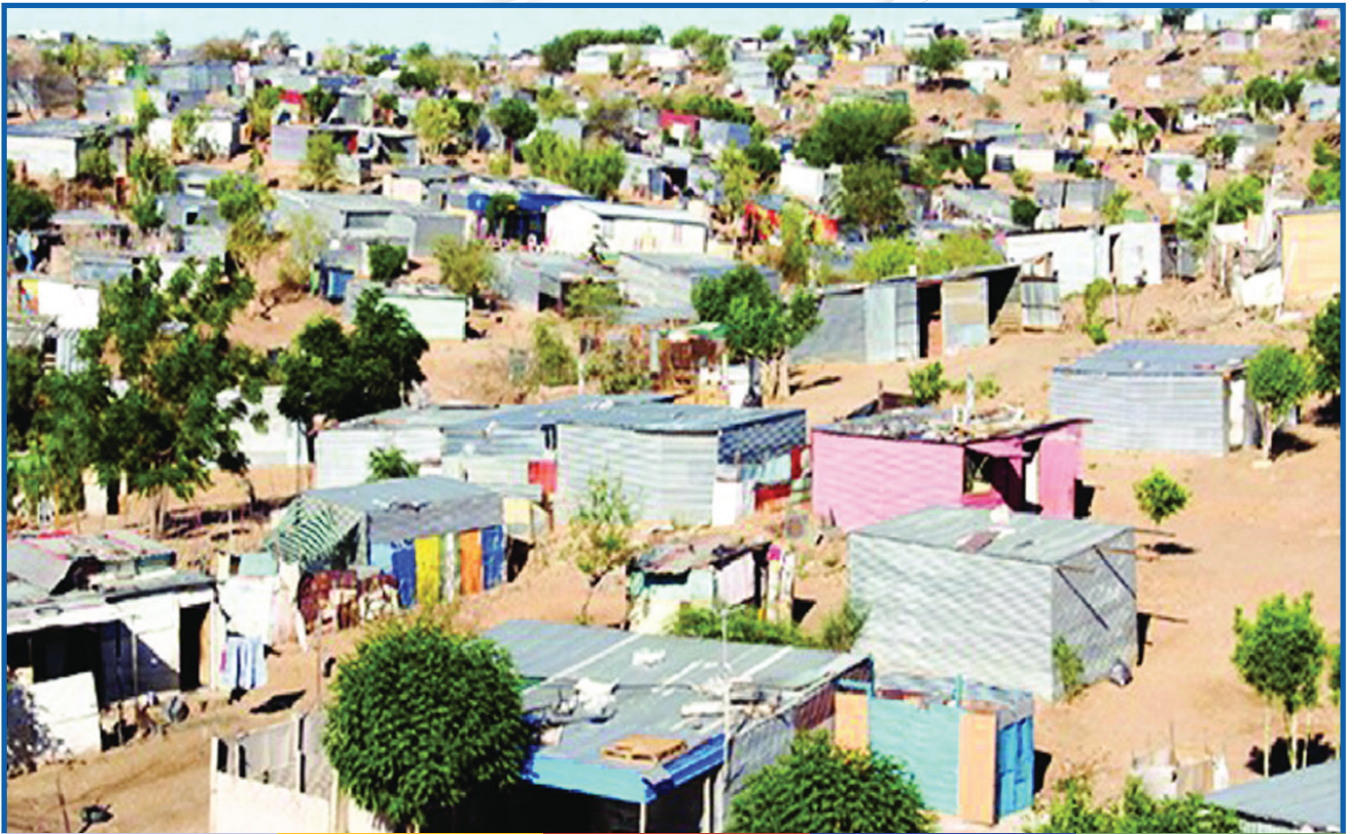


City of Windhoek

The Gateway to Endless Opportunities

Municipal Council of Windhoek

Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action plan 2026-2030





Department of Economic Development and Community Services
Disaster Risk Management

In partnership with



Implemented by



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MAYORAL FOREWORD

Disasters are increasing worldwide, bringing about catastrophic impacts that make it difficult for cities globally to achieve their development goals while safeguarding the well-being of their residents and meeting their obligations in delivering basic needs to residents. These complex disasters, which result from various risk drivers, sometimes occur simultaneously, and with increased frequency and severity more than ever. The City of Windhoek (CoW) is facing various risks, especially those related to climate change and (climate) variability such as flash floods, extreme weather and droughts. These events are occurring more frequently, leading to loss of life, property and ultimately, costs the CoW thousands of Namibian dollars each year. These risks have a significant adverse impact on the economy and the people, making Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) a top priority for the CoW.

In May 2023, the CoW became the first local authority in Namibia to join the Making Cities Resilient 2030 campaign as a Stage B City. The CoW received valuable support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) through the Resilience Initiative Africa (RIA), in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Regional Office for Africa. This support enabled the CoW to successfully develop a Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan for the years 2026-2030. The DRR Strategy and Action Plan activities are aligned to the CoW's Strategic Plan (2022-2027), by contributing to the reduction of disaster risks and their adverse impacts, while also contributing to sustainable development and poverty alleviation by integrating DRR into urban development plans. Integrating DRR strategies into urban development plans presents specific challenges but also introduces opportunities for sustainable development. The CoW's Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy serves as a framework and guide for strengthening the city's resilience to disaster risks in line with the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Urban areas across Southern Africa are increasingly vulnerable to the escalating frequency and severity of natural and anthropogenic shocks, which threaten livelihoods and strain the capacity of cities to deliver essential socio-economic services. The City of Windhoek (CoW) has recognized the limitations of reactive crisis response and is adopting a proactive, risk-informed approach to urban resilience and disaster risk reduction.

A key challenge lies in the rapid expansion of informal settlements, often in unregulated and hazard-prone areas. These settlements heighten exposure to localized flooding, disease outbreaks, and infrastructure stress, further weakening the city's ability to respond effectively to shocks.

To address these vulnerabilities, policy interventions must focus on integrated land use planning, upgrading of informal settlements, institutional capacity-building, and the implementation of multi-hazard early warning systems. Embedding disaster risk reduction into urban development planning is essential to enhance resilience, protect vulnerable communities, and ensure sustainable urban growth.

Post-independence Namibia reformed its disaster risk governance by transitioning from colonial-era civil defence laws to a modern, proactive disaster risk management (DRM) system. Key milestones include the establishment of the National Emergency Management System (1994) and the adoption of critical legal and policy frameworks such as the National DRM Policy (2009), DRM Plan (2011), DRM Act (2012), and implementing regulations (2013). These reforms institutionalize a coordinated, risk-informed approach to disaster preparedness, response, and resilience-building across all levels of government.

As climate change intensifies, cities are expected to face more frequent and severe natural and human-induced shocks. In this context, the development of inclusive, context-specific disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies is essential. The City of Windhoek's (CoW) DRR strategy process served as a critical opportunity to assess localized hazards, gender and social dynamics, settlement patterns, livelihoods, and institutional capacities.

Key to the strategy's effectiveness is the integration of gender perspectives, the inclusion of persons with disabilities, and the consideration of both formal and informal settlements. These elements ensure that interventions are equitable and responsive to the city's diverse needs.

The process underscores the importance of multi-sectoral collaboration, institutionalized disaster risk governance, investment in risk reduction, and the promotion of innovation and knowledge management. These pillars are vital to strengthening CoW's resilience and preparedness for future shocks.

The City of Windhoek proudly presents its Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan 2026–2030, a plan tailored to the city's unique challenges while aligned with key national and international frameworks, including the Disaster Risk Management Act (2012), the Sendai Framework (2015–2030), and the Sustainable Development Goals (2015–2030).

Central to the strategy is the promotion of risk-informed development, ensuring that growth initiatives avoid creating new vulnerabilities. The plan advocates for coordinated, inclusive stakeholder collaboration to reduce loss of life, protect assets, and sustain livelihoods. By embedding disaster risk reduction into urban development, the City of Windhoek aims to enhance resilience and proactively address both current and future risks.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	IV
LIST OF TABLES	VI
LIST OF FIGURES	VI
LIST OF ACRONYMS	VII
GLOSSARY OF TERMS	VIII
1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	1
2.0 LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK	4
2.1 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)	5
2.2 The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	6
2.3 Namibia's National Disaster Risk Management Policy of 2009	7
2.4 Namibia Institutional Disaster Risk Management Structure	7
2.5 City of Windhoek Disaster Risk Management Committee	8
2.6 Municipal Institutional Arrangements	9
2.6.1 The Mayor	9
2.6.2 The Chief Executive Officer	9
2.6.3 City of Windhoek Departments	10
3.0 CITY OF WINDHOEK RISK PROFILE	12
3.1 Natural hazards	12
3.2 Urbanization and Informal Settlements	12
3.3 Socio-economic Challenges	13
3.4 Climate Change Impacts	13
3.5 Emerging Risks	13
3.6 Baseline Risk Assessment	14
4.0 METHODOLOGY	16
5.0 STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN	17
5.1 Rationale for the DRR strategy	17
5.2 Orientation of Strategy	17
6.0 STRATEGIC FRAMING	18
6.1 Guiding Principles	18
6.2 Vision	20
6.3 Mission	20
6.4 Objectives of this Strategy	20
6.5 Targets	20
6.6 Gender mainstreaming	20

7.0.	STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	21
7.1	City of Windhoek’s Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Priorities Action Plan 2026-2030	21
8.0	ENABLERS FOR STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION	23
8.1	Information management and communication	23
8.2	Education, research & advocacy services	23
8.3	Knowledge management	24
8.4	Disaster risk management services and legal compliance	24
8.5	Locally driven initiatives	24
9.0	CITY OF WINDHOEK’S DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MONITORING AND EVALUATION	26
	REFERENCES	27
	ANNEXES	28
Annex 1:	Hazard profiling	28
Annex 2:	Certificate of Commitment to DRR and Resilience	29
Annex 3:	Hazard profile for informal settlements	30
Annex 4:	Hazards rating (5=high, 1=low)	31
Annex 5:	Action Plan	32
Annex 6:	Priorities for monitoring	61
	LIST OF TABLES	
Table 1:	CoW departments and functions	10
	LIST OF FIGURES	
Figure 1:	Map designed by GIS Team of CoW	2
Figure 2:	National Disaster Risk Management structure	8

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CoW	City of Windhoek
CRA	Community Risk Assessment
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EDRM	Emergency and Disaster Risk Management
FGDs	Focused Group Discussions
GSN	Geological Survey of Namibia
MCR2030	Making Cities Resilient 2030
NEMS	National Emergency Management System
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PwD	Persons with Disabilities
QRE Tool	Quick Risk Estimation Tool
RIA	Resilience Initiative Africa
SFDRR	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (formerly UNISDR)

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Acceptable risk - The level of potential losses that a society or community considers acceptable given existing social, economic, political, cultural, technical and environmental conditions.

Adaptation - The process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects. In human systems, adaptation seeks to moderate or exploit beneficial opportunities. In some natural systems, human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate.

Affected - People who are affected by a hazardous event.

Capacity - The combination of all the strengths, attributes and resources available within a community, society or organization to manage and reduce the risks and strengthen resilience.

Capacity development - The process by which people, organizations and society systematically stimulate and develop their capacities over time to achieve social and economic goals, including through improvement of knowledge, skills, systems, and institutions.

Climate change - a change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forcing, or to persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use.

Contingency planning - A management process that analyses specific potential events or emerging situations that might threaten the society or the environment and establishes arrangements in advance to enable timely, effective and appropriate responses to such events and situations.

Coping capacity - The ability of people, organizations and systems, using available skills and resources, to manage adverse conditions, risk or disasters.

Critical infrastructure - The physical structures, facilities, networks and other assets that provide services that are essential to the social and economic functioning of a community or society.

Disability - Disability means physical, psycho-social or sensory impairment that alone or in combination with social and environmental barriers, affects the ability of a person concerned to take part in education, vocational or recreational activities.

Disaster - A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.

Disaster risk - Is "the potential (not actual and realized) loss of life, injury, or destroyed or damaged assets, which could occur to a system, society or a community in a specific period, determined probabilistically as a function of hazard, exposure, vulnerability and capacity.

Disaster risk management - The systematic process of using administrative directives, organizations, and operational skills and capacities to implement strategies, policies and improved coping capacities to lessen the adverse impacts of hazards and the possibility of disaster.

Disaster risk reduction - The concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events. NB: Disaster risk reduction is therefore part of disaster risk management but does not focus primarily on (although it does link with) disaster response and recovery.

Disaster risk reduction plan - A document prepared by an authority, sector, organization or enterprise that sets out goals and specific objectives for reducing disaster risks together with related actions to accomplish these objectives.

Disaster risk reduction strategies and policies - define goals and objectives across different timescales and with concrete targets, indicators and time frames. In line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, these should be aimed at preventing the creation of disaster risk, the reduction of existing risk and the strengthening of economic, social, health and environmental resilience

Early warning system - The set of capacities needed to generate and disseminate timely and meaningful warning information to enable individuals, communities and organizations threatened by a hazard to prepare and act appropriately in sufficient time to reduce the possibility of harm or loss.

Emergency management - The organization and management of resources and responsibilities for addressing all aspects of emergencies, in particular preparedness, response and initial recovery steps.

Exposure - People, property, systems, or other elements present in hazard zones that are thereby subject to potential losses.

Extensive risk - The risk of low-severity, high-frequency disasters, mainly but not exclusively associated with highly localized hazards.

Hazard - A dangerous phenomenon, substance, human activity or condition that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.

Hazardous event - The manifestation of a hazard in a particular place during a particular period.

Mitigation - The lessening or minimizing of the adverse impacts of a hazardous event.

Natural hazard - Natural process or phenomenon that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.

Preparedness - The knowledge and capacities developed by governments, professional response and recovery organizations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from, the impacts of likely, imminent or current hazard events or conditions.

Prevention - Activities to provide outright avoidance of the adverse impact of hazards and means to minimize related environmental, technological, and biological disasters. Depending on social and technical feasibility and cost/benefit considerations, investing in preventive measures is justified in areas frequently affected by disasters. In the context of public awareness and education, changing attitudes and behavior related to disaster risk reduction contribute to promoting a "culture of prevention.

Public awareness - The extent of common knowledge about disaster risks, the factors that lead to disasters, and the actions that can be taken individually and collectively to reduce exposure and vulnerability to hazards.

Reconstruction - The medium and longer-term repair and sustainable restoration of critical infrastructures, services, housing, facilities, and livelihoods required for the full functioning of a community, or a society affected by a disaster.

Recovery - The restoring or improving livelihoods and health, as well as economic, physical, social, cultural, and environmental assets, systems, and activities, of a disaster-affected community or society, aligning with the principles of sustainable development and "build back better", to avoid or reduce future disaster risk.

Rehabilitation - The rapid and basic restoration of services and facilities for functioning a community or society affected by a disaster.

Resilience - The ability of a system, community, or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to, and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions.

Response - Actions taken during or immediately after a disaster to save lives, reduce health impacts, ensure public safety and meet the basic subsistence needs of the people affected.

Risk - Is "a combination of the probability of an event and its negative consequences.

Risk management - The systematic approach and practice of managing uncertainty to minimize potential harm and loss.

Risk transfer - The process of formally or informally shifting the financial consequences of risks from one party to another whereby a household, community, enterprise or state authority will obtain resources from the other party after a disaster occurs, in exchange for ongoing or compensatory social or financial benefits provided to that other party.

Sustainable development - Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Urbanization - Is defined by demographers as the increasing share of population living in urban areas.

Urban resilience - A resilient city is one that can absorb, adapt, and recover from the shocks and stresses that are likely to happen. Urban resilience is the measurable ability of any urban system, with its inhabitants, to maintain continuity through all shocks and stresses, while positively adapting and transforming towards sustainability.

Underlying disaster risk drivers - Processes or conditions, often development-related, that influence the level of disaster risk by increasing levels of exposure and vulnerability or reducing capacity.

Vulnerability - The characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The City of Windhoek, like many other cities in Africa, is characterised by both formal and informal settlements. Rapid urbanisation and, in some cases, unplanned urban expansion have resulted in residents settling in undesignated and environmentally fragile areas. This places considerable pressure on existing infrastructure and basic services, while increasing the exposure of communities to disaster risks.

The continued influx of people into the city has contributed to sustained population growth and rising demand for municipal services. This, in turn, places further strain on the City's resources and weakens the capacity of vulnerable communities to anticipate, cope with, respond to and recover from shocks.

According to the Quick Risk Estimation tool, Windhoek is exposed to fifteen hazards of varying magnitude. Among the key hazards identified are wildland and vegetation fires, chemical spills and cold waves, which pose risks to communities, infrastructure and service delivery systems. The Quick Risk Estimation tool applies the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction hazard classification guidelines, thereby providing a structured basis for understanding the City's disaster risk profile.

The increasing prevalence of climate-related risks, combined with economic vulnerabilities and, in some cases, outdated or inadequate risk reduction strategies, compounds the vulnerability of the City of Windhoek and heightens its exposure to shocks. Climate variability has contributed to the City experiencing hazards such as extreme heat and drought, while geological and geophysical hazards, although ranked relatively low, remain relevant to the City's overall risk profile.

In this document, the terms geological and geophysical hazards are used interchangeably to refer to potential threats associated with ground movement, including earthquakes, tremors and dolomitic sinkholes. Although these hazards are generally considered less significant in the Windhoek context, the development of cracks on buildings and other structures within urban areas may reduce the market value and structural integrity of such infrastructure. This creates a need for further analysis to determine the extent to which such cracks may be linked to seismic activity, soil conditions, particularly construction on clay soils, or other underlying structural factors.

Earthquakes occurring across Namibia, including those affecting Windhoek, are monitored and recorded by the Geological Survey of Namibia. Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of formal and informal settlements within the City of Windhoek.

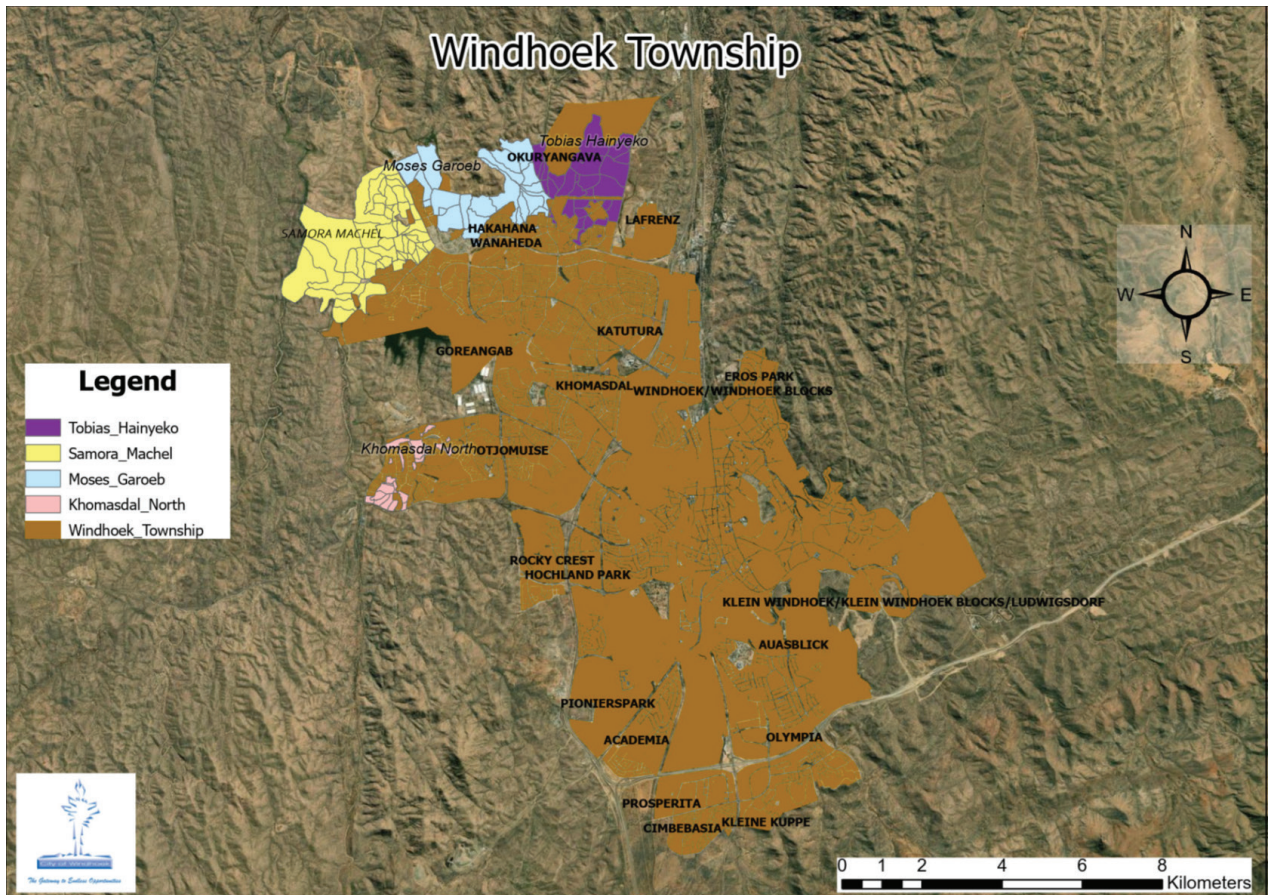


Figure 1: Map designed by GIS Team of CoW

There is limited literature and documented evidence on historical disaster trends within the boundaries of the City of Windhoek, particularly across both formal and informal settlements. This gap highlights the importance of developing a deliberate Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, as it provides a structured framework for strengthening disaster risk knowledge, improving data collection and enhancing risk information management.

The Strategy will assist the City of Windhoek and its partners to systematically gather, analyse and use disaster risk data to inform planning, programming and decision-making. It will further support evidence-based interventions aimed at reducing vulnerabilities, strengthening preparedness and guiding future resilience-building initiatives across the city.

According to the 2019 Community Risk Assessment, households identified river and flash floods, landslides or debris flows, and extreme cold as the most frequently experienced disaster events, with river and flash floods reportedly occurring on an annual basis. Informal settlements remain particularly vulnerable to these hazards due to their location in undesignated and often high-risk areas, as well as their reliance on weak or inadequate infrastructure. These conditions heighten exposure, intensify disaster impacts and increase the risk of loss of life, damage to property and disruption of livelihoods (CoW, 2024)

The City's risk matrix highlights a complex urban risk profile, with technological hazards such as chemical spills and motor vehicle accidents identified as high-impact threats with potentially severe consequences for critical infrastructure, productive sectors, essential services and community wellbeing. In informal settlements, structural fires remain the most prevalent hazard, followed by flooding, reflecting the heightened vulnerability of communities living in densely populated and infrastructure-constrained environments.

Other hazards, including pandemics, extreme heat, high winds and indiscriminate refuse dumping, are assessed as moderate-level threats requiring continued monitoring, preparedness and risk reduction measures. Sewage overflows and mudslides are classified as lower-priority hazards; however, they remain relevant within the broader disaster risk management framework, particularly where localized vulnerabilities may intensify their impact.

Particular attention is required for vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, the elderly, children, women and communities living in high-risk informal settlements. The hazard profile for all informal settlements is provided in Annex 2.

The City of Windhoek remains committed to strengthening its disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery capacities through improved policy direction, institutional coordination, resilience-focused planning and targeted investment in risk reduction measures. In this regard, the Department of Economic Development and Community Services was tasked with leading the development of the Windhoek Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan. The initiative seeks to provide a coherent and practical framework for addressing both existing and emerging disaster risks, while guiding strategic investments that protect lives, safeguard infrastructure, strengthen service continuity and enhance community resilience.

The overarching objective of the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan is to enhance public awareness, strengthen hazard preparedness, protect lives and livelihoods, safeguard infrastructure, and build resilient communities. Initiated in 2023, the strategy development process was undertaken over a period of one year and was informed by extensive stakeholder consultations, local risk realities and relevant global best practices.

The formulation of the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan was informed by an inclusive, multi-stakeholder methodology, comprising workshops, targeted consultations and key informant interviews. The process was deliberately designed to reflect the diverse realities of the City, including gender considerations, settlement-based inequalities and the specific needs of persons with disabilities.

Particular attention was given to ensuring that vulnerable groups were not treated as a homogeneous category, but were considered in relation to their differing levels of exposure, access to services, mobility constraints and capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from disaster events. According to the 2019 Community Risk Assessment, the prevalence of persons with disabilities was significantly higher in urban areas at 96.7%, compared to 3.3% in rural areas, underscoring the need for differentiated and inclusive disaster risk reduction approaches across settlement types.

The Strategy is informed by key national, regional and international disaster risk reduction and sustainable development frameworks. At national and regional level, it draws guidance from instruments such as the Namibia Disaster Risk Management Plan of 2011 and the SADC Disaster Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2030. At international level, it is aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Strategy and Action Plan are designed as living documents that will remain responsive to the City's evolving risk profile. They will therefore be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect emerging hazards, changing vulnerabilities, institutional lessons, stakeholder inputs and new developments in disaster risk reduction practice.

2.0 LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Since independence, Namibia has progressively developed legislation, policies and institutional frameworks anchored in the Constitution to establish and govern the National Disaster Risk Management System. The country's disaster risk management framework evolved from earlier civil defence arrangements inherited from the South African colonial administration, including the Civil Defence Act No. 39 of 1966, the Civil Defence Proclamation AG 54 of 1978, and the Civil Defence Ordinance No. 3 of 1979.

Following the adoption of the Namibian Constitution in 1990, the National Emergency Management System was established in 1994 as part of efforts to strengthen national coordination and response to disasters. Over time, additional legislation, policies, plans and strategies were developed to operationalise and improve the implementation of the National Disaster Risk Management System, reflecting Namibia's shift from a largely reactive emergency response approach towards a more proactive, coordinated and risk-informed disaster risk management framework.

The legislation informed the design of the DRR strategy, and these include:

- National Disaster Risk Management Policy of 2009
- National Disaster Risk Management Plan of 2011
- Disaster Risk Management Act of 2012 (Act No. 10 of 2012)
- Disaster Risk Management Regulations of 2013

In addition to these key instruments, several other legal tools and policies inform the implementation of the Disaster Risk Management System. These include, but are not limited to:

- City of Windhoek Disaster Risk Management Plan (2022)
- Namibia Red Cross Act (No. 16 of 1991)
- Regional Council Act (No. 22 of 1992)
- Local Authority Act (No. 23 of 1992)
- National Agricultural Policy 1995
- National Drought Policy and Strategy of 1997
- Defence Act (No. 1 of 2002)
- Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provisions Act (No. 22 of 2000)
- National Poverty Reduction Action Programme (NPRAP) (2000)
- Vision 2030 (launched in 2004)
- Local Authorities Fire Brigade Services Act (No. 5 of 2006)
- Environmental Management Act No 27 of 2007
- Namibia Climate Change Policy, 2010
- Flood Risk Management Plan 2011
- Water Resources Management Act (No. 11 of 2013)
- City of Windhoek Integrated Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2023-20230)
- National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (2013-2020)
- National Strategy for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation into Development Planning in Namibia 2017-2021

The implementation of disaster risk management in Namibia is not premised solely on national legislation, but is also informed by regional and international frameworks that support the achievement of global resilience and sustainable development targets. These include the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Sustainable Development Goals 2015–2030, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This alignment ensures that Namibia’s disaster risk management system remains responsive to national priorities while contributing to broader global commitments on disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and sustainable development.

It is important to understand the role of national legislation and policies in reducing disaster risks and strengthening community resilience. These instruments provide the legal, institutional and policy foundation for the implementation of the Disaster Risk Management Act and other related frameworks.

In addition, regional and global frameworks promote inclusive and risk-informed approaches to disaster risk reduction by encouraging the integration of gender considerations, the recognition of risks across both formal and informal settlements, and focused attention on vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities.

The City of Windhoek Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy is therefore risk-informed and strategically aligned with relevant local, national, regional and international frameworks, including the SADC Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This alignment strengthens the City’s capacity to address existing and emerging risks while advancing inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban development.

2.1 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, which succeeded the Hyogo Framework for Action, was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015 (UNDRR, 2015; UNDRR, 2019). The Framework introduced an important shift in disaster risk governance by placing emphasis on the prevention of new risks, the reduction of existing risks, and the strengthening of resilience as central outcomes of disaster risk reduction.

The Sendai Framework underscores the need for disaster risk management policies, strategies and programmes to be informed by a comprehensive understanding of disaster risk. This includes consideration of vulnerability, hazard characteristics, exposure of people and assets, environmental conditions and institutional capacity. It further promotes risk-informed development by encouraging governments and cities to ensure that development processes do not create or intensify disaster risks.

The Framework also highlights the importance of integrating disaster risk knowledge into government institutions and planning systems. In this regard, it encourages national and local authorities to strengthen capacities for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation. This approach is particularly relevant to cities such as Windhoek, where rapid urbanization, climate variability, infrastructure pressures and settlement-based vulnerabilities require a coordinated and forward-looking disaster risk reduction framework.

Although the Sendai Framework provides a strong global basis for disaster risk reduction, progress on its implementation across some Member States in the SADC region has not been fully established (SADC, 2021). This reinforces the importance of localizing the Framework through practical municipal strategies, such as the City of Windhoek Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan, to translate global commitments into local action. The SFDRR (2015-2030) has four primacies for action all of which informed the development of the CoW DRR strategy, and they are as follows:

- Priority 1: understanding disaster risk
- Priority 2: strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
- Priority 3: investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
- Priority 4: enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to 'Build Back Better' in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The Sendai Framework priority areas further articulate the following:

- the need for improved understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of exposure, vulnerability and hazard characteristics.
- the strengthening of disaster risk governance, including national platforms; accountability for disaster risk management; preparedness to "Build Back Better".
- recognition of stakeholders and their roles.
- mobilization of risk-sensitive investment to avoid the creation of new risk.
- resilience of health infrastructure, cultural heritage and workplaces.
- Strengthening of international cooperation and global partnership, and risk-informed donor policies and programs, including financial support and loans from international financial institutions.

2.2 The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was unanimously adopted by 193 United Nations Member States in September 2015. The Agenda comprises 17 Sustainable Development Goals, 169 targets and more than 230 indicators, to be pursued over the period 2015–2030 (SDG, 2019). It is underpinned by the principles of integration, universality, inclusiveness and the commitment to leave no one behind.

A distinguishing feature of the 2030 Agenda is its universal application to both developed and developing countries, recognising that all countries face distinct development challenges and must make context-specific progress towards sustainable development. Within this context, disaster risk reduction is central to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly as exposure to natural and human-induced hazards can undermine development gains, deepen urban vulnerabilities and weaken community coping capacity.

For cities such as Windhoek, the 2030 Agenda reinforces the need for risk-informed planning, inclusive urban development and strengthened resilience-building. Disaster Risk Reduction strategies therefore play an important role in supporting the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and related targets by 2030, particularly those linked to sustainable cities, climate action, poverty reduction, infrastructure resilience, public health and the protection of vulnerable communities.

2.3 Namibia's National Disaster Risk Management Policy of 2009

At the time the National Disaster Risk Management Policy of 2009 was adopted, Namibia did not yet have a dedicated Disaster Risk Management Act. Disaster-related matters were largely guided by inherited civil defence instruments, including the Civil Defence Act and Civil Defence Ordinances. However, these instruments were no longer adequate to respond to the evolving disaster risk environment or to support the shift from reactive emergency response towards prevention, preparedness, resilience-building and risk-informed development. The National Disaster Risk Management Policy was therefore developed to provide a more comprehensive framework for addressing the underlying drivers of disaster risk by reducing exposure and vulnerability, while strengthening institutional and community capacities to anticipate, absorb, respond to and recover from shocks.

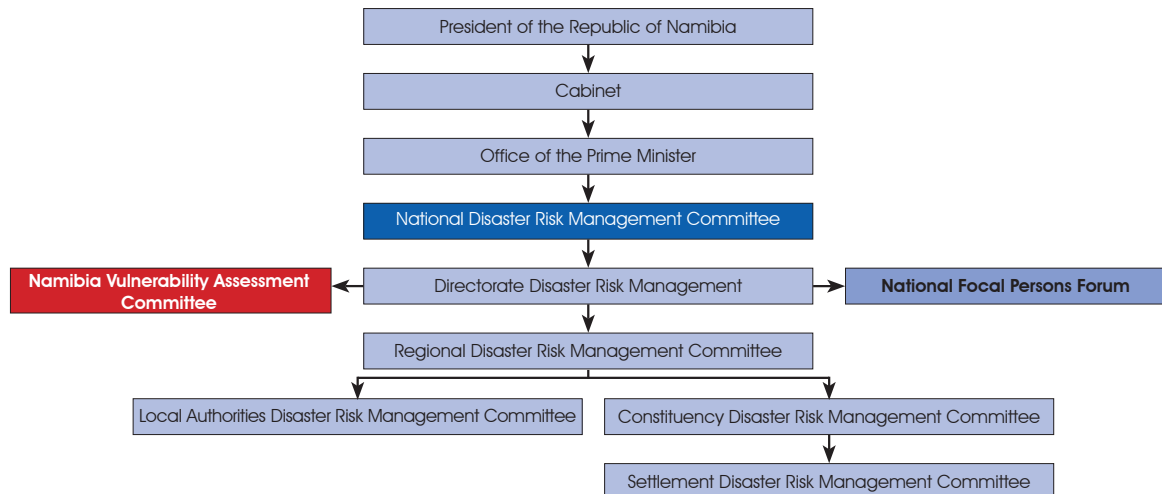
The Policy is anchored in the constitutional responsibility of the State to promote the welfare and safety of its people, as reflected in Article 95 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, as well as Article 26, which provides for the declaration of a state of emergency during times of national disaster, public emergency or threats to the life of the nation. In this regard, the Policy gives practical expression to Namibia's constitutional obligations by promoting a clear, inclusive and people-centred disaster risk management framework. It further recognises the importance of protecting fundamental rights, including the right to life, dignity, equality, safety, health, water, food, property and social protection, thereby providing an important foundation for strengthening disaster risk governance, safeguarding vulnerable communities and advancing resilience at both national and local levels. The National Disaster Risk Management Policy aims to:

- minimize the loss of human life, property and damage to the environment from hazards of natural, technological and ecological origin,
- advocate an approach to disaster risk management that focuses on reducing risks especially to those sections of the population who are most vulnerable due to poverty and a general lack of resources,
- advocate for a shared awareness and responsibility to reduce disaster risk in homes, communities, places of work and in society generally,
- give effect to the application of co-operative governance on issues concerning disasters and disaster risk management among the levels of government and allocate responsibilities in this regard to the relevant stakeholders,
- facilitate the involvement of the private sector, non-governmental organizations, communities and volunteers in disaster risk management; and
- facilitate partnerships in this regard between organs of state and the private sector, non-governmental organizations and communities.

2.4 Namibia Institutional Disaster Risk Management Structure

The Namibia Disaster Risk Management System was established in 1994 to coordinate disaster preparedness, response and related disaster risk management functions across the country. The system promotes the alignment and integration of roles and responsibilities among Government institutions, development partners and other stakeholders from national to subnational levels. At the highest level, the President has the prerogative to declare a state of emergency, while Cabinet is responsible for mobilizing the necessary resources to support disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery interventions.

The Office of the Prime Minister coordinates disaster risk management activities nationally, supported by the National Disaster Risk Management Committee, which provides a platform for stakeholders to deliberate on disaster risk management matters. The disaster risk management structure extends from national level to regional, constituency, local authority and settlement-level disaster risk management committees, thereby supporting the integration of disaster risk management at community level. As illustrated in Figure 1, these institutional arrangements are important for understanding the chain of command, coordination mechanisms and operational linkages between central Government, local authorities and communities in the management of disaster risks.



2.5 City of Windhoek Disaster Risk Management Committee

The City of Windhoek Disaster Risk Management Committee was established to strengthen coordination, integration and stakeholder participation in disaster risk management within the municipal area. Section 17(1) of the Disaster Risk Management Act, 2012 provides that each local authority must, subject to the Local Authorities Act, 1992 and any applicable law governing emergency services within local authority areas, establish a Local Authority Disaster Risk Management Committee within its area of jurisdiction. In line with this provision, the City's Committee serves as an institutional mechanism for coordinating disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery functions at municipal level.

The Committee is constituted for a three-year term and brings together policymakers from the City of Windhoek, the Secretariat and key external stakeholders, including relevant ministries such as Information and Communication Technology, Defence and Veterans Affairs, Safety and Security, as well as emergency response agencies, the Namibia Red Cross Society, academia and other strategic partners. This multi-stakeholder arrangement supports the City's commitment to providing an enabling environment for the operationalisation of disaster preparedness and response plans, while also creating a platform for local stakeholders to share knowledge, experiences and practical solutions in disaster risk management. Further details on the composition of the Committee are provided in Annex 2.

The Mayor of the City is the chairperson of the committee and is a member of the DRM Regional committee.

The committee's mandate is to promote integrated and coordinated approaches to disaster management in their areas, with a special focus on prevention, preparedness, and mitigation. In addition, the committee is expected to prepare and update the local authority's response and recovery plans, coordinate disaster risk management activities, mobilise resources for disaster risk management and facilitate the implementation of public information and public awareness programmes related to DRR. Most importantly for the committee is the alignment of early warning systems with those of the region and nation to facilitate and contribute to relevant disaster risk information databases.

2.6 Municipal Institutional Arrangements

The City of Windhoek refers to the municipality of Windhoek established under the Local Authority Act, 23 of 1992 (as amended) to provide basic services to inhabitants and is structured as follows:

- i) City of Windhoek is led by 15 councilors from multiple political parties. The council meets monthly to review matters recommended by the Management Committee. Further, the council is obliged to meet at any time to consider special and or urgent matters.
- ii) The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for overseeing the administration of the municipality, which comprises the mayor's office
- iii) Nine departmental heads (Strategic Executives and City Police Chief), assist the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer in making crucial decisions.

2.6.1 The Mayor

Under the Local Authority Act, 23 of 1992, the Mayor of City of Windhoek serves as the political leader of the Council and Chairperson. The powers and functions of the mayor are outlined in the same local government Act. According to current legislation, the mayor's role mainly involves representing City of Windhoek at ceremonial functions, while also taking on political responsibility for the city on a part-time basis

Council members nominate each other for the position of Mayor for a one-year term. Is addressed as Her or His Worship. In the same vein, council members nominate the Deputy Mayor and five members of the Management Committee.

2.6.2 The Chief Executive Officer

The day-to-day administration of the Mayor's office is handled by the Chief Executive Officer's Office. As a result, the administrative personnel in the Mayor's Office reports directly to the CEO. The joint office ensures the alignment of policy development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, as well as programmes alignment and initiative with the political agenda.

2.6.3 City of Windhoek Departments

Table 1: CoW departments and functions

Department	Departmental functions
City Police (operational and administrative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent crime, enforce by-laws and protect property and assets • Control and manage traffic to ensure road safety • Provide and maintain road furnishing
Department of Economic Development and Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of sound environmental management practices • Provision of efficient Solid Waste Management services • Provision of effective and efficient Public Health services • Facilitation of conducive environment for investment and local economic development • Establishment of parks and recreational facilities, development and management of cemeteries • Democratic and integrated community through community development initiatives of the city • Provide and maintain safe, reliable, efficient, and effective public transport • Orderly and sustainable settlement and growth [AN1.1] • Provision and management of 24 our emergency services such as firefighting, ambulance assistance and rescue • Manage and coordinate the disaster management program of the city and ensure enhanced disaster preparedness
Department of Electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimize electricity generated venue • Monitor compliance for electricity usage • Development and maintenance of electricity infrastructure • Provision of continued and reliable electricity supply to all consumers in the Windhoek area
Department of Finance and Customer Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide accurate and timely financial information • Provide procurement services • Control the budget of CoW • Reduce outstanding debts levels • Ensure revenue growth
Department of Housing, Property Management and Human Settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering serviced land and housing to the residents of Windhoek in all land use categories • Renders the acquisition, management and alienation of land and properties in Windhoek • Real estate valuations for all purposes in Windhoek • Provision of land surveying and mapping services for the Municipal Council of Windhoek • Peri-urban and informal settlement planning and development

Department of Information and Communication Technology	• Improve systems and operations
	• Enhance customer relations and services
	• Establish revenue enhancement service centres
	• Provide innovation solutions for business excellence, through provision and application of value-added information and communication technology
	• Management of information
Department of Human Capital and Corporate Services	• Facilitation of the overall strategic planning, performance management and the compilation of the City Five Year Business Plan
Department of Urban and Transport Planning	• To answer the challenges of strategic sustainable urban design
	• To ensure compliance of building works to standards of safety in public and amenity in public interest
	• To actively guide and promote development
	• Safe and efficient urban transport systems

3.0 CITY OF WINDHOEK RISK PROFILE

The City of Windhoek is the administrative, political and economic heart of the Republic of Namibia, given its role as the capital city and seat of national governance. According to the Namibia 2023 Population and Housing Census Main Report, Windhoek recorded a population of 486,186, with an annual population growth rate of 3.3%. This continued population growth places increasing pressure on land, infrastructure, municipal services and urban planning systems, thereby heightening the City's exposure to disaster risks.

Windhoek is located on the Khomas Highland plateau, at approximately 1,700 metres above sea level, within a semi-arid environment characterised by low and highly variable rainfall. Findings from the Quick Risk Estimation tool indicate that the City is highly vulnerable to flooding, with a risk rating of 70 out of 100, followed by chemical spills and industrial disasters. Droughts and earthquakes recorded a moderate risk rating of 50. Notwithstanding these risks, the assessment also indicates that the City of Windhoek has reasonable institutional capacity to respond to shocks, providing an important foundation for strengthening disaster preparedness, resilience-building and risk-informed urban development

3.1 Natural hazards

Climate change continues to intensify the City of Windhoek's exposure to climate-related risks, particularly water scarcity, prolonged dry periods and reduced agricultural productivity. These conditions have significant implications for urban water supply systems, which are already under pressure due to limited local water sources and increasing demand from a growing urban population. At the same time, the City experiences localised flooding during periods of intense rainfall, particularly in informal settlements where drainage infrastructure is limited or inadequate. This dual exposure to water scarcity and flood risk underscores the need for a more integrated, risk-informed and climate-responsive approach to urban planning, infrastructure development and disaster preparedness.

While climate-related hazards remain a major concern, the City is also exposed to anthropogenic and technological hazards, including road accidents, chemical spills, industrial incidents and wildfires. The profiling of major hazards affecting Windhoek therefore considered seasonality, frequency and severity to ensure that preparedness, mitigation and response interventions are properly informed by the City's actual risk environment. Against this background, the economic and social costs of disasters cannot be overlooked. The Office of the Prime Minister estimated that the combined national impacts of the 2013/14 and 2018/19 droughts amounted to approximately N\$1 billion, with Windhoek among the affected areas. The City's vulnerability is further compounded by institutional and coordination challenges, as reflected in recurring flood impacts, evacuation difficulties and losses that have, in some instances, been attributed to weak communication and coordination mechanisms.

3.2 Urbanization and Informal Settlements

A key challenge for the City of Windhoek is rapid urbanization, which has contributed to the continued growth of informal settlements. Approximately one-third of the City's population resides in informal housing, often in areas that are exposed to flooding or that lack adequate access to basic services such as water, sanitation and electricity. The spatial expansion of these settlements increases vulnerability to disasters, particularly among marginalized and at-risk groups, including women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Informal settlements also present heightened public health risks, including the potential spread of communicable diseases during extreme weather events and periods of service disruption.

The City's vulnerability is further compounded by limited and fragmented information on informal settlement profiles, making the development of a Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy particularly important in strengthening data collection, risk profiling and evidence-based planning across both formal and informal areas. Within informal settlements, structural fires remain among the most common hazards, while pandemics, extreme heat, strong winds and indiscriminate refuse dumping present moderate but persistent risks to residents. These conditions underscore the need for targeted risk reduction interventions, improved settlement planning, strengthened service delivery and inclusive resilience-building measures that respond to the realities of vulnerable urban communities.

3.3 Socio-economic Challenges

The City of Windhoek continues to experience high levels of inequality and unemployment, which significantly heighten vulnerability to disaster risks. Namibia's high Gini coefficient reflects persistent income disparities, which are also evident in urban areas such as Windhoek. These inequalities, coupled with rising living costs and food insecurity, constrain the ability of vulnerable households to invest in disaster preparedness, risk reduction and recovery measures. As a result, many low-income households are compelled to settle in high-risk areas where land may be more accessible, but where exposure to hazards and limited access to basic services increase their vulnerability.

The rapid expansion of informal settlements within the City further places pressure on infrastructure, service delivery systems and municipal resources. This is driven in part by continued rural-to-urban migration, as communities move to Windhoek in search of improved livelihood opportunities. However, many urban migrants have limited access to adequate housing, water, sanitation, electricity and other essential services, which increases their exposure to socio-economic and environmental shocks. These conditions deepen vulnerability among already at-risk groups, particularly women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly, whose capacity to prepare for, withstand and recover from disasters is often more constrained.

3.4 Climate Change Impacts

The City of Windhoek is highly susceptible to the impacts of climate change, including rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns and the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. Climate projections for Namibia indicate that temperatures may rise by between 2°C and 6°C by 2100, accompanied by significant reductions in annual rainfall. These projected changes present serious implications for urban infrastructure, public health, ecosystems, water security and service delivery, particularly in a city already operating under conditions of limited water availability.

The anticipated increase in heat stress may also lead to greater dependence on energy-intensive cooling systems, thereby placing additional pressure on the City's energy resources and infrastructure. In this context, climate adaptation must be treated as a core component of urban resilience planning and should be fully integrated into vulnerability and capacity assessments. The mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into the City's planning, investment and service delivery systems will therefore be essential in reducing climate-related risks, protecting livelihoods and improving the wellbeing of Windhoek's residents.

3.5 Emerging Risks

- Flash flooding: Despite its arid environment, seasonal rainfall has often contributed to flash floods, particularly in areas with inadequate drainage infrastructure. These normally occur within six hours of the beginning of heavy rainfall, usually associated with severe thunderstorms and poor drainage.

- Currency fluctuation: The interdependencies between Windhoek economic activities with other cities in the region such as those in South Africa exposes the city to threats that arise from exchange rates fluctuations against major currencies. The global economic linkages especially the close links between the Namibia dollar and the South African rand, imports risks should South Africa's credit rating be downgraded. The intricate link between the Namibian dollar and the South African economy imports risk and make the city vulnerable to economic risks hence strategies to hedge against such are necessary.
- Degradation of natural ecosystems: Urban expansion has contributed to the loss of green spaces and increased the risk of soil erosion and desertification. The destruction of the natural ecosystem interferes with carbon sequestration by robbing the city of the much-needed carbon sinks and this deepens climate risks experienced.

Urbanization and global interconnectedness contribute to the surge in emerging risks, such as technological hazards (cybersecurity threats to critical infrastructure) and public health emergencies. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the vulnerabilities of urban centers, including strained healthcare systems and economic disruptions, which are applicable to Windhoek's context. During the COVID-19 induced lockdown, movement was restricted, and this affected livelihoods especially those with limited technologies to ensure continuity of their business operations. The COVID-19 scenario calls for proactive planning to ensure institutional capacities are strengthened to respond to similar cases hence a strategy becomes relevant.

3.6 Baseline Risk Assessment

Risk assessment is a critical process for informing the design of context-specific disaster risk reduction interventions. It enables the identification and analysis of risks associated with specific hazards, including their likelihood of occurrence, potential severity, exposure levels and likely impacts on communities, infrastructure, livelihoods and service delivery systems.

The City of Windhoek conducted a Community Risk Assessment to better understand the underlying drivers of vulnerability, including under-development, fragmented access to essential services, unemployment, exposure to hazards, and rapid and unplanned urbanization. The assessment was informed by the recognition that the living conditions of many households, particularly those in informal settlements, were deteriorating, with many residents surviving on low or no income. Such conditions weaken the ability of communities to anticipate, prepare for, respond to and recover from disaster events.

Despite the frequency of hazards experienced by residents, the Community Risk Assessment revealed important levels of social capital among households, including those in informal settlements. This was reflected in the willingness and ability of community members to assist one another during times of difficulty or changing conditions. However, vulnerability remains compounded by weak dissemination of early warning information and limited communication on appropriate preparedness and response actions.

In addition to the Community Risk Assessment, the Quick Risk Estimation tool supported the City in profiling hazards, developing a risk matrix, capturing hazard-related data and preparing a vulnerability report. Together, these assessment processes provided an important evidence base for understanding Windhoek's risk profile and for guiding the development of targeted disaster risk reduction, preparedness and resilience-building interventions.

The data-gathering process for the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy was designed to be participatory and inclusive, ensuring that the views and experiences of diverse stakeholders informed the development of the Strategy. As part of this process, a stakeholder workshop was convened to assess the level of resilience of the City of Windhoek. In addition, focus group discussions and key informant interviews were conducted with residents, institutional representatives and stakeholders involved in disaster risk management.

The approach ensured the participation of local stakeholders, government institutions, representatives of disaster risk management structures, and marginalised groups in the generation of risk knowledge. Particular attention was given to the deliberate mobilisation of youth, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities to ensure that their lived experiences, vulnerabilities, priorities and aspirations were reflected in the Strategy. The involvement of local communities also helped to ensure that cultural beliefs, local knowledge and community realities were considered in shaping the City's disaster risk reduction priorities.

The formulation of the Strategy further drew on national, regional and global disaster risk reduction frameworks to strengthen its governance orientation and strategic alignment. These frameworks provided important guidance on understanding the multi-dimensional nature of disaster risk, particularly in relation to exposure, vulnerability, coping capacity and institutional preparedness. This ensured that the City of Windhoek Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy is both locally grounded and aligned with recognised disaster risk reduction principles and good practice.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

A qualitative approach informed the development of the City of Windhoek DRR strategy. The approach involved the review of relevant literature, FGDs as well as in-depth interviews. The qualitative approach was conveniently placed to facilitate unpacking the City of Windhoek situational analysis in terms of hazard and risk profiling, emergency response and preparedness activities. The understanding of the City of Windhoek context informed practices used by different stakeholders to support the design and rollout of the DRR strategy. The review of literature was necessary to unpack funding the city's DRR funding models including ways of strengthening resilience of the city.

Desk or literature review: considered relevant documents among others the Community Risk Assessment Report, Quick Risk Estimation tool, Risk Profile of Natural Hazards in Namibia, SADC Disaster Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan, Hazard Report for DRR strategy including, Namibia's National Disaster Risk Management Policy of 2009 to mention a few. Multi-hazard Early Warning for Early Action, (AU, 2022), Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 were reviewed as well. These documents provided insights into the DRR strategy design, key considerations to when formulating a DRR strategy.

Key informant interview guides: These were administered face to face to gather views from across institutions relevant in early warning systems, disaster preparedness and response in the City of Windhoek. The interview guide was administered to enhance validity of the findings. Institutions engaged include representatives of policymakers from the City of Windhoek, secretariat and external stakeholders from the ministries of Information and Communication Technology, Defence and Veterans Affairs, Safety and security, emergency response agencies such as the Red Cross Society, and academia.

Focus group discussions: Focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with women, men, youth, and people with disabilities in the sampled areas. Guided by a structured FGD tool, these discussions facilitated the collection of primary data and lived experiences of participants regarding the risks they face within the city. The FGDs were held in Moses Garoeb, Khomasdal, Samora Machel, Tobias Hainyeko, and Windhoek Rural.

These engagements specifically included vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, some of whom were also represented in broader stakeholder consultation processes. However, it was observed that certain participants were not always able to fully express themselves in mixed technical stakeholder settings involving technocrats and institutional representatives. The FGDs therefore provided a more inclusive and enabling platform for these groups to freely share their experiences, perspectives, and concerns in a more accessible and participatory environment.

During the discussions, existing and potential capacities across different areas of the city were also assessed, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of local-level risks, vulnerabilities, and resilience dynamics.

5.0 STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

5.1 Rationale for the DRR strategy

Disasters have significant social, economic and institutional impacts, often weakening the ability of communities and local authorities to invest in disaster risk reduction. Over the past three decades, the increase in the frequency, intensity and economic cost of disasters has reinforced the need for cities to adopt proactive and risk-informed approaches to resilience-building. In the City of Windhoek, the growing occurrence and impact of disaster events have underscored the need for a dedicated Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy to entrench a culture of prevention, preparedness, coordinated response and recovery across the municipal area.

With cities expected to experience increasing natural and human-induced shocks due to climate change, rapid urbanization, infrastructure pressures and socio-economic vulnerabilities, the development of inclusive disaster risk reduction strategies has become essential. In this regard, the City of Windhoek Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy deliberately incorporates gender mainstreaming, the needs of persons with disabilities, and the realities of both formal and informal settlements. This approach ensures that the Strategy responds to the different levels of exposure, vulnerability and coping capacity across communities, while promoting context-specific and inclusive risk reduction actions.

The City of Windhoek Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy is expected to contribute to reducing vulnerability and strengthening the capacity of the City, communities and stakeholders to anticipate, prepare for, respond to and recover from shocks. It will also support the integration of disaster risk reduction into development planning by the City, Government institutions, the private sector, civil society and development partners. In doing so, the Strategy will strengthen evidence-based decision-making and ensure that disaster risk reduction is planned and implemented in a systematic and coordinated manner.

The Strategy will further serve as a guiding framework for disaster preparedness and response within the City of Windhoek. It is expected to strengthen disaster risk governance, legal and institutional arrangements, improve monitoring and early warning systems across sectors, promote the collection, processing and sharing of relevant disaster risk data, and support the integration of preparedness and response initiatives across municipal departments and stakeholder institutions. In addition, the Strategy provides a basis for exploring the establishment of a dedicated disaster risk reduction funding mechanism to support sustained investment in resilience-building and risk reduction interventions.

5.2 Orientation of Strategy

The formulation of the City of Windhoek strategy integrated the risk informed development thinking to mitigate risk through focusing on:

- Knowledge generation to unpack trends, risks and opportunities resulting from effective monitoring and learning from past experiences. Promotion of evidence-based DRM initiatives that respond to the context through investing in research, technological transfer particularly in early warning and recovery processes. Evidence based interventions in City of Windhoek will be informed by a clear understanding of local risks and hazards to promote sustainable governance which resonates with the risk informed development agenda.
- Develop a culture of transparency and accountability through promoting monitoring performance necessary for effective deployment of resources.

- The City of Windhoek is expected to inculcate continuous learning and reflection to learn from past disaster response and recovery practices to strengthen future actions. Such a culture will assist the City of Windhoek to embrace gender, persons with disability and those in informal settlements to avoid generating vulnerability and exposure from weak preparedness, response and recovery efforts.

6.0 STRATEGIC FRAMING

The strategic vision of the City of Windhoek is anchored in Namibia's Disaster Risk Management Act No. 10 of 2012 and is intended to provide clear guidance to stakeholders in advancing the City's disaster risk reduction priorities. The Strategy will contribute to building a more resilient city by promoting risk-informed development, strengthening governance and decision-making, mitigating disaster impacts, and preventing the creation of new risks through proactive planning and coordinated action.

The Strategy is further guided by principles that promote inclusivity, financial sustainability, capacity-building, training, research and evidence-based decision-making. It embraces key considerations such as gender equality, urban resilience, environmental management and climate change adaptation, while recognizing the different vulnerabilities and capacities that exist across both formal and informal settlements. The principles outlined below therefore provide the foundation for the implementation of the Strategy and highlight the key considerations that will guide disaster risk reduction interventions within the City of Windhoek.

6.1 Guiding Principles

The guiding principles provide a foundation for effective and inclusive disaster risk reduction, ensuring the protection of lives, livelihoods, and assets while promoting sustainable development and fostering resilience. The general guiding principles that informed the formulation of the DRR strategy include multi-hazard approach, inclusivity, financial sustainability, transversally and social inclusion, multi stakeholder involvement and observance of global partnerships:

- Disaster risk reduction requires a multi-hazard approach and inclusive risk-informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of disaggregated data, including by sex, age, and disability. This entails accessible, up-to-date, comprehensible, science-based, non-sensitive-risk-information- complemented by traditional knowledge. The strategy emphasizes the importance of addressing underlying risk factors through pre-disaster investments and "Building Back Better" in the post-disaster recovery phase.
- It focuses on the development, strengthening, and implementation of relevant policies, plans, practices, and mechanisms needed to promote coherence across health and safety, climate change and variability, environmental management, and disaster risk reduction agendas.
- Shared responsibilities among central governments and stakeholders, considering their specific circumstances and governance systems towards protecting people, property, livelihoods, and cultural and environmental assets while promoting human rights and development.
- Financial sustainability efforts to establish disaster risk management funds should be prioritized. This entails adopting a funding model that promotes having multiple sources of income streams to support integrated responses to emergencies by the City of Windhoek. To attain sustainability, all departments within the local authority must create budgets to support preparedness, response and recovery efforts.
- Inclusivity emphasizes the importance of inclusive participation, empowering local communities, and engaging all relevant institutions, including public, private, and academic sectors to leverage skills and financial resources. Integration of gender perspectives in needs and rapid assessments, response planning, resource allocation, monitoring, and evaluation processes for improved gender responsive interventions.
- Gender Equality and social inclusion to ensure that all gender orientations are respected in carrying out disaster risk management services while also ensuring that all social groups are accommodated, and their views and circumstances are respected in the process.
- Recognition of global partnerships and cooperation, especially for capacity building and financial benefit.
- Multiple stakeholders' involvement in decision making processes to ensure that the most marginalised people or critical ecosystems on which livelihoods depend are adequately represented.

6.2 Vision

To be a Sustainable, Caring and a Disaster Resilient Hub by 2030.

6.3 Mission

To lead coordinated and inclusive disaster risk reduction efforts that protect lives, assets, and livelihoods, while strengthening resilience and supporting sustainable urban development.

6.4 Objectives of this Strategy

The strategic objective is to enhance multi-sectoral disaster risk management in support of City of Windhoek's resilience by:

- (i) Improving the understanding of disaster risks.
- (ii) Strengthening institutionalization of disaster risk management governance.
- (iii) Investing in disaster risk reduction and management for community resilience.
- (iv) Disaster risk innovation and knowledge management.
- (v) Enhance resilience to disaster risks and build back better.

6.5 Targets

Through the implementation of this Strategy and Action Plan, City of Windhoek aims to contribute to the achievement of the following strategic targets aligned with the SFDRR:

- (i) Reduced average disaster mortality rate by 2030.
- (ii) Reduce the number of people affected by disasters by 2030.
- (iii) Reduce direct economic losses to GDP in the Member States on a year-to-year basis.
- (iv) Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning information and systems (including traditional early warning systems) and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.

6.6 Gender mainstreaming

The City of Windhoek is empowered to embrace gender issues to draw from the experiences, knowledge, and interests of both women and men when designing and implementing the DRR strategy. Through gender mainstreaming, the city's development agenda will be set in a manner that both women and men have equal opportunities to influence, participate in, and benefit from the DRR initiatives. Mainstreaming gender by the City of Windhoek in DRR is envisaged to foster awareness about gender equity and equality, to integrate gender analysis in disaster management to decrease vulnerability. The DRR strategy is expected to mainstream gender through the following ways depending on the context:

- develop appropriate accountability mechanisms for monitoring progress in gender mainstreaming.
- Avoid making assumptions that exposure and vulnerability matters are neutral from a gender-equality perspective.
- Have a clear political will to allocate resources for mainstreaming gender to translate theory into practice.
- Promote interventions that widen women's equitable participation at all levels of decision-making within the CoW.

7.0 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The City of Windhoek's Disaster Risk Reduction strategic priorities are aligned with the five strategic priorities of the Southern African Development Community, which are derived from the four Priorities for Action of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. This alignment strengthens the linkages between local, national and regional disaster risk management efforts, while ensuring that the City's resilience agenda is informed by recognized disaster risk reduction principles and practice.

The five strategic priorities, as illustrated below, are intended to enhance multi-sectoral disaster risk management and support the City of Windhoek's resilience-building efforts by:

- (i) Improving the understanding of disaster risks.
- (ii) Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.
- (iii) Investing in disaster risk reduction and management for community resilience.
- (iv) Disaster Risk Innovation and Knowledge Management.
- (v) Enhance resilience to disaster risks and build back better.

7.1 City of Windhoek's Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Priorities Action Plan 2026-2030

This section presents the five strategic priorities that will guide the design, implementation and monitoring of disaster risk reduction activities by the City of Windhoek and its stakeholders. The successful implementation of these priorities will depend on the strength of the City's governance architecture, institutional coordination mechanisms, technical capacity and ability to undertake multi-hazard risk profiling, supported by effective early warning systems for preparedness, response and recovery.

The strategic priorities are aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and reflect the City's commitment to strengthening risk-informed development. The Sendai Framework emphasises that reducing the frequency and impact of disasters requires a sound understanding of disaster risk, effective risk governance, and deliberate measures to prevent the creation of new risks. This requires the establishment of robust data collection and information management systems, including the generation and use of disaggregated data to support contextual risk analysis, forecasting, planning and decision-making.

To achieve this, sustained political commitment, institutional leadership and coordinated action are required to ensure that disaster risk reduction is integrated into future development planning, investment decisions and service delivery processes. Investment in participatory approaches is equally important, as it provides a foundation for engaging relevant stakeholders, promoting inclusivity and ensuring that disaster risk monitoring and implementation plans respond to the lived realities of communities.

Against this background, the City of Windhoek has identified the following strategic priorities to guide its efforts towards reducing disaster risk, strengthening preparedness and building resilient communities.

Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk

- Strengthen disaster risk assessments and develop risk profiles for early warnings, preparedness, and recovery planning to build resilience.
- Identify, understand, and utilize current and future risk scenarios. Maintain up-to-date data on hazards and vulnerabilities.
- Prepare risk assessments based on participatory processes and use these as the foundation for the city's urban development and long-term goals.
- Implement risk-informed urban planning and development based on risk assessments, with a particular focus on vulnerable populations.

- Safeguard natural buffers to enhance the protective functions provided by natural ecosystems. Identify, protect, and monitor natural ecosystems within and outside the city's geography, and improve their utilization for risk reduction.

Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

- Embrace national policies across City of Windhoek processes, including development, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, health, agriculture, urbanization, conservation, and biodiversity.
- Enhancing coordination for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and incorporating risk-informed development into municipal council policies in Windhoek.
- Encourage and support local partnerships, and centres of excellence.
- Implement a voluntary DRR peer review mechanism for the municipal council of Windhoek.

Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk management for community resilience

- Effectively establish and operationalize the City of Windhoek disaster preparedness funds, ensuring sustainable funding is essential.
- Strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to contribute and access funds for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and resilience building in line with the SADC Action Agenda, which promotes adequate funding for sustainable development.
- Develop appropriate incentive frameworks to create an enabling environment that induces local (Windhoek) private investments for resilience.
- Improve allocation and use of multi sector domestic resources investment in DRR for Resilience building.
- Promote the adoption of risk transfer products and services (including the informal sector) for DRR.
- Enhance access to external funding through strategic partnerships and coordinated resource mobilization to strengthen community resilience and disaster risk reduction.

Priority 4: Disaster risk innovation and knowledge management

- Enhance the harmonization, adoption, and use of innovative technologies and solutions in disaster risk management.

Priority 5: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "build back better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

- Improve the city's ability to plan and manage recovery efforts.
- Collate disaster loss and damage data to monitor preparedness, response, and recovery actions, informing resilience building.
- Improve the City's early warning systems through investing and capacitating relevant institutions to predict, prepare and respond to shocks.
- Develop and enforce standards to promote building back better.
- Integrate the city's recovery efforts to minimize future risks.
- Establish integrated hazard monitoring systems.
- Develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for multi-agency response.
- Define clear indicators for disaster risk reduction (DRR), response effectiveness, and recovery progress.

8.0 ENABLERS FOR STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

The dissemination and implementation of the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy by the City of Windhoek requires an enabling environment that allows stakeholders to participate meaningfully and contribute effectively to the City's resilience agenda. In this regard, the City must create favorable conditions for harnessing stakeholder expertise, resources, partnerships and existing synergies, while also identifying new opportunities for collaboration across sectors, including the private sector.

Such enabling conditions are fundamental to promoting sustained investment in disaster preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation. The private sector is encouraged to invest in the implementation of disaster risk reduction initiatives, as such investment contributes not only to public safety and urban resilience, but also to business continuity, asset protection, reduced operational disruptions, supply chain resilience and long-term economic stability. By supporting resilience-building interventions, businesses can help reduce disaster-related losses while strengthening their own capacity to withstand and recover from shocks.

Strengthening information management, research, advocacy, knowledge sharing and locally driven initiatives will support the integration of disaster risk reduction across municipal functions, stakeholder programmes and private sector operations. This will further enhance coordination, improve evidence-based decision-making and ensure that disaster risk reduction becomes a shared responsibility embedded in the City's broader development, investment and resilience agenda

8.1 Information management and communication

The establishment and maintenance of an effective communication architecture for disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery is essential to ensure timely, accurate and accessible information dissemination to all City stakeholders, particularly communities most exposed to disaster risks. Such a communication system should support the regular sharing of early warning information, preparedness guidance, response actions and recovery messages, thereby strengthening the capacity of communities to anticipate, respond to and recover from local shocks.

The City's information and communication structures should actively engage traditional media, social media platforms, community networks and other relevant communication channels to enhance stakeholder participation and broaden outreach to communities routinely affected by disasters. Particular attention should be given to vulnerable groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and residents living in fragile or high-risk areas such as informal settlements. Targeted and inclusive communication by relevant stakeholders will strengthen community awareness, improve alertness and promote the adoption of appropriate risk-avoidance measures before, during and after disaster events.

The City of Windhoek is therefore expected to establish an integrated information management and communication system that is reliable, accessible and compatible with national emergency communication systems. This will facilitate effective coordination between essential services, emergency response agencies and relevant stakeholders for purposes of incident command, joint operations and coordinated disaster response. The system should further support the consistent dissemination of early warnings and risk information to vulnerable communities, while promoting preparedness, timely response and informed decision-making across the City.

8.2 Education, research & advocacy services

The City of Windhoek must strengthen and coordinate disaster risk management capacity-building, education, training and research to promote risk-informed development across the city. These interventions are essential for improving institutional preparedness, enhancing community awareness and supporting evidence-based decision-making in disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery.

Through targeted training and research, the City will be better positioned to design context-specific interventions that respond to the needs of diverse community groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and residents of informal settlements. Investment in training and research will also support the development of local knowledge, practical skills and institutional capacity required to reduce exposure and vulnerability to disaster risks.

Furthermore, sustained investment in education and research may inform curriculum development and support the incorporation of disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and safety awareness into school programmes. This will contribute to building a culture of safety, preparedness and risk avoidance among residents, institutions and stakeholders within the City of Windhoek.

8.3 Knowledge management

Effective knowledge management is essential for strengthening disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery within the City of Windhoek. Access to well-organised, reliable and timely information enables stakeholders to make informed decisions, complete complex tasks efficiently, and respond more effectively to disaster risks. In this regard, the City should establish and strengthen mechanisms that support the collection, organisation, sharing and use of disaster risk information across institutions, communities and partners.

The City should further create linkages among stakeholders operating within the disaster risk reduction space to promote the exchange of experiences, best practices, lessons learned and context-specific coping and adaptation strategies. A structured knowledge-sharing platform would bring stakeholders closer together and enable them to capture, process, disseminate and reuse knowledge generated through disaster risk management interventions

8.4 Disaster risk management services and legal compliance

The formulation, review and enforcement of legislation provide the City of Windhoek with an important mechanism for reducing disaster risks and safeguarding residents, infrastructure and livelihoods. This includes promoting compliance with relevant local statutes, building regulations, land-use planning requirements, traffic safety measures, emergency management provisions and the establishment of disaster risk management structures.

Effective legislative and regulatory enforcement is essential for shaping a proactive disaster risk management agenda. It supports the mobilization of resources, strengthens institutional accountability and ensures that disaster risk reduction considerations are embedded in municipal planning, development control and service delivery. The periodic review of legislation, policies and enforcement mechanisms is therefore necessary to enhance the City's institutional capacity to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disaster events

8.5 Locally driven initiatives

Community participation is central to effective disaster risk management and must therefore be prioritized in the City of Windhoek's preparedness, response, recovery and resilience-building efforts. The City should create enabling conditions for meaningful community involvement, ensuring that residents are not only beneficiaries of disaster risk reduction interventions, but active contributors to risk identification, planning, implementation and monitoring.

Inclusive community participation strengthens the City's ability to mobilize resources, build local capacities and support communities to anticipate, absorb, respond to and recover from current and future shocks. The involvement of vulnerable groups, including residents of informal settlements, women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly, is particularly important in ensuring that disaster risk reduction interventions are informed by lived realities, differentiated needs and community aspirations.

Such participation also improves the quality and credibility of risk assessment findings, enhances local ownership of disaster risk reduction initiatives and promotes shared responsibility between the City, communities and other stakeholders. By placing communities at the center of disaster risk management, the City of Windhoek can promote more responsive, inclusive and sustainable resilience-building interventions

9.0 CITY OF WINDHOEK'S DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The establishment of robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms is essential for strengthening the implementation of the City of Windhoek Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy. Monitoring and evaluation will provide timely feedback on implementation progress, support evidence-based decision-making and enable strategic adjustments where necessary. Given the dynamic nature of disaster risks, the Strategy will be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure that it remains responsive to changing contexts, emerging threats, institutional lessons and contemporary disaster risk reduction priorities.

The City of Windhoek will design and implement monitoring systems that support the regular submission of progress updates against the Strategy's objectives, strategic targets and key performance indicators. These mechanisms will assist in tracking implementation performance, strengthening accountability and ensuring that stakeholders fulfil their respective obligations. Periodic progress reports will capture key insights, achievements, challenges, recommendations and lessons learnt from the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan.

Annual and mid-term reviews will be undertaken to assess progress, document good practices, identify implementation gaps and guide any necessary adjustments to future programming. In addition, a terminal evaluation will be conducted at the end of the Strategy's implementation period to assess overall performance, outcomes and impact. The monitoring priorities and related indicators are outlined in Annex 5 and will provide the basis for tracking progress towards the attainment of the City's disaster risk reduction and resilience-building targets.

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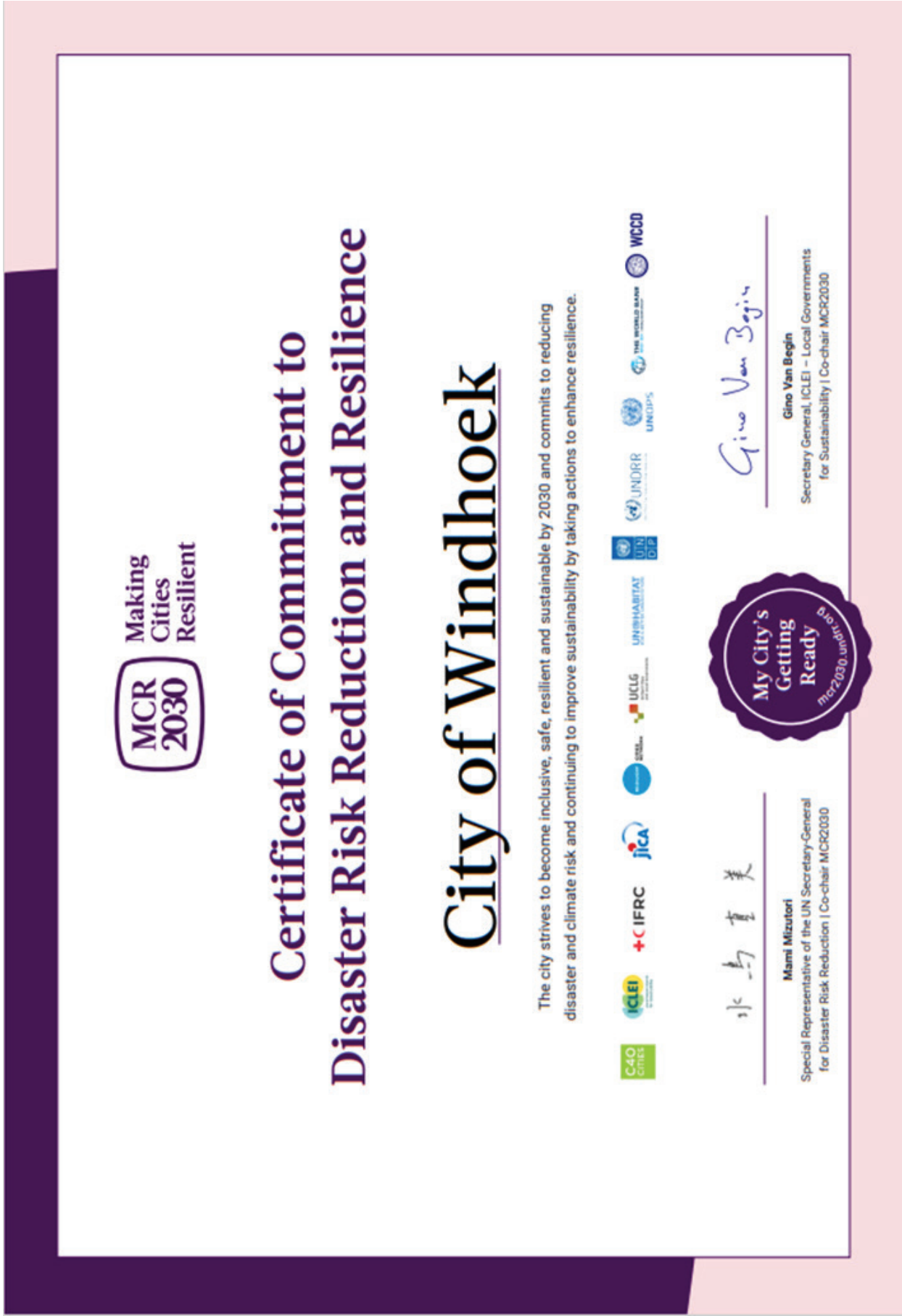
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ANNEXES

Annex I: Hazard profiling

Natural, Man-Made, & Technological Hazards Risk Matrix for City of Windhoek												
Probable damage level resulting from the event if it occurs	Flash Flood	Earthquake	Landslide	Extreme Temp. (Cold & Hot)	Drought	Wildfire	Motor Vehicle Accidents	Epidemic	River floods	House fire	Wash	Hazardous Chemical Spills and Exposure
Catastrophic	X				X	X	X			X		
Very Serious								X	X		X	
Serious				X								
Limited		X	X									
Unimportant												
	Possible	Less Probable	Probable	Possible	Imminent	Probable	Imminent	Probable	Imminent	Probable	Imminent	
Likelihood of event occurring in the jurisdiction area of City of Windhoek												

Annex 2: City of Windhoek Certificate of Commitment to DRR and Resilience



Certificate of Commitment to Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience

City of Windhoek

The city strives to become inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable by 2030 and commits to reducing disaster and climate risk and continuing to improve sustainability by taking actions to enhance resilience.



水島直美

Mami Mizutori
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General
for Disaster Risk Reduction | Co-chair MCR2030



Gino Van Begin

Gino Van Begin
Secretary General, ICLEI - Local Governments
for Sustainability | Co-chair MCR2030

Annex 3: Hazard profile for informal settlements

Mix informal settlement			
Hazards	Ratings	Most vulnerable groups	Constituency
Structural fire	Extreme	Elderly people, people with disabilities and children	Windhoek rural
Floods	Moderate		
Extreme Wind	Severe		
Pandemic	Moderate		
Landslides	Low		
Babylon Informal settlement			
Hazards	Ratings	Most vulnerable groups	Constituency
Structural fire	Extreme	Elderly people, people with disabilities and children	Tobias Hainyeko
Extreme wind	Low		
Floods	Severe		
Extreme heat	Moderate		
Mudslides	Low		
Goreangab informal settlement			
Hazards	Ratings	Most vulnerable groups	Constituency
Structural fire	Extreme	Elderly people, people with disabilities and children	Samora Mashell
Extreme wind	Low		
Floods	Severe		
Extreme heat	Moderate		
Mud slide	Low		
Otjomuise			
Hazards	Ratings	Most vulnerable groups	Constituency
Floods	Extreme	Elderly people, people with disabilities and children	Khomasdal
Structural fire	Extreme		
Refuse dumping	Moderate		
Extreme Heat	Moderate		
Moses Garoeb informal settlement			
Hazards	Ratings	Most vulnerable groups	Constituency
Extreme wind	Moderate	Elderly people, people with disabilities and children	Moses Garoeb
Flood	Extreme		
Structural fire	Severe		
Sewerage overflow	Low		
Ombili informal settlement			
Hazards	Ratings	Most vulnerable groups	Constituency
Floods	Severe	Elderly people, people with disabilities and children	Moses Garoeb
Structural fires	Extreme		
Pandemic	Moderate		
Extreme heat/cold	Low		

Annex 4: Hazards rating (5=high, 1=low)

HAZARD	RATING
Flash Floods	5
River floods	5
Drought	4
Wildfire	4
House fire	4
MVA	4
Extreme weather	4
Water, sanitation and hygiene	4
Earthquake	1
Landslide	3
Aviation Accidents	3
Oil Spill	3
Hazardous Chemical Spills and Exposure	3
Heat Waves	3
Landslide	3

Annex 5: Action Plan

This Action Plan is aligned with the SADC Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2030, thereby ensuring that the City of Windhoek’s disaster risk reduction interventions contribute to broader regional priorities on resilience-building, risk prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and sustainable development.

The Action Plan provides an implementation framework for translating the strategic priorities into practical interventions over the 2026–2030 period. The activities are organized according to priority areas and are not necessarily presented in chronological sequence, as many actions are complementary, cross-cutting or capable of being implemented independently. Each activity and sub-activity will therefore be implemented within its respective timeframe, as reflected in the implementation schedule, while collectively contributing to the overall objectives of the City of Windhoek Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan 2026–2030.

Priority 1 : Understanding disaster risk						
Strategic objective	Activities	Sub-activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Responsible
1. "Strengthen disaster risk assessments and develop risk profiles for early warnings, preparedness, and recovery planning to build resilience."	1. Conduct a comprehensive multi-hazard disaster risk assessment (DRA).	1. Establish a multi-stakeholder DRA Task Team including representatives of vulnerable groups (women, youth, people with disabilities). and develop Terms of Reference.	1. Task Team established with representation of vulnerable groups. 2. ToR Developed.	1.Existing CRA Report (2019)	1.Task Team operational by 2027	Lead Agency: Economic Development & Community Services (EDCS) Department Support Agencies: Communities, Namibia Statistics Agency, Institutes of higher learning, Khomas Regional Council, OPM-DDRM, Disability Council, Namibia Red Cross Society, Ministry of Industrialisation, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, Ministry of Home Affairs Immigration Safety and Security, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Telecommunications Companies, Ministry of Works and Transport, Community Based Organizations, Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Ministry of Environmental and Tourism, Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture, UN agencies
		2. Conduct participatory community workshops, household surveys, and site visits ensuring active participation of vulnerable groups	1. # of participatory workshops conducted, each with vulnerable group participation.		1.Participatory workshops conducted by 2027	

		<p>3. Develop risk maps highlighting vulnerable populations, critical infrastructure, and informal settlements.</p> <p>4. Conduct inclusive risk analysis sessions with both community members and technical experts.</p> <p>5. Organize accessible validation and dissemination workshops with translations, audio materials, and sign language interpretation where required.</p> <p>6. Integrate findings into City of Windhoek DRM and development plans, ensuring actions address the specific risks faced by vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>1. Risk maps developed showing location of vulnerable communities</p> <p>1. Risk analysis report produced with contributions from vulnerable group representatives.</p> <p>1. # of dissemination workshops with representation of vulnerable groups.</p> <p>1. 100% of DRM and development plans incorporate DRA findings by 2030.</p>	<p>City wide risk maps</p> <p>Analysis report completed by 2028</p> <p>Validation workshops</p> <p>100% of plans updated by 2030</p>					
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	2. Establish accessible risk information systems	<p>1. Design and develop an accessible, user-friendly risk information system that caters to people with disabilities.</p> <p>2. Train stakeholders including women, youth, and disability representatives on using the system.</p> <p>3. Promote the risk information system through inclusive media (radio, braille, sign language, accessible online platforms).</p> <p>4. Establish a feedback mechanism to continuously improve</p>	<p>1. System developed with features for accessibility (e.g., text-to-speech, large print).</p> <p>2. Stakeholders trained.</p> <p>3. Risk information promoted via inclusive channels by 2029.</p> <p>4. Annual feedback report from vulnerable group users</p>		1. System developed by 2027		
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	3. Maintain and update risk data regularly.	<p>1. Develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for annual risk data collection, with guidance for capturing data on vulnerable groups.</p> <p>2. Conduct annual community data collection exercises in partnership with local leaders, schools, women's groups, and youth organizations.</p> <p>3. Disseminate updated risk profiles annually in accessible formats (translated, audio, large print, braille, etc.).</p> <p>4. Organize annual data review workshops including participation of vulnerable groups for validation and continuous improvement</p>	<p>1. SOPs developed and in use by 2027.</p>		<p>1. SOPs in place by 2027</p>	
		<p>1. Risk data collected from at least 10 communities annually</p>			<p>10 updates per year</p>	
			<p>1 updated, accessible risk profile distributed annually.</p>		<p>Annual updates from 2027</p>	
			<p>1. review workshop conducted per year</p>		<p>Annual workshops from 2027</p>	

<p>2. Identify, understand, and utilize current and future risk scenarios. Maintain up-to-date data on hazards and vulnerabilities. Prepare risk assessments based on participatory processes and use these as the foundation for the city's urban development and long-term goals.</p>	<p>2. Integrate disaster risk reduction (DRR) into land use and strategic planning</p>	<p>1. Review existing land use plans, zoning schemes, and development policies to identify gaps in DRR integration. 2. Incorporate hazard maps, risk scenarios, and resilience principles into zoning, land use, and strategic urban development plans. 3. Conduct training sessions and workshops for planners, engineers, and developers on risk-informed planning and climate resilience. 4. Ensure active participation of vulnerable groups (e.g., women, youth, disabled, elderly) in consultations for plan development and revision. 5. Ensure DRR considerations appear in land use approvals and building permit processes.</p>	<p>1. # of existing planning documents reviewed</p>	<p>Town Planning Scheme</p>	<p>Review completed by 2027</p>	<p>Lead Agency: Urban and Transport Planning (UTP) Department Support Agencies: EDCS Department, MURD</p>	<p>2027</p>
<p>1. # of training sessions/workshops conducted.</p>	<p>1. # of planning documents updated with DRR integration.</p>	<p>Strategic Plan 2022-2027</p>	<p>100% of key planning documents revised by 2028.</p>	<p>Limited training</p>	<p>Training sessions held by 2028</p>	<p>2027</p>	
<p>1. # of inclusive consultation meetings held with vulnerable group representation.</p>	<p>1. Evidence of DRR references in development approvals and permits.</p>	<p>Fragmented participation</p>	<p>consultations conducted by 2028</p>	<p>DRR reflected in 100% of permits by 2030</p>	<p></p>	<p></p>	

<p>3.Implement Resilient Urban Development and Risk-Informed Planning.</p>	<p>3.1 Integrate DRR into urban and land use planning frameworks</p>	<p>1. Develop risk-sensitive zoning regulations and land use guidelines that protect vulnerable communities from hazards, e.g., ensuring safe locations for informal settlements and access to essential services.</p>	<p>1. risk-sensitive zoning guideline developed, publicly validated, and formally adopted by Council, with provisions addressing the protection of vulnerable groups.</p>		<p>1,100% incorporation of vulnerable group protections in zoning regulation</p>	<p>Lead Agency: Urban and Transport Planning (UTP) Department</p> <p>Support Agencies: Housing Property Management and Human Settlement Department (HPHS), EDCS Department, UTP Department, Finance and Customer Service (FCS) Department, Infrastructure Water and Technical Services (WTS) Department, Local Higher Learning Institution, MURD</p>	<p>2030</p>
		<p>2.Enforce building codes ensuring accessible and safe infrastructure for persons with disabilities, elderly, and other vulnerable groups</p>	<p>2. % of new buildings complying with accessibility and safety standards for vulnerable groups.</p>		<p>90% compliance with accessibility and safety standards by Year 2030. FCS</p>		
		<p>3. Conduct inclusive DRR capacity building for planners and developers</p>	<p>1. Conduct 3 inclusive DRR workshops per year from 2027 to 2030, with at least 30% of participants drawn from organizations representing vulnerable groups. Pre/post tests must show at least 50% increase in DRR knowledge.</p>				

<p>2. Apply and enforce risk-compliant building regulations.</p>	<p>1. Review and update current building codes used in Windhoek to incorporate DRR and universal accessibility standards.</p> <p>2. Train staff, builders, and developers on risk-compliant codes.</p> <p>3. Inspect new developments for DRR compliance</p> <p>4. Inspect informal settlements and social housing</p> <p>5. Set up complaints system for reporting unsafe buildings</p>	<p>1. # of updated building codes approved.</p>	<p>Updated building codes.</p>	
<p>3. Implement risk-informed urban development projects in high-risk zones.</p>	<p>1. Identify and prioritize vulnerable areas using updated hazard/risk maps.</p> <p>2. Relocate settlements and households at risk where feasible.</p>	<p>1. # of trainings held.</p> <p>1. % new developments inspected.</p> <p>1. # of vulnerable areas inspected.</p> <p>1. Complaints system functional.</p> <p>.# of vulnerable settlements upgraded.</p> <p>2. # of relocated households</p>	<p>Trained staff, builders and developers</p> <p>% of inspections of new development.</p> <p># of areas inspected</p> <p>System operational</p>	
<p>4. Promote community led climate resilient infrastructure design</p>	<p>1. Identify priority communities exposed to climate risks (e.g., flooding, heat, drought)</p>	<p>1. # of communities identified.</p>	<p>1. Exposed communities identified.</p>	

<p>4. Safeguard natural buffers to enhance the protective functions provided by natural ecosystems.</p>	<p>1. Identify, map, and assess critical natural buffer.</p>	<p>1. Conduct participatory field surveys with vulnerable groups. 2. Use GIS to produce map and risk profile</p>	<p>1. ecosystem buffer map completed</p>		<p>Map</p>	<p>Lead Agency: Economic Development & Community Services (EDCS) Department Support Agencies: MET, MURD, Office of the Chief Executive Office, OPM, KRC</p>	<p>2028</p>
	<p>2. Develop and adopt local guidelines for protection and sustainable use of natural buffers</p>	<p>1. Draft local guidelines.</p>	<p>1. Guideline approved</p>		<p>City of Windhoek Guideline</p>		
		<p>2. Hold inclusive stakeholder consultations (incl. women, youth, PWDs).</p>					
		<p>3. Approve and disseminate guidelines</p>					
	<p>3. Restore and maintain degraded natural buffers with community participation</p>	<p>1. Conduct awareness programs on ecosystem services</p>	<p>1. # of active community maintenance groups</p>		<p>Active Maintenance group established</p>		
		<p>2. Establish community maintenance groups</p>					

Priority 2- Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk							
<p>1. Ensure policy coherence across global, continental, regional, and national processes, including development, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, health, agriculture, urbanization, conservation, and biodiversity</p>	<p>1. Review and assess the Disaster Risk Management Plan (2022) for alignment with national, regional, and global DRR frameworks</p>	<p>1. Conduct participatory workshops including vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>1. Assessment report produced</p>	<p>1. CoW DRM Plan</p>	<p>CoW DRM Plan Revised and aligned to global DRR framework and NDP6</p>	<p>Lead Agency: Economic Development & Community Services (EDCS) Department</p> <p>Support Agencies: Office of the CEO, National Planning Commission, Disability Council, OPM</p>	<p>2027</p>
	<p>2. Compare DRM Plan with frameworks like Sendai Framework, AU Programme of Action, NDCRS, NDP6</p>	<p>2. National DRM Plan</p>	<p>2. National DRM Plan</p>	<p>2. National DRM Plan</p>	<p>2. National DRM Plan</p>		
	<p>2. Integrate DRR into City of Windhoek sectoral policies and plans (urban planning, environment, health, infrastructure)</p>	<p>3. DRM ACT no.1</p>	<p>3. DRM ACT no.1</p>	<p>3. DRM ACT no.1</p>	<p>3. DRM ACT no.1</p>		
<p>2. Integrate DRR into City of Windhoek sectoral policies and plans (urban planning, environment, health, infrastructure)</p>	<p>1. Revise selected key local sector plans to incorporate DRR priorities</p> <p>2. Ensure consultations with vulnerable groups (women, youth, elderly, PWDs)</p>	<p>1. # of Sector Plans revised</p> <p># of vulnerable groups included</p>	<p>The National Disability Council Act, 2004 (Act No. 26 of 2004)</p> <p>The Prohibition of Racial Discrimination Act, 1991 (Act No 26 of 1991) and its 1998 amendment</p>	<p>Vulnerable groups to be included for DRR planning process</p>	<p>The National Disability Council Act, 2004 (Act No. 26 of 2004)</p> <p>The Prohibition of Racial Discrimination Act, 1991 (Act No 26 of 1991) and its 1998 amendment</p>		

	3. Establish a cross-sector DRR Policy Task Team for ongoing alignment and coherence	1. Formalize a multi-stakeholder working group 2. Conduct biannual meetings 1. Conduct inclusive annual workshops and trainings	1. Task Team formed 2. # of meetings held. 1. # of training sessions held		Task Team established and operational	Lead Agency: Department of Economic Development & Community Services (EDCS) Support Agencies: Ministry of Information Communication and Technology, Namibia Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Ministry of Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare	2029
5. Establish and Operationalize a Disaster Information Management System (DIMS)	1. Design and develop the DIMS 2. Train users and launch system 3. Maintain and review the system	2. Produce and disseminate user-friendly DRR policy guidance materials 1. Conduct studies on the best DIMS to be design and implement 2. Develop system blueprint and procurement plan. 1. Conduct inclusive training for officials and community reps 2. Produce easy-to-use manuals. 1. Update data regularly	# of user friendly materials distributed 1. needs assessment done 2. System designed 1. # of training conducted 2. System launched 1. Annual reviews done	Ministry of ICT Namibia data sharing policy	Accessible digital platform for data sharing to all stakeholders 1. Conduct annual system reviews	Lead Agency: Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Department Support Agencies: MICT, OPM, Namibia Statistic Agency	2028

3. Raise knowledge and awareness for City of Windhoek Executives, Councilors, and departments	1. Conduct tailored DRR awareness sessions for Executives, Councilors, and Senior Management	1. Organize annual DRR briefing sessions linked to departmental priorities 2. Develop briefing notes showing the link between development goals and DRR	1. # DRR session conducted		Executives, Councilors and Senior Management knowledgeable about DRR		2027
4. Encourage and support local partnerships, and centres of excellence	1. Establish formal partnerships with local academic institutions, NGOs, and community-based organizations (CBOs) 2. Promote joint DRR research and community-based projects	1. Identify and map local expertise on DRR and resilience 2. Sign collaboration agreements 1. Facilitate participatory research on local risks, particularly in informal settlements 2. Organize knowledge-sharing forums	1. # of MoUs 1. Research projects supported 2. Knowledge forums held	1. Strengthen the existing MoUs 2. Resource pool develop 2. Knowledge and skills enrichment	1. For the city to have quick access to all the required skills/experience and resources it would need to respond to identified disaster scenarios	Lead Agency: EDCS Department Support Agencies: Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Business Community, Academic Institutions, Emergency Responders	2027

6. Reinforcement of standards and building regulations to promote building back better.	2. Strengthen stakeholders' capacities and knowledge to better understand disaster risks through mutual sharing of information, mentorships, exchange of expertise and other learning interventions	2. Identify and engage Stakeholders 3. Identify the mentorship programs 4. Identify relevant experts	2. # of identified stakeholders 3. # of participants mentored 4. Areas of expertise covered	2. Existing benchmarking exercises to cities with similar challenges	2. To learn from other cities and implement lessons learnt	Lead Agencies: CoW - Department of Economic Development & Community Services (EDCS), DRM Support Agencies: CoW Office of the CEO - External Relations & Legal	2028
	1. Promote residents and the business community to take insurance covers.	1. Develop and implement a recovery plan to guarantee the continuation of critical operations in the city during emergencies, and improve post-disaster needs and recovery assessments 2. Sensitize Stakeholders on the Disaster Risk Management Continuum	# of stakeholders sensitize	Recovery plan draft and send for approval	Approved recovery plan implemented Disaster Risk Management Continuum Establish		

Priority 3 - Investing in disaster risk management for community resilience

<p>1. To effectively establish and operationalize the City of Windhoek Disaster Preparedness Funds, ensuring sustainable funding is essential.</p>	<p>1. Obtain Council Resolution for Fund Creation.</p>	<p>1. Draft a proposal for the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Fund. 2. Conduct stakeholder consultation meetings.</p>	<p>1. Proposal document completed and submitted. 2. Stakeholder meetings held with minutes and feedback reports.</p>	<p>1. Existing Mayoral Trust Fund, CoW Disaster Risk Management Division budget</p>	<p>1. Disaster Preparedness Fund established 2. Vote structure created</p>	<p>Lead Agency: CoW -Department of Finance & Customer Services (FCS) Support Agencies: CoW Department of EDCS - DRM, CoW Office of the CEO – Legal , Office of the Mayor</p>	<p>2028</p>
<p>3. Review and finalize the proposal based on feedback</p>	<p>3. Review and finalize the proposal based on feedback</p>	<p>3. Review and finalize the proposal based on feedback</p>	<p>3. Final proposal submitted to Council.</p>				
<p>4. Table proposal at Council meeting for approval.</p>	<p>4. Table proposal at Council meeting for approval.</p>	<p>4. Table proposal at Council meeting for approval.</p>	<p>4. Proposal tabled.</p>				
<p>5. Secure council resolution to establish DRR Fund.</p>	<p>5. Secure council resolution to establish DRR Fund.</p>	<p>5. Secure council resolution to establish DRR Fund.</p>	<p>5. Council resolution passed and recorded in official minutes.</p>				

	2. Opening of the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Fund	<p>1. Develop fund operational guidelines and procedures.</p> <p>2. Open dedicated bank account for the DRR Fund.</p> <p>3. Allocate initial seed funding from municipal budget.</p> <p>4. Develop and launch communication strategy to announce fund opening.</p> <p>5. Conduct launch event with stakeholders and media.</p>	<p>1. Guidelines completed and approved.</p> <p>2. Fund account opened and active.</p> <p>3. An amount transferred into DRR Fund.</p> <p>4. Public awareness campaign conducted.</p> <p>5. Launch event held with participation of stakeholders.</p>	1. Existing DRM budget	1. Bank account confirmation letter	<p>Lead Agency: CoW -Department of Finance & Customer Services (FCS)</p> <p>Support of Agencies: CoW Department of EDCS - DRM, CoW Office of the CEO -Legal, Office of the Mayor , NCCI, OPM-DDRM, Ministry of Finance</p>	2028
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	3. Develop and implement a sustainable funding strategy for the disaster Preparedness fund	<p>1. Conduct financial needs assessment for DRR activities.</p> <p>2. Identify and assess potential funding sources (grants, levies, PPPs, donor agencies).</p> <p>3. Develop a multi-year sustainable funding strategy document.</p> <p>4. Establish partnerships with external donors and private sector.</p> <p>5. Implement resource mobilization initiatives (e.g., fundraising campaigns, donor engagement, DRR levy proposals).</p> <p>6. Monitor and evaluate funding strategy effectiveness annually.</p>	<p>1. Financial needs assessment report finalized</p> <p>2. Viable funding sources identified.</p> <p>3. Strategy document completed and endorsed by Council.</p> <p>4. MoUs signed with partners</p> <p>5. Funds raised annually from diversified sources.</p> <p>6. Annual review reports completed with recommendations for improvement</p>	1. No funding strategy in place	<p>1. Approved funding strategy</p> <p>2. Funding Agreement</p> <p>2. Proof of funds generated (Financial report)</p>	<p>Lead Agency: CoW- Department of Finance & Customer Services (FCS), Cash Management</p> <p>Support Agencies: CoW Department of EDCS - DRM</p>	2028
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<p>2. Strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to contribute and access funds for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and resilience building in line with the SADC Action Agenda, which promotes adequate funding for sustainable development.</p>	<p>1. Conduct stakeholder capacity needs assessments</p>	<p>1. Develop a scope for the assessment and implementation of the assessment</p> <p>2. Prepare capacity needs report.</p> <p>3. Conduct training to address the gaps identified</p> <p>4. Address gaps identified from need assessment</p>	<p>1. Need Assessment scope</p> <p>2. # of capacity needs reports</p>	<p>1. Stakeholders asset register Stakeholders</p> <p>2. Human resource organization structure, asset register Stakeholders</p>	<p>1. Final Assessment scope</p> <p>2. Finalized Capacity needs report</p>	<p>Lead Agency: CoW -Department of Economic Development & Community Services (EDCS), DRM</p> <p>Support Agencies: CoW Department of HCCS -Human Capital, CoW Department of FCS – Finance, CoW Office of the CEO -External Relations</p>	<p>2028</p>
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<p>3. Develop appropriate incentive frameworks to create an enabling environment that induces local (Windhoek) private investments for resilience.</p>	<p>1. Conduct workshop to discuss the significance of investing in disaster resilience with the representative of the business community</p>	<p>1. Develop concept note and agenda for the workshop. 2. Identify and invite key stakeholders from the business sector. 3. Identify and invite key stakeholders from the business sector. 4. Host the workshop with expert speakers, case studies, and local context. 5. Facilitate dialogue on public-private partnerships in DRR 6. Document outcomes and follow-up actions</p>	<p>1. Concept note and agenda approved. 2. Workshop report compiled and shared with participants. 3. # of business community that partake 4. # of incentives packages offered.</p>	<p>1. Business community forum 2. Existing incentive policy/ guidelines (consult property section)</p>	<p>1. Business community involvement in DRR investment 2. Sectoral Incentives Packages Finalized Sectoral guidelines</p>	<p>Lead Agency: CoW -Department of Finance & Customer Services (FCS), Finance Support Agencies: CoW Department of EDCS -DRM, NCCI, Farmers, Union, NGOs, UN Agencies</p>	<p>2028</p>
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	<p>2. Engage and benchmarking with the key decision makers to discuss the importance and benefits of incentives aimed at building resilience</p>	<p>1. Identify key national and local decision makers (government, finance, planning, NCCI).</p> <p>2. Conduct benchmarking study on incentive models from Sister cities.</p> <p>3. Organize roundtable discussions or bilateral meetings with decision</p> <p>4. Prepare and present briefing paper on proposed resilience incentives.</p> <p>5. Develop policy recommendations and incentive options based on feedback.</p>	<p>1. Report on best practices from sister cities completed.</p> <p>2. Roundtable meetings held with key policy actors.</p> <p>3. Briefing paper delivered and discussed during engagements</p> <p>4. Draft policy recommendations completed and submitted</p>			
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<p>4. Improve allocation and use of multi sector domestic resources investment in DRR for Resilience building.</p>	<p>1. Create an advance database of available resources</p>	<p>1. Conduct resource mapping (personnel, equipment, facilities, etc.)</p> <p>2. Develop a digital database system.</p> <p>3. Populate and validate database with collected data.</p> <p>4. Train users in data entry, access, and updating.</p> <p>5. Set up data security and maintenance protocols.</p>	<p>1. Key resource categories are mapped and logged</p> <p>2. Personnel trained on database use and maintenance.</p> <p>3. Database is accessible and updated quarterly by relevant department.</p>	<p>1. Human capital organization structure, asset register Stakeholders</p>	<p>1. Operational database</p>	<p>Lead Agency: CoW -Department of Economic Development & Community Services (EDCS), DRM</p> <p>Support Agencies: CoW Department of FCS – Finance, NCCI, CoW Office of the CEO -External Relations</p>	<p>2027</p>
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	2. Review existing memorandum of understanding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and compile all current MoUs relevant to disaster risk reduction (DRR). 2. Assess the relevance, scope, and effectiveness of existing MoUs. 3. Engage stakeholders to review terms and responsibilities. 4. Update or draft revised MoUs to align with the DRR Strategy. 5. Secure endorsement and formal approval of updated MoUs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Existing DRR-related MoUs reviewed. 2. MoUs revised and re-signed. 3. MoUs published and accessible to DRR partners 	1. Existing MoU with key external stakeholders	1. Updated MoU's	<p>Lead Agency: CoW -Department of Economic Development & Community Services (EDCS), DRM</p> <p>Support Agencies: CoW Office of the CEO -External Relations</p>	2027
5. Promote the adoption of risk transfer products and services (including the informal sector) for DRR.	1. Shortlist Insurance companies to offer products that caters for all sectors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify Registered insurance companies and their products 2. Engage the insurance companies and their products that suits the identified need 	1. # of registered insurances companies' engaged.	1. Existing CoW short- and long-term insurance	1. Insurance services and product that tailored for the informal community	<p>Lead Agency: CoW -Department of Finance & Customer Services (FCS), Finance</p> <p>Support Agencies: CoW Department of EDCS, DRM</p>	2027
3. Mapping of new key stakeholders and enter memorandums of understanding	1. Identifying key stakeholders	1. # of new MoUs signed	1. Existing MoU with key external stakeholders	1. Stakeholder map 2. Signed MoU's with new stakeholders	<p>Lead Agency: CoW -Department of Economic Development & Community Services (EDCS), DRM</p> <p>Support Agencies: CoW Office of the CEO -External Relations</p>	2027	

Priority 4 - Disaster Risk Innovation and Knowledge Management

<p>1. Enhance the harmonization, adoption, and use of innovative technologies and solutions in disaster risk management.</p>	<p>1. Create an integrated IMS platform for DRR</p>	<p>1. Conduct needs assessment with DRR stakeholders to define system requirements.</p> <p>2. Develop system architecture and select platform (cloud-based, interoperable).</p> <p>3. Procure and configure IMS hardware/software.</p>	<p>1. DRR IMS system requirements finalized and approved.</p> <p>2. System developed and pilot-tested in departments.</p> <p>3. % of DRR partner institutions have user access and trained personnel.</p>	<p>1. Existing ESS</p>	<p>1. Integrated IMS Platform</p>	<p>Lead Agency: CoW Department of Economic Development & Community Services (EDCS), DRM</p> <p>Support Agencies: CoW Department of ICT, Academic Institutions</p>	<p>2027</p>
<p>1. Conduct needs assessment with DRR stakeholders to define system requirements.</p> <p>2. Develop system architecture and select platform (cloud-based, interoperable).</p> <p>3. Procure and configure IMS hardware/software.</p>		<p>1. DRR IMS system requirements finalized and approved.</p> <p>2. System developed and pilot-tested in departments.</p> <p>3. % of DRR partner institutions have user access and trained personnel.</p>		<p>1. Existing ESS</p>		<p>1. Integrated IMS Platform</p>	
<p>1. Create an integrated IMS platform for DRR</p>		<p>1. Conduct needs assessment with DRR stakeholders to define system requirements.</p> <p>2. Develop system architecture and select platform (cloud-based, interoperable).</p> <p>3. Procure and configure IMS hardware/software.</p>		<p>1. Existing ESS</p>		<p>1. Integrated IMS Platform</p>	
<p>1. Create an integrated IMS platform for DRR</p>		<p>1. Conduct needs assessment with DRR stakeholders to define system requirements.</p> <p>2. Develop system architecture and select platform (cloud-based, interoperable).</p> <p>3. Procure and configure IMS hardware/software.</p> <p>4. Integrate existing databases (resources, hazards, incidents, etc).</p> <p>5. Train users and assign data managers in each department.</p> <p>6. Establish SOPs for data entry, access, and updates.</p>		<p>1. Existing ESS</p>		<p>1. Integrated IMS Platform</p>	

Priority 5: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

<p>1. "Improve the city's ability to plan and manage recovery efforts."</p>	<p>1. Develop a tailor-made capacity-building program on recovery planning and management.</p>	<p>1. Conduct a training needs assessment across key sectors and department.</p> <p>2. Develop training curriculum and materials tailored to local recovery needs.</p> <p>3. Identify and engage expert facilitators and training institutions.</p> <p>4. Trained staff report.</p>	<p>1. Comprehensive recovery training curriculum is developed</p> <p>2. # of people trained.</p> <p>3. Recovery planning modules are institutionalized in annual DRR training programs.</p>	<p>1. Integrated Communication Risk Awareness Campaign (Programmes)</p> <p>2. CoW Disaster Risk Management Plan of 2022</p> <p>3. After Action Review Report</p>	<p>1. All identified relevant stakeholders capacitated.</p> <p>2. Training program approved.</p> <p>3. Session on Capacity Building Programmes</p>	<p>Lead Agency: CoW -Department of Economic Development & Community Services (EDCS), DRM</p> <p>Support Agencies: CoW Department of EDCS -Emergency Management & Health Divisions, CoW Office of the CEO -External Relations, MOHS, WHO, UN Agencies, Academic institutions</p>	<p>2028</p>
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2. Collate disaster loss and damage data to monitor preparedness, response, and recovery actions, informing resilience building.	1. Establish a data management hub to manage all disaster loss and damage data for the City. 2. Employ ITC system to monitor recovery and response workflows.	1. Define data standards, protocols, and indicators for disaster loss and damage. 2. Develop and equip a centralized data hub (physical and digital infrastructure). 3. Train focal persons in departments and partners on data collection and reporting	1. Data management hub framework and tools developed. 2. Departments and agencies linked to the system.	1. EMS (Fire Brigade System) 2. Subcommittee feasibility report submitted to DRM Committee 3. Data Management Strategy and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan approved by DRM Committee 4. Data hub set up and operational. 5. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan approved by the DRM Committee.	1. Data hub establishment approved by DRM Committee.	Lead Agency: CoW -Department of Economic Development & Community Services (EDCS), DRM Support Agencies: NSA, CoW Department of ICT, MURD, OPM	2028
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<p>3. Enhance the City of Windhoek's capacity to anticipate, respond to, and reduce the impacts of hazards through an integrated early warning system (EWS) and actionable preparedness measures.</p>	<p>1. Develop an integrated city's early warning system and an Action Plan</p>	<p>1. Conduct a risk and needs assessment for early warning system components 2. Map existing EWS infrastructure, gaps, and communication channels. 3. Establish an EWS coordination framework and SOPs among city departments and partners.</p>	<p>1. Integrated EWS design and stakeholder SOPs approved. 2. City-wide EWS Action Plan validated and adopted. 3. Early warnings disseminated in under 15 minutes to all targeted communities during simulation drills.</p>	<p>1. DRM Plan 2. Radio broadcast and SMS service.</p>	<p>1. Approved Integrated Early Warning System for the City 2. Multi hazard forecasting & early warning system installed and operational.</p>	<p>Lead Agency: CoW -Department of Economic Development & Community Services (EDCS), DRM Support Agencies: MAFWLR, MET, CoW Department of HCCS -Corporate Communication & Public Participation, MICT, CoW Department of – ICT, OPM-DDRM, MET Office, Academic Institutions</p>	<p>2027</p>
		<p>4. Develop and validate an EWS Action Plan with clearly defined roles and timelines.</p>	<p>4. % of residents in high-risk zones report receiving timely and understandable alerts.</p>				
		<p>5. Pilot test the EWS and conduct public drills. 6. Roll out public awareness campaigns on how to interpret and respond to warnings.</p>					

<p>4. Improve disaster preparedness, coordination, and real-time response through the establishment of a dedicated Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Situation Room for the City of Windhoek.</p>	<p>1. Establish a National Situation Room in collaboration with MURD and OPM-DDRM (National DRM Centre)</p>	<p>1. Create a committee that will ensure the fast tracking of the establishment of the DRM center plan 2. Conduct feasibility study and site selection for the DRM Centre. 3. Design the layout and operational workflow of the Situation Room.</p>	<p>1. Design and infrastructure plan finalized and approved.</p>	<p>1. Public Health Operation Centre at MOHSS</p>	<p>1. Approved DRM Centre plan</p>	<p>Lead Agency: CoW -Department of Economic Development & Community Services (EDCS), DRM Support agency: CoW Department of IWTS -Architecture & Infrastructure Divisions</p>	<p>2027</p>
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Annex 6: Priorities for monitoring

Priority 1: Understanding Disaster Risk				
Activity	Indicators	Data collection methods	Responsible	Frequency of monitoring
1. Conduct a risk assessment using the UNDRR Risk Estimator	1. Hazard assessment report available	Desk top review, Interviews and Observation	CoW Department of EDCS - DRM: Early Warning	Quarterly over a period of a year.
2. Produce risk maps	2. Availability of risk profile for CoW	Desk top review, interviews and observation	CoW Department of EDCS - DRM: Early Warning	Annually
3. Train community leaders and officials in hazard risk mapping and monitoring (consider persons with disabilities and gender issues)	3. # of community leaders and officials trained	Focus group discussions, workshops and transact walks	CoW Department ICT- Digitalization Innovation	Annually
4. Mainstream DRR assessment and mapping into development and implementation of land use policy, urban planning and management (disability and gender inclusion).	A DRR land use zoning developed and launched	Desk top review, Community consultation	CoW Department of UTP - Urban Policy, CoW Department of EDCS - DRM: Planning	Every 5 years
1. Develop regulations and standards (disability and gender inclusion).	Building codes and standards developed and launched	Interviews Surveys and consultations	CoW Department of UTP - Urban Policy	Annually
2. Prepare a submission to relevant ministries to motivate the need for local building regulations and standards	Automated System in place	Desk top review and consultations.	CoW Department of UTP - Urban Policy,	
5. Develop guidelines on green and blue infrastructures, integrate green and blue infrastructures into city policy and projects	1. Create awareness on the definition of green and blue infrastructures	Workshops Consultations Interviews	CoW Department of EDCS - DRM: Planning	Annually
	2. Conduct a workshop to develop guidelines			
	3. Submit guidelines to Council for endorsement and approval			

Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk				
Activity	Indicators	Data collection methods	Responsible	Frequency of monitoring
1. Achieve policy coherence with global, continental, regional and national processes and frameworks, in particular, development, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, health, agriculture, urbanisation and conservation and biodiversity.	100% completed Disaster Resilience Strategy properly integrated with other city functions and portfolios	Desktop studies	CoW Department of EDCS - EDRM Division	End of 2027
2. Enhance the coordination for DRR and risk informed development mainstreaming in development and sectoral policies in the jurisdiction of the municipal council of Windhoek	Number of Strategies reviewed	Desktop studies	CoW Department of EDCS - EDRM DIVISION	After strategy review Quarterly review for the DRM committee activities
3. Encourage and support local partnerships, and centres of excellence	Number of MoUs, Number of disaster scenarios and Simulations conducted	Simulations observations and recommendations	CoW Department of EDCS - EDRM Division	Yearly for the MoUs signed Simulations reviewed immediately after every exercise
4. Implement a voluntary DRR peer review mechanism for the municipal council of Windhoek	Number of sister cities consulted % of implemented lessons	Sister cities available with the CoW surveyed	CoW Department of EDCS - EDRM Division	Yearly

Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience				
Activity	Indicators	Data collection methods	Responsible	Frequency of monitoring
Develop a term of reference (ToR) containing fund conditions	One ToR developed	Review of TOR Document	CoW Department of EDCS - EDRM, CoW Department of FCS - Cash Management	Biannually
Prepare a submission to council for approval	Approved Council Resolution	Review of Council Resolution	CoW Department of EDCS - EDRM, CoW Department of FCS - Cash Management	Biannually
Opening of the fund	One funding account opened	Validation of Bank Confirmation Letter	CoW Department of EDCS - EDRM, CoW Department of FCS - Cash Management	Once off
Develop a sustainable funding strategy for disaster Preparedness fund	An updated sustainable funding for generating activities	Meeting	CoW Department of EDCS - EDRM	Annually
Conduct stakeholder capacity needs assessments	Need Assessment scope	Reports	CoW Department HCCS - Human capital, Department of EDCS - EDRM	Annually
Engage and benchmarking with the key decision makers to discuss the importance and benefits of incentives aimed at building resilience	Number of Workshop conducted Number of incentives packages offered	Administrative	Social Income Grants, Disaster relief Guidelines, Regional Council Drought Relief Initiatives, NGOs, CoW (Municipal incentives for pensioners), CoW Department of EDCS - Free Emergency response for selected groups	Biannually
Create an advance database of available resources (human, equipment's , funds)	Number of database created (human, equipment's, funds)	Routine inspection	All CoW departments	Quarterly
Shortlist Insurance companies to offer products that caters for all sectors	Number of registered insurance companies' approach	Interviews	CoW Department of EDCS - EDRM, Insurance companies	Once off

Priority 4: Disaster Risk Innovation and Knowledge Management						
Activity		Indicators	Data collection methods	Responsible	Frequency of monitoring	
1.	1.	Raise Awareness on the importance of post-event assessments and lesson learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of hazard base awareness session held 	Reviewing of meeting minutes, session reports, and surveys	CoW Department of EDCS - EDRM, CoW office of the CEO	Quarterly
	2.	Create an integrated IMS platform for DRR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of infrastructures rebuild complying to the applicable standard. Operational expanded IMS (ESS) Platform for DRR 	Reviewing of meeting minutes, session reports, and surveys	CoW Department of EDCS – EDRM, CoW office of the CEO	Quarterly
2.	1.	Sensitize City of Windhoek Executives, Councilors and departments on DRR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A multi-agency/sectoral mechanism with appropriate authority and resources available Included DRR initiative KPIs in Executives Available data and information on the IMS (ESS) Platform for DRR 	Reviewing of meeting minutes, session reports, and surveys	CoW Department of EDCS – EDRM, CoW office of the CEO	Quarterly
	2.	Study the MoU's of sister cities to establish how to learn from them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify sister cities to learn from and benchmark on DRR initiatives. Familiarize, document and implement new innovations 	Reviewing of meeting minutes, session reports, and surveys	CoW Department of EDCS – EDRM, CoW office of the CEO	Quarterly
3.	1.	Develop and implement a comprehensive emergency preparedness and response plans for each educational facility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of institutions with available emergency preparedness plans Number emergency evacuation drills conducted 	Reviewing of meeting minutes, session reports, and surveys	CoW Department of EDCS – EDRM, CoW office of the CEO	Quarterly
	2.	Educate residents on benefits of having an insurance cover and engage Insurance companies to offer products that caters for all residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of residents reached/ Attendance register Number of information sharing platforms held 	Reviewing of meeting minutes, session reports, and surveys	CoW Department of EDCS – EDRM, CoW office of the CEO	Quarterly

Priority 5: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

Activity	Indicators	Data collection methods	Responsible	Frequency of monitoring
Develop and implement a tailor-made capacity-building program on recovery planning and management.	Stakeholder database compiled	Questionnaires, interviews	CoW Department of EDCS - EDRM: EWMA	Biannual
Establish a data management hub to manage all disaster loss and damage for the City.	Training program drafted.	Electronic-Survey and meetings	CoW Department of ICT & CoW Department of EDCS - EDRM: EWMA	Quarterly
Employ ITC system to monitor recovery and response workflows.	Data Management Strategy developed.	Business system requirement document	CoW Department of ICT	Two meetings a year
Develop an integrated Early Warning System for the City.	Subcommittee instituted	Community meeting engagements, historical data	CoW Department of EDCS - EDRM, CoW Department of Human Capital & Corporate Services - Public participation, CoW Department of ICT, Ministry of Mines and Energy, MET office	Update and upgrade system as required.
Develop and implement a tailor-made capacity-building program on recovery planning and management.	Stakeholder database compiled	Questionnaires, interviews	CoW Department of EDCS - EDRM: EWMA	Bi Annual



Department of Economic Development and Community Services
Disaster Risk Management

In partnership with



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