



WORKING SESSION

Resilience in Rural Futures: Mountains, Drylands and Small Islands

Concept Note

Schedule	15 March 2015. 10:00-11:30 AM
Room and Venue	Hagi Hall
Organizers	(To be confirmed by UNISDR)
UNISDR Focal Point	Glenn Dolcemascolo (dolcemascolo@un.org)
Background and Rationale	<p>Rural circumstances are changing. The exposure of rural communities to different livelihood opportunities, conflict and complex diseases, the changing geography and demographics of rural poverty and the changing rural economic environment among others have contributed significantly to the evolution of new narratives of rural development. And while rural communities continue to face traditional developmental problems such as poverty and illiteracy, they have to tackle emerging ones including the increasing disaster risk associated with climate change. There is a need to shift policies and strategies that have guided rural development to employ realistic approaches while confronting the changing rural development challenges.</p> <p>Although notable progress has been achieved in building resilience in rural communities, particularly in the area of agriculture and food security, other aspects of rural development has received less attention. Other productive sectors (such as non-agricultural industries, mining, tourism) and infrastructural investments (energy, roads, housing, water and sanitation) are exposed to disaster risk. The increasing exposure and vulnerability of rural population particularly indigenous groups, women and children and people with disabilities threatens the very fabric of social well-being and development. Efforts to strengthen local governance, capacity building of institutions, provision of social services in health and education and design of effective social safety nets hold promise for rural resilience. The strong vision and partnerships invested in urban resilience need to be met with an equally strong commitment to resilience in</p>

	<p>rural areas.</p> <p>This Working Session will seek to discuss some of the key gaps in building rural resilience including (1) the need to leverage opportunities to create shared values for urban-rural partnerships, (2) developing guidance to mobilize support and replication of resilience building initiatives in rural areas and (3) integrating lessons from different actions on building rural resilience into national DRM policies. Furthermore, this Working Session will contribute to the generation of commitments for implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.</p>
Session Objectives	<p>This session will explore opportunities for accelerating actions in promoting rural resilience. Specifically, it will examine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approaches to supporting rural development in the context of disaster risk management; • On-going initiatives on resilience building and strategies to replicate and build political commitment to support rural resilience in local/national policies and planning; • Measures to build partnership/collaboration with rural development stakeholders in mountain and other rural areas including local, regional, national government stakeholders, agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, institutions and urban actors.
Discussion agenda and structure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction and welcoming remarks (5mns) 2. Panel discussion 3. Interactive guided discussion (30mns) 4. Wrap up and conclusion by the moderator (5 minutes)
Expected outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of readiness for implementation of the post-2015 framework in rural communities; • Understanding of issues and gaps in building resilience of rural communities based on lessons learned, the experience of rural community leaders and scientific, local and indigenous knowledge; • Vision for mobilizing support and leverage opportunities for accelerating action • Recommendations to partners and governments for advancing implementation and announcements of commitments.
Expected number of participants	300
Technical Equipment Required	<i>Podium with microphone, head table with 4 – 6 spaces and microphones, 2 mobile microphones for audience questions, Laptop, PPT projector and screen (for video/PPTs)</i>
Background documents	To be completed