

Engage with this question today!





# What causes disasters?

- **Complex interaction between *hazards* and *vulnerability*.**

## What is a hazard?

“A process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation” (UNDRR 2018).

**Read more:** <https://www.undrr.org/terminology/hazard>



# Vulnerability

-Vulnerability is a social construct

In disaster studies, the most common definition is that of UNDRR (2018): *“the conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards”*.



# The Construction of Disasters

*‘the life-history of a disaster begins prior to the appearance of a specific event-focused agent’ (Oliver-Smith 1999: 29-30)*



# Vulnerability- Example of Gender and Disasters

- Gender and Power
- Gender and Participation



# Take the Case of COVID-19

## **Are some people be more vulnerable than others?**







# GROUPS

**What is the relationship between disasters and development?  
(20 minutes)**



# Disasters and Development

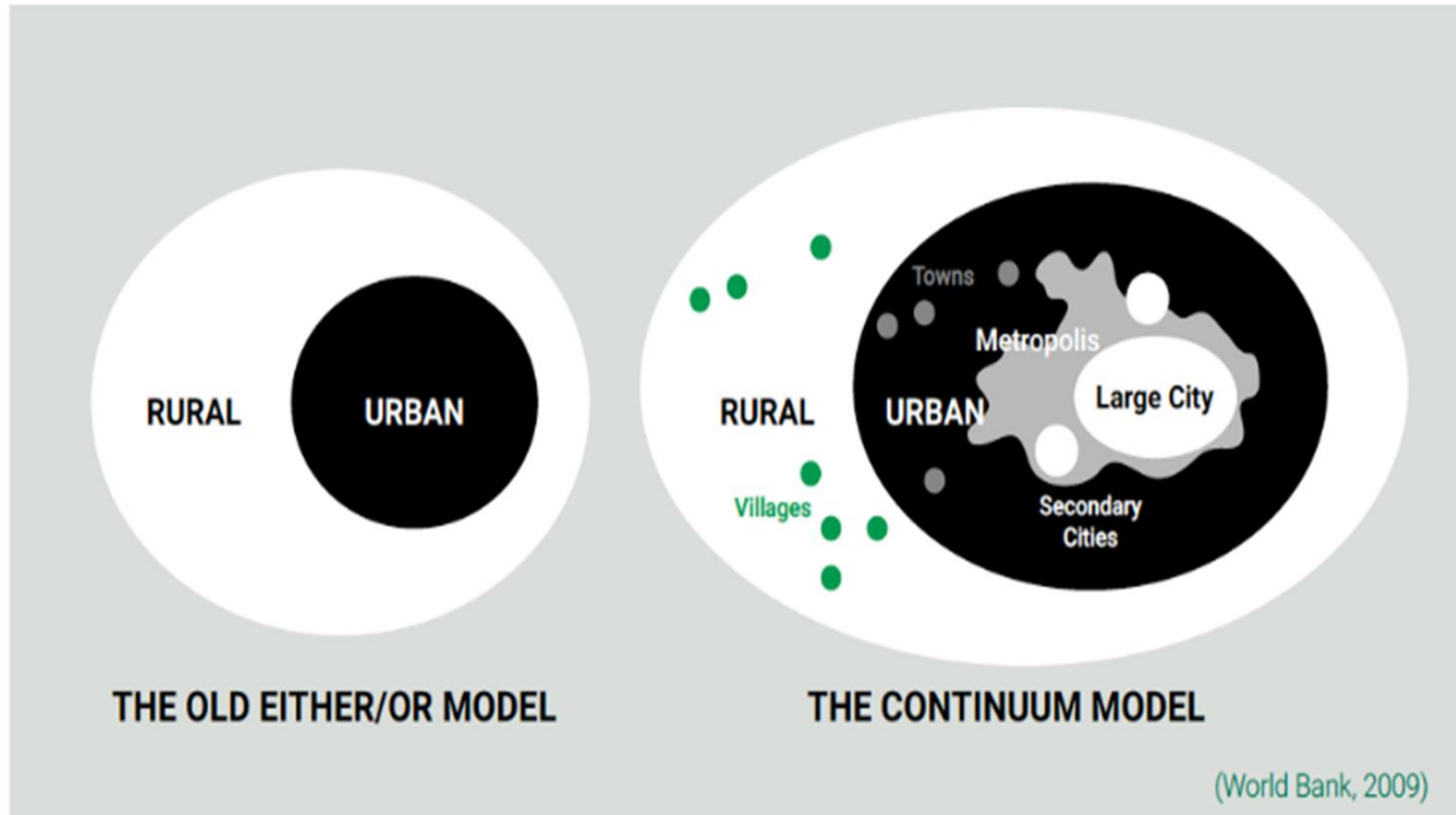
- Development can reduce vulnerability?
- Development can increase vulnerability ?
- Disasters can provide development opportunities
- Disasters can set back development

Linkage between Disasters and Development:

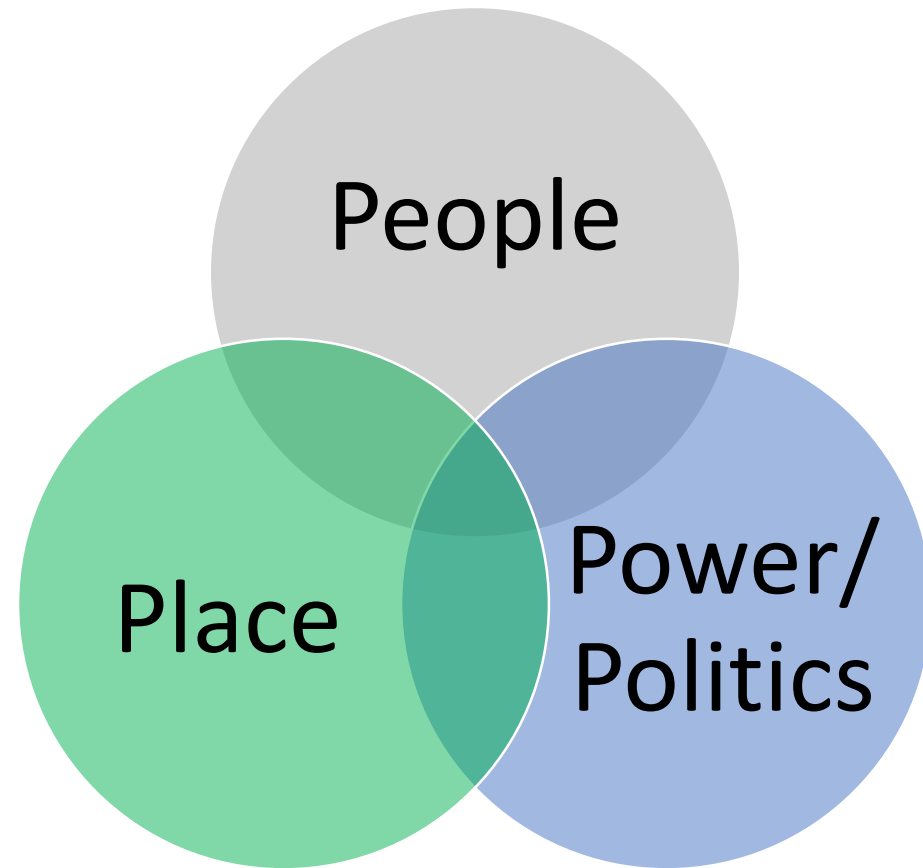
Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrxotqgV0Pg> (10 minutes)



# The Urban Challenge-Not New Anymore!



# Pillars for Thoughts





# Why Urban?

- Why do we need to consider urban disasters?
- Urban Processes (Systems)
- The scale of expansion of urban settings
- Urbanisation and Risk Building /Risk Production
- COMPLEXITY!
- Compounding disasters

Read the World Disasters Report 2010

# Disasters and Normalised Risk

- Identifying Disasters
- Daily Risks
- Vulnerability of Settlements
- Urban Poverty and Exclusion – For example- Homeless people?  
(Urban Poverty as different?)
  - Livelihoods
  - Water and Sanitation
  - Access to Public Health
  - Education & many other sectors

# Placing The Poor In The Flood Path: Post-Disaster Slum Resettlement In Chennai

KAREN COELHO

04 January 2016





# What happens post-disasters?

## Recovery is Long?



Economy (inflation)- associated costs?



If a government changes? – Priorities change?



Brain Drain of personnel



Probably a new disaster?- big or small does not matter! (Haiti)

# Restoration or Building Better?

## GROUPS

**Recovery could be a second disaster for affected populations/communities?**

# The Housing Context Post-disasters



Sri Lanka post-tsunami 2004; IRIN



# Challenges with Post-Disaster Housing

- Land-use planning
- Design
- Relocation
- Access to Resources
- Marginalisation
- Temporary becoming permanent?
- The next flood...



*Whose process?*

- *The housing reconstruction – as ‘our’ external intervention?*
- *Taking part in people’s vision of reconstruction?*



**Figure 1. Sustainable livelihoods framework**

**Key**

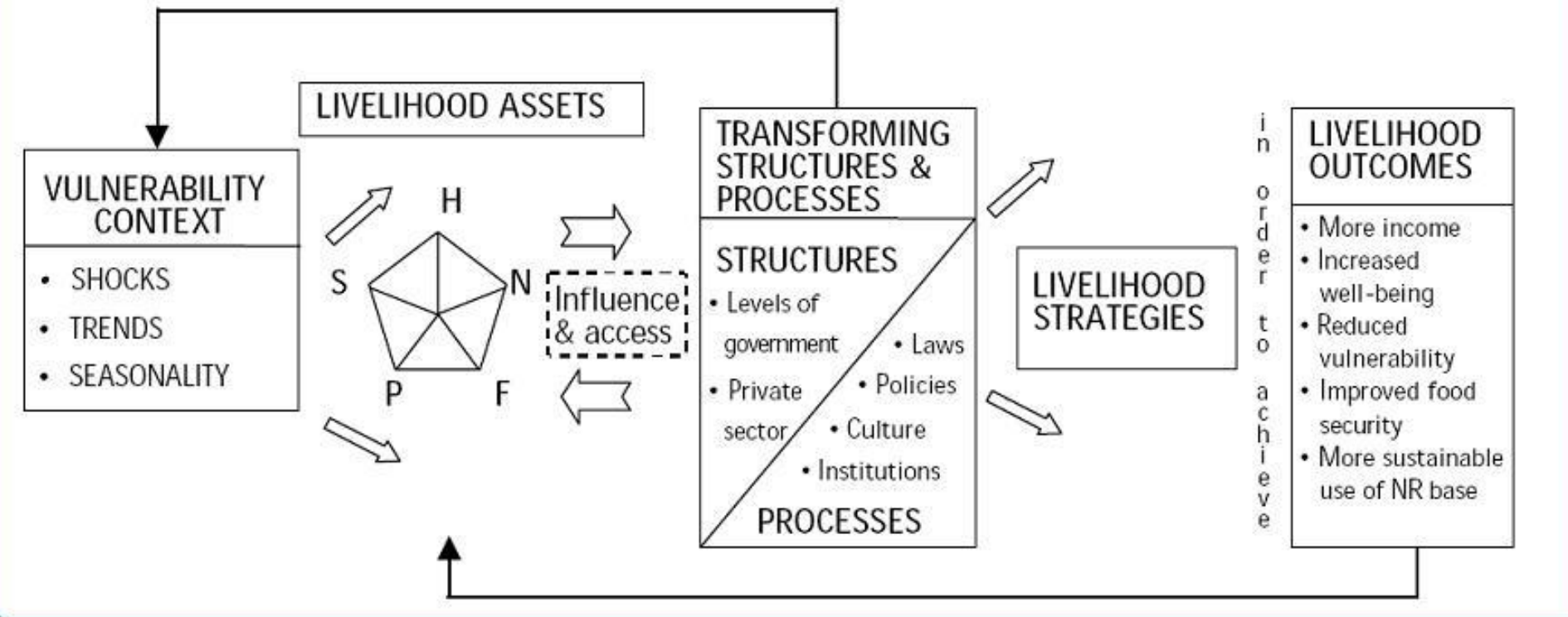
H = Human Capital

N = Natural Capital

F = Financial Capital

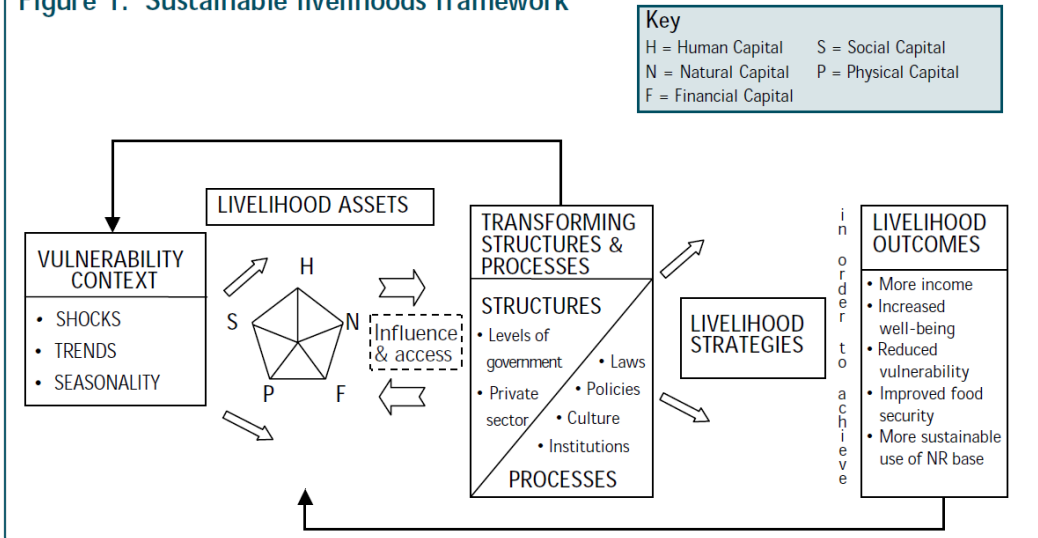
S = Social Capital

P = Physical Capital

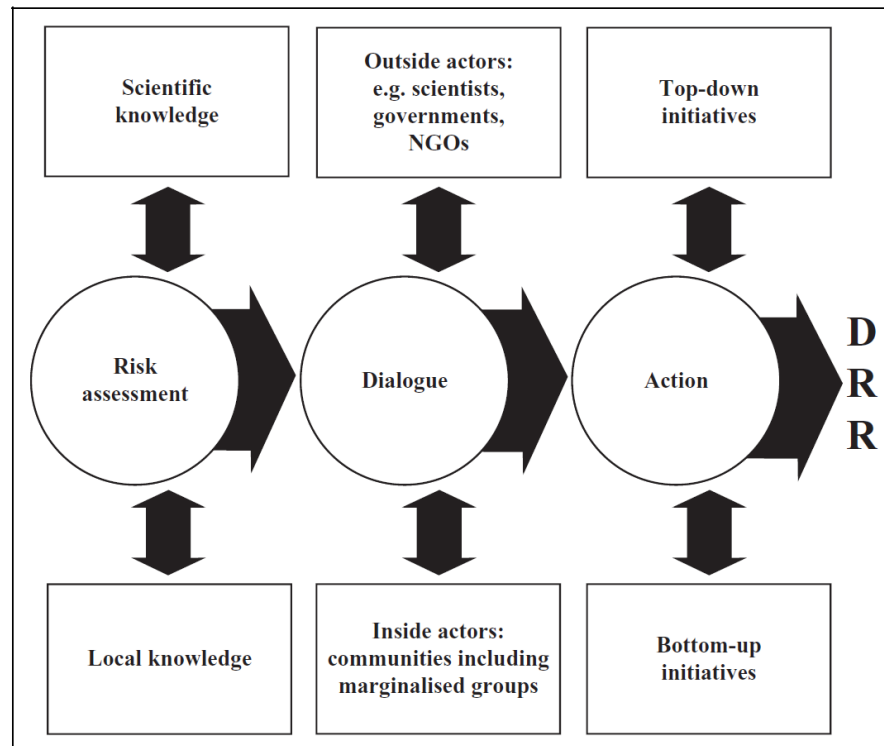


The case of Livelihoods  
(Group Work)  
SLF (DFID, 1999)

Figure 1. Sustainable livelihoods framework



Roadmap for Integration  
(Gaillard and Mercer 2012)





**Figure 9.2 Components of resilient livelihoods**



# Social Interfaces (Norman Long 2001)

- *Relationships between Livelihood and Housing*
- *Conflicts versus negotiations*
- *Clash of cultural paradigms*
- *Multiple Discourses*



# Addressing Relocation and Livelihoods: Rural-Urban

- Understanding how urban markets work?
- Selecting the right mode of operations
  - Cash transfer programming
  - Protective, Preventive or Promotional Livelihood measures or strategies
  - Balancing investments (Infrastructure may always be priority)

Source: [https://www.urd.org/IMG/pdf/Urban\\_Livelihoods\\_Recovery\\_Port-au-Prince.pdf](https://www.urd.org/IMG/pdf/Urban_Livelihoods_Recovery_Port-au-Prince.pdf)

# The Planning Process

- Who is involved?
- Strategies and Objectives
- Guiding principles
- Coordination is key
- How much planning can you do?
  - Detailed versus comprehensive
  - Assessments and LRRD
  - Management Structures
  - Adapting Plans
  - Learning from the past (using old institutions versus creating new ones... look at the case of Gujarat in India)



# Strategic Planning

- Diverse Stakeholders
- Addressing Structural and Non-Structural Issues
- Built Environment versus Social Environment
  - Infrastructure does not mean only buildings
- Infrastructure Planning
- The Case of George, South Africa\*

\*

Raju and Van Niekerk (2013) Intra-governmental coordination for sustainable disaster recovery: A case-study of the Eden District Municipality, South Africa, IJDRR

# A Transformative Agenda

- “....the need to pursue policies that relate to power imbalances in society that encourage, create and sustain vulnerabilities”

Devereux, Stephen and Rachel Sabates-Wheeler (2004), “Transformative social protection”, IDS Working Paper 232, Brighton, 36 pages.

“... changes to entrenched systems maintained and protected by powerful interests.”

O’Brien, Karen (2011), “Global environmental change II: from adaptation to deliberate transformation”, Progress in Human Geography (online before print), pages 1–10

# Disasters therefore...

- Justice and Human Rights
- Better Environmental Planning
- Working with deprivation and Urban Poverty
- Addressing Failed Development

# What should COVID-19 recovery look like?

## Speakers



**Jemilah Mahmood**

Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of  
Malaysia on Public Health



**Ricardo Mena**

Director, United Nations Office for  
Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

**25<sup>th</sup> September 2020**  
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