

REFLECTIONS ON DESIGNING RESILIENCE STRATEGIES

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Resilience – Old Wine?

- Is this all a bit too familiar?
- The term has become ubiquitous – with multiple definitions
- Much noise and policy clutter
 - re-labeling current activities as resilience
 - “we have always done resilience”
 - “we need a national resilience strategy”
- How can agencies find real purchase in resilience?

Donor Perspective

- Resilience has been variably addressed by donors; but often a catalyst for internal integration
- DFID
 - “Defining Disaster Resilience” = the ability to manage change in the face of shocks , with a clear set of principles for resilience building activities
 - Iterative, flexible, multi-sectoral, merges development and humanitarian efforts, long term, grounded in national realities
 - Pioneered the new approach in Somalia in 2011 with an internal risk Facility (IRF) to be flexible and responsive
 - Overlap with other policy frameworks an issue (SP, Climate change, DRM)

Donor Perspective

EU

- Resilience must address root causes of recurrent crisis and includes 3 components
 - Anticipating crisis by assessing risk
 - Focusing on prevention and preparedness
 - Enhancing crisis response
- Emphasis on common approaches with a strong flavour of DRR
- Catalyst for ECHO/DEVCO integration (RESET in East Africa)

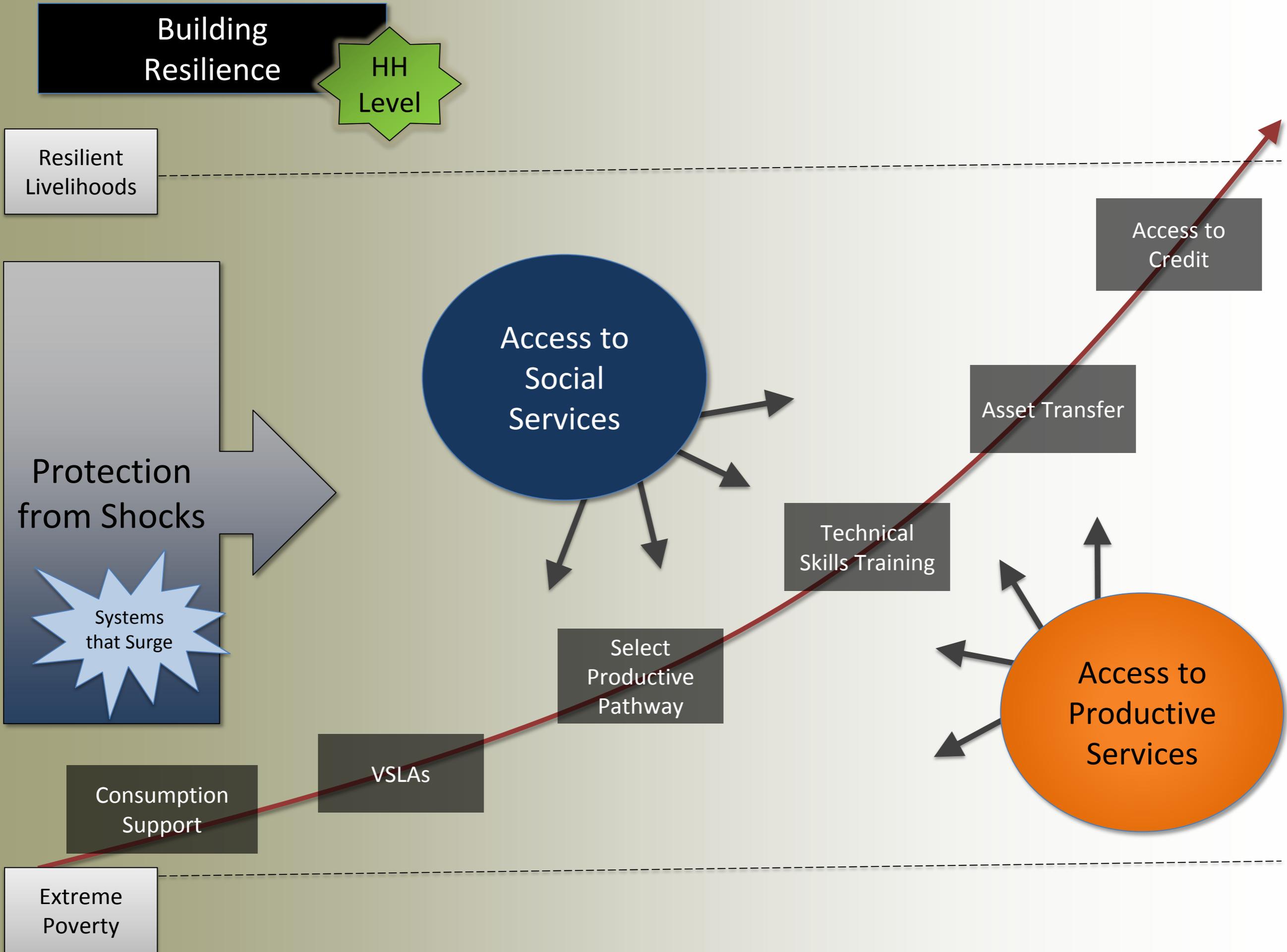
Donor Perspective

USAID

- Articulated in Feed the Future through implementation principles:
 - Early action in response to early warning
 - Connecting humanitarian and development programs
 - Ensuring evidence-based decision making
 - Supporting and strengthening local capacities
- Underscored by a “new way of doing business”
 - Joint planning, joint focus on resilience, joint programme focus
 - Integrate processes, layer and sequence activities between humanitarian and develop
 - Catalyst for FFP/OFDA integration

Resilience leads to Multi-sectoral Approaches

- Resilience embodies common themes regardless of the label
- Separate single sector, silo-based responses are not sufficient
 -even in emergencies
- No single agency can address root causes on its own
 -nor can a joined-up UN approach fully build resilience on its own (e.g. nutrition)
- Resilience requires clear integration between development and emergency responses using common procedures and protocols
- A multi-sectoral approach requires convergence



Elements of an Integrated Approach

- Safety net to provide stability, reliability, help manage risk, and encourage productive risk taking (PW to produce productive assets)
- Access to reliable social services and sustained nutrition security
- Access to productive support and services
- Supported by preparedness (including use of EWS) contingency and risk financing approaches
- Strong systems strengthening approach
- Strong and pragmatic learning agenda for decision making and systems strengthening

How to Engage in Resilience Building

Resilience fundamentally challenges the way we work

- Identify the national government led process that best delivers resilience
- Clearly define the agency's core comparative advantage and situate accordingly in the process
- Lead with engagement; not tools
- Ensure strong leadership is behind the effort; and re-aligns incentives

How to Engage in Resilience Building

- Name, fund and train the skills required to engage effectively (including changing mindsets)
- Aim to influence and strengthen systems – right from the start of humanitarian interventions
- Ensure you measure results; with an understanding of the local economy and how people survive