Environmental Mainstreaming Introduction

The Environment
— our base for survival

The environment, often refers to our surroundings where individual and communities exist. It is the base of our human existence. It provides conditions for survival, development and growth, as well as danger and damage.

It includes air, water, land, natural resources, ecosystem, climate in or on which people, plants and animals live and interact.

We are part of nature, and can only thrive when social, political, cultural and economic models respect and guarantee a healthy environment.
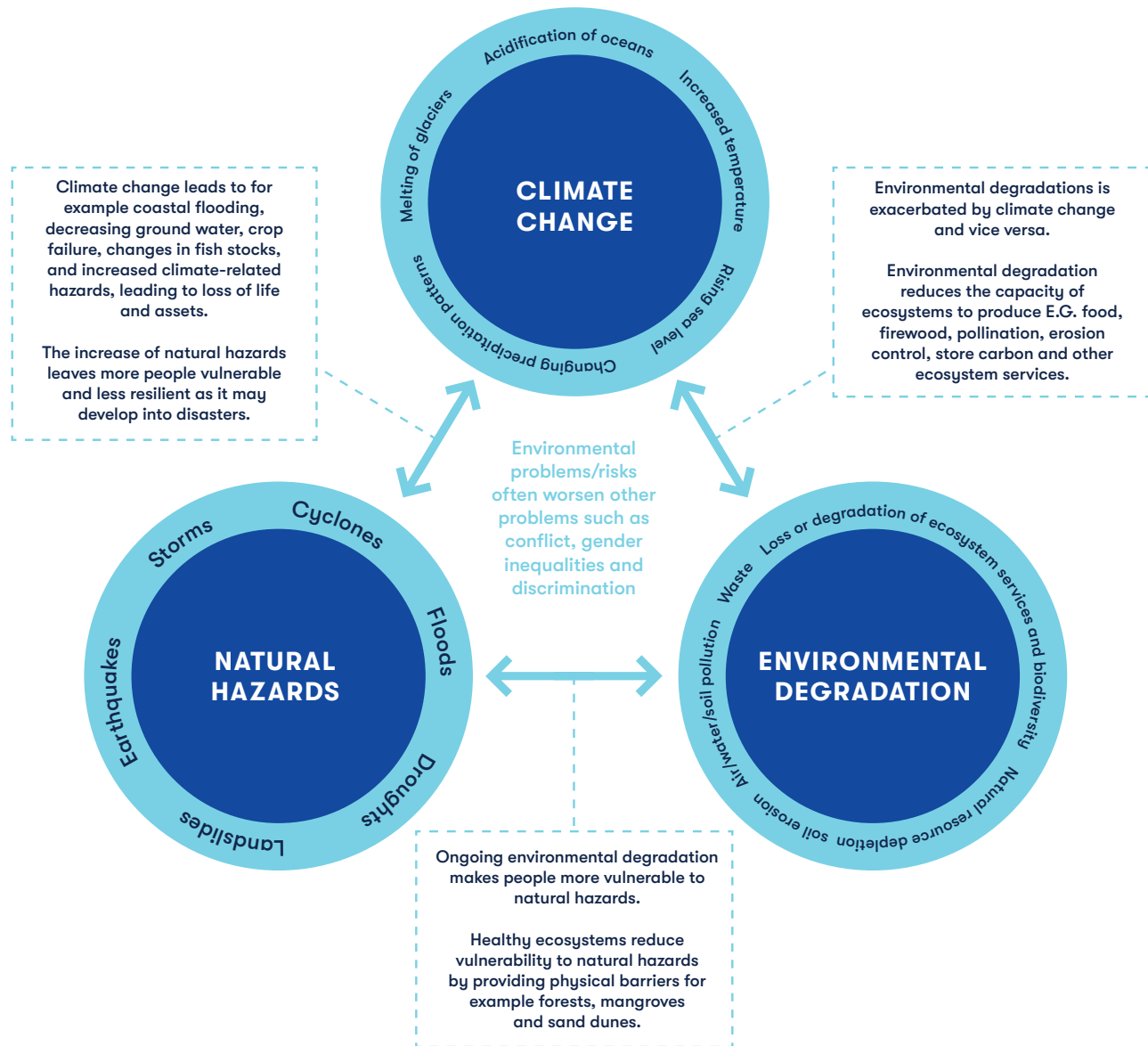
What is Environmental mainstreaming?

You hold in your hand Diakonia's tool for Environmental mainstreaming.

A toolbox that helps you to analyse, in a systematic way, the interaction between environmental degradation, climate change and natural hazards - and communities and people's lives.

By understanding the interlinkages, we can design strategies and programs that contribute to sustainable development, and promote risk informed development and fullfillment of human rights.

Diakonia's environmental mainstreaming considers three environmental risks.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Acidification of oceans · Increased temperature · Rising sea level · Changing precipitation patterns · Melting of glaciers

NATURAL HAZARDS

Cyclones · Storms · Earthquakes · Landslides · Droughts · Floods

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Waste · Loss or degradation of ecosystem services and biodiversity · Natural resource depletion · Soil erosion · Air/water/soil pollution

Environmental problems/risks often worsen other problems such as conflict, gender inequalities and discrimination

Climate change leads to for example coastal flooding, decreasing ground water, crop failure, changes in fish stocks, and increased climate-related hazards, leading to loss of life and assets.

The increase of natural hazards leaves more people vulnerable and less resilient as it may develop into disasters.

Environmental degradations is exacerbated by climate change and vice versa.

Environmental degradation reduces the capacity of ecosystems to produce E.G. food, firewood, pollination, erosion control, store carbon and other ecosystem services.

Ongoing environmental degradation makes people more vulnerable to natural hazards.

Healthy ecosystems reduce vulnerability to natural hazards by providing physical barriers for example forests, mangroves and sand dunes.

How to use this toolbox?

The toolbox is written for organisations, to be relevant in a changing world. If you use the toolbox and take action based on the results, you can expect more sustainable results, better environmental conditions, and greater knowledge of the importance of environmental and climate related issues.

The analysis should be performed in the early stages of planning so that practices and strategies can be adjusted to new ideas. It is also valuable to perform the analysis during and after a project or program for learning and improving future work. The toolbox is particularly important to use for strategies, programmes, or projects, that do not have an explicit focus on the environment.

One of the best ways to use the toolbox is to do the analysis in a group. The actors —the right holders, partner organisations and donor agencies — involved with the organisation or in the program/project should preferably participate in the analysis so that the results of the analysis are based on their perspectives. The analysis could also be performed by projects/program staff only or as a multi-stakeholder analysis.

"We are the first generation able to end poverty, and the last generation that can take steps to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Future generations will judge us harshly if we fail to uphold our moral and historical responsibilities."

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations 2007 - 2016

"Recognizing that sustainable development, democracy and peace are indivisible is an idea whose time has come... Today we are faced with a challenge that calls for a shift in our thinking, so that humanity stops threatening its life-support system."

Wangari Maathai

Why environmental mainstreaming?

Environmental risks pose urgent threats to sustainable development and challenge the fulfillment of basic human rights — for everyone.

Environmental risks affects all of us, but certain people and groups are affected more than others. Factors such as gender, ethnicity, age, ability, class, religion, and location intersect with vulnerability. For people who live in poverty, the environment is not "another perspective" it is the base for their survival and a life in dignity.

Therefore, every organisation committed to work for poverty reduction, justice and a sustainable and more equal world must take environmental risk into consideration, it is our responsibility if we want to fight injustices.

Therefore, Diakonia as a human rights organisation, do environmental mainstreaming. It helps us move in the right direction. For people and for the planet.

Sustainable development = Risk informed development

Nothing undermines and disrupts sustainable development like climate change and disasters.

For development to be sustainable, aid actors, communities and organisations are called to prevent, prepare, mitigate, adapt and respond to environmental degradation, climate change or hazards, rather than act after a disaster has already struck.

Diakonia's environmental mainstreaming is part of our prevention approach. It helps us to shift from a " band-aid approach" – picking up the pieces after a crisis – to risk informed development, that foresees and prepares for likely risks.

By understanding environmental risks, who is affected the most, and addressing people's vulnerability and exposure to these risks – we seek to integrate prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery capacity into the change processes we support. We aim to build resilience together with individuals and groups who are most affected.

Through environmental mainstreaming, we contribute towards targets in several international frameworks and agreements - the Agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the New Urban Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Agenda For Humanity.

Risk informed development
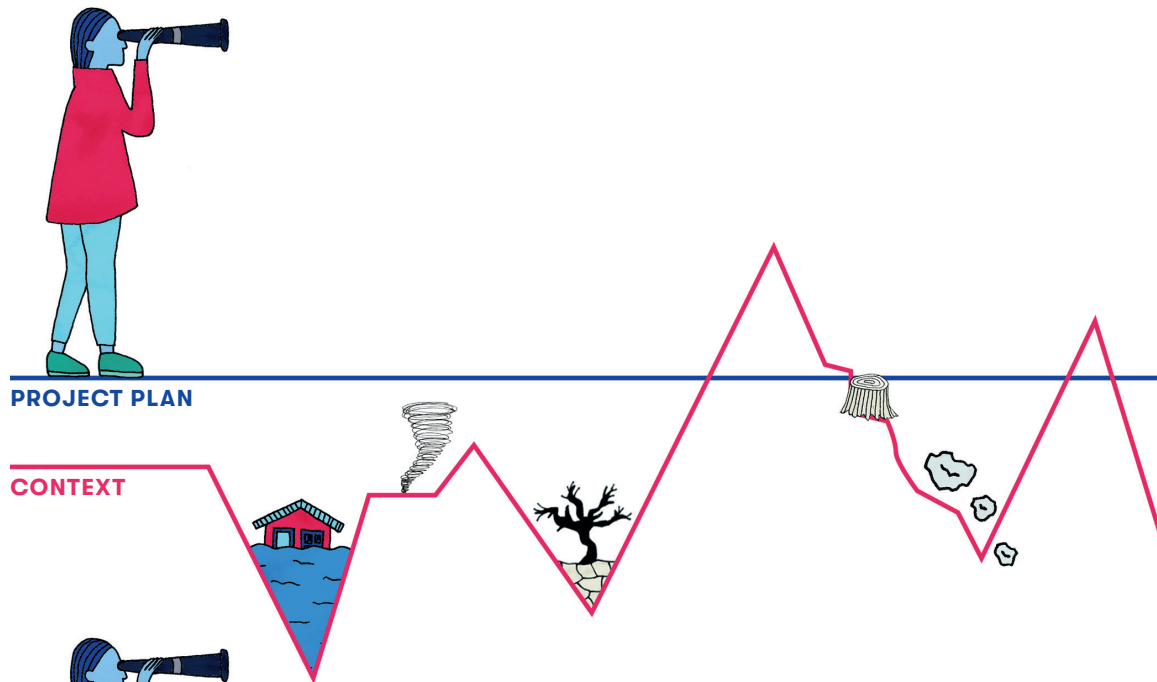
PROJECT PLAN

CONTEXT

PROJECT PLAN
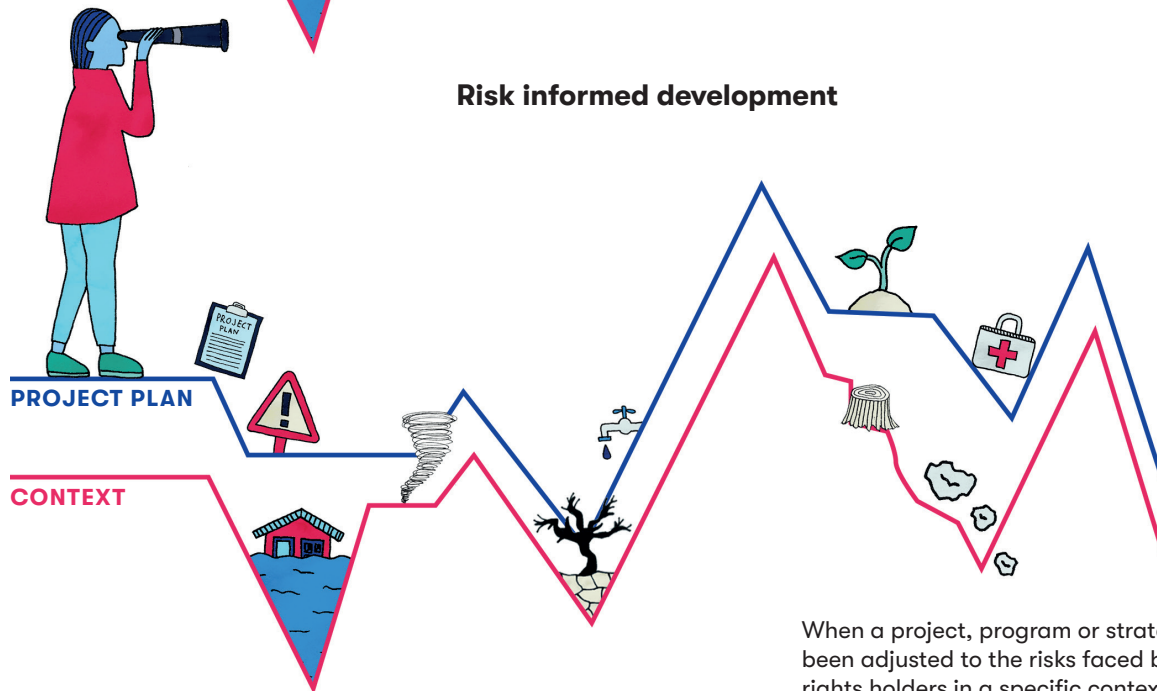
CONTEXT

When a project, program or strategy has been adjusted to the risks faced by the rights holders in a specific context.

By identifying, responding to and mitigating environmental risks we contribute to several of the Sustainable development goals and vice versa. By working with the sustainable development goals we address environmentall risks. Below you can see some examples of goals and targets.

Goal 1 No poverty

TARGET 1:5 Building of resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

Goal 2 Zero hunger

TARGET 2:4 Ensure sustainable food production and implement resilient agricultural practices, that help to maintain ecosystems that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and

Goal 3 Good health and well-being of people

TARGET 3:9 Reduce illness and death from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

Goal 4 Quality education

TARGET 4:7 Education for sustainable development, lifestyles and global citizenship

Goal 5 Gender equality

TARGET 5:5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership (for example in Disaster management committees)

5A Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources.

Goal 6 Clean water and sanitation

TARGET 6:3 Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, substantially increasing recycling.

TARGET 6.6 Protecting and restoring water- related ecosystems (water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies)

Goal 12 Responsible consumption and production

TARGET 12:2 sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

TARGET 12:4 environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes

TARGET 12:5 reduce waste by prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

TARGET 12:6 Encourage companies adopt sustainable practices.

TARGET 12:8 people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

Goal 13 Climate action to combat climate change and its impacts

TARGET 13:1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

TARGET 13:3 Improve education, awareness-raising on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Goal 14 Life below water,

TARGET 14:1 prevent and reduce marine pollution, in particular from land-based activities.

TARGET 14:2 sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid adverse impacts, and take action for their restoration

Goal 15 Life on land

TARGET 15:1 ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of freshwater, ecosystems, forests, wetlands, mountains and dry lands.

TARGET 15.2 halt deforestation,

TARGET 15:3 combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil.

TARGET 15:5 halt the loss of biodiversity.

Goal 16 Peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, with access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

TARGET 16:1 reduce violence

TARGET 16:3 promote rule of law

TARGET 16:5 reduce corruption,

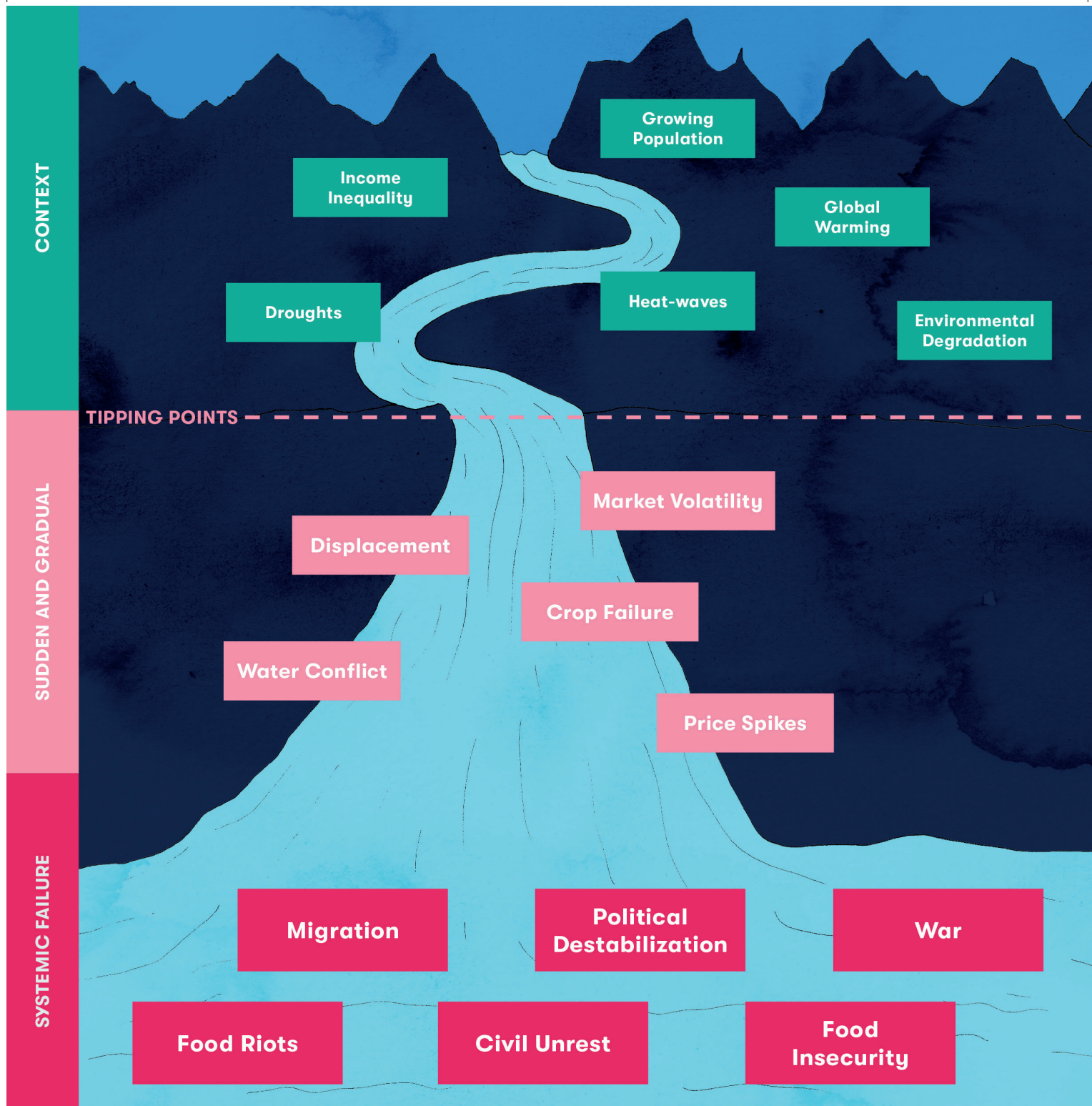TARGET 16:7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making

Surprise is the new normal

Our planet, our circumstances, our needs and our choices have always evolved and changed, it is part of our collective experience. So what is new?

- Environmental changes are happening more quickly and suddenly across multiple dimensions and scales than we ever thought possible. Climate change is a major driver and amplifier of disasters and failed development which exacerbate gender inequality and conflict risk. The lowest-income countries and the most conflict effected bear the greatest relative costs of disasters, as human and asset losses tend to be higher in the countries with a weak capacity to prepare, finance and respond to disasters and climate change.

- New risks and correlations are emerging in a way that we had not anticipated. When destroying animal habitat, it may lead to disease outbreak of pandemic scale and economic recession of global proportions.

- Environmentally unsustainable lifestyles. If we continue living and engaging with each other and the planet in a linear way rather than in a circular economy, then our survival is at risk.

- The future will hold greater uncertainty and surprise. The past is no longer a reliable indicator of what the future has in store for us, regarding environmental risks.

- We have less control over development trajectories due to the number and intensity of various crises that undermines development.

Everything is connected

- With increasing complexity and interaction of human, economic, political and natural systems, what happens in one part of the world affects the other, leading to risks becoming increasingly systemic.

- Climate change due to global warming is now contributing to environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. This impacts on crop yields and food security, international trade and financial markets, leading to volatility and political instability.

- Economic systems may be the cause of environmental risk, and in turn, environmental degration has economic consequences, where loss of income and livelihoods can lead to migration or food riots.

- Therefore, we need to reflect on the systemic nature of risk and how we respond to it holistically. Connecting the dots between socio-political, economic, and environmental developments, between countries is essential.

CONTEXT

Growing Population

Income Inequality

Global Warming

Heat-waves

Droughts

Environmental Degradation

TIPPING POINTS

SUDDEN AND GRADUAL

Market Volatility

Displacement

Crop Failure

Water Conflict

Price Spikes

SYSTEMIC FAILURE

Migration

Political Destabilization

War

Food Riots

Civil Unrest

Food Insecurity

Environmental mainstreaming with a human rights based approach

Universal human rights are linked to environmental conditions by for example:

- The right to life – environmental hazards may directly contribute to loss of life.
- The right to clean water, the right to sufficient food can be violated when droughts and floods happen.
- The right to health may be violated by for example pollution.
- The environment is also a matter of justice, as people worst hit by environmental problems are often those who are the least responsible for them.

When we do Environmental Mainstreaming, we look into how the environmental risks impact rights holders and communities/societies in a certain context and how we and our programs impact the environment.

The degree of vulnerability of rights holders and communities to risks depends upon:

- Where we are (Location)
- Who we are (Identity)
- What power we have (Rights)
- How dependent we are on the environment for our daily survival (Livelihood)

Making an environmental analysis from a human rights perspective requires that we consider that our prerequisites on the above listed factors differ, and that we therefore are vulnerable to environmental risks in varying degrees.

Not everyone have the same opportunity to adjust or adapt to avoid risk. Location, age, gender, income, ability, access to information, access to or benefit from social protection and safety nets greatly affect the choices people have to anticipate, prevent and mitigate risk. This is particularly evident in conflict-affected contexts.

Vulnerabilities may emerge and change over a lifetime, and disasters often magnify existing social inequalities and further disadvantages those who are already vulnerable.

People living in poverty in rural areas, in developing countries are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, environmental degradation, and disaster as they are highly depedant on local natural resurces for their daily consumption. Loss of land or livelihoods forces people into urban areas or slum areas, or to internal displacement, making people even more vulnerable.
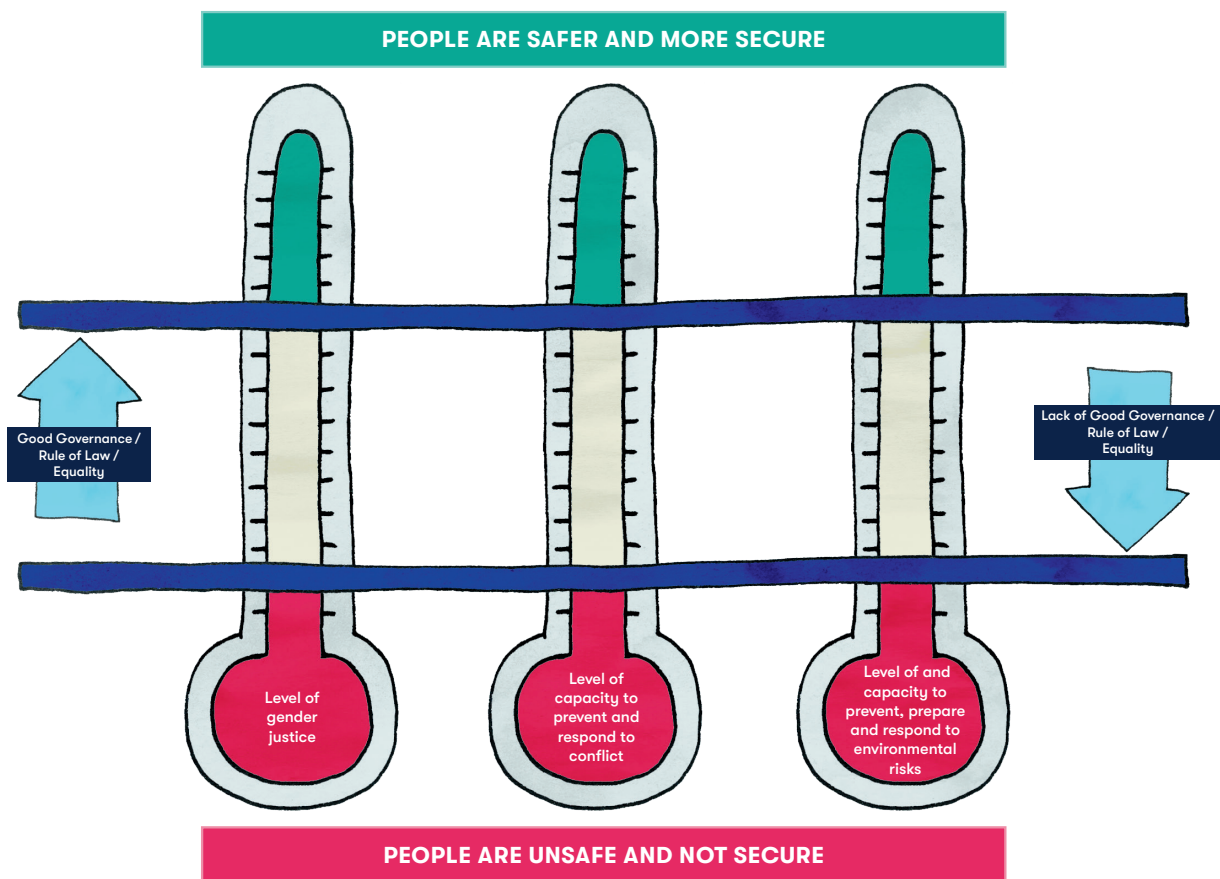
What would be different if decisionmakers
were responsible for these chores?

What solutions or ideas would be discussed?

Environmental risk and gender equality

- In most contexts women are more vulnerable than men, primarily as women are often excluded from different decision-making processes; thus women's needs or strengths are often disregarded in development initiatives. Women also constitute the majority of the world's economic-poor, and carry the greatest burden of care and with a greater responsibility to secure water, food and fuel for the household. Women often face social, economic, and political barriers that limit their alternatives and coping capacity.

- When unequal access to resources and decision-making processes are coupled with women's limited opportunities to move and seek new livelihoods, it leaves women in rural areas disproportionality affected by climate change, environmental degradation, and disaster.

- Therefore, we need to apply gender transformative strategies and responses, that seek to address and transform deep rooted roles and relationships. Grounding your work in feminist principles and applying Diakonia's Gender Mainstreaming Toolbox, will help ensure that efforts to reduce environmental risks and increase resilience contribute to gender equality.

PEOPLE ARE SAFER AND MORE SECURE

Good Governance / Rule of Law / Equality

Lack of Good Governance / Rule of Law / Equality

Level of gender justice

Level of capacity to prevent and respond to conflict

Level of and capacity to prevent, prepare and respond to environmental risks

PEOPLE ARE UNSAFE AND NOT SECURE

Our mainstreaming areas gender, conflict and environment are all interlinked and impact one another.

Good governance, rule of law and equality are factors that enables an environment where people are more safe and secure.

Environmental risks and conflict

The relationship between environmental risks and violent conflict is complex, with gender as a factor to always be examined in the interplay. Rights holders who live in poverty, who do not have opportunities to avoid risk are often vulnerable to both environmental risks and violent conflict, without the support and protection of a functioning government. Some links are:

- Environmental risks may exacerbate conflict by exposing poor governance and/ or existing divides in communities, when competition over resources intensifies due to sudden or gradual destruction of natural resources. Poor governance, equally, can exacerbate environmental risks by not providing resources and attending to risks people are facing. Extreme poverty today is concentrated to areas with weak governance, presence of violent conflict and environmental risks.

- Violent conflict may exacerbate environmental risks by enabling predatory natural resource extraction without any environmental or human rights safe-guards. Or by diverting public agendas and funds away from climate change mitigation and adaptation to security. Violent conflict may also deepen so-cio-economic inequalities which increases some groups' vulnerability towards environmental risks.

The following three books will guide you through Diakonia's three steps of environmental mainstreaming of strategies, programs and projects.

Step 1 Analyse the Context:

Identify key environmental risks, (climate change, natural hazards and environmental degradation) in your area. Who is affected and how?

Step 2 Analyse the Impact:

Analyse how the strategy, programme or project and environmental risks interact.

How do environmental risks effect the results on your strategy, program or project and how do your strategy, program or project impact the environmental risks, both positive and negative?

Step 3 Adjust and Adapt:

Identify if and how you can make adjustment to or adapt your strategy, program or project to reduce the negative impact and increase the positive impact on the environmental risks. What can the strategy, programme or project do to reduce vulnerability and enhance capacity for those at risk? How can you contribute to positive change?

Glossary

Climate change	Climate change refers to any significant change in the measures of climate lasting for an extended period of time. In other words, climate change includes major changes in temperature, precipitation, or wind patterns, among other effects, that occur over several decades or longer
Climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation	Mitigation addresses the causes of climate change, for example the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, whereas adaptation addresses the impacts of climate change. Actions taken to adapt or manage changes for example planting faster growing crops that are drought resistant or saline tolerant, promoting raised bed agriculture or planting mangroves in a cyclone prone areas are adaptation activites. Adaptation will not be able to eliminate all negative impacts and mitigation is crucial to limit changes in the climate system.
Disaster and disaster risk reduction	A disaster is a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, exceeding the ability of the affected community to cope using its own resources, for example a cyclone, a flooding, a pandemic etc. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) is a systematic approach to identifying, assessing and reducing the risks of disaster. It aims to reduce exposure to hazards and socio-economic vulnerabilities of people and property, build capacity to wisely manage of land and the environment and improved preparedness to prevent disasters and environmental risks that triggers them.
Environmental degradation	Environmental degradation is the deterioration of the environment through depletion of resources such as air, water and soil; the destruction of ecosystems; habitat destruction; the extinction of wildlife; and pollution. Examples of environmental degradation is deforestation, soil erosion, low level of ground water, extreme air or water pollution, use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. This can be prevented by reducing over consumption, or overuse of natural resources.
Hazards / Natural hazards and risk	A hazard is an extreme event which has the potential to cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, damage to property, livelihood, services, social and economic disruption or environmental damage to a vulnerable group. Hazards can be both natural or human induced. Sometimes natural hazards such as floods and drought can be caused by human activity. Floods can be caused by bad drainage facilities and droughts can be caused by over-irrigation or ground water pollution. The terms "hazard" and "risk" are often used interchangeably. However, in terms of risk assessment, they are two very distinct terms. A hazard is any event that can cause harm or damage to humans, property, or the environment. Risk is defined as the probability that exposure to a hazard will lead to a negative consequence, or more simply, a hazard poses no risk if there is no exposure to that hazard.
Preparedness	Activities which increase people's ability to predict, prepare for, respond to and recover from a disaster. For example having to knowledge of environmental risks, access to weather forecasts or information on where and when to evacuate makes people more prepared.
Resilience	Resilience is the ability of individuals, communities, organizations or countries exposed to disaster, crisis and underlying vulnerabilites to anticipate, prepare for, reduce the impact of, cope with and recover from the effects of shocks and stresses without compromising their long term prospects. For example, an individual who can meet their basic needs, and who has economic opportunities, is more resilient. Similarly, a community that is socially cohesive, has access to services nd manages its natural assets, is more resilient.
Vulnerability	A condition which reduces people's ability to prepare for, withstand or respond to a particular hazard (natural and created by human activity) For example belonging to a certain group of people, living in a certain area, not having access to information makes some people more vulnerable than others.

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People Change the World

www.diakonia.se/environmentalmainstreaming-toolbox

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