Participatory visual methods and the mobilization of community knowledge

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Sustainable Livelihoods Foundation

Global Health Network Conference 2022

Working towards more equitable research processes

Engaged research

Project: Enhancing capacity and reducing risk through 15 'Best Bets' for transformative adaptation with vulnerable residents on the Cape Flats

Fire

Flooding

Water shortage

Methods pathway

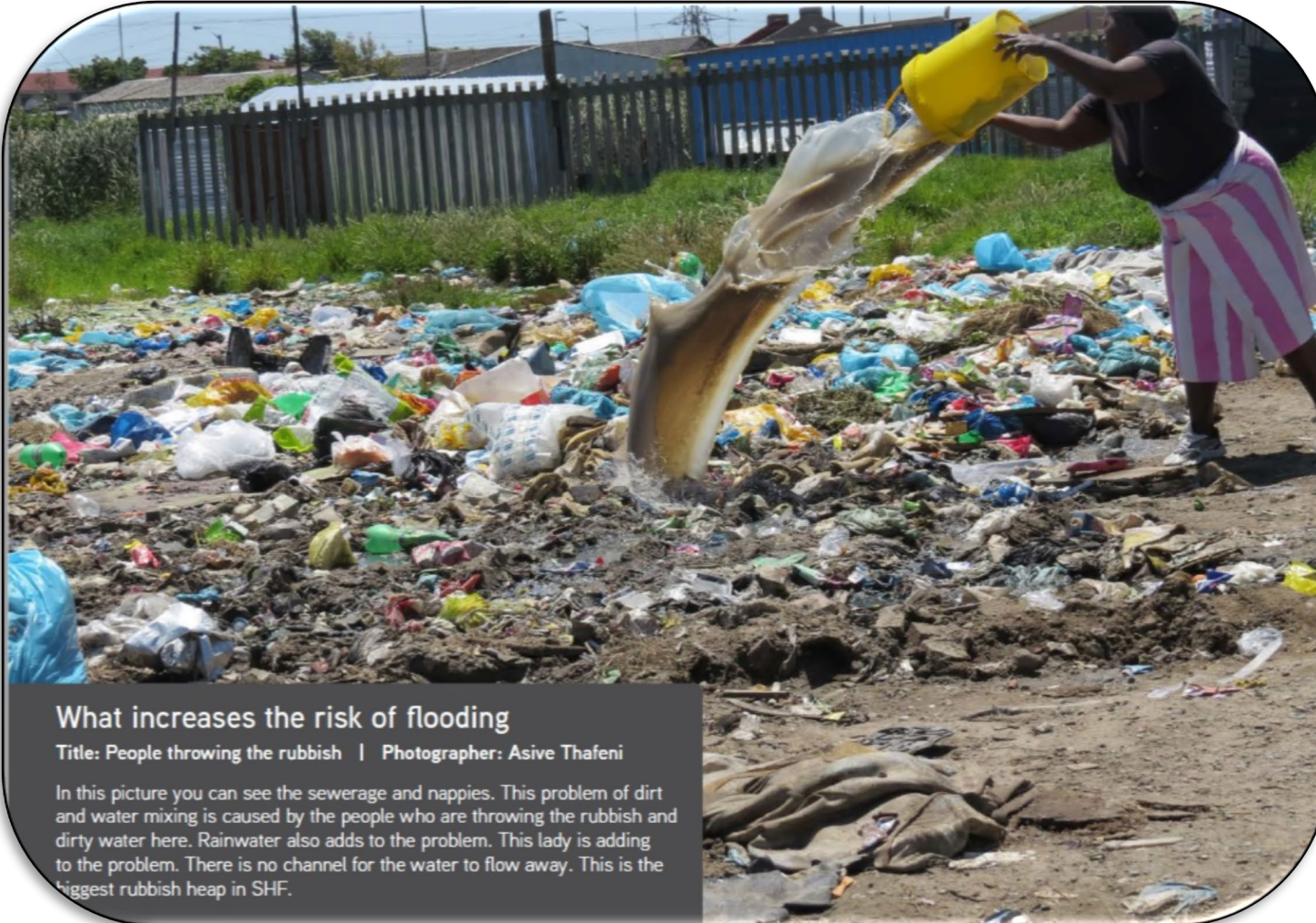Digital storytelling

Community mapping

Photovoice

Lambert J. 2013
Asian Coalition for Housing Rights 1998
Wang C. and Burris M. 1996

Methods and process followed - same for all 3 research settings

How environmental hazards are experienced in households, neighbourhoods and communities

Progressive research enquiry

What increases the risk of flooding

Title: People throwing the rubbish | Photographer: Asive Thafeni

In this picture you can see the sewerage and nappies. This problem of dirt and water mixing is caused by the people who are throwing the rubbish and dirty water here. Rainwater also adds to the problem. This lady is adding to the problem. There is no channel for the water to flow away. This is the biggest rubbish heap in SHF.

What could be done before, during and after climate-related events to mitigate their impact?

What can community residents do for themselves and what are they unable to do?

What kind of assistance is available?

Where are the gaps in responsiveness and support?

Participatory analysis

Collective review of all stories, maps and photos.

Democratic decision-making: which visual materials illustrated the most significant problems and priority solutions.

Triangulation of visual and narrative data.

Formulation of the 'Best Bets'.

Drawing out potential interventions in more detail.

Best Bets to counteract water shortage

1. **Improved infrastructure** by upgrading low quality, fix what is broken and install more water metres, pipes, drains and taps.

2. **Making 'Jojo' tanks available** and affordable so that each household can have a small tank.

3. **Better communication from the municipality about water cut-offs** so that people can be better prepared.

4. **Improved engagement by the municipality** with Delft community members to listen and better understand their water challenges.

5. **Household innovations** to save water.

6. **Using public places and spaces to promote knowledge and awareness** about water saving challenges and possibilities e.g where to get help.

Best Bet 6. Using public places for awareness raising

Best Bet	What is needed?	Why is this needed?	Who and how?
Using public places and spaces to promote knowledge and awareness about water saving challenges	Mobile information centres in public spaces to share water-related information	Education on being waterwise is crucial to prevent water shortages	Who? City of Cape Town in partnership with ward councillors, the Delft Business Forum, NGOs, and community members How? - The Business Forum can provide each ward councillor with the contact information of qualified plumbers - Workshops to mobilise and train volunteers to run the mobile information centres - Neighbourhood watch groups can encourage behaviors with low water footprints
	Communal sharing of knowledge and information to change attitudes and behaviours towards water usage	Communal accountability and grassroots level water education aimed at children and adults alike will create solidarity and a water-wise community	
	Billboards, pamphleteering to spread information about water conscious behaviour	To create awareness on how to be more water conscious	
	An open-door policy and 24-hour water & sanitation emergency hotline service	To make water and sanitation information more accessible whilst streamlining the reporting of water-related issues	
	A database of qualified plumbers in each ward	Unqualified plumbers are not equipped to fix plumbing sustainably	

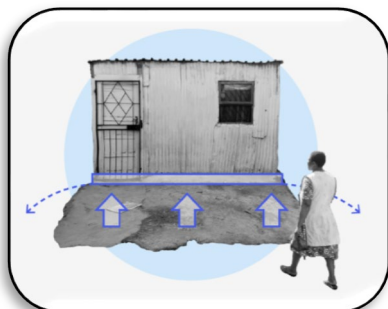# Community, researcher and policy engagement

Community engagement events in the 3 research settings

Policy engagement event

Community-led presentations

Multi-stakeholder round table discussions of Best Bets

Co-production of knowledge

Challenges

- continuity

- being able to offer meaningful benefits and outcomes

- distress

- disconnect between marginalized
  citizens and the state

Recommendations for more equitable research

Engaged research practice:

- build lasting relationships in communities

- be present, stay in touch, follow through

- foster participation and ownership through visual methods

- navigate expectations throughout

- allocate time and resources that suit purpose and needs

- *be real about benefits*

Recommendations for more equitable research

Research dissemination: community, research and policy engagement

- community-led

- invest real time and resources in preparation with co-researchers

- work to have the right people in the room together

To find out more…

Water and Fire website: www.waterandfire.info

The Water and Fire Project - YouTube

Acknowledgements

Overcome Heights, Sweet Home Farm and Delft co-research partners