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# OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

The third DRR and gender mainstreaming dialogue with community leaders was hosted by the Nairobi Risk Hub on Wednesday the 3rd of February, 2021 on zoom platform. The community leaders were drawn from community-based organizations located in Kibera, Mathare, and Mukuru informal settlements.

The dialogues began with the researchers introducing the Multi-hazard project to the participants and walking them through interpretations of risks, hazards and disasters. After the introductory interactions, the researchers guided the rest of the conversation to cover the objectives of the dialogues. The discussions sought to understand disasters as perceived by the residents of the informal settlements, response, gender mainstreaming in CBOs and gaps that exacerbate vulnerability of the communities. Further, the representatives present made recommendations for that will enhance disaster risk reduction in the informal settlements.

## Objectives of the dialogues are;

- **To introduce the Multi-hazard project to the CBOs and other stakeholders**
- **To identify gaps for capacity building in DRR in the communities**
- **To build a community of champions who will amplify community voices in DRR**
- **To foster gender mainstreaming in CBOs and DRR**

### Mission of The Nairobi Risk Hub

Supporting a transition from emergency response to disaster risk preparedness.

## KEY FINDINGS ON DRR

- The most frequent disasters faced are fires
- The youth are most active in emergency response in the communities; which leaves the rest of the population ignorant to disasters
- Training opportunities in emergency response are mostly offered to the youth
- Some disasters are preventable, but due to ignorance in the community, they are not mitigated
- Accessibility of roads in the informal settlements is a great challenge and an impediment for speedy effective response
- There's need to recognize other hazards in the informal settlements such as crime, drugs and food insecurity which has been made worse by the COVID -19 pandemic.
- VICCO CBO is utilizing small spaces in the settlements for urban farming and training kids on the same so as to mitigate urban hunger.
- The roads are not in good condition and often times, youth come together to create local solutions to the problems they face
- With regard to disaster response, organizations (e.g., VICCO CBO) collaborate with other initiatives to deliver food and clothes to people affected by fires.
- Emergency response is not structured, with organizations stepping in to help with basic needs.
- Recovery from disasters with measures such as counselling for the victims is non-existent, hence leaving such victims disadvantaged.

" So, what we do is train youths and then we see how far the fire is spreading we know what to do we know which houses to demolish before the fire reaches the other houses, we cannot lie that we are waiting for government to come and create roads so that accessibility can be okay. That is a very long-term thing. So, what we do is that we create our own solution. "

VICCO

- In the COVID-19 era, organizations have been collaborating with the community to identify the 'hotspot' areas.
- Some members of the community are self- serving in that they vandalize and steal from projects meant to help them.
- Organizations use their community networks to share emergency contacts that can be used during disasters. sometimes someone will call the village elder before they call the fire fighter because they don't have the direct number, thus the need to circulate these contacts widely.
- In collaboration with SHOFCO, organizations were providing and distributing food to the vulnerable during the COVID - 19 pandemic, to mitigate food insecurity.

## KEY FINDINGS ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING

The need to investigate gender mainstreaming in CBOs stems from the recognition that men and women have different needs and abilities, and are exposed to disasters in varying degrees that also influence their response.

- In the COVID-19 era, organizations have been collaborating with the community to identify the 'hotspot' areas.

- Some organizations have departments for girls where they are trained and mentored; and in some cases, linked with NGOs such as Hope Worldwide Kenya.

- Some trainings for girls and women are on skills that can help them generate income and financial literacy, while others are for their physical wellbeing as well as defense- such as boxing.

- Organizations have taken up advocacy against issues such as Gender Based Violence and sensitization activities for many women and girls to join such programs.

- In cases of disaster, women and children are more vulnerable

- Lang'ata Legal Aid Centre, encourages women to occupying spaces where decisions are made for their communities.

- Women empowerment is promoted also by educating them on available government platforms such as Women and youth enterprise Fund.

- Mentorship for girls 12-18 years for their self-awareness in conjunction with Hope International; where they are trained on matters sexuality, rape, gender violence, gender abuse etc.

- Sporting activities for young girls and boys are held through which talented individuals can be identified and in collaboration with other entities; the talent nurtured

" My organization has a department of girls that they came here, and we trained them on mentorship and after doing that we linked them up with Hope Worldwide Kenya. Hope Worldwide Kenya does more of capacity building on how they can empower young Kenyans from the age of 12 to the age of 24 there. So that we can grow as a community.

Aim is to focus on community growth. "

VICCO

" Our key has been strengthening women and empowering women to ensure that women are also occupying spaces where decisions are made because, in case of a fire, you find that the more people who are vulnerable are sometimes women and children. So, when these women are not in the decision platform, then you realize that the decisions that are made only favors probably the youths or the men, but the children are left outside "

Lang'ata Legal Aid

## FEEDBACK AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Below are suggestions that were made by the participants. That if implemented will enhance disaster preparedness in the informal communities and promote gender mainstreaming in their activities.

- There's a need to create awareness by way of trainings to all members of the community on disasters and emergency response.
- This should translate into quality trainings tailor made for various disasters, with requisite equipment eg. Fire extinguishers.
- Electricity connection should only be made by the authorized bodies to minimize the number of fires that result from electric faults.
- Communities should be indiscriminately equipped with all available emergency contacts.
- Access roads should be integral parts of planning settlements. In the case of the already built-up areas, solutions should be sought since accessibility is paramount.

“ And also, to find a way to address some of the issues the people in Mukuru are facing, especially when it comes to the issues of planning, because that's where now lies. Remember Mukuru have never been planned there before and also we've been trying to engage some of the leaders and also we've held some of the meetings with members of county assembly, especially from Viwandani, kwa Njenga, and also. I think there are like four MCAs that we've tried to engage some dialogue because not for a specific thing like trying to have maybe the roads, but it's the general development “

Lunga Lunga talent Exploiters

“ I can say that fire engines are located too far from the villages. It would be beneficial were they to be located closer. For example, in Kibera, they should be located at a place called DC. Secondly, I'd say that many youths here in the informal settlements really need skills such as, first aiding skills and firefighting skills in order to know how to put out fires in a proper way, so that they don't end up as victims in one way or the other “

Community Mappers

- More advocacy spaces should be created where communities can engage with the political leaders who are decision-makers in terms of development and infrastructure.
- Creating awareness through the space's organizations are in, such as art and sports to reach a wider population and for information on disasters, response and preparedness to be better received and adapted by locals.
- Access roads and water points are paramount in the communities, such that in case of fire, people can access water and there are access roads where fire engines and ambulances can pass.

## TAKE AWAY MESSAGES FOR RESEARCHERS

- Issues of the community can only be driven by the community themselves and it is important to involve them in the formulating solutions.
- There's need to allow room for communities to own projects and ideas that address their everyday problems.
- Different avenues through which leaders at the county and national levels can be reached should be explored, through; community and church leaders, NGOs and powerful individuals who are not affiliated to any organization.
- Reach out to NGOs and other bigger organizations to organize meetings between communities, CBOs and political leaders where community problems can be addressed.
- Mainstreaming of disaster preparedness and emergency response activities in organizations to ensure every member of the community is equipped to play a role in response.
- Researchers at The Nairobi Risk Hub of should support the CBOs and communities in informal settlements by helping them identify and interpret policies on disaster risk management .
- Empowerment of all people in the informal settlements is necessary and should be inclusive of people living with disabilities.
- An awareness program for disaster preparedness and response in the communities should be developed and made available.

“ So, what we usually do, we work so closely with county assembly members of county assembly in Lang’ata. So, when they are having their public participation, whereby the community and members of the wards come to identify the projects that they want to be implemented, usually we mobilize strongly community members to attend this public participation meeting so that, whenever there is a need, they are in a position to address that need. ”

Lang’ata Legal Aid



## CONCLUSIONS

From the dialogue, it was apparent that the community leaders are well placed and with enough information to identify the problems that are encountered in these communities. Lack of access roads, illegal electric connections and unreliable water supply were highlighted to exacerbate losses in cases of disaster such as fires. The leaders called for stakeholders – researchers, local and national leaders, and communities to collaborate in developing practical solutions that will be disseminated to the communities.

Measures such as developing an emergency action plan, providing equipment and trainings on skills for disaster preparedness and response can help enhance the resilience of the communities. Making such processes inclusive for youth, men and women will ensure that all members of the community are pulling in the same direction to reduce vulnerabilities. These actions will make for communities that are better prepared for disasters, and equipped with the right skills and tools to respond to any kind of disaster.



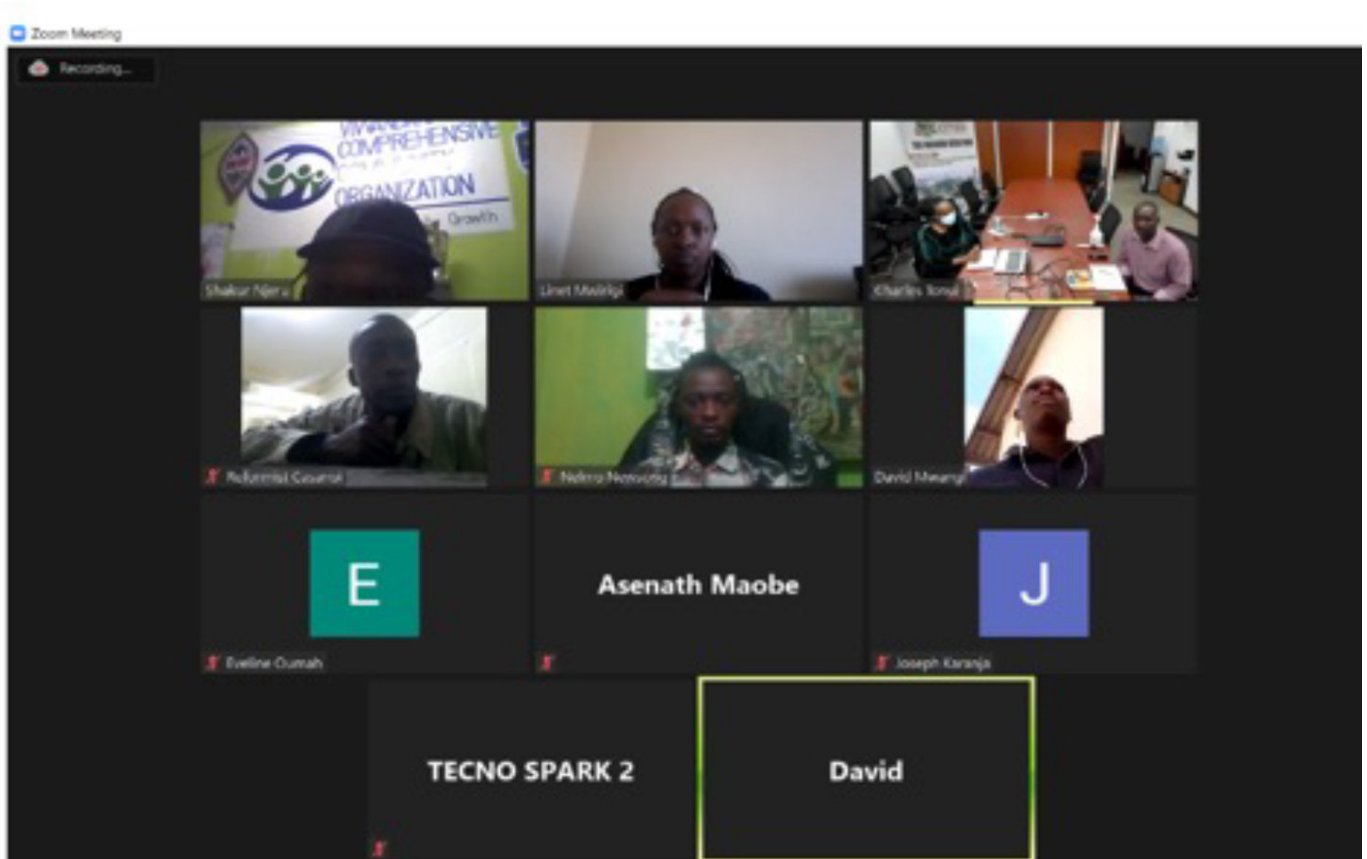
## APPENDIX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NAME OF GROUP	REPRESENTATIVE	ACTIVITIES	LOCATION
1. LANGATA LEGAL AID	SILANGA JUDITH ADHIAMBO OCHIENG	LEGAL AID, COMMUNITY AWARENESS	KIBERA
2. COMMUNITY MAP- PERS	EVERLY OUMA	RESEARCH, MAPPING, DATA COLLECTION. TRAININGS ON LEADERSHIP AND GBV	KIBERA
3. MUKURU YOUTH INITIATIVE ORGANIZATION	NELMO	ART FOR SOCIAL CHANGE, SOCIAL ENTERPRISES AND YOUTH PARTIC- IPATION IN GOVERNANCE	MUKURU
4. KIKAKA C.B.O	FREDRICK NJOROGE	MENTORSHIP PROGRAM	MUKURU
5. VIWANDANI COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY ORGANISATION	SHAKUR NJERU DEDAN NJERU	GARBAGE COLLECTION, EMPOWERING YOUTHS, ENTREPRENUERSHIP, SCHOLARSHIPS, TRAININGS, SAVINGS, FEEDING PROGRAM, FOOTBALL CLUB, FILM ACADEMY, COMMUNITY INTERNET, LEARNING	MUKURU
6. MUUNGANO WA VIJANA	JOSEPH MUCHIRI	COMMUNITY LIBRARY	MATHARE
7. FOUNDATION OF HOPE	DAVID DINDA	YOUTH EMPOWERMENT, GAR- BAGE COLLECTION SPORTS	KIBERA
8. LUNGA LUNGA TALENT EXPLOITERS	MWANGI	TALENT EXPLOITATION, KIDS DANCING CLUB, FEEDING PROGRAM, GARBAGE COLLEC- TION, ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	MUKURU

## FACILITATORS

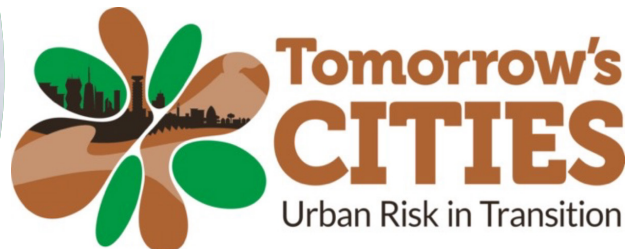
NAME
1. LINET MWIRIGI
2. DR. ASENATH MAOBE
3. CHARLES TONU

## APPENDIX 2; PARTICIPANTS ON THE THIRD COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ON DRR



# COMMUNITY DIALOGUES ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION - 003

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