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Economic Strengthening for Vulnerable Children

Workshop objectives

- Equip participants to apply evidence to match economic-strengthening interventions to beneficiary profiles and contexts.
- Equip participants to design and plan economic-strengthening interventions that link with HIV/health and other interventions to maximize beneficiary well-being.
- Equip participants to integrate monitoring and evaluation activities into economic-strengthening project design to strengthen program implementation and build the evidence base.

ES interventions,
target populations,
economic well-being

Linkages, scalability &
sustainability,
organizational
capacities, M&E

Workshop Map

Pathways &
graduation, evidence
base, assessments

Evaluation, program
design

Getting to know each other

- What is your name?
- What is the name of your organization?
- Why are you interested in learning more about economic strengthening?

Economic strengthening is the portfolio of interventions that ...

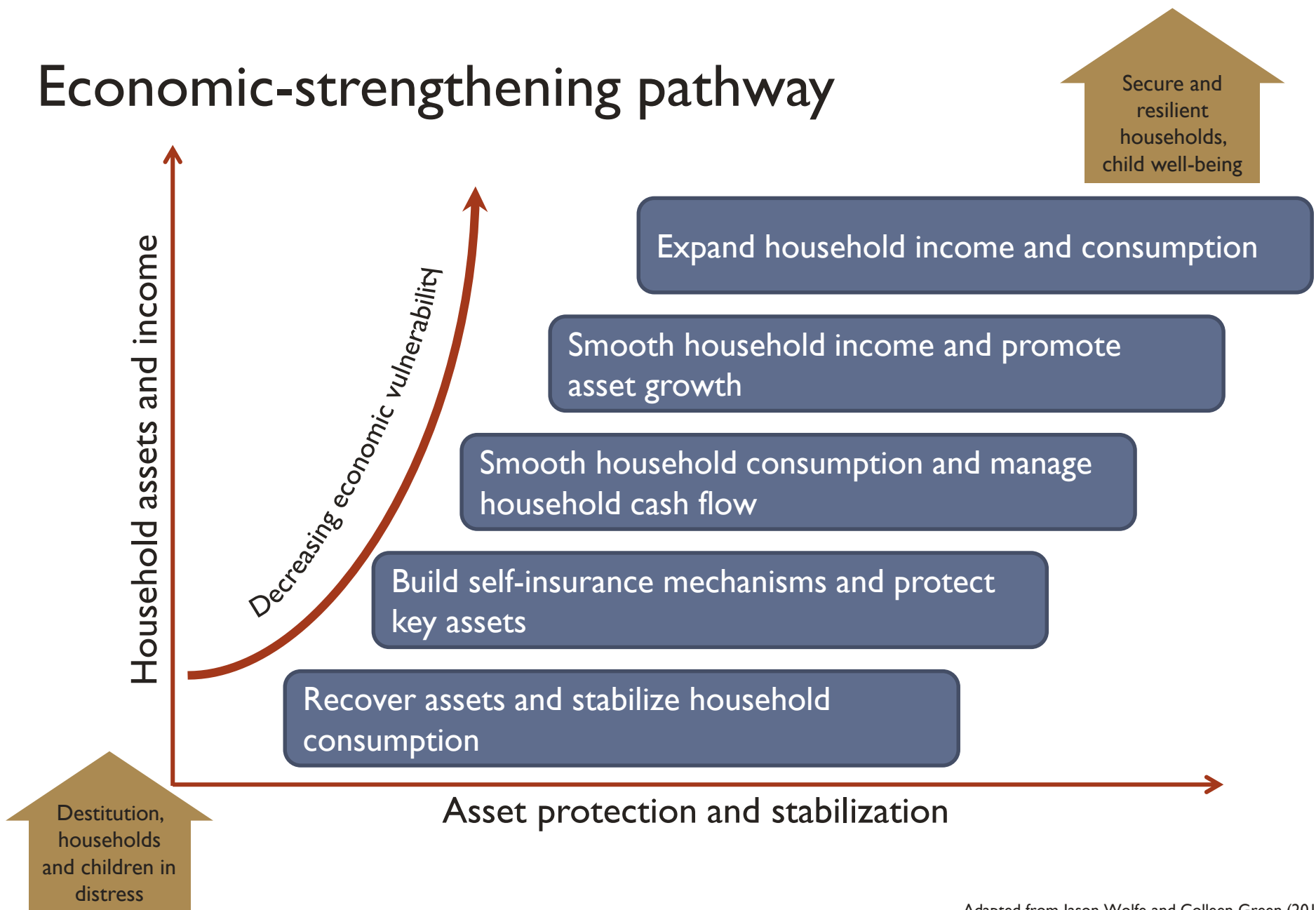
- Supply, protect and/or grow physical, natural, financial, human and social assets.
- Reduce the economic vulnerability of households and thereby improve their resiliency to future shocks.
- Reduce the economic vulnerability of families and empower them to provide for the essential needs of the children in their care.



Why do you want to conduct economic-strengthening activities?

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Economic-strengthening pathway



Adapted from Jason Wolfe and Colleen Green (2012)



Vulnerabilities

Assets

Describe your child, adult or household

1. Give them a name
2. Draw them
3. List their vulnerabilities, assets, and other characteristics.

Natasha Hanova, Child Silhouette, [Flickr](#)

Levels of economic well-being



In destitution



Struggling to make ends meet



Prepared to grow

Economic Well-Being and ES Category

Households that are ...	Are ready for livelihood ...	Which includes strategies to ...

Adapted from LIFT and PEPFAR



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Types of ES interventions

ES Interventions

Savings and
loan groups

Individual
savings

Asset transfers
(usually cash)

Income-
generating
activities

Skills training

Job creation

Food security/
nutrition

Microinsurance

Legal services

Business loans/
microcredit

Market linkages

ES Interventions

Savings and
loan groups

Asset transfers
(usually cash)

Income-
generating
activities

Business loans/
microcredit



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The economic-strengthening continuum

Economic Well-Being and ES Category

<i>Households that are ...</i>	<i>Are ready for livelihood ...</i>	<i>Which includes strategies to ...</i>
Prepared to grow (somewhat vulnerable)	PROMOTION	Grow income and expenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Smooth income and promote asset growth ▪ Smooth consumption and manage cash flow ▪ Grow family income to enable more/larger investments
Struggling to make ends meet (very vulnerable)	PROTECTION	Match income to expenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect key assets and build self-insurance mechanisms (e.g., savings, informal insurance) ▪ Expand income and consumption ▪ Strengthen family capacity to match income with expenses
In destitution (most vulnerable)	PROVISION	Meet basic needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recover assets and stabilize household consumption ▪ (Re)build short-term capacity to pay for basic necessities

Adapted from LIFT and PEPFAR

Economic Well-Being and ES Category

<i>Households that are ...</i>	<i>Are ready for livelihood ...</i>	<i>Which includes strategies to ...</i>	
Prepared to grow (somewhat vulnerable)	PROMOTION	Grow income and expenses	 Enterprise development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Skills training/job creation ▪ Income-generating activities ▪ Business loans ▪ Market linkages
Struggling to make ends meet (very vulnerable)	PROTECTION	Match income to expenses	 Money management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group and individual savings ▪ Food security/nutrition ▪ Insurance services ▪ Legal services
In destitution (most vulnerable)	PROVISION	Meet basic needs	 Consumption support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Asset and cash transfers ▪ Food aid ▪ (Social pensions) ▪ (Public works)

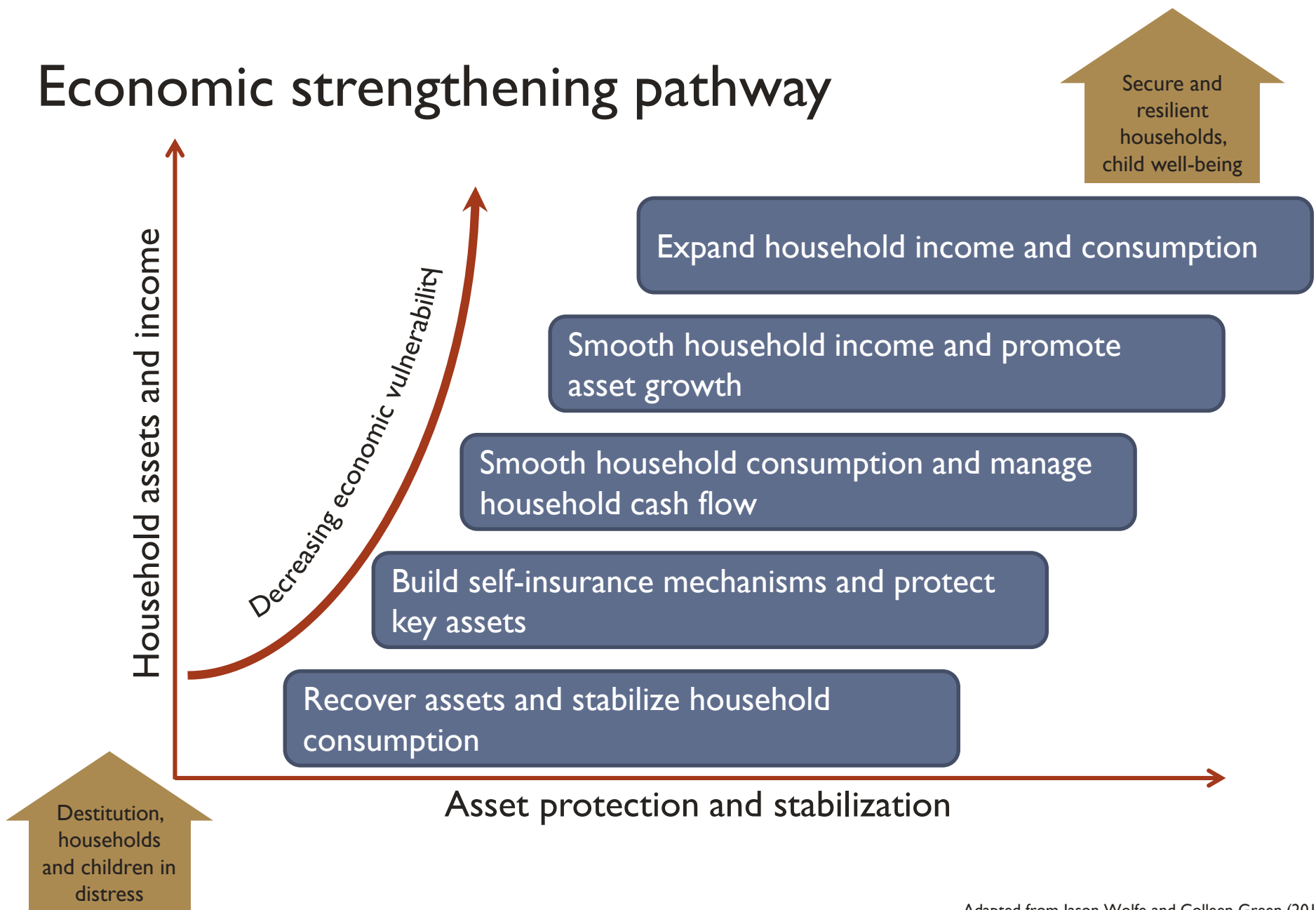
Adapted from LIFT and PEPFAR



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Pathways and Graduation

Economic strengthening pathway



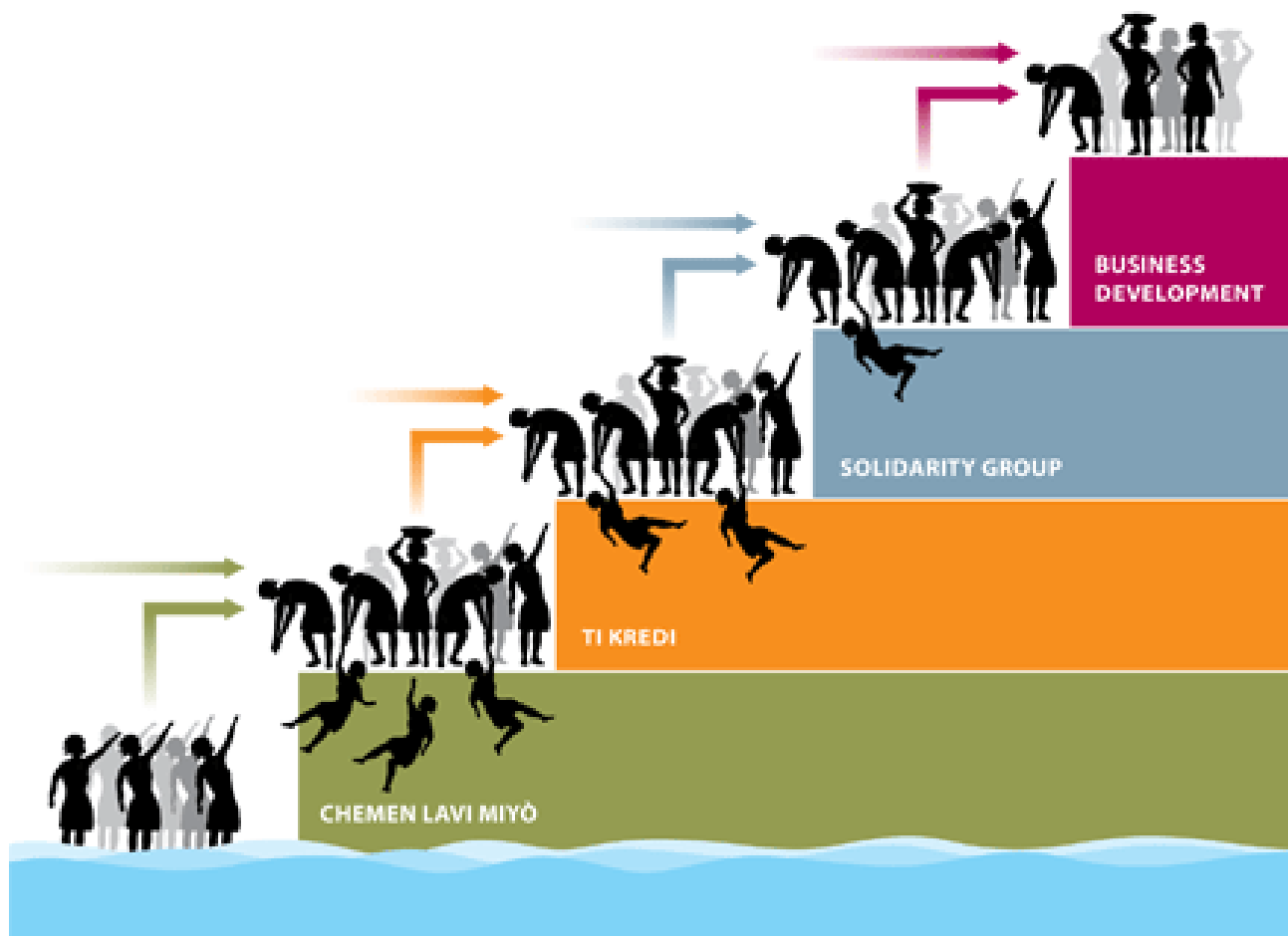
Adapted from Jason Wolfe and Colleen Green (2012)

A photograph of a graduation ceremony. Numerous black graduation caps with tassels are captured in mid-air, flying upwards against a bright, hazy sky. In the lower right corner, the silhouettes of graduates and spectators are visible, some with their arms raised in celebration. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the lower left portion of the image.

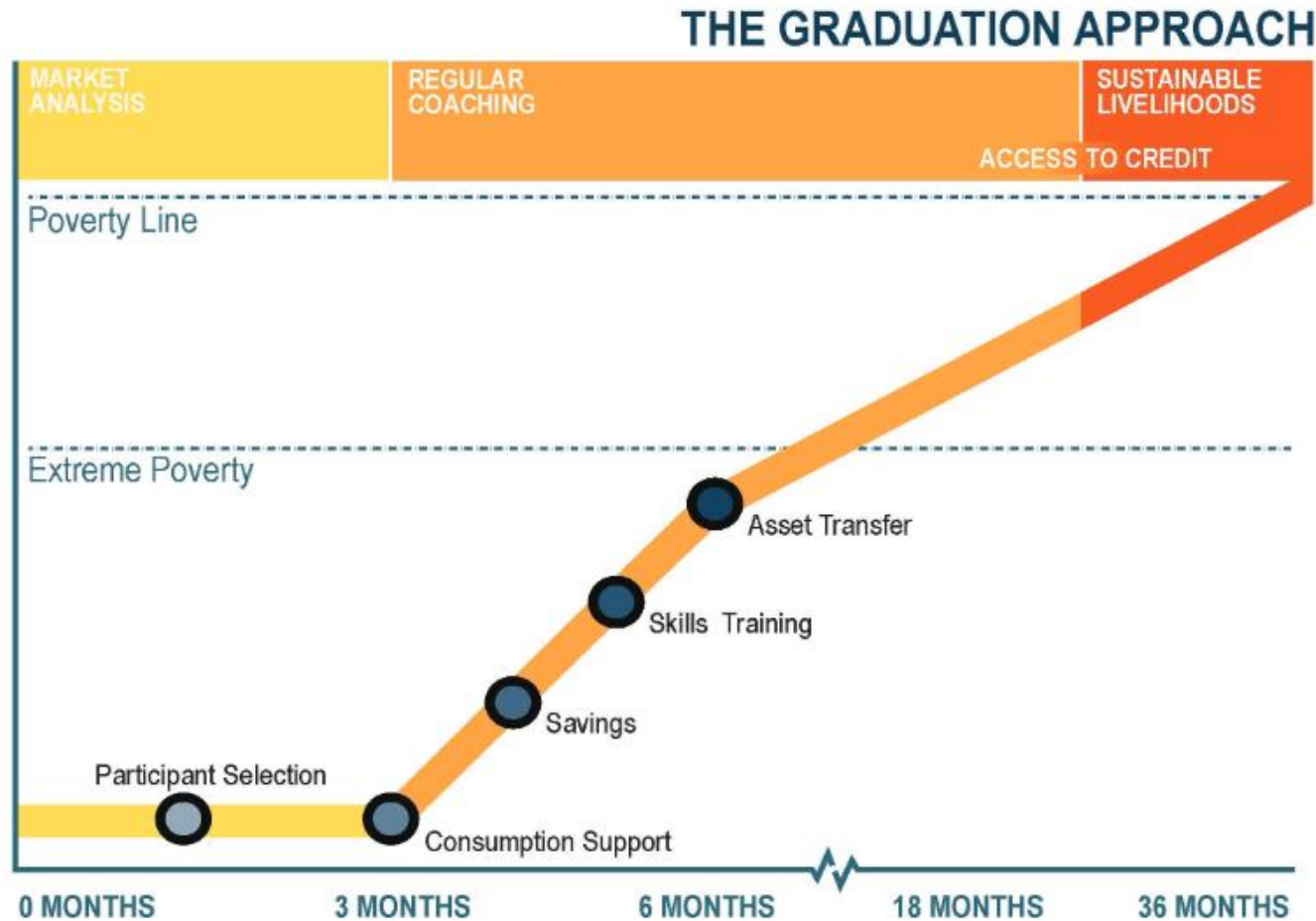
“Graduation” describes a comprehensive program that addresses all steps of the pathway, from bottom to top.

Mitchell Joyce, “As The World Keeps Turning, Flickr

Fonkoze's graduation model



Trickle Up / CGAP Graduation model

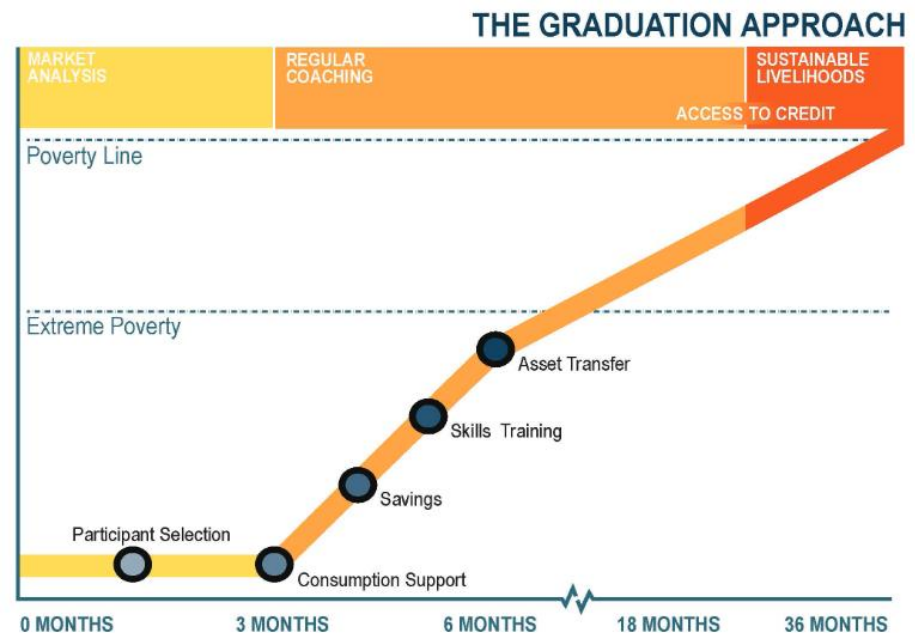
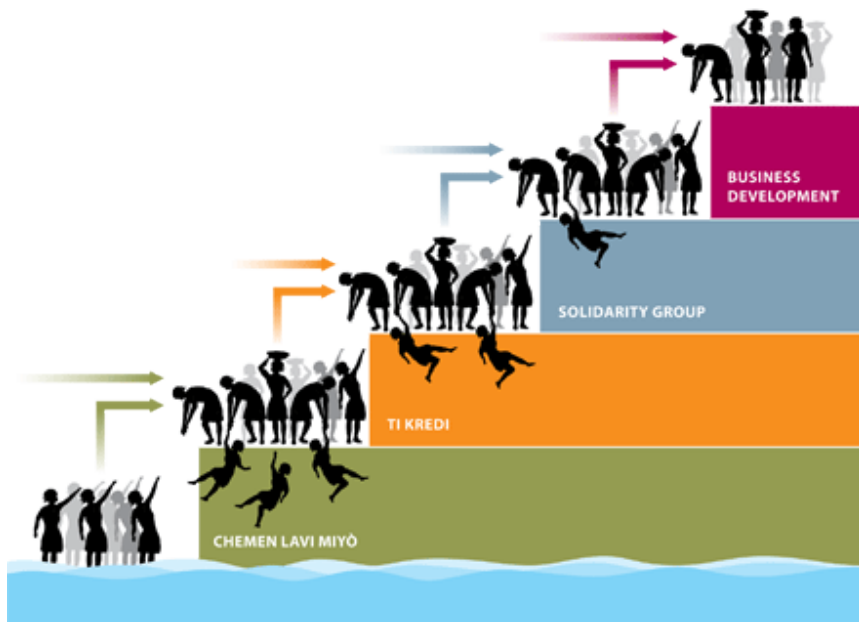


Models can be used to ...

- Develop a program's theory of change
 - Understand how HHs will grow through ES activities
 - Design ES activities that match vulnerabilities and assets of target populations
- Design linkages between steps on the pathway
 - Within a given program or with other programs
- Develop a program's exit strategy

Discuss:

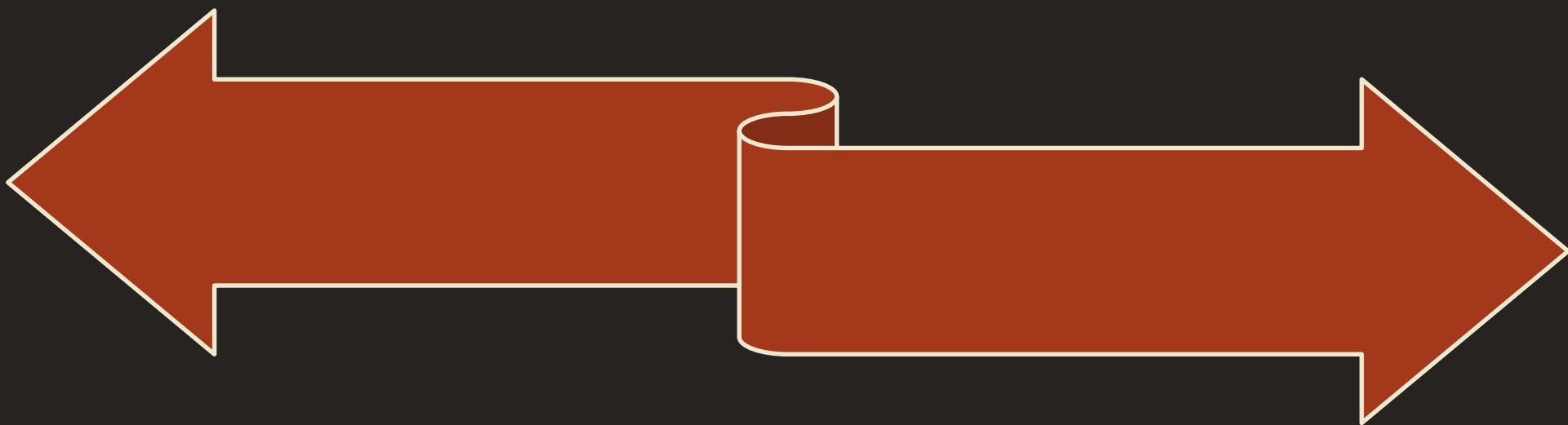
- Ways in which the models could be used to design an ES intervention
- Comprehensive graduation approach vs. focus on a limited number of "steps" on a given pathway





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What's the evidence?



Field experience / anecdotes

Interviews, case studies

Client surveys

Quasi-experimental with non-randomized
comparison group

Randomized control trials (RCTs)

Source: *Savings Groups at the Frontier*, edited by Candace Nelson, 2013



Association

Causality

Field experience / anecdotes

Interviews, case studies

Client surveys

Quasi-experimental with non-randomized
comparison group

Randomized control trials (RCTs)

Source: *Savings Groups at the Frontier*, edited by Candace Nelson, 2013

“The preponderance of evidence to date validates a conceptual framework for the role of [economic strengthening] approaches in OVC programs.”

PEPFAR,
“Reassessing Care Priorities”



Assessing the “Orphan Effect,”
based on DHS data from 11
countries in eastern and
southern Africa, “Household
wealth is the single most
important correlate of better
(child) outcomes.”

Penelope Campbell et al., *Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies*, 5: 1,
April 2010, pp. 12-32

Household economic status and parental education level are the most consistent predictors of negative outcomes for children.

Priscilla Atwani Akwara et al, *AIDS Care*, 22: 9, September 2010, pp. 1066-1085



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Economic vulnerability & risk of HIV infection

- **Weak/conflicting evidence**
 - HIV hits all socioeconomic classes. Some evidence that poverty may lead to riskier behavior (e.g., transactional/commercial sex). Other studies in sub-Saharan Africa have found higher HIV risk in less economically vulnerable households.

Economic vulnerability & ability to cope with HIV infection

- **Stronger evidence that poverty limits**
 - family's capacity to protect children against the effects of HIV/AIDS and
 - uptake and impact of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment

Strong evidence for impact

Cash Transfers

- *The most robust evidence base employing the most rigorous methodologies*

Savings Groups

- *Evidence for the important role of savings is solid and growing*

Legal Services

- *Evidence suggests that birth registration is critical to ensuring that children can access essential services*

Weak evidence for impact

Income-generating Activities

- *Interventions to promote income generation have the weakest evidence base for OVC programming. ... **Of all HES interventions, family income promotion has the most distant causal links with child well-being***

Mixed evidence for impact

- Individual savings
- Skills training
- Microinsurance
- Food security/nutrition
- Job creation
- Business loans
- Microcredit
- Market linkages



In general, evidence suggests that ES interventions

- produce more powerful results when part of a multi-sectoral approach;
- add value when added to noneconomic programs;
- produce better results when they target women, who are more likely than men to invest in their children; and
- require specialized expertise to design and implement successfully.

Project
activities

Outputs

Outcomes

Impacts

Road map from project activities to
desired impact

Project
activities

Outputs

Outcomes

Impacts

Improved
protection
and well-
being of
children

Project
activities

Outputs

Outcomes

Impacts

**Promote
savings
groups**

4000 women
participating in SG

- Smoother income and expenditure
- Reduced intra-household tension

**Agricultural
training**

3000 women
trained in
improved soil
management

- Higher income
- Greater food security

**Dialogue on
child rights**

500 community
groups
participating in
dialogues

- More spending on children
- Less violence and abuse

Improved
protection
and well-
being of
children

Freedom from Hunger Benefits Model

Freedom from Hunger Products and Services

- Influence operating environment
- Partner capacity-building and training
- Client-centered product and service models
- Research and evaluation
- Technology strategy and innovation
- Brokering combined services
- Investment and hybrid funding

Partners and Networks

- Financial service providers
- NGOs
- Health and agriculture service providers
- Government and policymakers
- Universities and academics
- Donors
- Private-sector companies (MNOs, technology companies, etc.)

Results from Partnerships

- Pro-poor policies, products and practices
- Coordinated provision of services
- Expanded capacity for quality and scale
- Sustainable business models
- Learning and dissemination
- Community-level capacity-building
- Demand for and satisfaction with Freedom from Hunger services



Food Secure



Vulnerable Poor



Food Insecure



Chronically Hungry Poor



Improved food security, nutrition, and reduced poverty for women, their families and communities.

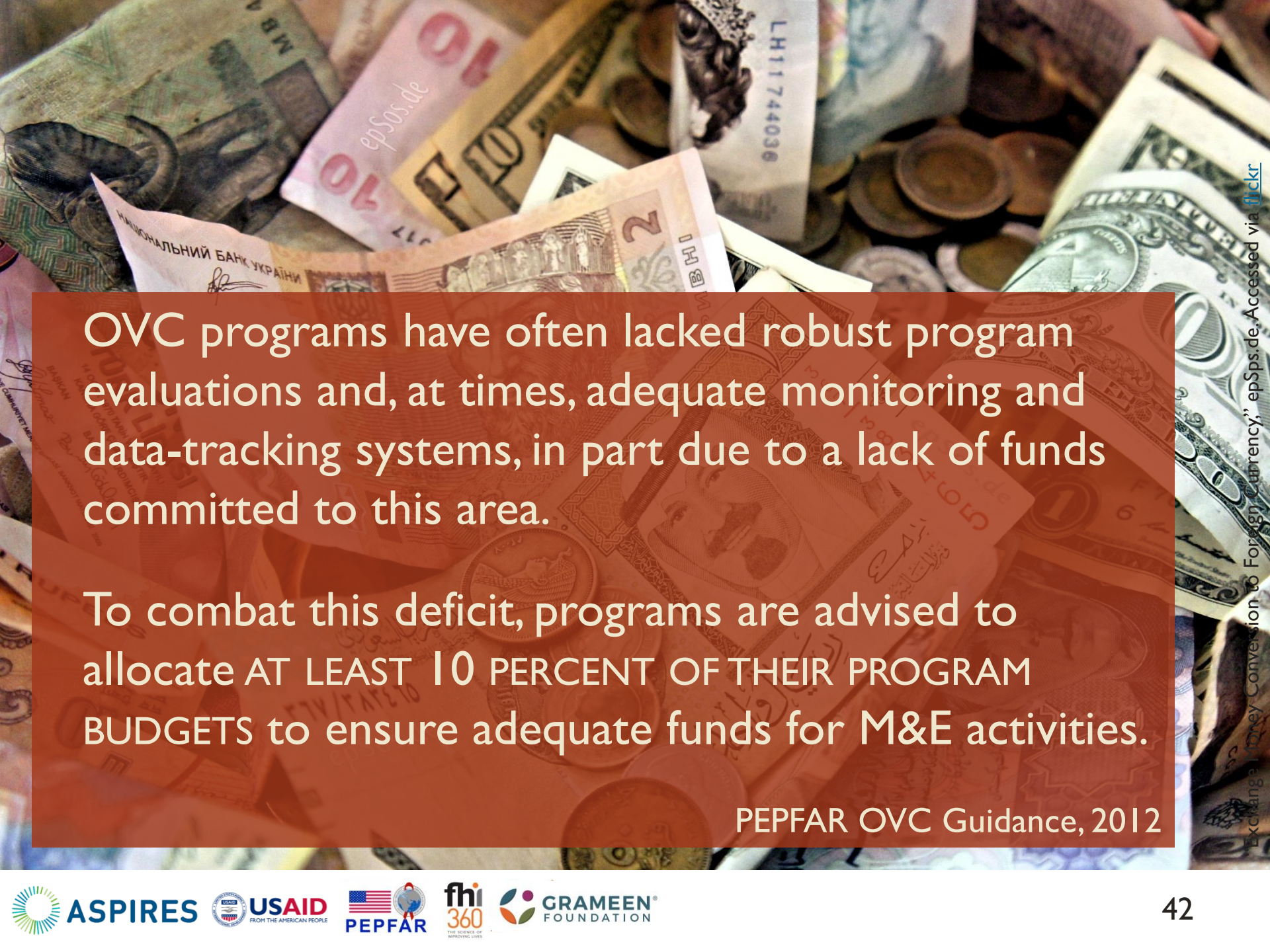
Improved Beneficiary Outcomes

- Consumption smoothing
- Shock coping
- Income, savings and assets
- Gender empowerment and equity
- Health and nutrition practices
- Livelihood Practices
- Social capital

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Exchange Money Conversion to Foreign Currency," epSos.de. Accessed via flickr



OVC programs have often lacked robust program evaluations and, at times, adequate monitoring and data-tracking systems, in part due to a lack of funds committed to this area.

To combat this deficit, programs are advised to allocate **AT LEAST 10 PERCENT OF THEIR PROGRAM BUDGETS** to ensure adequate funds for M&E activities.

PEPFAR OVC Guidance, 2012



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Laying the foundation: Assessments

Situation
analysis

Cost
assessment

Household-
livelihood
assessment

Market analysis

Child/caregiver
well-being

Gender
analysis

Situation
analysis

Cost
assessment

Household-
livelihood
assessment

Market analysis

Child/caregiver
well-being

Gender analysis

Why conduct a situation analysis?

- To mobilize financial resources and other forms of support for action
- To identify best strategies, entry points, partnerships
- To inform a targeting strategy that is inclusive but HIV-sensitive
 - When economic status of target households is understood, interventions can be designed to attract their involvement and meet their needs.
- To inform strategy for sustainability
- To create an M&E framework for continued assessment of the situation

Situation
analysis

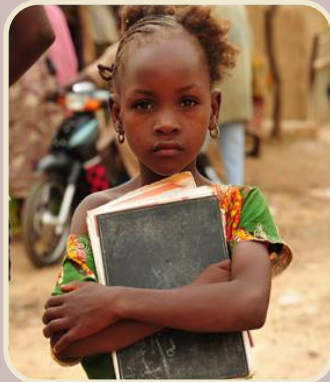
Cost
assessment

Household-
livelihood
assessment

Market analysis

Child/caregiver
well-being

Gender analysis



Understand
livelihoods
holistically

Determine
household
and
community
needs

Examine
intra-
household
poverty

Understand
local
opportunities
and
capabilities

Establish a
baseline

Situation
analysis

Cost
assessment

Household-
livelihood
assessment

Market analysis

Child/caregiver
well-being

Gender analysis

Child and caregiver well-being assessments

- Child Status Index (CSI)
 - Widely used one-page tool to identify needs of children. Useful for case management, program planning, and monitoring, but not for targeting or evaluation.
- OVC Well-being Tool (OWT)
 - Two-page self-report measure for OVC ages 13-18. Results are used to monitor OVC programs over time.
- Measure Evaluation OVC toolkit
 - Includes surveys on well-being of children (ages 0–9 and 10–17) and caregivers

Situation
analysis

Cost
assessment

Household-
livelihood
assessment

Market analysis

Child/caregiver
well-being

Gender analysis

Gender assessment

1. How will the different roles and status of women and men in the community, political sphere, workplace and household affect the intervention?
2. How will the anticipated results of the intervention affect women and men differently?



Gender analysis is mandatory for USAID projects

USAID Tips for
Conducting a Gender
Analysis at the Activity
or Project Level

Guide to Gender
Integration and
Analysis

Situation
analysis

Cost
assessment

Household-
livelihood
assessment

Market analysis

Child/caregiver
well-being

Gender analysis



From FIELD Report No. 2: Economic Strengthening for Vulnerable Children Principles of Program Design and Technical Recommendations for Effective Field Interventions, Save the Children, 2008

Situation
analysis

Cost
assessment

Household-
livelihood
assessment

Market analysis

Child/caregiver
well-being

Gender analysis

Situation
analysis

Cost
assessment

Household-
livelihood
assessment

Market analysis

Child/caregiver
well-being

Gender analysis

Assessment tools

1. What specific information will this tool tell us? What will it NOT tell us?
2. Complete the phrase: *This tool would be useful for an organization that _____.*
3. How might you be able to use what you learn from such an assessment?





Exchange Money Conversion to Foreign Currency," epSos.de. Accessed via flickr

Assessment costs

- Literature review: \$10,000
- Situation analysis: \$25,000
- Household-livelihood assessment: \$20,000
- Gender analysis: \$15,000
- Child vulnerability assessment: \$15,000
- Market analysis: \$65,000
- Cost assessment: \$25,000

A photograph of a sleeping baby being held by an adult. In the background, a green card titled 'FICHE DE RAPPEL DU PALUDISME' (Malaria Recall Card) is visible, which includes a 3-day treatment schedule for malaria. The card is partially obscured by a large red semi-transparent box containing text.

HES is a necessary but potentially insufficient intervention to achieve impacts for children affected by HIV/AIDS.

It is critical to integrate HES approaches with other complementary interventions to maximize scale and OVC-related outcomes.

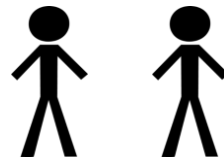
PEPFAR OVC Guidance, 2012

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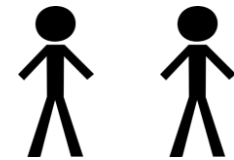
Unified Model



Parallel Model



Linked Model



3 models of integration

Unified

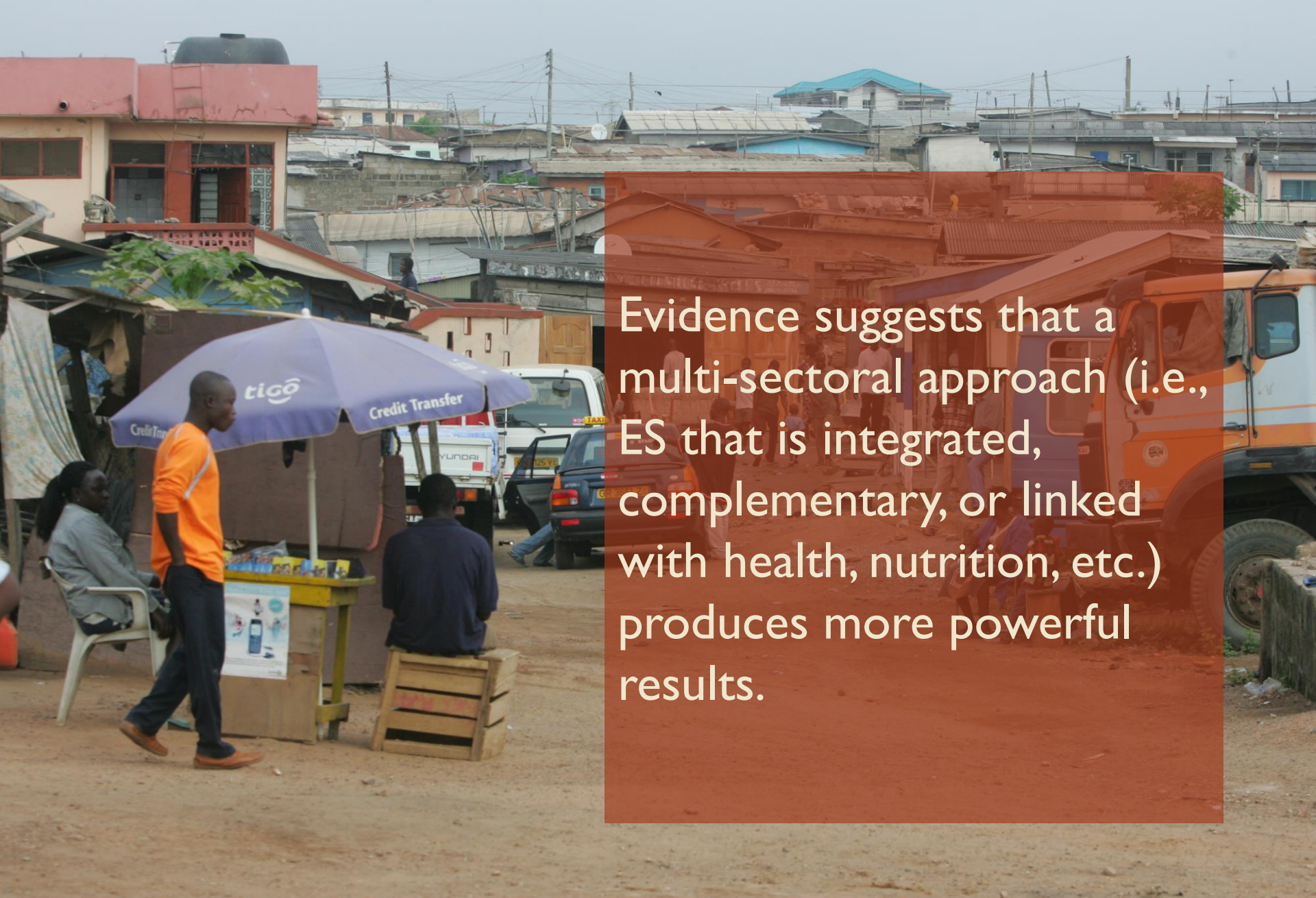
- Same organization
- Same service-delivery staff
- Same end user

Parallel

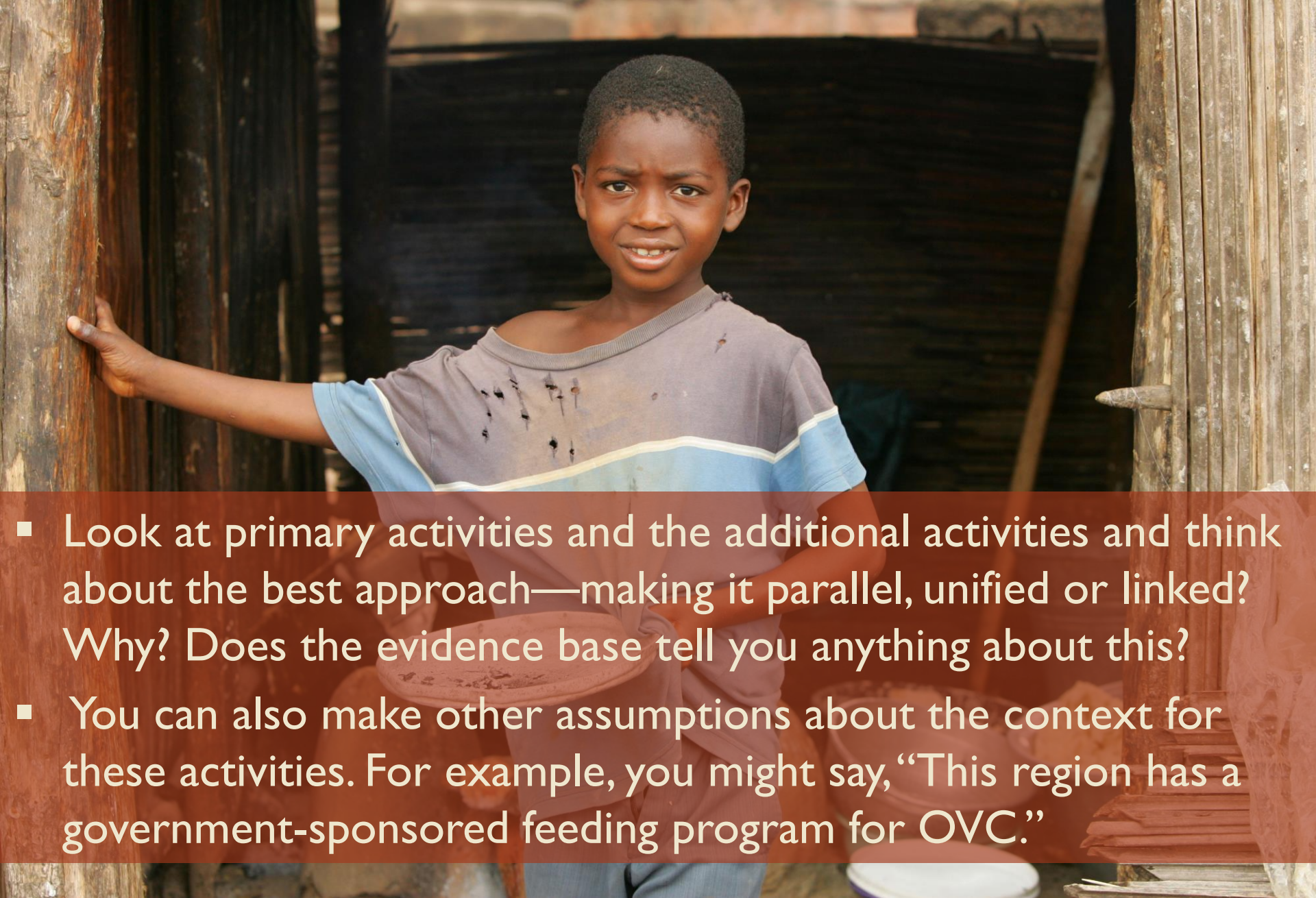
- Same organization
- Different service-delivery staff
- Same end user

Linked

- Different organizations
- Different service-delivery staff
- Same end users



Evidence suggests that a multi-sectoral approach (i.e., ES that is integrated, complementary, or linked with health, nutrition, etc.) produces more powerful results.



- Look at primary activities and the additional activities and think about the best approach—making it parallel, unified or linked? Why? Does the evidence base tell you anything about this?
- You can also make other assumptions about the context for these activities. For example, you might say, “This region has a government-sponsored feeding program for OVC.”



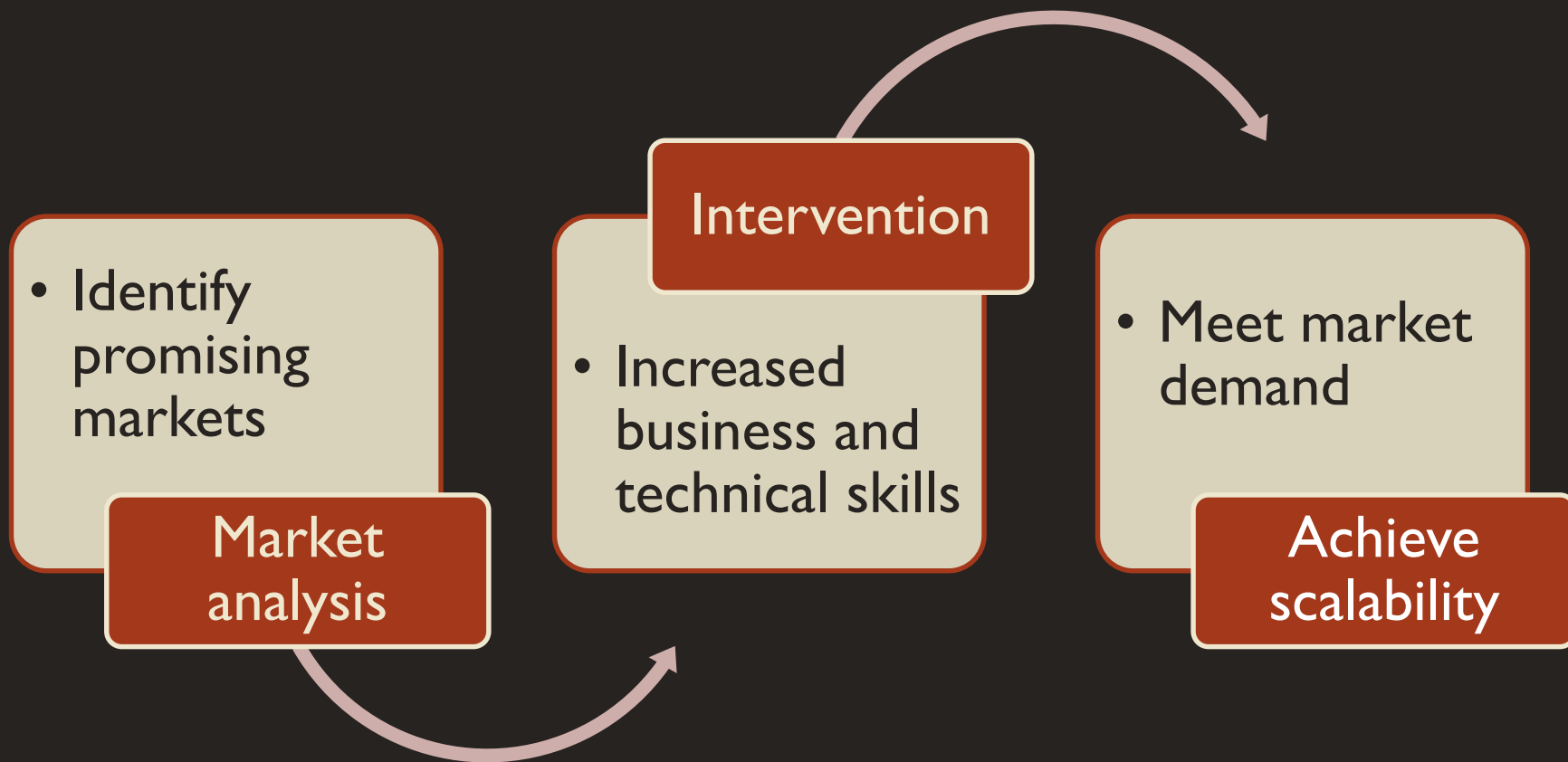
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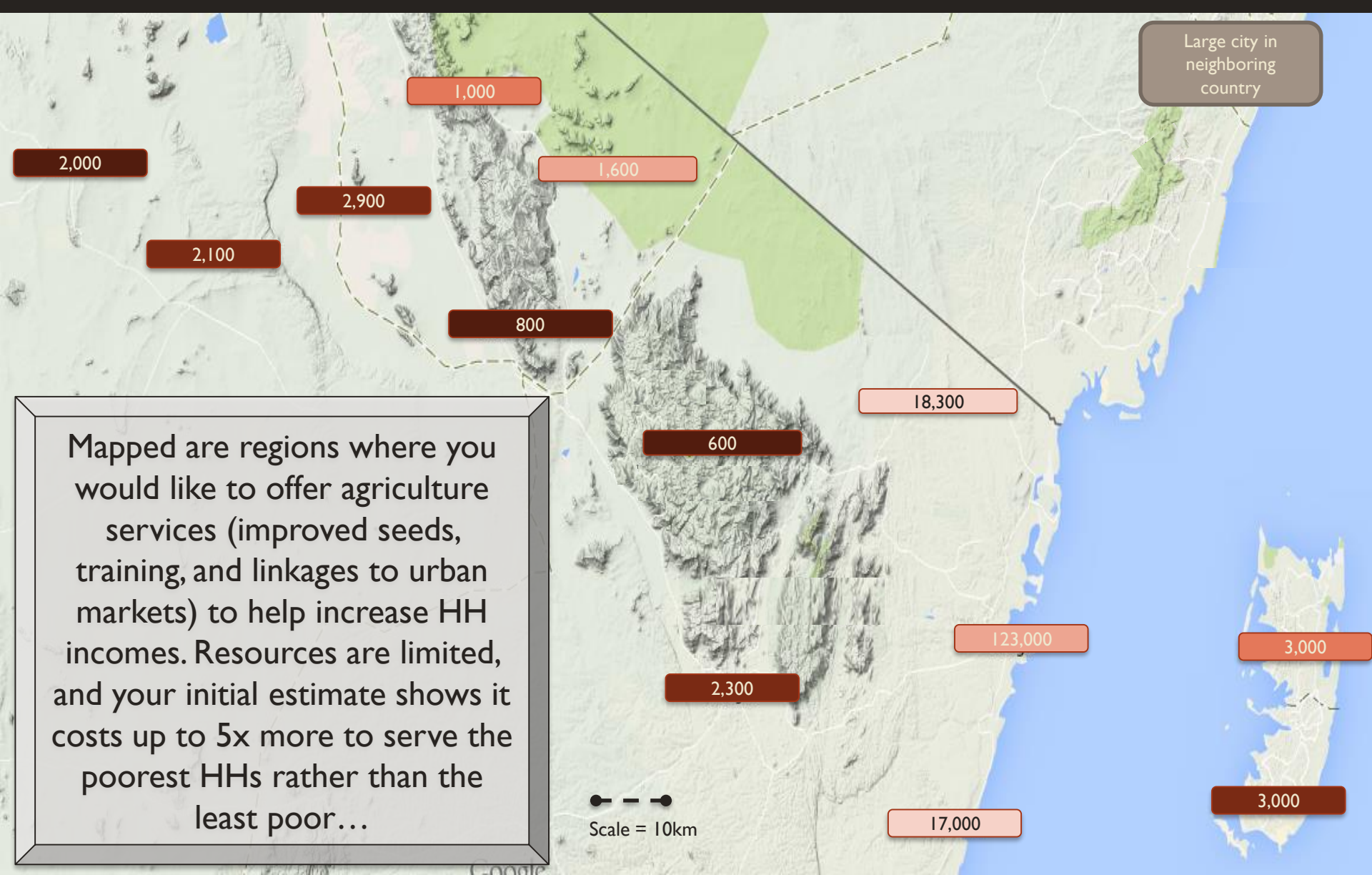
Scalability

“Social protection offers an important systemic and country-owned approach that can ... scale up a family-centered response for children.”

PEPFAR OVC Guidance

Scalability starts with good market analysis





Poorest.....Least Poor

= population



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Organizational capacity and partnerships

STRENGTHS

What are we good at?

WEAKNESSES

What do we do poorly?

OPPORTUNITIES

What are our best strategies for growth? What resources can we take advantage of?

THREATS

What can get in our way?
Which dangers might we be able to prepare for?

STRENGTHS

What are we good at?

WEAKNESSES

What do we do poorly?

Positive Influences

Negative Influences

Internal Factors

External Factors

OPPORTUNITIES

What are our best strategies for growth? What resources can we take advantage of?

THREATS

What can get in our way? Which dangers might we be able to prepare for?



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MERL 3: Practice



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Evaluation

Evaluation supports accountability

“Measuring project effectiveness, relevance, and efficiency, disclosing those findings to stakeholders, and using evaluation findings to inform resource allocation and other decisions is a core responsibility of a publicly financed entity.”

USAID Evaluation Policy, 2011, <http://www.usaid.gov/evaluation/policy>

Evaluation supports learning & program improvement

“Evaluations of projects that are well designed and executed can systematically generate knowledge about the magnitude and determinants of project performance, permitting those who design and implement projects, and who develop programs and strategies ... to refine designs and introduce improvements into future efforts.”

USAID Evaluation Policy, 2011, <http://www.usaid.gov/evaluation/policy>

Purpose

- Why is the evaluation being conducted, and why now? What information is needed? Who will use the information, and how?

Objectives

- What are the objectives of the evaluation?

Evaluation question(s)

- Better to answer a few questions well than to answer more questions superficially.

Scope

- Unit of analysis, time period to be evaluated, geographic coverage.

Evaluation criteria

- Standards against which the intervention will be assessed.

Relevance

- Is there a demand for the evaluation? Which future decisions will this evaluation inform?

Evaluation methods

- How will the evaluation collect and analyze data, interpret findings, and report results?

Indicators

- How will findings be measured?

Stakeholders for the evaluation

- Country-led? Joint? Beneficiaries? Community?

Gender aspects

- Will the evaluation assess intervention's gender mainstreaming, equal access?

Capacity-building

- How does the evaluation contribute to capacity-building?

Accountability

Learning



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Principles and Practices of Economic Strengthening Program Design and Implementation



Why do you want to conduct economic-strengthening activities?

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What changes can happen if your organization applies what you have learned during this workshop?

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