

Resettlement & Climate Change Vulnerability

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Outline

1. Resettlement in China
2. Methodology & case study
3. Livelihoods in a changing climate – resettled vs non-resettled
4. Implications for resettlement practice

Resettlement in China

- Three Gorges Dam: 1.31m
- South-North Water Transfer: 340,000
- Environmental resettlement: desertification, land degradation, sedentarisation (? million)
- Poverty resettlement: 10m 2016-2020
- Urbanisation resettlement: 100m 2016-2020
- Future resettlements for climate change adaptation?



Image: Beijing Review



Image: Highland Asia

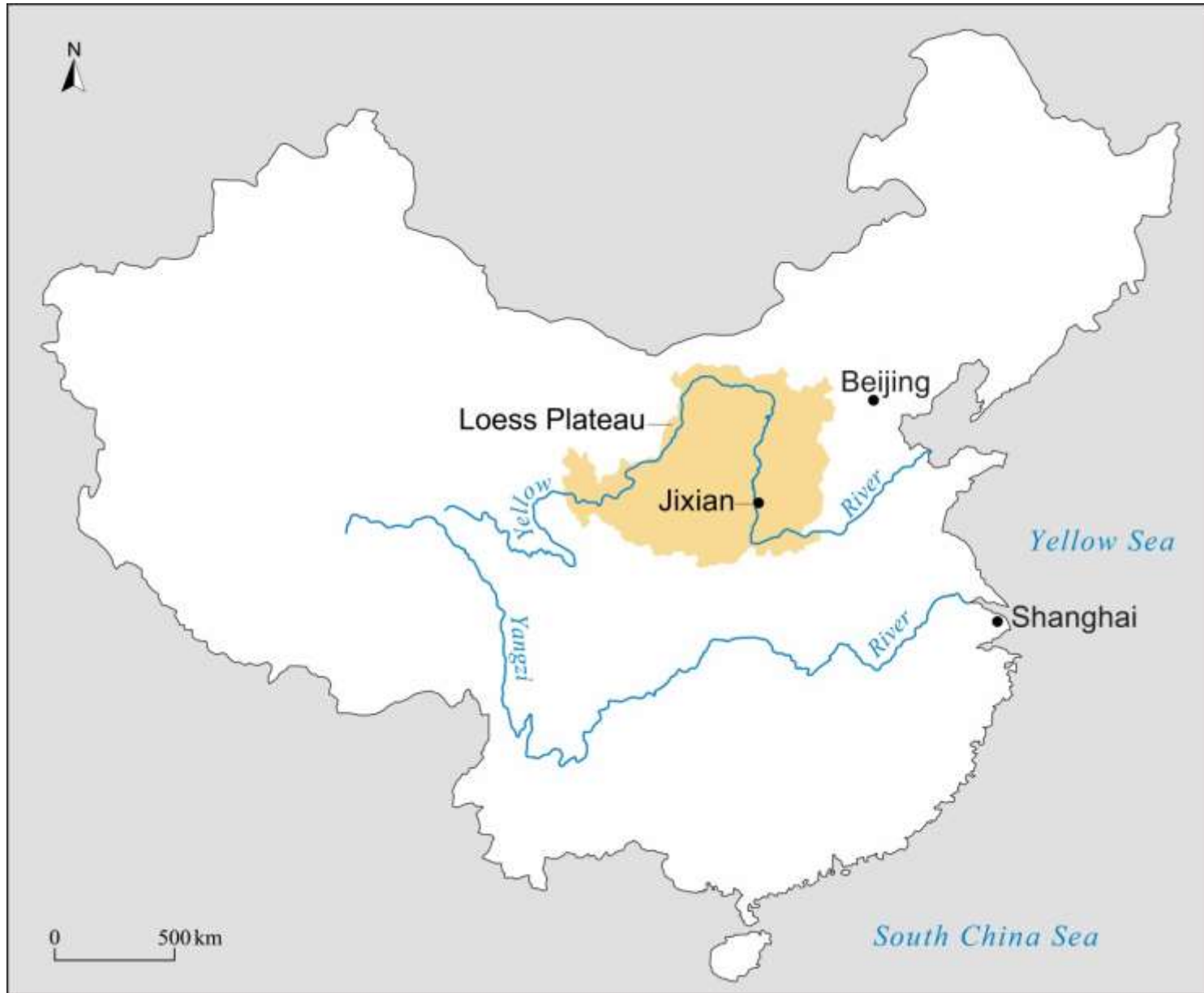
Average annual resettled population in 5-year periods

	1995-2000	2001-2005	2006-2010	2011-2015	2016-2020	Total
Shanxi (山西)	17,000	42,000	46,000	69,900	90,400	1.33m
Shaanxi (陕西)	50,000	90,000	114,000	237,000	470,000	4.8m

Sources: Compiled from M Wang interview with Shanxi Poverty Alleviation Office 2014; People's Daily (2001); Shaanxi Daily (2006); Sanqin City Newspaper (2016); Shaanxi Provincial Government (2015); China.org.cn (2016)

Methodology

- What drives vulnerability to climate change in rural China and is it socially differentiated?
- Sustainable livelihoods approach – household assets, livelihood activities, coping strategies (drought), broader political-economic processes
- Qualitative study
- Small sample











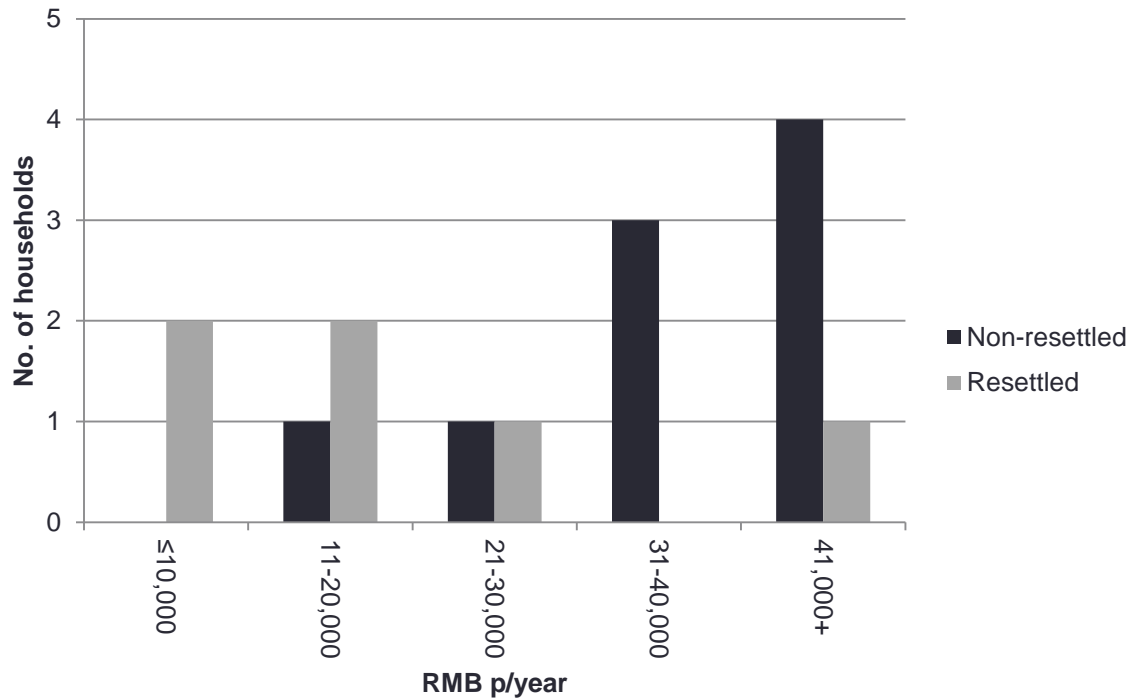


Livelihoods in a changing climate

- Lack of water infrastructure a problem for all households
- No major differences in social capital, human capital, physical capital
- What differentiates resettled and non-resettled households?

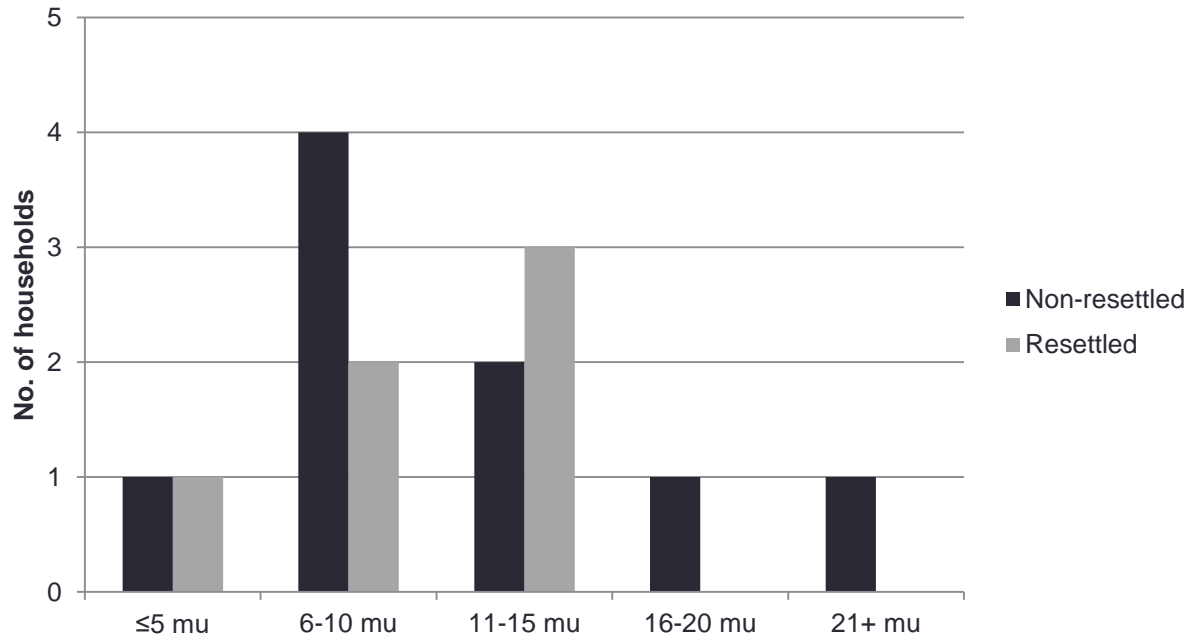
Financial capital (income)

- Resettlement restricts income: resettled households reliant on remittances and labouring
- Resettlement = debt
- Affects ability to cope with water stress



Natural capital (land)

- Very low land allocations
- Constrains long-term financial security



5 mu = 1/3 hectare

Implications for resettlement practice

1. In a changing climate, resettlements risks being maladaptive (i.e. risks increasing vulnerability)
2. Climate change vulnerability needs to be factored into resettlement planning:
 - The basics are there
 - More emphasis needed on relationship between livelihoods and climatic risk (i.e. livelihood security)

Further reading

- Rogers, S. Xue, T. 2015 'Resettlement and climate change vulnerability: Evidence from rural China' *Global Environmental Change*, 35
- Wilmsen, B., Webber, M. 2015 'What can we learn from the practice of development-forced displacement and resettlement for organised resettlements in response to climate change?' *Geoforum*, 58
- Resettlement as Adaptation?
<http://www.transre.org/en/blog/resettlement-adaptation/>
- Xue, L., Wang, M., Xue, T 2013 ' 'Voluntary' poverty alleviation resettlement in China' *Development and Change*, 44(5)