

NO ACCIDENT: RESILIENCE AND THE INEQUALITY OF RISK

Session 3: Increased Resiliency against Climate Change Impact and Disaster Risk

We need a new approach to risk and poverty reduction. Major external risks, such as climate change and food price volatility, are increasing faster than attempts to reduce them. Many risks are dumped on poor people, and women face an overwhelming burden. In many places of recurrent crises, the response of governments and the international aid sector is not good enough. A new focus on building resilience offers real promise to allow the poorest women and men to thrive despite shocks, stresses, and uncertainty – but only if risk is more equally shared globally and across societies. This will require a major shift in development work, which for too long has avoided dealing with risk. More fundamentally, it will require challenging the inequality that exposes poor people to far more risk than the rich.

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TOWARD RESILIENCE: A GUIDE TO DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

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Toward Resilience: A Guide to Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change

Adaptation is an introductory resource developed through the Emergency Capacity Building Project (ECB) for staff of development and humanitarian organizations working with people whose lives and rights are threatened by disasters and climate change. The guide provides essential introductory information, principles of effective practice, guidelines for action in a range of sectors and settings, case studies and links to useful tools and resources, for the application of an integrated, rights-based approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The guide is also a useful resource for other stakeholders, including staff from local, district and national government offices, the United Nations, donors, as well as social and natural scientists. *Toward Resilience* is not intended to replace individual organizations' policies or guidelines for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation; rather, it seeks to foster complementary practices and coordination between multiple actors working towards a common goal.

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OWNING ADAPTATION IN THE PACIFIC: STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE OF CLIMATE ADAPTATION FINANCE

Session 6: Climate Change Financing

Pacific Island nations need more finance to adapt to the adverse effects of global warming, but they also need to manage the funds effectively, to benefit their most vulnerable communities. Oxfam has looked at three countries – Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Tonga – to understand their experience of managing climate finance. The challenges they face include: improved coordination by donors; strengthened management across departments and with local governments; and better engagement with civil society. The report calls for a focus on building capacity across government and non-state actors; strengthened partnerships and coordination; better information, communication and transparency; fostering a culture of learning and improving direct access to climate funding. Most importantly, civil society and vulnerable communities must be able to hold governments accountable for the use of adaptation finance, and governments must play a leadership and coordinating role to mobilise a broad response across Pacific societies based on a common aim to build resilience.

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