

Towards a new equilibrium

Why social policies alone will not eliminate poverty

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Resetting social development for poverty eradication

Conventional approach

Social development frameworks
prioritising social policies

Inadequate consideration of economic
policy consequences on social policy

Resilience programming to strengthen
social development outcomes

Rebalanced through...

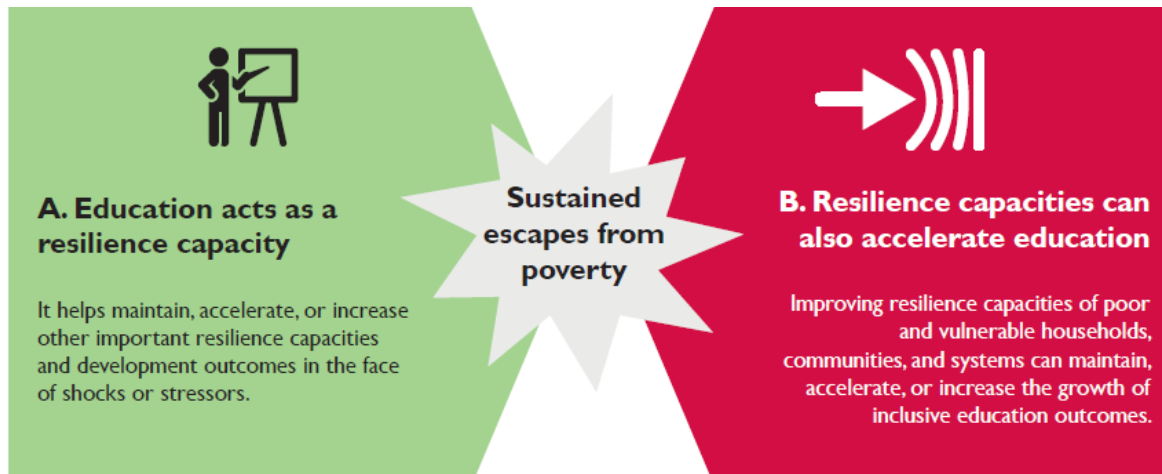
Joined-up social, economic and environmental
decision-making

Collective risk management to reduce
impoverishment

Longer-term recovery programming during
increasingly frequent crises

Source: Diwakar, 2023

Social and economic policies for sustained poverty escapes: *A focus on education and its combinations*



The resilience capacities to sustain escapes from poverty with the contribution of education usually involves assembling a diverse set of resources by individuals, supported by an enabling environment.

Source: Diwakar et al. 2021

Economic combinations



Economic diversification



Degree of entrepreneurialism



Financial inclusion and savings

Social combinations



Collaborative spousal relations



Social capital and networks



Enabling gender norms

Education combinations



Secondary education



Primary education with skills training



Free education to remove strain on household budgets

Social and economic policies for sustained poverty escapes

Christina had a prosperous childhood until her **father and mother died** when she was 13 and 15, respectively. She **continued secondary school through her aunt's continued support**, but dropped out when she got pregnant (**lone teenage pregnancy**).

Non-poor to poor

Poor to non-poor

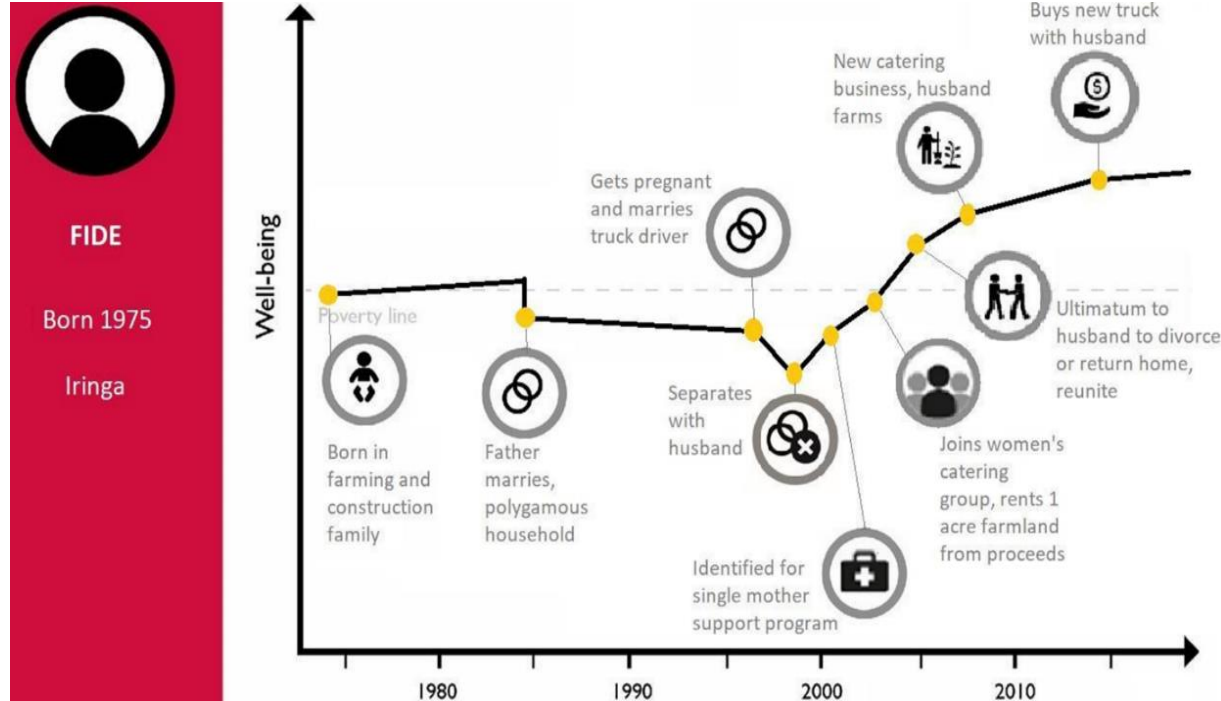
Shunned by her family, she began **agricultural wage labour**. After four years she decided to go **back to school** and regained the support of her family. She then became a **teacher (salaried job)**. She had an affair with a married man and got pregnant again.

She got a full salary at school, but was also **farming** on her land as an additional source of subsistence food and income-generation. She also does some **agro-trading business**. She is not married but is respected for her entrepreneurial spirit.

Sustained non-poor

Source: LHI with Christina (Malawi) first presented in da Costa et al., 2018a

Women's economic empowerment as a cross-cutting driver



“Harvesting lots of maize in my first year of farming gave me courage... I told [my husband] that his business of moving here and there with trucks was not benefiting me. I told him that we should separate so that I can keep in my mind that I have only my children.”

Source: LHI with Fide (Tanzania) first presented in da Corta et al., 2018b

Social, economic and environmental policy support

Protect (Tackle chronic poverty)	Prevent (Prevent impoverishment)	Promote (Promote sustained poverty escapes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Address multiple and overlapping deprivations (e.g. conflict, climate shocks, limited human devt)· Enhance food security (e.g. comprehensive approach to sustainable food systems)· Develop savings and asset base, including through non-contributory assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Address ill health and expand health insurance (provisions for people in poverty)· Conflict prevention and peacebuilding· Limit agricultural risk (e.g. irrigation, crop diversification, micro-insurance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Improve financial inclusion (e.g. ladders from informal groups to formal banking) especially access to capital for NFEs· Peace building and livelihood recovery plan in conflict regions· Access to a minimum of 3 years of secondary school; strengthen links to employment, including through public works

Source: Diwakar and Adedeji, 2021

Equity- and risk-informed economic management

Stringent lockdown

- “[You could pass by] without wearing a mask correctly and you meet with police van and then you pay them, so you ***gave away the money you were supposed to use for buying food.***” – Female, Rwanda, 2022

Market closures

- **Sellers:** in poverty or vulnerable to it, key source of livelihood
- **Buyers:** source of access to nutritious food, quality/safety standards, food insecurity

Source: CPAN, 2022; CPAN et al., 2023

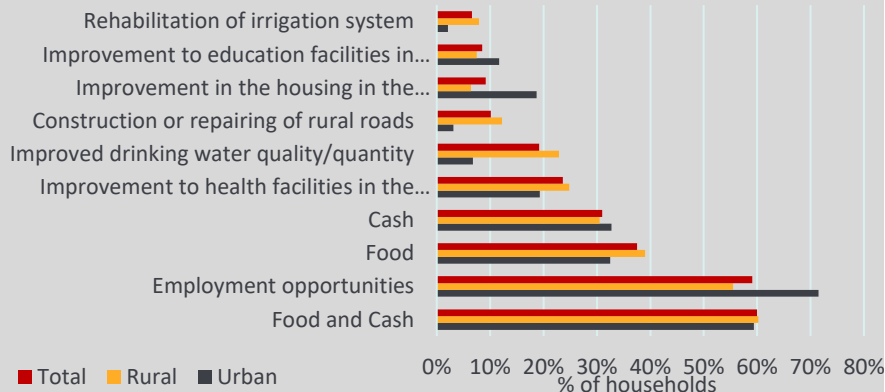
Collective economic risk management

Risk	Examples of 'levelling up' conversion structures and processes
Agri-culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Predictable, regulated markets, and inventory credit systems enabling on-farm diversification and asset accumulation.• Supportive agricultural advisory services with advice on managing all risks.• Climate-smart solutions including irrigation, with links to high quality, predictable disaster risk management.
Livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build insurance into dairy enterprises and extend access to veterinary services.• Public support for livestock insurance.• Develop financial institutions and household debt-management measures to complement reliance on livestock as a risky savings strategy.
Nonfarm economy and migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urbanisation and the development of a middle class to expand demand.• Nonfarm economy promotion and infrastructure to support micro/small businesses, alongside removing regulations which are obstacles to firm progress.• Financial ladders to assist graduation-- local savings groups up to formal banks.

Source: Diwakar and Shepherd, 2022

Resilience with recovery programming amidst crises

Afghanistan



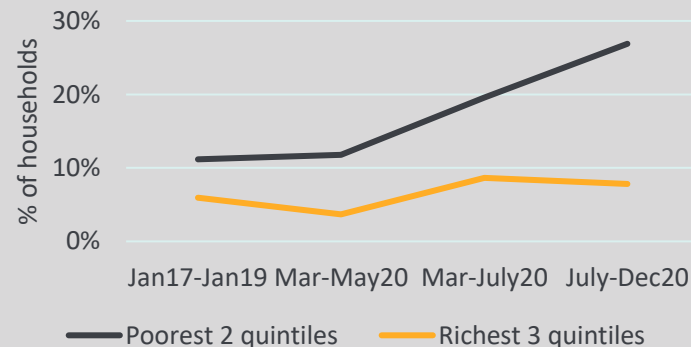
“In the last one year, the case of theft, robbery and other criminal activities has reached its peak... Looking to the **economic situation**, the **insecurity**, **drought**, lack of work, we may have people who died because of hunger.” – *Interview in Herat, July 2021*

Source: visualisation of PLSA 2022 data; Diwakar et al. (2022); Diwakar and Adedeji, 2021

Nigeria

Bottom two welfare quintiles more likely to:

- engage in distress **asset sales** in response to negative shocks in 2020 (figure below)
- pay more for **petrol** in 2022
- report **drought/ delayed rains** expected to negatively affect them in 2022



Social protection inadequate in improving wellbeing during COVID-19



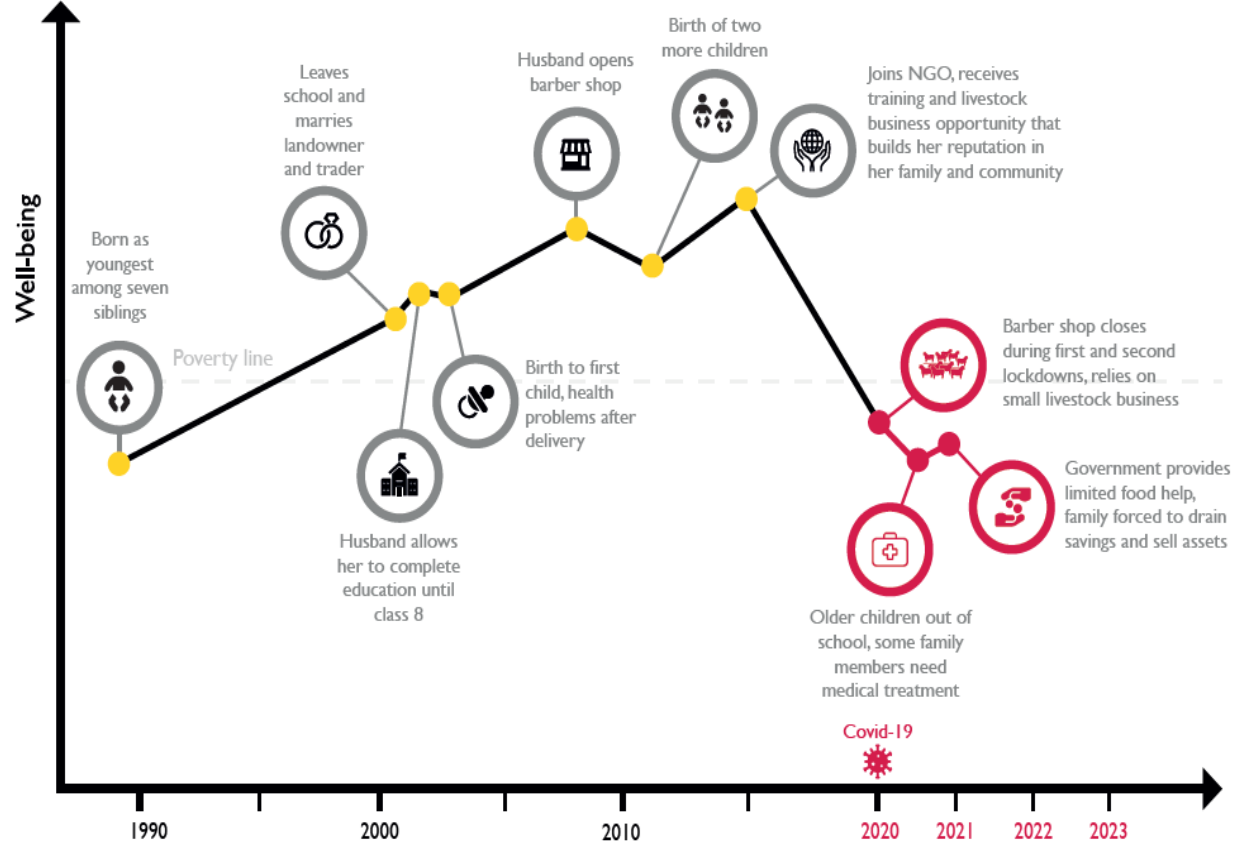
AISHA

Female

Rural

Bangladesh

Born 1989



Source: Shepherd, Diwakar et al., 2023

Government support was largely inadequate to help mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 on the welfare of Aisha's family, causing them to drain their savings and engage in a distress sale of assets.

Mitigation measures for pro-poor recovery



Long-term investment in health services



Multisectoral national and local-level decision-making



Longer duration of social protection built on strong systems



Wider economic policies including household debt-management measures



School feeding programs and alternative education models



Integrating pandemic management into disaster risk management

Source: Shepherd, Diwakar et al., 2023

Interventions for a new social policy reset

Rebalance social policy	Examples of efforts working towards a rebalance
WITH economic and environmental policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen education to labour market links, livelihood diversification• Improve working conditions to limit work-related ill health• Interventions to strengthen women's empowerment• Social protection integrated with growth-focused interventions• Integrate environmental considerations across economic and social policies
WITHOUT ignoring consequences of economic policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sector-specific support for non-farm MSMEs, CSA, urban informal sector• Household debt-management and equitable financial services• Collective risk management including weather-based and livestock insurance• Progressive gender equality legislation, pro-poor justice systems not least for people experiencing theft, universal health coverage
WITHIN, through resilience and recovery programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anti-discrimination interventions across race/ethnicity, economic status• Conflict management better integrated into disaster risk management• Operationalisation of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus• Promote recovery programs to go on for longer than they do during crises

Source: Diwakar, 2023

Thank you
Questions?