

# Social Vulnerability: Definitions



“the **lack of capability** of individuals, groups or communities **to cope with and adapt to any external stress** placed on their livelihoods and well-being”

Füssel (2012:11)

# Social Vulnerability: Definitions



“...aims at identifying and understanding **which groups of people may be more sensitive and susceptible to the impacts of natural disasters and why.**”

Tapsell et al., (2010: 3)

# Social Dimension of Vulnerability



Characteristics that make people or social groups more or less exposed to a climate change hazard

Understanding whether these social groups have the ability to respond

# Social Vulnerability: Contributing Factors

## Intrinsic Factors



# Social Vulnerability: Contributing Factors

## Extrinsic Factors



Intrinsic Factors

Extrinsic Factors



**determine a  
person's social  
vulnerability**



# Social Vulnerability Factors

Common

Hazard-Specific

Other Risk Factors



# Common Risk Factors



Age

Gender

Lack of  
Employment





# Hazard-Specific Risk Factors



Nature of Hazard

Nature of Climate  
Event

# Example: Hazard-specific risk factors



Source and receptor of hazard is different

Rate of onset (slow)

# Example: Hazard-specific risk factors



**Flow out characteristics**

**Area affected**

**Persistence**

# Other Risk Factors



**Inadequate access to resources**



Access to risk and climate Information  
Knowledge of Adaptation Options and Solutions;  
Adaptation Technology



# Other Risk Factors



Limited access to decision making



Political power and representation



# Other Risk Factors



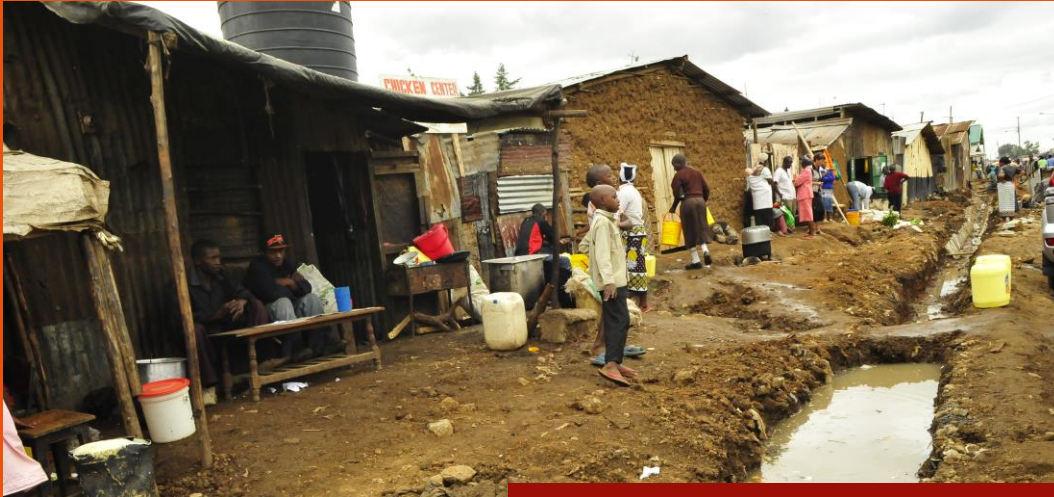
Poor social capital



Social networks and connections



# Other Risk Factors



Beliefs and customs



That neglect or ignore hazards and their effects.



# Other Risk Factors



Population shifts



Resulting in more people living in risk areas