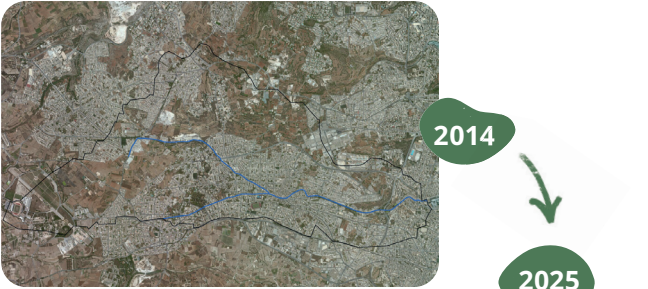


How has the territory changed?

Evolution of urbanization over time

The replacement of natural surfaces with urbanized areas increases runoff and can overwhelm drainage systems during intense rainfall events, worsening flash floods. For this reason, it is important to stay informed and have tools to prevent and respond to floods, reducing risks and damage.



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Flash flood risk in Mediterranean catchments

FLASH FLOODS

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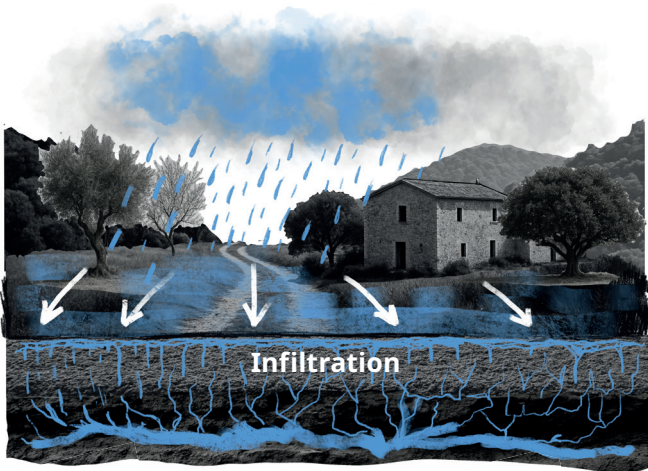


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What are floods and how do they occur?


Floods happen when water spreads over dry land because rivers or soil can't absorb it fast enough. Climate change has made floods more frequent and intense. They can be caused by long periods of rain, river overflows, infrastructure failures, or sudden heavy downpours. The shape, slope, and land cover of a river basin affect how water moves, and together with human activities—such as urban development, river channeling, or deforestation—can further increase the risk of floods.





Changes in land use




What to do and what to avoid before, during, and after a flood?

 Before a flash flood

**Know the risk zones**
Identify areas prone to flooding (rivers, streams, low-lying areas).

**Plan evacuation routes**
Know which routes are available, especially if you live in a risk area.

**Do not ignore flood warnings or evacuation advice**
Follow weather alerts and official recommendations.

 During a flash flood

**If possible, move to higher floors**
If not, leave the building and go to a safe shelter, away from flood-prone zones.

**Get ready**
Turn off the main electricity switch and close doors and windows.

**Follow official instructions**
Listen to Civil Protection and emergency services via radio, mobile alerts (e.g., EU_ALERT), or loudspeakers.


**Warn and help others**
Assist vulnerable people, but always prioritize your own safety.


**Do not cross rivers, streams, or underpasses**
Whether on foot or by car: never underestimate the power of water.


**Do not try to save belongings**
Avoid retrieving objects from basements or garages.

**Do not use your vehicle**
Leave it and move to higher, safer ground. Avoid crossing flooded roads or bridges.

**Do not overload emergency lines**
Use the phone responsibly.

 After a flash flood

**Do not return home until authorities give permission**
Wait until it is officially declared safe.

**Do not enter your home without checking for damage**
Inspect the structure and watch out for fallen electrical cables.

In case of emergency, call 112.

For more information, visit the website of the Civil Protection Department (CPD)



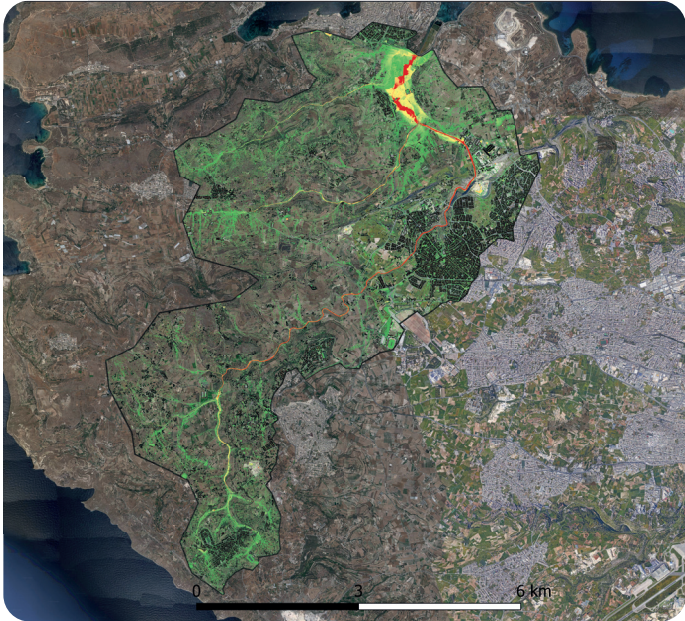
Check out and download the materials and board games we've put together!

Flood hazard map of Malta for a 50-year return period (T50)

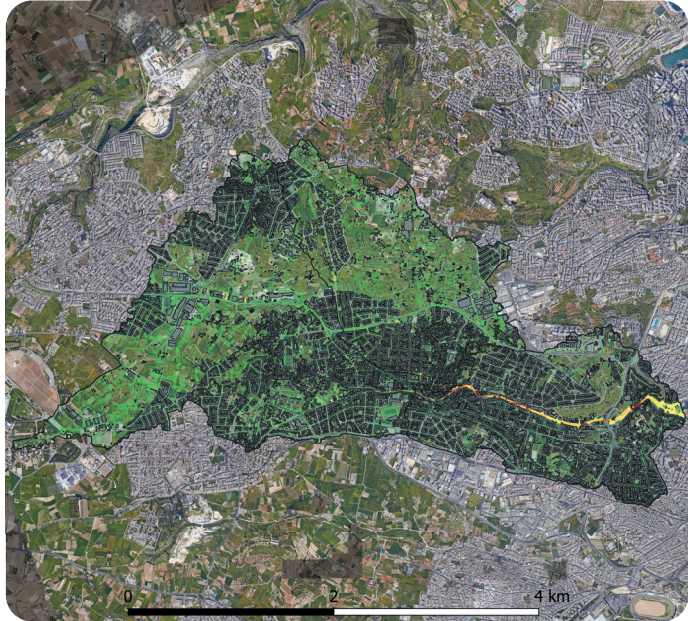
The return period (T) represents the statistical probability of a flood occurring once every 50 years. It's important to note that these are probabilities — not certainties

The European Floods Directive establishes that the river basin authorities of each river basin district (e.g., The Energy & Water Agency) must prepare a Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP), which is updated every six years. The FRMPs identify areas at risk and include hazard and risk maps — with flood scenarios and potential impacts on people, activities, and heritage — from which prevention and protection measures are defined.

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Legend  No hazard  Low  Moderate  Significant  Extreme

Source: Energy & Water Agency (EWA)