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# INTRODUCTION TO THE DIALOGUES

The second community dialogue on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) was hosted by The Nairobi Risk Hub on the 26th of November, 2020. The dialogue brought together CBO leaders from Mukuru, Korogocho, and Mathare Valley, as well as researchers from The Nairobi Risk Hub.

Five out of the seven CBO v representatives present, were from Mukuru SPA, which is the study area of the project. The dialogue is part of a series that seeks to establish community led evidence base on hazards in the informal settlements, their drivers, institutional roots and feasible solutions.

## Objectives of the dialogues are;

- To introduce the Tomorrow's Cities project to the CBO leaders and other stakeholders.
- To facilitate horizontal knowledge sharing between the CBOs, NGOs and Civil Society (Quarterly convergence with the NCCG sector dialogues).
- To identify gaps for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) capacity building in community network of DRR champions.
- To foster gender mainstreaming in CBOs and DRR.

### Mission of The Nairobi Risk Hub

Supporting a transition from emergency response to disaster risk preparedness.

# FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

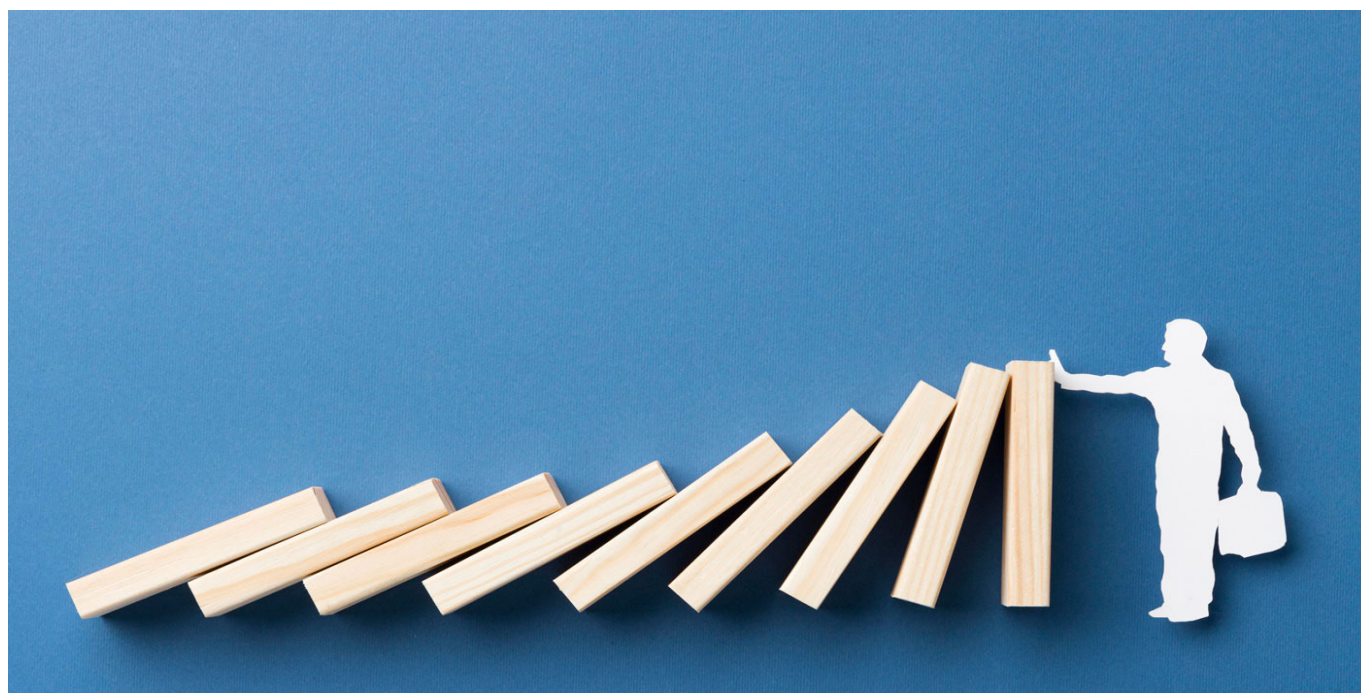
## FINDINGS

The discussion kicked off with the participants recounting their experiences with different disasters in their respective communities. These experiences made it clear that the disasters experienced in the different informal settlements are similar. The participants highlighted fires, floods, landslides, disease outbreaks and collapsing houses as the common risks they face.

- A representative from Korogocho shared that a week hardly goes by without a fire incident in the settlement, and when disaster strikes, neighbors are first to respond.
- This escalates to different neighborhood groups such as CBOs that come in to mobilize resources for response, consequently alleviating suffering of the members of the community.
- In many circumstances, the efforts by the CBOs are not commensurate to the extent of damages caused by the disaster incidents.
- In event of fire, efforts are put to prevent further spread of the fire by bringing down structures to create a fire buffer zone and residents help by fetching water.
- A representative from Mathare attributed the absence of easily accessible water points as the main challenge for the community, in putting out fires.
- The situation is aggravated by lack of access roads through which fire trucks can reach the locations of the fires, since residents have encroached on road reserves.
- A Mukuru representative shared that their CBO is actively involved in disaster preparedness by unblocking drains and clearing waste that could otherwise be swept into drains during rainy seasons and cause clogging.
- A Mukuru resident highlighted that the Nairobi river and Ngong river pass through the settlement which lies on a flood plain, this exposes Mukuru residents to different degrees of floods during the rainy seasons. This has been worsened by residents who have encroached on the riparian land.







### Challenges in Disaster Risk Reduction

- Organizations are working in isolation to advance their respective agendas, and the leaders lack goodwill to unite to champion for the needs of their communities.
- The residents through the CBO leaders, feel left out in planning for projects or infrastructure in their communities. Lack of participatory planning in some critical projects is the major reason why residents are hostile to new development projects.
- Leadership is more top down and policy being implemented by the government hardly includes the views of the residents from the informal settlements.
- With regard to other stakeholders e.g., researchers. The approach to research in informal settlements by most researchers does not entail factual learning and understanding of the informal settlements, rather they approach informal settlements with preconceived ideas of the issues and their respective 'solutions'.
- Lack of social amenities (such as water) in the informal settlements, is a major challenge for the residents. In instances of fire, the residents are at a loss on how to intervene.

### Gender Intersectionality in DRR

- Both men and women are involved in responding to disasters in the respective communities.
- Men and women have differentiated roles in responding to disasters such as fire. In many fire instances, women are involved in fetching water to put out the fires, while men destroy structures in close proximity to the fire to create a fire buffer zone.
- Women are more involved in voluntary activities in the informal settlements than men which has led to a proliferation of women led CBOs and those that champion women's rights.
- Men led CBOs have a hard time attracting female membership. For such groups, decision making is skewed to men since the voice of women is not included.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## 1 Recommendation 1

Organizations should get together to form collaborative networks that champion DRR in informal settlements.

## 2 Recommendation 2

All stakeholders should unite to address the issues in the informal settlements including the social amenities such as sanitation and water supply, that should be made readily available for all.

## 3 Recommendation 3

Working resilience teams in different settlements should be formed with the primary goal of gradually building the resilience of these communities.

## 4 Recommendation 4

All CBOs should create strategic plans with partners for enhanced community resilience.

## 5 Recommendation 5

Researchers and other stakeholders should integrate into the communities and truly understand them while carrying out research (like the multi-hazard project is doing with the community dialogues) to co-create local solutions to the local problems.

## 6 Recommendation 6

Both men and women should be involved in building resilience in their communities, for disaster preparedness.



“ You find that water is not easily available and when there’s a fire, the fire trucks are late or find it hard to access the location of the fire in the community; and end up being stoned by the members of the community who feel that the help took a long time coming”

Amusha Youth Organization

## CONCLUSIONS

The leaders present emphasized the need to seek local solutions to the local problems that they encounter. This should be advanced through local logic models that are best fit for the culture in the respective informal settlements, and thus will be widely accepted by the different residents. To this end, all stakeholders are encouraged to embrace learning from each other and the positive change this can induce in the communities when all stakeholders are working in harmony.

Additionally, the leaders retaliated that the pursuit to shift to disaster preparedness should encompass all stakeholders; the national and local governments, the researchers, local communities etc. By so doing, the requisite changes for disaster preparedness will take into account all the varied needs of the city residents including the elderly, children, women and People Living with Disabilities (PLWDs).

## PARTICIPANTS

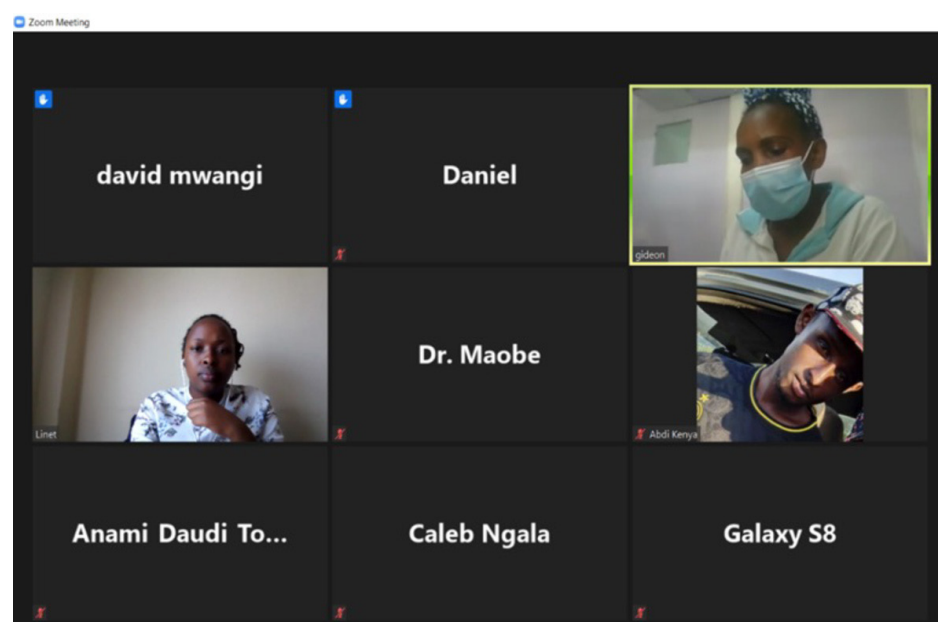
NAME	CBO	ACTIVITIES	LOCATION
1. DAUDI ANAMI TOURE	AMUSHA YOUTH ORGANIZATION	YOUTH EMPOWERMENT, WASTE MANAGEMENT, CLEAN-UPS, TRAININGS AND DIALOGUE, COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION, ARTS COMMUNITY ADVOCACY	MUKURU
2. SCOLLAR GEDION	EMBAKASI BEVERAGE PACKERS KWA NJENGA	MANUFACTURING- JUICE, MALA AND TOMATO SAUCE, WATER KIOSK	MUKURU
3. SARAH MWANGI	PILLARS OF HOPE	MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS	MUKURU
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## FACILITATORS

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1. LINET MWIRIGI
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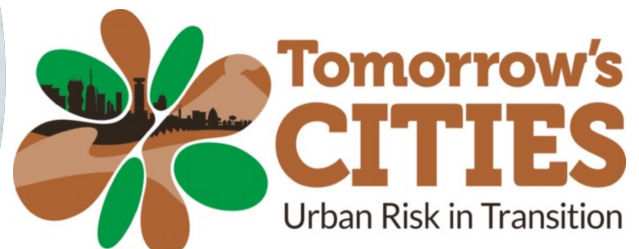
### PARTICIPANTS DURING THE FIRST COMMUNITY DIALOGUE, HELD ON THE ZOOM





# COMMUNITY DIALOGUES ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION - 002

PREPARED BY : THE  
NAIROBI RISK HUB



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