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REDUCING RELOCATION RISK IN URBAN AREAS – RESEARCH FINDINGS SHARED AT HABITAT III

From: The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, University College London

Reducing Relocation Risk in Urban Areas

Relocation & resettlement initiatives (R&R), undertaken by governments and other actors at local, national and international scales, are becoming more widespread as disaster risk reduction strategies in urban areas. However, R&R is highly contested as a result of the variable social and economic outcomes for its subjects. The current paradigm seems to lack recognition of the need to ground R&R programmes within a wider agenda aimed at improving structural and systemic forms of disadvantage and vulnerability.

The Reducing Relocation Risk in Urban Areas event at Habitat III presented exciting findings aimed at dealing with this great problem. The event therefore sought to challenge the view that relocation and resettlement are effective methods of risk reduction. The research instead examines the many ways in which risk is continued and/or new risk created through existing policies and practices, as well as some needed measures to increase their effectiveness for risk reduction in a development framework.

Following a two-year research funded by the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) across India, Uganda, Tanzania, Peru, Colombia and Mexico, the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) in partnership with Bartlett Development Planning Unit at UCL, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), and Makerere University University shared their findings at the Habitat III side-event titled 'Reducing Relocation Risk in Urban Areas' on 17 October 2016 starting 11:00 a.m. in room MR8 at the Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana "Benjamin Carrion".

Lead researchers and partners Cassidy Johnson, Garima Jain, Allan Lavell, Colin Marx, Shuaib Lawasa and Teja Malladi will be available for more discussions after the event. More details about the project can be found on Webpage:

<https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/reducing-relocation-risk> or

Blog: <https://reducingrelocationrisk.wordpress.com/> ; Twitter handle: @relocationrisk

Habitat III

More than 36,000 global urban actors will gather for Habitat III this week in Quito, Ecuador, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, with the stated aim to adopt a “New Urban Agenda”, meant to guide the actions of national governments in pursuit of a more sustainable urbanisation.

The conference aims to build on the work of Habitat II in Istanbul in 1996 and Habitat I in Vancouver in 1976. Habitat III represents the opportunity to make a real transformative commitment in pursuit of a sustainable and just urban future, and will coordinate global action on sustainable urbanization for the next 20 years.

The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, UCL

For more than 60 years, the Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU) at University College London has undertaken world-leading urban research and postgraduate teaching that helps to build the capacity of national governments, local authorities, NGOs, aid agencies and businesses working towards socially just and sustainable development in the global south.

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For interviews

Dr. Cassidy Johnson, the director of the DPU, and other leading scholars will be available for comments/interviews.

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