

TECHNICAL SESSION

South Asia - Where Resilience and Inclusion Meet

May 13th, 2019/ 16:00-17:30 /Room 3

Context	<p>South Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. It's critical to identify the effective approaches to integrate social inclusion elements in the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) investments for achieving the region's development targets, since natural disasters can affect marginalized groups more severely. The World Bank's South Asia team initiated a pilot to develop project specific action plans - a set of recommendations summarizing possible entry points that are practical and easily implementable. A unique feature of the pilot is that it identifies social inclusion entry points for the most popular DRM activities in the South Asia region, which can be replicable to projects in other countries and localities for similar DRM activities.</p> <p>Are we building resilience for all? Approximately 10% of the World Bank's overall financing commitments goes to building climate and disaster resilience across wide range of sectors. However, are we giving enough thought to bolstering the climate and disaster resilience of all people, when we design disaster risk management (DRM) projects? For instance, imagining when DRM practitioners design early warning system, are we aware of different communication needs of people with various types of disabilities, age groups, gender or education levels? How about when we design evacuation shelters – do they know what kind of design provide universal access to people with different needs?</p> <p>Disasters do not impact all people in the same way. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elders: In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, 75% of the people who lost their lives were over 60 years old, while this population only accounted for 15% of the population in New Orleans. • Individuals with disabilities: People with disabilities face their own unique set of hurdles depending on their type of disability in an emergency and post-disaster context. For example, some may have challenges evacuating after a disaster due to visual or physical impairments. When a devastating Earthquake and Tsunami hit northern Japan in 2011, the mortality rate of people with disability was twice that of the total population. • Marginalized groups: Throughout South Asia, Dalits – formerly known as lower caste people and a culturally marginalized population – have either been denied or given unequal access to clean water, shelter, health services and education following disasters. Culturally marginalized populations often face challenges in obtaining compensation or official post-disaster assistance due to lack of official titles for land and property. • Women: Disaster loss data shows that the casualty figures among women typically outnumber men, often due to cultural norms and behavioral patterns that affect women's mobility and roles (e.g. caring for children, elders or sick household members). In Bangladesh, as a result of cyclone-induced flooding from Cyclone Gorky in 1991, women outnumbered men by 14:1 in mortality rate. Numerous global
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	<p>studies also show an increase in sexual and gender-based violence following disaster events.</p> <p>Often, people have overlapping and intersecting identities (e.g., a disabled elderly Dalit woman) which makes them more vulnerable to the impacts of disasters and can impose multiple layers of discrimination when accessing relief and other post-disaster support.</p> <p>How can DRM investments address the different needs of these socially excluded people? A key step is to understand effective social inclusion approaches in the region and initiate actionable interventions through the DRM projects. However, the project scope, thematic themes and solutions are unique to project specific context, and there are no readily available guidance for the DRM practitioners to rely on. The World Bank South Asia team selected five pilot projects with highly demanded DRM activities in the region (e.g., Resilient Infrastructure, Post-disaster Reconstruction, Hydromet and Institutional Capacity Building) and analyzed different types of needs to be considered to address challenges faced by various socially excluded groups (e.g., elderly, people with disabilities, gender and culturally marginalized people). The analysis results are summarized as project specific action plans - a set of recommendations summarizing possible entry points to integrate social inclusion concepts into those highly demanded DRM activities.</p> <p>The action plans outline entry points for inclusion in high-demand DRM activities, which can be customized for other regions or countries and can help DRM practitioners more easily apply inclusive resilience approaches to their projects. This study deepened the understanding of types and level of guidance that help DRM practitioners make DRM investments more socially inclusive in project specific context.</p> <p>The session will discuss implementation approaches and potential partnerships. During this session, the speakers will provide country-specific snapshot of social inclusion in DRM and present action plans developed for their projects, considering various user needs captured through consultations with different socially marginalized groups. The speakers will also discuss the way forward to implement the action plans and identify suitable partners to further mainstream the concept of <i>Inclusive Resilience</i> in respective countries. The discussion will be supplemented by lessons from global and regional experience that provides additional perspective.</p>
Speakers / Panelists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sushil Gyawali, CEO, National Reconstruction Authority, Nepal • Mr. Syed Salman Shah, Director General of Provincial Disaster Management Authority Sindh, Pakistan • Dr. Mazhar Aziz, Project Director, Project Director, Component-C of Bangladesh Weather and Climate Services Regional Project, Department of Agricultural Extension, Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh • Mr. Chaminda Pathiraja, Director of National Disaster relief Services Center, Ministry of Disaster Management, Sri Lanka • Ms. Sasja Kamil, Coordinator Partners for Resilience, Cordaid International • Opening Remarks: Maitreyi B Das (Practice Manager, World Bank) • Moderators : Keiko Sakoda (Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank)