Governance of Decentralized Sanitation

Participatory mapping as a tool for service provision in low-income urban settings

Name of the Lecturer: Martin Mulenga
Organization: UNESCO-IHE
Country: Netherlands
Outline

• General overview
• What participatory mapping is
• Types of participatory mapping
• Benefits of participatory mapping
• Participatory mapping processes
• Case studies
General Overview

- One reason given by agencies for failure to provide sanitation services to slum/informal settlements has been the lack of baseline data about these settlements.

- Where governments have attempted to assist the urban poor, their activities have been hampered by lack of accurate statistics for planning, and the lack of understanding of the needs, perceptions, and coping strategies of the urban poor. This also implies their exclusion from government policies and public investments (Patel and Baptist, 2012).

- As a result, planning agencies and local governments have realized the need to support local documentation, rather than ignoring or duplicating it, and this has had important implications on how infrastructure is planned, financed and managed.
What is participatory mapping?

• ‘Participatory mapping is a map making-process that attempts to make visible the association between land and local communities by using the commonly understood and recognised language of cartography’ (IFAD, 2009: 6).

• Participatory mapping – part of approaches that enable people to express and analyse the realities of their lives and conditions to plan themselves what actions to take and to monitor and evaluate the results (Chambers, 1997)

• Advantages of participatory mapping over other visual methods are due to the “versatility and power of participatory mapping, the relative ease with which it can be facilitated, the fun, the fulfilment and pride which people derive from it, and its multiple uses by so many stakeholders” (Chambers, 2006: 2).

• Objectives of participatory mapping initiatives may depend on the use of the maps and the users.
Participatory Mapping & types

- Different terminologies used:
  - Participatory mapping
  - Indigenous mapping
  - Counter mapping
  - Community mapping
What are the benefits of Mapping in Sanitation Provision

- Mapping helps to show deficiency in services

- Most official statistics do not show exactly where the people lacking service provision live because of the use of representative samples.

- Not helpful to utilities or local government to just know that a certain percentage within their boundaries lack services without knowing which households or which communities these people live in (UN-Habitat, 2003)
Benefits of Participatory Mapping Continued

- Through mapping, communities have become more knowledgeable about their situation, and empowered them to challenge and find solutions to the issues they face.

- Communities can use locally gathered or processed information to initiate dialogue with government agencies and drive local action.

- Local communities have helped merge local drawn maps with local authority ones.

- OPP and SPARC – local government has adopted their maps for official use.

- Some communities have adopted GPS and GIS for their community work and community members are trained to use the system.
• The data collection process itself is used as a tool for raising awareness within communities

• Aggregating the collected information forms the foundation for advocacy (e.g. in Accra, the community-driven mapping helped prevent forced evictions and in changing the policies around evictions and relocations (Farouk and Owusu, 2012).

• Builds the organizations’ capacity to dialogue with communities
Slum Dwellers International (SDI) and the federations of the urban poor globally have a long tradition of gathering information about their own settlements and other informal settlements in the city through –

- **Profiling** – drawing on consultations & discussions with community members to produce data about the settlement, residents & problems
- **Enumeration** – more detailed information about each household through interviews
- **Mapping** – ranges from sketch maps, through to draft maps and finally to detailed maps showing each structure & boundaries (Detailed maps include adjustment & redrawing of base maps from satellite or aerial images, incorporates GPS data and all information incorporated in Geographical Information Systems (GIS))
Community mobilisation and enumeration

Photo: Courtesy of Centre for Community Organisation & Development (CCOD) & Malawi Homeless People’s Federation
Federation Members locating water and sanitation facilities in Zimbabwe

Photo: Dialogue on Shelter and Federation of the Urban Poor
Use of GPS in the Community, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Photo: Courtesy of Centre for Community Initiatives & the Tanzanian Urban Poor Federation
Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe

SHACKLETON - FUNCTIONALITY OF WATER FACILITIES
AREAS WITH ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER WITHIN 200m

Legend
- Water facilities
- Functionality
  - Yes
  - No
- Built_Up_Area

Use
- Open space
- Residential
- School
- Shopping Centre
- Sports ground
Map showing different types of water and sanitation facilities