Speak or Sink

Navigating Flooding

SMUS

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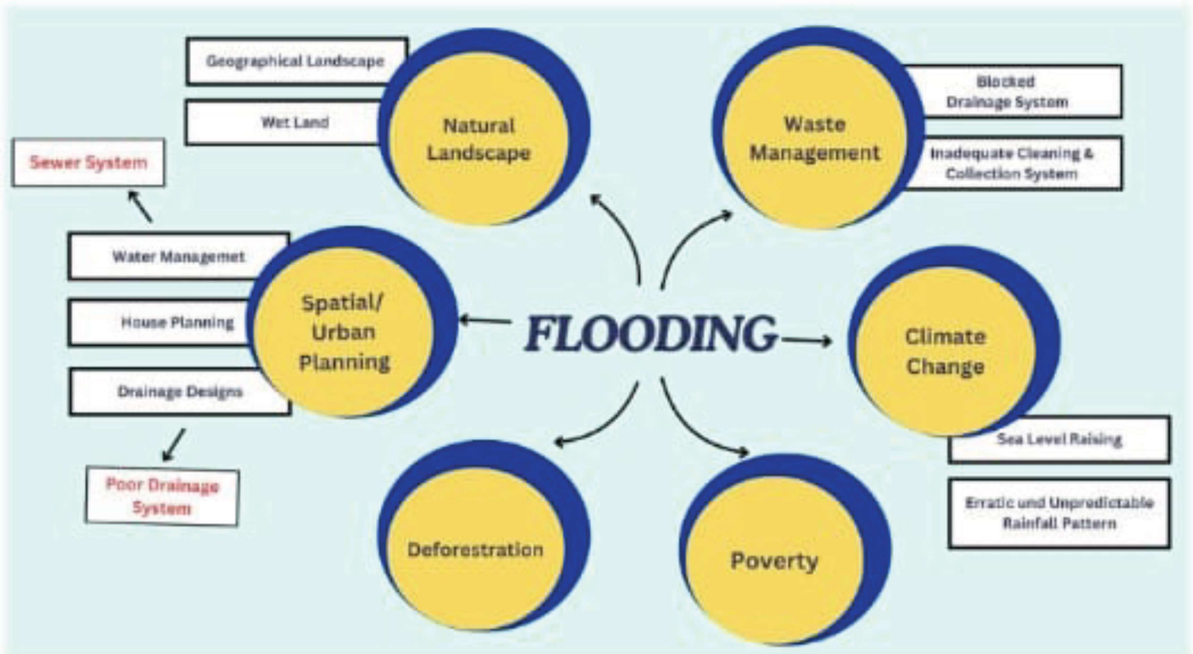
Setting the Scene

- Urban flooding is a wicked problem.
- A common urban challenge in Malawi, Kenya, and South Africa.
- Rooted in unplanned settlements, poor drainage, waste mismanagement, and climate change.
- Requires diverse stakeholder perspectives to find inclusive, context-relevant solutions.

The Flood Chain



Role Play Scenario

- Explored flooding challenges in the fictional settlement Mambo Magumu.
- Participants role-played as key stakeholders (community, government, NGOs, private sector, small businesses).
- Debated root causes and co-developed actionable solutions.
- Presented action plans and exchanged perspectives to simulate real-life public participation.

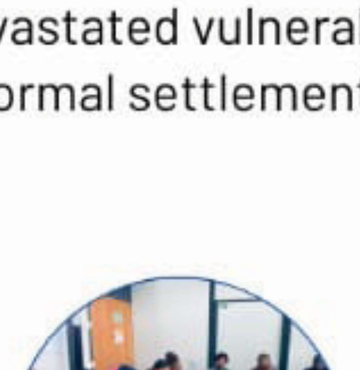
Global South Case Studies

South Africa

April 2022 floods in KwaZulu Natal – record rains overwhelmed drainage systems and devastated vulnerable informal settlements.

Indonesia

Flooding in West Nusa Tenggara– driven by large-scale corn farming, deforestation, and policies mandating corn supply.



Reflections

- Stakeholders proposed diverse solutions: community reps sought aid and rebuilding support, government stressed budget limits but welcomed partnerships, private sector demanded incentives, small businesses pushed for insurance and relocation support, while NGOs focused on mapping risks and rebuilding.
- Dialogue showed compromises on some issues, but divisions remained on funding major infrastructure.
- Differing interests highlighted the challenge of consensus on complex urban problems.
- Overall, the workshop showed that inclusive participation creates space for negotiation and shared ownership, even where complete agreement is not possible

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