Weathering the storm: disaster risk and vulnerability assessment of informal settlements in Mwanza city, Tanzania

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Abstract

This study employs participatory disaster risk and vulnerability assessment to analyse vulnerability to disasters in informal settlements in Mwanza city, Tanzania. The results show that a plethora of factors – human, physical, social, economic and natural – interact in complex non-linear ways to shape vulnerability to disaster in informal settlements in Mwanza city. The study shows that coping strategies of some individuals in informal settlements reinforce their risks to disaster. For example, the stones that are positioned on weak roof structures for protection may become projectiles in the event of storm: a kind of disaster by design. This quick-fix coping strategy is unlikely to be sustainable.

Keywords

Vulnerability,

Disasters,

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