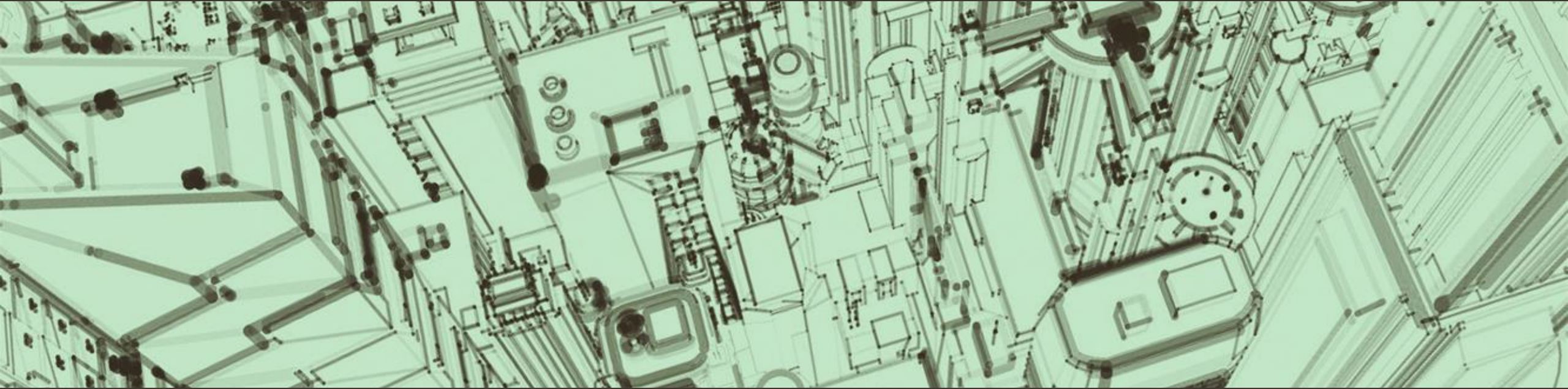


Session Name:

Risk management and risk reduction in developing countries: Why DRR policies and programs do not really get implemented. Case Study Reports



Living with urban floods

A case study of Kolkata

By Manomita Das (das.manomita@gmail.com)



Objectives

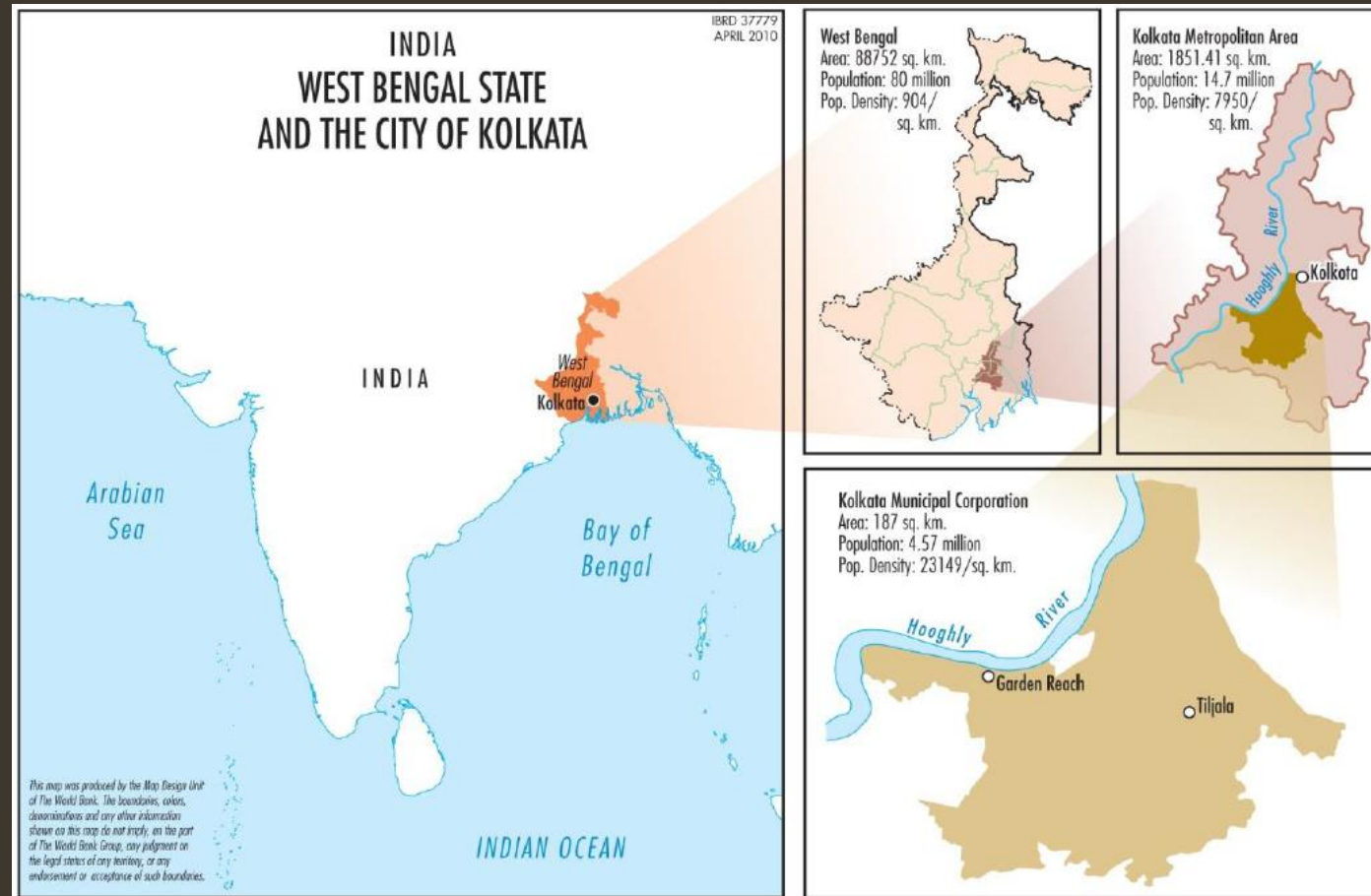
Goal

- To explore the diversity in the experience of and response to urban floods in Kolkata across different sections of the society

Research Questions

- **RQ1:** To understand people's view on the urban floods in Kolkata
- **RQ2:** To understand the diversity in people's experience of urban floods
- **RQ3:** To understand how people prepare for, respond to and cope with the floods

Contextual Background - Kolkata



Source – Adapted from World Bank, 2011

Flood Risks - Kolkata



Riverine flooding

- Erratic rainfall patterns
- 1 day maximum rainfall - increasing in recent years



Storm surge and sea level rise

- Coastal areas and off-shore islands of Bengal and adjoining Bangladesh -most storm-surge prone and fall in Very High Risk Zones.



Tropical cyclones



Tidal surge

- Tidal waves of height 2 to 5 m observed in Hooghly river



Methodology

Qualitative Study

20 in depth interviews

Sites of data collection - 32 flood
prone locations

Findings

- Nature and form of flood in Kolkata
 - Annual phenomenon
 - Waterlogging and not flood
 - Secondary risks
 - Common perspective across diverse sections of the society
- Diversity of flood experience
 - Inconvenience
 - Economic loss
 - Security issue
 - Shelter
 - WASH
 - Food and livelihood security



Findings

People's view on urban floods

Diversity in people's experiences of urban floods

How people prepare for, respond to and cope with the floods

- Modify daily lives
- Control and co-exist
- Lack of access to resources

Implications

- Risk awareness and perception
- Control and co-exists approach
- Context specific approaches towards preparedness, mitigation and response
- Responsibility of risk management
- Structural inequality and poverty



Thank You!

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