

Resilience: concepts and metrics Luca Russo, Senior Economist, FAO

Everyone talks about resilience and, if you look at any resilience plan, you will see plenty of very nice initiatives that everyone will agree on. Yet resources are not infinite and hard choices need to be made. A decision maker who has limited resources to invest is looking for answer on four very crucial questions:

Question 1: Who and where are the most vulnerable (or less resilient) and therefore who should I target? The pastoralists? The landless? Women headed households? Northern part of the country?

Question 2: What are the main shocks and how the impact on the resilience of Household?

Question 3: What makes a household more or less resilient and therefore on what should I invest? Better access to basic services? What basic services?

Question 4: Has the resilience of the household increased a result of the intervention or after the next shock we will be back to square zero?

During my brief intervention, I will rapidly provide some conceptual definitions of resilience and its implication in terms of system thinking and long term scenarios. Some country derived examples illustrating the four questions mentioned above based on the FAO Resilience Index for Measurement and Analysis.

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