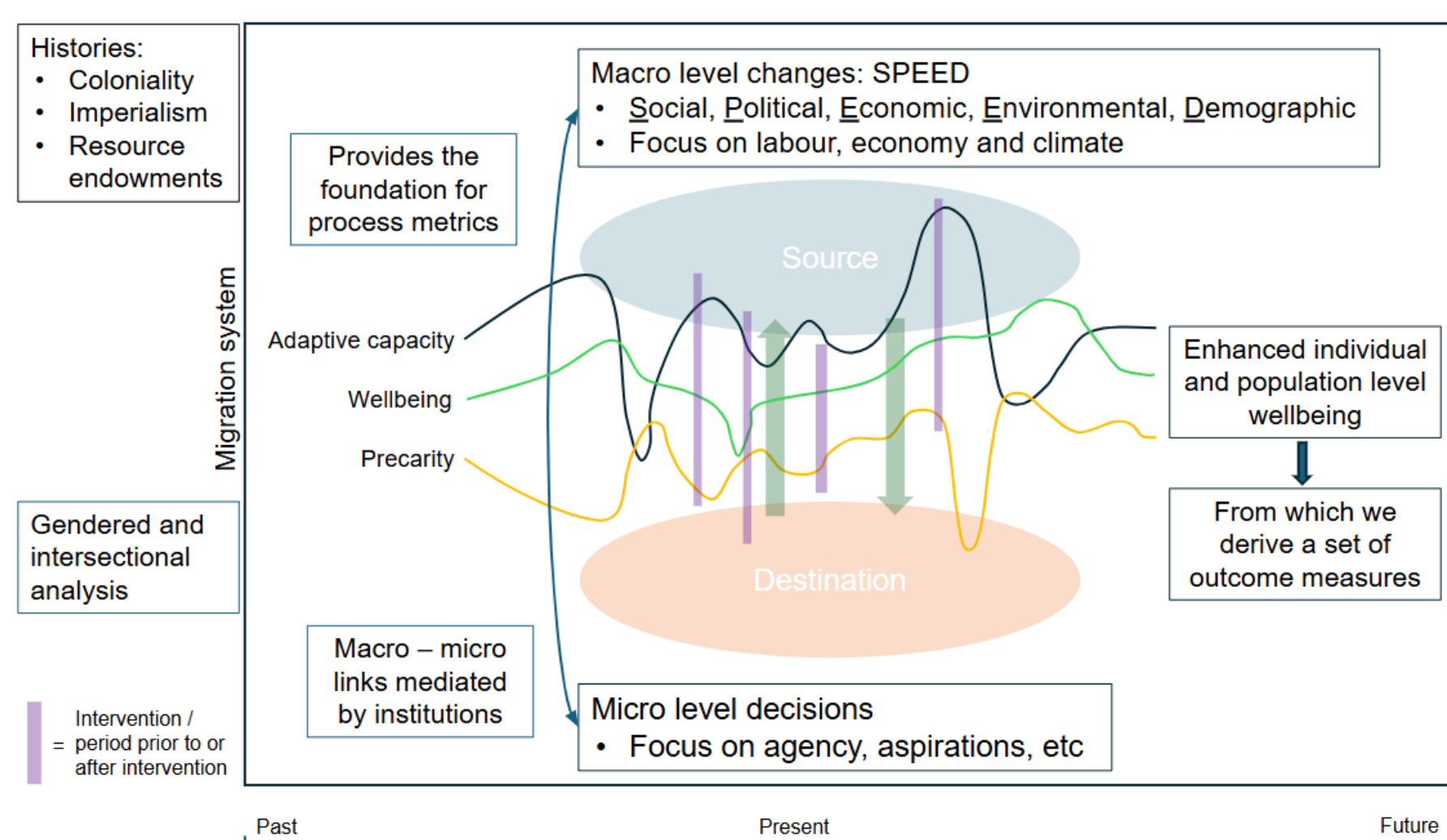# SUCCESSFUL INTERVENTION PATHWAYS FOR MIGRATION AS ADAPTATION (SUCCESS) AND CLIMATE CHANGE LOCAL ADAPTATION PATHWAYS (CLAPS)

As climate change reshapes landscapes and livelihoods, migration is a vital yet undervalued adaptation strategy. Neglected in policy, it fractures rural systems, fuels urban exclusion, and deepens inequality. Our project examines mobility, immobility, and planned relocation across South Asia, generating evidence on how interventions can reduce precarity, boost adaptive capacity, and centre well-being—advancing just, inclusive, and climate-resilient futures.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

PROJECT SITES
Bangladesh: Bhanshkali, Khulna, Chattogram
Bhutan: Denchukha, Samtse, Kurtoe Gewog, Lhuntse, Thimpu, Pasaka
India: States of Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha
Nepal: Varagung, Mustang, Indrawati, Sindhupalchok, Nagarjun, Gokarneswor Municipalities

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH, MIXED-METHODS

Surveys: Capturing migration drivers and adaptation strategies

Qualitative Research: KIIs, FGDs, life histories on socio-ecological dynamics

Participatory Methods: Photovoice and foresight for community-led insights

Geospatial Analysis: Mapping hazards, vulnerabilities and migration corridors

Scenario Analysis: Assessing alternative adaptation pathways

WAY FORWARD

ADVANCE POLICY AND PRACTICE: Co-create evaluative tools, learning kits, and strategies to embed migration as adaptation into sub-national and urban climate policies.

BUILD CAPACITY AND LEADERSHIP: Strengthen the next generation of researchers, officials, and civil society actors through mentoring, summer schools, and targeted training.

IMPACT BEYOND ACADEMIA: Translate research into action with accessible toolkits, policy briefs, and media to inform and influence real-world decision-making.

EMERGING FINDINGS

NARRATIVE CHANGE
Climate migration narratives are shaped by who tells them—policy, media, and academic framings often diverge from lived experiences, influencing whose voices are heard or sidelined.
Legitimacy of narratives depends on language, data, and authority, impacting how migration is perceived—either as a crisis to control or a strategy to support.

CLIMATE-INDUCED RELOCATION
Planned relocation processes are commonly top-down, with limited community consultation. Reported outcomes include livelihood disruption, weakened social networks, and challenges in maintaining cultural practices.
Relocation sites are often situated in marginal areas with limited access to water, sanitation, education, and healthcare, contributing to continued or increased precarity among resettled populations.

IMMOBILE POPULATIONS AND RURAL FUTURES
Immobility is shaped by structural barriers and deep place attachment, anchoring people in high-risk areas despite rising climate threats. Remittances and extended community ties— including diaspora support—help immobile households to adapt. But policy gaps hinders these potentials and can deepen spatial inequalities.

MIGRANT DESTINATIONS AND URBAN FUTURES
Migrants face high climate risks and harsh living and working conditions, yet are often excluded from urban planning, social protection, and disaster response. Social networks and remittances support short-term coping, but poor access to housing, services, and skills keeps migrants in long-term precarity.