

**International Symposium:
Towards Resilient Recovery
and Reconstruction
through
Multi-stakeholder
Participation**

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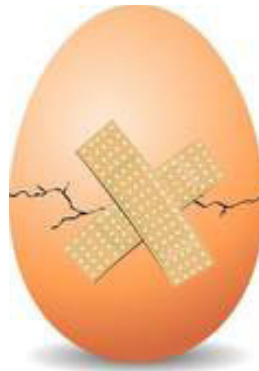


What do we mean by social resilience?



Rethinking resilience

“the ability to withstand, recover from, and reorganize in response to crises so that all members of society may develop or maintain the ability to thrive”



Properties of resilience

Applied to development

■ Diversity & redundancy



- e.g. Livelihood diversification (including migration);
- 5 capitals (natural, financial, human, physical, social)

■ Modularity (networks)



- Social networks

■ Responsive, regulatory feedbacks



- Social accountability



How do we foster social resilience?

- Supporting **bottom-up approaches** that make use of existing social networks
- Supporting communities to increase **diversity** of livelihood and fall-back options
- Enhancing **social learning** and sound governance as a form of regulatory feedback
- Understanding the gender dimensions of climate change and **empowering women** as resilience champions

Gender and vulnerability to disasters

- **Women are disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of natural hazards and climate change** – especially where their rights and socio-economic status are not equal to those of men and where their voices are not heard.
- **This gap in vulnerability is not inevitable.** In Bangladesh, when Cyclone Gorky hit in 1991, women outnumbered men by 14:1 among those dying as a result of cyclone-induced flooding. When Cyclone Sidr hit in 2007, the gender gap in mortality rates had shrunk to 5:1 by specifically addressing the cultural reasons why women were reluctant to use cyclone shelters.



Gender and vulnerability: Response and recovery efforts can also increase or reinforce existing inequalities



- **Ensure that relief and recovery interventions protect the safety and human rights of all.**
- **Assess and understand the different needs of women, girls, boys and men** for recovery, including the indirect economic impacts women typically suffer from being in the informal economy.
- **Establish specific monitoring mechanisms** (e.g., Continuous Social Impact Assessments) to ensure that women and children can access recovery resources, participate publicly in planning and decision making, and organize to sustain their involvement throughout the recovery process.

Vulnerability to resilience: Shift from focus on women's vulnerability to emphasize their agency



Practical steps to promote gender equality can be integrated easily and speedily in the recovery process: issuing deeds for newly constructed houses in both the woman's and man's names, building non-traditional skills through income-generation projects, distributing relief through women, and funding women's groups to monitor disaster recovery projects.

Foster grassroots women as leaders in community recovery: Create formal spaces where women's groups can organize to participate in recovery efforts and formally allocate resources and roles to affected women. This will contribute to more effective and efficient recovery, and establish opportunities for women and communities to shape a more sustainable development.



Empowerment of women is an important ingredient in building resilience



- Improving gender equality contributes to **policy choices that lead to better environmental governance** - through increased representation and voice of women within communities, in society at large, and at the political level, or through increased labor force participation.
- In **Nepal and India**, women's participation in forest communities beyond a critical minimum threshold (1/3) positively impacts forest regeneration and a reduction in illegal extraction of forest products.
- In **Bolivia**, study revealed that women employ adaptation strategies that employ a more efficient use of existing resources

Continuum of community participation



Community-Driven Development (CDD)

is an *approach* to local development that gives control over planning decisions and investment resources to community groups (including local governments)

- Not a “project” but set of principles based on philosophy that:
 - sustainable development comes from involving people in making their own decisions,
 - building capacity from the ground up, and
 - making decision makers accountable to the people they serve.
- Began in late 80s/early 90s in response to crisis situations (political, economic, natural).
- Applied in >110 countries to address range of development challenges (e.g. local governance, social protection, livelihoods, disaster response, etc.)
- Over \$2 billion in annual investment

Summary points...

- Base interventions on local perceptions and experiences of risk as starting point -- every household and community will have their own vision of resilience
- Recognize and formalize the role of communities in disaster and climate risk management
- Importance of governance, institutions and social accountability in building resilience



www.worldbank.org/socialresilience

