



THE QII PRINCIPLES IN ACTION

DRC Kinshasa’s path towards resilient urban development



With Kinshasa facing infrastructure and social exclusion challenges, the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) partnered with the World Bank on the Kinshasa Multisector Development and Urban Resilience Project (dubbed *Kin Elenda* in the local language, meaning “resilient Kinshasa”). This initiative enhances living conditions by improving transport, urban services, and infrastructure resilience. Supported by a grant from the QII Partnership, the project employed flood risk mapping and resilient infrastructure development. It also leveraged Japanese expertise in urban transport. As a result, the municipal government is better positioned to manage climate risks, develop robust, resilient infrastructure, and prioritize infrastructure investment opportunities.

THE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Kinshasa, the rapidly expanding capital of the DRC, is on track to become Africa’s largest megacity by 2030. However, it grapples with significant development hurdles, poor transport infrastructure, inefficient urban management, and social exclusion. In 2015, the government approved the Strategic Urban Plan (SOSAK) to improve institutional capacity for urban management and facilitate better urban development. SOSAK prioritizes investments in mobility, resilient infrastructure, and governance. To further this plan, the DRC government collaborated with the World Bank to devise a comprehensive blueprint combining policy reforms, strategies, and investments for Kinshasa’s sustainable development.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The World Bank-funded Kinshasa Urban Development and Resilience Project aligns with the DRC government’s ambition to transform Kinshasa into a livable, resilient, and effectively managed city. The five-year project, launched in 2021, aims to enhance living conditions in vulnerable neighborhoods by improving access to transport, essential urban services, and resilient infrastructure through capital investment,

technical assistance, and institutional capacity building in urban management for municipal officials.

A QII Partnership grant supported the project by financing a technical analysis of the natural hazard risks in Kinshasa that hinder economic development and providing guidance on managing infrastructure investments. Its objectives were to improve urban resilience and connectivity with an emphasis on reaching the socially excluded population, deepen the understanding of climate and disaster risks in selected neighborhoods along the N'Djili River watershed, develop investment options for integrated resilient infrastructure, and prioritize robust and resilient infrastructure investment options.

In collaboration with the World Bank's Open Cities initiative, implemented by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), the QII grant-funded activities included flood risk mapping, developing resilient infrastructure options, creating a prioritization framework for urban infrastructure investments, and developing guidelines for designing resilient and climate-proof infrastructure systems. The Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Works in Kinshasa adopted its recommendations.

TAPPING INTO JAPANESE EXPERTISE

The grant leverages extensive studies and data produced by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for a comprehensive urban transport plan in Kinshasa. The World Bank-financed project collaborates closely with JICA and utilizes Japanese expertise in urban transport and development.

Knowledge sharing will be strengthened through the World Bank Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Hub in Tokyo, Japan. The Japan-World Bank Program for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management in Developing Countries supports technical assistance, pilot projects, thematic initiatives, knowledge mobilization, and capacity building.

APPLYING THE QII PRINCIPLES

The project supports the application of the QII Principles in numerous ways. First, it maximized the positive impact of infrastructure (QII Principle 1) and promoted economic efficiency (QII Principle 2) by proposing solutions for enhancing the resilience of infrastructure investments such as roads, drainage, flood management, and waste. Integrated infrastructure systems decrease costs and

maximize benefits compared to single-purpose solutions.

It also conducted studies to identify investment options for resilient urban infrastructure that consider environmental and social factors (QII Principles 3 and 5). These studies enhanced the understanding of hydrology in the N'Djili watershed under climate change conditions, allowing for safer infrastructure designs that are better prepared for extreme weather and climate events. It also identified flood and erosion risk reduction measures to increase the safety of secondary and tertiary road networks, which will benefit from improved drainage and solid waste management solutions.

QII Principle 4, building resilience against natural disasters, was also addressed by enhancing the resilience of infrastructure assets in selected Kinshasa neighborhoods against disaster risks. By incorporating resilience into integrated infrastructure investments, the activity improved urban risk management, promoted economic opportunities, and enhanced connectivity.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- The municipal government will have greater capacity for collecting and analyzing data. It better understands flood and erosion risks, particularly in the N'Djili watershed and surrounding communes. It will also be better able to develop integrated urban resilience investment options at the neighborhood level, such as roads, drainage, flood and erosion management, and waste management.
- Locally adapted guidelines for designing robust, climate-proof integrated infrastructure systems that support risk mitigation efforts, incorporate disaster and climate risk in infrastructure investments, and design integrated resilient urban infrastructure systems will be developed.
- Urban infrastructure investments will be more effectively prioritized to maximize benefits to the city's population.
- The outputs of the activities funded by the QII Partnership were adopted by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Works and influenced two World Bank-financed Operations that address flood and erosion and urban resilience in Kinshasa.

The World Bank Group and the government of Japan established the Quality Infrastructure Investment (QII) Partnership to raise awareness and scale-up quality infrastructure investment aligned to G20 QII Principles in developing countries. The QII Partnership is managed by the Infrastructure Finance, PPPs & Guarantees (IPG) group within the World Bank Group.

For more information, visit www.worldbank.org/QII or follow us on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/company/qii-partnership.