

Success factors for urban disaster risk reduction strategies

The case of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill, Republic of Mauritius



Background and context

In today's dynamic urban landscape, cities face multifaceted challenges, including the increasing frequency and intensity of natural hazards, climate change impacts and rapid urbanisation. To effectively address these challenges, cities are integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies into broader urban development and planning processes.

The “Leading the Way: Disaster Risk Reduction Training for Local Government Champions” training programme – organised by the [Resilience Initiative Africa](#) (RIA) project of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and in partnership with the [United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (UNDRR); the African Union Commission; [United Cities and Local Governments](#) and its [Africa section](#); and [Slum Dwellers International](#) – brought together regional, national and local stakeholders from over 20 countries working in the field of risk reduction in Nairobi, Kenya, from 19 to 21 March 2024. Through peer learning and experts' inputs, participants exchanged insights on challenges and good practices.

This factsheet explores the success factors of the township of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill in the Republic of Mauritius in implementing DRR strategies in the face of climate change. With the support of the UNDRR Regional Office for Africa and the [Making Cities Resilient](#) (MCR) 2030 initiative, Beau Bassin-Rose Hill is the first Mauritian town to achieve Stage C of the MCR2030 resilience roadmap by implementing DRR measures and is leading the way in DRR in Mauritius and Africa.

Beau Bassin-Rose Hill

Beau Bassin-Rose Hill is located in the district of Plaines Wilhems, on the mainland of Mauritius in the south-west Indian Ocean. Following the country's independence in 1968, Beau Bassin-Rose Hill rapidly evolved from a mono-crop sugar-cane cultivation region to one of the most built-up areas in Mauritius.

As of 2022, Beau Bassin-Rose Hill covered a total surface area of 20 km² and had a population of 103,900. It is administered by the

Municipal Council of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill. The township has a mild tropical climate with two seasons: a warm summer from November to April (also known as the cyclonic and rainy season) and a drier and cooler winter from May to October.



Figure 1: agricultural land and settlements on former agricultural land of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill

- ▬ Township Beau Bassin-Rose Hill enclosed by river and agricultural land
- ▬ Settlements on former agricultural land
- ▬ Remaining agricultural land

Over the past decades several residential and commercial developments across the township have been built on land exposed to hydro-meteorological and geological hazards such as tropical cyclones, flooding, flash floods, landslides and rockfalls. To that effect, the rapid unplanned urbanisation of the township combined with constant changes in climate patterns has significantly increased the vulnerability and exposure of its suburban communities, critical infrastructures, and socio-economic activities to adverse impacts of natural hazards (see figure 1).

Success factors of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill



1. Development of a local DRR strategy based on multi-stakeholder engagement and local DRR assessments

Through the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee, the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill collaborated closely with various community stakeholders, government sectors and agencies, leading to the development of the [Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management \(LDRRM\) Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030](#).

This strategic framework serves to guide the township's disaster risk governance, emphasising a decentralised approach in line with the [UNDRR Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#).

Integral to the successful development of the LDRRM strategy was the use of prior locally led risk assessments such as a risk matrix developed in 2021. The results of these prior assessments and newly mandated analysis under the LDRRM strategy, such as a social vulnerability assessment, will be fundamental in informing and enhancing the township's disaster risk profile and decision-making processes, as well as urban risk-informed planning initiatives.



2. Enhanced disaster risk planning through international collaboration

Beau Bassin-Rose Hill collaborates with UNDRR to strengthen its technical capacity through guided resilience assessments for developing strategic frameworks and planning DRR activities for urban disaster resilience.

Through this partnership, Beau Bassin-Rose Hill has used disaster resilience planning tools such as the [10 Essentials for Making Cities Resilient](#) toolkit and the [Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities](#), developed by UNDRR, to inform and formulate an effective LDRRM Strategy and Action Plan.



3. Active involvement of local communities, including vulnerable and marginalised groups, in resilience planning

Beau Bassin-Rose Hill actively involves local communities, including vulnerable groups, in urban resilience planning.

The Municipal Council has organised thematic working sessions with representatives of civil society organisations, grassroots women's associations, special education authorities, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, the Ministry of Social Security, emergency services and community members. These sessions introduced community-based disaster management concepts and integrated persons with impairments into the township's overall



Picture 1: Heavy flooding is especially a risk in Beau Bassin-Rose Hill during rainy season

disaster preparedness, response, and recovery planning process by addressing their specific barriers, needs and requirements.

Through these working sessions and open dialogue with the township's executives (mayor, chief executive and elected members), inputs were reviewed and analysed, leading to their integration as dedicated work areas and actions in the LDRRM Action Plan.

The approach of actively involving community members in disaster risk planning processes enhances the community's understanding of DRR and engagement in joint Beau Bassin-Rose Hill resilience efforts.

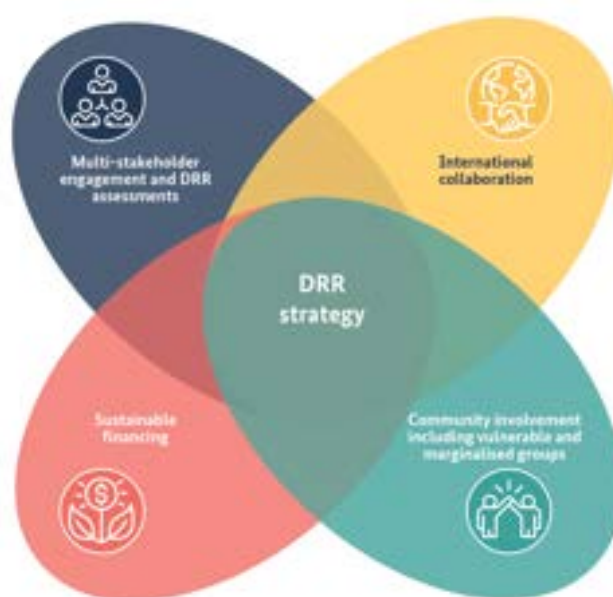


Figure 2: Success Factors for sufficient DRR strategic planning in Beau Bassin-Rose Hill



4. Sustainable financing of resilience planning and projects

Beau Bassin-Rose Hill is leveraging national DRR budget and grant allocations to ensure the long-term sustainability of resilience projects.

In 2022, the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill received a grant from the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development for the development of the LDRRM Strategy and Action Plan. Moreover, through workshops with the Ministry of Finance as a key stakeholder, the national government allocated Rs 18 million from the 2023/24 national budget for the implementation of disaster risk management programmes across all local authorities in the country.

“I am proud to say, that we are the first MCR 2030-member city among Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans to get to the Stage C of the MCR2030 initiative, implementing our risk reduction and resilience actions”

- David Bablee, Local Disaster Management Coordinator, Municipal Council of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill

The portion allocated to the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill was utilised to launch the LDRRM strategy and fulfil the objectives outlined in the Action Plan, in alignment with the [National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Policy 2020-2030](#). For instance, funds were directed towards planning and ongoing execution of the social vulnerability assessment of critical flood-prone areas.

Further financial support for disaster risk management is anticipated to be allocated by the Ministry of Finance for the fiscal year 2024/25, which will bolster the implementation of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030.



This publication is part of the RIA Learning and Exchange Platform. RIA offers actors engaged in urban resilience and disaster risk reduction the opportunity to access information on risk-informed urban development by providing an inclusive and barrier-reduced learning environment. This includes facilitating the exchange of experiences between different state and non-state actors in the region to enhance mutual learning on urban resilience.

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