Eradicating poverty amidst conflict dynamics and intersecting crises

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Key challenges in eradicating poverty amidst conflict

- **Conflict dynamics**
- **Poverty trajectories**
- **Intersecting crises**

**Tackle chronic poverty, prevent impoverishment before/during/after conflict**

**Focus monetary and multidimensional poverty eradication on areas of chronic conflict**

**Promote coordinated responses to intersecting crises that centre equity and risk**

**Safeguard do no harm principles that are sensitive to conflict/crises dimensions**
## Pathways of impact linking conflict and poverty dynamics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Pathways of impact</th>
<th>Impacts on poverty dynamics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>State/economy (macro)</strong></td>
<td>- Weak policies, limited finances and foreign direct investment&lt;br&gt;- Ambiguous effects of aid&lt;br&gt;- Low or volatile growth</td>
<td>- Limited aid and assistance targeted towards tackling chronic poverty&lt;br&gt;- Immiserizing growth mirrored in impoverishment</td>
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<td><strong>Community (meso)</strong></td>
<td>- Depressed local labour markets&lt;br&gt;- Destroyed/weak systems and services&lt;br&gt;- Adverse gender and social norms&lt;br&gt;- Ambiguous effects on community trust and social cohesion</td>
<td>- Limited economic opportunities to sustain escapes from poverty&lt;br&gt;- Inability to rely on education for resilience or health services to prevent impoverishment&lt;br&gt;- Disrupted networks maintaining poverty</td>
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<td><strong>Household/individual (micro)</strong></td>
<td>- Refugees and displaced people&lt;br&gt;- Loss of assets/income, erosive coping&lt;br&gt;- Demographic change (e.g. widowhood, orphanhood, family separation, death)&lt;br&gt;- SGBV, physical/psychosocial ill health</td>
<td>- Loss of income (e.g. due to job loss, death), erosive coping and asset drawdown driving impoverishment&lt;br&gt;- Loss of networks from displacement driving further impoverishment</td>
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Conflict dynamics challenge

• Poverty higher in countries experiencing chronic conflict: 40-50% over last 10 years, vs ‘escapers’ 44% to 19% from 2000-19 (Corral et al., 2020)

• Similar within countries (Diwakar et al., various):
  • chronic Naxal violence, India ‘05-12: multi-dimensional deprivations
  • post-conflict areas, Nepal ‘00s: chronic poverty
  • new insecurity in Pakistan & Uganda ‘12-15: declining assets
  • Insecurity, Nigeria ‘10-19: adverse coping

Source: analysis of GHS 2010-19 panel
Conflict and learning: India, Democratic Republic of Congo

Conflict ideologies in eastern India

When Varsha was in 6th class (2010), Naxals entered her school and kidnapped her headmaster... They interrogated him—how he intended to give facilities to tribal students to develop their future and threatened him to do so. After this event, teachers tried to improve the facility and teaching quality out of fear. Better processes were put in place, e.g. teachers became more attentive and would give back student notes on time. – Southern Odisha, 2020 interview

Source: analysis of IHDS 2005/12

Source: analysis of SLRC 2012-15 panel

Figure: Dissatisfaction with school quality, 2012-15, South Kivu, DRC
Conflict crises challenge

- Convergence of conflict, climate-related disasters, and people in poverty in LICs and LMICs

Size of circle weighted by number of people in poverty pre-pandemic

Source: analysis of ACLED, EMDAT, and World Bank PIP data
Conflict crises challenge: impoverishment in Afghanistan

**Income**: grape garden, salary (e.g. father head master, siblings teachers), agri income

**Managing ill health**: sister ill, supported through teacher salary, income from garden

**Education**: School closed so contractual teachers not paid. Wider political insecurity hence no one in family can continue studies.

**Markets**: Traders don't buy grapes or buy at low price, limited land hence small harvest (plus drought)

**Ill health**: “When my father was ill... we spent on his treatment... sold land for his treatment...half of the garden we give it on mortgage... Financially, we got so weak and are in debt now.”

**Since COVID-19**

**Limited income**: 14 members in the family. “Only I and my brother are working as a teacher. We cultivated on the farm and in the garden, but... heavy hail that rained last week.”

**Inability to migrate**: “We are two brothers... have to take care of the family, take care of the land and garden... attend school for teaching.”

**Gendered job loss**: With the political transition, “school for girls closed and they lost their jobs. Besides this one of my sisters was in grade 12, she cannot go to school.”

Source: interview from Herat, April 2022
Conflict crises challenge: chronic poverty in Nigeria

Bottom two welfare quintiles more likely to:
• engage in distress **asset sales** in response to negative shocks in 2020
• pay more for **petrol** in 2022
• report **drought/delayed rains** expected to negatively affect them in 2022

**Figure: Distress assets sales by welfare quintile**

**Figure: Difficulties buying petrol, May 2022**

Source: analysis of NLPS (2019-20)

Source: analysis of NLPS (2022)
## Programmatic gaps and opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Working</th>
<th>Despite polycrisis</th>
<th>Poverty reduction strategies operating in parallel/in spite of polycrisis, i.e. with minimal efforts made to address conflict &amp; other intersecting crises; risk creating additional sources of vulnerability.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working</td>
<td>In polycrisis</td>
<td>Poverty reduction strategies that actively respond to polycrisis in-situ, reflecting sensitivity to the context of layered crises, ‘do no harm’ and considering poverty, conflict and other crises trajectories.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working</td>
<td>On polycrisis</td>
<td>Poverty reduction strategies that actively respond to polycrisis in-situ as well as seek to address/ alter conflict and intersecting crises by addressing root causes and maintainers of poverty (e.g. by strengthening resilience to different types of shock).</td>
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## Working ‘on’ conflict and intersecting crises: Nigeria

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<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Examples of interventions</th>
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<td><strong>Asset drawdown-crisis</strong></td>
<td>• Graduation-type approach, especially cash-plus interventions.</td>
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<td>• Guard against insecurity and risk, e.g. evidence-based insurance development in farming.</td>
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<td><strong>Inadequacy of agriculture-climate, conflict</strong></td>
<td>• Climate-smart agricultural practices, drawing on examples in place.</td>
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<td>• Agri technologies, such as drought-resilient crop varieties.</td>
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<td>• Pay attention to impacts of crises, vulnerabilities re poverty and gender.</td>
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<td><strong>Volatile NFEs-COVID-19, conflict</strong></td>
<td>• Better understand business environment (incl. economic/market/politics).</td>
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<td>• Consider how business environment reforms might affect vulnerable.</td>
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<td>• Use reforms to promote local conflict-resolution and peacebuilding.</td>
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<td><strong>Inadequacy of risk-informed development</strong></td>
<td>• Reduce risk- prevent, reduce exposure/vulnerability, build adaptive capacity</td>
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<td>• Support recovery programs to go on for longer than they do.</td>
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<td>• Develop flexibility of underlying political/economic governance structures.</td>
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Working ‘on’ conflict and intersecting crises

- Stronger coordinated nexus action
- Connect peacebuilding to development
- Planning for humanitarian relief and recovery during crises - continuous
- Portfolio approach for joined-up recovery

- Build resilience

- Recast HDP nexus

- Target poorest

- Pro-poor governance
- Growth and livelihood diversification
- Access to justice
- Social protection, insurance against range of risks
- Lower secondary education+
- Better disaster risk management

- Long-term equity
- Address intersecting inequalities
- Anti-discrimination
Thank you

Questions?