

AURAN Case Study Conclusions and Recommendations: Change, Informality and the Challenge of Governance

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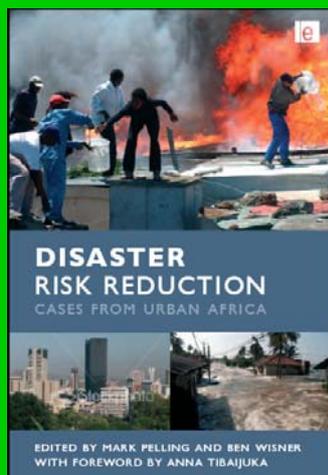
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Challenges of African Urban DRR



- Africa is urbanizing rapidly – 40% urban now
- More than 2/3's of urban people live in slums
- Informal social and economic relations mirror informal settlement

Challenges of African Urban DRR

- Cities are under resourced, especially mid-sized & small
- Management capacity is weak
- History of mistrust between government and the urban poor
- Mediating NGOs don't focus on natural hazards



African urban populations may be exposed to:

- Floods
- Coastal storms
- Seismic and volcanic hazards



African urban hazards, cont.



- Explosions, fires, toxic emissions
- Transportation accidents
- Illegal hazardous waste dumping



African urban hazards, cont.



- Water born & sanitation hazards
- HIV-AIDS
- Violent crime
- Civil conflict

CC -Urban Hazard Links

HAZARDS

Flood >

Disease >

Physical access >

Traffic safety >

Provision of critical
infrastructure >

CHALLENGES

Settlement pattern,
Waste management

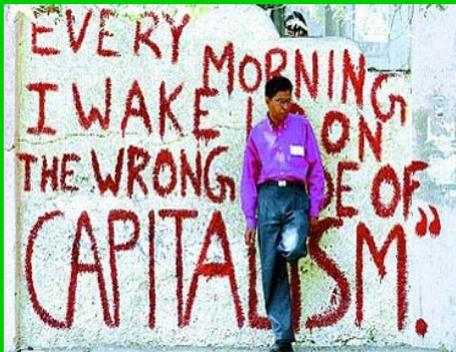
Drainage

Road maintenance

Road maintenance

Financial planning

On the Positive Side



- Strong civil society
- Self help & self protection
- Diverse livelihood systems
- Growing militancy & demand for accountability

Also on the positive side...

- Informality allows for adaptive strategies for meeting basic needs, for example: Urban agriculture & small scale manufacturing & trading
- Rural links may also provide fall backs & refuges (& vice versa)



But, on the negative side...

- “Development” is widening gap between rich & poor
- Privatizing infrastructure hasn't met need
- Accountability & political will still are lacking
- Events become politicized



Also, unfortunately...



- Technical expertise exists
- But implementation lags BECAUSE OF:
- Sheer scale of problem
- Lack of trust & cooperation
- Lack of leadership

Key Recommendations

- Motivate & Support Civil Society involvement with urban risk
- Make Government Decentralization Effective
- Build Links between Civil Society & Government



Key Recommendations



- Link urban DRR to MDGs & PRSPs
- Link urban DRR to Climate Change Adaptation

Thank you!
Good luck & Stay in touch!

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