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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 <u>Resilience Initiative Africa</u> (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 <u>United Nations</u> <u>Office for Disaster Risk Reduction</u> (UNDRR); the African Union Commission; <u>United Cities and Local Governments</u> and its <u>Africa</u>. <u>section</u>; and <u>Slum Dwellers International</u> – 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

Coordinate resource allocation: allocating sufficient resources for prevention, preparedness and response - including sufficient funding for personnel, equipment and infrastructure for urban DRM activities - through multisectoral involvement avoids duplication of efforts, reduces loss and damage, and enables rapid assistance.

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Establish a multi-

sectoral committee: establishing a multi-sectoral committee in a city enables coordination between stakeholders from different sectors and facilitates the integration of DRM principles into efforts to address and manage disaster risks effectively. Align local disaster

Inform decisionmaking processes:

applying participatory decision-making processes across multiple sectors that take (local) risks into account recognises DRM as a shared responsibility and acknowledges the interconnectedness of sectors in reducing disaster risks.



Recommendations for multi-sectoral **DRM** in African cities

Boost awareness and capacity

building: strengthening risk knowledge and awareness among multiple stakeholders enhances the capacity of local governments and vulnerable communities to better prepare for, respond and adapt to, disaster risks. This can be achieved through training and education activities such as public education campaigns and the technical training of local governments.

Conduct participatory risk assessment: using

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participatory risk assessments, vulnerability analyses and hazard mapping leads to a comprehensive risk understanding that informs decision-making processes. This supports the prioritisation of investments, national budgets and development plans to strengthen resilience-building measures of multi-sectoral stakeholders.

Enhance institutional collaboration:

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establishing partnerships among cities and municipal departments, with stakeholders from national and international agencies, fosters collective national, regional and international efforts, resource mobilisation, coherence and alignment of DRM implementation.

"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 decisionmaking at the grassroots level to effectively support the process."

> - Kilion Nyambuga, Programme Manager, Slum Dwellers International (SDI) Kenva



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Foster community engagement: engaging communities, including vulnerable and marginalised groups, in the DRM initiatives of a city fosters local ownership of resilience-building activities, addresses actual needs, connects different sectors, and allows the development of an inclusive and gender-equitable DRM strategy.

risk policy with

international DRM

frameworks:

addressing disaster risks

and embedding multi-sectoral

decision-making.

perspectives into corresponding DRM

policies and strategies aligned with the

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk

Reduction establishes an enabling

environment for proactive urban

risk reduction and risk-informed

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 <u>Making Cities Resilient 2030</u> (MCR2030) initiative. This collaboration supports the assessment of local disaster resilience to develop <u>disaster risk reduction strategies</u>.

Kampala, Uganda

The Kampala Capital City Authority in Uganda adopts a multisectoral 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 <u>Building Sustainable, Learning and Inclusive Cities</u> 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 <u>Kampala City Strategic Plan 2020/21- 2024/25</u>, the city has participatorily developed disaster risk reduction action plans and strategies such as the <u>Kampala Climate Change Action</u> <u>Plan</u> and the <u>Kampala Disaster Risk and Climate Change Resilience</u> <u>Strategy.</u>

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 resiliencebuilding 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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