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INTRODUCTION TO THE DIALOGUES

The Nairobi Urban Risk Hub hosted the first community dialogues on the 10th of November, 2020. The first in a 4-part series of dialogues. The dialogues are intended to bring together Community Based Organizations (CBO) leadership and the researchers at the Nairobi Hub.

The CBO representatives are drawn from Kibra, Mathare Valley, Korogocho and Mukuru (study area for the project) The dialogues will establish community led evidence base on the leading hazards and risks in the 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
- 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 researchers first sought to establish the current state of DRR in the communities. The dialogue started with the participants sharing their lived experiences with regards to preparedness and response. It was highlighted that the approach to disasters in the communities has been the same over time. The participants agreed that fires, floods and mudslides were the most common risks in their respective informal settlements. When disasters strike, neighbours with the help of community organisations, mobilize for resources for immediate response, to mitigate the impact, and to protect lives and livelihoods of the residents. This approach is used repeatedly and is a common scenario across all the represented informal settlements. These efforts are then backed by Red Cross that comes in to respond to the reported disasters in a larger scale. The communities lack equipments, skill and financial resources to respond to disasters, and are at a loss on how to mitigate their impacts. The CBOs thus come in to mobilize resources to alleviate suffering in their communities.



“ I will add that we empower the youth in the community and involve them in all activities that we are doing in DRR. When we are forming those partnerships let all the CBOs invited for such an activity to participate. We have done one for peace and environment. It can work if all of us come together. We can involve the stakeholders under local government to support our activities. For example, Map Kibera can bring all the CBOs together and we can try reduce disasters in our communities.”

Esther - Polycom



“ The UN Habitat had a noble idea in terms of upgrading the slums but I think a few members of our community including my community ganged up and said the government wants to take our land. It became politicized yet the UN had a very noble idea, everything could be planned, everything could be designed in such a way that the ambulances can access, you can have a reliable source of water, you can have a sustainable way of living. But it is us members of the community including some community organizations that fought this because they know once the UN Habitat comes with this plan our existence is at stake. You get elite members of the society are polluting minds of the people who are not that informed or exposed. ”

Alfredo - Kibera Green

The lack of necessary capacity and technical know-how to administer training on risk and disaster management was pointed out as a major challenge the organizations are facing. These are compounded by the culture of disaster response that is prevalent rather than disaster preparedness. With the county government having budget allocations for disaster management, the participants registered concern that this is not made available to them (in terms of disaster preparedness trainings, capacity building etc.)

There is a gap in emergency preparedness and response. On one hand, when there is no active disaster, no one wants to provide financial support for activities that would promote disaster preparedness in the communities. On the other hand, once disaster strikes, the community is ill prepared to respond and the impact is grave since, disaster reduction measures have not been put in place.

RECOMMENDATIONS



1 Recommendation 1

Organisations should be trained and empowered in DRR. They in turn will sensitize their respective communities. This will promote disaster preparedness and mitigate losses from disasters that occur.

2 Recommendation 2

The policy formulation at the national and county levels should involve community representatives. The gap between policy makers and the community should be bridged for communities to contribute to decision making.

3 Recommendation 3

The established organisations need to guide the small ones in the community and share their expertise in regards to resource mobilization and knowledge sharing to enable them to work together to champion DRR in the communities.

4 Recommendation 4

CBOs should collaborate with, and complement each other. They should establish a network through which they share information, ideas, knowledge, expertise and facilities to promote DRR in their respective communities.

5 Recommendation 5

Skills and equipment should be availed to respective community emergency response teams established in each informal settlement. The emergency teams respond to disasters promptly instead of waiting for help from the local administration.

6 Recommendation 6

Culture change in the communities with regards to disasters and effective policy implementation by the relevant authorities.



“ One important thing is all about information sharing and partnership. I think the important thing is to see how we make disaster management and preparedness a daily conversation. It is unfortunate it becomes a conversation when the disaster happens. How do we sit and make it a daily conversation with policy makers, people on the ground and other stakeholders? ”

CONCLUSIONS

The CBO representatives presented similar challenges that cut across different informal settlements. Limited knowledge, lack of partnerships, inadequate skills, lack of equipment, and policies that exclude them stood out as the greatest challenges to CBOs in their quest to be agents of DRR in their communities. They recommended that policies are developed and structures put in place that catalyze the involvement of organizations and members of the community at the planning phase.

Therefore, information on DRR should be made available and these organizations be trained and empowered, so they can propagate DRR knowledge in their communities. Partnerships between CBOs should also be encouraged to harness their strengths in DRR and establish a network in the communities. With this, other stakeholders from the private and public sectors will come on board in providing practical and innovative solutions to DRR challenges in the informal settlements.

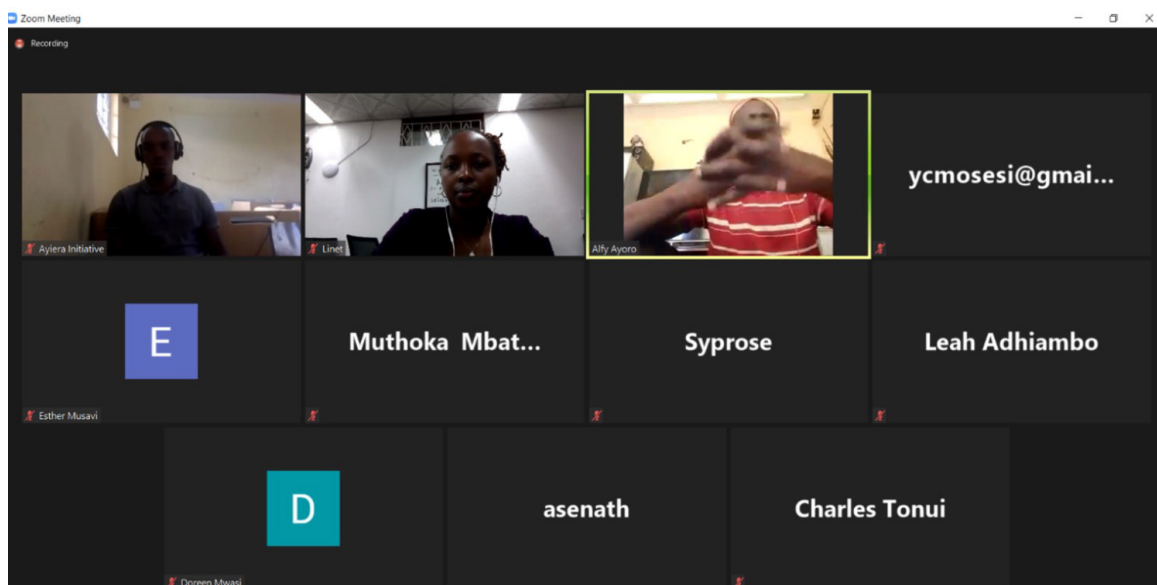
PARTICIPANTS

NAME	CBO	ACTIVITIES	LOCATION
1. DOREEN	KOCH FM	MEDIA	KOROGOCHO
2. ESTHER & LEAH	POLYCOM	PEACE BUILDING AND SPORTS, GIRLS MENTORSHIP, FOOD SECURITY, SGBV, WOMEN AND LAND RIGHTS, LEADERSHIP TRAININGS	KIBERA
3. ALFREDO	KIBERA GREEN	ENVIRONMENT, YOUTH EMPOWERMENT, CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	KIBERA
4. MOSES	KIBERA COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM	EMERGENCY REPOSE, FIRST AID TRAININGS, RELIEF ACTIVITIES,	KIBERA
5. BRIAN	AYIERA INITIATIVE	SPORTS	KOROGOCHO

FACILITATORS

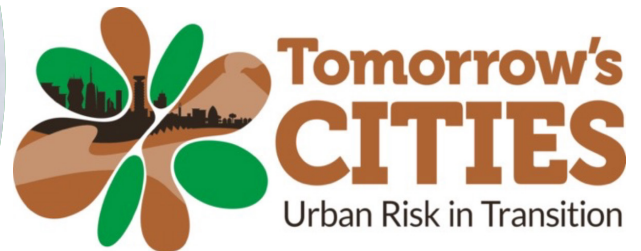
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1. LINET MWIRIGI
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PARTICIPANTS DURING THE FIRST COMMUNITY DIALOGUE, HELD ON THE ZOOM



FIRST COMMUNITY DIALOGUES ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

PREPARED BY : THE
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