

SOCIAL CAPITAL

Examining Comparative Research on What it Means for Resilience

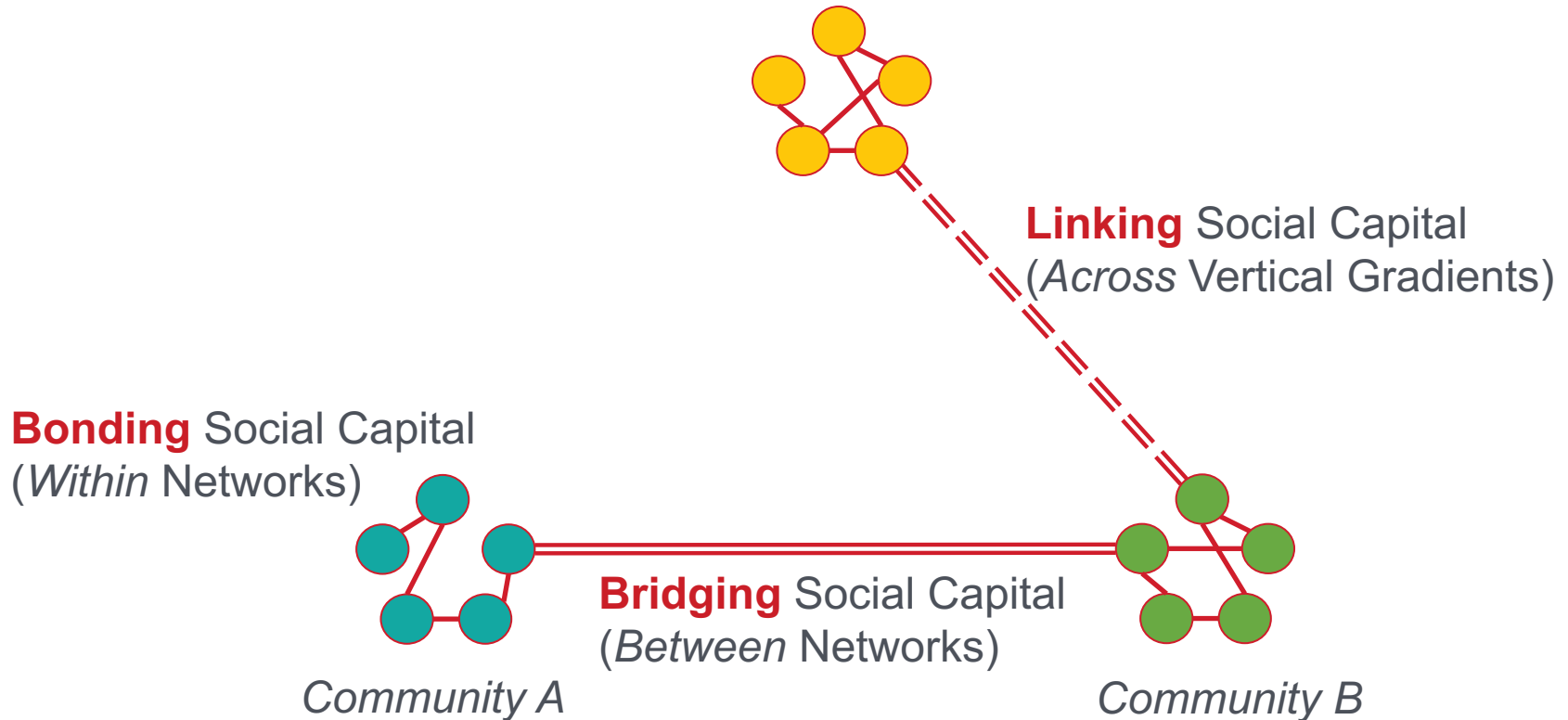
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Regional Resilience Director

SOCIAL CAPITAL: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR RESILIENCE?

Social Capital as a Resilience Capacity

Gov't Rep, NGO, or authority figures



SOCIAL CAPITAL: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR RESILIENCE?

Mercy Corps' Research

EAST AFRICA



Mercy Corps

PATHWAYS FROM PEACE TO RESILIENCE:

Evidence from the Greater Horn of Africa on the Links between Conflict Management and Resilience to Food Security Shocks
September 2015



SOMALIA (2013)



Mercy Corps

WHAT REALLY MATTERS FOR RESILIENCE?

Exploratory Evidence on the Determinants of Resilience to Food Security Shocks in Southern Somalia
October 2013

The renewed commitment among humanitarian and development actors to strengthening resilience of populations and regions experiencing recurrent crisis is much welcomed. However, the evidence base for informing resilience programming remains woefully thin. Of the multiple frameworks that have been developed to clarify the concept of resilience, few provide insight into what needs to be done differently to enhance it. As a result of the conceptual ambiguity and lack of evidence, nearly any intervention can currently be relabeled as 'resilience building'. If the major investments to strengthen resilience are to be most effective, they must be informed by more rigorous and critical analysis of what contributes to resilience, for whom, and to what?

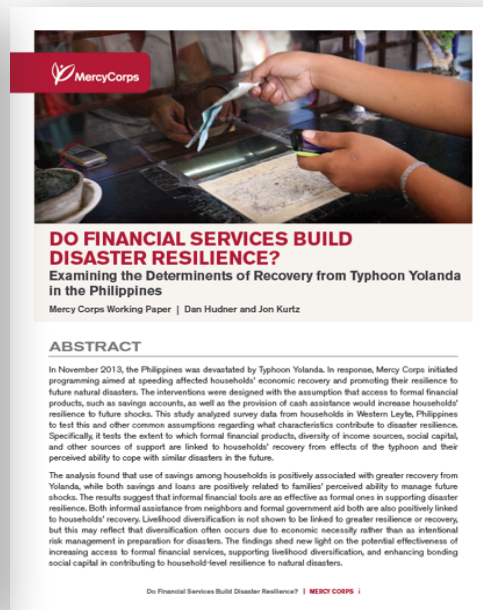
Mercy Corps, in partnership with TANGO International and other agencies, is working to generate this understanding through program research and evaluation. This research brief presents findings on resilience to food security shocks in Southern Somalia. The study set out to empirically test commonly held assumptions about which characteristics, capacities, and conditions were most strongly linked to household resilience in the face of Somalia's complex political, ecological, and humanitarian crisis in 2010-2011. The results provide unique insights into a critical policy question: **What specific set of factors, if reinforced, are most likely to strengthen households' resilience to major food security shocks in Southern Somalia and similar contexts?**

Key Results and Recommendations

- **Women's participation matters.** Female involvement in household decision making was strongly linked with greater household dietary diversity and less distressful coping in the face of the complex crisis. This suggests that resilience programming should consider women as untapped adaptive capacity, rather than only as a vulnerable group, and should seek to strengthen female engagement in productive decisions.
- **Intra-kin social networks make a difference:** Households with greater social and economic interaction across kin lines were more likely to maintain food security through the crisis, or recover quickly afterwards. To build resilience, humanitarian and development interventions must go beyond providing material support, and do more to strengthen the forms of social capital that people draw on to cope with complex shocks.
- **Livelihood diversity is not enough:** Contrary to expectations, having multiple household income sources was not strongly linked to greater resilience to food security shocks. To contribute to resilience, livelihood diversification efforts need to go beyond increasing the number of income sources to promote more independent income sources, which spread risk across different types of hazards.

What Really Matters for Resilience? Exploratory Evidence from Southern Somalia | MERCY CORPS |

PHILIPPINES (2014)



Mercy Corps

DO FINANCIAL SERVICES BUILD DISASTER RESILIENCE?

Examining the Determinants of Recovery from Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines
Mercy Corps Working Paper | Dan Hudner and Jon Kurtz

ABSTRACT

In November 2013, the Philippines was devastated by Typhoon Yolanda. In response, Mercy Corps initiated programming aimed at speeding affected households' economic recovery and promoting their resilience to future natural disasters. The interventions were designed with the assumption that access to formal financial products, such as savings accounts, as well as the provision of cash assistance would increase households' resilience to future shocks. This study analyzed survey data from households in Western Leyte, Philippines to test this and other common assumptions regarding what characteristics contribute to disaster resilience. Specifically, it tests the extent to which formal financial products, diversity of income sources, social capital, and other sources of support are linked to households' recovery from effects of the typhoon and their perceived ability to cope with similar disasters in the future.

The analysis found that use of savings among households is positively associated with greater recovery from Yolanda, while both savings and loans are positively related to families' perceived ability to manage future shocks. The results suggest that informal financial tools are as effective as formal ones in supporting disaster resilience. Both informal assistance from neighbors and formal government aid both are also positively linked to households' recovery. Livelihood diversification is not shown to be linked to greater resilience or recovery, but this may reflect that diversification often occurs due to economic necessity rather than as intentional risk management in preparation for disasters. The findings shed new light on the potential effectiveness of increasing access to formal financial services, supporting livelihood diversification, and enhancing bonding social capital in contributing to household-level resilience to natural disasters.

Do Financial Services Build Disaster Resilience? | MERCY CORPS |

NEPAL (2015)



Mercy Corps

WHAT NEXT FOR NEPAL?

Evidence of What Matters for Building Resilience After the Gorkha Earthquake
November 2015

FOR THESE AND OTHER MERCY CORPS RESEARCH ON RESILIENCE, PLEASE VISIT: MERCYCORPS.ORG/RESILIENCE



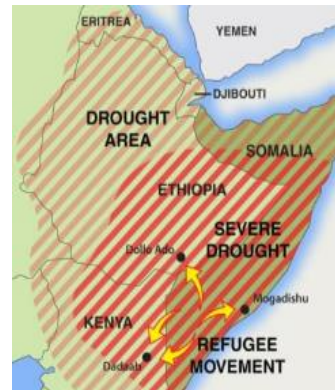
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How we Measure Resilience

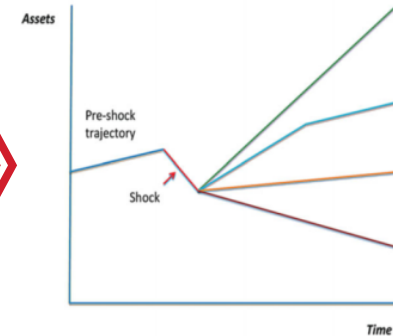
A set of capacities...



used in connection with shocks / stresses...

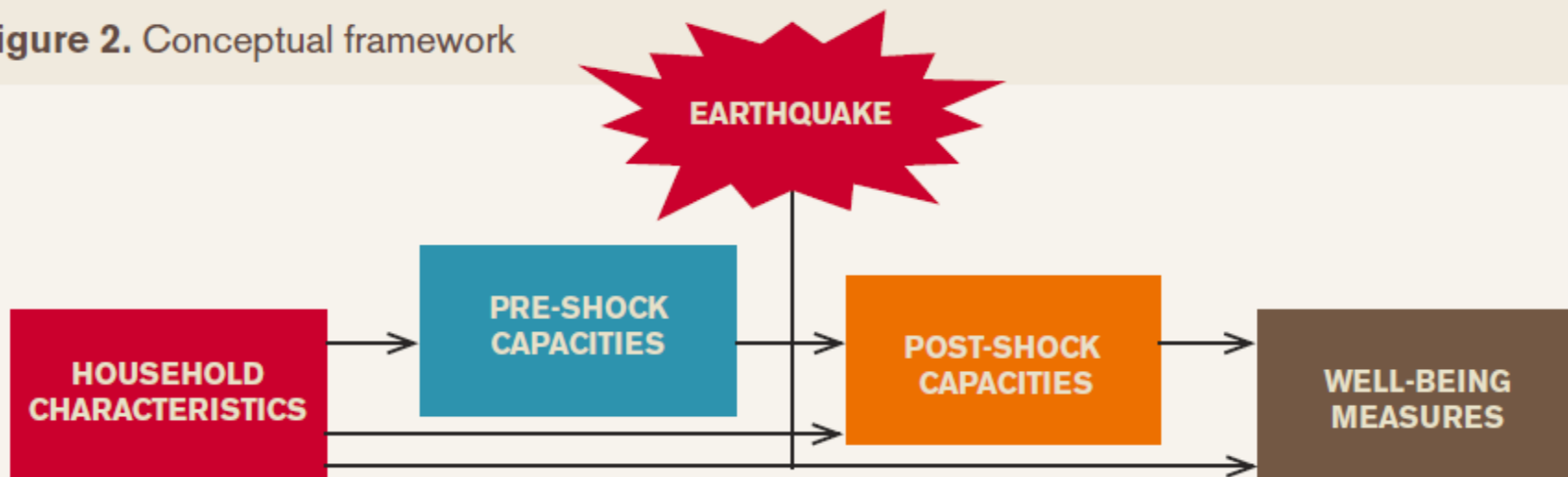


indexed to development outcomes.



Nepal (2015 Earthquake)

Figure 2. Conceptual framework



- Caste
- Gender of head of household
- Age of head of household
- Dependency ratio (adults to children)
- Pre-earthquake poverty status

- Disaster preparedness
- Social identity and networks
- Access to financial services
- Access to economic options

- Disaster response
- Drawing on social networks
- Drawing on financial resources
- Drawing on economic options

- Post-shock food consumption
- Maintaining or Regaining Livelihood sources
- Shelter / housing conditions
- Investment in productive assets
- Likelihood of poverty

Nepal measures...

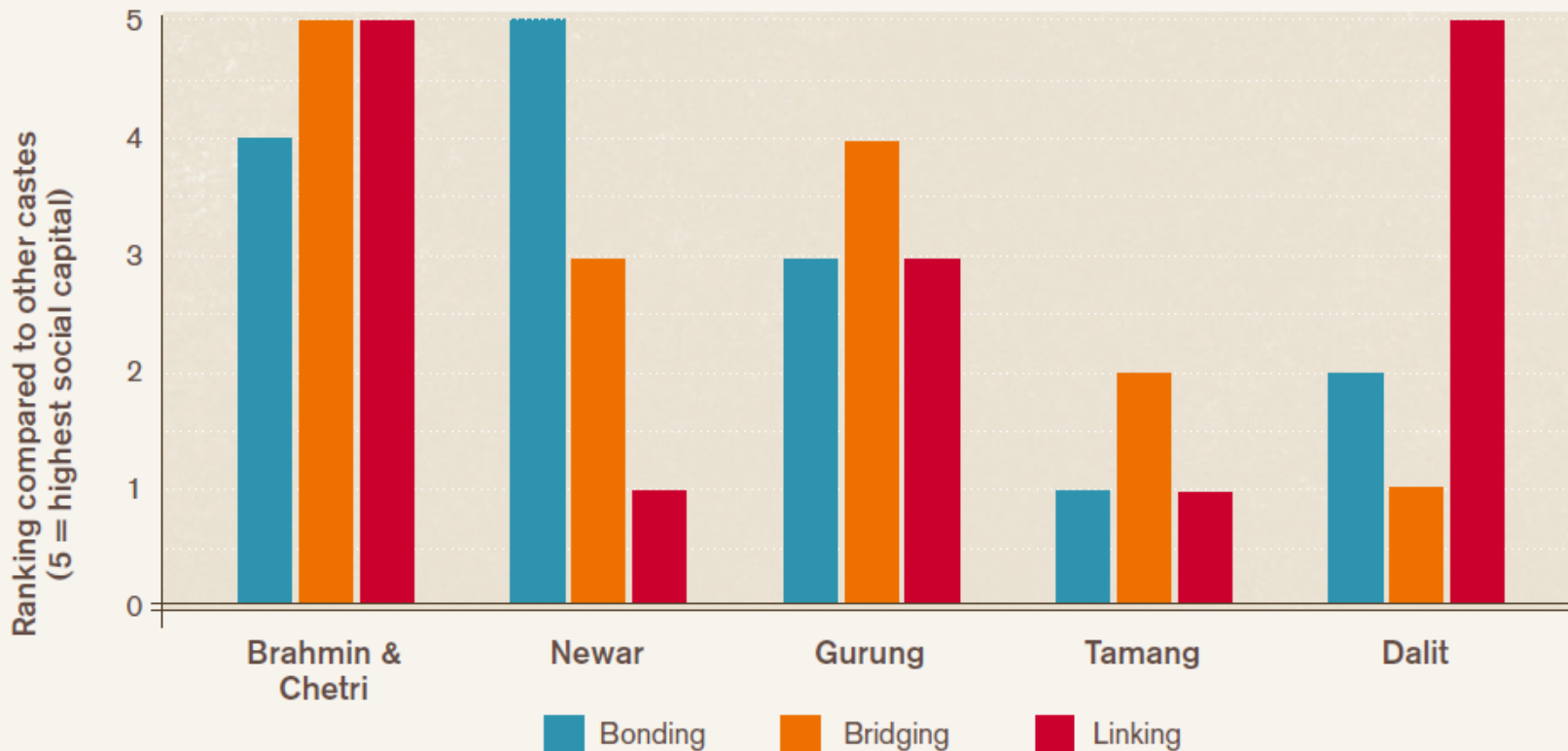
	Pre-Shock	Post-Shock
BONDING	perceived ability to rely on members of own caste for help	
BRIDGING	perceived ability to rely on members of other castes to help	
LINKING	perceived support from and influence over local government officials <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ward Citizen forum solved problems▪ Community groups able to influence Ward Citizen Forum▪ VDC secretary worked to solve problems	

Different types of social capital mattered...

	Round 1: 10 wks after Earthquake		Round 2: 1 year after Earthquake	
	Pre-EQ	Post-EQ	Pre-EQ	Post-EQ
Intra-Caste bonding	Diet + Assets -	Diet (+)	Poverty +	Poverty +
Bridge to Other Castes	Diet --- Ability to maintain/regain livelihoods ---		Diet, + Livelihoods +	
Links with Government	Shelter + Diet ---	CSI, Diet ---		

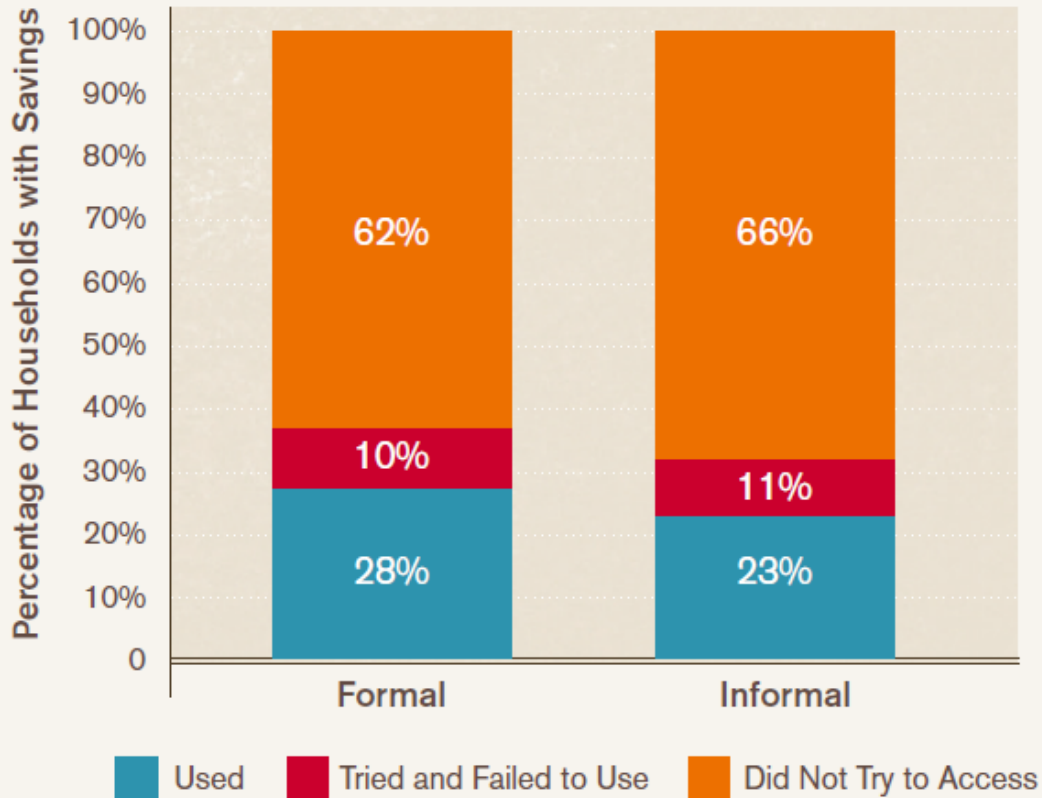
Inter-caste differences...

Figure 9. Social Capital Rankings, by Caste



Social Capital through VSLAs...

Figure 11. Use of Savings Post-Earthquake



Informal savings led to:

**Improved Shelter
(+++)**

**Lower Likelihood of
Poverty (+++)**

**Better Diet one year
later (+)**

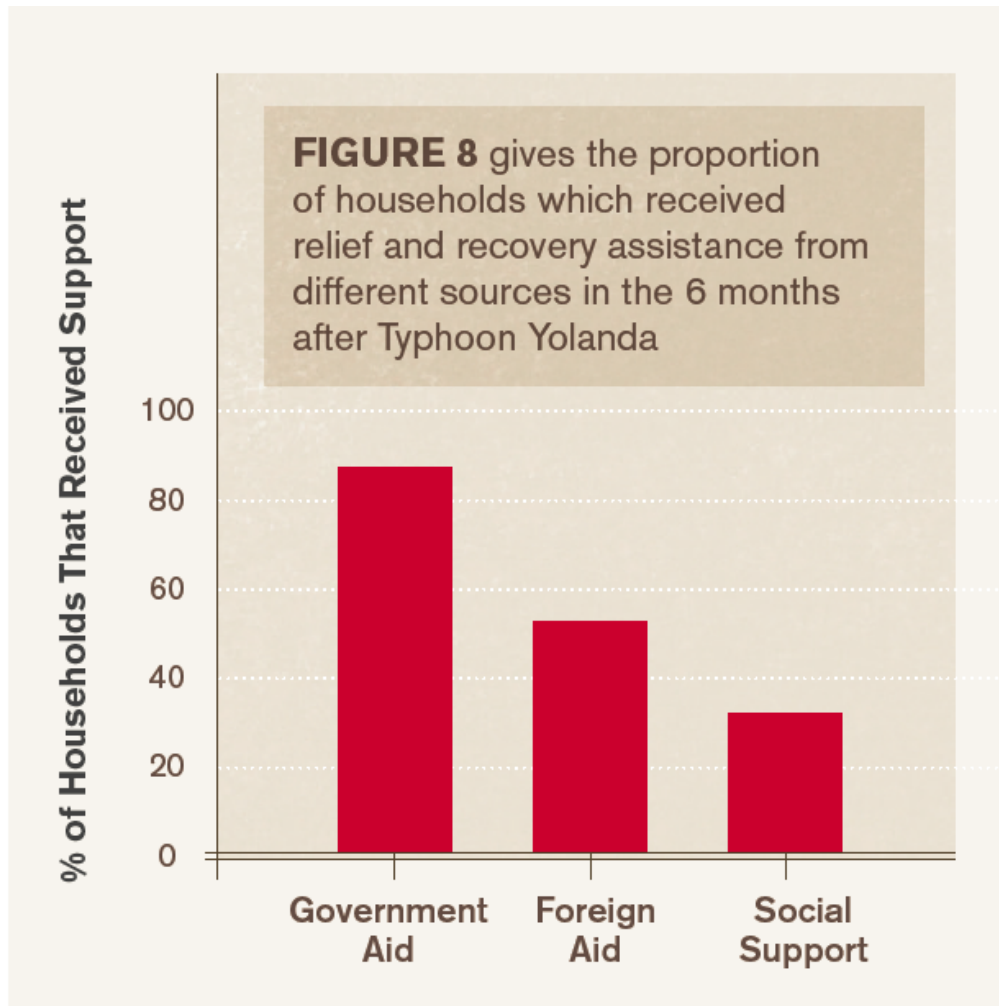
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PHILLIPINES Haiyan 2014



SOCIAL CAPITAL: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR RESILIENCE?

Philippines: Social Capital as Ability to Receive Assistance



Bonding social capital had mixed results, but linking was positive.

	Perceived Economic Resilience Index (Log)	Perceived Ability to Cope with a Major Natural Disaster	Coping Strategies Index (Log)	Reported Recovery from Yolanda
Savings, Formal			3.3% ^{P*}	
Savings, Informal	8.1% ^P	3.13 ^P	1.9% ^P	2.12 ^P
Loans, Formal	7.4%	1.70		
Loans, Informal	9.3% ^P			1.31 ^{P*}
Bank Account				
Insurance	-4.9%	0.73 ^P		
Financial Literacy Score			-1.1%	0.86
Diverse Income Sources	-9.5%		-2.4%	
Relied on Community Support		2.08	-3.8%	
Aid from Philippine Government	13.6%		3.9%	
Aid from Foreign Source				



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Comparisons of Acute Disasters with Slow Onset and Low intensity Conflict



Outcomes from Bonding

› Evidence for bonding social capital to contribute to resilience is **strong**

Uganda

In low-intensity conflict

- More food secure

Nepal

Shortly after an acute disaster

- More food secure
- Investing in productive assets
- Better shelter quality

Philippines

Six months after an acute disaster

- Less food secure at first, then as recovery took hold more food secure
- Believed they were better able to cope with a disaster



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Outcomes from Bridging

› Evidence for bridging social capital to contribute to resilience is, for the most part, **weak**

Uganda *Low-intensity conflict* • Less food secure

Somalia *After a slow-onset disaster, conflict* • More food secure

Nepal *Shortly after an acute disaster* • Less food secure
• Less likely to maintain or regain livelihood



Outcomes from Linking

› Evidence for linking social capital to contribute to resilience is **mixed**

Uganda *Low-intensity conflict* • More food secure

Somalia *After a slow-onset disaster, conflict* • More food secure

Nepal *Shortly after an acute disaster* • Less food secure

Philippines *Six months after an acute disaster* • More food secure
• Believed they can cope with future shocks



Takeaways

- › Bonding social capital appears to play an important role in promoting resilience during crises and in stressed environments across study sites –
- › The importance of bonding social capital may not necessarily be eroded over time - Nepal
- › Bridging and Linking Social capital have mixed results: context, actors, type of relationships matter and interventions need to be tailored
- › Need to examine inequalities accessing and drawing on social capital – particularly in ability to cope and adapt
- › Need more longitudinal data to see how social capital performs over time



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