

Urban Adaptation to Climate Change in the Maghreb (UrbA-CliMa)

Context

Climate change, with its effects on nature and people's quality of life, is a major challenge for Maghreb cities. Average temperatures there are now 1.5°C higher than pre-industrial era. Temperatures have been rising significantly for the past 50 years and are continuing to increase. The consequences are for instance water shortages, forest fires, heat islands, heavy local rainfall with flooding and increasing desertification. There is an urgent need to effective and rapid urban measures to counter the immediate effects of extreme climate events. The aim is to protect the population, in particular vulnerable groups such as women, children and the elderly, as well as economically and socially disadvantaged groups. At the same time, the adaptive capacities of cities and their resilience must be boosted.

UrbA-CliMa

The regional project «Urban adaptation to climate change in the Maghreb» (UrbA-CliMa) aims at better equipping selected Maghreb cities to adapt to climate change. In its two previous phases, «City-to-City Cooperation Maghreb-Germany» (KWT I and II), the regional project supported more than 40 Maghreb municipalities in improving their skills to meet the challenges of urban development. Commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH implements UrbA-CliMa in collaboration with its political and municipal partners in the Maghreb.

Project name	Urban Adaptation to Climate Change in the Maghreb
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Maghreb (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia)
Lead executing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Duration	01.03.2024 – 28.02.2027

Approach

On the basis of climate risk profiles to be drawn up in advance, selected cities develop strategic plans for adapting to climate change, while taking into account existing national policies. Respecting the “Leave No One Behind” principle, they pay particular attention to vulnerable population groups.

Specialised advice helps cities to draw up implementation plans derived from their strategic plans. Additional training on obtaining third-party funding strengthens their ability to finance resilience-building measures. The regional project UrbA-CliMa will also provide funding for 12 measures resulting from the implementation plans.

The project supports participating municipalities in collecting, analysis and wider use of geospatial data and geographic information systems (GIS). On the basis of a grant agreement, the international NGO CartONG provides specific training for beneficiaries. The partner cities also develop skills in designing and implementing participatory awareness-raising campaigns, using digital tools. UrbA-CliMa has also signed a grant agreement with the international NGO MedCities to disseminate in the three Maghreb countries the good climate change practices that have been tested



From l. to r.: 1) The landscape of the city of Constantine and the risk of landslides; 2) Urban planning: Presentation of the topographical plan of Mesbayihat Park and discussion between the partners from the cities of Mohammedia and Trier; 3) Drying out of a water reservoir in Chebika, Kairouan, illustrating the consequences of climate change in Tunisia.



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From l. to r.: 1) Exchange between Constantine and Aschaffenburg on historical archives of the Algerian city and GIS; 2) Supporting citizens in home composting in Kasserine; 3) Inventory and diagnosis of urban green spaces: Promenade Oued Martil, Tétouan, November 2023.

during KWT I (2016-2020) and KWT II (2020-2024). These practices relate to topics such as waste management and circular economy, sustainable mobility, energy efficiency, creation and management of green spaces and GIS.

In order to promote synergies with the German-Maghrebian project partnerships supported under KWT I and KWT II, a cooperation agreement will be signed with the Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW) of Engagement Global gGmbH during the current phase. Thus, German municipalities could be involved in activities to disseminate good practices or in a possible joint implementation of climate change adaptation measures in Maghreb cities with their respective partner city.

Main activities of UrbA-CliMa:

Capacity development for managers and technicians in partner cities:

- to draw up local **risk profiles** and data-based **strategic and operational** climate adaptation plans,
- to realise municipal awareness campaigns,
- to **disseminate practical solutions** and **exchange experiences** on urban climate resilience,
- to **implement measures** to promote resilience,
- to acquire **third-party funds** to implement measures resulting from operational adaptation plans.

Expected results

The following results are expected by the end of February 2027:

- Elaboration of local climate change adaptation plans by 30 cities in the Maghreb, supported by UrbA-CliMa, that are gender- and risk-sensitive and based on national guidelines.

- Awareness-raising campaigns on adaptation to climate change and biodiversity, by 60 Maghreb cities, 20 from each country.
- Sharing experiences of urban adaptation to climate change, including nature-based solutions, by 60 Maghreb cities divided into working groups.
- Implementation of 12 measures to promote resilience, by Maghreb cities supported by UrbA-CliMa.

Capitalising the achievements of the previous two phases of the regional project

30 good practices, including around 20 from the two previous phases of the regional project, will be disseminated nationally and cross-border with MedCities, for instance:



Implementation of GIS in Ben Mostefa Benaouda and Constantine, to facilitate urban management using geospatial data (Algeria)



Elaboration of a master plan for integrated waste management in Oued El Aneb, Annaba (Algeria)



Design of a training centre for energy efficiency and public lighting in Agadir (Morocco)



Supporting the design of the Climate and Environment Centre in Chefchaouen (Morocco)



Improving household and similar waste management in Jendouba and Kasserine through home composting (Tunisia)



Participatory implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the city of Tozeur (Tunisia)

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