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Chair, IRDR Science Committee
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

Disciplinary  Multi-Disciplinary  Inter-disciplinary

Pure  Disseminated  Co-produced

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Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

Scenario planning for preparedness

Multi-level system for data capture

Administrative boundary approach

Grid-based approach

Spatial vulnerability assessment

Monitoring Disasters and Loss Data
Peril and Hazard Classification

Policy Brief

Building better to build back better: understanding value, cost, and risk in Kampala, Uganda
Shafab Asgari, Lassco Johnson, Colin Marx, Teddy Kafumb, Charlotte Barrow

Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

Introduction

In Kampala, Uganda, where the topography is a series of hills and low-lying wetland areas, the most serious climate-induced disasters are located on large-scale flooding, which often lead to causing impacts on health, loss of income, disruption of livelihoods, and destruction of property and infrastructure. Flooding-related events are likely to increase with climate change. People living in informal settlements in low-lying wetland areas are the most frequently and severely affected. The urban poor and many who are not poor are forced to make settlement decisions that expose them to these risks, because of the options of minimizing costs by living in these areas as well as the opportunities offered from the locations, such as access to food, livelihoods and schools.

Described as a "runaway" city and most development is informal. The nature by which the city has developed over the decades makes it difficult to document existing developments, thus government-driven reorientation is not common, although people do try to move themselves out of the worst flooded areas if they have the means. Current approaches to reduce flood risk in Kampala are based solely on infrastructural development, such as waste management and the improvement and maintenance of drainage systems. These alleviate the risk in the immediate area of the intervention, but exacerbate the problem downstream in other wetlands, including polluting Lake Victoria.
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

Introduction

Disaster risks have increased despite investments in managing disasters.

- Some risks occur at global level but impacts are local; threatening livelihoods, properties and lives.
- Sub-Saharan Africa is generally characterised by creeping risk profiles of droughts, flooding, heat waves.
- Uganda faces multiple climate related and other risks including; droughts, heavy storms, flooding, land conflicts, cattle rustling, bush fires, crop and animal epidemics that have increased lately.

BRACED Uganda

- BRACED Uganda is a resilience building research and development program working towards reducing creeping disasters.
- A 3 year programme in Karamoja (Uganda) & Wajir (Kenya).
- 5 Partner Consortium working in pastoralist landscapes.
- Targeting building resilience of over 250,000 individuals in both regions.
- 3 foci areas of Natural Resource Governance & Management, Market Systems facilitation & Gender.

Approach and Methods

- Building resilience through absorptive, adaptive and transformative approach for households and communities.
- Integrating climate/meteorological dynamics, demographic, social economic, infrastructure and land resources for resilience.
- Generating evidence to spur dialogue with local governments and at national level for planning.
- Synthesizing of knowledge for evidence-based action on resilience building at multiple scales.
- Capacity building of graduate students, local partners, and government officials for next generation of Resilience practitioners.

Activities to date

- Baseline completed.
- Recurrent monitoring ongoing.
- Karamoja Grazing Interest Group and mapping grazing fields.
- Livestock Value chain analysis ongoing.
- Periodic climate bulletin.
- Partner training workshops.

Acknowledgements

- DFID/UK Aid
- BRACED Mercy-corps Uganda
- TANGO International
- Local govt officials.

Contribution to SFDRR

- Analysis to understand slow-onset disaster risks.
- Probabilistic Assessment of creeping risks for enhanced preparedness.
- Integrating natural resource governance and management to build resilience and reduce risk.
- Incorporating gender issues into disaster risk, preparedness and reduction.

References

- http://www.braced.org/
- http://www.ulaug.org/
- http://tangointernational.com/
- http://geography.mak.ac.ug/index.html
Lessons and imperatives

- Unlearning to learn
- Students and community members as data generators – OWNERSHIP
  - Trust, collaboration, sharing and service learning
- Innovative spaces, integrative questions => interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach
- Self reflection propels deepened understanding
Thank you very much!