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Emergence of Sustainability in a Complex System: Are Lessons from the Health Sector Applicable to Food Security?



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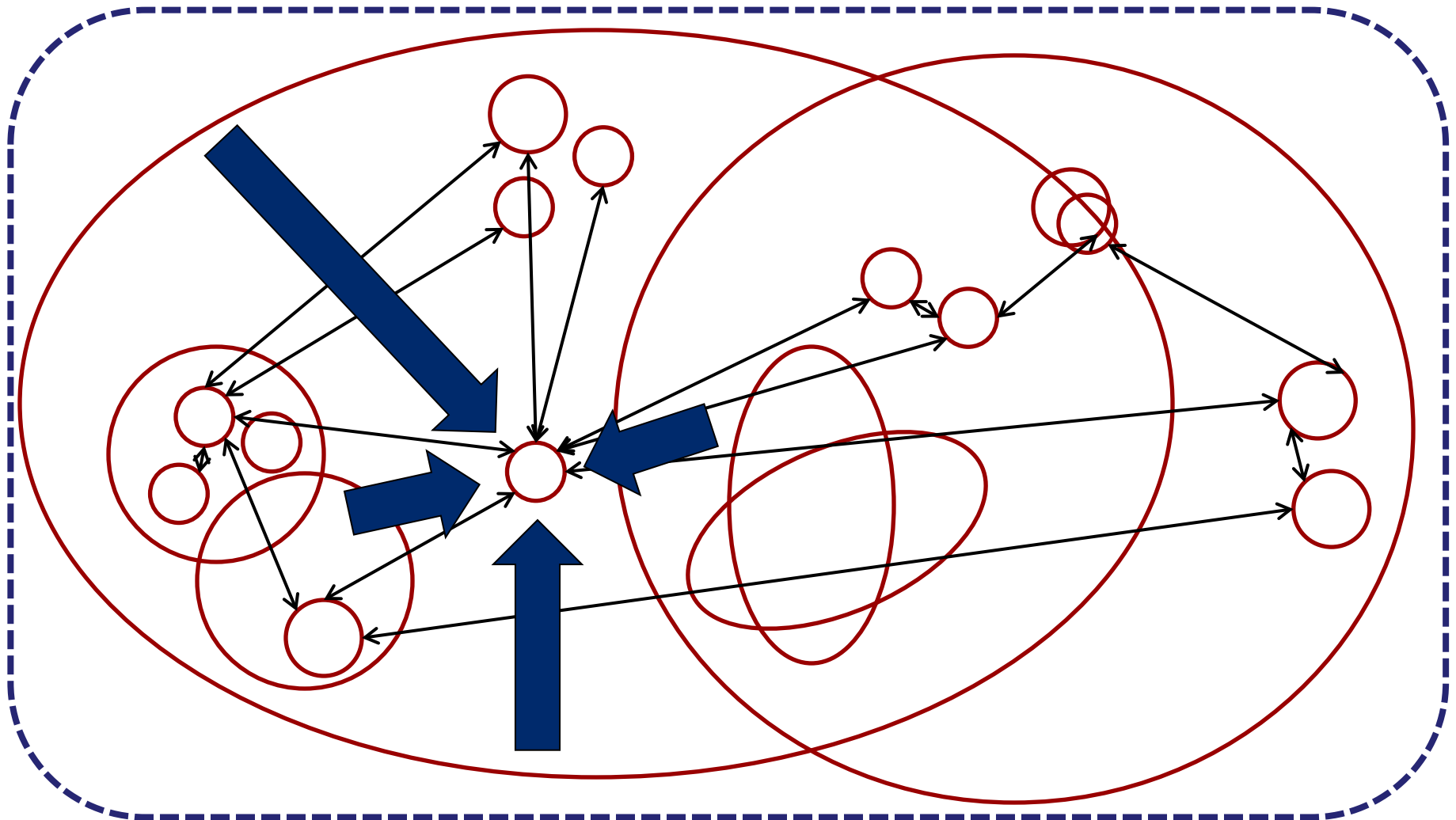
CEDARS
Center for Design and Research in Sustainability
Sustainable Health and Human Development

January 26, 2012

Agenda

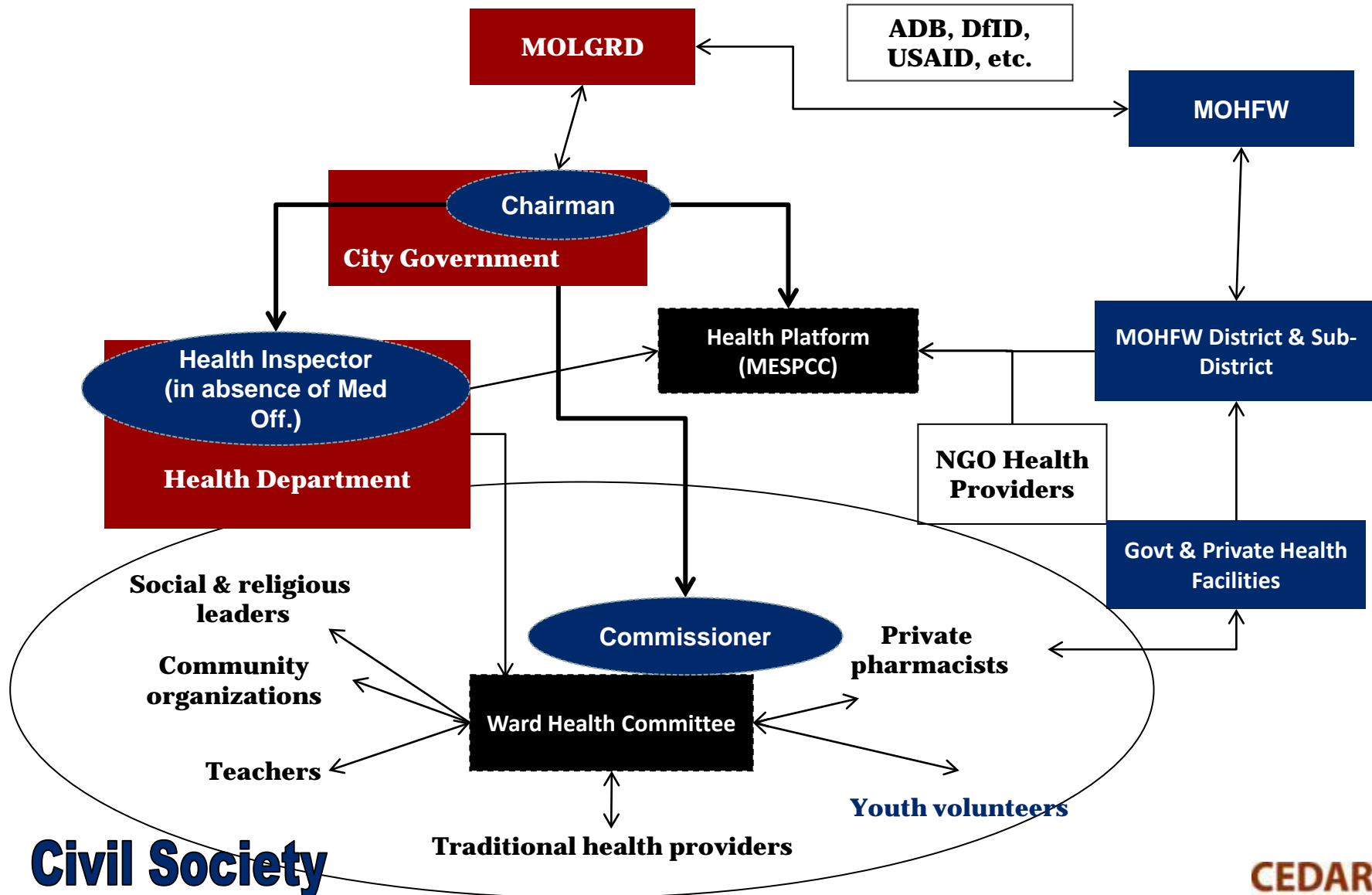
1. Complex Systems: Agent & System Behaviors
2. Sustainability - *Program Attribute or System Property?*
3. Illustrations from the Sustainability Framework in the Health Sector
4. Conclusion
5. Initiating a Discussion
 - *Applications to Food Security and Value Chains*

Behavior of Agents & Behavior of a System



Do we need a system perspective in Health?

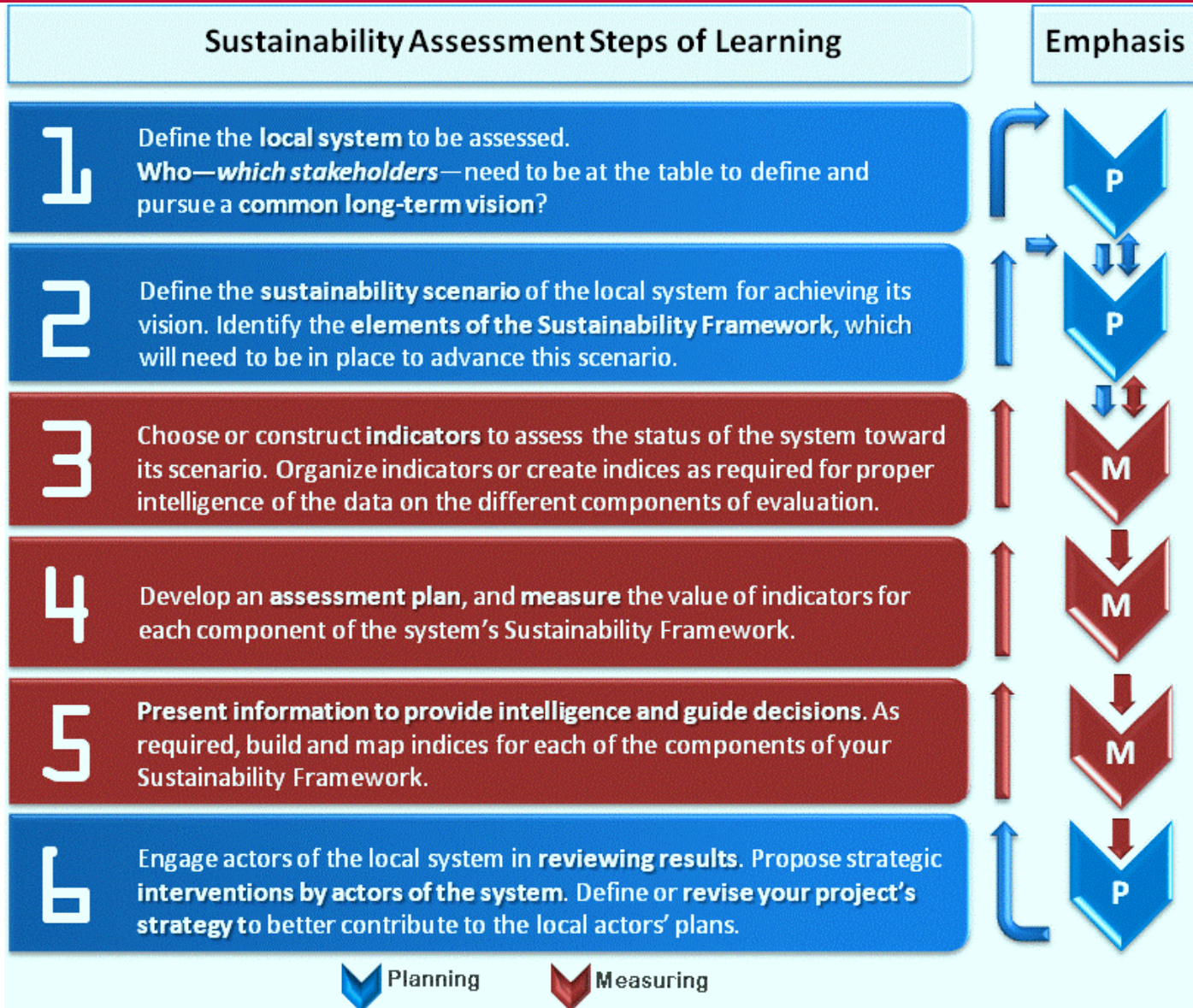
E.g. Sustainability Assessment in an Urban Health System, Bangladesh (Concern / CEDARS)



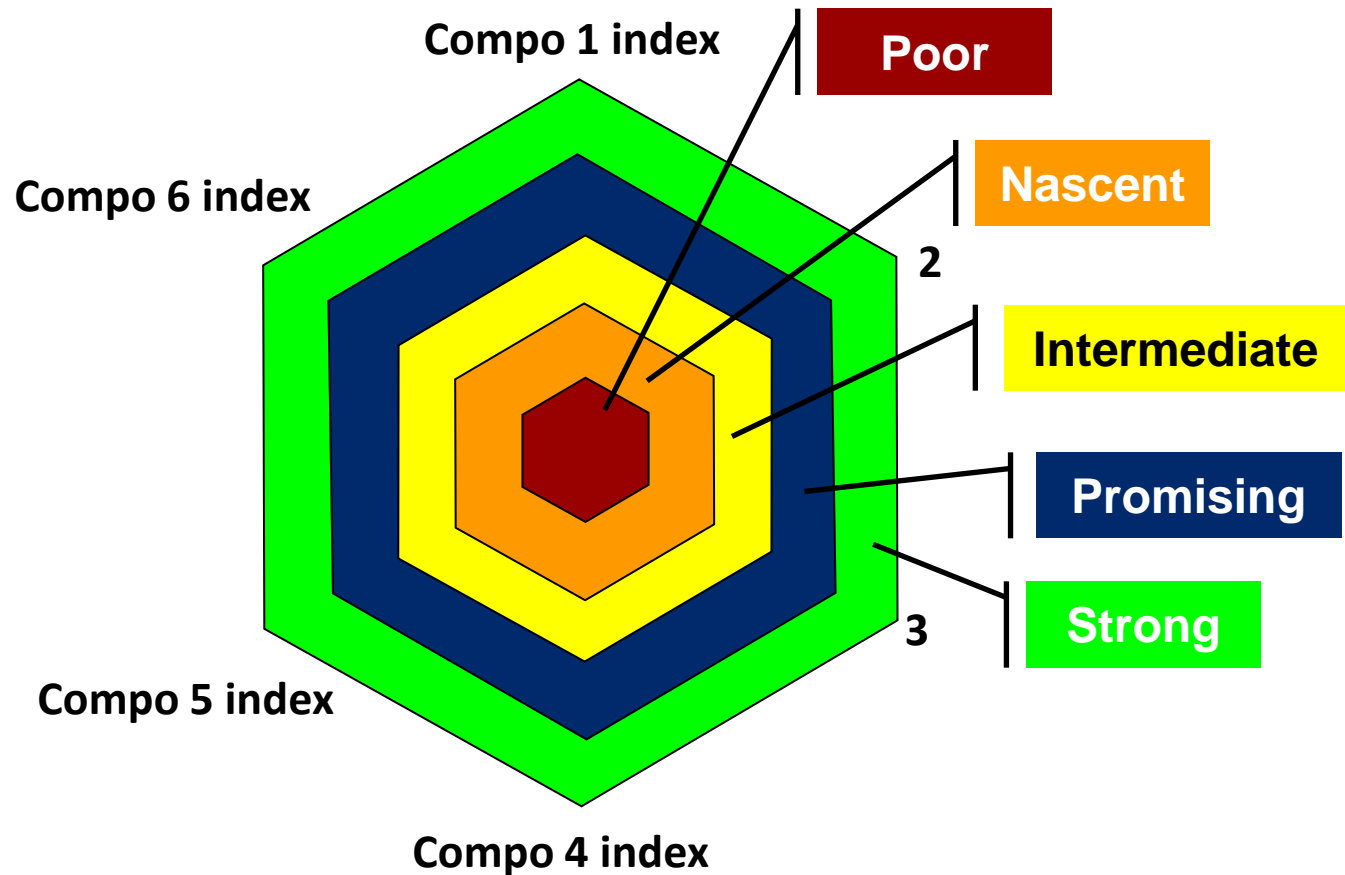
Sustainability in Health System Strengthening is...

- A (emerging) property of a **system**, embedded in a larger environment
 - in which **interdependent actors**,
 - through **negotiated and coordinated social interactions**,
 - which allow the **expression of** their respective and **collective capabilities**,
 - **maintain and improve the health** of a vulnerable population.

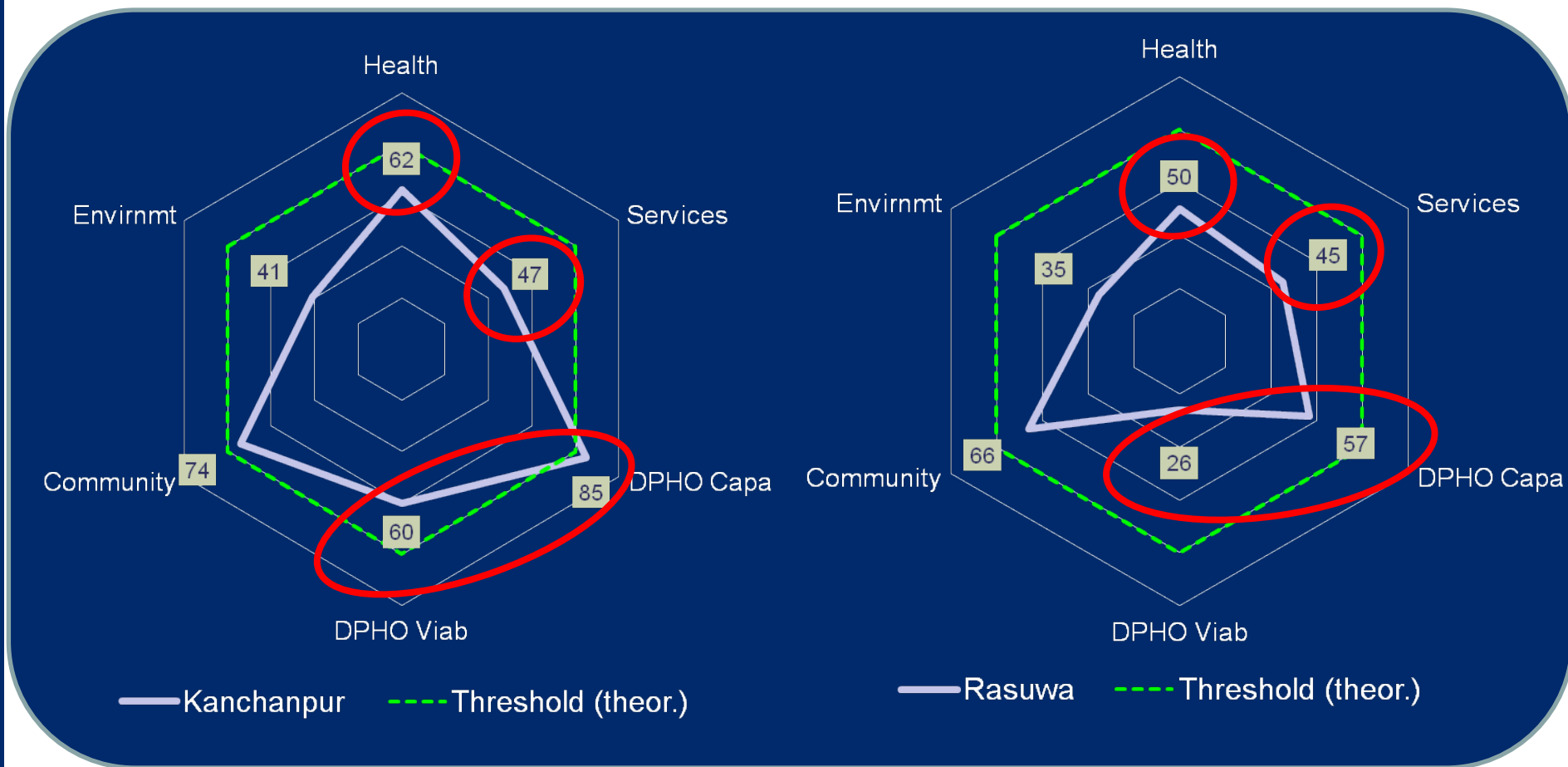
The Sustainability Framework as a Learning Process for the Local Actors



Measuring Progress / Reading a Composite Dashboard / Spider Diagram



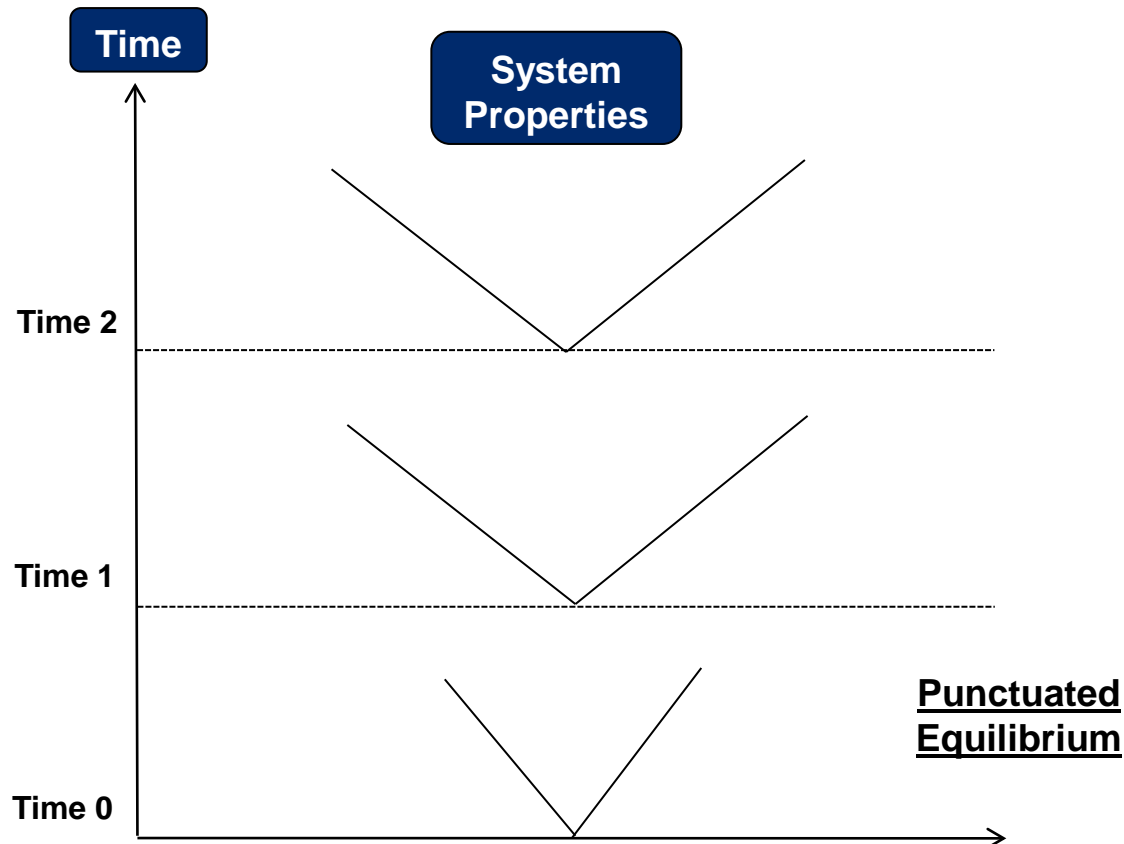
The Sustainability Framework as Actionable Data



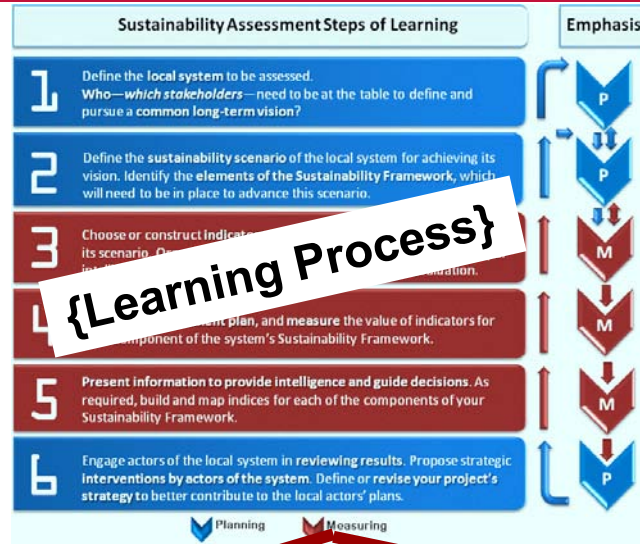
District sustainability assessment; USAID Nepal - 2006

Source: Measuring sustainability as a programming tool for health sector investments—report from a pilot sustainability assessment in five Nepalese health districts. *Int J Health Plann Manage.* 2009 Oct-Dec;24(4):326-50 <http://cedarscenter.com/resources/SarriotEtAl2009Measuring.pdf>

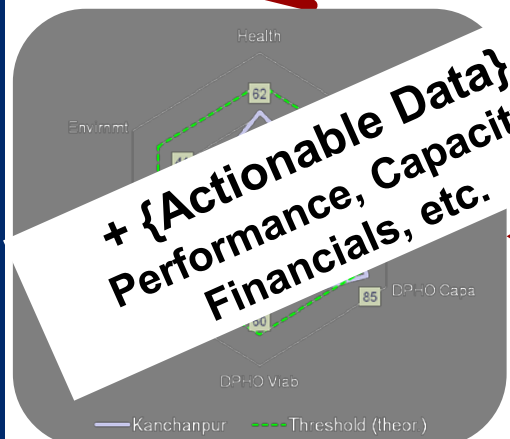
A Theory of Change for Complex Systems



Conclusion: Coaching Progress Toward a New Equilibrium



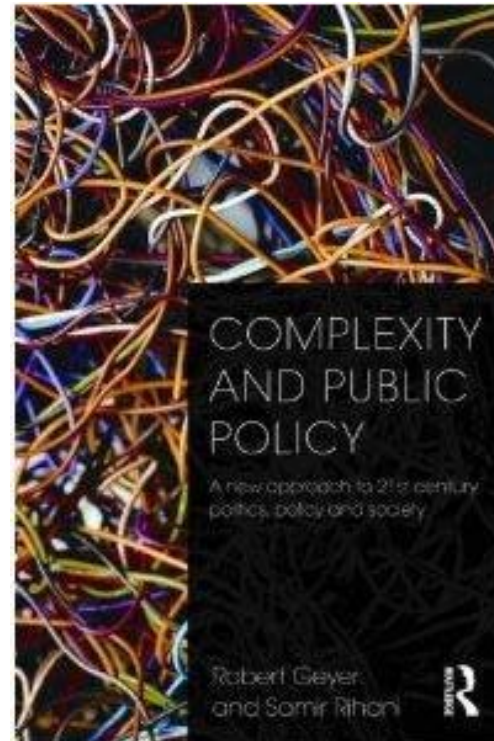
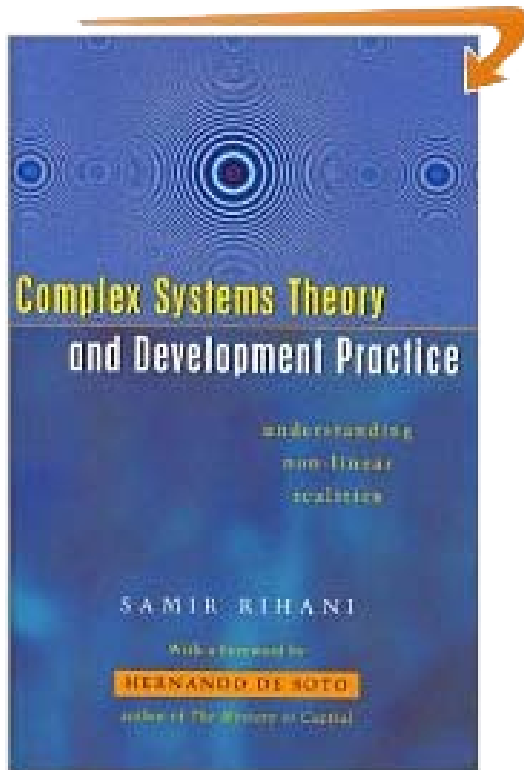
{Learning Process}



Expression of collective capacity to sustain outcomes



Additional Resources





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THANK YOU!

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