



TERMS OF REFERENCE – Dutch Disaster Risk Reduction and Surge Support (DRRS) Programme – Nairobi Flood Management (2026)

1. Background

Recent extreme rainfall events have once again exposed the severe vulnerability of Nairobi to flooding, resulting in significant loss of life, displacement, and destruction of infrastructure. In the most recent flood events affecting the city in March 2026, authorities reported that between 40 and 50 people lost their lives in Nairobi alone, with national fatalities rising further as floodwaters submerged homes, swept away vehicles, and overwhelmed drainage systems across multiple informal settlements and urban areas. These recurring disasters underline the growing intensity of hydro-meteorological hazards in Kenya's urban centres and the urgent need for strengthened disaster risk reduction (DRR) systems.

Against this backdrop, the Government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, has requested the Dutch Government to deploy an expert team through the Disaster Risk Reduction and Surge Support (DRRS) facility. A scoping visit took place in Q2 2026, during which a clear way forward was defined with stakeholders around two linked tracks. The first is a strategic planning and institutional track, centred on strengthening the Nairobi Rivers Commission and Nairobi River Basin Rehabilitation Program (NaBREP) as a platform for integrated urban flood resilience. The second is a technical/analytical track, focused on rapid flood hazard and risk mapping.

2. Overall specifications

2.1 Objectives

The objective of this assignment is to support the Government of Kenya, in particular the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry (MECCF) as requesting agency and other national and municipal stakeholders, in developing an appropriate and actionable roadmap towards an Integrated Urban Flood Risk Management Plan and Investment Strategy for Nairobi. This roadmap is to be built and embraced by all the relevant stakeholders. In a parallel track, the team will support rapid flood hazard mapping and hotspot identification together with Kenyan counterparts to serve the transition to (flood) risk informed urban planning.

2.2 Activities

The proposed DRRS support will be implemented through a phased approach, combining remote preparation, two in-country missions, joint technical work with Kenyan counterparts, and a concluding high-level multi-agency workshop. The timeline is designed to align the technical support with the seasonal climate outlook and the October–November–December short-rains season, while allowing sufficient time for joint preparation between the DRRS team and the Kenyan working groups.

June–August — Establishment of joint working groups and remote preparation

Between June and August, the Kenyan counterparts and DRRS team will establish the joint working structure. This includes a technical working group for flood hazard mapping and modelling, and a planning working group for the scoping of the Integrated Urban Flood Risk Management Plan and Investment Strategy. During this phase, the working groups will define roles and responsibilities, identify available datasets, agree on the scope of both work tracks, and prepare the first round of technical and planning inputs.

DRRS support during this phase will be provided remotely. The focus will be on coordination, data requests, review of available elevation and rainfall datasets, identification of modelling options, preparation of stakeholder inputs, and structuring of the scope for the strategic planning work. Particular attention will be given to ensuring that the planning work addresses vulnerable communities, including realistic and socially acceptable options for upgrading, protection or



relocation in high-risk riparian zones.

Early September — First DRRS visit and participation in the National Climate Outlook Forum

A first full DRRS visit is proposed in early September. If requested, DRRS may contribute to the National Climate Outlook Forum (date to be confirmed). Participation would help align the proposed support with the seasonal climate outlook, particularly in relation to system preparedness for a potentially intensified October–November–December short-rains season associated with El Niño-related climate variability.

The first visit will also be used for intensive working sessions with the Kenyan technical and planning groups. The technical track will focus on data consolidation, review of modelling options, initial hazard mapping, identification of flood hotspots and preparation of preliminary outputs. The planning track will focus on the structure, scope and institutional logic of the Integrated Urban Flood Risk Management Plan and Investment Strategy. The expected output of this phase is a set of preliminary findings and agreed next steps for both work tracks.

September–November — Remote technical work and preparation of the high-level workshop

Between September and November, the working groups will continue preparing the outputs with remote backstopping from the DRRS team. The technical working group will further develop the rapid flood hazard mapping and modelling assessment, including hotspot identification, exposed areas and critical bottlenecks. The planning working group will further elaborate the roadmap for the Integrated Urban Flood Risk Management Plan and Investment Strategy, including institutional ownership, required technical studies, investment logic and financing opportunities.

This period will also be used to prepare the high-level multi-agency workshop. The preparation should include agreement on the workshop objectives, key messages, draft outputs, proposed decision points and the list of senior government representatives, development partners and financing institutions to be invited.

November/December — Second DRRS visit and high-level multi-agency workshop

A second DRRS visit is proposed during the October–November–December short-rains season. The timing will allow the team to combine technical analysis with field verification, review of flood hotspots, assessment of drainage and river corridor conditions, and engagement with agencies and communities while flood preparedness remains high on the agenda.

The visit will conclude with a high-level multi-agency workshop, chaired by the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry or another senior government representative. The workshop will validate the key findings, discuss the rapid flood hazard mapping results, confirm priorities for a future Integrated Urban Flood Risk Management Plan and Investment Strategy, and define a joint action plan for improving urban flood resilience in Nairobi.

A comprehensive Integrated Urban Flood Risk Management Plan requires thorough technical analysis, extensive stakeholder consultation and a clear institutional process, which goes beyond the available capacity of the DRRS programme. If prepared properly, such a plan may require a multi-million US dollar budget. Securing funding for its full preparation will therefore be essential. The high-level workshop provides an opportunity for senior government representatives to endorse the need for the plan, confirm institutional ownership, and signal commitment to mobilizing the required resources and partnerships. For this reason, participation of key development partners, including the World Bank, AfDB and IsDB, as well as national and county-level finance institutions, including the National Treasury and relevant county finance departments, will be important.

Summary implementation schedule:

Date / period	Activity	Main tasks	DRRS support	Expected output
June–August	Establish joint working groups	Define work tracks, roles and responsibilities; collect data; identify modelling and planning inputs	Remote coordination and technical backstopping	Agreed workplan, data inventory and working group structure
Early September (tentatively 1–8)	First DRRS visit	Participation in National Climate Outlook Forum; technical and planning working sessions; initial mapping and planning analysis	In-country, hands-on support	Preliminary findings and agreed next steps
September–November	Remote preparation	Further develop rapid hazard mapping, hotspot analysis	Remote technical and strategic backstopping	Draft outputs and workshop materials



	for second visit	and planning roadmap; prepare high-level workshop		
November/December	Second DRRS visit	Field verification; working group sessions; finalization of key outputs; high-level multi-agency workshop	In-country, hands-on support	Validated findings, roadmap and joint action plan

Exact team composition per activity is to be determined by RVO with close cooperation of the DRRS team leader, depending on developments in the coming period. If necessary, refinement of budgeted time is to be confirmed with RVO.

General deliverables to be delivered by the full DRRS team

- A concise and strategic scope description and roadmap for an Integrated Urban Flood Risk Management Plan and Investment Strategy for Nairobi.
- A rapid flood hazard mapping and modelling assessment using available global and local datasets.
- Identification of flood hotspots, exposed areas and critical bottlenecks.
- A high-level action plan for improving urban flood resilience, validated through the November/December workshop and connecting both working tracks.
- Strengthened collaboration between national and county-level agencies through a joint technical and senior-level working process.
- A debriefing call with relevant GoK officials, the Netherlands Embassy in Kenya, RVO, and other relevant stakeholders to present the findings.

3. Specific requirement for the position of Urban Planning & Governance Expert

The DRRS Nairobi assignment requires a senior Urban Planning & Governance Expert to support the strategic planning work track for Nairobi. This work track aims to scope an Integrated Urban Flood Risk Management Plan and Investment Strategy, and to help connect existing initiatives on river corridor rehabilitation, drainage, land-use planning, informal settlement upgrading, sewerage, solid waste, public space and infrastructure investment into one coherent urban flood resilience framework. The expert will be positioned at the interface between urban planning, governance, legal and regulatory frameworks, and infrastructure investment. The role will focus on translating existing laws, policies, plans, institutional mandates and regulatory instruments into an implementable planning framework, while working closely with the DRRS Team Lead, the technical modelling team, Kenyan counterparts and the planning working group.

3.1 Specific Deliverables

Specific deliverables for Urban Planner & Governance expert

- *Strategic planning and governance-interface note:* A concise note describing how an Integrated Urban Flood Risk Management Plan and Investment Strategy can be embedded in Nairobi's existing urban planning, legal, regulatory and institutional framework. The note should identify relevant planning instruments, mandates, regulatory entry points and coordination needs, and clarify how river corridor rehabilitation, drainage, land-use planning, riparian protection, informal settlement upgrading, public space, sewerage, solid waste and infrastructure investment can be connected into one urban flood resilience framework.
- *Contribution to working sessions and high-level workshop:* Active contribution to technical working sessions with Kenyan counterparts and to the high-level inter-agency workshop. The expert will help structure discussions on the planning, legal, governance and institutional implications of the proposed flood resilience agenda, and support the translation of technical findings into practical planning and decision-making messages for senior government representatives, agencies and development partners.



- *Support materials for the planning working group:* Preparation of practical support materials to guide the planning working group, including simple diagrams, maps, planning frameworks, institutional interface diagrams, discussion notes and presentation slides. These materials should help the working group understand how existing legal, regulatory, spatial and institutional frameworks can be used to support the preparation of a future Integrated Urban Flood Risk Management Plan and Investment Strategy for Nairobi.

The team will have a joint responsibility on the activities and deliverables defined under the guidance of the team leader.

3.2 Reporting process

The expert will work under the guidance of the DRRS Team Lead. Inputs will be used primarily for the planning working group, the high-level workshop and the final DRRS roadmap. The emphasis is on concise written input, practical visual material and active contribution to working sessions rather than preparation of a standalone report. Each visit will be closed with a wrap-up note to reflect achievements made during the visit and capture agreed actions for next period.

4. Required expertise

Based on the available information, the following expert profiles have been drafted for this assignment.

Role	Details
Team Lead (TL)	Position filled
Flood Management expert	Position filled
Urban Planner	
Local stakeholder manager and resource expert	Position filled
Remote flood modeling support	Position filled

General requirements:

- Able to rapidly assess situations and data and provide conceptual and practical solutions;
- Experience in and knowledge of the local/regional context;
- Ability to be a relevant sparring partner for the local officials and to provide feedback on the existing plans and ideas, as well as provide input for suitable alternatives;
- Excellent communication skills in English;
- Familiarity and practical experience with climate adaptation;
- Familiarity and practical experience with complex (governance) systems;
- Diplomatic skills and political sensitivity

Specific requirement for the position of Urban Planner & Governance Expert:

The expert should be a senior urban planner, Urban Governance Specialist, Environmental planning & governance specialist or equivalent with proven experience in strategic urban planning in complex institutional environments. The main requirement is the ability to operate at the interface between urban planning, governance, legal and regulatory frameworks, and infrastructure investment.

The expert should have demonstrated experience in translating existing laws, policies, plans, institutional mandates and regulatory instruments into a coherent spatial and strategic planning framework. This includes the ability to assess how land-use planning, development control, riparian protection, environmental regulation, drainage responsibilities, informal settlement upgrading, public space development and infrastructure planning can be brought together in an Integrated Urban Flood Risk Management Plan and Investment Strategy.

A key part of the role will be to ensure that the proposed planning framework is institutionally workable and legally grounded. The expert should therefore be able to identify where existing planning and regulatory instruments can already support flood risk reduction, where mandates or responsibilities overlap, and where practical coordination mechanisms are needed between agencies. Experience with planning law, development permitting, zoning,



enforcement mechanisms, public land management, safeguards and community-sensitive urban transformation is highly desirable.

The expert should also be able to work closely with the DRRS Team Lead, the governance/legal contributors, the technical modelling team and Kenyan counterparts. Flood hazard and risk information will be provided through the technical work track; the planner's role is to translate this information into planning concepts, governance implications, spatial development choices, institutional arrangements and implementable follow-up action.

Additional qualification requirements;

- Experience working with vulnerable communities and informal settlements is an advantage, including sensitivity to tenure, livelihoods, public health, relocation risks, social safeguards and community acceptance of flood risk reduction measures.
- Strong visual communication skills through the use and preparation of maps, diagrams, infographics, planning concepts.

5. Time line and working days

This assignment is scheduled to be carried out in Q3-Q4 2026. RVO and EKN is to be constantly updated and taken along in the process. We will be jointly agreeing on deadlines throughout the process. Expected time input for this assignment is 20 days.

The activities and stakeholder meetings will be coordinated with support from the Netherlands Embassy (EKN) in Kenya (Ms. Rose Makenzi). EKN will assist in reaching out to the relevant stakeholders and provide necessary support and leverage, where applicable.

6. Budget for this assignment

For this assignment each individual expert is expected to provide an all-inclusive detailed budget, including the fees and expected expenditures in order to conduct this assignment (see annex B). While presenting a total budget for this assignment, the following items must be specified:

- Number of working days and applicable fee. Kindly note that the daily rates offered should be in line with the experience offered and/or needed. RVO also takes regular local consultancy rates into account in order not to disturb the local market. Consultants are requested to offer daily rates based on the above maximum and according to reasonability as described before.

<u>Consultant</u>	<u>Maximum daily rate (excl. VAT)</u>
Independent consultants	Cf. one's standard consulting rates, with a maximum of € 880,-
Large-scale engineering firms	Cf. one's standard consulting rates, with a maximum of € 1100,-

- Travel costs for (international) flights to the project's destination. Kindly note the following conditions:
 - o Flight expenses can only be reimbursed for economy class, based on costs actually incurred. Any other class of service is not eligible for reimbursement by RVO.
 - o Taxi expenses between the hotel and airport in-country are included in the fixed component "other costs" (see point 3).
 - o Transport to and from the airport in the Netherlands is not eligible for reimbursement by RVO.
- Reimbursement of accommodation expenditures and other costs. For the reimbursement of accommodation and other daily expenses (such as meals), RVO follows the (maximum) coverage rates set by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



<u>Location in Kenya</u>	<u>Maximum accommodation coverage</u>	<u>Fixed rate other costs</u>
Nairobi	€ 202,- per day	€104,- per day
Other cities	€ 146,- per day	€66,- per day

Kindly note the following:

- The rate for accommodation is a maximum rate. The reimbursement of accommodation expenditures will be based on the costs actually incurred up until this maximum rate per location and requires hotel invoices to be submitted.
- The rate for other costs is a fixed daily allowance per location.
- RVO does not reimburse expenses for remote working days in your home country, including accommodation costs and fixed allowances for other expenses.

With regards to receipts and reimbursement:

- Reimbursement is based on costs actually incurred. Therefore, RVO requires the invoices/receipts for flight tickets, accommodation and other expected expenditures (if applicable). This is, of course, in addition to your (final) invoice.
- Kindly note that this is with the exception of the expenditures covered by fixed allowances for 'other costs'.

Contracting of experts will be conducted by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO.nl). All documents should be sent to drrs@rvo.nl.



7. Annex A: Dutch Disaster Risk Reduction & Surge (DRRS) Programme

The number of weather, climate and water related disasters has increased by a factor 5 over the past 50 years. Such extreme weather events are increasing in both frequency and intensity, which has long-lasting impacts, especially in the most vulnerable communities.

To meet these needs with a swift response, the Dutch government has initiated the Dutch Disaster Risk Reduction and Surge Support (DRRS) programme. Through DRRS, water-related expertise is deployed. Aspects like Nature Based Solutions, inclusivity and an overall holistic and integrated approach are thereby taken into account. The aim is to prevent and reduce the impact of water- and climate-related disasters worldwide and increase the resilience of affected areas and populations.

The DRRS programme operates in all Disaster Management Cycle phases: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Foreign governments (through the Embassy of the Netherlands in country) and humanitarian actors can request support. Every intervention is tailor-made. Based on the challenges and the expertise needed, DRRS can assemble a team with relevant stakeholders and (local) experts.



8. Annex B: Budget guidelines

FINANCIAL PROPOSAL						
Input staff	Activity	No. of days	Normal fee/day	Normal costs	Daily DRR fee	Costs
<i>name of person</i>	xxx	0	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
	xxx	0	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
	xxx	0	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
sub-total		0		€ -		€ -
<i>Discount on fees</i>				€ -	#DEEL/0!	
Travel costs						
airplane tickets	From-to	Dates	No. of tickets	Airfare		Costs
<i>carrier</i>	<i>destination</i>			€ -		€ -
xxx	<i>destination</i>			€ -		€ -
DSA	location	No. of days		DSA/day		Costs
	<i>location</i>	0		€ -		€ -
	<i>location</i>	0		€ -		€ -
Other travel costs						Costs
<i>description</i>						€ -
						€ -
sub-total						€ -
Other costs						Costs
<i>description</i>						€ -
sub-total						€ -
Total costs (excl BTW)						€ -