



Conference workshop: Brussels, 24 October 2017, 13:00-15:00

Poverty reduction and sustainable development (PRSD)

Selected themes & findings

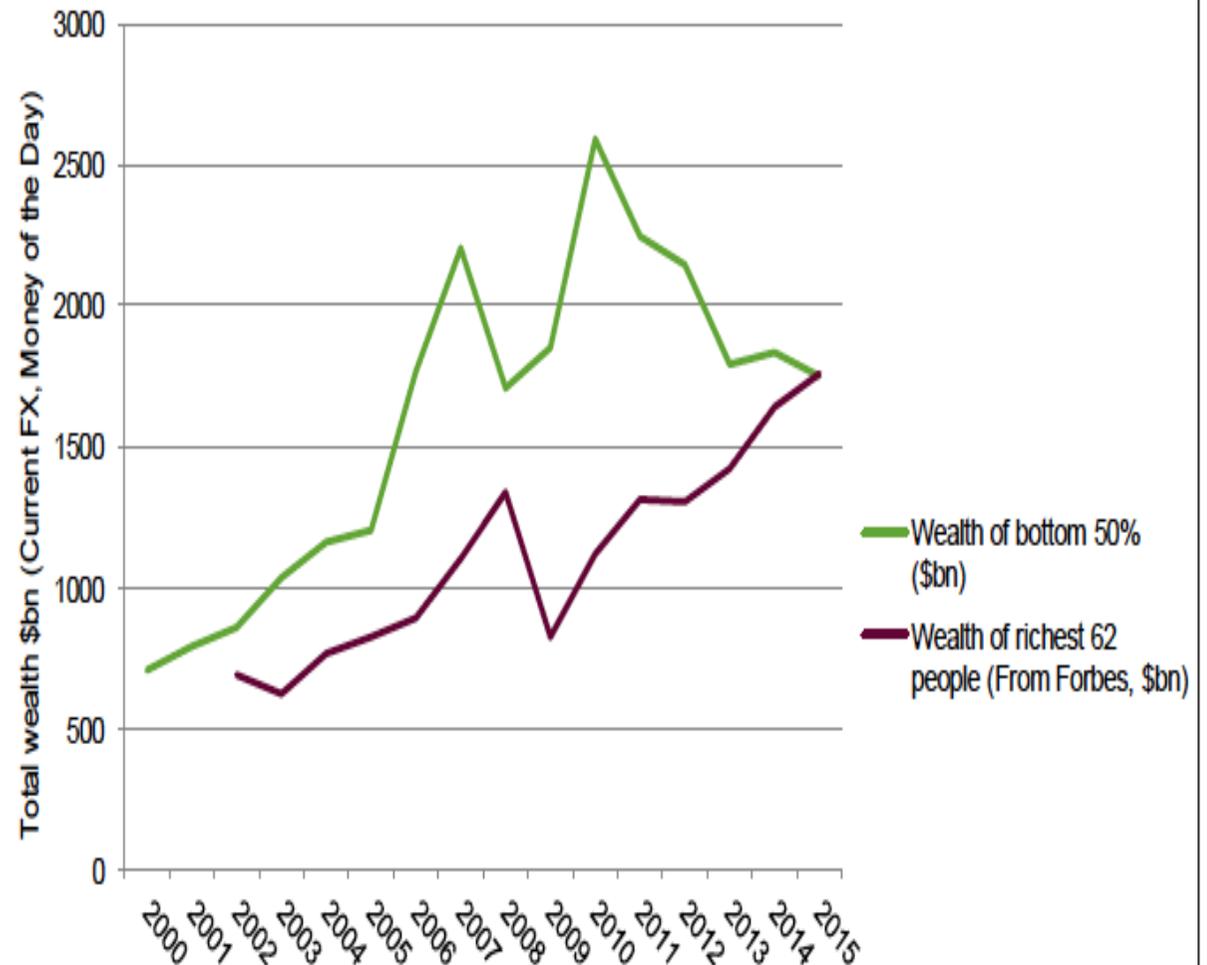
Jeremy Millard (Bradford University, UK)
standing on the shoulders of all my gigantic WP10 colleagues



Selected themes and findings

- Background: the focus of PRSD
- Theme 1: multiple deprivation & disadvantage
- Theme 2: responding to a problem or an opportunity?
- Theme 3: agency-structure; symptoms-causes?
- Theme 4: development processes & dynamics
- Selected key messages

Figure: The wealth of the richest 62 individuals continues to grow, while that of the poorest half of the world stagnates⁴



Background: Europe

- Relative poverty – unable to participate adequately in mainstream society, thus excluded from many areas of everyday life
- Measured e.g. as below 60% of median income (EU)
- Relative poverty in some European countries has increased threefold over 15 years (the ‘working poor’), and inequality much more

PRECARIOUS WORK

- Relative poverty not only about insufficient money to live..
- Europe 2020 Strategy has poverty and inequality reduction as one of five main objectives



**THE GIG
ECONOMY**

**NO
TO
ZERO
HOUR
CONTRACTS** E3

Background: low & middle income countries

- Absolute poverty line (\$1.95 per day) – now below 10% globally
- The UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and SDGs has “No Poverty” as first goal

Globally:

- Absolute poverty falling, but relative poverty rising steeply leading to marginalisation, exclusion and vulnerability
- **Inequality is arguably now the biggest challenge**



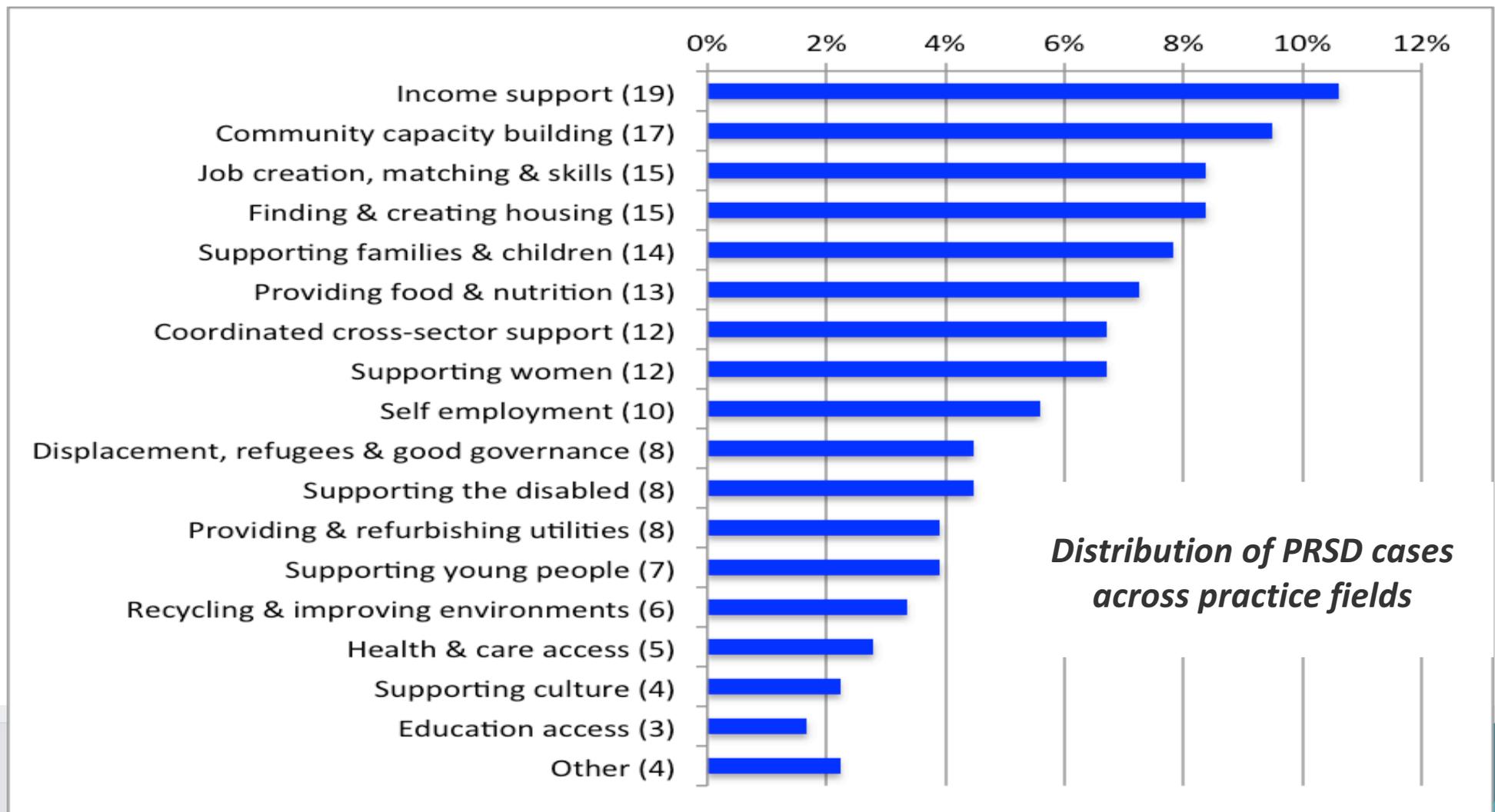
'MUTUAL AID'



Theme 1: multiple deprivation & disadvantage (1)

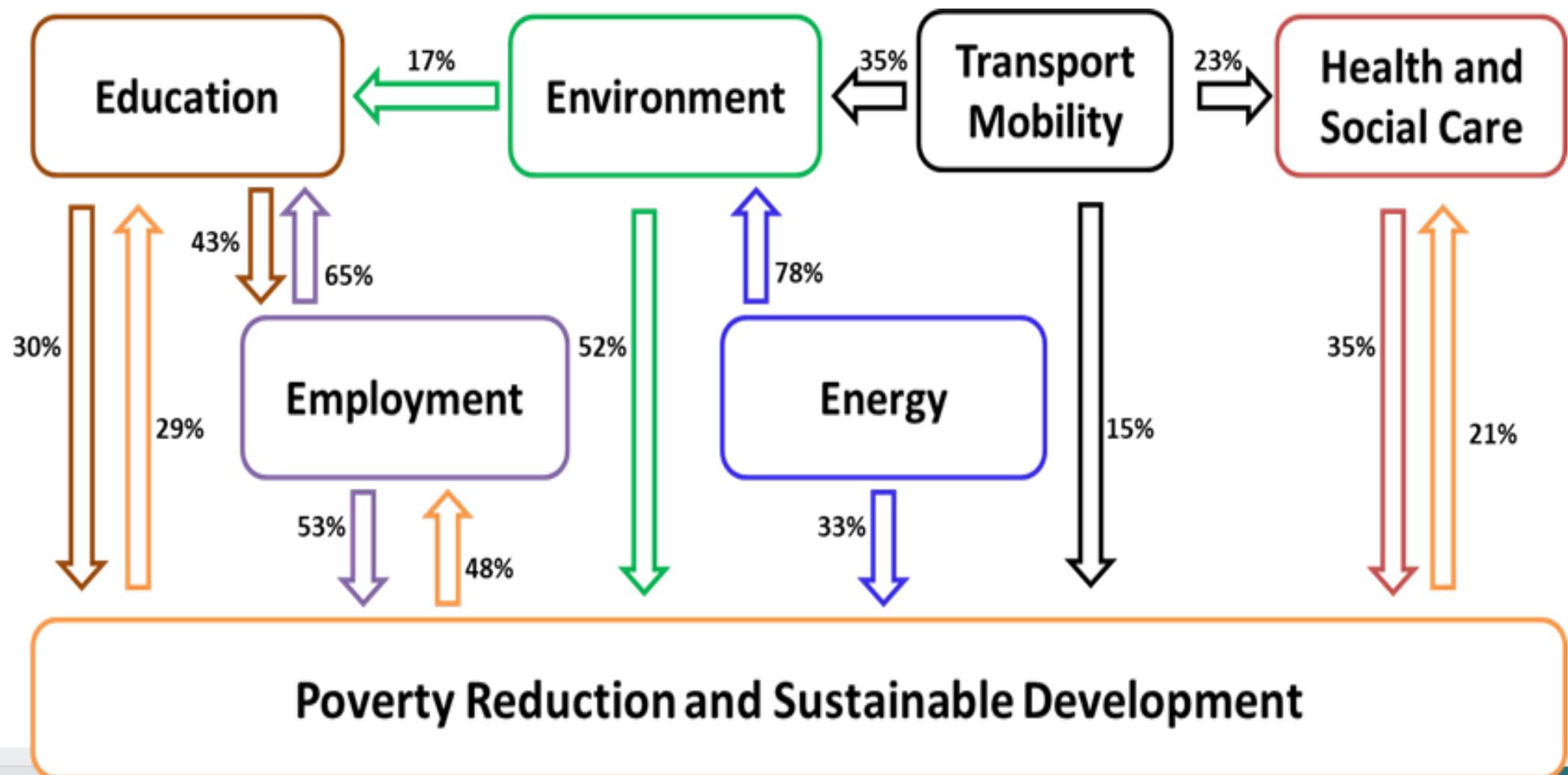
Three main dimensions (cf sustainable development goals) underlying poverty, exclusion & marginalisation:

- Economic, social and environmental -- plus a fourth: cross-cutting dimension



Theme 1: multiple deprivation & disadvantage (2) drive

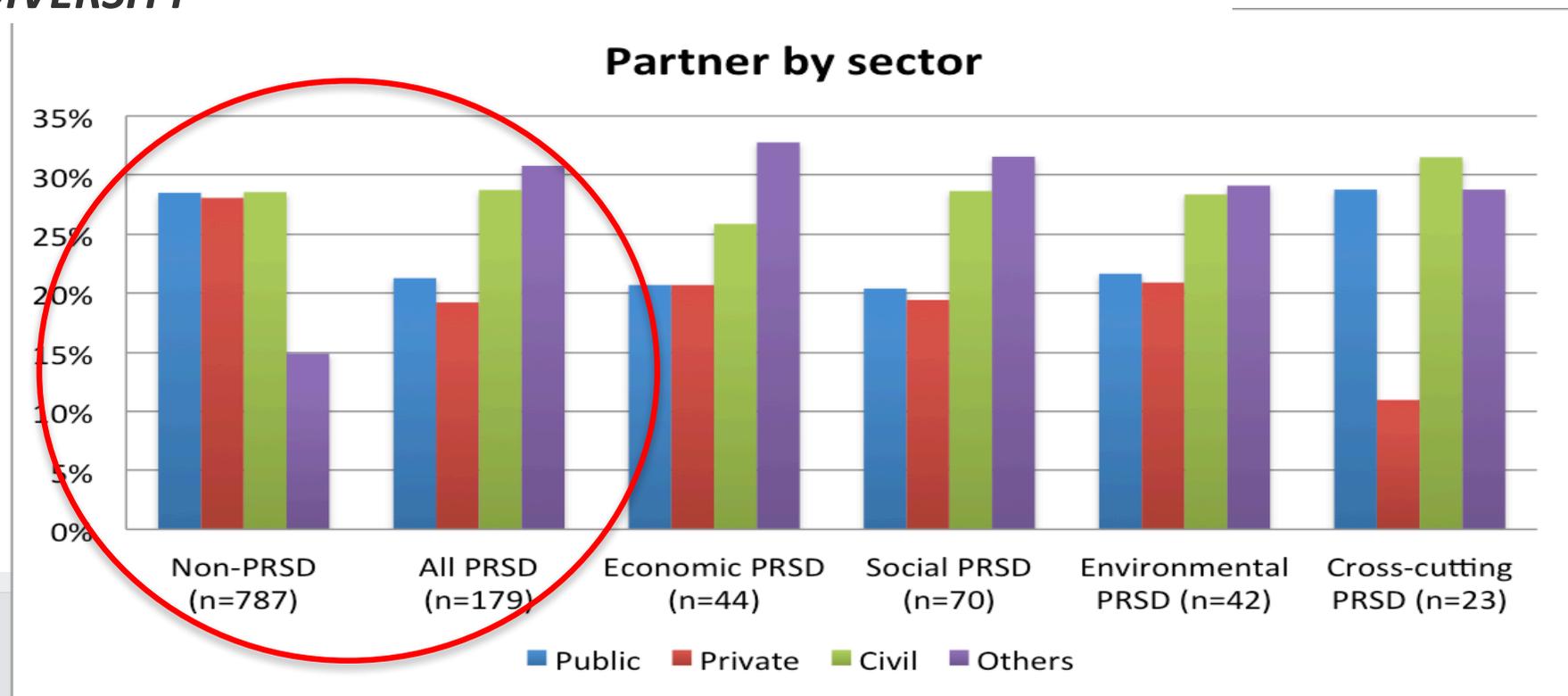
Cross-overs between SI-DRIVE's seven policy fields: percentage of second rank overlaps



Theme 1: multiple deprivation & disadvantage (3)

Poverty is highly complex and context dependent, need:

- multiple, joined up solutions
- multiple actor types
- multiple sectors
- multiple disciplines
- all-round, nexus approach
- whole human being & dignity approach
- **DIVERSITY**
- *CSOs & 'others' are most common partners for PRSD*
- *Joining up often done by these as 'trusted third parties' bridging between more mainstream actors*



Theme 2: respond to a problem or an opportunity?

‘Problem-push’ or ‘opportunity open’:

- Most conceptual understandings of SI are that they respond to a **specific social need**
- But, most who have this need (including the poor and marginalised) also -- and especially the communities in which they live -- possess huge potential, resilience and latent ability to be a big part of their own solution. They look (sometimes with help) for **opportunities arising from their own capabilities and situation**.
- In development circles this is done by, e.g., appreciative enquiry approaches



‘Problem-solving’ or ‘opportunity seeking’?

For example: *School for Life* (Ghana): Rural NGO noticed many educated young people with no job, likely to migrate to the city; they represent a local asset -- what ‘problem’/social need could they help solve?

A solution looking for a problem? But it worked !

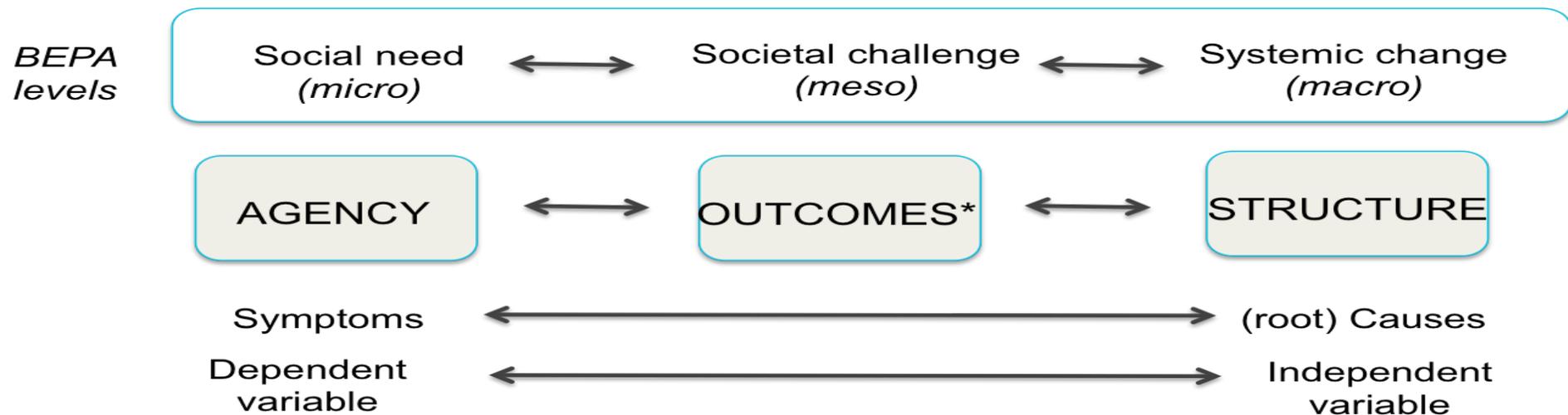
Theme 3: agency-structure; symptoms & causes?

SI-DRIVE examines the mechanisms of social change and the agency-structure dichotomy:

- PRSD focuses strongly on the short-term more local and often pressing social needs of the poor and marginalised to endow them with **AGENCY**
- But, this is often at the expense of the longer term more systemic changes needed in society which have probably given rise to the social need in the first place; should address the **STRUCTURE**

Two examples, both started by addressing social needs (e.g. using local 'barefoot' personnel) but not sustainable long-term, so managed to get their approach accepted and institutionalised by government:

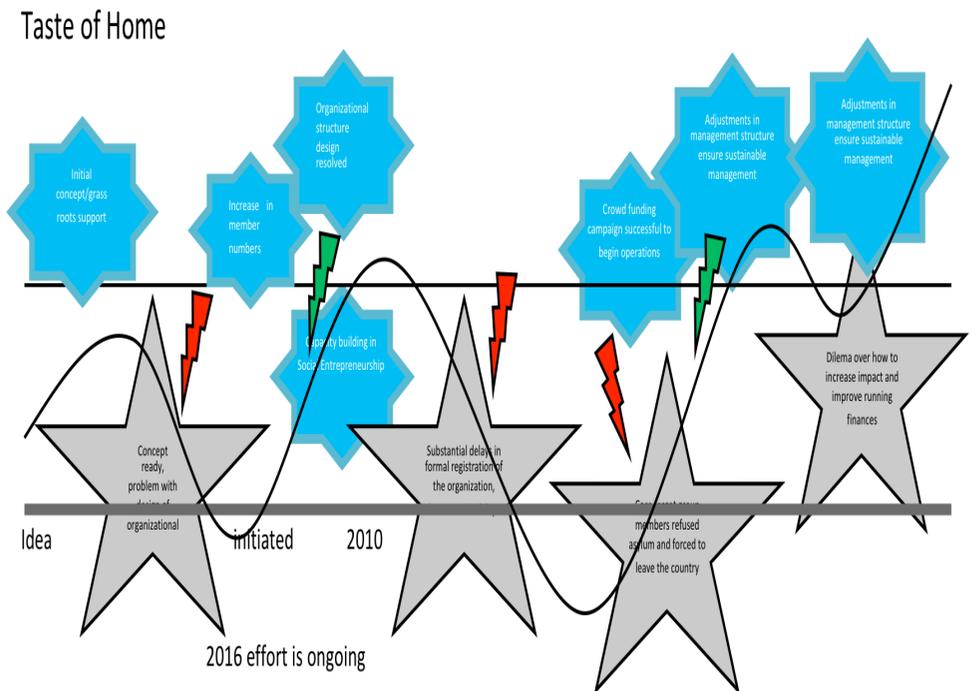
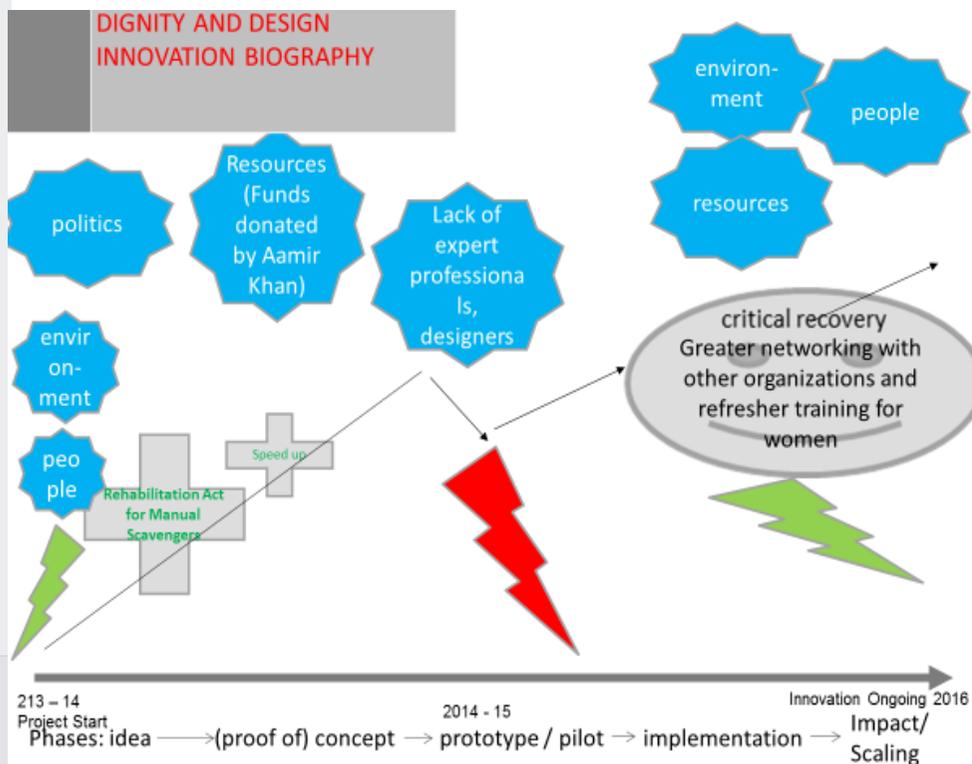
- *School for Life*, Ghana: the social need of no education in remote, rural and poor villages
- *Dignity & Design*, India: the social needs of manual scavengers, especially women, through education, capacity building and organisation



Theme 4: Development processes & dynamics

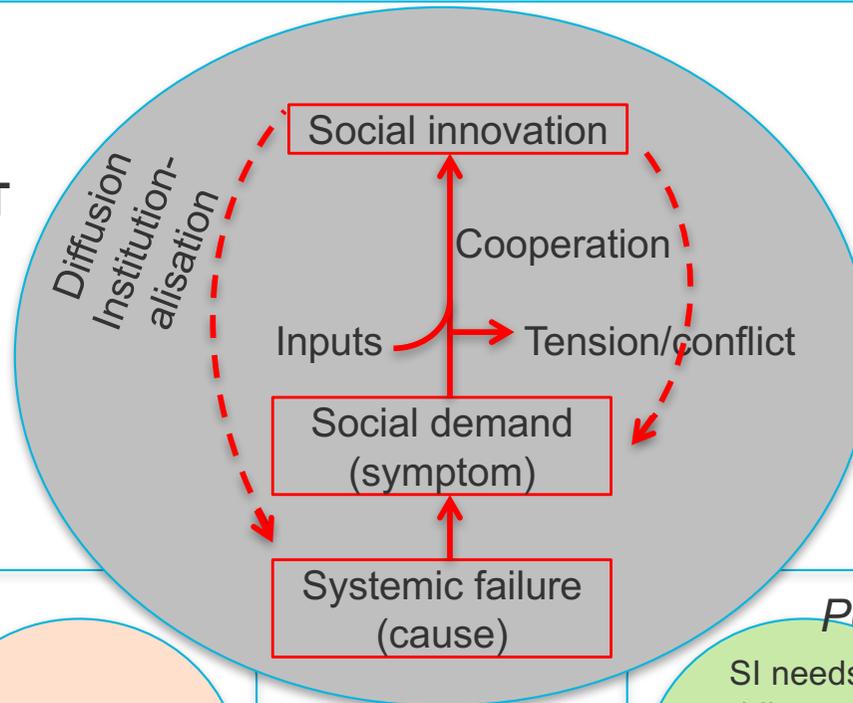
Three main trajectory types:

- 1) Continuous growth:** typically supported by large, stable public/private funding; e.g. *Strengthening Popular Finances* (Ecuador)
- 2) Two main growth stages, punctuated by a 'crisis':** typically first hands-off government, then crisis 1) due to government hostility (e.g. *School for Life*, Ghana) or 2) acute lack of HR and other resources (*Dignity & Design*, India), finally stronger government/institutional support
- 3) Up and down, wavelike, alternating success & failure:** typically very bottom-up, driven by 'crises' and highly dynamic, unpredictable and changeable situation: e.g. *Refugee taste of home*, Croatia

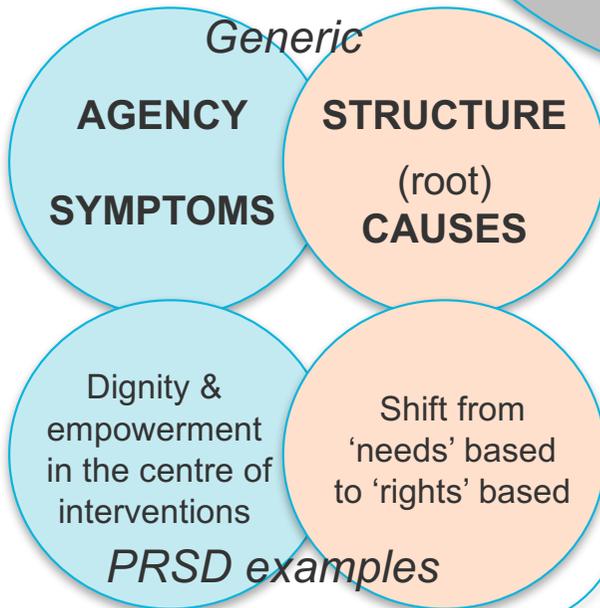


Selected key messages

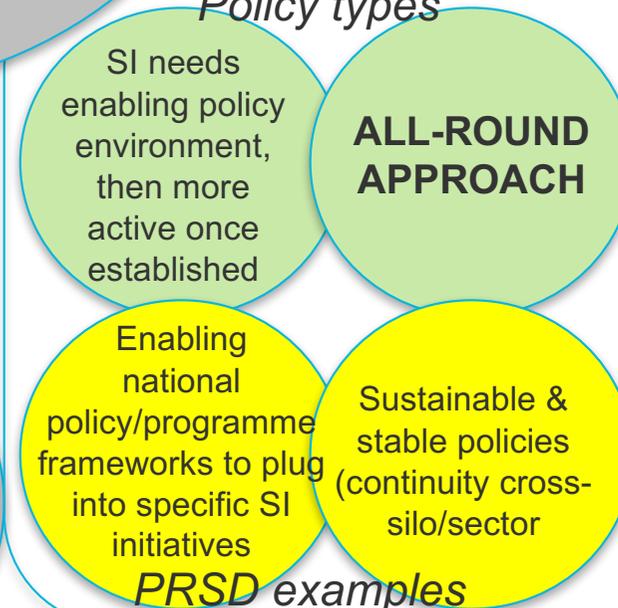
MESSAGE 3: CAUSE-EFFECT CYCLE



MESSAGE 1: SI FRAMEWORK



Policy types



MESSAGE 2: POLICY