A wellbeing approach offers a clearer understanding of what matters to communities, and different groups within them, beyond traditional metrics such as increased income or reduced biophysical impacts to a hazard.

Wellbeing goes beyond the material aspect. It includes relational and subjective elements. Interventions aimed solely at improving material wellbeing may result in unintended consequences for vulnerabilities. Consulting with the people who will be affected by an intervention, to understand what affects their wellbeing, can help to avoid unintended consequences.

Risks and responses change over time and space. Households shift in and out of vulnerability. A dynamic understanding of risk and response, as well as how conceptions of wellbeing change over time, can give insights into where adaptation interventions should be targeted to be most effective.

People’s aspirations motivate them to make certain livelihood and risk management choices. Understanding aspirations is important for designing effective state and non-state interventions that improve overall wellbeing. Consulting with the people who will be affected by an intervention, to understand what affects their wellbeing, can help to avoid unintended consequences.

Wellbeing has three dimensions: material, subjective, and relational.

1. **Material**: Income, tangible assets.
2. **Subjective**: Perceived wellbeing, quality of life.
3. **Relational**: Social norms, social cohesion, and quality of relationships with others.

When implementing or devising adaptation interventions, there is a need to consider the cultural, social, and ecological contexts people live in, and how changes to these systems could impact different groups’ wellbeing.

The perspectives of affected communities must be included in decisions on appropriate ways to adapt to environmental change. Meaningful consultation, which also explores the factors that contribute to people’s wellbeing, is required to allow numerous and diverse opinions and voices to be heard.

Any intervention will result in winners and losers. Acknowledging these winners and losers should form an important element of the design and implementation of interventions so that appropriate compensation arrangements can be made.

It is important to understand how the adaptation actions of some groups can compromise the wellbeing of others, making everyone more vulnerable in the long term.

**Implications**

Recognising how aspirations change is key and can be used to inform investments by the state and private actors into sectors such as commerce, health, education (including vocational training), and industry. It can also help with effective implementation of agricultural policies and other programmes targeted at improving rural wellbeing. For example, projects in the context of larger-scale rural-to-urban migration can focus on young men as change agents where skill-building programmes and beyond-farm livelihood opportunities can help improve incomes while meeting personal aspirations.

A wellbeing approach helps humanise adaptation work, making it less technocratic and scientific. The approach emphasises the relevance of human needs and aspirations; the different resources and capacities people have; and how these shape livelihood choices, satisfaction with life, and resilience. It recognises that people’s capacity to engage in adaptation actions, and the types of action they can engage in, varies within communities and households. All these factors coalesce to have implications for equity and inclusion.

**Read more**


ASSAR. 2018. Sometimes our interventions can lead to unintended consequences: A well does not always lead to wellbeing. Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions (ASSAR). Available at: https://tinyurl.com/y7fawed.


 больше важна защита интересов группы, которая выигрывает, и потерпевшие, которые теряют. Это позволяет создать компенсационные механизмы.

Материальный, субъективный и относительный компоненты

1. **Материальный**: доход, имущество.
2. **Субъективный**: ощущение благополучия, качество жизни.
3. **Относительный**: социальные нормы, социальная связность, качество отношений с другими.

Когда реализуются или планируются адаптивные меры, необходимо учитывать культурные, социальные и экологические контексты, в которых живут люди, и как изменения в этих системах могут повлиять на различные группы по-разному.

Виды, которые выигрывают, и те, которые теряют, должны стать важной частью дизайна и реализации мероприятий, чтобы создать подходящие компенсационные механизмы.

Его важно понимать, как адаптивные действия некоторых групп могут угрожать благополучию других, делая всех более уязвимыми на протяжении долгого времени.

**Импликации**

Понимание того, как меняются аспирации, ключевое и может быть использовано для информирования инвестиций со стороны государства и частного сектора в секторах, такие как торговля, здравоохранение, образование (включая профессиональное обучение), и промышленность. Он также может помочь с эффективным применением сельскохозяйственных и других программ, направленных на улучшение сельского благополучия. Например, проекты в контексте крупномасштабной миграции в сельских или городских условиях могут сосредоточиться на молодых мужчинах как на сменщиках, где программы обучения и жизненные возможности за пределами сельского хозяйства могут помочь улучшить доходы, одновременно удовлетворяя личные потребности.

Методология благополучия помогает людям адаптивной работе, делая ее не технократичной и не научной. Этот подход акцентирует внимание на человеческих потребностях и аспектах; различных ресурсах и возможностях людей; и том, как эти факторы формируют выборы доходопрямых. Это помогает улучшить качество жизни и способность к адаптации.

**Прочитайте больше**


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CASE STUDY 1:

In rural villages in Omusati, Namibia, people see food security, good relations with their neighbours, access to government services, and rural development as important for their wellbeing. These issues intertwine to shape how they respond to environmental stress.

During times of stress, people get support from their neighbours. Neighbours are the “neck-bone that holds the head to the body,” as one person put it. “They help me with any needs that I have…. I can borrow money and food,” said another.

Government and development services are essential for sustaining agricultural production in these isolated communities. People report that their satisfaction with access to government services is “average,” indicating room for improvement. To improve their wellbeing, communities in Omusati need support for farming (e.g. tractors, seeds and water); better access to services (including health facilities); and support for dealing with shocks and stresses over the long term. They also need to diversify their livelihood activities beyond those affected by climate risk. Social networks (e.g. self-help groups) can enable communities to receive well-coordinated support from government, and stave off the erosion of social cohesion.

CASE STUDY 2:

To enhance agricultural security in India’s Maharashtra state, in 2010 the government introduced a scheme to subsidise and promote farm ponds so farmers could harvest rainwater and adapt to changes in rainfall. However, in the short term, these proved beneficial, enabling better conditions for growing crops. However, some farmers chose to convert the ponds, enlarging them and using them as storage tanks to hold groundwater. This has led to over-extraction from the aquifer system by a few farmers. Large farms are better able to adapt to changing rainfall patterns while small farmers do not have adequate irrigation. Unequal access to groundwater has increased the vulnerability of communities and added stress to the agrarian ecosystem. By undertaking unsustainable practices in the short term, people’s long-term wellbeing, and particularly that of women and children, may be undermined.

CASE STUDY 3:

In Coimbatore, in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu, the increasing uncertainty of farm profits, coupled with changing aspirations, is driving a decline in agricultural growth. Threats to rained agriculture (e.g. erratic rain, unstable markets, and increasingly frequent extreme climatic events) have caused farmers to adopt intensive farming practices, and a shift away from growing food and fodder crops. But farming remains challenging.

Young people are no longer interested in farming. They aspire to earn regular cash income. They choose better paying jobs in nearby urbanising towns, where they work in textile manufacturing and chemical industries. The average age of farmers in this region is now around 55. Most are men. At the same time, older generations aspire for their children to get an education and find salaried employment. Understanding aspirations for younger generations sheds light on why people make certain decisions that affect their wellbeing and adaptation options. We see how older family members prioritise aspirations for their children over individual wellbeing. In Coimbatore, people are increasingly taking out loans to pay for their children’s higher education, but the lack of government support for low-interest loans for education has led to high rural indebtedness.

CASE STUDY 4:

In Kenya, since the early 2000s, a conservancy model has enabled a community-based approach to natural resource management and wildlife conservation in semi-arid regions. Conservancies have improved material wellbeing and resulted in numerous benefits for local communities. These include better education, access to social services and loans; and jobs for youth. Women, who are involved in businesses like baobab fruit, have benefited from improved market linkages. They also have improved decision-making power and take part in managing education bursaries. However, conservancies prefer the youth and often educated ones lead the grazing committees. They are at times forced to consult us, especially in cases of conflicts, because of our experience in handling such issues. It is a very good thing that conservancies have employed our children. However, conservancies prefer the youth and their education there is the danger that at times they may underrate the voices of the elders in their decision.”

- Borana elder.

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES FOR GROUNDWATER LEVELS IN MAHARASHTRA, INDIA.

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ASPIRATIONS GIVE INSIGHTS INTO WHY PEOPLE ARE ADAPTING OR NOT.

People tend to measure their current standard of living against a set of socially-influenced goals. They may aspire to make changes in order to reach these goals. Understanding aspirations helps us better understand why, and how, people are adapting or not.

Adaptation is a process of gradual behavioural change driven by the experience of dealing with shocks over time. We might assume that people change their perceptions and actions to deal with issues like water scarcity and food insecurity in the present and future. But behaviours do not operate in a vacuum. They are shaped by household endowments, assets, social norms, cultural beliefs, environmental conditions, personal views and aspirations.

In SARs, people perceive climate variability as one of many factors that drive aspirations for different livelihood choices. It is important to understand what drives shifts to alternate livelihoods, and how these choices affect wellbeing.

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SOCIAL WELLBEING IS AS IMPORTANT AS MATERIAL ASSETS.

Traditional approaches to development tend to focus on material wellbeing, ignoring the subjective and relational components. Material wellbeing is important but sometimes this can improve while other wellbeing elements decline. Even though policy shifts may result in increased material wellbeing for some groups, this can come at the expense of other wellbeing aspects for the same group. Changes in wellbeing can occur without change in material wellbeing. Aspirations give insights into why people are adapting or not.

NEEDS, VALUES AND MOTIVATIONS SHAPE ADAPTATION CHOICES.

Wellbeing considers what people have and value; what they feel they can do within their socio-economic context; and how supported they feel. People’s values, aspirations and motivations largely influence the choices they make and shape their adaptation decisions. These concerns are important to assist and encourage decision makers to work more closely with stakeholders to design and develop interventions that meet people’s needs.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT COMMUNITIES IN OMUSATI, NAMIBIA, NEED TO IMPROVE THEIR WELLBEING.

For these communities, crop farming provides food security and underpins cultural identity. With increasingly changing rainfall seasons, and more frequent and intense droughts and floods, people are struggling to grow crops. Many farmers are feeling hopeless. They perceive that growing crops is not viable and there are few alternatives. This affects their wellbeing at the material and psychological level.

“We do not want our children to continue in agriculture, that is why we are investing all our money into their schooling. Let them get good salaried jobs, we don’t want them to face the same problems that we face. [...] Our land is all for them but we have told them to sell it after we are gone; we work hard so that they can have a better life away from here.”

- Sethalaxmi and her husband, Muniappa.