

THE JOURNEY TO THE DEVELOPMENT/IMPLEMENTATION OF DISASTER RISK ACTION PLAN AND STRATEGY: THE KAMPALA CITY STORY.

Kampala is Uganda's capital city and a business hub, which contributes about 60% of the country's GDP. It is one of the rapidly urbanizing cities, at 5.2% which is higher than the African average of 3.9%. This has come with increasing pressures for housing, for social services like health and education, for employment and transport services, and demand for more public open spaces.

There has been increasing levels of unplanned expansion of Kampala to accommodate rapid population growth, combined with inappropriate land-use planning and the inadequacies in regulating building standards which have contributed to the vulnerability of urban populations. In addition, inadequate living conditions of poor populations including poor health, inadequate nutrition, poverty, illiteracy, and deficient sanitation, constitute a threat to the population's physical and psychological security and create "everyday risks" which cause small-scale disasters on an ongoing basis. Due to climate change, critical disruptions have occurred too often in Kampala.

The city Authority, Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) has been responding to these disasters as and when they occur, but City finances, Infrastructure, population and environment has also been impacted.

In order to ensure that risks and disasters are managed in more proactive manner, KCCA set out to understand better its risks and disasters, undertake action planning and work on the strategy to link both climate change and disaster risk.

The journey began with undertaking climate change adaptation and mitigation assessments that led to the development of the climate change action plan for the city of Kampala. After this process, city administration realized that the action plan only catered for natural disasters and never considered other disasters that are not climate related.

The city administration with support from the Uganda national government and United Nations made a decision to understand better all the disasters faced by Kampala. Through this process, multi hazard and vulnerability profiling was undertaken in city.

The assessments on climate change adaptation, mitigation, multi hazard risk and vulnerability profile were to assist Kampala understand better its risks, hazards and disasters and also to inform the development of comprehensive plans for achieving resilience in the city.

Kampala city was thereafter auspicious to be nominated by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) to be part of the 20 cities benefitting from the pilot project - **Making**

Cities Sustainable and Resilient: Implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 at local level, supported by the European Commission.

The city through technical support and guidance from UNDRR undertook preliminary and detailed assessments of the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities, as well as action planning for disaster risk. The process involved consultations in a multi sectorial and disciplinary approach with technical staff of KCCA, political leaders, Uganda government Ministries, Departments and agencies, the vulnerable groups including women, disabled as well as the youth in the city. Development partners, civil society and non-government organizations working in the field of disaster risk reduction as well as the academia were also consulted. The assessments were comprehensive and were based on the ten essentials of making cities resilient. To-date, an action plan for disaster risk was completed and presented to various stakeholders for feedback.

In order to ensure that the action plan for disaster risk is not a stand-alone document, the city administration made a decision to integrate disaster risk and climate change into a single strategy.

Currently, the development of a resilience strategy to disaster risk and climate change is ongoing and will be concluded in the next few months. This will ensure that all action plans in the city that address disaster risk and climate change are consolidated into one document, actions prioritized and aligned to the strategic plan for the city of Kampala, national Disaster risk reduction strategies/ action plans. This process is currently supported by the World Bank.

The development of the above action plan has been ongoing alongside the implementation of some of the activities/projects to ensure that Kampala achieves resilience to climate change and disaster risk. Some of the key projects currently being implemented include; Reconstruction and upgrading of roads, health centers, markets and schools; construction of waste recycling facility, Detailed neighborhood planning; promotion of urban agriculture, skilling of youth and women, waste management and sensitization of the technical staff, politicians and public on disaster risk reduction.

The journey to achieving resilience to disaster risk and climate change has already started in Kampala.

In conclusion, the city still needs to raise finances to fund various interventions/projects aimed at achieving resilience at local level, and also consolidate its efforts in sensitization and engagements of different stakeholders on disaster risk reduction.

Kampala Capital City Authority
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