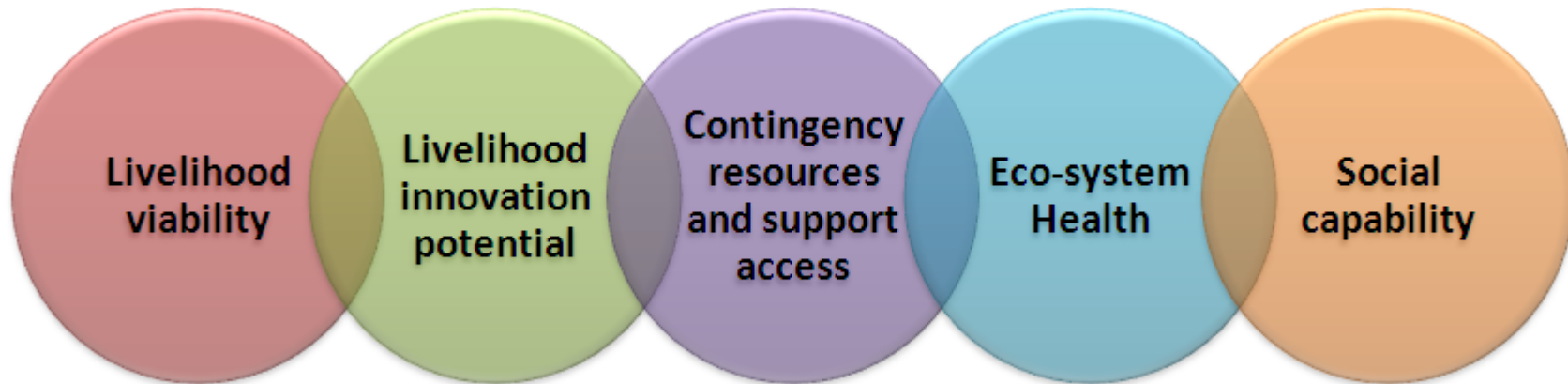


# **Oxfam's Approach for Assessing Effectiveness in Building Resilience and Adaptive Capacity**



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# Presentation Outline:

## **Part A: The Measurement Model**

- Why, What, and How

## **Part B: Application to Assess Impact**

- Impact Assessment Design
- Results from 4 Case Studies

## **Part C: Strengths, Limitations & Further Work**

- Strengths and Limitations
- Moving Forward

# Part A: The Measurement Model



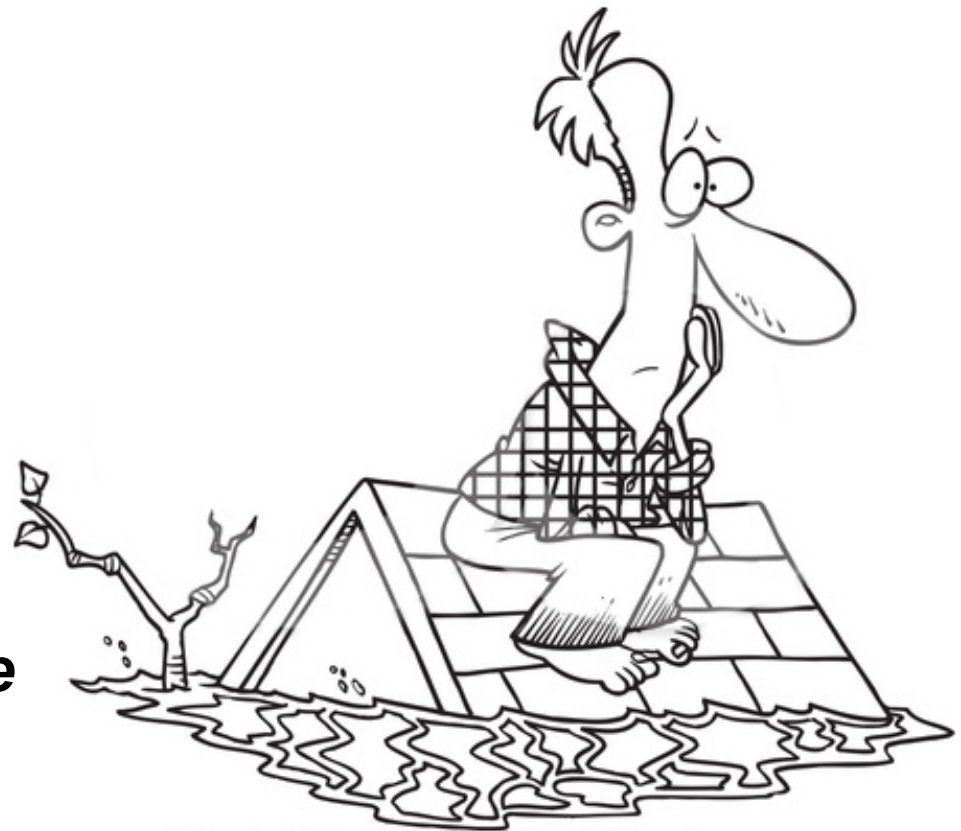
# Motivation/Rationale

- In search of a reliable – but practical – way of measuring the effectiveness of community level DRR/CCA work
- How well has the intervention worked to reduce risk and promote future adaptation success?

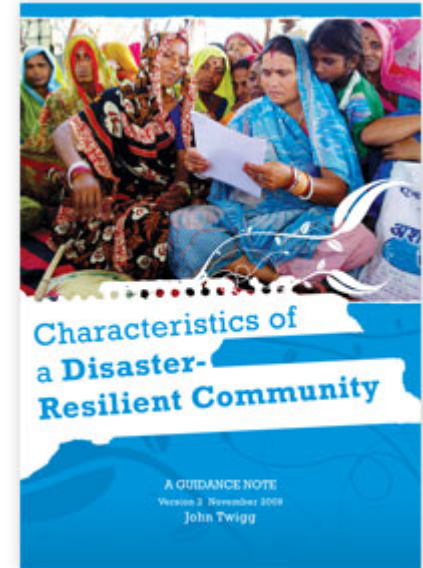


# Inherent Challenge:

- We can really only assess effectiveness of DRR/CCA work *after the fact*
- Was community X able to cope and/or adapt more effectively than if we had never intervened?
- Can we do anything *before the fact*?



- Inspiration taken from John Twigg's work in *Characteristics of Disaster Resilient Communities*
- Let's assume that resilient and/or adaptive communities and households possess particular characteristics
- What does a resilient and/or adaptive household or community look like?

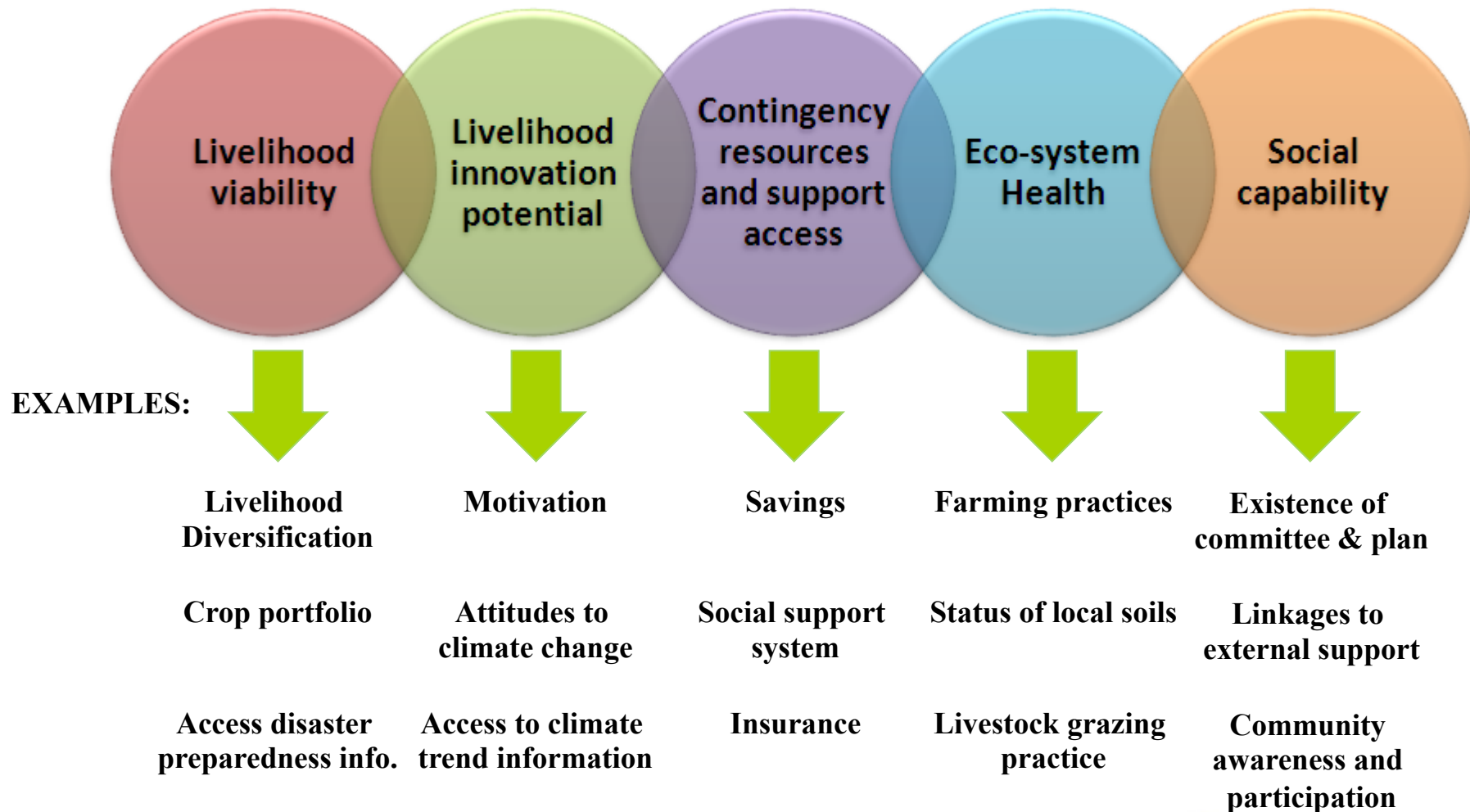


## **But what characteristics should be examined?**

- **Twigg's work starting point**
- **Also looked at ACCRA programme and other relevant literature, e.g. Doman et. al *Building Resilience* (2009)**
- **But realisation that one set of characteristics not applicable to all contexts**
- **Nevertheless, useful to have a framework to look at various dimensions**



# Dimensions of Resilience (including adaptive capacity)

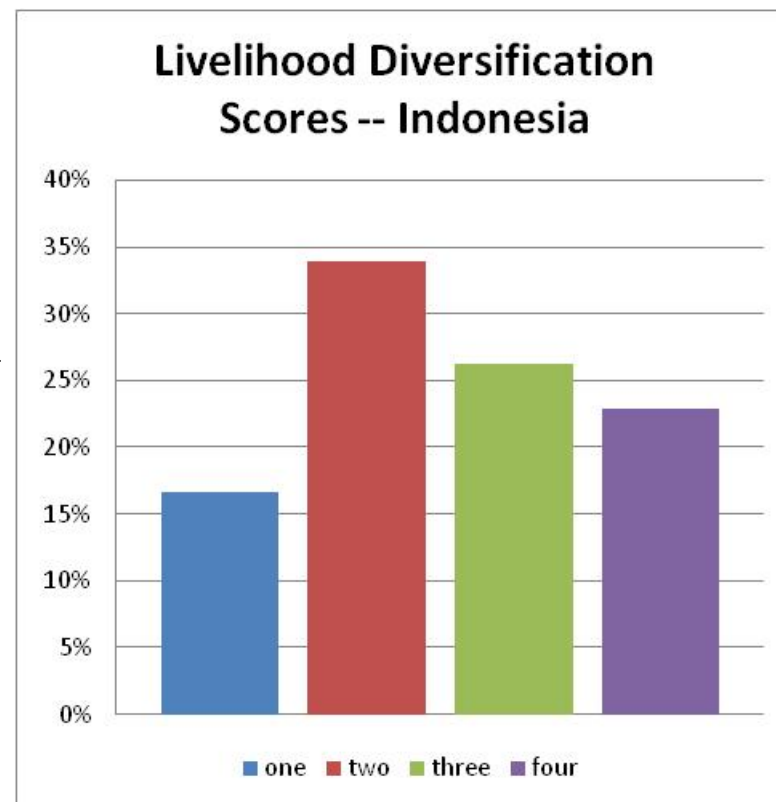
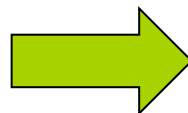
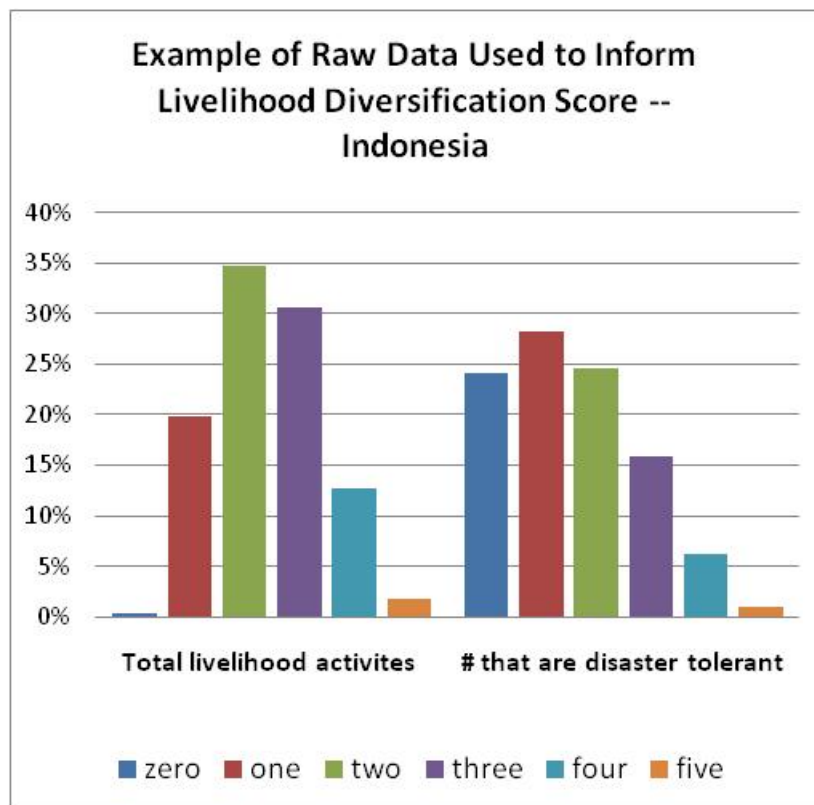




# Keep in mind...

- **Holistic assessment**
- **Assessing projects in relation to characteristics they were never set up to affect**
- **But we can narrow in on those which they have as well**
- **Very importantly – identified gaps become basis for further programme development**

# Characteristic scoring example



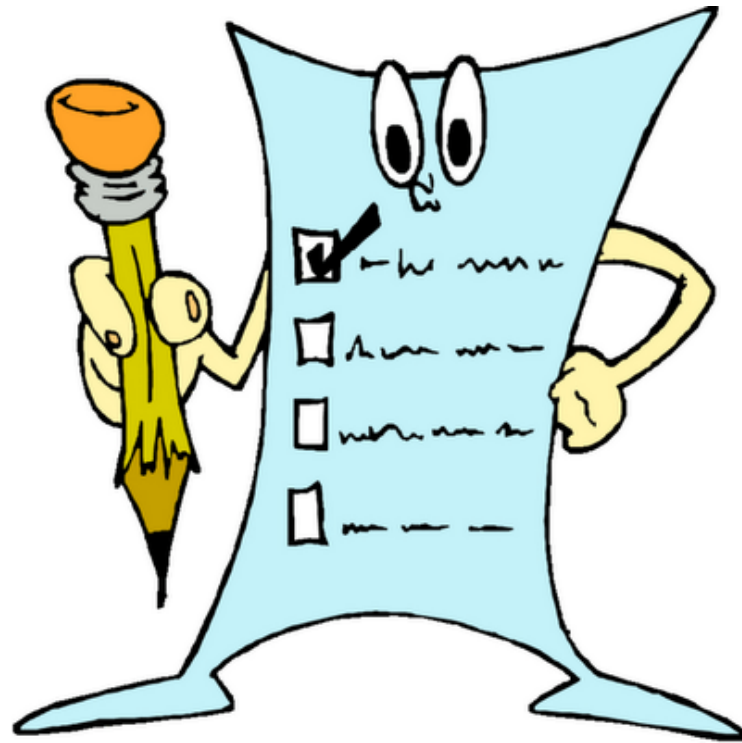
**Lower scores = Dependency on small number of risky livelihood activities**  
**Higher scores = Wider portfolio of livelihood activities, including those that are still viable in times of shock**

## Aggregation of Scores

- Scores can be aggregated for an overall score or for each dimension
- Oxfam's global adaption risk reduction indicator = % of HHs above the “typical household” (median) in the comparison group



## Part B: Application to Assess Impact



# Impact Assessment Design

**Map out intervention communities**



**Identify similar communities not supported  
(purposive selection)**

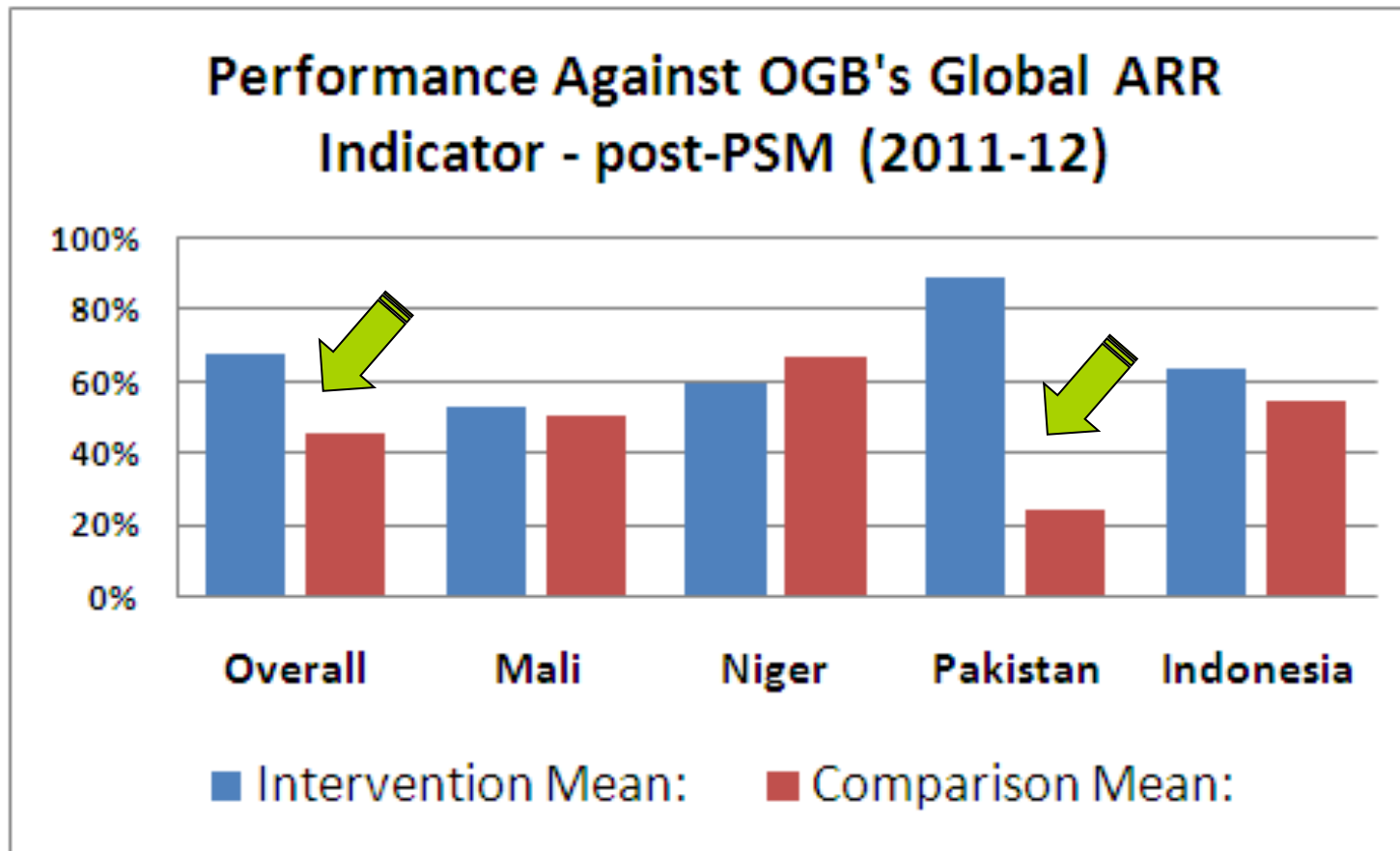


**Administer surveys to randomly selected  
households in both intervention and  
comparison communities**



**Use statistical methods (e.g. propensity score  
matching and regression) to control for  
observable differences between the groups**

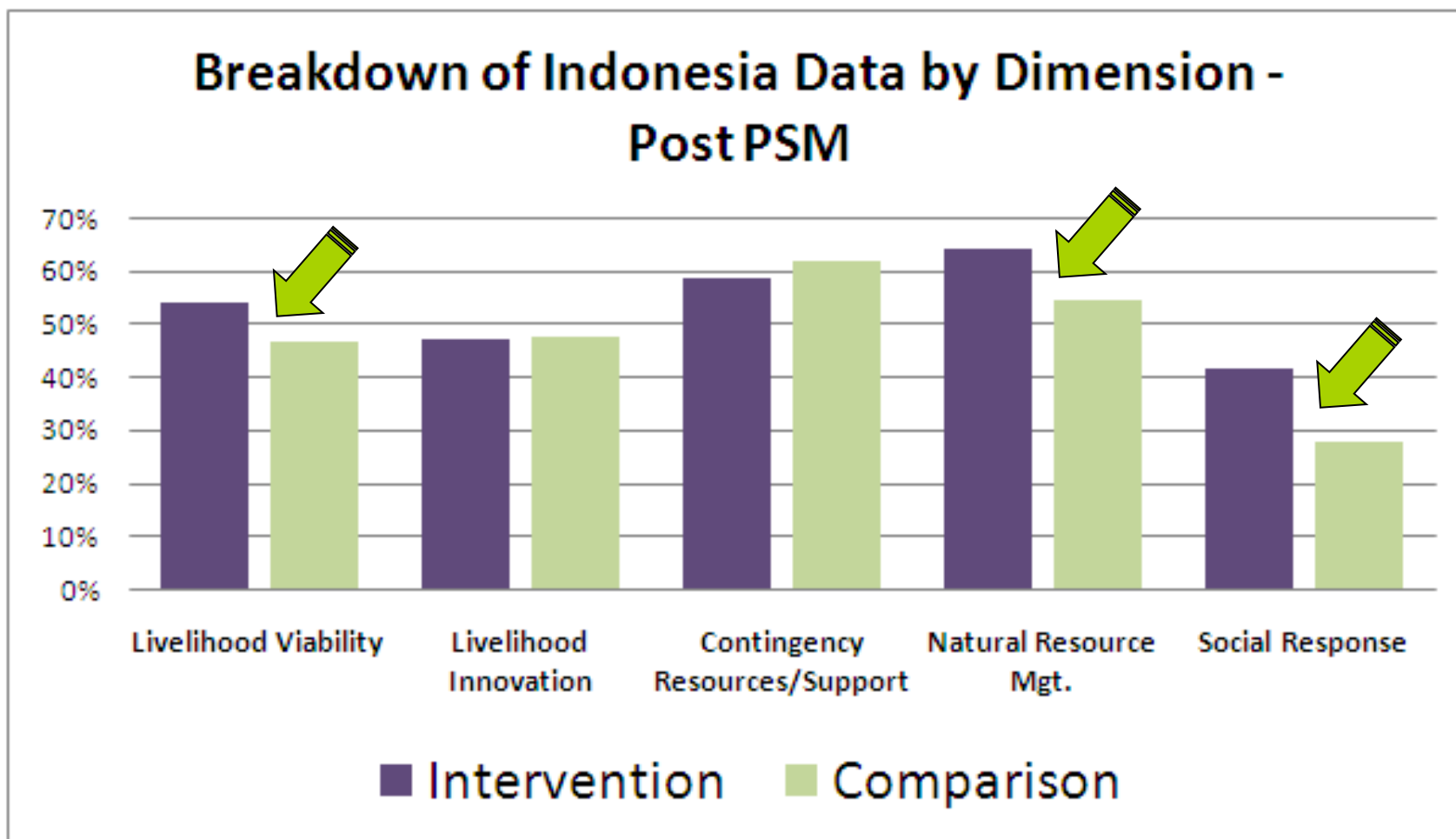
## Comparison can be made in terms of the overall score



Sample Size: 2,542 (intervention: 994; comparison: 1,638)

↘ = statistically significant difference

## Or specific dimension

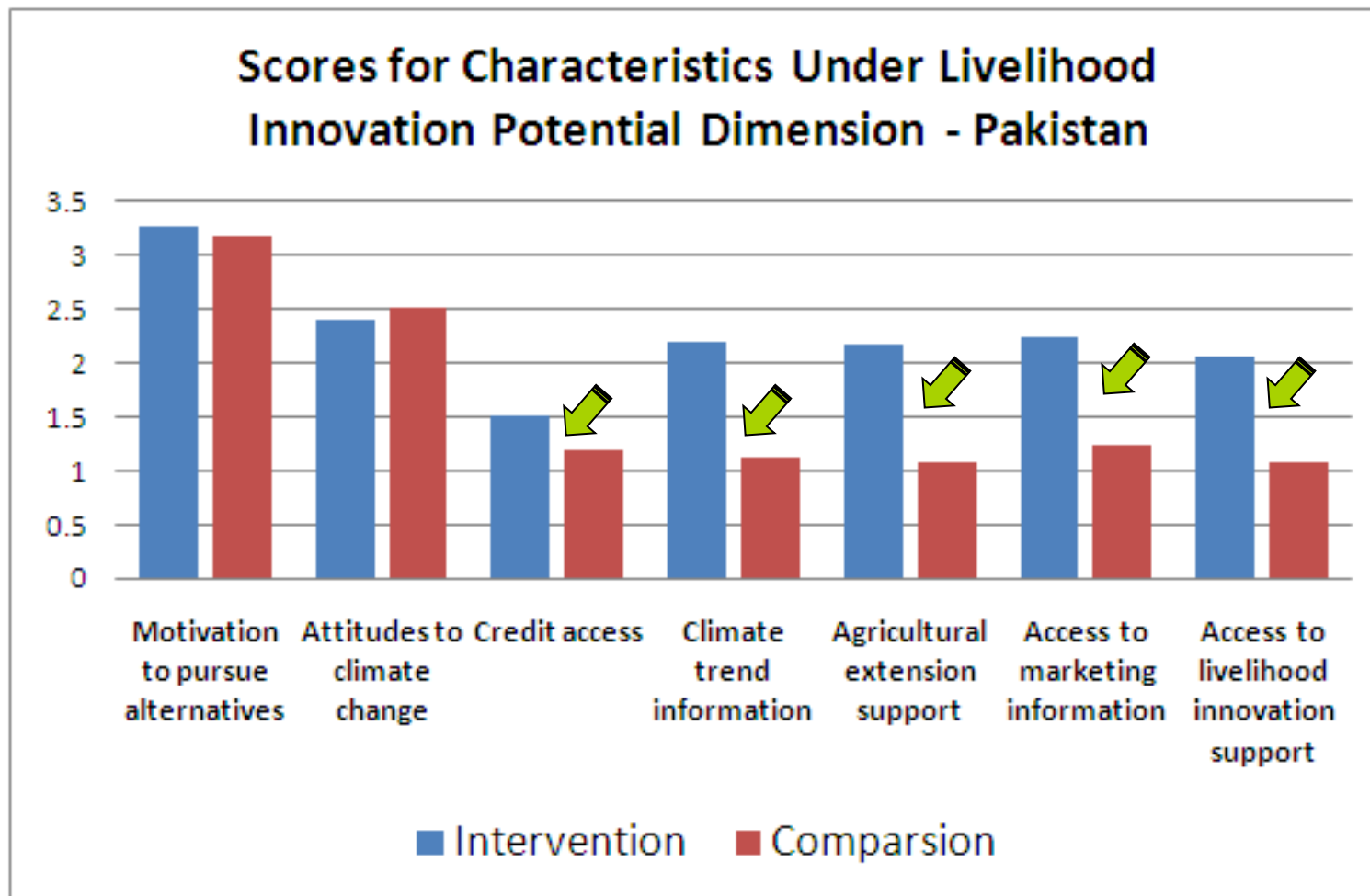


Sample Size: 605 (intervention: 242; comparison: 362)

↘ = statistically significant difference



## Or particular characteristic



Sample Size: 841 (intervention: 341; comparison: 500)

↙ = statistically significant difference

## **Are the characteristics really successful predictors of shock coping and/or adaptation success?**

- Took advantage of 2010 floods in Pakistan study
- Number of interesting results:
- Intervention communities reported significantly more advanced warning – 48 versus 24 hours
- Also reported less loss of livestock, grain, and tools
- Intervention group poorer at baseline but now better off (asset wealth measure)

## **Benefits of Approach**

- **Doable – assess effectiveness before the fact**
- **Provides direction for programme development – identifies gaps**
- **Can be used as part of situational analysis to inform intervention design**

## **Limitations/Challenges**

- **Many of the characteristics difficult to measure – e.g. many depend on perceptual data**
- **How can we be sure we are looking at the right “package” of characteristics given the context?**
- **More research needed to inform the characteristics**
- **So far, very strong emphasis on household level data – limitations in getting at community capacity**

## **Further Work**

- **Seek to improve measurement of specific characteristics**
- **Continuously update characteristics based on new research**
- **Develop practical ways of obtaining reliable data at community-level to support qualitative comparison**
- **Take forward framework, approach, and learning to inform programme design**