

POLICY BRIEF: Implementation policy & Community Resilience: Urban Flooding in the Mathare River Valley in 2024

Research Question

“How do CBOs, NGOs, and community members within the Mathare River Valley perceive the current implementation of DRM and devolution policies by the national and county governments of Kenya and Nairobi?”

Research Outline

This thesis analyses the implementation of devolution and disaster risk management policies by the national and county governments of Kenya and projects the findings onto a case study of the urban flooding in the Mathare River Valley in 2024. For the case study of this thesis, the relevant DRM policy was analysed, and 14 respondents who were involved and active during the urban floods in the Mathare River Valley in 2024 were interviewed. These respondents are representatives of non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, and community members who are active in the Mathare River Valley. In the interviews, these respondents were asked about their perceptions of the role, actions, and degree of policy implementation of both levels of government, as well as their own role in promoting and maintaining community resilience during the urban floods of 2024 in the Mathare River Valley.

Conclusions

This thesis concludes that the widespread absence of the aforementioned key values in the implementation of devolution and DRM policies has led to a low level of public trust in both levels of government and their ability to implement policies in general. Although respondents are confident in the idea behind devolution, the main conclusion from their responses is that the implementation of devolution and DRM policies is problematic and inadequate, and both levels of government should prioritise the adequate implementation of their policies to regain public trust and should actively mitigate the possible effects of future urban flooding.

Literature Review Findings

The literature review concludes that transparency, accountability, and the facilitation of inclusive public participation from both levels of government to the inhabitants of devolved countries are key elements for fostering and maintaining public trust in both levels of government, which in turn is essential for the proper implementation of devolution in a country or region.



Recommendations

This thesis recommends that in order to restore public trust in both levels of government, it seems crucial that both the national and the county government implement their policies in a more transparent and accountable manner, facilitate public participation more effectively, and, in general terms, support and recognise community resilience rather than taking these community efforts for granted. The indispensable efforts of NGOs, CBOs, and community members active in the Mathare River Valley in virtually all aspects of stimulating and contributing to should be supported and not hindered in any way.

Research Methods

For the content of this thesis, and mainly the analysis, a DRM policy document analysis was combined with 14 interviews, which were conducted with a variety of respondents from NGOs, CBOs, and community members, who are strongly connected to the community during the different phases of the aforementioned 2024 urban floods.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my infinite gratitude to all of the people who have contributed significantly to this thesis. I would like to thank Nuvoni Centre for Innovation Research and the LDE Thesis Lab, as well as all respondents who have contributed enormously to this thesis by sharing their knowledge and insights.



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