

Dakar FvL's Methodology

Authors: UrbaSen

A participatory approach

Plan

- Phase I: Prerequisites
- Phase II: Knowing the territory
- Phase III: Development of the plan
- Phase IV: Activities
- Phase V: Report

The intervention methodology of the "Fairville Lab Dakar" is based on key principles, namely: mobilization, awareness, participation and appropriation. The recommended approach aims to give a central place to the inhabitants in the mapping, data collection, planning and implementation of activities and works allowing an integrated management of flood risks and a reduction of inequalities for a greater democracy in the management of public affairs. The project is therefore based on a bottom-up vision that is more viable and sustainable. This method aims at the individual and collective responsibility of the different actors in terms of planning, co-design, co-financing and development in order to better involve them in the decision-making process.

The methodology applied is divided into several stages as follows:

Phase I: Prerequisites

- **The signing of technical cooperation agreements** with the municipalities of intervention is a prerequisite for any intervention of urbaSEN on the municipal

perimeters. This collaboration is initiated by the member groups of the Senegalese Federation of Residents living in the target municipality, who are responsible for informing the mayor of the proposed approach. The formalization of the partnership with the local authorities thus clarifies the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder to promote optimal and transparent collaboration, in accordance with the administrative and legal procedures in force.

- **The mapping** carried out by the teams of urbaSEN, the FSH and the technical team of the local authority allows, with drones and the "Open Street Map" methods, to identify spatially the areas subject to flooding, to collect spatial data through the aerial coverages of the municipal perimeters and to produce thematic maps (maps of the urban fabric, land use, digital field and surface models, identification of watersheds and water flow paths).
- **The preparatory meetings and launching workshops of the Fairville Lab** which mark a significant step in the awareness of local populations and key actors on the importance of flood risk management, the reduction of inequalities and thus laying the foundations for a concerted, inclusive and effective intervention. These activities promote a deep understanding of the needs and expectations of each actor, thus establishing a network of collaboration and communication for an active and inclusive participation throughout the project, de facto strengthening democracy at the level of the intervention territories. Information sharing meetings will be organized between the different members of the Fvlab. This sharing will be a transversal activity and will be done throughout the project. A particular approach will be adopted for their good understanding of the project and their adhesion because the intervention zone and the communities that live there are known to be mostly illiterate inhabitants. All group meetings, meetings of the FSH bureau, the different community mobilizations are opportunities to share on the project, its intervention principles and its objectives.

Phase II: Knowing the territory

The phase of in-depth analysis of the territory is the second step in the methodology of project implementation. It consists in allowing the actors to better know their territory thanks to:

- The production of thematic maps that allow to identify the vulnerable areas, the most exposed to floods, to evaluate the risks incurred by the populations and the infrastructures and to characterize the socio-economic and spatial inequalities that contribute to the exacerbation of vulnerability and the aggravation of inequalities.
- The campaign of collection of qualitative and quantitative data (socio-demographic, equipment, housing units, infrastructures) called "Know Your City" which mobilizes all the actors through focus groups, census and urban walks for the mastery of the limits of the neighbourhoods and the geolocation of the essential services and the areas most exposed to flood risks. This collection of socio-economic data in mostly informal neighbourhoods allows to analyze the living conditions and livelihoods of local populations, but also to understand the impact of socio-economic dynamics on vulnerability to floods.
- Complementary surveys on the perception of flood risk among public actors and local populations allow to collect their experiences with the recurrence of floods, to identify local knowledge and existing risk management practices.

Phase III: Elaboration of the Plan

The participatory planning workshop, the third step in the methodology, is based on an inclusive approach that mobilizes all neighbourhood associations (ASC, GIE, OCB), groups affiliated with the FSH, neighbourhood delegates, religious and customary authorities, as well as local dignitaries to facilitate a better ownership of the project by all stakeholders. The maps produced at the end of the previous phases serve as a basis during the participatory

planning workshops and help to divide the communal area into sub-zones which will be analyzed by working groups for the identification and geolocation of areas most exposed to flood risks, proposing alternative solutions to piped systems, and prioritizing actions for risk reduction.

Structured into two key steps, this phase aims to co-develop an intervention strategy adapted to the local context, while defining a progression plan for project implementation, including steps, actions, and responsibilities for each phase, as well as a precise and realistic timeline.

The workshop aims to analyze the current context and situation of the communal area, to diagnose strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and constraints of the territory. It also allows discussing with residents their future involvement, their roles, co-financing processes, realization, and management of infrastructure. The goal is to align project objectives with the needs and expectations of residents who have been overlooked or minimally considered in the definition of urban developments orchestrated by public authorities. By adopting this participatory and inclusive approach for the planning phase, flood risk reduction projects can benefit from better ownership by the local community, greater effectiveness of actions implemented, and increased long-term sustainability.

At the end of this workshop, a participatory diagnostic document as well as a risk management plan, decision-making tools, containing summaries of group work results, thematic maps, solutions for managing flooded areas, are produced and shared with stakeholders.

Phase IV: Activities

The activity phase, the fourth stage of the project, is of capital importance as it constitutes the very heart of the initiative. Its objective is to concretize the co-defined solutions in collaboration with local actors. Structured in several complementary components, this operational phase is designed to proactively address the identified urban challenges.

First of all, the participatory diagnosis of vulnerable areas offers a platform for actively engaging resource persons in identifying and analyzing the main urban problems, thus providing a solid foundation for guiding future actions. Project support, backed by funding from the revolving fund, is an essential component of this phase, guaranteeing the financial viability of the proposed interventions.

In parallel, transparent communication of the diagnostic results is crucial to generate commitment and mobilization of the local community. In addition, field awareness-raising activities play a key role in educating and involving residents, thus strengthening their capacity to actively participate in the implementation and sustainability of the proposed solutions.

Finally, the establishment of mechanisms for the management and maintenance of structures guarantees their long-term durability, while promoting continued community engagement in the preservation of its urban environment. By combining these different initiatives, the activity phase becomes a fundamental pillar for sustainable and inclusive urban transformation.

Phase V: Report

The final phase of the project consists of consolidating the achievements and drawing valuable lessons for the future. This stage takes shape with the production of a comprehensive results report, intended to document and promote the progress made. This report will include a meticulous compilation of the data collected throughout the project, whether quantitative or qualitative information obtained during the different stages.

In addition, an in-depth analysis of the actions undertaken and the results obtained will highlight the successes, challenges encountered and lessons learned during the initiative. It is also important to adapt this documentation to the local specificities of the Dakar region, taking into account the cultural, socio-economic and environmental specificities of this zone. By highlighting the contributions of local actors and by highlighting the good practices

developed over the course of the project, this report aims to promote community engagement and encourage the sustainability of promising initiatives.

Ultimately, this final phase is of capital importance in consolidating project achievements and promoting sustainable and inclusive urban development in the Dakar region.

In collaboration with researchers (IGT, Cheikh Anta Diop University), a risk management plan will also be produced for all the municipalities involved. This will allow for better documentation of the approaches and methodology of the Dakar Fairville Lab, but also for sharing them with the managers of the urban spaces identified within the framework of this project. This collaboration with researchers will also focus on the dynamics of urban expansion on agricultural land, using the example of the FSH city under construction.

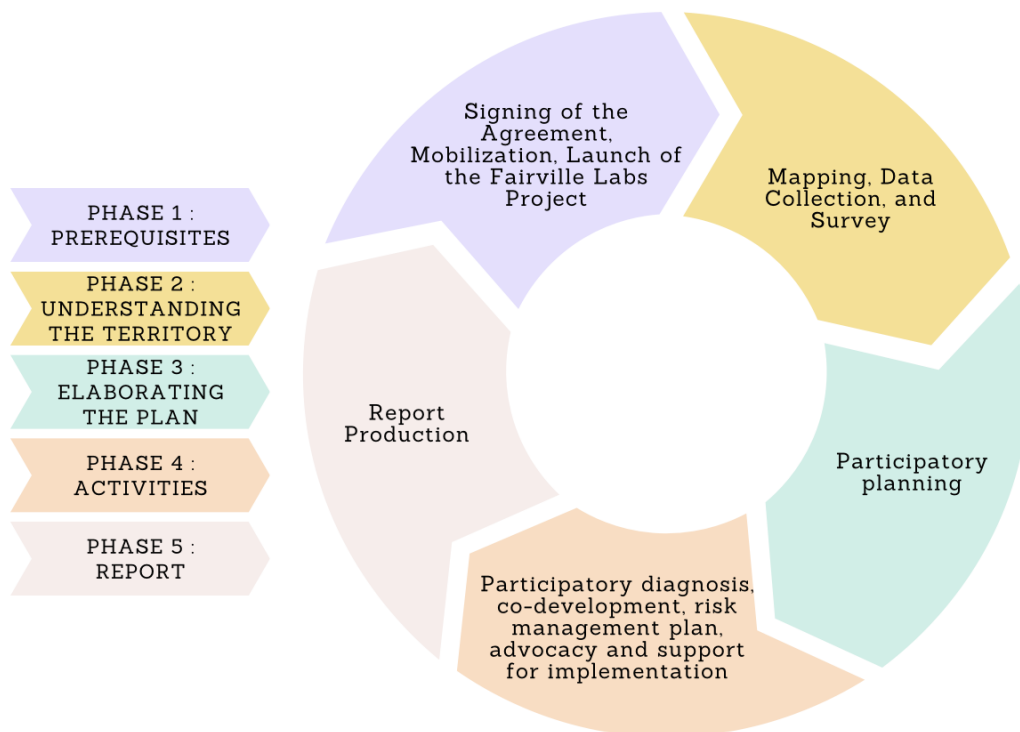


Figure 6: Dakar FvL's Methodology, Source: UrbaSen