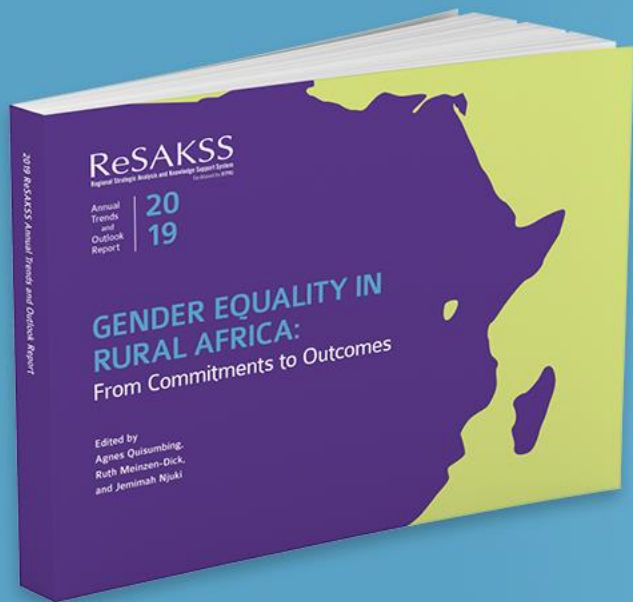


Gender Equality in Rural Africa: From Commitments to Outcomes



OPENING REMARKS

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Gender Equality in Rural Africa: From Commitments to Outcomes

2019 Annual Trends and Outlook
Report (ATOR)

Editors

Agnes Quisumbing, Ruth Meinzen-
Dick, and Jemimah Njuki



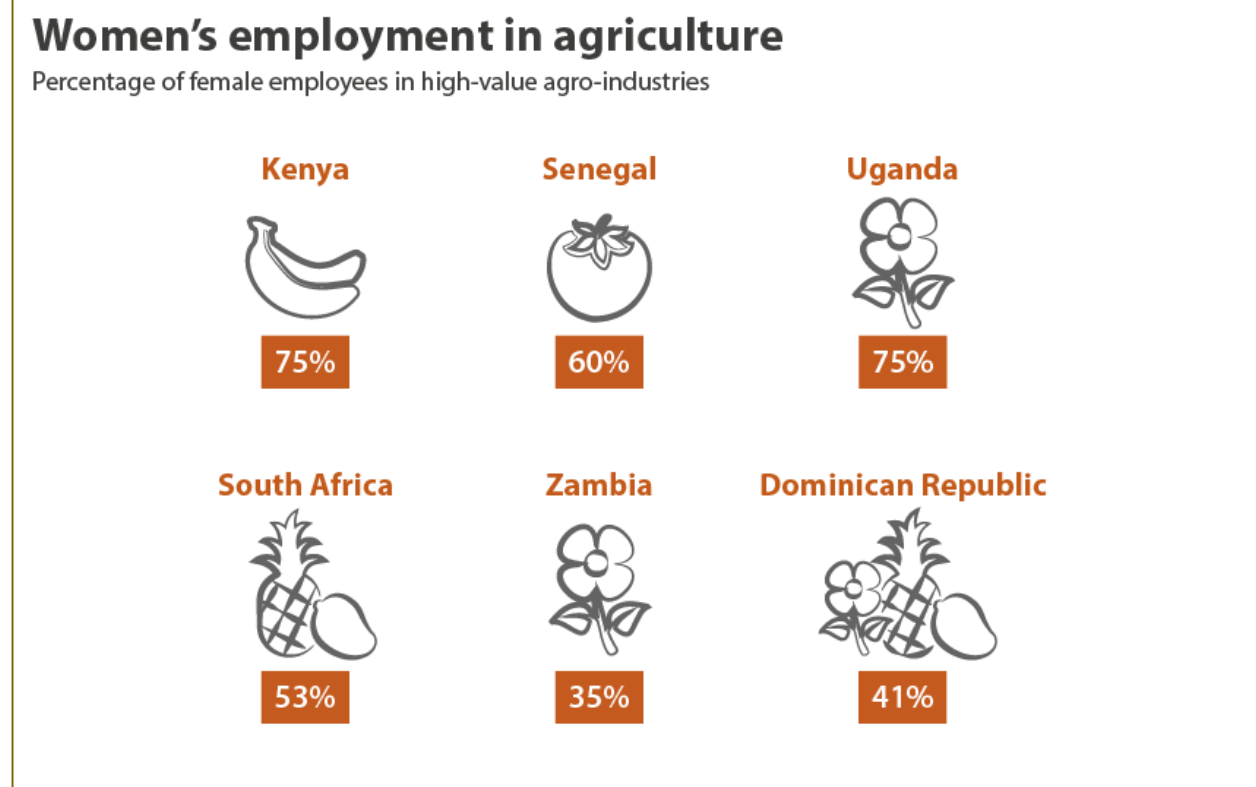
**GENDER EQUALITY
IN RURAL AFRICA**
From Commitments to Outcomes
November 11-13 | Lomé, Togo

The Malabo Declaration Commitments

- Resolve to ensure, through “deliberate and targeted public support,” that **all segments of the African populations**, “women, the youth, and other disadvantaged sectors,” must “**participate and directly benefit** from the growth and transformation opportunities to improve their lives and livelihoods.”
- Commitment to halve poverty by 2025 through inclusive agricultural growth and transformation explicitly states that governments would support and facilitate preferential entry and participation for women and youth in gainful and attractive agri-business opportunities.
- To meet overall Malabo commitments: **Need to address gender**

Why a focus on Gender Equality in Rural Africa

- Both men and women engaged in agriculture: 62% of economically active women are in agriculture
- Gender barriers in the sector include unequal access to resources, gaps in productivity: limit sector growth
- Addressing gender inequalities increases opportunities for agricultural transformation

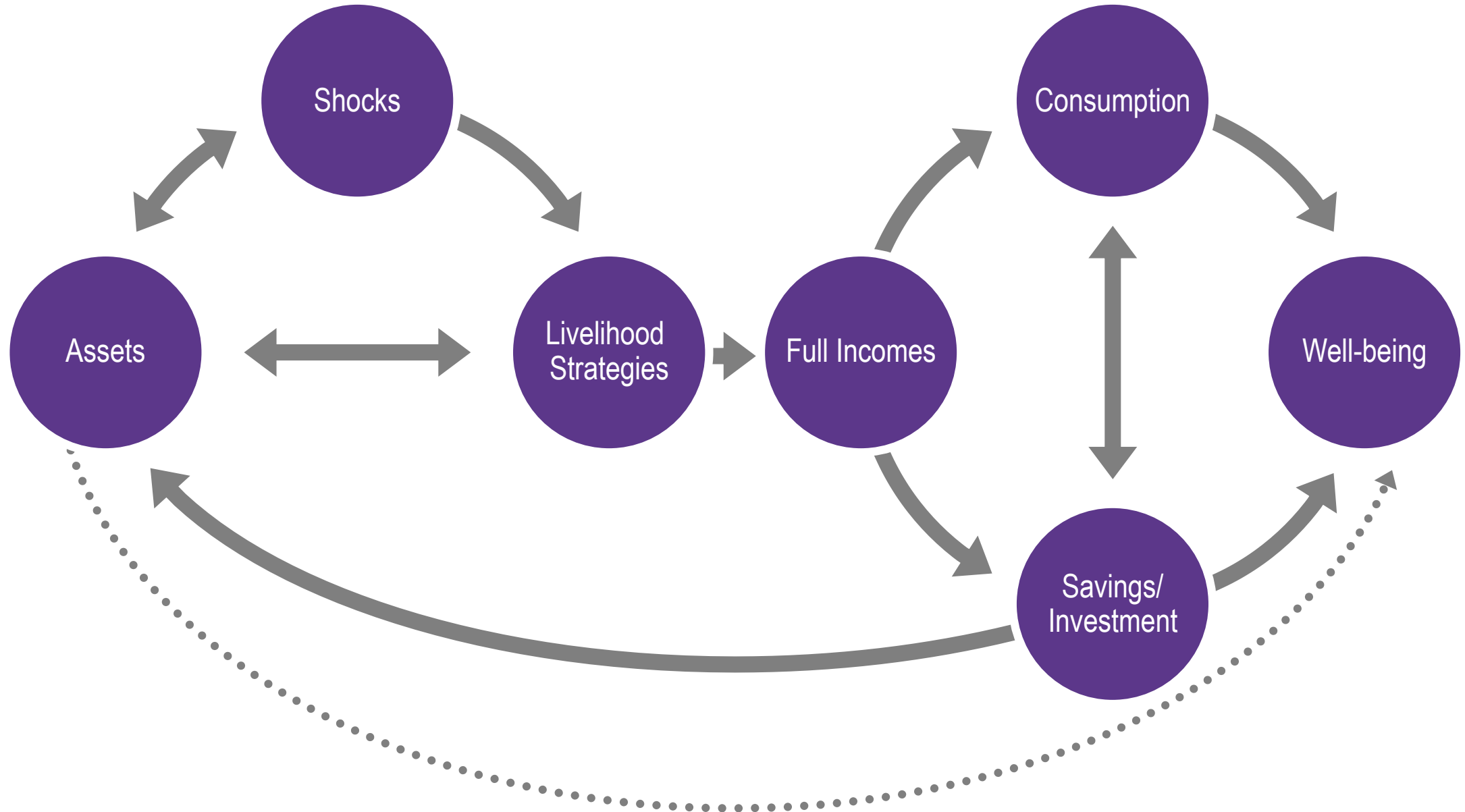


Context: Ecological, Social, Economic, Political Factors, etc.

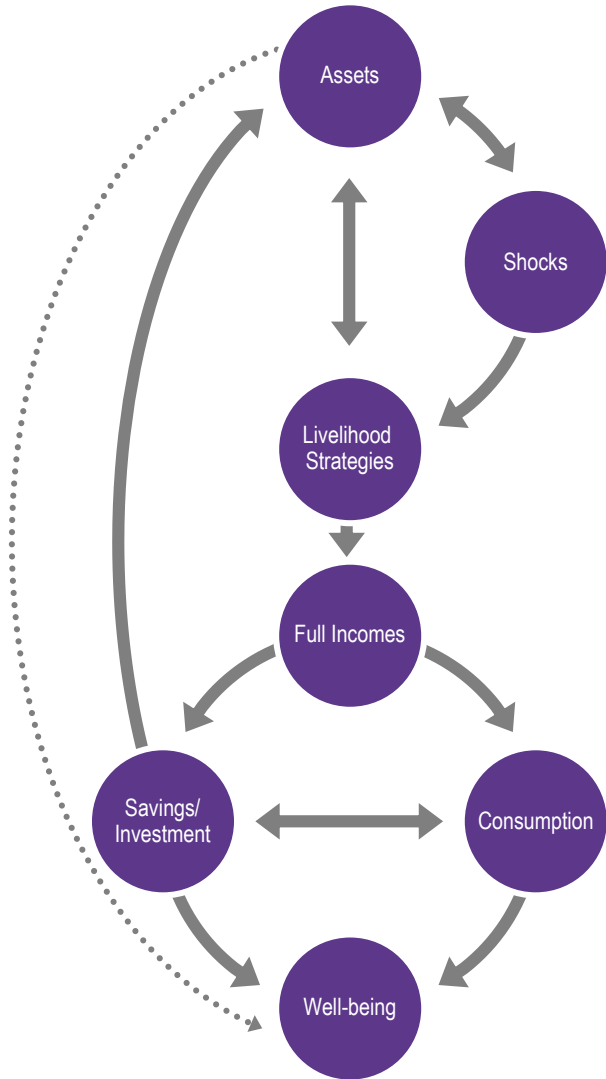
Men

Joint

Women



Context: Ecological, Social,
Economic, Political Factors, etc.



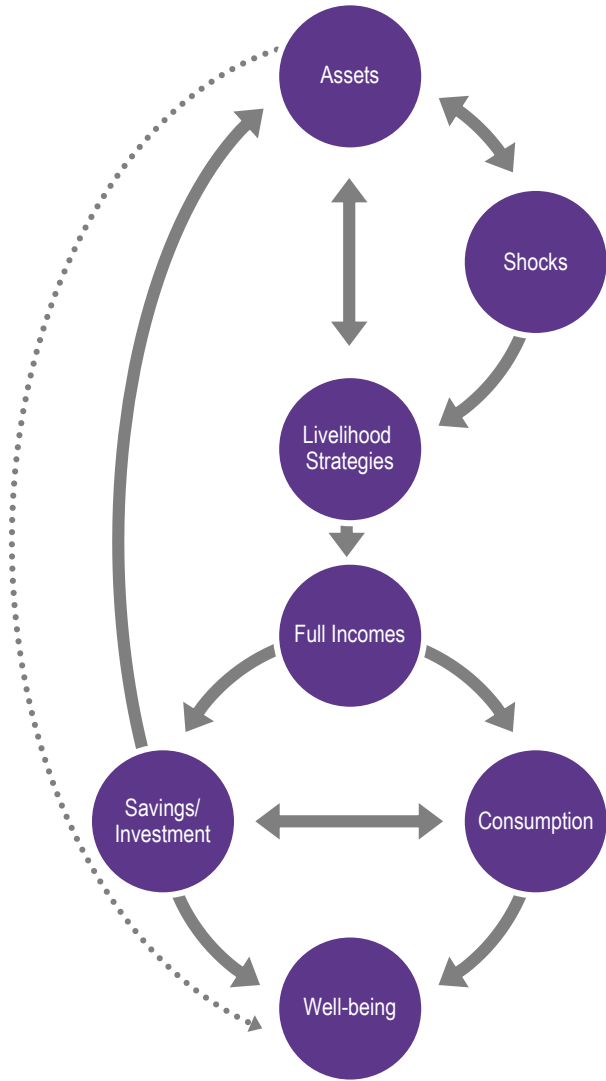
Context: Ecological, Social,
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- *Social norms*

- *Leadership*

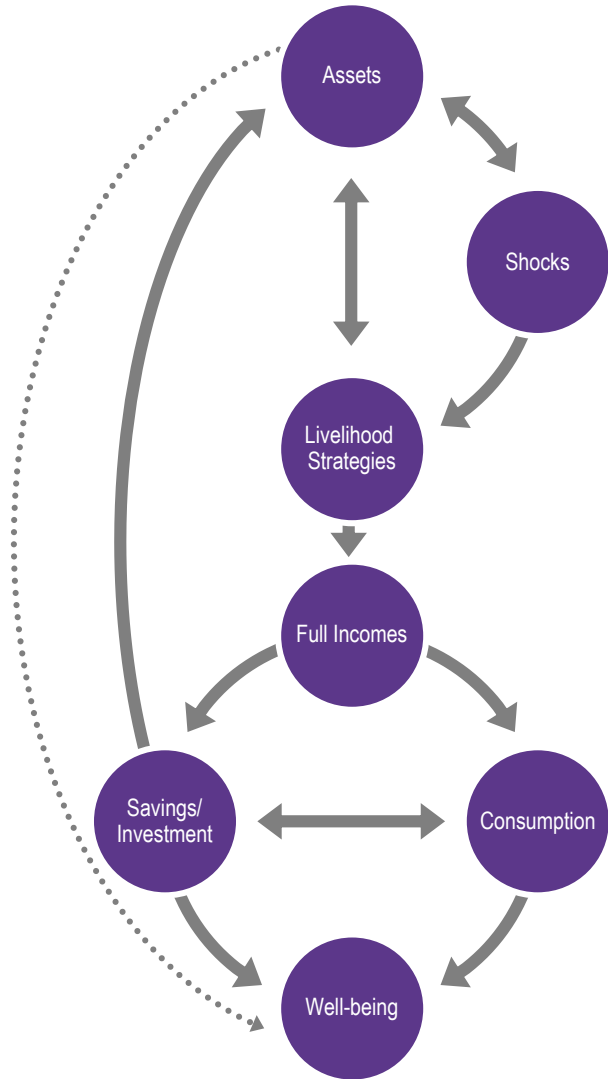
- *Data*

Social norms *(Miruka and Hillenbrand)*



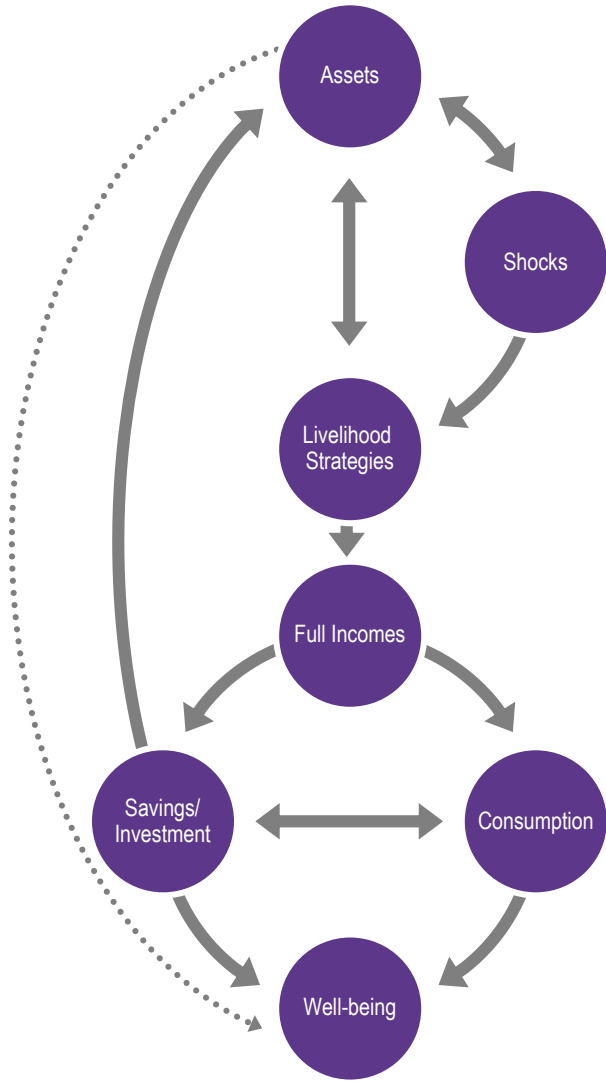
- Gender norms are important, invisible barriers that can undermine women's economic empowerment. They relate to **social expectations** influencing behaviors and practices.
- Shifting social norms can be as influential as monetary incentives or policy prescriptions in influencing behavior at scale.
- A social norms approach needs deliberate investments of **time** and **resources** and **community mobilization**, which is not easy to scale
- Shifting gender norms requires formative research, a community-mobilization intervention, engagement with community leaders, and space and repeated instances for dialogue and debate.

Leadership *(Mbo'o-Tchouawou, Beyene, Mulei, Kamau-Rutenberg)*



- **Lack of gender parity in political and agricultural leadership** in the continent, despite evidence suggesting gender diversity in leadership contributes to organizational growth
- **Leaky pipeline of African agricultural scientists** - particularly women and their representation in leadership positions in agricultural institutions
 - ~24 percent of total agricultural researchers employed at a senior level in 2014 were female (Beintema 2017).
- Creating an enabling environment to provide a level playing field for all, especially women and youth by **removing systemic barriers** that constrain women from taking on leadership positions, and **collecting evidence of transformative leadership**
- Call for making leaders in both research and policymaking accountable for gender equality

Data *(Buvinic and Carey)*



Data on many aspects of rural African women and girls' lives are lacking. We need this to:

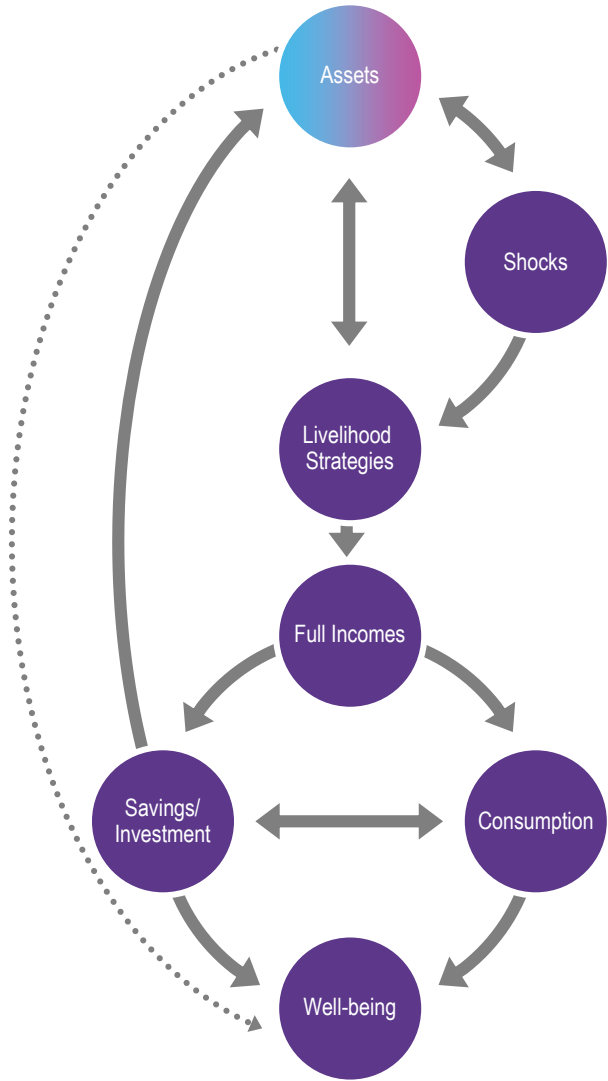
- account for ALL of women's work
- help improve women's productivity and food security and nutrition
- better understand and more effectively tackle poverty.

Women's economic and social roles are interdependent; it is difficult to separate a woman's individual experience from her household

Sex disaggregation of key indicators remains a major challenge.

To improve sex-disaggregated data collection and use, must build **connections between data producers and policy makers** to inform nuanced policies that can deliver for rural women and girls.

Context: Ecological, Social,
Economic, Political Factors, etc.



Assets



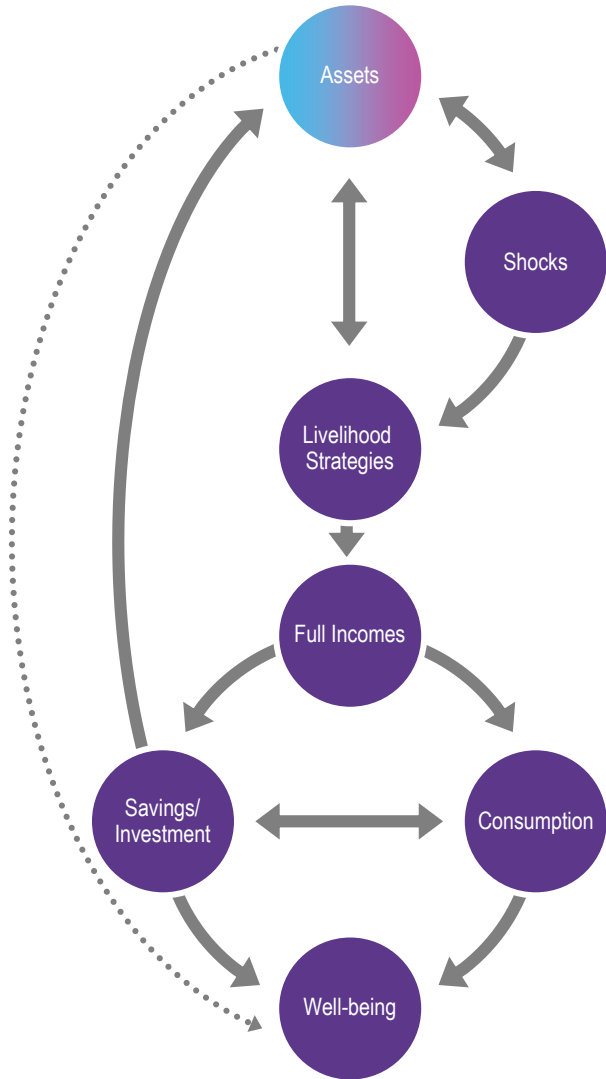
Land



Financial capital

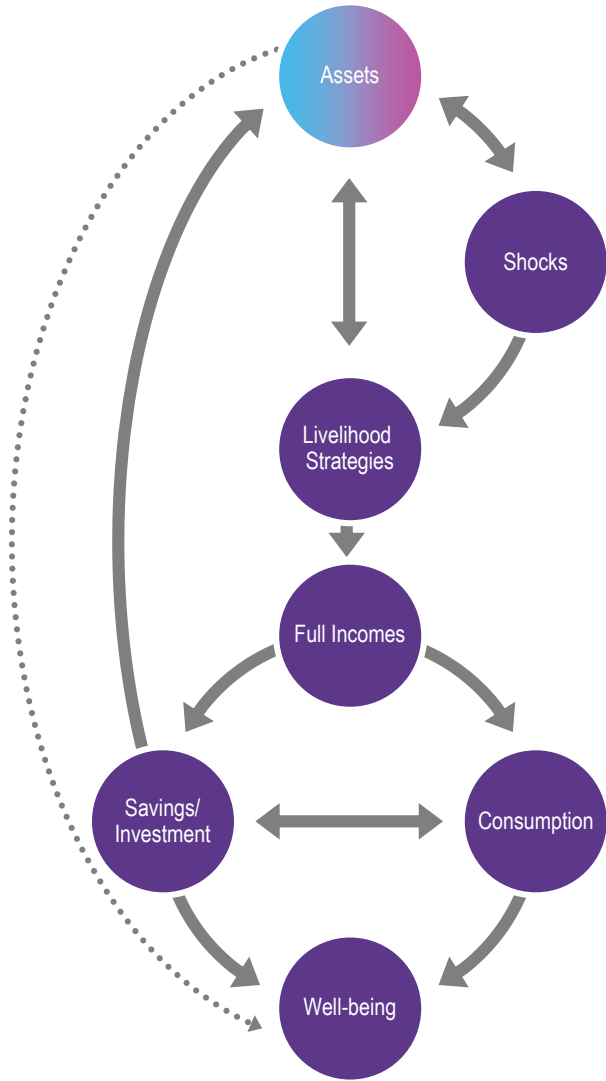


Land (Ghebru)



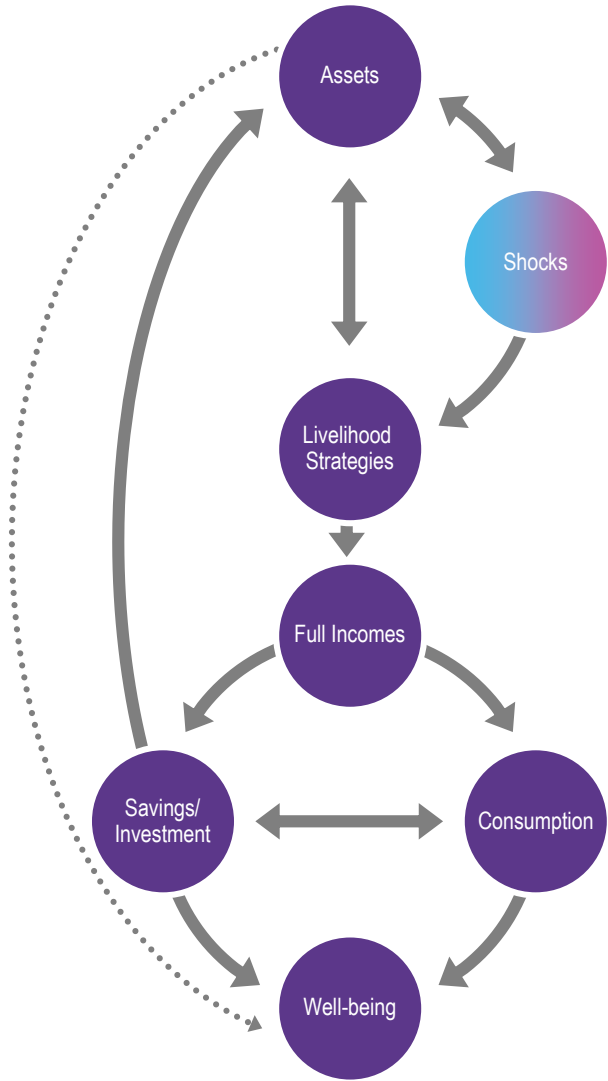
- Despite recent gender-friendly land reforms in Africa, women's land rights remain insecure
- Population pressure, commercialization of agriculture, commodification of land, increased land values => **eroding women's land rights**
- Increased scrutiny of customary land tenure vs. govt intervention
 - Prioritize hot spot areas (high or rising land values) for gender sensitive land tenure regularization programs
 - Leave alone functional customary tenure systems in areas with lower land values (relatively land-abundant settings)
- Complement land rights protection programs with **explicit provisions for women's land rights and legal literacy** programs not only to maximize the potential gender parity outcomes of such programs but also ensure their sustainability.

Financial capital (Njuki and Melesse)



- Importance of women's financial inclusion for agriculture, enterprises, but limited by **constraints of time, legal rights, human capacity, security concerns, lack of money**
 - 6-19% women smallholders; 14-34% entrepreneurs have formal bank account
- Promising financial innovations:
 - Microfinance Institutions, Village Savings and Loan Associations
 - Mobile banking
 - Integrated micro-insurance programs
 - Fintech to provide credit scores for smallholder women
 - Agency banking: roaming staff increase women's access
- Gender transformative financial inclusion: **making financial systems "womanable" not women "bankable"**
 - Changing rules & practices, regulatory systems & social norms
 - Changing women's skills, knowledge, resources to empower
 - Changing relationships in household, market, community

Context: Ecological, Social, Economic, Political Factors, etc.



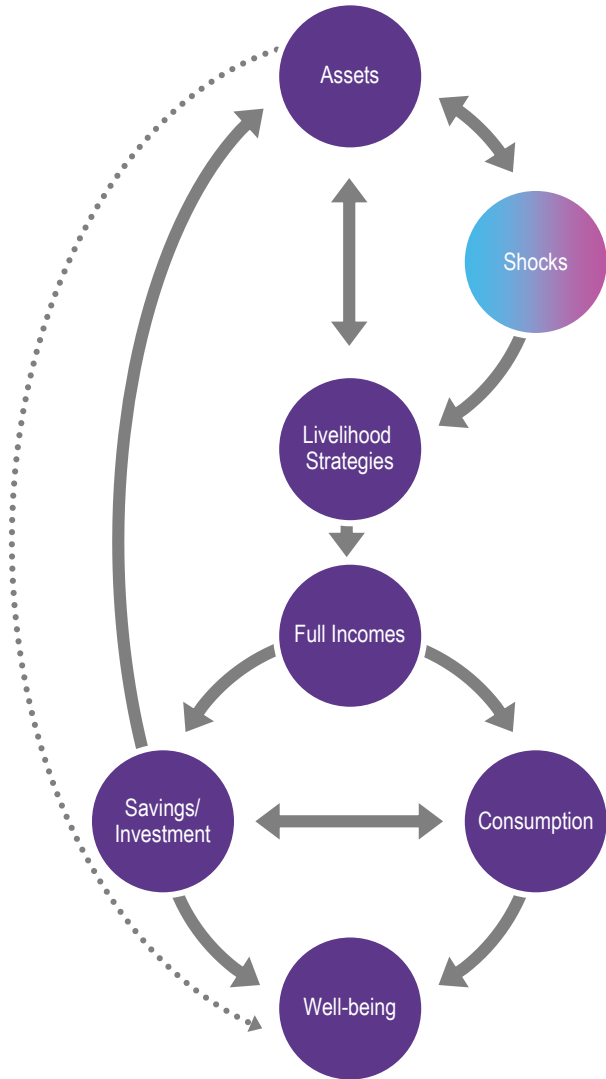
Shocks



Resilience to climate and other shocks

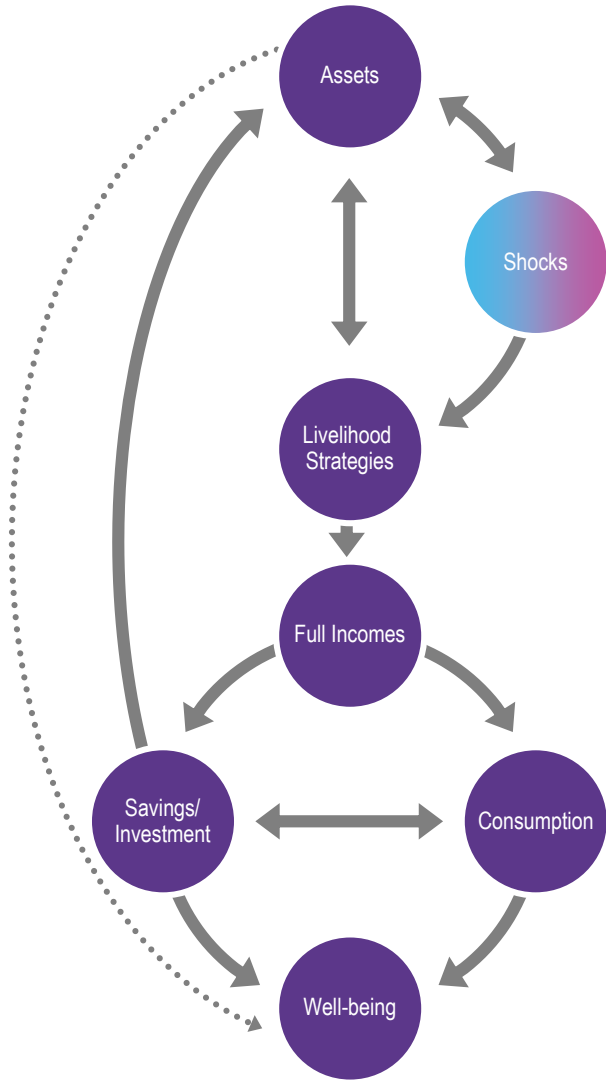


Social safety nets



- Capacities, preferences, and needs related to resilience differ between groups of people, especially along lines of gender and social difference
- Interventions need processes to recognize and address these differences in specific settings and to tap into skills and contributions of women and marginalized groups.
- Processes must include assessment of gender differences in:
 - exposure and sensitivity to shocks and stressors,
 - resilience capacities,
 - preferences, responses, and well-being outcomes
- Once local constraints are identified, use approaches for gender-responsive resilience programming, including supporting key livelihood activities of both women and men, and promoting inclusive decision-making at the household and community levels.

Social safety nets *(Peterman, Kumar, Pereira, Gilligan)*



Social safety nets are important in Africa, but significant evidence gaps remain

Strong evidence: SSN in Africa can decrease intimate partner violence, increase psychological well-being for women, and increase economic standing, with minimal changes in labor force participation

Less evidence: SSN empower women, but studies limited by measurement concerns

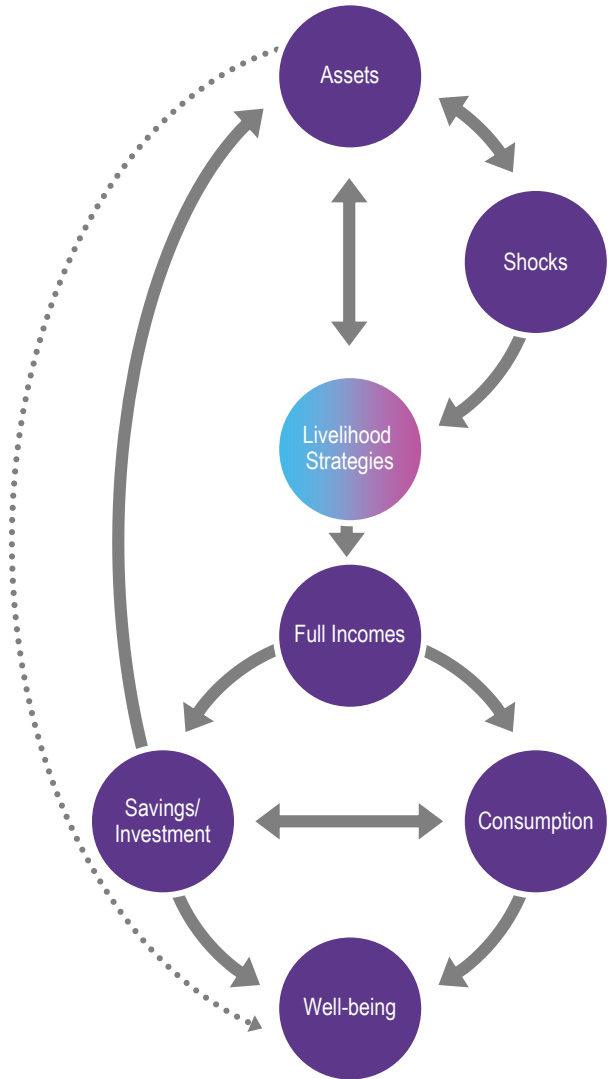
Some evidence: SSN improve women's dietary diversity

Limited evidence: impacts on women's food security or nutritional biomarkers.

Two big evidence gaps: non-cash modalities; unpacking contribution of key program design elements

Need to invest in higher quality evidence generation, to demonstrate impacts on women's well-being and to know how impacts differ by local underlying gender inequalities

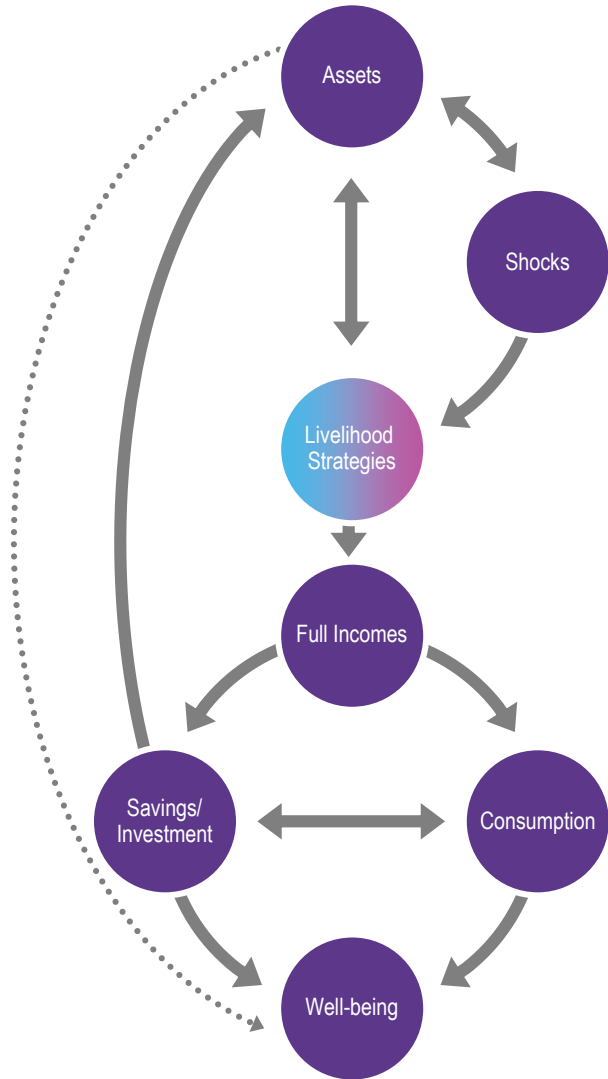
Context: Ecological, Social,
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Livelihood Strategies

- *Agricultural Productivity*
- *Adoption of biofortified crops*
- *Value chains*
- *Employment (youth)*
- *Trade*

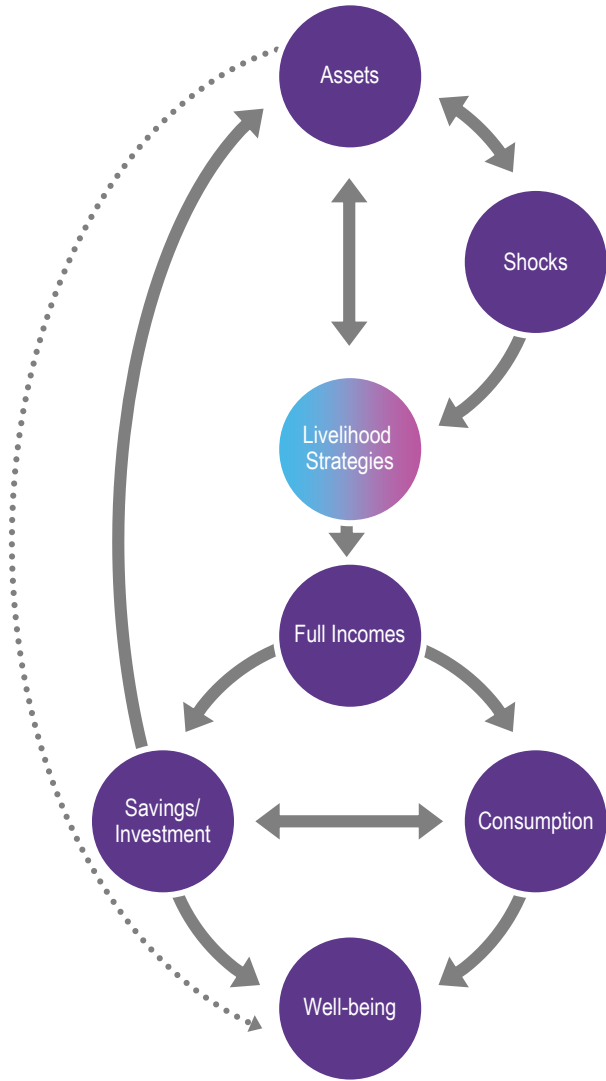
Agricultural Productivity *(Doss and Quisumbing)*



- 30-80% of economically active women in Africa South of Sahara are in agriculture
- Gender gaps in output/ha: 13% (Uganda)-25% (Malawi);
- UN Women estimates closing gaps could increase crop outputs 2.1 % (\$105M) in Tanzania, 2.8 % (\$67M) in Uganda, 7.3 % (\$100M) in Malawi.
- Recommendations: improve women's access to
 - Labor, esp. male labor
 - High-value production
 - Nonlabor inputs, esp. fertilizer, machinery (labor saving)
- These require:
 - Changing norms of what is acceptable for women
 - Access to producer groups (all women or mixed)
 - Market access (for inputs and outputs)
 - Women's control over income
- Recognize women's contributions to joint household plots

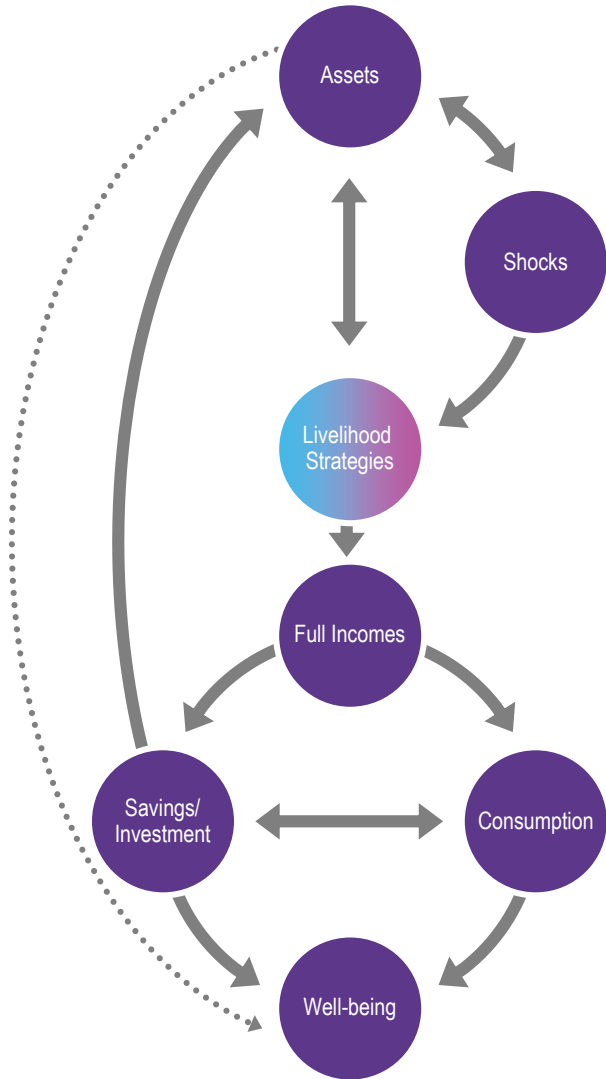
Adoption of biofortified crops

(Asare-Marfo, Lodin, Birol, Mudyahoto)



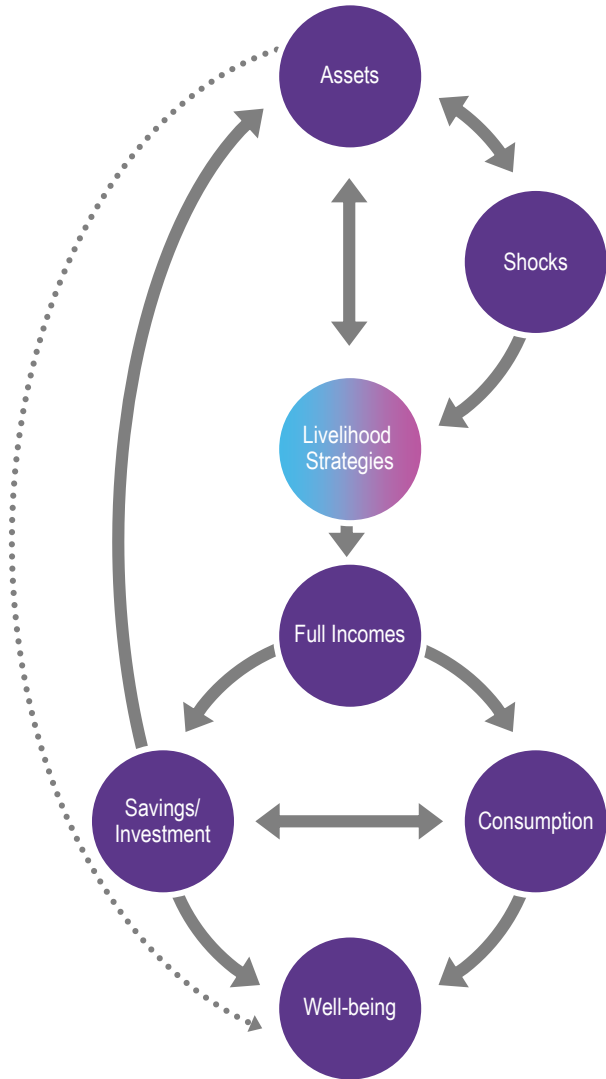
- **Gender differences** => production, marketing and consumption decisions for rural households=>who gains nutritional and economic benefits from the biofortified crop.
- Need gender-sensitive information dissemination, reach women with messaging through their appropriate information channels, e.g. informal social networks, clinics and radio.
- If men are responsible for cash crops, if biofortified crops become more desirable in the market, men may have greater decision-making power over the disposition of the crop.
- Need to pay attention to evolving gender dynamics once these crops are introduced

Value chains *(Rubin, Boonabaana, Manfre)*



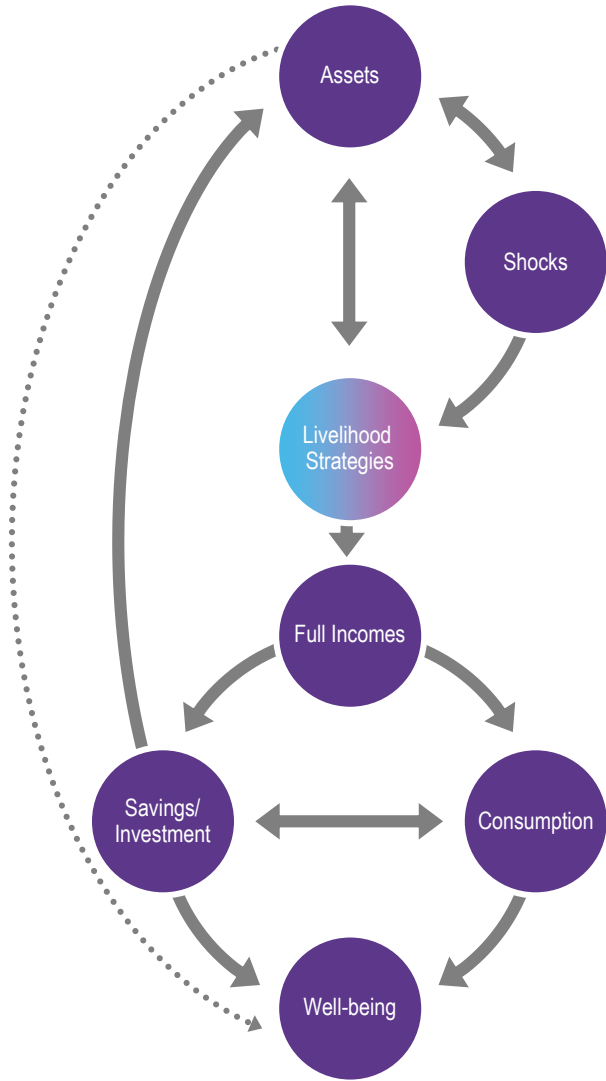
- Focus on value chains has shifted from a narrow focus on women's involvement to addressing barriers and constraints for different nodes of value chains, across sectors and enterprises
- Reducing inequality can improve competitiveness and greater gender equity in economic participation boosts economic growth
- Two key approaches
 - Focus on value chains where women are heavily engaged
 - Remove barriers for women's participation and benefits from high value chains where they are excluded
- Examples of what works
 - Working with women's groups and co-operatives
 - Public private partnerships that have gender at core
 - Integrated /bundled support services

Youth Employment *(Heckert, Pereira, Doss, Myers, Quisumbing)*



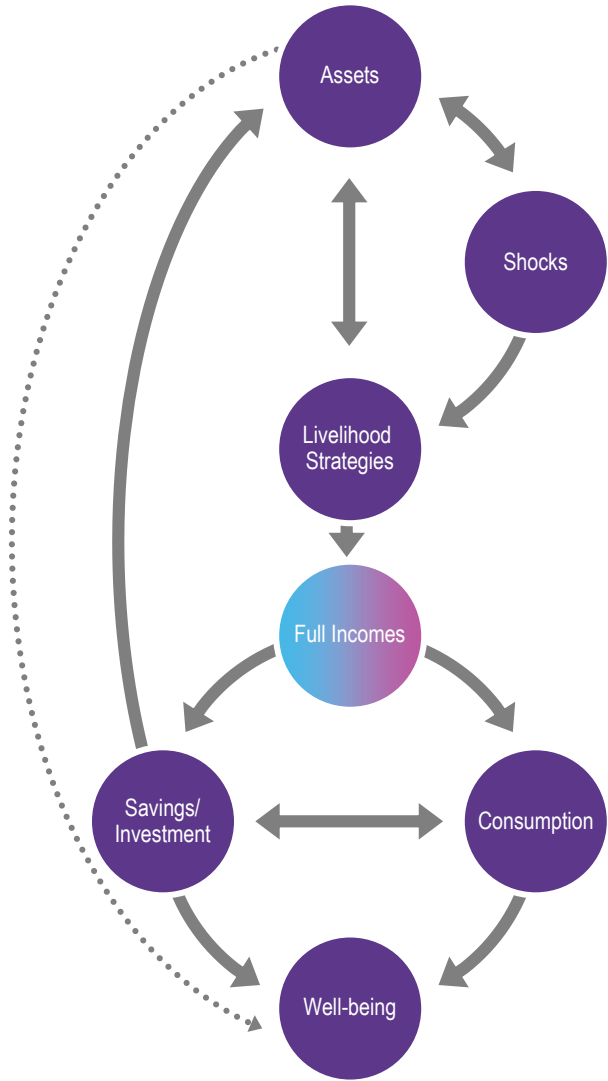
- Enhancing livelihood opportunities for rural African youth need to address unique barriers faced by young women and young men
- **Young rural women, compared to men, transition to adulthood with fewer resources**, such as education and land; their family responsibilities limit school and paid employment opportunities.
- Patterns of economic change may be working against African rural youth. At higher levels of structural and rural transformation,
 - landownership and current employment are lower
 - more youth are not in employment, education, or training
 - these outcomes are even less favorable among young women.
- Interventions to improve youth livelihoods need to consider productive AND reproductive responsibilities of young women and men

Trade (Fofana, Odjo, Traore)



- Men and women differ in ability to benefit from trade
- Case study of **Niger**: adopted ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET) to strengthen and accelerate regional integration among 15 ECOWAS member States.
- Women concentrated in a limited number of economic activities, more exposed to regional and international trade.
- Increased trade openness through CET would widen employment levels and earning gaps between men and women, because of lower supply response of women-led activities compared to men.
- **Gender disparities=>misallocation of resources in the economy and loss in economic opportunity for Niger.** GDP lower by 17% because of gender inequality

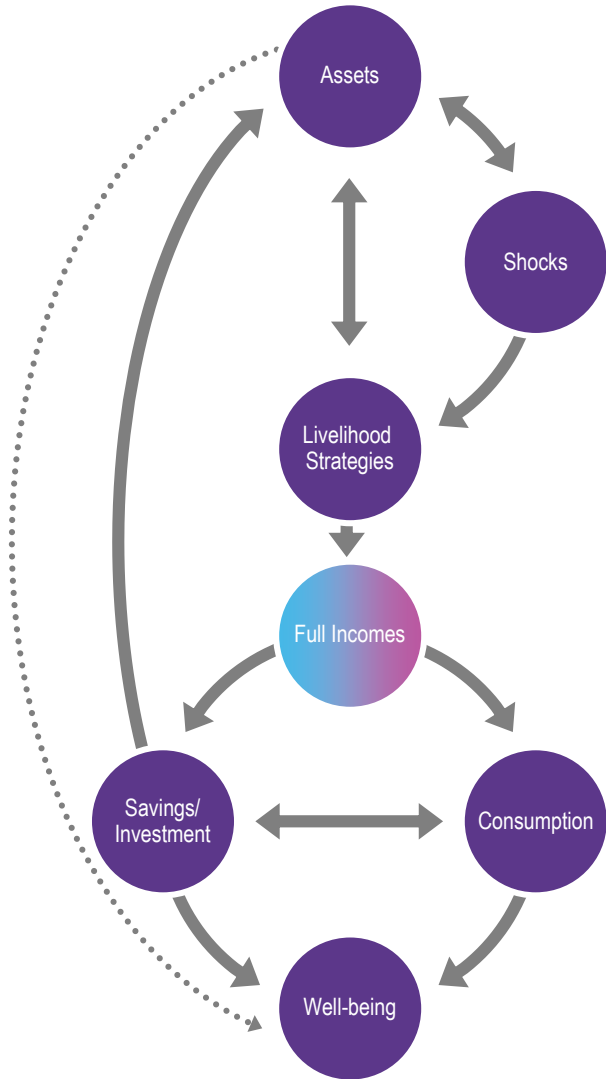
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Full Incomes

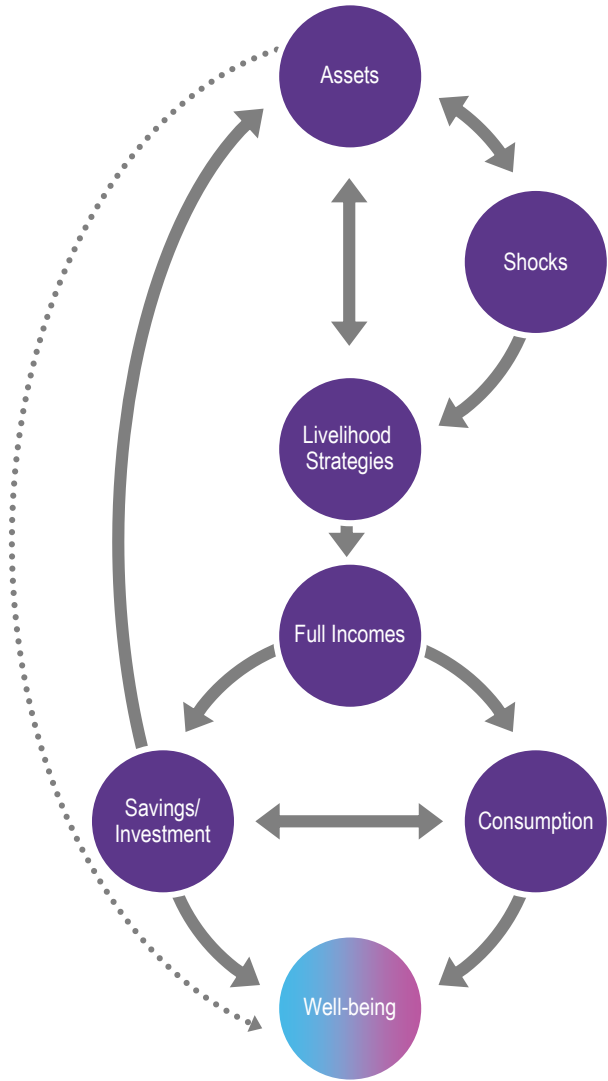
•
*Income and control of
income*

Income & control of income (Doss, Njuki, Boote)



- Women entrepreneurs own 1/3 of businesses in Africa, but concentrated in low-return, informal sector
- Women's control of ag income far below their contribution owing to smaller plot size, limited markets, unpaid labor
- Implications for women's empowerment, reinvestment, food & nutrition security, poverty reduction
- Women more likely to control income from traditional food crops, small livestock, small revenue streams, local markets; lower control of income from high revenue commodities.
- Promising interventions:
 - Address household & community relations, norms
 - Value chain contracts with women
 - Commercial agriculture hiring women
 - New payment methods enhancing women's control

Context: Ecological, Social,
Economic, Political Factors, etc.



Well-being

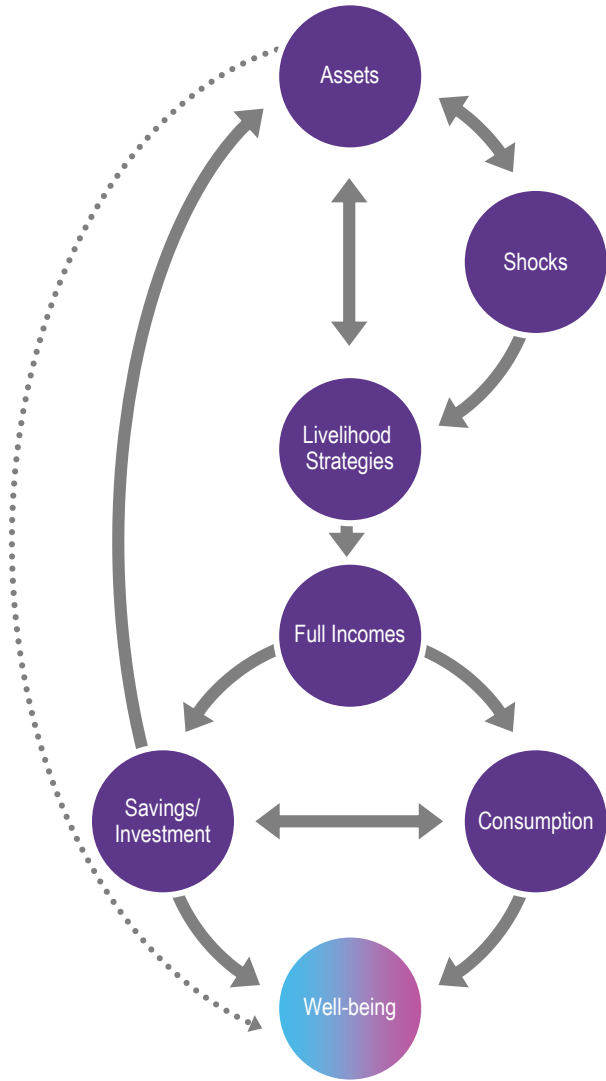


Role of men in nutrition



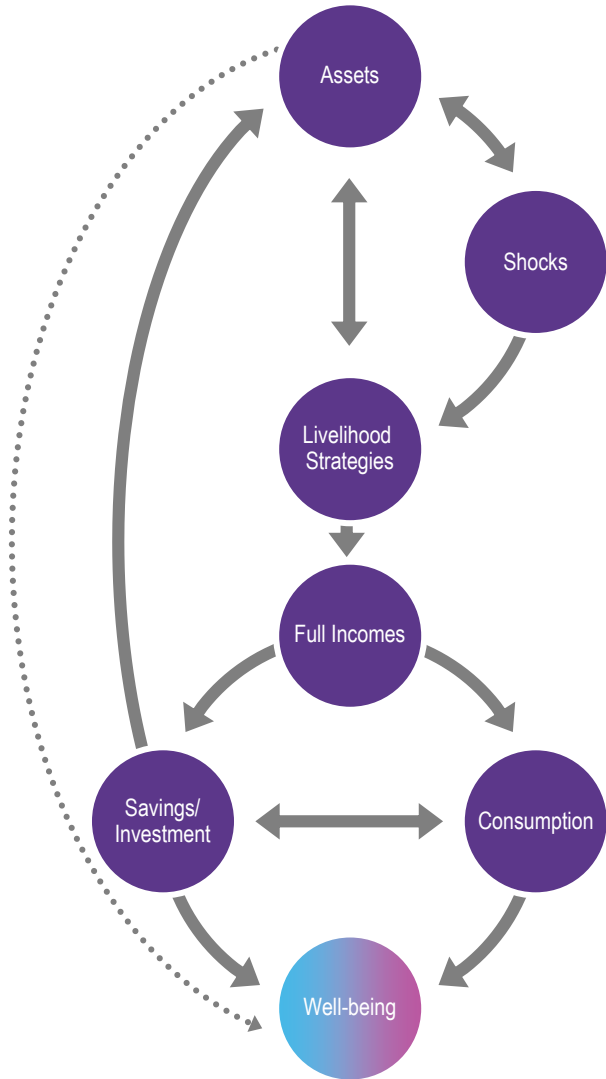
Empowerment

Role of men in nutrition *(Mkandawire and Hendriks)*



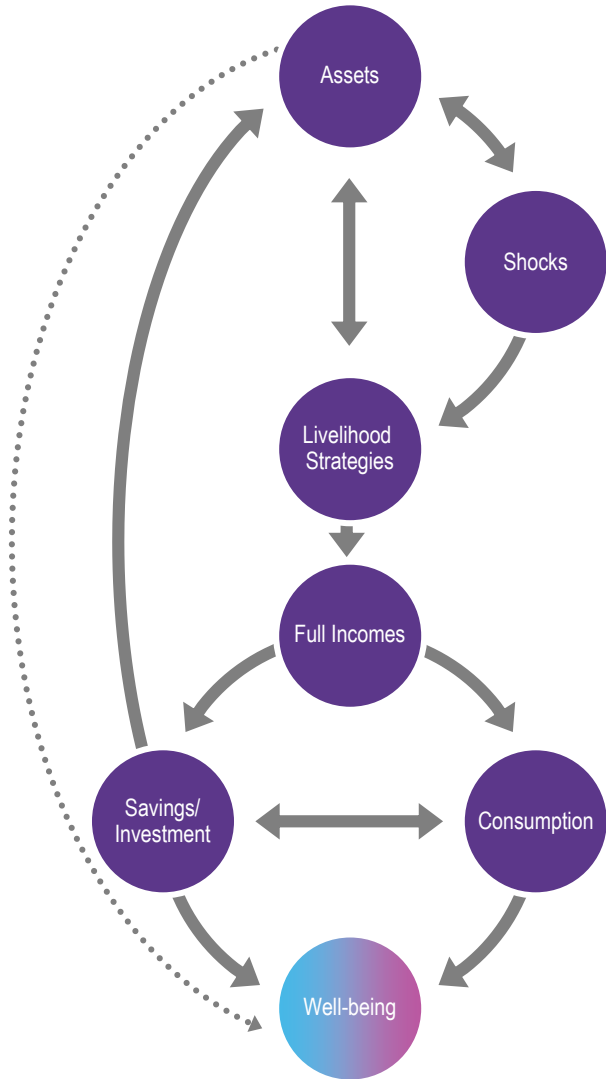
- Nutrition policies can improve gender equality and malnutrition outcomes simultaneously
- Men have an important supportive role to play in maternal and child nutrition
- Men's role in nutrition can foster cooperation between men and women
- As the custodians of culture, traditional leaders can positively influence gender equality and nutrition outcomes
- Policymakers need to work with gender experts to strengthen the integration of gender across all levels of policy

Empowerment *(Meinzen-Dick et al)*



- Measured using the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)
- Main sources of disempowerment in 7 countries:
 - Access to and decisions on credit
 - Control over use of income
 - Excessive workload
- Top sources of disempowerment: important role of women as agricultural producers and intrahousehold tensions regarding the control of income to which women contribute as income earners.

CONCLUSIONS



- Gender gaps in assets, livelihood strategies, and control over income impose **costs** on individuals, households, communities, nations
- Conceptual framework shows connections among these elements for interventions
 - Reinforcing effect of changes in social norms + women's control over land & resources + financial inclusion → increasing value of women's ag production → consumption and investment patterns → women's empowerment
 - Women's assets contribute to resilience; insurance and social protection affect livelihood strategies
 - Structural transformations of economy → negative effect on women's land rights, young women's employment
- Gender ≠ women; need to recognize jointness, engage men to change social norms, improve outcomes for all
- Structures must change to achieve gender equality: we don't need to "fix" women, we need to build systems that work for them.