
Swiss NGO DRR Platform experience in Haiti



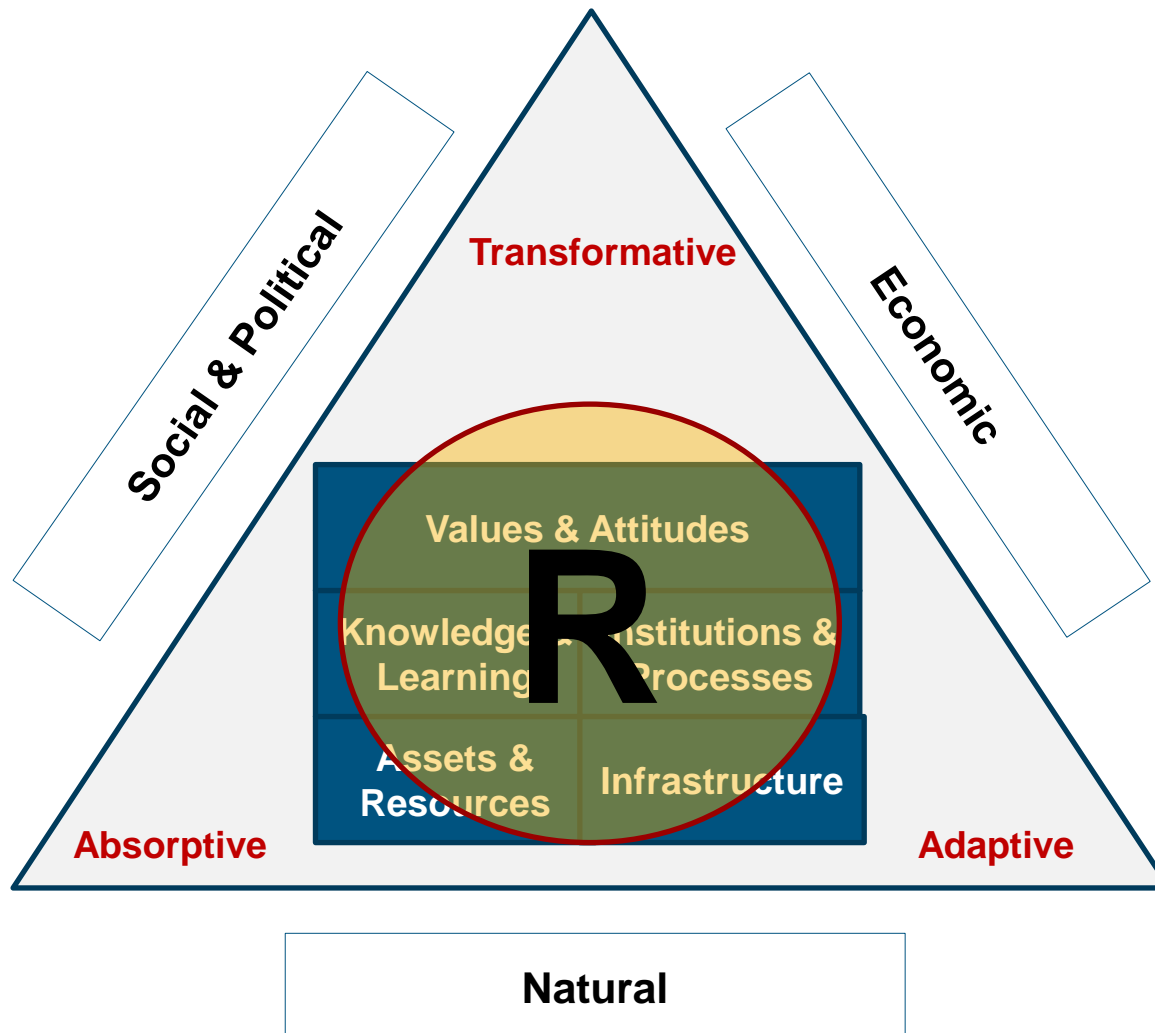
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HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
Swiss NGO DRR Platform

Learning event on resilience
Bern, 21 March 2016

- Our resilience concept
- Swiss NGO DRR Platform resilience framework
- Swiss NGO DRR Platform resilience framework – Haiti case study
 - ✓ rural mountainous case study - results
 - ✓ sub-urban coastal case study – results
- Comparison of both Haiti case studies: what can we learn from it?
- How would that inform future project planning?
- Were we successful? What should we modify?

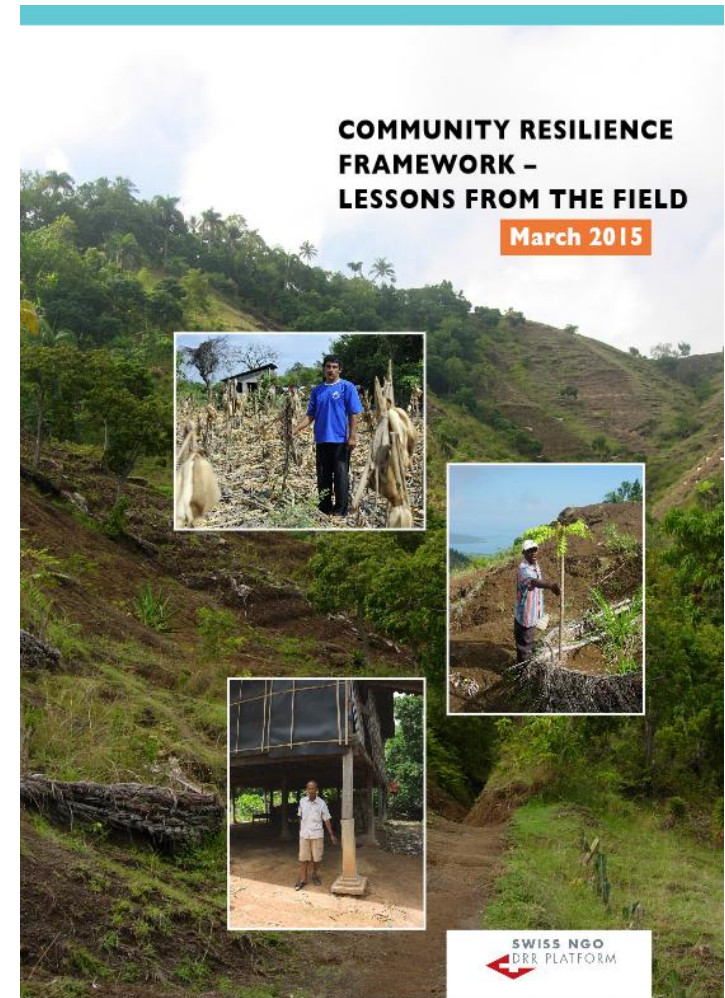
Our resilience concept



Swiss NGO DRR Platform resilience framework



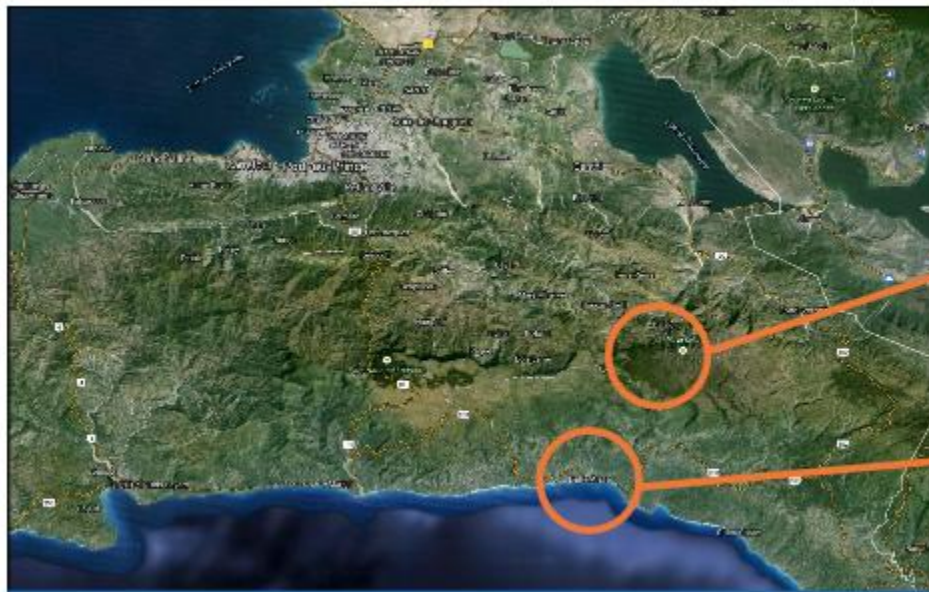
- Resilience concept was tested in **5 countries** in **3 different contexts** (fragility/conflicts, climate change, high risks/emergency)
- Data has been collected and analysed, out of which **6 case studies** were made
- A **methododology** was developed and applied through workshops in the field with communities



Swiss NGO DRR Platform resilience framework – Haiti case study



The methodology was applied in two different places in Haiti: in a **rural mountainous area**, and a **sub-urban coastal area**



Valuation of Biodiversity Project (PVB), Unit II of the Pine Forest, mountainous area

Resources management of Protected Areas (AGAP), coastal area

- Similar socio-political and economic environments
- Similar characteristics and capacities
- Different natural environment
- Risks factors slightly different



a different resilience approach



Context: area with high risk of disasters

In both places, the communities were part of a HELVETAS project



Picture 2: Haiti mountainous area, structural mitigation measures, June 2014

HELVETAS Haiti rural mountainous case study - results

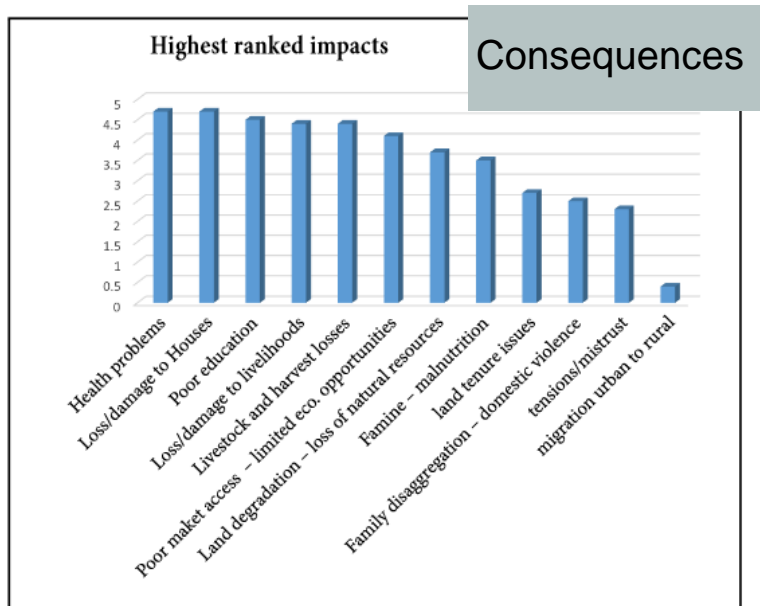


Figure 4: Highest ranked impacts

Threats

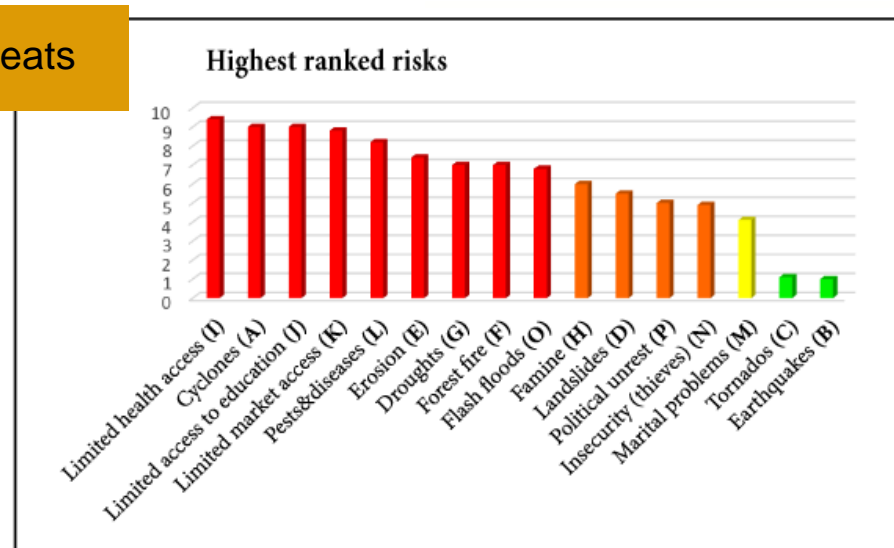


Figure 3: Highest ranked risks

Barriers

Most commonly reported barriers
1. Poor governance – disbelief
2. Lack of financial and technical means
3. Lack of mobilisation / disbelief
4. Land tenure issues
5. Lack of infrastructure
6. Lack of information



Actions

Most commonly reported actions
1. Sensitization & prevention measures
2. Community mobilisation
3. Health & market mobile services
4. Hard infrastructure measures
5. Soil conservation measures
6. Use of traditional knowledge

HELVETAS Haiti sub-urban coastal case study - results

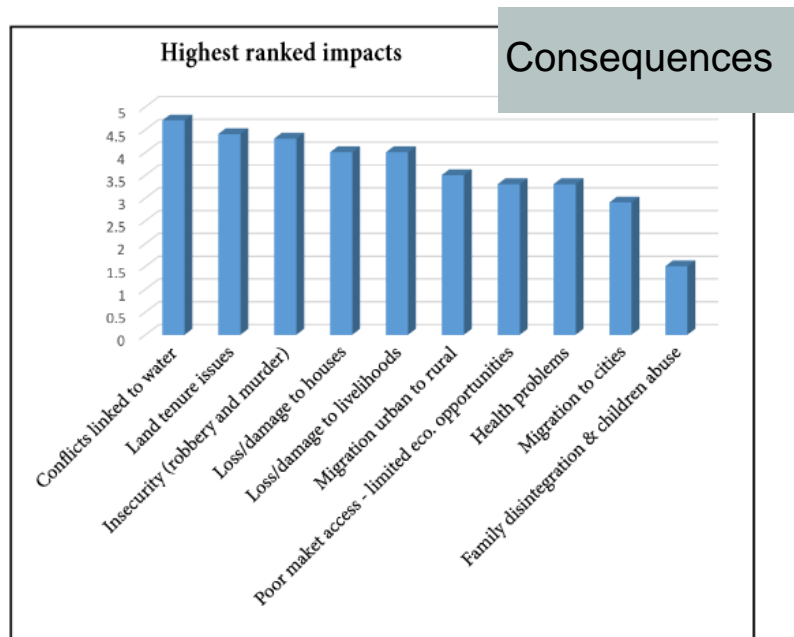


Figure 4: Highest ranked impacts

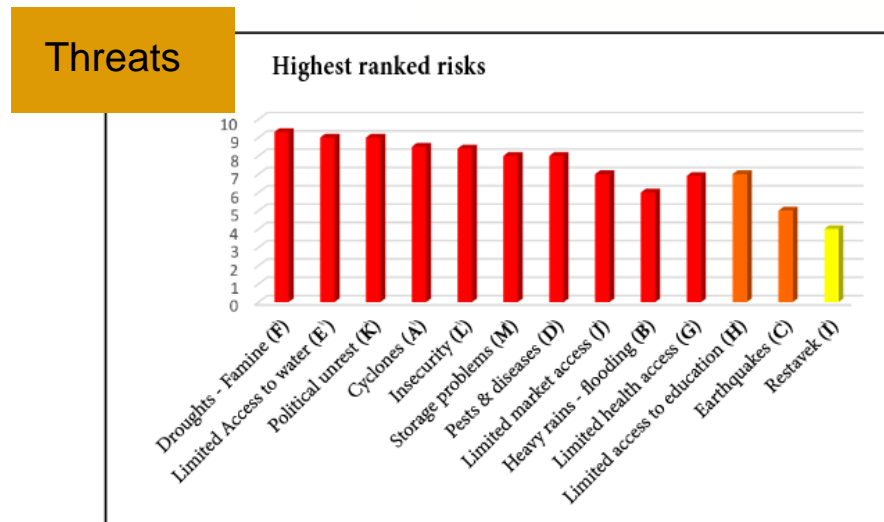
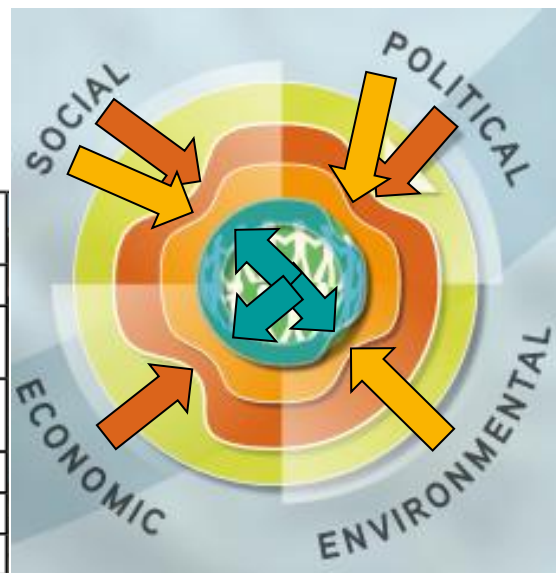


Figure 3: Highest ranked risks

Barriers

Most commonly reported barriers

1. Limited information access
2. Lack of infrastructure (roads, storage, schools, hospitals)
3. Lack of financial and technical means
4. Poor governance
5. Limited transportation
6. Deforestation



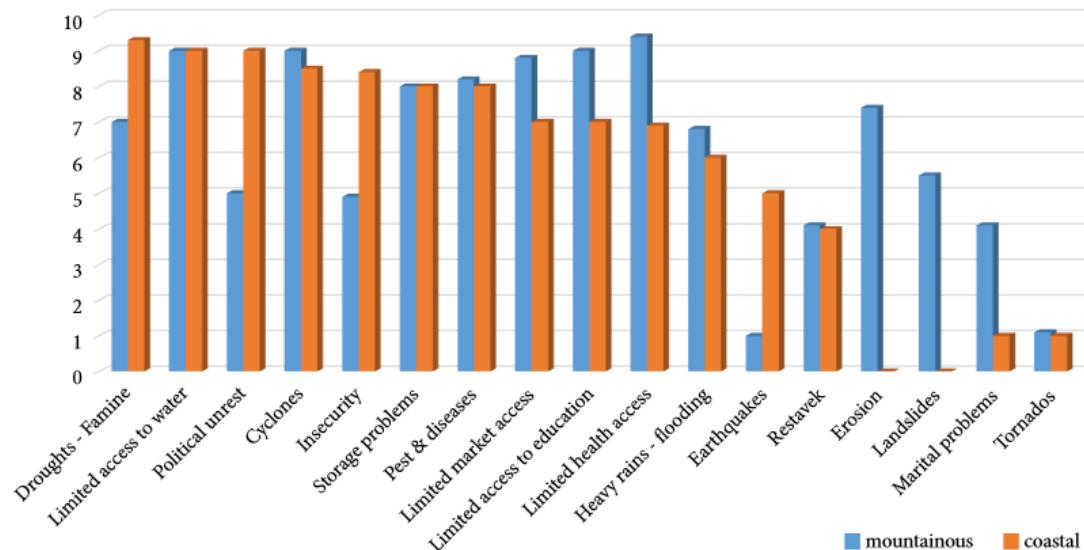
Actions

Most commonly reported actions

1. Community mobilisation
2. Sensitisation / prevention / preparedness (EWS)
3. Hard risk reduction measures
4. Use of traditional knowledge - soil conservation measures
5. Crop diversification
6. Migration

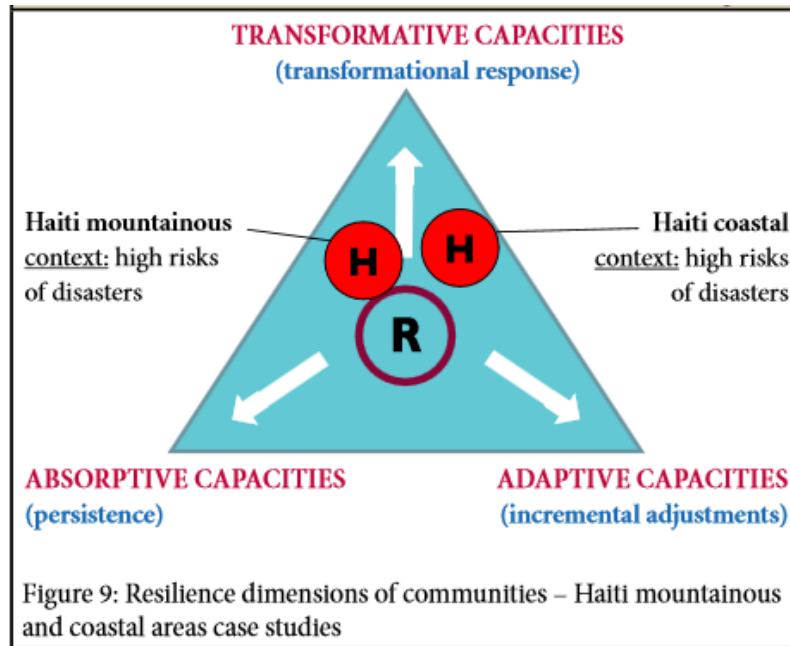
Comparison of both Haiti case studies

Most common threats in Haiti mountainous and coastal urban areas



Sub-urban coastal area	Rural mountainous area
<p>Key issues: High insecurity and criminality, and high political unrest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concrete roads ▪ Many vehicles ▪ Close market access ▪ High impacts of droughts and famine because there is less rain than in the mountainous area. <p>➡ Few land management problems</p>	<p>Key issues: Access to food, market, health, and education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No concrete roads ▪ Remote rural area ▪ Very few vehicles (owned by the farmers) ▪ Long walking distance to the market to sell products ▪ Risks increase (commodity losses or injuries) ▪ High erosion and landslides because of the steep slopes and deforested, degraded land. <p>➡ Few problems of insecurity and criminality, low impact of political unrest</p>

Comparison of both Haiti case studies – what can we learn from it?



- The economic and environmental **risks** of a coastal and a mountainous area slightly different, but implies quite different **impacts**, often higher in remote mountainous area
- It requires different **strategies** to reduce them. Access to resources are different. Very much **context** specific (urban or rural)
- In high risks disaster context, there is also climate uncertainty.
- Remote communities reach quicker their absorptive capacities, and have limited adaptive capacities.

Comparison of both Haiti case studies – what can we learn from it?



Main common barriers

Poor governance	lack of public support in preparing for or recovering from a disaster (socio-political context and institutions and processes), corruption and low provision of infrastructure.
Lack of information	access to information and media is lacking in the mountainous area, where no EWS is in place. Communities rely mainly on the capitalization of their own knowledge, learning and observations, combined with the learning from activities of on-going projects. In the coastal area, despite a better positioning closer to bigger cities, access to information remains very poor too, with no real EWS in place.
Lack of financial means	technical equipment and support such as agricultural machines and applicable advice. Closely linked with “ lack of infrastructure ”. Gives a strong insight in the existing gaps regarding public and private infrastructure.
Lack of infrastructure	no access to running water and limited basic sanitation in place. In a remote area, low level of infrastructure (very few roads in poor condition, lack of schools and health centres), including few, poorly maintained tanks for water storage and very few shelters for livestock.

Through lobbying, advocacy and support from HELVETAS, communities could adapt, transform and overcome gradually these barriers

How would that inform future project planning?

Actions

- local action taken to address threat and consequences
- Indicators how communities address threats/risks which can be further strengthen in future project planning

Barriers

- factors beyond local control preventing action
- Indicators where are the gaps, and where work should be done in future project planning

- ➔ Combination of **different strategies** is the key to resist external shocks: soft and hard measures as well as preparedness and prevention measures.
- ➔ Positive side effects of measures/actions: community participation, increased social cohesion, capacity building, good organizational structures and processes.
- ➔ The more limited resources there are, the more they are restricted to punctual, immediate and local measures.
- ➔ The most important barriers identified by the communities are very much related to the external environment factors of the national context (socio-political and economic context)

Were we successful? What should we modify?



Conclusion at framework level

- Qualitative versus quantitative is subjective – but still interesting findings to inform future project planning
- Difficulty to do comparison among case studies: most findings is context specific. The context has a considerable influence on the scope to which community resilience can be built and sustained
- Most communities part of a projet tend to think and answer according to the activities of the project
- Misunderstanding of some definitions (transformative capacities, resilience, risk-impact, etc.)
- Three analytical step provide guidance, but are also complex
- The framework can be applied in every phase of a project, but as an analytical framework, not yet operationalized – we will rather feed GNDR Frontline database and use GNDR methodology rather than improving our resilience framework
- HELVETAS works further on the Swiss NGO DRR Platform resilience framework, to develop it's own resilience approach through a Learning Expedition

What are the findings? What did we learn from it?



Communities living in areas with high risks of disasters and high impacts of Climate Change

- tend to perceive their **adaptive and transformative capacities** as key to resilience building (internal and external support: international, national and local stakeholders)

Communities living in conflict and fragile context

- resort more on their **absorptive capacities** (mostly internal local support)
- ✓ A smooth transition to adaptation and transformation requires some level of stability and a certain level of resourcing
- ✓ It is precisely the combination of several capacities which strengthens resilience. Strengthening only 'one side of the triangle' may fall short on the long run
- ✓ Resilience is intrinsically linked to a robust and secure resource base as it allows to accommodate shocks and stresses more swiftly

Thanks!

<http://drrplatform.org/>