

Climate-Resilient Social Protection for Nutrition in Female-Headed Cancer-Affected Households in Sri Lanka

Noorul Jinnah Zeron Anas, |Medical Radiotherapist, The National Hospital Kandy, & Postgraduate Fellow, University of Colombo

BACKGROUND

Sri Lanka Faces recurring floods, droughts, and economic shocks that undermine access to nutrition food. Female-headed households caring for cancer patient are especially vulnerable-burdened by income loss, high treatment costs, and climate-driven food insecurity. Existing welfare system rarely integrate nutrition, gender equity, cancer and climate resilience.

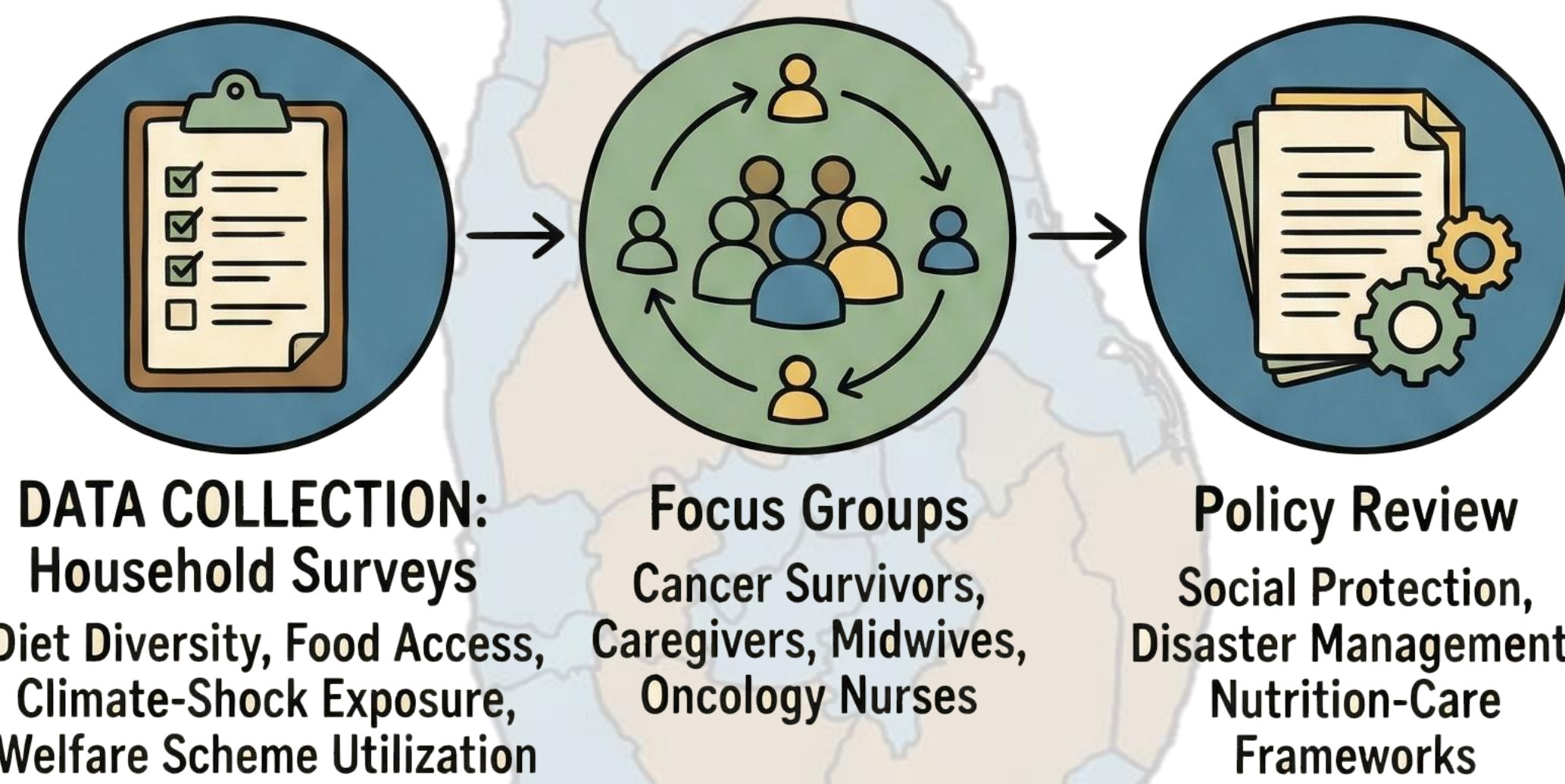
OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Examine how climate shocks affected diet diversity and food security in female-headed, cancer-affected households.
- ✓ Identify system gaps in linking nutrition, climate resilience, and cancer care.
- ✓ Propose a gender-equity social protection model adaptable across South Asia.

METHODS

Study area: 15 Sri Lanka districts frequently affected by floods and droughts.

Sample: 1,450 households (960 female-headed caring for a cancer patient).



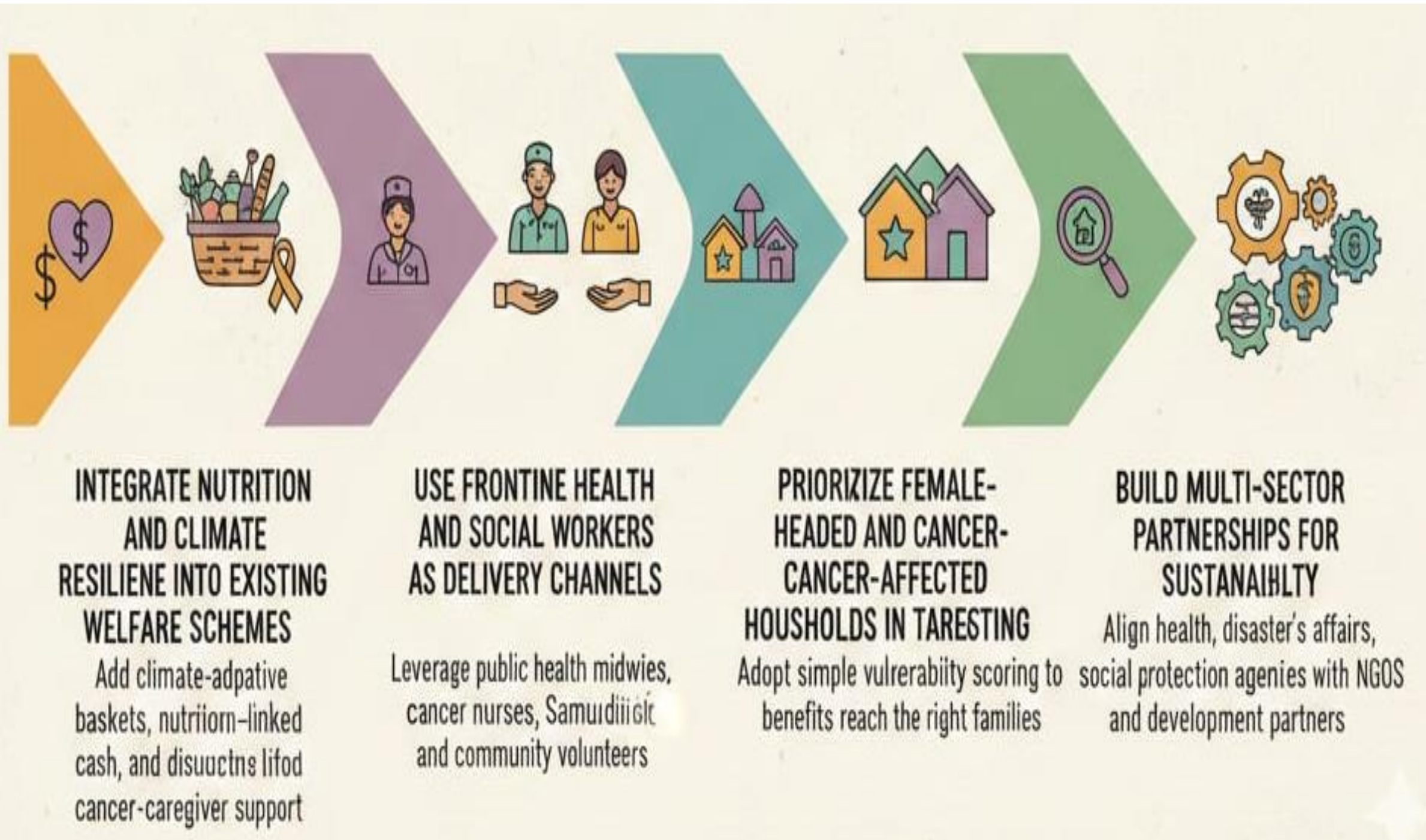
Analysis:

- ✓ Quantitative predictors of food insecurity tested using logistic regression.
- ✓ Qualitative data thematically mapped lived experience and system barriers.

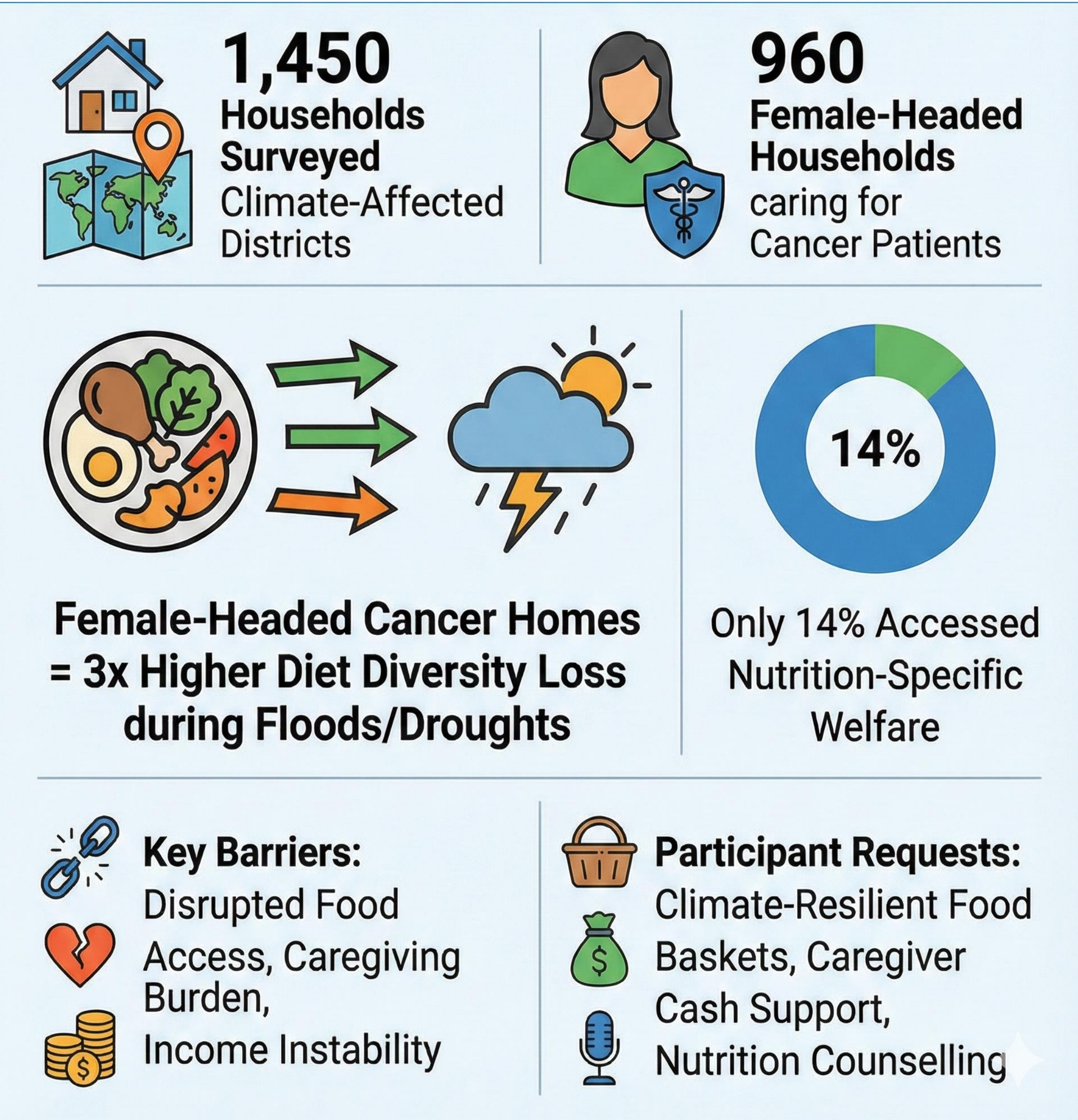
GENDER-EQUITY SOCIAL PROTECTION MODEL



HOW TO SCALE WHAT WORKS

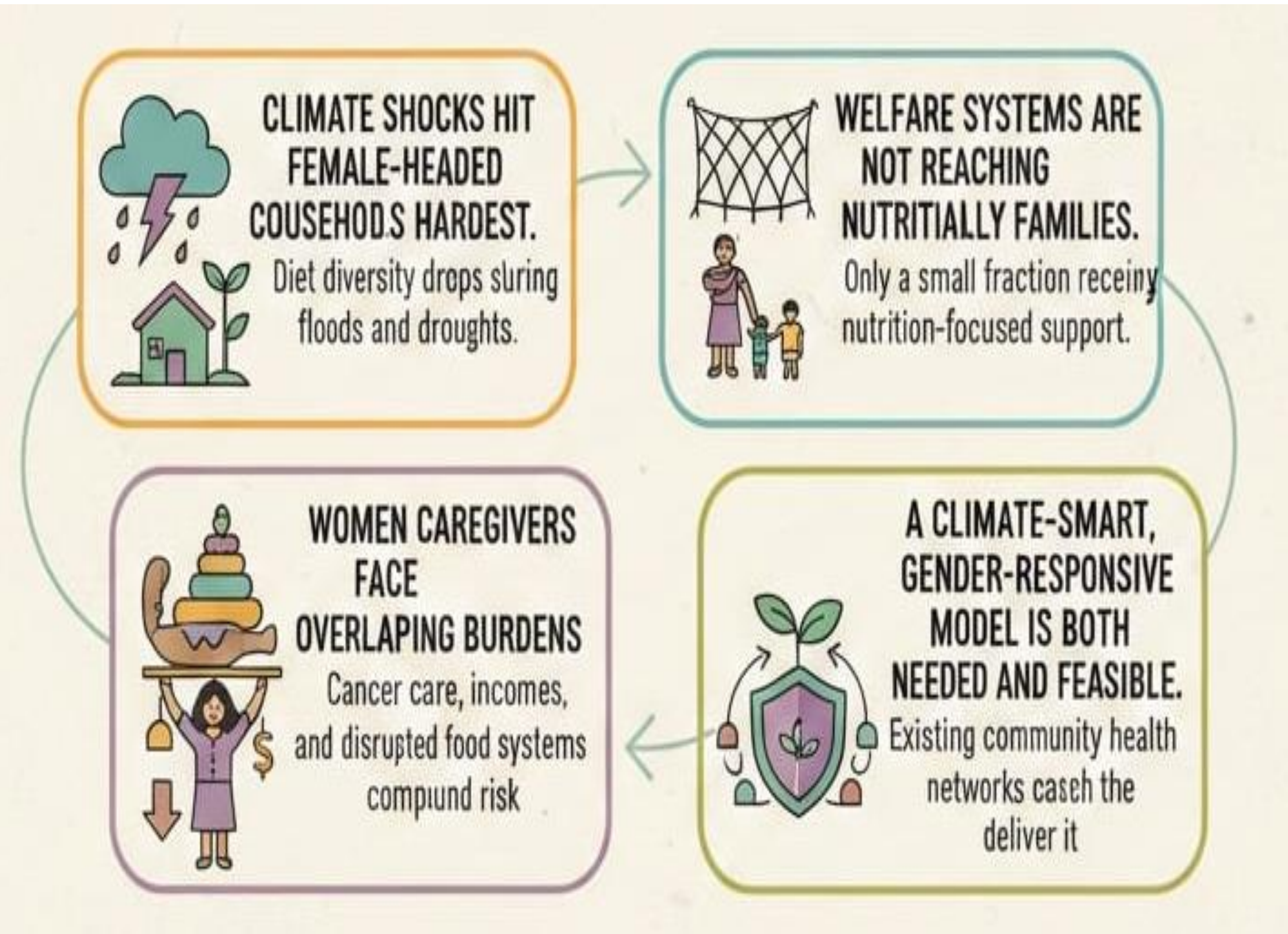


RESULTS



CONCLUSION

WHAT THE EVIDENCE SHOWS



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

✓ We extend our sincere gratitude to the households, caregivers, and community members whose participation and openness made this study possible. We are grateful to the National Hospital Kandy and the Department of Radiotherapy for their invaluable support. We also wish to acknowledge the contributions of local health workers, community partners, and the research team, whose dedication and efforts were essential to the successful completion of this work.