

Contents

| | |
|--|-------------|
| <i>Foreword</i> | <i>xiii</i> |
| <i>Acknowledgments</i> | <i>xv</i> |
| Chapter 1: Introduction | 1 |
| Methodological Framework and Study Process | 2 |
| Study Background | 2 |
| Research Partnerships | 3 |
| Sampling Framework | 4 |
| Data Analyses | 5 |
| Follow-up | 6 |
| Challenges in Writing and Editing this Book | 7 |
| The Importance of Context Specificity | 8 |
| Organization of the Book | 12 |
| Chapter 2: Ghana — “Empty Pockets” | 17 |
| Hunger and Illbeing | 20 |
| No Money | 23 |
| Diverse Obstacles to Farming | 24 |
| Joblessness | 27 |
| Coping | 28 |
| Government Is Important, but Its Help Falls Short | 30 |
| Missing Basic Services | 31 |
| Faith in Chiefs and Churches | 35 |
| Little Regard for NGOs | 37 |
| Growing Responsibilities for Women, but Few Rights | 38 |
| Economic Gains? | 39 |
| Widespread Gender Violence | 41 |
| Conclusion | 42 |
| Chapter 3: Malawi — Tangled Web | 51 |
| Doing Well and Doing Poorly: No Plate-Drying Rack | 54 |
| Caught in a Web of Misery | 56 |
| Empty Stomachs | 56 |
| Early Marriage, High Fertility, and Less Land | 57 |
| Costly Fertilizers and Devalued Currency | 58 |
| Precarious Jobs | 59 |
| Weather Vagaries | 60 |
| No Credit | 61 |

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Inadequate Water and Roads | .63 |
| The Reach for Schooling | .64 |
| Endangered Health | .65 |
| Divorced and Widowed Women | .67 |
| Children Left Behind without Hope | .68 |
| Theft and Other Crime | .69 |
| Trapped in the Tangle | .71 |
| A Few Break Free | .73 |
| Turning to Each Other | .75 |
| Conclusion | .77 |
| Chapter 4: Nigeria — Illbeing and Insecurity | .85 |
| Downward Slide | .88 |
| Poor Governance | .91 |
| Poorly Functioning Private Sector | .92 |
| Religious and Community-Based Institutions: Trusted but Noninclusive | .94 |
| Illbeing | .96 |
| Bodily Risks | .97 |
| Eroding Physical Environment and Dilapidated Infrastructure | .98 |
| Seasonal Stresses | .98 |
| Crime and Conflict | .99 |
| Education's Mixed Promise | .100 |
| Signs of Hope | .102 |
| The Gulf of Gender Inequities | .103 |
| Domestic Violence | .104 |
| The Stigma of Women without Men | .105 |
| Conclusion | .106 |
| Chapter 5: Bangladesh — Waves of Disaster | .113 |
| Poor People's Many Risks | .116 |
| Hunger, Weakness, and Poor Health | .118 |
| Lack of Assets | .120 |
| Insecure Livelihoods | .122 |
| Floods and Erosion | .126 |
| Crime, Violence, and Police Harassment | .127 |
| Dowry | .128 |
| Sources of Vulnerability and Abuse of Women | .130 |
| Institutions in Bangladesh | .133 |
| Failing Grades for Local Government | .133 |
| Dependence on Moneylenders | .134 |
| NGOs: Reliable and Trustworthy | .135 |
| Religious Institutions: Important but Limited | .137 |
| Conclusion | .138 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| Chapter 6: India — Gains and Stagnation in Bihar and Andhra Pradesh | 147 |
| Experiences of Wellbeing and Illbeing | 152 |
| Criteria of Wellbeing | 152 |
| Community Problems and Priorities | 156 |
| Mixed Trends | 160 |
| Contribution of Institutions to Wellbeing | 161 |
| Leading Institutions in Netarhat | 161 |
| State Institutions | 162 |
| Local Institutions | 167 |
| Gender Relations | 170 |
| More Varied Livelihoods | 171 |
| Changes in Household Decision Making | 171 |
| Domestic Violence | 172 |
| Still a Long Way to Go | 173 |
| Conclusion | 173 |
| Chapter 7: Indonesia — Coping with Vulnerability and Crisis | 181 |
| Exposed on Many Fronts | 184 |
| Market Shocks | 185 |
| Lack of Assets and Access to Common Property Resources | 188 |
| Remoteness, Isolation, and Lack of Bargaining Power | 190 |
| Seasonal and Environmental Stresses and Shocks | 191 |
| Reducing Insecurity: Role of Formal and Informal Institutions | 193 |
| Little Trust in Public Institutions | 193 |
| Struggling to Get Credit: Formal and Informal Sources | 199 |
| Building Informal Survival Networks | 200 |
| Gender Relations Increase Women's Vulnerability | 202 |
| Improvements over Time | 203 |
| The Devastation of Divorce | 204 |
| Domestic Abuse Declining but Still Prevalent | 205 |
| Conclusion | 207 |
| Chapter 8: Bosnia and Herzegovina — War-Torn Lives | 213 |
| Loss upon Loss | 216 |
| Physical and Emotional Suffering | 217 |
| Destruction of the Middle Class | 217 |
| The War Is to Blame | 218 |
| Unemployment and the Collapse of Industry | 220 |
| The Displaced: Seeking House and Home | 221 |
| Organizing in Glogova | 221 |
| Squalor in Tombak | 222 |
| Displaced People in Capljina | 223 |

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Struggling to Cope | .223 |
| New Roles for Women and Men | .224 |
| Violence in the Home | .225 |
| Young People Lose Hope | .226 |
| Nowhere to Turn | .227 |
| The Failure of State Institutions | .227 |
| Business Owners, War Profiteers, and Returnees | .229 |
| Humanitarian Aid Falters | .231 |
| Relying on Relatives Near and Far | .232 |
| Conclusion | .233 |
| Chapter 9: Bulgaria — Reeling from Change | .239 |
| The Struggling Majority | .242 |
| Unkept Promises | .245 |
| Unemployment: The Double Loss | .246 |
| Alienation and Humiliation | .247 |
| “We Are Like Refuse”: Child Outcasts | .248 |
| Continuing Struggles for Minorities | .251 |
| Navigating the Changes | .254 |
| The Return to Subsistence Agriculture | .254 |
| The “Real” Economy | .255 |
| The Helpful Institutions: “Your Own People” | .258 |
| State Institutions | .259 |
| NGOs Stepping In | .264 |
| The Legacy of Patriarchy | .265 |
| Conclusion | .268 |
| Chapter 10: Kyrgyz Republic — Crumbling Support, Deepening Poverty | .275 |
| Kok Yangak, a Town in Crisis | .279 |
| Communities in Struggle | .280 |
| Precarious Livelihoods | .282 |
| Absence of Basic Infrastructure | .283 |
| Mounting Social Problems | .285 |
| Limited Institutional Support | .286 |
| State Institutions: Fractured and Lacking Accountability | .286 |
| Social Networks: Invaluable but Stretched | .290 |
| Conflicting Gender Roles | .291 |
| Unsettled Times for Households | .292 |
| Reports of Domestic Abuse | .293 |
| Women and Men in Society | .295 |
| Conclusion | .296 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| Chapter 11: The Russian Federation — Struggling against the Tide | 301 |
| The New Poor and the New Elite | 305 |
| The Unraveling of a “Normal Life” | 305 |
| The “New Russians” | 308 |
| Struggling to Hang On | 310 |
| Delayed Wages, Vanishing Jobs | 310 |
| Informal Work and Subsistence Agriculture | 312 |
| Lawlessness and Ineffective Police | 313 |
| Alcoholism | 315 |
| Health Risks | 316 |
| Decaying Governance | 317 |
| Bureaucratic Disintegration and Corruption | 319 |
| The Private Sector | 321 |
| Civic and Religious Groups | 322 |
| Family and Friends | 322 |
| Women’s Increasing Responsibilities | 324 |
| Conclusion | 326 |
| Chapter 12: Argentina — Life Used to Be Better | 333 |
| Lost Livelihoods and the New Labor Markets | 337 |
| Insecurity and Struggling Families | 339 |
| Gender Roles Overturned | 341 |
| Abuse at Home | 343 |
| Effects on the Next Generation | 344 |
| Pervasive Crime | 347 |
| Police Brutality | 348 |
| Safer Places in the Countryside | 349 |
| Limited Community and Governmental Responses to Poverty | 349 |
| Community-Based Actions and Partnerships | 350 |
| Government Helps Poor People Survive | 353 |
| Problems beyond Poor Communities | 355 |
| Conclusion | 356 |
| Chapter 13: Brazil — Gains and Losses in the Favelas | 363 |
| Joblessness, Underemployment, and Workplace Abuses | 366 |
| Life amid Violence | 369 |
| Fear in the Streets | 369 |
| Fear in the Home | 371 |
| Violence, Substance Abuse, and Children | 375 |
| Poverty, Power, and Social Class | 377 |
| Poor Brazilians’ Interactions with Institutions | 379 |
| What Works and What Doesn’t in Novo Horizonte | 381 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| Progress in the <i>Favelas</i> | 383 |
| Self-Help in Brazilian <i>Favelas</i> | 386 |
| Conclusion | 389 |
| Chapter 14: Ecuador — The Perils of Poverty | 395 |
| Problems and Priorities | 398 |
| Hunger | 398 |
| Livelihood and Property Insecurity | 399 |
| Violence and Race | 403 |
| Interlocking Environmental Risks | 404 |
| Striving for Education | 407 |
| Encounters with Institutions | 408 |
| Government Services | 409 |
| NGOs and Churches | 412 |
| Community Action | 413 |
| Gender Dynamics in the Family | 417 |
| Conclusion | 420 |
| Chapter 15: Jamaica — Island in a Turbulent World | 429 |
| Buffeted by Global Forces | 432 |
| Scarce Livelihoods | 432 |
| Extreme Weather and Environmental Change | 436 |
| The Local and Global Drug Trade | 437 |
| The Struggle for a Better Life | 439 |
| Going Away to Get By | 439 |
| Local Entrepreneurship | 440 |
| Education Loses Its Appeal | 441 |
| Poor People and Public Services | 443 |
| Government and “Politricks” | 443 |
| Valued Institutions in Little Bay | 445 |
| A Caring Culture under Strain | 446 |
| Helping the Young and Less Fortunate | 447 |
| Resisting Crime and Conflict | 448 |
| Maroon Traditions under Stress | 450 |
| Women Reach for Independence and Security | 452 |
| Conclusion | 455 |
| Chapter 16: Conclusion — An Empowering Approach to Poverty Reduction | 461 |
| Poor People’s Assets and Capabilities | 462 |
| Material Assets | 462 |
| Bodily Health | 464 |
| Bodily Integrity | 464 |
| Emotional Integrity | 465 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Respect and Dignity | 466 |
| Social Belonging | 467 |
| Cultural Identity | 467 |
| Imagination, Information, and Education | 469 |
| Organizational Capacity | 469 |
| Political Representation and Accountability | 470 |
| Impact of Economic Turmoil and Policy Changes | 471 |
| Economy-wide Stresses, Deteriorating Livelihoods and Incomes | 472 |
| Rising Prices | 475 |
| Crumbling Public Services | 476 |
| The Culture of Mediating Institutions: State, Market, and Civic | 477 |
| Corruption | 477 |
| Clientelism and Patronage | 478 |
| Lawlessness, Crime, and Conflict | 478 |
| Discriminatory Behavior | 479 |
| Alienation and Hopelessness | 480 |
| Households under Stress | 480 |
| The Persistent Insecurity of Women | 481 |
| “Let the Children Be All Right” | 483 |
| Addressing State Failure: An Empowering Approach to Development .. | 487 |
| 1. Promote Pro-poor Economic Policies | 488 |
| 2. Invest in Poor People’s Assets and Capabilities | 489 |
| 3. Support Partnerships with Poor People | 490 |
| 4. Address Gender Inequity and Children’s Vulnerability | 491 |
| 5. Protect Poor People’s Rights | 492 |

Appendix 1 — Development Indicators for Fourteen

| | |
|--|------------|
| <i>Country Case Studies</i> | 495 |
|--|------------|

Appendix 2 — Country Currencies and the 1999 Exchange Rate ... 501

Appendix 3 — Overview of Study Themes and Methods 503