

POVERTY DYNAMICS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION AMIDST COMPLEX CRISES IN NIGERIA

Organizations: development Research & Projects Centre (dRPC), Chronic Poverty Advisory Network (CPAN)/Institute of Development Studies (IDS)

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PURPOSE OF THIS PRESENTATION

The purpose of this presentation, today, is to introduce the BASIC/CPAN research and explore the advantages of this qualitative research methods & its tools for poverty studies the chronically poor, living in intergenerational poverty in Nigeria. CPAN designed tools such as Life History Interviews (LHIs) are presented as having advantages when studying complexities of poverty dynamics in Nigeria. The presentation draws from field experiences of CPAN supported research to explore advantages over quantitative approaches. The presentation also examines emerging implications for designing poverty interventions for the chronically poor in Nigeria.



IN NIGERIA, THE DOMINANT & OFFICIAL POVERTY STUDIES ARE QUANTITATIVE

Nigeria Official Poverty Reports

- NBS- Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index (2022)
- NBS - Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria Report (2019)
- Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2018
- NBS - Snapshot of Inequality in Nigeria (2004, 2013, 2016)
- NBS - National Poverty Rates For Nigeria: 2003-04 (Revised) and (2009-10)
- NBS - UNICEF - Nigeria Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) & National Immunization Coverage Survey (NICS) 2021
- NPC - Demographic and Health Survey (2018)

Other Quantitative Studies

- World Bank - Nigeria Development Update, December 2023
- World Bank - Nigeria Poverty Assessment 2022: A Better Future for All Nigerians
- World Bank - Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2022
- World Bank - Advancing Social Protection in a Dynamic Nigeria. 2019
- World Bank - Nigeria Systematic Country Diagnostic, June 2019
- World Bank - Poverty Reduction in Nigeria in the Last Decade, October 2016
- World Bank - Poverty in a Rising Africa, 2016
- World Bank - Nigeria Socio Economic Assessment, April 2011
- Africa Development Bank - Poverty in Nigeria: A Multidimensional Approach, November 2019
- Africa Development Bank - Nigeria - Country Strategy, Paper 2020-2024

CRITIQUE OF THE QUANTITATIVE APPROACH ESPECIALLY WHEN APPLIED TO POPULATIONS IN CHRONIC POVERTY

- The prevailing quantitative approach to chronic and transient poverty primarily relies on survey data, particularly emphasizing monetary indicators, yet fails to capture the dynamic nature of living standards over time. (Andrew & David 2002: 3)
- Studies on chronic and transient poverty often concentrate on income or consumption-based metrics, offering insights into overall poverty changes within specific groups but lacking details on movements in and out of poverty over time. (Babatunde, 2004: 6; Chinasa te al, 2020: 3).
- Weber, (2004) and Keiller, (2005) in Sulaiman & Balarabe (2020: 6) argued that “It is impossible to separate people from their social contexts and they cannot be understood without grasping their perceptions. Capturing complex phenomena in a single (or a few) controlled quantifiable variable(s) can be misleading since this imposes certain constraints on results and may neglect important findings.”
- While quantitative approaches provide crucial statistical data, they often fall short in capturing the depth and nuances of chronic poverty most especially the interplay between different factors and the journey through different well-being levels. Walter et al (2005: 9-10).
- “Quantitative methods help provide answers only to certain questions about poverty and can only provide partial information about it. Needless to say, no single approach to poverty appraisal can capture all the essential aspects of poverty.” (Germano, 2005: 15)

Nigeria 2022 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

- Nigeria 2022 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI): Utilized the Alkire-Foster method to capture various disadvantages beyond financial deprivation, showing that around 133 million Nigerians (about 63%) experienced multidimensional poverty across 15 indicators namely Nutrition, Food Insecurity, Time to Healthcare, School Attendance, Years Of Schooling, School Lag, Water, Water Availability, Sanitation, Housing Materials, Cooking Fuel, Assets, Unemployment, Underemployment and **Security Shock**.
- However, the report is silent on whether and how the respondents are escaping the poverty and whether there are intervention, for what purpose and at what period and demographics.
- There is no gender disaggregation of these elements. (MPI, 2022).

MPI 2022 SURVEY RESPONDS TO THE CRITIQUE BY INTRODUCING A NEW 'QUASI-QUALITATIVE' KEY INDICATOR ON "SECURITY SHOCK" IN POVERTY ANALYSIS

- "Security Shock" is one the key 15 MPI indicators which encompasses various scenarios of household deprivation or experiences within the past 12 months, including unauthorized entry, theft, property damage, assault, rape, homicide, displacement due to herdsmen, banditry, flood, community violence, and conflict-related fatalities. (MPI, 2022)
- The indicator reveals that 14.0% of multidimensionally poor Nigerians are affected by security shocks, highlighting the vulnerability of households to security-related challenges. With northeast having highest with 21.4 and southeast lowest 6.3%. Bayelsa state has the highest with 53.5% and Ondo lowest with 1.2%. (MPI, 2022)
- With higher levels of security shocks in Akwa Ibom compared to Borno and Benue, while the findings seem accurate, questions must be raised about the state data and moreover, the data are not gender disaggregated. (MPI, 2022)

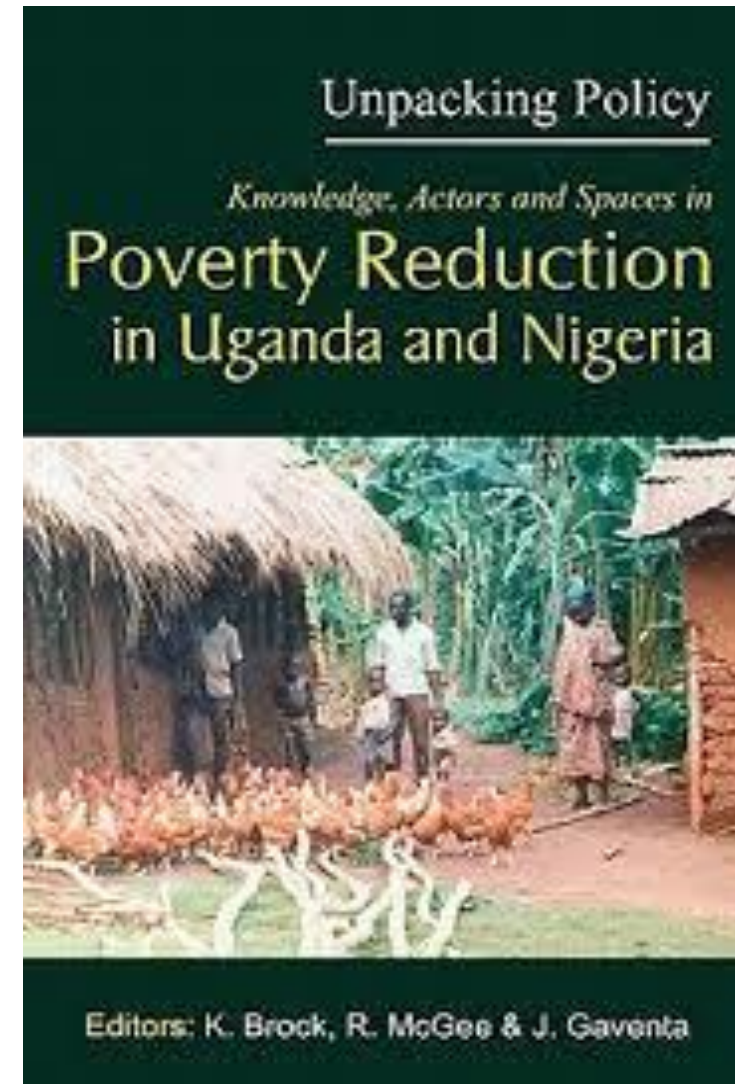
Table 1: % of Population Deprive Due to Security Shock

| ZONES | % | CPAN/BASIC STUDY STATES | % |
|---------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| North Central | 16.2% | Benue | 12.2 % |
| North East | 21.4 % | Borno | 12.3 % |
| North West | 14.8 % | Jigawa | 16.1% |
| South East | 6.3 % | Anambra | 15.8% |
| South West | 19.3% | Ekiti | 8.0% |
| South South | 6.5 % | Akwa Ibom | 15.8 % |

Source: MPI, 2022

THE CPAN QUALITATIVE APPROACH TO RESEARCHING CHRONIC POVERTY IN NIGERIA

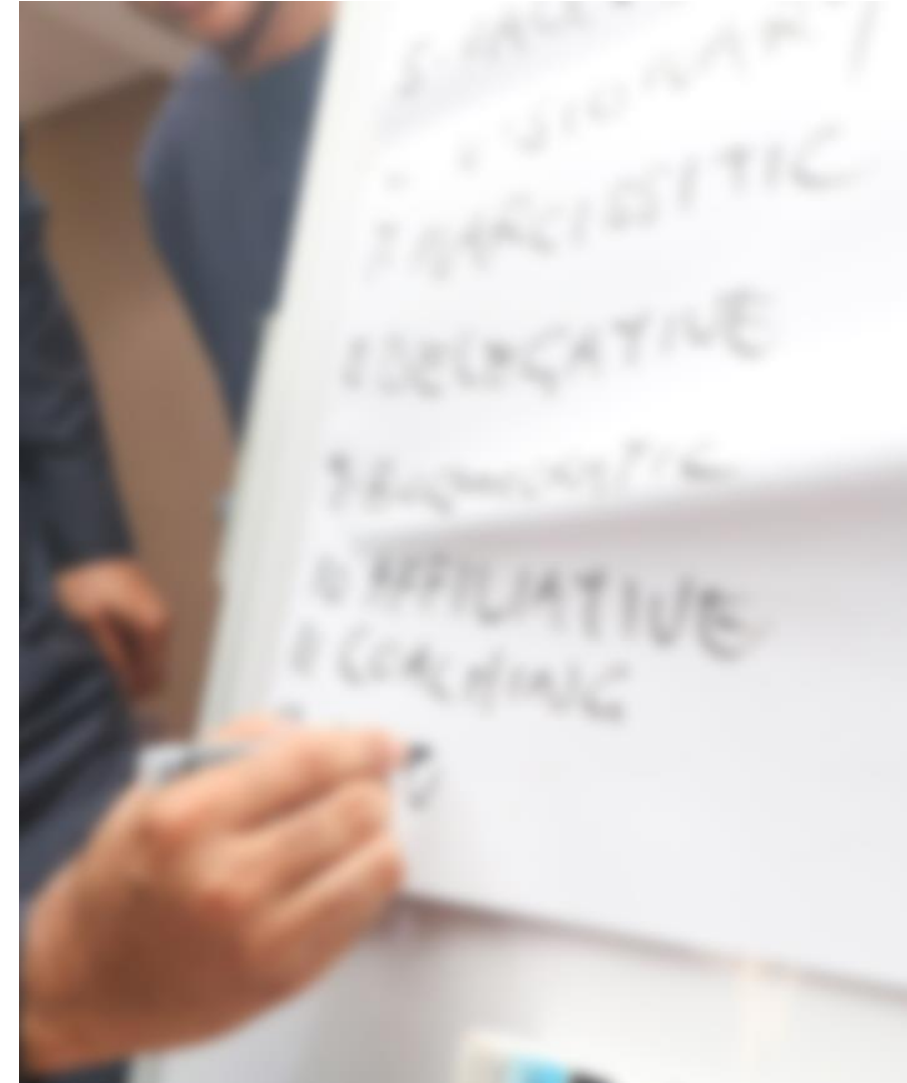
- CPAN in IDS, Sussex has had 10 years of consistent application of qualitative approaches to studying poverty in Nigeria.
- The 2004, ***Unpacking Policy, Knowledge, Actors and Spaces in The Poverty Reduction in Uganda and Nigeria*** study and book, with dRPC as Nigeria anchor.
- The current, CPAN BASIC study, 10 years after the 2004 research has further developed the qualitative methodologic approach, expanded and redesigned the tools and sharpened its focus populations in chronic poverty, while at the same time continuing to focus on the political economy in which poverty reeducation policy is made and implemented



CPAN/BASIC QUALITATIVE APPROACH

Real-life qualitative narrations from the following listed method vividly showcases the efficacy in capturing the depth and nuances of chronic poverty, offering a holistic view of the journey and migration across different well-being levels.

1. **Long-Term Residence (LTR)**
2. **Focus Group Discussion (FGD)**
3. **Life History (LHs)**
4. **Key Informant Interview (KII)**



OBJECTIVES AND TIMELINE OF THE STUDY BASIC/CPAN STUDY ANCHORED BY dRPC NIGERIA, 2023-2026

Objectives of the Study

- To understand the **relationship between complex crises (namely armed conflict, displacement, climate shocks and stressors, and COVID-19), poverty dynamics and social assistance in Nigeria.**
- To engage in a **dialogue with policy makers and programme designers at federal and state levels (in selected states), and with development partners on priority measures for poverty reduction** (with a focus but not limited to social assistance) and on key aspects of implementation.

Study Timeline

| DELIVERABLES | DATE |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Preparatory work | Dec-Jan 2023 |
| Quant analysis | Nov 2023 - Mar 2024 |
| Qual analysis | De 2023 - April 2024 |
| Output writing | May - Sep 2024 |
| Policy engagement | Nov-Dec 2025 |
| Report | 2026 |



KEY RESEARCH QUESTIONS OF THE BASIC CPAN STUDY

Poverty dynamics & livelihoods amidst complex crises

1. Why is **chronic poverty and multi-dimensional deprivation** so widespread, especially in the north of Nigeria?
2. How does **conflict, drought, and floods** affect livelihood pathways out of poverty?
3. What are the urban-rural variations in livelihood pathways, before and during **COVID-19**? How have these been affected by conflict, displacement and climate change?
4. What measures are governments in a position to take to **reduce poverty**?

Social assistance in response to protracted crises

1. What role do **state and federal governments** and other agencies play in a multi-hazard context?
2. Why and how are specific individuals or households or communities **targeted**?
3. What are **peoples' perceptions** of adequacy, reliability, fairness and appropriateness of different modalities?
4. What other **key interventions** are needed to improve poverty dynamics in crisis-affected regions and how can they best be delivered?

STATE SELECTION & JUSTIFICATION

| RELIGION (ZONE) | STATE/JUSTIFICATION | RURAL SITE | URBAN SITE |
|-----------------|---|--|---|
| North-West | Jigawa (Poverty, unemployment) | Kaugama | Hadejia |
| North-East | Borno (Banditry attacks, conflicts, IDPs Camps) | Konduga LGA | Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC) LGA |
| | | Boarding School IDPs Camp, Madarari, Konduga LGA (IDPs Camp) | Fariya Outreach IDPs Camp, Jere LGA (IDPs Camp) |
| North-Central | Benue (Food Insecurity, Farmer-herder Clashes) | Guma LGA | Makurdi LGA |
| South-West | Ekiti (Insecurity and farmer-herder clashes) | Moba LGA | Ikere Ekiti LGA |
| South-East | Anambra (Insecurity in Anambra) | Mbaukwu_Awka South | Urum Awka North |
| South-South | Akwa Ibom (Poverty rate) | Nsit Atai LGA | Uruan LGA |

A LOOK AT THE 'WELLBEING METRICS FOR RESPONDENTS' INCLUSION

PARTICIPANTS PERSPECTIVE

| WELL-BEING CATEGORY | FOOD CONSUMPTION QUANTITY/QUALITY RELATIVE TO LOCAL NORM. | ABILITY TO EDUCATE CHILDREN. TO WHAT LEVEL? | HOUSING QUALITY | LABOUR CAPACITY, SKILLS, EDUCATION | ASSETS AND OTHER RESOURCES | ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS (CREDIT, SELLING TO, AND BUYING FROM) | SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS | POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS | SHOCKS - TYPES, ABILITY TO WITHSTAND SHOCKS OF DIFFERENT TYPES* |
|--------------------------|---|---|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1. POOREST OF THE POOR | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. VERY POOR | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. POOR | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. NOT POOR BUT NOT RICH | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. RICH/RESILIENT | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. VERY RICH | | | | | | | | | |

APPROACH, MONITORING AND RESEARCH ANALYSIS

Approach to Conversations

Monitor changes at yearly intervals to track shifts in poverty dynamics and the impact of social protection measures over time.

Longitudinal Monitoring

Open-ended discussions to enable the emergence of new issues that may not have been covered in the quantitative research.

Analysis and Reporting

Thematic analysis and present findings in a comprehensive report.

SUMMARY OF DATA COLLECTED TO DATE BY TOOLS, POPULATIONS AND LOCATIONS

Instrument and sample size

| INSTRUMENT | INSTRUMENT ADMINISTERED BY RESIDENCE | INSTRUMENT ADMINISTERED BY GENDER |
|---|--|--|
| Life History Interviews | 6 states (10 urban & 10 rural) per state = 120 LHs | 6 states (10 females & 10 males per state) = 120 LHs |
| Gender Disaggregated FGD | 6 states (1 urban and 1 rural per state) = 12 FGDs | 6 states (1 female and 1 male per state) = 12 FGDs |
| Key Informant Interviews (Long-term community residents) | 6 states (1 rural, and 1 urban) = 12 KIs | 6 states (1 female and 1 male) = 12 KIs |
| Key Informant Interviews (IDPs Camps) | 1 State (Borno) (1 rural, and 1 urban) = 8 KIs | 1 State (Borno) (4 females, and 4 males) = 8 KIs |

Sampling Locations

Two local governments were selected for this research, one rural and the other urban, across six states:

- **Northern Region:** Borno in the Northeast, Benue in the North Central, Jigawa in the Northwest,
- **Southern Region:** Akwa Ibom in the South-South, Anambra in the Southeast, Ekiti in the Southwest

REFLECTIONS FROM dRPC'S RESEARCHERS ON ADVANTAGES OF QUALITATIVE LENSES TO CHRONIC POVERTY STUDIES

- **Chronic poverty is - Intergenerational poverty.** It is absolute poverty that is experienced for an extended period of time – many years, or even over the life course. A person living in absolute poverty is not able to satisfy his or her minimum requirements for food, clothing or shelter (CPRC, 2004: 131). Such poverty may be passed from one generation to another, and this is of particular interest given the known possibilities of interrupting such transmission. (Andrew, 2007: 3 &10).
- It is a multifaceted phenomenon, intricately woven with historical, social, and environmental factors, shaping both individual and community experiences. The Nigerian context, marked by armed conflict, displacement, climate shocks, and pandemics, presents prolonged crises, emphasizing the need for a qualitative lens to comprehend the intricate dynamics. (CPAN/BASIC Researcher).
- Many questions of interest to economists may be better captured with open-ended qualitative interviews rather than structured questionnaires. These include important concepts like well-being, social norms, cultural change, vulnerability, resilience, decision-making, processes of change in interventions and experiments, and aspirations. (World Bank 2023: 1).
- By centering on individuals, households, and communities through in-depth conversations, this method provides access to narratives that go beyond statistical figures. (CPAN/BASIC Researcher).

"We delved deep into the roots of the issue through Life History Interviews (LHIs), enabling us to directly ask individuals about their experiences. The insights obtained from the field were subsequently confirmed through interactions with the community and relevant agencies. While quantitative methods offer precision and a direct path, the qualitative nature of LHIs allows us to draw nuanced conclusions directly from people's experiences."

CPAN-BASIC Researcher Ekiti State

"From my experience with the BASIC research, the qualitative approach through Life History Interviews emerged as a powerful tool by placing individuals, households, and communities and their experiences at the center of the research endeavor. Real-life qualitative narrations from the field illustrated the effectiveness of this qualitative approach in capturing the depth and nuances of chronic poverty."

CPAN-BASIC Researcher Borno state

LIFE HISTORY INTERVIEW GUIDES: AS EFFECTIVE TOOLS FOR UNRAVELLING COMPLEXITY THROUGH NARRATIVES

Unveiling Complexity

- “Qualitative Life history methods provide a rich source of data that enable researchers to explore the life course and to examine the relationships between cause and effect, and agency and structure.” (Annica, 2007: 2).
- “Life history methods also helps to uncover a number of phenomena that tend to be concealed from other methods. These include events with multiple causation, ‘last straw’ threshold effects (events which lead to catastrophe due to a series of previous events such as climate change, communal crisis, etc), other cumulative trends, outcomes based on the ordering of a sequence of events, and complex interactions.” (Peter, 2006: 1)
- “A life history approach allows a different type of analysis to occur. Life cycle patterns can be identified, patterns of complex causation emerge, and individual episodes of crisis, emotional toll, coping, long-term consequences and opportunity can be seen within the interrelated and wider context of national, community and family trajectories.(Peter, 2006: 33).

Indicativeness of Qualitative Methods

- LHIs uncover patterns, triggers, and turning points. Given the country’s experience of natural phenomena such as drought, displacement and flooding impact livelihood pathways, LHIs became instrumental in this research in deciphering the nuanced ways in which these environmental factors intersected with chronic poverty. (Crystal, 2023: 246; CPAN/BASIC Researcher)

Predictiveness of Qualitative Methods

- The LHIs offered a predictive edge by delving into historical narratives. For example, in cases where communities faced economic challenges due to armed conflict. A quantitative survey may provide post-conflict economic indicators, but LHIs revealed the community’s collective initiatives, the role of local governance, and the challenges they foresee in sustaining these efforts. This predictive insight becomes invaluable for policymakers seeking to formulate sustainable recovery plans. (CPAN/BASIC Researcher)
- Moreso, while a quantitative analysis may highlight the economic impact of a drought on agricultural productivity. However, through qualitative methods, we gained insights into how specific communities adapted to these challenges. The story of a rural farmer’s journey through cycles of drought, told through an LHI, reveals not just economic setbacks but also the social and psychological toll of recurrent shocks. (CPAN/BASIC Researcher)

IMPLICATIONS OF RESEARCH FINDINGS FROM QUALITATIVE CHRONIC POVERTY RESEARCH FOR SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMING IN NIGERIA

1. Qualitative approaches are inclusive, respondent-facing and trust-building. In a policy making environment with high levels of trust deficit and exclusion, it can increase policy legitimacy.
2. It is a whole-of-person/family/community approach which should lead to policy interventions for individuals/family/communities.
3. Findings from Wellbeing centered indicators are likely to result in social safety net interventions with health and education components as opposed to just cash transfers.
4. The Qualitative approach also facilitates gender inclusion as it recognizes the distinct lived experiences of women in chronic poverty, a linkage to the feminization of poverty discourse and a recognition of gender inequality in women-centered interventions .
5. No interventions are current targeting individuals (especially women), families and communities in generational poverty with NO inter-generational mobility. This is an important demographic overlooked or subsumed within acute poverty populations. Our study will influence targeted programming for this demographic



Conclusion

It is important to note that the combination of longitudinal life histories, focus groups, and key informants forms part of CPAN's Q-squared approach (along with panel data analysis) to understanding poverty dynamics over time, as it allows for a comprehensive and nuanced exploration of the multifaceted factors influencing individuals' experiences of poverty and their pathways out of it.

The mixed method approach is best.

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