

ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Investing in Community-Led Strategies for Climate and Disaster Resilience

Climate change and disaster risk pose serious threats to inclusive sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. It is at the local level that the adverse effects of climate change and disasters are most felt through loss of lives, assets, livelihoods and well-being. Risks are likely to increase in magnitude and complexity when combined with other developmental challenges such as growing inequality, continuing environmental degradation, inadequate social services, and infrastructure deficits. Unless climate change and disaster risks are effectively managed, their impact will continue to undermine efforts to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable growth. Addressing these risks will require investments that build resilience by targeting the most vulnerable; tapping local knowledge, capacities, and resources; and focusing on a combination of structural and nonstructural measures to produce multiple benefits over different time frames. Community-based organizations (CBOs) are already leading resilience-building initiatives, which means partnerships with local communities must be the cornerstone of solutions.

It is against this backdrop that this document highlights four community-led strategies in which governments and their development partners—international finance institutions (IFIs) in the Asia-Pacific region in particular—should invest to strengthen their efforts to advance climate and disaster resilient development. While these strategies serve to build more resilient communities, embedded within these strategies is an underlying theme of empowering marginalized populations, especially women, therefore contributing to the transformative agenda set out in global policy frameworks: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030), New Urban Agenda, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The following four recommendations emerged from community-led strategies for resilience and point to specific ways in which governments and their partners can collaborate with communities to accelerate climate and disaster resilient development. These recommendations, however, are informed by two underlying principles:

- » disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation approaches must be aligned with the principles of good governance; and
- » communities should be perceived not merely as victims of climate change and disasters, but as drivers of resilience.

Community Resilience Strategy 1

Communities use risk mapping as entry points to address climate and disaster resilience priorities



Why invest in this strategy

Community-led risk mapping can improve the design of investment projects focused on communities by identifying localized, underlying drivers of risk.

Community-led risk mapping enables communities to analyze, prioritize, build consensus on their disaster and climate resilience priorities, leading to community action and advocacy.

How governments and their development partners can invest in this strategy

Institutionalize community-led risk mapping as part of project preparatory processes in investments focusing directly on community infrastructure, social services and local development.

Community Resilience Strategy 2

Communities partner with government to enhance the delivery of social protection programs



Why invest in this strategy

CBO-led beneficiary identification can reduce targeting errors in social protection programs. Real-time changes in household profiles can be fed into day-to-day program decision making and processes can be fine-tuned to consider local changes.

Partnerships with government credible partners directing resources to those most in need of assistance.

How governments and their development partners can invest in this strategy

Promote government partnerships with CBOs in the delivery of social protection programs to strengthen resilience.

Identify champions within government to promote and publicize partnerships with communities.

Community Resilience Strategy 3

Communities influence decentralized decision making to drive demand for climate and disaster resilient development



Why invest in this strategy

Communities learn to influence decentralized decision-making systems to realize resilience building opportunities.

Community engagement in local planning promotes transparent, accountable, and responsive local governance.

How governments and their development partners can invest in this strategy

Finance local capacity building for both communities and local government, as part of decentralization reforms.

Facilitate dialogue between local government and communities.

Community Resilience Strategy 4

Direct access to flexible finance enables communities to attract government support in scaling up community-driven climate and disaster resilience



Why invest in this strategy

Flexible finance to communities enables them to lead resilience practices that bundle integrated strategies that reduce multiple vulnerabilities.

Communities can leverage these resources to expand their work and gain government support.

How governments and their development partners can invest in this strategy

Provide communities with access to untied finance to address underlying risks that strengthen resilience. This requires:

- incentivizing local impact
- setting aside funds targeting communities
- allocating funds for building financial management capacity
- simplifying financial management systems.