



## CONFERENCE ON

# PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE FOR LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN GHANA

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## Abstracts of Papers

### **Making Cities resilient in Ghana: The realities of slum dwellers that confront the Accra Metropolitan Assembly.** By Prof. Ronald Adamtey

This paper investigates how informal ties result in in-filling and the creation of slums in the context of efforts to make cities resilient in Ghana. Using two slum settlements in Accra and mixed methods to collect data from 400 slum dwellers, eight focus group discussions and in-depth interviews with senior officials from the LG and related sectoral agencies, the study shows that informal ties contribute to in-filling in slums. Slums present opportunities and challenges to slum dwellers and the local government. While slum dwellers do not plan to return to their original homes and are not involved in land-use decision making, it is important for LGs to enforce development control bye-laws, implement slum upgrading programmes, and involve slum dwellers in upgrading programmes. They should avoid forced eviction of slums dwellers.

### **Slum dwellers' participation in the governance of slum within the Ashaiman Municipality of Ghana.** By Dr. Erika Mamley Kisseih Osae

The study assessed slum dwellers participation in the governance of slums within the Ashaiman Municipality of Ghana. The study found that slum dwellers were important players in the local governance not only as the political representative of the residents (assembly members and unit

committees) but also slumpreneurs. Slumpreneurs are influential people with social, physical and financial status as they play significant role in upholding unity, protection and providing sustenance for slum living. The study recommends that local governments implement programmes that enhance participation in local governance amongst slum dwellers especially, the slumpreneurs.

### **Inclusive Slum Upgrading: Contending with Socio-Political Fault Lines in Participatory Slum Upgrading – The GARID Case Study.**

By Mr. Joseph Ampadu-Boakye

Slum upgrading in low-income urban areas presents significant challenge to implementers and beneficiaries alike in view of the complex underlying socio-political structures that entrench the fissures in the communities. It is within such a complex socio-political minefield that the Greater Accra Resilient and Integrated Development (GARID) Project set out to design and implement an urban upgrading intervention in three (3) flood-prone low-income urban communities – Akweteyman, Nima, and Alogboshie – within the Odaw Basin of Ghana’s Greater Accra Region. This paper examines the approach adopted by the project to navigate multi-layered contestations and deploy a participatory process that could ensure that all voices were accommodated in decision-making. The GARID study provides lessons on designing and implementing adaptive, locally responsive urban resilience initiatives in similar contexts.

### **Support For Community Resilience In Ashaiman’s Slums: Role Of Local Stakeholders And Community-Based Organisations.**

By Dr Salomey Gyamfi Afrifa and Dr Georgina Gomez

Residents of informal settlements in the global South are barely exposed to state-led, written, or legal institutions. Still, they organize collective strategies to cope with policy gaps and increase community resilience. Their initiatives include strategies to stay afloat or recover from shocks. Considering that governmental means of enforcement are missing in these community resilience initiatives, we investigate other sources of resilience. We study how local stakeholders and community-based organizations support individuals and communities of informal and marginalized settlements to build resilience, cope with challenges, and drive social and economic action in informal settlements. We narrow down the research to look at the history of collective actions of local stakeholders and community-based organisation from an evolutionary analysis by analysing triggers, choices, turning points, and critical events that led to community resilient initiatives and how these organisations have evolved into stable institutions that interact with other local stakeholders to sustain their activities to ensure positive transformation. The study employs a multiple case studies methodology in slum communities in Ashaiman, metropolitan Accra, Ghana. The paper is part of a larger research project of the Erasmus University Rotterdam project, Vital Cities and Citizens.

## **Residents Assessment of Quality of Local Public Service Delivery: The Rural-Urban Split?**

By Mr. Felix Agyei Amakye

The perception of local people about the quality of public service they receive goes a long way to strengthen participatory governance and also trust in local authorities. Interestingly, the issue of rural-urban split about the perception of quality of local public services has received little attention. Using an empirical model that targeted individual- and community-level ratings of residents, this research draws on the opinions of residents from the 261 MMDAs in Ghana through a Citizen's satisfaction survey. The paper analyses the perception of quality of local public services that rural and urban residents receive from their local governments. The findings showed that, residents of districts (rural areas) are not satisfied with local public services delivered to them compared with municipal and metropolitan (urban). Most of the residents in the districts are of the opinion that, their local governments do not deliver better services to them because of inadequate resources that the current decentralisation policies allocate to them. The findings of the study imply that the Ministry of LG needs to take into consideration rural-urban differences in the design and implementation of decentralization policy, and specifically, local public service delivery.

## **Participatory Governance of Election Security in Urban Communities in Ghana.**

By Sulley Ibrahim, PhD

Elections in Ghana have always been hotly contested issues especially since the return to the practice of multiparty democracy in 1992. These contests have produced a security fault-line, whereby some communities in urban areas have been securitised as 'hotspots' for electoral violence. Drawing on securitisation theory and trendy insights from governance and management of election security over the years, this paper explores the extent to which urban communities typically participate in identification, construction and delivery of election security in urban areas in Ghana. The paper is based on a desktop review of election security reports from publicly available documents, including media reports, civil society reports, government statements, peer-reviewed works and press releases of state security authorities. The paper shows how urban communities tend to participate not just in management of election security hotspots but also contribute to the decisions to identify and designate such areas as 'hotspots' for electoral violence. In doing so, it clarifies the stages at which urban communities are sufficiently included and excluded, including whether they co-participate strongly in the decisions to identify and designate hotspots and/or their inclusion is rather felt sufficiently in the management of these hotspots. The paper concludes with an outline of implications for policy and future research considerations.