

Appendix 1

Overcome Heights: FIRE

An example of findings from the layered participatory visual methods process followed by one individual community co-researcher:

Overcome Heights co-researcher							
Layer 1. Digital Storytelling							
Question: Tell us a true story about a time when you tried to do something to help yourself get through a fire experience, but you were unable to do it. What was it that you wanted to do? How do you think it would have helped? What was it that stopped you?							
Title and Story content	How she/he found out	Emotions described	Actions taken	How is the story being told/illustrated	Who is involved/Actors	Lessons learnt and linkage to the story	Comments
<p><i>'Fire outbreak one misty Sunday'</i></p> <p>-About a neighbour's house that caught fire and burnt a 3-year-old child and father to death. This was after a party and alcohol intake in that house and the mother had</p>	A strong smell of fire smoke and went outside and saw the fire	Shock, fear, pain and heartbreak on hearing the little boy crying for help and death, scared, crying, screaming, surprise	<p>-Running around trying to put out the fire using water</p> <p>-Screaming for help and got more community members to help</p> <p>-Broke down parts of other sheds to prevent the fire from spreading</p>	<p>Mainly used drawings with paint and crayons. Also used magazine cuttings e.g., illustrating the modern house, and foil to illustrate new house, used bold pastel strokes to illustrate fire. Makes the sounds she remembers of</p>	<p>Neighbours</p> <p>Community members</p> <p>Forensics</p> <p>The fire victims (mother, father, child)</p>	<p>Have more exits in the house</p> <p>Create space between furniture for easy access to personal belongings and exit</p> <p>Leave kids with a responsible and sober-minded adult</p>	<p>Comments on the need for counselling, a member of the victims family became mentally disturbed after this incident, the family relocated as they couldn't live with the memories, Fire fighters and disaster management</p>

left to visit her brother elsewhere				the child. Use of plasticine and pebbles to illustrate the two bodies found after the fire was put out. Pastel drawing of symbols relating to health (mental, heart, physical)?			are not mentioned in the story.
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Layer 2a. Community mapping: 'special place'

Question: Why are we here, and what did you want to show us about fire outbreaks?

The co-researcher took the research team to the place that she had narrated in her digital story about a child burning to death. The house was located adjacent to her house. Residents tried to break in to save the child, but they could not because the burning shack was difficult to break up and by the time they tried to assist there were already big flames inhibiting further entrance into the house. The sand around the house was also hard from over stamping as compared to other people's yards where there is loose sand. This also made it harder to put out the fire. Apparently, the father was left with the child, he got drunk, and while the father was sleeping, the child played with matches leading to the burning of the house. The family ended up relocating to Steenberg because they could no longer stand the sad memories. The co-researcher mentioned that different locations in Overcome Heights are segmented according to African and Coloured areas. She stated that African communities are reported to stand together against the criminals as compared to Coloured residents. She feels a sense of insecurity as there are more Coloured gangsters than Africans.

Layer 2b. Community mapping: hand drawn map

Questions: Draw a basic map of your street showing the houses (formal and informal), roads and other local features including your own home. Provide details of i. what makes the fire [outbreaks] more dangerous or worse? ii. what makes the [effects of] less bad? iii. What lessons have you learnt from your experience of fire outbreaks?



Layer 3. Photovoice (self-selected top 12 images; 4 images per time frame (before, during, after))

Question: Before a fire starts what increases or decreases the risk of fire starting?

Increases

Title: Dangerous electrical wire



This image [scenario] would increase the risk of fire because these wires are open and close to one another, and some fires are caused due to electrical short circuits.

Title: When loadshedding strikes



Being without electricity and using a candle increases the risk of fire. We live near a veld [field] where mice and rats tend to enter our houses. If a candle is accidentally knocked over by a mouse, it will cause a fire*.

Decreases

Title: The sand dune



This image shows a sand dune in C-Block, it acts as a fire guard and a resource for putting out fires since Overcome Heights does not have a lot of taps to access water during fire outbreaks.

Title: Water at hand



This image shows how the risk of fire can decrease if there is a water tap available in the house. Overcome Heights does not have many water points outside because most are stolen by gangsters and druggies who sell them to feed their habits.

Question: While a fire is burning i. Show what you or other people do to help get through a fire event? ii. Show what challenges you or other people face in getting through a fire event?

Helpful

Title: Personal belongings



This image shows that while a fire is burning and you can still enter your house and take personal belongs and documents like ID, birth certificates and clothes.

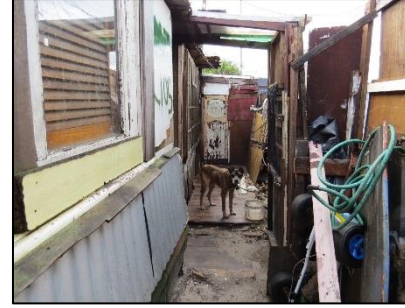
Title: Evacuating during a fire



While a fire is burning, people break down their shacks on the inside to create a fire break and stop the fire from spreading. They grab partition boards - if they are not damaged - so they can use them to rebuild.

Challenges

Title: Dog protection against crime



This image shows a dog that protects houses from break ins by thugs and gangsters. While a fire burns, people are confused and stressed and sometimes even forget to look out for their pets. Other pets hide away when chaos happens, and owners end up losing a pet that protected them for a long time----sad

Title: Electrical cables



This image shows where electrical wire was cut to stop the fire spreading from one shack to the other. Although the owners managed to rebuild their shack, they haven't had electricity for the past two years.

Question: After a fire has been put out i. Show what is available that can support you or others after there has been a house fire
ii. Represent what is not available to support you or others after there has been a house fire

Available

Title: Great support



This image shows people from a different community bringing food and giving it to the people in need which is much appreciated as people really struggle to get by after a fire.

Title: Counselling



This image shows a place (Living Hope) where people can go for counselling which would be very helpful as some people never got counselling after losing everything.

Not available

Title: Sports field



I took this image to show where people must sleep when there is a fire and they have lost everything. This field is very dangerous because two rival groups operate in this space. Two bodies were found there before. It would be a great help if a community hall was made available for people to sleep in for their safety and warmth.

Title: People in need of warmth



This image shows a woman sitting with a blanket after fire has burnt out everything. It would be better if shelter and warm spaces would be available for those in need.

