Annual Meeting 2021

“Inclusive and Resilient Decentralisation & Local Governance”

Adapt

16th September 2021

Hosted by
# House Rules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1) DURING THE INPUTS</th>
<th>2) CHAT</th>
<th>3) RAISE YOUR (VIRTUAL) HAND</th>
<th>4) INTERVENTIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Please...</td>
<td>Use the chat...</td>
<td>Raise your hand...</td>
<td>Once you have the floor, please...</td>
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<td>.... always keep your microphone muted...</td>
<td>...for technical difficulties...</td>
<td>...if you want to ask a question or comment on sth. (we inform you when you have the floor)...</td>
<td>...unmute yourself...</td>
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<td>...deactivate your camera...</td>
<td>...if you want to ask a question...</td>
<td>...to participate in a voting / in our interactive polls...</td>
<td>...indicate your name, followed by your organisation/country...</td>
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Adapt – 16th September 2021
Hosted by UNDP

02:30 pm CEST  Welcome & Opening

02:40 pm CEST  Panel discussion
- Charles Cadwell, Urban Institute, Is There Opportunity in Stress Testing Local Democratic Governance Institutions?
- Rajeev Issar, UNDP, Review of urban risk and resilience trends, needs and priorities for cities
- Joshua Rogers, Berghof Foundation, Lessons learnt from inclusive governance support in Yemen

03:15 pm CEST  Open discussion around Inputs

03:30 pm CEST  Panel Discussion
- How can multi-level governance be strengthened to support responsibility-bearers and decision-makers at local level?

03:45 pm CEST  Open discussion around Inputs

03:55 pm CEST  Breakout-Groups
- What capacities, skills and environment are essential to DLG adaptive approaches/programs in crisis affected settings?
- How can this be addressed in the DeLoG Network?

04:10 pm CEST  Key Messages & Concluding Remarks
Is There Opportunity in Crises that Stress-Test Local Democratic Institutions?, Charles Cadwell, Institute Fellow, Urban Institute

Review of urban risk and resilience trends, needs and priorities for cities, Rajeev Issar, DRR and Urban Risk Management Specialist, Crisis Bureau, UNDP NYHQ

Lessons learnt from inclusive governance support in Yemen, Joshua Rogers, Project Manager, Yemen Unit, Berghof Foundation
Is There Opportunity in Crises that Stress-Test Local Democratic Institutions?

Charles Cadwell, 16 September 2021

Delog Annual Meeting
Prelude:

**Local governance is multi-level governance**

- subnational means subordinated in some fashion
- fiscal dependence of local government further ties it to central priorities
- Usual categories of decentralization obscure wide variation in the details of discretion, resources and accountability – in the details of multi-level governance

There is no “correct” amount of decentralization

- Intuition and example suggest decentralizing increases accountability and transparency of performance
- Yet systematic evidence is missing.
- And whatever the existing resilience assets, or adaptive capability, the transition to a decentralized state adds a whole new degree of difficulty…. Or opportunity.
Further: Some places are centralizing, others are decentralizing.

Decentralising or recentralising trends in the OECD over 1995-2016
Changes in subnational government expenditure as a percentage of GDP and subnational government between 1995 and 2016


……and some decentralize in name only.
Crisis is a stress test of existing systems

The variety of decentralized systems, especially the multi-level arrangements, suggests a crisis – be it a pandemic, or climate change, or displacement of populations – will not have the identical impact everywhere.

Crises test a range of systems: multilevel arrangements for functional responsibility, fiscal resources, crisis-relevant information, political incentives.

Examples:

- Indonesia – slowed progress in increased level of transfers, unrelated centralization of regulatory powers.
- Moldova – Fiscal transfers sustained, yet hesitation by LGs
- Nepal - fallback on prior district structures, innovation at local level, constrained by habits of micromanagement
So where is the opportunity?

- Weaknesses stand in high relief
  - if central ministries still micromanage local functions, crisis may overcome their micro-management capability.
  - If local governments have little own-source revenue, or if intergovernmental fiscal systems are not nimble, existing inequities will grow.

- In a heated moment – opportunists will step in –
  - Crisis rules that re-allocate power…usually to the center.
  - Also, to local policy entrepreneurs
What is the opportunity for donors?

Standby for Part II
Opportunity for donors?

The crisis creates opportunities to:

- Assess how the existing intergovernmental arrangements advantage and disadvantage subnational entities
- Improve understanding of characteristics of well-functioning multi-level coordination mechanisms
- Identify and partner with new actors and adapt to disrupted local political economy
- Enhance the case for attention to the multi-level system, not only the capacity of local officials to execute on the status quo system.
- Use convening power to take advantage of the moment, not letting a crisis go to waste, but mindful of risks and opportunities (or opportunism?) of local champions.
<table>
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<th>Region</th>
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<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>September 13-17, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>December 6-10, 2021</td>
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<td>Latin American &amp; Caribbean</td>
<td>February 7-11, 2022</td>
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<td>Middle East and North Africa (MENA)</td>
<td>March 7-11, 2022</td>
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<td>OECD &amp; Eastern Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>April 11-15, 2022</td>
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<td>Global trends</td>
<td>June 6-10, 2022</td>
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Thank you

Charles Cadwell
Institute Fellow
The Urban Institute
ccadwell@urban.org
Evolving relationship between risks and development in cities

• Nearly 10k cities with under 1mn people in fragile or risk prone locations – high risks + low capacity
• Half of ‘new’ cities in LICs, LMICs
• Convergence of risks, development assets and SE activities -- leading to disproportionate impacts
• Risk creation within as well as outside ‘formal’ city
• Higher concentration of people exposed to hazards
• Deficits: governance, fiscal, capacity, services, tech
• Imperatives: functionality, SE needs, infra etc. – Covid exposed the underbelly
• Cities’ jurisdictional remit hampers ability to address risks, resilience and development needs
Urban Resilience – unmet demands and emerging priorities

- Diagnosing and addressing resilience attributes – interdependencies and co-benefits
-Disconnected national policy → city application
- Urban governance and development planning -- systems thinking, scenario based
- Actionable risk information for RiD approach – multiple risks and diverse SE development needs
- Focus on operational aspects + strategic visioning and futuristic thinking
- Political economy of urban development and decision-making
- Weak accountability and resilience benchmarking
Urban RM and Resilience -- Strategic Priorities

- Prioritize locations with greatest capacity gaps – LDCs, LICs, LMICs, SIDS or fragile/crisis contexts
- Engage diverse stakeholders to strengthen urban governance
- Target marginalized communities for equitable urban resilience (LNOB)
- Risk-informed development planning and investments including public-private finance
- Apply new technologies and innovation to secure resilient urban futures
Strengthening local governance

- Focus on governance structures as well as process
- Engage diverse interest and stakeholder groups to ensure collective action and outcomes
- Strengthen social capital to manage risks
- Amplify marginalized voices + participation
- Invest in resilient urban futures – risk-informed development
- Potential of technology and innovation
Urban RM and Resilience – Examples from UNDP’s work

- Building local governance capacities and resilience benchmarking in Ain Drahaem, Tunisia – city joined MCR and replicated success in 12 cities
- Urban governance and spatial planning – Skopje, Macedonia
- City Resilience Plans – Rouseu, Dominica
- Multi-risk contexts – Mogadishu, Somalia
- Urban EW and risk management – Yerevan, Armenia
- Risk data and development decision-making – Vientienne, Laos
- Partnerships and collaboration --- UN, academia, pvt sector, CSOs etc.

Value aggregation + collective outcomes: Address all resilience dimensions by supporting data, risk assessments, governance, planning, financing, partnerships
Yemen: Lessons for inclusive local governance & peacebuilding

Dr. Joshua Rogers
DeLoG Annual Meeting 2021
Berghof’s Yemen Work
‘Lessons’

**Talk the talk – and walk the walk:** Dialogue needs to be followed by concrete action.

**Work with the grain – and insist on inclusivity:** Respect for the de-facto distribution of power needs to be paired with diversity in terms of gender, age and political affiliation.

**Support dormant capacities:** It is worth investing in the knowledge and eagerness of local officials whose work has been hindered by war.

**Build capacity by doing – and remain adaptable:** Handing ownership and responsibility to local actors requires flexibility and adaptability both by implementers and donors.
‘More Lessons’

**Invest – small contributions can have big results:** Small seed funding can go a long way and strengthen the role of local authorities in coordinating different funders.

**Work at multiple levels:** Programming needs to address the district and governorate level as they are highly interdependent.

**Take it to the next level:** Build support with national and international actors to foster an enabling environment for effective local governance.
Many thanks for your attention!

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Germany

www.berghof-foundation.org
Panel Discussion

- How can multi-level governance be strengthened to support responsibility-bearers and decision-makers at local level?
Breakout-Groups

- What capacities, skills and environment are essential to DLG adaptive approaches/programs in crisis affected settings?

- How can this be addressed in the DeLoG Network?
Welcome back!
Concluding Remarks
DeLoG Annual Meeting 2021

“Inclusive and Resilient Decentralisation & Local Governance“

Hosted by

ADB

ICLD Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy

Norad

NALAS

UN Habitat

UNICEF
Thank you!

< Session Evaluation >

Your feedback matters!