Propositions

Natural Hazards and Education

The Impact of Floods on Primary School Education in Zambia

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1. Floods affect household welfare not only through the destruction of physical stock, but also through the destruction of human capital stock (This thesis).

2. In flood disasters, schools are directly affected because they cannot operate effectively without key human resources and face the challenge of absence of school children who are displaced, cannot reach schools without danger for their lives or need to help sustain family livelihoods or recovery ventures (This thesis).

3. School children in flood affected communities have a lower net enrolment rate, higher repeating rate, higher dropout rate and lower performance in national examination due to disruptions of schooling caused by floods (This thesis).

4. According to the human capital theory, education makes the individual more productive both in the market place and in the household, with higher levels of efficiency in resource utilization; therefore, continuation of education needs to receive priority in flood mitigation and rehabilitation (This thesis).

5. Because there cannot be a disaster if there are hazards but no vulnerability or if there is a vulnerable population but no hazard event (Wisner et al. 2004), both (technical) hazard modification and vulnerability reduction are in principle viable approaches to reduce flood disaster impact.

6. A community’s capacity to absorb the impact of a hazard event and recover from it, is determined by its geographical location, the strength of its physical infrastructures, its economic capacity expressed in terms of asset levels, reserves and access to loans, its levels of social cohesion and organization, and its cultural vision of disasters, all of which are valid entry points for policy depending on national policy priorities and available resources.

7. As environmental hazards in the developing world are essentially unresolved development problems, hazard reduction has to become an integral dimension of sustainable development efforts.

8. Resiliency depends not only on wealth and income, but also on a household’s relation to community decision-makers (Naudé et al., 2009).

9. The introduction of flood forecasting systems, the building of population awareness and preparedness, and the development of local institutional capacities have proven to be effective and socially sustainable disaster mitigation actions that should be pursued with priority in the African continent (This thesis).