



MALAWI

BRACC Resilience Learning Event Closing Remarks--Day 2

Bob Baulch
IFPRI Malawi

Crossroads Hotel, Lilongwe | 12 February 2020

Objectives for BRACC Learning Event

The objective of the Learning Event were twofold:

1. To discuss the outcomes of the recently completed baseline survey for BRACC
2. To discuss the way forward for the impact evaluation of the BRACC programme and related learning

This Morning's Program

12 February 2020		
08:30-08:45	Opening of day 2	Christina Connolly / Bob Baulch (DFID and IFPRI)
08:45-09:00	Recap of day 1	Tamani Nkhono-Mvula
09:00-09:30	Next steps for evaluation: High frequency monitoring and panel survey	Julie Ideh/Jan Duchoslav (CRS and IFPRI)
09:30-10:00	Next steps for learning: Mechanism experiments	Jan Duchoslav/ Ezkiel Phiri (IFPRI and CUMO)
10:00-10:30	<i>Tea / Coffee</i>	
10:30-11:00	Next steps for learning: Qualitative investigations	Kenan Kalagho/Olivia Chilora (IFPRI and GOAL)
11:00-11:45	Panel discussion: Next steps for BRACC Component 4	Dan Gilligan (IFPRI) Chris Connelly (Concern) Sarah Kohnstamm (WFP) Christina Connolly (DFID)
11:45-12:15	Plenary discussion	Tamani Nkhono-Mvula
12:15-12:30	Next steps and closing	Bob Baulch and Christina Connolly (IFPRI and DFID)
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch</i>	

Panel Discussion

1. Reflect on the key points of learning about resilience from the last one-and-a-half days.
2. What are the priorities for evaluation, learning and knowledge in the next phases of BRACC?

Next Steps: High Frequency Monitoring & Panel Survey

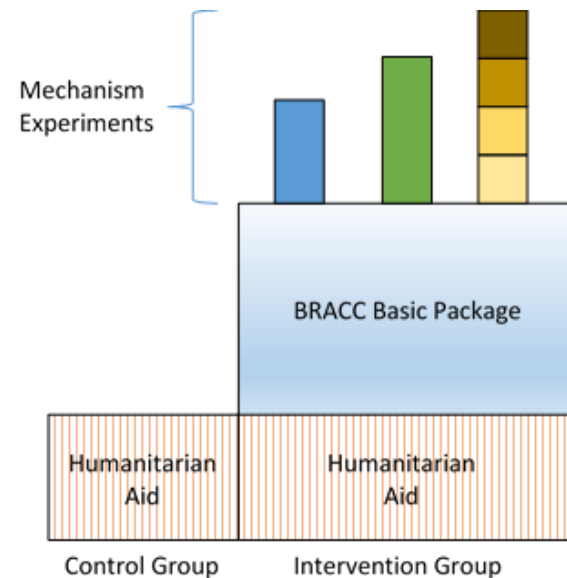
Key Points:

- Despite late start, MIRA provide a useful way for tracking what happens ‘between the waves’ of the panel survey
- MIRA also provides opportunities for community learning and action
- Shocks versus stresses
- Community wide versus household level shocks
 (‘covariant’) (‘idiosyncratic’)
- Double and triple ‘whammies’

Next Steps: Mechanism Experiments

Key Points:

- Provide opportunities for learning during BRACC implementation



The first 'Mechanism Experiment'?

Stanford psychologist Phillip Zimbardo and a colleague at NYU conducted the following experiment in the late 1960s:

1. Park an old car in two suburbs near major universities
2. Wait and see what happens

Palo Alto, California



The Bronx, New York



Source: Ludwig et al. (2011) 'Mechanism experiments and policy evaluations',
Journal of Economic Perspectives 25(3):17-29

Next Steps: Mechanism Experiments (2)

On-going: demand for health and funeral insurance (with CUMO)

Possible future mechanism experiments:

- Testing the demand for weather index insurance
- Does predictability matter for humanitarian assistance?
 - Use UBR to preselect HHs eligible for transfers should the need arise
 - Randomly split intervention sample into two
 - Examine effects on: Consumption smoothing, Food security, Savings, On-farm/business investments
- Farmer Field Schools versus Lead Farmers
- Varying timing of when insurance premia are paid (Casaburi & Willis-Kenya)

Other Insurance Products

- Micro-pensions (with Nico General)
- Weather or area-based crop insurance (several alternative providers, including PULA)
- Pic-based crop insurance (India, Kenya)
- Catastrophe insurance (industrialized countries, Latin America,)



Caveat

Randomization is *NOT* the answer to everything!

Next Steps: Qualitative Investigations (1)

Key Points:

- BRACC Impact Evaluation is a sequential mixed methods design:
quant(baseline) – qual – quant(midline) – qual – quant(endline)
- Qualitative investigations between the 3 ‘waves’ of the panel survey will help us to understand *how*, *why* and *what motivates* people to do things
- Methods:
 - Focus group discussions
 - Key informant interviews
 - Participant observation
 - Stages of Progress
 - Life histories

The 'Stages of Progress' in Rural Uganda

Stage 1	Obtain food for the family		
Stage 2	Obtain some clothes for the family		
Stage 3	Send children to primary school		
Stage 4	Repair the existing shelter	Poverty Cut-Off	↑ Poor
Stage 5	Buy sheep or goat		↓ Non-Poor
Stage 6	Buy a small piece of land		
Stage 7	Buy a bicycle for transportation		
Stage 8	Buy more land	Prosperity Cut-Off	↑ Non-Poor
Stage 9	Build a permanent house		↓ Prosperous
Stage 10	Start operating a small business of a few farm products		
Stage 11	Buy a car or build commercial property		

Krishna, A. 2005. *Stages of Progress: A Community-Based Methodology for Defining and Understanding Poverty, Version 2.0*. Raleigh and Washington, DC: Duke University and US Register of Copyrights, Library of Congress.

Life Histories and Trajectories

- Sub-sample of 160 households from the household resurvey
- Conducted in 8 of the 14 study districts
- Households picked from four cells of the poverty transition matrix; 1 adult male and female from each household were then interviewed (usually simultaneously)



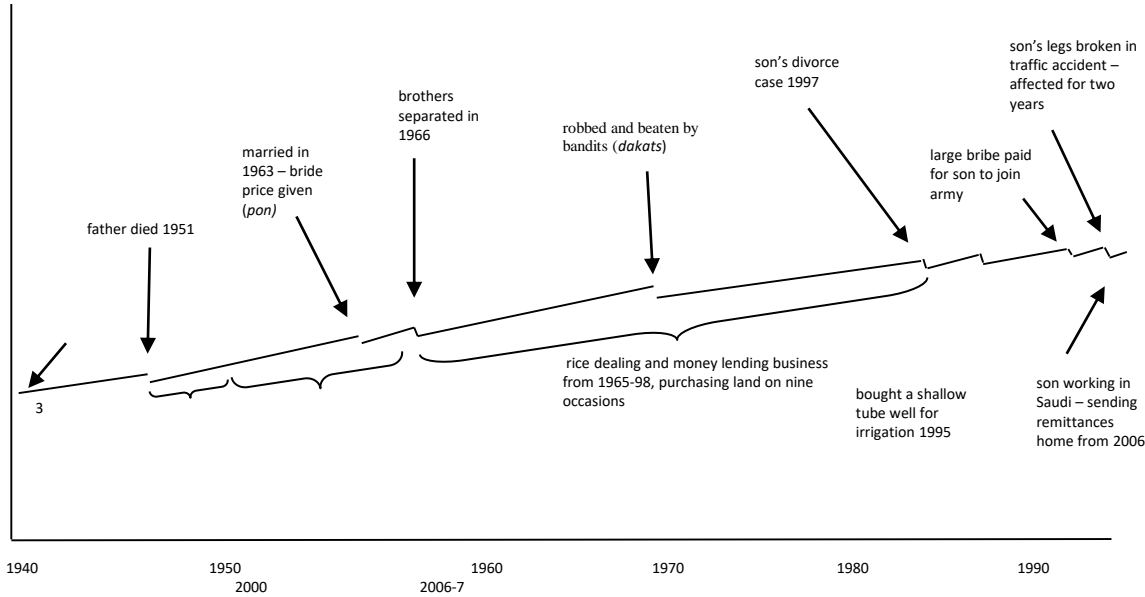
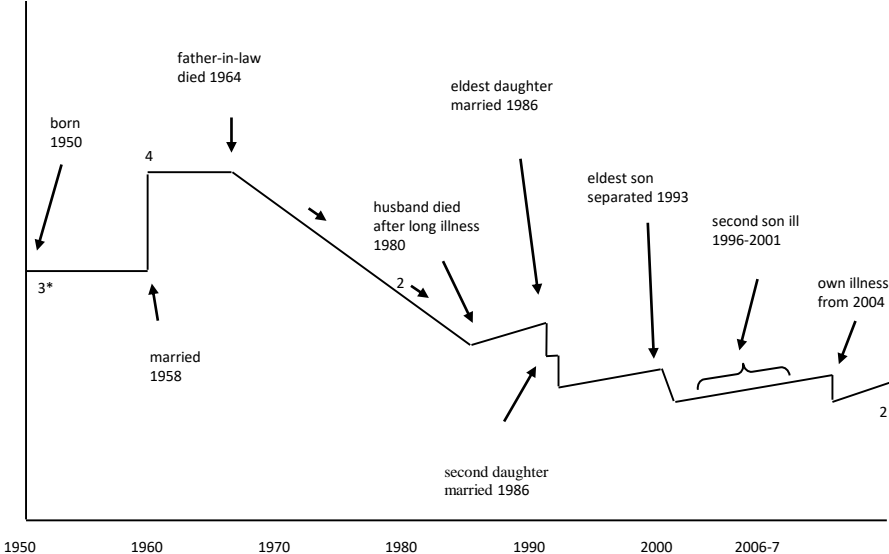
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- A total of 293 life history interviews were conducted




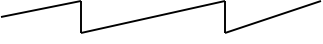
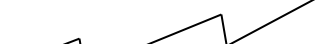
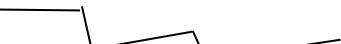
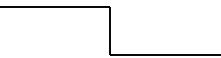
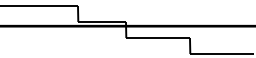
Two Life Trajectory Diagrams



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Trajectory patterns

Direction	Pattern	Depiction	Number of Cases	Weighted Percent of Cases
Stable	Smooth		8	1.47
Improving	Smooth		3	1.43
Declining	Smooth		2	0.36
Stable	Saw-tooth		135	44.98
Improving	Saw-tooth		76	26.15
Declining	Saw-tooth		30	6.90
Declining	Single-step		2	0.48
Declining	Multi-step		37	18.22
Total			293	100

Source: Davis, P. & Baulch, B. 2011' Parallel realities: exploring poverty dynamics using mixed methods in Bangladesh' *Journal of Development Studies*, Vol 41, No 1: 118-142 (CPRC Working Paper 42 <https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/127321/WP142%20Davis-Baulch.pdf>)

Next Steps: Qualitative Investigations (2)

Some Possible Studies:

- Seasonality and Food Consumption Patterns
- Interrogating Female Headship
- When and why do chiefs overstate village/GVH size
- Beneficiary and non-beneficiaries perceptions of BRACC interventions
- Social exclusion and vulnerable groups
- Targeting
- Spillovers between neighboring intervention & control villages
- Stages of Progress (example from rural Uganda)
- Patterns and Typologies of Shocks (using life history methods)
(2 examples from Bangladesh)

Resilience Measurement and the 'Success Indicator Problem'



Closing Thought:

Countering the ‘McNamara Fallacy’

In 1962, US Secretary of State for War Robert McNamara was developing a list of ‘metrics’ to allow him to measure the progress of the Vietnam war. He asked US Air Force Brigadier General Edward Lansdale if the list of metrics (which focused on ‘body counts’ for different categories of combatants and equipment) was complete. Lansdale replied that it was missing "factor x", the feelings of the common rural Vietnamese people. McNamara wrote it down on his list in pencil, but then paused and erased it. He then told Lansdale that since he could not measure it, it must not be important.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McNamara_fallacy

**‘We must make what is important count,
not make what we can count important.’**

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Asante

ありがとうございました

Cảm ơn

Dank je

धन्यवाद

Go raibh maith agat

Danke

Merci

Gracias

ขอขอบคุณ

Ov sasto

ຂອບໃຈ

شكرا لكم

Thank you

Terima kasih

teşekkür

Zikomo

謝謝