

*Mitigating risks for poor  
communities in urban areas*

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# What I will talk about

- Understanding risk and vulnerability – urban poverty
- Understanding how to address risk and vulnerability – approaches and lessons
- The potential of strategic responses to climate change
- The contribution of social protection
- What really matters

# Why urban risks and vulnerability matter

The 1 billion living in informal settlements

The considerable numbers in poverty

Risk - the interaction of hazard, exposure and vulnerability

The potential offered by organized communities and local government



# The challenge of urban poverty



# Addressing poverty risk and vulnerability

Participation and voice

Rights and entitlements

Social movements

Clientelist relations

Savings-based organizing

Coproduction and  
collaboration

Urban management

Micro-finance

Welfare provision and social  
protection



# What we have learned

Central importance of organized communities

Complexity of urban livelihoods and need for income enhancing and expenditure reducing

Centrality of gender – disadvantage and leadership

Learning, learning learning



# Potential of climate change responses

Improved investments in risk-reducing services; basic services in place and enhanced

Well-functioning local govt. able to identify needs and priorities, and provide a platform for improvements

Densification of urban centres to facilitate inclusive development and reduce energy use



# Potential of social protection

Redistribution matters

How transfers can be used to greatest effect

Use to provide subsidies to essential services (water, sanitation, energy), reduce expenditures for all and improve income security





# Priorities

Recognise how little we know

Get a more complete picture  
and enhance the information  
base

Changing perceptions,  
changing priorities

Building platforms for change

