The '24 Hour Risk City': Rethinking Everyday Risks and the Implications for Policy

Arabella Fraser, Open University UK

arabella.fraser@open.ac.uk

With Nausheen Anwar (IDS / IBA Pakistan), Gulnaz Anjum (University of Oslo / IBA Pakistan), Joe Mulligan (KDI), Allan Ouko K'oyoo (KDI Kenya), Danesh Jayatilaka and Viyanga Gunasekera (Centre for Migration Research and Development, Sri Lanka) and other colleagues from KDI Kenya and Karachi Urban Lab

Research Context

Addressing the 24-hour cycle of urban risk: Gendered perspectives on non-conflict violence and climate change interactions in cities (GCRF 2021)

Building Infrastructures of Climate Repair (British Academy 2022-2024)

24 Hour Risk City

Interplay climate-related disaster risks, insecurities, rapid and unequal urban development

Study sites

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Lunupokuna

Sammanthranapura

Women only

Karachi, Pakistan

Kausar Niazi Colony

Ilyas Goth

Sindhabad

Tent City

Nairobi, Kenya

Andolo, Kibera

Sokomoko, Kibera

3 transport corridors

upokuna community, Colombo

Households close to a rainwater-carrying drain, Gujjar Nullah,
in Karachi (Muhammad Toheed)

Makeshift housing (jhuggies) built by migrants in Il
in aftermath of land displacement, Karachi (Muhar

Methodologies for researching risk relationships

- Inter-disciplinary including engineering and epidemiology

- Surfacing granular vulnerabilities and 'invisible' risks

- Quantitative survey data as well as qualitative

- Rich visuals

- Remote and in-person

- Insecurity and nature of climate-related risk as a constraint

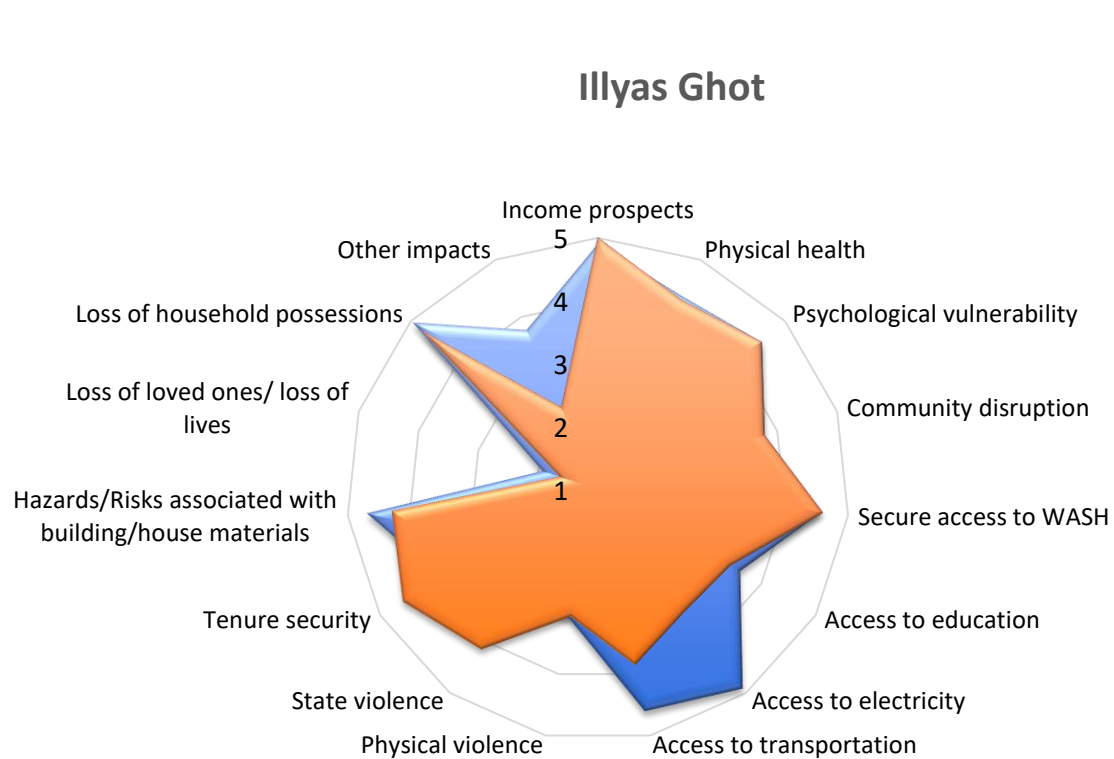# Direct inter-relationships climate-related risks and insecurity risks

Karachi Ilyas Goth Umar (M), 78: "*Females can also spend 1-2 hours under the bridge where shade is available and fresh air, but they can not go outside the settlement. It is not safe for women…..Men can roam around in the settlement and go far away from their jhuggis to find cooling spaces. However, women are solely restricted to find a place within the boundaries of the settlement. If they get a chance to find a proper space, they have to take their children too. On the contrary, men are not accountable for children.*"

Colombo ID1: "*Then all of these people have to move into these two houses. When accommodating too many people, householders lose their freedom. Living like this causes problems. The houses are not much big and they lack spaces for sleeping. That's why we don't go anywhere else and determined to live in spite of water. Except for two or three visits in my childhood, we don't go now as it may disturb those people.*"
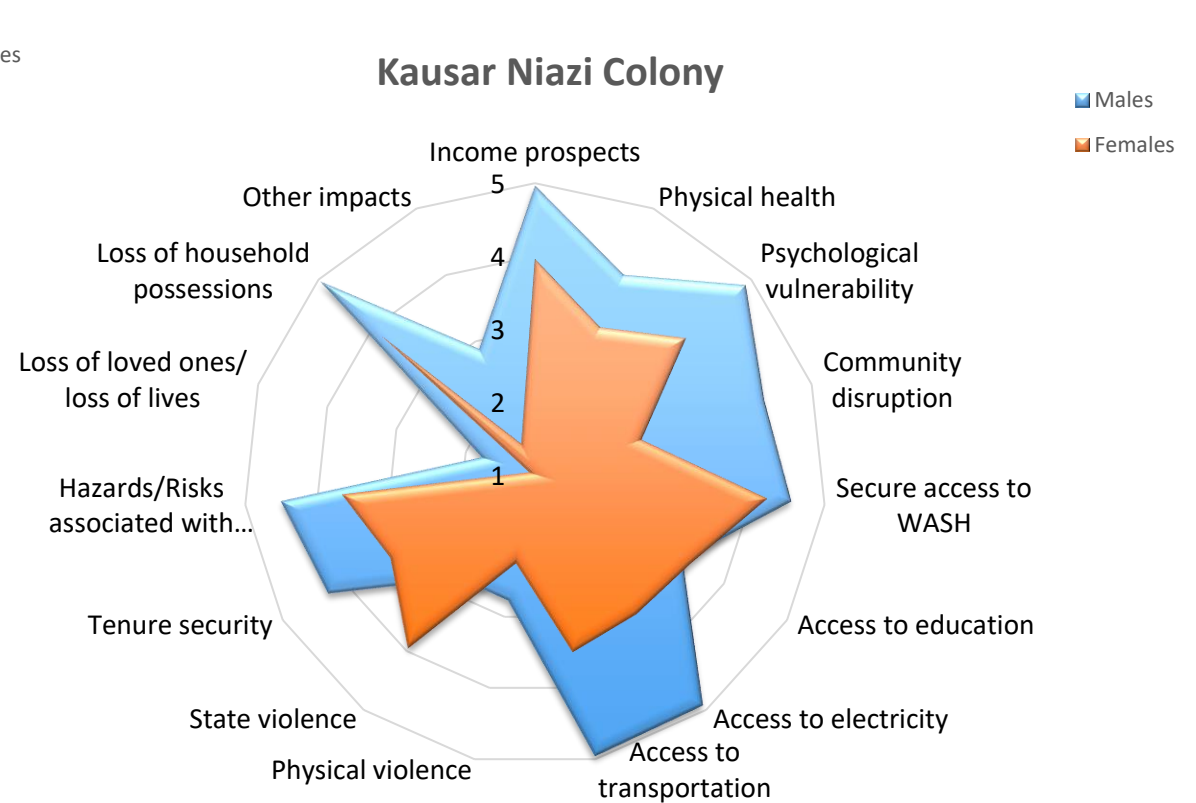
Karachi Kausar Niazi Colony Razia (F), 45+: "*During the demolitions, the main entrance and front wall of our house were partially damaged. Now in a dilapidated state, the wall cannot provide a sense of protection. Without a boundary wall and gate, we feel at risk all the time because I have young daughters. I can't sleep properly at night in fear that an intruder might enter our house (it's about my daughters' honor). After eviction drives, we have hardly slept at night; my husband and I have spent nights acting as security guards*"

Karachi survey: Gendered and spatialised nature of security risks

Notion of 'vulnerability traps'

Colombo: During heat stress households might sit outside the home, but concern not to associate with people, and people are more angry during heat. (Missed opportunity for collective action)

Karachi: Eviction leads to higher insecurities, and also higher vulnerabilities in flood season; leaving property behind makes them more prone to eviction.

Nairobi: When houses flood, affected residents have to take out their property where they risk being stolen, especially at night people have to risk staying out in the cold to guard their property from theft.

The 24-Hour Risk City

- Multiple cascading and compounding effects

- Time, space, social identities

"At night it's [flood] a big challenge as you don't know where you can run to, where you can get help, you can't move also because of the security issue…..at night it's more risk than during the daytime." (Nairobi)

"We spent 40 Rs per day to buy ice, only in the morning. We do not have money to buy ice for the night." (Karachi)

- Embodied

"You can't imagine how difficult it is for a woman to not have a proper washroom. We built a temporary space in our room for a washroom for urinating and bathing; for other purposes, we have used our neighbour's washrooms." (Karachi)

- Relationship heavily mediated by the meshwork of urban infrastructures provision

The conceptual grammar of risk

- **Everyday risks** – important descriptor, but does not describe inter-connection or spatial, scalar, temporal, or social identity aspects of risk

- **Multi-hazard, systemic risk interactions** – descriptors of risk dynamics; lack of lived experience, vulnerability dynamics

- **Risk concurrence** – climate change impacts, losses and damages and urban processes unfold together in interacting and cascading pathways – common drivers; dynamic social vulnerabilities

Possibilities for collaboration?

- Holistic and inclusive approaches to planning in informal urban settlements (night-time planning?)

- Reality of working with nature of institutional fragility

- Direct state violence alongside structural and infrastructural violence

- Potentiality of repair

- Possibilities of resistance

- Fostering emergence and 'state making'

- Implications of long-run environmental change for institutional fabric

Follow us!

- [Building Infrastructures of Climate Repair in the 24-Hour Risk City: Learning from Karachi and Nairobi - Institute of Development Studies (ids.ac.uk)](ids.ac.uk)

- @nbokhi_climate

Forthcoming publications:

Jen Horne, Arabella Fraser and Nausheen Anwar 'Towards a critical political ecology of urban violence – climate change interactions', submitted *WIREs Climate Change*.

Fraser, A. et al. 'Rethinking Urban Climate Security from Nairobi, Karachi and Colombo', submitted *Conflict, Security and Development*.

Saleem, A. et al. 'The 24-Hour Risk City: A Framework for Building Infrastructures of Climate Repair', *IDS working paper*.