

System Analysis in International Development: From concept to application in flood prone communities

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Disasters pose a growing threat to sustainable development. Disaster risk management efforts have largely failed to arrest key drivers of uncontrolled urbanization and proliferation of assets in high risk areas. IIASA researchers are building on the buzz around **resilience**. Our **conceptualization of resilience** is centered on **development**, explicitly drawing out the link between disasters and development:

Disaster resilience is the ability of a system, community, or society to pursue its social, ecological, and economic development and growth objectives, while managing its disaster risk over time in a mutually reinforcing way.

FLORES—Flood Resilience System



The IIASA **FLORES conceptual model** is being used with stakeholders in **participatory systems analysis**, to draw out real-world interconnections between disaster risk, disaster risk management, and development; this work will ultimately identify interventions which can address the key drivers of increasing risk which threatens sustainable development.

The conceptual model enables researchers and practitioners to draw out their tacit understanding of the disasterdevelopment nexus and identify key intervention points for action.

Participatory systems analysis: lessons learned

1. Be as simple as possible!

2. Be as concrete as possible! Lots of examples, not everyone thinks conceptually.

3. Build your model WITH stakeholders! 4. "That's obvious" is a great response—it means you're on the right track!

5. Don't get attached to your model, if it is changed then it is being useful!