A Framing Introduction

Natural Disasters

Stéphane Hallegatte
Lead Economist
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, World Bank
Natural Disasters & Climate Change: Why this matters?

- Global experience & literature suggests an increasing frequency and severity in natural disasters and climate change projections.

- The poor suffer a disproportionate share of this burden owing to their exposure, vulnerability, coping capacity, set-backs to human development and effects on savings and behavior. Poor people experience only 10 percent of the asset losses, but almost 50% of the impact on well-being.

- Efforts to reduce poverty and disaster risks are complementary.

On average, natural disasters push 26 million people in poverty every year.
Linking Disaster Response & Social Protection: Why this matters?

- Adaptive social protection can act as an important insurance mechanism for the poor
  - According to recent estimates post-disaster transfers have a benefit-cost ratio above 1.3 across a sample of 117 countries.

- A growing body of evidence reveals that explicit program modifications can help promote resilience to disasters
  - In Fiji, the response to Tropical Cyclone Winston through the scaling up of the “Poverty Benefit Scheme” reduced the impacts on poor people by 20 percent, with a benefit-cost ratio of 4.

- For poor households – and to cover the largest shocks – easily scalable social safety nets needed.
  - Better scalability of safety nets in developing countries would generate $13 billion in annual benefit, on average.
Objective of Session

• This session explores how social protection program and policies can be leveraged to promote resilience and minimize the impacts of natural hazards on poverty and livelihoods, focusing on program design and institutional features that can improve planning and response.

• The session draws on the experiences of social protection systems across vastly different contexts.
  – Plenary Discussion: Japan, Mexico, Madagascar
  – Global Café Discussion: Japan, Mexico, Madagascar, Philippines, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Kenya, Pakistan, Malawi, Mauritania, Fiji.

• The focus of the plenary discussants is to:
  – Describe a particular shock or slow onset climate event.
  – Discuss how a particular target group of beneficiaries/client population were affected?
  – Reflect on achievements, lessons and way forward

Investing in a more adaptive social protection system
Three building blocks

Defining institutional arrangements
Within and across government
With non-government partners
What to look out for during the discussions: Context

Different countries will have a range of tools for different types of disasters and households.

Note: Instruments in blue target households; instruments in green protect governments’ or local authorities’ budgets.
What to look out for during the presentations:
Type of Shock

Not all shocks are equal in their devastation and impact. Nature of shock will require a tailored response.

Port au Prince, Haiti, 2011

Zambia, 2016
What to look out for during the presentations:
Using, adapting, or creating a system
Our panel

Rindra Rakotoarisoa
Regional Director, *Fonds d’Intervention pour le Développement*
Madagascar

Julio Manuel Valera Piedras
General Director of Outreach and Operations,
PROSPERA
Mexico

Shoichi Tawaki
Director of the Crisis Management Department, Sendai City
Japan