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No Accident: Resilience And The Inequality Of Risk (Oxfam Briefing Papers Book 172)



NO ACCIDENT

Resilience and the inequality of risk

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Synopsis

We need a new approach to risk and poverty reduction. Major external risks, such as climate change and food price volatility, are increasing faster than attempts to reduce them. Many risks are dumped on poor people, and women face an overwhelming burden. In many places of recurrent crises, the response of governments and the international aid sector is not good enough. A new focus on building resilience offers real promise to allow the poorest women and men to thrive despite shocks, stresses, and uncertainty – but only if risk is more equally shared globally and across societies. This will require a major shift in development work, which for too long has avoided dealing with risk. More fundamentally, it will require challenging the inequality that exposes poor people to far more risk than the rich.

Book Information

File Size: 1481 KB

Print Length: 58 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Oxfam International (August 13, 2013)

Publication Date: August 13, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00EJNQ9Q8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,159,599 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #402

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