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# Measuring Resilience in USAID





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## Defining and Conceptualizing Resilience

USAID defines resilience as:

The ability of people, households, communities, countries and systems (social, economic, ecological) to mitigate, adapt to, recover from shocks\* and stresses\*\* in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth

\* Includes covariate (drought, floods, etc) and idiosyncratic (health crisis in a HH)

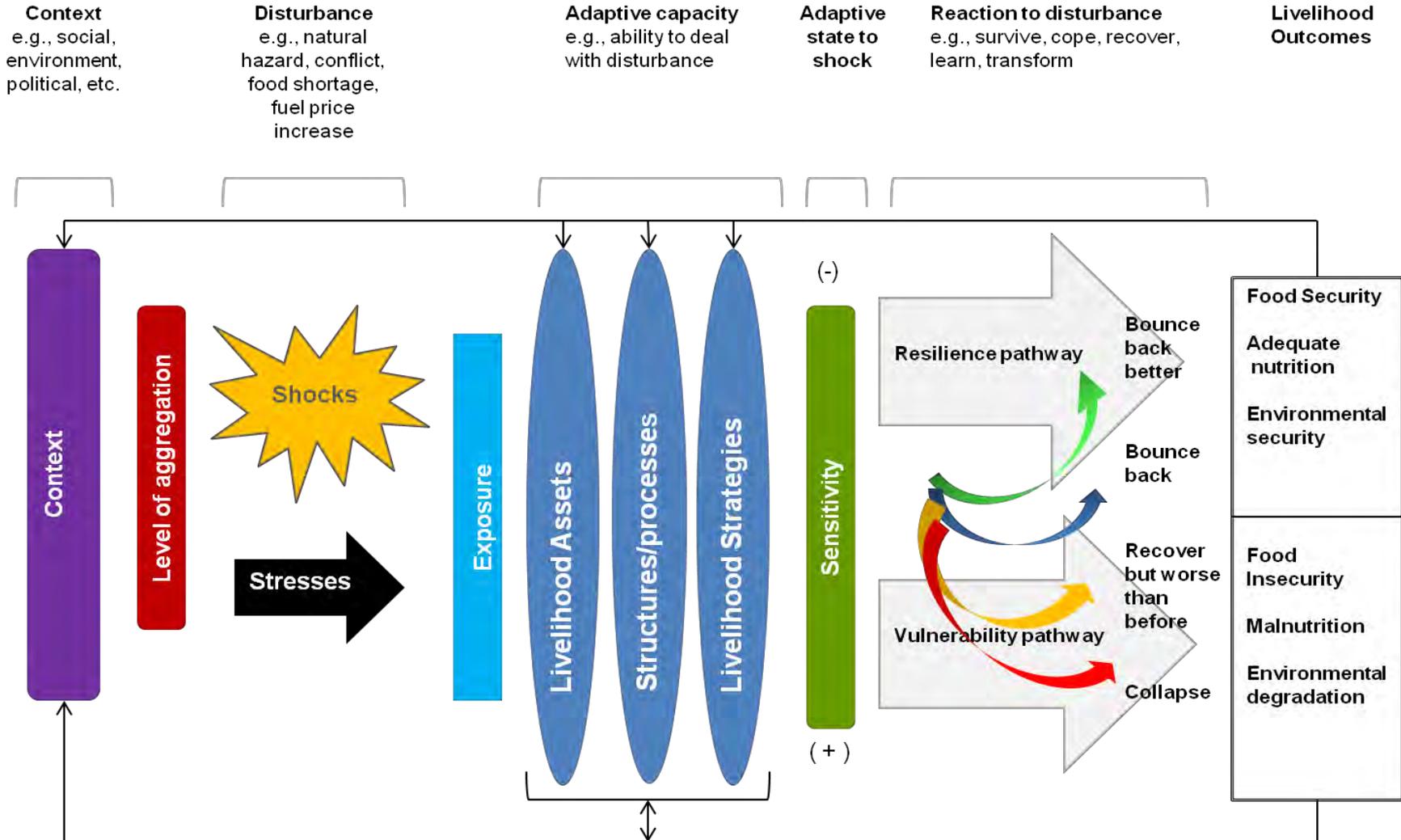
\*\* Climate change and variability and population pressure, among others



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# Dynamics of Vulnerability and Resilience

(Frankenberger, et al 2012)

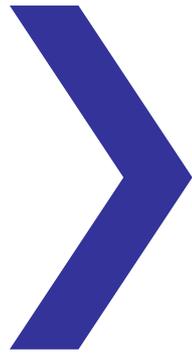




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# Resilience measurement

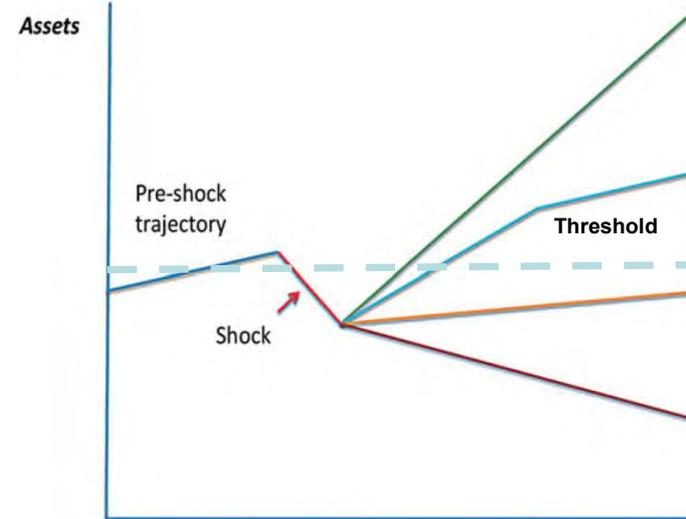
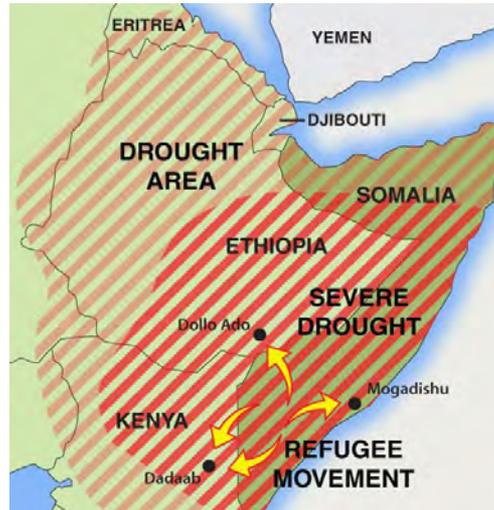
**A set of capacities**



**Realized in connection with some disturbance**



**Indexed to an outcome**



Time



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## Key Points for Measuring Resilience

- Resilience is not an outcome, but a **capacity** that influences outcomes
- Resilience as a capacity **exists and must be measured at multiple levels** (not just at HH level)
- Resilience as a capacity must be **measured in relation to outcomes of interest**
- Resilience as a capacity and its relation to outcomes are **realized in relation to shocks and stresses**



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# Measuring Resilience: Topline Outcome Indicators of Interest

*Politically Expedient Measure*

- Humanitarian assistance *needs*
  - Normalized by severity of drought (NDVI)
  - Controlling for population growth
  - In part, a function of ‘methods’ of HA determination\*

*Robust Outcome Measures*

- Depth of Poverty (DoP)
  - Contextual complement to Poverty Prevalence
- Moderate to Severe Hunger (HHS)
  - FTF ‘economic resilience’ measures
- Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)
  - Contextual complement to Stunting



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# Measuring Resilience as a Capacity at Multiple Levels

- a. the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and **systems** (social, ecological, economic)
  - Mixed methods required to capture resilience at various levels
  - Social, ecological, economic, other systems a challenge
    - USGS systems measurement in the Sahel
- b. to **mitigate**, **adapt to** and **recover** from shocks and stresses (i.e. sources of dynamic stability)
  - Direct measures of these *capacities provide insight into resilience* even when not being tested (i.e. by drought)
- c. in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth
  - USAID topline livelihood outcome indicators
  - other livelihood outcome ‘domains’



# Measuring Resilience and Outcomes – Kenya’s Northern Arid Lands

## Baseline Values for Kenya

Outcome Indicators	Value
• Humanitarian Assistance Needs (2011)	3.75m
• Mean Poverty Gap (DoP)	25.1%
• Moderate to Severe Hunger (HHS)	50.9%
• Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)	13.2%
<b><i>Resilience Capacity Indicators</i></b>	
• HH’s report that they were able to lean on others during 2011 drought (social capital)	39.1%
• HH’s indicate that they have not (or have not fully) recovered from 2011 drought (recovery capacity)	52.5%
• HH’s believe they will be unable to cope with future shocks (coping capacity)	40.9%
• HH have made pro-active adaptations to livelihoods in anticipation of future shocks (adaptive capacity)	22.5%



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# Emergent Approaches to Measuring Community Resilience

**Efforts to measure community level resilience focus on community capacity for collective action** (communal 'assets')

- Disaster risk reduction
- Conflict management
- Social protection
- Natural resource management
- Management of public goods and services
- *Social capital (reciprocal obligation)* in various forms = foundation for community capacity for collective action
  - Bonding within groups
  - Bridging between like groups
  - Linking beyond like groups



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## Resilience Measurement Resources

- FSIN TWG on RM

<http://www.fsincop.net/topics/resilience-measurement/en/>

