



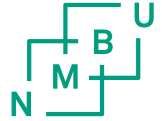
Complex Contexts and Humanitarian Aid: The case of Pakistan

Ingrid Nyborg, Noragric, NMBU
Bahadar Nawab Khattak, CIIT

Humanitarian Policy and Practice in a Changing Climate
International Conference, Oslo
December 1-2, 2016



Introduction



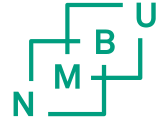
Pakistan hit hard by natural disasters – 16 major disasters since independence in 1947

Pakistan has the one of the lowest contributions to global warming (135th of the world's average of CO₂ emissions)

Ranked as the 12th most vulnerable country to climate change

Most recent disasters: 2005, 2015 earthquakes, 2010, 2011 floods, compounded by conflict and IDP challenges.

To what degree has Pakistan been able to move towards disaster prevention and longer-term adaptation?

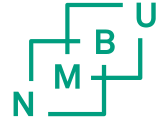


Fieldwork in three areas





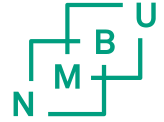
Findings: Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Reduction (DRR)



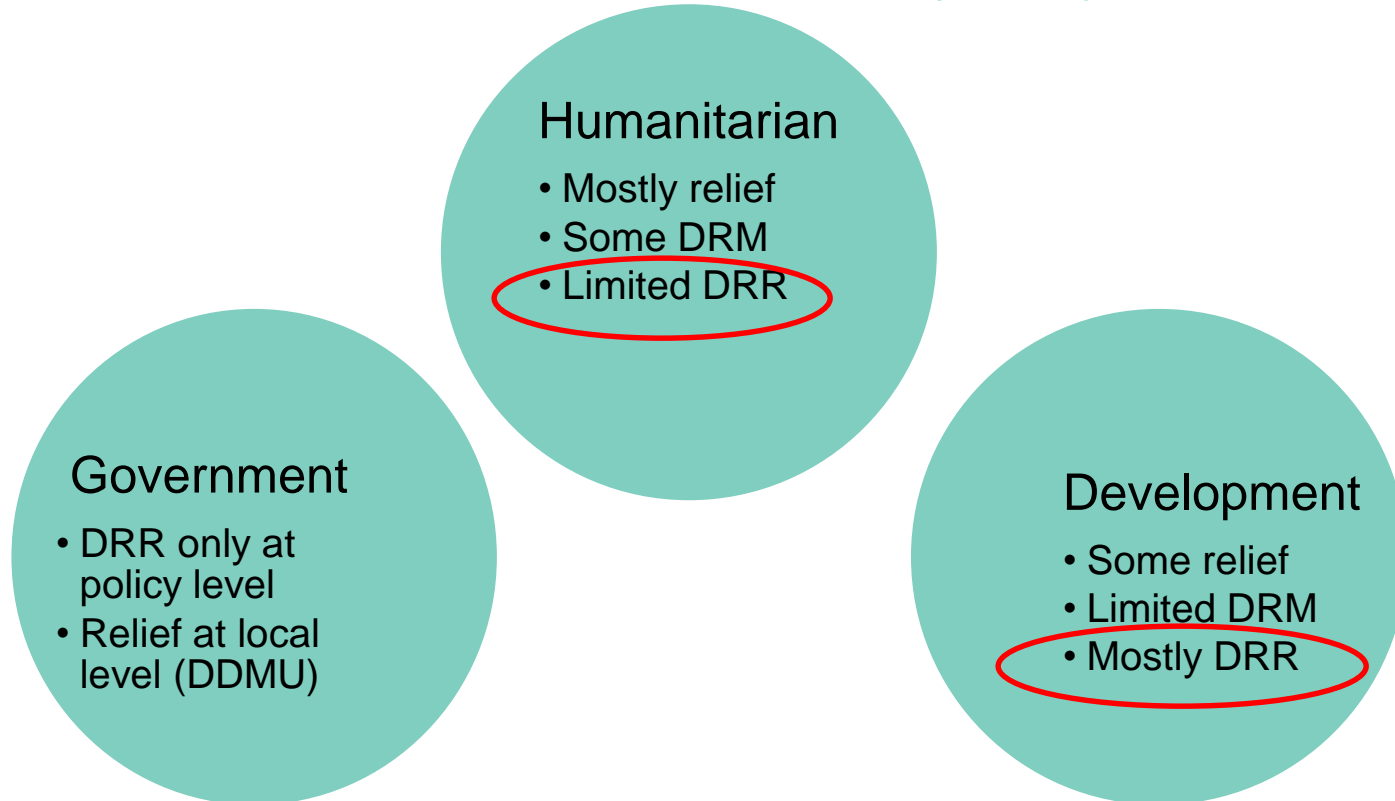
Most humanitarian actors in Pakistan leave after relief, but a small number stay longer, moving into early recovery, rehabilitation and development, **including DRR.**

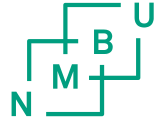
Those doing DRR have a **limited understanding** of how their response can contribute to decreasing vulnerability in the longer term – run risk of ad hoc, patchwork, quick fix interventions..

Most still see longer term work as ‘development’, something which is the responsibility of the government.



Disaster practice is disconnected: Split between Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)



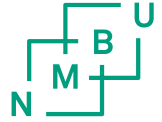


Understanding DRR and Vulnerability

Humanitarian actors, including government, are only looking at **one very limited aspect** of **DRR (mitigation)**, focusing on only one kind of vulnerability: **hazard vulnerability**.



DRR: Addressing two kinds of vulnerability



Hazard Vulnerability

VS

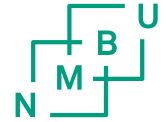
Social Vulnerability

Reducing exposure: preventing hazards reaching populations

Altering the social, political, and economic context, so people can better respond to changing conditions in the short and longer term (adaptation).



Social Vulnerability



The implications of not addressing social vulnerability:

We are not looking at what makes people vulnerable and unable to adapt.

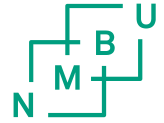
We are not looking at how *different* people are in their ability to adapt

Resources are provided unequally within communities

Lack of attention to different vulnerabilities can lead to resentment, sabotage of projects, conflict, livelihood insecurity.



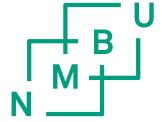
DRR and Social Vulnerability



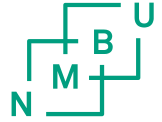
- **What are the drivers of social vulnerability that affect how people can adapt?**
- Unequal power relations, gender relations, ethnic relations
- Unequal access to resources
- Lack of education and health
- Lack on investment in relevant research
- Land tenure issues
- Lack of job skills and livelihood options
- Wider political economy
- Poor governance
- Conflict
-and other **political, social and economic structural factors that systematically hinder people in adjusting their lives in the face changing contexts.**



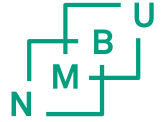
Social Vulnerability



This one conceptual barrier has implications at all levels, and all aspects of humanitarian and development interventions, including DRR and climate change adaptation.



How can humanitarian actors make sense of complex climate and vulnerability contexts in operational decisions before, during and after a crisis?



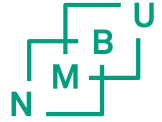
Findings: Assessments

Most assessments in Pakistan focus on identifying physical risks, and avoidance of these, and do not include any information on people's underlying social vulnerability. Narrow focus.

They also do not necessarily include much interaction with villagers, or only certain villagers. These can also be very politicized processes – mistrust of those conducting assessments.



Findings: Assessments



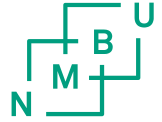
Some assessments show potential, like the Red Cross/Red Crescent Integrated Vulnerability and Capability Assessments (IVCA), take a broader approach, not only hazards

Still are not focused on differences at the local level – remain 'Community' focused.

They uncover the need to address deeper issues, which require collaboration or a shift in the types of support they give.



Findings: Assessments



Recommendation for humanitarian organizations and government: Re-think your assessments:

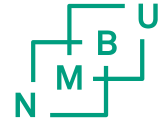
Make them broader to include more aspects of social vulnerability as defined locally, and

Design them to uncover *difference* at the local level (methodology shift)

Use them as a way to embark in discussions with local people, government and other organizations to ensure relevance and coordination.



Knowledge about DRR, risk and vulnerability is disconnected



Researchers

- Knowledge on climate change, vulnerability, adaptation, innovative technologies, policy
- Lack of knowledge on political processes that can lead to change

National Government:

- Knowledge of policy and political processes
- Lack of local knowledge on development practice
- Technical knowledge on climate change, agriculture, water

Local Government:

- Some knowledge of conventional relief and development, and political processes
- Some technical knowledge
- Lack of knowledge on participatory processes and new innovations

Development

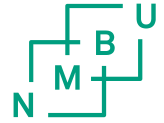
- Knowledge on participation, innovative technologies, and long-term development
- Lack of knowledge on relief and response

Humanitarian:

- Knowledge on logistical aspects of relief, DRM
- Lack of knowledge on participatory processes and development issues



Knowledge about DRR, risk and vulnerability is disconnected



DRR
Forum

National/Provincial
Government

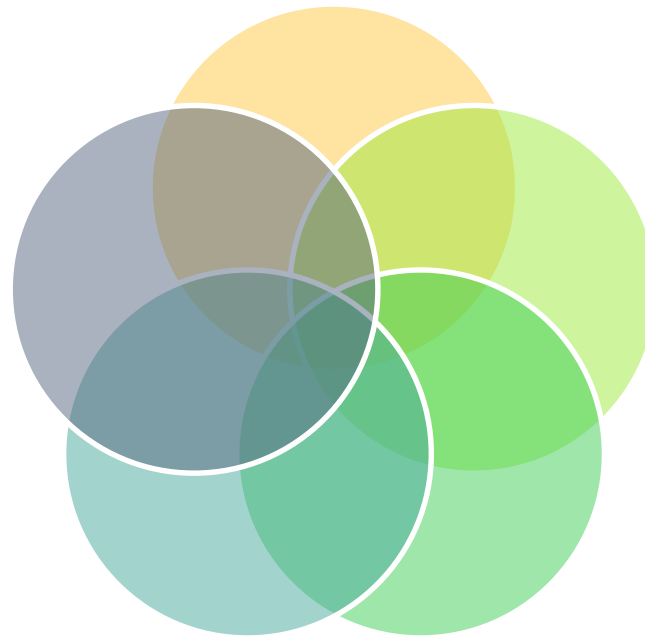
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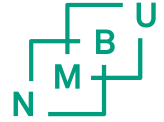
Researchers

Local
Government

Development

Humanitarian





Recommendations:

Create forums at **district levels**:

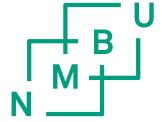
- to coordinate and share knowledge
- to help to bridge the gap between humanitarian and development work **not only during a crisis-** but prior to and following!

A role for local government?

- District Disaster Management Unit (DDMU) lacks capacity and funding, and only functions under emergencies. Re-envision the DDMU?



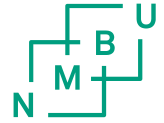
Power relations in humanitarian and development processes



How can vulnerable groups, with their rich local knowledge on climate adaptation and social and political power relations, be empowered in their interactions with humanitarian interventions?



Power Relations in Humanitarian and Development processes



Top-down approaches in both humanitarian and development interventions, where

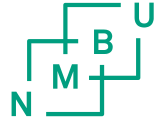
- assessments were done by outsiders only,
- planning was done at a higher level, and
- implementation was done through contracting

has had a detrimental effect on the ability of local people and institutions to determine the directions of their lives.

- There is very little competence-building for local organizations, government staff and villagers in conducting their own assessments and designing relevant projects
- This ultimately undermines longer term adaptation and sustainability



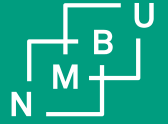
Role of Donors



Be flexible, and prioritize local, participatory processes, and capacity building of local organizations, communities and government

Revisit existing processes of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

Support knowledge exchange processes with researchers, organizations, and government



Thank you!

