



Poverty dynamics and policy/program responses amidst crises

Emerging insights from Bangladesh

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Mixed methods research on poverty dynamics amidst intersecting crises in Bangladesh

CPAN-BIGD collaboration supported by DEEP through FCDO

Objectives

1. To understand the relationship between **climate** shocks and stressors, **COVID-19** (including its legacies, such as the subsequent **cost of living** crisis), and poverty dynamics in Bangladesh.
2. To engage in a dialogue with policy makers and programme designers, and with development partners on **priority measures** for poverty reduction and on key aspects of implementation.

Key research questions

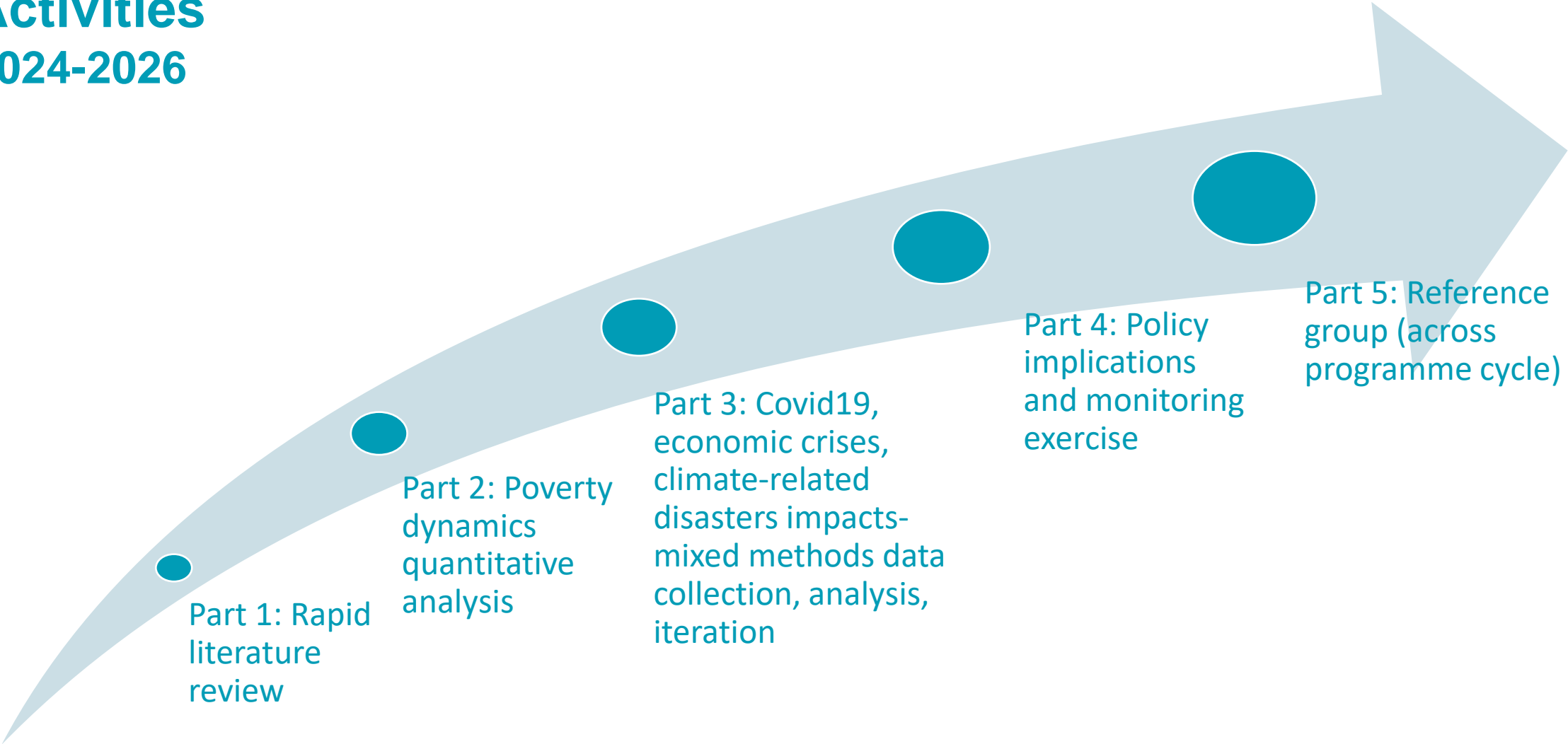
Poverty dynamics & livelihoods amidst crises

1. What is the relationship between **poverty** dynamics and **crises** marked by climate shocks, the pandemic, and economic volatility?
2. How does **drought** and **flooding** affect livelihood pathways out of poverty?
 - What are urban-rural variations in livelihoods since **COVID-19**? How have these been affected by climate change and **economic crises**, and with what implications for poverty?

Poverty eradication interventions

1. What measures are **governments** in a position to take to stabilise the operations of the **informal economy**? Of **agriculture**? What measures do citizens take through collective organisation?
2. What role do governments and other agencies play in protection against **risks** in a multi-hazard context?
3. What **interventions** are needed to improve poverty dynamics amidst intersecting crises and how can they be delivered?

Activities 2024-2026



Part 1: Rapid literature review

Part 2: Poverty dynamics quantitative analysis

Part 3: Covid19, economic crises, climate-related disasters impacts- mixed methods data collection, analysis, iteration

Part 4: Policy implications and monitoring exercise

Part 5: Reference group (across programme cycle)

New data collection on poverty and intersecting crises

Life history interviews

- Multi-causal pathways and sequences
- Inductive, open-ended
- 3 sites, 60 interviews

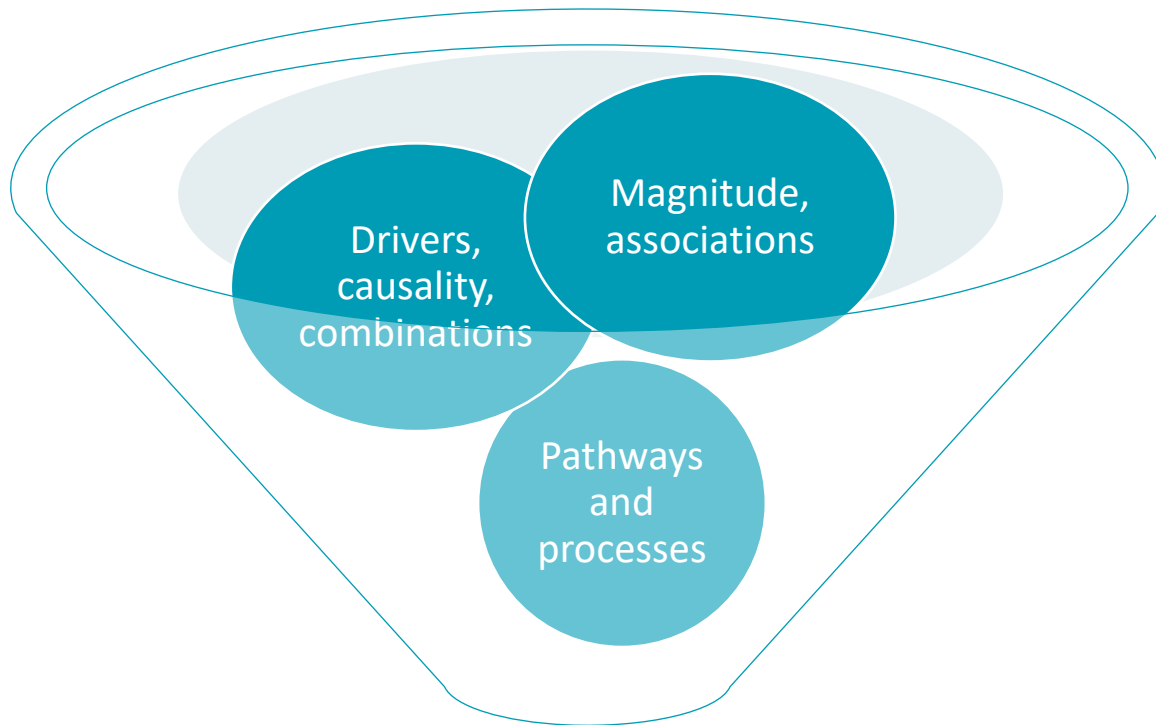
Focus group discussions

- Gender-disaggregated
- Participatory wealth ranking
- Generational, gender norms
- 2 per site, 6 FGDs

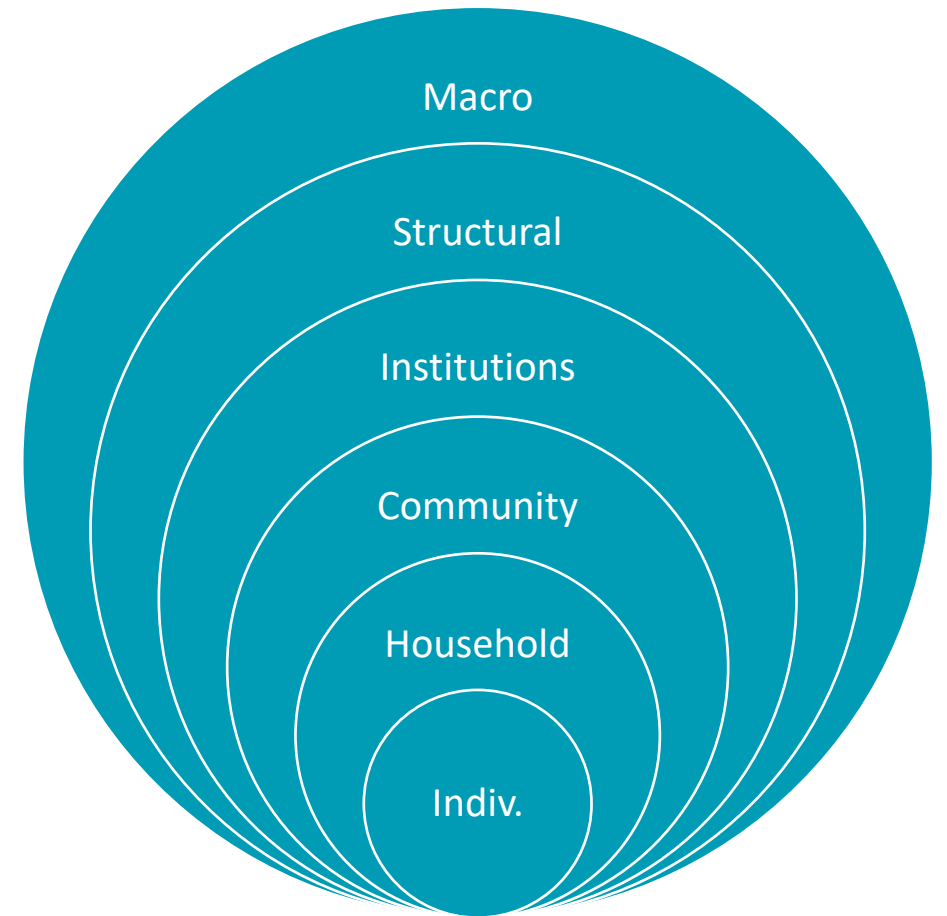
Key informant interviews

- Design of programs
- Effectiveness, challenges, coordination
- Storylines
- Site, city levels

Mixed methods to understand poverty dynamics



Poverty (dynamics) and social assistance amidst crises



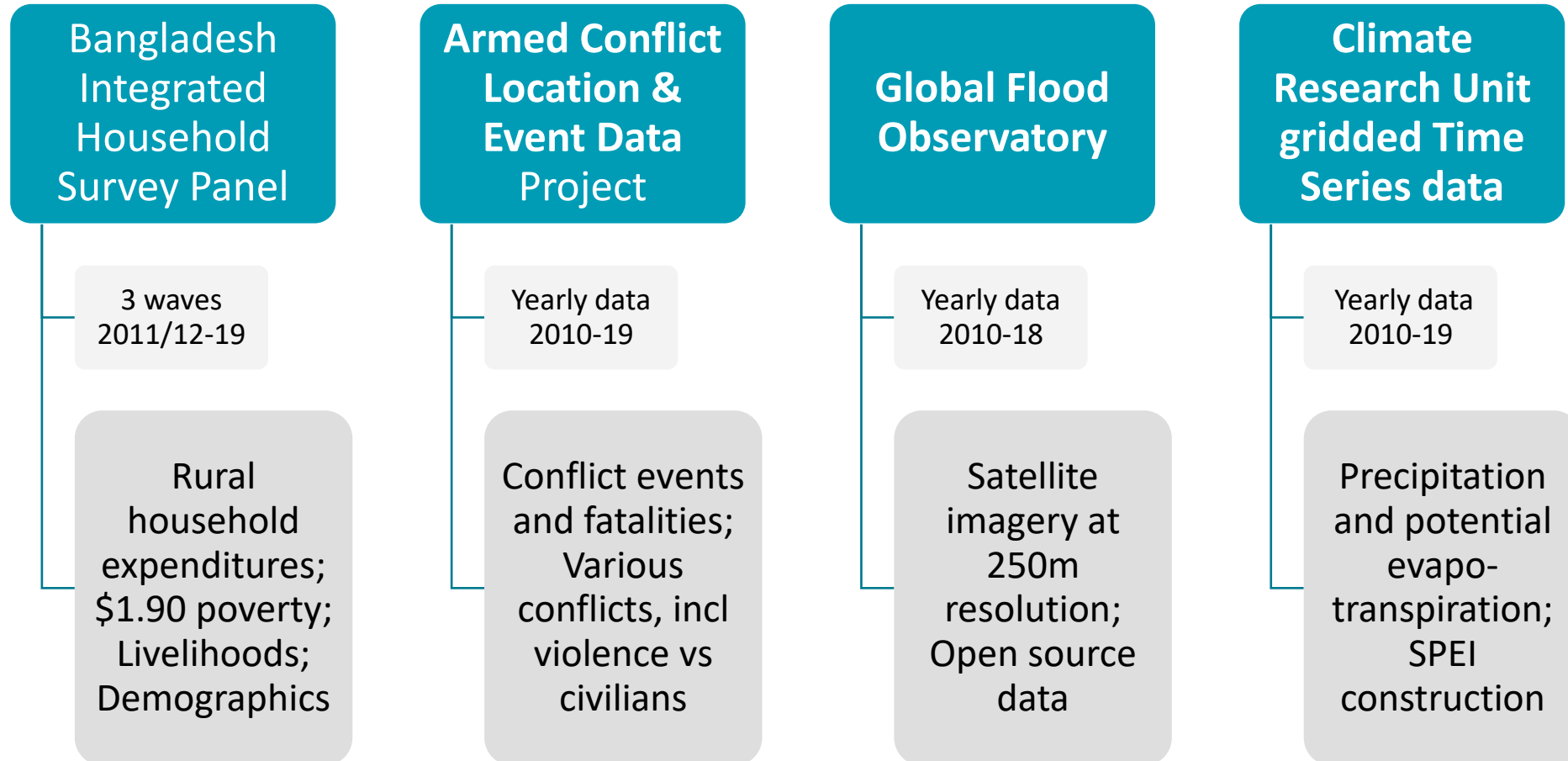
Levels of analysis

Study A: Poverty and intersecting crises in rural Bangladesh

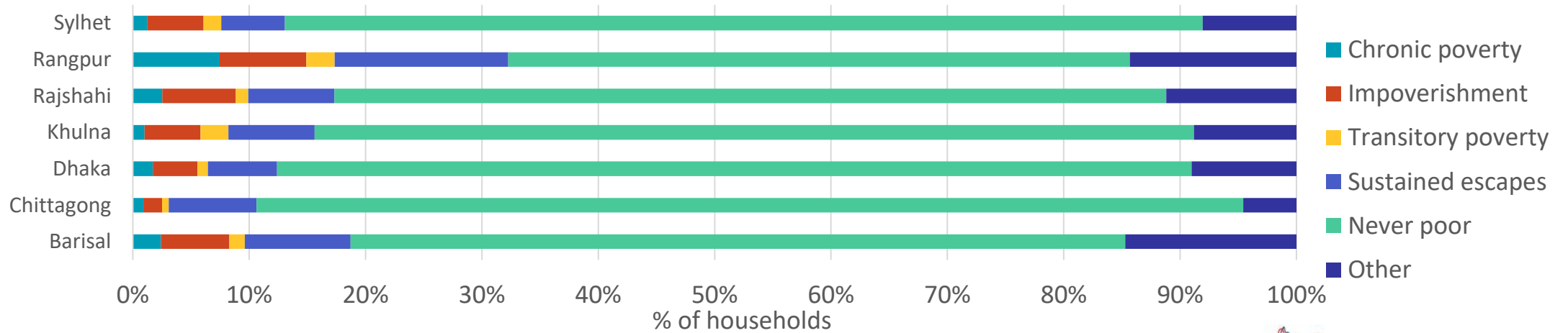
Emerging quant insights

Diwakar, V. and Brzezinska, I. (2024)

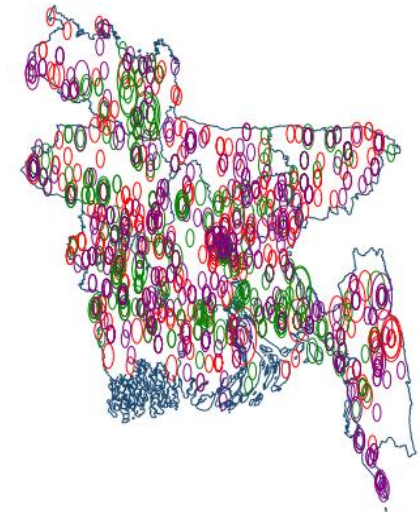
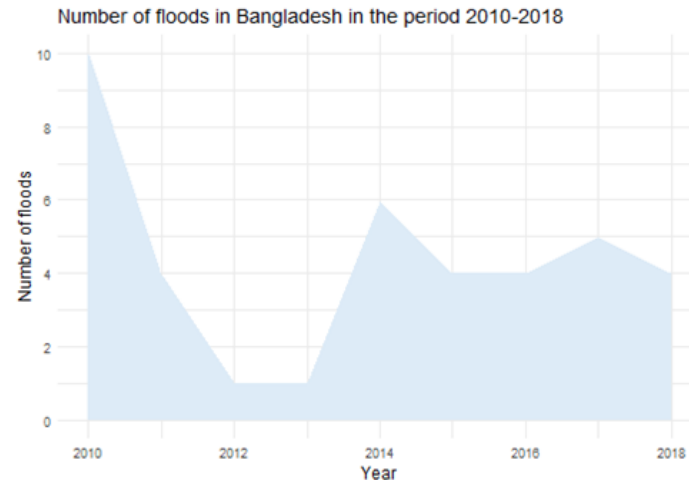
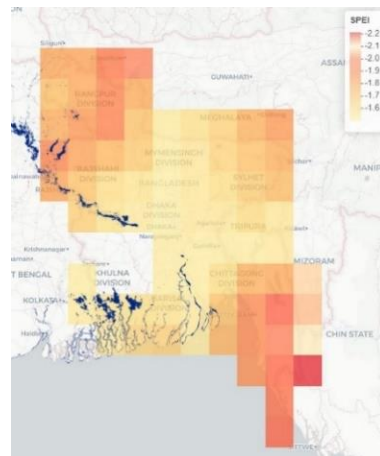
Geo-located data on crises and wellbeing



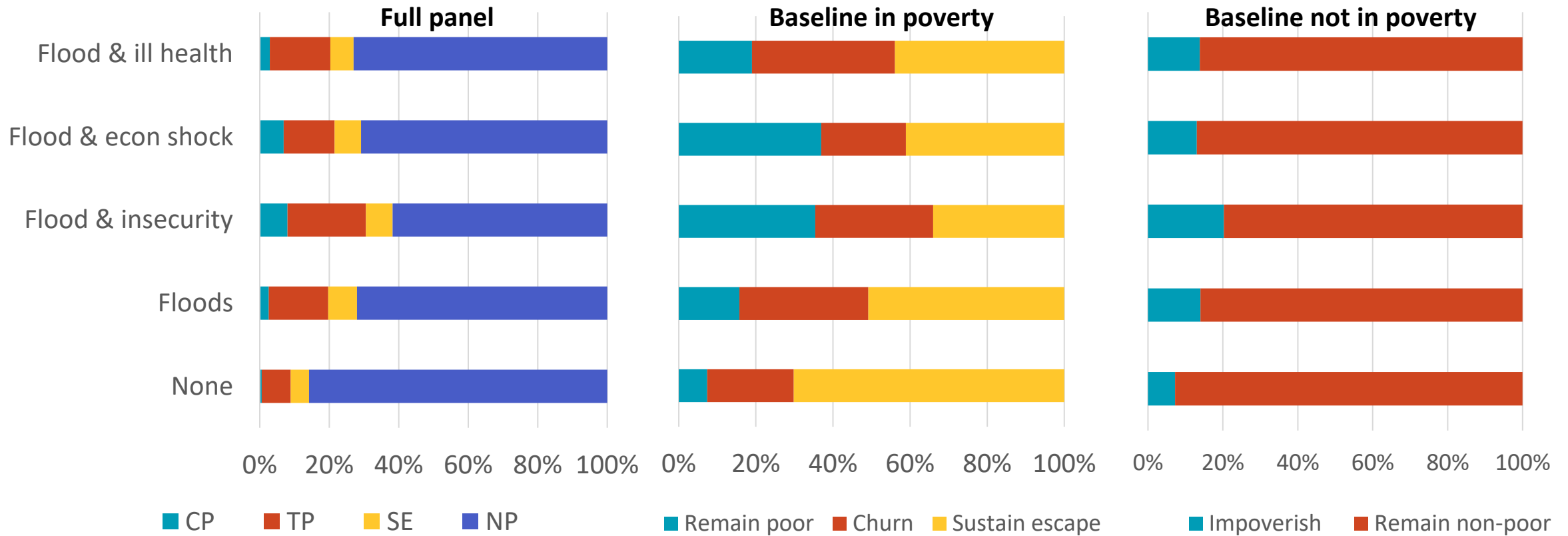
Variation in poverty dynamics & crises



- Left: Worst **drought** between 2010-20
- Centre: Temporal changes in **flooding**
- Right: Fatalities related to **violence** (red=2011, green='15, purple='19)

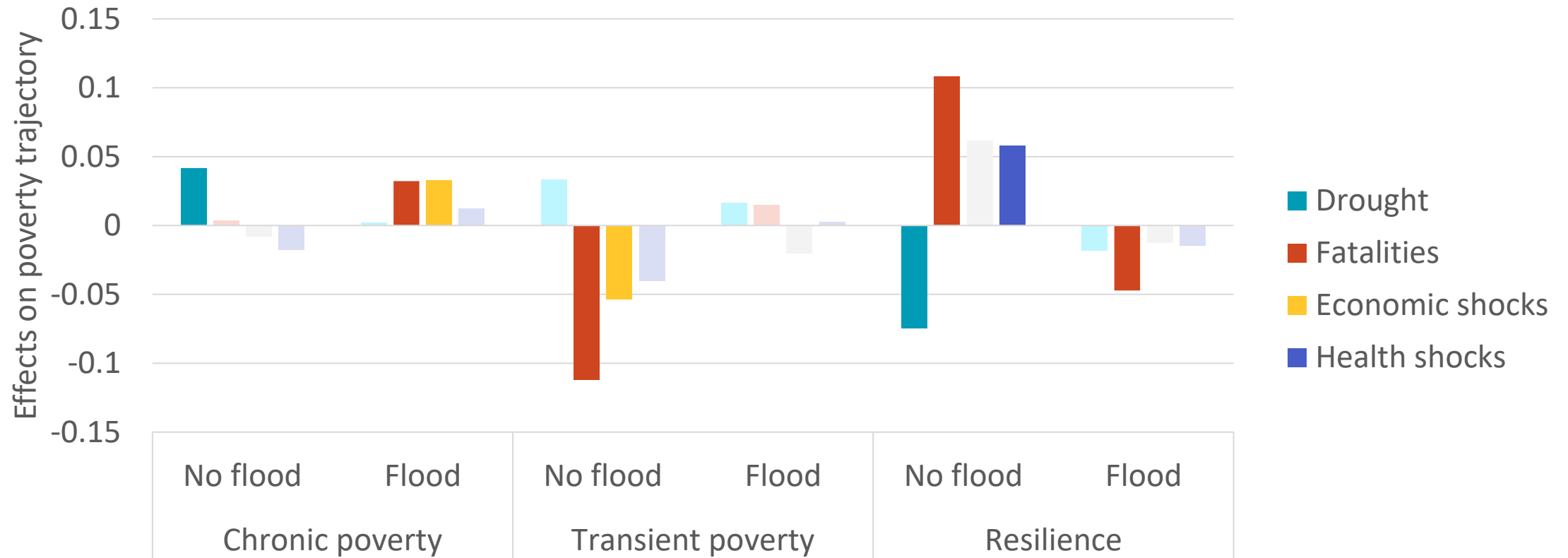


Poverty dynamics and intersecting crises, 2011-19



Source: analysis of BIHS (2011-19) for self-reported ill health, economic shock and household poverty trajectories data; ACLED (2011-2019) for geolocated insecurity data; Global Flood Observatory (2010-18) and CRU TS (2010-20) for geolocated climate-related data.

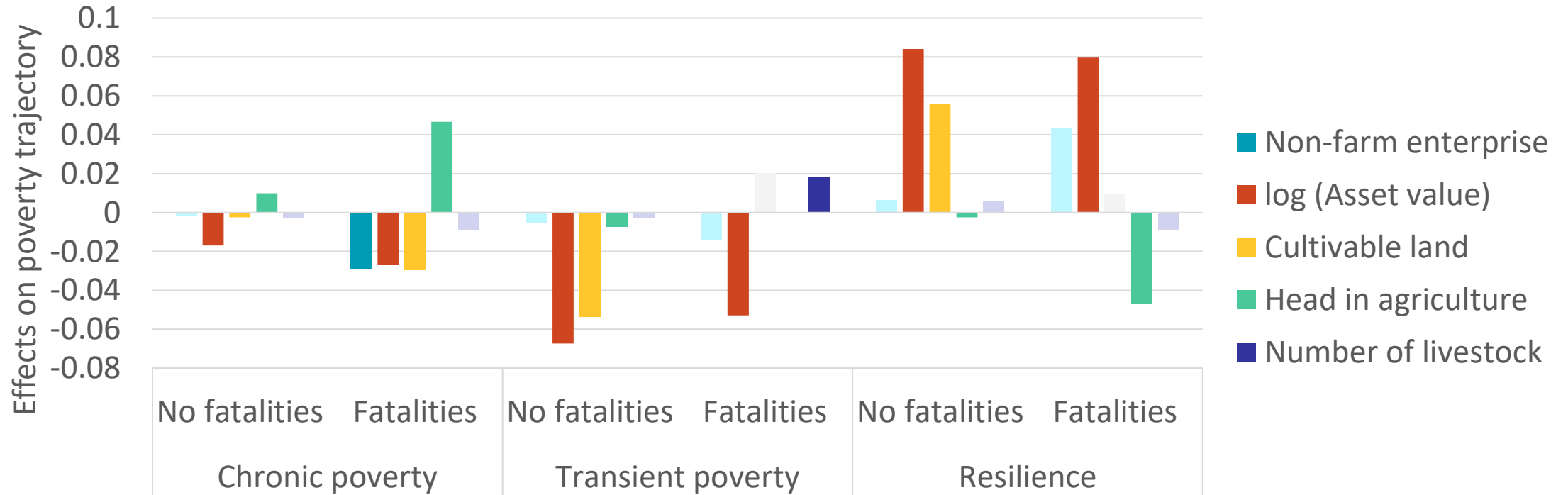
AME of crises (2011-19) on poverty trajectory, by flood presence



Note: highlighted bars are statistically significant at conventional levels ($p < 0.1$). Figure refers to four models, examining the intersection of flooding with 1) actual drought conditions, 2) actual violence-related fatalities, 3) self-reported economic shocks and 4) self-reported health shocks. All controls are same as main model. Source: analysis of BIHS (2011-19), ACLED (2011-2019), Global Flood Observatory (2010-18) and CRU TS (2010-20).

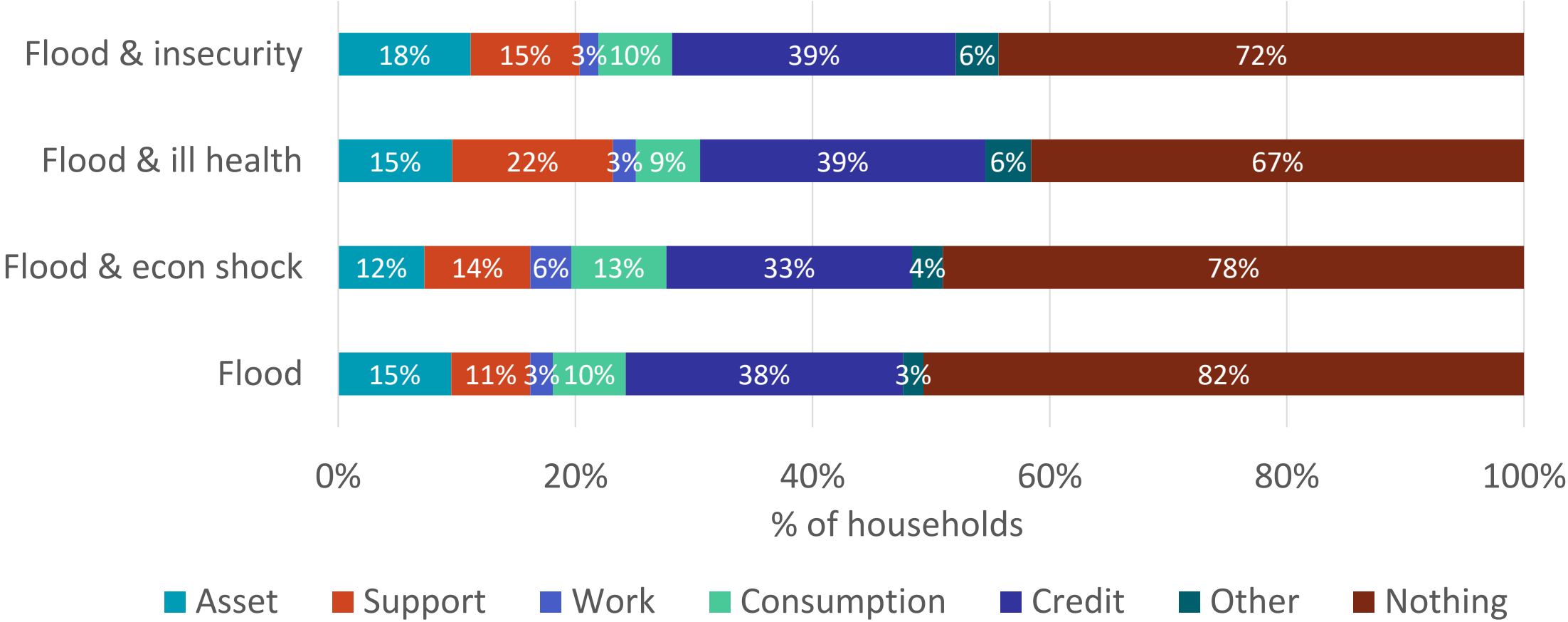
Livelihood strategies amidst floods and intersecting crises

Average marginal effects of livelihoods and assets on poverty trajectory, by violence, amongst households residing in flood-affected areas



Note: highlighted bars are statistically significant at conventional levels ($p < 0.1$). Figure refers to five models, examining the intersection of violence with 1) NFEs, 2) head's engagement in agriculture, 3) consumer durable asset value, 4) cultivable land and 5) number of livestock in flood-affected areas. Controls same as main model. Source: analysis of BIHS (2011-19), ACLED (2011-2019), Global Flood Observatory (2010-18), CRU TS (2010-20).

Coping responses to intersecting crises



Study B: mixed methods assessment of layered interventions in coastal Bangladesh

Diwakar, V., Kamninga, T., Mehzabin, T., Tumusiime, E., Kamal, R., and Pabony,
N. A. (2022)

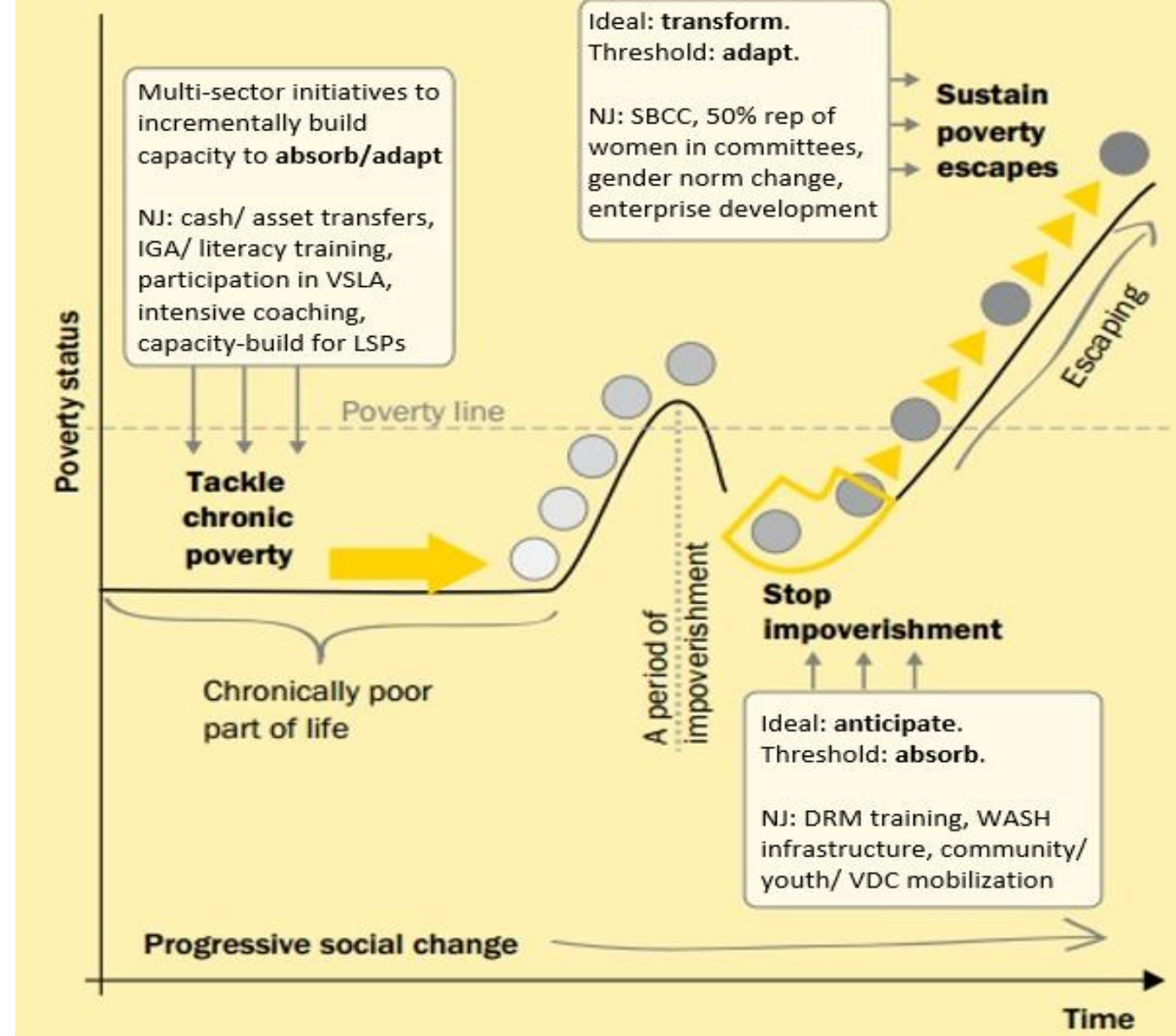
Nobo Jatra interventions examined

Intervention	Activities
<u>UPG (all F)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Entrepreneurial literacy training- basic literacy/ numeracy, core business skills. IGA training relevant to skills/ context. · Cash transfers of \$12 per month for nine months (monthly allowance). Cash grant of \$188 for asset development. · Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA)- savings group with active savings account in formal financial institution. · Intensive coaching, mentoring, and following up during the programme period.
<u>iMSD</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Entrepreneurial literacy training – enterprise development (almost 100% women). · Climate smart agriculture – lead farmers manage plots and generate demand. · Capacity building for local service providers (LSPs) in the community. Link smallholders to extension services LSPs), etc. · Linkages with lead firms for both crop and livestock services (inputs).
<u>DRR</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Youth mobilisation– Risk Reduction Action Plan (RRAP) development, training, orienting local communities. · Community mobilization and training/sensitization – household level preparedness. · VDC mobilization – DRR activities, links with other groups, oversight of RRAP. · Disaster Management Committee training- including appraisal tools beyond NJP.
<u>WASH</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · WatSan committees (50% female) – plan, monitor, report on WASH progress. · Social and behavior change – messaging on baby WASH, handwashing, safe drinking water, water treatment, waste fecal management, latrine maintenance, exclusive breastfeeding, antenatal care, and nutrition. · Access to water and sanitation facilities, including their infrastructure development.

Conceptual framing: linking resilience and poverty dynamics

- **Resilience capacities:** anticipatory, absorptive, adaptive, transformative
- **Poverty dynamics:** chronic poverty, impoverishment, sustained escapes from poverty

Figure source: Poverty dynamics from Shepherd et al. (2014), merged with NJP interventions and resilience capacities framing



Summary of key findings

Tackling chronic ultra-poverty

UPG activities such as coaching, business development training enabled:

- *diversified livelihoods*
- *productive or protective livestock rearing*
- *stronger market links helping households to escape chronic ultra-poverty*

Preventing impoverishment

Participation in DRR training, receiving information about early warning, access to WASH all key to improving absorptive and anticipatory capacities that prevent impoverishment.

Yet challenges remain amidst multi-sectoral sources of risk.

Sustaining poverty escapes

Women's independent or joint decision making, engagement in community savings group all associated with increases in self-reported income and sustained poverty escapes.

Challenges persist especially around adverse gender norms.

Hypothesis 2: DRM training and mobilization and access to WASH services contribute to improving absorptive and anticipatory resilience capacities...

but challenges remain

We were doing **well during the year before the corona outbreak**. NJP started its programme, so we received some **financial support** from them. Thus we got to **rear goats, ducks, and chickens**. This helped us better our condition...

WV intervention and cash transfer

Collaborative income-generation

Things were going well for us as my husband was earning income, and I too was earning some additional income. **We both contributed to the family.**

As the corona outbreak started, our **income decreased** as my husband couldn't go outside to work. Also, there was **no flow of cash** either. On top of that, I got **pregnant** with my son at that time... He had **pneumonia** too. We couldn't bear all the expenses of our family and thus I **sold the goats...**

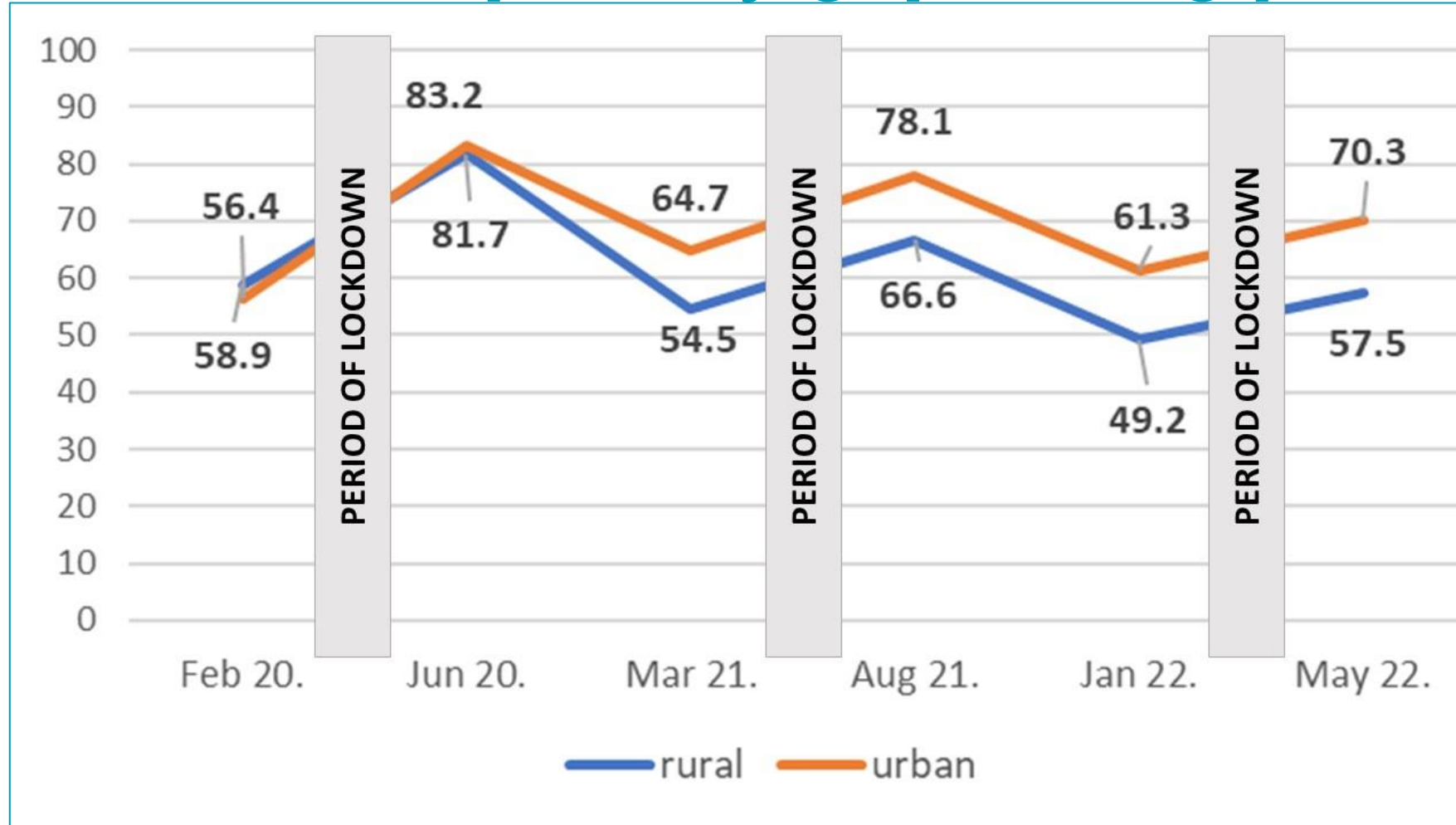
Covid-19 and livestock sales

Source: Sadia (UPG+DRR, TE)

Study C: Becoming Poor: social protection experiences of and attitudes towards new urban poor after Covid-19 in Bangladesh

Roelen, K., Ahmed, M.S., Chowdhury, K., Diwakar, V., Huq, L., Mamun, S., Rabbi, A.S., Rahman, N.T., Rownak, R., Sultan, M., and Sumanthiran, S. (2024)

Urban-rural poverty gap during pandemic



Source: Roelen et al. (2024) based on PPRC-BIGD survey data (balanced sample, N=3,380), based on self-reported monthly income.

High levels of indebtedness, difficult recovery

Anyone in household has any debt (n=311)	Chittagong	Dhaka	Overall
Mar 21.	78.8	77.7	78.1
Aug 21.	85.6	86.0	85.9
May 22.	75.8	78.2	77.2
Mar-23	85.6	88.3	87.1

Source: Roelen et al. (2024) based on PPRC-BIGD survey data and newly collected CLEAR Becoming Poor data (balanced sample, N=311), based on self-reported monthly income. * $p < 0.1$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

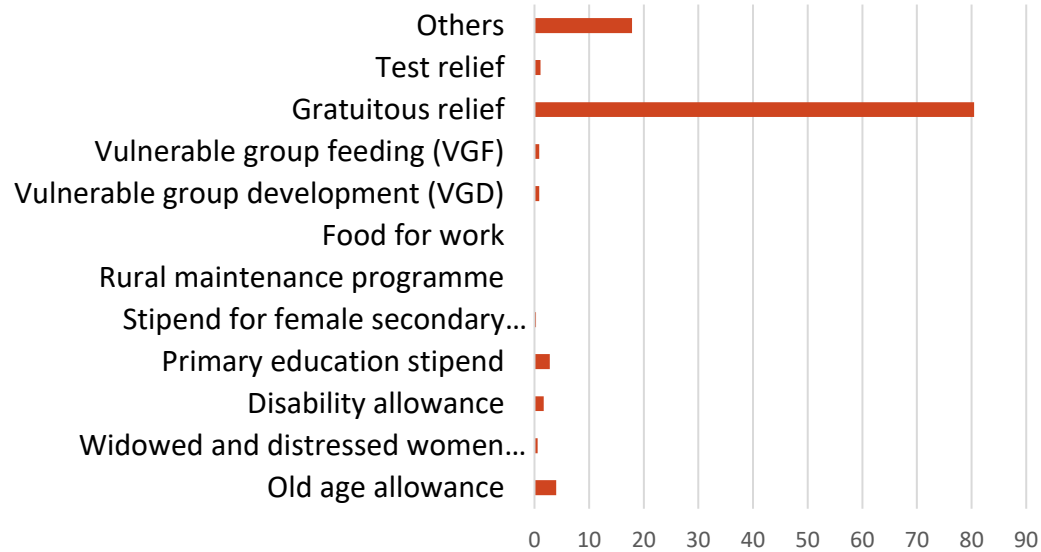
"I was in a better situation before Covid. The recent situation is the worst. I am now in an unemployed state. Besides, I have got losses in business. I am also under a debt burden." [BP-DHK-IDI-2-Male-impoverished]

*"Many people have become poor after corona as they are carrying a **huge debt burden now**. Corona had made this situation."* [BP-CTG-IDI-11-Male-transitory poor]

*"I used to work at the RMG factory back then. I made just enough to survive. Whatever I earned was spent on rent, food, and my child's fees. It was hard, but we got by. **Nowadays, it is tougher for us.**"* [BP-CTG-IDI-7-Female-impoverished]

Access to government-run social protection is limited & stigmatisation/discrimination continues

type of support since first lockdown to
March 23
- % (N=353)



Source: Roelen et al. (2024) based on newly collected CLEAR Becoming Poor data (full sample, N=650)

*"We can't identify ourselves there. I may go to apply for a job at a garment factory. You know, there are many good garment factories. **If you tell them you live in a slum, they won't hire you.** Thus, we have to lie to them and say that we don't live in slums. If you live in a slum and you need a passport, then you must lie to them saying that you don't live in a slum. We are ashamed..."*
[BP-DHK-FGD-Male-R3]

"R5: In schools, they say don't mix with them, they are the people from slums. They hate us when they come to know that we live in a slum.

*R4: I admitted my son to the school using a known person's address who lives outside the slum. **They don't want to admit children from the slum.** How differently they see us you can guess."*[BP-DHK-FGD-Female]

Policy/programming implications

Challenge	Examples of interventions
Downward mobility or prolonged poverty in areas affected by flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop new or scaled-up means of dealing with floods• Expand disaster risk management responses to focus on livestock in episodes of flooding
Impoverishing effects of climate and economic crises	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote adaptive dual cash transfer programs• Better balance micro and macroeconomic management
Low-intensity violence combined with climate-related disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrate conditions of insecurity or violence into DRR strategies• Support peacebuilding especially in the leadup to elections and other periods of heightened violence.
Limited resilience to crises and amidst uncertainty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support graduation programs that promote asset development and that have adequate breadth• Risk reduction “including preventing hazards, reducing exposure and vulnerability and building adaptive capacity” (UNDRR, 2021)

Thank you
Questions?