

**Childhood mobility:
movements and outcomes**
**La mobilité des enfants:
leurs mouvements et les conséquences**

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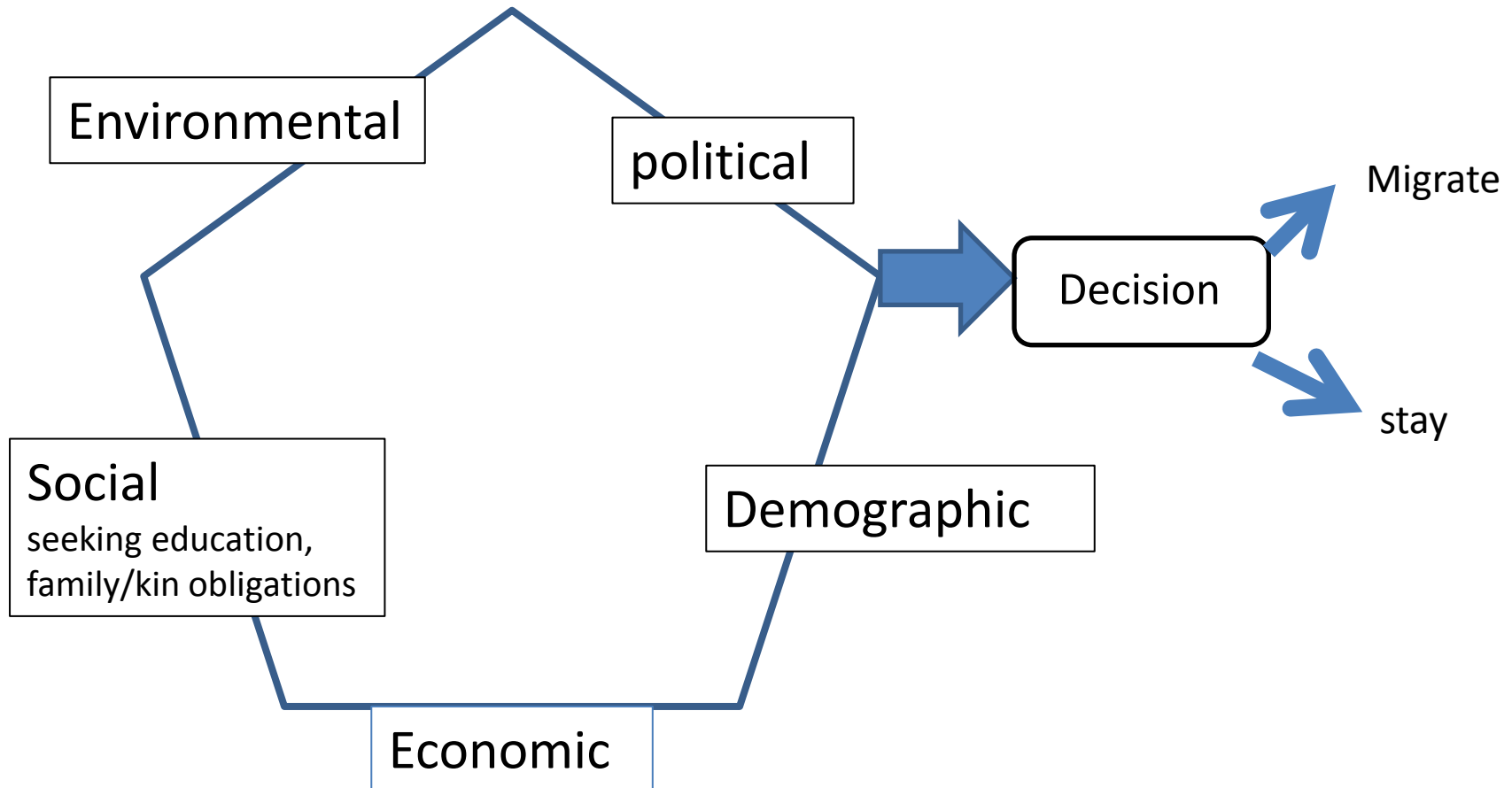


AIMS

- Develop a conceptual framework to represent the different scales of mobility experienced by children in West Africa
- Identify advantages & disadvantages of different forms of mobility for different dimensions of child well-being
- Examine the scale of some types of mobility in selected populations

Black et al. (2011) The effect of environmental change on human migration GEC 21S

Conceptual framework for drivers of migration





Dimensions of mobility (focus on West Africa)

scale

population

“community”

Household /
family

individual

examples

Forced migration:
eg Tuareg rebellion :

Production system:
Pastoral nomadism
Nomadic fishing
Hamlet agriculture

Migration
As in Black et al

Need to distinguish
Adults / children
Independent/
Dependents

Migration
As in Black et al.

Family
reconfiguration

Schooling/training
/apprenticeships



Dimensions of mobility (focus on West Africa)

scale

population

“community”

Household / family

individual

Motivation

Fear/
safety/
compulsion

production system

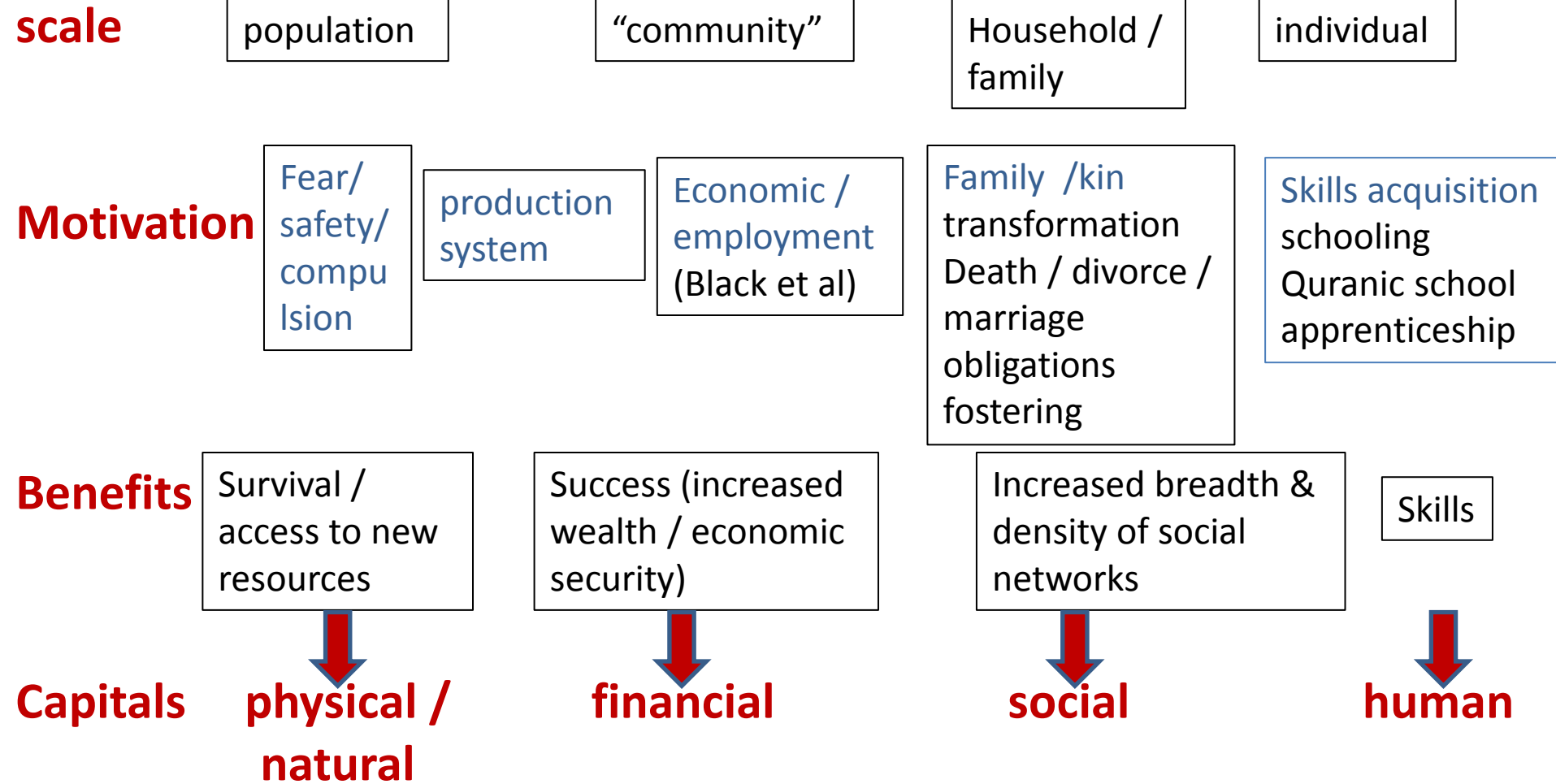
Economic / employment
(Black et al)

Family /kin transformation
Death / divorce / marriage obligations
fostering

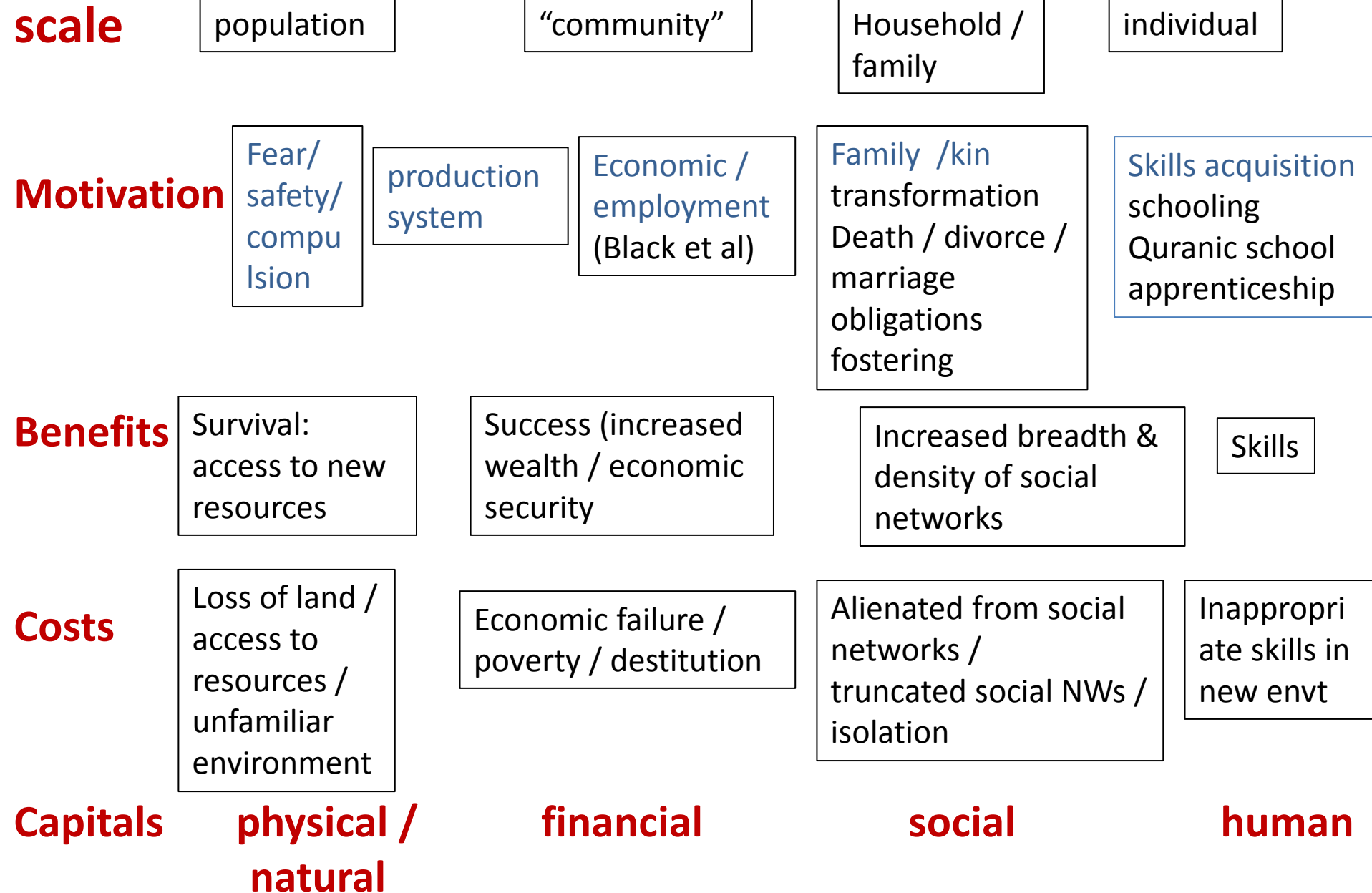
Skills acquisition
schooling
Quranic school
apprenticeship

Physical survival / economic **survival**
Economic /social **improvement**
Fulfilling social expectations / obligations **normality**

Dimensions of mobility (focus on West Africa)



Dimensions of mobility (focus on West Africa)





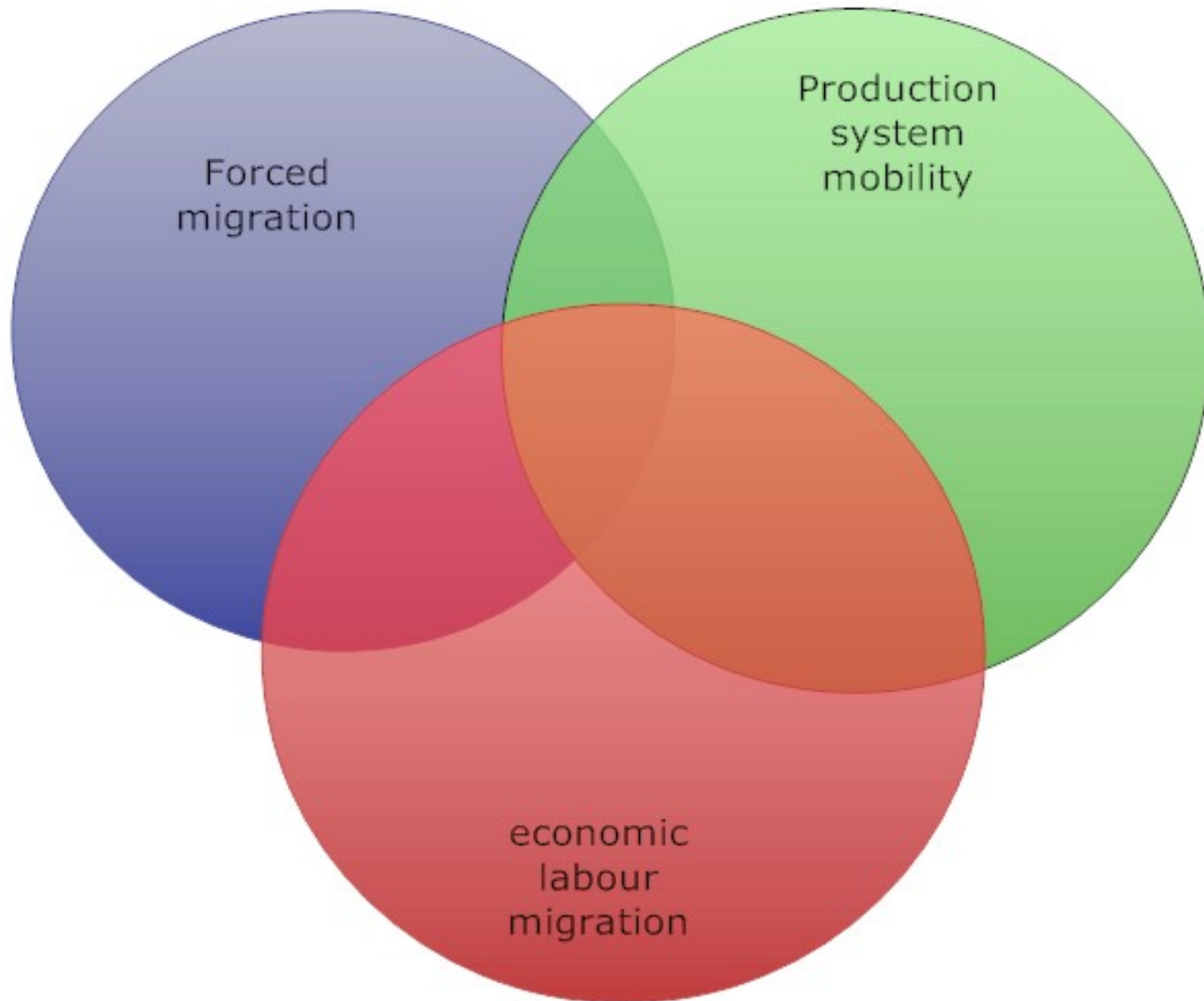
Dimensions of mobility (focus on West Africa)

Further issues

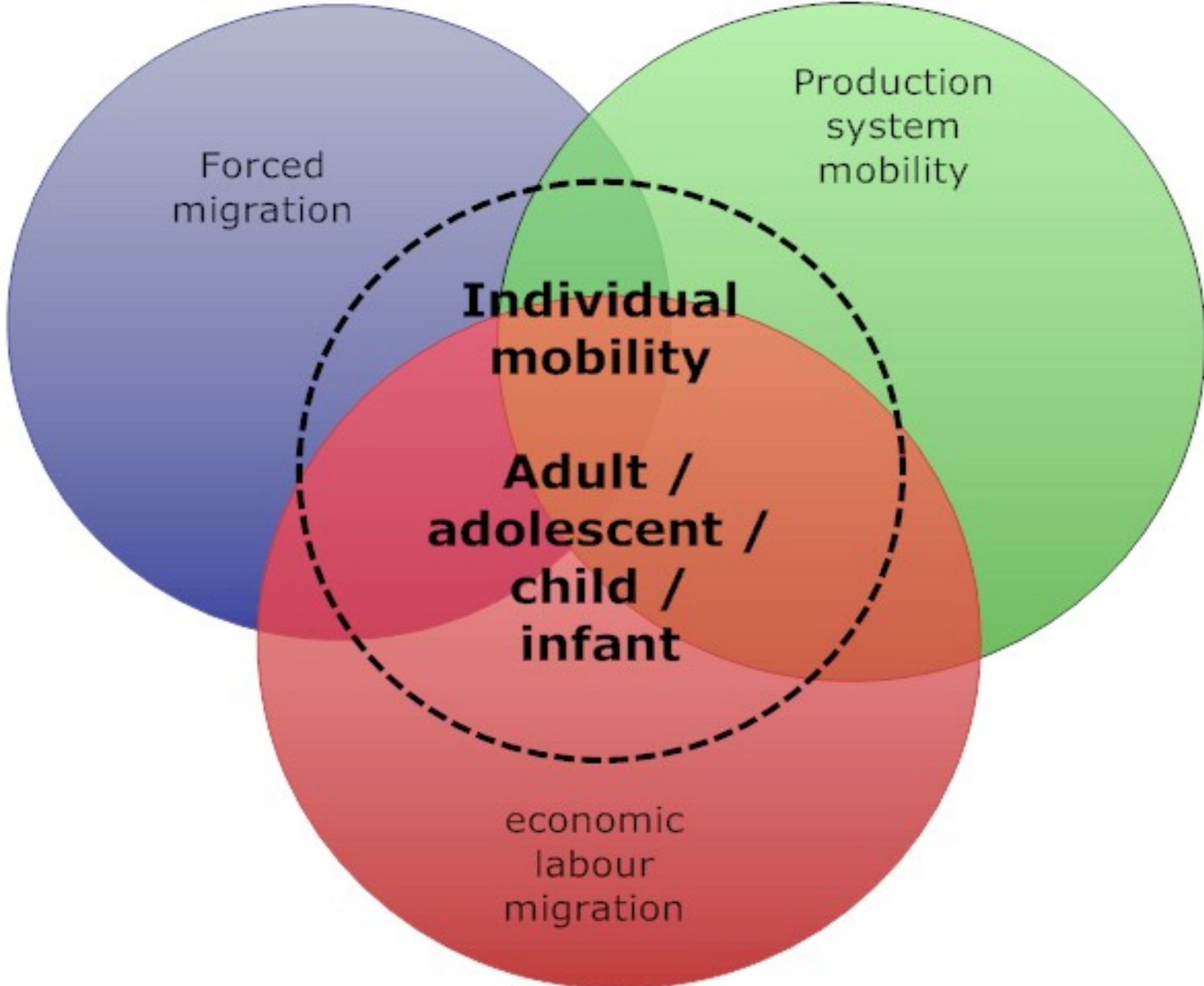
1. Different types of movements can be occurring simultaneously for different types of people
2. Different degrees of agency over mobility:
3. Timescale for costs and benefits:
 - immediate may be very different to long term

Très

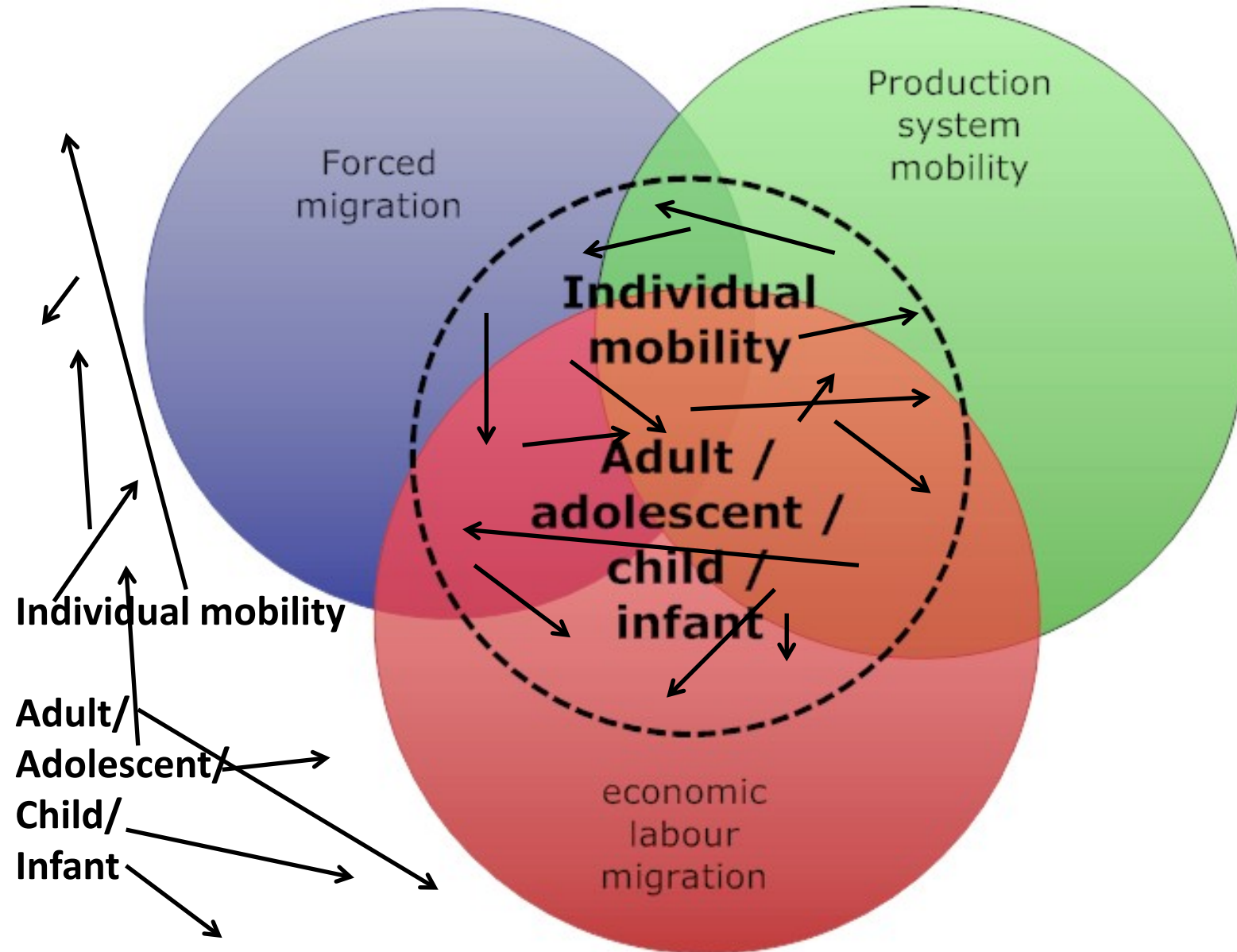
📌 Different types of movement occurring simultaneously for different types of people



Different types of movement occurring simultaneously for different types of people



📌 Different types of movement occurring simultaneously for different types of people





Agency over mobility

- Fully informed
- Ability to move (physical and resources)
- Control over decision making

Stratified by age and gender (and class)

Children – least agency

- Lack information
- Unable to access resources
- Not usually decision makers



Children's agency over mobility stratified by age and gender

Family / household mobility: child accompanies

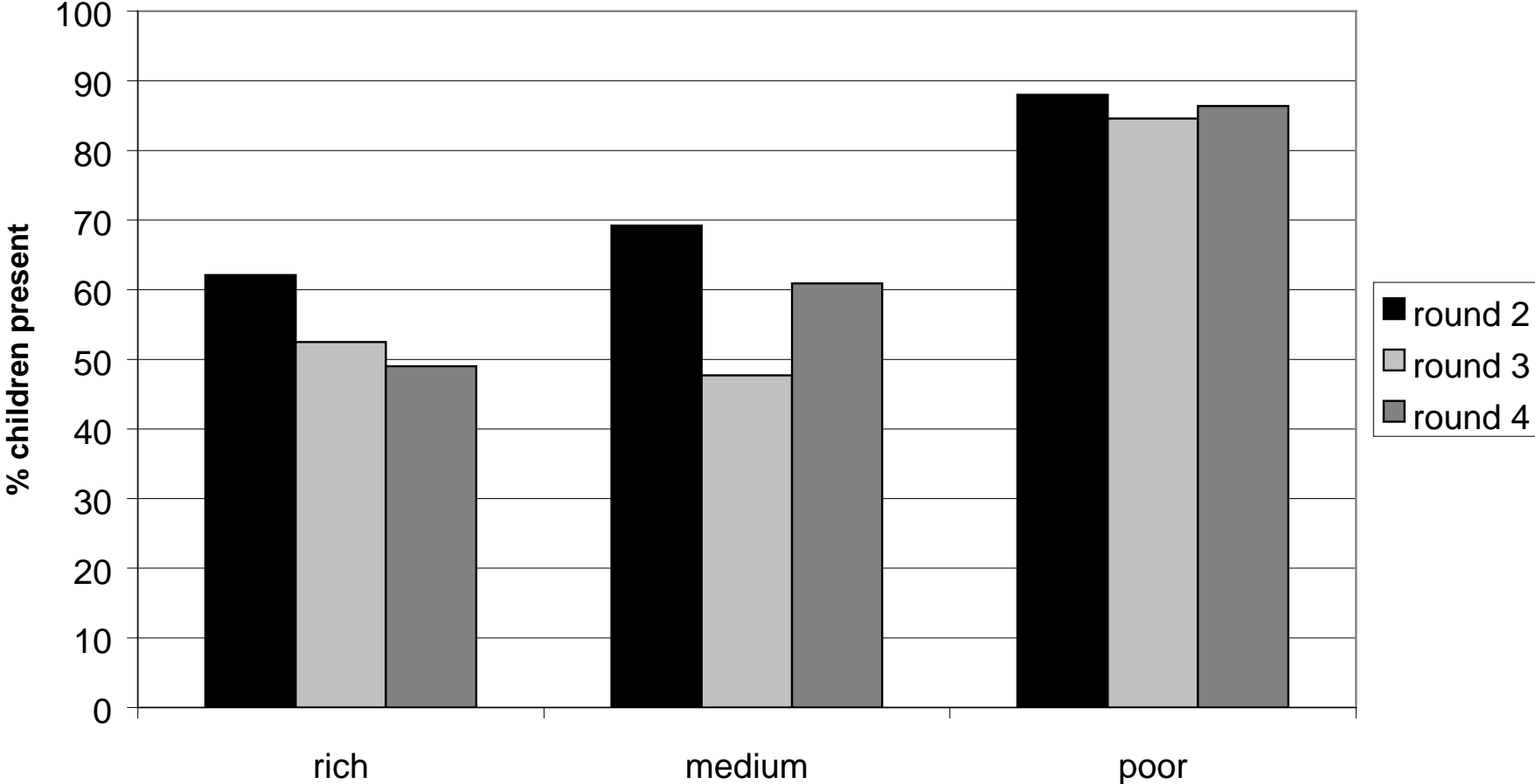
- Production system mobility
- Household migration
 - Conflict
 - Economic
- Maternal migration

Extra familial / extra household child mobility

- Family transformation
(divorce / death)
- Fostering
- 'long term 'visiting':
developing social / human
capital or reducing stress?
- Schooling
- Quranic schooling
- ?precocious marriage

Population Tamasheq du Mali, 2000-2001

Figure 3: Presence of children by wealth of household





Committee on the Rights of the Child

Fortieth session, 2005

*...the Committee wants to emphasize that all necessary measures should be taken to **prevent the separation of the child from his/her family of origin.** In that regard the Committee refers to the previous paragraphs on the importance of the family environment and the need to provide parents with the support they need in the performance of their parental responsibilities.*

*...La comite veut souligner que toute action possible soit prise **afin d'empêcher la separation de l'enfant de sa famille d'origine.....***



Dimensions of child well being

Short term

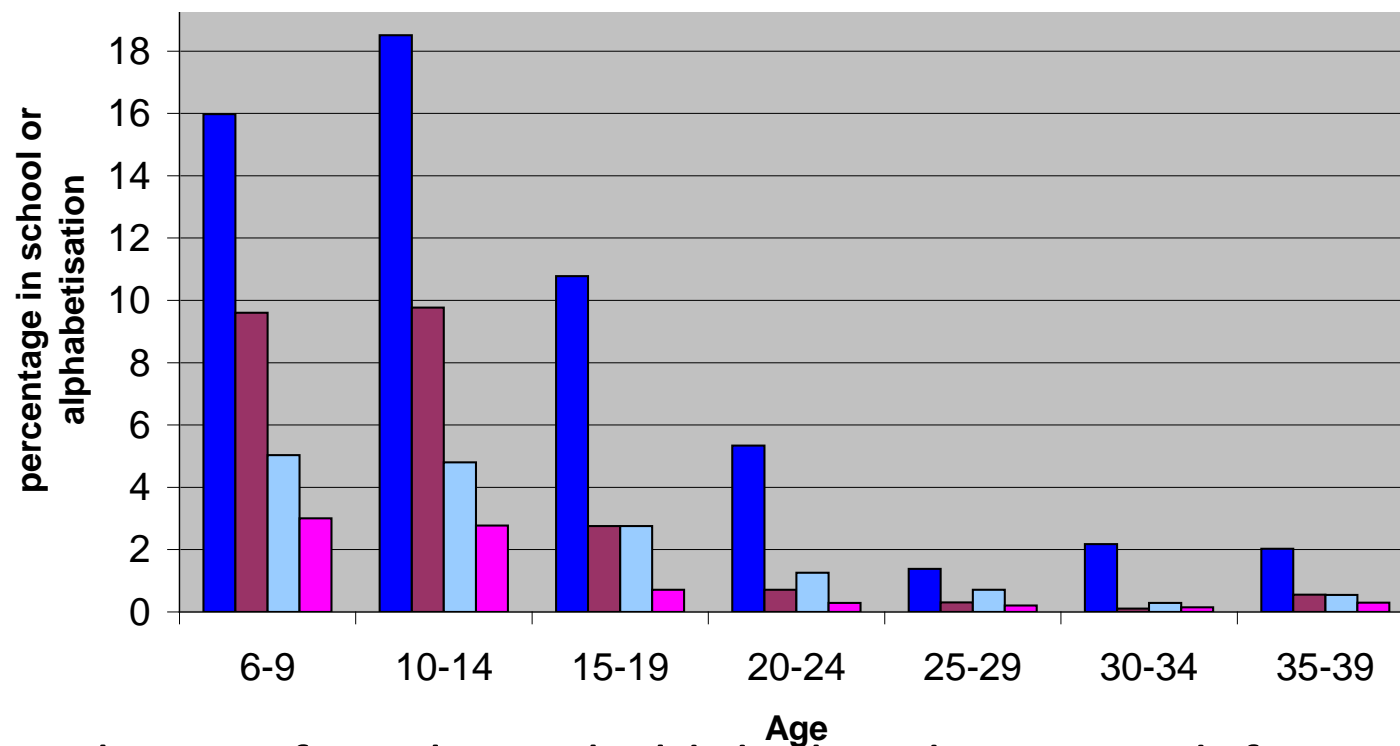
- Survival (mortality rates)
- Nutritional status (malnutrition)
- Material well being
 - Housing / clothing
- ‘childhood’
 - Companions (other children)
 - Not working
 - Absence of sexual / physical abuse
 - Sense of security
- Education
 - ? Schooling
 - ? Quranic school
 - ? Learning from others

Long term (adolescent/adult)

- Survival (mortality rates)
- health status
- Material well being
- Social belonging
- Physical belonging
- Training for adult independence /work / production
 - ? Schooling
 - ? Quranic school
 - ? Learning from others
- Social network
 - Peers
 - kin

Mali 1998: census data

Percentage nomad children currently in education by sex and nomad classification



- Male: from household declared as nomad, from nomad
- Female: language group but no mobile production
- Male: From household declared as nomad and with at least one member practicing mobile production
- Female: from household declared as nomad with at least one member practicing mobile production activity



Impact of childhood mobility on **short term well being**: can we generalise?

Type of mobility	survival	Nutrition / health	Material wellbeing	Child-hood	schooling	Non school learning
Production system	+ selection	+ selection	- But....	+ ?	- -	++
forced migration	+ / -	-	-	-	+/-	--
Household labour migration	+ / -	+ / -	+ / -	-	+	--



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Child alone: Family change	?	?	+/-	-	?	?



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Household labour migration	+ / -	+ / -	+ / -	-	+	--
Child alone: Family change	?	?	+/-	-	?	?
Foster / confiage	?	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-

Impacts of migration study: Senegal

Fostering emerged as theme – gendered dimensions of child and adult wellbeing

Male discourse

- Schooling
- Apprenticeship
- Employment / acquiring skills

Female discourse

- Whether were cared for / loved
- Quality of upbringing
- Whether treated equally / fairly
- Negative impact on schooling

Aussi quand ma grande sœur m'élevait, il y a certains personnes qui disent que le confiage c'est difficile, mais moi, je n'ai jamais eu de problèmes avec ma grande sœur, parce que quand on m'a confiée chez ma grande sœur elle n'avait pas d'enfants Elle m'a élevée comme sa propre fille. Je n'ai jamais eu des problèmes chez elle.

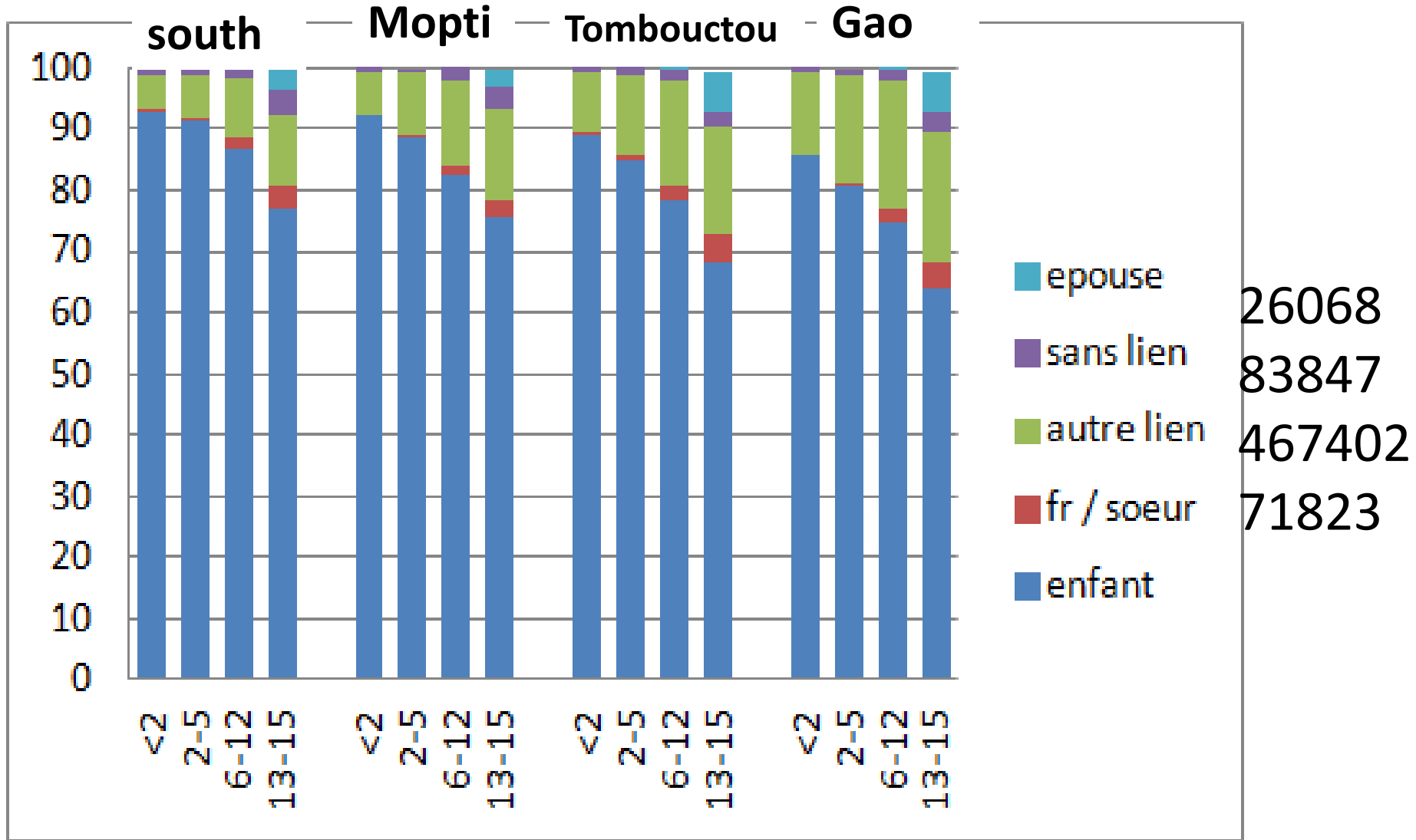
C'est le travail de ma grande sœur qui a détruit ma scolarisation et un apprentissage à l'école coranique.



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Child alone: Family change	?	?	+/-	-	?	?
Foster / confiage	?	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-
schooling	?	+ selection	?	-	++	--

Distribution of children by region, age and relationship to head of household Mali census 1998





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Child alone: Family change	?	?	+/-	-	?	?
Foster / confiage	?	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-
schooling	?	+ selection	?	-	++	--
Quranic school	?	--	-	-	-	+



Impact of childhood mobility on longer term well being (as adolescent / young adult):

Type of mobility	survival	health status	Material wellbeing	Social capital	Belonging	Economic Independence
Production system	+	?	- But....	++	++	++
forced migration	+ / -	+/-	?	?	--	-/?
Household labour migration	+ / -	+ / -	+ / -	?	-	+?
Child alone: Family change	?	?	+/-	+	+/?	?
Foster / confiage	?	?	+/-	+	+/-	++
schooling	++	+	+	-/+	-	+
Quranic school	?	?	-	++	+	?

Conclusions

- Huge amount of child mobility
 - Probably very poorly captured by conventional sources of data
- Children probably have very little agency over different forms of mobility
- Eurocentric perspective
 - Much mobility not good for child: lose their 'childhood'
- Human Rights perspective
 - Not good for child – right to be with family of origin
- BUT – many forms of child mobility could have very positive benefits in adult life
 - Skills (human capital)
 - Social networks (social capital)