



# Strengthening youth participation in emergencies

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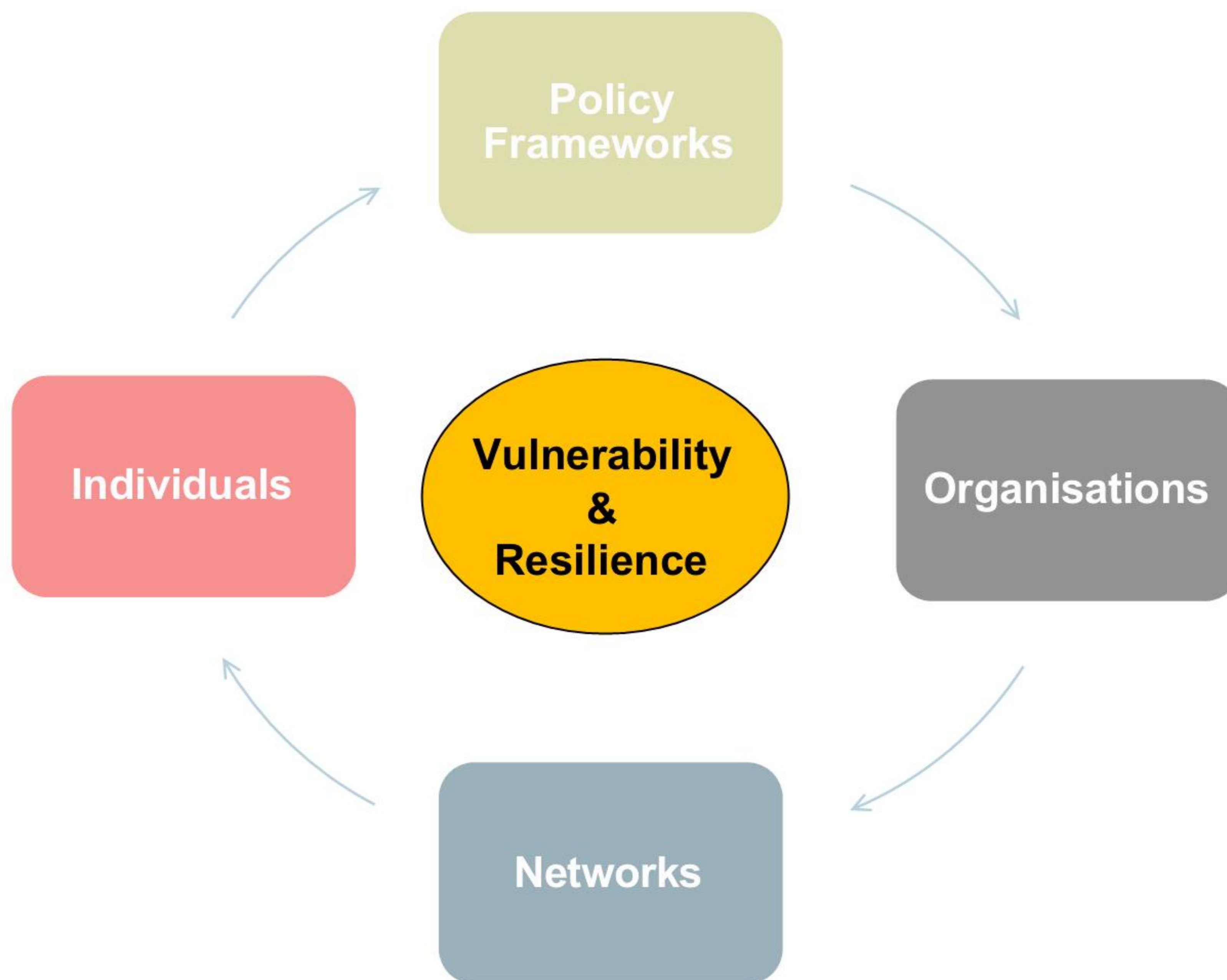


## **Pave the way for permanent youth participation in emergencies**

- Youth are important agents in the context of emergencies and development
- Youth are key drivers for social and economic reform processes
- Youth are the experts for their own life – and often know best how to improve their situation
- Youth participation in emergencies requires cross- sectoral cooperation and interdisciplinary working approaches



# Capacity Development for Youth Participation





## Vulnerability...

Is a condition, which is characterized by:

- Multidimensionality and encompasses different areas (political, economical, socio-cultural, ecological, infrastructural...)
- Context dependency (societal and cultural norms as well as behaviors play a critical role)
- Flexibility/changeability (conditions change constantly)
- Applies to different levels (local, regional, national, transnational)



## Resilience...

*...is the ability of the individual (and consequently, the collective) to cope with challenges. On the collective level social groups and networks are very important (they strengthen social cohesion).*

### It is also characterized by...

- Multidimensionality and encompasses different areas (political, economical, socio- cultural, ecological, infrastructural...)
- Context dependency (societal and cultural norms as well as behaviors play a critical role)
- Flexibility/changeability (conditions change constantly)
- Applies to different levels (local, regional, national, transnational)



# Capacity Development is a multi-level-approach

**Protection, skills/competence- building interventions and structural interventions** can be applied in a **multi-level-approach** depending on who is responsible (macro-, meso-, or local level)

- Universal resilience strategies are designed to reach the entire population, without regard to individual risk factors and are intended to reach a very large audience (e.g. media campaigns, curricula for all children within a school district)
- Selective resilience strategies target subgroups of the general population that are determined to be at risk (e.g. school dropouts, youth in refugee camps)
- Indicated resilience interventions identify individuals who are experiencing early signs of risk and groups with a high probability to become or are vulnerable



## Policy Frameworks

- Supporting the development and implementation of national youth policies, strategies and action plans with regard to youth promotion and participation
  - *Example El Salvador : local, national regional outreach, TIME factor*
- Institutionalizing youth participation and representation
  - Youth parliaments, youth umbrella organisations, etc.
  - Include youth in relevant processes (emergency plan, etc.)
- Mainstreaming youth and their participation in other sectors
- Donor coordination and negotiation



# Organisations

## Differentiation between Organisations working on/with

- Protection
- Skills/competence building interventions
- Structural interventions

### In

- Universal Prevention
- Selective Prevention
- Indicated Prevention

### On

- local,
- regional and
- national level





# Networks

- Networks with focus on youth
    - State actors
    - Non-state actors
    - State and non-state actors
  - Learning platforms and exchange of knowledge
  - Improving coordination of stakeholders working with youth
- ➔ *beyond national borders, Example ECLAC-UN*



## Individuals

- Advisory services for decision-makers to raise awareness for issues concerning youth
- Qualification and training of
  - Staff of state actors at all levels
  - Staff of NGOs at all levels from national to community based organisations
  - **Young people**
    - *In South Africa, young people act as conflict mediators in their communities in close collaboration with police and local administration*
    - *In Pakistan, the youth-led organization Pakistan Youth Alliance indulge youth in social welfare activities for those affected by national disasters, and political instabilities*

*Which factors influence the role of youth in emergencies?*



## Conclusion

- Strengthening protective factors as well as resilience in institutions and on political levels (local, district, national, regional)
- Promoting and supporting
  - capacity development for local partner organisations and target groups,
  - services on national, province- and district,
  - the formulation and implementation of policies
  - cross-sector dialogue with international donors
- Importance of gender sensitive prevention measures
- Prevention measures need to be specifically tailored to the needs of the target groups
- The ability to change and critical reflection is essential



## Ways Forward...

- Reach and invest in young people to break entrenched cycles of poverty and inequity
- **Talk with young people, not only about them!**
- Expand opportunities for youth to participate and voice their opinion, e.g. in national youth councils, youth forums, community service initiatives, online
- Engage youth in (Education) Cluster
- Support youth participation in programming
- Share good practices to inform the development of new programs or reorientation of existing ones



# Tools

- Get Youth on Board! A toolkit for stakeholder collaboration and youth promotion
  - <http://www2.gtz.de/dokumente/bib-2010/gtz2010-0056en-youth-toolkit.pdf>
- Approaches and methods for the promotion of children and youth in german development cooperation
  - <http://www.giz.de/Themen/de/SID-B3BE19AB-430C50A5/dokumente/gtz2006-en-approaches-and-methods.pdf>
- Handbook to design and plan comprehensive violence prevention measures
  - <http://www.gtz.de/de/dokumente/gtz2010-en-handbook-systemic-prevention-youth-violence.pdf>
- CINEDUC – Education through Cinema
  - <http://www.giz.de/Themen/de/dokumente/gtz2009-en-CINEDUC.pdf>