



**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR  
LATIN AMERICA AND THE  
CARIBBEAN**

**Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean**

**Vulnerability reduction  
and Mitigation:  
Social Sector Dynamics**

# **The objectives of this session are to:**

- **Define the following concepts in the context of mitigation & reconstruction**
  - ❖ **Social policy**
  - ❖ **Resilience**
  - ❖ **Social capital**
  - ❖ **Social impact assessment**
  - ❖ **Benefits of gender analysis**

# Objectives...cont'd

- **Discuss the social sector dynamics of mitigation recovery and reconstruction**
- **Discuss the social dimensions of risk management**

# *Mitigation & reconstruction*

**SOCIAL FACTORS** which affect positively or negatively the mitigation, recovery and reconstruction process:

- **The degree and extent of poverty in the country;**
- **Geographic location of population in regard to risk brought on by natural disasters;**
- **Population structure and features of internal and external migration;**
- **Household size and structure;**

# ***Social factors...cont'd***

- **Health status of the affected community;**
- **Land tenure of affected population;**
- **The extent of reliance on public services of the social groups affected;**
- **Level of education – and extent of functional literacy;**

# ***Social factors...cont'd***

- **Access to public information (safety, disaster mitigation and prevention, health, risk reduction)**
- **Degree of resilience of Affected Population – skills, resourcefulness**
- **Equitable distribution of benefits and costs of recovery**
- **Government expenditure in the social sectors, immediate, short term and long term**

# ***Social dimensions of Risk Management***

- **Capacity for social mobilisation;**
- **Access to public information;**
- **Educational levels or knowledge base of the community;**
- **Extent of social cohesion;**
- **Strength of social capital formation;**
- **Trust of authority; and**
- **Credibility of national/community leaders**

# ***Social Capital***

**Social capital has been defined as:**

- networks**
- shared norms**
- values**
- understandings that facilitate co-operation within or among groups.**

# ***Function of a Social Impact Assessment***

- **To obtain and analyze the necessary information about community organization and likely responses to changing conditions**
- **To determine how those initiating an action or policy can design it to cause the least adverse and most beneficial impacts**

# ***Social Assessment...cont'd***

- **A Social Impact Assessment (SIA) can be crucial in determining:**
  - **what mitigation is necessary**
  - **what mitigation alternatives exist**
  - **which mitigation strategies are most likely to work**
- **Accurate assessments of impacts which pay attention to gendered differentials must be based on sound pre-existing socio-demographic data**

# ***Benefits of gender analysis***

- **Better targeting of resources to reach people in greatest need**
- **More accurate service provision/ meet actual needs with far-reaching impact**
- **Decrease vulnerability to future disasters**
- **Prevent or mitigate negative impacts of “second generation” disasters, e.g. family violence**

# *Dimensions and causes of women's vulnerability to natural disasters*

- **Poverty**
- **Female household headship**
- **Women carry great economic burdens flowing from their reproductive roles and often discharge these responsibilities with smaller incomes**

# ***Significant percentage of female-headed households in the Caribbean***

**These heads typically are:**

- **Paid less than their male counterparts**
- **Have larger households, comprised of children and the elderly**

# *Differential Impacts*

- **Women slower to return to formal labour market than men**
- **Losses in informal sector harder to quantify**
- **Men engaged in construction and rehabilitation projects**

## *Differential Impacts: ...cont'd*

- **Short term income opportunities often times more available to men**
- **Gender differentiated workload in rehabilitation phases**

# *Poverty & Vulnerability*

- **The data from the region indicates that some 38% of the population in the Caribbean live below the poverty line. The capacity to survive and recover from the effects of a natural disaster is the result of two factors:**
  - **the physical magnitude of the disaster in a given area;**
  - **the socioeconomic conditions of individuals or social groups in that area.**

# ***Resilience***

- **Resilience speaks to the ability of an individual, household, community or ecosystem to withstand external shocks.**
- **From a social perspective, this ability may be based on the:**
  - **entitlement**
  - **enfranchisement**
  - **empowerment**
  - **capabilities**

# *Exposure to natural disaster*

## Social Risk

## Social Resilience

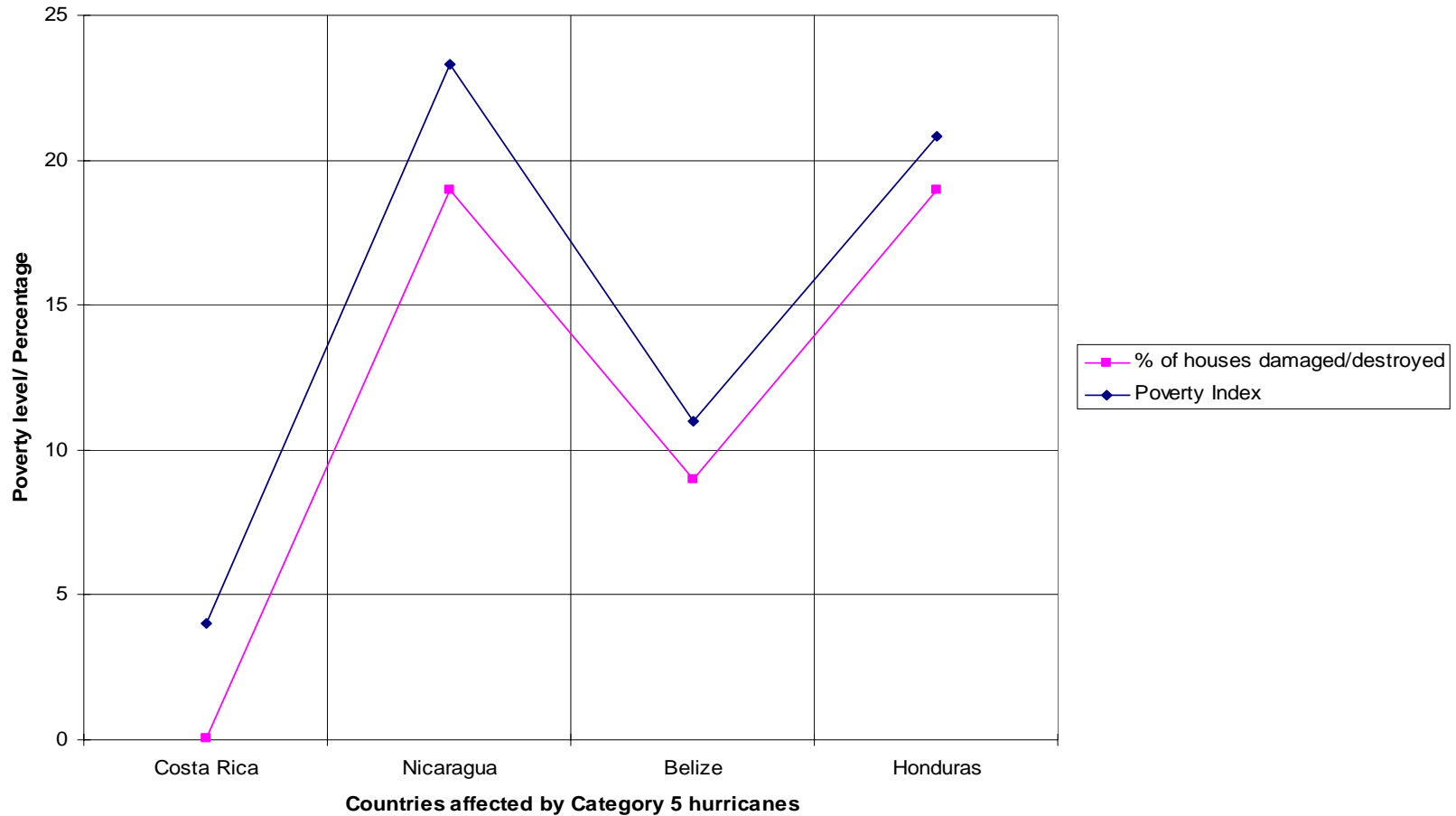


# *Differential vulnerabilities*

- **Each social group's degree of vulnerability to a natural disaster is different.**
- **The severity of negative impact of natural disasters is as directly related to social inequalities and deprivations as to the natural hazard itself.**

# *Hurricane Mitch 1998 and Hurricane Keith 2000*

Relationship between poverty and the percentage of houses damaged or destroyed



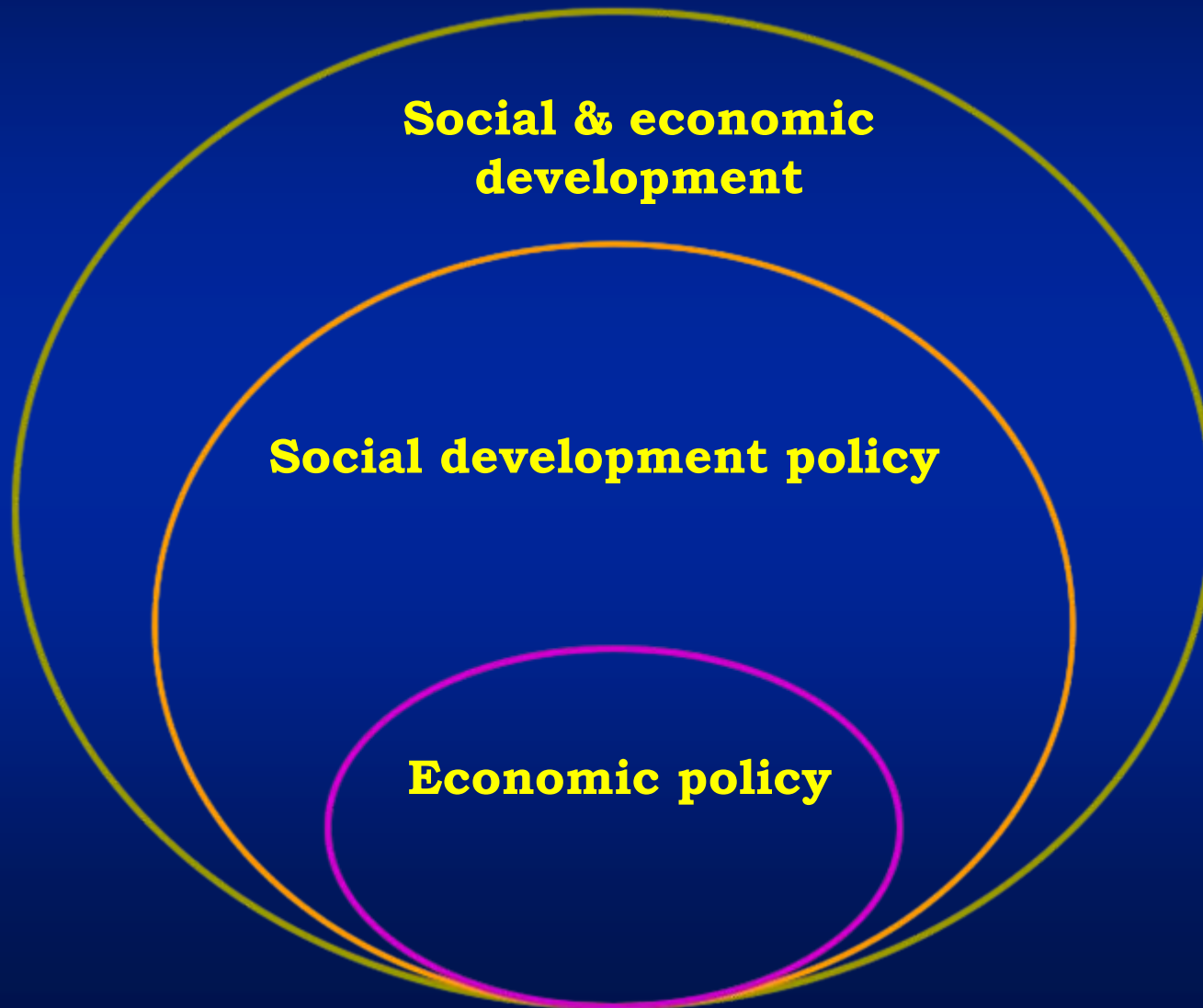
# ***Vulnerability reduction***

- **Social sector recovery & mitigation seeks to put measures in place which reduce vulnerability**

# **Social Policy**

**Social Policy is a collection of interventions directly affecting transformation in social welfare, social institutions and social relations.**

# ***Social Development***



# ***Social policy issues***

- **Sustainable livelihoods**
- **Job creation**
- **Human Resource Development – education, training and health**
- **Adequate housing – e.g. through self help programmes**

# ***Social policy issues...cont'd***

- **Social capital formation – through programmes which enhance, identity, gender equality, social equity respect for human, cultural, economic and political rights; good governance – transparency, accountability, participation**
- **Health and well-being**
- **Access to quality education**

# ***Social Priorities***

- **Projects for recovery and mitigation**
  - **Education**
  - **Community development**
  - **Additional housing facilities or human settlement development**
  - **Poverty reduction**
  - **Basic health needs**
  - **Micro enterprise development**
  - **Sustainable livelihoods**

# *Projects for Recovery & Mitigation*

- **Relocation - the creation of human settlements**
- **Retro fitting of housing stock/health/education facilities**
- **Public education**
- **Health education**
- **Sustainable livelihood**