ICLEI Africa’s Fortitude Initiative builds climate resilience at the local level by supporting towns, cities, municipalities and regions to strengthen their disaster risk reduction strategies and action plans, and enhance their implementation. By first assessing local needs, we create space to co-develop and co-produce relevant solutions and mobilise resources to improve future disaster response.

In doing so, African cities are working toward international commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

As the frequency and intensity of climate change related disasters increase, local communities are severely impacted. In response to recent climate related disasters on the continent, ICLEI Africa is stepping up to support cities in reducing their disaster risk. We draw on two decades of on-the-ground work in Africa, building and strengthening resilience through proactive planning.
Advocacy

Disasters are detrimental to the communities they hit, making local action key to effective disaster risk reduction. The Fortitude Initiative aims to reshape the global disaster risk reduction landscape to ensure cities and subnational governments are recognised, capacitated, engaged and able to mobilise resources in the face of more frequent and intense climate shocks. We aim to advocate for the critical role of local governments in translating global, regional and national policy into action, showcase good practice at local level, discuss obstacles and enablers for action, and engage with the international community to find innovative solutions to local challenges.

Technical support

The Fortitude Initiative aims to assist local governments to develop disaster risk reduction action plans and preparedness mechanisms, such as early warning systems, that align with – and actively contribute to – national and international targets. Our service offering includes practical deliverables such as risk and vulnerability assessments, and climate change adaptation plans. To ensure implementation, all policies and plans developed under the Fortitude Initiative will include explicit mandate and finance considerations.

Mobilising finance

In order to develop and implement forward-thinking, local level, disaster risk reduction policies and action plans, city governments require financing. The Fortitude Initiative aims to empower subnational governments to access, mobilise and use new and existing resources from local budgets and national and international funds, both from public and private sources. This will enable the development of bankable projects that can be scaled up and attract international attention and support.
Networking

Multi-level governance is imperative to solving the interconnected challenges of our world. This is why ICLEI’s work, both on the African continent and globally, focuses increasingly on engaging all levels of government. Adopting the ethos of the Talanoa Dialogues held during 2018, the Fortitude Initiative enables engagement across government tiers and between local governments facing similar challenges, with a spirit of openness, honesty, and inclusivity, allowing the space for context-relevant solutions to emerge. We aim to enhance local and subnational governments’ capacity to clearly articulate their contribution to climate resilient development and international commitments such as the Sendai Framework.

Enabling implementation

The Fortitude Initiative aims to work with local government authorities, planners and city managers to identity and strengthen the mechanisms, approaches and competencies needed to implement a holistic and integrated disaster risk reduction strategy that builds local level resilience. We also aim to assist governments in mainstreaming disaster risk management into general development processes, including economic, social, environment and infrastructure development. Through cohesive, local level engagement, this process furthers sustainable development.
HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

**Benefit as government**
If you represent a national or subnational government, you can become part of the Fortitude Initiative and indicate your interest in receiving services covered within one or more of the five building blocks.

**Join as a partner**
Join our cause and pledge existing resources to further disaster risk reduction on the continent.

**Support as a funder**
Assist in mobilising the funding necessary to enable transformational change at the local level that ensures that disasters are dealt with proactively.

TO FIND OUT MORE AND GET INVOLVED, PLEASE CONTACT US AT FORTITUDE.AFRICA@ICLEI.ORG

fortitude | n. courage, bravery and resilience when dealing with pain or difficulty, especially over a long period.