



Consultation with Local Governments in Africa on the Post-2015 Framework in Disaster Risk Reduction

5-6 December 2012, during the Africities Summit, Dakar, Senegal

1. Introduction

During the UCLG Africities Summit in Dakar, Senegal (which took place on 4-8 December, 2012, organized by UCLG) UNISDR organized three workshops/panels for cities and urban stakeholders on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilient Cities on the 5 and 6 of December. These included segments to consult on the future of the global disaster risk reduction framework: the successor of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) after 2015.

The Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient, developed by UNISDR with partners in the Making Cities Resilient Campaign were presented and discussed in details by participants, along with the Hyogo Framework for Action. Several local government leaders illustrated the current state of affairs through their own experience. As a wrap up to each session, a discussion on future priorities was held. The results will inform the next iteration of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA2) as a contribution from African local government representatives.

2. Main conclusions and recommendations for HFA2 and needed actions

The main points raised by the Mayors for a future oriented, HFA2 and for next phase of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign, were:

a-Raise Awareness. Focus more on raising the awareness about risk and resilience with city officials, for them to understand the dynamics of vulnerability and risk, and its implication on development, and to understand what types of solutions are available. Address the politicians (decision makers and elected leaders) and the technical staff, planners and administrators.

b- Bottom-up approach. Ensure that future frameworks clearly underwrite the need for local governments to be involved and have responsibilities. Promote the political will and harmonise policies nationally and locally: nationally to decentralize disaster risk reduction policies and resources; locally for Mayors and councils to prioritize, plan and invest.

c- Know more- capacities needed. Increase capacities locally to accelerate implementation of plans and policies, focus on capacity development and training for local governments on disaster resilience- linked also to decentralized resources.

d- **Make disaster risk reduction and management (DRR) a city core function.** Based on the above (awareness, political will and capacity) ensure that disaster risk reduction become a core function of the City, with regular budget allocation and staffing. This function shall be able to mainstream activities into each department.

e- **Involve local officials from the start.** Ensure that national authorities communicate and discuss with city officials, as well as inform them, about the national and global commitments in this field; and involve cities/local government in reporting and planning (including for financial allocations).

3. Background and highlights from the discussions

The urbanisation rate in Africa is the fastest in the world, with an urban growth rate of 3.4¹ per cent. By 2030 more Africans will live in cities than in rural areas. More than 70 per cent of all African urban population growth will be in smaller cities and those with populations of less than half a million. And in many cities there is already up to 70% of the population living in informal settlements which lack basic services and protection to different hazards.

Disasters resulting from hazards of different types and magnitudes remain a major problem in most of Africa's cities. The problems are becoming worse due to extreme climate events and rapid uncontrolled urbanization practices. Each country and city is different. The role of mayors and local governments as they address the risks faced on a day-to-day basis and how these risks have aggravated floods and drought, is at the core. Risks are exacerbated by disease, industrial accidents, and the impact of climate change which makes vulnerability worse for a large proportion of their population.

Elected Mayors and local authorities need to respond to the expectations of the electorate. It becomes important to link risk reduction to development issues, such as providing water and waste management and addressing coastal erosion. The Mayors are encouraging more interaction with their central Governments not only to build local and regional action plans and protocols, but to become active actors in the implementation process. Many Mayors and City Council members are young and interested in change, but often lack the experience and knowledge on how to reduce the impact from floods and other risks. A general consensus emerged about the need to work with the community

¹ 2005-2010 Africa rate. United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2010). World Urbanization Prospects : The 2009 Revision. Quoted from UN-Habitat State of the Cities Report 2'010-2011

organizations and associations as requirements for sustainability, and to tap into their knowledge on the local situations.

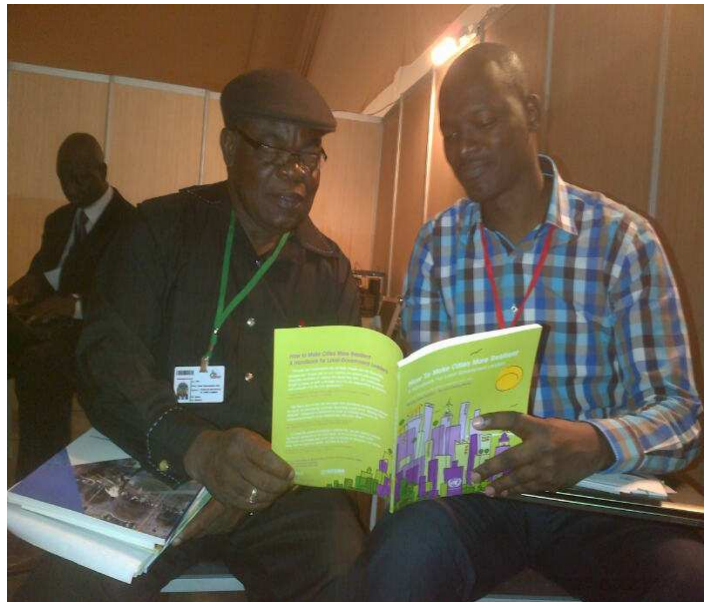
Specific problems of African cities include:

- Urban flooding is the most frequently cited disaster. Industrial accidents and fire are also very common. Unplanned urban development or unattended needs in the peripheries and semi-rural areas is a major problem (informal housing and slums on sites at high-risk of earthquakes, floods or landslides),
- Ecosystems decline (depletion of mangroves or wetlands), which is accelerated when refugees or a major influx of migrants settles informally in the urban or peri-urban areas,
- Unmaintained buildings or poor building standards for infrastructure (insufficient storm drainage and poor-quality building materials, poor quality of critical buildings such as schools and hospitals), and
- Lack of organization of local government set-ups to deal with disaster risk and failure to control or provide for public infrastructure development works.

Some highlights by participants:

A role model presentation on disaster resilience as a way to engage communities and improve the city

holistically: The Mayor of Teveragh-Zeinah, Mauretania, Ms. Fatimetou Abdel Malick, joined the “Making Cities Resilient Campaign” in 2011 and she shared how she has adopted the Ten Essentials to improve community participation and making disaster prevention a core for improved governance. She has organized several programmes and campaigns with schools and youth groups, women groups and the population at large to clean up the city, protect dunes and strengthen preparedness. She promoted planting date palms and other indigenous trees to improve the quality of life in the city. She has prioritized access to basic services, improved education, created public spaces such as playgrounds and municipal parks where free Wi-Fi is provided thus attracting many young people to gather there. She



Oscar Ebalu, UNISDR- Africa, discussing the content of the Handbook for local Govt leaders with Chief Town Planner Steve I. Onu, National President of the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners.

has demonstrated that resilience and disaster risk reduction is an urgent issue that requires the engagement of all citizens.

It was noted by many during the three sessions that disaster risk reduction is a complex task and the situation varies in different localities. There is need to find a solution at the local level by involving the population in the planning and implementation of area-specific initiatives. This must authorities and for any global agreement.

The problem of flood management is also a national phenomenon, which does require a good planning system, a strict code of planning and deployment of physical control officers to ensure that construction permits are followed. The central government must set up a national warning system, while local government and communities needs to be fully aware and organized to help maintain the system, understand and act on the warnings.

Many of the Mayors present from Zambia, Senegal and an urban planner from Nigeria commented on how their urban floods are as a result of poor urban planning and the occupation by people and residences in drainage areas. The proposal is to diagnose risks and develop an action plan to bring an end to the current situation. We observed the same phenomenon in many parts of Senegal. Most Mayors noted that there is often a lack of coordination between central government, local authorities and the communities in the management of floods “on the ground”.

Examples were made where smaller or semi rural communities and towns have started to engage in planning, with the engagement of the communities and authorities, as in the case of Mamadou Camara (close to Saint Lois, Senegal). They have developed a land-use plan with clear identification of flood prone areas. Thus, the following actions were proposed:

- Encourage better engagement in the planning of roads and infrastructure;
- Establish a procedure of impact assessments before infrastructure is constructed;
- Continue with initiatives for compliant planning and structured urbanization

Many raised the issue of lack of awareness and knowledge by the local decision makers as a major problem. They also highlighted the pressing need of public information (and education) to the population in general about this recurring phenomenon of reasons for flooding, fires and other hazards turning into disasters. Funding for proactive prevention was noted as a major constraint- even though response related funds are available (like in Senegal) they cannot be sued to prevent future floods. Examples were given from areas of high flood recurrence where the official plans and measures are always delayed to respond. Hence the need for people to take the lead with the involvement of local associations (such as use of pumps or establishment of a platform for the creation of brigade’s drainage) as in the example Djiddha Thiaroye Kao (DTK), Commune de Pekine (outside Dakar).

The underpinning problem of weak urban governance must be addressed; there is need to construct a system of good and transparent urban governance. There is need for a good planning system, a strict code of planning and deployment of physical control officers with the issuance of any construction permits. In addition, the central government must set up a significant initiative to fight against flooding by installing a national warning system. Effective communication channels within a community with local authorities and local organizations and businesses, as well as vertically with national authorities are critical.

Annex: List of participants

ANNEX: List of participating cities and others in the consultation

FULL NAME	TITLE	CITY/MUNICIPALITY (COUNTRY)
Abdou SANE	UNISDR Champion, Former Parliamentarian	Dakar, Senegal
Marie Helene BOUDA	Mayor	Bakata (Burkina Faso)
Bechir Korom OKORA	Mayor	Moussoro (Tchad)
SARR Diegane	Mayor	Djibor (Senegal)
Diarra DIAWARA	Mayor	Gabou (Senegal)
BA Tabara	Mayor	Sebkha (Mauritanie)
SALHI Mouloud	Mayor	Akbou (Algerie)
KUZWELA Claude	Mayor	Kinshasa (RDC)
SARR Salimata Yero	Mayor	El mina (Mauritanie)
MUKWASA Leonard G.	Mayor	Nakonde (Zambie)
PAKOUARE Taino Mada	Mayor	Lere (Tchad)
YOLOU Seri Fernand	Mayor	Gboguhe (Cote D'Ivoire)
MUMBA Levis	Director	Ndola (Zambia)
ADAMOU Ndam Njoya	Mayor	Foumban (Cameroun)
KAMARA Mamadou	Advisor	Gandon (Senegal)
DIALLO Amadou Dioulde	Town planner	Dakar (Senegal)
SARR Adama	Student	Dakar (Senegal)
TANKO Mangoh Jones	Mayor	Nkambe (Cameroun)
NDOUR Mbissane	Protractor	Dakar (Senegal)
DIABY Yary	Mayor	Bafoulabe selinkegni (Mali)
SECK Ibrahima	Representative	Gueoul (Senegal)
COULIBALY Kalifa	Mayor	Mpessoba (Mali)

AWNOR Bob	Mayor	Kisumu (Kenya)
ABGONDJU Issu	Mayor	Mongo (Tchad)
BARADINE Brahim	Mayor	Got-beida (Tchad)
SAMBA Mame Amadou	Mayor	Camberene (Senegal)
NIANG Dame	Mayor	Parcelles Assainies
RUSANA Christopher O.	Town Clerk	Kisumu (Kenya)
AIDARA Rabiya	Mayor	Sebkha (Mauritanie)
AMESU Lawrence	Amnesty Internat.	Accra (Ghana)
SUMANI Ernest M.	Director of admin.	Ndola (Zambia)
MURO Patrick M	Town Clerk	Thika (Zambie)
DIOP Cherif Elwaly	Parliamentary	Dakar (Senegal)
NIANG Ndeye Ngoundy	CADDTK	Dakar (Senegal)
DIALLO Mamadou	Mayor	Kidira (Senegal)
DIOUF Ibra	Consultant	Dakar (Senegal)
DIOP Moussa	PCR	Ronkh (Senegal)
NDIAYE Mor Fassa	Consultant	Dakar (Senegal)
FALL Mor	Consultant	Pikine (Senegal)
CUTHBERT Kalebaila	Mayor	Chiwgola (Zambie)
Manambina	Head of region	Antsohihy (Madagascar)
Rakotomdravony Victor	Mayor	Antsohihy (Madagascar)
Dino Ibrahima	PCR	Same Kanta Peulh (Senegal)
Mme Mariama DIAW	Mayor	Thiaroye sur mer (Senegal)
Ousmanou	Mayor	Kaele (Cameroun)
Idoumou Ely Salem Tiki	Mayor	Fassala (MAURITANIE)
Langat John	Town Clerk	Kipsigs
Issaga Ly	Mayor	Beud kelle
Kady ba	Mayor	Diamagueune (Senegal)

Paul mucasa	Engineer	Kompala Uganda
Adoulaye Daba Gonbale	Mayor	Pala (Tchad)
Rmnel Marcel	Mayor	Sarh (Tchad)
Laoukein K.medard	Mayor	Moundou (Tchad)
Beuleu Issou Almang	Mayor	Lai (Tandjil)
Pizapi	Mayor	Yakassi Atobrou (Cote d Ivoire)
Kkou Lou Akoissi	Mayor	Coi-oume (Cote d Ivoire)
Daouda Sow	Mayor	Dougue Tamba (Senegal)
Ndiouga Diop	Mayor	Koulu Tamba (Senegal)
Mfabi mitwalibi zandya	Mayor	Mbale Municipal Counul
Tidiane Savane	Mayor	Merele (Senegal)
Ousmane Diop (student in Law) and Fat Niang (student in natural science)	UNISDR volunteers, Red Cross	Dakar, Senegal
Helena Molin Valdes Kiki Lawal Oscar Ebalu	UNISDR	Geneva Nairobi