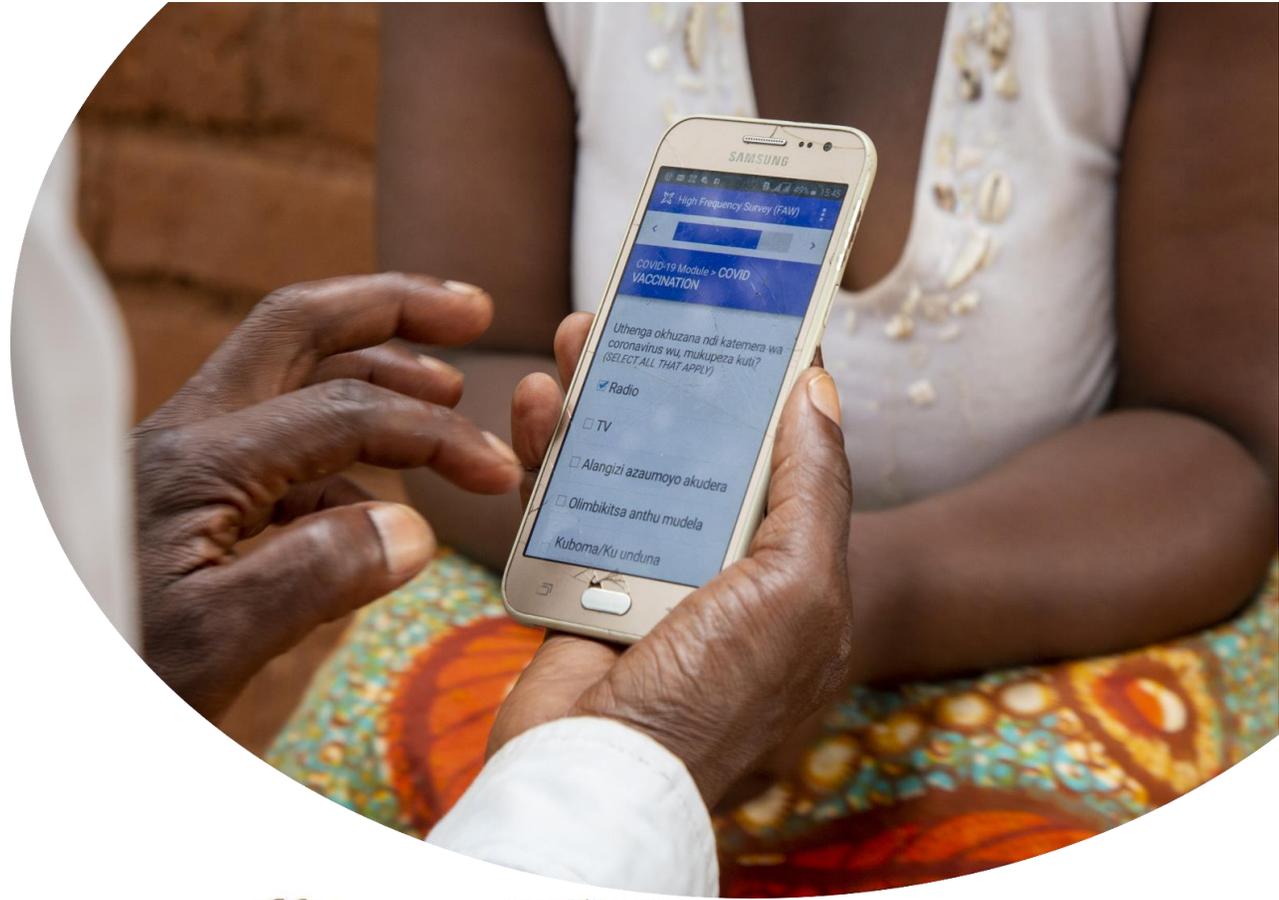


Rapid Feedback Monitoring System (RFMS)

Bridging the Gap: Using SWIFT to rapidly monitor poverty and welfare in a time of crises



James Campbell – CRS

Chief of Party – RFMS

November 15, 2022



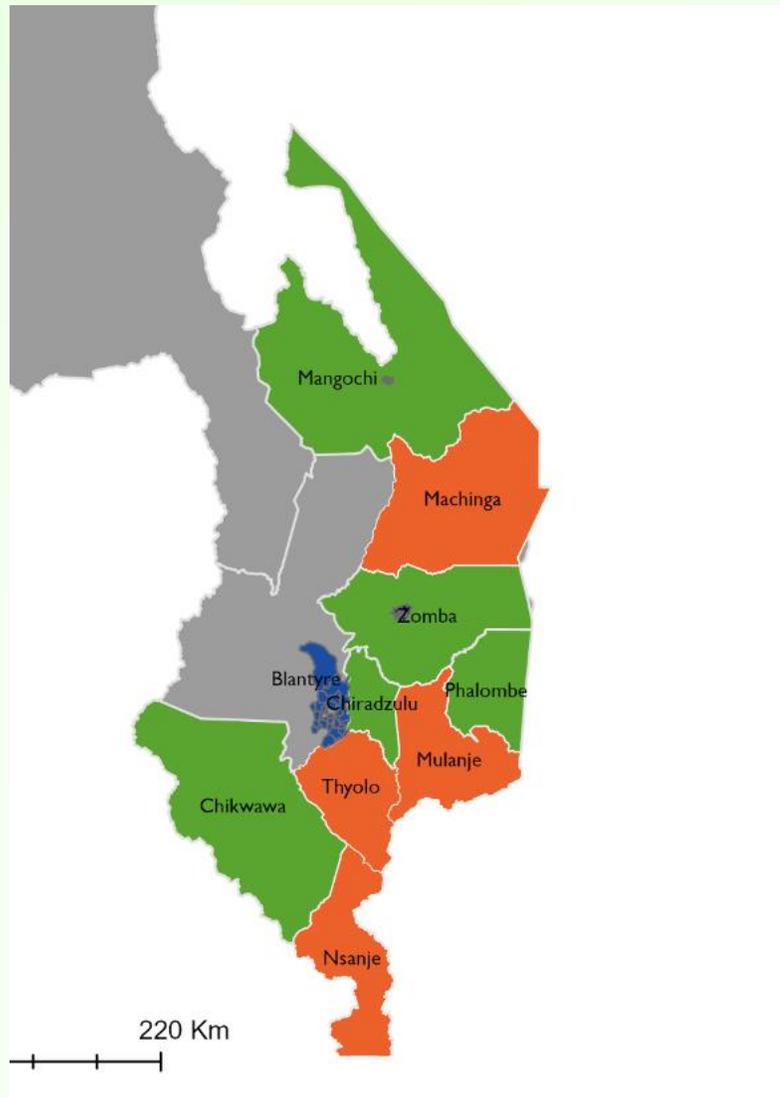
Dyson
Cornell
SC Johnson College of Business



Background & Motivation

- The “resilience” concept took off in the early 2010s, with measurement options in high demand and proliferating...
- The concept is inherently dynamic; cannot capture with typical, usually cross-sectional (baseline/endline), survey data
- Multi-stakeholder partnership assured that data were designed to optimize research goals (e.g., innovate resilience measurement) along with policy goals (e.g., target the least resilient, monitor and adapt programming), and programming goals

Rapid Feedback Monitoring System – basics



- Sample: 5526 households, covering 1/3 of Malawi
 - **Rural RFMS: 4500 households in 10 districts** (450/district); six districts starting in August, 2020; four added in July, 2021
 - Districts selected in coordination with the National Resilience Strategy, the most food insecure
 - Initially partnered with FCDO (PROSPER), and over-sampled in project areas (1500 households in 4 districts, Aug 2020 – July 2021)
 - **Urban RFMS: 1026 households in three urban areas** starting in March, 2022
- NSO led on sampling strategy; representative at district level, comparable with IHS panel surveys
- Household-level panel; ~95% retention

RFMS: Content & Frequency of Survey

MODULES and CONTENT	Monthly	Quarterly	Semi-Annually
Registration & Location Information: HH identification, consent, contact information, demographics, market access			
Food Security: coping strategies (rCSI, HHS), ganyu, and dietary diversity and frequency (FCS, HDDS)	✓		
Tracking & Shocks: demographic updates, migration, assistance received, self-reported experience of shocks and ways affected	✓		
** Shock “Triggers”: illnesses and treatment, and other shocks as reported	✓		
Covid-19: experience with the disease, testing / vaccination, and lockdown measures	✓		
Livelihoods: income sources, access to financial services, land ownership/rental, crops grown, livestock, changes in assets		✓	
WASH: water sources, sanitation		✓	
Project-Specific: agricultural technologies, solar infrastructure, engagement with projects and institutions, group participation, other as-requested			✓
SWIFT +: employment, housing infrastructure, durable assets			✓

RFMS: Data Collection & *Dissemination*

- Hire enumerators through a collaborative recruiting process in local communities (typically, youth who are active in community groups)
- Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) platform allows for:
 - Streamlining data collection process
 - Remote management and quality control
 - Rapid (near immediate) reporting of data
 - Questionnaire updates
- Data dissemination through community-based enumerators

Example: Cyclone Anna, January 2022

- Flooding occurred just before data collection was to start in January; added a module to address the location and nature of damages, that was launched four days after the flooding hit
- Corresponded with DoDMA & UN findings, but with more detail – impacts highly variable even within districts and TAs

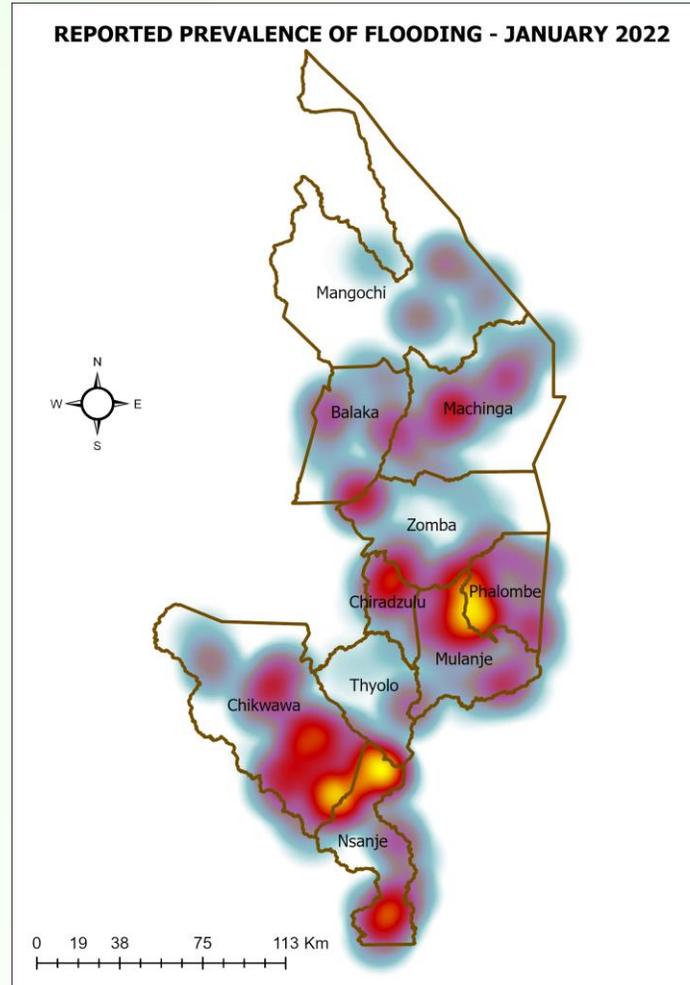
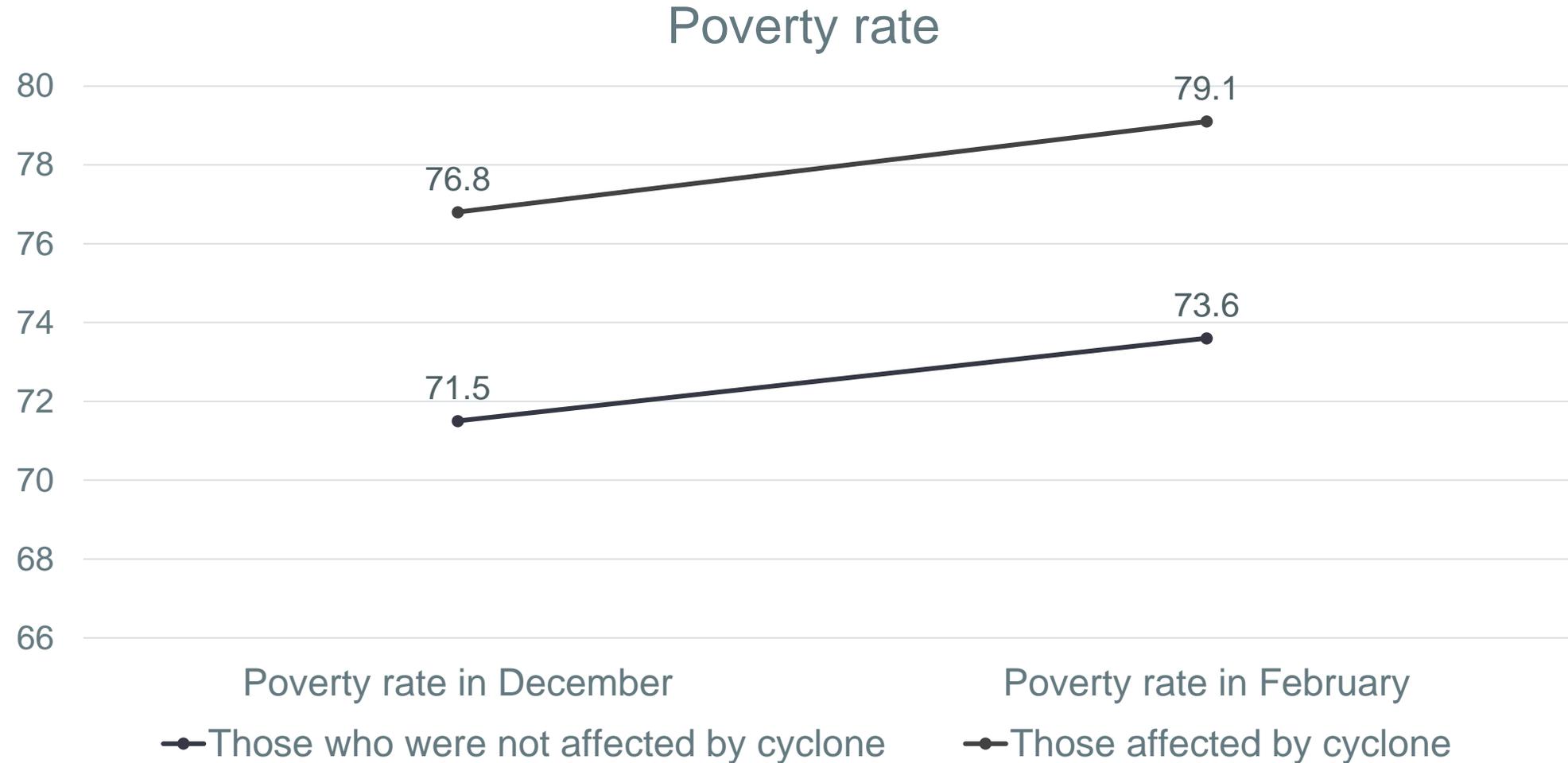


Photo & Map: Chisomo Ngosi, CRS, January 2022

FLOOD IMPACT – RFMS DISTRICTS

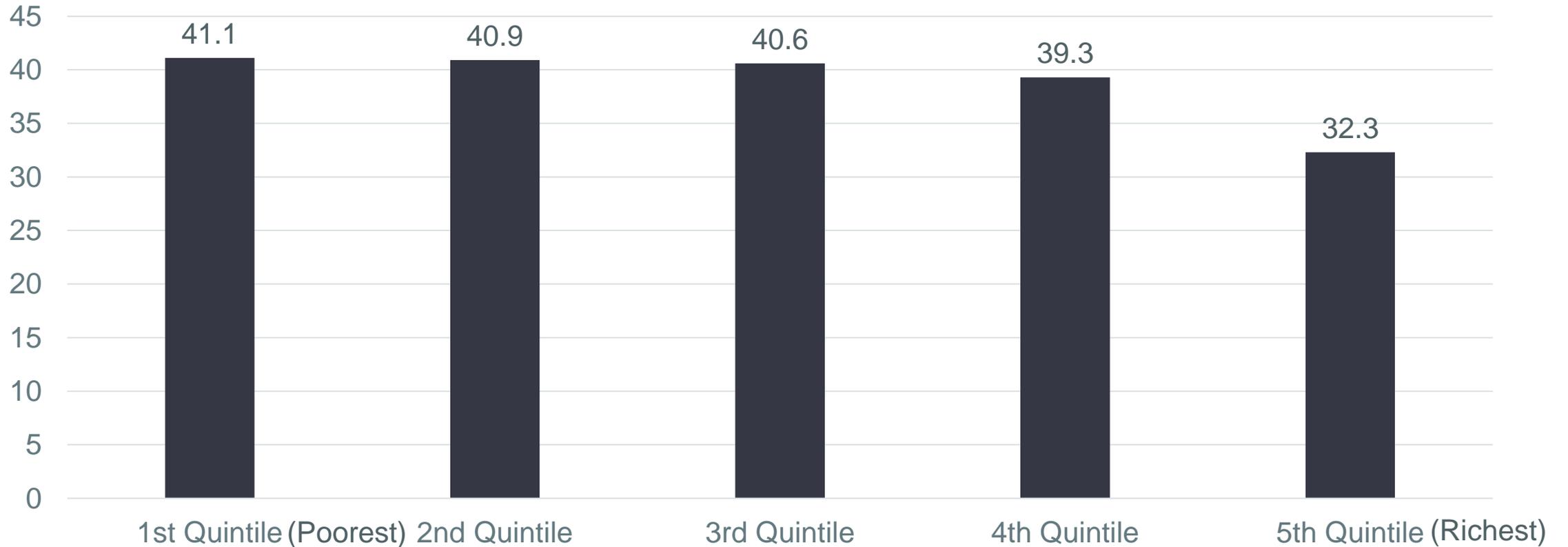


Findings: Cyclone Anna & Resilience – SWIFT



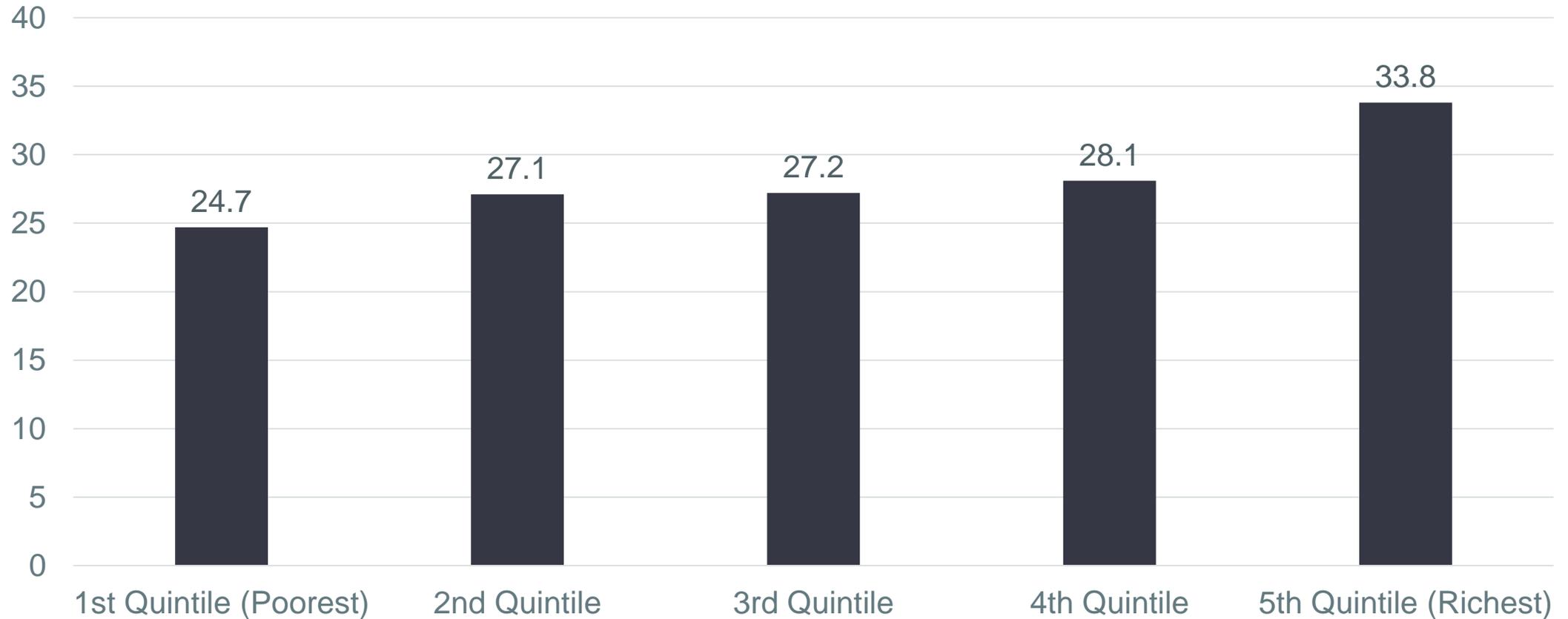
Findings: Cyclone Anna & Resilience – SWIFT

% of households who have experienced flooding or strong wind in January



Findings: Cyclone Anna & Resilience – SWIFT

% of households who have recovered from flooding and strong wind they experienced in January (asked in February)



Example: Cyclone Anna, January 2022

- Able to rapidly get a strong assessment of the distribution and nature of damages; and leaned on community-level enumerators to learn what assistance was being received
- Recognized three potential opportunities and responsibilities with these data:
 - Targeting; report to inform needs
 - Monitoring; nature of damages and response to inform future needs (e.g., the type of damage, with more or less immediate impact, can help timely responses)
 - Research; better understand resilience and inform longer-term policy
- This case illustrates *both* the strengths of the RFMS platform, and the shortcomings to date in linking data and research to policy decisions – both fast-moving (emergency response) and slow-moving (development policies and interventions)