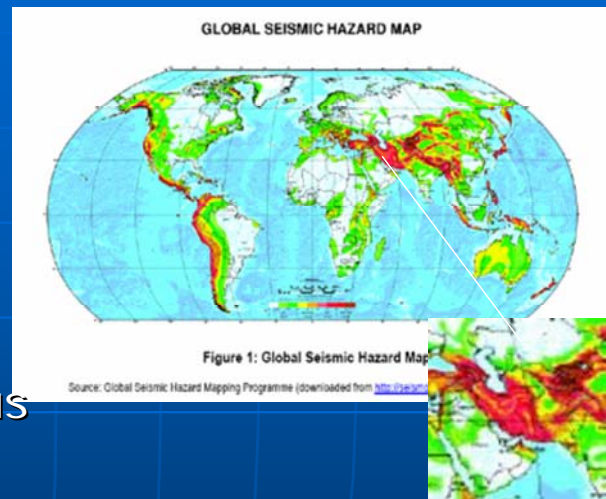


Analysing Social Resilience in Reconstruction of Post-earthquake Bam

Ahoura Mekinazarian
Department of Geography, King's
College London

Introduction

- Iran located in southwest Asia, one of the most earthquake-prone countries in world
- Highly vulnerable cities to earthquakes
- Every decade a disastrous earthquake
- Bam earthquake
- Land: problem of majority of the affected, cornerstone of government's plans



Reconstruction and Development

- Disasters are the manifestation of failure of development
- Reconstruction can be seen as an opportunity to address the shortcomings
- Reconstruction is usually considered as housing: governments benefit politically: best way to show the allocation of money
- Social rather than physical solutions
- Disasters shows need for change

Resilience

- Resilience is (Davis, 2006, p12):
 - The ability to absorb the shocks
 - The capacity to bounce back during and after disaster
 - The opportunity for change and adaptation following a disaster
- Social resilience of a community depends on the institutional structure (Adger, 2000)

Institutions

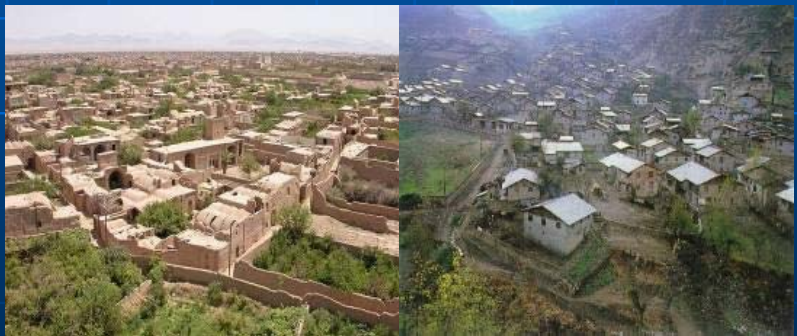
- Rules of the game of a society
- Institutions as norms of the society: individual's behaviour: view of benefits and costs of actions, ideology, self experience, information
- Institutions as formal rules: functionality of formal rules depends on their relation with the norms of the society,
- Political power that performs the ranking of institutions

Governance and Synergy

- The exercise of power through a country's institutions (World Bank)
- Synergy: Type of social capital created between state and society
- Link between ordinary citizens and government agencies increases the efficiency of plans

Urbanization in Iran

- Urbanization: 47 % in 1976 to 68% in 2006
 - Population 34 million in 1976 to 68.3 million in 2007
 - State's promises to provide house and land for low-income households
 - War stricken people moved to cities
 - Lack of employment opportunity people moved from rural areas to cities
 - Foreign migrants moved from Afghanistan and Iraq to Iran



Governance in Iran

- Highly centralized since revolution:
 - Eight-year war with Iraq
 - Flight of key investors led to nationalize many sectors of economy
 - Ideological change into all social and economic aspects
- Reform since 1997 towards decentralization and support of civil societies
- Ministry of Interior has highly control over municipalities

Disaster management in Iran

- Ministry of Interior: Natural Disaster Headquarter

12 Members: Ministries of Housing and Urban Development, Energy, Health, Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Roads and Transportation, Post and Telephone, Commerce, along with representatives of IR Army Force, Housing Foundation, Red Crescent and Disciplinary Forces

Earthquake of Bam



- Bam earthquake happened on 26th December 2003, at 05:27 am weekend
- More than 30,000 death toll, 75,000 people became homeless, 90% physical destruction



Bam Reconstruction

- Reconstruction at the same site
- Change of process from: emergency, temporary shelter, permanent housing to emergency, permanent housing (people reluctant to move to camps)
- Cooperation of NGOs and local councils for the first time in reconstruction in Iran



Bam Reconstruction

- Objectives of the plan: Increase resilience of the buildings, historic preservation, participatory approach (excluding people without landownership)

- Focus of physical planning and building project



Land in Bam

- Slow trend of reconstruction consequence of land reallocation problem
- Demographic change: 142,000 to 227,000
- Destruction of identity documents
- A great number of land owners have been died
- Islamic inheritance law allocate land to the relatives of the death owner regardless of whether or not the heir is local
- Based on the Islamic civic law, women do not have rights to land after their husband's death

Methodology

- Research Questions:
 - What objectives do the land reallocation policies follow?
 - How were these policies designed and by whom?
 - What were the shortcomings of those policies after four years?
- Research at two levels:
 - 1) administrative with interviews in Tehran and Bam and
 - 2) local with household interviews

Conclusion

- Rapid urbanization has increased vulnerability of the cities
- Highly centralized system decrease the capacity of municipalities and NGOs to cope with shocks
- Despite activation of local councils and NGOs, rigid legislations and focus on physical aspects in reconstruction limited local participation and didn't address social vulnerabilities effectively (women and people without land)
- As a consequence: people didn't actively participate and after four years only a few houses are rebuilt

