Concept Note: Virtual African Regional Urban Disaster Risk Reduction Research and Policy Workshop, Thursday, 31st March 2022 from 2pm-4pm EAT.

Register

I. Background.

The Nairobi Risk Hub is part of The Tomorrow's Cities hub – a five-year (2019-2022) Urban Disaster Risk Hub funded by the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) (www.tommorrowscities.org). Tomorrow's Cities aims to catalyze a transition from crisis management to multi-hazard risk-informed planning and decision-making, for cities in low-and-middle income countries. The Nairobi Risk Hub specifically aims to support risk reduction in Nairobi through interdisciplinary evidence that enables a transition from emergency response to disaster risk preparedness. The Nairobi Risk hub addresses disaster risk related challenges in Nairobi by robust community engagement, policy advocacy and high-level strategic partnerships. The hub has achieved major milestones in its work over the last 2-3 years-placing the city at a very strategic position to support policy planning and engage with further risk research.

Research has focused on socialising the concept of disaster risk to the Nairobi context and co-production of risk knowledge with communities in informal settlements (Mukuru and Kibera) and the city county government. At the informal settlement level, the hub has worked within the Spatial Planning Area (SPA)- an internationally recognised slum upgrading initiative that is being piloted in Nairobi' low-income settlements. The first case in Kenya and in Nairobi city is the Mukuru Special Planning Area (SPA), which is one of the largest ever informal settlement upgrading processes. Participatory assessments of risks e.g. the Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (RVA) and associated community dialogues have yielded good understanding on how various social groups perceive 'risk' and how to integrate risk considerations into infrastructure and urban planning for future Nairobi. Additionally, co-produced data with the communities through transect walks, community based workshops and Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) has contributed to the understanding and strengthening the Decision Support Environment (DSE) for the City. The outcome of this research is currently being applied to support the Nairobi City County Government (NCCG) with evidenced based disaster risk action planning.

The case of Nairobi reflects similar challenges faced by many other cities in Sub-Saharan Africa. The learnings from Nairobi and the wider Tomorrow's Cities Hub, can be valuable to other cities in Africa and elsewhere. Therefore, through the Africa Research and impact Network (ARIN), the Nairobi Risk hub and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) are co-organizing a Regional Urban Disaster Risk Reduction Research and Policy Workshop to facilitate Nairobi city and invited cities across Sub-Saharan African to share experience and lessons and le learning with and opportunities for risk science integration into policy and practice.

II. Aims of the Workshop

To catalyze learning and sharing on best practices in disaster risk research, policy and practice among the cities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

III. Speakers

The key speakers will include:

1) City disaster risk and resilience representatives drawn from the selected cities in Africa. They will share disaster risk reduction from policy and practice perspective
2) Selected DRR experts will share research outputs and policy implication on DRR

IV. Participants.

The regional workshop targets local government officials in charge of DRR and resilience, policy and research practitioners and other stakeholders.

V. Format of the meeting

Time	Session	Topic of discussion	Speakers
Moderator: Dr Keziah Mwang'a (her) ARIN (15 mins)			
2:00-2:05 pm (5minutes)	Opening remarks		Nairobi City County Government
Sessions			
2:05-2:20 pm (3 speakers 5 minutes = 15 minutes)	**Session 1:** Introduction and overview of the multi-hazard risk approach in the urban context *Two slides max*	Multi-hazard risk research in the urban context	Dr Joanes Atela (him) Nairobi Risk Hub/ ARIN
		Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS)	ICPAC
		Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030)	Isabel Njihia (her) UNDRR
2:20-2:27 pm (7 minutes)	**Q&A**		
2:27-2:57 pm (5 speakers @5 minutes = 30 minutes)	Session 2: Decision support environment in urban systems	Risk concept	Gemma Cremen (her), Tomorrow' Cities Hub
		Inclusive resilience	Dr Asenath Maobe (her) ARIN

		Risk hazard modelling	Tom Ramda (him) and Haron Akala (him) Nairobi Risk Hub
		DesInventar – Disaster loss accounting	UNDRR
		Connecting local action to SDGs	Charles Akol (him), UNECA
		Disaster loss accounting	Katarina Mouakidd Soltesova (her)- UNDRR
2:57-3:07 pm (10 minutes)	**Q&A**		
3:07-3:42 pm (5 speakers 7 minutes = 35 minutes)	Session 3: Case presentations by selected cities in Sub-Sahara Africa	Local DRR platform	
		DRR Policy development	
		Institutional capacity for resilience	
		Risk and vulnerability mapping	
		Integration of climate risk and DRR	
3:42-3:52 pm (10 minutes)	Q&A		
3:52-3:57 pm (5 minutes)	Closing session		Dr Joanes Atela (him) ARIN; UNDRR

VI. Expected Outcome

The expected outcome of the workshop is peer learning around best practices in disaster risk reduction and resilience - with reference to the Tomorrow's Cities Decision Support Environment (TCDSE). This outcome is in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030; recommendations from the African Union Commission (AUC) Bi-ennial Report (2015- 2018) on the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa and the Declaration of the 7th High-Level Meeting on DRR 2021 developed at the 8th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (AfRP), Nairobi, Kenya.

VII. Date, Venue and Time.

The proposed venue for this engagement is the Zoom virtual platform. The date and time for the regional workshop is proposed to take place on **Thursday, 31st March 2022 from 2pm-4pm EAT.**

VIII. Translation

There will be translation for English and French

IX. **Expected Output:** Set of recommendations