8th International Conference on Building Resilience, 14-16 November 2018, Lisbon

Considering the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 we expect submissions to be aligned, in particular, with priority 3 ″Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience″.

Track: **3l**

Disaster Risk Reduction through communities' participation: gender, education, religion, and culture

Description of Track Scope

The above quotation demonstrates the disjuncture between external humanitarian and research agencies, responding to humanitarian crises or learning about it, and local communities. It is the affected communities themselves that are always the first responders to disasters. Disasters affecting most of these communities do not occur in isolation; instead affected societies must deal with the cumulative impact of conflicts, hazards and uneven development. Sri Lanka suffered the devastating 2004 tsunami whilst there was an ongoing civil war; South Sudan and Somalia face annual droughts and floods amidst ongoing violence and displacement; and Bangladesh has suffered generations of inter-communal violence whilst also experiencing major cyclones and floods. Most of these countries also face an increasing risk of disasters as a result of climate change and increased climatic variability.

It is through their experiences however, that many communities have developed pragmatic mechanisms to deal with uncertainties and dangers produced by disasters. Disasters are devastating for affected communities, but through each experience

communities gain more knowledge and understanding, and this informs how they deal with and respond to future disasters. This community knowledge is usually passed from generation to generation.

Goals

There are many articles, frameworks and policy documents on community engagement: it is widely acknowledged that Sustainable Development Goals can only be delivered if communities are engaged in a meaningful way; Sendai Framework for Action acknowledges that the impact of disasters is mostly felt at a local and community level and thus highlights that 'it is necessary to empower local authorities and local communities to reduce disaster risk'; the Paris Agreement also emphasises the importance of including 'local communities in global climate action and support the inclusion of their knowledge systems in scaling up adaptation and resilience'. Despite these, most post-intervention disaster evaluations and reports highlight that local communities and their efforts and abilities remain marginalised.

Themes

This call is inviting paper submissions that demonstrate the roles and responses of disaster affected communities in preparing and responding to disaster risks, and in particular how initiatives in gender, education, religion and culture promote disaster risk reduction and effective disaster responses.

Deadline

Abstract submissions close 15 April 2018, 12PM, GMT + 1,00 TIME.

For more information and online submission, please visit buildresilience.org/2018

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