Implementing urban resilience – the role of planning

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Planning - by whom, for whom?

“As the poor confront new alliances between international property capital, national and city politicians and emerging urban middle classes, all bent on the seizure and re-volORIZATION of land, it is also possible (if trends in parts of South Asia are reflected on the African continent) that systems of governance will also be reconfigured in order to facilitate ... speculative urbanism”

Leading to dispossession of land by the urban poor → dispossession of political rights?

Planning – can it do everything?

New Urban Agenda:

From post-disaster to planning for population growth and migration

For natural resource management to gender responsiveness via resilience

But how to make it effective and inclusive?

At the core: basic development issues
Information and capacity needs

Integrated to other plans and financial mechanisms – and with buy-in from top down and bottom up

Financial capacity

Human capacity

Tools, techniques and methodologies

Timing – where in the planning and budgeting cycle? Pre- or post-disaster?
Understand the drivers.

Participatory or consultative

Not a one-off process!

Data on:

- Disaggregated demographics
- Land use
- Climate and other risks – and intersections of these
- Transboundary issues

Community-gathered data
e.g. participatory GIS
Planning for inclusive urban resilience

Role for residents and local organisations to feed into evidence-based risk management through community-led research and partnerships

• Community based vulnerability assessments with a specific gender lens – to counter male dominance
• Integrate local historical knowledge
• Mix of data sources: from qualitative interviews to GIS; games and toolkits

How to make this happen?
Building on community processes and partnerships

Nairobi’s Special Planning Area (SPA) in informal settlements

County government must develop an integrated plan to redevelop the SPA within two years of 2017 declaration.

Interdisciplinary consortia synthesised data, produced policy briefs, to inform planning strategies – integrating urban resilience within agendas for enhanced governance.

Muungano is leading the community organisation consortium by:
- strengthening community organisations
- improving data collection on multiple risks
- building awareness and capacities for collective response

Building on existing strong partnerships between government and civil society actors

Integrated approaches

Integrate climate change resilience planning into development planning and budgeting processes – see how social and economic factors drive the vulnerability of certain urban residents to environmental hazards.

Need for ‘core team’ to push forward process – but how to integrate private sector and most marginalised?

Scaling up new approaches

Clustering approach e.g. municipalities with transboundary issues
Inviting neighbouring municipalities to planning meetings
Civil society and community networks

BUT:
How to temper (often powerful) private sector interests?
Role of national policy environment and priorities
Not a one-off process – and new data may become available