



**Chronic Poverty**  
Research Centre

[www.chronicpoverty.org](http://www.chronicpoverty.org)

# Chronic Poverty Research Centre

Key messages for policy makers

Manchester

September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010



**Chronic Poverty**  
Research Centre

[www.chronicpoverty.org](http://www.chronicpoverty.org)

# The lessons of 5 years of research on chronic poverty and poverty dynamics for policy makers

- CPRC network with a broad agenda across 10 countries
- Target audiences:
  - National policy makers: mainly in country: national reports a key vehicle. Focus: PRSs, national development plans, specific policies
  - International policy makers: MDG review; donor agencies
  - Practitioners & researchers
- Dissemination formats
  - Chronic Poverty Report ‘brand’
  - Key messages/synthesis 1:4:40s



**Chronic Poverty**  
Research Centre

[www.chronicpoverty.org](http://www.chronicpoverty.org)

# Chronic poverty matters

- A large number of people
  - around half a billion are poor over long periods, whole lives, and children inherit parents' poverty
- For achieving the MDGs, especially beyond 2015
- Significant human and political costs of leaving it unaddressed
  - now, and increased costs later, dealing with irreversibilities



**Chronic Poverty**  
Research Centre

[www.chronicpoverty.org](http://www.chronicpoverty.org)

# Synthesis: iterative process

Policy analysis: eg  
Social protection  
reports

Country syntheses:  
Eg India Chronic  
Poverty Report

Research: eg  
Poverty dynamics  
and economic  
mobility

Conference

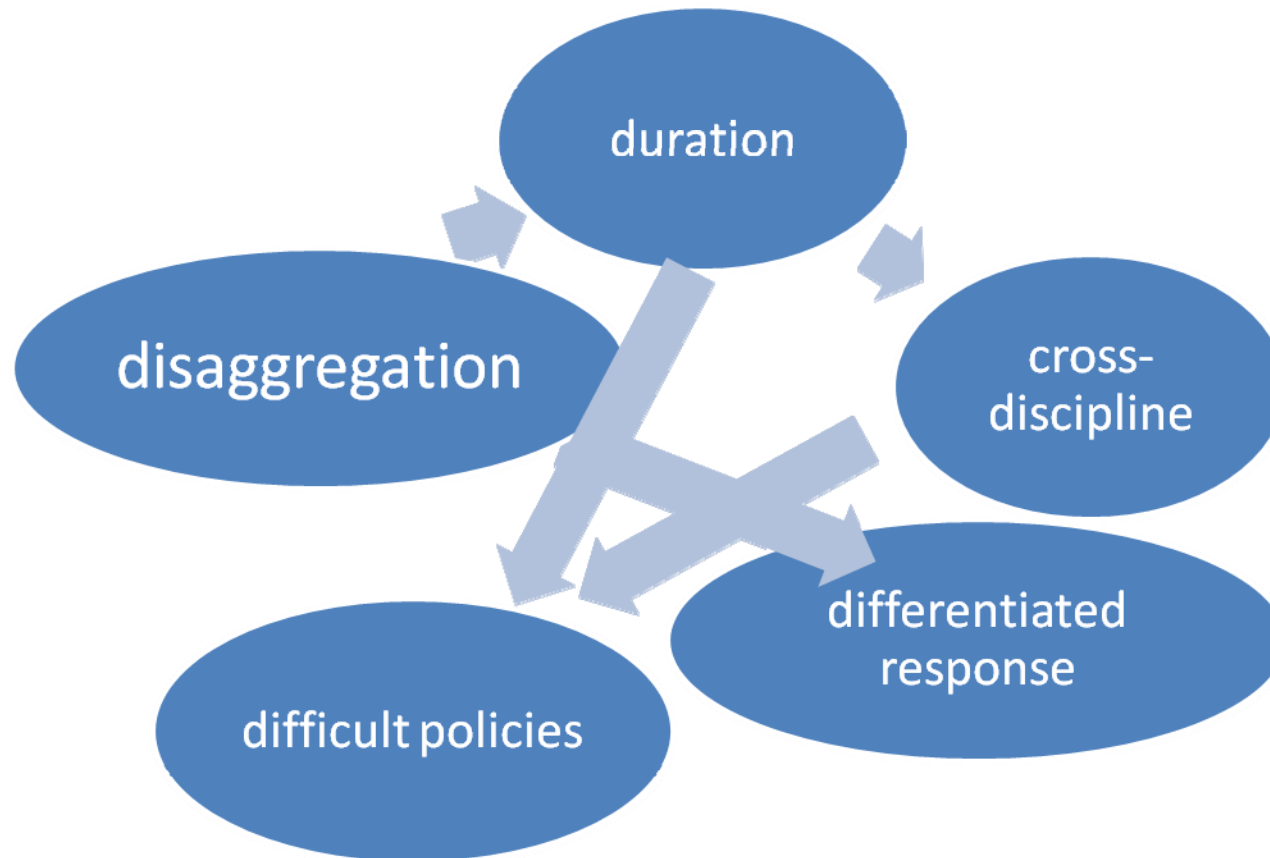
Overall key  
messages for  
policy makers



**Chronic Poverty**  
Research Centre

[www.chronicpoverty.org](http://www.chronicpoverty.org)

# Chronic poverty: the 4 'd's and a 'c'





**Chronic Poverty**  
Research Centre

[www.chronicpoverty.org](http://www.chronicpoverty.org)

# Framework propositions 1

- Most severely poor people are chronically poor, but not vice versa
  - Exceptions in MICs where employment makes the difference
- Poverty dynamics in agrarian economies: gradual incremental accumulation – rapid impoverishment; multiple/sequential shocks
  - Adjust policies to support/prevent; ill-health especially critical
- Inter-generational transmission: not only what happens in *utero*/childhood – events, processes, assets acquired/lost through the life course
  - Eg teenage girls and young women neglected in development discourse but important
  - Learn from policy/programme successes increasing women's agency
- Vulnerability strongly linked to chronic poverty:
  - Informal employment one important source – tax financed social protection as an entry point; controversial questions about regulation



**Chronic Poverty**  
Research Centre

[www.chronicpoverty.org](http://www.chronicpoverty.org)

# Framework propositions 2

- Assets, markets and protection need to work together to address chronic poverty
  - Eg education endowments & labour market: education policy needs overhauling
  - Assets critical but few cases of asset threshold poverty traps
- Cross discipline focus on structures and processes underlying chronic poverty and dynamics
  - Elites and policy makers (and much research) looks at individual attributes: poverty blamed on the poor
  - Political (citizenship, rights based) approaches need ‘stretching’ to be useful against persistent poverty



**Chronic Poverty**  
Research Centre

[www.chronicpoverty.org](http://www.chronicpoverty.org)

# Leading policy implications

- Growth which includes chronically poor people on good terms
  - Contributes to just economic and social structures
- Progressive social change
  - Challenge to social orders underpinning chronic poverty
- Social protection
  - Practical entry point against chronic /extreme poverty, opening the way to address more difficult issues

National politics, policy and actions are critical; international can support

Human capital development cross cuts these three areas





**Chronic Poverty**  
Research Centre

[www.chronicpoverty.org](http://www.chronicpoverty.org)

# Leading policy implications 1

- Growth which includes chronically poor people on good terms
  - improvements in the labour market
  - asset-markets-protection synergies: joint programmes, inter-ministerial working groups; inter-NGO collaboration
    - Land and livestock remain critical assets
  - location: improved connectivity where there is potential for growth combined with and extending the reach of anti-discrimination measures: combine area-based & universal approaches
  - fiscal redistribution to enable capability enhancement, social protection, progressive social change



**Chronic Poverty**  
Research Centre

[www.chronicpoverty.org](http://www.chronicpoverty.org)

# Leading policy implications 2

- Progressive social change: the chronically poor need good societies as well as good policies
  - Very context specific
  - May be few obvious policy levers (eg dowry)
  - Very difficult areas: eg challenging patriarchal systems on land tenure, inheritance...
  - Much experience to learn from (eg promoting teenage girls' and young women's agency)



**Chronic Poverty**  
Research Centre

[www.chronicpoverty.org](http://www.chronicpoverty.org)

# Leading policy implications 3

- Social protection: extend coverage and build systems
  - Long term as well as short term beneficial impacts (Oportunidades): child development, schooling, labour productivity
  - A complement to enhanced social services and growth policies
  - Scope for innovation (eg Uganda pilot),
  - Imperative of evaluation for political consensus



**Chronic Poverty**  
Research Centre

[www.chronicpoverty.org](http://www.chronicpoverty.org)

# Implications for the MDGs

- Strong policy experimentation and evaluation required prior to 2015 on more difficult policy areas
  - Significant role for NGOs as well as governments
  - Needs strong political commitment to confront more difficult policy challenges
- Extend social protection as rapidly as possible prior to 2015 and evaluate rigorously
- Education policies and focus of MDGs will need major overhaul by 2015



**Chronic Poverty**  
Research Centre

[www.chronicpoverty.org](http://www.chronicpoverty.org)

# What is new here?

- Pictures of poverty dynamics – different contexts
- Inter-generational poverty not just about childhood and human development – also other life stages and material assets as well as human capital
- Assets-markets-protection synergy
- ‘progressive social change’, good societies



**Chronic Poverty**  
Research Centre

[www.chronicpoverty.org](http://www.chronicpoverty.org)

# Remaining work

- Test against emerging country, theme and policy analysis syntheses/key messages
- Learn lessons of national policy engagement
  - Impact evaluation interviews
- Select the best illustrations, ideally from CPRC work
- Test out with different audiences, in New York and in country