

Female Visions for a Greater Lagos in 5 Years (Discussion Paper)

A Lagos that allows equity and equality for all, regardless of sex, class, ethnic-religious background, social-economic status.

A city that provides a sense of balance between work, family, and community with minimal expense, stress, and violence.

Many women will be involved in decision making and planning to provide a female perspective so Lagos can become a fairer city.

A Lagos where decision-making is based on research, the collection and use of data to inform policymaking.

A Lagos that is more knowledgeable about the different experiences of people in the city.

A Lagos where the rampant sexual harassment of women in public space will be acknowledged and openly debated by all spheres of the society to find adequate solutions.

Female Perspective on Mobility

Background:

- Women often combine multiple stops and destinations within a single as a result of their household and caretaking responsibilities.
- These trips have the potential to be less safe since many women must walk through, or wait in, unsafe areas in order to access public transit
- At odd times of day and in isolated places, public transportation may be unreliable (by necessity many women must travel through the city very early in the morning and late at night exposing them to sexual harassment and violence.
- Safe public transport for women must be based on the recognition that women have distinctly different roles, needs and experiences.

Actions:

- LAMATA and Ministry of Women Affairs introduce a pilot concept for a monitoring unit consisting of male-female teams who are able to intervene on the spot within shortest time when harassment cases are reported, who have psychological training and the necessary authority to prevent dangerous situations or to comfort victims
- LAMATA and Ministry of Women Affairs create a whistle blower system through an app and hotline and enforce the presence of the monitoring teams in identified hotspot areas on the BRT routes
- Such teams would have a direct contact to the emergency and transport services
- LAMATA employs more female drivers and encourages taxi and Danfo unions to create female units where female drivers and conductors can be organized and their needs can be addressed.

Female Perspective on Flooding

Background:

- During a flood, women lose precious evacuation time trying to look after children and other relatives (In the wake of the 2004 tsunami, an Oxfam report found that surviving men outnumbered women by almost 3:1 in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and India)
- Children and youths are forced to remain idle during flood periods encouraging them to venture into criminal behavior as groups
- Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and erosion of dignity
- Floods disrupt the day-to-day movements of women living exposing them to genderbased violence, including rape and other types of sexual abuse.

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Actions:

- Local governments assign an emergency team which will be the solely responsible for the design, implementation and running of the shelter emergency program.
- They identify safe shelter buildings (public or private schools, religious spaces, government halls etc) within their area
- They determine how many of such shelters are available and how many youth, women, elderly and handicapped can be sheltered for a number of days
- Together with the building control agency, the emergency team develops an emergency plan on how the building can quickly be converted into temporary sleeping, cooking and educational areas
- Together with the Ministry of Education, the team develops an emergency curriculum with after school activities to keep children and youth busy during the shelter days
- It enters into agreements with providers (of mattresses, blankets, food etc) who would deliver on short notice whenever the items will be needed – the agreements will be reviewed on a yearly basis
- Funds for such emergency shelter expenses will be included in the annual budgets and will remain untouched until shortly before the financial year ends.

Female Perspective on Waste Management

Background:

- Given women's primary responsibility for cleaning, food preparation, family health, laundry, and domestic maintenance, women and men may view domestic waste and its disposal differently.
- Despite women's relatively high involvement at the local level, men are more likely to have access to institutions that set priorities and make decisions regarding municipal infrastructure.
- There is a clear lack of familiarity with and regularity in the formal waste collection processes and timelines. This contributes to added expenses since households are forced to additionally fall back on the informal sector or have to pay extra to the PSPs to get the waste removed

Actions:

- Each local Government works with its wards/LDCAs, residents' associations and the local PSPs to develop a well laid out waste collection plan which assigns the day on which waste will be collected and the place where each household waste has to be kept on the day of collection
- Each ward/LCDA/residents' association elects or assigns a person within their area responsible for monitoring and communication/complaints
- In addition, each local government introduces a toll-free and rapid response phone line that provides information on waste collection timetables for residents
- A regular exchange between the involved parties will be introduced to sensitize people on how to properly dispose of their waste and to adjust the plan whenever necessary.

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