BUILDING RESILIENCE IN BORNO STATE - NORTHEAST NIGERIA

Mercy Corps’ Strategic Resilience Assessment (STRESS)
November 2018

Presented at the Borno State Food Security Sector (FSS) Meeting
April 23, 2019
What This Presentation Covers

› About this STRESS
› Sample findings (full contextual findings in report)
› Fundamentals for understanding resilience and protracted conflict
› In practice: working differently
Communities have the capacity to manage multiple and prolonged cycles of shocks and stresses without lasting negative consequences for their well-being, and to transform the dynamics driving crisis.
Strategic Resilience Assessment (STRESS)

STRESS helps us to:

1. Identify development challenges
2. Prioritize shocks & stresses (risks and hazards)
3. Understand who is most vulnerable and why
4. Identify resilience capacities
Background

- Mercy Corps conducted the Borno STRESS from May 2017 through July 2018
- Primary and secondary data
- Spoke with approximately 1,500 people (50% male, 50% female)
- 50 communities across 12 Local Government Areas (LGAs), both urban (IDP camp and non-IDP camp / host communities) and rural
- Emphasis on adolescents and youth, ages 10-34
Mohammed’s Story

“I have to wait for military escort before traveling to Maiduguri to purchase items, like bread and eggs.”

Protracted Armed Conflict
Food Scarcity
Price Inflation
Livelihoods Disruptions
Limited Movement
Abuse of Power and Intimidation
Conflict is best understood as a system producing discrete shocks and stresses.
Assistance usually treats the direct effects (impacts) of conflict-caused shocks and stresses.
As a result, assistance successfully supports immediate **coping**, and to some degree, may help people **adapt** to the “new normal” through stop-gap measures.

In protracted conflict, however, this is unlikely to produce sustainable impact and move people towards greater food security or economic productivity, **prolonging the need for assistance**.

Unresolved conflict risks become new cycles of shocks and stresses, overwhelming local systems that people depend on to be resilient – and **sustaining the complex crisis**.
It is critical to **interrupt conflict risks** before they emerge into new waves of shocks and stresses.
At the same time, comprehensive management of the effects of shocks and stresses in the conflict system is necessary – both for improving people’s immediate and medium-term well-being, and also to reduce the likelihood that failure to manage these risks in turn fuels new conflict drivers.
A narrow focus on conflict risks could miss other drivers of vulnerability. Thus, it is also critical to address other risks outside the conflict system that could fuel conditions for conflict or worsen the impacts of conflict shocks and stresses.
Building resilience requires simultaneous focus on capacities that target the drivers and effects of shocks and stresses, and future conflict risks.

- Reduce and prevent conflict drivers
- Holistically address systemic constraints that exacerbate fragility and could fuel future conflict conditions

**Absorptive and Adaptive Capacities**

- Cope more effectively with the impacts of conflict and other shocks and stresses
- Adapt to reduce sensitivity
- Anticipate and manage emerging risks
OUR BORNO RECOMMENDATIONS

› Manage future conflict threats that have the potential to develop into new shocks and stresses

› Design our assistance so that it helps people better deal with shocks and stresses in a dynamic context

› Strengthen systems early on, and for an extended time

› Be strategic in the layering of interventions and programs
Thank You!

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