SESSION DESCRIPTION

B4 Achieving social cohesion through inclusive resilience-building

Presentations

Date: Thursday, 26 April, 2018
Time: 16:30-18:00
Rooms: S29-31

Language: English
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OBJECTIVE

Managing large, dense, and diverse populations is inherently difficult, and more so in the face of rising seas, increasingly frequent disasters, resource shortages and mass population movements. The ability to rise to these challenges depends a great deal on each city's level of resilience. This session explored how cities, facing rapid social change, are managing social tensions resulting from political and civil unrest. Local governments' efforts to build socially cohesive communities, promoting inclusion and a sense of trust and belonging for forced migrants and displaced populations were also in focus.

The conversation started by assessing the link between social cohesion and urban resilience. The first presentation argued that higher levels of positive peace – the attitudes, institutions, and structures that reduce violence in a society – strengthen overall the social fabric of urban environments and equips them to better mitigate shocks and stresses. The next presentation identifies four key factors for local governments and their partners to consider in order to build resilient, cohesive societies less prone to conflict and social and political unrest. The application of these factors was showcased by four USAID-supported projects in urban areas in Peru, Colombia, Albania, and Georgia. Next, Quelimane Municipality, Mozambique presented the challenges and opportunities of reinforcing social cohesion in an urban environment confounded by multiple development and environmental issues, including poverty, land degradation, and sea level rise. Quelimane Municipality in partnership with USAID's Coastal City Adaptation Project (CCAP) has developed tools that are bringing the urban poor and disadvantaged to discuss and plan climate change adaptation and development strategies. Building upon this example, the following presentation reinforced the argument that social cohesion is directly correlated with urban resilience and, in fact, it enhances the capacity of cities to reconstruct in the aftermath of natural hazards. Flood disaster recovery in the Western Balkans was in focus. Next, the City of Zamboanga, Philippines shared their unique, first-hand experience in post-conflict and post-disaster reconstruction within an ethnically diverse urban environment. The City highlighted the challenges of assisting multi-ethnic refugees and supporting a relocation of a traditional community to a suitable, culturally appropriate new site. The last presentation focused on the recent large-scale displacement in Somali cities due to the worst drought in decades and suggests the implementation of an analytical framework of urban resilience that could help donors, municipal authorities, and implementing partners to bridge the nexus between humanitarian support and longer-term socially cohesive urban development.

OUTCOMES

This session allowed participants to:

- Re-think the relationship between social cohesion and urban resilience and discuss how this link could be operationalized and measured;
- Learn from cities and city practitioners how to include and integrate large numbers of displaced populations and build resilience within a diverse, tribal environment;

METHODOLOGY

- The facilitator provided an introduction to the session topic and contributors. **(5 minutes)**
- Each presentation was allotted 10 minutes. **(6 x 10 minutes)**
- The facilitator managed questions and answers. **(20 minutes)**
- Closing remarks by the facilitator. **(5 minutes)**

CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator *David Simon, Director, Mistra Urban Futures, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden*

Presenter *Marcel Smits, Program Director, Institute for Economics & Peace, The Hague, The Netherlands*

Measuring social cohesion for urban resilience management

The presentation showcased a framework for monitoring and measuring social cohesion at the city level. It was part of an innovative pilot research project that will help to further built up the evidence base on social cohesion in connection to city resilience and develop a work plan for a city-level social cohesion and resilience management tool. IEP's empirical analysis demonstrates that resilience is built by building high levels of Positive Peace. One way in which Positive Peace helps to build resilience is by creating an environment conducive to nonviolent alternatives for conflict resolution, shifting shocks from violent to non-violent, hence help reduce the erosion of social cohesion. By tracking both improvements and deteriorations in resilience over time and by creating links with sustainability or equity goals for instance, the proposed case study provides cities with new guidance on how to build cohesive communities through better management of its city resilience. The presentation elaborated on how ICLEI Canada is currently building resilience through social cohesion in Canadian communities and why the proposed project would help to advance Canadian cities.

Presenter *Gerardo Berthin, Senior Associate, Tetra Tech, Burlington, USA*

Four ways to support local service delivery in expanding urban environments

Tetra Tech has identified four key factors for improving local service delivery in urban areas and build resilient societies less prone to unrest. These include (1) the role of policy dialogue in the vertical and horizontal governance system. (2) the importance of local capacity (3) the role of citizen engagement and (4) the challenges of accountability and transparency. The presenters shared lessons learned from four decades of supporting improved service delivery, and discussed capacity investments to reduce risk of conflict.

Presenter *Manuel De Araujo, Mayor, Quelimane Municipality, Quelimane, Mozambique; Co-Chair ICLEI Resilient Cities Portfolio*

Experience of Quelimane Municipality, Mozambique

Building resilient urban societies means building the capacity of Municipal residents to anticipate and respond to the negative impacts posed by climate change. A combination of factors has created an urban environment, which by any urban standards is rated as of very low quality. To bring back the community members to the center of development Quelimane Municipality in partnership with USAID-CCAP has developed tools, such as Local Adaptation Plan, that is progressively helping build the social cohesion towards a more resilient city.

Presenters *Linda Nielsen, Phd Fellow, Aalborg University, Aalborg, Denmark*

Mille Pedersen, Master student, Aalborg University, Aalborg, Denmark

Flood risk mitigation and indicators of social cohesion in the Western Balkans

This presentation provided empirical validation to the postulate that social cohesion enhances reconstruction in the aftermath of natural hazard events. Historical data on flood events in the Western Balkans together with social cohesion, economic and development indicators were analysed to assess community resilience to flood risk in the region as well as in individual countries and local districts. The data was compared before and after the disintegration of the Yugoslavian state to determine changes in correlations following changes in political institutions. The study contributes to capacity building through knowledge exchange on disaster risk and resilience in the region.

Presenter *Marie Angelique C. Go, City Administrator, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga, Philippines*

Build back better Zamboanga: Evaluating community resilience through a diverse & innovative economy

Community Resilience is the existence, development and engagement of community resources by community members to thrive in an environment characterized by change, uncertainty, unpredictability and surprise. The sustained ability to withstand and recover from adversity (the 2013 man-made disaster), continues to be a key policy issue of the local government. The City of Zamboanga, Philippines shares the unique, first-hand experience in post-conflict and post-disaster reconstruction within an ethnically diverse urban environment. This presentation reported the components of community and individual resilience identified through a participatory action study within a diverse community with focus on an innovative economy. Discussion was on the interactions between individuals, the community, infrastructure, the environment and the economy in the process of building resilience. The findings extended from previous studies by recognizing environmental and economic factors, infrastructure and support services, as enhancing resilience, and expand the limited evidence base for those wishing to promote social cohesion through inclusive resilience-building. In terms of comprehensiveness, the economic dimension received relatively less attention in spite of its significance for building community resilience. Attention needs to be paid to stakeholder participation in developing assessment tools.

Presenter *Simon Griffiths, Evaluation and Practice Leader, Coffey International, London, UK*

Linda Beyer, Visiting Scholar, Africa Population and Health Research Center, Nairobi, Kenya

Urban resilience bridging humanitarian support & urban development in Somalia

The presentation argued for an appraisal, monitoring and evaluation framework structured around an integrated conceptual model of urban resilience to help donors, municipal authorities and implementing partners operationalize their program objectives of transitioning large numbers of displaced people in Somali's cities and towns from humanitarian support towards development that meets their longer term needs. At the heart of this framework are key social inclusion questions about the type of change that diverse urban populations want and need in the context of Somalia's worst drought in decades and ever-changing social power dynamics and political situation.

Further recommended reading

Coastal Community Adaptation Project (CCAP), USAID: https://www.usaid.gov/pacific-islands/environment-and-global-climate-change/coastal-community-adaptation-project

Buggoc Challenge, Zamboanga: https://mindanaoexaminer.com/buggoc-challenge/