Tanzania



Organization: Centre for Community Initiatives
Location: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Solution: Improving climate adaptation through early warning information networks in Tanzania
Factsheet Period: First round of UNDP AFCIA funding (18 months); Second round of UNDP AFCIA funding (12 months)



A teacher explaining the impacts of severe weather ents and outlining steps they can take to stay safe @CCI

Over 70-80% of Dar es Salaam's residents live in informal settlements with limited access to weather information and low adaptive capacity (World Bank). DARAJA seeks to bridge the gap between vulnerable communities, local actors, and weather and climate information (WCI) providers. Through co-designed solutions, the initiative improves access to actionable forecasts and early warnings, enabling informed decision-making at the community and city levels. By building a network of stakeholders, the initiative is scaling its successful pilot to two new wards, ensuring that WCI services are user-centred and integrated into trusted local communication channels.

Key achievements

- 60,256 community members with direct access to weather warnings
- Heightened awareness and reliance on accurate weather information, with community members seeking weather and climate information updates
- Improved access to weather information, leading to proactive disaster preparedness measures in Mji Mpya and Karakata
- Established a community team representing key livelihood groups to support the platform with local information and ensure relevance to users' needs
- Engaged 92 community members in the co-design process of the business model and early warning system
- Developed the DARAJA App, an Inclusive City-Community Forecasting and Early Warning Service
- Integrated forecasts from the Tanzania Meteorological Authority into the DARAJA App, improving the reliability, accessibility and sustainability of early warning information
- The DARAJA App was successfully piloted in Kigamboni Municipality, supporting farmers, livestock keepers, poultry farmers and market entrepreneurs with weather information for daily planning
- Municipal disaster coordinators now use daily forecasts to warn local leaders and communities, to support preparedness for severe weather events

Social impact

- Enhanced capacity of informal settlement residents to take mitigating or adaptive measures against severe weather impacts
- Communities have initiated proactive hygiene campaigns
- Young people empowered to access and use climate information





Adaptation benefits

- Early warning systems reduce impacts of extreme weather on people's safety and property
- Low-tech solutions bring weather information to residents of informal settlements
- Creating flexible information systems that use reliable scientific data on climate risks helps communities better prepare for and adapt to changing climate conditions

Innovation

- City-wide approach to co-design content, dissemination channels and feedback loops
- Introduced community SMS system for rapid communications
- Temporary relocation measures during heavy rains help protect communities and prevent injuries caused by storms.
- School outreach programs targeting tech-savvy youth have significantly improved the speed and efficiency of information sharing.

Replication potential

- Weather information system includes partnerships, media channels, and feedback mechanisms, making it possible to replicate and scale these systems in other regions Low tech solutions (SMS forecast and warnings) are accessible and affordable to most vulnerable populations

Funding snapshot

- UNDP-AFCIA grant: US$204,850 (initial grant: $124,850; scaling grant: $80,000)

Investability	
Revenue per year	N/A. The Centre for Community Initiatives is exploring a subscription model that charges $1-5 per user. Other revenue sources include advertisements and selling weather information to insurance companies.
Sustaining criteria	Potential donor contributions to develop a pilot mobile application
Financial innovation	The total addressable market is estimated at $3 million for direct sales to farmers, with opportunities for expansion to include fishers and entrepreneurs.
Expected return	The initiative is expected to deliver a 6% return on the initial $132,000 investment, with a projected payback period of 18 months.

ADAPTATION FUND Climate Innovation Accelerator

ADAPTATION FUND

To read their story, visit UNDP-AFCIA

To watch their video, click here

To contact the organization, visit CCI Tanzania