

Name of Event: [Side Event] Securing Our Common Future - An Integrated Approach

to Resilience

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Organizers: World Vision, World Food Programme, Microensure, Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance (which includes: Oxfam, Save the Children, CARE, World Vision and Overseas Development Institute), Strengthening Climate Resilience (which includes: Institute for Development Studies, Plan International and Christian Aid)

1) Outline

Climate change represents a double challenge for disaster risks: it increases the frequency and intensity of climate-related hazards, and it increases the vulnerability of people by undermining their livelihoods. Both these effects underline the urgent need to integrate the way that climate-related hazards and livelihood vulnerability are dealt with in view of climate change. But making the links between disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development has been constrained by several factors, including the mismatch between institutional – DRR – and grassroots – developmental – priorities, which is often overlooked. Another barrier is different language used among the three disciplines, while these differences mean little at field or village level.

2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations

- There is need for more collaboration and partnership at all levels across the different disciplines even though this may add more complexity and transaction costs. The investment is cost effective over the long term.
- New climate related funding streams are an opportunity, but they need to be flexible to allow integration across disciplines.
- Integrated resilience building interventions need to serve community priorities and allow for community ownership.

3) Conclusions

The impact of climate change both in terms of disaster risk and vulnerability underlines the urgent need to integrate the way that climate-related hazards and livelihood vulnerability are dealt with. This requires moving towards linking the three spheres of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development — including social protection and natural resource management. There already are number of approaches that support such integration. But we urgently need to build the capacity and generate commitment among practitioners, governments and communities to put these approaches into practice.