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Resilience and Sustainable Poverty Escapes

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Bangkok, Thailand

Resilience MEL Workshop



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Defining Resilience

USAID defines resilience as “**the ability** of people, households, communities, countries and systems **to mitigate, adapt to and recover from shocks and stresses** in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth”

- USAID’s Building Resilience to Recurrent Crisis (2012)

- Initial focus on where shocks and stresses result in repeat, large-scale humanitarian emergencies.
- Growing recognition of broader utility of resilience for enabling sustainable poverty escapes.



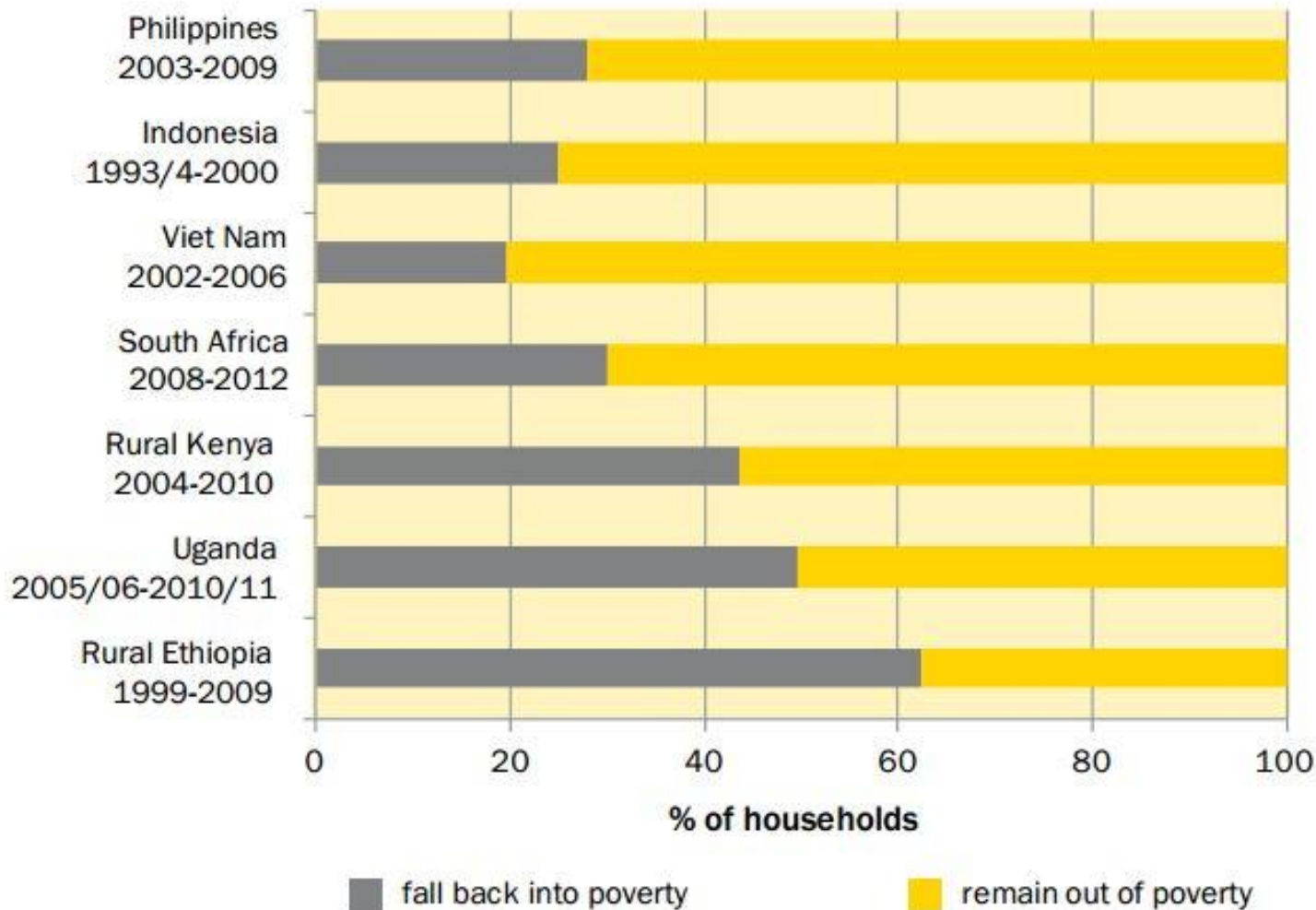
1. Resilience is essential for breaking the cycle of recurrent crises that result in repeat, large-scale humanitarian emergencies.
2. Resilience is ***just as*** essential for enabling sustainable escapes from poverty in Asia, given the complex and compound nature of risk in the region
3. Resilience is also essential for achieving and sustaining other development outcomes in Asia, given the complex and compound nature of risk in the region



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Impetus for ODI Research: Alarming rates of ‘backsliding’ into poverty

Figure 1: What happens to people who escape extreme poverty¹



Resilience & Sustainable Poverty Escapes



Bangladesh*

Households in rural areas, 1997–2010



Uganda

All households, 2005–2012



Ethiopia

Households in rural areas, 1997–2009

- Remain out of poverty
- Fall back into poverty
- Churn around poverty line

Sources of resilience



Household resources:
Owning **productive resources**, such as land and livestock.



Household characteristics:
Smaller households and those in which the head of the household has an **education**.



Household activities:
Engagement in **non-farm activities**.



Gender:
Female-headed households are more likely to experience a sustained poverty escape than to backslide or to fall into poverty.

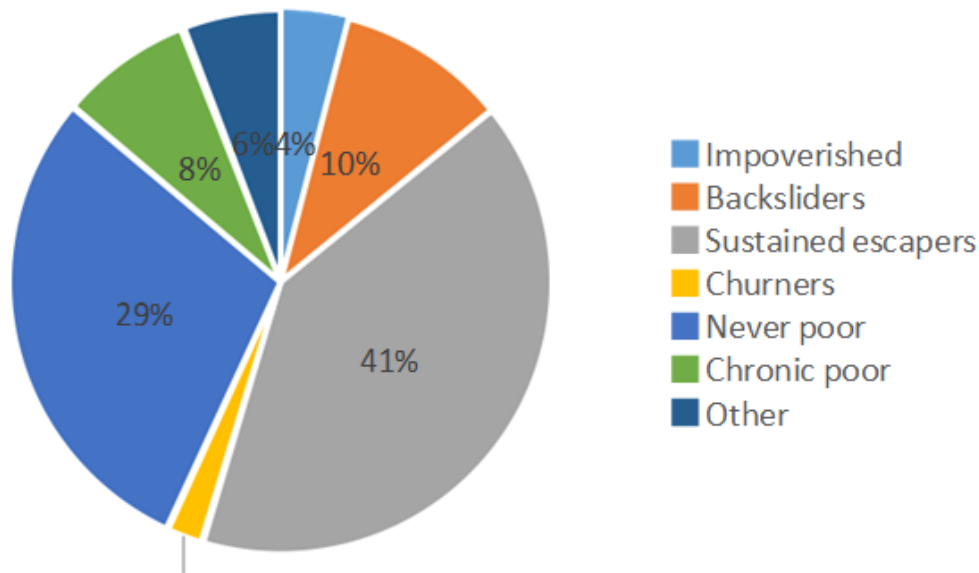


Transfers:
Female-headed households receiving **remittances**.



Bangladesh Resilience and Poverty Dynamics Up Close

Figure 3: Poverty trajectories in rural Bangladesh, 1997-2010



- Female headed households are less likely to backslide or become impoverished
- Female headed households that receive remittances are less likely to backslide or become impoverished
- Employment, or self-employment, makes households less likely to backslide, even more so even in non-ag employment
- Most households experiencing sustained poverty escapes engage in at least one non-agricultural activity in addition to cultivating their own land.



Exposure to shocks and stressors also matters

- Compound shocks: A series of successive shocks, such as ill health or natural events including flooding and drought. Health shocks matter a lot in all cases
- Systemic stressors: Changes in prices of food, agricultural inputs and outputs and wages along with longer-term stressors such land degradation.

Resilience Capacities (Sources of Resilience)

- Explain why some sustainable escape and others backslide even when exposed to the same shocks/stresses



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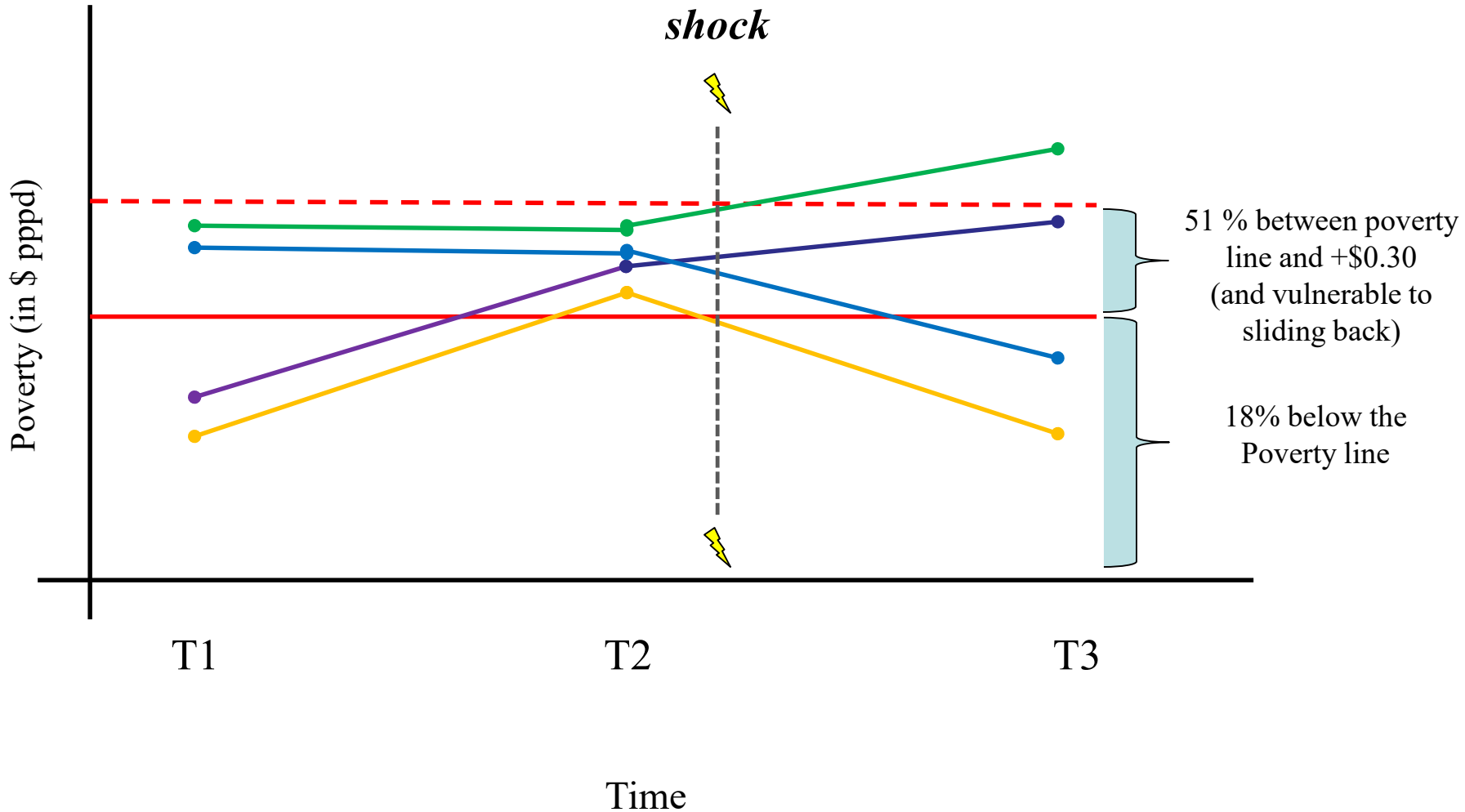
ODI Resilience and Sustainable Poverty Escapes in Asia

- Mixed Methods
 - Quantitative panel data analysis of existing data
 - Qualitative life history analysis (see infographic)
 - Both the “what” and the “why”
- Completed Bangladesh based on 3 rounds of data collected between 1997 – 2010
- Additional Asia studies this year for
 - Cambodia
 - Phillipines (urban/rural comparison)
- <http://www.chronicpovertynetwork.org/projects-1/2016/5/23/leveraging-economic-opportunities-leo>



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Relevance Even Where Progress on Poverty Reduction is Significant: Cambodia





Global Food Security Strategy (FTF 2.0) has elevated Resilience a Development Objective:

- Renewed focus on people and places subject to recurrent crises
- Recognition of broader relevance of resilience to reducing poverty, hunger, malnutrition



GFSS Results Framework

Goal: Sustainably reduce global hunger, malnutrition, and poverty

Objective 1
Inclusive and sustainable agricultural-led economic growth

Objective 2
Strengthened resilience among people and systems

Objective 3
A well-nourished population, especially among women and children

IR 1
Strengthened inclusive agriculture systems that are productive and profitable

IR 2
Strengthened and expanded access to markets and trade

IR 3
Increased employment and entrepreneurship

IR 4
Increased sustainable productivity, particularly through climate-smart approaches

IR 5
Improved proactive risk reduction, mitigation, and management

IR 6
Improved adaptation to and recovery from shocks and stresses

IR 7
Increased consumption of nutritious and safe diets

IR 8
Increased use of direct nutrition interventions and services

IR 9
More hygienic household and community environments

Cross-Cutting Intermediate Results (IR)

CC IR 1	Strengthened global commitment to investing in food security	CC IR 4	Increased youth empowerment and livelihoods
CC IR 2	Improved climate risk, land, marine, and other natural resource management	CC IR 5	More effective governance, policy, and institutions
CC IR 3	Increased gender equality and female empowerment	CC IR 6	Improved human, organizational, and system performance

Effective response to emergency food security needs

Complementary Results

Long-term food security efforts benefit from and contribute to complementary work streams that promote:

Economic growth in complementary sectors	Healthy ecosystems and biodiversity	Stable, democratic societies that respect human rights and the rule of law	A reduced burden of disease	Well-educated populations
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