Report from the Public Dialogue:

The Role Community Based Planning (CBP) has had in Strengthening Citizen Participation in Cities Across the African Continent

(Feedback)

18th June 2014

Partnership between South African Cities Network and Khanya-African Institute of Community-Driven Development

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2013, Khanya-African Institute of Community-Driven Development and South African Cities Network entered into a partnership to conduct an evaluative and comparative study on the role of Community Based planning (CBP) has had in strengthening citizen participation in cities across the African Continent.

Community based planning (CBP) is a participatory process involving members of a community, which has been designed to promote community participation and make municipal planning for example Integrated Development Plan (IDP) in South Africa more people centered. CBP enables and empowers people in communities to drive local development. The process involves systematic analysis by the local people who then plan development interventions and how to take these forward, followed by monitoring, evaluation and learning.

In partnership with South African Cities Network, Khanya-aicdd held a one-day workshop with participants drawn from the local municipalities and government to give feedback on this study and to also map out ways in which CBP can be implemented as an effective tool.

An evaluation of the workshop by all the participants demonstrated an agreement on the full achievement of the workshops’ objectives and acceptance of the mode of facilitation in small groups that allowed for engagement, sharing and discussion. Participants also noted that they did learn something new at the workshop and the information that they received would inspire them to do something new in their workplace and generally help them do a better job. Participants however would have preferred to have a short documentary as part of the presentations and also have more time for the questions that were posted for group discussion. Suggestions for future SACN events included allocating more time for discussions; having more events and post workshop follow-up with participants for purposes of networking and further engagements and finally, engaging more with political office on issues of CBP.

This report is a summary of the proceedings of the workshop and the full presentations, participant lists and evaluations can be found in the appendix.
OBJECTIVES

The overall purpose of the workshop was to provide a report of the study on the role of community based planning in their examination of the different countries in which CBP has been implemented. The specific objectives were to

1. Share findings from the initial phase of the research
2. Get input from various stakeholders on the way forward and to form relationships

SESSION ONE

A comparative study of national urban policy in Africa

“Towards a new growth path in Africa: A study of national urban policy response to Urbanization”

Ikenna Nwagbo Okeke

PROCESS USED

The presenter took the participants through his presentation and allowed questions at the end of his presentation

SESSION CONTENT


- A summary of trends in World urbanization and the future projections
- Urban growth in African countries where South Africa had a 10% increase between 1990 and 2011, Ghana 20%, Nigeria 40% and Kenya 26%
- Challenges to urbanization in Africa were identified as Socio-economic whereby the cities are viewed to be having employment opportunities, which result in high rate of migration to the urban areas and increase in urban growth. This leads to poverty, high cost of living and rising inequality and an increase in slum development. Environmental degradation due to the rapid expansion in the cities and emerging corridors. The inefficient urban planning and lack of land use control leads to encroachment into agricultural land and beyond the edges of cities consequently, and an increase in the number of informal settlements.
- Lessons from International precedents like the U.S.A, China, Australia and Germany on urban planning.
- The National Urban Policy (NUP) aims to reassert urban space and territoriality and provides the necessary direction and course of action to support urban development and key legislative institutional reforms (UN Habitat, 2014)
- Its purpose is to formulate guiding principles that will inform effective development and management of the urban space: To reposition cities and towns in a sustainable and productive manner in order to reap the full benefits of urbanization: and to respond to the past approaches of haphazard development and inform a spatial development that enables economic growth
- A case study on NUDF in South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria and Kenya highlighting the vision, objectives, levers and implementation and M&E and the strengths and weaknesses
- The lessons that emerged from this study included:
  - Time variations in all of the NUP studied
  - Ministries of local government were noted to spearhead the formulation of NUP due to its cross cutting sector involvement
  - NUP formulation have informed institutional reform in many countries that were studied
  - NUP informs the need for urban-rural linkages as noted in many of the policies studied which seek to address the link between urban-rural for more economic gains
  - NUP is important to support the transition of Africa from rural based to urban and better manage rapid urbanization projection by 2030
  - NUP support and foster institutional reform, slum upgrading and provision of infrastructure
  - The NUP enables efficient management of land use control and spatial inclusiveness

Caption: Section of participants at the workshop
SESSION OUTCOMES/ISSUES RAISED

- How can African cities deal with rural-urban migration? The main issue should be how to plan for this migration because rural-urban migration is inevitable and cities therefore should be able to plan and be able to properly accommodate it.
- What is the link between NUP and the rural urban migration? It might be better if people are incentivized to participate in the rural economy so as to curb the migration to the urban areas. However NUP and rural urban migration gain from and are dependent on each other. The important thing is to appropriately plan for both.
- Johannesburg as an example was previously a mining city, what policies inform the use of land post mining? How can the land be rehabilitated?.....
- The city should make policies to embrace informal dwellings. Most people who migrate to the city stay in informal dwellings and backyards and the city should look into how to cater for them
- Maybe we should consciously think about urban/rural i.e an integrated view of the urban and rural policy. We should have a single vision when making policy for these both in economic and social terms
- Instead of resilience we should look into behavior change in the area of climate change, where we do things differently and not just developing policies and adapt them. The public needs to be aware of the changes in the climate and what they can do about preserving it individually and not as a collective.

Points for discussion

1. How can NUP enable better management of urban areas in Africa towards addressing challenges of urbanization?
2. What are possible ways of addressing issues of urban linkages?
3. To what extent can the national government play a role on the issues of urban development and management?
4. What role should local governments and civil society be enabled to play through NUP?
SESSION TWO

EXPERIENCES FROM THE AFRICAN CONTINENT TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY BASED PLANNING: PARTICIPATORY PLANNING APPROACHES IN DIVERSE POLITICO-ADMINISTRATIVE CONTEXTS

LINZI LEWIS

PROCESS USED

The presenter used slides to make her presentation and then the participants were divided into four groups each tackling a topic out of the four for discussion. Later, the participants made a summary presentation of their discussion.

SESSION CONTENT

- The initial phase of the study included South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Ghana and inclusion at a later stage of Ethiopia, Nigeria and Kenya as possible countries
- CBP was considered because it is a useful, innovative, responsive and empowering tool that has the ability to involve local populations in local planning processes and develop action plans
- Experiences and lessons on CBP from the countries in which it has been implemented were given
- Conditions that favor meaningful citizen participation were given as: appropriate and an enabling environment, institutionalized, legitimate and clear planning framework and processes, capacity building for civil servants, funding and resource allocation and, an empowered citizenry
- A reflection on CBP in terms of Governance is that there should be a systematic approach to embed CBP in the planning process and there should be adequate allocation of resources and have funds that can sustain the CBP
- CBP should transform from being an event to being a process that is ongoing.
- There should be an reflection on who participates in the process and if they can be useful in sustaining the CBP
- There should be follow-ups and effective monitoring and evaluation of the CBP
- Review of the tools used like participatory budgeting and review of accountability mechanisms
- There should be a training of trainers and a review also of who takes leadership of the CBP

Discussion session outcomes
Relevance:

- Different events/developments require different forms of participation
- Citizens are more often than not only expected to say yes to already decided plans, they don’t have the ability to say no and this can make the process disempowering
- Is CBP Not in a position to deliver?

How to do this Research:

- Does leadership have the mindset to allow for participation
- Do the officials /institutions have the knowledge and information on how participation should happen?
- How effective is participatory planning?
- There is a risk of mismatched expectations from both the officials and the community but there is an opportunity for the NDP to call for active citizenry

Participant’s experiences with CBP

- Individuals get stuck on legislation/environment at the expense of implementation, but don’t have to go through that way.
- CBP should not be legislated; it should be used just as tool because it is simply a process that is meant to compliment the IDP.
- Dependent on the will of the municipality, which are at the moment highly politicized. CBP should be led by a strategy unit in order to improve the relationship with communities etc. CBP is supposed to allow/facilitate people to come out and speak.
- IDP sits under the mayor, which only shows that Governance structures create the conflict, unnecessary conflicts. The departments involved need to be present, inform, and engage in an empowering fashion.
- The officials need to be able to drive the process.
SESSION OUTCOMES

Looking forward-case studies-Group discussion and outcomes

1. What is an enabling environment for participatory planning?

- There should be varying extents/types of participation that is required for different purposes
- Have different understanding of what participation is and what it Requires i.e informing, selling, asking, engaging and involving
- An empowering approach to participation. Individuals should have the power to say NO if they are not satisfied with a project
- There should be the possibility of responding to the participatory input by the community
- Leadership should have the mindset to allow/invite participation
- The institutions should have the knowledge and capacity to implement

Challenges/Issues to creating an enabling environment
• There is often mismatched expectations both from the communities and from the institutions

2. What are the main outcomes of participatory planning processes

• Strengthen buy-in by the community and inclusion and promotes the legitimacy of the projects
• It is representative in nature
• Communities are well informed which makes it easy to manage expectations
• It is easy to provide first hand experimental information to the community because they are involved
• There should be a detailed set of indicators to measure a standardized approach to CBP in order to capture the progress adequately and also prevent manipulation

Challenges/issues in participatory planning

• Insufficient resources: we need to find ways to ensure adequate allocation of resources and also attract political goodwill
• There is inadequate engagement with the communities hence they are not well informed
• There is no capacity to contribute and engage effectively so there need to be skill enhancement
• The policies in place do not always support participation especially through financial allocation
• Limited stakeholder participation
• Lack of data and information
• Another practical challenge is when to move on from a project. When can it be said that you have fully consulted and it is time to close the project.

3. Other avenues for active citizenship

• Learning institutions
• Promote involvement of non interested groups on issues that might not directly affect them
• Engage in social responsibility for those institutions that have such departments
• The private sector
• Use social media for active involvement and to reach out and connect
• Recognize the difference in social status in the community e.g between the affluent and the disadvantaged and have an approach to integrate these communities
• Groups that do not have political links e.g religious groups
• Have incentives for active involvement

Challenges to having active citizenship

• The focus has been on the poor and unemployed, which affects the quality of participants
• Government structures are too bureaucratic which does not assist in having more people participate
• People always expect a form of compensation for participating and with CBP, there is no incentive to participate.
• Focus is mostly on wards and not the community as a whole

4. Link between participatory planning and sustainable local economies and service provision

• It promotes a sense of ownership, involvement and also builds trust
• Individuals can make consultative and informed choices
• There is targeted and informed budgeting
• There is mutual relationships between communities, businesses and authorities
• Promotes dialogue and finding of local solutions to local problems

Challenges/issues

• There is no proper alignment between CBP and IDP in terms of the process and also timing
• There is political interference in local businesses
• Sometimes creates expectations which cannot be met and hence potential for violence
• Sometimes people mistake the linkages between CBP and IDP
• Use of CBP to inform people and not necessarily to engage which is the main purpose of CBP

Appendices

1. List of participants
2. Workshop evaluation
3. Workshop presentations

PARTICIPANTS
1. Kholisile Bala – Ngwathe Municipality
2. Sue Bannister – City Insight
3. Fatima Beg – GIZ
4. Mayimele Bongani – European Union
5. John Goss – Khanya
6. Geci Karuri-Sebina – SACN
7. Karuna Mohan – Khanya
8. Joseph Molefe – City of Joburg
9. Syd Moodley – City of Joburg
10. Takalani Munyai – City of Joburg
11. Subethri Naidoo – World Bank
12. Puseletso Ndhlouvu Ngwathe Municipality
13. Liziwe Ntshinga-Makoro – City of Joburg
14. Mzobanzi Ntuli – City of Joburg
15. Musawenkosi Nxumalo – City of Joburg
16. Peter Ochola – Khanya
17. Aurobindo Ogra – University of Joburg
18. Ikenna Okeke – SACN
19. Nonkulweko Phewa – City of Joburg
20. Granville Shenker – City of Joburg
22. Robert Siwedi – City of Joburg
23. Michael Sutcliffe – City Insight
24. Zuma Thabisile – Department of Performance Monitoring
25. Linzi Lewis – Khanya
EVENT QUALITY FEEDBACK

Date: 18-Jun-14
Event name: African Urban Policy and Planning

What was the highlight in the proceedings?
- Accurate Presentations.
- Comments and conversations.
- CBP.
- Engagement and sharing.
- Effective opportunities enabling CBP.
- Group discussion - 2nd presentations.
- Both presentations.
- Small group work.
- Discussion on urban policy and CBP
- Group.
- Discussions on both topics.

What was the low-point in the proceedings?
- Questions posted for group discussion.
- A short documentary would have been useful for attendees.
- Timing - but still worthwhile.
- Running late - overtime.

Do you have any other suggestions about how to improve SACN events in future?
- Engaging with political office.
- Bearers for capacity purposes.
- Give more time on discussions.
- Please contact the attendees for further engagements.
- More events/follow-up - post workshop excess to the participant’s contacts for networking.
- None, organization is perfect.

**Evaluation of the event**

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<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Partly satisfied</th>
<th>Rather Dissatisfied</th>
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<tr>
<td>Did the information you receive inspire you to do something new in your work?</td>
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<td>Will the information you received help you do a better job</td>
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