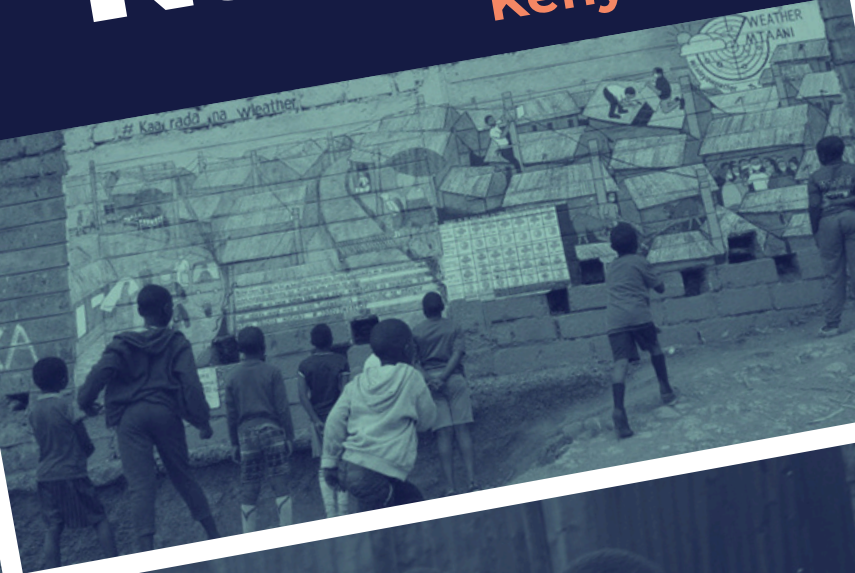


STORIES OF CHANGE:

Nairobi

Kenya



Transforming Weather Communications in Nairobi's Informal Settlements

We start by spreading weather forecast information—often going door-to-door to ensure everyone is informed about upcoming events.

*Key Informant, Weather Mtaani
(June 2024 post-flooding evaluation)*

Since 2018, DARAJA has revolutionised how Nairobi's informal settlements, including Kibera, Mathare, Mukuru and beyond, access and use weather information. What began as a project has grown into a movement, with communities now actively **seeking daily / weekly forecasts, planning ahead for extreme weather, and taking action to protect lives and property.**

In flood-prone areas like Makina, Weather Mtaani **warned residents of imminent flooding** and **directed them to nearby rescue centres**, such as Atvuma, with some residents staying at the rescue centres when their homes flooded. In Gatwekera, local leaders advised residents to **move to higher ground**, and in Lainisaba, they **cleared drainage channels** to prevent floods.

By helping families move to safer areas, particularly in Gatwekera, we prevented property loss and saved lives.

*Key Informant, Weather Mtaani
(June 2024 post-flooding evaluation)*

Weather Mtaani's commitment to safeguarding the community is particularly notable given their longstanding involvement in the DARAJA project. Since 2018, they have been an integral partner, contributing to the project's goal of **enhancing community preparedness**. Their **strong connection with the community** and **continued collaboration with local stakeholders** have been key to the success of these efforts. Their efforts not only **protect lives** but also **empower residents to respond to weather-related risks effectively**.

Building Trust Through Collaboration

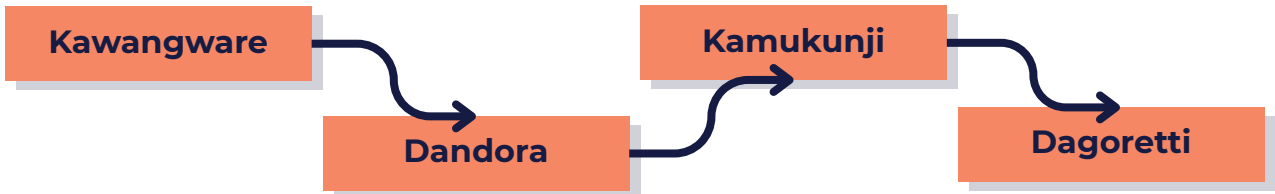


The project **strengthened partnerships** between Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD), local government and community-based organisations (CBOs) such as Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI), community and national media outlets, and residents and grassroots organisations. Through **clean-up campaigns, radio shows, and focus groups**, communities now co-produce and share weather information, creating a more resilient Nairobi.



Scaling Impact Across the City

The DARAJA approach has **expanded beyond initial sites** to reach different locations:



“
DARAJA's forecasts changed everything. I share updates with my community groups daily – if I'm late, people ask for them! We've seen real mindset shifts in Kibera, Mathare and beyond, empowering people to plan better.
Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) officer”



This aligns with one of the DARAJA's transformational change progress markers under scale (like to see). Proving our model works, we're seeing neighbouring communities use forecasts to **stay indoors during heatwaves, clear drains before floods, and make safer daily decisions.**

A Network for Resilience



DARAJA **created unprecedented collaboration** among academia (University of Nairobi, Technical University of Kenya), NGOs (SDI, Kenya Red Cross, WRI), media (Pamoja FM, KBC, BBC Media Action), and government agencies (Nairobi City County, KMD). This alliance ensures that weather information reaches those who need it most through **community radio, social media, and local champions.**

“
More than forecasts, we've built ownership. Our partnerships will outlast the project, with local leaders continuing this vital work.
Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) officer”

By bridging gaps between experts and communities, DARAJA has created a lasting culture of preparedness across Nairobi.

Story Credits



Data Collector

Joseph Manzvera



Story Teller

Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI)



Validator

Sunayana Sen



Reviewer

Dilupa Nanayakkara

Supporting Evidence

- How [Weather Forecasts Are Changing Lives](#) in Kenya and Tanzania
- [Weather mtaani and climate action in slums](#)

