

VULNERABILITY OF POOR URBAN COASTAL COMMUNITIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN LAGOS

Ibidun O. Adelekan, PhD
Department of Geography
University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria
ibiadelekan@yahoo.com

Fifth Urban Research Symposium Marseille 2009

The City of Lagos

- The fifth largest city in the world, and the foremost manufacturing and port city in West Africa
- Lagos grew from 300,000 in 1950 to 7.7 million people in 1990 and by 2000 the total population for Lagos had reached 13.4 million with projection of over 20 million by 2010
- Rural-urban migration accounts for up to 75% of the population increase
- Almost 70% of the population live in slum communities with population densities between 790-1240 people per hectare.

Questions Explored

- What is the link between city development in Lagos, the growth of slums, and risks from climate change?
- What are the impacts and vulnerabilities of residents of selected poor urban communities along the coast of Lagos to the increasing risks of floods arising from climate change?

Methodology

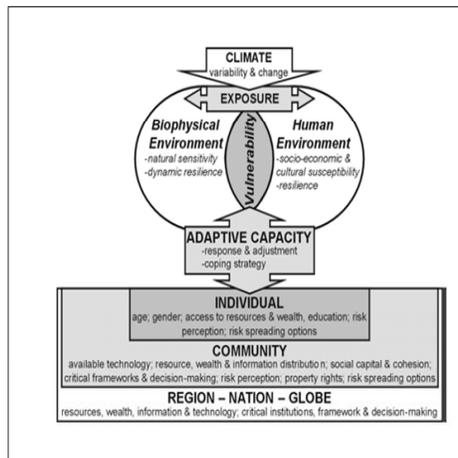


Figure 2: Integrated vulnerability framework (Source: Dolan and Walker, 2004)

- 4 poor urban communities -Makoko, Ilaje, Ijora-Oloye and Marine Beach-Apapa
- Household surveys, in-depth interviews, FGDs
- Published data

Impacts and coping strategies

- Community level
- Household level
- Individual level

Adaptive Capacity

- ❖ Low
- ❖ Assistance mainly from family and social networks

Conclusion

- The urban poor population in coastal areas of Lagos is increasing rapidly
- Vulnerability of the urban poor has not been taken into consideration in urban planning and development.
- Measures to increase the adaptive capacity of the urban poor include the restriction of land reclamation activities in newly developing areas, construction of more drainage systems taking into consideration storm runoff responses under high intensity rainfall, proper solid waste management and environmental education for the citizenry. Enforcement of building guidelines



Good urban governance in the context of local peculiarities is therefore key to meeting the challenges of climate change in a megacity as Lagos.

Thank You for Your Attention!