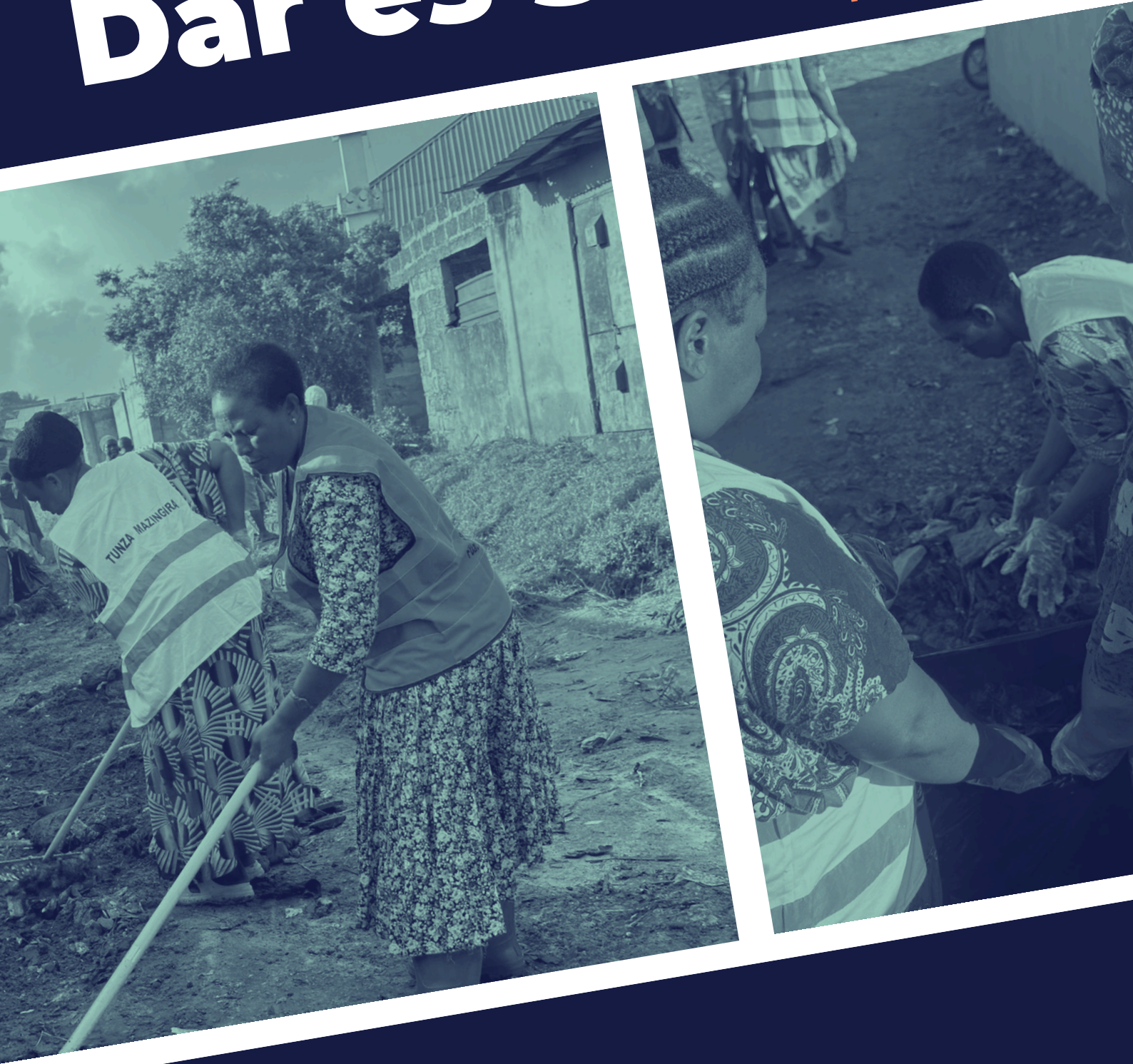


STORIES OF CHANGE:

Dar es Salaam

Tanzania





Summary

Like many East African cities, Dar es Salaam has increasingly faced extreme weather events, particularly flooding and extreme heat. Informal settlements are especially vulnerable because they often lack adequate infrastructure, drainage systems, and resources to cope with these hazards.

Through the DARAJA project, communities have gained **improved access to weather and climate information and the ability to interpret and act on it**. The project has **strengthened resilience** by improving the accessibility of weather forecasts, supporting communities to **interpret climate information, building partnerships** between communities, media and meteorological agencies, and encouraging early action to reduce disaster impacts. Additionally, a recent monitoring, evaluation and learning report produced by Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI) in June 2024 with support from German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ)'s small grant revealed that the weather forecasts through the DARAJA project are playing a crucial role in helping **small business owners plan and adapt their operations** more efficiently. As a result, DARAJA has become a model for climate resilience in informal settlements, including **Kigogo, Karakata, Mji Mpya, and Kombo** through collaboration with the Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI), the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA), and local community leaders.

Improving Weather Communication and Use



I like SMS because it's easy to access anytime, even when I'm busy with chores
Participant, women's focus group (Kigogo)

One of the most significant achievements of DARAJA has been the increased use of weather and climate information (WCI). Through the co-production approach, weather forecasts were delivered not just through **traditional media channels like radio**, but also via **SMS alerts, community chalkboards**, and even **schools**, ensuring that weather information reached all community members, regardless of their access to radio or television.

KOMBO

15% to 26%

increase in the proportion of residents waterproofing their walls

18% to 33%

increase in the proportion of residents patching their roofs

In Kombo alone, a monitoring, evaluation, and learning report produced by CCI in June 2024 revealed that the DARAJA project significantly increased the uptake of early actions for flood preparedness.

“
Weather alerts have enabled me to reduce work absences and take preventative actions at home, such as raising my house's foundation.”

Agnella Malilima, Resident

Strengthened Community Engagement



Beyond improving access to weather forecasts, DARAJA has strengthened community engagement in addressing climate resilience. **Training sessions** for local leaders, community members, and school children have fostered a culture of climate literacy and proactive behavior. Increased community engagement has also led to **grassroots initiatives like tree planting** to combat heat and the formation of new community groups. Schools have become key hubs for disseminating weather information, with **students taking an active role in sharing forecasts through notice boards and even WhatsApp messages**, ensuring that information reaches a wider audience. This engagement not only helps improve immediate preparedness but also instills long-term resilience in younger generations.

Policy Influence and Scaling Up



DARAJA's success in Dar es Salaam has paved the way for its replication in other East African cities, demonstrating the scalability of the model. The project has been presented at national-level discussions, including with the Vice President's Office, to explore how it can be **integrated into Tanzania's national adaptation plans**. The first phase of DARAJA (2018–2020) and its scaling efforts were supported by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) under the Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa (WISER) programme. In 2022, additional financial support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) facilitated the expansion of DARAJA into Dar es Salaam's **Karakata** and **Mji Mpya** settlements. In 2023–2024, German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ) further supported the project's scaling efforts, expanding the initiative into the **Kombo** settlement.

Beyond WISER, the Lloyd's Register Foundation is also providing critical financial support to expand DARAJA across Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. As the project scales, there is an **opportunity to influence policy decisions at the national and regional levels**, with government institutions increasingly interested in integrating DARAJA's model into their national climate adaptation strategies.



Looking Forward

Scaling Up for Greater Impact

DARAJA is working to:

- Embed its model in national climate adaptation strategies through ongoing government partnerships
- Promote community-led Early Action Plans to strengthen community preparedness and inspire city-level climate planning

This progress reflects DARAJA's transformational goal and aligns with DARAJA's transformational change progress marker under replicability (like to see):

- City authorities are interested in the DARAJA approach and incorporate developed community action plans into city plans.

By strengthening these connections, DARAJA ensures local solutions shape broader climate resilience efforts.

Story Credits



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Supporting Evidence

- Global Center on Adaptation. 2024. [Stories of Resilience: Lessons from Local Adaptation Practice](#). Rotterdam. Chapter 6, pages 90-92.
- [Flood warnings shared via SMS and chalkboards in Dar es Salaam.](#)
- [WISER Tanzania: DARAJA Story of Change, April 2024.](#)
- [CCI, 2024. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Report of DARAJA project at Kombo settlements.](#)

