

Translating Locally-led Resilience into Action
in the Age of Complex Risk and Digital Transformation
복합위험과 디지털 전환시대, 지역주도 복원력의 실행

The 5th



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송도컨벤시아 그랜드볼룸 A
Songdo Covensia, Grand Ballroom A

Nairobi's Journey: Institutionalising Locally-Led Disaster Risk Reduction

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Nairobi County Profile

- Kenya's capital and economic hub, established as a county under the 2010 Constitution; comprises 17 sub-counties and 85 electoral wards.
- Kenya's most densely populated and fastest-urbanising county, placing sustained pressure on housing, drainage, and public infrastructure.
- A significant share of residents live in informal settlements — including Mathare, Kibera, Mukuru, Korogocho, Kawangware, and Kiamaiko — many sited along riparian land and floodplains.
- Rapid, often unplanned urban growth, combined with informal settlement density, is a defining driver of the county's disaster risk profile.

MAJOR HAZARDS IN NAIROBI CITY COUNTY

- Floods
- Fires
- Infrastructure and urban hazards

Case Study: The March–May 2024 Floods

- Nairobi County was the hardest-hit county nationally; Mathare, Kibra and Mukuru informal settlements — sited along riparian land — bore the brunt of the damage.
- The Mathare River burst its banks on 24 April 2024, sweeping through the Mathare settlement and displacing over 7,000 people from that area alone.
- Response included multi-agency clean-up of rivers and drains, temporary shelter in schools, churches and community halls, and a subsequent High Court order for compensation of residents forcibly relocated from riparian land.

Institutionalising DRR: Systems, Schools and Communities



Disaster Management Information System (DMIS)

Standardised, disaggregated incident reporting – including revised fire-incident forms capturing age-group data – to strengthen evidence-based response



DRR Clubs in Schools

Peer-led disaster education embedding preparedness into everyday school life



Safe Schools Fire Safety Programme

Piloted across Starehe, Mathare, Makadara and Embakasi South sub-counties



Dedicated Disaster Management Officers

Embedded in county planning processes, such as the Woodley-Kilimani Local Physical & Land Use Development Plan

Financing Locally-Led Resilience Through Partnerships



Funder Mapping

A pipeline of six flagship DRR programmes mapped against 27+ potential funders – UN agencies, the World Bank, bilateral donors, climate funds, private sector and philanthropies



Standardised Project Pipeline

Priority initiatives structured as Project Information Notes and Concept Notes, including a climate resilience & urban mental health project and a flood-risk reduction proposal



Direct Partner Engagement

Outreach to international technical and financial partners, such as GIZ, to co-develop DRR strategy and implementation support



Looking Ahead

Seeking peer city partnerships and co-financing opportunities through MCR2030 to scale up locally-led implementation

Thank you

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