Participatory Planning and Qualitative Data Collection for Resilience Building at the Local Level

Case Study from Africa

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Institutional introduction

CityRAP methodology

Case studies

Key takeaways
UN-Habitat in Africa

- Since 1978, UN-Habitat has been working in Africa through its Regional Office for Africa (ROAf) and its country offices.
- Partnering with regional bodies, national and local governments, local communities.
- Building urban resilience and supporting disaster preparedness.

Two of the key gaps identified in the region are:

- Low capacities at local level to build disaster preparedness.
- Non-systematic knowledge and data collection and management.
Why use CityRAP?

➔ **Skills and tools** transfer.
➔ **Urban data collection**.
➔ **Use of local information and knowledge**.
➔ **Foster resource mobilisation**.
➔ **Establish a shared vision** of the city.
➔ **Identify key gaps and entry points** for building urban resilience.

### CityRAP: an example of participatory urban data collection

The **City Resilience Action Planning (CityRAP) tool** is a participatory planning tool to build urban resilience hand in hand with city authorities and local communities.

Implemented in **+40 cities** in Africa and counting.
Through its four phases, CityRAP addresses challenges that are common to many secondary cities in developing countries, such as the lack of data and information. It enables communities to understand and plan actions aimed at reducing risk and building resilience through the development of a city Resilience Framework for Action (RFA).

A resilience framework with five inter-related pillars is designed specifically for CityRAP as a theoretical structure for data collection at the city level:
### PHASE 1
- **Crash course**

### PHASE 2
- **Municipal self-assessment**
- **Participatory planning**
- **Data compilation**

**Participatory mapping** at the city level: identify the **main risks** that affect the city and select **vulnerable neighborhoods**.

Prioritisation of risk reduction and resilience building **actions at neighbourhood level**.

List of potential and feasible **solutions/measures**.

### PHASE 3
- **Focus group discussions**
- **Prioritisation workshop**

**The most pressing issues are prioritised** in a consensual manner to define where to start in progressively building the city’s resilience and why.

### PHASE 4
- **Baseline assessment**
- **RFA formulation workshop**
- **Draft RFA & validation**

Maximum six **priority actions** are reviewed and validated and broken down into activities.
CityRAP DATA COLLECTION: which level and how?

Data is collected with a unique approach, using exercises specifically created for CityRAP:

**Municipal level**
- Preliminary stakeholder mapping
- Municipal self-assessment questionnaire for all departments
- Baseline assessment on selected issues

**Community level**
- Participatory planning at the neighbourhood level
- Community consultations

**Joint workshops**
- Stakeholder mapping validation
- Participatory city risk mapping
- Focus group discussions
- Prioritisation workshop
Data collection at the MUNICIPAL LEVEL

> **Preliminary questionnaire and stakeholder mapping**
Information provided by the municipality to contextualize the process to local conditions.

> **Municipal self-assessment**
Data on the status of the city’s resilience collected from each municipal department – based on perceptions.

> **Baseline assessment**
Data gathered from existing and/or ongoing interventions, plans, strategies, to assess the state of the priority issues selected in Phase 3.
Data collection at the COMMUNITY LEVEL

PHASE 2

> Participatory planning at the neighbourhood level
Collecting and mapping information on the potential risks affecting the neighbourhood based on the knowledge and experience of communities and listing them in order of priority.

PHASE 2

> Community consultations
Discuss with the community viable solutions for reducing the identified risks and building resilience.
Data collection through JOINT WORKSHOPS

**> Participatory city risk mapping**
Exchanged knowledge among participants about their own territory and associated natural and socio-economic risks.

**> Focus group discussions**
Knowledgeable stakeholders exchange views and analyse the data collected during previous phases and provide further information to select key issues for each resilience pillar.

**> Prioritisation workshop**
Participants collectively choose the priority issues that will serve as entry points for building the city's resilience.
How can data be used afterwards?

All data from the process converge in a single document, the city Resilience Framework for Action (RFA) aligned with existing national and local level priorities which is the end of the CityRAP roll-out, but also the starting point for future actions.

Incentive for cooperation between communities and local government.

Trigger for community self-mobilisation.

Contribution to longer-term processes.

Mobilisation of additional funding.

Some outcomes from the implementations

- **Enhanced relationship** between the city administration and the community.
- **Strengthened communication** between the authorities and the beneficiaries.
- **Better understanding** of city and community needs from the city administration.
- **Community mobilization** in drainage construction.
Community self-mobilization in Lilongwe, Malawi

Thanks to its participatory approach, the tool triggered community self-mobilisation and physical implementation of identified activities such as the creation of new drainage channels.
Improved cooperation between communities and local government in Lusaka, Zambia

The prioritisation process helped in identifying discrepancies in the perception of the municipality’s performance. Having both parties sitting at the same table was an incentive to cooperate.

Lusaka City Council plans to mainstream CityRAP in the development of the Kanyama neighbourhood Local Area Plan - a pre-requisite to providing basic infrastructure and services.
Funding mobilization in Dondo, Mozambique

In Dondo city CityRAP supported in leverage funds to implement some of the RFA Priority Actions and other activities to strengthen the city resilience (e.g.: construction of pilot model of houses resilient to cyclones; a public space that serve also as a safe haven).
National level outcomes

After the Training of Trainers in South Africa, national government plans to mainstream CityRAP in their new integrated district-based model of development and service delivery.
Beyond national boundaries: unlocking finances to tackle common threats

CityRAP implementation

MALAWI
Zomba

MADAGASCAR
Morondava

MOZAMBIQUE
Chokwe

COMOROS
Moroni

4 city RFAs

“Building urban climate resilience in south-eastern Africa”

Sub-Regional level
Inter-country experience sharing, cross-fertilization and dissemination of lessons learned.

National level
Development of tools and guidelines, and training delivery on urban resilience and climate adaptation techniques.

City level
Preparation, implementation and sustainable management of 23 priority sub-projects.

Project funded by:
Key Takeaways

• Data is power – supplementing quantitative DRR data with qualitative data extracted from municipalities and communities can help a city advocate for its resilience building needs and attract funding/resources.

• Local knowledge is essential for disaster risk reduction, building local urban resilience and climate change adaptation.

• Participatory planning and first-hand, qualitative data collection can be an important source of innovation and community mobilization.

• An efficient systematization and accessibility of the collected data is key. Academia and regional institutions should be involved.

• When collecting urban data, the information should reach higher administrative levels. This would improve vertical coordination and allow the urban dimension to be reflected in national policies and strategies.

• Knowledge sharing, disseminating best practices and lessons learned from one region to another is important to advance DRR practices.
THANK YOU

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Download the CityRAP booklet here: