Risk-informed investments for local resilience

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What is Risk Informed Investments for local resilience?

- **Risk-informed investments for local resilience** means putting money into local projects and decisions **based on an understanding of the risks a community faces**—such as floods, hurricanes, drought, landslides, heat, earthquakes, or economic shocks.

What are some examples of risk-informed investments or financing mechanisms that your city has used to strengthen disaster and climate resilience?

- Implementation of Early warning systems – This is used to trigger disaster such as earthquake, tsunami. Drills are conducted in collaboration with Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) and Jamaica Fire Brigade (JFB) in an effort to familiarize citizens with the different sounds.
- Building of retainer walls – This is done with businesses that are close to the sea coast
- Implementation of water shops – This assist greatly during the drought period.

Examples of risk-informed investments continued

- Establishing of strappy program – This is the distribution of hurricane straps to residents to ensure that their galvanize roof is more resilient to hurricane conditions.
- The establishing of the National Reconstruction and Resilience Authority (NaRRA) – This is a financing mechanism established by the government to provide assistance to persons affected as a result of the passage of any disaster.
- Shelter Management – providing relief supplies such as bedding, hygiene products, foods etc with the assistance of agencies such as UNICEF, IOM. Shelter inspection and maintenance to eliminate any possible hazard.

Examples of risk-informed investments continued

- Financial Resilience Packages – Jamaica secured massive, coordinated recovery and investment packages from the World Bank Group, IDB and IMF to finance climate smart national reconstruction following major shocks like hurricane Beryl.
- Evacuation arrangements with private companies – This is necessary to evacuate persons from vulnerable communities in the event of a disaster.
- Continuous maintenance/upgrade of drains – Have to ensure that the drains are of a certain capacity to manage large volumes of water and is not blocked to prevent the possibility of flooding.

What are the key factors, enabling conditions, and partnerships needed to successfully implement risk informed investments at the local level?

- There is a need for more funding – This will ensure that the necessary investments are in place.
- Better partnership from Non Government Organizations (NGO's) – Often times the NGO's are not willing to collaborate with Government.
- More technical personnel – assist with mapping of vulnerable areas so that more informed decisions can be made.
- The willingness of the young people to get involve in community projects.

Key factors, enabling conditions, and partnerships needed to successfully implement risk informed investments at the local level continued.

- Greater partnership with the media to provide public awareness and education, early warning information dissemination as well as the promotion of projects relating to disasters.
- Develop strategies for business continuity, especially for micro, small and medium enterprises.

What recommendations would you offer to strengthen risk-informed investments and resilience financing in cities, particularly in vulnerable and resource-constrained contexts?

- Enforcement of no build zones in areas that are close to the shore and prone to flooding and other disasters.
- Enforcement of the building code, to ensure that each building adhere to the building standards.
- Government to establish a financing mechanism specifically for vulnerable communities.
- Enhancing emergency response with modern fire stations, police stations, health centres, hospitals to address critical gaps in disaster response.

Recommendations continued.

- The development and mandatory use of a digital portal which will support evidence based decision making, ensuring that future investments in infrastructure and disaster preparedness are informed by real time risk assessment.
- The need for more provisions in plans, programmes and projects to address the needs of vulnerable groups.

Thank you

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