

A photograph of a woman wearing a patterned headscarf and a purple and white plaid shirt. She is holding a baby in a grey sling. The background is blurred, showing other people in a public setting. The text is overlaid on the image.

**En “Gendered Vulnerability”**  
**Feminine Perspective in the face of Disaster**

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# Key Issues

A woman wearing a headscarf and a patterned shawl is carrying a young child on her back. The child is wearing a grey knit hat and a blue patterned shirt. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in a public setting.

**Are women and other vulnerable groups more exposed to natural and technological hazards and risks?**

**Are women and other vulnerable groups further exposed to secondary hazards and risks such as trafficking, violence within and outside household, health and economic opportunities**

**Is the vulnerability to disaster linked to the socially evolved role of being men and women?**

**Do the women have access to and control of resources?**

**What are the possible policies and measures to improve resilience and to reduce the risks?**

# Who are the Vulnerable

- *Poor and low-income households*
- *Single-parent households.*
- *Socially isolated households.*
- *Recently arrived residents, immigrants, foreigners.*
- *Senior citizens, children and young people.*
- *People with a disease or a mental or physical disability.*
- *Undocumented residents; refugees; war veterans.*
- *Indigenous populations and subordinate ethnic groups.*
- *Institutionalized populations; homeless residents.*
- *Women.*

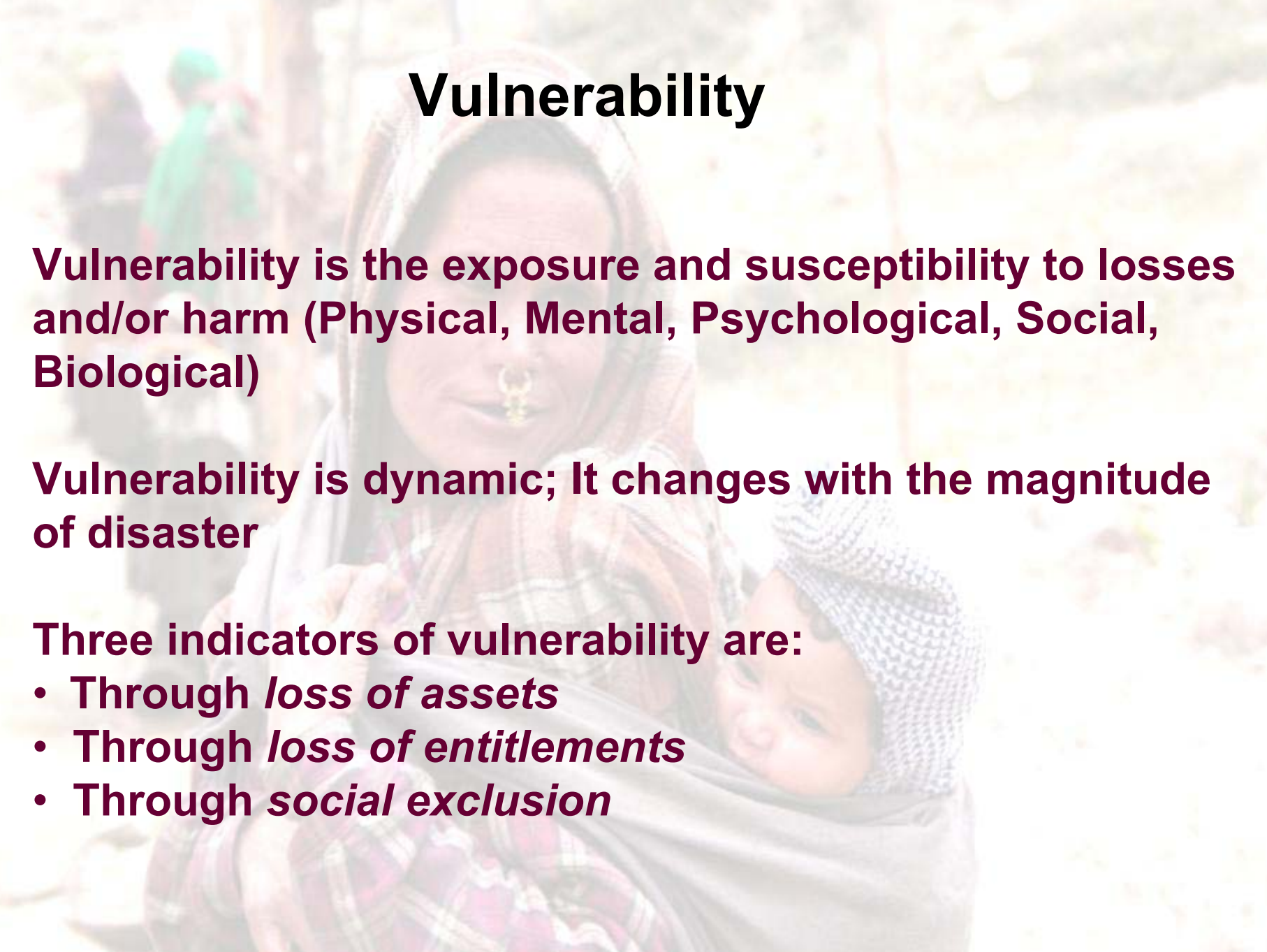
*(Source: Enarson and Morrow (1998))*

**Vulnerable among the vulnerables are *Women* who are;**

- *Poor and low-income*
- *Elderly*
- *Having a disability or disease*
- *Heads of household*
- *Homeless*
- *Indigenous*
- *Immigrants*
- *Isolated*
- *Rural*
- *Affected by violence*



# Vulnerability

A woman wearing a brown headscarf and a gold nose ring is holding a baby in a grey sling. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with other people.

**Vulnerability is the exposure and susceptibility to losses and/or harm (Physical, Mental, Psychological, Social, Biological)**

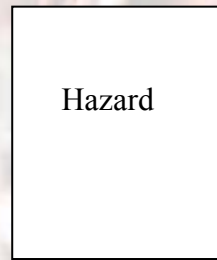
**Vulnerability is dynamic; It changes with the magnitude of disaster**

**Three indicators of vulnerability are:**

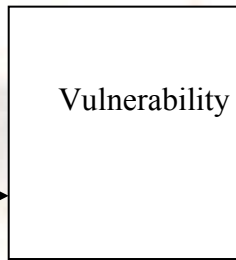
- **Through *loss of assets***
- **Through *loss of entitlements***
- **Through *social exclusion***

# Linkages of Vulnerability to Disaster

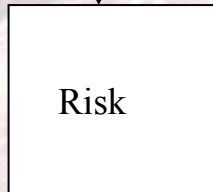
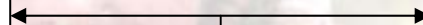
Physical and human induced causes



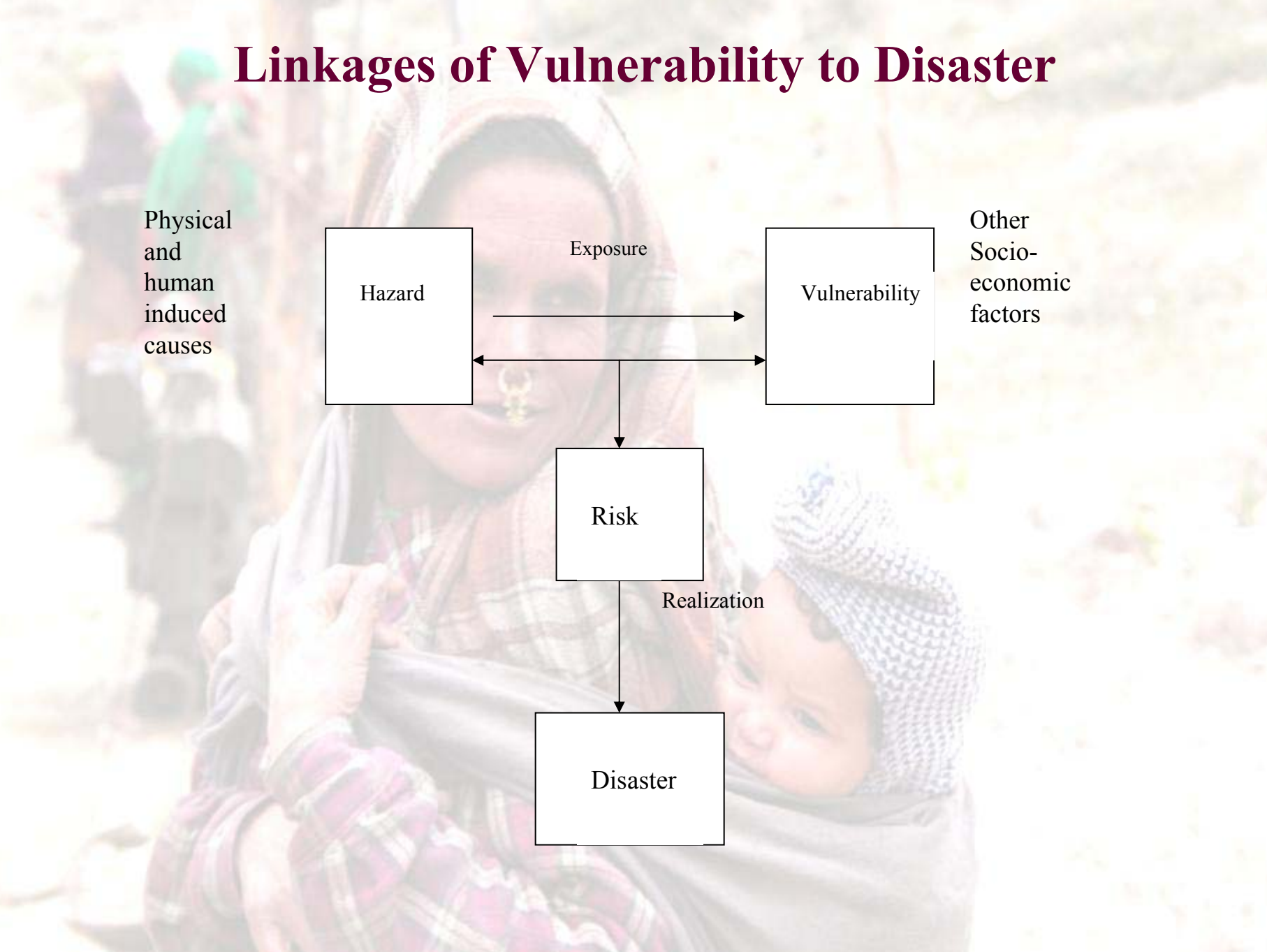
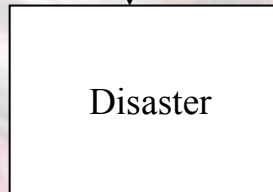
Exposure



Other Socio-economic factors

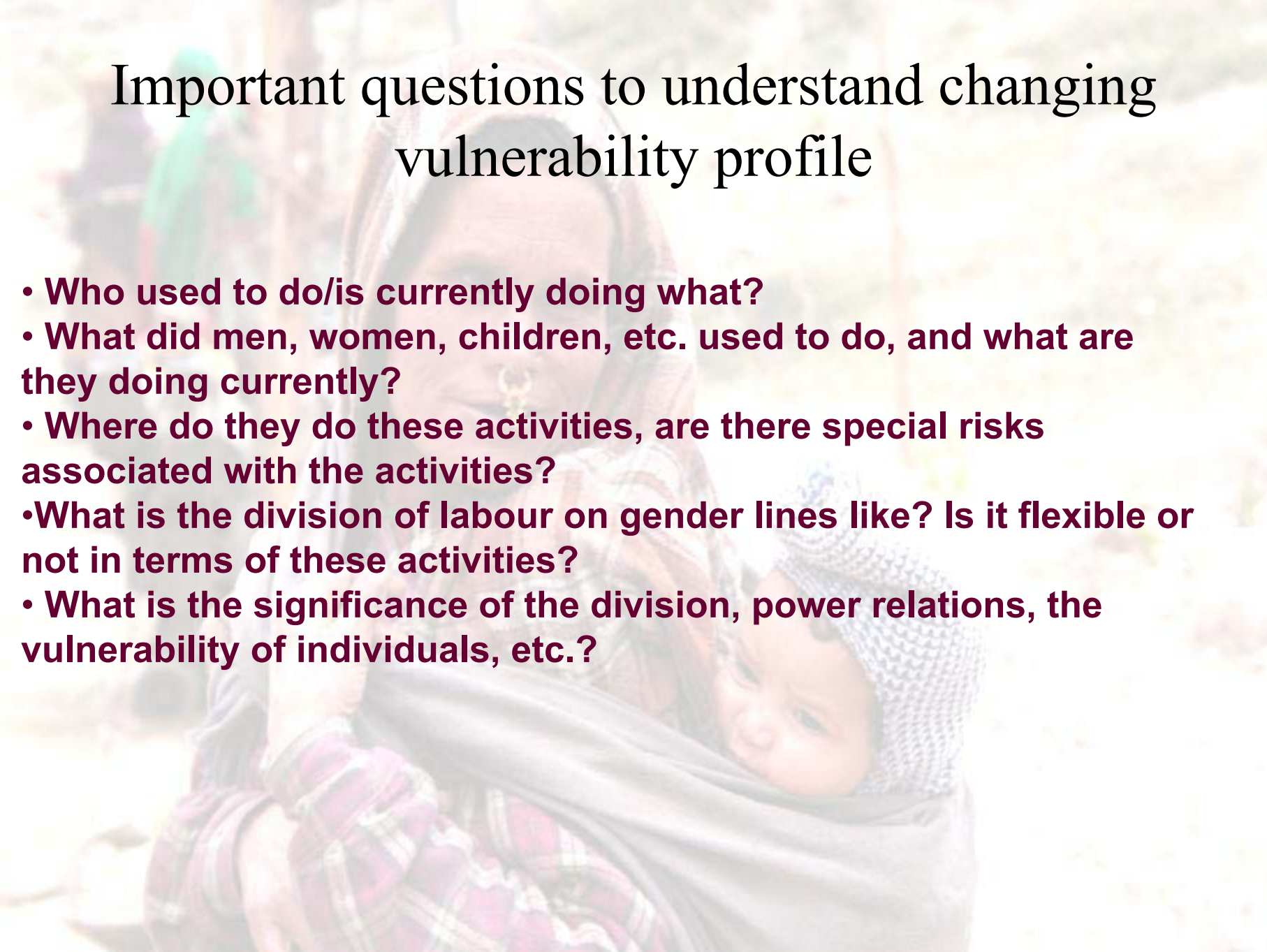


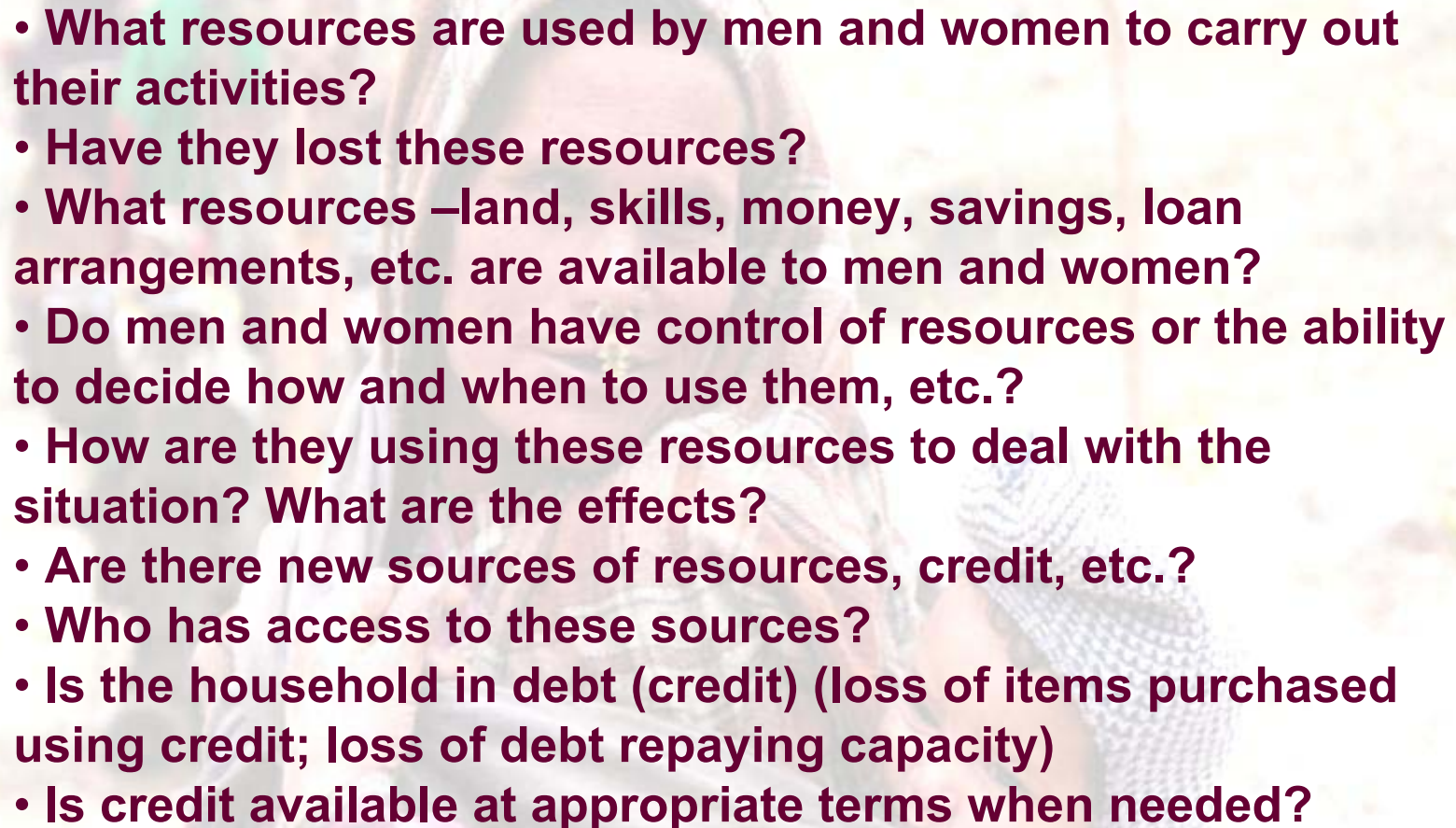
Realization



# Important questions to understand changing vulnerability profile

- **Who used to do/is currently doing what?**
- **What did men, women, children, etc. used to do, and what are they doing currently?**
- **Where do they do these activities, are there special risks associated with the activities?**
- **What is the division of labour on gender lines like? Is it flexible or not in terms of these activities?**
- **What is the significance of the division, power relations, the vulnerability of individuals, etc.?**



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- A woman in a red and white patterned headscarf and a blue and white patterned shirt is walking outdoors, carrying a large, heavy bundle on her head. The bundle is wrapped in a dark, patterned cloth. She is looking down at the bundle. The background is a bright, outdoor setting with some blurred figures and structures.
- **What resources are used by men and women to carry out their activities?**
  - **Have they lost these resources?**
  - **What resources –land, skills, money, savings, loan arrangements, etc. are available to men and women?**
  - **Do men and women have control of resources or the ability to decide how and when to use them, etc.?**
  - **How are they using these resources to deal with the situation? What are the effects?**
  - **Are there new sources of resources, credit, etc.?**
  - **Who has access to these sources?**
  - **Is the household in debt (credit) (loss of items purchased using credit; loss of debt repaying capacity)**
  - **Is credit available at appropriate terms when needed?**

# Gender Dimensions of Vulnerability

- **Differentiated impact on men and women**
- **Different strategies adopted by them to deal with crisis situations**
- **Understanding the societies, their traditions and the power relations based on gender, age or social class .**
- **Questions about violence within and outside the household**
- **Women's rights**
- **Women's attitudes as regards stereotypical roles**
- **Partaking in Decision making**
- **Women among the highest groups who are uninsured**
- **Women carry additional workload and burden**
- **High cost of healthcare increases discrimination against women and girls.**

# Gendered Role

A woman wearing a headscarf and a nose ring is holding a baby in a sling. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with other people.

- *reproductive* (childbearing, nurturing and maintenance of households)
- *productive* (livelihood support, food production, survival strategies)
- *social* (integrating family and community as a whole)
- *psychological* (stabilizing personal relations and emotions)
- *cultural* (historic memory of family, clan and village)
- *socially* the female work force is taken for granted and considered without or with less economic value

# Gendered Spaces

The symbolic distribution of space assigns;

**The male the public sphere**

**The women the private**

It is this social construction of stereotyped gendered space that puts the women at risk and makes them vulnerable



# Importance of Feminine Perspective in Disaster Risk Management

A background image showing a woman in a headscarf carrying a baby in a sling. The image is faded and serves as a backdrop for the text.

## Women participation

- Reduces gender related social vulnerability
- Improves hazard resilience
- Increases the survival chances of the whole community
- Reduces gender violence and insecurity before, during and after disasters
- Enhances risk communication

# Importance of Feminine Perspective in Disaster Risk Management

A woman wearing a headscarf and a nose ring is holding a baby in a sling. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in a public setting.

Local knowledge of women whose extensive social roles, community and family work and economic activities make them **experts on tackling risk** at the household, neighborhood, and community levels.

Neglecting the views of half the society leads to

**“Gender Blind”** research that overlooks differences and inequalities that are highly relevant before, during, and after disasters.

# For a Resilient Society

- **Integration of gender analysis into capacity and vulnerability assessments**
- **Disaster projects (all phases of disaster cycle) must be gender-sensitive and equitable in their effects**
- **Government, International and local bodies should be gender sensitive in all its plans and implementations.**
- **Women must be full and equal partners in all disaster planning and programming.**
- **Disaster response and reconstruction must promote social justice, equity and sustainable development through women's empowerment.**

A photograph of a woman in a headscarf holding a baby in a sling. The woman has a nose ring and is looking towards the camera. The baby is wearing a grey knit hat. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with other people. The text "Thank You..." is overlaid in the center in a bold, italicized, dark red font.

***Thank You...***