



Mbarara, Uganda

Local progress report on the implementation of the 10 Essentials for Making Cities Resilient (2013-2014)

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Essential 1

Put in place organization and coordination to understand and reduce disaster risk, based on participation of citizen groups and civil society. Build local alliances. Ensure that all departments understand their role to disaster risk reduction and preparedness.

How well are local organizations (including local government) equipped with capacities (knowledge, experience, official mandate) for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation?

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Description of Progress & Achievements:

?The law, Guidelines and polices are in place but the challenge is with financing the implementation of policies especially in Mbarara municipality. ?

To what extent do partnerships exist between communities, private sector and local authorities to reduce risk?

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Description of Progress & Achievements:

?We are at the preliminary level of engaging the community and the private sector eg, Nile Breweries Limited (a subsidiary of SABMiller) who have set a new beer processing plant in Mbarara. We (Municipal team) meet monthly with the NBL corporate team to discuss the issue of pollution of the River Rwizi and other potential hazard issues eg, water pollution, water usage (efficiency), road infrastructure, waste management, green house gas emissions.?

How much does the local government support vulnerable local communities (particularly women, elderly, infirmed, children) to actively participate in risk reduction decision-making, policy making, planning and implementation processes?

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Description of Progress & Achievements:

The Municipal Council work with local communities in low-lying wetland areas to maintain the drainage channels and implementation of the anti-Malarial health campaigns. We also award grant money to youth groups for environment conservation activities like tree planting in open spaces. We also employ some of the locals in our compost project as casual workers at the landfill sites.

To what extent does the local government participate in the national DRR planning?

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Mbarara Municipality participated in the development of the national guidelines and policy related to DRR at national level.

Essential 2

Assign a budget for disaster risk reduction and provide incentives for homeowners, low-income families, communities, businesses and public sector to invest in reducing the risks they face.

How far does the local government have access to adequate financial resources to carry out risk reduction activities?

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Risk reduction financing is still overshadowed by environment management financing in the municipality. There are actually areas with in the municipality which is prone to landslides but there is no commitment towards working on it.

To what degree does the local government allocate sufficient financial resources to carry out DRR activities, including effective disaster response and recovery?

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Description of Progress & Achievements:

We have committed funds to de-silt drainage channels (atleast \$20,000 per annum); for waste management (atleast USD10,000 per month).

What is the scope of financial services (e.g. saving and credit schemes, macro and micro-insurance) available to vulnerable and marginalised households for pre- disaster times?

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Description of Progress & Achievements:

?We give SACCOs (savings and credit cooperatives) grants of USD1000 for small groups.?

To what extent are micro finance, cash aid, soft loans, lone guarantees etc available to affected households after disasters to restart livelihoods?

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Description of Progress & Achievements:

We usually assign some provisions in case of disaster especially when farmers lose their gardens during extended droughts or hailstorms.

How well established are economic incentives for investing in disaster risk reduction for households and businesses (e.g. reduced insurance premiums for households, tax holidays for businesses)?

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

?Mbarara has not yet been prone to big disasters like other regions of the country so most local stakeholders have not yet appreciated the importance of DRR. ?

To what extent do local business associations, such as chambers of commerce and similar, support efforts of small enterprises for business continuity during and after disasters?

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Although Mbarara Municipality has not yet experienced any disaster of considerable magnitude, the Mbarara Local investor's club is likely to give a supporting hand in case of any need given their contributions towards health facilities. ? ?

Essential 3

Maintain up-to-date data on hazards and vulnerabilities, prepare risk assessments and use these as the basis for urban development plans and decisions. Ensure that this information and the plans for your city's resilience are readily available to the public and fully discussed with them.

To what degree does the local government conducted thorough disaster risk assessments for key vulnerable development sectors in your local authority?

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

to a small extent i.e annually.

To what extent are these risk assessments regularly updated, e.g. annually or on a bi-annual basis?

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Annually the municipal authorities tests and condemns buildings that are deemed inhabitable or risky. ??

How regularly does the local government communicate to the community, information on local hazard trends and risk reduction measures (e.g. using a Risk Communications Plan) including early warnings of likely hazard impact?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

?We have monthly radio programmes with 3 radio stations in the town (Vision radio, Great African radio and Radio West). Recently, we started an initiative that sensitizes people about not discharging waste water from their bathroom and toilets into the swamps and wetlands untreated. ?

How well are local government risk assessments linked to, and supportive of, risk assessments from neighbouring local authorities and state or provincial government risk management plans?

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Description of Progress & Achievements:

We have an initiative that comprises all the districts of Greater Mbarara (7 in number) on the conservation of the River Rwizi catchment area.

How well are disaster risk assessments incorporated into all relevant local development planning on a consistent basis?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

?DRR is integrated into the Municipal Development Plan, the Strategic plan and the Municipal budget. ?

Essential 4

Invest in and maintain critical infrastructure that reduces risk, such as flood drainage, adjusted where needed to cope with climate change.

How far do land use policies and planning regulations for housing and development infrastructure take current and projected disaster risk (including climate related risks) into account?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Housing	Yes
Communication	No
Transportation	Yes
Energy	No

Description of Progress & Achievements:

We have a structural plan that guides infrastructure development and housing in the municipality; it puts into account issues to do with Storm water flow. We also have a Physical Planning committee that guides, inspects and monitors housing development

How adequately are critical public facilities and infrastructure located in high risk areas assessed for all hazard risks and safety?

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Description of Progress & Achievements:

?We assess the housing structures regularly in the slum areas as part of routine inspection of neighborhoods.?

How adequate are the measures that are being undertaken to protect critical public facilities and infrastructure from damage during disasters?

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Description of Progress & Achievements:

?Since we have not yet got a disaster shock, many people are still complacent and our housing inspection measures might not be adequate.?

Essential 5

Assess the safety of all schools and health facilities and upgrade these as necessary.

To what extent have local schools, hospitals and health facilities received special attention for "all hazard" risk assessments in your local authority?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Schools	Yes
Hospitals/ health facilities	Yes

Description of Progress & Achievements:

?As a policy all schools have standard procedures on how to handle particularly fire outbreak and lightning; even the health facilities. ?

How safe are all main schools, hospitals and health facilities from disasters so that they have the ability to remain operational during emergencies?

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Schools	Yes
Hospitals/ health facilities	Yes

Description of Progress & Achievements:

?all the schools and hospitals are evenly distributed in the three wards of the municipality. They are equipped with water, electricity, lightning conductors and other measures to handle risky hazards. Incase of an emergency those that would survive any disaster, they are equipped to provide supplementary services incase of a disaster. ?

To what degree do local government or other levels of government have special programs in place to regularly assess schools, hospitals and health facilities for maintenance, compliance with building codes, general safety, weather-related risks etc.?

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Schools	Yes
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Hospitals/ health facilities Yes

Description of Progress & Achievements:

There are annual assessments for the School and Health centers by the respective ministries of Education and Health.

How far are regular disaster preparedness drills undertaken in schools, hospitals and health facilities?

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Schools	Yes
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Hospitals/ health facilities Yes

Description of Progress & Achievements:

?Rarely do we conduct such drills but only at the level of fire extinguishers working with Uganda Police. ?

Essential 6

Apply and enforce realistic, risk compliant building regulations and land use planning principles. Identify safe land for low-income citizens and develop upgrading of informal settlements, wherever feasible.

How well are risk-sensitive land use regulations and building codes, health and safety codes enforced across all development zones and building types?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

The municipal physical planning committee sits every Wednesday of the week to review development proposals in conformity with the municipal structural plan and other laws. It comprises of the Town Clerk, Municipal physical planner, staff surveyor, Municipal medical officer, health inspector, environment officer, and the municipal engineer with his team.

How strong are existing regulations (e.g. land use plans, building codes etc) to support disaster risk reduction in your local authority?

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Description of Progress & Achievements:

the regulations are there although it is important to note that there is political interference during implementation ? ?

Essential 7

Ensure education programmes & training on disaster risk reduction are in place in schools and communities.

How regularly does the local government conduct awareness-building or education programs on DRR and disaster preparedness for local communities?

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Programs include cultural diversity issues	Yes
Programs are sensitive to gender perspectives	Yes

Description of Progress & Achievements:

There are radio programmes conducted by the Municipal authorities covering arrange of issues including DRR which unfortunately is given less attention.

To what extent does the local government provide training in risk reduction for local officials and community leaders?

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

very minimal

To what degree do local schools and colleges include courses, education or training in disaster risk reduction (including climate related risks) as part of the education curriculum?

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Schools train in DRR only to students studying geography as a subject. ? ?

How aware are citizens of evacuation plans or drills for evacuations when necessary?

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Not much.

Essential 8

Protect ecosystems and natural buffers to mitigate floods, storm surges and other hazards to which your city may be vulnerable. Adapt to climate change by building on good risk reduction practices.

How well integrated are local government DRR policies, strategies and implementation plans with existing environmental development and natural resource management plans?

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Description of Progress & Achievements:

DRR policies are part of the municipal environment strategy although noticeably, they are not emphasized.?

To what degree does the local government support the restoration, protection and sustainable management of ecosystems services?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Forests	No
Coastal zones	No
Wetlands	Yes
Water resources	Yes
River basins	Yes
Fisheries	No

Description of Progress & Achievements:

The municipal law enforcement team is in place to protect the wetlands, spring wells and river Rwizi.?

How much do civil society organizations and citizens participate in the restoration, protection and sustainable management of ecosystems services?

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Few citizens participate in the conservation of river Rwizi and majority of them encroached the river for housing and farming activities.?

How much does the private sector participate in the implementation of environmental and ecosystems management plans in your local authority?

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Description of Progress & Achievements:

The private sector especially the business community have attempted to supplement the municipality in ecosystem management although the destruction is over and above the efforts to conserve the ecosystem? ?

Essential 9

Install early warning systems and emergency management capacities in your city and hold regular public preparedness drills.

To what degree do local institutions have access to financial reserves to support effective disaster response and early recovery?

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Not at all

To what extent are early warning centres established, adequately staffed (or on-call personnel) and well resourced (power back ups, equipment redundancy etc) at all times?

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Nothing in place

How much do warning systems allow for adequate community participation?

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

minimal warning systems are in place.

To what extent does the local government have an emergency operations centre (EOC) and/or an emergency communication system?

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

The Municipal council has neither emergency operations centre nor emergency communication system other than the private mobile phones owned by the staff.

How regularly are training drills and rehearsal carried out with the participation of relevant government, non-governmental, local leaders and volunteers?

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

very minimal training drills like how to operate fire extinguishers are in done once a year. ? ?

How available are key resources for effective response, such as emergency supplies, emergency shelters, identified evacuation routes and contingency plans at all times?

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Stockpiles of relief supplies	Yes
Emergency shelters	Yes
Safe evacuation routes identified	Yes
Contingency plan or community disaster	Yes

preparedness plan for all major hazards

Description of Progress & Achievements:

nothing in place.

Essential 10

After any disaster, ensure that the needs of the survivors are placed at the centre of reconstruction with support for them and their community organizations to design and help implement responses, including rebuilding homes and livelihoods.

How much access does the local government have to resources and expertise to assist victims of psycho-social (psychological, emotional) impacts of disasters?

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

It's hard to determine given the fact that the authority has never experienced any disaster of serious magnitude

How well are disaster risk reduction measures integrated into post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation activities (i.e. build back better, livelihoods rehabilitation)?

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

It's hard to determine given the fact that the authority has never experienced any disaster of serious magnitude ?

To what degree does the Contingency Plan (or similar plan) include an outline strategy for post disaster recovery and reconstruction, including needs assessments and livelihoods rehabilitation?

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

It is hard to determine given the fact that Mbarara Municipal Council has never experienced any disaster of serious magnitude