



United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The UN/ISDR seeks to increase its coordination & commitment to support national and local efforts through policy advocacy, public awareness, information sharing, building partnerships.

Managing disaster risk and building local resilience

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The Aim

The ISDR and ICLEI aim to build disaster resilient communities by promoting **increased awareness of the importance of disaster reduction as an integral component of sustainable development**, with the goal of reducing human, social, economic and environmental losses due to natural hazards and related technological and environmental disasters.

Community Resilience

- Effective action to reduce vulnerability must be community-centred and sensitive to specific local conditions
- Experience with relief efforts following major natural disasters indicates that the relief and reconstruction **efforts of local people and institutions** often are the key determinant of the level of human and developmental costs arising from an extreme event

Two Qualities of a Resilient Community

- The first is its ability to recover or “spring back” in the face of disastrous events and crisis. A resilient community develops capacities to *identify and reduce its vulnerabilities*.
- The second is its ability to *identify and pursue creative opportunities arising from change*. While change may require a crisis response, a resilient community considers not only how to return to its earlier state, but also how to use change to improve itself.

Local Agenda 21

Local Agenda 21 is a participatory process to achieve the goals of Agenda 21 at the local level through the preparation and implementation of a long-term strategic action plan that addresses priority local sustainable-development concerns

A key requirement for local governments undertaking local agenda 21 planning is **strong local leadership**

Added value of adopting Local Agenda 21

- Builds consensus, transparency and partnerships
- Integrates community development with disaster risk reduction
- When disasters occur, the community can react appropriately and minimize the impact
- People have more trust in joint planning and action programmes

Resilience

“As a woman you don’t collapse because the world around you collapses. You keep going”

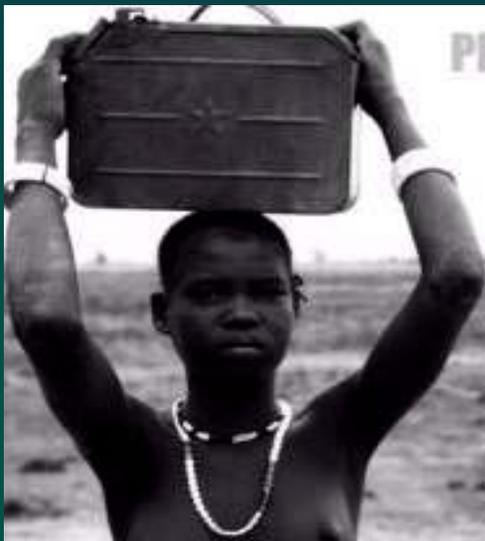
Maathai, 2004



Spiral of Vulnerability



Property Rights
Food insecurity
Economic insecurity
Health insecurity
Physical insecurity



Voice
Action



Access to decisions
Access to law
Empowerment
Economic Security
Education and Training
Food Security
Secure Land Tenure



Leadership of Resilient Communities

Resilient communities require leaders who:

- Put service to the community before personal ambition and gain
- Have the courage to support long term sustainable developments over short term economic advantage
- Select the talent needed irrespective of political allegiance, race, gender or creed
- Do the best they can with what they have and don't wait for someone else to solve the problem

Common Factors for Success

- Resilience = Change + Creativity + Will
- Will = Survival (Instinct)
 - + Drive (Stamina)
 - + Hope/Desire (Fuel)
 - + Motivation (Legs of Reason)
 - + Wish (Consciousness)
 - + Intention (Operationalise)
 - + Resolution (Commitment)

We manifest ourselves in our Actions