

SIX REASONS TO TALK ABOUT COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

1 COMMUNITIES HAVE A CRITICAL ROLE IN REDUCING THE RISKS WHICH THEY ARE EXPOSED TO.

Enhancing the access of communities to knowledge or information about their surrounding risks promotes a culture of safety.

4 A RESILIENT COMMUNITY IS ABLE TO RESPOND TO ADAPT TO CHANGE OR STRESSES IN A POSITIVE MANNER AND IS ABLE TO RESPOND TO AND ADAPT TO CHANGE ITS CORE FUNCTION AS A COMMUNITY DESPITE STRESSES.



2 COMMUNITIES ARE THE FIRST RESPONDERS IN THE EVENT OF A DISASTER, BUT THE MAJORITY OF THEM ARE UNTRAINED AND UNEQUIPPED TO COPE IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY.

More lives are saved and casualties rescued by local people than outsiders in disasters around the world (World Disaster Report, 2015). Therefore, it is important to strengthen the capacities of communities to ensure that in the case of a disaster loss of lives and assets can be limited.

5 DISCUSSION AND EXPERIENCE SHARING CAN HELP IDENTIFY EFFECTIVE WAYS TO COMBINE STRUCTURAL AND NON-STRUCTURAL MEASURES FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL SUITABLE FOR DIFFERENT COMMUNITY CONTEXTS.

3 THE ONLY WAY FORWARD TO REDUCING DISASTER MORTALITY RATE AND ECONOMIC LOSSES IS TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE BY COMBINING BOTTOM-UP AND TOP-DOWN MULTI-SECTORAL APPROACHES



6 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE BUILDING IS INVARIABLY LINKED TO DECISION-MAKING AND ACTION FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AT A VARIETY OF OTHER SCALES SUCH AS SUB-NATIONAL, NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS.

Practitioners' Workshop on
RISK REDUCTION & RESILIENCE IN ASIA



The 8th Practitioners' Workshop on Risk Reduction and Resilience provides a unique opportunity for practitioners and organizations to jointly reflect on the outcomes of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction which took place in Sendai, Japan in March 2015. The workshop is organized by and for practitioners with relevant technical expertise and knowledge of risk reduction in Asia. The participants will identify ways to translate the Sendai commitments into practice and implement the framework on the ground - putting policy debates aside.

The outcomes of the workshop will be harnessed to support regional and global disaster risk reduction efforts in support of the motto "DRR is everyone's business".

The workshop program revolves around the following four themes:

- Enhancing Community Resilience
- Expanding Preparedness for Response
- Innovation and Risk-Informed Development
- Mainstreaming DRR Within and Across Sectors - Focusing on Agriculture and Resilient Livelihoods

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

DEFINITION OF RESILIENCE

“The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions”, 2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN THE REGION

The sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) called on all governments of Asia and the Pacific to promote:

- The institutionalization of integrated community resilience approaches into local development planning;
- Comprehensive school safety;
- Disaster resilient villages to serve as a strong basis for creating community based disaster risk reduction at the local level;
- Inclusion and volunteer/community-based networks;
- The role of women as leaders in local level resilience building, etc:

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) places a key focus on the role of all relevant stakeholders as active participants in disaster risk reduction efforts. This emphasizes the need for community members to take responsibility in improving their knowledge, capacity and basic skills in order to cope with local hazard risks.

STAKEHOLDERS IN BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Key stakeholders to consider for Community Resilience include: local people themselves (including vulnerable groups such as elderly, young and disabled persons etc.), school staff, business owners, government representatives and officials from commune, district, provincial offices, as well as NGO staff etc.

URBAN RESILIENCE

Urban environments are highly concentrated centers of population and pose particular challenges in view of exposure and vulnerability of people, assets and infrastructure to hazards which can be exacerbated in cases where rapid and unplanned urbanization occurs. Interventions at the community level are thus also an important consideration for practitioners engaged in urban locations



COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY FRAMEWORK

Schools are an important feature of many communities around which resilience building efforts can be centered.



DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY

A community is a group of people who may or may not live within the same area, village or neighborhood, share a similar culture, habits and resources.

Communities are groups of people also exposed to the same threats and risks such as disease, political and economic issues and natural disasters.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A DISASTER RESILIENT COMMUNITY

In identifying the key ‘Characteristics of a Disaster-Resilient Community’, seminal disaster risk reduction theorist John Twigg highlighted five key thematic areas:

1. Governance
2. Risk Assessment
3. Knowledge and Education
4. Risk Management and Vulnerability
5. Disaster Preparedness and Response

SFDRR PRIORITIES AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

PRIORITY 1 : Understanding Disaster Risk: Highlights the need to enhancing disaster risk information and knowledge as well as collaboration at the community level.

PRIORITY 2 : Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk: Emphasizes the importance of assigning clear roles to community representatives within disaster risk management institutions and processes.

PRIORITY 3 : Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience: stresses the need to strengthen the protection of livelihoods and productive assets at the local level.

PRIORITY 4 : Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction: highlights participation of all sectors and relevant community stakeholders for effective preparedness for response.

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Community resilience demands public and private-sector investments that transcend short or medium-term mitigation programs and projects. It means the local government places value on investing in making communities resilient to disasters through integrating disaster risk into local level development planning and policy process.

RISK GOVERNANCE

Disaster risk governance is a crucial factor in reducing disaster risk at the point of implementation. Even where building codes, land-use plans and safety standards do exist, their compliance and enforcement - especially at local level - may be weak. This stresses the idea that risk reduction is both a technical and governance challenge.

COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR EARLY WARNING

Early Warning Systems (EWS) refer to provisions and arrangements made to disseminate timely and meaningful warning information which enable individuals, communities and organizations threatened by hazard risks to respond in sufficient time to reduce the possibility of harm or loss.

A RESILIENT COMMUNITY IS...

...knowledgeable, healthy and can meet its basic needs.



...is socially cohesive

...has economic opportunities



...has well-maintained and accessible infrastructure and services



...can manage its natural assets



...is connected



LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE

Community participation is an important means of encouraging the utilization of local and traditional knowledge which can be used to inform context specific and cost effective approaches for the reduction of disaster risk at the local level. This can be used to complement scientific and technical approaches.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND RISK AWARENESS

Raising the awareness of communities on hazard risks they are likely to encounter in their surrounding areas is a key facet of disaster preparedness. Harmonizing disaster risk knowledge and information among partners and identifying effective ways of disseminating is therefore a key consideration for DRR practitioners.

COMMUNITY ASSETS FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

A key part of building the capacities of communities in view of disaster resilience is the provision of necessary resources to adequately prepare community members for disaster events. This may entail structural assets, non-structural assets or a mixture of both.