



Welcoming complexity in adaptation research, policy and action

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UNFCCC Research Dialogues
25 November 2020



A simple narrative?

A FOLLOW-UP TO THE UNBREAKABLE REPORT

BUILDING BACK BETTER

Achieving resilience through stronger, faster, and more inclusive post-disaster reconstruction

GFDRR

Sophane Hakgamo, Jun Rentschler, Brian Walsh

TROCAIRE POLICY PAPER
JULY 2020

trocaire

BUILD BACK BETTER: GLOBAL SOLIDARITY FOR A JUST RECOVERY

"This is the right time to encourage a new imagination of what is possible...uniting the entire human family in the search for sustainable and comprehensive development"

Pope Francis

1 INTEGRITY	2 TRANSPARENCY	3 ACCOUNTABILITY	4 INTEGRITY
5 INTEGRITY	6 INTEGRITY	7 INTEGRITY	8 INTEGRITY
9 INTEGRITY	10 INTEGRITY	11 INTEGRITY	12 INTEGRITY
13 INTEGRITY	14 INTEGRITY	15 INTEGRITY	16 INTEGRITY
17 INTEGRITY	18 INTEGRITY	19 INTEGRITY	20 INTEGRITY

The Covid-19 crisis highlights how interconnected we are globally, and how increasingly vulnerable we are to systemic shocks and risks. The disparities in the impact of Covid-19 on racial and ethnic minorities, indigenous groups and women are signifiers of deeply rooted inequality and the crisis exposes inequality in its starkest terms, within and between countries, with the most vulnerable people hardest hit.

The pandemic has also highlighted structural features in our existing economic, political and social systems that have created the intersecting global crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, food insecurity and conflict, displacement and deepening inequality. These crises are a result of political choices over decades, along with unregulated corporate power, that have undermined human rights and the protection of the environment.

While the pandemic is still evolving and some of the worst impacts may yet to come, the UN has urged governments to 'build back better' in the recovery period to create more sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies. The Sustainable Development Goals offer a vision of a future where meaningful action to address economic, political and social inequalities that no one is left behind. Even before the impact of Covid-19 international progress was off-track for delivery. Building back therefore not a return to 'business as usual'. Rather we must embrace principles of just recovery action to truly deliver the world.

To avoid deepening inequality, it is imperative in countries that are not plagued by new debt crises from the Covid-19 response. Governments should use public financial support to invest in public infrastructure, the most cost-effective approach to create jobs and improve livelihoods. 'Just recovery' must not be replaced by 'green recovery' and 'green recovery' must not be replaced by 'green recovery'. Governments should use public financial support to invest in public infrastructure, the most cost-effective approach to create jobs and improve livelihoods.

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BUILD BACK BETTER
Community Recovery

BUILDING BACK BETTER

POST COVID-19 TASK FORCE

BUILD BACK BETTER



Building Back Better
Sustainable Mental Health Care after Emergencies

World Health Organization



BUILD BACK BETTER

BUILD BACK BETTER



A problematic context?

Male-led climate decision spaces.
Focus on technocratic solutions, limited disciplines.

Predominant knowledge and structures of power become more established



Covid likely to slow or overturn progress towards inclusivity in research

'Playing it safe'; delivering incremental solutions; evading complex social space: our current context

Barriers and exclusion in adaptation research



Section Name	Student	Early Career	Mid-Career	Experienced	Retired
Atmospheric Sciences					
Female	44.17%	33.96%	26.61%	13.44%	5.59%
Male	55.18%	65.28%	72.43%	85.77%	94.41%
Global Environmental Change					
Female	51.16%	38.88%	30.19%	18.57%	12.19%
Male	48.07%	60.15%	69.24%	80.70%	87.81%
Societal Impacts and Policy Sciences					
Female	56.43%	46.19%	43.52%	25.59%	11.94%
Male	42.35%	52.62%	55.07%	73.68%	88.06%

Source: AGU data from 2018

Since **covid-19**, women researchers (esp. mothers) submit fewer articles (Gewin 2020), work fewer hours (Layne 2020), lost productivity -while men's increased- (Cui et al 2020), are given less visibility (Malisch et al 2020)



At the same time...

Countries where women have higher political representation adopt more rigorous climate change policies (causal relation!) and lead to lower GHG emissions.

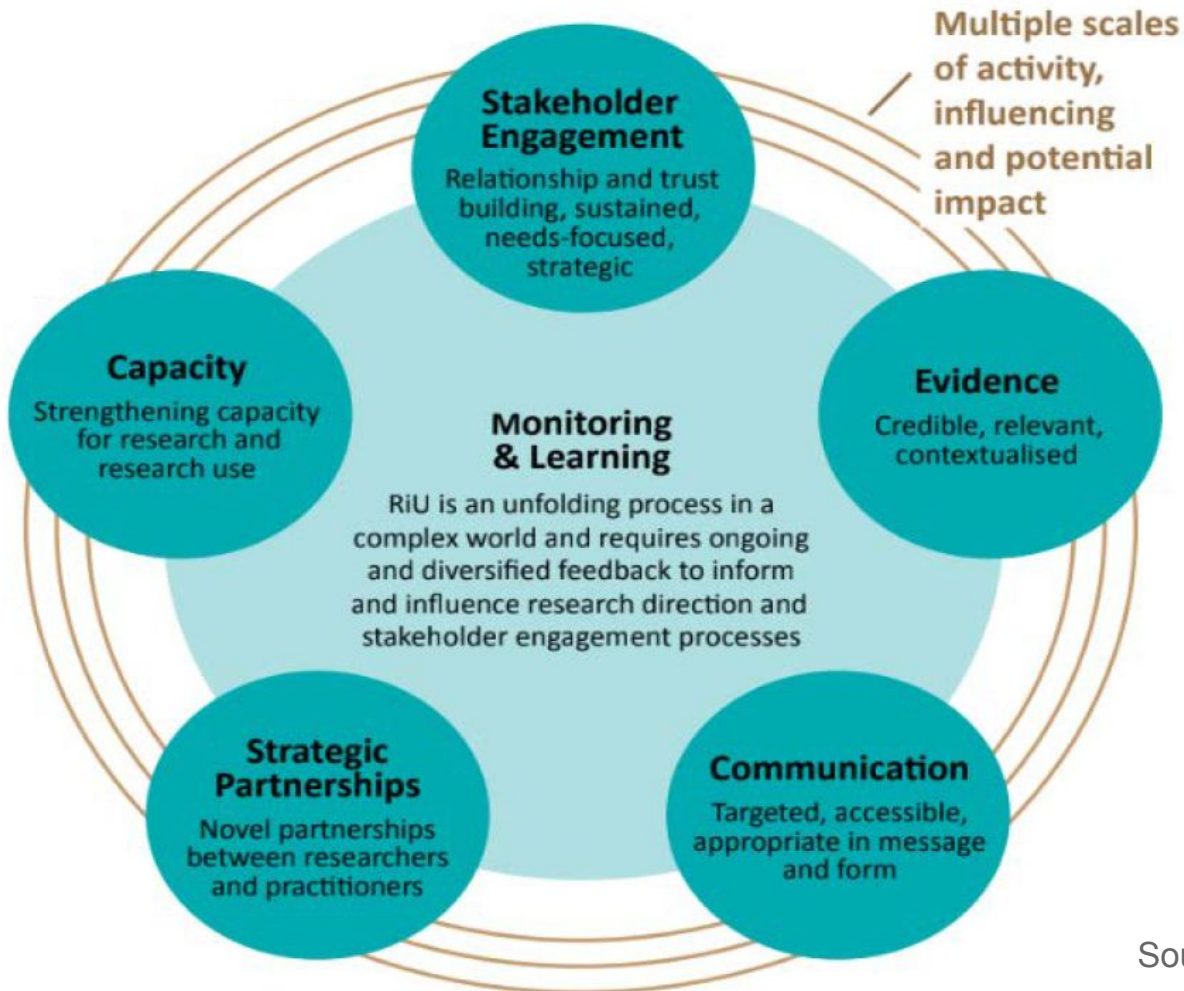
(Mavisakalyan & Tarverdi, 2019)



Exclusion in adaptation research is **not just about gender**: language, race, ethnicity (e.g. Ford et al, 2020) & other intersectional characteristics.

This affects & informs what **counts** & **doesn't count** in adaptation.

Key areas to achieve impact in research



Source: CARIAA, 2017



A. Adaptation is a complex problem.

B. Research addressing adaptation should be complex, inclusive and messy, too.

A+B= We genuinely advance adaptation knowledge and solutions.



Thank you!