REAL Short Course in Resilience Measurement

Recurrent Monitoring Surveys (RMS)

Agenda

- Introduction
- Presentations
- Q & A

Presenters

Lynn Michalopoulos

Resilience Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor

USAID Center for Resilience

Tim Frankenberger

President

TANGO International

Jill Scantlan

Regional Resilience Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning Adviser

Mercy Corps

Introduction

THE USAID RESILIENCE MEASUREMENT PRACTICAL GUIDANCE NOTE SERIES


Lynn Michalopoulos

Resilience Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor

USAID Center for Resilience

Why Guidance Note No. 6

Recurrent Monitoring Surveys (RMS)

Why focus on RMS?

- The Ethiopia Pastoralist Area Resilience Improvement and Market Expansion (PRIME) project was one of the first USAID project to test out RMS

- Findings made a large impact on understanding of resilience

- Greater interest in deploying these surveys, but lack of guidance on how
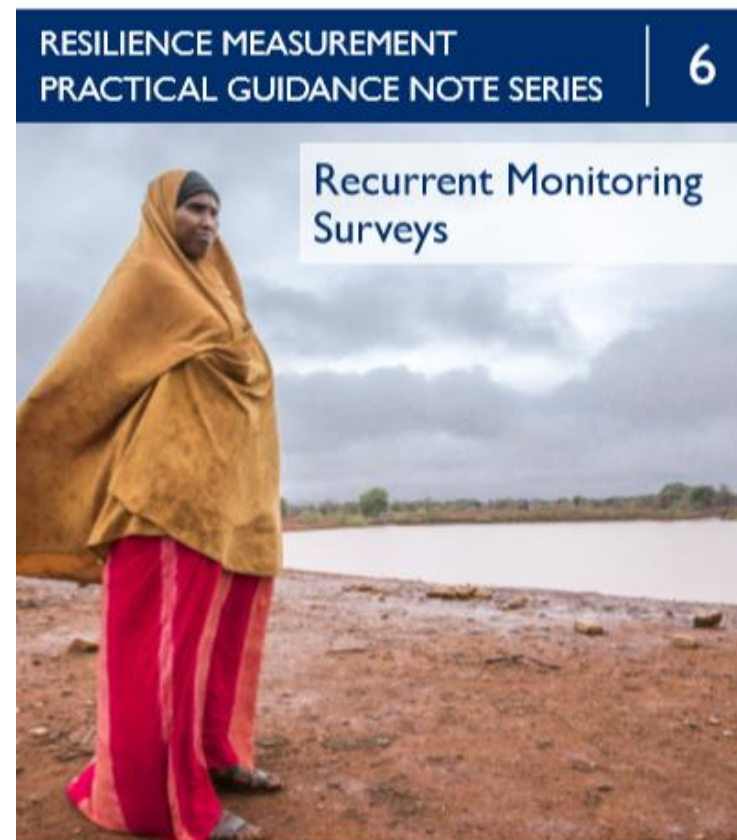
REAL Short Course in Resilience Measurement

Recurrent Monitoring Surveys (RMS)

Agenda

- Guidance Note 6 Overview
- How MEL Systems can Facilitate an RMS
- Case study – PAHAL (Nepal)

Presenter

Jill Scantlan

Regional Resilience Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning Adviser

Mercy Corps

Guidance Note Overview

GN 6 provides practical guidance on:

- Determining whether to deploy an RMS

- Recurrent monitoring models

- Methodological considerations for designing an RMS

- Planning and budgeting for an RMS

What **GN6** covered

✓ What an RMS is and how it is different from a typical program monitoring

✓ Key considerations for designing and implementing an RMS

✓ Multiple country and project contexts of what worked well, what challenges emerged and what solutions were developed

And what **GN6** didn't cover

🚫 Step-by-step process or protocol for conducting an RMS

🚫 RMS analysis

Photo: Seifu Assegid for Save the Children

What is *recurrent monitoring* and how is it different than regular monitoring?

RMS data collection

- Occurs around shocks and stresses
- Triggered by shock or given at certain times of year
- Panel data

Information needs

- Theory of Change testing
- Evaluate impact of interventions
- Crisis modifier

Photo: Kyle Degraw for Save the Children

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REAL Resilience Evaluation, Analysis and Learning

What is the value of an RMS?

RMS results provide insights into underlying dynamics and relationships

- Shock exposure, response and wellbeing
- Can complement impact or performance evaluations
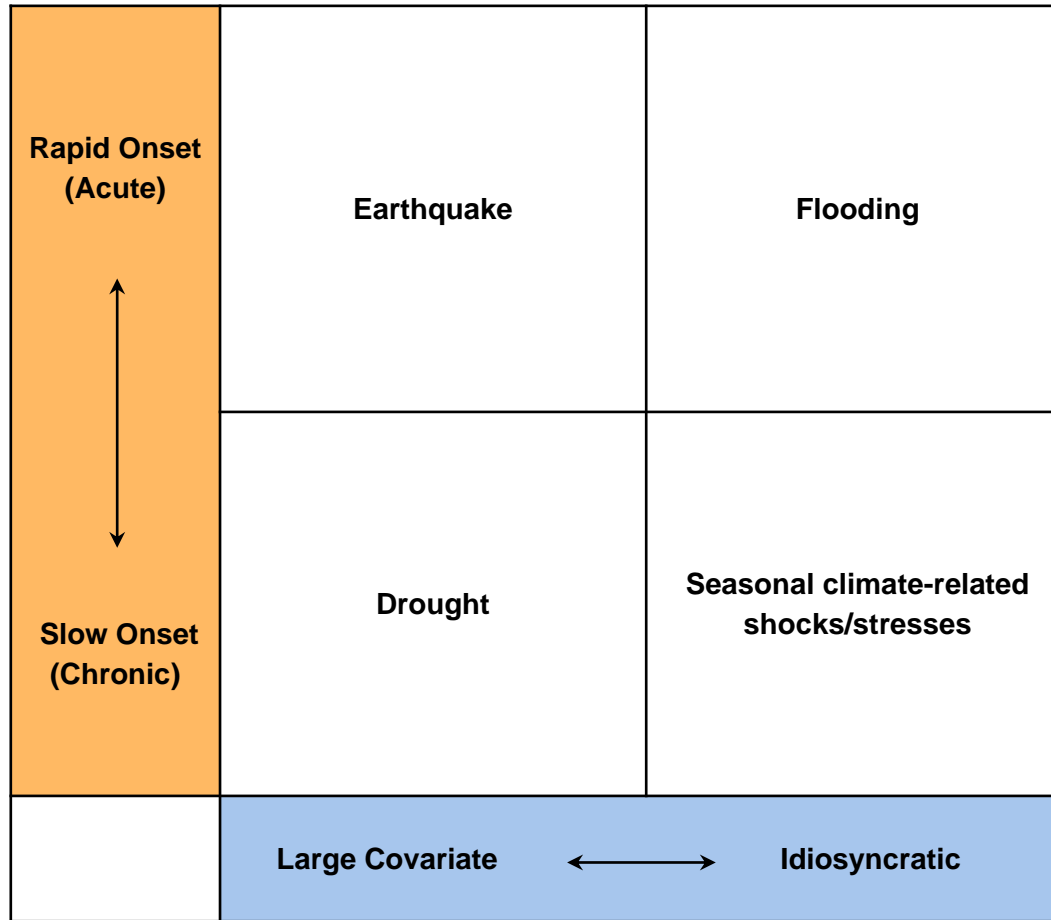
RMSs combined with an impact evaluation

- Detect the differential effects of various combinations or intensities of project interventions

RMSs can offer an opportunity for adaptive management

- Near real time data to make management decisions

RMS Models

Shock and Stress Context

Rapid Onset (Acute) ↕ **Slow Onset (Chronic)**	Earthquake	Flooding
	Drought	Seasonal climate-related shocks/stresses
	Large Covariate ←→ **Idiosyncratic**	

Model 1: Shock/Stress-triggered RMS

RMS rounds are

Triggered when a pre-specified threshold is reached

- shocks identified in advance
- measures of shock/stress exposure and severity exist
- shocks and stresses are routinely monitored

Application

- Crisis modifier

Photo: Sean Sheridan for Mercy Corps

Model 2: RMS for seasonal and/or idiosyncratic shocks

RMS rounds are

- Deployed at regular intervals around **seasonal** shocks and stresses
- Capture **idiosyncratic** circumstances of households

Application

- Track contribution of activities
- Adaptive management

Photo: Sean Sheridan for Mercy Corps

Case Study – PAHAL (Nepal)

Overview

- 5-year, USAID/Food for Peace-funded, Far and Mid-Western states of Nepal

- RMS
  - 3 rounds of **quantitative** data collection (embedded into annual surveys)
  - 3 rounds of **qualitative** data collection (FGDs and a panel of KIIs),
  - **Cost-benefit analysis**

- Post-project evaluation of integrated approach

- Evaluation brief forthcoming (November 2019)

Case Study – PAHAL (Nepal)

Integrating RMS into Annual Survey – Success Factors

- Added resilience questions to annual survey

- Shifted to panel data collection

- Leveraged beneficiary data to identify intervention packages

- Evaluated quality of integrated interventions

- Cost-benefit analysis leveraged financial data linked to activities

Case Study – PAHAL (Nepal)

Integrating RMS into Annual Survey – Key Findings

- All combinations of PAHAL interventions strongly related to increased **positive resilience responses**

  - Strongest effect = full integration group

- PAHAL Full Integration households report feeling **less vulnerable** to future shocks

- PAHAL Full Integration households feel more confident that they can **access government services** and are less reliant on them

Case Study – PAHAL (Nepal)

Integrating RMS into Annual Survey – Key Findings

- **Financial Services intervention** = highest returns per dollar spent by the households themselves

- The **Water intervention** = greatest value for its cost for economy in Nepal when considering total investments to achieve these outcomes

Thank You

Jill Scantlan

jscantlan@mercycorps.org

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RMS in the PRIME Project in Ethiopia

Agenda

- PRIME RMS Introduction and Overview
- PRIME RMS Design and Data Collection
- PRIME Impact Recurrent Monitoring Survey 1
- PRIME Impact Recurrent Monitoring Survey II

Presenter

Tim Frankenberger

President

TANGO International

POLL –

1) What kind of context best matches your programming context?

2) Is it suitable for an RMS?

Rapid Onset (Acute)	Earthquake	Flooding
Slow Onset (Chronic)	Drought	Seasonal climate-related shocks/stresses
	Large Covariate	**Idiosyncratic**

PRIME RMS Introduction and Overview

- The RMS was characterized by 3 main features
  - Real-time data collection after a predetermined shock trigger
  - High-frequency, panel data collections of short durations
  - Small sample sizes

- The RMSs did:
  - Inform whether interventions were building resilience
  - Highlighted optimal times to launch early action responses, crisis modifiers, and other shock responsive actions

- The RMS was not a substitute for baseline, interim, and endline designs

- The RMS was a complement to this design

PRIME Timeline

PROJECT START

BASELINE SURVEY 3,142 HH

RMS-1 SURVEY

RMS-2 SURVEY

ENDLINE SURVEY 2,750 HH

| 2012 | 2013 | ⚠ 2014 | ⚠ 2015 | ⚠ 2016 | ⚠ 2017 |

Drought conditions increasingly worsen

PROJECT END

JIJIGA: 1ST RAINY SEASON FAILS
BORENA: 1ST & 2ND RAINY SEASONS FAIL

JIJIGA: 2ND RAINY SEASON FAILS
BORENA: 2ND RAINY SEASON FAILS

JIJIGA: 2ND RAINY SEASON FAILS
BORENA: 1ST & 2ND RAINY SEASONS FAIL

JIJIGA: LOW TO NORMAL RAINFALL
BORENA: 1ST & 2ND RAINY SEASONS FAIL

PRIME RMS Design and Data Collection

- Once trigger indicators confirmed that a shock had occurred, RMS data collection began

- The RMS research design used mixed methods:

    - **Quantitative data** and **community qualitative surveys**

    - **Quantitative survey:** Panel subsample was drawn from the baseline sample to monitor a small number of households (400) at regular intervals

Photo: Sean Sheridan for Mercy Corps

PRIME RMS Design and Data Collection

- **Repeat panel data** collected over time captured real-time impacts, changes in how people coped after a shock, and rate of recovery

- **Questionnaires** were short (15-20 mins) and focused on questions about shocks exposure, resilience capacities, coping strategies, and well-being outcomes.

  - Included indicators that are sensitive to rapid change (i.e., fast variables)

- **Qualitative data** (e.g., from FGDs and KIIs) helped contextualize quantitative indicators and illustrate local concepts of resilience

Photo: Seifu Assegid for Save the Children

PRIME Impact Recurrent Monitoring Survey 1

- Which resilience capacities enabled households to recover from the drought?

- ## Growth Regressions:

  - Household and community resilience capacities predicting the change in food security outcomes over time.

  - Models controlled for shock exposure, initial food security levels, and household characteristics

- ## Positive Deviant (PD) Analyses:

  - Analyses of the groups of households that fared far better than average over the course of the drought waves.

Photo: Seifu Assegid for Save the Children

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REAL Resilience Evaluation, Analysis and Learning

PRIME Impact Recurrent Monitoring Survey 1

- **Identification of programmatic areas of focus to increase households' resilience to future droughts**
- Timely humanitarian assistance (food aid, food/cash-for-work, hazard insurance)
- For enhancing household resilience, the RMS indicated that programming should focus on:
- Building social capital
- Supporting informal safety nets and community groups (especially civic groups and natural resource management groups)
- Maintaining and enhancing households' asset bases
- Ensuring access to savings and credit
- Increasing access to communal natural resources

PRIME Impact Recurrent Monitoring Survey II

- Data collection for RMS II was conducted over one year's time in 6 rounds (every 2 months) beginning in October 2015.

- Period of highly erratic rainfall (El Nino) and considered worst drought in 50 years. Shock exposure measured using satellite rainfall data.

- Data collection allowed for real-time monitoring of households' ability to cope and analysis inferring if PRIME interventions had helped households better manage the drought.

Photo: Kyle Degraw for Save the Children

PRIME Impact Recurrent Monitoring Survey II

- Data collected from random sample of 400 households from the baseline (panel data).

- 40% residing in project villages receiving comprehensive resilience programming and 60% of whom do not.

- The regression analysis controlled for factors that might have affected household food security other than exposure to PRIME interventions.

- The results indicate that there was a strong statistically significant difference in the relationship between shock exposure and food security between the treatment and control group.

Photo: Kyle Degraw for Save the Children

Estimated recovery trajectory as shock exposure increases for low and high intensity households
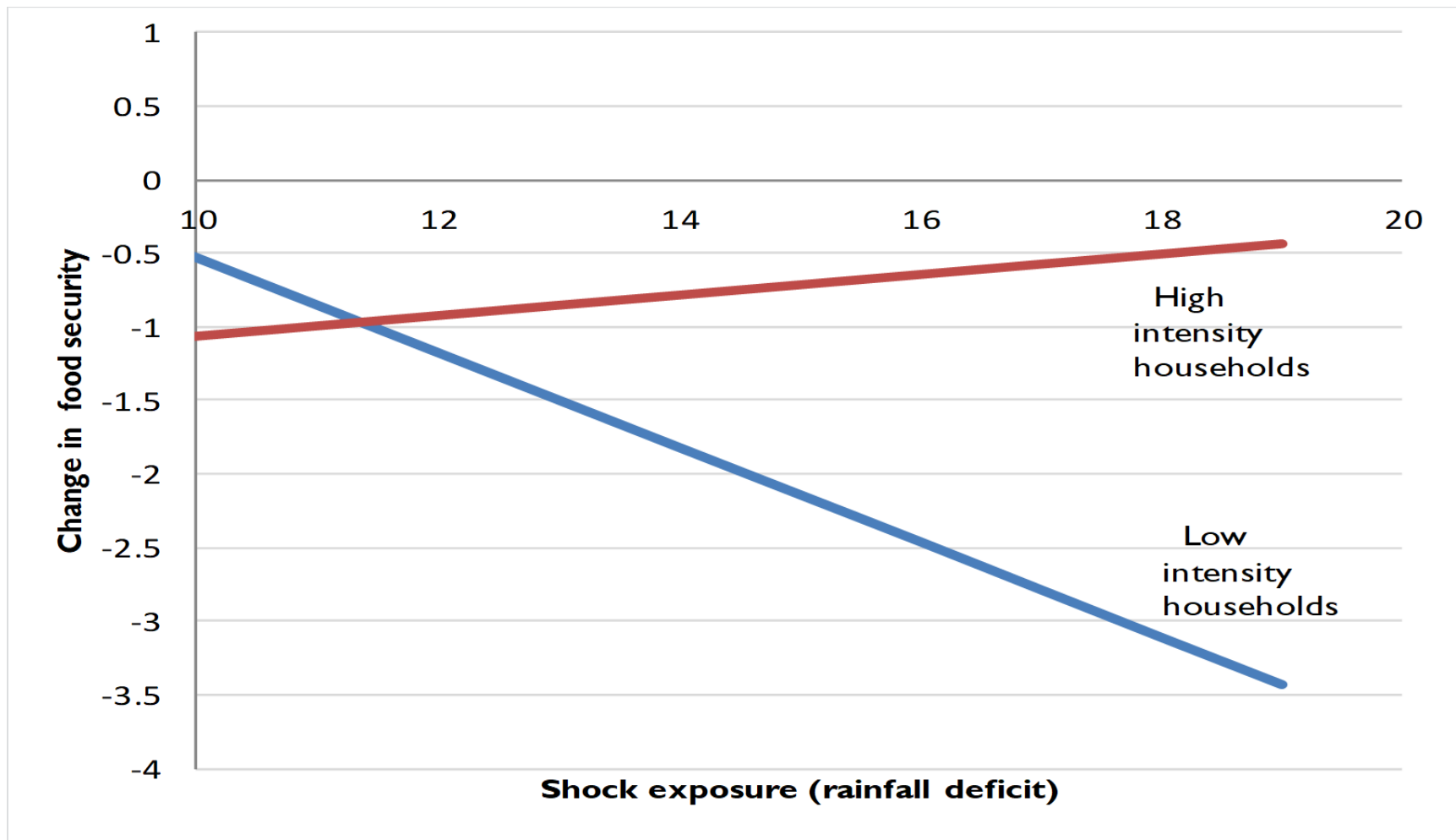
PRIME Impact Recurrent Monitoring Survey II
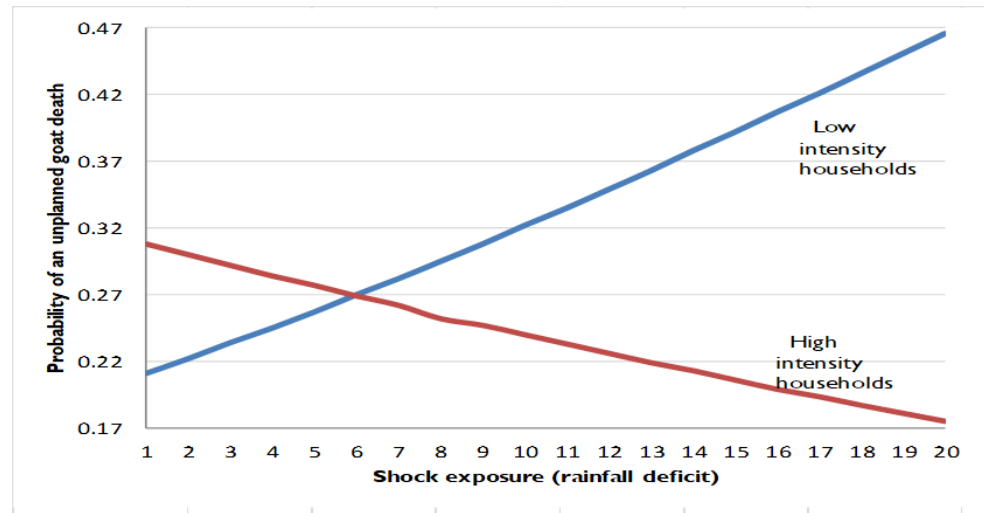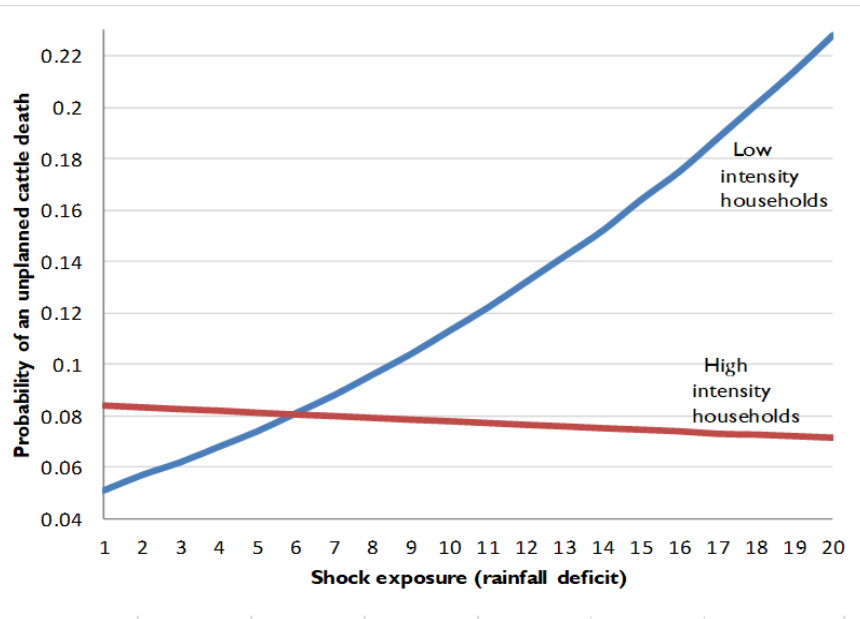
Predicted probability of unplanned cattle, and goat deaths as shock exposure increases for low- and high-intensity PRIME project households

Thank You

Tim Frankenberger

tim@tangointernational.com

REAL Short Course in Resilience Measurement
RMS in the SHOUHARDO III Project in Bangladesh

Agenda

- SHOUHARDO III RMS
- SHOUHARDO III RMS Objectives
- Survey design
- Trends of outcome indicators, by beneficiary category and survey rounds
- Resilience Capacities
- Improved agriculture practices and earnings from production

Presenter

Tim Frankenberger
President
TANGO International

SHOUHARDO III RMS

- CARE undertook a longitudinal study of project beneficiaries.

- This study formed part of the overall project M&E system.

- The purpose was to provide real-time information about uptake of project activities, how they affect household resilience capacities and food security outcomes.

Photo: CJ Clarke for Save the Children

SHOUHARDO III RMS Objectives

- Measure how program interventions are **effectively contributing to the resilience capacities**, and **inform program decisions** on how to adjust interventions accordingly.

- Increase understanding of which resilience capacities, in what form and where, have the **greatest ability to help households mitigate shocks and stresses** and achieve greater food security.

- Track the **rate** at which beneficiaries **adopt changes in practices** promoted by the project over time.

Photo: SC US

SHOUHARDO III RMS Objectives

- Capture reasons for why recommended practices may not be adopted by beneficiaries.

- Identify areas where change strategies may be required to enhance the rate of adoption of new practices by beneficiaries.

- Measure changes in women's empowerment, to measure the extent to which this factor affects:
  - Adoption of practices supported by the project
  - Household resilience capacities
  - household livelihood and food security outcomes and recovery from shocks

Photo: SC US

Survey design

- 680 beneficiary households were selected randomly from SHOUHARDO III MIS database during the baseline and then were followed up every six months for three years.

- The panel sample of households was selected from the two major sampling frames of registered agriculture (including on-farm IGA) and nutrition beneficiaries.

- The baseline of the panel survey to took place in July 2017. There was then four rounds of follow-up monitoring of the households, conducted on 6-month intervals (January '18, July '18, and January '19) and the end line in July 2019.

Photo: CJ Clarke for Save the Children

Trends of outcome indicators, by beneficiary category and survey rounds

Household Hunger Scale: Percentage of HHs with No/Little Hunger
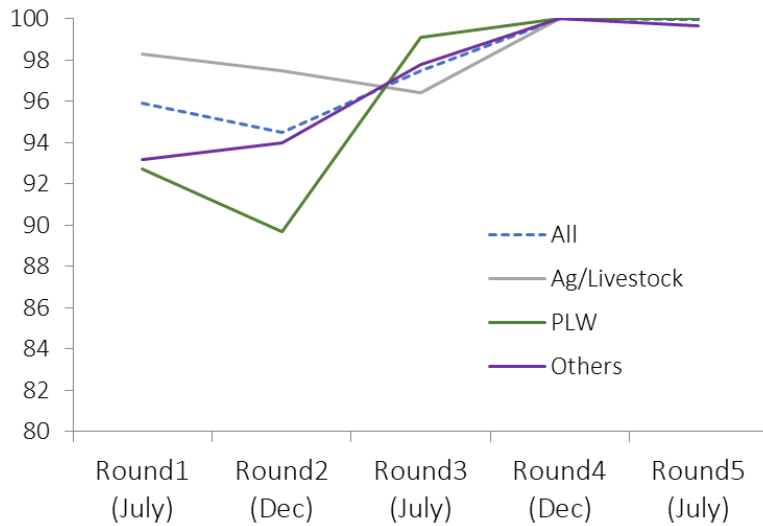
Household Diet Diversity: Percentage of HHs with 6 or more food groups
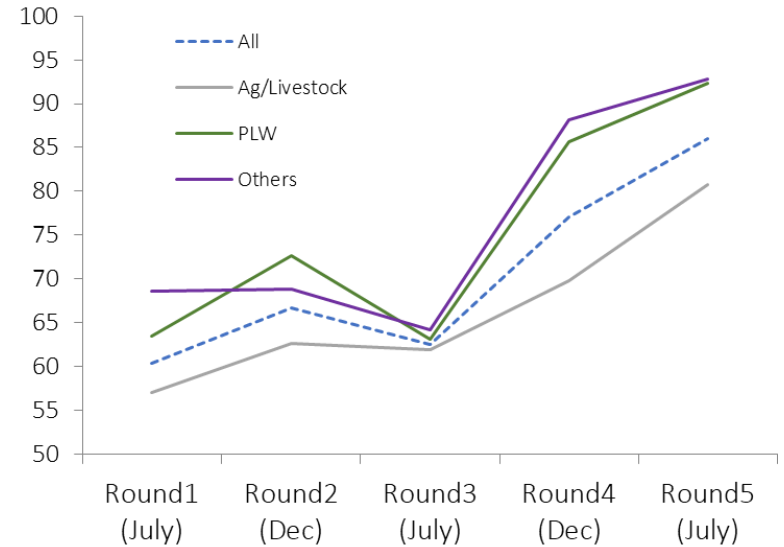
Trends of outcome indicators, by beneficiary category and survey rounds

Income: Daily Per Capita Income (USD*)
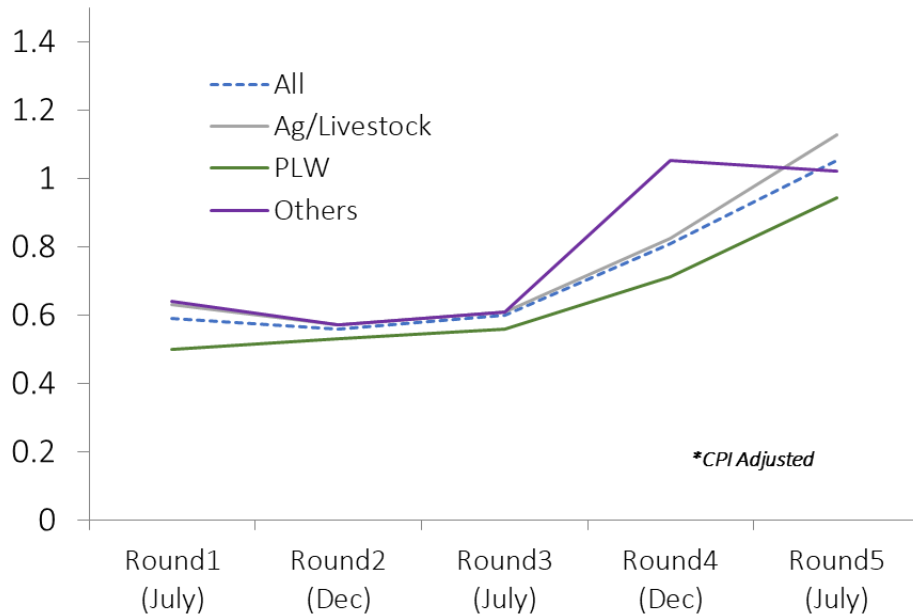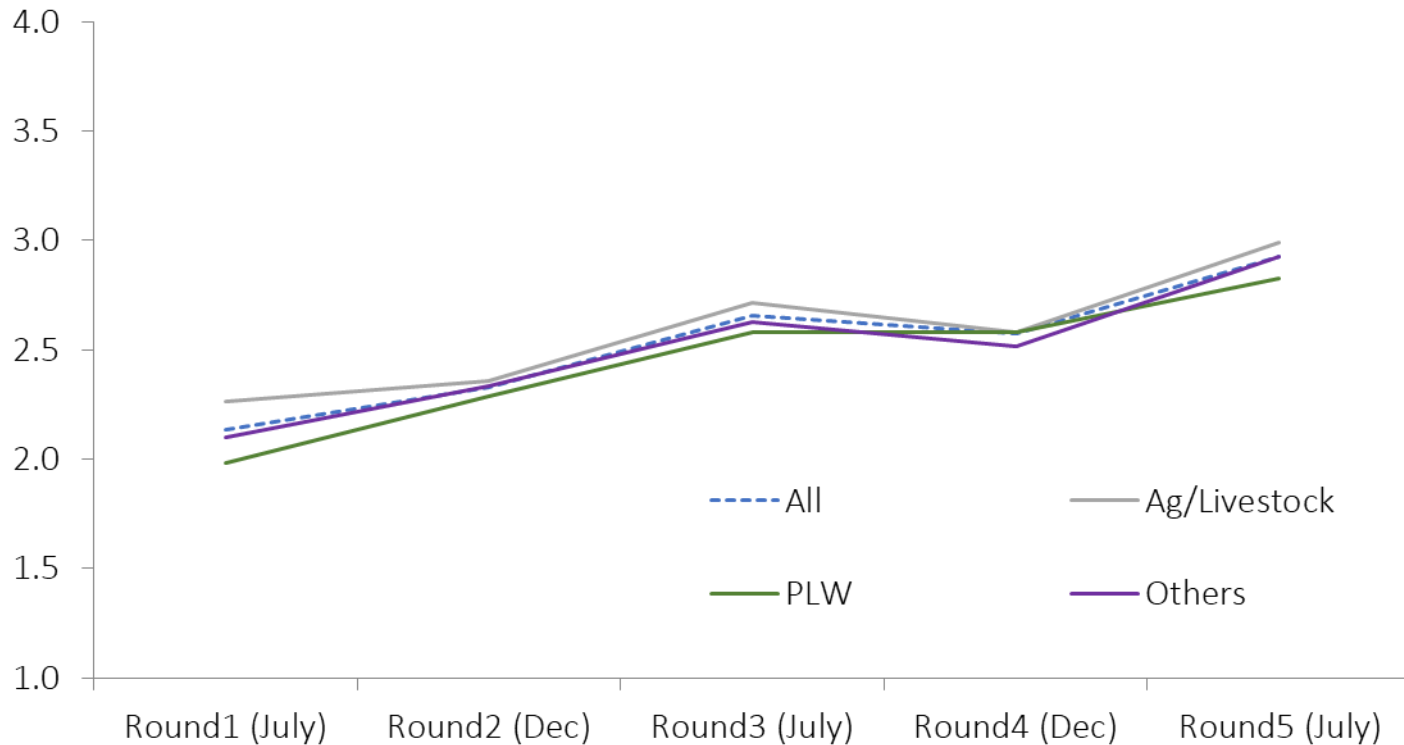
Percentage of women earning income
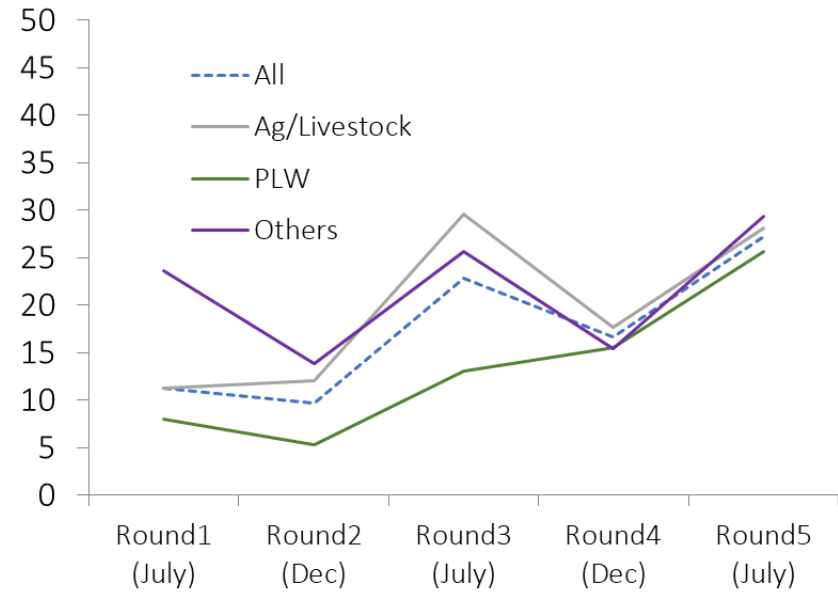
Trends of outcome indicators, by beneficiary category and survey rounds

Women Decision making index

Resilience Capacities

Absorptive
- ★ Humanitarian assistance
- ★ Social capital (bonding)
- ★ Asset ownership
- ★ Informal safety nets
- ★ Cash savings
- ★ Disaster preparedness and response

Adaptive
- ★ Social capital (bridging, linking)
- ★ Exposure to/use of information
- ★ Livelihood diversity
- ★ Asset ownership
- ★ Access to credit
- ★ Human capital

Transformative
- ★ Local government responsiveness
- ★ Social capital (bridging, linking)
- ★ Availability of basic services
- ★ Formal safety nets
- ★ Collective action
- ★ Social cohesion
- ★ Gender norms

Do You Bend or Break?

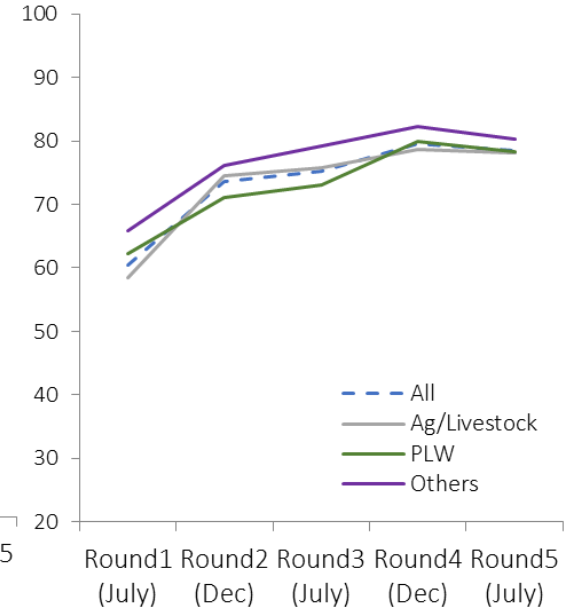# Trends of outcome indicators, by beneficiary category and survey rounds
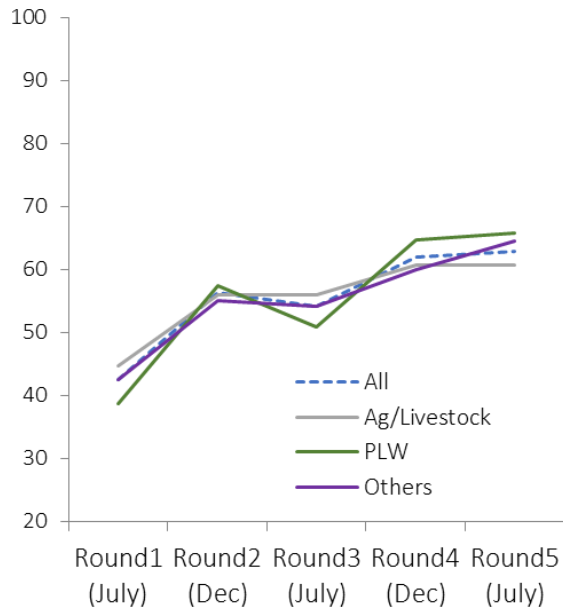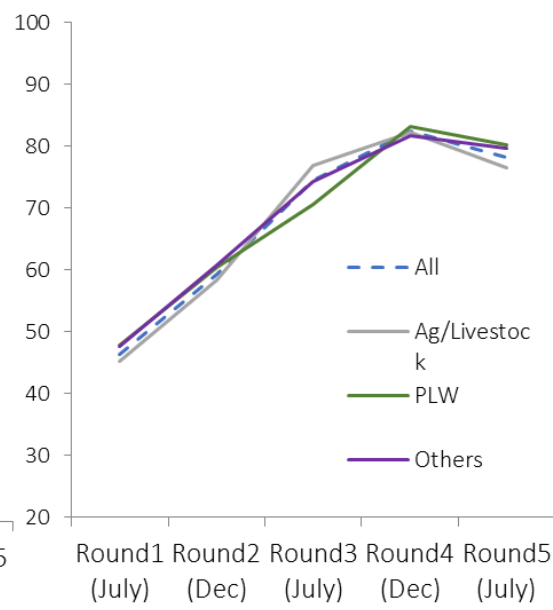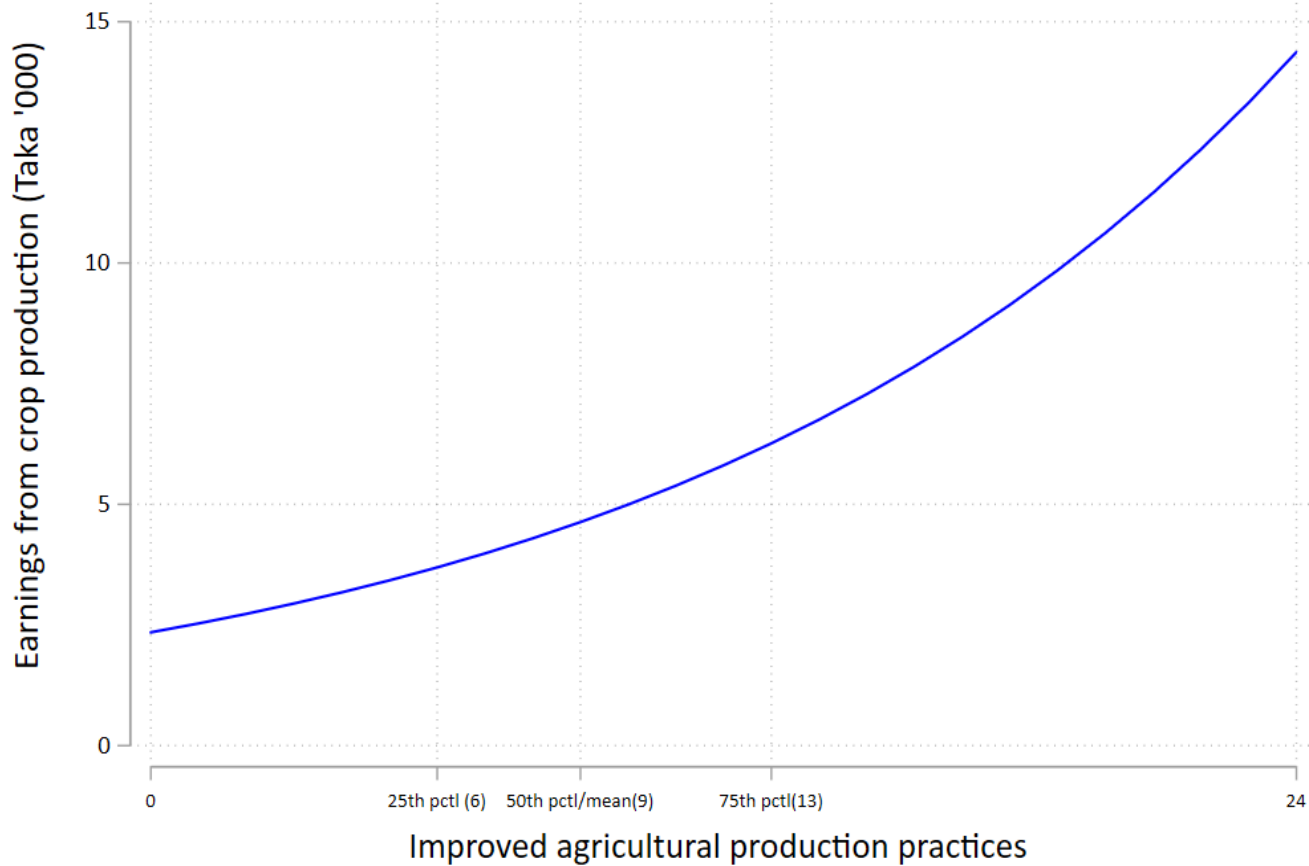
Improved agriculture practices and earnings from production

Thank You

Tim Frankenberger

tim@tangointernational.com

Q & A

Thank You

www.fsnnetwork.org/REAL

www.mercycorps.org/resilience

resiliencemeasurement@gmail.com