Systems Practice at USAID

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SPRING Webinar

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Big Ideas

Achieving and sustaining any development outcome depends on the contributions of multiple and interconnected actors.
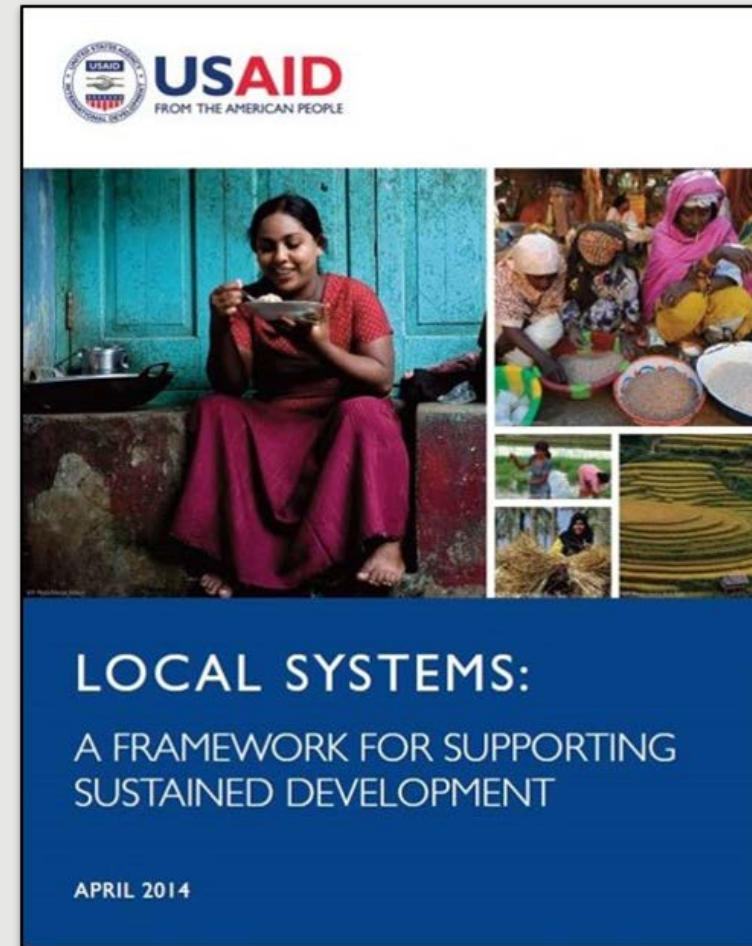
Sustainability

Systems

Policy Commitment

[W]here sustainability is the ultimate objective, USAID is committed to employing all of our development resources to strengthen and use local systems.

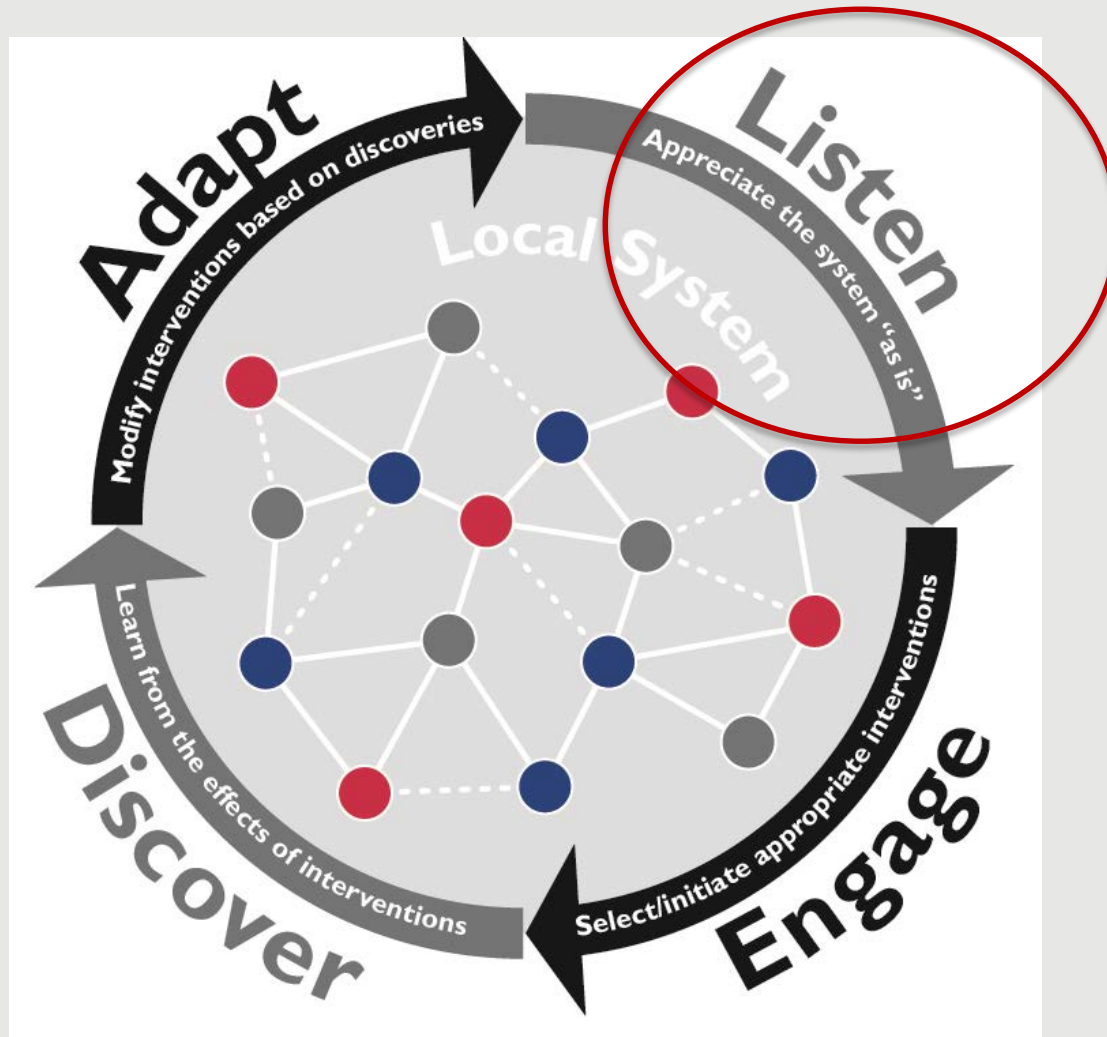# Integrating Systems into the Program Cycle

Current Vision

I believe each of our programs should look forward to the day when it can end. Around the world, we should measure our work by how far each investment moves us closer to that day.
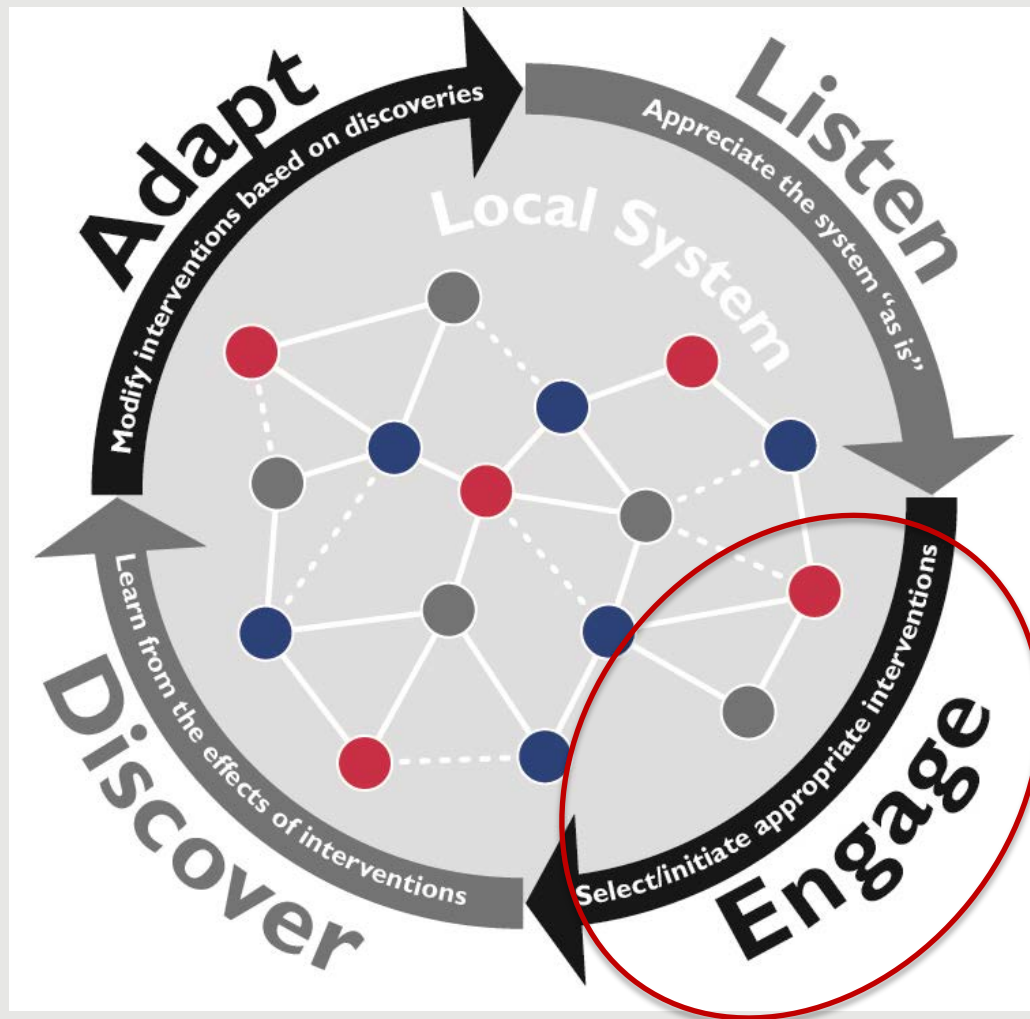
-- Administrator Mark Green, August 7, 2017
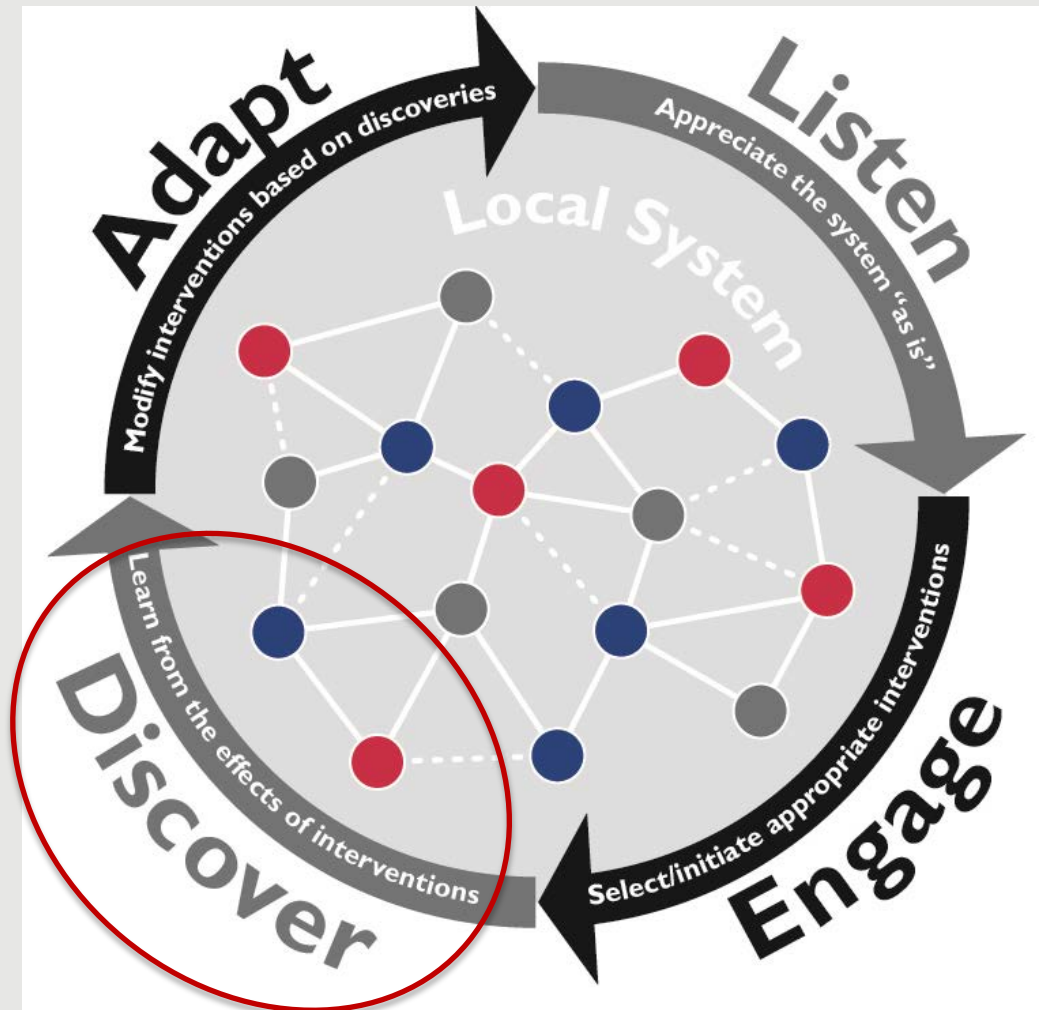
Systems Practice

1. Select the appropriate scale of the problem and bound the local system "as it is"
2. Seek out multiple perspectives
3. Develop an understanding of the system's dynamics
4. Identify leverage points

Systems Practice

1. Design a project in terms of promoting change in a single local system
   - Determine what needs to change
   - Select appropriate interventions, especially those that activate leverage points
2. Initiate interventions

Systems Practice

1. Develop a monitoring plan attuned to systems change

2. Use multiple methods to capture the effects of interventions on the system

3. Learn more about the system through engagement

Systems Practice
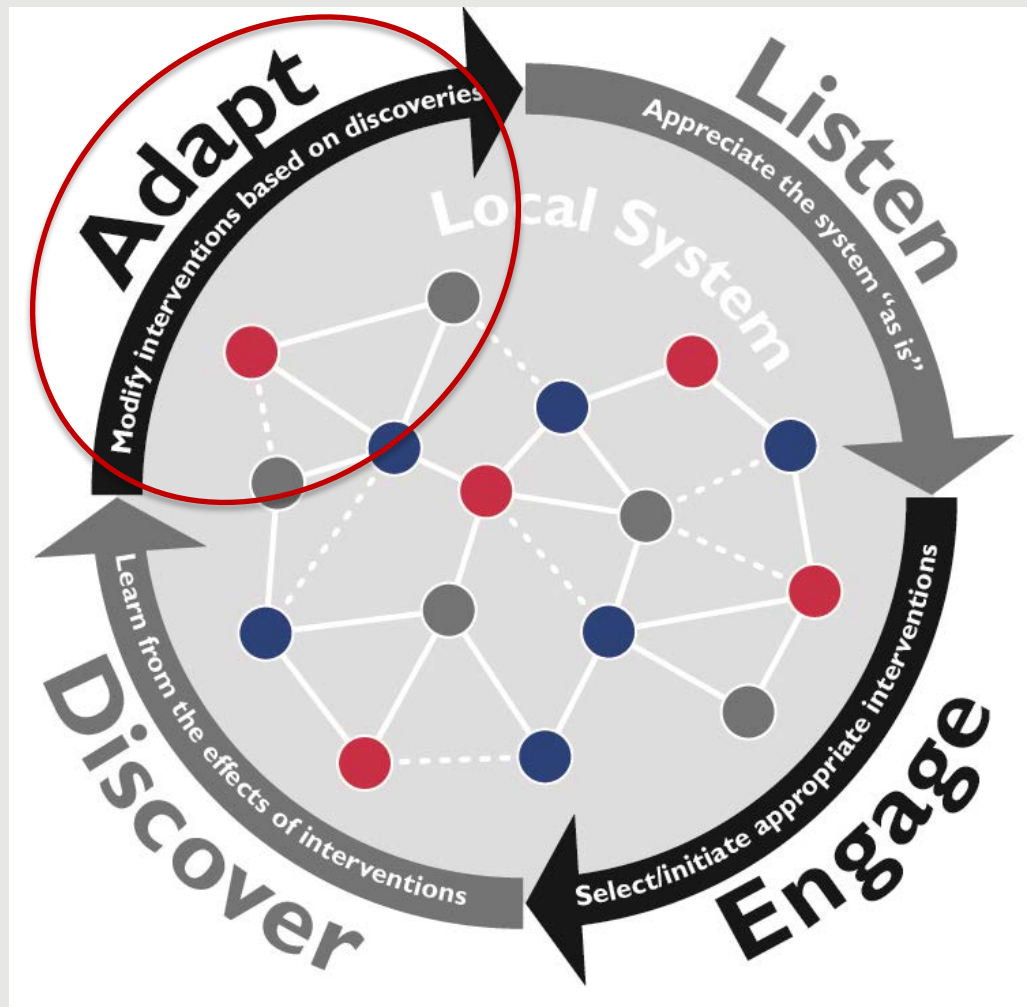
1. Alter interventions (or desired results) based on discoveries

2. Adjust engagement and discovery approaches as needed

Inspiration: Guides to Systems Practice

Understanding the project context

Actual Context

Analysis

Synthesis
- Systems thinking
- Mapping

Understanding of the Context
- Underlying dynamics
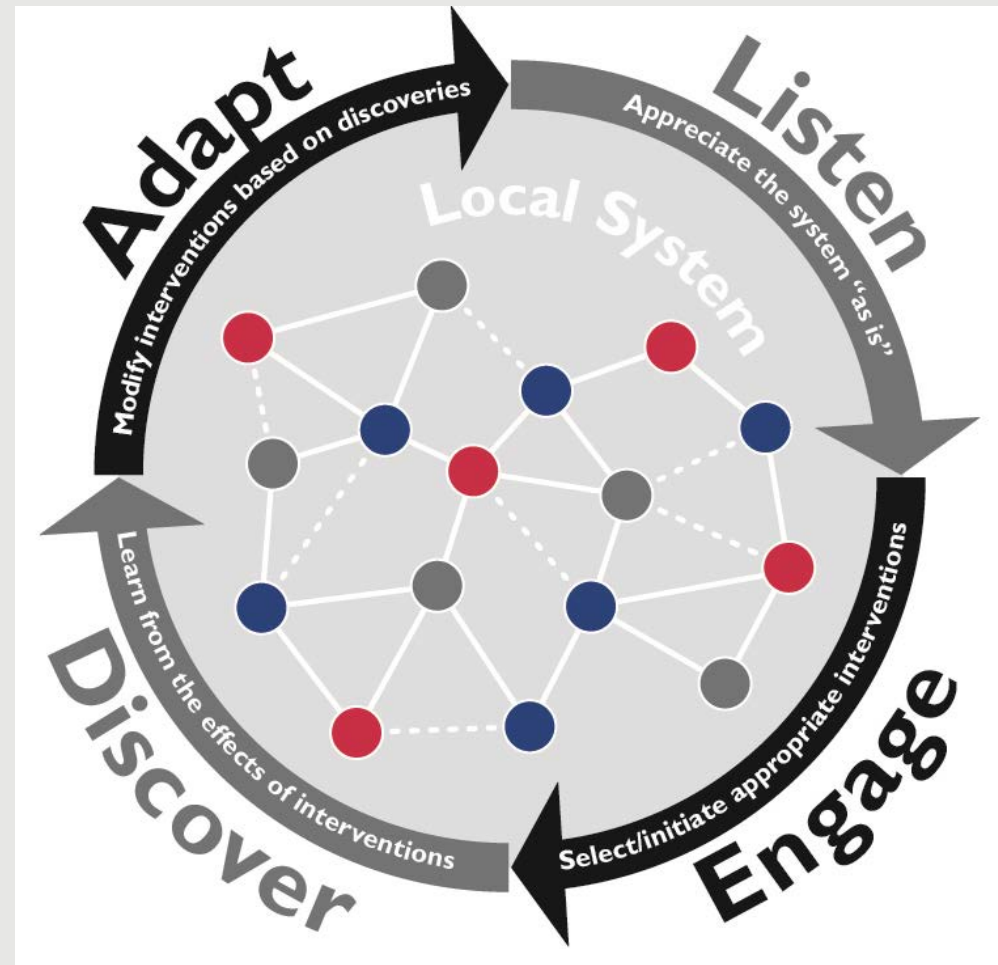- Leverage points
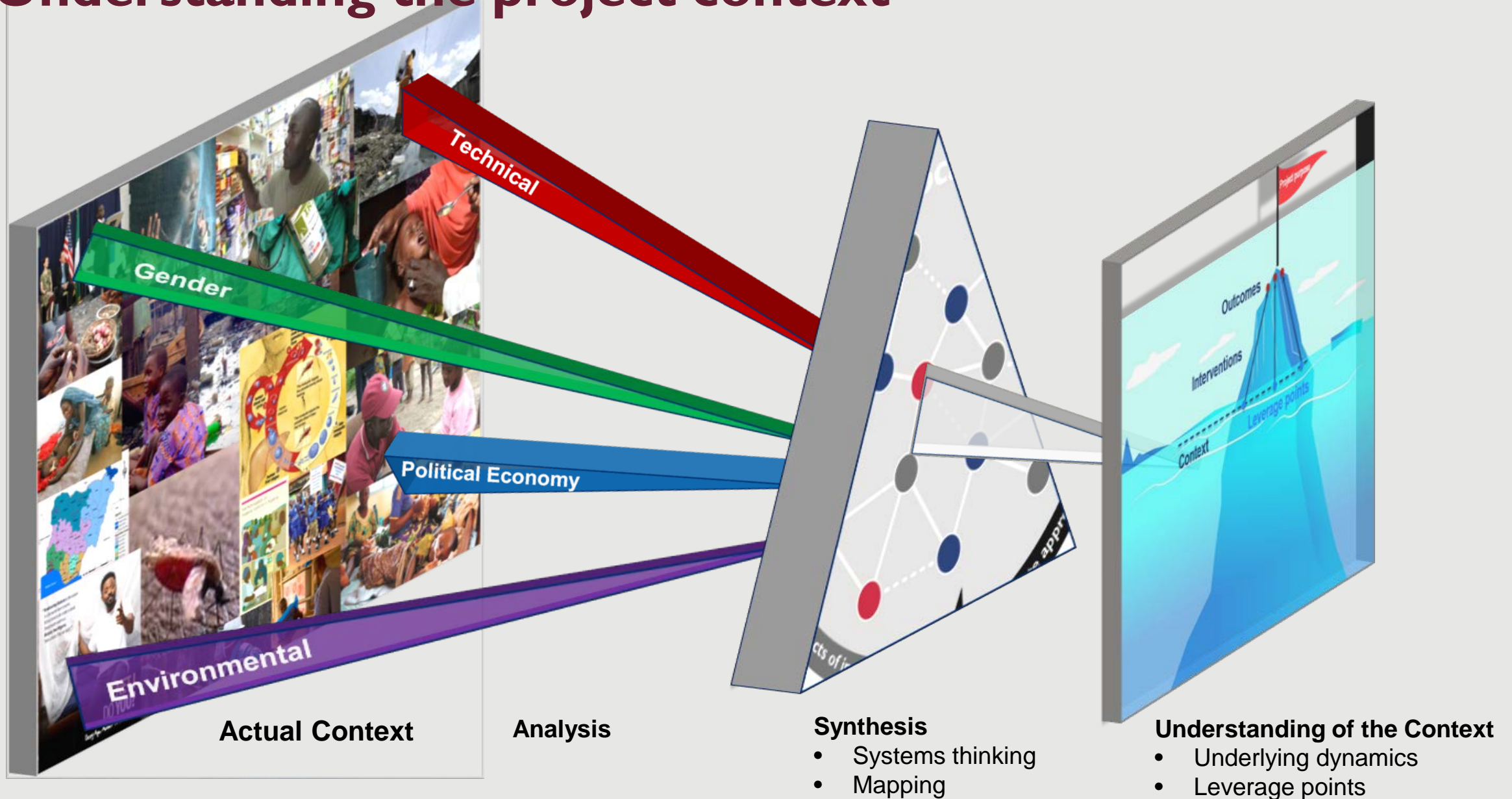
Developing a Systems Practice

Current challenges

- Better guidance on engaging systems
  - Where to intervene to make a difference
  - How to manage system change
    - System stewardship
    - Collective impact
- Socialize guidance on listening, discovering and adapting

Thank you.

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