

SOUTH ASIA TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS: REGIONAL WEBINAR SERIES  
“Strengthening preparedness & resilience of South Asia’s transboundary rivers”

# Facilitating Inclusive Transboundary Dialogues and Action: TROSA Insights

Jyotiraj Patra  
Project Manager-Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA)  
Oxfam in Asia

09 Nov 2020



**OXFAM**

# Outline

- Inclusion in transboundary rivers governance and resilience building
- TROSA
- Insights:
  - Trust
  - Translation
  - Transformation
- Way forward



Image: TROSA/Oxfam

# Inclusion in transboundary river dialogues

- Inclusion is key to ensure marginalized communities participate in, and contribute to, shared waters policies
- Addresses existing inequalities and differential power relations, particularly those of women and girls
- Bottom-up processes of dialogues provide safe spaces for communities to share their voices and visions on shared waters
- SDG Target 6.b: Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management



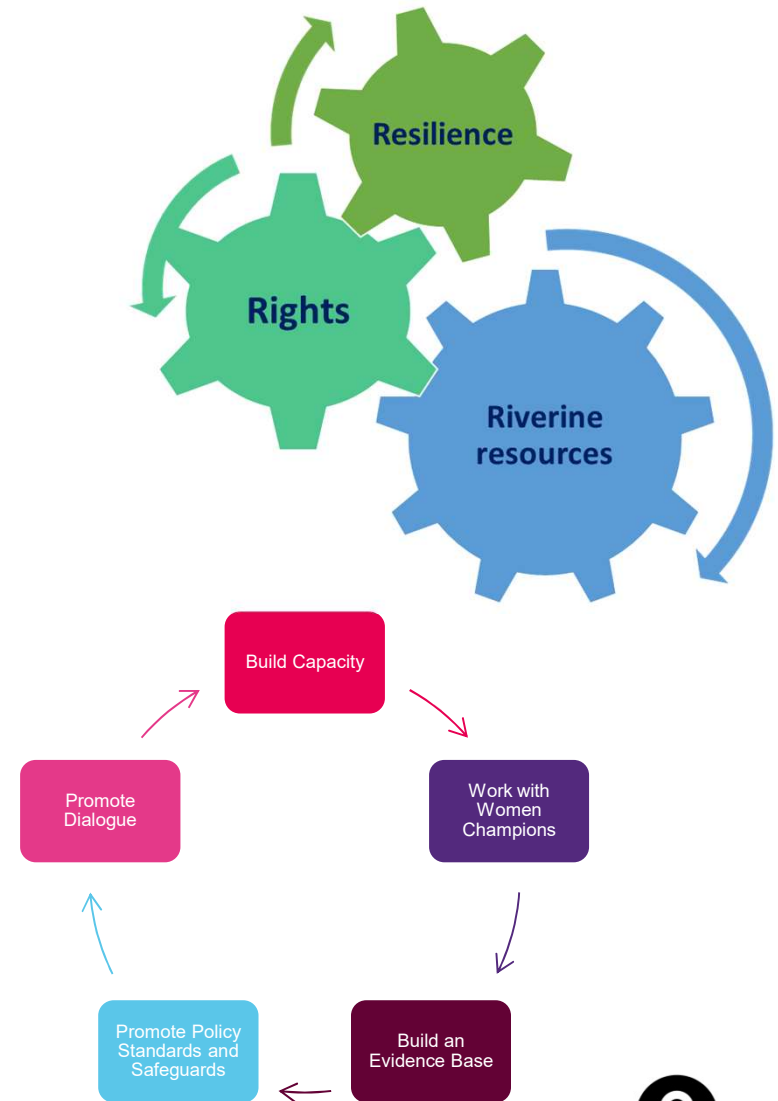
The Emerging Role of Youth in the  
Transboundary Water Governance in South Asia



Image: TROSA/Oxfam

# Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA)

- A regional water governance project (2017-2022) addressing some of these underlying inequalities by facilitating inclusive dialogues and collective action involving civil society organizations, private sector and governments.
- Supported by the Government of Sweden
- Implemented by Oxfam and partners in the GBM and Salween basins





# TROSA Insights

- **Trust:** Build trust among different stakeholders; Frequent dialogues; shift the agenda from water sharing (zero-sum) to benefit sharing (win-win)
- **Translation:** policies, frameworks and knowledge; information is accessible, usable and used
- **Transformation:** of approaches and practices; human rights-based approach; women and youth leadership



Image: TROSA/Oxfam




# Opportunities

- Collective political commitment on resilience building (e.g. The Ullanbaatar Declaration 2018 and the recent Ministerial Declaration in support of the HKH Call to Action, Oct 2019)
- Sub-regional initiatives like BIMSTEC, SASEC and BBIN and multi-lateral platforms like the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
- Regional research collaboration involving research institutes, think tanks, CSOs, academia and media (e.g. ICIMOD-facilitated Himalayan University Consortium, HUC)
- Growing movement on Rights of Rivers
- The newly launched SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework
- More engagement on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and the on-going National Action Plans (NAPs)



# Way forward

- 
- A wide river with a rocky bed and steep, eroded banks under a hazy sky. The river is a vibrant turquoise color, contrasting with the brown and grey tones of the eroded banks. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a soft, hazy sky. The foreground shows a rocky bank with some sparse vegetation.
- More spaces and platforms for civil society participation and engagement in water diplomacy in South Asia
  - Initiatives to promote more youth and women leadership
  - Human rights-based approaches
  - Think and act beyond water sharing.....

Email: [info.Trosa@oxfam.org](mailto:info.Trosa@oxfam.org)

Twitter/Facebook: @RiversTROSA

Web: <https://asia.oxfam.org/what-we-do/water-governance-transboundary-rivers-south-asia>



**OXFAM**