



STRATEGIC RESILIENCE ASSESSMENTS

Applying a resilience lens to
development strategies & programs

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USAID
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Session Overview

- › Conceptual Background
- › STRESS Overview
- › Applications & Experiences



Resilience Measurement Practical Guidance Series:

Guidance Note No.1 – Risk & Resilience Assessments

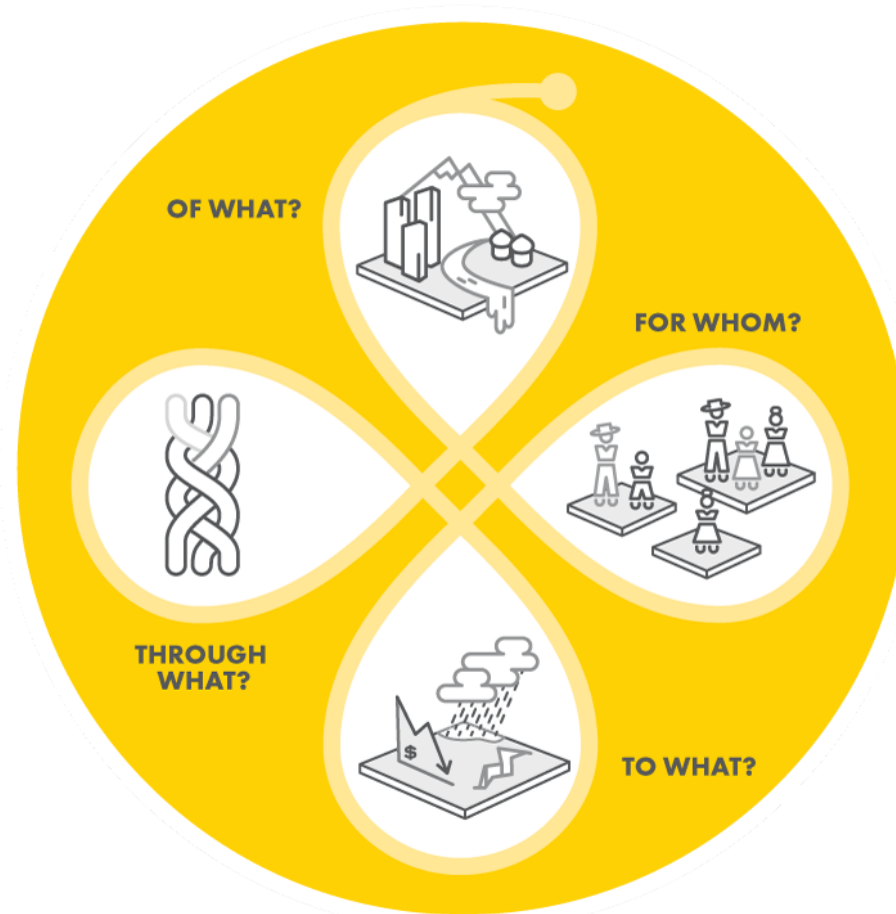


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Resilience Questions

SYSTEMS

CAPACITIES



PEOPLE

SHOCKS/ STRESSES

Resilience to What End?



Conceptual Framework

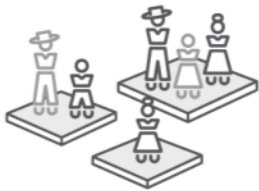
TARGET GROUP

SYSTEMS / CONTEXT

SHOCKS/STRESSES

INTERACTION WITH CAPACITIES
AND SYSTEM DYNAMICS

WELL-BEING OUTCOMES
(i.e., FOOD SECURITY)



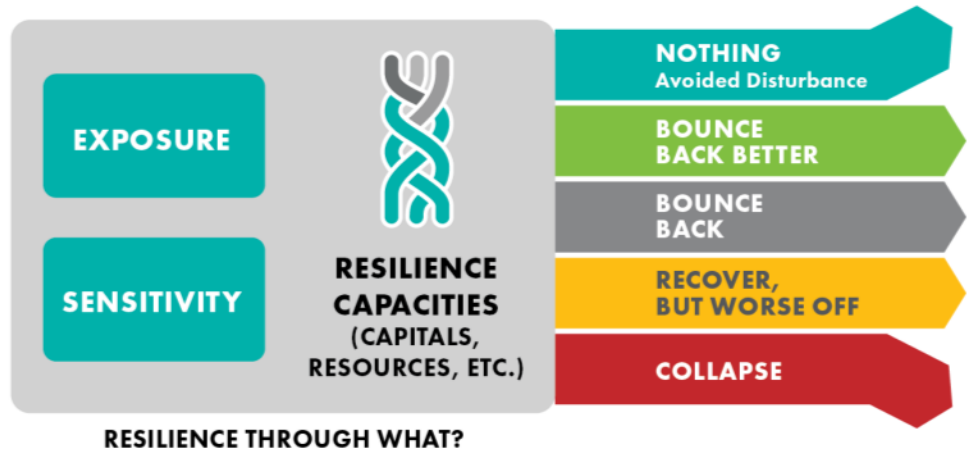
RESILIENCE FOR
WHOM?



RESILIENCE OF
WHAT?



RESILIENCE TO
WHAT?



EXPOSURE

SENSITIVITY

RESILIENCE
CAPACITIES
(CAPITALS,
RESOURCES, ETC.)

NOTHING
Avoided Disturbance

BOUNCE
BACK BETTER

BOUNCE
BACK

RECOVER,
BUT WORSE OFF

COLLAPSE

RESILIENCE THROUGH WHAT?

Resilience Capacities



- Ability of people, communities and systems to achieve improved well-being in the face of shocks and stresses

RESOURCES

STRATEGIES

A vibrant floral arrangement featuring yellow and orange flowers, green foliage, and colorful beaded necklaces. The background is a collage of these elements, with a semi-transparent white shape on the left side containing the text.

STRESS Overview

What is a **STRESS**?

- A strategic-level assessment process for understanding risk, drivers and required capacities to build resilience in a given context
- helps develop effective, measurable resilience-building strategies
- considers the complex interactions that exist between risks, people and the socio-ecological systems in which they live
- anchored in the five resilience questions

What's unique about a STRESS?

**SYSTEMS-
FOCUSED**

**SECTOR-
NEUTRAL**

**MULTIPLE
SCALES**

**MULTIPLE
TIME FRAMES**

**ANALYSIS OF
RISKS AND RISK
PROFILES**

**ANALYSIS OF
RESILIENCE
CAPACITIES**

STRESS Phases:



- › **Scope:** Review team and expert knowledge through participatory workshops and identify knowledge gaps
- › **Inform:** Conduct secondary literature review; complement with qualitative field methods
- › **Analyze:** develop risk profiles and evaluate resilience capacities
- › **Strategize:** develop a resilience-focused, measurable theory of change

Phase 1: SCOPE

- › Determine the purpose, scope and scale
- › Gather collective knowledge through workshops and rapid literature review
- › Conduct systems mapping
- › Identify knowledge gaps
- › Prepare data collection plan



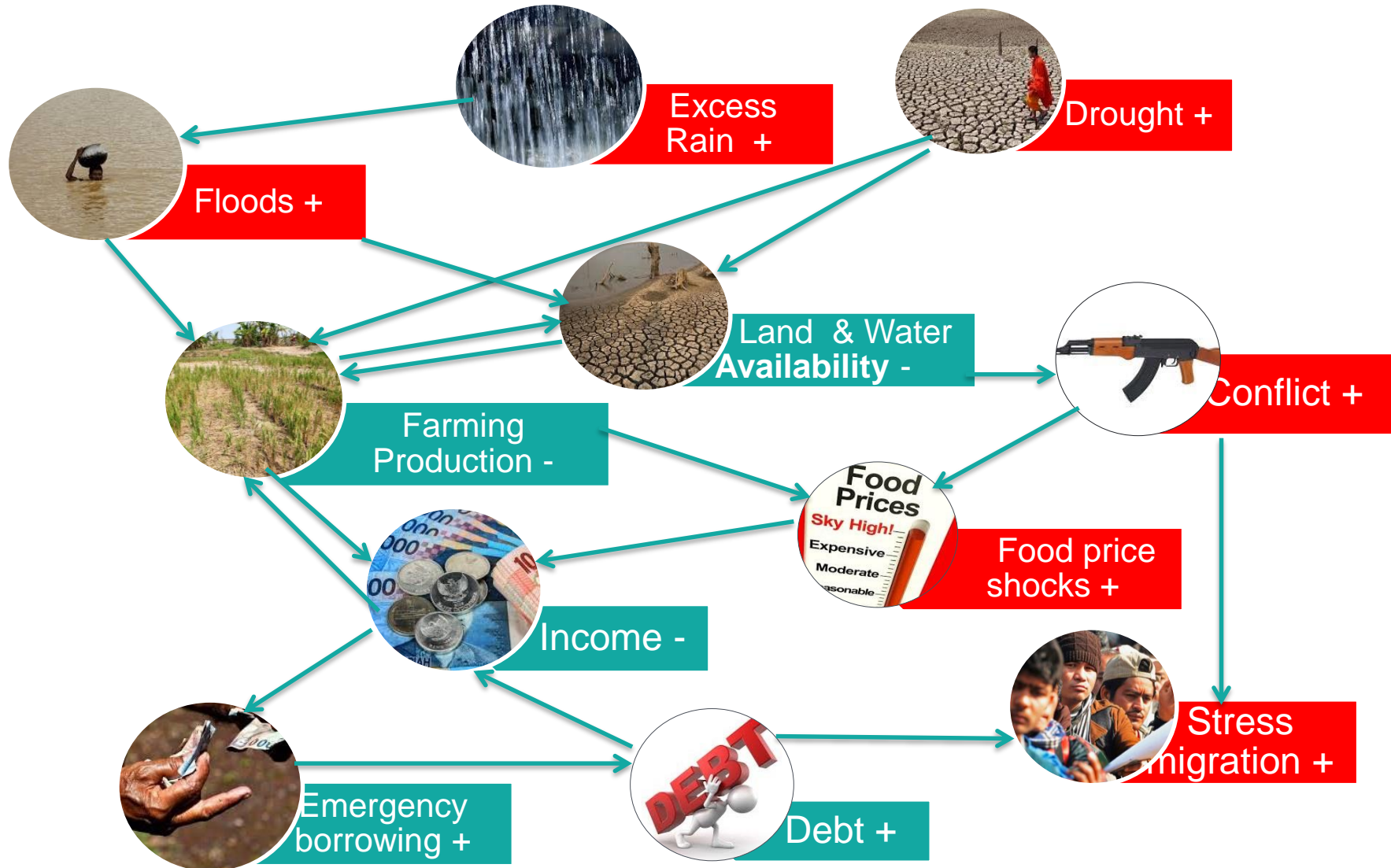
Systems Mapping

RESILIENCE OF WHAT?



RESILIENCE TO WHAT?

Shocks and Stresses



Phase 1: Scoping Outputs

- 1) A preliminary systems analysis defining interaction between:
 - development or systemic constraints
 - shocks and stresses
 - gendered impacts
- 2) A preliminary understanding of resilience capacities – current and potential
- 3) A detailed research plan that identifies key knowledge gaps, primary data collection methods, and a sampling strategy.



Phase 2: INFORM

- › Data collection should be focused and narrowed
- › Fit for purpose, time and scale:
- › Focus on knowledge gaps:
- › Draw on existing tools and methods:
 - Secondary Data review
 - Qualitative interviews
 - Quantitative Survey



Phase 3: ANALYZE

KEY DELIVERABLES:

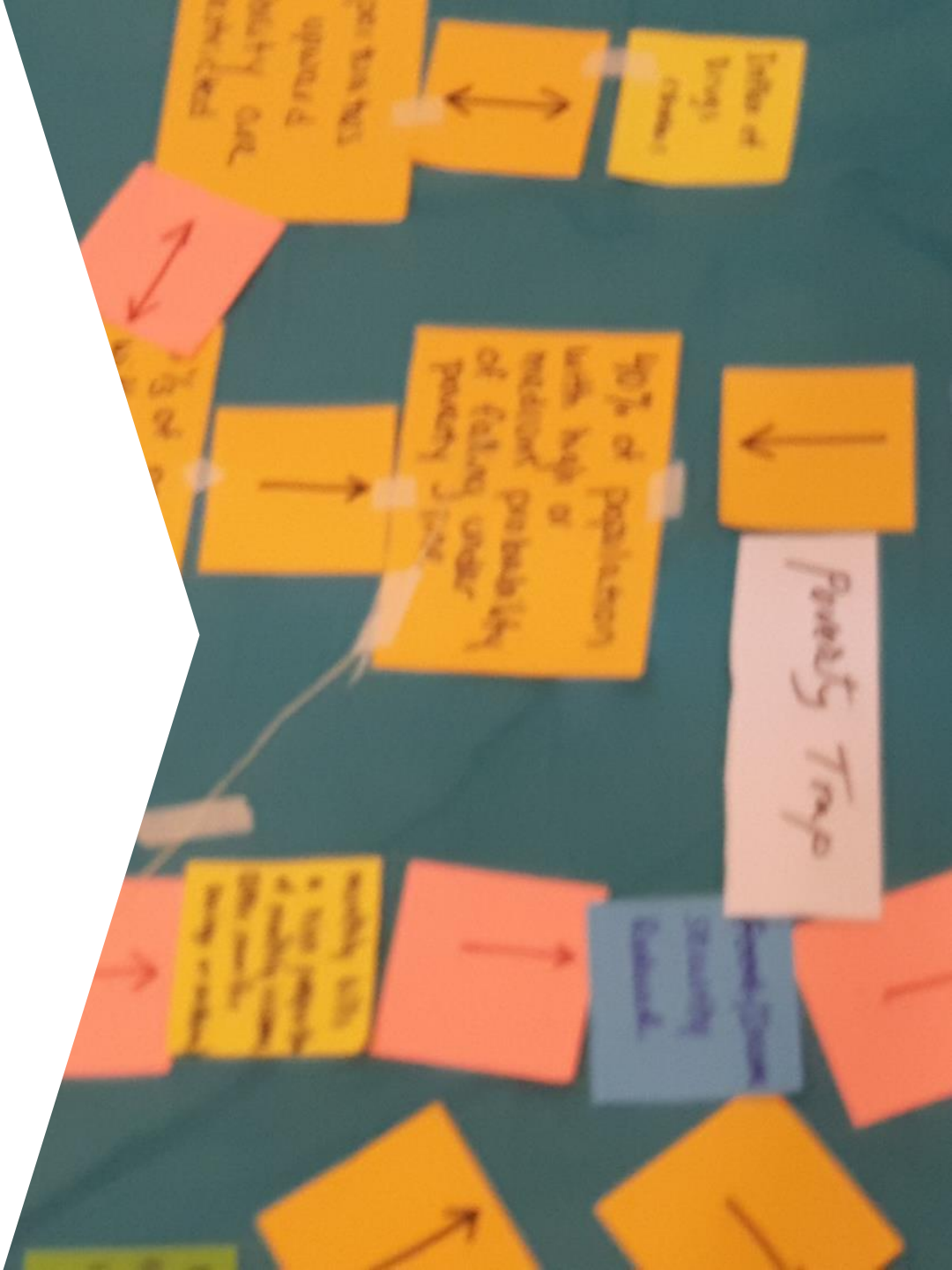
- › Development trends, with focus on systemic relationships
- › Risk Analysis:
 - Shocks/stresses to systems and target populations
 - Risk drivers and impacts
 - Risk profiles of target populations
- › Resilience Capacity Analysis:
 - Existing v. required resilience capacities;
 - Underlying factors preventing access and use of resilience capacities



Phase 4: STRATEGIZE

KEY DELIVERABLES:

- › Theory of Change
- › M&E Framework
- › Resilience-building strategies/logic chains



STRESS Deliverables:

Risk Profile

- Trends and interactions between shocks and stresses, and system dynamics

Resilience Capacities

- Existing and required resources – social, physical, financial, natural, political, human- and how they must be applied to mitigate risk

Theory of Change

- A high-level logical pathway defining the relationship how resilience capacities can support achieving well-being outcomes in the face of risk



STRESS

Examples



**PAHAL PROGRAM - STRATEGIC
RESILIENCE ASSESSMENT
(STRESS) REPORT**

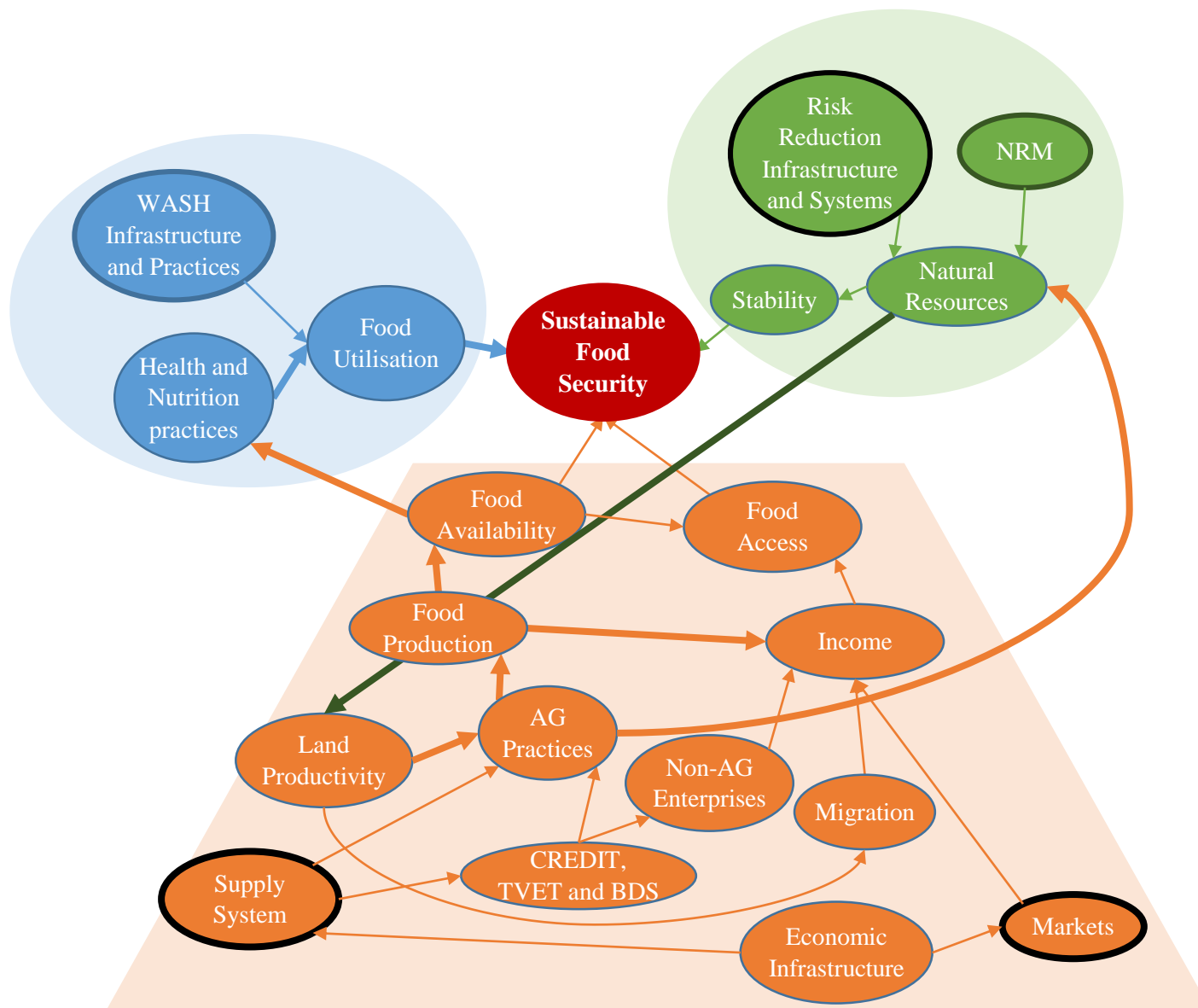
Promoting Agriculture, Health
and Alternative Livelihoods (PAHAL)



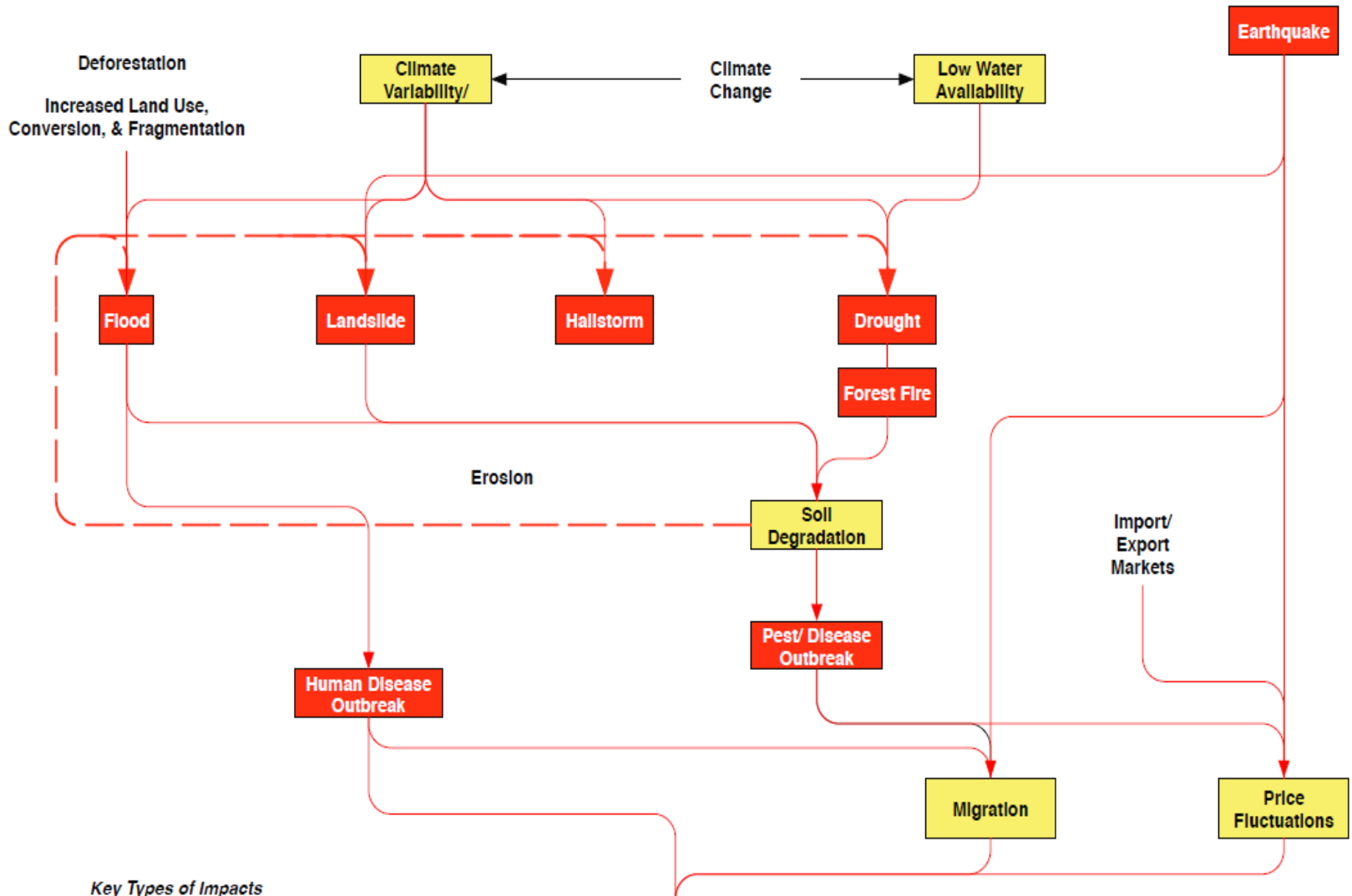
Nepal



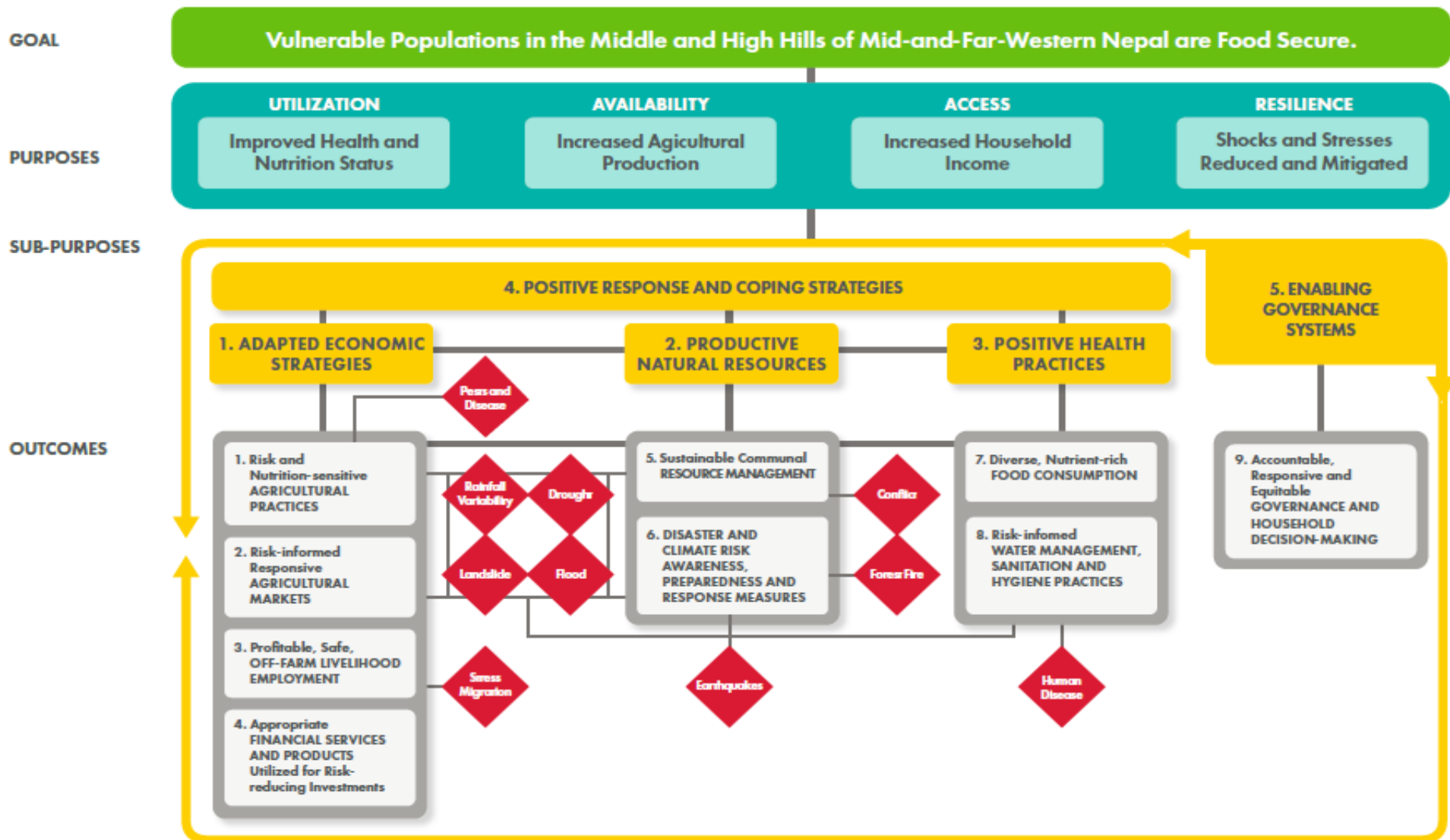
Case 1: Nepal



Case 1: Nepal



Case 1: Nepal



Case 1: Nepal

Key Findings

- › Access to key resources alone is insufficient to determine resilience; use is critical and relies on a strong knowledge base and an enabling environment
- › Informal norms and formal rules and regulations are underlying factors that determine access and use of resilience capacities

Programming Implications

- › Build voice and participation as part of underlying social and behavioral change strategy
- › Strengthen cross-sectoral governance approach
- › Foster social capital and networks



TRANSFORMING CHENNAI

Building Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise Resilience to Water-Related Environmental Change

NOVEMBER 2016

Context

Chennai and its environs received a record-breaking 272 mm of rainfall in just 12 hours on December 1, 2015. This was 50% more than the city typically receives in the entire month of December, and came after more than a month of monsoon rains that had already saturated the ground. Floods inundated the city, including the airport, major train stations, and roads in and out of the metro area.¹ The floods, reported to be the worst in a 100 years, resulted in the displacement of over 1.8 million people in the city, with economic losses estimated at \$7.43 billion – \$14.67 billion, making it the eighth most expensive natural disaster in the world in 2015.² Both the flooding and its impacts were exacerbated by recent development patterns, in which urban expansion has taken place in hydrologically vulnerable areas.³

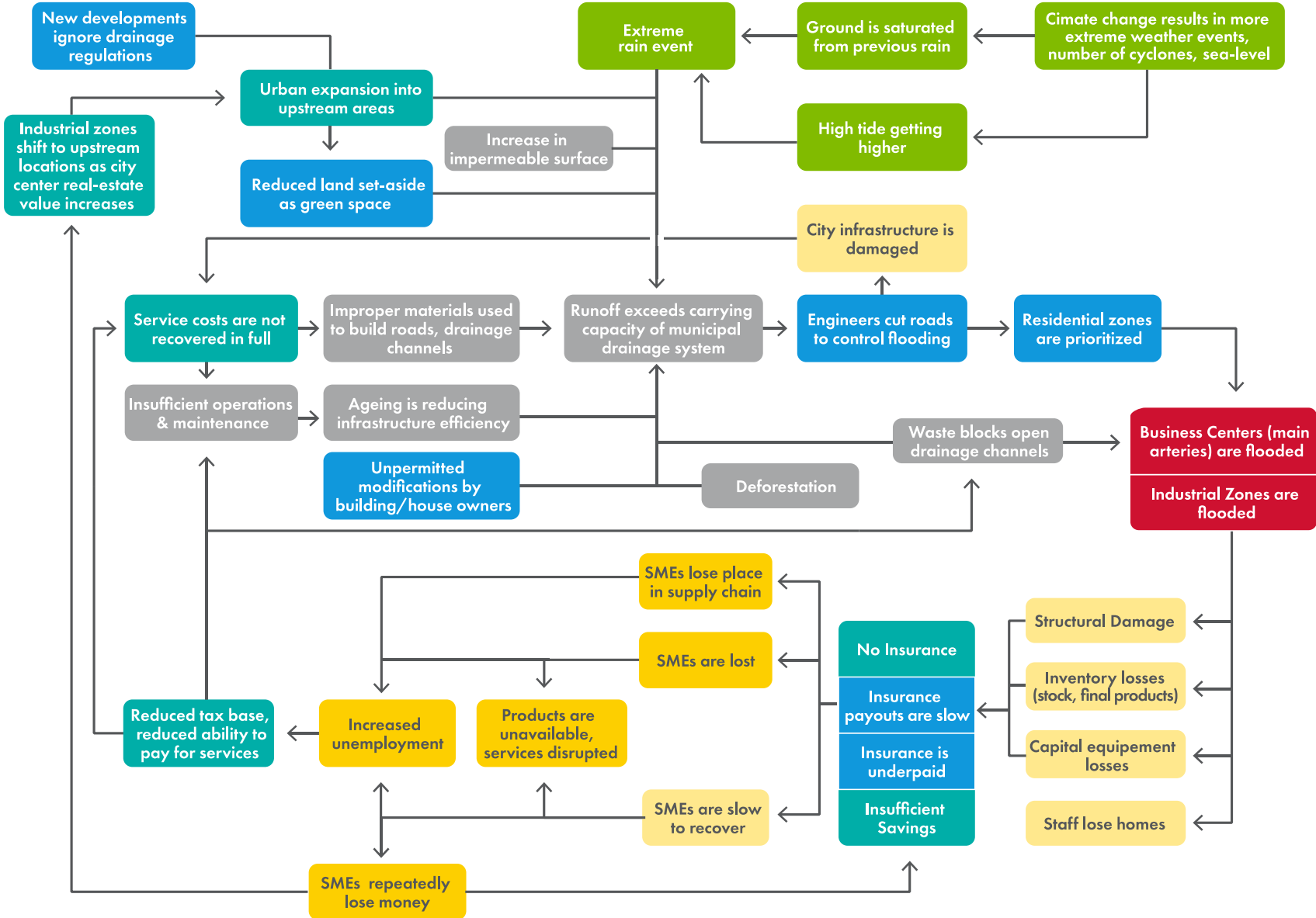
1. Harasim, S. (2014). Chennai floods: a disaster charge write-up call for world. CNN.
2. Miranavhan, S., & Gopichandran, V. (2016). The Chennai floods of 2015: urgent need for ethical disaster management. Indian Journal of Critical Studies. 12 (PAGE).
3. Harasim, S., Briffa, S.M., Miranavhan, S., and Mithandri, F. (2016). Chennai floods 2015: A rapid assessment. ICW, USA: Bangalore.



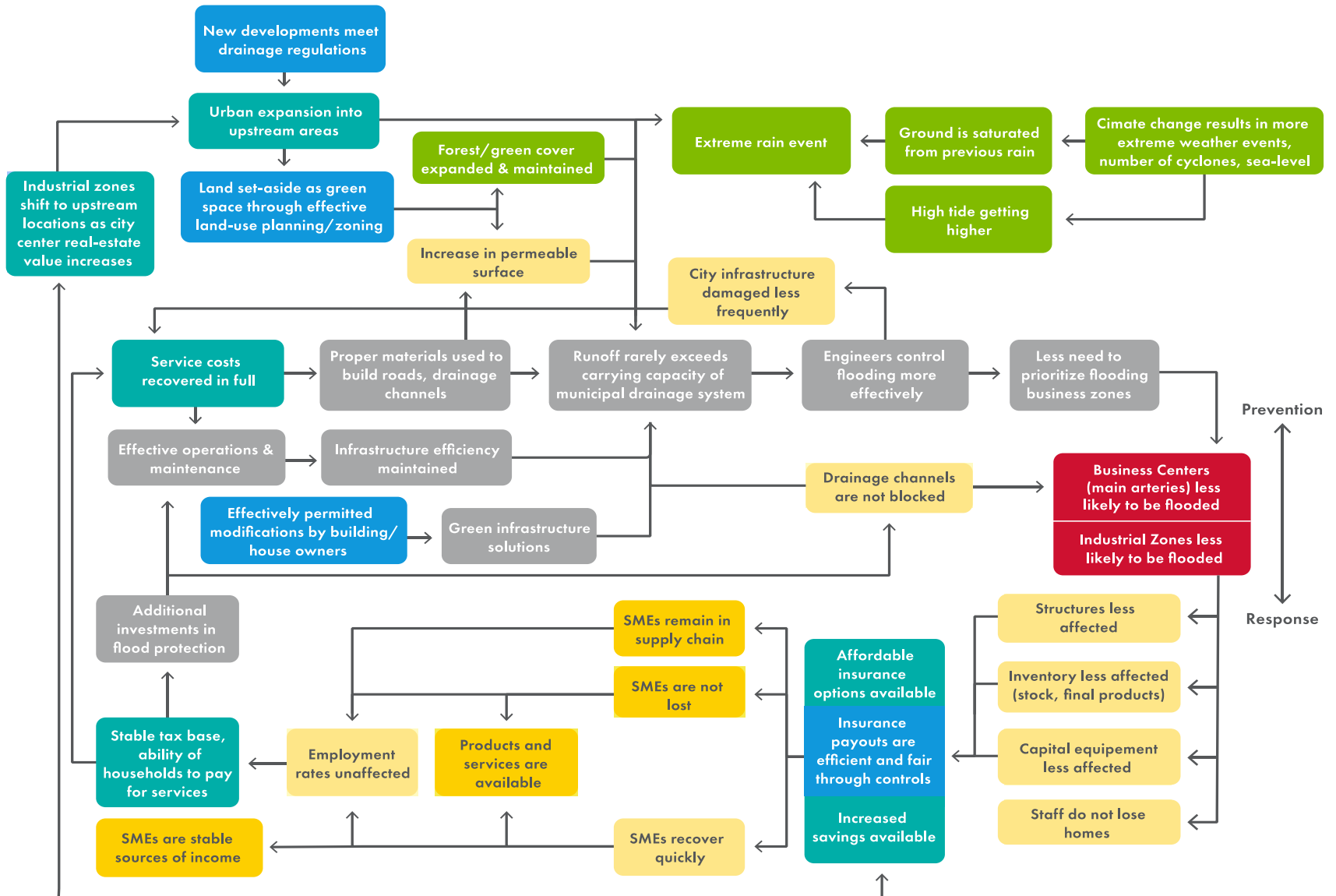
Chennai

<https://www.pri.org/stories/2015-12-04/coastal-city-chennai-indias-fourth-largest-experiences-flooding-akin-katrina>

Chennai Causal Systems Map



Chennai Capacities Systems Map



Case 2: Chennai

Key Findings

- › Chennai's fragmented institutional and infrastructure context creates **challenges for balancing economic growth with environmental safeguards for resilience**
- › **Damage and recovery, particularly for MSMEs, depends as much on business environment as it does on the intensity of the disaster**
- › **Financial products are often slow, inaccessible or ill-designed for MSMEs, undermining small business growth and stability**



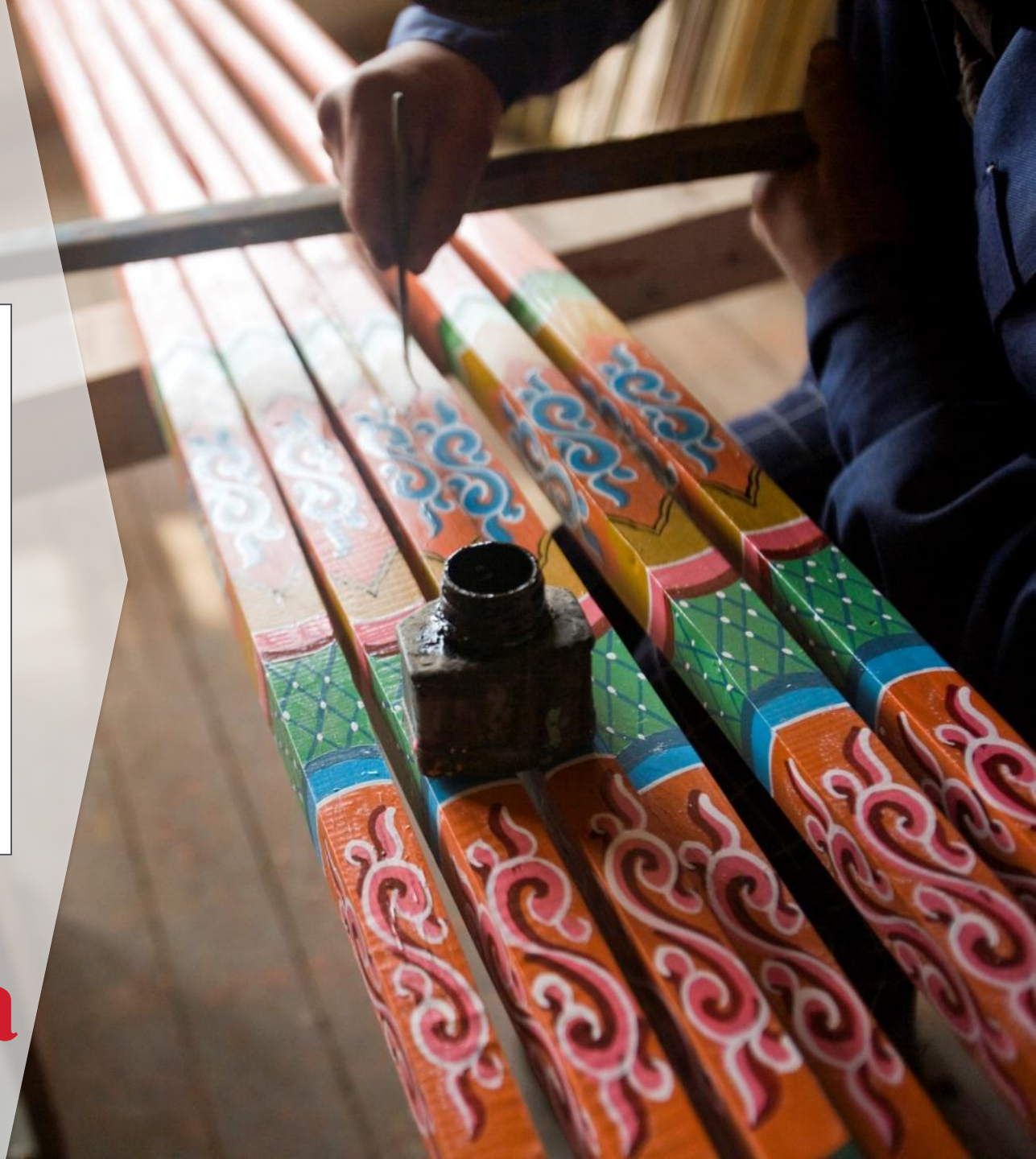
**MONGOLIA STRATEGIC
RESILIENCE ASSESSMENT**

Final Report

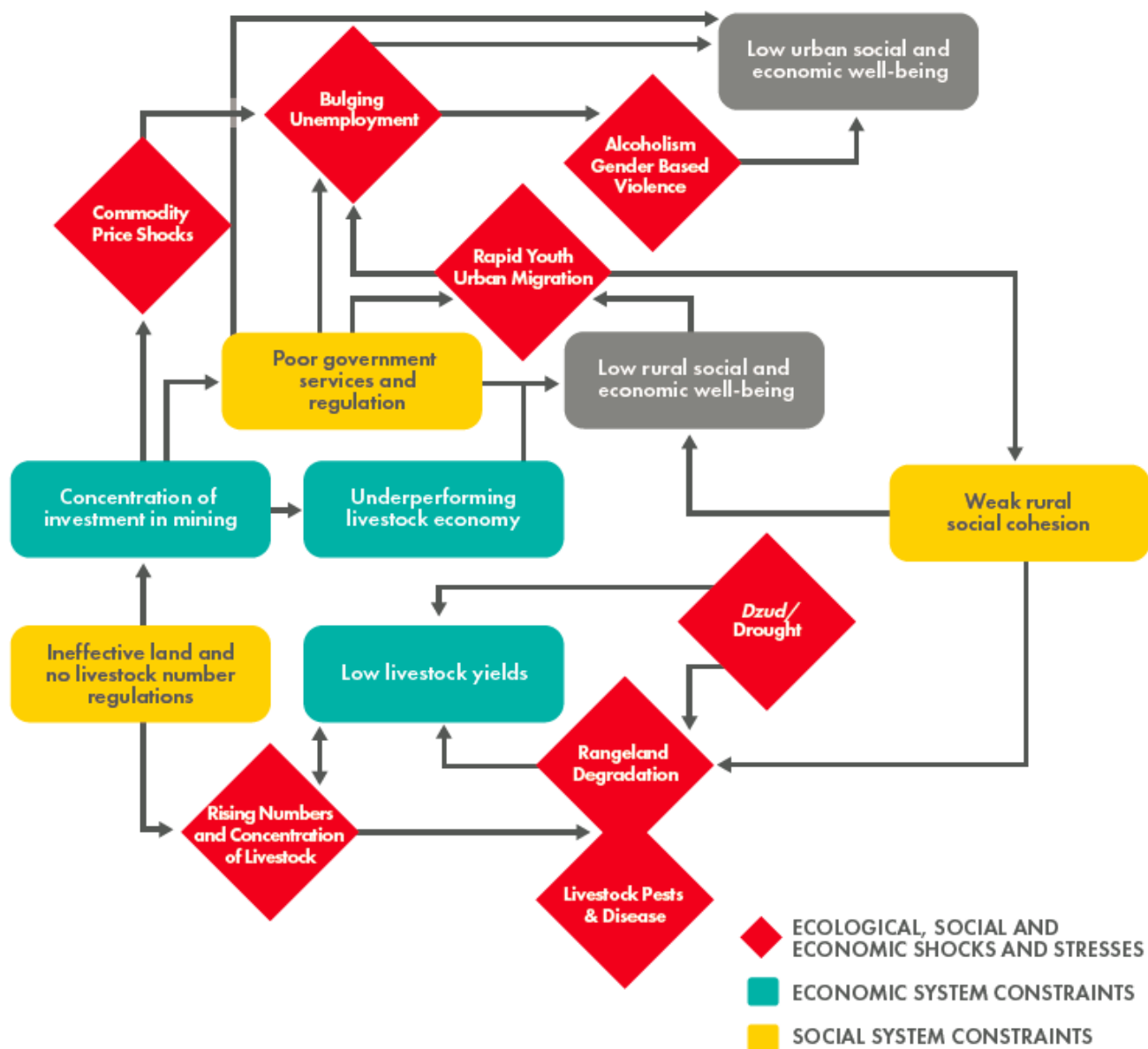
APRIL 2017



Mongolia



Mongolia: Urban-Rural linkages



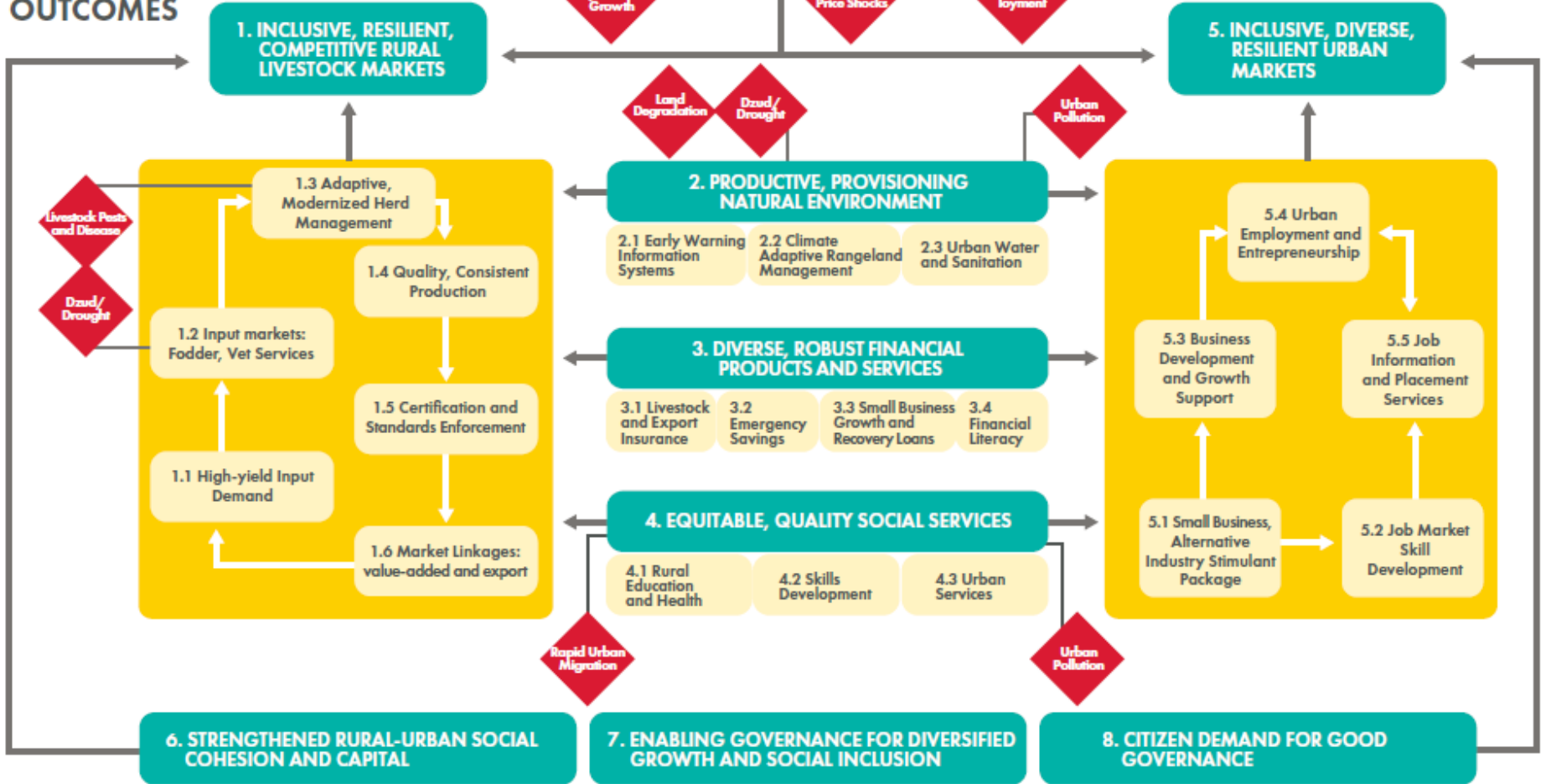
GOAL

Sustained gains in economic and social quality of life among Mongolia's herders and transitioning populations

OBJECTIVES



OUTCOMES



Case 3: Mongolia

Key Findings

- › **Rural livestock economy essential to balanced growth:**
 - Perceptions and low services are driving people to cities, not winter blizzards
 - Requires YOUTH buy-in to rural livestock economy
 - Need to build social capital and networks across urban-rural areas
- › **Simultaneous focus on urban and rural services job growth**
- › **Need for expanded partnerships**

Key Takeaways

- STRESS is an assessment approach, not strict methodology
- Needs to be “fit to size” based on purpose, scope and scale
- Focus on systems mapping in relation to well-being outcomes, risk analysis and resilience capacities
- Draw on existing knowledge
- Centered on multi-stakeholder engagement and capacity



A scenic view of a mountain valley. In the foreground, a small village with several wooden houses is built on a lush green hillside. The middle ground shows rolling green hills and valleys. In the background, a range of mountains stretches across the horizon, with several prominent peaks covered in snow under a clear blue sky.

Thank You!

Tom Van Cakenberghe for Mercy Corps