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# The Chronic Poverty Report 2008-09

## Escaping Poverty Traps





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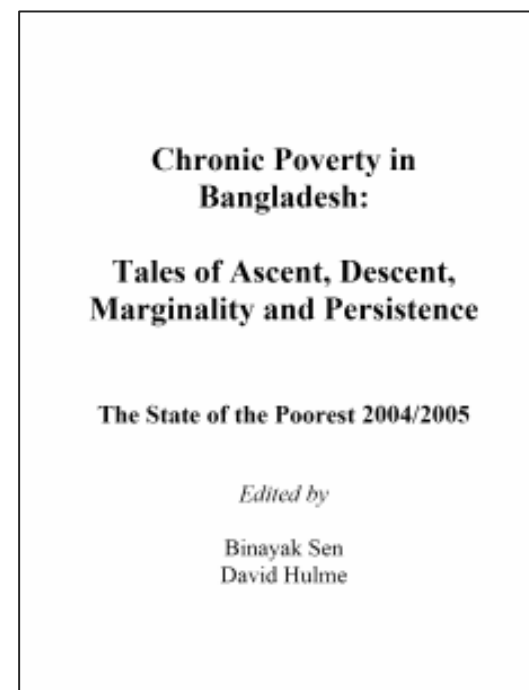
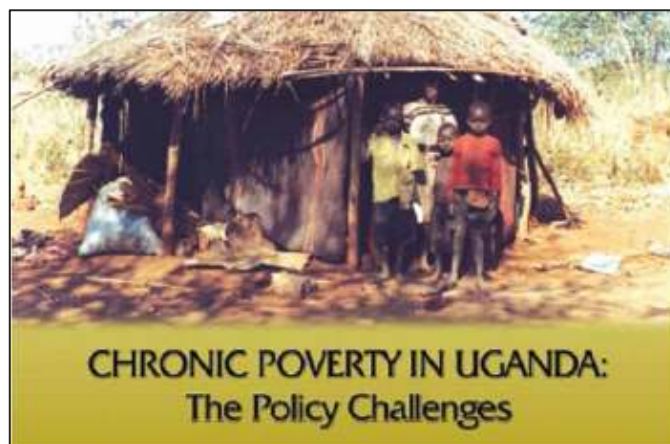
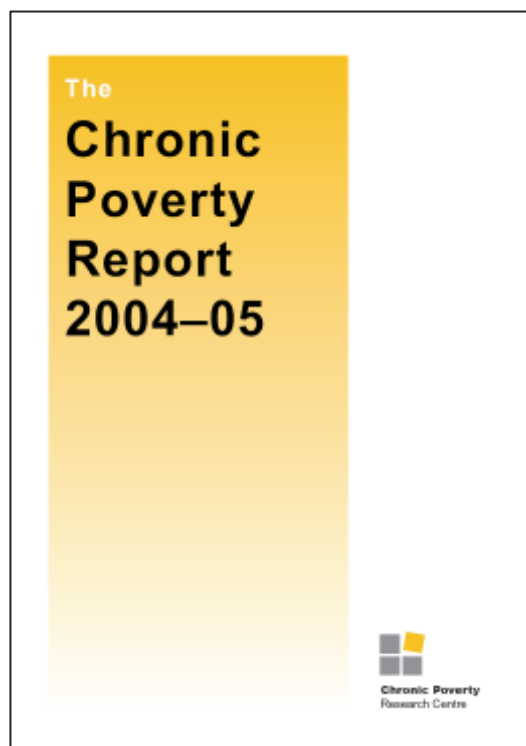
# Who are we?





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# Major CPRC reports





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# **Chronic Poverty Report 2008/09**

**Aimed at national-level  
policymakers**

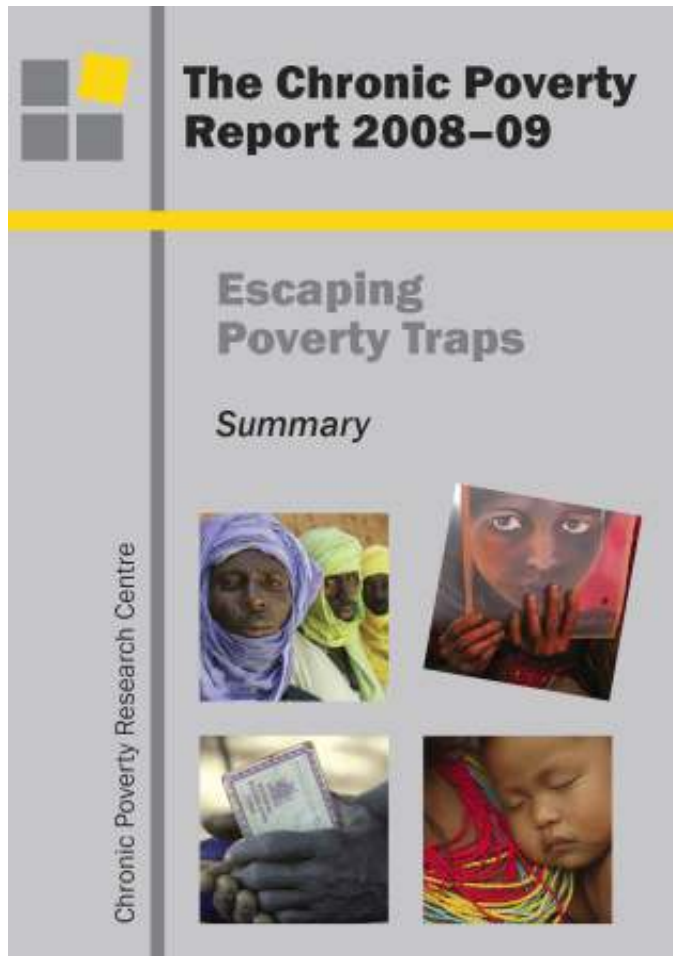
**Offers solutions to five  
chronic poverty traps**





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# **Chronic Poverty Report 2008/09**



**Five key features:**

**International partnership**

**Country context**

**Real politics of pro-poor reform**

**Lived experiences of the poor**

**Multi-disciplinary**



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# Why is tackling chronic poverty important?



*Giacomo Pirozzi/Panos*

**MDG1: What about the other half?**

**Between 320 and 443 million people are chronically poor**

**It's about multi-dimensional deprivation**



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# Why tackle chronic poverty now?



*Dermot Tatlow/Panos*

**Effects of poverty traps**

**Climate change**

**Demographic window of opportunity**

**Fairness and justice**



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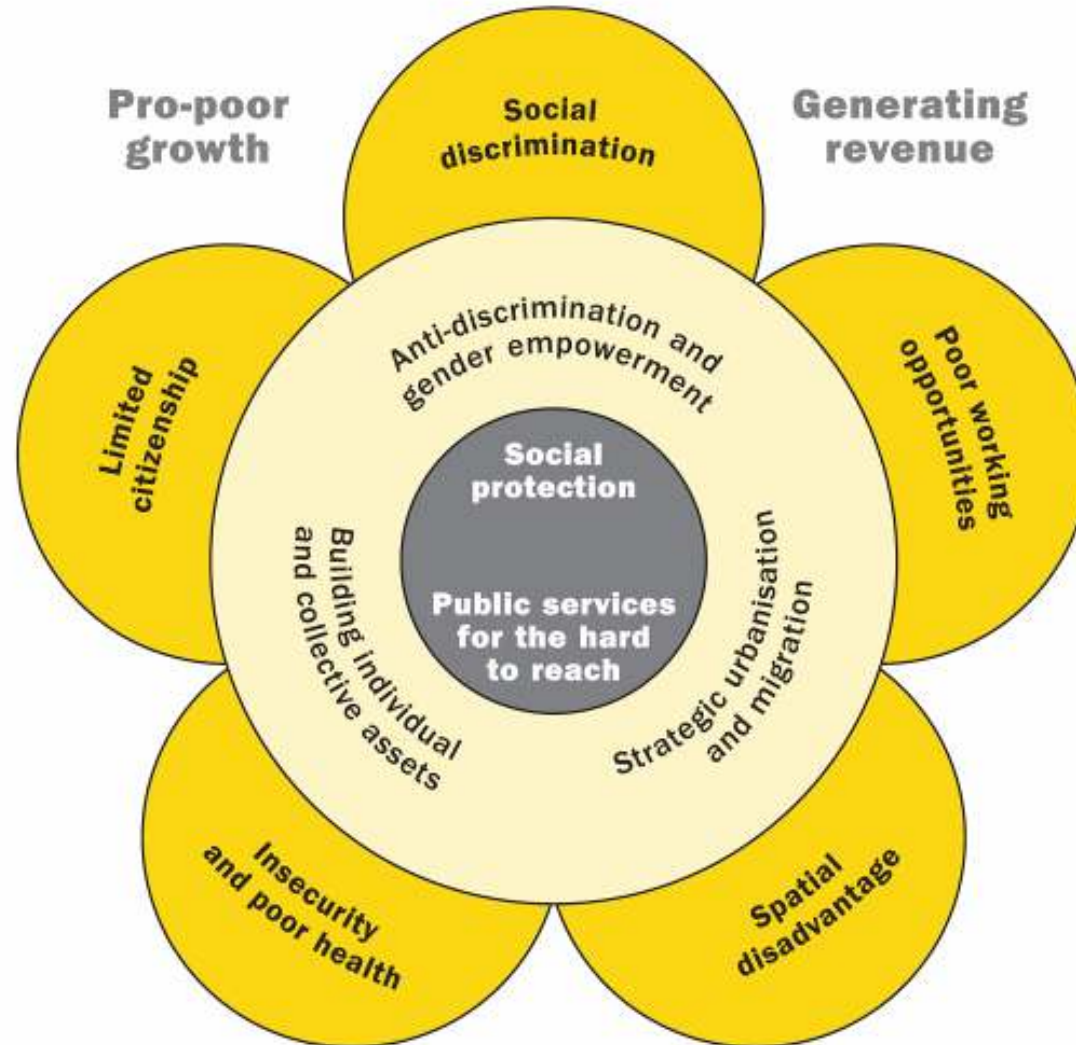
# What are the five chronic poverty traps?





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# What are the solutions?





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# **Policy response is more than the sum of its parts...**



*Crispin Hughes/Panos*

**Builds a *social compact*  
between the state and its  
people**

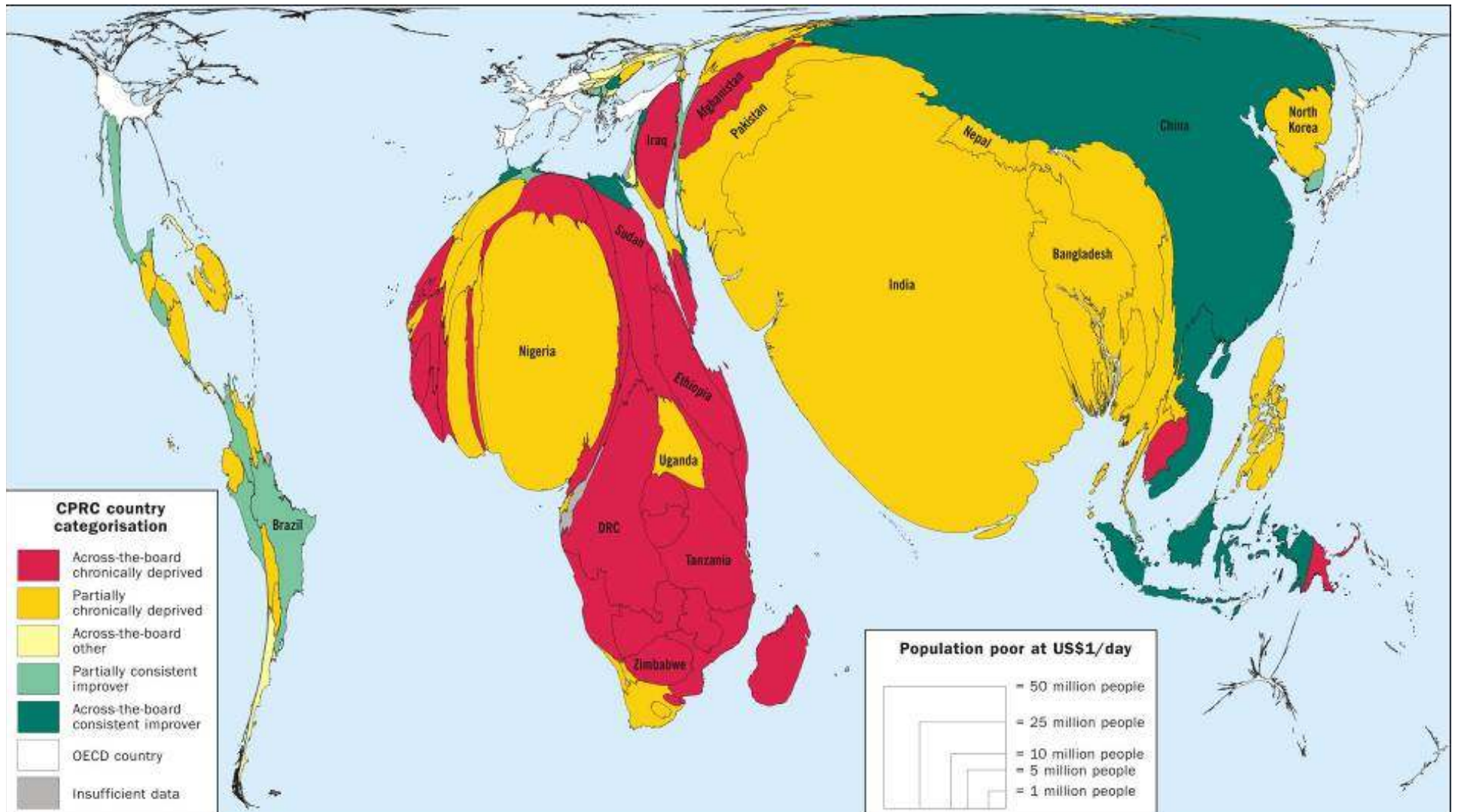
**Primary function of the state  
is to reduce individual risk**

**Policies reduce risks in  
return for commitment and  
revenue (through taxation)**



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# Tailoring policy responses to country context



**Importantly...**

**... remember Bakyt**

**Bakyt and his siblings live in Kokyangak – a small town of around 10,000 people – in southern Kyrgyzstan.**

**Bakyt – an 11-year-old boy – and his two older brothers work as coal miners, earning income to buy food, or wood to heat the house.**

**The brothers are employed as miners because the shafts are extremely small.**

**The work is dangerous: the shafts have no supports and Bakyt damages his back hauling the coal out.**

**But working for 12 hours in the mine puts food on the table.**

**Importantly...**

**... remember Bakyt**

**Bakyt's parents divorced when he was young, and his father does not support the family.**

**Around 2002, Bakyt's mother became paralysed and is unable to walk.**

**She is dependent on her children and a state disability grant of just over US\$10/month.**

**Her children do the housework, and, in addition to mining, earn money through scavenging or labouring for food.**

**None attend school regularly. They have to work. And in any case, they can't afford the books and clothes.**



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## **What should happen now?**

***Poverty Reduction Strategies*** should remain a vital tool, but a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of PRSPs need to:

- Shift from being donor-owned documents, to being embedded in national societies and polities;
- Be based on national political projects
- Open up formal and informal spaces and networks for the voices of the poor



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## **What should happen now?**

The *Millennium Development Goals* need extending beyond 2015

- Goal of extreme poverty elimination by 2025

A **Global Social Protection Strategy** should be put in place by 2010

- Goal of access to basic social protection for all poor and vulnerable people by 2020



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[www.chronicpoverty.org](http://www.chronicpoverty.org)



Abbie Trayler-Smith/Panos