

GLOBAL BLUEPRINTS FOR CHANGE

First Edition--Prepared in Conjunction with the International Workshop on Disaster Reduction convened on August 19-22, 2001

The Global Blueprints for Change contain guidance for working together to improve the capability to identify indicators of physical, social, enterprise, and environmental vulnerabilities throughout the world and to select and implement realistic solutions to reduce them towards acceptable levels.

Theme A: LIVING WITH NATURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Topic A.12: Improving Human Rights, Rural Hazards, and Livelihood Security in Disaster Situations

" An Outline for a Blueprint on Human Rights, Rural Risks, and Livelihood Security"

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In consultation with colleagues throughout the world.

DISCLAIMER: This manuscript was prepared as a contribution to the first edition of the Global Blueprints for Change and for use in conjunction with the International Workshop on Disaster Reduction convened on 19-22 August 2001 in Reston, VA. The manuscript is a “work in

progress” and has not been edited for policy and for conformity with the other Blueprints.

AN OUTLINE FOR A BLUEPRINT ON HUMAN RIGHTS, RURAL RIGHTS, AND LIVELIHOOD SECURITY

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Abstract: This is a draft outline of creating a Blueprint for Change. The aim is to provide guidance throughout the world to the governments, communities, and people who are seeking practical and cost-effective ways to cope with the complex issues associated with human rights, rural hazards, and livelihood security. It will draw on the experiences of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), citizen-based initiatives, government and international programs in mitigating, preventing, and addressing the root causes of a wide variety of rural hazards.

General Introduction

The International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) did not emphasize rural livelihoods and welfare and threats to them. We now have a chance to redress the balance. However, hazards to the roughly half of humanity living in rural areas of the planet must be viewed holistically. They must be understood in terms of the dramatic changes that have been going on such as globalization, the struggles in many countries over democratic governance, civil wars, and rapid environmental change.

Evolution of thinking about human rights and its application to disaster reduction

- A. Basis in Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other basic instruments
- B. The right to food
- C. Environmental human rights
- D. A presumptive right to humanitarian assistance, the SPHERE project, etc.
- E. Gaps and the next steps: implications of “rights-driven” approaches for IDNDR+5

Rural Hazards

- A. Rural realities today
 1. Change in land and labor regimes
 2. Environmental changes
 3. Social and political changes
 4. Pressures and threats to women, children, youth, refugees, and displaced persons
- B. Rural hazards
 1. War and other forms of violence and harassment
 2. Drought
 3. Flood, landslide, wildfire

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4. Pests, plant and animal diseases
5. Human disease, especially the threat and impact of AIDS

C. Sources of social vulnerability or resilience/ capability in rural areas

Begin with Chambers (1983) “vicious cycle” of vulnerability, and discussion of vulnerability in Hewitt (1996) and Blaikie et al. (1994).

1. Ethnicity, refugee status, and displaced persons
2. Age and gender
3. Health status and disability
4. Economic position, land tenure, and clienthood
5. Social connectedness or marginality

Livelihood and Food Security (Case studies)

The processes discussed previously will be demonstrated using the case of livelihood and food security. We need to collect from our diverse experience and that of our colleagues a good cross section of case studies, possibly inserted as “boxes” in this section: Sudan? Guatemala? North Korea? Many others. We could possibly refer the reader to an appendix of sources of other revealing case studies. We want to highlight what has been done correctly to build capacity and resilience in communities and to avoid food emergencies as well.

A. Outlines of sustainable and secure livelihoods and a stable food system

1. Social and political factors
2. Economic factors
3. Environmental factors

B. Processes that undermine livelihoods and which contribute to food emergencies and famines

1. Political disorder and war
2. Political economic factors (export-orientation, marketing, rural-urban terms of trade, labor migration, etc.)
3. Land tenure
4. Large scale displacement of rural people and misuse of natural resources
5. Lack of rural services and infrastructure (health, transportation, education, etc.)
6. Rural women’s status and access
7. Recommendations
8. Project and Program possibilities

C. Rural capabilities

1. Importance of language: the differences among “capability” and “coping”
2. Indigenous technology knowledge (ITK) and agronomic/ pastoral capabilities
3. ITK and soil/ water management capabilities
4. ITK and social/ economic capabilities (e.g. traditional forms of credit, restocking, child care, remittances, mutual aid, etc.)
5. Rural political organization and representation
6. Capacity building
7. Recommendations
8. Project and Program possibilities

D. How governmental and non-governmental interventions help or harm

1. Farmer incentives and local livelihoods
2. Dependency and empowerment issues
3. Governance and social change issues
4. Recommendations
5. Project and Program possibilities

E. Toward food system and livelihood resilience

1. Positive experiences with livelihood security in the 1990s
2. Recommendations
3. Project and program possibilities

Conclusions: gaps in knowledge and gaps in implementation

Summary and commentary on all the foregoing recommendations and project/ program possibilities.

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