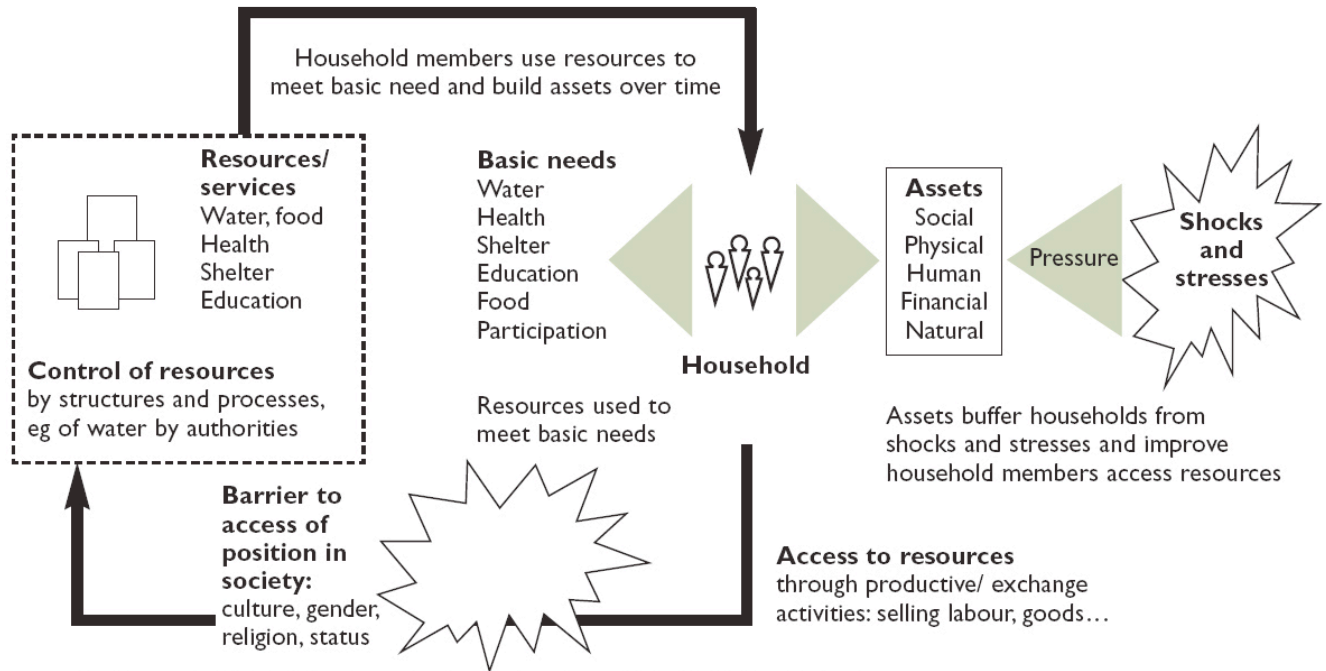


The aim to allow frameworks to be flexible is shown in the alternative visualisation of the HLS approach in a kind of 'route map'. This provides a tool for understanding how members of **urban and rural households** are able to access or overcome barriers to access resources.



Source: Sanderson, D. (1999) *HLS in Urban Settlements*, (London: CARE UK), Urban Briefing Note

Central to the HLS framework are vulnerable households and recognising the factors that perpetuate poverty. Starting with households and their basic needs (animation in the right hand column) we can follow the arrows. Through payment or by undertaking productive activities, access to resources is gained to meet these needs. The ability to access resources and services, however, are limited by barriers, that the poor often encounter. These barriers might be controls of resources by *structures* (e.g. government, private sector employers) or the position in society (e.g. gender, culture, religion or economic status) and *processes* (e.g. laws, regulations). The extent, to which household members may be able to access resources and meeting basic needs as well as accumulating assets, depends upon the success in overcoming these barriers.

These assets in turn are used to cope with stresses and shocks and to increase the ability to improve access to resources in the future (Hussein, 2002).

Reference

Hussein, K. (2002): *Livelihoods Approaches Compared: A Multi-Agency Review of Current Practice*. DFID, odi.