Climate Change Resilience: an opportunity for reducing inequalities
Chapter II

Climate Change and Inequality Nexus
Agenda

- Social impact of climate change
- Links between climate hazards and inequalities
- Inequalities and exposure to climate hazards
- Inequalities and susceptibility to climate hazards
- Inequalities and the ability to cope and recover
- Policy implications
Social impact of climate change

• Initial focus on the physical impact
• Effects of climate change on poverty and livelihoods
• From poverty and inequality to structural inequalities
• Deficiencies in the current discussion and contribution of the chapter
Links between climate hazards and inequalities

- Structural inequalities
  - Disproportionate loss of assets and income suffered by disadvantaged groups
  - Greater exposure and vulnerability of disadvantaged groups to climate hazards

Climate hazards
Multidimensional channels of inequality

- Inequalities increase the risk of climate hazards
- Role of different types of inequality
  - Economic
  - Political
  - Social
- Different channels of influence of inequality
  - Exposure
  - Susceptibility
  - Coping and recovery ability
Different channels of influence of inequality on disadvantaged groups

Multidimensional Inequality

Greater exposure

Greater susceptibility

Less ability to cope and recover

Disproportionate loss of assets and income and greater inequality
Inequalities and exposure to climate hazards

• The confluence of economic and political factors

• Demographic trends

• Gender and livelihood patterns
Inequalities and susceptibility to climate hazards

- Income, assets, and livelihoods
- Gender and age
- Ethnicity and race
- Susceptibility to health damage
Inequalities and the ability to cope and recover

- Recovery trajectories
- Coping capacity using own resources
- Importance of insurance
- Conflicting choice between human and physical capital
- Diversification capacity and adaptive strategies
- Common property, ecosystems, and social resources
- Role of public resources
Differential rates of recovery from climate disasters of wealthy and poor households

\[ \Delta = \alpha \]

Welfare

Disaster

Time

Wealthy

Poor
Differential rates of recovery from climate disasters of wealthy and poor households

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\Delta = 1.5\alpha
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\[
\Delta = \alpha
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\[
\Delta = 0.25\alpha
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**Policy implications**

- Structural inequalities push people toward greater exposure and susceptibility while lowering their ability to cope with and recover from climate hazards.

- Addressing the root cause of inequalities that aggravate exposure and vulnerability will require a continuum of policies.

- These policies have to be part of a transformative agenda for long-term adaptation and mitigation.

- Policies should aim at strengthening institutions to ensure a greater role for disadvantaged groups.
Thank you

More information: wess.un.org