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**GEOGRAPHIES FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION. MAPPING AND PREVENTING VIOLENCE AND POST-ELECTORAL DISORDERS IN NAIROBI SLUMS: AN ICT4D PARTICIPATIVE PROJECT**

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The Project
A monitoring activity of Kenya presidential elections by using an open source crowdmap to prevent violence and disorders

Where?
In Kibera, Mathare and Mukuru slums, Nairobi (Kenya).
Monitoring elections in three slums of Nairobi: Kibera, Mathare and Mukuru

**Kibera**
Population ranging from 235,000 to 1,200,000, depending on the source. It is the biggest Nairobi slum and a big recipient of local and international NGO projects.

**Mathare**
Population around 500,000 people. Theater of violence between two gangs from Luo ad Kikuyu’s tribes in 2006.

**Mukuru**
Home to over 600,000 people, is one of the poorest Nairobi slum.
Ushahidi, the crowdmapping open source software

The crowdmap history

- Non-profit Kenyan tech company
- A participatory mapping process: map made by people (crowd)
- Developed to map reports of violence after post-election fallout in 2008

How does it works?
Map Kibera

The initiative started in 2009 with Ground Truth Initiative, with a small grant from Jumpstart International that allowed them to create the first digital map of Kibera.

How? Training a group of local youths in the use of an open source GPS tool: Open Street Map.

Projects

- **Mappers**: mapping project that uses Open Street Map
- **Voice of Kibera**: blogger and SMS reporting team that uses the Ushahidi platform to enable residents to text in reports on events in Kibera
- **Kibera News Network**: video maker who create documentaries about Kibera enhancing citizen journalism
The Research

- How can a crowdmapping project work in a place like a slum and in a particular period like presidential elections?

- How the project may involve slum dwellers and influence them positively?

- What is the background of Map Kibera members and how they are integrated within the territory of the slum?

- Can this project be considered a successful ICT4D case study?
Methodology

- Three months of fieldwork in Kibera and Mathare slums, Nairobi

- Semi-structured questionnaires to Map Kibera members

- Local NGO and CBO interviews

- Focus groups and participation to the organization daily activities

- Previous research on ICT4D and Kenya politic
Map Kibera monitoring project

*Three working groups*

1. Reporters
   - 55 young volunteers from the slum sending reports from the field
   - 7 video reporters shooting videos and taking pictures

2. SMS Team
   - 2 people receiving and verifying the veridicity of the reports...
   - ...and geolocalizing them into the map, available to everyone

3. Media monitoring Team
   - 4 people editing the web site and blogs by monitoring the reports of the volunteers in the field and the mainstream media news
Working in iHub in partnership with the Ushahidi staff during election days
The crowdmap of Map Kibera
Age of Map Kibera members

Age

21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

3% 3% 7% 7% 21% 21% 3% 7% 0% 3% 7% 0% 3% 3%
SWOT analysis of the project using the semi-structured interview results

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Threats
- Opportunities
Strenghts

- Knowledge of the pooling station in the slum (17%)
- To make community participate in the monitoring process (14%)
- Providing a monitoring map for the police force (12%)
- Providing a monitoring map for the police community (13%)
- To guarantee peaceful elections (11%)
- To bring people to vote (1%)
- More security for the community (7%)
- To investigate and monitorate elections, thanks to citizen journalism (25%)
Weaknesses

- The problem to access internet for many people in the slum: 28%
- Communication problems between reporters and SMS/Media Team: 8%
- Management problems with the people working on the project: 17%
- The lack of security for the reporters in the field: 29%
- Lack of an offline strategy to show the people your work: 18%
Opportunities

- To be a reference point for the entire community: 25%
- To be a reference point for police force: 12%
- To make map Kiberawork be recognised by community: 25%
- To keep them informed with the crowdmap: 13%
- To make map Kiberawork be recognised by police force: 10%
- Increase people's awareness about their rights: 15%
- To be a reference point for the entire community: 25%
Threats

- Make this project lose value once it will be ended: 25%
- Make the map lose its original purpose: 25%
- To remain unknown for those who cannot access internet: 38%
- Make the map an instrument of the police force: 12%
CBOs and NGOs interviews

Do you know Map Kibera monitoring project during election?

No

Yes

Out of 15 people interviewed, 5 answered yes and the rest answered no.

Map Kibera members did not give enough visibility of the project with the local community actors.
CBO and NGO interviews

The question...

What do you think about the efficacy of the project? Did the community really benefit from it?

...some interesting answers

- Map Kibera gave a strong contribution
- It depends on the involvement of community
- «If we see peace in Kibera, it’s because those kind of project»
- «Yes, and the security agencies used Map Kibera security map»
New technologies for an urban inclusive development?

Use of a local technology: Ushahidi

Not just bottom-up, but an exchange and dialogue between North and South

Empowerment of the local trust and easier interaction between local actors

Map Kibera and Ushahidi in partnership with the police force
Map Kibera security map hanging on Langata District Peace Committee wall in Kibera. The police station of Kibera
New technologies for an urban inclusive development?

The personal relationships of Map Kibera members were essential in the verification of the reports.

Thanks to the social relations (families and friends) got to know the project and spread the word.

The **community** benefited indirectly from the monitoring project.
New technologies for an urban inclusive development?

Failure of the project in Mukuru slum

Logistic and management inner problems

How an open source technology can be useful when the money lack?
New technologies for an urban inclusive development?

Difficulty to access internet for the most slum communities

Easily access for middle class and police force

It can became an instrument of power and control from those who can access internet
CONCLUSION

Can the positive impact of the project overpass the lack of technology accessibility?

How can an ICT4D technology like this one guarantee a positive long term effects in the slum community?

How an open source technology can be useful when the money run out?
THANK YOU!

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