Covid-19, resilience and poverty dynamics

Examples of responses observed
- **Systems**: social protection, economic stimulus packages, debt restructuring
- **Communities**: Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA), informal networks, borrowing
- **Households**: less and low-quality nutrition, debt, asset sales, depletion of savings
- **Individually**: child labour, migration, early marriage, begging

Leading variably to:
- **Sustained poverty escape**
- **Temporary poverty escape**
- **Sustained impoverishment**

Where, for example, households could:
- Diversify into a buoyant market (in PPE, farming)
- Return to work and school because closures were relatively short
- Sell assets, borrow to survive (leading often to debt spirals), marry early
- Use limited social capital to avoid destitution, use social assistance (though low, irregular)

Indirect impacts of policy toolkit
- Covid-19 health response
- Lockdowns and border closures
- School closures


COVID-19 on top of insecurity deepened Hassan’s economic difficulties and restricted access to his regular means of coping, such as through migration or access to health services, causing his wellbeing to deteriorate over time.

Mitigation measures for pro-poor recovery

- Long-term investment in health services
- Multisectoral national and local-level decision-making
- Longer duration of social protection built on strong systems
- Wider economic policies including household debt-management measures
- School feeding programs and alternative education models
- Integrating pandemic management into disaster risk management