

Innovating Pathways for Safe and Sustainable Urban Futures UN-Habitat 10th World Urban Forum

16.30 – 18.30 Hrs Hall 2: Room 7 Abu Dhabi Exhibition Centre (ADNEC), Abu Dhabi
#WUF10 #GCRFCities@UNHABITAT @GCRF Tuesday 11 February

As part of the Climate Change and Urban Violence (CCUVN) networking events, our participation at the UN-Habitat 10th World Urban Forum took place under the title ‘Innovating Pathways for Safe and Sustainable Urban Futures’. Following the hashtag #Innovation4SafeCities, an open dialogue on smart urban futures took place, shedding light on the intersection between climate change and urban violence in the global south, and making visible the vulnerabilities of marginalised urban residents, to tackle the underlying drivers and risks of rapid urbanisation. With opening remarks by Dr. Jaideep Gupte, IDS, University of Sussex, the event brought together researchers from the Global Facility Research Fund, Professor Nausheen Anwar, Director Karachi Urban Lab, IBA Karachi, and Principal Investigator, GCRF CCUVN, showcased the example of Pakistani cities, and how multi-scalar pressures interact within the context of urban livelihoods and land use to shape different forms of violence. Different forms of migration to large metropolitan centres like Karachi, especially in the context of affordable housing shortages and weak infrastructure, add to a country’s socio-political fragility amidst scarcity of food and pressure on livelihoods. Vera Bukachi, Research Director KDI Kibera, shared experiences from Kibera, the largest informal settlement in Nairobi. She discussed how women are most exposed to urban violence during flood events, with disaster risks associated with crime and insecurity. The context of fragility to urban violence in the Middle East and North Africa Region was brought up by Nuha Eltinay, Urban Resilience and Climate Security Expert. She underscored the high levels of intersecting vulnerability from displacement and climate change, and how raising the questions ‘Resilience of What’ and ‘Resilience to What’, can help generate cohesive resilience building assessment and action plans, to achieve the 2030 global targets and implement the New Urban Agenda at the local level.

Speakers:

Nausheen H. Anwar, IBA Karachi, PI: GCRF Urban Violence & CLIMATE Change Network

Ayona Datta, UCL, London, Principal Investigator: AHRC funded ‘Gendering the smart city’

Nicera Wanjiru Kimani, KYCTV, Slum/Shack Dwellers International

Juma Assiango, UN-Habitat Coordinator, Safer Cities Programme

Nuha Eltinay, Urban Resilience and Climate Security Expert

Kalpana Viswanath, SafetiPin

Adam Lane, Senior Director, Public Affairs, Huawei Southern Africa region

Vera Bukachi, Research Director KDI Kibera, Nairobi

Heather Flowe, University of Birmingham, MobApp

Jaideep Gupte, IDS, University of Sussex, Challenge Leader: Global Challenges Research Fund