

# Book Notes

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Book Notes gives short descriptions of recently published books, papers and reports on all subjects relevant to the environment and development. Priority is given to publications produced by research groups and NGOs in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Send us a copy of any relevant publication you would like included. We produce Book Notes of publications in Spanish, French and Portuguese as well as English (*Environment and Urbanization* has more than 300 individual or institutional subscribers in Latin America and more than 100 subscribers in France and Francophone Africa). When you send us publications, please include price details for those ordering from abroad and how payment should be made.

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## I. CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

### **Local Disaster Risk Reduction: Lessons from the Andes**

Allan Lavell with Christopher Lavell, 2009, 80 pages. Published in Spanish and English by PREDECAN (The Andean Community Disaster Prevention Project) and CAPRADE (the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Response). Downloadable from [www.crid.or.cr/digitalizacion/pdf/eng/.../doc17463.htm](http://www.crid.or.cr/digitalizacion/pdf/eng/.../doc17463.htm).

This publication draws on evaluations of initiatives that sought to push forward our understanding of the concept and practice of local disaster risk management. Eighteen initiatives are summarized in an annex and include: a scheme providing insurance to farmers in the high plateau of northern Bolivia against losses beyond their control; participatory planning, disaster preparation, improved water and a consideration of resilience in municipalities in La Paz; local risk management in Manizales (Colombia), which is linked to land use and development planning, building regulations and slope recovery schemes; the incorporation of risk prevention and reduction into Bogotá's territorial development plan; the participatory development of a disaster preparedness plan in Rikuryana (Ecuador) to reduce risks from landslides, fires and vehicle accidents; the creation of a water management plan for the city of Babahoyo (Ecuador), which included storm water management and flood control; and a grouping of municipalities in Peru that worked together to resolve landslide risks on the main road in and out of their territory and created strategy risk management plans. The document seeks to provide an Andean sub-regional analysis, with conclusions and evidence that help a stronger understanding of local disaster risk management and community disaster risk management. Following an introduction, Section 2 describes the initiatives on which the analysis is based and addresses the key conceptual issues. Section 3 explains the methodological base for the analysis and offers a comparison of experiences. Section 4 describes and explains the varying ways in which risk reduction is formulated and implemented, including who does the promoting, what is promoted, at what territorial level the projects are promoted, what are the most common risk reduction approaches, what management approaches are used, and who funds and monitors projects. This draws on an analysis of 139 cases. Section 5 considers how the case studies help us understand concepts and practice, the formulation of public policy, and sustainability and replicability. Among the subjects discussed are development-risk relations, participation and ownership, external and internal relations, process-based versus product-based interventions, and the various levels or types

of "local" intervention identified. The final section presents conclusions and recommendations, drawing in particular on the most successful cases. Additional documentation (in Spanish) is available from <http://www.comunidadandina.org/predecan/concurso/index.html>.

### **Community-driven Disaster Intervention: Experiences of the Homeless People's Federation of the Philippines**

Jason Christopher Rayos Co, 2009, 70 pages, ISBN 978-1-84369-730-5. HPFP, PACSII, ACHR and IIED, Manila and London. *Climate Change Series Working Paper 4, IIED, London. Available from [www.earthprint.com](http://www.earthprint.com); price US\$ 20 plus postage and packing or it can be downloaded at no charge from <http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/10568IIED.pdf>.*

This paper describes the experiences of the Homeless People's Federation of the Philippines with community-driven measures for disaster avoidance, disaster preparedness and post-disaster response. This is discussed in light of the five disasters listed in Table 1. The paper also describes how this work fits within the broader initiatives of the federation – which is a national network of 161 urban poor community associations and savings groups with more than 70,000 individual members. It represents communities and their savings groups from 18 cities and 15 municipalities. The federation and its community associations are engaged in a wide range of initiatives to secure land tenure, to build or improve homes and increase economic opportunities. The federation also works with low-income communities residing in areas at high risk from disasters, assisting with risk reduction or, where needed, with voluntary resettlement, as well as helping with community-driven, post-disaster reconstruction.

The paper describes the high level of risk facing the Philippines from earthquakes, volcanoes and typhoons. Most disasters could have been anticipated if there had been surveys of settlements in high risk sites and follow-up action to address what these showed. But this is only likely to happen if those living in high risk sites are supported to do this. Most local governments are ill-equipped to support disaster prevention and they also have limited capacities to respond to disasters, other than helping organize the provision of relief goods. For instance, most are unable to provide the land sites needed as temporary or permanent relocation sites for those whose homes and settlements are destroyed or severely damaged.

The paper then discusses the measures taken by the national government to shift from disaster response to disaster risk reduction and management, and the work of the federation in supporting this shift. This includes federation support for the organization and mobilization of low-income communities in high

**TABLE 1**  
**The five disasters**

Disaster	Year	Details
Trash slides at the Payatas solid waste dump in Quezon City (Metro Manila)	2000	Heavy rains from typhoons caused a 50-foot slope on the dumpsite to collapse, burying hundreds of homes; 288 people were killed and several hundred families were displaced. Subsequent flash floods affected the homes and livelihoods of many more people.
Landslide in <i>barangay</i> Guinsaugon	2006	The whole <i>barangay</i> was buried and another 80 <i>barangays</i> were affected; 154 deaths were recorded, 968 persons were reported missing, 3,742 were displaced and 18,862 were affected.
Mount Mayor mudflow and floods	2006	Typhoons hit the area, one with winds of 225 kilometres an hour, which triggered huge floods, mudslides and avalanches. In the Bicol region alone, at least 208 people died and another 261 persons were reported missing. This incident ravaged houses and settlements that had only just been repaired after the previous typhoon.
Fire in the settlement of the lower Tipolo Homeowners Association in Cebu	2007	246 structures were destroyed, leaving 913 people homeless.
Flash flood in Iloilo	2008	A typhoon brought 354 millimetres of rain within a 24-hour period, which flooded 180 villages. Within the city of Iloilo, 152 of its 180 <i>barangays</i> were affected. Up to 500 people were killed and 261,335 were affected. Many houses were washed away and many households lost their documentation.

risk areas for secure tenure, decent housing, basic services, disaster risk management and, when needed, relocation. This includes support for community exchanges, preparation of settlement profiles and enumerations, hands-on training, temporary/transitional housing construction, land acquisition, and participatory site and housing design. It also includes city-wide action to address members' needs for secure tenure at the city scale. The existence of many different federation projects and groups within a city makes this shift possible. Forging and maintaining productive partnerships with the government at community, citywide and national levels helps to ensure greater participation by the urban poor in policy formulation, citywide planning, relocation policies and implementation plans, development finance and in-situ slum upgrading. The paper discusses in detail how these measures have been applied in the five disasters listed in Table 1, as well as the constraints on effective action within communities and local governments that have to be overcome; it ends with recommendations.

**Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction: Risk and Poverty in a Changing Climate**

*ISDR, 2009, 207 pages, ISBN 978-92-1-132028-2. Published by United Nations. This can be downloaded in English, Spanish, French and Arabic at no charge from*

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/report/index.php?id=9413>.

This overview and analysis of disaster risks represents the first biennial report of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). A central finding is the nexus between disaster risk and poverty, and the report suggests that addressing risks can simultaneously reduce poverty, promote development, and help adapt to climate change. Risks are intensively concentrated and unevenly distributed in poorer countries, with low-income communities usually bearing the brunt of weather-related disasters. The report identifies underlying factors in disaster risks, such as vulnerable rural livelihoods, poor local governance and ecosystem decline. Moreover, climate change will only exacerbate the disproportionate risks facing poor nations and low-income communities. Yet the report emphasizes that political will and coordinated policies can effectively reduce these risks. Significant resources are required but investments in disaster risk reduction can also provide large savings by avoiding losses and reconstruction costs.

The introduction is followed by two chapters summarizing global and local disaster risks, and Chapter 4's analysis of underlying risk drivers contains a thorough discussion of risks in cities. Urbanization generates new patterns of extensive risk, such as flooding, as well as an intensification of risks associated

with earthquakes, cyclones and other hazards. These extensive and intensive risks can often devastate the urban poor's assets and livelihoods. However, good urban governance can help break or limit the link between poverty and disaster. Chapter 4 also discusses the other major disaster risk drivers – ecosystem decline and vulnerable rural livelihoods – that interact with climate change to magnify low-income people's vulnerabilities.

Chapter 5 reviews progress at the national level in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action, in which 168 countries committed to reducing their disaster risks by 2015. According to interim reports for 2007–2009, disaster preparedness and early warning systems have been strengthened in many nations. But more action is needed to address underlying risk factors and foster resilience to disaster. In Chapter 6, the report discusses how these risk drivers may be tackled. Improved natural resource management, infrastructure development and basic services provision are critical to strengthening rural livelihoods. In addition, innovative partnerships and decentralization can promote responsive urban governance. Some promising innovations in microfinance and micro insurance have already helped increase resilience to disaster. Community and local level approaches provide a vital thread between reducing disaster and promoting social capital and sustainability.

Underscoring the imperative for proactive and harmonized policies, the report closes with 20 key recommendations. Governments must forge an overarching policy framework to coordinate projects for poverty reduction, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Action is also needed to reduce new disaster risks, and major investments in risk reduction will promote a safer future for vulnerable communities. By avoiding losses and reconstruction costs, these investments can actually lower the real costs of poverty reduction while addressing underlying risk factors. A more holistic, far-reaching policy of risk reduction can thereby combat poverty, help adapt to climate change and protect human development.

## II. ENERGY

### **State of Energy in South African Cities 2006; Setting a Baseline**

*Sustainable Energy Africa, 2006, 164 pages. Published by and available from Sustainable Energy Africa, The Green Building, 9B Bell Crescent Close, Westlake 7945, South Africa; e-mail: info@sustainable.org.za.*

This report provides a detailed review of energy supply and consumption in cities in South Africa – focusing on 15 cities and towns including the six largest metropolitan centres, industrial towns, and inland, coastal

and “more rural” towns. The book's contents are structured around chapters on energy and inclusive cities, productive cities, mobile and accessible cities, sustainable cities and well-governed cities. In each, the key issues are outlined, the main problems identified and some potential solutions put forward. For instance, in the chapter on inclusive cities, it notes that 16 per cent of households within the 15 urban centres do not have access to clean, safe, affordable and reliable energy; in one of the case study urban centres, 58 per cent of households lacked such provision. It also discusses the proportion of households in which energy costs take a disproportionate share of total income, and the scale of fuel-related illness, accidents and fatalities – for instance, from indoor air pollution, household fires and deaths from burns. The chapter on productive cities discusses energy efficiency within industries and cities and the potential for increasing provision from renewable resources. The chapter on accessible cities considers the modes of transport used by different income groups and the (very high) levels of transport-related deaths. The chapter on sustainable cities includes details of carbon emissions by sector, city types (industrial and non-industrial) and by city. What is notable is how high carbon dioxide emissions per person can be for industrial cities – much higher than in the more prosperous metropolitan areas. The chapter on well-governed cities assesses local government performance on energy issues, including their carbon emissions. There is also a chapter that explores how to shift energy profiles to a more sustainable basis, and a conclusions chapter outlining a needed energy research agenda, the priority to meeting the energy needs of low-income groups, the links with good energy policy and local economic development, and the importance of shifting to greater energy efficiency and less carbon intensive forms of energy. Annexes include energy data sheets for each of the 15 cities and tables comparing energy statistics between the different cities.

## III. HOUSING

### **Nairobi Slum Inventory**

*Pamoja Trust and Shack/Slum Dwellers International, 2008, 175 pages. Published by Pamoja Trust, Urban Poor Fund International and Shack/Slum Dwellers International, Nairobi. The entire publication can be downloaded from <http://www.sdinet.co.za/> (the file is 35 Megabytes so it can take some time to download).*

This book has short profiles of every informal settlement and informal market in Nairobi and includes details of the settlements' origins, the threats to land tenure, details about the land and its ownership, the population, housing and services, and main sources of employment. For many, it also includes details of

governance and community participation. There are colour photographs on nearly every page, and maps and stories and quotes from inhabitants. It provides a reminder of how these informal settlements are the homes and often the workplaces of around half of Nairobi's entire population. Also of how diverse these settlements are – which also means different needs and different possibilities for improvement. As the authors of this survey note: “...for there to be change, there must be an intervention in each and every slum. An intervention that appreciates each slum's unique set of circumstances and therefore negotiates and crafts a suit that fits.” The inclusion of stories, quotes, anecdotes and pictures are there “...to give form and life to what may otherwise be a faceless, colourless monologue of discontent.”

Before presenting details of the slums, there is a summary of recent evictions and what underlies these, and a presentation of the survey's objectives and methods. The objectives include enhancing the capacities of the slum dwellers involved in the study to collect, own and appreciate the use of self-generated information in addressing development needs. Most of the information about each slum settlement came from elderly residents. Some of the settlement names give clues as to their origin, such as Kambi Moto (the “place of fire”, after a series of devastating fires), Mahira (the “place that got burnt”, after the settlement burnt down in 1983) and Redeemed (after a local church that helped them build).

### **The Blackest Streets; The Life and Death of a Victorian Slum**

*Sarah Wise, 2008, 333 pages, ISBN 978-18-4413-331-4. Published by Vintage Books, London.*

This is perhaps not a book that readers of this journal would expect to be covered in Book Notes. But it is a remarkably detailed and readable account of life in the Old Nichol, a “slum” in the east end of London in the late nineteenth century, including who lived there, how the slum first developed and how it came to be demolished. It covers in detail so many issues relevant to current discussions on “slums”, including who owned and profited from the slum, as there was extensive landlordism with many of the more successful residents becoming landlords, as well as many wealthy (and even noble) families and the Church of England making large profits from owning many properties there. It also looks at the extent of overcrowding, the lack of provision for water and sanitation and the lack of maintenance. It describes the range of what, today, would be called NGOs, which saw themselves as “doing good”, and how much many of them were resented and disliked by many inhabitants. It examines the range of formal and informal enterprises through which the inhabitants made a living, including the practice, so common

today, of piecework contracted out to inhabitants in their homes by formal sector enterprises, for very low returns. Also, how and why the local government rarely did anything to address the awful conditions and how much residents sought to avoid seeking help; the difficulties facing tenants in getting onto voter registers; the life of “Prince Arthur”, one of the residents whose account of life here at the time was recorded during the 1970s; how much domestic violence women faced as couples were “avin’ a jangle”; the protests and political activism among residents; the role of outsiders; the struggle of street traders and hawkers to be able to operate; the story of how Charles Booth came to undertake the highly influential survey of *Life and Labour of the People of London*; the slow process of political reform, locally and for London as a whole; how the London County Council came to purchase properties so that they could be demolished, and the struggles around compensation (including questions of why slum landlords should receive any compensation); and how this council sought to demolish the slum in five sections, to allow the residents who were displaced to find accommodation while the new buildings were being built. It also examines the clearance and the new urban designs and buildings. The new housing was of good quality, well-designed and “sanitary”, but a disaster for those displaced as it was too expensive; most of those displaced simply moved to other accommodation close by. As one commentator noted in 1900, much public expense had gone into providing nice houses at low rents to “...railway guards, clerks, teachers...” while poorer groups “...had to crowd in miserable dwellings because the buildings intended for them could not be designed for their needs.” The book's Epilogue includes a broader discussion about what did and what did not bring benefits to low-income households in this slum, which is of relevance to development policy and practice in cities today.

### **Housing Clusters for Densification within an Upgrading Strategy: The Case of Kampala, Uganda**

*Assumpta Nnaggenda-Musana, 2008, 250 pages, ISBN 978-91-7415-088-9. Doctoral dissertation. Published by the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden, and Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.*

Uganda's capital Kampala has grown rapidly but without a comparable expansion in the formal, planned housing stock. A large section of the population have incomes too low to be able to get land and afford to build their houses using the permanent materials required by building regulations, nor can they afford professional advice. Most “low-cost solutions” developed in the past have been smaller prototypes of higher-income housing designs – detached houses in low-density settlements. This book suggests that

higher-density solutions are needed in order to avoid urban sprawl but maintain good spatial qualities and suit existing patterns of relationships and household types. It begins with theoretical insights into urban sprawl, residential density, basic spatial quality and use of space. Urban sprawl is examined in its several manifestations (i.e. leapfrog and commercial strip development, low-density residential areas, poor accessibility and lack of functional open space). Cases of compact cities in sub-Saharan Africa are also discussed. The author suggests that combining housing with income generation is a good livelihood strategy. Furthermore, home-based enterprises, house types for rental housing/space, urban agriculture, and a well-designed domestic space are essential elements to include in any design. The book then discusses Kampala's recent patterns of housing development, urbanization and demographic change, and the present and past performance of the country's housing institutions. This includes a discussion of house types and house clusters that increase residential densities while still securing appropriate spaces for low-income households in urban areas. The author demonstrates that house types can reduce infrastructure and transport costs while simultaneously preventing encroachment on agricultural land. Developing new house types appropriate for low-income households can both reflect people's present-day needs and match political realities

#### IV. MIGRATION AND SMALL TOWNS

##### **Migration and Small Towns in Pakistan**

*Arif Hasan with Mansoor Raza, 2009, 134 pages, ISBN 978-1-84369-734-3. Rural-Urban Series Working Paper 15, IIED, London. Available from [www.earthprint.com](http://www.earthprint.com); price US\$ 20 plus postage and packing or it can be downloaded at no charge from <http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/10570IIED.pdf>.*

Migration has long played a key role in shaping the size and distribution of the population of Pakistan. Since the partition of the British Indian Empire in 1947, and up to recent and ongoing conflicts within the region, Pakistan has been the destination for large numbers of cross-border migrants and refugees. These migrant groups, together with the growing number of rural people displaced by agricultural modernization and mechanization, have contributed to the substantial increase in the levels of urbanization in Pakistan, especially in the more industrialized provinces of Punjab and Sindh. At the same time, like the people of so many low- and middle-income nations, Pakistani citizens have sought to work abroad, and in the 1970s large-scale labour migration to the Middle East began in earnest. Remittances became

an important component of the national economy and of the livelihoods of many households. These complex and substantial movements have resulted in profound changes in settlement patterns and also in deep socioeconomic and cultural transformations. Smaller urban centres, such as the ones described in this paper, reflect the growing discrepancy between changing values and widening economic opportunities on the one hand, and the persistence of a feudal system of political power often supported by a highly controversial administrative and political devolution plan on the other. This study draws upon secondary sources and census reports from the government of Pakistan. It also draws upon previous work done by the authors and on detailed interviews that have been carried out for this study in three small towns: Mithi in southern Sindh, Uch in southern Punjab and Chiniot in central Punjab.

##### **Migration and Small Towns in China: Power Hierarchy and Resource Allocation**

*Bingqin Li and Xiangsheng An, 2009, 87 pages, ISBN 978-1-84369-740-4. Rural-Urban Series Working Paper 16, IIED, London. Available from [www.earthprint.com](http://www.earthprint.com); price US\$ 20 plus postage and packing or it can be downloaded at no charge from <http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/10575IIED.pdf>.*

Small towns play a significant role in the economic growth and urbanization of China, attracting migrants from rural areas and other urban centres. Between 1978 and 2007, small town residents as a proportion of the urban population increased from 20 to 45 per cent. While migrants contribute to the local economy, they also bring new challenges. With a focus on the role of local government, this paper examines how small towns in China cope with migration flows, using a power hierarchy resource allocation framework. The key argument is that how well small town authorities deal with migration is a combined result of the power they may enjoy in the government hierarchy and the resources they are able to acquire to promote local economic development and provide public services. Drawing on four case studies of small towns in Shanxi province, the authors examine how the power hierarchy and access to resources can constrain the ability of small towns to turn migration into a force for development, and how these small towns have coped.

##### **Migration, Local Development and Governance in Small Towns: Two Examples from the Philippines**

*Charito Basa and Lorna Villamil with Violeta de Guzman, 2009, ISBN 978-1-84369-746-6. Rural-Urban Series Working Paper 17, IIED, London. Available from [www.earthprint.com](http://www.earthprint.com); price US\$ 20 plus postage and packing or*

it can be downloaded at no charge from <http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/10576IIED.pdf>.

With more than 8 million of its 88 million population living and working abroad, the Philippines has a long tradition of international migration, both independent and supported by a number of government programmes. Internal migration is also significant and is closely linked to regional inequalities in incomes and employment opportunities. A growing number of internal migrants are moving to smaller towns, which are projected to grow faster than other urban centres in the next two decades. International and internal movements have both benefits and costs for the individuals and communities involved; they also present new challenges, especially in small towns where local governance systems are often weak. This paper describes the impacts of migration on two small urban centres in the most economically thriving areas of the country. Remittances from substantial international migration in Mabini, in the southern Tagalog region, have become an essential part of the local economy but have also increased social inequalities and done little to improve governance and local economic development. In contrast, Guiguinto, in central Luzon, has attracted large numbers of internal migrants due to its location close to Metro Manila, as well as its dynamic economy and the positive role of local government in supporting infrastructure and services.

## V. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

### Non-Governmental Organizations and Development

*David Lewis and Nazneen Kanji, 2009, 256 pages, ISBN 978-0-41545-430-8. Published by and available from Routledge, Abingdon and New York, www.routledge.com.*

This book examines the work and roles of non-governmental organizations in development and considers the criticisms that their increased profile and role in development have attracted. Chapter 1 discusses the difficulties in describing and analyzing NGOs, given their very large numbers and the diversity in what they are and what they do, and considers the main arguments for and against them. Chapter 2 looks at how they have developed over the last two centuries and the diverse ways in which NGOs and ideas about them have taken shape in different parts of the world, including their rise within development. Chapter 3 considers how NGOs are located within the different theoretical perspectives within development and how they themselves have contributed to development theory – for instance, in relation to ideas

about empowerment, gender equality, social capital, social movements and social exclusion. Chapter 4 focuses on the roles of NGOs in development practice over the last three decades, noting the alternative development approaches with which some NGOs were associated and also the way in which many were absorbed into more conventional neoliberal development policies. Chapter 5 reviews the many roles NGOs have taken in service provision, advocacy and innovation and how these are often combined; also the growing trend for partnerships between NGOs and government and business. Chapter 6 considers the role of NGOs within civil society and “the third sector”, while Chapter 7 considers how their work and possibilities are shaped by globalization. Chapter 8 examines their changing roles within the international aid system and how different development actors have viewed them; it also discusses development NGOs that are not part of the aid system. Chapter 9 looks at the role of NGOs in international humanitarian work.

## VI. PARTICIPATION

### Peer Exchanges: A How-to Handbook for Grassroots Women's Organizations

*Steve Jeanetta, 2007, 104 pages. Published by and available from Huairou Commission: Women, Homes and Communities, 249 Manhattan Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211, USA; e-mail: info@huairou.org; website: www.huairou.org.*

Peer exchanges are a learning tool that grassroots women's development organizations have employed for many years to learn from the experiences of other groups. Peer exchange is not a training programme but usually consists of one community visiting another, seeking to experience how that particular grassroots organization approaches their work and to share their perspectives on development. Peer exchange means sharing collective, unique talents and experiences with others.

This volume draws on almost 15 years of experience of the Huairou Commission. This organization was established in 1995 as a global coalition of networks, institutions and individual professionals that links grassroots women's community development organizations to partners for access to resources, information sharing and political spaces. The Huairou Commission focuses on sustaining grassroots women's leadership in redeveloping families, homes, communities and economies in crisis situations; local governance and asset-securing approaches that anchor grassroots women's participation; and collaborative partnerships that strengthen and upscale grassroots local knowledge and advance alternative

development policies. It has initiatives around topics of governance, community response and resilience, AIDS, land and housing, and peace building in several parts of the world.

The handbook describes the five elements that are core for peer exchange:

- **Place:** collective learning takes place in the spaces where hosts normally do their work, because these spaces are reflections of their norms and values.
- **Participatory learning methods:** peer exchange is not a conference where attendees passively sit and listen, but an experience that encourages the participation of women in the learning.
- **Collective learning:** facilitators and organizers should structure dialogue sessions in order to share experiences.
- **Co-learning:** interaction is based on anyone's responsibility to share their learning and support others' understanding.
- **Evaluation and dissemination:** groups involved begin to create a collective history together. The point of every peer exchange is that it serves as a guide for future experiences. Therefore, appraising the experience and figuring out how to share what was learned with other grassroots groups are essential means of marking trail as they go, making it easy for those who may choose a similar path in the future.

This handbook covers various practical topics, including the responsibilities of a host committee and the preparation of arrangements; searching for potential partners and funders; planning the programme; creating a budget; logistics; planning evaluation and monitoring; and managing the programme. Several examples, experiences and illustrations are included.

### **SpeakOut: The Step-by-Step Guide to SpeakOuts and Community Workshops**

Wendy Sarkissian and Wiwik Bunjamin-Mau with Andrea Cook, Kelvin Walsh and Steph Vajda, 2009, 374 pages, ISBN 978-1-84407-704-5. Published by and available from Earthscan Publications, Dunstan House, 14a St Cross Street, London EC1N 8XA, UK; e-mail: [earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk](mailto:earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk); website: [www.earthscan.co.uk](http://www.earthscan.co.uk). In the USA, Earthscan, 22883 Quicksilver Drive, Sterling, VA 20166-2012, USA; price £19.99.

This manual provides detailed instructions for organizing SpeakOuts and community workshops. SpeakOuts are informal events that engage communities in planning, often through interactive activities and an array of inviting stalls where residents' views are solicited. The guide provides tips, checklists and case studies to facilitate widespread adoption of the SpeakOut and community workshop model. As

the authors argue, this participatory approach can generate valuable information for planners as well as qualitative research findings.

After introducing the SpeakOut approach, which was pioneered in 1990 by two of the authors, the manual discusses several events in Australia, Canada and Hawaii. SpeakOuts have proved accessible to children and adults alike, particularly to less literate or immigrant populations. Exercises have used high quality visual materials, comfortable layouts and venues, engaging activities such as mapping, and traditional music or ceremonies. Translators, experienced facilitators and careful recorders are particularly important in order to capture residents' views. Case studies include promoting neighbourhood renewal and designing a children's botanical garden in Australia, or soliciting input from immigrant business people and residents in Honolulu. The book includes many illustrations, venue layouts and sample visual aids.

The remaining sections provide further guidance on organizing SpeakOuts and workshops, with two brief chapters on analysis and evaluation. One chapter is devoted to SpeakOuts for children; another offers a portfolio of interactive activities such as neighbourhood modelling or mapping community safety. The design and management of community workshops is summarized in Chapter 9, while the following chapter, on staffing and facilitation, draws upon published material about conducting workshops. In Chapter 11, the authors advocate using a "lump and split method" to analyze materials generated during the events. Chapter 12 offers additional pointers and underscores the need for hospitality in SpeakOuts; food and dedicated volunteers are essential in welcoming participants. After a chapter on evaluation, appendices contain an organizing checklist and detailed instructions on running stalls at SpeakOuts.

## **VII. POVERTY**

### **Poverty Lines in Greater Cairo:**

**Underestimating and Misrepresenting Poverty**  
Sarah Sabry, 2009, 48 pages, ISBN 978-1-84369-737-4. *Poverty Reduction in Urban Areas Series Working Paper 21, IIED, London. Available from [www.earthprint.com](http://www.earthprint.com); price US\$ 20 plus postage and packing or it can be downloaded at no charge from <http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/10572IIED.pdf>.*

The way in which poverty is defined and measured influences who is considered poor, how the state responds and how successful the state responses are judged to be. As this paper shows, if the definition is incorrect or based on inaccurate data, the scale and nature of poverty can be greatly underestimated.

This paper engages with the global debate about the validity and reliability of income-based poverty lines by examining their use in Egypt in relation to the reality of the lives of the urban poor in Greater Cairo. It reviews the accuracy of Egypt's various poverty lines and the data that inform them, and then questions their validity in relation to the real costs of basic food and non-food needs in eight of Greater Cairo's informal areas in 2008. The paper concludes that the incidence of poverty is considerably underestimated in Greater Cairo. This is because poverty lines are set too low in relation to the costs of even the most basic of needs and because the household survey data that inform poverty line studies undersample people living in informal settlements (and undercount the populations of informal settlements).

The paper is divided into four main sections. Section 1 reviews the literature on poverty lines and their weaknesses, especially in urban contexts. This includes a discussion of the inaccuracies of poverty lines used in Egypt; according to one widely used poverty line, only 2 per cent of Egypt's population were "poor" in 2004, which is in stark contrast to the millions of people living in Egypt's urban slums and informal settlements and the scale of poverty in Egypt's rural areas. Section 2 assesses what poverty line studies tell us about poverty in Greater Cairo. Different studies (and data sources) produce different and, at times, contradictory conclusions about the scale and distribution of poverty and about trends in poverty incidence over time. Section 3 discusses the flaws in the data on which poverty line studies draw, including how slum populations are undercounted and the inconsistencies between statistics provided by different authorities. Section 4 questions the validity of various recent poverty lines in relation to the costs and conditions of living in eight of Greater Cairo's informal settlements. Costs of food and non-food needs in these settlements are assessed and compared with the poverty lines (which are supposed to indicate the income needed to afford these food and non-food needs). The methodology used to calculate the food allowance in poverty lines makes inadequate allowance for the real costs of food. Poverty lines do not make sufficient allowance for housing costs (half of the households living in slums and informal settlements rent accommodation), keeping children at school, transport (for income earners and students) and health care. Raising the value of poverty lines to adequately reflect these costs would considerably increase the incidence of poverty in Greater Cairo. Meeting non-food needs could cost a family of five more than five times the allowance for non-food needs in the lower poverty line and nearly three times the allowance for non-food needs in the upper poverty line.

## VIII. URBAN AGRICULTURE

### **Agriculture in Urban Planning: Generating Livelihoods and Food Security**

Mark Redwood (editor), 2009, 248 pages, ISBN 978-1-55250-427-7. Published by Earthscan and the International Development Research Centre. Available from Earthscan Publications, Dunstan House, 14a St Cross Street, London EC1N 8XA, UK; e-mail: [earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk](mailto:earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk); website: [www.earthscan.co.uk](http://www.earthscan.co.uk). In the USA, Earthscan, 22883 Quicksilver Drive, Sterling, VA 20166-2012, USA; price £65. The full text can be downloaded at no charge from [http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-133761-201-1-DO\\_TOPIC.html](http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-133761-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html).

This volume on urban agriculture in Africa and Latin America gathers primary research from 12 graduate students who were supported by the International Development Research Centre's AGROPOLIS programme. Urban agriculture is increasingly recognized as a livelihood activity that can contribute to food security, although the authors highlight the need for greater acceptance among policy makers. Following on from a 2005 volume by other AGROPOLIS researchers, this collection explores urban food systems, urban planning, wastewater use and the links between environment and health. Through participatory action research programmes and interdisciplinary methods, the authors examine gender considerations, health impacts and farmers' perceptions of risk. Study locations range from Harare and Rosario to Kinshasa and Zaria, cities that have received less attention in the urban agriculture literature. The collection helps illuminate some new dimensions and research directions in an emerging field.

A general introduction and overview by Mark Redwood is followed by the 12 individual studies. While topics are wide ranging, three share a focus on wastewater, two examine health risks and two look at food security. A 2006 survey found that 26 per cent of households who farmed in Harare were food secure, nearly double the rate of households that did not practice urban agriculture. Some important policy contrasts emerge: whereas Nigeria's development control measures have a negative impact on urban agriculture, in Congo DR there is a national support service for urban and peri-urban horticulture. Gender differences are also explored in several studies. In Malawi, urban agriculture represented the main livelihood strategy for low-income and female-headed households (but not male-headed households). Ghanaian cities are featured in two studies on urban compost and wastewater, with Philip Amoah arguing for the World Health Organization's "multiple barrier approach" to help reduce the risks from contaminated water.

Redwood's closing chapter identifies some remaining research questions, including peri-urban

food production and the economic contribution of urban agriculture. The conclusion recognizes that urban agriculture generates positive effects as well as health risks, and urges researchers to synthesize the abundant grey literature on urban agriculture. And as national policy programmes on urban agriculture emerge in Peru, Brazil and China, there is a need for more nuanced recommendations about the practice.

## IX. URBAN DEVELOPMENT

### **The Chinese Dream; A Society under Construction**

*Neville Mars and Adrian Hornsby (editors), 2008, 704 pages plus 79 pages supplement, ISBN 978-90-6450-652-9. 101 Publishers, Rotterdam. Available from www.amazon.co.uk; price £57.95.*

This is not a conventional book on China. Although it has many detailed chapters by a range of authors, these are within a volume that is dominated by photographs and graphics – most of them focusing on urban areas. As the text states, “...urbanization is China’s answer to what it’s up to and where it’s going.” The book is these authors’ responses to China, urbanization and the year 2020. The 17 chapters include: the birth of the megalopolis; “keep ‘em coming”; population and the urban crisis; China’s energy fix; imagining Beijing’s ecological future; fortification (gated communities); the changing urban fabric; Beijing Boom Tower; policy sprawl (and the internal logic of spatial production); dynamic density and re-engineering the city; individualized mass transit at hyperspeed; the economics of consumerization – clustering and dependencies; utopian cities; and cities without history.

### **Networked Urbanism: Social Capital in the City**

*Talja Blokland and Mike Savage (editors), 2008, 241 pages, ISBN 978-0-7546-7201-2. Published by and available from Ashgate Publishing Limited, England and USA, www.ashgate.com; price £55.*

Urban researchers have studied social capital as processes that both divide and unify urban dwellers, but contemporary urban changes associated with residential space decentralization, employment and service provision have led to a new kind of urban life. Therefore, the nature of social order in the city is again under discussion. The authors of this book suggest that subjecting social capital to urban critique should be an advance in the understanding of contemporary spatial processes and inequalities.

Social capital can be defined as a range of individual and collective benefits, ranging from good health

and personal income to democratic cultures and low crime rates. Some literature also indicates that the capacity of voluntary association shown by a social group is both an indicator of social capital and a driver that leads to beneficial effects from it. Yet other authors claim that the popularity of social capital is due to the way it provides a neoliberal account of the social, packaging it as a beneficial and bounded form of capital that can then be evaluated alongside other kinds of capital in measuring and accounting processes. While the latter criticism might be true, the authors of this book understand social capital as a concept that places sociological concerns into the stronghold of economists, policy makers and political scientists.

The 11 chapters focus on two major topics. The first is the relationship between social capital, social networks and exclusionary mechanisms, inspired by both the need to relate social capital to matrices of power and inequality and by the need to explore fully how the actual ties and relationships that bring social capital about are spatially and socially organized. Scale also matters in these analyses: trust, bonds and connections are relationally constructed in ways that problematize the idea that any specific part can be bounded as a discrete “social capital” variable set in the urban space. Two scales of social capital are addressed: one based on interpersonal ties and the other – more emerging and diffuse – based on the sprawling and splintering character of the networked urban globalized world.

The second topic is space. Most researchers have not addressed explicitly the relationship between space and social capital. Especially in policy circles, measures of social capital are all too easily abstracted from place and constructed as aspatial measures and indicators. But several authors argue that this prevents a real understanding of how social capital is currently under change, precisely due to the radical urban reconfigurations that take place worldwide. The city space is not a container but a condition where social capital is produced in and **through** places, following Henri Lefebvre’s ideas. Hence, stretched, globalized and distant social relations of today’s city-regions and splintered urbanism need to be included in the contemporary analyses of social capital.

### **Gentrification**

*Loretta Lees, Tom Slater and Elvin Wyly, 2007, 344 pages, ISBN 978-0-415-95037-4. Published by and available from Routledge, UK and USA, www.routledge.com; price £23.99.*

Studies on gentrification have seen a significant resurgence in recent years and much of the current work on gentrification has been integrated with other important areas of urban research. Gentrification has

thus come to be a valuable lens for examining a variety of intersecting urban phenomena. However, the concept has a contesting nature too: first, it poses a major challenge to the traditional theories of residential location and social structure; second, it is a political and policy-relevant issue as it is concerned with regeneration at the cost of displacement; third, it currently represents one of the key theoretical and ideological battlegrounds in urban planning and geography.

The book is structured around these contesting elements. Chapter 1 describes the birth of gentrification, the coinage of the term by the British sociologist Ruth Glass and the first research on the topic conducted in London and New York in the 1960s. Then, as now, it can be defined as the transformation of a working-class or vacant area in the central city into middle-class residential and/or commercial use. Chapters 2 and 3 discuss the two main antipodes of gentrification theory. Chapter 2 looks at the supply-side theories, which explain gentrification as a product of capitalist uneven development and its associated forms of monopoly rent accumulation. Neil Smith's rent gap thesis claims that differential "potential" and "capitalized" ground rents create a huge potential surplus profit for developers, thus gentrification takes place where and when the rent gap offers better conditions for its accumulation at the hand of developers and state policies. Chapter 3 considers the demand-based explanation of gentrification and suggests that the changes in the occupation structure in post-industrial cities of high-income countries are the main drivers of gentrification, with all the cultural and social changes involved. Chapters 4 and 5 suggest that while gentrification has currently stepped into a third "global" phase, the phenomenon seems largely under-theorized in relation to the roles of financial capital, and national and local states. Furthermore, forms of "rural gentrification", "new-build gentrification" and the more recent "super-gentrification" have been detected. Chapter 6 addresses the questions of whether gentrification is a positive or negative neighbourhood process. As such, while policymakers and the political mainstream in general claim innumerable positive outcomes from policies of "social mixing", recent research proves that these outcomes are hardly observable in cities of the world. Chapter 7 envisages the future of gentrification within a social justice agenda, which is first and foremost about resisting gentrification, when and where necessary. Three case studies from North America reveal attempts to resist gentrification through different tactics and strategies that low-income communities have developed to gain more control over, and ownership of, housing and neighbourhood space.

## X. WATER AND SANITATION

### **Manual on the Right to Water and Sanitation: A Tool to Assist Policy Makers and Practitioners Develop Strategies for Implementing the Human Right to Water and Sanitation**

*Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Human Rights Programme, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), 2007, 178 pages, ISBN 978-92-95004-42-9. Available from [www.cohre.org/manualrtws](http://www.cohre.org/manualrtws).*

There is growing interest among policy makers and practitioners concerning the contribution of human rights approaches to efforts to extend access to water and sanitation to all – in a world where more than 1.1 billion people lack access to water from a clean source and more than 2.6 billion people lack access to adequate sanitation facilities. However, rights-based approaches can be too abstract and draw too little on lessons learnt from the water and sanitation development realm. This manual seeks to address this, analyzing themes such as resource constraints, the inability of low-income users to pay for water supply and sanitation services, weak institutional capacity and the need to strengthen political will to implement the right to water. It focuses on a range of policy measures that could be adopted by governments, including examples of policies that have included "right to water" approaches; checklists for governments seeking to do this; and an analysis of the roles of non-governmental actors – individuals and communities in particular – in contributing to the achievement of the right to water and sanitation.

Part 1, "Foundations", discusses the current challenges to the right to water and how to meet the legal basis and institutional framework that underpin and help to implement the right. The human right to water generally comprises: sufficient water; clean water; accessible water and sanitation; affordable water and sanitation; non-discrimination and inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups; access to information and participation; and accountability. The manual also analyzes the legal basis for the right in a context of international law. Treating human beings with dignity and equality – universally shared values – requires that all people have access to water and sanitation. Part 2, "Framework for implementation", discusses policies and regulations relevant to the right. The roles of key actors, non-discriminatory approaches to vulnerable groups, and participation and access to information are addressed in detail. Part 3, "Policies for implementation", discusses the

key aspects necessary for the realization of the right, particularly water availability, water quality, physical accessibility, affordability and the role of international cooperation.

This book is useful for national, regional and local governments, civil society organizations, international development agencies and the private sector. As the authors suggest, it is an early step towards understanding how best to implement the right to water and sanitation. Users of the manual are encouraged to suggest revisions and examples of good practice in implementing the right, which will be addressed in the next edition of the manual. Comments can be sent to [water@cohre.org](mailto:water@cohre.org).

**Water and Sanitation in Urban Malawi: Can the Millennium Development Goals be Met? A Study of Informal Settlements in Three Cities** Mtafu A Zeleza Manda, 2009, 78 pages, ISBN 978-1-84369-733-6. *Water Series Working Paper 7, IIED, London. Available from [www.earthprint.com](http://www.earthprint.com); price US\$ 20 plus postage and packing or it can be downloaded at no charge from <http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/10569IIED.pdf>. (With thanks to the Housing Investment Division of the Scottish Government for making funding available for the study.)*

This paper assesses the quality and extent of provision for water and sanitation in urban areas in Malawi – where more than 60 per cent of the population live in informal settlements. This assessment is based on a survey of 10 per cent of the households in nine low-income settlements. In each of Malawi's three largest cities, Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzuzu, this included a planned area that had become a "slum", a squatter settlement, and a settlement developed through community initiative with the Malawi Homeless People's Federation. In total, 1,178 households were interviewed. The study also included focus group discussions and key informant interviews with staff from central and local governments, parastatals, civil society organizations and water sellers operating water kiosks. The quality of water from different sources was tested, with samples collected from water kiosks, wells and water storage containers within homes.

Within the nine settlements studied, provision for water was dominated by water kiosks. Of the households surveyed, 53 per cent purchased water from kiosks while 26 per cent had individual water connections and 13 per cent bought water from another house plot. But water consumption levels varied considerably: some families bought just one pail of water a week from kiosks, getting the rest of their water from other (unprotected) sources such as shallow wells and rivers for washing clothes and bathing. Kiosk attendants reported that on some days,

water sales were so low as to represent no more than one pail per household served by the kiosk.

Regarding sanitation, only 10 per cent of Blantyre's total population and 8 per cent of Lilongwe's, live in homes connected to sewers; in Mzuzu, there are no sewers. Most of the people in all three cities rely on pit latrines. For instance, in Lilongwe, 70 per cent of the population used pit latrines and 20 per cent used toilets linked to septic tanks. Within the study areas, 94 per cent of the population used pit latrines, while 4 per cent used toilets with septic tanks. Most households used shared toilets, while 1.4 per cent lacked any form of toilet. Only 27 per cent of households had toilets that were not shared. Most toilets were cheap to construct but expensive to empty, and it is common for pit latrines to be abandoned and another pit to be dug. In older houses, several pit holes can be seen in the backyards.

Given the very large inadequacies in provision for water and sanitation in Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzuzu noted above, it is puzzling to find that in 2000, 95 per cent of Malawi's urban population was said to have piped water and 96 per cent to have safe sanitation. Official statistics also suggest that 96 per cent of Malawi's urban population had access to potable water in 2006, while 97 per cent had access to safe sanitation.

The paper also considers the current and potential role of community-led sanitation improvements. It includes recommendations for needed interventions by government organizations and international and civil society organizations to improve the living conditions of communities, in order to contribute to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

### **Going to Scale with Community-led Total Sanitation: Reflections on Experience, Issues and Ways Forward**

*Robert Chambers, 2009, 50 pages, ISBN 978-1-85864-579-4. IDS Practice Paper 1. Available from the IDS bookshop at [www.ids.ac.uk/ids/bookshop/pp/pp1.pdf](http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/bookshop/pp/pp1.pdf); price £12.95, or the paper can be downloaded at no charge from <http://www.ntd.co.uk/idsbookshop/details.asp?id=1090>.*

More than 2.5 billion people lack improved sanitation, with nearly 30 per cent residing in urban areas and the rest in rural areas. Improving sanitation is often a low priority for development professionals and it may require uncomfortable discussions and difficult behavioural changes. Traditional approaches rely on hardware subsidies to individual households, but community-led total sanitation (CLTS) has recently encouraged more flexible methods of provision. While diverse, these participatory approaches consistently prioritize community needs and facilitate locally driven sanitation innovations.

This paper reviews international experiences since 1999 and identifies challenges in scaling up. Future research directions are discussed and although Robert Chambers seeks greater diffusion of CLTS, he also urges increased critical awareness and creative innovations.

The paper provides a concise introduction to CLTS and then discusses several contrasting cases that highlight effective practices and identify obstacles to scaling up. Chambers summarizes experiences across Asia and Africa, where CLTS has spread through various combinations of non-governmental and governmental support. After being “triggered” to re-assess local sanitation practices, rural communities conduct their own appraisals and design appropriate solutions. The goal is to become “open-defecation free” and some areas have developed complementary hygienic or ecological initiatives. Kolkata’s political leadership recently spurred an informal settlement to become “open-defecation free” without employing subsidies, indicating the possibilities in urban areas as well. Scaling up CLTS hinges upon careful training

and facilitation, supporting natural leaders, using the market and promoting access to hardware. Finding champions at all levels remains crucial, as the nascent movement must overcome official opposition or donor preferences for large budgetary disbursements.

In the two final sections, Chambers reflects on research directions and advocacy challenges, particularly on ensuring sustainability and good practice. As CLTS continues to spread rapidly, supporters must strive to balance the need for scale, speed and the quality of the initiatives. He sees parallels between CLTS today and participatory rural appraisal in the mid-1990s, with a proliferation of creative approaches as well as bad practices. He argues for enhanced research networks, critical awareness and alliances to help advance the CLTS movement. Several topics for methodological development and action learning are identified, such as helping marginalized households or minimizing water contamination. Through reflexive research and constant adaptations, CLTS may find new ways to revolutionize sanitation in ever more settings.