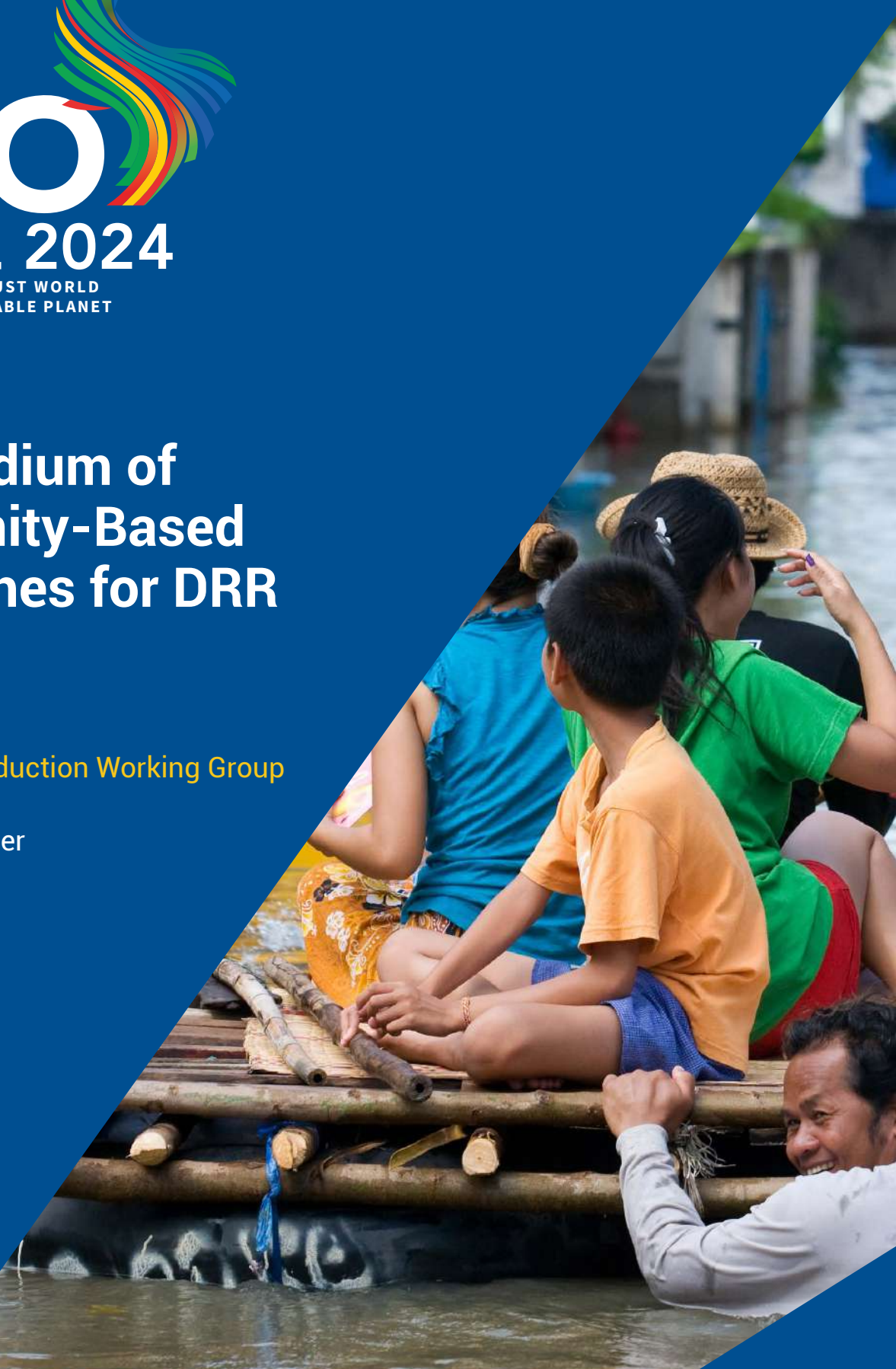


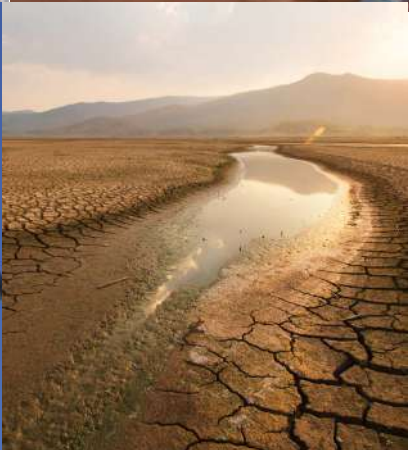


Compendium of Community-Based Approaches for DRR

Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group

Knowledge partner







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Reducing disaster risks is, essentially, reducing inequalities and strengthening community resilience. This is the guiding principle of the G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG), under the leadership of the Brazilian presidency. Robust and coordinated governmental actions are at the heart of this effort, as people in vulnerable situations face the greatest impacts of disasters, and the greatest challenges in recovery, exacerbating social and economic inequalities.

Inequality is a determining factor that amplifies the damage caused by disasters, especially for groups already at risk. Combined with the climate crisis, this vulnerability worsens, disproportionately affecting the poorest and perpetuating a cycle of losses and damages. Breaking this cycle is a priority for the Brazilian government, which, during its G20 presidency, launched the Task Force for a Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, directly linking disaster risk reduction (DRR) with the promotion of inclusive and equitable development.

Brazil's commitment is to create and implement a short, medium, and long-term agenda to reduce these vulnerabilities, mitigate the fatal impacts of disasters, and minimize material, psychological, cultural, and social losses. As extreme events become more frequent, prevention, response, and recovery actions must be expanded and strengthened to protect lives and reduce damage.

The production of a compendium of good practices in community-based approaches for disaster risk reduction is a concrete action that materializes the efforts of the G20 and its guest countries. This compendium aims to strengthen the international network dedicated to social engagement and promote community participation in addressing disaster risk situations.

Strengthening a culture of prevention is central to this effort through the dissemination of information, social mobilization, technical training, and clear and accessible communication. These measures not only reduce local vulnerabilities, but also promote resilience in a fair and inclusive manner, ensuring that populations most exposed to disaster risks have the necessary support to face these challenges equitably and sustainably.

G20 Brazilian Presidency of the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group

Waldez Goes
Ministry of Regional
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Ministry of Cities

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Acronyms and abbreviations

AAI	African Adaptation Initiative
ACJ	Acción Climática Joven
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AURP	Africa Urban Resilience Programme
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CAF	Development Bank of Latin America
CAPs	Community Action Plans
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CECAP	Uruguay's Training Centre
CJ	Uruguay's Youth Centres
CMDRR	Community-Managed Disaster Risk Reduction
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRRWG	Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group
EWSA	Early Weather Warning Systems
FADU	Uruguay's Faculty of Architecture, Design, and Urbanism
Fiocruz	Brazilian Oswaldo Cruz Foundation
G20	Group of Twenty
GAP	Somalia's Good Agricultural Practices
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GIZ	German Corporation for International Cooperation
HDP	Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

IMMWG	Somalia's Inter-Ministerial Meteorological Working Group
INAU	Institute for Children and Adolescents of Uruguay
KenGen	Kenya Electricity Generating Company
KfW	Germany's Credit Institute for Reconstruction
KRCS	Kenya Red Cross Society
MAB	Brazilian Movement of People Affected by Dams
MCID	Ministry of Cities of Brazil
MCR2030	Making Cities Resilient Initiative
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MIDR	Ministry of Integration and Regional Development of Brazil
MTD	Brazilian Workers' Rights Movement
MTST	Brazilian Movement of Homeless Workers
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDRRF	Australia's National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework
NEMA	Australia's National Emergency Management Agency
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
PCRRD	Community Disaster Risk Reduction Plans
PDRA	Participatory Disaster Risk Analysis
PMRR	Municipal Risk Reduction Plans
RIA	Resilience Initiative Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDI	Slum Dwellers International
SENAPRED	Chile's National Emergency Office
SNP	National Secretariat for Peripheries of Brazil

SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SPARCC	Social Protection for Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change
TDA	Transitional Development Assistance
UDELAR	University of the Republic of Uruguay
UNB	University of Brasilia of Brazil
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UTEC	Technological University of Uruguay
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Initiative
WCIS	Weather and Climate Information Services
WFP	World Food Programme
WISER	Weather and Climate Information Services Programme

I. Introduction

In today's increasingly interconnected world, disasters have far-reaching impacts, often exacerbating existing inequalities and disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 emphasizes the importance of addressing the systemic drivers of risk, particularly those related to social vulnerability, poverty, and inequality. These challenges heighten disaster risks, leaving marginalized communities more exposed and less equipped to recover. As highlighted in the Sendai Framework's Midterm Review, reducing these vulnerabilities is key to building resilient societies capable of withstanding and recovering from disasters.

A primary focus of the G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group, under the Brazilian presidency, is to promote the resilience of communities through enhanced preparedness and risk-informed development. This includes elevating local and national efforts to empower vulnerable groups, ensuring that disaster risk reduction policies are inclusive and contribute to reducing the systemic inequalities that amplify disaster risks. By prioritising addressing social inequality to reduce vulnerabilities, the G20 seeks to build stronger, more resilient societies that leave no one behind.

This compendium, produced under the leadership of the Brazilian Presidency of the G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group, reflects a collective commitment to mitigating these risks. It brings together the experiences and good practices of G20 members and invited countries in community-based Disaster Risk Reduction. By focusing on the empowerment of communities, this compilation aligns with the core objectives of the Sendai Framework, demonstrating the necessity of inclusive, locally led strategies that enhance community resilience and social cohesion.

The G20 DRR Working Group, guided by the Brazilian Issue Note and in alignment with global frameworks, has compiled this resource as part of a larger effort to promote disaster resilience and sustainable development. This compendium serves not only as a reflection of the work already accomplished, but also as a call to action for continued efforts in reducing disaster risks, enhancing inclusivity, and building resilience at the community level.

We invite readers to explore these best practices and use them as inspiration for advancing disaster risk reduction initiatives worldwide. Let this compendium be a tool for fostering greater international collaboration and shared learning in the pursuit of a safer, more resilient future for all.

II. Structure

The Compendium of Community-Based Approaches for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) presents a variety of community-driven initiatives and strategies contributed by G20 members and invited countries. These practices were collected through a structured call for submissions, encouraging member states to share their experiences in addressing social inequality to reduce vulnerabilities to mitigate disaster risks. All contributions are aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and its Midterm Review.

The practices included in this compendium were evaluated based on key criteria: community engagement, diversity and inclusion, socio-territorial impact, local leadership, replicability, and policy effectiveness. The cases demonstrate successful DRR solutions, offering practical examples that can be adapted and replicated in various contexts.

Goals and Objectives

The compendium showcases a wide spectrum of interventions, from grassroots initiatives to government-led policies, all focused on reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience in disaster-prone areas. These practices illustrate how locally led actions, when supported by national and international efforts, can pave the way toward sustainable, resilient communities and influence more relevant DRR policies at the national level. Furthermore, the compendium emphasizes the importance of tackling the root causes of vulnerability—poverty, inequality, and exclusion—which are crucial for effective disaster risk management.

By promoting these inclusive strategies, the compendium aims to inspire G20 member states and others to adopt and adapt these practices, encouraging the development of new local-level initiatives. The examples provided offer actionable insights into how community organization, socio-territorial engagement, and inclusive policy frameworks can reduce disaster risks, lower vulnerabilities, and support sustainable recovery. This aligns with the Brazilian presidency's vision of integrated DRR strategies contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 10 (reducing inequalities), SDG 11 (sustainable cities), and SDG 13 (climate action).

Knowledge-Sharing Platform

This compendium serves as a platform for sharing knowledge and fostering collaboration across borders. By learning from one another's experiences, we can build a more resilient global society, better equipped to face the challenges of disasters, climate change, and socio-economic vulnerabilities. This resource is intended to guide policymakers and practitioners in shaping future DRR strategies, while reinforcing the G20's collective commitment to reducing disaster risks and safeguarding populations in vulnerable situations.

III. Good Practice Cases

Through comprehensive analysis, four overarching themes have emerged, capturing the various dimensions of disaster risk reduction (DRR) addressed in this compendium. These themes represent critical areas for action to enhance resilience, reduce risks, and build inclusive, sustainable systems that protect people in vulnerable situations.

Community-Led Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives

By empowering local populations to lead DRR efforts, these initiatives ensure that strategies are customized to address their specific needs, resulting in greater effectiveness and sustainability. The cases in this section demonstrate how community-driven planning, local partnerships, and culturally relevant approaches strengthen preparedness and resilience.

Social Inclusion and Groups in Vulnerable Contexts

The cases illustrate how the inclusion of women, indigenous communities, and other groups in vulnerable contexts into disaster planning bridges the gap between these populations and essential resources. This approach strengthens overall community resilience and ensures that no one is left behind.

Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Building

This theme focuses on adapting to climate risks by exploring ecosystem-based approaches, infrastructure enhancements, and community-led solutions. The cases showcase practical, long-term strategies that empower communities to anticipate and mitigate the effects of climate change, protecting both livelihoods and ecosystems.

International and Regional DRR Collaborations

This theme underscores the value of cross-border collaboration in addressing shared disaster risks. The cases illustrate how international partnerships and resource-sharing enhance preparedness and resilience at a larger scale, benefiting all participating regions through collective action.

A. Community-Led Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives



Key takeaway messages

1- Empowering Communities through National Frameworks:

A national framework that supports community-led disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives empowers local populations to take ownership of their risk management. By fostering local leadership, these initiatives ensure that DRR strategies are tailored to the community's specific needs, resulting in more effective and sustainable outcomes.

2- The Power of Partnerships:

Strong partnerships between local organizations, residents, and authorities are essential for implementing practical disaster plans, improving infrastructure, and raising awareness. Direct community involvement in the planning process strengthens local capacities and ensures that solutions are culturally relevant and responsive to local contexts.

3- Leveraging Local Knowledge for Resilience:

Community-led DRR initiatives build on local knowledge and participation to enhance preparedness, social cohesion, and resilience. By engaging communities in disaster risk planning, these efforts reduce the overall impact of disasters, particularly on populations in vulnerable contexts, fostering long-term sustainability and recovery.



Case 1 Safe Village, Safe People



Location: Portugal



Level: Local



Hazard: wildfires



Solution/intervention type: community-based disaster preparedness; risk education and awareness; local safety initiatives



Issue(s) addressed: Vulnerability reduction for isolated communities; effective wildfire risk management; enhancing local engagement in disaster resilience; addressing inequalities in access to safety information

Description

The Safe Village, Safe People Programme is a wildfire-specific preparedness and awareness initiative designed to implement structural measures that protect both people and property, while raising awareness about risky behaviours and promoting self-protection practices. Established in response to the devastating wildfires in mainland Portugal during the summer of 2017, the programme addresses the urgent need for enhanced community resilience, especially in areas where urban and wildland environments intersect.

Launched in 2018, the programme has been successful thanks to its local implementation, executed by municipal and civil parish councils in close collaboration with communities. The initiative is coordinated by Portugal's Civil Protection Authority, which provides strategic guidelines for this effort. This local engagement ensures that citizens feel a strong sense of ownership over their safety. Volunteers, known as Local Safety Officers, serve as vital links between the community and civil protection authorities, enabling a bottom-up approach that enhances trust and community participation.

The programme encompasses multiple layers of action, including fuel management in buffer zones around villages, public awareness campaigns on fire risks and prevention, coordinated evacuation plans, and the preparation of shelters and refuge areas. By July 2024, over 2,300 villages had joined the initiative, which roughly corresponds to one-third of the villages estimated to be in high or very high wildfire risk areas. At the time, 2,200 Local Safety Officers were appointed, and almost 3,000 shelters had been installed.

Addressing Inequalities and Reducing Vulnerabilities

The wildfires in Portugal primarily affect small, often isolated inland communities in the North and Centre of the country, which tend to have older populations, some with physical limitations. These groups in vulnerable contexts frequently lack access to vital information on risk prevention and self-protection, placing them at greater danger during wildfire events.

The Safe Village, Safe People Programme directly addresses this gap by fostering face-to-face engagement between citizens and local civil protection services. By offering simple, practical tools – such as church bells to signal nearby fires and whistles for calling assistance – the programme enhances local awareness and preparedness. Special attention is given to individuals with disabilities, with tailored evacuation plans that ensure no one is left behind. This direct engagement in risk education significantly reduces the vulnerability of these fragile communities.

Understanding Risk

A cornerstone of the programme is its focus on risk awareness, starting with a detailed assessment of each village's specific vulnerabilities and strengths. This community-centred evaluation allows villagers to grasp the dangers posed by wildfires and adopt appropriate preventive measures.

The programme not only relies on external risk assessments but also incorporates local knowledge to improve outcomes. Local Safety Officers, who are residents or frequent visitors to these communities, play an essential role in liaising between authorities and villagers, utilizing their deep understanding of the community's social and physical environment to ensure the effective implementation of preparedness strategies. For example, evacuation plans are fine-tuned to reflect the local terrain and infrastructure, ensuring a practical and efficient response.

Community-Centric Approaches

Community engagement is at the heart of the Safe Village, Safe People Programme. All aspects of the initiative are implemented at the local level, mobilizing citizens to participate actively in disaster resilience strategies for their villages. The programme's success is deeply rooted in trust between the community and local government, forged through consistent interaction and mutual responsibility for safety.

Municipal and civil parish councils, being the closest governmental bodies to the community, spearhead the local implementation, fostering a sense of ownership over safety and resilience among villagers. The Local Safety Officers act as ambassadors, facilitating the smooth execution of evacuation plans, shelter management, and awareness campaigns. This decentralization ensures that communities are not just passive recipients of aid but active participants in their own protection.

Policy and Governance

The Safe Village, Safe People Programme has significantly influenced local governance and policy approaches to wildfire disaster risk reduction. A survey conducted in 2022 among local authorities confirmed the programme's added value, noting how it heightened public awareness of fire risks, promoted better fuel management, and facilitated the identification of safe evacuation routes and shelter areas.

These efforts have contributed to a shift in how communities approach wildfire risks. Citizens now demonstrate more trust and confidence during fire emergencies, engaging more readily in preparedness measures and reinforcing a sense of community resilience. This renewed spirit of cooperation has also encouraged changes in fire usage behaviour, further reducing the risk of new wildfires.

Partnerships for Impact

Key partnerships have been critical to the success of the Safe Village, Safe People Programme. The Civil Protection Authority provides national oversight, strategic guidelines, and coordinates large-scale awareness campaigns. On the ground, municipalities and parish councils play a pivotal role in programme implementation, working directly with communities to ensure local needs are addressed.

Other essential partners include fire brigades, forest services, and the National Guard, all of which assist in organizing drills and awareness actions. The involvement of forest owners also ensures that fuel management measures are implemented efficiently. However, the backbone of the programme lies in the volunteers—citizens who serve as Local Safety Officers. Their efforts in facilitating communication and preparedness operations bridge the gap between local authorities and the broader community, solidifying the programme's impact and sustainability.

The Safe Village, Safe People Programme exemplifies how effective wildfire risk reduction relies on strong partnerships, community engagement, and comprehensive, localized strategies to protect both people and property from future threats.

Links

- [Programme website](#)
- [Implementation Guidelines \(English\)](#)
- [Awareness video \(English subtitles\)](#)
- [Leaflet \(English\)](#)





Case 2

Case 2: Working Together to Adapt a Changing Climate: Flood and Coast



Location: United Kingdom



Level: National



Hazard: Floods and coastal erosion



Solution/intervention type: Community engagement in flood and coastal management; innovative participatory tools and simulations; inclusive risk communication strategies



Issue(s) addressed: Challenges in community collaboration for flood and coastal erosion management; engagement of underrepresented and groups in vulnerable contexts; knowledge gaps regarding flood and erosion risks; integration of mental health support in climate adaptation strategies

Description

The UK's Working Together to Adapt to a Changing Climate: Flood and Coast project was launched to explore how authorities can reduce flood and coastal erosion risks in a changing climate through community involvement. Spanning from 2018 to 2022, the initiative

reviewed evidence on community engagement related to climate adaptation and identified six core challenges that hinder effective collaboration with communities vulnerable to future flooding and coastal erosion.

The project introduced an innovative engagement programme, trialled in two pilot locations: Caterham on the Hill and Old Coulsdon in Surrey, which face recurrent surface water flooding, and Hemsby in Norfolk, threatened by coastal erosion and storm surges. To tackle the identified challenges, the team developed tools aimed at fostering more effective engagement. These tools included a readiness assessment, a participatory simulation, and a scenario development exercise, each tailored to enhance community understanding and involvement.

Local steering groups, composed of community representatives, helped co-design and implement these tools, which raised awareness and encouraged public participation in the planning and decision-making processes surrounding flood and coastal erosion management. This collaborative approach fostered a shared sense of ownership over the future resilience of their local areas.

Addressing Inequalities and Reducing Vulnerabilities

The project sought to broaden participation in discussions around flooding and coastal erosion, with a focus on engaging underrepresented and groups in vulnerable contexts. Often, these groups face barriers to participation due to impairment, language or cultural differences,

or socioeconomic constraints. Typically, flood action groups - a key conduit for public input - do not adequately represent the diversity of the communities they serve.

In Hemsby, the project recognized that a small, vocal group of residents held disproportionate influence over coastal erosion management decisions. To counteract this imbalance, a community-wide survey was launched in partnership with the neighbourhood planning group, ensuring that all residents could voice their concerns and perspectives. The survey, promoted through multiple local channels, garnered responses from a broader cross-section of the community, helping to diversify the range of input.

In Caterham and Old Coulsdon, the use of participatory simulations allowed the project to engage with individuals who might not typically participate in conversations about flood risk or climate change, thereby reducing inequalities in public participation. These inclusive engagement strategies amplified the voices of populations in vulnerable contexts, ensuring that their needs and concerns were better represented in local decision-making.

The initiative also promoted inclusivity by engaging groups with diverse characteristics, such as age, gender, and socioeconomic background. Special attention was given to the inclusion of youth, an often-overlooked group in flood risk discussions, through awareness-raising activities in schools and colleges. Furthermore, the project acknowledged the health impacts of climate-related disasters, including the mental health toll, and recommended that authorities incorporate mental health support into their climate adaptation strategies.

Understanding Risk

The pilot studies revealed varying levels of awareness of flood and coastal erosion risks among the communities involved. The project's engagement tools were designed to bridge these

knowledge gaps, creating a shared understanding between communities and local authorities.

The simulation tool was particularly effective in raising awareness about the complexities of surface water flooding in urban areas like Surrey and London. The interactive, role-playing nature of the simulation enabled participants - including community groups, schools, and colleges - to grasp both the technical challenges and the diverse perspectives involved in flood risk management. This approach helped demystify the subject and empowered communities to engage more confidently in discussions about potential solutions.

In Hemsby, the scenario development exercise encouraged collaboration between community members and authorities, allowing them to jointly envision future scenarios impacted by climate change. This collaborative planning increased local understanding of the factors contributing to coastal erosion and helped shape more informed, community-backed solutions.

Local knowledge was a cornerstone of the project, with participatory tools co-designed by local organizations and community members. By harnessing the lived experiences of flood victims and other stakeholders, the tools fostered a richer understanding of risks and better-informed decision-making processes in the pilot areas.

Community-Centric Approaches

Central to this project was the goal of involving communities in the planning and execution of disaster risk reduction strategies. By increasing awareness and understanding of local flood and coastal erosion risks, the initiative empowered communities to actively participate in decision-making about their areas' futures.

The tools and methods developed helped strengthen relationships between communities and authorities, encouraging more effective collaboration. This collaborative approach extended beyond the immediate scope of flooding

and coastal erosion to engage other local groups, such as climate change organizations and neighbourhood planning initiatives, further expanding the community's involvement in disaster risk reduction.

As a result, the project successfully engaged a broader cross-section of the community, ensuring that previously underrepresented voices could contribute meaningfully to planning efforts.

Policy and Governance

The UK's National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2020) adopted insights from this project, integrating community engagement practices into its broader ambition of creating a climate-resilient nation. Notably, Measure 3.1.3 of the strategy directly stems from this research, ensuring that the project's findings will continue to inform policy and practice at a national level. The Environment Agency has incorporated these lessons into its national engagement skills development programme, helping authorities engage communities more effectively in the context of climate adaptation.

Additionally, the tools developed under the project have been critical to the early success of the £200 million Flood and Coastal Innovation Programme. The readiness assessment tool, for example, enabled project leaders to prioritise community engagement from the outset, fostering stronger partnerships between local authorities and residents. This tool has now been integrated into the £5.2 billion flood and coastal erosion risk management capital programme and will serve as a requirement for future local strategies on flood and coastal erosion.

Engaging key governmental partners—such as Natural Resources Wales, local authorities, and the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)—ensured that the project's insights influenced not just local but national policy decisions, shaping the UK's approach to disaster risk reduction and climate resilience.

Partnerships for Impact

The success of the project was heavily reliant on a robust network of partnerships. The initiative was spearheaded by a team of engagement specialists and academics, under the guidance of a project board that included representatives from the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and local authorities. This multidisciplinary approach ensured that the project leveraged cutting-edge research while also maintaining trust with the communities involved.

A practitioner community, comprising over 200 professionals working across the fields of climate change, flood risk management, and community engagement, was formed to facilitate the sharing of best practices and foster collaboration.

On a local level, partnerships with government bodies and organizations were essential to implementing the pilot projects. Local authorities, flood action groups, and neighbourhood planning groups contributed invaluable knowledge and expertise, ensuring that the tools and strategies developed were both locally relevant and effective in addressing community-specific risks.

These collaborations not only enriched the project's outcomes but also laid the foundation for future initiatives that prioritise community-led disaster risk reduction.

Link

- [Working Together to Adapt to a Changing Climate: Flood and Coast](#)



Case 3

Case 3: Solidarity Kitchen: From Social Movement to Brazilian Public Policy



Location: Brazil



Level: National



Hazard: Food insecurity and socioeconomic vulnerabilities



Solution/intervention type: Grassroots community kitchens for food security; educational programmes and community engagement initiatives; integration into national public policy



Issue(s) addressed: Severe food insecurity in urban peripheries; marginalization of communities in vulnerable contexts; gender inequality and economic exclusion; lack of access to education and health resources

Description

The Solidarity Kitchen initiative is a transformative social movement that emerged within the urban peripheries of Brazilian cities, focusing on enhancing food security and ensuring access to fundamental rights for marginalized communities. Originating from the Movement of Homeless Workers (MTST), this initiative capitalizes on the collective experiences and efforts of the MTST, which has historically organized communal kitchens during housing struggles. As of today, the Solidarity Kitchens

represent over 50 active projects across 14 states in Brazil, providing daily meals to thousands of families through a model based on solidarity, collective labour, and community organization.

The project gained unprecedented traction during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, when food insecurity soared. Leveraging one of Brazil's largest independent virtual fundraising campaigns, the Solidarity Kitchens became critical lifelines for communities facing hunger. These kitchens not only distribute free meals but also function as vital centres for community engagement, offering educational programmes, legal support, and health discussions, particularly focusing on women's issues. For instance, the Formigueiro School promotes environmental education for children, while initiatives like community cisterns and agroecological gardens enhance local resilience. Additionally, in response to the severe flooding that affected the state of Rio Grande do Sul in 2024, Emergency Solidarity Kitchens were established in Porto Alegre, distributing over 450,000 meals to those in need. The successful model of Solidarity Kitchens inspired the Brazilian Federal Government to establish the National Solidarity Kitchens Programme in 2024, formally integrating this grassroots approach into national food security policy.

Addressing inequalities and reducing vulnerabilities

The Solidarity Kitchens play a crucial role in addressing the stark inequalities and vulnerabilities faced by populations in Brazil. Concentrated in peripheral regions with limited

urban infrastructure, these kitchens directly tackle food insecurity, which is particularly severe in these areas. They also serve as multifunctional community hubs, providing essential services such as vocational training, educational programmes for youth, discussions on women's health and domestic violence, and legal assistance. The Formigueiro School, for instance, is pivotal in educating children about environmental issues, while other initiatives include community gardens and vocational training courses that empower residents and promote community well-being.

By collaborating with small agroecological producers, some Solidarity Kitchens have successfully transitioned to sourcing organic, local foods, thereby enhancing food security and promoting healthier diets in underserved neighbourhoods. Moreover, as most of the coordinators and cooks are women, this initiative not only provides food but also fosters economic independence and social empowerment, contributing to gender equality and economic inclusion.

Understanding Risk

The Solidarity Kitchens have emerged as critical reference points for educating communities in vulnerable contexts about their rights and the various risks they face. Regular meetings, discussion circles, and the distribution of the Solidarity Kitchens Bulletin—an accessible publication on political and economic matters—help raise awareness within the community. These platforms facilitate dialogue about health risks, environmental hazards, and disaster preparedness.

By embedding local knowledge into their operations, the kitchens foster a participatory approach, where residents actively engage in identifying and addressing the risks unique to their territories. This collaborative dynamic not only empowers the community but also transforms the kitchens into centres of social organization and resilience.

Community-Centric Approaches

The Solidarity Kitchens exemplify a community-centric model by actively involving residents such as marginalized groups in both the development and execution of disaster risk reduction strategies. Through collective decision-making processes, community members collaborate on various initiatives, such as the construction of urban gardens and water cisterns aimed at enhancing local food and water security. This participatory approach encourages residents to take ownership of their environment and fosters a sense of community solidarity.

Moreover, the initiative promotes mobilization of external resources and volunteers to carry out interventions, strengthening community ties and enhancing collective efficacy. The integration of local knowledge and participation has resulted in numerous successful projects that address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of the surrounding population.

Policy and Governance

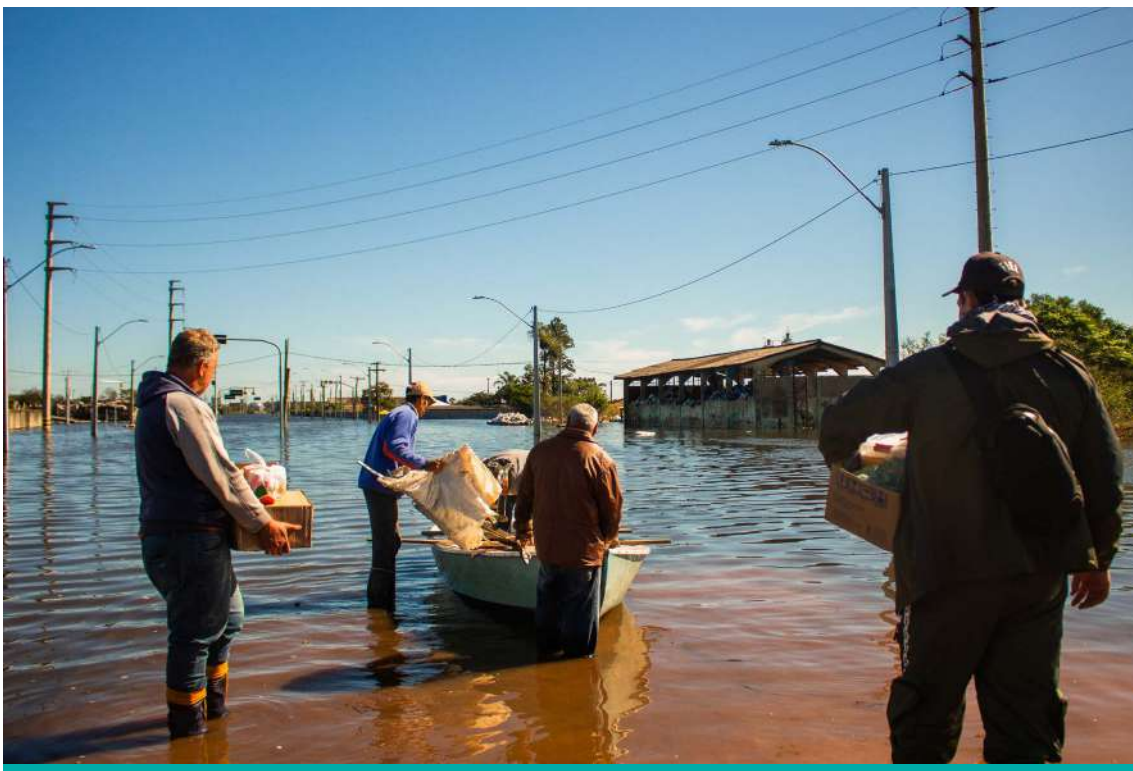
The influence of the Solidarity Kitchens extends into the realm of public policy. Their successful grassroots model and the insights gained from operational experiences significantly contributed to the development of the National Solidarity Kitchens Programme, which was approved by the Brazilian Federal Government in 2024. This programme is designed to integrate the initiatives of Solidarity Kitchens into the National Food Acquisition Programme, ensuring that the successes of the movement are recognized and supported at a governmental level. The active participation of MTST in shaping this policy underscores the importance of grassroots movements in informing and driving public policy initiatives.

Partnerships for Impact

The success of Solidarity Kitchens is bolstered by a robust network of partnerships. Collaborations with institutions, such as the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) and Ação da Cidadania, alongside various local entities, provide essential support through donations and project initiatives. Additionally, partnerships with agroecological producers enhance the quality of food provided and promote sustainable agricultural practices. The involvement of artists and public figures in fundraising campaigns has also been pivotal, helping to secure federal resources for the kitchens and amplify their impact within the community. This interconnected support system highlights the importance of collaborative efforts in achieving long-lasting change and enhancing community resilience.

Links

- [Solidarity Kitchens: Project Overview and Achievements](#)
- [National Policy Inspiration from MTST's Solidarity Kitchens](#)
- [Inauguration of Solidarity Kitchen in São Carlos](#)
- [Response to Flooding in Rio Grande do Sul](#)
- [International Recognition of Solidarity Kitchens](#)
- [Community Engagement and Educational Efforts](#)
- [Solidarity Kitchen's Contribution to Food Security](#)
- [Federal Government Support and Community Initiatives](#)
- [Solidarity Kitchens Aid Flood Victims](#)
- [Community Christmas Dinners Organized by Solidarity Kitchens](#)





Case 4

Case 4: El Parque La Esmeralda Como Espacio para la Construcción de Contenidos por Parte de la Comunidad



Location: Uruguay



Level: Local



Hazard: Flooding and climate change impacts



Solution/intervention type: Community park development with educational and participatory content; collaborative design and risk assessment; integration of gender equity and human rights in public space



Issue(s) addressed: Flood risks in vulnerable areas; lack of community engagement in environmental stewardship; gender inequality and accessibility issues in public spaces

Description

The establishment of El Parque La Esmeralda, financed by the ACC Río Uruguay project, represents a pioneering initiative to foster community engagement and environmental stewardship. The project team collaborated with the Río Negro Departmental Government to create an inter-institutional space inviting local organizations and institutions to

participate actively in the park's sustainability and community ownership. This collaborative effort led to the development of educational content focused on climate change adaptation, incorporating perspectives of gender, generational equity, and human rights.

To enhance community access and awareness, QR codes were strategically placed at key points throughout the park, allowing visitors to explore various thematic contents related to this vital public green space. Educational institutions and community organizations engaged with these themes through the creation of videos, songs, posters, and brochures, facilitated by technical support from the Universidad Tecnológica de Uruguay (UTEC). The official inauguration of the park was a significant moment to showcase these materials, including a community painting of a mural on the inclusive restrooms built within the park.

Addressing inequalities and reducing vulnerabilities

The design of El Parque La Esmeralda emphasizes gender equity, generational inclusivity, and human rights, ensuring that all individuals can utilize and enjoy the park for diverse activities. This initiative promotes a social and community meeting space in harmony with nature, contributing to climate adaptation by providing shade during hot days, improving soil absorption, and offering greater space for water management to mitigate flood risks in the area.

The project specifically addresses gender equality through its design principles, creating an

environment conducive to enhanced safety and accessibility. This includes well-lit spaces, clear visibility, reduced inactive areas, and designated facilities for breastfeeding and safe recreational activities. Furthermore, urban communication and signage are designed to promote neutrality, avoiding discriminatory messages and reinforcing gender inclusivity in the park's iconography.

Understanding Risk

The collective creation of content related to the flood-prone park serves as a strategic approach to understanding the social and natural dynamics of the surrounding environment. This initiative invites ongoing engagement with the community to assess, understand, and comprehend the territorial conditions and associated risks through content that can be continually expanded or updated.

Local knowledge plays a crucial role in this understanding, as government bodies, organizations, and institutions have actively participated in various project activities, sharing a wealth of insights, experiences, and perceptions. Collaborative efforts with the FADU - Udelar (Faculty of Architecture, Design, and Urbanism) included workshops with the Centro de Capacitación (CECAP) at the Las Canteras Community Centre, promoting collective design concepts for the landscaping and equipment of the public space near the La Esmeralda creek. The co-design process focused on signage and urban furniture, with CECAP's carpentry workshop producing prototypes based on these designs, reinforcing the adaptation measures linked to the park.

Community-Centric Approaches

Prior to the development and content generation associated with the park, participatory workshops were held with the extended community to collaboratively analyse the local risks, prioritise them, and envision community-based actions to mitigate these risks, considering future climate change scenarios.

Policy and Governance

The collaborative efforts with the Departmental Government have influenced local policies by fostering interest, support, and organised joint activities with a strong local commitment. This engagement has contributed to building capacities in various areas, ensuring that disaster risk reduction strategies are integrated into governance frameworks.

Partnerships for Impact

Essential to the success of this initiative has been the partnership between ACC Río Uruguay and the Río Negro Departmental Government, which facilitated logistical support and resource allocation for joint activities. Furthermore, the involvement of educational institutions and community organizations from the neighbourhoods surrounding El Parque La Esmeralda has been pivotal, with contributions from UTEC and the Universidad de la República (Udelar) in generating educational content and communication materials related to the park and its impact.

Links

- [Point 1: El Parque La Esmeralda: Más que un Parque](#)
- [Point 2: Trabajos en el Canal](#)
- [Point 3: Protección del Humedal](#)
- [Point 4: Plantación de Árboles](#)
- [Point 5: Pavimentos Adaptados al Clima](#)
- [Point 6: Equipamiento Inclusivo](#)
- [Inauguration Event](#)
- [Adaptation to Climate Change](#)

Case 5

Case 5: Disaster Resilience Initiative



Location: Japan, Miyoshi area, Ozu City, Ehime Prefecture



Level: District level



Hazard: Flooding



Solution/intervention type: Community-led disaster management planning; development of local disaster management plans; mutual assistance and rapid evacuation strategies



Issue(s) addressed: Vulnerabilities of people in communities during evacuation from natural disasters; need for a culture of mutual assistance in disaster scenarios

Description

The Mutual Assistance and Quick Evacuation from Flooding through a Community Disaster Management Plan in the Miyoshi area of Ozu City, Ehime Prefecture is a prime example of community-led disaster resilience in Japan. This project emerged after the national government introduced a system to facilitate formulating disaster management plan at community levels, recognising the need to promote mutual assistance in the community when the local governments could not provide sufficient support for the affected people during the 2011 Great East

Japan Earthquake. This example highlighted the necessity for communities to take charge of their disaster response strategies.

The project's core methodology is centred on the development of community disaster management plans, grounded in the Guideline on Community Disaster Management Plans issued by the Cabinet Office in 2014. These plans empower residents to design and implement disaster risk reduction measures that cater to their specific community needs. This approach, institutionalized after the amendment of the Basic Act on Disaster Management in 2013, encourages local actors to collaborate in formulating strategies, thereby promoting a culture of mutual assistance during emergencies

One notable success occurred in 2018 when the Miyoshi district experienced severe flooding due to a typhoon and torrential rains. The community's proactive measures—based on their disaster management plan—enabled rapid evacuation and the swift mobilization of rescue efforts, significantly reducing the potential loss of life. Their pre-established evacuation routes and clear responsibilities ensured that even the most vulnerable members of the community, such as the elderly and disabled, were safely assisted during the disaster.

The Japan Society of Community Disaster Management Plan, established in 2014, plays a pivotal role in this process, conducting academic research on community-driven disaster preparedness. The society, led by eminent professors from Kyoto University and the University of Tokyo, brings together experts from

various fields, including engineering, sociology, and public administration, to ensure that these plans remain adaptable and replicable across Japan and beyond.

For further insights, the White Paper on Disaster Management in Japan and additional resources from the Japan Society of Community Disaster Management Plan provide comprehensive information on this system and its impact.

Addressing Inequalities and Reducing Vulnerabilities

The strength of Japan's community disaster management plans lies in their ability to foster mutual assistance during crises, particularly for vulnerable populations. The Miyoshi initiative, like many others across Japan, prioritises the needs of individuals who may require additional support, including the elderly, people with disabilities, and children. These plans ensure that specific actions are pre-defined, allowing for the rapid deployment of assistance in the most critical moments.

While not directly focused on addressing issues such as food security, gender equality, or economic inclusion, the community disaster management approach plays a vital role in mitigating the impact of natural disasters by ensuring that no one is left behind during disaster responses and ultimately reducing inequality. The emphasis on pre-planning and collective action empowers all community members to contribute to and benefit from these life-saving efforts.

Understanding Risk

Through the community disaster management plan system, local residents gain a profound understanding of the risks specific to their region. The Miyoshi case demonstrates how community members, equipped with both local knowledge and formal disaster preparedness guidelines, were able to successfully respond to a life-threatening flood. In this instance, the pre-designated community centre, intended as an evacuation shelter, became compromised

by floodwaters. The community, however, was prepared with an alternative strategy and safely evacuated to higher ground, avoiding casualties.

Local knowledge plays a crucial role in this system. Residents possess intimate knowledge of safe evacuation routes, essential supplies, and the specific needs of vulnerable individuals in their communities. This knowledge, often inaccessible to external actors or government agencies, is vital for tailored, effective disaster response strategies.

Community-Centric Approaches

It is imperative to take a community-centric approach when developing a community disaster management plan. The community disaster management planning system is driven by the residents themselves, who take the lead in identifying risks, formulating plans, and executing those plans when disaster strikes. By placing the community at the heart of the strategy, Japan ensures that disaster risk reduction efforts are locally tailored, practical, and sustainable.

Policy and Governance

The community disaster management plan system has had a profound influence on a regional disaster management plan formulated by local governments. Since its implementation in 2014, nearly 9,000 communities across Japan have developed and activated their own disaster management plans as of 2024. This model has significantly raised the disaster resilience of the nation by interacting with local government policies, pushing the importance of localized, community-driven disaster preparedness to the forefront of disaster response. It serves as a testament to how bottom-up initiatives can influence top-down policies, creating a more resilient society.

Partnerships for Impact

The success of Japan's disaster resilience initiatives can be attributed to strong partnerships between various stakeholders. The Cabinet Office, responsible for national disaster management policy, works closely with the Japan Society of Community Disaster Management Plan to promote the adoption and refinement of these plans. The society's scientific analysis and outreach activities - such as the online symposium held in July 2024, which drew over 1,100 participants - have helped amplify awareness and support for community disaster management plans nationwide.

Moreover, in a pioneering collaboration, the public and private sectors worked together in creating a disaster management plan for the Tokyo Station area, one of Japan's most prestigious business districts. A large number of people are expected to stay in this area during a large earthquake due to the suspension of public transportation. The collaboration of both sectors

in evacuation planning and support for evacuees exemplifies the broad applicability and success of this community-centric approach, even in densely populated urban settings like Otemachi, Marunouchi, and Yurakucho.

Through these multifaceted partnerships, Japan continues to strengthen its disaster resilience, proving that collaboration between government, academia, and local communities is key to reducing disaster risk and enhancing response capacities.

Links

- [White paper on Disaster Management in Japan](#)
- [The Japan Society of Community Disaster Management Plan](#)
- [Disaster management in Japan](#)
- [A Study of the Kumamoto Earthquake and Disaster Prevention 4.0](#)



Case 6

Case 6: AdaptaClima – Storytellers Initiative



Location: Esmeraldas, Ecuador; Antofagasta and Taltal, Chile



Level: Local and Community Level



Hazard: Climate-related disasters (floods, landslides, mudflows, and flash floods)



Solution/intervention type: Risk-based adaptation through community storytelling and engagement



Issue(s) addressed: Vulnerability to climate-related disasters, gender inequality, disaster preparedness

Description

The AdaptaClima project focuses on reducing the vulnerability and risks associated with climate change in coastal cities across Latin America, specifically in Esmeraldas, Ecuador, and Antofagasta and Taltal, Chile. A key component of this initiative is the Storytellers Initiative, which seeks to preserve the collective memory of past climate events by gathering and sharing personal experiences from community members. Through this approach, the project seeks to raise awareness of climate risks, especially among younger generations and new residents unfamiliar with the historical impacts of such events.

The methodology includes selecting narrators from high-risk neighbourhoods in Esmeraldas, where individuals share stories about their experiences with floods and landslides. In Antofagasta and Taltal, survivors of significant floods from 1991 and 2015 recount their encounters with mudflows and flash floods. To enhance the storytelling process, capacity-building workshops are conducted to train narrators in effective communication techniques.

The narratives collected are recorded and published on digital platforms, making them accessible to a broader audience. These platforms feature evacuation maps and visual resources, supporting educational outreach. The stories are utilized in public awareness campaigns, school activities, and educational fairs, promoting a deeper understanding of climate risks and encouraging community preparedness.

Currently, the Storytellers Initiative is expanding in Esmeraldas, where 50 more residents will receive training to share their experiences with climate events, enriching the repository of community stories. This initiative not only preserves cultural memory but also motivates local authorities and citizens to take proactive measures towards adaptation and disaster preparedness. Its potential for replication in other coastal areas across Latin America provides an opportunity to enhance climate risk awareness and foster resilient communities.

Addressing Inequalities and Reducing Vulnerabilities

The AdaptaClima Storytellers Initiative significantly reduces inequality and vulnerability by empowering local communities through inclusive participation, education, and knowledge sharing, specifically targeting those exposed to climate risks. The initiative focuses on high-risk neighbourhoods in Esmeraldas, where residents are trained as narrators, enhancing their storytelling skills and ensuring that local voices are valued and heard. By incorporating older residents to share their experiences, the initiative preserves intergenerational knowledge, helping younger generations understand local climate risks and motivating them to take proactive actions. Educational activities like storytelling fairs promote climate literacy throughout the community.

Digital platforms provide free access to stories, maps, and educational content, ensuring that both long-term residents and newcomers are informed about potential risks and better prepared for climate events. Additionally, the initiative advocates for improved urban planning and climate adaptation policies through personal narratives, highlighting the challenges faced by underserved areas and promoting equitable development.

The initiative actively promotes gender equality by ensuring women's participation in storytelling, thereby amplifying diverse perspectives on climate impacts. It also enhances economic inclusion by building communication and leadership skills among participants, particularly from marginalized areas, increasing their employment opportunities and community engagement. The AdaptaClima Storytellers Initiative exemplifies a holistic approach to addressing climate risks, integrating social inclusion, gender equality, and skills development to foster long-term resilience and equitable access to opportunities and services.

Understanding Risk

The AdaptaClima Storytellers Initiative enhances community understanding of climate risks by leveraging personal narratives from individuals who have experienced floods, mudflows, and landslides. These relatable stories foster empathy and awareness, making the risks more accessible. Interactive digital platforms complement this effort by providing evacuation maps and educational resources, ensuring easy access to critical information.

Workshops further develop participants' storytelling skills and deepen their understanding of climate risks. Through school activities, public awareness campaigns, and advocacy efforts, the initiative educates all generations, fostering preparedness and encouraging sustainable actions from both communities and local authorities.

By gathering firsthand accounts, the initiative leverages local knowledge to highlight historical events and community responses often overlooked in formal assessments. This approach ensures that local perspectives inform public awareness campaigns and educational activities, bridging the gap between scientific knowledge and lived experiences. Ultimately, the initiative empowers participants to share practical coping strategies, fostering a sense of ownership over climate adaptation efforts.

Community-Centric Approaches

The Storytellers Initiative places local communities at the core of its disaster risk reduction strategies. By identifying residents from vulnerable areas as narrators, the initiative actively engages them in sharing their experiences with climate risks. Participants receive training through workshops, enabling them to become educators and advocates within their communities.

Community input is integrated into storytelling platforms, public campaigns, and educational fairs. This participatory approach not only raises awareness but also ensures that local voices shape risk reduction strategies. By advocating for improved land-use planning and climate adaptation efforts aligned with community needs, the initiative fosters a sense of ownership and strengthens the resilience of local populations.

Policy and Governance

The AdaptaClima Storytellers Initiative has influenced local government policies by emphasising the need to integrate community knowledge into climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction. By focusing on lived experiences, it advocates for inclusive urban planning and climate-resilient policies in high-risk areas, promoting better land-use regulations and proactive disaster preparedness.

Support from government officials in Ecuador and Chile, including their participation as narrators, underscores the initiative's collaborative approach and their commitment to addressing climate risks. This partnership reflects a shift toward community-centred adaptation strategies that shape current and future policy frameworks.

Partnerships for Impact

The success of the AdaptaClima Storytellers Initiative relies on strong partnerships at national and local levels. Key government agencies, such as Ecuador's Ministry of Environment and Chile's Ministry of Environment, provided strategic guidance, ensuring the integration of local knowledge into climate adaptation policies. Local governments in Antofagasta, Taltal, and Esmeraldas contributed expertise and participated in storytelling activities, reinforcing collaboration between communities and authorities.

CAF (Development Bank of Latin America) served as the implementing entity, coordinating project partners and ensuring accountability to the

Adaptation Fund. The UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) managed partner coordination and provided technical expertise to align the initiative with sustainable development goals.

Community organizations in both Chile and Ecuador played a crucial role in engaging residents and fostering local ownership. In Esmeraldas, the Storytellers Initiative is being developed in partnership with Mujeres de Asfalto, enhancing the inclusion of women's perspectives.

Additionally, SENAPRED (Chile's National Emergency Office) ensured the incorporation of disaster preparedness strategies, aligning the project with national emergency response frameworks. These partnerships were vital for securing resources, technical expertise, and institutional support, leading to broad participation, policy impact, and long-term sustainability.

Links

- [General Initiative Overview](#)
- [Esmeraldas Narrators](#)
- [Antofagasta Narrators](#)
- [Taltal Narrators](#)

B. Social Inclusion and Groups in Vulnerable Context



Key takeaway messages

1- Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction

An inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR) ensures that marginalized groups—such as women, minorities, people with disabilities, and indigenous communities—are actively involved in decision-making processes. Tailoring strategies to address the specific risks faced by these populations fosters local ownership, leading to more effective and sustainable outcomes. Social inclusion not only enhances resilience but also brings economic benefits by lowering recovery costs and promoting equitable access to resources and opportunities.

2- Bridging the Gap for Groups in Vulnerable Context

Prioritising social inclusion in DRR initiatives helps close the gap between vulnerable groups and the resources they need to withstand and recover from disasters. These inclusive measures often focus on developing accessible emergency services, equitable public policies, and ensuring that resources are distributed fairly to those most at risk.

3- Strengthening Resilience through Inclusion

Inclusion in disaster planning strengthens overall community resilience by ensuring that diverse voices are heard, and the unique needs of different groups are addressed. This approach ensures that no one is left behind, creating a more cohesive and resilient society capable of responding to and recovering from disasters.



Case 7

Case 7: Periferia Viva Award



Location: Peripheral territories across Brazil



Level: National



Hazard: Socio-environmental risks, climate change, socio-spatial inequalities



Solution/intervention type: Award and recognition of grassroots initiatives; collaboration between government, civil society, and local communities; public policy promotion focused on reducing socio-environmental risks



Issue(s) addressed: Social and economic exclusion of marginalized communities; socio-environmental vulnerabilities exacerbated by climate change; lack of support for grassroots initiatives in peripheral areas

Description:

The Periferia Viva Award, organized by Brazil's Ministry of Cities through the National Secretariat of Peripheries, emerges as an essential platform for recognizing and supporting grassroots initiatives aimed at reducing socio-spatial inequalities and disaster risk in peripheral communities. By emphasizing the importance of local empowerment, the award not only values the knowledge and experience of these communities but also strengthens their capacity

to tackle socio-environmental challenges. Its objective is to promote social innovation, reduce inequalities and support initiatives aimed at reducing socio-environmental risks, based on a new development paradigm where the voices and needs of marginalized populations are central to decision-making. In this way, the award serves as a powerful tool for transforming narratives, promoting structural change that fosters social inclusion and resilience in the face of climate adversity.

The first edition in 2023 received 1,600 entries, with 54 popular initiatives awarded USD 10,000 each. In 2024, the second edition adopted the theme "Periferia Viva is Peripheries Without Risk", which underscores the importance of minimising socio-environmental risks and empowering communities against the backdrop of climate change. The 2024 edition received 2,100 entries and expanded to 178 awards: 150 for popular initiatives (USD 10,000 each), 25 technical advice initiatives (USD 6,000), and 3 governmental initiatives (trophy).

Addressing Inequalities and Reducing Vulnerabilities

The Periferia Viva Award plays a crucial role in reducing inequalities and vulnerabilities by recognizing, funding, and promoting grassroots projects that operate directly within marginalised peripheral areas. Its focus is on enhancing the quality of life for vulnerable populations through financial support that empowers social inclusion and community development initiatives. Notably, the award's evaluation criteria prioritise projects that actively involve women, Black individuals,

communities, traditional peoples, and people with disabilities. This approach reinforces the award's commitment to combating social and economic exclusion, addressing critical issues like food security, gender equality, and economic inclusion through initiatives such as community gardens and solidarity economy projects.

In 2023, one of the awarded initiatives was the Ibura Mais Cultura collective. Founded by young people—primarily Black and representing diverse sexual orientations—this group is based in the Ibura neighbourhood in the southern zone of Recife, Pernambuco. The collective aims to revitalize the neighbourhood through art, using it as a tool for political transformation. By occupying public spaces, they organise actions, events, and projects that address race, class, gender, sexuality, politics, human rights, urban planning, and risk management. Their work promotes knowledge-sharing and social mobilisation, empowering their community to face challenges and drive change.

Understanding Risk

This initiative effectively enhances community understanding of the risks they face, particularly concerning climate change and disaster preparedness. By emphasizing adaptation and mitigation strategies, the Periferia Viva Award encourages initiatives that promote environmental education and local disaster response solutions. The 2024 theme, “Periferia Viva is Periferia Without Risk”, highlights the significance of preventive measures, thereby enabling communities to adopt adaptive strategies that bolster their resilience against environmental challenges. Furthermore, the award actively incorporates local knowledge as a foundational tool in comprehending the dynamics of peripheral territories. By spotlighting grassroots initiatives, it cultivates an informed perspective that guides public management and policymaking, ensuring that the specific needs of women, youth, and Black populations are addressed.

Community-Centric Approaches

The Periferia Viva Award is organized in six categories aimed at reducing social and economic inequalities in poor and vulnerable communities and qualifying and transforming these territories in the face of climate crisis and its impacts: 1) popular plans, social cartography, and citizen data production; 2) territorial justice and the right to the city; 3) community risk management and climate adaptation; 4) occupation and transformation of peripheral spaces; 5) economy and solidarity networks; and 6) peripheral culture and identity.

The selection criteria of the initiatives include Socio-territorial Impact, Community Engagement and Participation, Cultural Preservation and Identity, Diversity and Inclusion, and Replicability. Many awarded initiatives harness traditional knowledge and community practices to craft locally relevant solutions for socio-environmental challenges. This emphasis on local knowledge fosters a collective understanding of risks and promotes the development of more effective prevention and adaptation strategies, ensuring that community voices are integral to urban development processes. The primary goal of the initiative is to actively recognise local communities that are developing and executing disaster risk reduction strategies, transforming the narrative of peripheral and underserved urban areas from “underprivileged regions” to spaces of potential.

Policy and Governance

The Periferia Viva Award significantly influences public policy by transforming grassroots initiatives into replicable models for social inclusion. Initiatives recognized through the award are documented on the Peripheries Map Platform, facilitating connections between local communities and policymakers. This initiative arose from the Caravana das Periferias, a government effort to showcase the strengths and self-developed solutions of peripheral regions

across Brazil. The award not only highlights successful practices but also encourages new project development and partnerships. For instance, it has sparked collaborations such as the Black Women for Climate Project and the Peripheral Potentials Project, which aim to strengthen the capacities of peripheral communities. By recognizing and supporting initiatives that address pressing risks, the award accelerates investment in actions that mitigate the socio-economic impacts of climate change within these vulnerable areas.

Partnerships for Impact

The success of the Periferia Viva Award is bolstered by a robust network of partnerships, demonstrating the collective power of over 2,000 registered initiatives as of 2024. This initiative

thrives on the support of 15 ministries and public agencies, which amplify its impact in socio-territorial development. The National Secretariat of Peripheries is committed to bringing visibility to the actions of these diverse collectives, influencing additional awards focused on climate justice and the assurance of rights in peripheral regions. Together, these partnerships foster a collaborative environment that enhances the resilience and sustainability of communities across Brazil.

Links

- [Periferia Viva Award 2024 Platform](#)
- [2024 Call for Proposals](#)
- [Coletivo Ibura Mais Cultura](#)



Case 8

Case 8: Disability Inclusive Emergency Management Toolkit



Location: Australia



Level: National



Hazard: Emergency and disaster risk management (with a focus on inclusivity for individuals with disabilities)



Solution/intervention type: Development of a comprehensive toolkit; integration of disability considerations in emergency management; collaborative approach with disability representatives, advocates, and service providers



Issue(s) addressed: Exclusion of individuals with disabilities in disaster risk management; lack of standardized practices for disability inclusion across jurisdictions; need for accessible emergency plans and resources for populations in vulnerable contexts

Description

The Disability Inclusive Emergency Management Toolkit is a comprehensive four-part resource designed to enhance the capabilities of the emergency sector in Australia, ensuring that emergency management and disaster recovery plans are inclusive of individuals with disabilities. This toolkit was developed through

a collaborative process involving disability representatives, advocates, and a variety of support services, including community, health, and social welfare organizations.

The initiative aims to establish a robust framework for integrating disability considerations into emergency management practices across all local government areas and jurisdictions in Australia. The toolkit is structured around four key components:

1. **Overview:** This section highlights the specific challenges faced by individuals with disabilities during emergencies, emphasizing the necessity of incorporating their lived experiences and unique support needs throughout all phases of emergency management.
2. **Principles and Practical Action Guide:** This guide translates seven essential principles for disability-inclusive emergency management into actionable steps, promoting a nationally consistent approach to planning. This framework introduces three practice standards— inclusive planning, strategic partnerships, and accessible resourcing—designed to enhance the effectiveness of disability-inclusive emergency management. It includes twelve indicators across three maturity levels, enabling organizations to measure and improve their practices. Additionally, a six-step guide is provided to assist emergency planners in setting goals, crafting practical strategies, and establishing monitoring systems to track their progress.

3. **Organizational Emergency Preparedness**

Profile: This tool allows community and disability organizations to evaluate their current level of emergency preparedness and capabilities. It encourages these organizations to identify their strengths and develop action plans to enhance their readiness, fostering strategic partnerships with emergency planners to improve inclusive planning and resource accessibility.

4. **Resource Map:** This interactive tool catalogues good practice resources for disability-inclusive emergency management developed across Australia. These resources are assessed for inclusivity and collaborative mechanisms, acting as catalysts for innovation and efficiency in emergency management processes. They are organized by sector (e.g., disability, community emergency, government), and each resource is classified according to its primary purpose, format, and phase within the emergency management continuum, encouraging cross-sector learning and shared planning.

The Disability Inclusive Emergency Management project was initiated by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in response to the increased risks faced by individuals with disabilities in emergencies. To ensure effective and consistent planning that is disability-inclusive, NEMA commissioned the Collaborating4Inclusion research team at the University of Sydney Centre for Disability Research and Policy to develop this toolkit. The project was guided by a national Expert Advisory Panel composed of representatives from leading disability advocacy organizations, ensuring that expert advice informed all stages of the project. An integrated knowledge-to-action methodology was employed to co-produce national principles, practice standards, and actionable guidance for disability-inclusive emergency management.

Addressing Inequalities and Reducing Vulnerabilities

The Disability Inclusive Emergency Management Toolkit fundamentally reshapes the approach to disaster risk reduction by ensuring that the emergency management practices effectively address the diverse needs of individuals with disabilities. It advocates for a holistic approach to emergency management that prioritises safety, accessibility, and shared responsibility across all phases.

This initiative provides actionable tools and guidance to promote a consistent and equitable approach to disability inclusion in disaster risk reduction efforts. By fostering collaboration between government entities, emergency services, and community organizations, the toolkit establishes three standards and roadmaps that facilitate the implementation of practical actions and measurable outcomes in disability inclusion. This commitment ensures that all Australians with disabilities are actively included and supported before, during, and after disasters, regardless of their location.

Moreover, the Toolkit aligns with Australia's Disability Strategy (2021-2031) and underscores the country's human rights obligations as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the priorities set forth in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It is designed for use by government agencies in collaboration with disability representatives and service providers across various sectors, supporting the implementation of Australia's Second National Action Plan under the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (NDRRF).

Understanding Risk

The Disability Inclusive Emergency Management Toolkit enhances community understanding of the risks faced by individuals with disabilities during emergencies. By promoting a person-

centred approach, the toolkit captures and showcases actions taken by communities to advance inclusion in disaster risk reduction practices.

It provides structured self-assessment processes that empower individuals, organizations, and communities to identify and comprehend their unique risks and develop necessary actions based on their specific needs and available resources. These self-assessment tools facilitate participatory engagement between emergency planners and community organizations, fostering a collaborative environment for disaster preparedness.

The Toolkit also leverages local knowledge through a decade of partnerships across various disciplines and sectors. By integrating best practice research with local insights, the toolkit is co-produced and field-tested to ensure its relevance and effectiveness.

Community-Centric Approaches

Community involvement is central to the development and execution of the Disability Inclusive Emergency Management Toolkit. A six-step self-assessment process enables emergency planners to evaluate their maturity levels in relation to the established Practice Standards and to advance actionable initiatives in disability-inclusive emergency management.

This long-term strategy focuses on creating a roadmap for improving maturity in disability inclusion by leveraging successful partnerships that connect individuals, organizations, and sectors. These collaborative efforts harmonize best practice evidence with participatory engagement to co-create tools and approaches that facilitate inclusive emergency management. As a result, the toolkit is readily applicable to a diverse range of stakeholders involved in emergency management.

Policy and Governance

The Disability Inclusive Emergency Management project supports governments to deliver on commitments under Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-31.

Partnerships for Impact

The success of the Disability Inclusive Emergency Management Toolkit stems from essential partnerships formed at various levels, from grassroots initiatives to national, regional and state engagement. The collaborative development of methods, tools, and policy guidance has brought together government agencies, emergency services, individuals with disabilities, and community service providers.

Through education and training initiatives, these partnerships have facilitated awareness and the translation of co-produced tools across regions. The Toolkit amplifies the voices of diverse Australian communities, ensuring that national consistency is achieved in disaster risk reduction strategies and that no one is left behind in emergency planning.

Links

- [Collaborating4Inclusion](#)

Case 9



Case 9: Social Protection for Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change (SPARCC)



Location: Somalia



Level: National



Hazard: Climate change (drought, food insecurity)



Solution/intervention type: Social protection systems integration; community-based adaptation strategies; income-generating programmes for populations in vulnerable contexts



Issue(s) addressed: Climate-related food insecurity and displacement; weak health and nutrition outcomes among groups in vulnerable contexts; lack of inclusive disaster risk management and climate adaptation plans

Description

The Social Protection for Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change (SPARCC) initiative, adopted under the Commission Implementing Decision of August 1, 2023, aims to bolster the resilience of Somali communities against the escalating impacts of climate change. With a budget of EUR 19 million allocated for 2023-2024, the programme focuses on enhancing health

and nutrition outcomes, improving the delivery of social transfers, and creating sustainable income-generating opportunities, particularly for communities affected by displacement.

This initiative emerges at a critical juncture, as Somalia grapples with severe drought conditions and failed rainy seasons, leaving approximately 7.8 million Somalis in need of humanitarian assistance in 2022. The SPARCC initiative not only addresses immediate needs but also supports the implementation of essential national policies, including the Somalia Social Protection Policy, the Somalia National Climate Change Policy, and Somalia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

Through a comprehensive approach, SPARCC targets specific areas with high levels of food insecurity and social vulnerability, integrating multiple components to promote equitable outcomes for the most marginalized populations, especially poor and food-insecure pregnant and breastfeeding women and their children.

Addressing inequalities and reducing vulnerabilities

The SPARCC initiative plays a pivotal role in reducing inequalities by strengthening the national social protection system through inclusive targeting and conflict analysis. By fostering equitable, just, and inclusive societies, SPARCC strategically focuses on selected areas, employing an area-based approach that actively creates synergies among its various components. For instance, poor and food-insecure pregnant and breastfeeding women receiving social

transfers will also benefit from enhanced healthcare and nutrition services, alongside targeted income-generating activities.

In addition to individual support, households and community members are encouraged to diversify their livelihoods. This includes implementing climate change adaptation measures such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training, providing resilient inputs and assets, and promoting sustainable rangeland management and agrifood systems. The initiative places a strong emphasis on the inclusion of groups typically marginalized from decision-making processes, ensuring their involvement in the design and implementation of activities. This includes groups that are often excluded from accessing humanitarian and development assistance, such as ethnic minorities, LGBTQIAPN+ individuals, people with disabilities, and indigenous populations.

The project prioritises food security by integrating maternal and child healthcare and nutrition services within its social protection framework. Simultaneously, it promotes women's empowerment by ensuring their active participation in the design and implementation phases. By facilitating access to financing and stable income sources, the project aims to equip communities—especially women—with skills that are responsive to climate change challenges and the rapidly evolving urban economy, thus expanding their future opportunities.

Understanding Risk

The SPARCC initiative is dedicated to fostering a deeper understanding of the risks faced by communities. It supports the development of Community Action Plans (CAPs), which aim to enhance disaster risk management and contribute to climate change adaptation through investments in public infrastructure, including river embankments and rainwater drainage systems. By establishing and supporting inclusive Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) groups, the

initiative facilitates Participatory Disaster Risk Analysis (PDRA), empowering communities to play a central role in identifying their risks and responses.

Additionally, community-level studies inform the design of livelihood packages for households receiving social transfers. These studies will incorporate an analysis of risks posed by climate change and natural disasters, translating findings into actionable plans that help communities adapt their livelihoods accordingly.

The SPARCC initiative adopts a rights-based approach, actively engaging groups traditionally excluded from decision-making processes. This inclusive model ensures that local knowledge guides the development of solutions, plans, and risk mitigation strategies, ultimately enhancing community resilience and adaptability.

Community-Centric Approaches

Local communities are at the heart of the SPARCC initiative, with local and municipal authorities receiving capacity-building support to effectively engage their constituents. Right holders—particularly the target communities—are involved throughout all stages of the project, from consultations on healthcare needs and livelihood options to the establishment of CMDRR groups and the implementation of CAPs.

The initiative encourages community engagement in managing protected areas for land restoration, rehabilitating water resources, and developing local infrastructure. This collaborative approach ensures that disaster risk reduction strategies are rooted in the needs and knowledge of local populations, fostering a sense of ownership and accountability.

Policy and Governance

SPARCC's efforts significantly influence government policies and contribute to the development of new policy frameworks. The initiative directly supports the implementation

of the Somalia Social Protection Policy, which advocates for a universal social protection system based on a lifecycle approach.

Insights gained from previous actions, including the SAGAL project, inform the need to combine social transfers with enhanced access to maternal and child healthcare and nutrition services. Moreover, the initiative emphasizes the importance of providing income-generating activities for beneficiaries and their communities, paving the way for sustainable pathways out of poverty.

The initiative also plays a critical role in supporting the Government of Somalia in monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Social Protection Policy, ensuring that it aligns with the needs of vulnerable populations and contributes to the establishment of sustainable social protection systems.

Partnerships for Impact

The success of the SPARCC initiative hinges on effective partnerships with line ministries and government institutions, which are essential

for coordination and policymaking. Local and municipal authorities are equally vital, facilitating action at the community level and ensuring that the unique needs of target beneficiaries—especially the most marginalized—are met.

The initiative's operational framework is grounded in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus, necessitating close collaboration with international development and humanitarian organizations. By fostering these partnerships, SPARCC aims to create a cohesive response to the multifaceted challenges faced by Somali communities, ultimately enhancing their resilience and capacity to adapt to climate change.

Links

- [European Commission](#)
- [Somalia Social Protection Policy](#)



Case 10

Case 10: Community Disaster Risk Reduction Plans (PCRRD)



Location: Brazil (slums and urban peripheries)



Level: Local



Hazard: Climate-related risks (flooding, landslides, socio-environmental vulnerabilities)



Solution/intervention type: Participatory urbanism and community-based planning; nature-based solutions for climate adaptation; inclusive and participatory risk mapping and mitigation strategies



Issue(s) addressed: Socio-spatial segregation; vulnerabilities in slum communities; lack of local participation in disaster risk management; inadequate infrastructure to mitigate flood and landslide risks

Description

The Community Disaster Risk Reduction Plans (PCRRD in Portuguese) represent a pioneering initiative aimed at equipping communities in Brazil, particularly those in slums and urban peripheries, with the tools and methodologies necessary for effective climate risk adaptation.

Spearheaded by the National Secretariat for Peripheries of the Ministry of Cities (SNP/MCID), this project focuses on enhancing the capacity of vulnerable populations to engage in risk prevention and mitigation through nature-based solutions. It establishes a robust framework for developing territorial public policies in collaboration with local governments, universities, and social movements.

The methodology employed in the PCRRD is comprehensive, incorporating various forms of mapping and analysis. Central to the initiative is risk mapping, which utilizes geological and geotechnical analysis, hydraulic-hydrological modelling, and urban vulnerability assessments. Community narratives, including firsthand accounts of historical risks such as heavy rainfall, flooding, and mass movements, are integral to the planning process.

Participatory workshops form a core component of the PCRRD methodology, fostering community involvement at every stage. In these workshops, residents, guided by interdisciplinary technical teams, engage in participatory and affective mapping to identify local risk factors, prioritise socio-environmental challenges, and co-design prevention and mitigation strategies. This technical-community approach not only acknowledges the diverse socio-cultural contexts of urban peripheries but also promotes ongoing dialogue among residents, local leaders, public authorities, and technical advisors.

Currently, ten community plans are in development across Brazil's five regions, with an average execution timeline of ten months. One

notable case is in Sol Nascente, Brazil's largest slum, which is home to over 32,000 households. Here, longstanding infrastructure issues have exacerbated flooding and inundation challenges, particularly in areas II and III, where the PCRRD is actively addressing socio-environmental risks through targeted interventions.

The Periférico Laboratory, a socio-technical advisory team from the University of Brasília, applies the Participatory Urbanism social technology approach. This approach seeks to blend technical expertise with community knowledge, valuing the contributions of all stakeholders, from government officials to residents, in a co-creation process for participatory interventions.

Addressing inequalities and reducing vulnerabilities

The PCRRD initiative specifically targets communities grappling with socio-spatial segregation and environmental vulnerabilities, characterized by poverty and precarious living conditions. By focusing on both immediate emergency responses and long-term planning, the PCRRD enhances local capacities through resilient infrastructure, information dissemination, and social participation. This initiative plays a critical role in addressing inequalities and mitigating vulnerabilities associated with various urban risks in Brazil's peripheries.

Furthermore, the PCRRD tackles a broad spectrum of climate-related challenges, including water and food insecurity linked to insufficient resources and inadequate quality. The plans support innovative solutions, such as nature-based interventions, which help alleviate flooding and promote community gardens to enhance food production.

Gender equality is a fundamental principle within the participatory workshops, where the substantial involvement of women is emphasized. Recognizing that women often serve as household heads in peripheral regions, their

leadership is pivotal in the fight for community rights. These participatory processes also serve as platforms for local capacity-building and fostering economic inclusion, exemplified by community kitchens operated by movements such as MTST and MTD, which serve as strategic hubs for solidarity initiatives.

Understanding Risk

A critical aspect of the PCRRD is its emphasis on participatory risk assessment, enabling communities to comprehend the specific risks they face. This involves conducting field visits, where multidisciplinary teams from UNB and SNP/MCID engage in hands-on assessments of the territory, classifying risks into categories such as flash floods, landslides, and structural vulnerabilities. This classification aids in the targeted identification and mitigation of risks prevalent in the community.

The project capitalises on local knowledge through dialogues with community leaders and residents, ensuring that diagnostic tools and methodologies resonate with the unique characteristics and needs of each area. The participatory workshops leverage diverse methods, including social mapping and collective field inspections, to foster a deep understanding of the community's challenges. For example, in Sol Nascente, the initiative began with an interactive storytelling exercise that allowed residents to share their experiences and insights, fostering a collective memory that informs risk assessment.

Community-Centric Approaches

Community engagement is at the heart of the PCRRD. Residents are encouraged to take ownership of risk identification and the development of nature-based solutions. In Sol Nascente, the initiative facilitates workshops that inspire community members to brainstorm and propose actionable solutions to enhance their environment. Activities like the "green ball" exercise stimulate discussions around greening

the community, while participants collaborate on socio-ecological infrastructure solutions, including urban drainage improvements and urban agriculture.

The participatory framework ensures that community members are not just recipients of information but active players in implementing preventive measures against risks, especially during the rainy season. By empowering residents to identify priority actions, the project fosters accountability and community stewardship over the initiatives that aim to mitigate risks and enhance resilience.

Policy and Governance

The PCRRD has the potential to significantly influence local governance and policy frameworks. By providing methodological contributions that prioritise community resilience and urbanization strategies, the initiative encourages the adoption of participatory processes and public engagement. Tactical actions, coupled with territorial interventions, enhance the sustainability and impact of the initiatives.

In Sol Nascente, engagement workshops have facilitated affective and risk mapping, spatial pattern assessments, and the creation of community-driven projects like playgrounds and gardens. Such efforts underline the importance of community involvement in governance at various levels, ensuring that actions reflect the specific socio-territorial demands of urban peripheries.

Public authorities benefit from these community-led plans, as they facilitate governmental actions that align with the aspirations of residents. An example of this collaboration is the partnership with local government that led to the cleanup of a hazardous area filled with debris, creating a safer environment for residents.

Partnerships for Impact

The successful implementation of the PCRRD in 2024 is the result of a collaborative effort between the federal government, three public universities (UFABC, UFRJ, and UnB), a municipal government (Diadema), a state government (Piauí), and three influential social movements (MAB, STM, and MTST). This multifaceted partnership is pivotal in expanding the reach and replicability of the initiative across various peripheral territories, fostering a collective approach to disaster risk reduction and community resilience.

Links

- [Participatory Urbanism Methodology](#)
- [Periférico Lab](#)





Case 11

Case 11: AdaptaClima: Reducing Climate Vulnerability and Flood Risks in Coastal Cities of Chile



Location: Antofagasta and Taltal, Chile



Level: Local



Hazard: Climate-related floods, mudflows, landslides)



Solution/intervention type: Climate risk-based adaptation; community education; gender integration; and capacity building



Issue(s) addressed: Vulnerability to climate-related disasters; gender inequality; and disaster preparedness

Description

The AdaptaClima project aims to reduce vulnerability to climate-related floods, mudflows, and landslides in urban and semi-urban areas of coastal cities in Latin America, focusing on Antofagasta and Taltal in Chile. This initiative implements a climate risk-based approach that fosters collaborative actions, builds networks, and develops a culture of adaptation.

The project unfolds in several phases:

1. **Women's Roundtable on Disaster Risk Management:** This training programme empowers women from Antofagasta and Taltal by enhancing their knowledge in disaster risk management and mental health. It acknowledges that individuals experience different roles and face varying impacts from climate change based on gender. The programme offers training in soft skills, emergency response, and stress management techniques. Over the course of ten workshops, 76 participants earned certification and received emergency supplies upon completion.
2. **Training Initiative for Elderly Women:** Conducted by the Color Habitante Foundation, this initiative focuses on gender issues and the impacts of climate change. Elderly women were trained to reflect on flood control measures in their city and participated in mural creation workshops. These murals serve to convey messages about climate change and resilience while preserving cultural identity.
3. **Disaster Risk Management Education:** Targeted at students and teachers in flood-risk areas, this educational strategy aims to generate a culture of adaptation. Engaging storytelling sessions and puppet shows were designed to help elementary school students understand flood risks in a clear and engaging way. This initiative has reached over 10,000 children, significantly raising awareness about floods and preparedness.

Overall, the AdaptaClima project combines community engagement with targeted training initiatives to build resilience against climate-related disasters while fostering gender equality.

Addressing inequalities and reducing vulnerabilities

The AdaptaClima project actively addresses inequalities and reduces vulnerabilities by focusing on education and community engagement, particularly among vulnerable populations. Through its educational strategy, the initiative emphasizes the importance of understanding climate change, and risk and vulnerability reduction. By reviving memories of past floods and engaging in the design and creation of murals, the project raises awareness about building in safe areas, thereby restoring collective memory. This approach not only mitigates vulnerability but also promotes social equity within the community.

Training programmes in micro-zoning risk areas empower residents to identify safe zones, develop emergency plans, and comprehend the significance of flood control measures. This education equips community members to be better prepared for emergencies, fostering a proactive attitude towards disaster risk management.

Furthermore, the project places significant emphasis on gender equality by highlighting the essential roles women play in disaster response and education for flood prevention. It integrates a gender perspective into all actions, acknowledging that women and men experience distinct roles and face different impacts from climate change within the community. By identifying gender gaps and implementing specific activities aimed at promoting gender equity, the initiative seeks to empower women as leaders. Participants are encouraged to replicate the training in their communities, equipping them with new skills and techniques that enhance

their livelihoods and resilience. Ultimately, the AdaptaClima project contributes to building a more equitable and prepared community in the face of climate risks.

Understanding Risk

The AdaptaClima project enhances community understanding of climate-related risks through comprehensive engagement strategies. It provides training programmes facilitated by governmental and non-governmental organizations, including tsunami and earthquake drills and community workshops, emphasizing the importance of preparedness in a disaster-prone country.

Local knowledge plays a crucial role in these efforts. Workshops focus on improving disaster risk reduction strategies in informal settlements, neighbourhood associations, and schools. Activities such as storytelling and educational guides for students highlight the impacts of climate change, particularly related to hydro-meteorological phenomena, complementing the Ministry of Education's curriculum while strengthening teachers' abilities to foster climate resilience in students.

The initiative empowers women through roundtable discussions, enabling them to lead in risk management and decision-making during emergencies. Lessons learned are incorporated into community action plans for effective risk identification and the protection of lives and infrastructure. Collaborations with key institutions, including the Water Directorate and SENAPRED, further enhance community preparedness, fostering a resilient environment capable of addressing climate-related risks.

Community-Centric Approaches

The AdaptaClima project actively involves local communities in developing and executing disaster risk reduction strategies by focusing on engagement, education, and communication. Local groups participate in risk-based adaptation strategies, promoting awareness of climate-related risks and fostering the creation of networks among stakeholders to build social capital. This initiative facilitates constructive relationships and communication channels among key stakeholders, enhancing collaboration.

Cultural diversity is a core consideration of the project. It emphasizes dialogue and exchange between various communities, recognizing ethnic-racial differences, language usage, and the rights of indigenous populations. Many of the communities involved are primarily composed of immigrants from Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador residing in Antofagasta. The strategies are tailored to address the specific cultural backgrounds of these groups, ensuring effective community linkage and public education.

Additionally, the initiative accounts for the diverse needs of vulnerable populations, such as those with limited literacy or media skills, by providing information in large print or Braille. The project engages communities situated in flood-risk areas, including Antofagasta, Taltal, Mejillones, and Tocopilla, working closely with neighbourhood associations. These community organizations play a vital role in advocating for residents' rights and promoting local development, thus serving as essential partners in community engagement.

The project also addresses encampments—informal settlements where people live in poverty and overcrowded conditions in flood-prone areas—ensuring that their unique circumstances are considered in disaster risk reduction strategies. Through these comprehensive approaches, AdaptaClima empowers local

communities to take ownership of their resilience initiatives, fostering a collective response to climate-related challenges.

Policy and Governance

The AdaptaClima project has significantly influenced government policies by promoting training programmes that foster a culture of adaptation to climate risks within communities. These initiatives have empowered social organizations to implement self-managed projects focused on climate disaster preparedness and prevention.

The mural initiative has gained traction, attracting the participation of regional government agencies to enhance neighbourhood associations' headquarters with artworks addressing climate change and disaster risk reduction. Furthermore, the establishment of a Mudslide Remembrance Day has created a platform for commemorative events across various community administration levels, raising awareness of the severe consequences that past disasters have had on local communities.

Partnerships for Impact

The success of the AdaptaClima Communication Strategy in Antofagasta stems from essential partnerships at national and local levels. Key government agencies played significant roles, with the Ministry of Environment of Chile aligning the initiative with national climate policies and facilitating local knowledge integration into public policy. The Ministry of Public Works, through the Directorate of Hydraulic Works, led the construction of critical flood control measures, while local governments of Antofagasta and Taltal contributed expertise and participated in storytelling activities, reinforcing collaboration.

The CAF – Development Bank of Latin America served as the implementing entity, coordinating project partners and ensuring accountability to the Adaptation Fund. The UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) managed partner

coordination and provided technical expertise to align the initiative with sustainable development goals.

Community organizations in Chile and Ecuador engaged residents and identified participants, fostering local ownership. The Fire Department and neighbourhood associations actively supported the initiative, while SENAPRED (Chile's National Emergency Office) incorporated disaster preparedness strategies.

These partnerships were essential to securing the resources, technical expertise, and institutional support needed to implement the initiative effectively. The collaboration between community organizations, governments, and international agencies ensured broad participation, policy impact, and long-term sustainability.

Links

- Women's Roundtable Program:
 - [Closing of the First Edition of the Women's Roundtable](#)
 - [Closing of the Second Edition of the Women's Roundtable](#)
- Educational Strategy:
 - [AdaptaClima Educational Products](#) (youtube.com)



C. Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Building



Key takeaway messages

1-Building Climate Resilience for Vulnerable Populations

Strengthening resilience to climate change is essential for reducing long-term risks, especially for vulnerable populations. Effective adaptation strategies include ecosystem-based approaches, infrastructure enhancements, and community-driven action plans that target climate risks, such as extreme weather events and rising sea levels.

2- Sustainable and Locally Driven Climate Adaptation

Climate adaptation initiatives empower communities to anticipate and mitigate future risks through sustainable, long-term solutions. Engaging local communities ensures that these strategies are actionable, rooted in local knowledge, and aligned with their unique capabilities, making them more effective and sustainable.

3- Strengthening Resilience through Climate Adaptation

Effective climate change adaptation enhances resilience by improving preparedness and protecting livelihoods, ecosystems, and communities from the growing threats of climate change. These efforts safeguard both people and the environment, laying the foundation for a more resilient future.

Case 12



Case 12 Água Doce Programme



Location: Brazil (semi-arid Northeast)



Level: National



Hazard: Chronic water scarcity, droughts, climate-related vulnerabilities



Solution/intervention type: Desalination technology powered by solar energy; community-based water management systems; capacity building and local empowerment for sustainable water use



Issue(s) addressed: Severe water scarcity in rural and isolated communities; social inequality exacerbated by limited access to potable water; economic challenges linked to water scarcity, such as limited agricultural productivity; gender inequalities driven by the burden on women for water collection tasks

Description

The Programa Água Doce is an innovative and essential initiative of the Brazilian Federal Government that aims to provide potable water to isolated rural communities, primarily in the semi-arid Northeast, which is often plagued by extreme water scarcity. This region faces persistent challenges in accessing fresh water due to

harsh climate conditions and irregular rainfall patterns, which exacerbate social vulnerability and inequality.

The programme stands out by using advanced desalination technology to transform brackish water from underground sources into drinkable water, with many systems powered by solar energy. With over 800 desalination plants in operation, the programme benefits hundreds of thousands of people. Beyond just providing water, the initiative directly addresses key development challenges, promoting improved living conditions in some of Brazil's most vulnerable regions.

The programme's actions began in 2004 and have expanded progressively over time. Its comprehensive methodology integrates environmental conservation with social participation, combining technical, environmental, and social components to ensure the sustainability. Each plant is tailored to the community's specific hydrological and socio-economic conditions, with ongoing management involving community members and local governments, ensuring the project remains culturally and regionally appropriate.

Addressing Inequalities and Reducing Vulnerabilities

The Programa Água Doce is a vital adaptation strategy for rural communities in Brazil's semi-arid Northeast, a region highly susceptible to the impacts of climate change, especially droughts and chronic water scarcity. By providing a stable and safe water supply, the programme significantly enhances community resilience

and mitigates social inequalities linked to water scarcity. With a reliable water source, agricultural activities are transformed. Communities can expand crop cultivation and livestock production, while some have even incorporated aquaculture into their livelihoods. This improves food security and strengthens local economies by enabling surplus production for sale.

The programme also plays a crucial role in promoting gender equality. In many rural areas, women traditionally bear the heavy burden of fetching water, a time-consuming task that limits their participation in other productive or educational activities. By alleviating this burden, the programme empowers women to engage more actively in education, healthcare, and income-generating activities. This shift not only enhances their economic prospects but also positions them as leaders in community decision-making, fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

Additionally, the programme fosters economic inclusion by boosting agricultural productivity and creating opportunities for small businesses related to water use, such as food processing. This increased economic activity allows community members, particularly women and marginalized groups, to benefit from new income streams, thereby improving their quality of life. This way, the Programa Água Doce reduces poverty and strengthens community resilience against future socio-economic shocks.

Understanding Risk

One of the pivotal aspects of the Programa Água Doce is its role in educating rural communities about the risks associated with water scarcity, droughts, and unsustainable water practices. The programme emphasizes that understanding these risks is essential for building long-term resilience and sustainable water management.

The programme conducts training sessions and workshops aimed at different community stakeholders, including local leaders, farmers, and

desalination system operators. These sessions cover topics ranging from understanding water contamination risks and the spread of waterborne diseases to sustainable system management. This ensures that communities are not just passive recipients of aid but are empowered with knowledge that can help them mitigate future risks.

The programme also integrates local and traditional knowledge into its practices. Rural communities, with their intimate understanding of local water cycles, environmental conditions, and historical challenges, provide invaluable insights that complement the programme's technical approaches. This blend of scientific and traditional knowledge ensures that the solutions provided are both culturally appropriate and sustainable over time.

Community-Centric Approaches

At the heart of the Programa Água Doce is a commitment to community engagement and ownership. Shared management agreements are established between the community, local governments, and the Federal Government, clearly defining responsibilities for the operation and maintenance of desalination systems, fostering a sense of community ownership.

A distinctive feature of the programme is the establishment of community funds, with local families contributing small monthly amounts to cover operational costs like electricity and maintenance. This approach ensures the programme's financial sustainability and continued water supply, and empowers communities, providing them with a stake in the system's success and fostering local development.

By promoting community-based management and shared responsibility, the programme strengthens the social fabric of rural areas, creating models of self-sufficiency and local governance that can serve as a blueprint for future initiatives.

Policy and Governance

The success of the Programa Água Doce has had a profound impact on national policy, directly influencing the development of the National Water Security Plan. By demonstrating the effectiveness of community-managed water systems, the programme has shown that grassroots participation is essential for sustainable water management. This model has been adopted in other regions and sectors, inspiring new programmes that focus on water as a core component of rural development and poverty alleviation.

Moreover, the programme has been pivotal in shaping policies that address rural poverty by ensuring that access to potable water is recognized as a fundamental human right. This recognition has led to the allocation of increased resources for poverty reduction initiatives in rural Brazil, highlighting the interconnection between water security and human development.

Partnerships for Impact

The success of the Programa Água Doce is built on a broad network of partnerships that span multiple sectors. The Federal Government, through coordination across various ministries, plays a central role in defining policies, allocating resources, and ensuring the programme aligns with national water security goals. State and

municipal governments are equally crucial, facilitating the programme's implementation by adapting solutions to the specific needs of each community and region. Civil society organizations, including NGOs and local associations, actively engage in community mobilization and participatory management, ensuring that social dimensions are integrated with technical solutions and that local voices are heard throughout the process.

In addition, universities and research institutes contribute by developing innovative technologies and providing capacity-building support for system management, helping the programme remain at the forefront of sustainable water solutions. The private sector, particularly companies involved in sanitation and construction, enhances the programme's infrastructure by supplying high-quality equipment and technical expertise. This collaborative network not only ensures the programme's immediate success but also promotes long-term sustainability, creating a model of partnership-driven development that can be replicated in other regions.

Links

- [Programa Água Doce Folder](#)
- [Programa Água Doce Website](#)

Case 13

Case 13: Red de Municipios de Adaptación al Cambio Climático



Location: Argentina (cities along the banks of the Uruguay River, Entre Ríos)



Level: Local



Hazard: Climate-related risks



Solution/intervention type: Collaborative network for sharing experiences and best practices; knowledge exchange on climate risk and adaptation strategies; focus on gender, generations, and human rights in adaptation efforts



Issue(s) addressed: Climate change impacts on communities; inequalities related to gender and generations; need for collective problem-solving and shared responses to climate challenges

Description

The initiative Network of Municipalities for Climate Change Adaptation, launched under the ACC Río Uruguay project, has been fostering the creation and consolidation of this network since late 2021. This collaborative platform encompasses cities along the banks of the Uruguay River in Entre Ríos and nearby communities, creating a vital space for interaction among municipalities.

The Network aims to facilitate the sharing of experiences, best practices, and lessons learned concerning climate risk and adaptation strategies, with an integrated perspective on gender, generations, and human rights. By identifying common and distinct challenges across the municipalities, it encourages collective problem-solving and the formulation of shared responses to climate change impacts.

Addressing Inequalities and Reducing Vulnerabilities

The initiative actively promotes gender equality, intergenerational equity, and human rights as fundamental principles, ensuring these perspectives are embedded into all activities within the ACC Río Uruguay project. The Network emphasizes these aspects during knowledge exchanges, fostering discussions on the various factors contributing to risk while identifying strategies and actions to mitigate them.

Through a focus on common local issues and actionable responses, the Network works to build safer, more sustainable cities that prioritise inclusive approaches to gender, generations, and human rights.

Understanding Risk

Climate-related risks represent one of the primary challenges faced by communities along the Uruguay River, and addressing these risks is a key focus of the Network's activities. Knowledge exchange meetings provide a critical platform for communities to enhance their understanding of climate risks, fostering mutual learning and capacity strengthening.

The project generates valuable resources, including studies, analyses, and mappings, which are shared within the Network. These resources serve to enrich local knowledge and improve understanding of the risks communities encounter, aiding in the development of effective risk reduction strategies.

Community-Centric Approaches

The ACC Río Uruguay project supports the organization of meetings that encourage broad participation from different sectors and stakeholders. This inclusive approach aims to strengthen dialogue around local issues and collectively develop responses to climate challenges, ensuring that community perspectives are central to disaster risk reduction strategies.

Policy and Governance

Engagement from municipal and provincial governments (Entre Ríos) and technical agencies has been instrumental in influencing local policies. By participating in the Network, these entities contribute to and gain insights from shared experiences, fostering the implementation of effective risk management policies tailored to local contexts.

Partnerships for Impact

Essential partnerships have been formed with municipal governments along the Uruguay River, various sectors of the Entre Ríos Government, the National Institute of Industrial Technology, the National Institute of Agricultural Technology, the National University of Entre Ríos, the Autonomous University of Entre Ríos, and the National Technological University, among others. These collaborations enhance the initiative's impact by providing resources and expertise vital for successful climate adaptation efforts.

Links

- [Guidelines for Planning Climate Adaptation in Coastal Municipalities](#)
- [Network of Municipalities for Climate Change Adaptation](#)





Case 14

Case 14: Municipal Risk Reduction Plans (PMRR)



Location: Brazil



Level: Local



Hazard: Geological, geotechnical, and hydrological risks



Solution/intervention type: Comprehensive risk assessment and mapping; community engagement in risk identification and mitigation; development of urban infrastructure tailored to local vulnerabilities



Issue(s) addressed: Vulnerabilities in peripheral urban areas; socio-territorial inequalities exacerbated by climate change; need for improved early warning systems and disaster preparedness

Description

The Municipal Risk Reduction Plans (PMRR in Portuguese) represent a comprehensive initiative designed to enhance urban resilience through the identification and mitigation of geological, geotechnical, and hydrological risks. This project, implemented across various Brazilian municipalities, particularly targets peripheral urban areas, which are often the most vulnerable to disasters. The PMRR employs accessible and technical language to create detailed risk maps that outline hazards and vulnerabilities, providing critical information for risk management strategies and preventive measures.

The process involves extensive risk mapping, which identifies, analyses, and spatializes the various risks, allowing for tailored interventions to mitigate potential disasters. Currently, 30 PMRRs are being developed across four of Brazil's five regions, in collaboration with 16 public universities and the Geological Service of Brazil, under the auspices of the Ministry of Mines and Energy. The average timeline for producing the PMRR document is approximately 18 months.

Key to the PMRR methodology is community engagement, involving the collection of granular data through dialogues with local governments and at-risk communities. This participatory approach not only fulfils technical criteria but also enhances community resilience, empowering residents to better prepare for and respond to potential risks.

Addressing Inequalities and Reducing Vulnerabilities

The PMRR plays a pivotal role in identifying the most vulnerable areas within municipalities, which often reflect broader socio-territorial inequalities, which can be exacerbated by climate change. By guiding targeted risk prevention and mitigation actions, the PMRR enhances community resilience. The initiative advocates for the development of urban infrastructure that aligns with the unique socio-spatial characteristics of these areas and promotes improvement to early warning systems.

Moreover, the project emphasizes community knowledge and risk perception as critical components of empowerment, fostering local capacities to confront inequalities. As vulnerability is integral to risk analysis, PMRRs

prioritise interventions in socially critical areas, directing investments toward urban peripheries that experience the highest risk concentrations. This strategic allocation of public resources not only prepares these territories to withstand disasters but also improves their social, economic, and environmental conditions.

The risk sectorisation process considers a range of factors—including social, cultural, educational, health, and economic aspects—to effectively evaluate local vulnerabilities. Workshops in social cartography and oral history roundtables further engage predominantly women and heads of households in participatory mapping activities, ensures that community voices shape the identification of high-risk areas and the prioritisation of both structural and non-structural interventions, such as training programmes and local development initiatives.

Understanding Risk

The PMRR initiative promotes a shared understanding of risk through its participatory development process, which centres community dialogue. This approach involves active listening to local knowledge and sharing risk classifications and sectorizations, thereby empowering communities to comprehend the factors generating risks in their territories.

By integrating technical-scientific expertise with local territorial knowledge, the PMRR fosters a collaborative understanding of disaster risks. Employing techniques such as affective mapping, oral history, diagnostic walks, and social cartography, the initiative not only collects valuable data but also promotes community awareness of socio-environmental risks. This educational process is crucial for building scenarios that inform risk mapping in the PMRR.

Community-Centric Approaches

The PMRR initiative underscores the importance of community involvement in the formulation and execution of disaster risk reduction strategies. It actively listens to local perceptions and descriptions of risks while facilitating technical

dialogues between communities and public authorities. Diagnostic walks and technical workshops promote a collaborative approach to anticipatory risk management strategies, including infrastructure projects and zoning regulations, ensuring alignment with community needs.

Policy and Governance

The PMRRs serve as vital planning instruments for the detailed management and reduction of risks. They influence local public policies by fostering dialogue with the community throughout the development and implementation phases. This initiative contributes to proactive urban planning, enhancing civil defence mechanisms, urban infrastructure, and land regularization efforts.

Partnerships for Impact

The success of the PMRR initiative relies on strategic partnerships with various stakeholders, including municipal governments, civil society representatives, and technical institutions. These collaborations are crucial for data collection, local capacity building, and the integration of PMRR findings into city management. The involvement of 16 public universities and the partnership between the Ministry of Cities and the Ministry of Mines and Energy, alongside the Geological Survey of Brazil, exemplify the coordinated efforts to produce PMRRs in a participatory and community-focused manner.

This case study highlights Brazil's commitment to fostering resilience through inclusive, community-driven risk reduction strategies, showcasing the critical intersection of social equity and disaster management.

Links

- [Guide to Municipal Risk Reduction Plans](#)
- [Financial Agreements for PMRR Implementation](#)
- [YouTube Channel: Periferia Sem Risco](#)

Case 15

Case 15: Acción Climática Joven (ACJ)



Location: Uruguay (coastal regions and Youth Centres)



Level: National



Hazard: Climate-related risks (rising temperatures, coastal vulnerabilities, environmental degradation)



Solution/intervention type: Empowerment of youth through climate education; capacity building for educators and youth leaders; integration of climate action into community programmes



Issue(s) addressed: Lack of youth perspectives in national climate strategies; socio-environmental vulnerabilities in coastal regions; knowledge gaps in climate risk management; gender and generational inequalities in climate action participation

Description

Launched in 2022 by UNICEF and Uruguay's Ministry of Environment, Acción Climática Joven (ACJ) is an initiative designed to empower adolescents and young people to develop their own climate initiatives, incorporating their perspectives into Uruguay's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). By 2023,

ACJ expanded its reach through Uruguay's coastal Youth Centres (Centros Juveniles, or CJ), in partnership with UNICEF, the Ministry of Environment, the Institute for Children and Adolescents of Uruguay (INAU), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the Promesa Climática and the binational project on Climate Change Adaptation in Vulnerable Coastal Cities and Ecosystems of the Uruguay River.

Youth Centres, operated by INAU, serve as community spaces that promote education, social integration, and support for adolescents and their families. These centres provide year-round multidisciplinary programmes that focus on socialization, educational support, vocational training, and employment opportunities. The ACJ initiative integrates climate awareness and capacity building within these centres, empowering teachers and youth leaders to guide participants in the co-creation of climate action projects.

The programme spans approximately six months, beginning with training sessions for teachers and youth leaders. These sessions cover regional climate risks, natural and social vulnerabilities, and the projected consequences of climate change. A subsequent workshop introduces a methodological toolkit to support the development and implementation of youth-led climate projects. By the end of the programme, eight groups had completed and implemented their projects, emphasizing youth as active contributors to local climate resilience.

A similar initiative has been introduced in Argentina's Concordia, with plans for further expansion to additional locations in Entre Ríos. This initiative aims to build the capacity of youth leaders to become environmental advocates in their communities.

Addressing Inequalities and Reducing Vulnerabilities

The ACJ initiative fosters learning and reflection on climate challenges within local communities, with a specific focus on educators and young people. By encouraging youth participation and co-creation, the programme enables knowledge sharing among participants, empowering them to act as climate resilience advocates in their communities. This active engagement reduces inequalities by bridging information gaps that often exacerbate vulnerabilities.

Moreover, participants from various communities are given opportunities to present their experiences in national forums such as the National Science Clubs Fair and the Uruguay Sustainable Expo 2024. The programme's inclusion at these events demonstrates its broader societal impact. For example, during the Expo, one Youth Centre hosted a "Play for the Environment" booth where visitors engaged with interactive games designed by adolescents.

Another key initiative saw young people from the CJ organize tree-planting activities in public spaces to mitigate heat stress, improve air quality, and promote environmental education and community engagement.

The programme aligns with gender, generational, and human rights perspectives, focusing on the environmental challenges facing CJ neighbourhoods. Youth-driven climate action projects ranged from solid waste recycling and circular economy initiatives to urban greening efforts, native plant cultivation, and the development of educational games using recycled materials.

Understanding Risk

ACJ focuses on raising awareness about local environmental risks and equipping communities with the knowledge and tools to address them. The programme's approach is holistic, helping young people understand the specific challenges their neighbourhoods face, while also encouraging them to propose and implement solutions that enhance local climate resilience and adaptation.

Workshops are designed to allow adolescents to contribute their perspectives and deepen their understanding of the environmental risks that affect their surroundings. Simultaneously, the programme builds their capacity to develop and execute climate projects, empowering them as active agents of change in their communities.

Community-Centric Approaches

Youth Centres are firmly embedded in their local communities, working closely with adolescents and their families. This engagement fosters strong community ownership of the climate actions initiated by the ACJ participants. By involving young people in the co-creation and implementation of climate resilience strategies, the programme strengthens ties between the centres and their surrounding communities, enhancing collective efforts to reduce risks and improve adaptation to climate change.

Policy and Governance

The collaborative efforts of the programme's implementing partners have significantly strengthened Uruguay's national climate response. ACJ is supported by the National Climate Change Response System of Uruguay, and the programme continues to evolve, offering new opportunities for youth-led climate action and capacity building. This cooperative model among government entities, UN agencies, and local communities sets a strong example of governance for climate resilience.

Partnerships for Impact

Partnerships have been essential to the success of ACJ. The collaboration between UNICEF, the Ministry of Environment, UNDP, and INAU allowed for the integration of climate action into Youth Centres, bringing the programme directly into communities. This network of partnerships ensures that ACJ not only has a strong institutional foundation but also reaches vulnerable populations, empowering them to engage in climate action at a grassroots level.

Links

- [Acción Climática Joven](#)
- [Young People Join Climate Action Along the Uruguay River](#)
- [Climate Action in Concordia, Entre Ríos](#)
- [UNICEF Uruguay Climate Action Kit](#)
- [UNDP Uruguay Youth Climate Action 2023](#)
- [Uruguayan Ministry of Environment Climate Action](#)



D. International and Regional DRR Collaborations



Key takeaway messages

1- International and Regional Collaboration for Shared Resilience

Collaboration at international and regional levels is essential for addressing shared disaster risks and vulnerabilities. These initiatives facilitate the exchange of knowledge, resources, and expertise across borders, enabling large-scale resilience-building efforts that benefit all participating regions.

2- Coordinated Responses to Transboundary Risks

Pooling resources and aligning strategies across countries and regions allow for more effective, coordinated responses to transboundary risks such as flooding and climate impacts. Partnerships between governments, organizations, and communities strengthen disaster preparedness on a global scale, enhancing the ability to respond collectively.

3- Enhancing Resilience through Global Cooperation

International collaborations boost resilience by leveraging shared knowledge, fostering solidarity, and encouraging innovative approaches to disaster risk reduction. These cooperative efforts promote the development of inclusive, effective strategies that address the unique challenges faced by different regions.



Case 16

Case 16 Transitional Development Assistance (TDA)



Location: Crisis-prone regions across Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe, South Asia, and Southeast Asia



Level: Community, Regional, and National



Hazard: Disasters and conflicts



Solution/intervention type: Crisis management and resilience building; multisectoral approach (food security, infrastructure, disaster risk management, community inclusion); humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus integration; local community partnerships and capacity building; inclusive Disaster Risk Management (DRM) committees



Issue(s) addressed: Long-term resilience to crises; empowerment of marginalized populations; inequalities in resource access; gender equality and economic inclusion; understanding and managing local risks; community engagement in disaster preparedness and response

Description

The Transitional Development Assistance (TDA) is a flexible and adaptable instrument designed for crisis management by the German

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It serves to strengthen resilience in regions impacted by disasters or conflicts, empowering communities to independently navigate crises and reduce their vulnerability to future shocks. Established under the 2020 TDA strategy, this instrument adopts a multisectoral approach, addressing four key areas: food and nutrition security, rebuilding essential infrastructure and services in WASH, health, education and energy, disaster risk management (DRM), and fostering peaceful and inclusive communities. The comprehensive projects do not only support communities to overcome crisis but build resilience in the long-term, ensuring affected populations become less reliant on external aid.

TDA operates within the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus, bridging humanitarian relief with long-term development efforts and peacebuilding activities. It is activated during or in the aftermath of crises when governments can no longer safeguard their populations. Rooted in local contexts, TDA leverages existing structures and the knowledge of the communities it serves. This is achieved through partnerships with experienced entities, including the United Nations (UN), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW). As of 2024, TDA projects are operational in crisis-prone regions across Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.

In line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, TDA's disaster risk management projects prioritise prevention and resilience. These projects are built on comprehensive risk and resilience assessments, gender analyses, and, when necessary, peace and conflict evaluations. A participatory approach ensures that local communities, particularly those most at risk, are actively involved in preparedness, response, and recovery strategies. A striking example of TDA's inclusivity is in South Sudan, where World Vision has established inclusive DRM committees, ensured 40% female representation and advocated for child protection. In Ukraine, UNICEF's TDA project ensures children and young adults have safe environments for development and learning, fostering resilience even amidst ongoing conflict.

Addressing Inequalities and Reducing Vulnerabilities

TDA places a strong emphasis on addressing inequalities and reducing vulnerabilities by tailoring its interventions to meet the specific needs of the most vulnerable groups. These efforts are not only geared toward improving immediate living conditions but also aim to empower marginalized populations through inclusive participation in project design and implementation. Vulnerabilities are assessed based on factors such as poverty, gender, age, disability, and social or ethnic discrimination. This approach ensures that TDA addresses not just the symptoms of crises but their root causes, helping to reduce disparities in access to resources and services.

The TDA initiative adopts a three-tiered resilience-building framework. Firstly, it enhances stabilisation capacity by meeting immediate basic needs and maintaining functional local structures. Temporary cash transfers, for instance, provide vital financial support during crises, preventing negative coping mechanisms. Secondly, it strengthens adaptive capacity by promoting long-term solutions like early-warning systems, vocational training, and the creation

of alternative income sources. Finally, TDA promotes transformative capacity, encouraging systemic changes that reduce vulnerabilities at their core. For example, in regions affected by drought, TDA introduces drought-resistant crops and trains farmers, which has significantly improved agricultural resilience in rural areas. Reforestation and ecosystem-based approaches, such as mangrove planting in coastal regions, not only mitigate disaster impacts but also diversify income through sustainable forestry and aquaculture.

In addressing key issues like food security, gender equality, and economic inclusion, TDA operates a holistic, multisectoral approach. In South Sudan, for example, Welthungerhilfe's TDA project equips women with skills in food processing and financial management, enhancing their capacity to prepare for future environmental challenges. Additionally, TDA ensures a strong gender focus, mandating that every new project undergo a thorough gender analysis and be assigned a gender equality marker. This ensures that gender-sensitive measures are embedded throughout the project lifecycle, promoting gender equity as a core objective.

Understanding Risk

Understanding risk is fundamental to TDA's mission, and all projects are grounded in thorough risk and resilience analyses. To help communities comprehend and address the risks they face, TDA projects implement early-warning systems and establish inclusive DRM committees. These local groups receive training in risk mapping and management, enabling them to create and monitor disaster contingency plans effectively. Community engagement is reinforced through awareness campaigns, educational activities in schools, and radio programmes that disseminate meteorological and risk-related information. For example, in Niger's Diffa region, meteorological data is broadcast via community radio, helping farmers and pastoralists plan their activities around anticipated climate events.

In South Sudan, GIZ-led TDA projects focus on sustainable natural resource management, using risk assessments to guide agricultural resilience efforts. The construction of dykes, reservoirs, and erosion control systems serves to safeguard local livelihoods against the recurring threats of droughts and floods.

Community-Centric Approaches

Central to TDA's philosophy is its community-centric approach, prioritising local ownership and participation in disaster risk reduction strategies. TDA projects actively involve local authorities, civil society, and vulnerable population groups in developing and executing mitigation strategies. In Somaliland, for instance, GIZ's TDA project has established village-level disaster protection committees that are instrumental in implementing erosion control measures to preserve agricultural land.

In Somalia, Save the Children, another TDA partner, has set up over 20 local DRM and early-warning committees. These community-based initiatives are critical in formulating and executing local DRR plans, ensuring that the affected populations are not only aware of the risks they face but are also empowered to mitigate them.

Policy and Governance

Although TDA projects are primarily implemented at the local level, they often influence broader governance structures and policies. While political solutions to crises may originate at the national level, their successful execution depends on localized efforts. TDA's bottom-up approach facilitates these solutions, working directly with communities to implement reconciliation processes, land return initiatives, and other politically sensitive solutions on the ground.

Partnerships for Impact

TDA's success is built on robust partnerships with both governmental and non-governmental actors. The key implementing partners of TDA include Germany-based NGOs, GIZ, KfW, and various UN agencies such as UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP). These partnerships ensure that TDA's projects are tailored to local needs while benefitting from international expertise and resources. Whether it is delivering immediate humanitarian aid or fostering long-term development, these collaborations are vital in ensuring that TDA's multisectoral approach delivers meaningful and lasting impact.

In conclusion, TDA exemplifies Germany's commitment to integrating humanitarian relief, development, and peacebuilding into a cohesive framework, addressing both immediate needs and long-term structural challenges to build a more resilient future.

Links

- [BMZ Transitional Development Assistance](#)
- [TDA Strategy Document](#)
- [Factsheet on Disaster Risk Management](#)
- [Product Sheet on Resilience Analyses](#)



Case 17

Case 17 The Weather and Climate Information Services (WISER)



Location: Africa (focused on East Africa, MENA, and Asia-Pacific)



Level: Community, Regional, and National



Hazard: Climate shocks and stresses



Solution/intervention type: Weather and Climate Information Services (WCIS); Early Warning Systems; capacity building and training for local communities; inclusive governance and co-production of weather services



Issue(s) addressed: Vulnerability reduction for marginalized populations (women, persons with disabilities, and informal settlements); inequalities in access to climate information; community engagement and understanding of local climate risks; disaster preparedness and response, particularly in the context of extreme weather events

Description

The Weather and Climate Information Services (WISER) programme is a flagship initiative aimed at building climate resilience and preparedness by enhancing access to and the use of Weather and Climate Information Services (WCIS). Operating across Africa, the Middle East, and

the Asia-Pacific region, WISER is pivotal in empowering communities, governments, and institutions to anticipate and mitigate the impacts of climate shocks and stresses. By supporting decision-making at various levels—from local to regional—the programme fosters proactive measures to reduce vulnerability, with a strong emphasis on inclusivity and leadership from women, marginalized groups, and people with disabilities.

WISER's approach combines cutting-edge scientific data, local knowledge, and community co-production to design weather services and early warning systems tailored to the specific needs of vulnerable populations. It collaborates extensively with government agencies, media, civil society, and key sectors like disaster management, agriculture, and health, ensuring a holistic response to climate challenges. Since its inception in Africa in 2015, WISER has made significant strides, expanding its reach to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in 2022 and the Asia-Pacific region in 2023.

Key achievements include:

- **East Africa:** Over 6,000 individuals have been trained in producing, accessing, and utilizing weather information. Projects like DARAJA, which work with communities in informal settlements in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, have significantly reduced flood risks by enhancing the delivery of extreme rainfall warnings. The DARAJA initiative is now scaling to Addis Ababa and Kampala. On Lake Victoria, improved early warning systems have led to a 30% reduction in

weather-related deaths and generated \$44 million in economic benefits for local fishing communities.

- **MENA:** During Tropical Cyclone Tej in Yemen in 2023, WISER-supported anticipatory actions, including evacuations and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) interventions, helped save lives and protect vulnerable populations.
- **Asia-Pacific:** WISER enabled 500,000 farmers in Bangladesh to protect their crops, with 98% acting after receiving early warnings about wheat disease, benefiting marginalized farmers, women, and youth.

Addressing Inequalities and Reducing Vulnerabilities

WISER stands at the forefront of addressing inequalities by promoting climate resilience in marginalized communities. A prime example is the DARAJA project, which co-developed early warning systems for extreme weather events in informal settlements like Kibera, Africa's largest slum. Through local radio and SMS, WISER ensures that these communities can act swiftly to protect themselves from floods and heatwaves. This inclusive approach helps ensure that vulnerable populations, often left out of decision-making processes, have access to lifesaving information.

In rural regions, the **Enhancing Climate Change Resilience in East Africa (ECCREA)** project helps farmers better prepare for weather variability by providing accurate weather forecasts. This assists farmers in choosing crop varieties and determining optimal harvest times, reducing the risk of crop failure and securing their livelihoods. In Southern Africa, **the Early Weather Warning Systems (EWSA)** initiative focuses on nowcasts, giving people in urban areas crucial information about impending extreme weather within a 0–6-hour timeframe, empowering rapid action.

WISER also promotes inclusive governance. For instance, in Mozambique, WISER facilitated the inclusion of disabled people in disaster management committees, ensuring their voices are heard in planning and decision-making processes related to climate risks. In West Africa, the **ResAlert project** in Senegal and Niger enhances flood resilience by disseminating early warnings in local languages and emphasizing the needs of traditionally marginalized communities. Similarly, the **Clima-Social project** in the Sahel region improves WCIS coordination to protect vulnerable groups from climate-related shocks, with special attention to women and underrepresented groups.

The **Istibak project** in the MENA region strengthens the resilience of displaced populations in Iraq, Yemen, and Syria, integrating forecast-based action into national disaster risk management systems. This co-produced system ensures that those displaced by conflict and climate hazards receive timely, relevant weather information to reduce vulnerability.

Each WISER project adheres to strict Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) standards. These include budgeting for GESI expertise, inclusive co-production of WCIS, and setting GESI-specific impact indicators, ensuring that weather services are tailored to meet the diverse needs of vulnerable populations, from women and youth to those living in conflict-affected areas.

Understanding Risk

The UK initiative takes a multifaceted approach to help communities understand the risks they face, with a particular focus on weather and climate hazards. Using multiple languages and diverse media platforms, weather information is disseminated via channels such as WhatsApp, SMS, community radio, television, and even in formats like braille and sign language, ensuring accessibility for all. This strategy is further enhanced through partnerships with community

leaders, such as those involved in the DARAJA project. These leaders play a critical role in translating complex weather forecasts into straightforward messages that are delivered via SMS or WhatsApp, offering practical advice on managing climate-related health risks or taking preventive measures during extreme weather events like heatwaves or flooding.

To enhance community involvement and comprehension, designated Climate Champions assist in breaking down technical information into more understandable formats, empowering local populations to take action. Climate Cafés - open forums for discussing the climate crisis - bring together scientists, media, climate experts, and community members, including farmers, fishermen, and pastoralists, fostering essential exchanges of information.

Workshops and training sessions further enhance capacity by involving diverse groups such as youth, pastoralists, media professionals, and civil society organizations in co-designing and interpreting weather messages. These efforts have had tangible impacts, as seen through feedback from groups like female pastoralists in Marsabit, who rely on weather information to plan their daily activities, conserve resources during droughts, and make critical decisions about livestock management. Similarly, fisherfolk and farmers in Kendubay and Turkana have used weather forecasts to reduce conflicts over grazing land, prepare for planting seasons, and adjust their travel routes during extreme weather conditions.

Incorporating local knowledge has proven essential to the success of the initiative. Through tailored forecasts and training on how to interpret weather data, the initiative has made previously inaccessible information useful to a broader audience. The WISER program, for example, has trained community leaders to translate weather forecasts into local dialects, ensuring the information is relevant and actionable. An evaluation of the DARAJA project underscored the effectiveness of this approach, with over 75% of respondents receiving critical weather

information before the recent Nairobi floods, 94% of whom reported that it helped them prepare for the event.

Community-Centric Approaches

The initiative places local communities at the centre of disaster risk reduction strategies through co-production workshops and focus group discussions. By bringing together scientists, media professionals, climate experts, farmers, fishermen, and other stakeholders, the initiative fosters vital exchanges of information that shape more effective climate services. These workshops provide an opportunity for end-users—such as women, people with disabilities, and those living in informal settlements or exposed to climate extremes—to share their perspectives and inform the development of weather and climate services.

In Kenya, the Weather Mtaani initiative, supported by WISER, exemplifies the power of community-driven approaches. Operated by and for the residents of Kibera, Weather Mtaani has transformed communication around climate-related risks, reducing the number of deaths caused by flooding and helping communities prepare for health impacts related to extreme weather. The initiative has also created opportunities for income generation and education on weather-related technology.

A key element of the approach is the Missing Voices methodology, which seeks to elevate the perspectives of traditionally marginalized groups, ensuring their needs and concerns are central to disaster risk management strategies. This inclusive approach strengthens the resilience of communities by helping them anticipate and respond to climate variability and change.

Policy and Governance

The WISER initiative has had a profound impact on government policies and frameworks for weather and climate services across multiple countries. In Kenya, it supported the development

of 10 county climate information service plans, shifting policy toward user-centred services. WSER also facilitated the creation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for specialized climate services, which were integrated into national entities like the Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen) and the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS). These efforts have enabled decision-makers to use objective seasonal forecasts in co-produced climate services, enhancing preparedness and response to climate-related risks.

WSER's influence extends beyond Kenya, with significant contributions in Somalia, South Sudan, and Ethiopia. In Somalia, the initiative strengthened the Inter-Ministerial Meteorological Working Group (IMMWG) through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by five key ministries. This led to the development of a roadmap for establishing a meteorological authority for the Federal Republic of Somalia, a crucial step toward centralizing and improving weather and climate services.

Looking ahead, WSER aims to support city and municipal authorities in integrating community response plans into their policies, while also promoting a national framework for climate services that prioritises the needs of women and those disproportionately affected by extreme weather and climate change.

Partnerships for Impact

Partnerships have been instrumental in the success of this initiative, spanning a wide range of sectors and stakeholders. Local meteorological departments have played a crucial role in co-producing localized weather forecasts and providing essential training and capacity building. Faith-based organizations have also been vital allies, leveraging their trusted voices to

disseminate important climate information and engage communities in meaningful ways.

Civil society organizations, particularly those representing the urban poor, people with disabilities, and women, have been key partners in ensuring that the needs and concerns of vulnerable groups are met in the development and dissemination of weather and climate information. These partnerships have allowed the initiative to reach marginalized populations more effectively, ensuring that they are equipped with the information needed to strengthen their resilience.

Local media outlets have further amplified the initiative's outreach, while collaborations with government entities have been essential for influencing policy and integrating weather and climate services into national and regional planning. These diverse partnerships have not only extended the reach of the initiative but have also deepened its impact, ensuring that communities are better prepared to face the challenges posed by climate variability and extreme weather events.

Links

- [Met Office WISER Programme](#)



Case 18

Case 18: Resilience Initiative Africa (RIA)



Location: Africa (focus on East, South, and West Africa)



Level: Regional, National, and Local



Hazard: Multi-hazard approach with special focus on climate-related risks and disasters



Solution/intervention type: Capacity strengthening for state and non-state actors; dynamic learning and exchange platform for risk-informed urban development; gender-equitable guidelines and participatory measures in urban planning



Issue(s) addressed: Inequalities in disaster risk management, particularly for marginalized populations (women, persons with disabilities); need for localized risk reduction strategies in informal settlements; community engagement and understanding of local risks and vulnerabilities

Description

The Resilience Initiative Africa (RIA) (2022 – 2026) is an intersectional effort to strengthen the urban resilience capacities of state and non-state actors at the regional, national, and local levels across Africa. It is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

(GIZ) GmbH and commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). With the African Union Commission (AUC) as its political partner and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Regional Office for Africa as a strategic collaborator, RIA promotes risk-informed urban development across key regions in Africa.

The initiative:

- (1) Establishes a barrier-reduced learning and exchange platform on urban disaster risk reduction that will span across the African continent.
- (2) Supports the AU and its member states in developing inclusive, gender-equitable guidelines on risk-informed urban development.
- (3) Partners with UNDRR's MCR2030 initiative, Slum Dwellers International (SDI), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to implement participatory measures aimed at analysing and reducing risks, specifically in informal settlements.
- (4) And enhances climate adaptation and climate risk financing through the African Adaptation Initiative (AAI), ensuring that urban and national strategies align with the realities of climate change.

RIA's work aligns with international and continental agendas, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change,

and the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. By engaging with global and regional platforms, RIA ensures its activities are not only informed by international best practices but also contribute to the advancement of the region's urban resilience goals.

The initiative prioritises urban areas in East, South, and West Africa, with particular attention to informal settlements, where the social and economic impacts of urban disasters are disproportionately severe. To this end, RIA supports the MCR 2030 resilient hubs in Homa Bay County in Kenya, Quelimane in Mozambique, and Kampala in Uganda, and is involved in developing disaster risk strategies in pilot cities such as Windhoek in Namibia, Bukavu in Democratic Republic of Congo, Sahr in Chad, and eThekweni in South Africa. At the national level, it works closely with Ghana and Uganda as part of the MCR2030 initiative, extending its reach to countries within the SADC region through partnerships aimed at crafting localized risk reduction strategies. Moreover, through collaboration with SDI, pilot projects are being carried out in informal settlements of Accra in Ghana, and Mwanza in Tanzania, integrating the experiences from these cities into the broader strategy.

Central to RIA's methodology is cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration with local governments, civil society organizations, and regional bodies. This coordination fosters coherent and integrated disaster risk reduction strategies that are context-specific and responsive to local needs.

Addressing Inequalities

A key focus of RIA is to address the profound inequalities that exist in disaster risk management by implementing a gender-responsive and inclusive approach. This is particularly evident in its work with marginalized and vulnerable populations living in informal settlements, such as women, elderly, youth and persons with disabilities. These communities often bear the brunt of disaster impacts.

Participatory methodologies enable them to take ownership and integrate their lived experiences and local knowledge into the broader framework for disaster risk reduction.

RIA advocates for inclusive learning and exchange formats, ensuring that access barriers are reduced allowing for meaningful participation for everyone. Through partnerships with local organizations and initiatives such as SDI, RIA empowers communities to contribute meaningfully to decision-making processes.

In Accra, Ghana, SDI noted that the community-led process, which involves women, men, and youth, is instrumental in assessing and prioritising economic, social, and environmental needs. Similarly, in Mwanza, Tanzania, the identification of risks related to food security, gender equality, and economic inclusion highlights the essential role that local communities play in managing these challenges.

Understanding Risk

RIA emphasizes a participatory approach to building community understanding of risks. By involving community members in risk assessments, the initiative ensures that risk knowledge is both accessible and relevant to the local context. In Mwanza, SDI reports that risk awareness has been strengthened through community engagement, where local federations facilitate the identification and mitigation of risks. In Accra, the consistent data collection efforts by SDI help communities recognize and address risks related to food security and sanitation.

Local knowledge plays a critical role in RIA's approach. In Mwanza, traditional risk-reduction practices are incorporated into the broader risk management strategies. Similarly, in Accra, community members leverage their understanding of local conditions to protect themselves from disasters, with SDI providing support through early intervention and the implementation of sustainable practices.

Community-Centric Approaches

At the heart of RIA's strategy is a community-centric approach that ensures local communities are directly involved in both the development and execution of disaster risk reduction strategies. This is particularly important in informal settlements, where local participation ensures that the strategies reflect the unique needs of the communities. In Mwanza, SDI has formed community groups that are responsible for gathering and disseminating disaster education, ensuring that the community is well-equipped to handle future risks. Similarly, in Accra, local federations are created to map geographical borders, helping communities plan for disasters in a way that reflects their specific vulnerabilities.

Policy and Governance

RIA supports the African Union in its development of gender-equitable guidelines for risk-informed urban development as part of the Africa Urban Resilience Programme (AURP). The initiative also plays a role in advancing regional frameworks such as the SADC Regional Resilience Framework 2020-2030 to ensure better alignment between continental and regional work on urban resilience. Through the MCR2030 initiative RIA contributes to shaping national risk reduction strategies in Ghana and Uganda that have far-reaching implications for disaster risk governance.

Partnerships for Impact

The success of RIA is rooted in its strong partnerships with key stakeholders at multiple levels. The AU creates a common understanding of urban risks in Africa among its member states and establishes frameworks and mechanisms to mitigate them. UNDRR collaborates with local and national governments to implement urban resilience strategies, while NGOs and grassroots organizations, particularly SDI, engage marginalized communities to ensure that disaster risk reduction efforts are inclusive and context-specific with a special focus on informal settlements. These partnerships do not only facilitate the implementation of risk-informed strategies but also ensure that the various needs, experiences but also capacities of most exposed population groups are reflected in policy and planning.

Links

- [Factsheet of GIZ Regional Programme Resilience Initiative Africa \(RIA\)](#)



IV. Conclusion and Way Forward

This compendium highlights the critical role of community-based approaches in disaster risk reduction (DRR), demonstrating how targeted interventions can strengthen resilience, reduce vulnerabilities, and empower marginalized populations. While not all initiatives are exclusively community-driven, the focus on community engagement remains a core objective. Many G20 member states' practices underscore how fostering local participation, and leadership enhances the effectiveness and sustainability of DRR efforts. These initiatives align with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the priorities of the Brazilian Presidency's Issue Note for the G20 DRR Working Group, reinforcing a broader commitment to sustainable development and inclusive risk governance.

The diverse cases presented in this compendium offer valuable insights into the multifaceted strategies that reduce disaster risks while promoting social cohesion, inclusion, and resilience. By addressing systemic drivers of risk - such as inequality, poverty, and social exclusion - these practices demonstrate that tackling these root causes is essential for effective disaster preparedness and recovery.

While the success stories showcased here provide hope, scaling up and replicating these practices globally will require sustained effort across multiple levels. Governments can operationalize these practices by integrating them into national DRR strategies and local action plans, ensuring alignment with international frameworks like the Sendai Framework. The first steps include establishing clear pathways for capacity-building, enhancing data-sharing platforms, and developing inclusive policy frameworks. Collaboration with civil society and the private sector can help mobilise resources and expertise, while governments, multilateral organizations, and financial

institutions must create flexible financing mechanisms that address local needs, especially in vulnerable and disaster-prone regions.

The Way Forward

Moving forward, it is crucial to continue fostering an inclusive and collaborative approach to disaster risk reduction. The lessons learned from these practices highlight the importance of engaging all stakeholders, particularly at the community level, to ensure that DRR initiatives are tailored to local contexts. This approach leads to stronger resilience, reduced vulnerabilities, and more efficient disaster response and recovery. Social inclusion is key to shaping better-targeted policies, improving preparedness, and ultimately reducing future costs—both human and economic.

Data-driven decision-making, knowledge sharing, and capacity-building will be essential to implementing these strategies effectively, enabling policymakers to adopt risk-informed approaches that prioritise the most vulnerable populations.

The G20 DRR Working Group, under the Brazilian Presidency, is well-positioned to lead this agenda, promoting enhanced international cooperation and shared learning. This compendium represents a significant step toward achieving a more resilient global society, but it also serves as a call to action. The next steps should focus on scaling up these efforts, strengthening governance frameworks that support community-based DRR, and securing innovative financing solutions to ensure that no community is left behind in the fight against disaster risks.

The G20's ongoing commitment to DRR, as reflected in this compendium, will be instrumental in fostering a safer, more resilient future for all, aligning with the Sendai Framework



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