

# INFORMALITY AND COLLABORATION

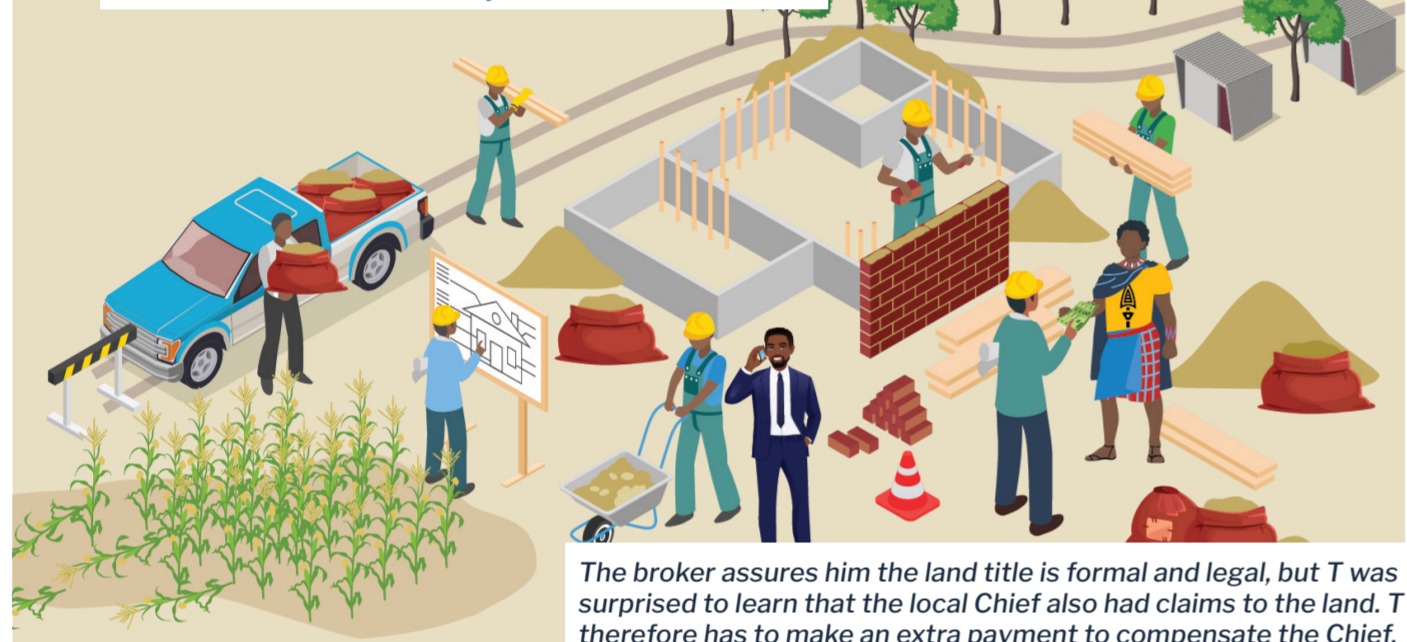
## A STORY OF SAND, LAND AND FLOODING

**1** M has been struggling to find some way of making ends meet. Her neighbor invited her to help with the sand excavation enterprise he runs on the river bank.

Together with nearly 20 others from her settlement, M bags sand that her neighbor then sells to various construction businesses.



**2** T, a salaried worker in the municipal government, is excited about building his first home. He purchased land from a land broker with a lovely view of the river.



The broker assures him the land title is formal and legal, but T was surprised to learn that the local Chief also had claims to the land. T therefore has to make an extra payment to compensate the Chief.

**3** One day, M goes to work by the river but it is raining heavily and she is forced to turn back. The whole area where she was working the day before is flooded.



**4** M learns that she will no longer be able to work in sand mining; the area has been completely eroded away. She is worried about having enough money to buy food for her family.



T also is frustrated. His contractor tells him that sand is increasingly scarce and he'll need to pay more.



Downstream, a team of City officials is surveying the damage caused by the flood. The expense of cleaning up the devastation and restoring the river will be high; it isn't clear how they will pay for it.

**6** After many complaints from impacted residents, the City decides to change the way the river is managed. A local NGO helps mediate a new agreement between the City, former sand mining community, and local chiefs to restore the river. A new self-governing community group is formed, and former sand miners are paid by the NGO to rehabilitate and maintain the natural river corridor based on traditional ecological knowledge. This provides livelihoods and enhances flood resilience for the city as a whole.



### INFORMALITY IS EVERYWHERE! BUILDING URBAN RESILIENCE, EQUITABLY, MEANS:

- 1 Recognizing that informality provides benefits to people, but also places unjust burdens on them;
- 2 Embracing opportunities to create innovative solutions that include informality, especially where it is already working for marginalized communities;
- 3 Leveraging support from NGOs and other intermediaries because partnerships are essential to unlocking informality's contributions to equitable urban resilience.

