



SALGA Eastern Cape Municipal Brief

SALGA Support to Alfred Nzo DM: Workshop on Urban Risk-Informed Development Planning and Making Cities Resilient

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SALGA EC with the support from the National office supported the Alfred Nzo District Municipality on the workshop on urban risk informed development planning and making cities resilient. The district is the first to collaborate with the UNDRR in the province for this initiative

and this was held on the 06 -08 May 2025. This was attended by officials from various sectors in the district, NGOs, CSOs, academia, councillors and neighboring municipalities.

The background to this initiative is as a result of current and future challenges of mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in development planning that demand new approaches, mechanisms, sets of skills and competencies that need to be identified and strengthened in order to form the basis of increasing public demand and political commitment to local actions and budget allocations. Lack of appropriate knowledge on the subject, lack of government commitment and the absence of mainstreaming in current organizational and government strategy are key existing challenges.

Urban risk is continually increasing, therefore it has been estimated that more than 50% of the world's population is living in urban areas. Additionally, urbanization is taking place at an unprecedented rate. Therefore, in the next 20 years, the world's population is predicted to increase by an additional two billion people. By 2030 more than 60% of the world's population is expected to live in cities, with record concentrations in large urban conglomerations and megacities in the developing world. Vulnerability of cities to disasters is on the rise especially as poor people settle in high-risk urban areas. Unfortunately, planning and development of cities has not considered the consequences of hazards such as earthquakes, hydro-meteorological risks

and others. The implication of this reality is the need for countries to focus their collective energies to create a safer world for urban dwellers and develop a series of innovative approaches to meet this challenge.

In this regard, building resilience and adapting to climate change is crucial for cities. Efforts to build resilience in cities can benefit from integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation with existing efforts in disaster risk management, sustainable development and other similar planning processes.

This capacity building workshop, while promoting the importance of effective climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, aimed to:

1. Increase political commitment and social demand for disaster resilient development, adapted for climate change, aiming for sustainable development.
2. Increasing engagement of local government actors in the field of local development and planning with disaster risk reduction. Climate change adaptation agenda as well as enhance city planners and decision makers' ability as well as commitment. To promote disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change through relevant systems, policies, and processes

3. Learn about urban resilience, Making Cities Resilient 2030 and how its tools, materials and approaches may be used to build local resilience to disasters.
4. Provide an opportunity for local experts and officials to enhance capacities with a focus on DRR action plan development and implementation based on the 10 Essentials for making cities resilient and the use of Disaster Resilient Scorecard for Cities
5. Strengthening the linkage between national-local disaster risk reduction planning and implementation
6. Serve as a platform to share good practices and exchange in-depth learning among participants

The expected outcomes were trained cadres of national and local government officials, equipped with knowledge and tools in making cities resilient with focus on the development and implementation of local DRR strategies and action plans in alignment with the national DRR strategies and Sendai Framework

