

reporting



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Clarification of Terms

- CLIMATE CHANGE
- EVIDENCE-BASED
- CONFLICT SENSITIVE
- ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE CHANGE REPORTING

Climate Change

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Why is climate change important?

- CLIMATE CHANGE IS HERE TO STAY
- CLIMATE CHANGE WILL AFFECT EVERYONE & NEARLY EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE FROM HEALTH TO FOOD SECURITY TO BUSINESSES & NATIONAL ECONOMIES
- THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE & DEADLY CONFLICT IS COMPLEX AND CONTEXT SPECIFIC BUT IT IS UNDENIABLE THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS A THREAT MULTIPLIER THAT IS ALREADY INCREASING FOOD INSECURITY, WATER INSECURITY WHILE DISRUPTING LIVELIHOODS & SPARKING MIGRATIONS

Conflict

- IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AT LEAST TWO PARTIES WHO HAVE, OR WHO THINK THEY HAVE INCOMPATIBLE OBJECTIVES, NEEDS & INTERESTS
- CONFLICT IS NORMAL, NATURAL & INEVITABLE BECAUSE ITS LINKED TO OUR ATTITUDES, BEHAVIOR & ATTITUDES AS HUMAN BEINGS
- BY ITS NATURE CONFLICT IS NEITHER GOOD NOR BAD. IT'S THE WAY THAT WE DEAL WITH IT THAT DETERMINES THE OUTCOME
- IF HANDLED WELL CONFLICT CAN BRING POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE COMMUNITY
- CONFLICT IS DYNAMIC. ITS TRENDS & SCOPE CAN CHANGE

Gender

- GENDER MAY BE UNDERSTOOD AS THE SOCIAL (RATHER THAN BIOLOGICAL) ATTRIBUTES, NORMS, ROLES, ATTITUDES OF A GIVEN SOCIETY.
- THE RESILIENCE OF POPULATION GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS TO THE CONFLICT DYNAMICS & THREATS TO THEIR SECURITY THAT CLIMATE CHANGE EXACERBATES CAN VARY BY GENDER, ETHNICITY, AGE, RELIGION (OR LACK THEREOF), CLASS DISABILITY, EDUCATION ETC
- THIS PARTICULARLY SO WITH GENDER WHICH DETERMINES KEY ASPECTS OF HOW PEOPLE EXPERIENCE & ARE ABLE TO RESPOND TO EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.
- THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN GENDER & OTHER IDENTITIES WITH RESPECT TO HOW PEOPLE EXPERIENCE & RESPOND TO THE LINKAGES BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE & CONFLICT MEANS THAT ITS ESSENTIAL NOT TO VIEW MEN, WOMEN, BOYS AND GIRLS AS HOMOGENOUS GROUPS BUT RATHER TO IDENTIFY PATTERNS OF INCLUSION & EXCLUSION, THE DISTRIBUTION OF POWER BETWEEN & WITHIN GROUPS, AND DIVERSE PATTERNS OF RESILIENCE & VULNERABILITY.

Why does the Media matter to climate change?

- IN DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES THE MEDIA IS FUNDAMENTAL TO POLITICAL LIFE. IT PROVIDES FACTS TO ALLOW SOCIETY TO BETTER BE INFORMED ABOUT THE ISSUES THAT MATTER TO IT.
- JOURNALISM GATHERS/COLLECTS INFORMATION, VERIFIES IT, ANALYZES IT AND DISSEMINATES IT
- THE MEDIA HAS BECOME AN EFFECTIVE PLATFORM TO CONTRIBUTE TO MITIGATION OF CONFLICTS IN COMMUNITIES. THE REVERSE IS ALSO TRUE
- EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE.
- THE WAY THE MEDIA COVERS CLIMATE CHANGE WILL DETERMINE HOW SOCIETIES DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM.
- JOURNALISM CAN PROVOKE OR PREVENT VIOLENCE ARISING FROM CONFLICTS

Evidence-based Reporting



- THE ETHICAL IMPERATIVE OF TRUTH TELLING. JOURNALISM IS ANCHORED IN TRUTH
- JOURNALISM MUST BE EVIDENCE-BASED, ITS NOT RUMORS EVEN IN THE ERA OF SOCIAL MEDIA.
- JOURNALISM, LIKE BANKING IS ANCHORED IN TRUST.

So how do we become credible?

- ▶ Verify, verify, fact check
- ▶ Do not share what you have not verified especially if you're a journalist
- ▶ Research
- ▶ Probe, it may take time but do not rush
- ▶ If you are not sure, there are other ways to report it as such
- ▶ Have reliable sources, even in security circles
- ▶ But beware of those who may wish to mislead you
- ▶ Interrogate clues & leads until you arrive at evidence
- ▶ Remember, always get the evidence. That is good journalism.

Gender Sensitivity in Reporting

- GENDER REFERS TO BOTH SEXES. JOURNALISTS & MANY PEOPLE TEND TO TIE TO WOMEN
- GENDER SENSITIVITY MEANS BEING CAUTIOUS TO INCLUDE BOTH SEXES IN OUR REPORTING & WRITING
- THINK ABOUT HOW WE BALANCE GENDER: WHICH VOICES DOMINATE? HOW DO WE PORTRAY MEN VS WOMEN?
- MEDIA CAN NO LONGER MARGINALIZE WOMEN IN THEIR SPACES
- WOMEN NOW MAKE VERY IMPORTANT DECISIONS IN HOMES & IN BOARD ROOMS.
- WOMEN BECOMING LEADING BREAD WINNERS AT HOME.
- THE LAWS OF UGANDA PROVIDE FOR EQUAL TREATMENT IN OPPORTUNITIES

Conflict Sensitive Reporting

- RESEARCH-ORIENTED
- CONFLICT ANALYSIS (5WS & H) WHAT FACTORS ARE AT PLAY?
- UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT IN WHICH YOU'RE REPORTING
- FRAMING
- LOOK FOR COMMON GROUND
- SEPARATE FACTS FROM OPINIONS
- AVOID SPIN/ AVOID OVER RELIANCE ON ELITES WITH ONE-SIDED EXPLANATIONS
- CONFLICT-SENSITIVE WORDS & IMAGES
- HATE SPEECH
- GENDER
- BE MINDFUL OF PEOPLES SAFETY ABOVE ALL ELSE

Media Coverage of Climate Change

- BRING OUT MORE SUCCESS STORIES HIGHLIGHTING HOW PEOPLE ARE ADAPTING & MITIGATING CLIMATIC CHANGE, DEVELOPING SOLUTIONS & USING TECHNOLOGIES THAT CAN LIMIT CLIMATE CHANGE DAMAGE.
- MORE COVERAGE OF THE STATUS OF NATIONAL ADAPTATION PROGRAMS OF ACTIONS & NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANS
- BRING OUT MORE STORIES THAT EXPLAIN THE CAUSES OF EVENTS SUCH AS DROUGHTS AND FLOODS AS WELL AS THE EFFECTS ON PLANTS AND ANIMALS.