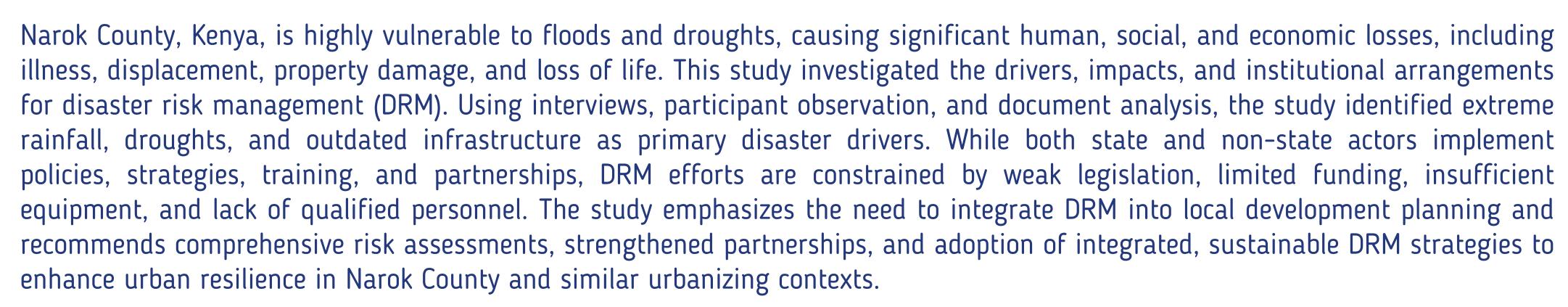


Urban Risk Management and Building Resilience: Effective Disaster Risk Management



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Background

- Urban and environmental context: Narok County is prone to recurring floods and droughts, intensified by climate variability, deforestation, and unplanned settlements.
- Socio-economic vulnerability:
 Communities depend on rainfed agriculture and livestock,
 making livelihoods sensitive to
 climatic hazards. Disasters
 exacerbate poverty, food insecurity, and social vulnerability.
- Infrastructure and urban planning: Rapid urban growth has outpaced infrastructure development, with inadequate drainage, poorly maintained roads, and settlements in flood-prone areas.
- Institutional and policy context: Kenya has a national DRM framework, but county-level implementation is fragmented due to limited funding, weak legislation, and insufficient human and technical capacity.

Results

Disaster Drivers

- Extreme rainfall, droughts, and inadequate drainage infrastructure.
- Deforestation and settlement in high-risk flood zones.

Impacts

- Human: Loss of lives, recurrent displacement, and increased illness.
- Livelihoods: Crop failures and livestock losses (20–30% during drought years).
- Economic: Market closures and infrastructure damage disrupt trade and mobility.

• Institutional Arrangements

- County Disaster Management Committee leads coordination.
- NGOs, Red Cross, and community groups provide relief, training, and awareness.

Disaster Drivers

- Mainstream DRM into County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP).
- Strengthen early warning systems and community-based preparedness.
- Build partnerships to mobilize resources and expand capacity.

Conclusion and Recommendations

- Narok County's vulnerability stems from both environmental hazards and institutional shortcomings. To build resilience:
 - 1. Comprehensive risk and impact assessments to map hazards and vulnerabilities.
 - 2. Strengthened partnerships between government, NGOs, community groups, and the private sector for coordinated preparedness and response.
 - 3. Policy and funding alignment to close gaps between national frameworks and county implementation.
 - 4. Integrated DRM strategies, including:
 - Incorporation into county planning frameworks such as the CIDP.
 - Investments in infrastructure, drainage, and early warning systems.
 - Capacity building and technical training for disaster management personnel.
- These measures offer evidence-based guidance for policymakers and practitioners, contributing to stronger disaster preparedness and long-term resilience in Narok County and comparable urbanizing contexts.

Methodology

- Qualitative case study focused on Narok town and surrounding communities.
- Fieldwork: February May 2022.
- Key informant interviews with government, NGOs, and community leaders.
- Participant observation of local DRM practices.
- Document analysis of policies, strategies, and county reports.
- Thematic analysis identifying disaster drivers, impacts, institutional arrangements, and DRM gaps.



CONTACT







