Expert Group Meeting on Promoting Best Practices
On sustainable Rural Livelihoods in the ESCWA Region
Beirut, 24-25 November 2010

GUIDE ON THE APPLICATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD APPROACH IN THE ESCWA REGION

AN OVERVIEW

by

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Guide on the Application of the Sustainable Livelihood Approach in the ESCWA Region

An Overview

EGM on Promoting Best Practices on Sustainable Rural Livelihoods in the ESCWA Region, 24-25 November 2010, Beirut, Lebanon

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Outline

1. **The SLA framework as used in the Guide**
2. **From theory to action**
3. **Integration into policies and programmes at various governance levels**
   - National level
   - Sector level
   - Local level
4. **Challenges, priorities & next step**

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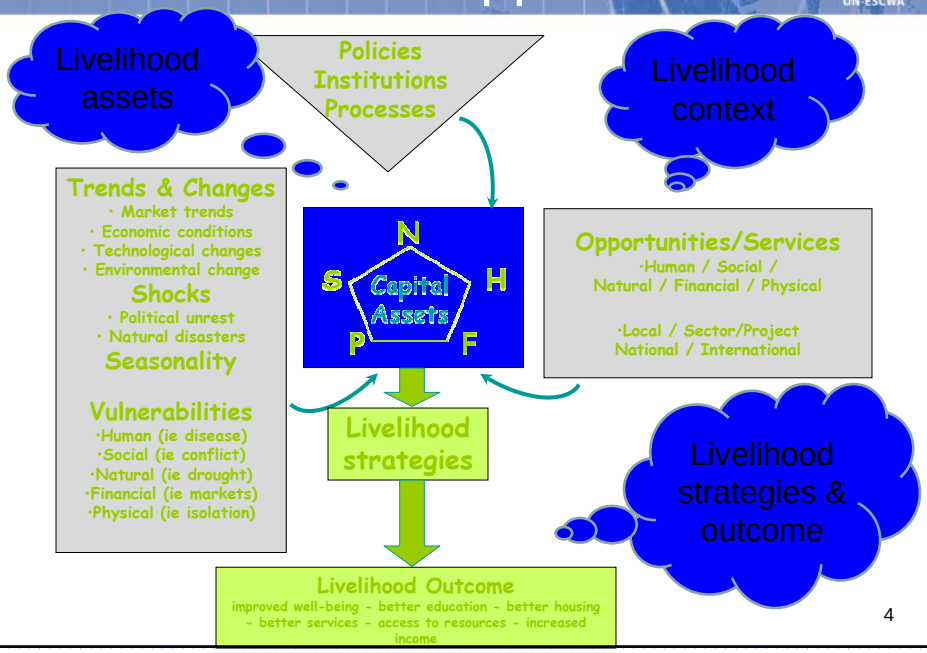
The SL Approach



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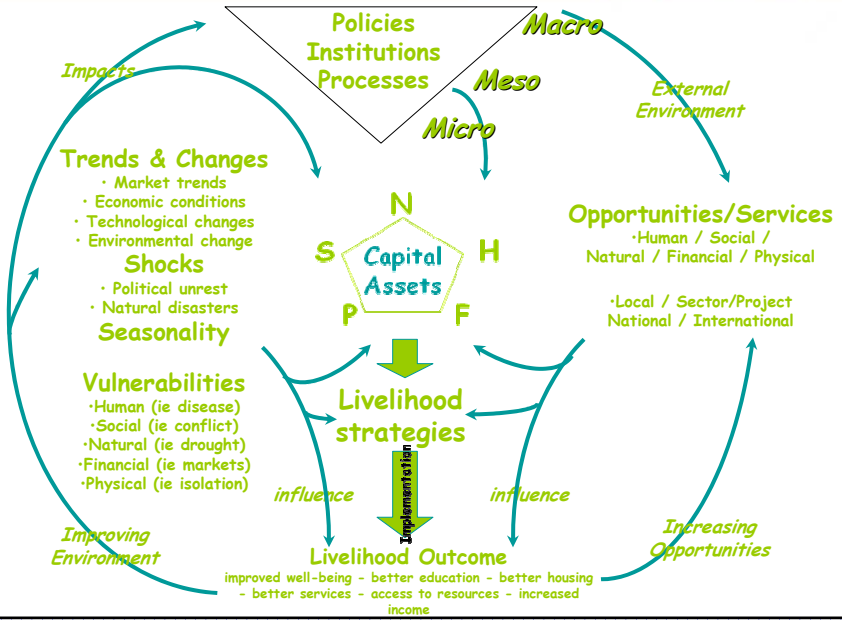

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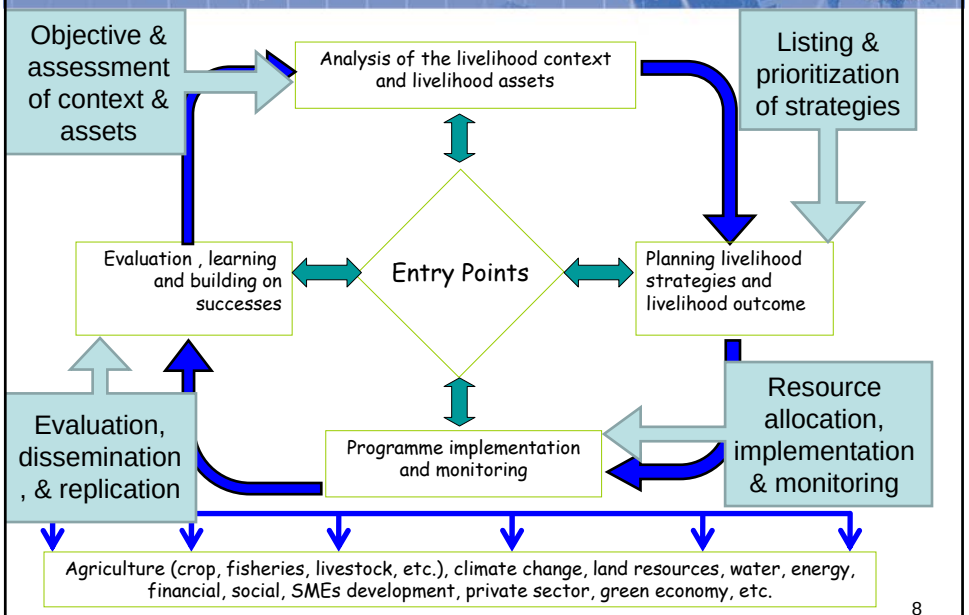
SLA Operationalization

Need a clear plan to keep focus:
Plan the Execution & Execute the Plan

Continuous process:
Revisit plans & achievements constantly and consistently

Not a one size fits all:
Modify and adapt as appropriate in order to fit existing conditions

Steps to integrating SLA



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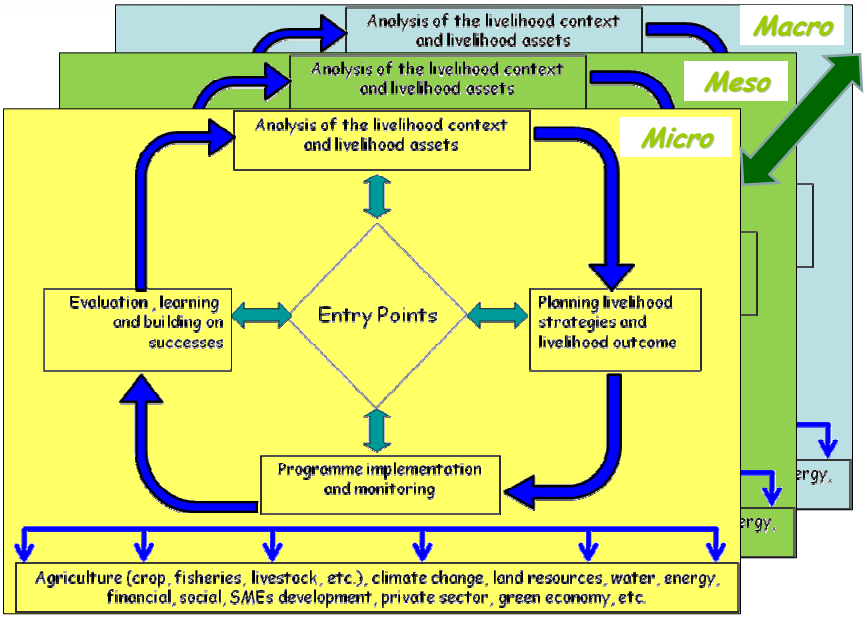

Integrating SLA

- Type of integration
  - As stand-alone policies, strategies or activities
  - As part of broad plans, strategies or activities
- When mainstreaming SLA, ensure that:
  - It is systematically applied;
  - It is always considered at planning stage;
  - Its potential is always assessed; and
  - It is systematically integrated into policies & programmes
- Scope will depend on decision-making level

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Decision-making levels

Policy-making levels:
National, sector & local

Time horizon:
National = medium to long-term plans (5-20 yrs)
Sector = short- to medium-term plans (2-5 yrs)
Local = short-term plans (few months to a few years)

Data & information requirement:
National = broad plans integrating most sectors
Sector = more focused for a specific sector
Local = fine details (crop choice, planting time, etc)

National level

National

Sector

Local

- Importance:
  - Sets country-wide policies (plans, environmental laws, etc.),
  - Provides motivation/good climate & incentives (rule of law, taxes, etc.),
  - Manages international relations & cooperation (agreements, etc.).
- Key issues:
  - Key players: higher offices, key departments (finance, planning, administration), parliaments, political parties, donors, etc.
  - Data & information: broad, e.g. national income, water/cap;

Sector level

National

Sector

Local

- Importance:
  - Policy & planning in a given sector (water, transport, energy, education, health, agriculture)
  - Interlinkages among sectors: e.g. water quality vs health;
- Key issues:
  - Players: line ministries, projects, user's associations, NGOs;
  - Data & information: more detailed (e.g. national productivity vs farm productivity, pest infestation, machinery use)

Local level

National

Sector

Local

- Importance:
  - Closest to people (outcome of SLA strategies apparent at this level);
  - Decision-making: from individuals to public authorities;
- Key issues:
  - Poverty: a major driving force
  - Outcome: result from numerous activities (e.g. nutrition, input use, waste, roads, water & sanitation)
- Key players:
  - Local government: services, budget, priority actions;

Local level

National

Sector

Local

- Key players(cont'd):
  - Communities & individuals (beneficiary): experiences, social networks, personal endeavors;
  - Civil society (NGOs, user's associations): management, capacity building, assistance, services, etc.
  - Private sector: jobs, services, use of local resources. Planning & implementation:
- Poverty: long-term goal while local goals are short-term, i.e. careful not to loose goal; activities are event-driven (response to disasters &short term benefits;

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Challenges & priorities

National

Challenges

- Adequate data & information (context, asset, etc.)
- Integrating SLA into policies & plans
- Allocation of resources (human & financial)

Priorities

- Capacity building
- Raising awareness
- Coordination & harmonization of efforts
- Indicators

Sector

Challenges

- Mainstreaming SLA into programmes & policies
- Lack of appropriate capacity and best practices
- Lack of flexibility (too much oversight from higher)

Priorities

- Need to assess & learn from past activities and attempts
- Capacity building
- Clear plan to adopt & integrate SLA
- Indicators

Local

Challenges

- Raising awareness
- Competing local priorities and urgencies (disasters, conflicts, safety nets)
- Institutional setups which could impede integration of SLA (land tenure, land use planning, etc.)

Priorities

- Best practices/ exchange of experience
- Capacity building
- Indicators

What's next

Capacity building

- *Raise awareness on the effectiveness of SLA*
- *Best practices particularly on institutional experiences*

Mechanisms for capacity building

- *Capacity need assessment*
- *Training of trainers: to reach a wider audience*
- *Awareness-raising workshops: on various aspects*

Capacity development

- *Take stock of the available expertise & increase it*
- *Allocate responsibilities and avoid competition/by-pass*
- *Lack of capacity should not be reason not to adopt*

What's next

Project/demonstration:

- *Implement a small-scale but full-fledged SLA project: from formulation (livelihood context/assets), to planning (livelihood strategies and outcome), to programme implementation and monitoring, and to evaluation and dissemination of results*
- *Conduct SLA-related national and/or regional capability assessments;*
- *Establish SLA networks to share experiences and expertise and serve as a repository.*

Thank you