

RESILIENCE CAPACITIES AND THE GENDER AGENDA: MOVING TOWARDS TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

TOPS Knowledge and Learning
Event

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Resilience is the path, not the destination.

- Resilience is the means of achieving stability for well-being outcomes, but it is not an outcome on its own.
- What are examples of well-being outcomes?
 - Gender equality
 - Food security
 - Financial security
 - Nutritional security
 - Environmental security
 - Habitat security

Resilience

- a set of capacities that enable households and communities to effectively function in the face of shocks and stressors and still meet a set of well-being outcomes.

Resilient to ???????

- Must be resilient to something...
- SHOCKS AND STRESSORS
 - Impact of natural hazards
 - Global food price volatility
 - Impact of oil spills or over-extraction of resources
 - Changing climatic conditions
 - Disease: human, animal, crop
 - Death or job loss
 - A tongue-lashing from a volatile boss

Resilience capacities

- **Absorptive capacity:** The ability to minimize exposure/sensitivity to shocks and stressors through preventative measures and appropriate coping strategies to avoid permanent, negative impacts
- **Adaptive capacity:** the ability to make proactive, informed choices and changes in livelihood strategies in response to longer-term social, economic, and environmental change.
- **Transformative capacity:** The governance mechanisms, policies/regulations, cultural and gender norms, infrastructure, community networks, and formal and informal social protection mechanisms that constitute the enabling environment for systemic change

Absorptive Capacity - the ability to manage shocks or stressors in the short term.

What influences absorptive capacity?

- Supportive economic factors (assets holdings, cash savings, and hazard insurance)
- Bonding social capital
- Access to informal safety nets
- Availability of a disaster preparedness and mitigation program
- How do gender norms and roles influence absorptive capacities?

Absorptive Capacity - the ability to manage shocks or stressors in the short term.

- How do gender norms and roles influence absorptive capacities?
 - Women have low rates of ownership and/or control over assets and resources, including equipment/ machines and land. Bangladesh: limited property and inheritance rights.
 - In some situations, men may have less access to informal safety nets than women (prevalence of female-centered VSLs, SACCOs, ROSCOs, burial groups, etc.)
 - In Bangladesh, women are typically more vulnerable to hazards than men. Restricted mobility (safety concerns, sari) ; Restricted access to early warning information.
 - Bangladesh: Inequity in intra-household food distribution > decreased resilience to health or food security shocks/ stressors.

Adaptive Capacity – the ability to make proactive, informed choices in response to longer-term social, economic, and environmental change

What influences adaptive capacity?

- exposure to information; human capital
- social capital (bridging and linking),
- economic factors: livelihood and risk diversification, access to financial resources, asset ownership (and quality of assets ! e.g, land).

How do gender norms and roles influence adaptive capacities?

Adaptive Capacity – the ability to make proactive, informed choices in response to longer-term social, economic, and environmental change

How do gender norms and roles influence adaptive capacities?

- Women's limited access to and use of credit
- Women's mobility restrictions limits exposure to information
- Women's reproductive work restricts time available for production – may affect ability to adopt NRM- CSA practices
- Women's limited ownership of and decision-making capacity for productive assets
- Strong bonding social capital may increase women's adaptation; limited linking social capital may limit adaptation.
- Confidence level and limited aspiration; acceptance of current role

Transformative Capacity -systemic changes that enable more lasting resilience to shocks and stressors

What influences transformative capacity?

- Enabling governance mechanisms, policies/ regulations; enabling cultural and gendered norms
- Access to key resources that are part of the wider system in which households communities are embedded: markets, infrastructure, basic services, including livestock services, and communal natural resources.
 - Institutional inclusivity: men, women, disadvantaged groups
 - Social capital that draws on relationships with entities outside of households' communities (bridging / linking).
 - Availability of formal safety nets in communities
- How do gender norms and roles influence transformative capacities?

Transformative Capacity -systemic changes that enable more lasting resilience to shocks and stressors

- How do gender norms and roles influence transformative capacities?
 - Women’s limited participation in government and decision-making bodies
 - Not culturally-accepted
 - Women’s self-esteem and confidence
 - BNG- women’s limited mobility influences access to basic services and infrastructure
 - BNG: Women’s “empowerment” not accepted in many households, communities, or in larger sphere

Resilience capacities, part II

- Capacities alone are not enough - people must put them to use.
- **What influences whether people effectively use capacities?**
- **Attitude, aspiration, motivation**
 - **Sense of individual power:** A sense of having power to enact change as an individual rather than being subject to the decisions of more powerful people, absence of fatalism-the sense of being powerless to enact change and that one has no control over life's events
 - **Aspirations:** Households' aspirations and confidence to adapt in the face of change.
 - Exposure to alternatives to the status quo: The degree to which a person has been exposed to alternative ways of life than one's own
 - **Perceived risk/ opportunity cost**

Small Group Activity

- Break into 4-5 groups (balance organizational representation and gender)
- As a group, assign the gender-focused initiatives in your package to one or more resilience capacity on the paper matrix. *If you need to assign to more than one capacity, duplicate by hand-writing on a new card.*
- Assign an indicator to measure gender resilience for as many activities as possible in the time limit. *Examples are provided in your packet, but you'll need to come up with more specific indicators to match each initiative.*
- Be prepared to share 5 key points from your discussion in plenary

Sample Indicators of Resilience Capacity

Household resilience to shocks and stressors

Absorptive Capacity

- Household perceived ability to recover from shocks
- Social capital (bonding)
- Access to informal community safety nets
- Asset ownership
- Cash savings
- Availability of hazard insurance
- Availability of a disaster preparedness and mitigation program

Adaptive Capacity

- Household aspirations and confidence to adapt
- Exposure to information
- Human capital (knowledge, skills)
- Social capital (bridging and linking)
- Diversity of livelihoods
- Access to financial resources
- Asset ownership
- Gender-equitable decision making

Transformative Capacity

- Availability of formal safety nets in communities
- Access to markets
- Access to infrastructure
- Access to basic services
- Access to livestock services
- Access to communal natural resources
- Social capital (bridging and linking)
- Inclusivity of institutions
- Gender-equitable decision making