

# Enhancing disaster risk management through a multi-sectoral approach: recommendations for local governments by local governments



## Success factors for urban disaster risk reduction strategies

In today's dynamic urban landscape, cities face multifaceted challenges, including the increasing frequency and intensity of natural hazards, climate change impacts and rapid urbanisation. To effectively address these challenges, cities are integrating disaster risk management (DRM) into their broader urban planning processes.

The “Leading the Way: Disaster Risk Reduction Training for Local Government Champions” training programme – 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 partners 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](#) – brought together regional, national and local stakeholders from over 20 countries working in the field of risk reduction in Nairobi, Kenya, from 19 to 21 March 2024. Through peer learning and experts' inputs, participants exchanged insights on challenges and good practices.

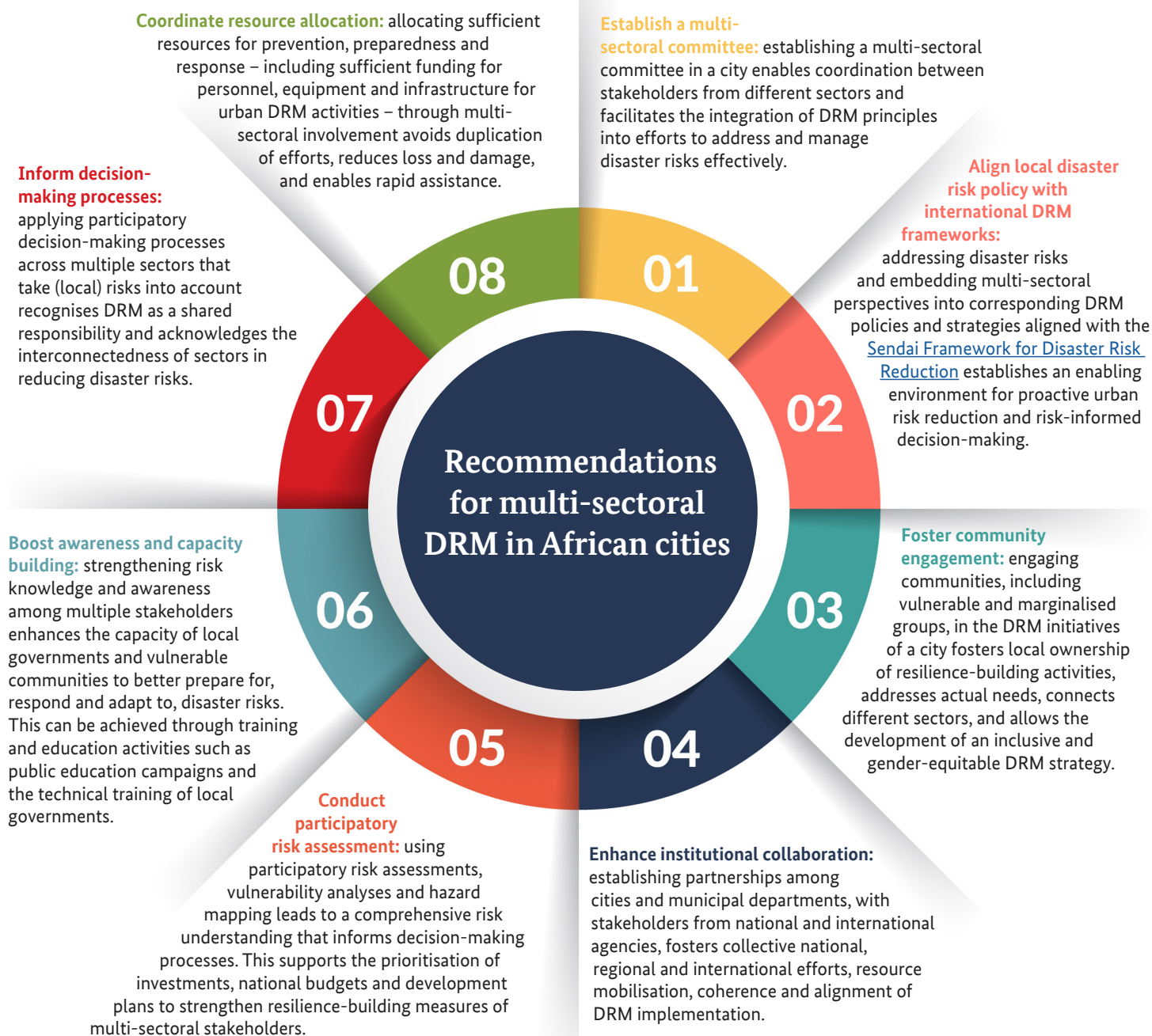
A key challenge identified was the complexity of multi-sectoral involvement in DRM. Based on the workshop discussions, this factsheet brings together good practices and explores eight recommendations for multi-sectoral involvement in DRM. The recommendations, taken individually or in combination, aim to provide guidance to cities on adopting sustainable approaches to disaster risk management. They underscore the key role of multi-sectoral approaches in building resilient communities and promoting risk-informed urban development.

**A multi-sectoral approach** refers to the collaborative process between and involvement of multiple sectors, including governmental and non-governmental organisations, community stakeholders, and the private sector and academia, in cities' efforts to manage multifaceted disaster risks. The multi-sectoral approach is reciprocal: the different sectors feed their knowledge and learnings into a city's processes, influencing and informing its planning. In turn, the city's processes will inform and guide the multiple sectors in managing risk.



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

## Recommendations for multi-sectoral DRM in African cities



*“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 practices in multi-sectoral DRM

### Homa Bay County, Kenya

Homa Bay County in Kenya developed a multi-sectoral approach by engaging local communities, establishing committees for DRM and developing institutional collaboration.

The county adopted a multi-sectoral approach to sustainable DRM at a community level through the establishment of disaster risk management committees. The committees provided platforms for the meaningful involvement of representatives from informal settlements, marginalised and vulnerable groups, and the Water Resource Users Management Committee. This approach resulted in the identification and integration of local needs and perspectives on local disaster risks in early-warning systems and disaster response mechanisms.

Through regular consultations and community engagement, the Homa Bay County DRM unit conducts assessments on community vulnerability to disaster risks and incorporates DRM approaches that harness traditional knowledge of the local Luo and Abasuba communities. Moreover, the county has a Resilience and Climate Change Hub that informs multiple sectors on crucial disaster risk information, including timely weather forecasts, leaving no vulnerable and special interest groups behind.



The county is a signatory to and maintains institutional collaboration with the UNDRR's [Making Cities Resilient 2030](#) (MCR2030) initiative. This collaboration supports the assessment of local disaster resilience to develop [disaster risk reduction strategies](#).

### Kampala, Uganda

[The Kampala Capital City Authority in Uganda](#) adopts a multi-sectoral approach to DRM by engaging in international and national institutional collaboration, capacity building and developing a local disaster risk strategy. This has resulted in activities such as the construction of the Lubigi Drainage Channel (see picture 2).

Internationally, the city is part of city partnership networks and cooperates inter alia with the city of Strasbourg, France, on the [Building Sustainable, Learning and Inclusive Cities](#) project. The partnership has facilitated capacity building in green space management, for example, through the guided development of maps on green space trees and biodiversity reservoirs.

Guided by the [Kampala City Strategic Plan 2020/21- 2024/25](#), the city has participatorily developed disaster risk reduction action plans and strategies such as the [Kampala Climate Change Action Plan](#) and the [Kampala Disaster Risk and Climate Change Resilience Strategy](#).

Moreover, to develop these disaster risk reduction strategies Kampala collaborates with partners such as the UNDRR through the MCR2030 initiative; on a national level with the Department of Disaster Preparedness and Management; and with representatives of the Offices of People with Disabilities under the umbrella organisation National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda. These partnerships aim to enhance the inclusivity and resilience-building skills of people with impairments, youth, women and other vulnerable groups.

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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