

A Community and Women  
Centered Framework for Disaster  
Response and Recovery

# Assumptions

- Natural disasters wipe out decades of development in poor communities
- Reflect and compound social exclusion and existing vulnerabilities

Post-disaster recovery is an opportunity to channel and leverage investments to:

- Upgrade living standards of the poor
- Enable the most marginalised to participate
- Establish dialogue mechanisms to build accountability.

# Integrating disaster response with development

- Apply existing principles and approaches associated with community driven development

# Community participation, pro-poor and gender equity principles

- Community driven development: “communities have control over decisions and resources” –
- Risk reduction strategies as part of attacking poverty
- Strengthening community and household asset base
- Community networks enable the poor to voice and register problems and priorities.

- Investing in women's leadership
  - Gender equity is an operating principle
  - Efficiency and welfare gains are generated through improving women's access and control over resources.
  - Crisis situations create openings to transform women's roles

# Community participation in disaster

- Directing resources
- Collecting and disseminating information
- Negotiating with public institutions
- Monitoring resource use, distribution, implementation of government programs

Positive outcomes for development

Development that works for  
women and poor people  
strengthens their ability to  
withstand disaster.



# Existing recovery and response programs

- Emergency, short term focus
- Exclusive emphasis on brick and mortar, technical
- Entitlement structures exclude disadvantaged
- Focus on individuals and their property rather than communities and their infrastructure

# Costs of not involving communities

- Housing does not reflect livelihoods, productive and reproductive needs
- Infrastructure and services are not owned, managed or maintained by communities.
- Community assets erode.
- Corruption
- Community violence and divisions grow.