

EXPERT CONSULTATION ON MEASURING RESILIENCE

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WHY AN EXPERT CONSULTATION?

Given:

- Heavy focus on resilience in development sector
- Lack of consensus on measurement approach

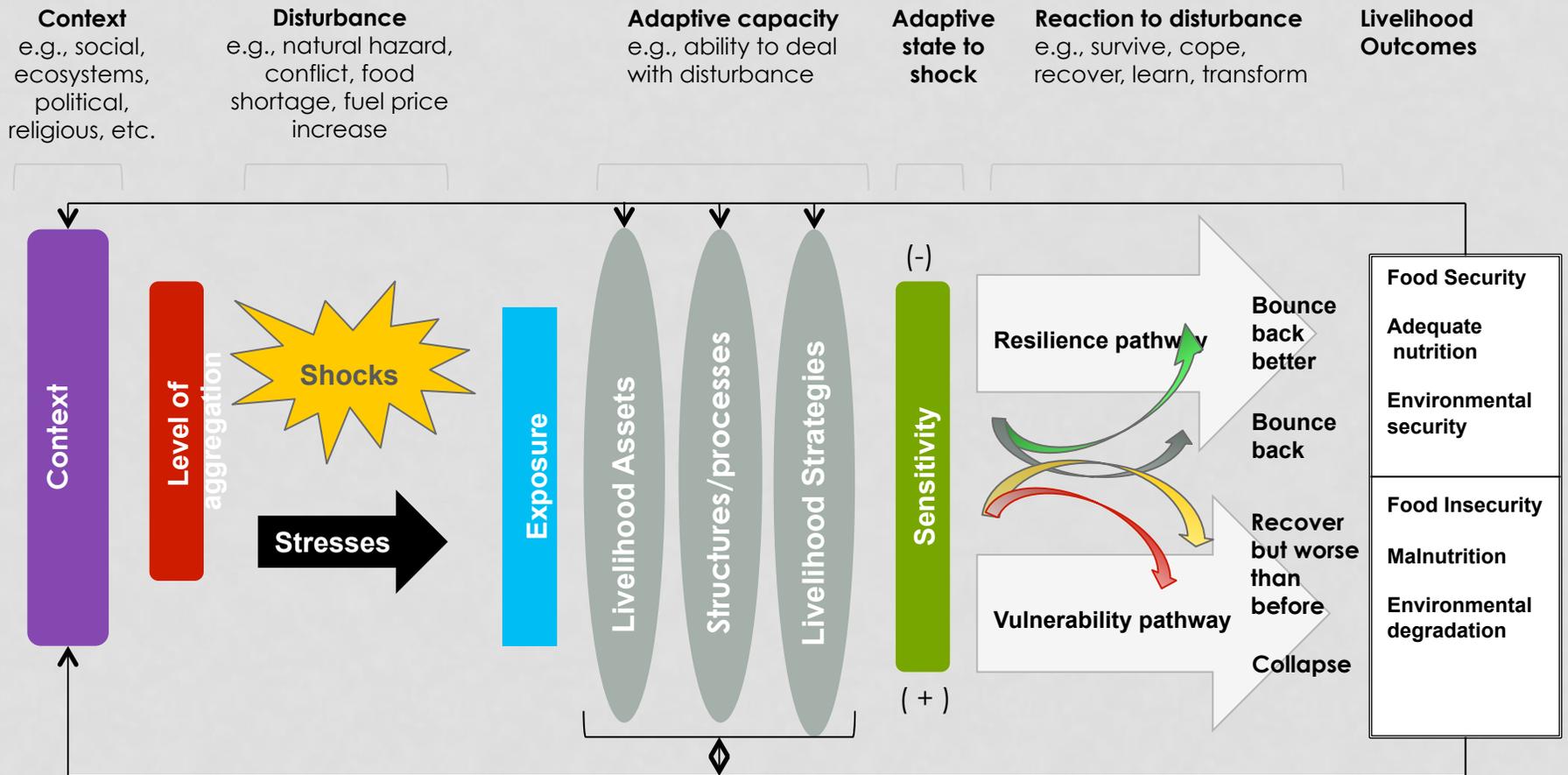
Goals of consultation:

- Determine what types of data need to be collected, at what scale, how often
- Determine appropriate types of analysis

WHY MEASURE RESILIENCE?

- Recurring crises underscored need for new approach, combining humanitarian emergency response and development goals
- Need for verifiable measures to support evidence of program impact
- **Need empirical evidence of what factors contribute to resilience, under what contexts, and for what types of shocks.**

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK



RESILIENCE PRINCIPLES

General principles for measuring resilience:

Context-specific

- measures resilience of a specific target (who) to a specific shock/stress (what);
- context changes over time (is affected by previous conditions/affects future conditions)

Temporal considerations

- panel data collected from same households over time

RESILIENCE PRINCIPLES

Thresholds/tipping points

- point(s) at which changes in behavior and performance lead to shifts (transitions) from one response trajectory to another; can be structural or transitory

Technical capacity

- resilience measurement should reflect inherent complexity of concept
- sophisticated methods of analysis
- match methods to available human/financial resources (factor analysis vs. qualitative methods)

RESILIENCE PRINCIPLES

Cultural relevance

- engage local stakeholders and affected communities
- benchmarks for success that are locally/culturally meaningful

Community/higher level measurement

- formal/informal governance and institutional processes and systems enhance/limit individual and household resilience
- policies, knowledge/ information management, laws, programming

RESILIENCE PRINCIPLES

Inter-scalar relationships

- inter-related hierarchy of dependencies (individual, household, community, regional)
- take into account functional connections and interactions that cause one level to influence another

Aspirations/motivations

- Influences preferences, choices, and behaviors of individual, households and communities
- shaped by socio-cultural, gender-based and religious attitudes and norms
- affects willingness to take risks (that can lead to improved outcomes)

RESILIENCE PRINCIPLES

Natural resources/ecosystem health

- livelihoods depend on natural resources
- health of ecosystems important for long-term sustainability
- need to measure state of health, not just physical access

CURRENT PRACTICES

Current efforts to measure:

1. How different dimensions of adaptive capacity, context, outcome variables are correlated with perceived indicators of resilience
 - static measure; current outcomes
 - FAO, Oxfam, ACCRA, USAID
 - University of Florence – applies FAO framework to households exposed to a specific shock (Hurricane Mitch)

CURRENT PRACTICES

2. How different households respond to shocks
 - static measure; current outcomes
 - WFP, IFAD, FEG

3. How different households respond to different shocks and their ability to respond to future shocks
 - dynamic measure; future outcomes
 - CRS, Mercy Corps, Kimetrica, Tufts, Tulane

KEY RESILIENCE MEASURES

Shocks

- type, frequency, severity, duration

Absorptive capacity

- ability to cope (+/- coping strategies)
- risk management, disaster preparedness/mitigation

Adaptive capacity

- to adapt/change behavior in order to minimize impacts in the future
- access to resources (physical, informational, financial, human capital, aspirations/motivation)

KEY RESILIENCE MEASURES

Transformative capacity

- enabling governance and institutional structures, processes and systems that promote resilience
- laws, policies, programs that support resilience of individuals, households, and communities
- safety nets, early warning systems, land-tenure laws, peace building and conflict mitigation, gender-equity

Well-being indicators

- food security, health, nutrition, livelihood security

KEY ISSUES AND NEXT STEPS

- Resilience as a process or an outcome
- Frequency of data collection; data source (1° or 2°)
- Resilience to what? (all shocks/a specific shock)
- Type of resilience (multi-dimensional?)
- Thresholds and tipping points

KEY ISSUES AND NEXT STEPS

- Measurements in the absence of shocks
- Culturally meaningful
- Community and higher level measurements
- Timeframe of measurement (panel versus cross-sectional surveys)
- Quantitative versus qualitative data