

The Ability of the Poor to Cope



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AR5, WGII, Ch 13 Livelihoods & Poverty

ES, Ch13: Observed evidence suggests that climate change and climate variability **worsen existing poverty, exacerbate inequalities, and trigger both new vulnerabilities and some opportunities** for individuals and communities. Climate change interacts with non-climatic stressors and **entrenched structural inequalities to shape vulnerabilities** (*high confidence, based on medium evidence, high agreement*).

SPM: Differences in vulnerability and exposure arise from **non-climatic factors** and from **multidimensional inequalities** often produced by **uneven development processes** (*very high confidence*). People who are socially, economically, culturally, politically, institutionally, or otherwise **marginalized are especially vulnerable** to climate change and also to some adaptation and mitigation responses (*medium evidence, high agreement*).

Focus: Power Dynamics

- **Poverty and inequality are largely driven by power differentials** (social relations, institutions).
- **Impacts** from climate change & climate change policies are **funneled through uneven power relations**, typically at the expense of the poor, disadvantaged, and less powerful. Climate change is a **threat multiplier**.
- **Inequalities drive vulnerabilities and constrain adaptive capacities.**

F. Gemenne et al. 2014 (*Climatic Change*)

“the power of political processes and markets to deny some groups the freedoms and opportunities that they need to make choices in their interests and to act on those decisions, and the power of institutions to appropriate and divert processes that aim to overcome vulnerability”

Types of Social Protection

Time frame	Social protection category	Social protection instruments	Role in crises and climate change adaptation
Short-term	<u>Asset protection</u> (social assistance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social service provision • Basic social transfers (food/cash) • Pension and disability schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provides immediate protection and relief from poverty and deprivation ➤ Protects the most vulnerable to climate risks
	Prevention of <u>asset erosion</u> (insurance and diversification mechanisms)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety nets • Social transfers • Public works programmes • Livelihood diversification • Weather-indexed crop insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prevents damaging coping strategies as a result of risks to weather-dependent and climate-sensitive livelihoods
	<u>Asset promotion</u> (economic opportunities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social transfers • Access to credit • Asset transfers/protection • Starter packs (drought/flood-resistant) • Access to common property resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promotes resilience through livelihood diversification and security to withstand climate-related shocks ➤ Promotes opportunities arising from climate change
Long-term	Transformation (addressing underlying social vulnerabilities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of minority rights • Anti-discrimination campaigns • Social funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Transforms social relations to combat discrimination underlying social and political vulnerability

Coping

Building adaptive capacity

Poverty Approaches & Framings

Individual failure

They - us - benefit - harm

	Monetary	Capabilities	Social Exclusion/Relational
Definition of poverty	Income (or consumption) falls below a minimum threshold of resources (e.g., poverty line)	Deprivation of a person's abilities to live a life they have reason to value	Individuals or groups are wholly or partially excluded from participating in the society in which they live
Indicator(s)	Monetary metrics (income, consumption, assets)	Multidimensional: freedoms, choices, and opportunities (includes monetary dimension)	Multidimensional: social rules, customary laws, and social networks
Key assumptions	Monetary indicators are a good proxy for other aspects of welfare throughout different societies	Money is a poor proxy for overall well-being. Choices and freedoms have intrinsic value whereas money does not	The factors that allow some people to escape poverty are the same that allow for the exclusion of others
Type of poverty	Absolute and relative	Absolute and relative	Relative and relational
Unit of analysis	Individual (although monetary figures usually collected at household level)	Individual	Individual or group (but poverty is characterized as a social relationship between the poor and the non-poor)
Pros	Monetary measures easily facilitate comparisons across people and places	Accounts for publically provided goods and services; considers cultural differences in what people value	Accounts for distributional issues and inequities; specific attention to unequal power relationships
Cons	Excludes publically provided goods and services (e.g., schools, clinics); neglects power relationships	Difficult to make cross-country comparisons	Difficult to make cross-country comparisons

Anti-Social Poverty Politics



HOME	INSIDERS	AMERICAS	WORLD	BUSINESS	OP ED	CULTURE	SPORTS
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Discursive framing of the poor ('othering') protects the privileged (willful omission)

FRANCE: Five homeless die as cold snap hits France

BY RFI ON DECEMBER 30, 2014

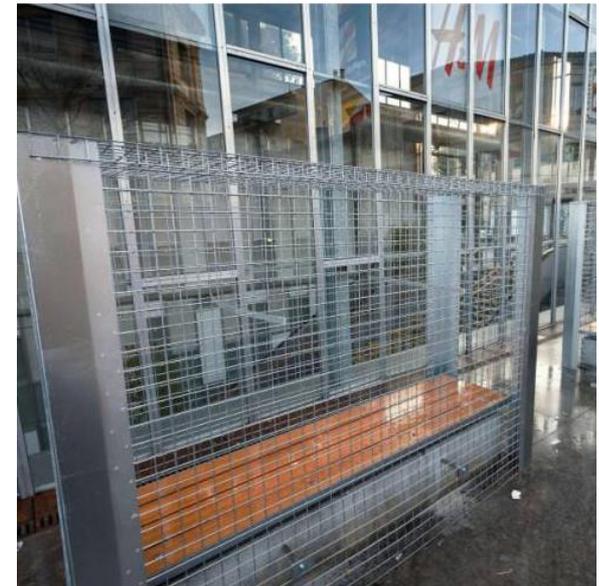
FRANCE: Five homeless die as cold snap hits France

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Five homeless men have died of hypothermia or in a fire they had apparently lit to warm up as a cold snap hit France in the past few days, authorities announced on Tuesday.



Five homeless people have died due to the cold weather in France in December 2014. Commons Wikimedia

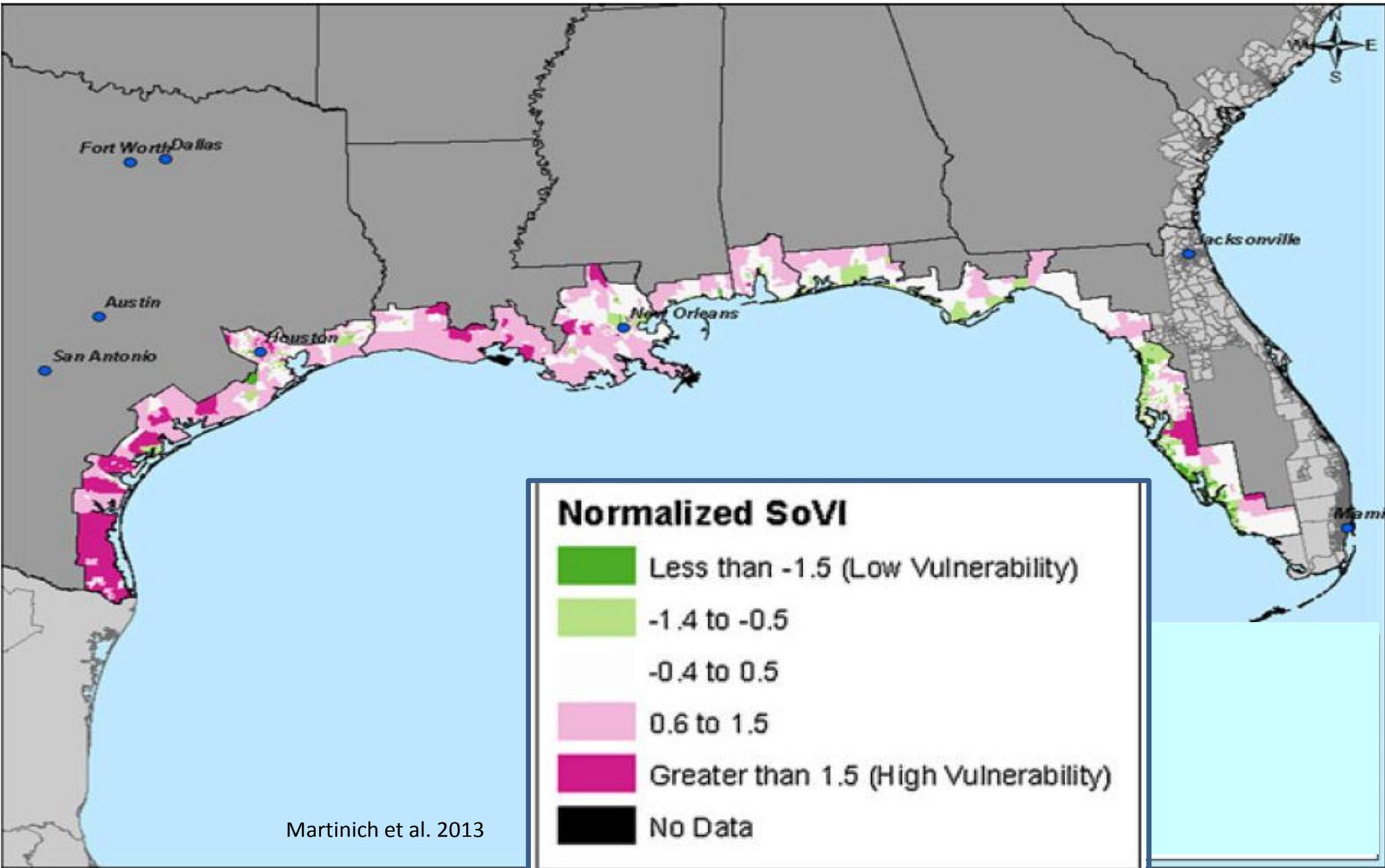


Vulnerability to Sea Level Rise, U.S.

Table 1 Components for each regional analysis in the contiguous United States. The table displays the Social Vulnerability Index components, including the dominant variables and their associated variance explained for each regional principle components analysis

North Atlantic		South Atlantic		Gulf		Pacific	
Component	Percent Variance Explained	Component	Percent Variance Explained	Component	Percent Variance Explained	Component	Percent Variance Explained
Poverty	22.5	Poverty	20.3	Poverty	22.4	Poverty	21.6
Rural/Urban	11.4	Family structure	17.5	Labor force participation	16.6	Age (children)	13.1
Age (elderly)	10.5	Rural/Urban	11.4	Foreign-born	12.3	Rural/Urban	11.7
Foreign-born	8.8	Foreign-born	10.0	Wealth	8.2	Labor force participation	8.7
Age (children)	7.4	Native American/Female	6.6	Rural/Urban	5.6	Female	7.5
Occupation	5.4	Occupation	4.8	Occupation	4.4	Occupation	5.6
Female	5.0			Female	4.0		

Social Vulnerability Index (USA)



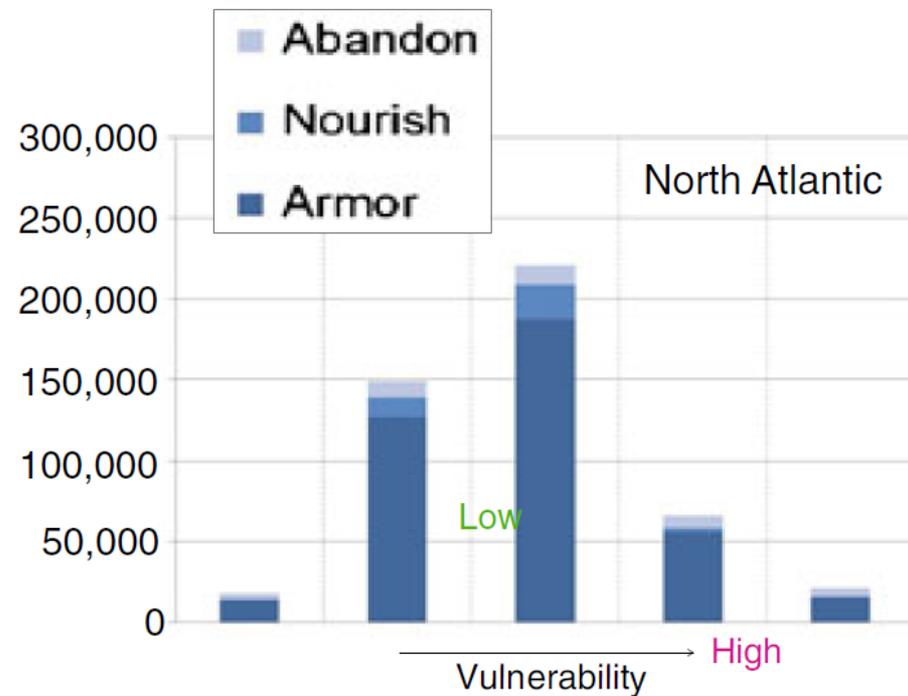
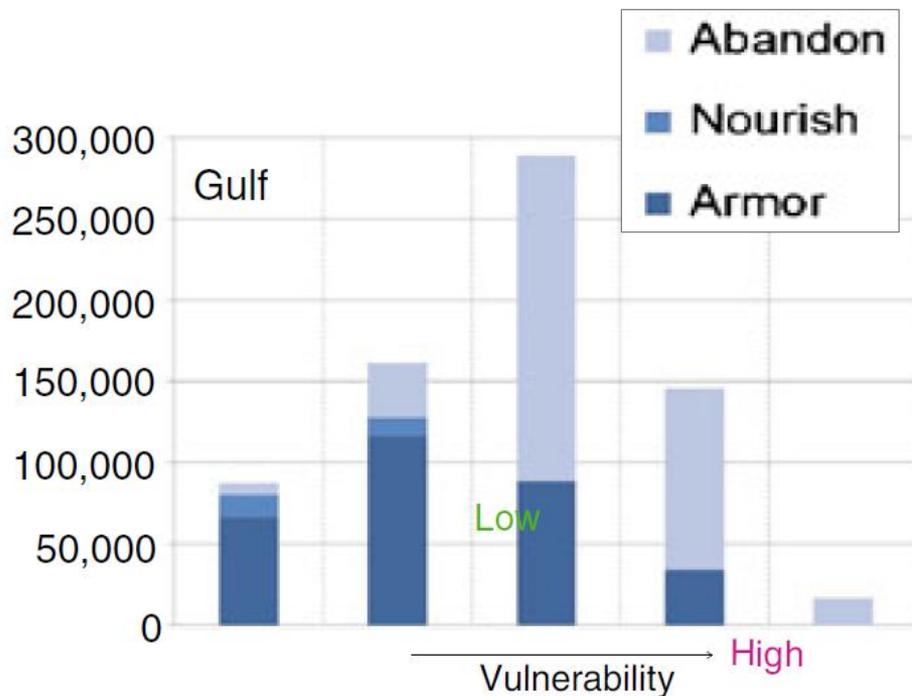
People at Risk – Property Worth Protecting

Economically efficient responses to sea level rise

Most land projected to be abandoned - in areas with highest social vulnerability

Poor more exposed, and not worth protecting (economic efficiency)

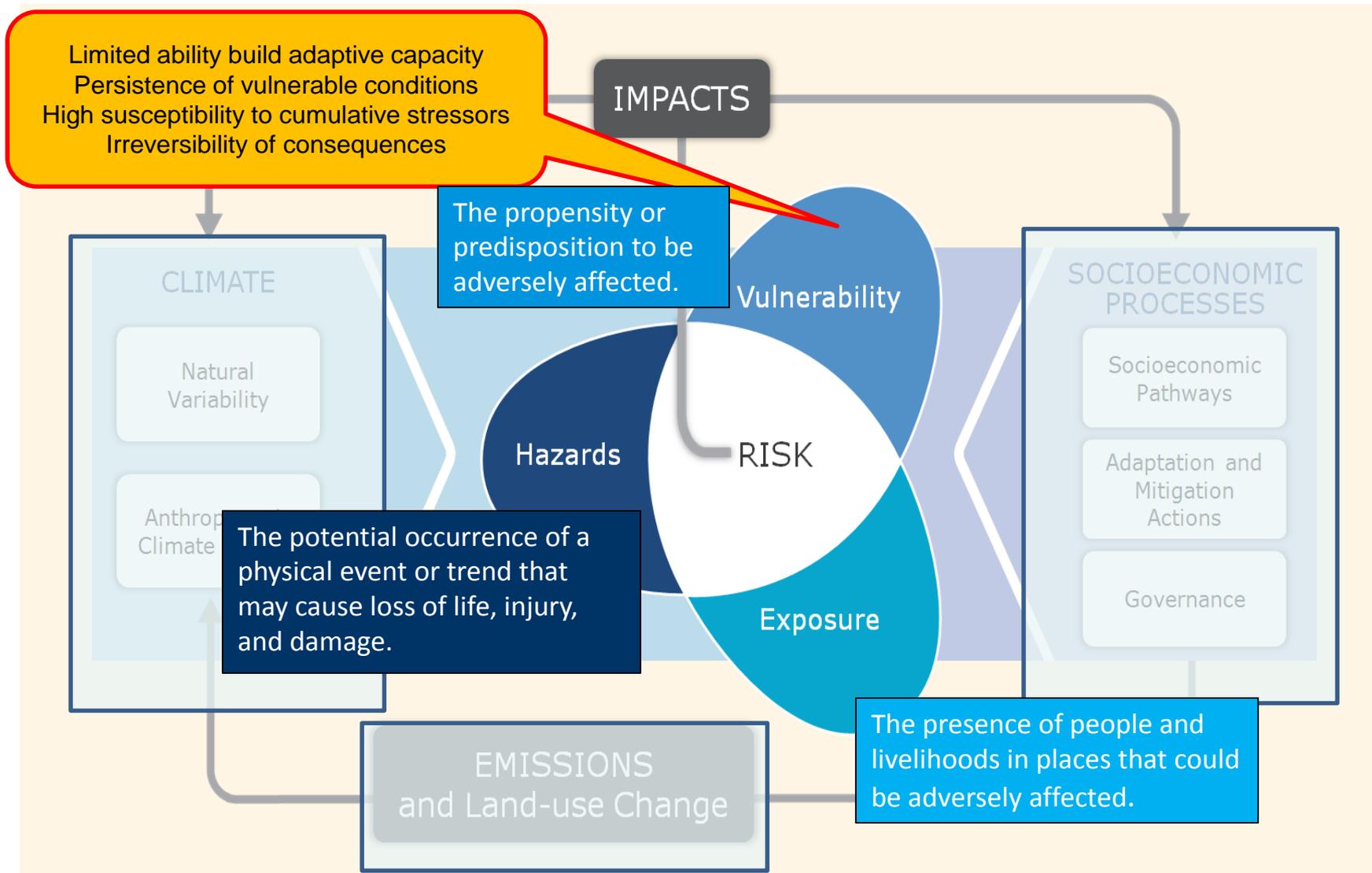
Uneven power structures benefit the rich at the expense of the poor



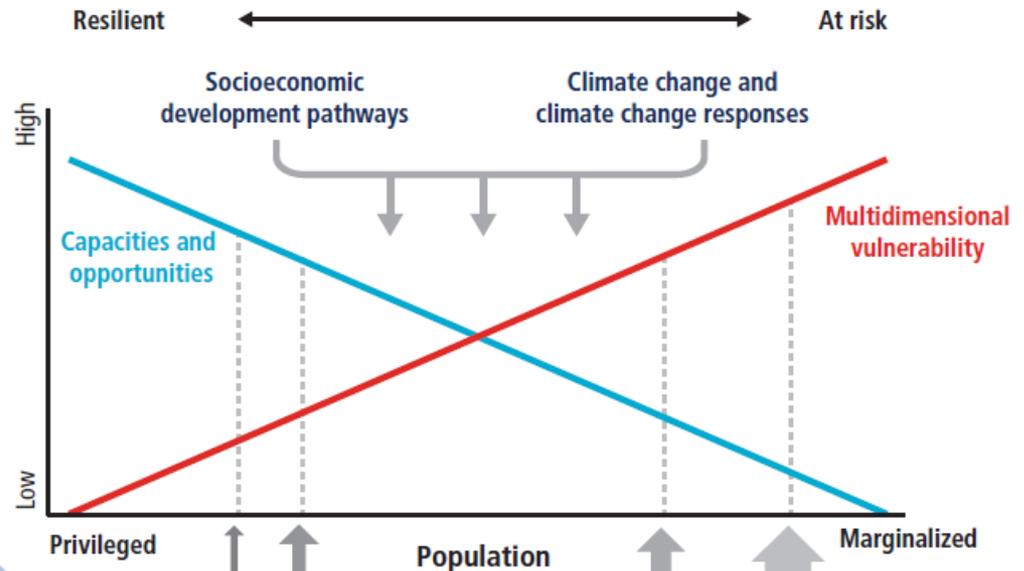
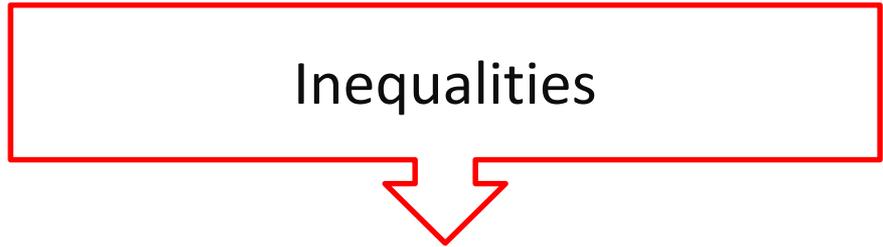
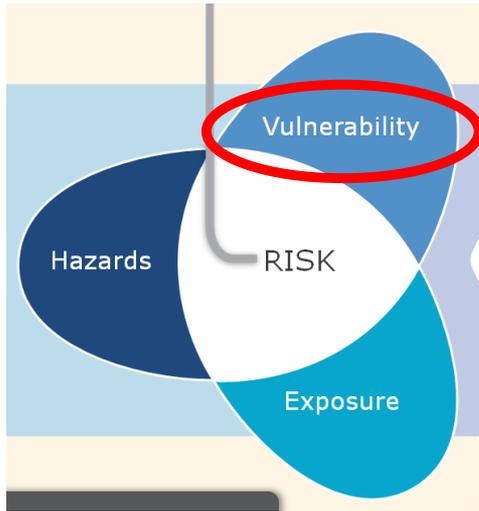
Social Relations & Power Differentials

- Structural, systemic inequalities – the poor & the non-poor
- Social relations create poverty and privilege
- Institutional arrangements, social policies (“bad”)
- Unequal geographies of power – poverty narratives
- ‘Deserving’ and ‘undeserving’ poor – dispossession
- Poverty admits plenty – criminalization, stigmatization
- Exercises of power, flourishing at the expense of others
- Mechanisms of exclusion, disenfranchisement
- Systematic erosion of capabilities (↓ risk management)
- Wealth redistribution, inclusive growth, shared prosperity

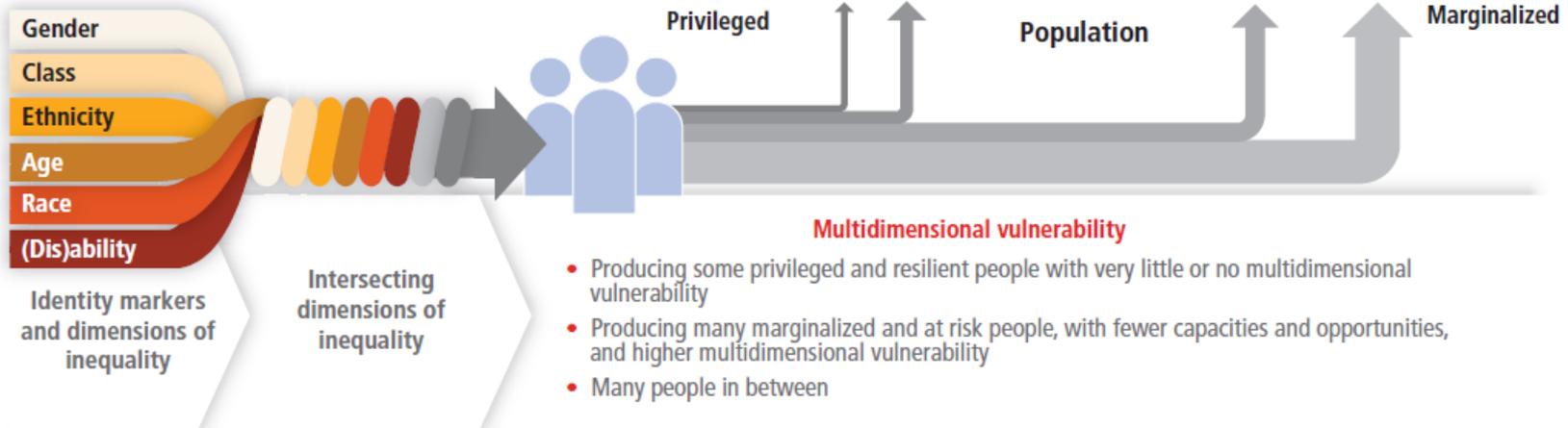
Managing Risk in the AR5 (WGII)



Multidimensional Vulnerability

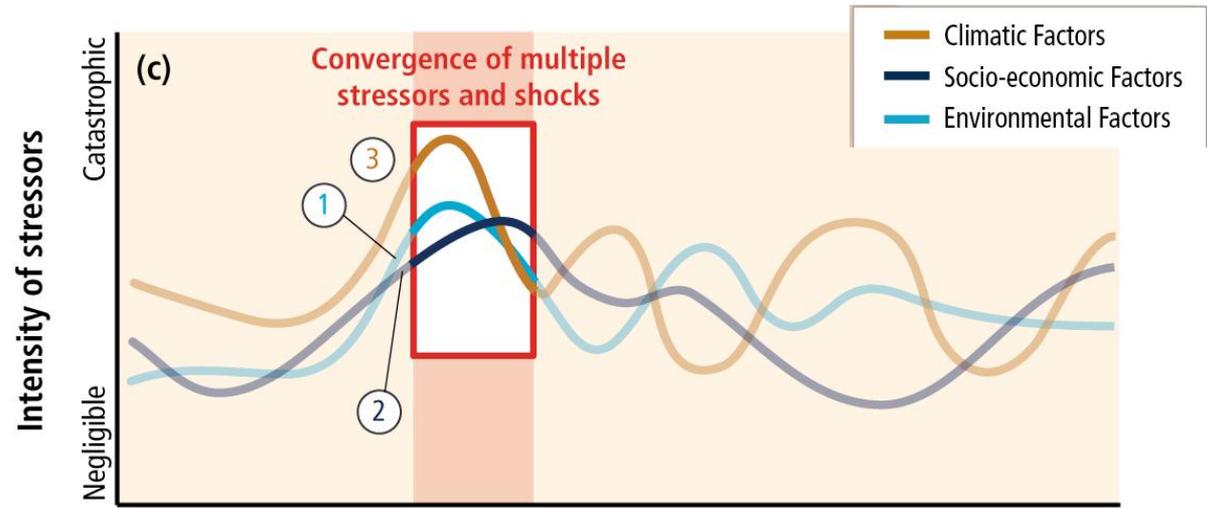


Olsson et al., Ch 13, and TS, WGII, AR5, 2014



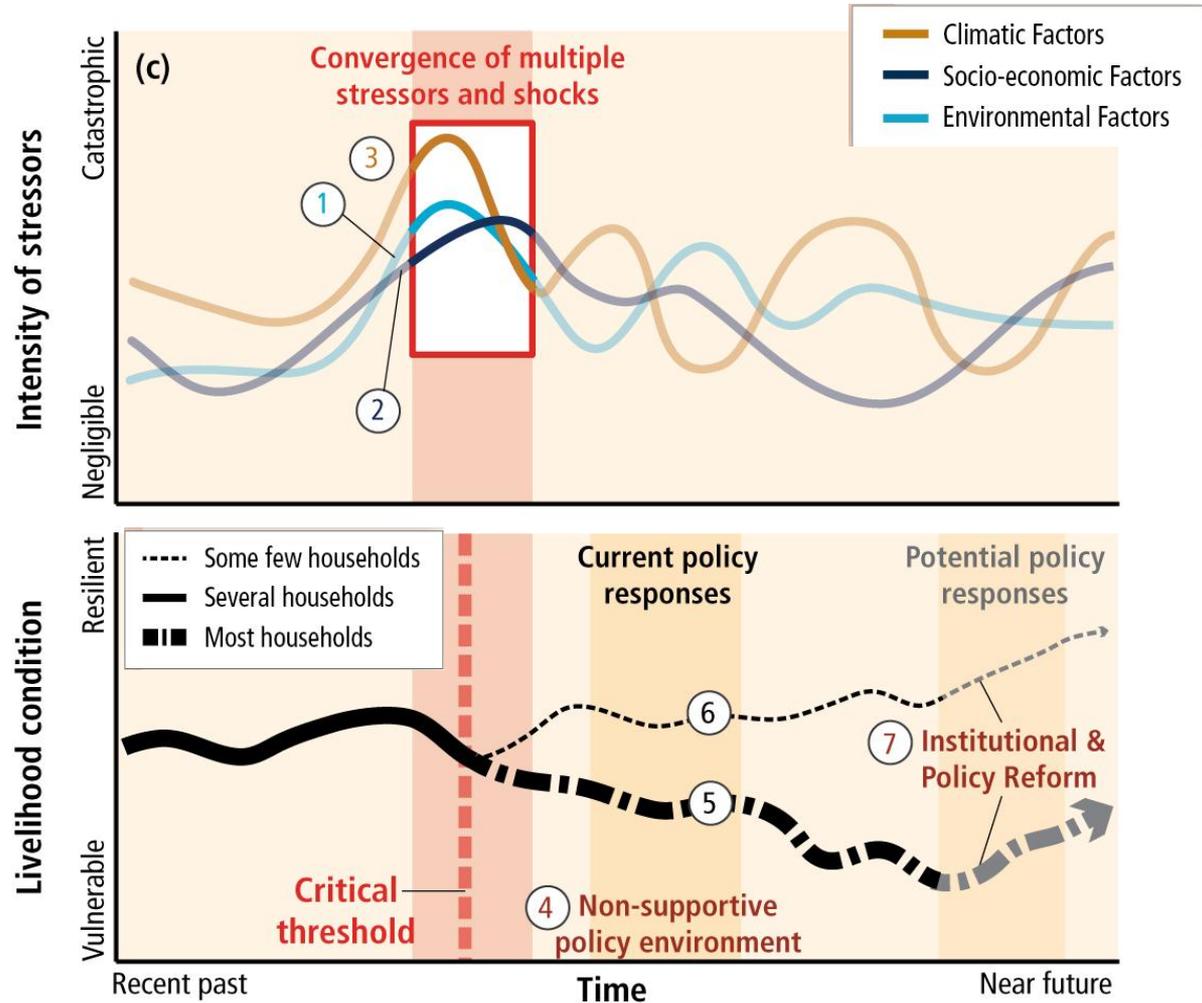
- Producing some privileged and resilient people with very little or no multidimensional vulnerability
- Producing many marginalized and at risk people, with fewer capacities and opportunities, and higher multidimensional vulnerability
- Many people in between

Livelihood Dynamics



Livelihood Dynamics

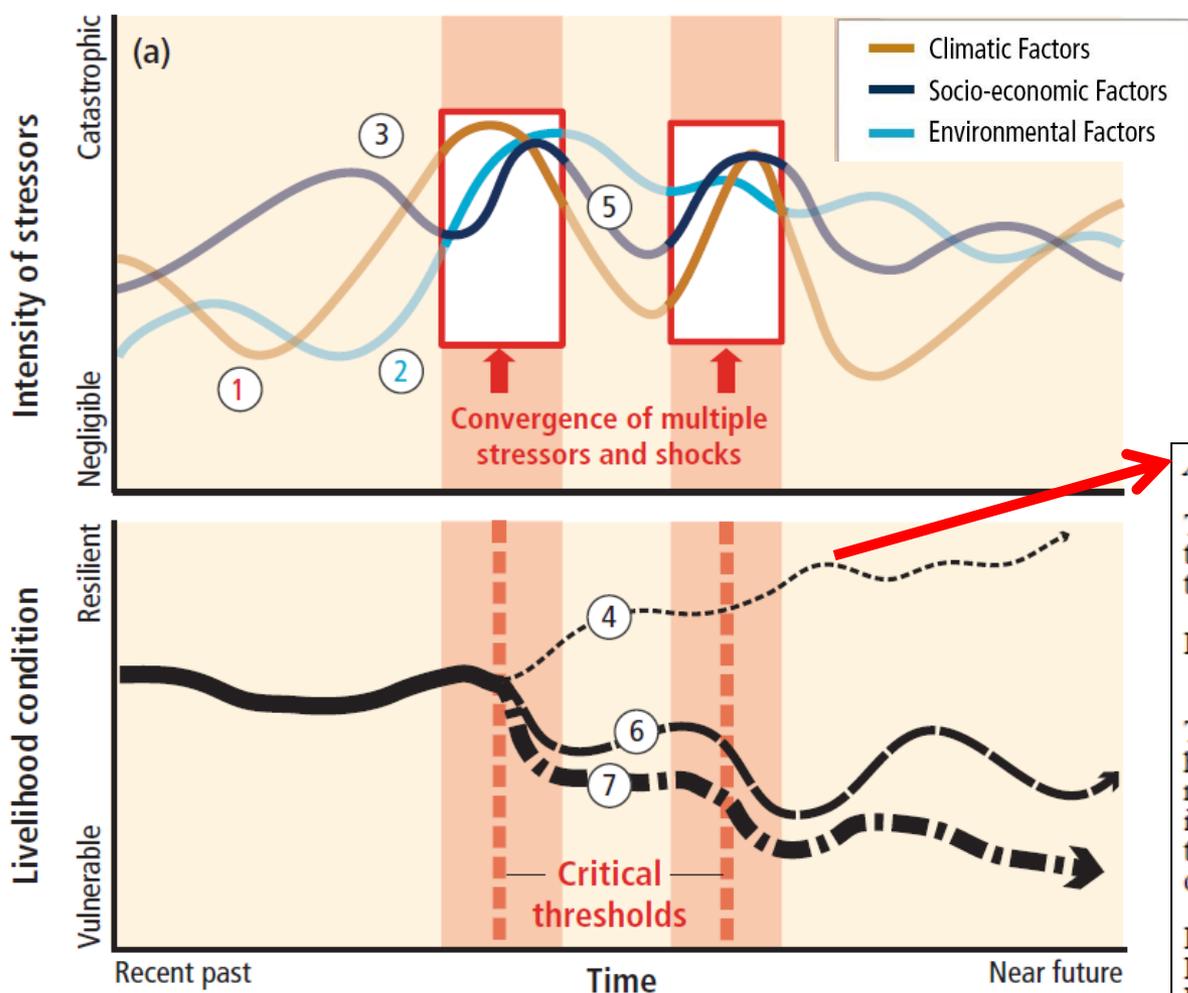
Indigenous Populations, Bolivian Andes



(c) Mountain environments (McDowell and Hess, 2012). Indigenous Aymara farmers in highland Bolivia face land scarcity, pervasive poverty, climate change, and lack of infrastructure due in part to racism and institutional marginalization. The retreat of the Mururata glacier causes water shortages (1), compounded by the increased water requirements of cash crops on smaller and smaller “minifundios” and market uncertainties (2). High temperatures amplify evaporation, and flash floods coupled with delayed rainfall cause irrigation canals to collapse (3). The current policy environment makes it difficult to access loans and obtain land titles (4), pushing many farmers onto downward livelihood trajectories (5) while those who can afford it invest in fruit and vegetable trees at higher altitudes (6). Sustained access to land, technical assistance, and irrigation infrastructure would be effective policy responses to enhance well-being (7).



Pastoralists, Botswana



Accumulative trajectory – building resilience

T1, 1985 – Limited assets, low capacity of agroecosystem to remain productive, some collective capacity to cope through social security benefits

R1. Diversification of livelihood activities

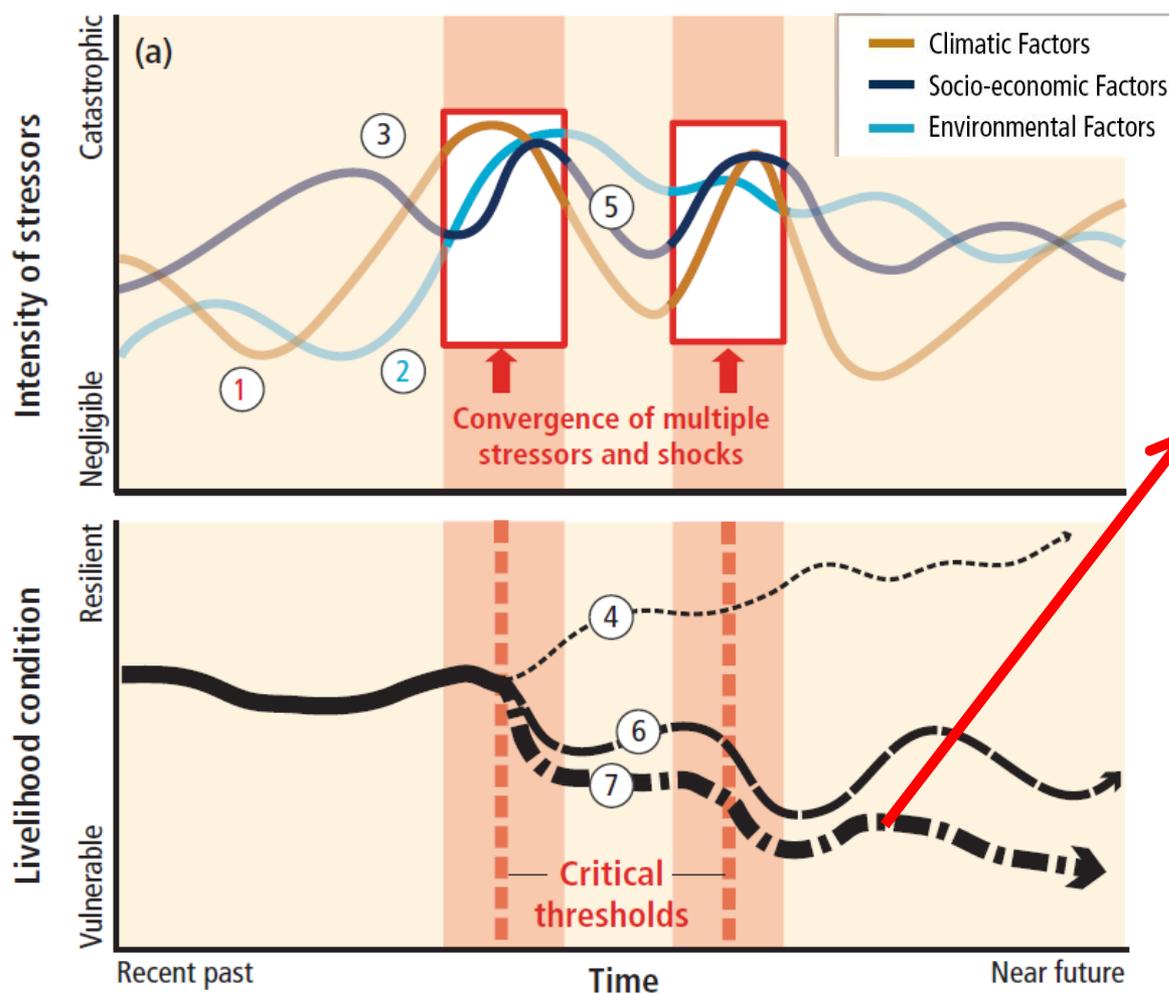
T2, 1990s – rapid accumulation of financial, physical, and human assets, moderate capacity of agroecosystem to remain productive (rainfall higher but degradation increasing), increasing individual and collective capacity to respond to crises as he became Councillor and his children got older

R2. Salaried employment
R3. Investment in livestock accumulation
R4. Investment in transport
R5. Investment in access to water

T3, 2000s – continued accumulation of financial, physical, and human assets (children gained jobs), decreasing capacity of agroecosystem to remain productive, capacity to respond to agroecosystem decline high due to access to transport and private water source

(a) Botswana's drylands (Sallu et al., 2010). Over the past 30 years, rural households have faced droughts, late onset and increased unpredictability of rainfall, and frost (1), drying of Lake Xau, and land degradation (2). Households responded differently to these stressors, given their financial and physical assets, diversification of and within livelihood activities, family relations, and institutional and governmental support. Despite weakening of social networks and declining livestock due to lack of water (3), distinct livelihood trajectories emerged. "Accumulators" were often able to benefit from crises, for instance through access to salaried employment (4) or new hunting quotas (5), while "dependent" households showed a degenerative trajectory, losing more and more livelihood assets, and becoming reliant on governmental support after another period of convergent stressors (6). "Diversifiers" had trajectories fluctuating between vulnerable and resilient states (7).

Pastoralists, Botswana



Degenerative trajectory – vulnerable

T1, 1974 – high capacity for agroecosystem to remain productive, high levels of access to natural assets, moderate accumulation of financial and physical assets (livestock), moderate capacity to respond (asset stock)

R1. Engagement in diverse livelihood activities

T2, 1980s – low capacity of agroecosystem to remain productive, retained access to some natural assets (hunting permit), limited access to other natural assets (drought), some physical and financial asset stores, moderate capacity to respond (RAD program support)

V1. Loss of livestock

T3, 1990s – moderate capacity of agroecosystem to remain productive, loss of financial and physical asset stores, loss of access to natural assets (permit changes), increasing reliance on government support

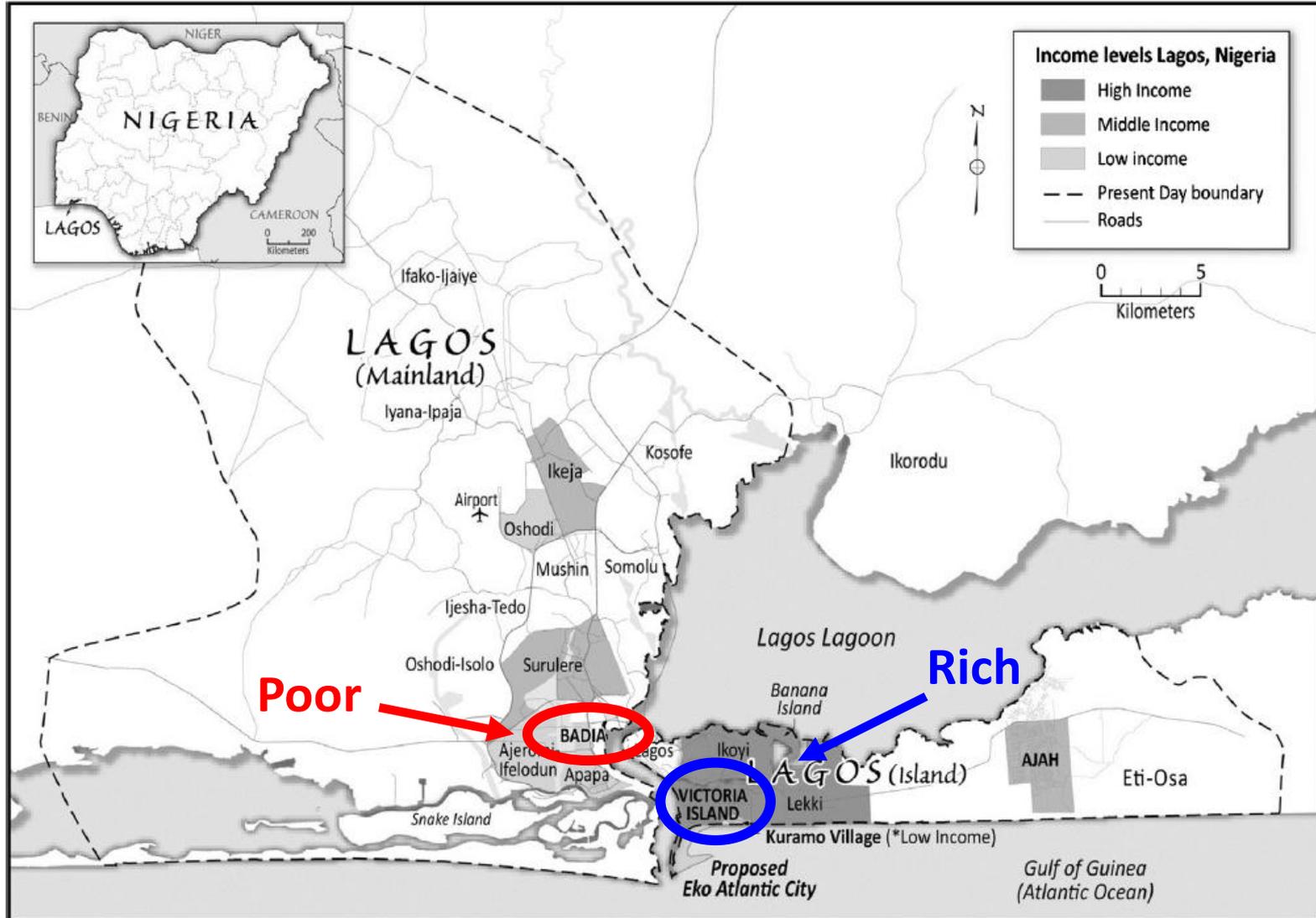
V2. Loss of livelihood activity

T4, 2000s – some capacity of agroecosystem to remain productive, no asset stocks, total reliance on government support

V3. Sole reliance on government support

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Lagos: Sea Level Rise, Flooding, and Institutional Neglect



Beyond Exposure: Structural Violence & Social Stigma



Legacy of a dual city – relocations
Denial of housing rights & tenure security
Encroachment of hazardous landscapes
Erosion of natural resilience against flooding
Environmentally intolerable coping strategies



Waste filling (house construction, flood control)
Symbol of livelihood struggle + pollution
Threats of eviction – wooden fragile houses
Distrust in early warning – legacy of evictions
Exclusion from safety nets – “Badia/Bad Area”

Gender, Class, Social Exclusion, and Discriminatory Health Policies

Comparing flood impacts on women by geographic areas.

Ajibade et al. 2013

Impacts	Badia (B) (n=262) (%)	Ajah (A) (n=72) (%)	Victoria Island (VI) (n=119) (%)	P-value (χ^2) ^a		
				B-A	B-VI	A-VI
Human lives						
Death	7.6	0.0	0.0	*	**	NA
Personal health problems	56.9	6.9	6.7	NS	**	*
Illness of household member	56.1	26.4	37.8	**	**	NS
Injury of household member	14.1	0.0	0.0	**	**	NA
Displacement and hardship	56.9	6.9	6.7	**	**	NS
Livelihoods						
Loss of income	45.8	0.0	9.2	**	**	**
Low business sales	29.8	0	21.8	**	**	**
Missed-out on productive work	36.6	0.0	28.6	**	**	**
Assets						
Collapsed building	1.9	0	0.8	NS	*	NS
Damage to properties	82.4	31.9	52.9	**	**	**
Damage to homes	80.5	18.1	3.8	**	**	**
No impact at all	0.4	34.7	43.7	**	**	NS

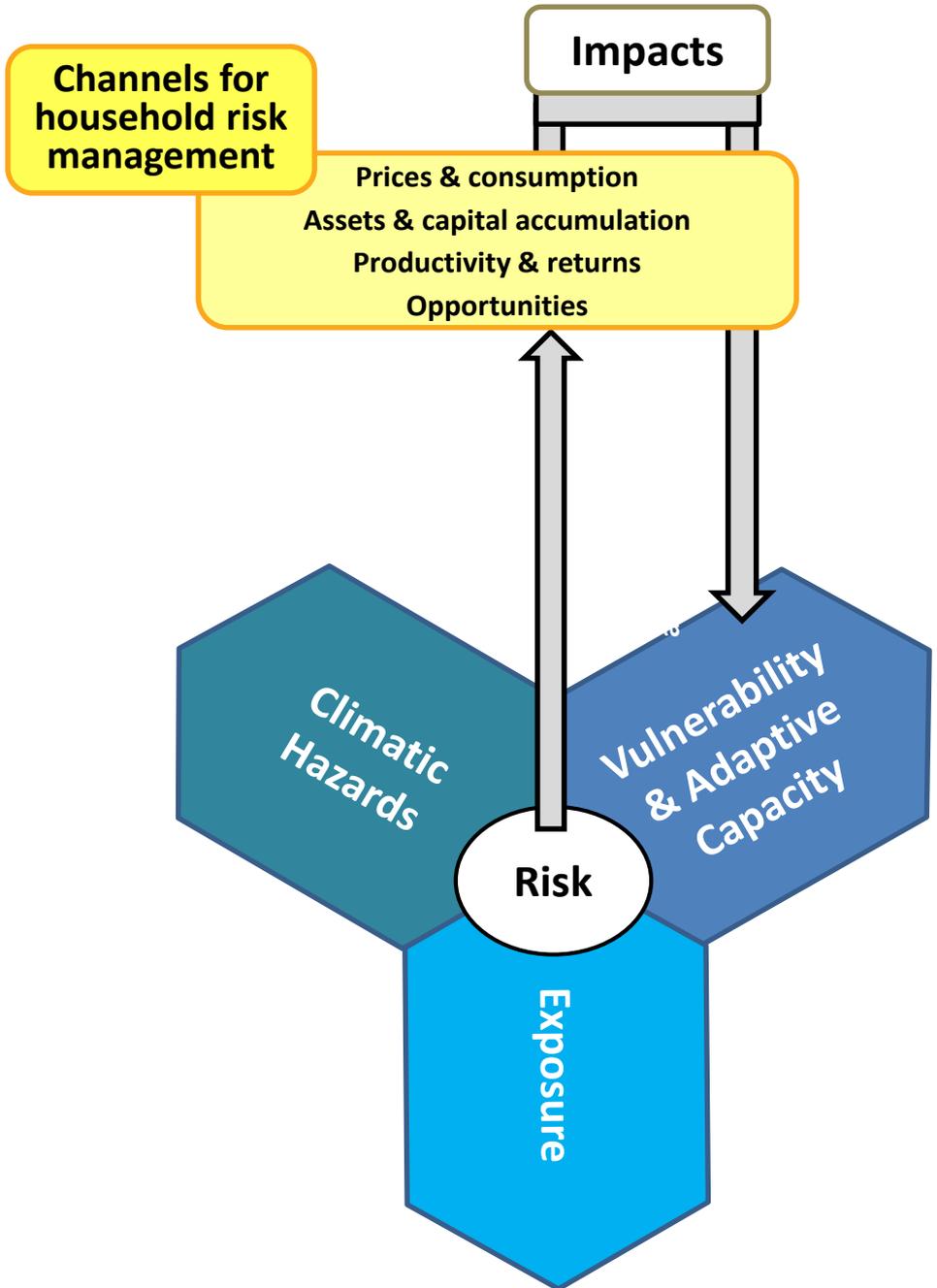
^a Based on Pearson's chi-squared test: NS= not significant. NA= not applicable.

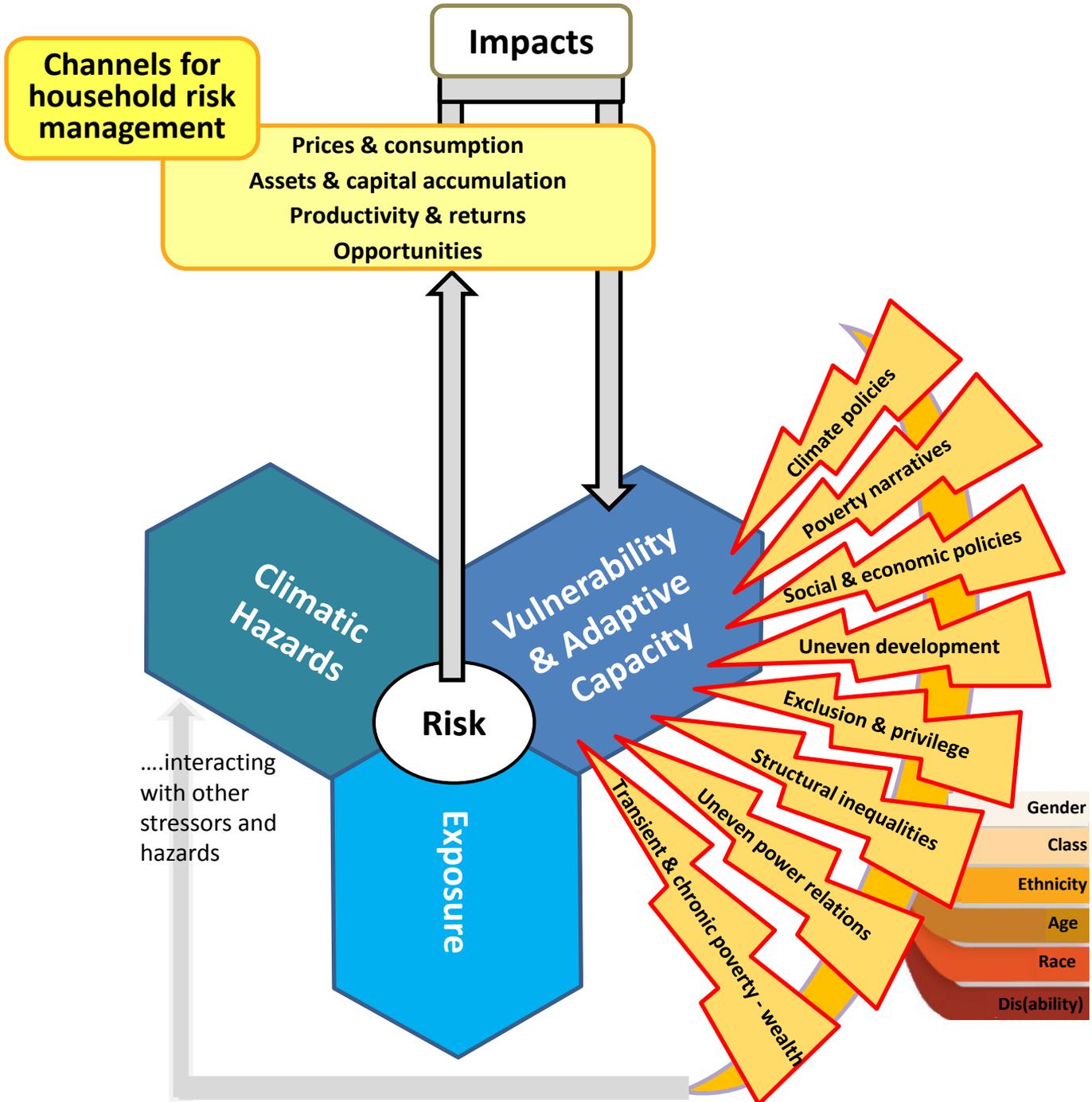
* $P < 0.05$.

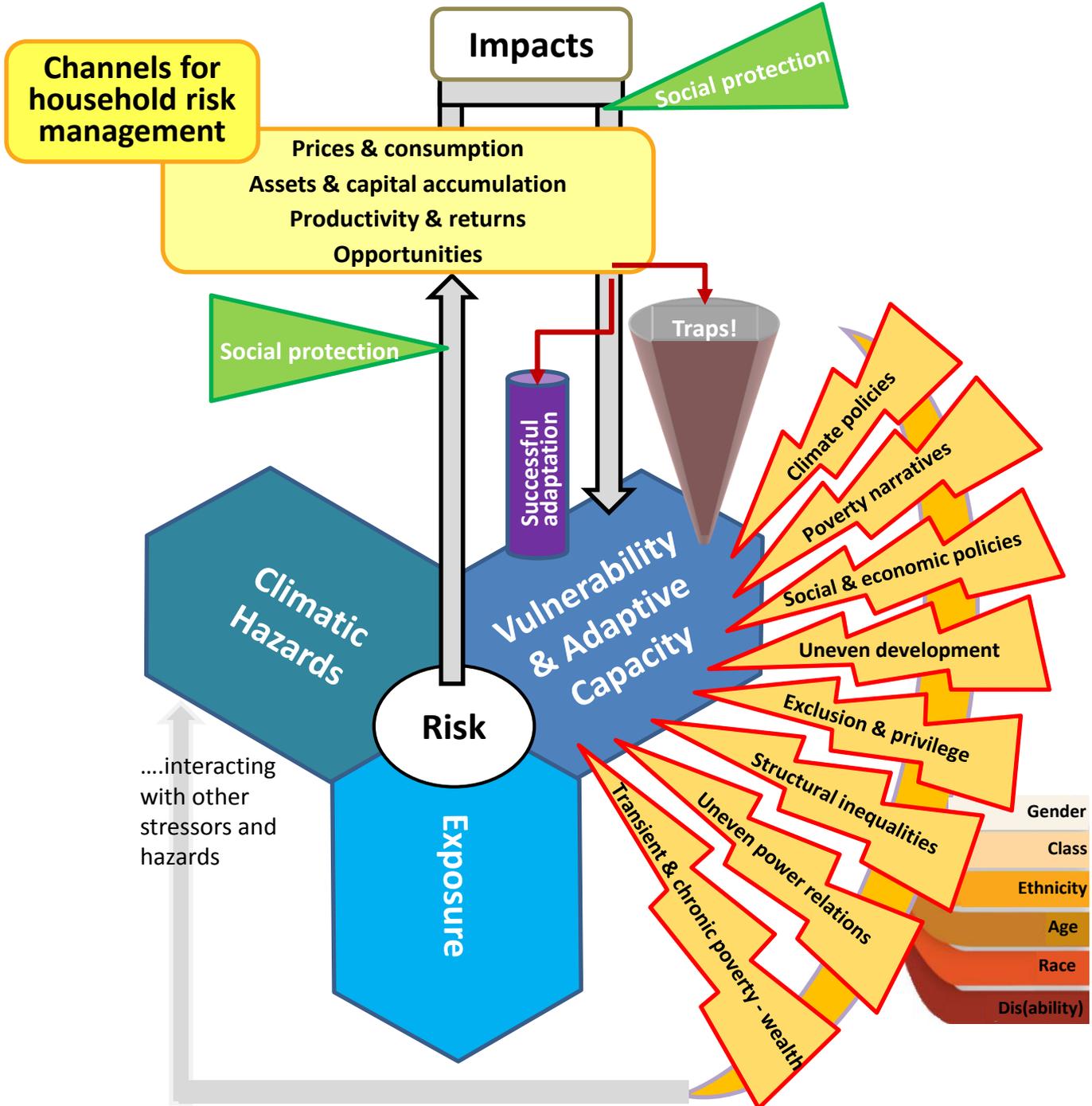
** $P < 0.01$.

Nadia was about six months pregnant when she was urged by her friends to seek obstetric care at the public hospital. When she got there, she was confronted by the 'Compulsory Spousal Blood Donation' (CSBD) policy which requires pregnant women to bring their husband to donate blood before they could register for prenatal care. Nadia's husband, Karim, refused to donate blood on behalf of his wife because he considered blood donation as 'Haram'—a sin against God. Karim offered to pay in lieu of donating his blood but his offer was rejected on the

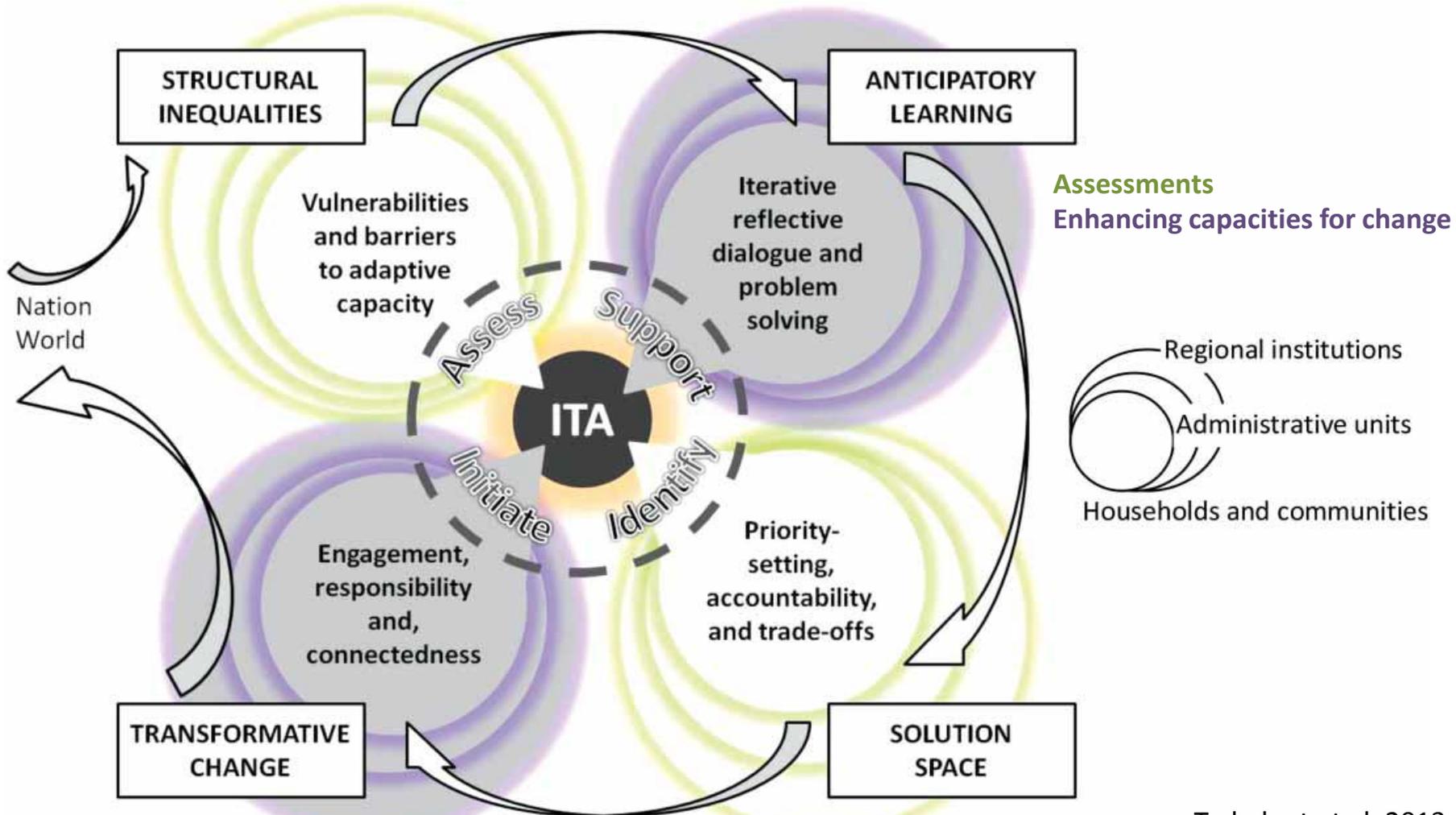
grounds that if everyone paid then the policy is ineffective. Constrained by the inability to meet the blood donation requirement, Nadia was forced to have her baby at home with the help of a midwife. Her delivery day coincided with the July rainstorm, which flooded the Badia community and swept raw sewage, urine, and refuse into Nadia's home, thus contaminating the water and instruments used during the delivery.







Dynamic Understanding of Inequality and Transformation



Conclusion - Recommendations

- Go beyond impacts on 'the poor' → structural inequalities
- Focus on factors that push 'the poor' into exposed areas and institutions & policies that keep them vulnerable
- No standardized metrics → patterns of relational drivers
- Tackle dynamics that limit the poor's choices to cope with and adapt to crises, and enhance capacities for change

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- Focus on factors that push 'the poor' into exposed areas and institutions & policies that keep them vulnerable
- No standardized metrics → patterns of relational drivers
- Tackle dynamics that limit the poor's choices to cope with and adapt to crises, and enhance capacities for change
- Foster enabling conditions for risk management among the poor and marginalized (less skewed social relations)
- Tailored programs/investments that recognize 'the poor' + collective action (incl. the rich) to rectify growing imbalance
- Mobile, flexible social protection + strong inclusive growth
- Climate+poverty+social+housing+planning+ag+food policies
- Transparent pro-poor institutions – training, preparedness, anti-discrimination campaigns, and promotion of rights