

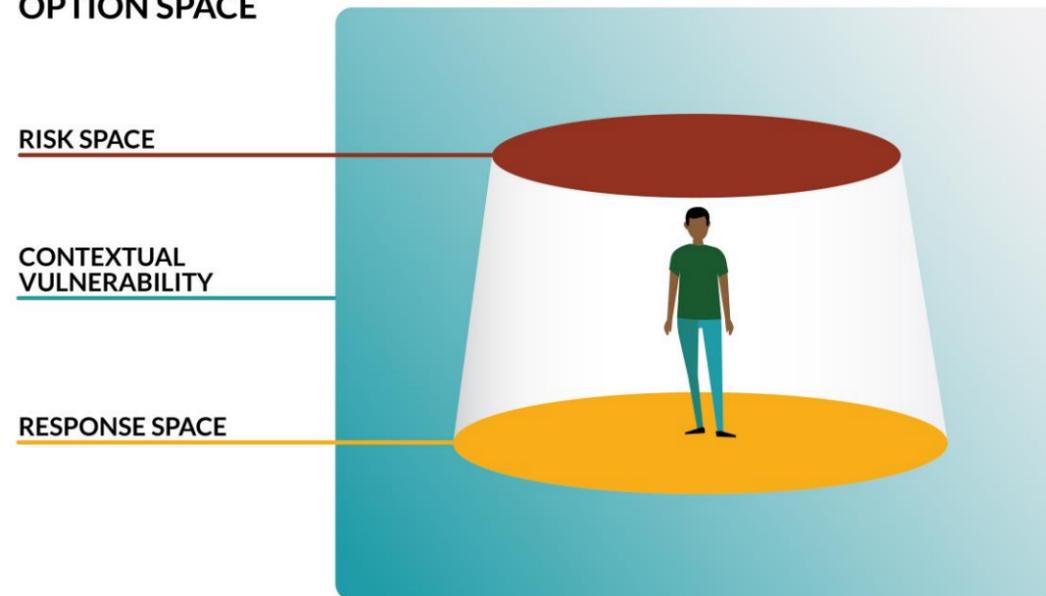
**Everyday mobility and
changing livelihood
trajectories: implications for
vulnerability and adaptation**

**Mark Tebboth, Chandni Singh, Di
Spear, Adelina Mensah and Prince
Ansah**



Adaptation option space

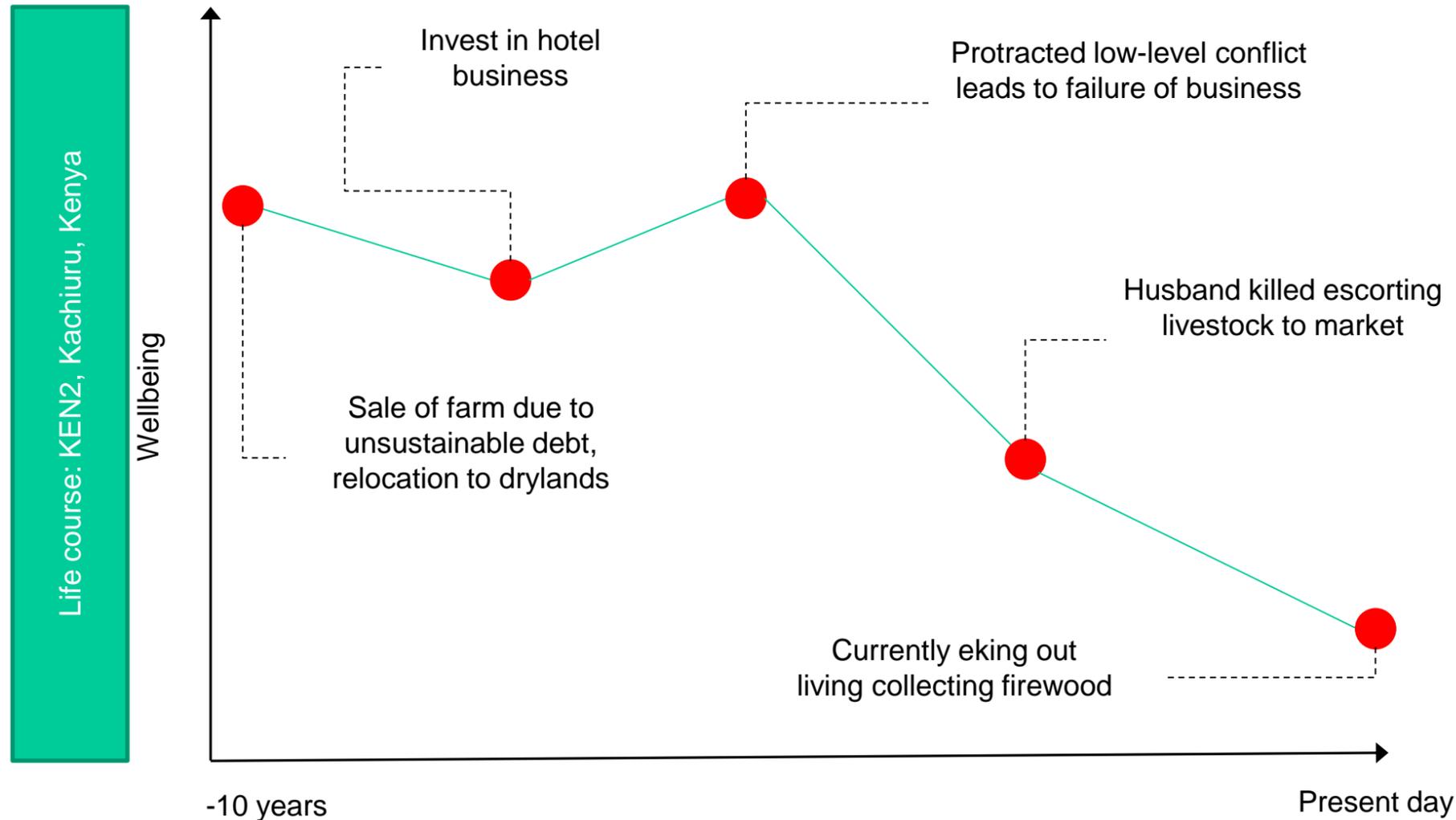
ADAPTATION OPTION SPACE



- ❖ Risk space
 - ❖ Response space
 - ❖ Linked through Adaptation Option Space
 - ❖ Explore people's trajectories
- Move independently of each other

- ❖ The risks can increase or decrease (drought, illness, failing crops etc. whilst the response space remains static
- ❖ Response space can increase as assets are accrued whilst risk space stays the same

Downward trajectories



Within the cases of a downward trajectory a common feature is the way in which risks interact with each other and feedback on and limit the adaptation option space. This cycle of increasingly severe impacts of risk events allied to an ever-smaller adaptation option space locks people into a downward trajectory or cycle

Risk profile change	Typical quotes
<p>Risk gained: Exposure to different portfolio of risks that require novel responses. Examples include adapting to floods, higher costs of living in urban areas and poor health associated with new occupations</p>	<p>"We faced difficulties [flooding] when we initially moved into Bangalore. ... [We were] new to the city [IND2]"</p> <p>"At Ondangwa, it was worse because the salary was not enough to cater all the needs [in the city] such as accommodation, food, transport [NAM2]"</p>
<p>Risk attenuated: Severity of risk is reduced or minimized. Examples include maximising profits from livestock whilst minimizing exposure to losses and reducing the impact of drought by diversifying livelihood</p>	<p>[decreased impact from drought] "the quality of my life changed [for the better] when I moved out of the village to settle with my Aunty [GHA6]"</p>
<p>Risk accentuated: Severity of the risk exacerbated. Examples include the increased risk to livelihoods associated with conflict</p>	<p>"Yes, there is a time I used to buy livestock and add to my herds as profit ... before the conflict ... but after that it was just a struggle [KEN1]"</p>
<p>Risk lost: Risks are completely eradicated through a change in location or livelihood. Examples include leaving behind social controls exerted through the caste system by moving to the city and escaping from threats of violence</p>	<p>"In the village, we were subservient to the Gowdas [landowning caste] and depended upon them for sustenance and livelihood. In the city, we can lead independent lives [IND2]"</p>
<p>Risk stays the same: Risks that are more structural or integral reproduce themselves regardless of change in location or livelihood. Examples include a lack of opportunities and the diminution of life chances associated with the structural conditions of poverty</p>	<p>[Comparing her previous with current location] "life is very hard here also when you don't have a job, there are school fees, and business is not doing well for the last two and half years and if am given opportunity I can even go back to Gafarsa [KEN4]"</p>

Mobility and risk

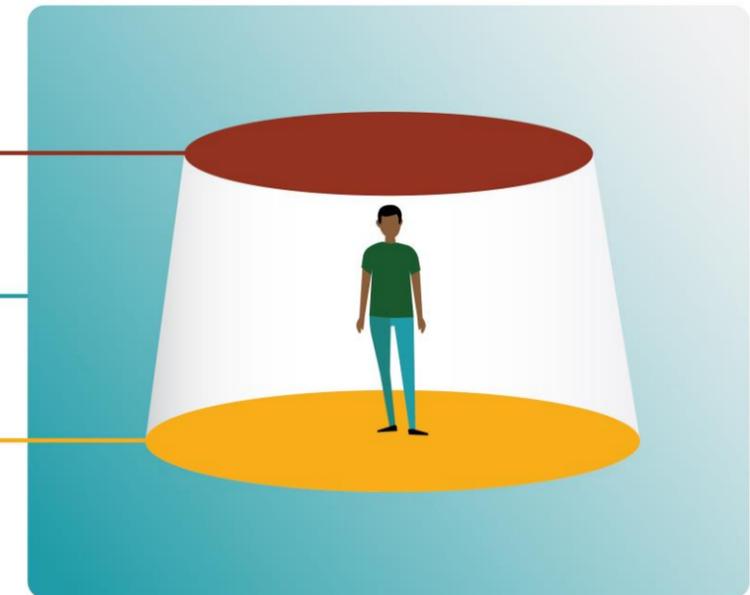
- ❖ Mobility instrumental in peoples' attempts to alter their risk profile (and their response space).
- ❖ Within peoples' and households' trajectories, we see a number of different types of risk exchanges or trade-offs.
- ❖ The balancing of different risk profiles can be seen between places, people (within a household) and over time.
- ❖ Temporal (trajectories) insights are incredibly valuable and offer crucial advantages over more static approaches to understanding people's lives (Thor West 2013; Haddad and Frankenberger 2003).

ADAPTATION OPTION SPACE

RISK SPACE

CONTEXTUAL
VULNERABILITY

RESPONSE SPACE



Supported by



ASSAR at Adaptation Futures: Where to find us

Visit us in the Expo Hall:
IDRC/CARIAA stand (booths 5 & 6)

Look out for this quick guide for a
summary of ASSAR presentations
at Adaptation Futures

Visit our website:

www.assar.uct.ac.za

