



EVENT REPORT (ER)

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VALIDATION:

SUBJECT	Building Urban Climate Resilience in South-Eastern Africa, 21-24 March 2022, Blantyre – Malawi . Day 3 Thematic Discussions
REPORT SUMMARY	The general objective of these Thematic Discussions is to facilitate real-time exchange of experiences and learning from the implementation of the city and national level components of the project.
REPORTING	<p>1. INTRODUCTION</p> <p>April 23rd, 2022, the third day of the event in Malawi, two thematic round tables were held in the morning and another two in the afternoon, thus giving substance to the day of interaction between countries through crossed fertilization and sharing specific experiences.</p> <p>The main objective of this day was to get countries and their respective cities to exchange experiences and interact objectively, on the problems and probable solutions, which they have been experiencing in the implementation of programs derived from the Adaptation Fund Project, from UN Habitat, in joint management with OXFAM and DiMSUR. With a diversified panel, the organization put together groups of experts, academics and technicians, knowledgeable in these specific themes, whose function would be to help a better understanding of the subject and, through debate, manage to list prominent solutions for the region.</p> <p>In a participatory and shared strategy, and throughout the course of the dialogue, ways were raised to improve the implementation of the themes addressed in each round table, through the listening of the experiences lived by the communities and governments of the 4 cities (Zomba – Malawi, Morondava – Madagascar, Moroni – Comoros and Chokwe – Mozambique) thus giving the possibility of being suggested solutions to improve, mitigate or correct the difficulties encountered.</p> <p>Four specific themes were chosen; they are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drainage and solid waste management 2. Early warning and evacuation 3. Nature solutions based and community mobilization awareness 4. Strengthening the policy and legal framework for building urban resilience at the national level. <p>As a matter of organization, there was a need to change topic 2 to topic 4, in terms of priority in the presentations, but without changing the objectives of the discussion, the content, the participants or the experts/moderators.</p> <p>In the defined terms of reference, the following results were expected:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Successes and challenges identified and analysed <p>Evaluation of the technical, social, environmental and political-legal constraints existing in the cities and countries of the project/ DiMSUR, taking into account that DiMSUR member states share certain climate change impacts, hazards exposure and common resulting challenges, but they also have historic, linguistic and geographical differences.</p> 2. General open debate promoted, and solutions shared <p>Open discussion of what are the ideas and actions have been developed by each city and country to find solutions, apply expertise, plan response and mitigate the risks that have arisen through project implementation.</p> 3. External experts consulted <p>Ensure that participating cities and countries have the opportunity to listen to the experience and opinions of the external experts as a way to promote greater capacity for planning, mitigation and management of events that may occur in the future.</p>

2. THE THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS

In summary, the conclusions of the sessions were based on the following key points:

Thematic discussion I - Drainage and solid waste management

Moderators: Fruzsina Straus and Riccardo Sansone

Rapporteur: Antonio Mancini

Guest expert(s): Martin Kumbani (Drainage) & Buster Chiona (Solid Waste Management) from the Zomba City Council

The City RAP Tool appointed this subject as a transversal problem in all of the cities. Being one of the most important points of the success of the projects that are being implemented in the countries, drainage and solid waste managements must be a priority to the governments and the municipalities must be the key target with the train of trainers, in order to have skills and technical preparation to pass to the communities in order to generate a better management of their drainages and solid waste.

In this roundtable was mentioned that the recycling of waste and the implementation of laws that enforce the best management of waste would be very helpful to guarantee less problems to the drainage systems, reducing also the contamination of soils and proliferations of diseases.

Was also mentioned that successful drainage systems must have in consideration the number of people leaving in that specific urban area. This is the only way to guarantee that when the rainy and cyclonic season come, the systems will work with sustainability, responding to the demand.

Is also very important to consider the materials used while building the infrastructures because they must be eco-friendly and must allow a non-skilled maintenance. The burning of waste is another problem that difficult the management of waste and must be resolved and stopped.

The problems are quite alike but the solutions must have in considerations the access of materials, the environment specifications and the community preparations to sort the issues with different technicalities, depending of the area where the infrastructures must be built.

Example: The Municipality of Chokwe (Mozambique) took a stand, in the person of its president, addressing the issue of the change in mentality of the populations regarding the use of drainage and their poor management of solid waste, which causes increased problems in the flow of water from the rain, especially in delicate times such as cyclones and torrential rains, or in the dry season when these infrastructures are silted up due to poor maintenance capacity.

Cross-fertilization has allowed cities like Zomba (Malawi) to demonstrate how it has solved the problems cited by the Mozambican city. With the visit made to the city's drainage infrastructure, which is under repair and construction, it was possible for the Malawian municipality to explain that the populations were involved in maintenance actions and involved in their own construction, leaving to the municipality the part of the municipal policies that aim to ensure the maintenance and management of the infrastructures.

Thematic discussion II (formerly IV) - Strengthening the policy and legal framework for building urban resilience at the national level

Moderators: Prof. Christo Coetzee and Silvia Testi

Rapporteur: Marta Leite

Guest expert(s): Samuel Gama from the department of disaster management affairs (Malawi)

The debate started with the expert mentioning that the risk reduction policies created by the governments are one of the most important tools to guarantee that communities and municipalities are capable to deal with climate change issues, in a planned and organized manner.

In this subject was mentioned that is very important to understand that policies are different from legislation and that people cannot be obliged to do something, using policies. This will not put people to assume responsibilities for their acts, that can only be enforced and obliged by legislation. The legal framework must understand the local problem to try to design a national legal framework that can resolve the problem, and be replicated in all of the national territory.

Was mentioned that is very important to consider that the responsibility of the Government is to bring safety to the communities, this cannot be delegated and with the proper legislation in place, is possible to integrate all governmental sectors in the development of a strategy that can improve awareness and preparedness, towards a more resilient city.

In this roundtable, the participation of governments became clear as a main element to improve urban resilience issues in the countries of the region. Mozambique had the opportunity to intervene through the INGD team present at the event, through its vice-president more specifically, saying that only political decisions can favour the creation of processes to improve the management of climate events and that he believes that the region is committed to this theme, in a transversal way. He also commented that the government of Mozambique is in the process of approving a new law that allows it to deal with issues arising from climate change and resilience and has empowered an institution to be able to manage these events in an active and selfless way, allowing the country to learn from the events that have taken place, strengthening its position in the mitigation of calamities. Malawi are improving with specific agendas like the 5063 to build resilience within cities agenda and also a policy in water

sanitation. Madagascar have 2 institutions to work with DRR and they are struggling to sort the existent problems as the events are getting worse every year.

Thematic discussion III - Nature based solutions and community mobilization awareness

Moderators: Prof. Alberto Mavume and Selene Angelone

Rapporteur: Monica Gakindi

Guest expert(s): Isaac Tchuwa from the Malawi University of Science and Technology

This enthusiastic session mentioned a very important point in the livelihoods of the communities which is the necessity to re make our relationship with nature, having in consideration that we using nature as a renewable asset, but sometimes people forget that some of the natural resources that we do have, are limited. We have to start acting in a sustainable manner to allow the planet to heal from the damage we have been spreading all this years, creating the variations in climate as we see today.

We cannot ignore that natural environments must be replaced, and we must stop the disaster promoted but fast urbanizations and non-controlled industrialization.

In the case of Malawi, it was noted that there is a disjointed approach mainly because there are different actors making interventions but using different terminologies. An example of ecosystem-based solutions, ECODRR solutions, nature-based solutions etc. It was also noted that the policy exists, but the gap is in the implementation. There is also the tendency to focus on rural areas when it comes to nature-based solutions and less emphasis on urban areas.

For Comoros, it was noted that awareness exists especially because people were able to experience the effects of felling trees for farming and for fuel causing drying of rivers. This awareness has also been created in the community by the mere fact that living in an island itself means there is more vulnerability and so maintenance of nature needs to be emphasized.

Madagascar's experience in awareness, adoption and application has been through a collaborative process with a variety of stakeholders to find solutions including community leaders and ministries. A good example that was provided is the rehabilitation of the mangroves. The fallen/destroyed trees caused by cyclones have been used to re-build destroyed houses

Mozambique experience is that awareness is there in different levels as follows: Those that are aware of conservation and NBS but due to poverty, may not fully adhere to NBS solutions; Those that are aware of the NBS but are not willing to adhere due to their urge to get more money from the business of natural resources and those that are ignorant of nature-based solutions.

Some of the key considerations mentioned were:

- Engage the communities fully including the municipalities – not to treat them in isolation;
- Focus on both urban and rural areas for NBS interventions;
- Bring all players together – coordinated efforts would yield better results;
- Continuous awareness creation – it has to cause behavioural change;
- Punitive policies to be enforced for defaulters;
- Engage more with academia to promote research in key areas;
- Need to integrate the soft technology (nature-based solutions) and the hard technology (engineering, construction etc.);
- Awareness creation to communities to be continuous. They must know that their engagement and involvement is key attaining sustainability of the interventions taken;
- Creating alternatives – e.g., on the issue of charcoal burning for fuel – create affordable and sustainable alternatives.

Thematic discussion IV (formerly II) - Early warning and evacuation

Moderators: Alex Banda and Lynn Chiripamberi

Rapporteur: Benedetta Gualandi

Guest expert(s): Blessings Mlowoka from the Malawi Redcross Society

With regard to the Early Warning System and evacuation in the face of the approach of a given extreme event, it denotes a collective conscience in the communities, especially when dealing with the known dangers in a certain area. However, there is a need to have an alert closer to reality since, currently, there has been discredit when the alerted danger does not occur;

Regarding evacuation, the routes and safe shelter locations for each event must be well informed and the communities must be trained to evacuate. The process must be refreshed from time to time, even if there's no event happening, to guarantee the best results when the events take place.

The community engagement must be based in a bottom up approach to guarantee that the confidence of the populations in the systems installed even if the knowledge of the people is considered non scientific. Here Academia has a very big role to play creating with the community, a language that can be accessible for everyone to understand.

We must collect data in order to know who are the community members in order to get directly to them, sensitizing them about the need to evacuate.

The key issues here are related to:

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community confidence and reliability of the systems installed; 2. Community based systems working and with accuracy to spread the message when needed; 3. Involve some technology in the systems to increase the population access to the warnings (television, sms, community radios...); 4. Have all the information in backup; 5. Have in consideration power shortages while the events are taking place and reassure the usage of alternative power fonts; 6. Get regional coordination in order to access various countries prior to the events take place. <p>3. CONCLUSION</p> <p>The most relevant point of this day was the possibility for cities and all those present to be able to exchange experiences and to understand what really happens in their territories, when it comes to disaster risk reduction, sustainability and above all, urban resilience.</p> <p>It is clear that the problems encountered are similar between all countries, but the solutions must be proposed in accordance with the acceptable premises of each location, respecting local and national governments, cultural, linguistic, anthropological and religious aspects. The solutions, even if they were considered effective in one place, should be evaluated and improved to be able to work in another, where the aforementioned differences can position communities in different stages of appropriation of the solution, from place to place.</p> <p>The Academy has a very important role in the message that can be taken to the populations, as it should be able to break the stigma of complicated speech and translate it into simpler notes that can be understood by all the stakeholders involved in this type of processes.</p>
OBSERVATIONS	<p>Taking into account the expected results, it is important to mention that all the topics were followed up by a rapporteur, who at the end of the discussion should submit to DiMSUR a summary of what the discussed points would have been, in order to facilitate the composition of this report. Detailed descriptions of 3 of the 4 allocated rapporteurs were received, with one session left without a summary, however, all sessions were accompanied by the DiMSUR team who managed in a scrutinized way, through their own notes, to have data to be able to summarize all the round tables that took place. And it is no less important to highlight the differences that may arise in the interpretation of the questions, taking into account the linguistic and background differences of the participants who intervened in these sessions.</p>
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