Outline

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

• Collective political commitment on resilience building (e.g. The Ulanbaatar 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

• 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.....
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