Health: The Design, Planning and Politics of How and Where We Live

• Paper / Proposal Title:
  Integrating health and resilience into the design of African cities – case studies from Lagos and Maputo

• Format:
  Written paper / In-person Presentation

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• Abstract (300 words):
  The mismanagement of the urban transition in African cities has dire and inequitable consequences for health. Without an explicit commitment to health promotion, urban development strategies across the continent development fuel health inequities. The urban poor, due to exposure from their working and living contexts, experience these impacts at a heightened level. Typical approaches to urban development often evict low-income urban dwellers and hence from their (informal) jobs and land in a bid to redesign the city. Numerous members of the population are not formally employed are excluded from access to means for social mobility like mortgages, health insurance,
loans and land given that they lack the social records and formal legitimacy of those in the formal sectors.

The paper provides an assessment of the state of urban planning into two African settings – Maputo, Mozambique and Lagos, Nigeria, using an interdisciplinary lens grounded in a health and resilience framework. The paper will assess the state of urban health and resilience governance with a view for proffering inter-sectoral approaches to strengthening urban health and resilience.

By characterizing urban development from the dual lens of health and resilience planning and triangulating quantitative and qualitative research methods, this work provides context-specific evidence for the integration of health and resilience with urban development. This work contributes a public health viewpoint to urban development on the continent, and also creates preliminary evidence that can inform the development of much needed strategies to integrate the health of residents with urban growth plans. Additionally, the pan-African nature of this work meets a need for the generation and dissemination of context specific knowledge across the continent. Extra-legal urban development is the norm in most African cities and in-depth studies relating health and the built environment are essential for the development of interventions confronting unsafe urban environments.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Ebelechukwu Mogo, DrPH is the Principal of ERIM Consulting (www.erimconsulting.org) which supports the design, implementation and evaluation of transformative public health projects. She holds a Doctor of Public Health with a specialization in community and behavioural health from the Colorado School of Public Health where her doctoral research focus was on characterizing and improving urban health and resilience in the Lagos metropolis of Nigeria. She also holds a Masters in Global Health and Public Policy from the University of Edinburgh and a Bachelors in Biomedical Science with double minors in Biology and Psychology from the University of Waterloo.

Her past work has included research, project management and evaluation with health organizations like UNICEF, WHO, Alberta Health Services, the Colorado Medical Legal Partnership; research translation and technical writing for Samsung, JSTOR and Modelview; and project management and partnership development for private sector and community based health organizations.

Jørgen Eskemose Andersen is an architect and urban planner and holds a position as Senior Lecturer & Researcher, Associate Professor, Head of Department of Human Settlements (DHS), Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture.
He has worked for many years in the developing world with a specific focus on informal urban development in Sub-Saharan African cities.

He has been engaged in numerous real-life and academic activities e.g.

1. Planning and implementation of Site & Service Schemes in Maputo (1984/87)
4. Centre Manager: University Consortium embracing five Danish universities and fourteen universities in Southern Africa and South East Asia on Urban Environmental Issues (1997/2001)
5. Urban Environmental Planning and Management: Five cities in Mozambique, Danida/NIRAS (2002/2005)

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