

# What is Resilience?

2020 Virtual Impact Summit  
August 5, 2020

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# The rise of resilience

The concentration of people in challenging environments



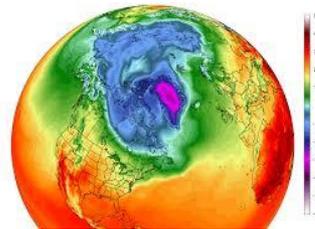
Shocks and stresses, such as conflict and disaster, continue to undermine development



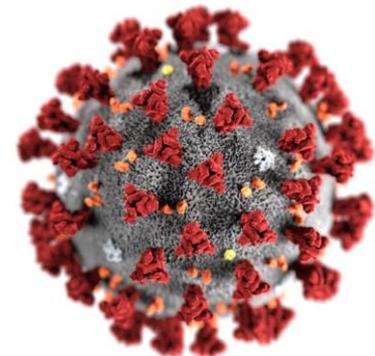
Money being spent on recurrent crises but not addressing the drivers



Climate change – we have 10 years to keep global warming to 1.5



COVID-19 is changing our world





# What is a resilience? – A selection of definitions

**Barrett and Constan (2014):** The capacity to avoid and escape from unacceptable standards of living – “poverty,” for short – over time and in the face of myriad stressors and shocks.

**USAID (2012):** The ability...to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.

**IPCC (2012):** The ability of a system and its component parts to anticipate, absorb, accommodate, or recover from the effects of a hazardous event in a timely and efficient manner, including through ensuring the preservation, restoration, or improvement of its essential basic structures and functions.

**DFID (2011):** The ability of countries, communities and households to manage change by maintaining or transforming living standards in the face of shocks or stresses without compromising their long term prospects.

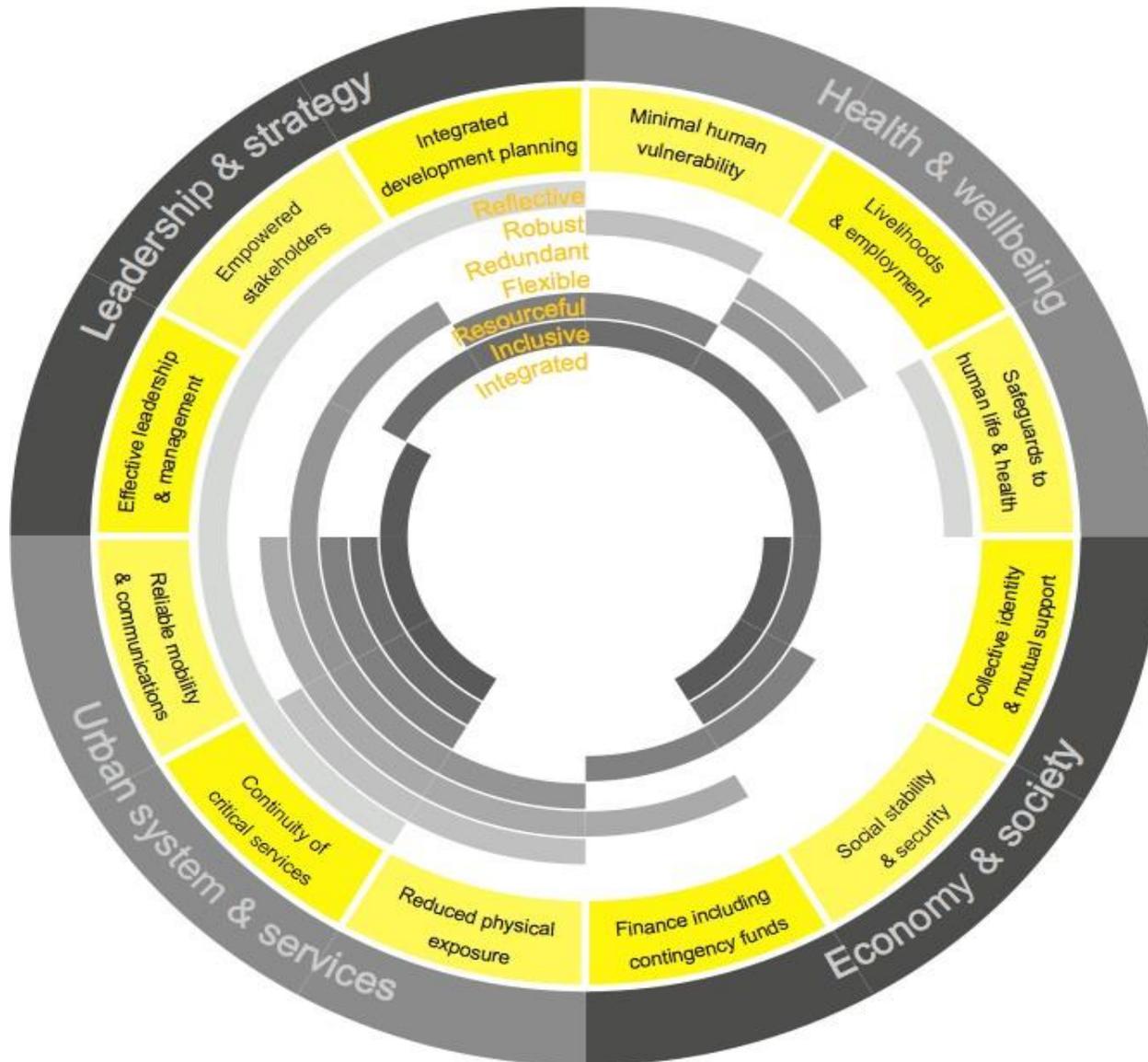
**Stockholm Resilience Center** describes resilience as “a capacity to persist, adapt or transform in the face of change in a way that maintains the basic identity of a system.”



# So... what is resilience about?

- Operationalizing resilience means **being clear about the 'who', 'what' and 'why'**
- Resilience is about being able to **manage change**, to be able to **deal with shocks and stresses without experiencing setbacks**
- **Interconnectedness**, complexity and change must be embraced
- Resilience approaches focus on building certain types of **capacities**
- **Transformation** – i.e. radical change cannot be overlooked

# Resilience Frameworks: Rockefeller Foundation



# Common criticism of resilience



- Resilience is a buzzword with limited applicability.
- Resilience is difficult to measure.
- Resilience is not new – it has been tried before through approaches like “linking relief, rehabilitation and development” (LRRD) and with mixed results.

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**Working in development**

**Resilience: meaningless jargon or development solution?**

Donors, recipient governments and implementing agencies are selling 'resilience' to the public without a clear definition or a money-back guarantee

Misha Hussain

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# A path forward

