Case study: Socially innovative policy making in Windhoek, Namibia

Windhoek's Integrated Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (ICCSAP) was the first national effort to develop a municipal strategy on climate change adaptation. The name of this strategy changed during the course of its development - from the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (CCSAP) to the ICCSAP. This change reflected the move to a more socially inclusive and innovative approach and was the direct response to the principles supported by the *Future Resilience for African CiTies and Lands* (FRACTAL) project. This project provided an important space for a wide range of stakeholders to give input to the ICCSAP and put many of the above policy recommendations at the forefront of policy development.

The Windhoek case advocates for the importance of inclusive and integrated processes for developing city strategies and policies. See more here [ix.]

Case study: Gobabis Freedom Square informal settlement upgrading in Namibia

The Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia and their NGO, Namibia Housing Action Group worked with the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development in Namibia to implement the Community Land Information Program (CLIP). The CLIP assisted local informal settlement inhabitants in collaboration with their Local Authorities to collect information about the socio-economic and environmental conditions, as well as the priority needs in their Informal settlements. CLIP is also an important tool for community engagement in policy formulation as it helps to adequately understand community realities.

During the city-wide CLIP in Gobabis the Freedom Square community used their information feedback session to demand not to be relocated from their area of occupation. Peer-to-peer learning by Local Authority and community members with in Cape Town/Stellenbosch expose the Namibians where re-blocking to address urgent needs of the community resulted in the stakeholders agreeing to the community to become part of the planning, and implementation of the upgrading of the informal settlements. Additional to the first multi-stakeholder partnership supporting bottom up processes this project became also a pilot for implementing the Flexible Land Tenure Act. As a result, 1088 households secured tenure and completed the installation of water and sewer reticulation. Through sharing the learning during the implementation nine other towns in Namibia, involving 14 informal settlements embarked on similar processes.

Freedom Square is now also the site for international learning exchanges, where delegations from other African countries have come to learn from. Examples of these are Kenya, Liberia, Uganda, South Africa, and Zambia (see: http://ilmi.nust.na/sites/default/files/ILMI-DN-The-role-of-universities-in-participatory-slum-upgrading-Namibia-Kenya-Uganda-Zambia-WEB.pdf and http://urbanforum.nust.na/?q=node/54).

Link to the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5538qA8PLh4,

Link to article: https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0956247820903981.

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