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# **Which people are most vulnerable to climate change?**

December 2009

**Maria Adebowale, Director**





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# **'Blinding Simplicity'?**

**The blinding simplicity is that  
technology and demography  
consistently run ahead of a deeper  
social understanding**

**Source: Jeffrey Sachs 2008, Crowded Planet**



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# Context

**Global warming is underway and many impacts will fall most heavily on the poorest and most vulnerable communities with least ability to adapt**

**UNFCCC, Kofi Annan, Sir Nicholas Stern, Oxfam, SNIFFER, Defra, Capacity Global .....**



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## Environmental Justice ...

- **This is at the core of sustainable development: *'it is futile to attempt to deal with environmental problems without a broader perspective that encompasses the factors underlying...poverty and ..inequality'*** 'Our Common Future' - the World Commission on Environment and Development 1987
- **Environmental justice is the right to a clean and healthy environment. Equitable share of environmental goods and bads.** - *'What is Environmental Justice'*, Capacity Global, 2007 ([www.capacity.org.uk](http://www.capacity.org.uk))



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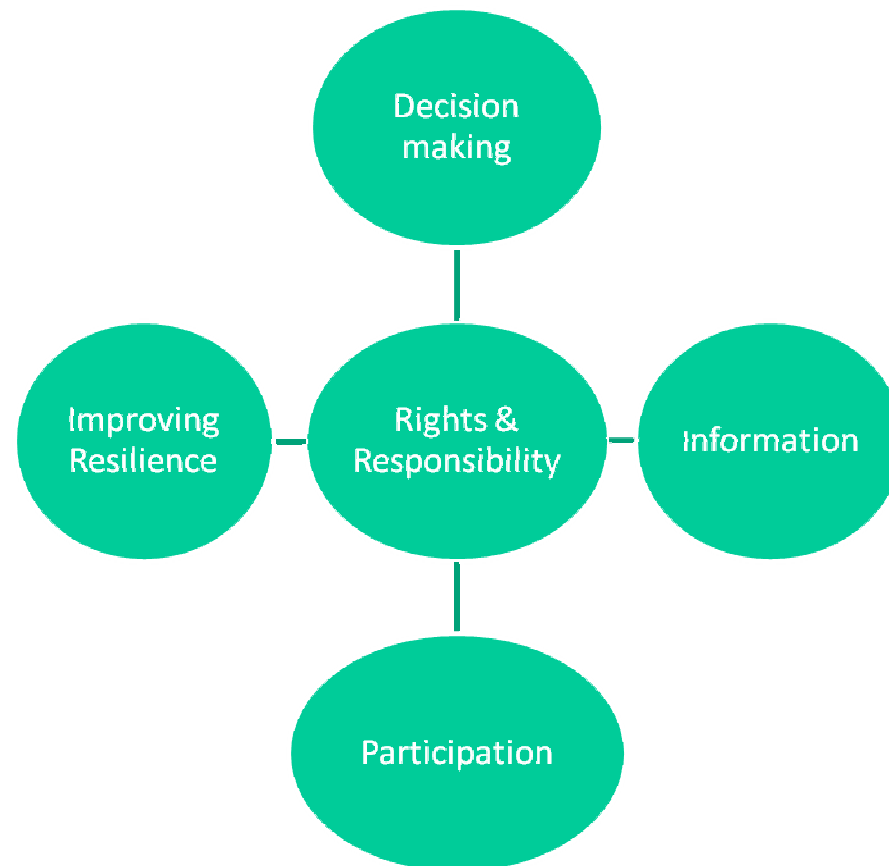
## **...and burden of costs**

Impacts: negative and positive  
need to be shared equitably

environmental justice needs to be  
at the heart of planning



# Four key areas: Substantive and Procedural





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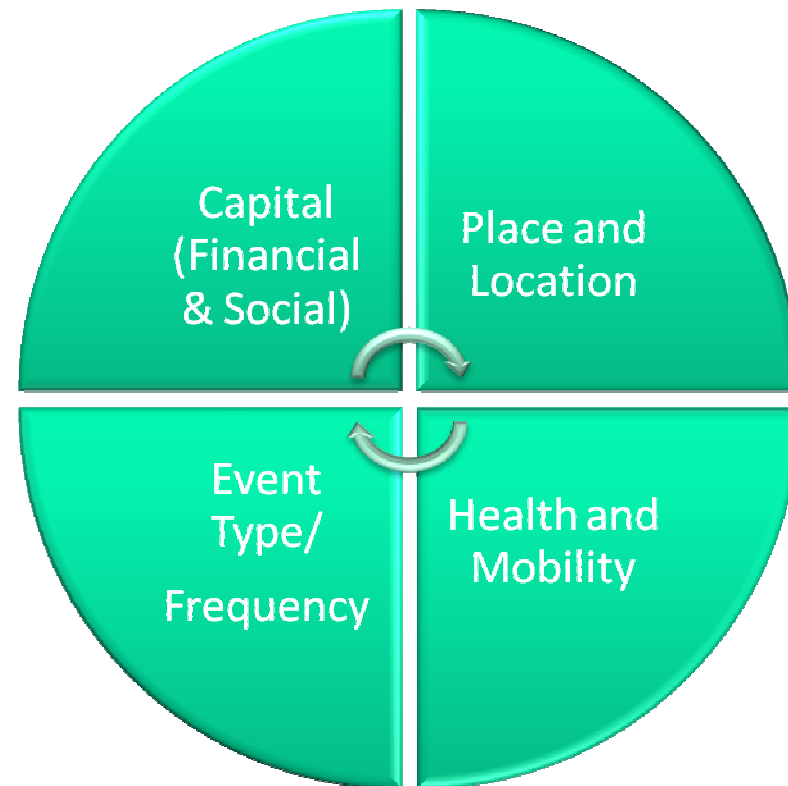
# Mapping Vulnerability

- Understanding demographics of vulnerability:
- Understanding notions of exclusion and who are the hard to reach

'Hard to Reach?', Capacity Global 2009, [www.capacity.org.uk](http://www.capacity.org.uk)



# Vulnerability profile and climate change





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# Poverty and Vulnerability: Whose Most Likely?

Disabled

BAMER

Women

Children

Elderly



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# Poverty and Vulnerability

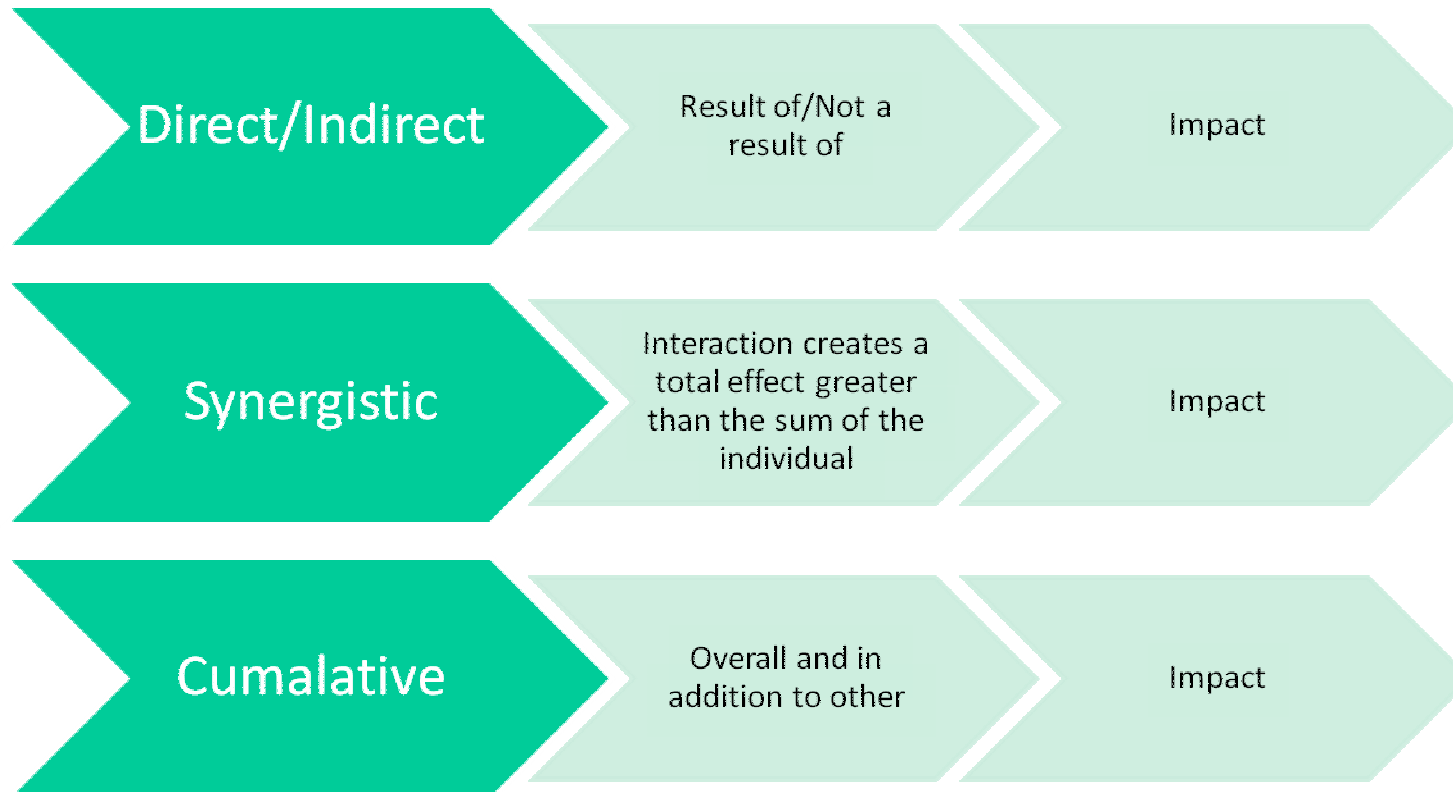
- **62% more likely to be living in flood risk areas (Lucas et al 2006)**
- **Those who live near rivers are most likely to live near rivers with poor or bad water quality which may exacerbate high temperatures**
- **Live in areas with poor air quality which can be exacerbated by high temperatures**

SNIFFER, Differential Social Impacts of Climate Change in the UK, 2009



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## Resulting in:

- **Health:** water, food, skin, respiratory
- **Well Being:** anxiety, stress, depression
- **Security:** unrest , conflict



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# Just Planning

- Ethics/Purpose and History of planning e.g. Ebenezer Howard
- Planning Modernity: Planning and Climate Change Coalition



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# Shaping Resilient Settlements

- Challenge is design principles with environmental justice at it's heart
- 6 Principles: involvement, autonomy, connectivity, diversity, response to place and adaptability Barton, Grant, and Guise – Shaping Healthy Neighbourhoods, 2005
- **7<sup>th</sup> Principle required: equity**

# Independent Think Tank and Social Enterprise

- Research
- Outreach
- Advocacy
- Skills and Training



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