

## ABOUT DARAJA

DARAJA (Developing Risk Awareness through Joint Action) is a new project under the Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa (WISER) East Africa programme which is funded by the DFID and managed by the UK Met Office. DARAJA aims to improve access to, and enhance the use of, relevant weather and climate information by residents of informal settlements in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. This will enable residents to be more resilient and better prepared to take adaptive measures. The project also aims at enabling city authorities to make better climate and weather informed decisions in relation to urban informal settlements.

## DARAJA'S GOALS

- Improved resilience of people living in urban informal settlements through co-creating interfaces and services to address climate-related risks.
- Reliable, co-produced and accessible climate information services inform new planning decisions at city-level or settlement-level.
- Increased use of reliable, co-produced and accessible climate information services by people living in a low-income/urban informal settlement.

The DARAJA process is guided by the principle of co-design. DARAJA brings together different stakeholders of weather and climate information to have dialogues with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMMS) to create and pilot improved weather information services.

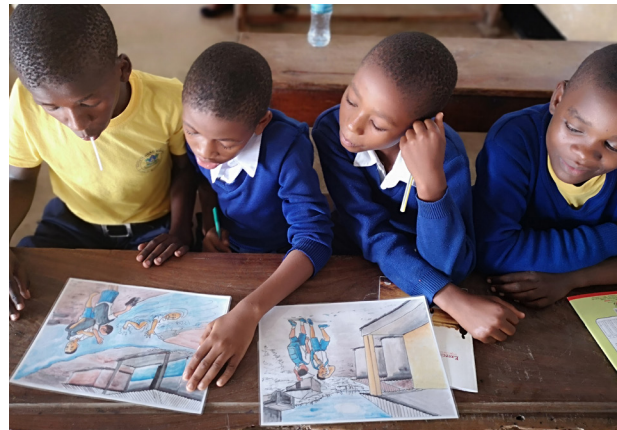
DARAJA is implemented by Resurgence, Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) and Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI) in partnership with the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) and the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA).

Met Office

WISER  
Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa



RESURGENCE.



Credit: Stella Stephen

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# DARAJA

Developing Risk  
Awareness through  
Joint Action

## DARAJA Process

The process starts with **scoping the context** of the urban informal settlement, and in-depth **baseline study** on how weather and climate services are used. This robust knowledge base is complemented by **mapping the information ecosystem (IE)** of the city. The IE map helps understand the channels through which residents and city authorities gain information and why these channels are chosen over others. It can diagnose blockages and barriers to the flow of weather & climate information. Together with the baseline data, the IE map is used to inform the design of pilot projects to improve residents' use of weather & climate information services.

DARAJA is guided by the **principles of codesign and user-centricity**. It brings together a range of stakeholders who already exist in the weather and climate information (WCI) services ecosystem, and also those stakeholders who can be a part of the ecosystem. All the stakeholders, along with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, collaborate to **design improvements to existing WCI services**. This process ensures that the improved WCI services are **user-centric and inclusive**.



Credit: Kipkemboi, P

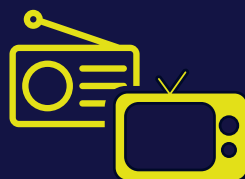
The **improved WCI services are piloted** for a period of time at city and settlement scale. In Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, the co-designed pilot services range from daily weather broadcasts on local radios and TV, to training school students and community leaders to interpret and communicate weather conditions.

While the pilot services are tested, the stakeholders involved provide **regular feedback**. Lessons learned from this period of implementation are assessed and required adjustments are made to the pilot services. Finally, opportunities for **scaling up** these services are assessed and learnings are **shared** at different fora.

**“Students informed their parents especially those who live at the valley used the information to protect their belongings which usually were being destroyed by flooding including school books for children. This time the case was different precautions was taken much earlier.”**

**Jane Brown, Keko Mwangi Primary School, Dar es salaam, 2019**

## DARAJA Pilot Project Elements



### Media: Radio & TV

Radio and TV emerged as a preferred channel for communicating weather and climate information (WCI). DARAJA's media partners were trained to interpret WCI and to provide impact related advice responsibly together with the regular weather updates in an easy-to-understand format.

In Dar es Salaam, radio and television channels are used to communicate weather forecasts - severe weather and regular weather - to the community and city at large. Through their shows they create awareness on the usefulness of WCI in order to be better prepared for different weather conditions.

In Nairobi, the radio partners share weather updates on a daily basis together with weather related advice messages relevant to residents of informal settlements. Additionally, discussions on forecast based action and issues around climate change as well as extreme weather events are held in the radios' breakfast shows. Awareness messages, such as why it is important to take notice of weather information are also shared in radio spot format on a weekly basis.



### School

In Dar es Salaam, school students are championing the importance of WCI. Students from various schools are trained through school clubs to interpret and communicate WCI to fellow students as well as their parents. Through this, the students educate and encourage their parents to access and take action in response to weather forecasts. This is done with the support of their teachers who have been trained on communicating WCI.



### Social Media

In Nairobi, the weekly weather forecast released by KMD is shared through WhatsApp to a group of city stakeholders which include the Kenya Red Cross, Nairobi City County, media and residents of various informal settlements in Nairobi.

In addition, the weekly weather forecast is shared on the newly set up KMD Nairobi City County facebook page and on the local media facebook page Habari Kibra. Over the next month on Habari Kibra page, awareness videos on forecast based action will also be released.



### Community Leaders

Selected by their community, local leaders are trained to interpret WCI coming from Tanzania Meteorological Authority in Dar es Salaam, and Kenya Meteorological Department in Nairobi. A community communication system has been created wherein trained local leaders share the weekly and severe weather forecasts in an easy-to-understand format through a cascade of messages that are disseminated by SMS, word of mouth or phone calls.

Through this system, WCI reaches many different groups in the community. A feedback mechanism has been developed to ensure that the availability and quality of the disseminated information reaching the community is assessed and that the recorded feedback is shared with TMA in Dar es Salaam, and KMD in Nairobi.

**“The programs we had (live radio interactive sessions, daily weather forecast updates and social media engagements) have also improved the interest and understanding of our community to matters concerning weather and they can now use weather information in a better way.”**

**Alex Kememwa, Pamoja FM, Nairobi, 2019**