Equity in Adaptation Planning

Challenges and Opportunities
“Disasters, however ‘natural,’ are profoundly discriminatory. Pre-existing structures and social conditions determine how a community will be affected and who will pay the highest price.”

~~ Oxfam Report, “Exposed: Social Vulnerability and Climate Change
Overview

- Definition of Equity in the Context of Disaster Recovery

- Pre-Existing Vulnerabilities
  - Affordable Housing
  - Community Economic Development

- Recovery System Challenges
  - Affordable Housing
  - Community Economic Development

- Solutions/Recommendations
  - Affordable Housing
  - Community Economic Development

- Q&A
DEFINING EQUITY
Equity Issues

Human and Civil Rights Framework

HUMAN RIGHTS

• Right to Self Determination
• Right to Safe and Healthy Work Conditions
• Right to Highest Standard of Physical and Mental Health
• Right to Food
• Right to a Decent Living Condition
• Equal Rights Between Men and Women
• Right of Youth and Children to be Free From Exploitation

CIVIL RIGHTS

• Ensuring peoples' physical integrity and safety.
• Protection from discrimination on grounds such as gender, religion, race, sexual orientation, national origin, age, immigrant status, etc.
• Equal access to health care, education, culture, etc.
Equity Framework

• **Procedural equity** encompasses fairness in political processes and participation in decision making.

• **Distributive equity** highlights the need to consider not just the allocation of benefits, but also the costs and risks with a focus on the outcomes of allocation decisions.

• **Contextual equity** recognizes the fact that the playing field is never level but that people’s capabilities and their access to resources and power determine the extent to which they are able to utilize procedural equity to determine the best distributive outcome for themselves.
Shifts in Agricultural Yields
The soil becomes like a pavement.
Shifts in Agricultural Yields

It allows us to produce the grain that sustains us.
Increase in Food Insecurity from New Jersey to Nairobi

ACCESS IN JERSEY CITY

PERI-URBAN ACCESS IN MD
Feast and Famine in Urban America

CORNER STORE

SUPERMARKET
Sea Level Rise
Sea Level Rise in Alaska and Thibodaux
COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE
Preparation/Resilience
Mobility Issues
During Hurricane Katrina, over 1,800 individuals died because they were unable to evacuate the city.

Persons with special health conditions and persons who were elderly, poor, or differently abled were the most likely to die.

Low-income African Americans often could not evacuate because they had no personal transportation.
Flood Plain
Housing Stock
Port Gibson—Grand Gulf
PRISONS
In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, deputies left their posts altogether, leaving behind prisoners in locked cells, some standing in sewage-tainted water up to their chests.

Over the next few days, without food, water, or ventilation, prisoners broke windows in order to get air, and carved holes in the jail’s walls in an effort to get to safety.
Risk Compounded By Toxic Exposure
Right to Return?
Ability to Recover
WORKERS AND SMALL BUSINESSES
Undocumented Workers

• In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, thousands of workers, many of whom were undocumented, moved to New Orleans.

• Employers often housed individuals in deplorable conditions, required them to do extremely hazardous work, and denied them the pay they were promised.

• Workers, faced significant health risks and were not provided appropriate training or protective gear.
Employment Security
Second Wave
DYNAMICS IN DECISION MAKING
And Senator, finally, why is it that Plaquemines Parish did not get that support for a levee?
OPPORTUNITIES/SOLUTIONS
Opportunities for Equity in Strengthening Resilience

• **Policy**
  – Strengthened laws that combat the underlying vulnerabilities

• **Process**
  – Better and more participatory systems

• **Implementation**
  – Leverage willingness for collaboration to strengthen community resilience that leads to new partnerships and new ways of operating
Process Opportunities

• Incorporate broader cross-section of communities in planning and decision making
Process Opportunities

• Utilize technology to communicate more effectively with those displaced by disaster and engage in decision making processes

• Ex: Using voting procedures and processes similar to military personnel

• Ex: Providing options to participate in public meetings via web-based methods
Implementation Opportunities

• Develop systems that respond to the existing vulnerabilities and destabilizing nature of disaster

• Ex: Recognizing the status of survivors of intrafamilial violence similar to Violence Against Women Act at the state level
Affordable Housing & Community Economic Development Opportunities

• Grow opportunities for community-ownership/control of land
• Create more options for housing affordability
• Ex: Developing models for community land trusts and housing cooperatives
Community Economic Development Opportunities

- **Employment:** Protect vulnerable workers
  - Low-wage workers
  - Prison labor
  - Seasonal workers

- **Ex:** Increasing the monitoring and enforcement federal, state, and local wage payment laws
Community Economic Development Opportunities

- Document and replicate innovative asset building models

- Example: Creating new tools—Portable Individual Development Accounts in the Gulf Coast
Top Ten Recommendations

1. Begin with an equity framework to expand opportunities.

2. Focus on the existing multi-layered disaster recovery frameworks and their relative resources and shortcomings.
Top Ten Recommendations

3. Involve communities most impacted at all stages of the recovery.

4. Plan to assess the pre-existing vulnerabilities for effective post-disaster response and recovery.

5. Allocate funds and resources in a transparent and easily accessible manner and provide notice of allocations in the languages of the communities.

7. Ensure governments, nonprofits, and philanthropic communities are communicating with one another and impacted communities about needs, assets, and best practices.
Top Ten Recommendations

8. Leverage individual, corporate, and foundation philanthropic resources for coordinated approaches to address unmet and long term needs.

9. Create means of communication that include disaster survivors in decision making processes.
Top Ten Recommendations

10. Develop systems to document and replicate the best practices, lessons learned, and innovation throughout the post-disaster response.

Source:
Building Community Resilience Post-Disaster: A Guide for Affordable Housing and Community Economic Development Practitioners
NAACP STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECT
Participating NAACP Units

• **Full Eco Districts—Holistic Model**
  – Gulfport, MS
  – Prichard, AL

• **Single Project Starter Initiatives**
  – Nashville, AL
  – Chicago, IL
  – Jackson, MS
Achieving 75% waste diversion in 2030 would:

- Create **1.5 million new jobs**
- Lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 515 million tons (~72 coal plants or 50 million cars)
- Significantly reduce pollution impacting human & ecological health
GREEN SCHOOLS

What is a Green School

Green schools have good indoor air quality, use natural light, save energy, serve healthy food, create green schoolyards, and teach stewardship.

GO ->
Local Food--Our Daily Bread
Energy Efficiency—Retrofitting Our Buildings
Greening Our Churches—Saving Our Tithes
Promoting Local Ownership

- *Local ownership programs can create two to three times as many jobs per megawatt produced.* And these local jobs keep over three times as much money and wealth in a community compared to big companies.
COMMUNITY OWNED SOLAR
Civic Engagement

I’m A Woman of COLOR and I VOTE!
Together We CAN!
Thank You

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