

# Making disaster risk management better by working with different sectors

## Eight recommendations for local governments by local governments



In today's busy towns and cities, there are a lot of challenges, including more frequent and stronger storms, heat waves and other types of extreme weather events. Cities and towns are often affected by these events. They are especially impacted because often more people are living in them than originally planned.

To help manage better, cities and towns are including Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in their planning processes.

The “Leading the Way: Disaster Risk Reduction Training for Local Government Champions” training programme was organised by the [Resilience Initiative Africa](#) (RIA) project of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and in partnership with the [United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (UNDRR); the African Union Commission; [United Cities and Local Governments](#) and its [Africa section](#); and [Slum Dwellers International](#).

The training programme brought together regional, national, and local people and organisations working on disaster prevention planning from over 20 countries. It took place from 19 to 21

March 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya. Participants exchanged insights on challenges and good practices through learning from other people doing the same work, as well as learning from experts.

A key challenge that participants discussed was how complicated it is to involve many different sectors in DRM. Based on the workshop discussions, this factsheet is about good practices. It explores eight tips for involving different sectors in DRM. The tips, by themselves or together, aim to show cities how to do disaster risk management in a sustainable way.

The term **multi-sectoral approach** is used to describe when lots of different sectors, including governmental and non-governmental organisations, community stakeholders, and the private sector and academia, work together and listen to one another as part of cities' and towns' efforts to manage many different types of disaster risks. These different types of risks are for example heavy rain, heat waves, floods, landslides or quickly spreading diseases. The multi-sectoral approach is about everyone helping each other: the different sectors give their knowledge and learnings into a city's processes, which helps the city's managers plan. This means that the city's processes will inform and guide all the many sectors in managing risk.



Picture 1: Collaborative discussions help in identifying more effective solutions for urban resilience that meet the needs of everyone

## 8 tips for multi-sectoral DRM in African cities

### Set up a multi-sectoral committee:

setting up a multi-sectoral committee in a city means that all the stakeholders from different sectors work together. They discuss how different disaster risks can impact their sectors and find shared solutions. This makes it easier for them to agree on DRM principles that they all think are important and to make sure that these principles are included in many plans to manage disasters.

### Make sure that local DRM is in line with international DRM ideas:

planning for disaster risks and making sure that all sectors are considered is easier if you use the advices that are given by the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#). The framework is designed to make sure there is a good environment for risk reduction and decision-making on how to deal with risks.

### Encourage community participation:

working with communities, including vulnerable and marginalised groups, in the DRM actions of a city makes sure that the needs of the local people are met, that different sectors are connected, and that plans and strategies work for everyone. With this, people are more committed that the DRM actions really work and also run in the long term.

### Make working with other organisations and people important:

making partnerships between cities and their different units with support of national and international organisations makes common national, regional and international activities, mobilization of funding, and consistent DRM action much better and easier.

### Work together to examine risks:

if everyone is involved in finding out what risks affect their own city, what weak points there are in dealing with hazards and creating maps that show where there are high risks, this really helps to better understand the challenges for a city. This understanding helps to make better decisions. It also helps to decide where to spend money and how to plan for the future, so that different problems can be dealt with better.

### Increase knowledge and help people to learn:

making people more aware of risks means that local governments and vulnerable communities can better prepare for, and respond and adapt to, disaster risks. This can be done through training and education activities such as public education and the technical training of local governments.

### Help people make better choices:

When everyone gets to have a say in decisions across different areas and considers the risks in their own communities, it shows that reducing disaster risks is something we all have to work together on. It also shows that different parts of our communities are connected and are impacted by the same threats, and by working together, we can make things safer for everyone.

**Work together to make sure everybody gets what they need:** giving enough money and supplies to everyone to make sure they are prepared for, can prevent and can respond to disaster is important. This includes enough personnel, equipment and infrastructure. When this is decided together, it avoids doubling, reduces loss and damage, and enables quick help.

*“To enhance community engagement and support urban resilience, it is vital to integrate community members throughout the entire project cycle, from planning to final implementation stages. This entails empowering them with comprehensive data about their communities and enabling informed decision-making at the grassroots level to effectively support the process.”*

– Kilian Nyambuga, Programme Manager, Slum Dwellers International (SDI) Kenya





## Good examples of multi-sectoral DRM

### Homa Bay County, Kenya

Homa Bay County in Kenya developed a multi-sectoral approach. It engages local communities, set up committees for DRM and promotes institutional cooperation.

The county started working together across different sectors to make sure disaster risk management is sustainable in the community. They set up disaster risk management committees to do this. People from informal settlements, marginalized and vulnerable groups, and the Water Resource Users Management Committee of Homa Bay are all part of the DRM committees. These committees allowed them to all have an equal say. Because of this approach, they were able to find out what the community needs and what the community thinks about local disaster risks. They used this information to improve early-warning systems and how they respond to disasters.

The Homa Bay County DRM unit regularly talks to and includes the community in assessing how vulnerable they are to disasters. They also use approaches to disaster risk management that include the traditional knowledge of the local Luo and Abasuba communities. Additionally, the county has a Resilience and Climate Change Hub. This hub shares important disaster risk information with different sectors, such as weather forecasts on time, and makes sure that vulnerable and special interest groups are not left out.



The county is part of UNDRR's [Making Cities Resilient 2030](#) (MCR2030) initiative and works with the UNDRR. This working together helps figure out how well the community can handle disasters and helps create plans to reduce disaster risks.

### Kampala, Uganda

The [Kampala Capital City Authority in Uganda](#) follows a multi-sectoral approach. It works together with international and national organisations, conducts training and education activities and developed a local disaster risk strategy. This has resulted in different activities such as the construction of the Lubigi Drainage Channel (see picture 2).

On a global level, the city partners with other cities through city networks. For instance, it works with the city of Strasbourg, France, on a project called “[Building Sustainable, Learning and Inclusive Cities](#)”. This partnership has helped the city of Kampala improve its ability to manage green spaces. One way it did this was by creating maps that show where trees and places with lots of different plants and animals are in green spaces.

Following the [Kampala City Strategic Plan 2020/21- 2024/25](#), the city worked together with its people to create plans and strategies to reduce the risks of disasters. These include the “[Kampala Climate Change Action Plan](#)” and the “[Kampala Disaster Risk and Climate Change Resilience Strategy](#)”.

Furthermore, to create these strategies for reducing disaster risks, Kampala works with partners like the UNDRR through the MCR2030 initiative. On a national level, it collaborates with the “Department of Disaster Preparedness and Management”. Additionally, it works with representatives of the “Offices of People with Disabilities”, which are part of the “National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda”. These partnerships make sure that people with disabilities, young people, women, and other vulnerable groups are included and have the skills to build resilience.

Picture 2: Construction of Lubigi Drainage Channel supported by World Bank in Kampala, Uganda

This publication is part of the RIA Learning and Exchange Platform. RIA offers actors engaged in urban resilience and disaster risk reduction the opportunity to access information on risk-informed urban development by providing an inclusive and barrier-reduced learning environment. This includes facilitating the exchange of experiences between different state and non-state actors in the region to enhance mutual learning on urban resilience.

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