

IOE



Investing in rural people

Independent Office of Evaluation



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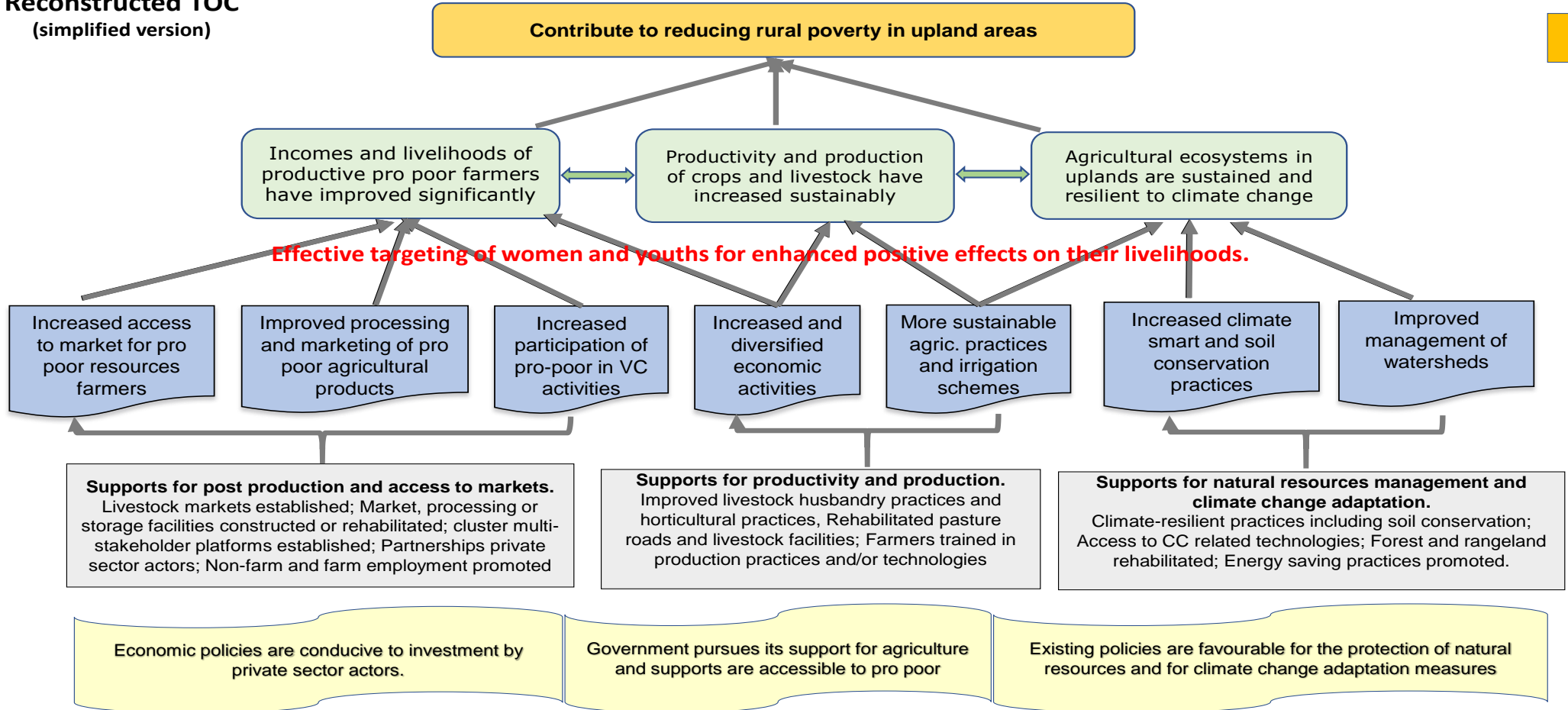
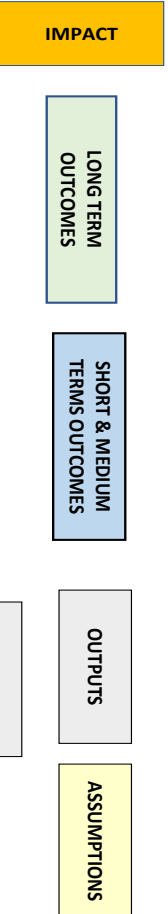
Overcoming limitations related to the ToC in designing and conducting evaluations: examples of IOE sub-regional evaluations (SREs)

- Title: Sub-regional evaluation of IFAD's engagement in the G5 Sahel countries.
- Overarching question. How IFAD financed operations triggered results that contributed addressing fragility drivers within the sub-region and to reducing rural poverty?
- Methodology:
 - Applying a theory-based model, by reconstructing the ToC of supported interventions;
 - Development of an analytical framework related to the theme of fragility in order to perform an holistic assessment;
 - Mixed-methods approach for data gathering and analysis (e.g. desk reviews, remote interviews, direct observations, quantitative and qualitative analysis).

SRE-West Africa: Theory of change (reconstructed)

Reconstructed TOC (simplified version)

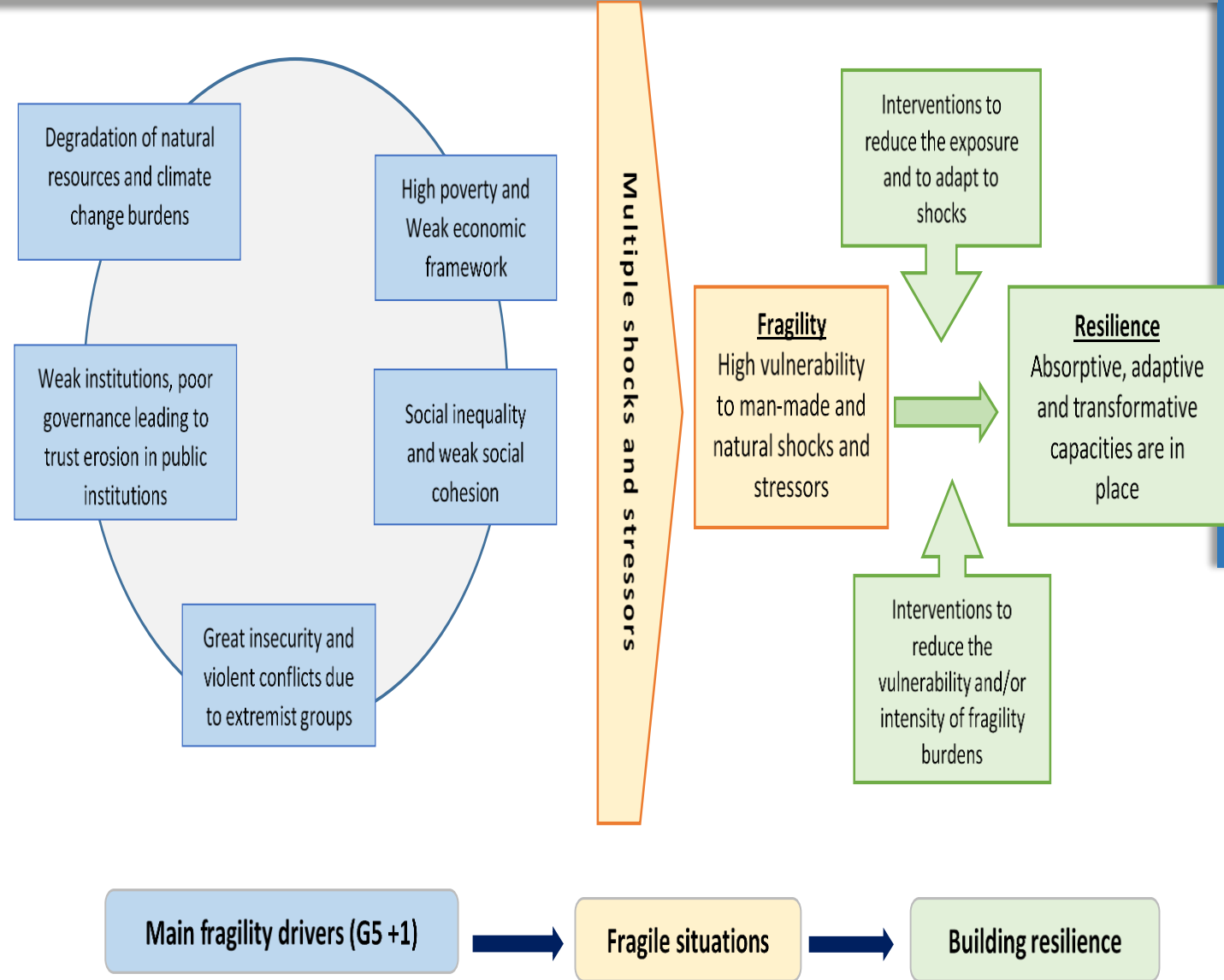
Legend



Main issues to be addressed: Weak linkages between productive poor and markets; Imbalance of public focus; low private sector investment in remote highland areas; gender inequalities; degradation of natural resources; high vulnerability to climate change and natural hazards; Uplands suffer rural out-migration;

- **Climate-related shocks**, with low productivity, soil depletion, and natural resources degradation;
- **High poverty** incidence, combined with weak macroeconomic frameworks.
- Structural **inequality** in the access to productive resources (land and water), negatively affecting social cohesion and fueling social conflicts.
- **Weak and unstable public institutions**, as affected by bad governance and corruption; resulting in poor social contract with public institutions.
- Prevalence of **insecurity and violent conflicts**, leading to the loss of State control over large parts of national territories, controlled by extremist and/or organised criminal groups.

- An analytical framework was developed.
- Includes five categories of fragility drivers that are interconnected and at work simultaneously.
- Reflects the need to foster greater resilience: minimizing or suppressing the vulnerability to shocks, and/or improving actors' abilities to effectively manage and mitigate various fragility drivers and stressors.
- Entails developing absorptive, adaptive and transformative capacities.



- The framework was complementary to the ToC, enabling carrying out a systemic analysis on three resilience-building pillars (absorptive, adaptive and transformative capacities), and aligned with fragility drivers identified.
- Applying the framework was useful to appreciating: (i) social contract issues, critical in fragile situations; (ii) importance of a nexus approach, conflict prevention – resilience building – and rural transformation.
- In such contexts, developing an explicit resilience framework appears important, to take into account key fragility drivers, in order to guide the operations.

SRE of the Central American Dry Corridor: context



Fuente: Basado en el Atlas centroamericano para la gestión sostenible del territorio

● El Corredor Seco
Centroamericano y
Arco Seco de Panamá

Map FAO 2016 (definition Van der Zee et al., 2012-FAO)

Multiple challenges:

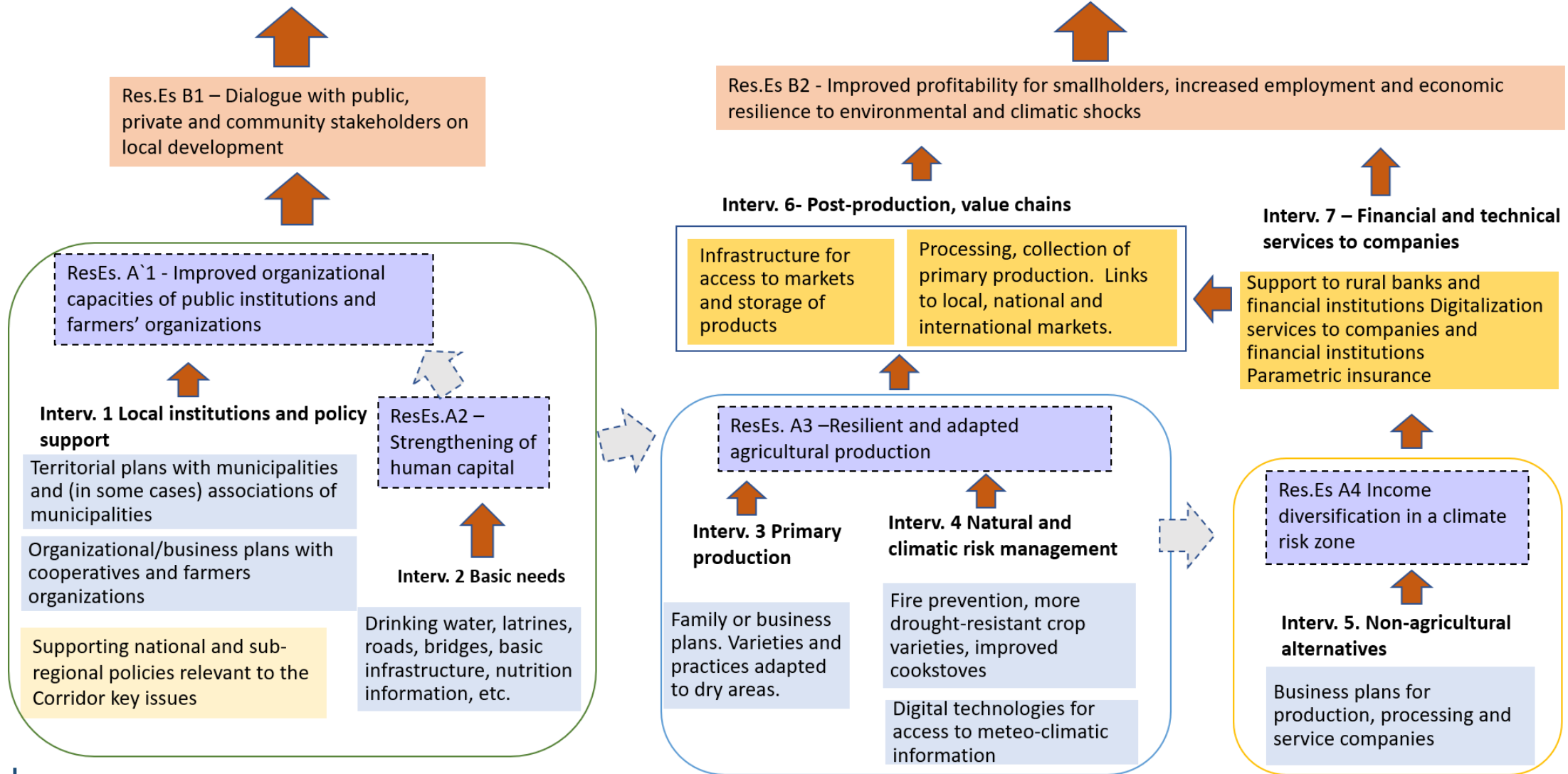
- Migration and remittances,
- **driven by limited economic opportunities and crime**
- **Institutional fragility**, dissatisfaction with political processes, limited fiscal decentralization
- **Violence, illegal activities**
- Physical and psychosocial disabilities

- **Drafting evaluation design - approach paper:**
 - Considering contextual aspects and unique dynamics of the dry corridor to inform eval design
 - Linear vs nonlinear ToC: assessing what works for the scope and objectives of the evaluation
 - No previous ToC or conceptual scheme of IFAD's interventions in the region- **creating an ex-post theory or a logical scheme by mapping** projects and grants

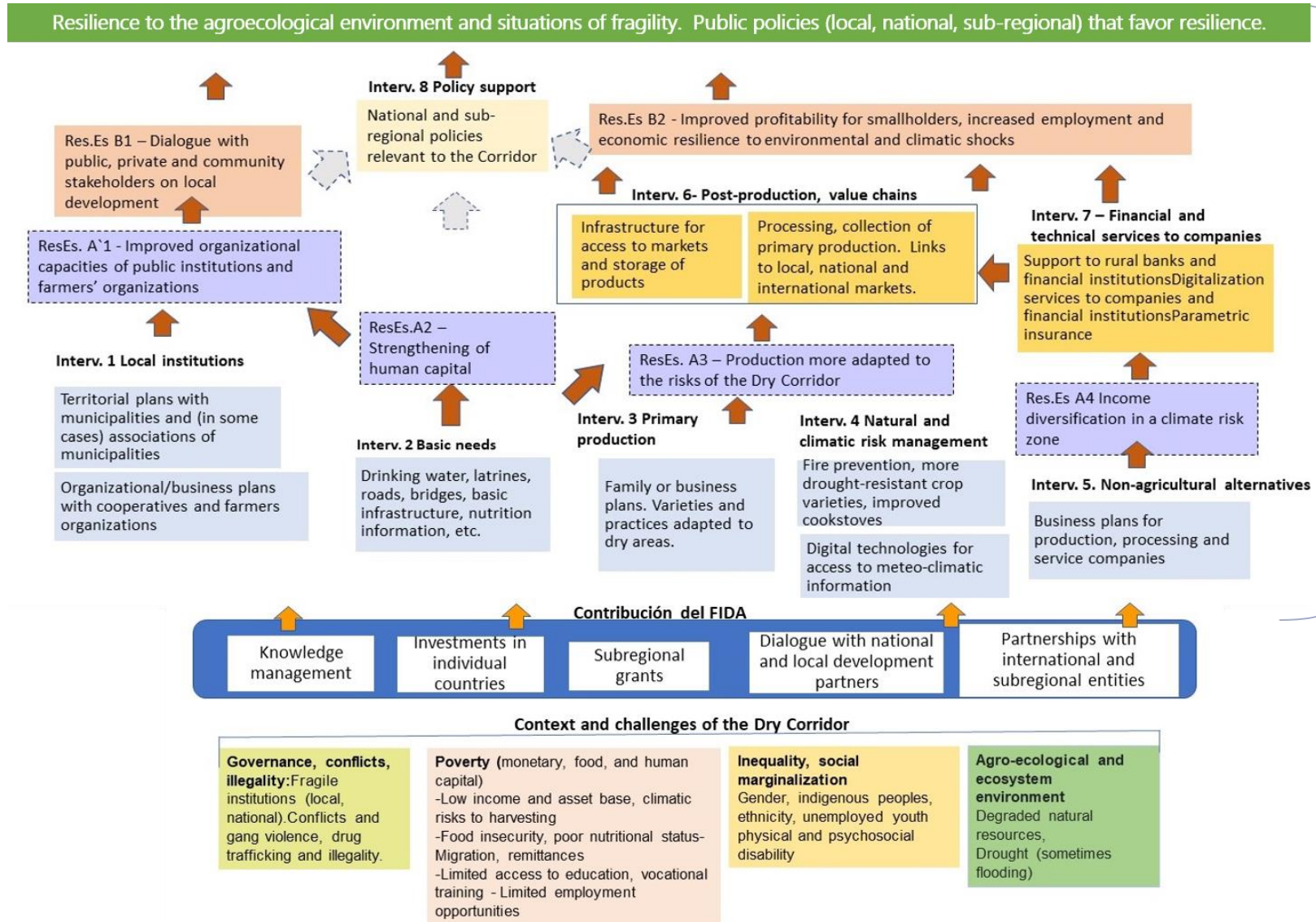
- **Conducting the evaluation -mix methods approach:**
 - **Desk review, remote or hybrid interviews, analysis of GIS data** (municipal geographic statistics, satellite imagery), **parallel missions** by country



ResEsC1. Resilience to the agroecological environment and situations of fragility. Public policies (local, national, sub-regional) that favor resilience.



Conceptual and analytical scheme



Block 3

Block 2

Block 1

- **First attempt of linear ToC not successful:** not able to capture key elements of the territory dynamics
- **System thinking ToC:** allowed to explore contextual aspects, territorial dynamics and expected IFAD's contributions
- Better understanding of 'enablers of results' towards resilience
- IFAD's contributions in a complex setting: added value, good approaches and areas for improvement



Key findings, revealed through non linear ToC:

- **Decentralized institutions** as enablers (in some cases) of development results.
- **Role of the sub regional institutions:** providing policy frameworks, wider understanding of regional underpinning issues.
- **A view of territorial development and agrifood systems:** the region's approach of development, beyond hh and community level analysis
- **Wider understanding of nexus between fragility aspects and rural development intervention:** what worked, what did not and what was missing in design

Thank you for your attention