Synergies between “formal” and “informal” livelihood sectors in the Freetown economy

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Urban Transformations in Sierra Leone Conference 19 June 2019
Structure of Presentation

- Introduction & some conceptual issues
- Methodology
- Findings
  - What the informal is
  - What the informal does
- Conclusions and Discussion Points
Research: Aims

To produce knowledge to inform livelihood strategy development in Freetown by:

- Documenting key informal livelihood sectors;
- Exploring the importance of livelihoods in informal settlements for ‘city prosperity’;
- Understanding how social identities, including gender and age, affect livelihoods;
- Exploring the spatial dimensions of livelihoods.
Formal and Informal

- Formal considered: “rule-based, structured, explicit, predictable” informal is considered to lack these forms.

- Informal is beyond the reach of official governance processes

- The categories formal and informal are problematic from an analytical perspective because:
  
  - what is called formal and informal are intrinsically linked
  - informal presents key characteristics of the formal and vice-versa

- Informal economic activities (the economic dimension) and informal settlements (a spatial dimension)
  
  - exploring the relations between the two
International definitions of informal settlements would label Freetown as being almost entirely informal (e.g. 75.6% of urban population in Sierra Leone in areas classified as slums, UN Statistics Division, 2015)

- Landslide

- Livelihoods sectors of the informal settlement residents.

- Focus on a specific group of people

- No need of agreed definition of informal economic activities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settlements</th>
<th>Livelihood systems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 from East, 2 from</td>
<td>Systems that characterise the settlements, that employ large numbers, especially</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>of poorer residents, inclusion of sectors that both women and men work in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 hillside, 2 coastal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cockle Bay, Dwarzark,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moyiba, Portee/Rokupa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cockle picking, Trade, Sand mining, Stone quarrying, Fishing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research: Case Studies
- Scoping of secondary data
- Pilot workshop to trial methods with Freetown urban practitioners, including BRAC, Restless Development, YMCA, CODOHSAPA, YDM, government, universities, and communities
- Focus Group Discussions, by stages in value chains and with PPSP partners (27 FGDs)
- Individual time diaries (42 interviews)
- Individual life histories (41 interviews)
Analysis

Table to document individual interviews with women and men working at different stages of a value chain:

INTERVIEWER: [Insert name]
TRANSORDER: [Insert name]
SEX AND AGE OF RESPONDENT: [Insert details]
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: [Insert details]
SECTOR: [Insert details]
HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS: [Insert details]
DATE OF INTERVIEW: [Insert date]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
<th>Finish Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Supporting Place</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>12:00 am</td>
<td>3:15 am</td>
<td>Woke up from sleep</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>Sleep</td>
<td>3 hrs 30 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>08:15</td>
<td>3:20 am</td>
<td>Walk to the wharf</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>40 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>09:20</td>
<td>4:20 am</td>
<td>Start mining sand</td>
<td>Wharf</td>
<td>Production</td>
<td>1 hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5:20</td>
<td>6:20 am</td>
<td>Load sand into sacks</td>
<td>Wharf</td>
<td>Production</td>
<td>1 hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>6:20 am</td>
<td>Transport sand to selling point</td>
<td>Wharf</td>
<td>Production</td>
<td>1 hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>6:20</td>
<td>6:50 am</td>
<td>Prepare fire and other materials to bake bread</td>
<td>Bakery</td>
<td>Production</td>
<td>5 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>6:35</td>
<td>7:25 am</td>
<td>Baked bread</td>
<td>Bakery</td>
<td>Production</td>
<td>1 hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>7:25</td>
<td>7:50 am</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>Leisure</td>
<td>20 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>7:50</td>
<td>8:50 am</td>
<td>Return to wharf</td>
<td>Wharf</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>5 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>8:50</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Continue transporting sand</td>
<td>Wharf</td>
<td>Production</td>
<td>1 hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Rest for a while</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>Leisure</td>
<td>15 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Bake bread</td>
<td>Bakery</td>
<td>Production</td>
<td>15 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Clean baking tools</td>
<td>Bakery</td>
<td>Production</td>
<td>15 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>10:20</td>
<td>11:20 am</td>
<td>Rest</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>Leisure</td>
<td>1 hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>11:20</td>
<td>12:20 pm</td>
<td>Baked afternoon bread</td>
<td>Bakery</td>
<td>Production</td>
<td>1 hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>12:20</td>
<td>12:50 pm</td>
<td>Eat</td>
<td>Bakery</td>
<td>PC</td>
<td>30 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>12:50</td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Rest</td>
<td>Bakery</td>
<td>Leisure</td>
<td>1 hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>2:00</td>
<td>2:50 pm</td>
<td>Took bath</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>PC</td>
<td>30 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>2:50</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>Talk with friends</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>Leisure</td>
<td>1 hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>4:15</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Watched movie</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>Leisure</td>
<td>3.5 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>6:30</td>
<td>8:15 pm</td>
<td>Go to bed</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>Sleep</td>
<td>3 hrs 45 mins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes on the discussion:

[Insert interview notes]

I woke up at 3:00 AM and wash up my face, take my tools and walk to the sea till 3:15 AM and started gathering the sand till 8:45 AM and then load the sand and transport the sand from the sea side to the land till 5:00 AM and then take a bath and dress up till 5:15 AM and go to my bakery to light up fire till 5:45 and I wait till the fire catch up and put all the fire process till...
The Livelihood Sectors

Case: Stone Quarrying Livelihood System in Moyiba
Moyiba
Stone Quarrying in Moyiba: Value Chain

Rock extractors 1 (boss boss)
Extract and set fires to break rocks into large stones. Size 1 rocks

Rock extractors 2 (cut-cut)
Into smaller size

Rocker breakers 3 (3 quarter, half inch and 10 millimetre)
Into smallest size

Loaders
Measure / value loads of rocks and load them

Contractors
Buy and transport rocks to builders

Petty Buyer (Middlemen)
Buy small amounts and stockpile

Transport companies

Building companies in Freetown

Builders in Moyiba

Flow of rocks
Flow of money

Direct purchase when demand is high
Some of the key groups in the quarrying livelihood system
Stone extractors

Men, on low incomes, who need limited assets (big hammer, bars, kerosene, charcoal, lighter, shovel, tyres) and some skills

Stone breakers 2

Mainly younger men, often students working after school. Need medium size hammers
Stone breakers 3

Women and children, need small hammer, head pan, jerrycans, shovel

Contractor

Mostly men but 1-2 women, need capital, contacts
The Fishing Livelihood System in Portee/ Rokupa
Portee/ Rokupa
Fishing Livelihoods in Portee-Rokupa: Value Chain

- **Boat building**
- **Boat owners**
  - **Equipment/logistics**
  - **Crew**
    - Captain
    - Bowman
    - Net caster
    - Levelman
    - Boseman
    - ...up to 25 crew

- **Fish agents**
- **Fish dryers**
  - **Fish sellers**
  - **Consumers**

- **Porters**

- **Money**
- **Fish**
- **Equipment, boats**
Some of the key groups in the fishing livelihood system
Fishermen
Men, low incomes, age between 15-52 years, needs skills, logistics (daily provision) and healthy body

Fish smokers
Women, men mainly support, low income, needs smoking shed, wood, kerosine, lighter, torch light, wire mesh, etc)
Agents
Women, middle income, often related to the boat owners but may work for other fishermen, needs phone, networks, capital

Boat owners
Men and women, higher income, needs capital
Key Characteristics

- Very structured chains, with a complex organisation and governance developed over many years

- Mechanisms of cooperation to fulfil larger orders, or cope with difficult times (e.g. ill health, low prices)

- Evolving with the growth and expansion of the city

- Labour intensive

- Some stages are easy to enter (open access)
Spatial dimension of livelihood sectors analysed

Legend
- Purchasing points
- Selling points
- Informal settlement

Spatial dimension of livelihoods
Gender roles and time poverty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work</th>
<th>Personal time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reproduction</td>
<td>Sleep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td>Leisure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community management</td>
<td>Personal care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Religious</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Work

Personal Time
- so embedded in policy discourses of government and development agencies

- categories used to label activities and localities as informal & equate them as undesirable

- challenge this political use & demonstrate the contribution of the informal sector to the city economy
1. **Mix**: “formal company” employing people “informally” and importing “informally” through the use of family diaspora networks.

2. **Rule-based/regulations**: Most of economic sectors lacks state monitoring (not just the “informal”) but livelihood sectors of informal settlement residents have highly complex social organization of labour with internal regulation processes and mechanisms.
3. Complex international trade agreements

- Kroo Bay Bay international trade with Guinea (IOM office inside the informal settlement).

- Imported clothes from the globe sold locally through a complex system of traders who select them, adjust/improve them to fit with local fashion trends and sell them to the appropriate income customer group.

- Even people in the lowest stages of the sector are aware that their tools came from China.
What the informal does

Contribution of informal livelihood sectors

Who is the “lacking” sector?

- It provides employment, particularly labour-intensive activities with ease of entry for the very poor

- Strong networks of trust and mutual assistance

- Both of these contribute to build a social protection of last resort
Contribution of informal livelihood sectors

- beyond providing a livelihood
- key economic contribution to the city,

  • allow “formal” economic activities to be viable: construction as an example, particularly in the absence of state capacity to adequately regulate and promote economic activities.
  • contribute to a number of broader objectives: Social cohesion, diffusing social conflict, preventing violence (Finn & Oldfield, 2015).
Conclusions and Discussion Points

- It is wrong to frame informality as belonging to the poor
- The research challenges the idea that formality and informality are part of clearly different spaces in the city
- Rather than distinguish the formal (regulated by the state) vs the informal (not regulated by state), it is more useful to look at the different forms of regulation and governance which, co-exist and evaluate them in terms of what they are actually able to deliver and analyse this vis-a-vis the outcomes of having no regulation, or of competing models of regulation
- The analysis of the “informality of the poor” demonstrates its significance to the wellbeing of the city.

- In the context of a post-conflict fragile state, social protection/employment/livelihood are very important for the stability of the capital city and ultimately the entire country and thus fundamental to the wellbeing of Sierra Leone.

- Policies and regulations interventions affecting these sectors should be carefully thought and aimed at to providing better alternatives, rather than undermining existing livelihoods.
Any questions?

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