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Investing in rural people

Independent Office of Evaluation



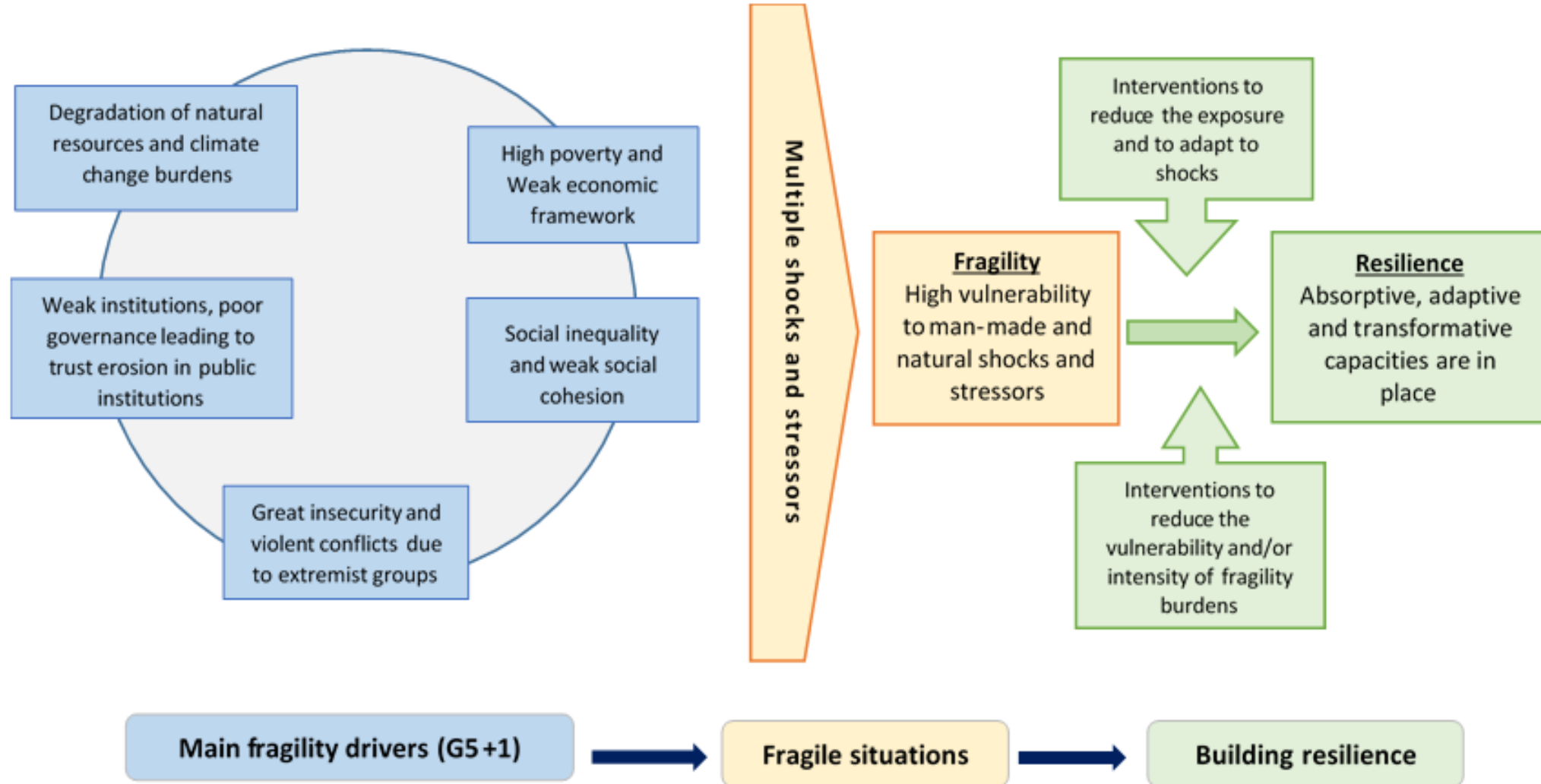
119<sup>th</sup>  
Evaluation  
Committee

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## Sub-Regional Evaluation (SRE) of countries in fragile situations: Learning from the G5 countries + Nigeria (G5+1)

- First sub-regional evaluation (SRE), with objective: to enhance evidence based learning for an improved IFAD's engagement.
- Fragility theme identified and G5 Sahel countries + Northern Nigeria selected.
- Period covered: 2010 – 2021, lending and non lending operations.
- Context: persistent rural poverty, environmental degradation, climate change burdens, social inequity, and insecurity due to medium intensity conflict.
- Mixed-methods approach and fragility analytical framework applied;

## Fragility analytical framework



Source: SRE team



## **Increased prioritization of IFAD's support to resilience building, but a lack of comprehensive fragility analysis.**

- Focus on building resilience, explicitly after 2015.
- Three categories of fragility drivers addressed: economic poverty, climate change and social inequity.
- Weak state institutions and violent conflict: managed as risks to mitigate.
- Fragility analyses are not performed systematically or not holistically.
- Added value and usage of such analyses are not clear for country teams.



## **Coherence between consecutive projects and within the program, but insufficient reflection of specific features of working in fragile contexts.**

- Coherence between consecutive loan operations and within programs.
- Learning not specifically intended to enhance how to address fragility drivers, except in Nigeria.
- Weak capacities of public institutions not explicitly factored into designs.
- Transhumance not well incorporated in IFAD's country strategies.
- Partnership and policy engagement unused to better addressing fragility.

## **Supporting: income generating activities, customary saving and credit groups and non financial services were instrumental in building resilience.**

- Improved farming practices, increased yields and reduced yield variability.
- Supports to customary credit and saving groups (e.g. Chad and Mauritania).
- Promotion of cereal bank facilities, (e.g. in Chad and Mali).
- Trainings, inclusive value chain supports and inclusive financial access have been critical (all six countries).



## **Empowering grassroots' organisations to deliver effectively and participate in policy discussion were critical for resilience building.**

- Positive results in support organizations of producers, communities related and their apex. Example of ROPPA.
- They are critical to ensure the sustainability of projects' results.
- Mixed results achieved for the functionality of water users' associations of small-scale irrigation schemes (in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, and Niger).
- Endogenous grassroots' mechanisms: useful to strengthen social cohesion.



## **Soil and water conservation practices and diversification of livelihoods were critical for adaptation strategies.**

- Soil and water conservation, small-scale irrigation are useful adaptive strategies: climate-smart agriculture.
- GEF and ASAP funding: instrumental to support positive strategies for smallholders' adaptation to climate change.
- Insufficient support on environmental issues linked to pastoralism.
- Land tenure issues remain critical in the sub-region, yet not fully addressed.





## **Challenges in terms of financing conditions and field presence, which reduced IFAD's effectiveness in fragile situations.**

- Low flexibility of loan financing conditions, not allowing swift adjustments.
- Grant financing: more appropriate and adaptive but very limited amounts.
- Challenges of governments to meet their co-financing agreement.
- Positively, availability of international climate financing (e.g. GEF and GCF).
- Non residence country directors (5/6) constrained ability to respond swiftly.

- A nexus approach of rural poverty and conflict was not applied by supported operations.
- Key strategic and operational lessons include:
  - Holistic fragility analyses;
  - Effective partnerships to address all main fragility drivers;
  - Strengthening grassroots institutions, and endogenous mechanisms; ;
  - Supports to women and youths;
  - Promoting climate-smart agriculture;
  - Flexible financing mechanism, and close supports for longer periods.



- **Recommendation 1.** Develop a comprehensive resilience framework for the sub-region or region to guide assessments, designs and implementation of operations (at field, national and regional levels).
- **Recommendation 2.** Use the opportunity of IFAD decentralization 2.0 to improve the capabilities of country teams, interactions, and agility for effective delivery in the G5+1 fragile contexts.
- **Recommendation 3.** Revisit approaches for VCD support within the sub-region to further improve the inclusiveness, and to build on community-driven approaches in highly fragile areas.

- **Recommendation 4.** Further promote the resilience of rural communities through supports to POs/FOs and CBOs to effectively deliver services and strengthen their capacity to engage in policy dialogue on topics related to them.
- **Recommendation 5.** Organize greater support to country teams for a greater effectiveness of non-lending operations in those contexts.





# Thank you

