Climate change: vulnerability & adaptive capacity

inroads to understanding

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regional impacts

- increasing temperatures
- changing rainfall patterns
- increasing frequency & intensity of extreme weather
- shrinking glaciers
- (and, eventually, sea-level rise)
climate change in context

- negative synergies with other environmental changes
- + rapidly growing populations...
- ... with limited room to maneuver
- ... dated frames of reference
- ... and weak cooperation between key stakeholder (levels & cross-border)
adaption

“Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.”

- human adaptation is a process
- must engage wide range of stakeholders at multiple levels
- requires analysis of current and future impacts
- requires an understanding of vulnerability
vulnerability

Adaptive Capacity

Sensitivity

Exposure

V.
adaptive capacity

**Human:** Knowledge of climate risks, cons. agriculture skills, good health

**Social:** Women’s savings and loans groups, farmer-based organizations

**Physical:** Irrigation infrastructure, seed and grain storage facilities

**Natural:** Reliable water source, productive land

**Financial:** Micro-insurance, diversified income sources
### adaptation vs. coping

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<tr>
<th>Coping</th>
<th>Adaptation</th>
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<td>Short-term and immediate Oriented towards survival Not continuous Motivated by crisis... reactive Often degrades resource base Prompted by lack of alternatives</td>
<td>• Oriented towards longer term livelihood security • A continuous process • Results are sustained Uses resources efficiently and sustainably Involves planning Combines old &amp; new strategies/knowledge Focused on finding alternatives</td>
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resilience

“The ability of a community to resist, absorb, and recover from the effects of hazards in a timely and efficient manner, preserving or restoring its essential basic structures, functions and identity”

› ability to avoid damage and/or to bounce back

› resilience varies within households and communities
Community-Based Adaptation (CBA)

- analysis of local vulnerability and adaptive capacity is crucial...
- ... as is recognition of differentiation between and within households
- the process must be “community-based” (i.e. “of” and “by” the people... not just “for”)
- growing number of tools/ methodologies for community-level analysis and action planning (including CARE’s CVCA tool)
axes of action

› **human condition**: improving livelihoods & wellbeing

› **social position**: improving social equity & building inclusive societies

› **enabling environment**: creating inclusive and accountable institutions
ecosystems in the context of CBA

- Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EBA) ≠ Community-based adaptation (CBA)
- CBA puts communities at the centre of adaptation planning and action
- the adaptation of ecosystems has an important role to play in CBA
linking decision-makers at community and higher levels

- CBA processes must link with decision-makers & decision-making processes at higher levels
- adaptation planning and finance must be participatory, transparent and accountable (PTA)
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