Addressing Resilience in Nepal: Collective Experiences – Day 1, Nov 19, 15:30

***Number of participants***: Full group plenary

Discussion highlights and conclusions

What does resilience require us to do differently?

* Tackling food security isn’t the same as protecting resilient food security – how people can grow/access food in the face of shocks and stresses?

**WHAT** did we learn about approaches and interventions/activities? (all speakers consolidated)

**Question reframed as: WHAT are the most critical contextual factors we must focus on to build resilience in Nepal?**

**Answers: In Nepal, we must consider:**

* Disadvantaged groups, including women and the role of caste
* The role of decentralization / federalism, including an influx of roles and resources at the local level
* Migration, both to urban areas and outside Nepal, including opportunities to leverage the skills of returning migrants
* The capacities of local partners, market actors and other community members
* Every approach must be very contextual
* Power structures and dynamics – sometimes it’s overt and sometimes not (ex. Dalit women might assume the role of group representative but not really be able to speak up in meetings when higher caste members or men are present)
* Health shocks and other idiosyncratic shocks at a household level

What did we learn about **HOW** to implement and manage projects? (all speakers consolidated)

**Question reframed by moderator as:** Which programmatic approaches and management models are most critical for advancing resilience in Nepal?

**Answers: In Nepal, our programmatic approaches and management models should include:**

* Increasing government’s capacity to manage decentralization
* Focus on how sequencing, layering and integration can be most efficacious in a given area
* Ongoing assessments that are part of the work culture (not a one-off exercise)
* Recognition of the huge diversity in Nepal (of ecosystems, types of shocks and stresses, and people), which requires very localized approach in every single place
* High degree of investment in building capacity of local partners and providing them with adequate resilience materials b/c we depend on them to translate this complex work into practical action at very local level
* Appropriate budget, personnel hiring procedures, etc. – We must work v differently here than in other contexts as a result of the great diversity
* Strong coordination with multiple development actors at the local level to ensure commitments and understanding around resilience, and a cohesive approach
* Building bonding and linking social capital, with particular attention to financial services and the role of insurance for health, crops, livestock
* Inclusive, transparent, participatory co-creation processes with donors as well as government, private sector, community members
* Better understanding and measurement of idiosyncratic shocks, especially health shocks (some of the largest constraints to HH’s ability to advance well-being)

What do we RECOMMEND based on our learning (WHAT and HOW)? (all speakers consolidated)

* Doubling down on engagement with and understanding of disadvantages groups, particularly how they are affected by health shocks
* Adopting very localized approaches – informed by ongoing assessments - and creating an enabling environment for local partners, government actors, market actors to meaningfully inform and participate in program activities

Key learnings (3-5) – *to be elicited by moderator during the last few minutes of the session*

* There’s no cookie cutter approach in Nepal! Our resilience approaches must be hyper-localized and contextualized, with meaningful engagement with local partners. This can be challenging (as illustrated in previous sessions today) but is necessary for achieving resilient food security
* We must look wider than programmatic successes, and consider how we can achieve greater impacts on systemic issues around marginalization, resource access, gender/cast inequities, role of government



* Pyschosocial characteristics, such as confidence, aspirational behavior, etc. is critical to sustaining food security in the face of shocks and stresses