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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55984

Title: Vulnérabilités urbaines et stratégies de résilience communautaire dans les quartiers informels : le cas de Gesco à Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision.....

| Rating | Excel. | Good | Fair | Poor |
|----------------|--------|------|------|------|
| Originality | | ✓ | | |
| Techn. Quality | | | ✓ | |
| Clarity | ✓ | | | |
| Significance | | ✓ | | |

Reviewer Name: Faheem Abdul Muneeb

Reviewer's Comment

This manuscript provides an in-depth analysis of urban vulnerabilities and community-based resilience strategies in the informal neighbourhood of Gesco, located in the commune of Yopougon in Abidjan. Drawing on a mixed methodological approach combining documentary analysis, cartographic treatment, household surveys, interviews, and field observations, the study examines how environmental risks, infrastructural deficits, and unplanned urbanisation interact to shape everyday vulnerability. The paper is highly relevant to debates on sustainable urban development, climate adaptation, and informal settlement governance in African metropolitan contexts. It makes a valuable contribution by offering a detailed, empirically grounded case study that highlights both the severity of vulnerabilities and the adaptive capacities of local populations.

Scientific Contribution and Empirical Strength

One of the manuscript's main strengths lies in the richness of its empirical material. The spatial analysis of topography and land occupation, supported by detailed maps and photographic plates, convincingly demonstrates the role of site morphology in structuring flood, erosion, and landslide risks. The quantitative findings—showing that 47% of households are affected by flooding, 35.71% by erosion, and nearly 49% engage in polluting practices—are clearly presented and strongly support the argument

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regarding structural vulnerability. The integration of health data, particularly the high prevalence of malaria and waterborne diseases, effectively links environmental degradation to public health outcomes. The discussion of informal resilience strategies, such as vegetation planting, rudimentary drainage systems, and adaptive housing practices, provides an important bottom-up perspective on urban resilience.

Methodology and Analytical Approach

The mixed-method design is appropriate and well justified given the complexity of the research problem. The triangulation of quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews and direct observation strengthens the credibility of the findings. The sampling strategy and data treatment procedures are clearly described, and the cartographic and statistical analyses are competently executed. However, the manuscript devotes extensive space to methodological and descriptive detail. Greater analytical synthesis—particularly when linking results to broader theoretical debates on urban resilience—would enhance interpretive depth and reduce redundancy.

Structure, Style, and Presentation

The manuscript is well documented and logically structured, progressing from vulnerability diagnosis to resilience strategies and development perspectives. Nonetheless, it is excessively long, with frequent repetition across the results and discussion sections. Several arguments are restated with limited added analytical value. Language editing is also required to address lengthy sentences, minor grammatical issues, and formatting inconsistencies. Condensing tables and streamlining narrative sections would significantly improve readability.

Final Recommendation

Overall, this is a strong, empirically robust, and policy-relevant study that contributes meaningfully to understanding urban vulnerability and community resilience in informal settlements in West Africa. With minor revisions focusing on condensation, improved analytical synthesis, and editorial refinement, the manuscript will be well suited for publication.

Decision: Accepted with minor revisions.