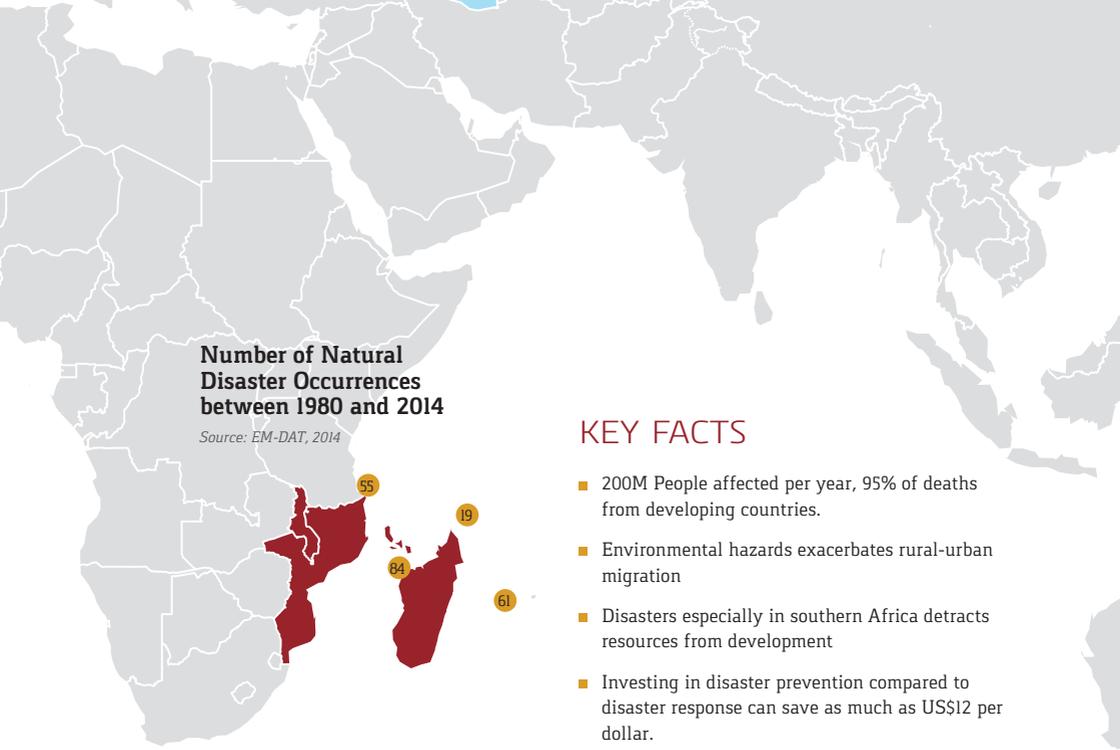
The establishment of DiMSUR was facilitated by the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat), in cooperation with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR), with the support of the European Commission Directorate-General Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) and the ACP-EU Natural DRR Programme, managed by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) at the World Bank.



Floods: Elevated school in Maniquenique, Chibuto district, Gaza province, Mozambique © UN-Habitat



Cyclones: Kindergarten resistant to cyclones in Vilankulo, Inhambane province, Mozambique © UN-Habitat



Number of Natural Disaster Occurrences between 1980 and 2014

Source: EM-DAT, 2014

KEY FACTS

- 200M People affected per year, 95% of deaths from developing countries.
- Environmental hazards exacerbates rural-urban migration
- Disasters especially in southern Africa detracts resources from development
- Investing in disaster prevention compared to disaster response can save as much as US\$12 per dollar.

HOW DOES DiMSUR WORK?

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

DiMSUR provides technical assistance and promotes the dissemination of knowledge and good practices for its member countries, in alignment with the existing global Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), the African Union (AU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), to reduce the vulnerability and build the resilience of communities to natural and other hazards.

A NETWORK

Working in one of the higher risk regions of natural disasters in the world, DiMSUR promotes partnerships of stakeholders, cities, towns, centres, institutions and organisation within and across countries. It involves local authorities, municipal associations, governmental and academic institutions, professional groups, technical centres and think tanks at different levels to promote city-to-city and national-to-local activities.

THE DiMSUR SERVICES

Offers Training and capacity building activities

Provides qualified technical assistance

Designs tools for awareness raising and advocacy

Compiles, prepares, shares, disseminates tools, best practices, plans and strategies

Promotes the exchange of experiences and cross-fertilization

Identifies adaptation/mitigation small-scale infrastructure models and solutions

BRIDGING THE GAP: BUILDING URBAN RESILIENCE

Fast paced urbanization is a pressing reality in Southern Africa. Every year each one of the member countries is facing an increasing number of disasters in urban areas with devastating and long-lasting consequences.

There is a growing awareness of the risks related to the urban dimension of disasters. Unplanned, uncontrolled and sub-standard urbanization process is the main factor of increasing vulnerability to disasters. Human settlements demand in risk reduction and resilience services have increased. Yet, a lack of practical instruments for incorporating Disaster Risk Reduction practices into urban management has prevented this growing awareness to become concrete actions.

The DiMSUR aims at filling this gap through capacity building at all levels to make cities able to withstand and recover quickly from a plausible hazard.

The DiMSUR proposes a four step process towards urban resilience:

- **Understand** urban risk and vulnerability to raise awareness on how risks can impact on urban development.
- **Plan solutions** to reduce it.
- **Act** by designing and implementing planned solutions to achieve urban resilience.
- **Manage** by establishing permanent mechanisms at the municipal level to improved urban resilience.

URBAN POPULATION GROWTH (ANNUAL RATES 2010-2015)

Madagascar **4.73%**

Malawi **4.2%**

Mozambique **3.05%**

Comoros **2.91%**

World **1.95%**

250 million people will move to cities in the SADC region by 2050. The urban population today is of **107 million**. This is equivalent to a **224%** increase in only 35 years.

Source: World Urbanization Prospect, UNDESA, 2011

HOW TO ENGAGE WITH THE DiMSUR

- ① If you are a SADC Country, apply for membership.
- ② If you are a SADC City, contact us to find out about collaboration opportunities.
- ③ If you are an interested practitioner or organization, apply for being part of the Consultative Group.
- ④ If you are interested in further information, please contact us.

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