



PUTTING COMMUNITIES AT THE CENTRE

Local government's role in understanding and reducing disaster risk

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Resilience is built with communities — not delivered to them

HAZARD × EXPOSURE × VULNERABILITY

÷ CAPACITY = DISASTER RISK

Municipal choices influence every term — where people live, how infrastructure performs, who receives services and whether warnings lead to action.

Opportunities for Local government to reduce risk

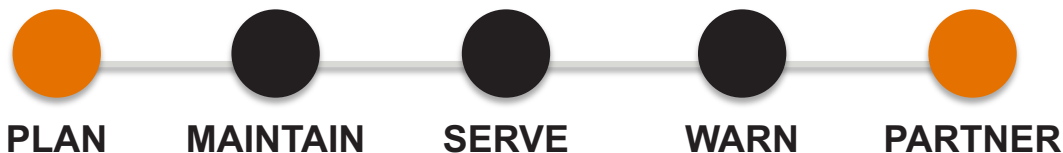


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EVERYDAY RISK-REDUCTION LEVERS

Municipal decisions lower risk through planning, maintenance, services, preparedness and community partnership.

WHAT MUNICIPALITIES ALREADY DO—BEFORE IMPACT



Land-use choices manage exposure. Maintenance protects infrastructure. Basic services reduce vulnerability. Early warnings and community preparedness help people act.

CURRENT PRACTICE: RISK REDUCTION MUST BE EMBEDDED IN IDPs, MAINTENANCE, SERVICES, EARLY WARNING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

Every municipal function shapes risk



MUNICIPAL DECISION	RISK-REDUCTION OUTCOME
Land use & human settlements	Avoid creating new exposure
Infrastructure & maintenance	Prevent system failure and cascading impacts
Basic services & public health	Reduce everyday vulnerability
Local economy & social protection	Protect livelihoods and recovery capacity
Communication & community services	Turn warnings into trusted action

Communities are the first risk sensor



LIVED EXPERIENCE	TECHNICAL EVIDENCE	CO-DESIGNED ACTION
Residents know Where impacts begin Who is missed Which coping strategies already work	Municipal data shows Hazards and exposure Service dependencies Asset condition and trends	Together we decide Priority actions Named owners Measures communities can verify
LIVED EXPERIENCE + TECHNICAL EVIDENCE = SHARED RISK OWNERSHIP		

Make risk part of municipal management



1

LISTEN

Ward structures, traditional leadership and organised community groups to identify lived risk.

2

MAP

Build shared ward-level risk profiles and identify critical service dependencies.

3

PLAN

Integrate priority risks into the IDP, spatial and sector plans, and the disaster-management plan.

4

FUND & TRACK

Put actions into the SDBIP, maintenance and capital budgets, with quarterly accountability.

Early warning is a service chain



1 DETECTEA	2 TRANSLATE	3 REACH	4 ACT & LEARN
Use credible forecasts, local observations and agreed thresholds.	Explain likely local impact, timing and protective action in plain language.	Use trusted people and multiple accessible channels—not one platform.	Enable evacuation, continuity and support; confirm reach and improve.

EARLY-WARNING MUST BE DESIGNED FOR THE LAST HOUSEHOLD — VERIFICATION THAT THE WARNING CHANGED BEHAVIOUR

Prevention must win scarce resources



CURRENT PATTERN	RESILIENCE PATTERN
Relief after loss	Maintenance before failure
Risk owned by one unit	Shared accountability across directorates
Projects without risk screening	Risk screening for capital and procurement
Once-off awareness	Continuous preparedness with communities
BUDGET RULE: FUND THE ACTIONS THAT AVOID REPEATED LOSS, PROTECT ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND LOWER LIFETIME COST.	

Peer learning scales municipal capability



SHARED CAPABILITY	TESTED PRACTICE	SYSTEM LEARNING
Shared specialists Pool scarce technical, GIS, warning and recovery expertise. Communities of practice Connect practitioners across municipal and provincial boundaries.	Mutual-aid protocols Pre-agree people, equipment and cross-boundary support. Peer reviews Assess readiness constructively and target support where needed.	Tested tools Reuse risk methods, templates, drills and procurement approaches. After-action learning Convert event lessons into standards, training and policy change.
CONNECTED PRACTITIONERS • PEER REVIEW READINESS • SCALE WHAT WORKS		

Community insight must drive municipal prevention



- Communities must co-decide risk priorities and verify progress.
- Every municipal function must reduce risk through routine decisions.
- Amplify prevention—and make warnings reach the last household.
- Use peer learning and mutual aid to scale what works.





Resilience starts at home.
Local government makes it
possible.



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