Conflict, food security and conflict sensitivity

Presentation to the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster

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Ranga Gworo, Research Adviser
Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility (CSRF)
Purpose of this presentation

1. To outline the links between conflict and food security in South Sudan

2. To introduce the concept of conflict sensitivity

3. To explore ways to integrate conflict-sensitivity in food security programming
History of conflict and food security in South (ern) Sudan:

1. **Pre-CPA (OLS) period (1989-2005):** The 1990s raids by Arab militia in Bar El Ghazel causing famine. Much livelihood support, e.g., OLS animal health programs. People coped by migrating to garrison towns and the north.

2. **CPA period (2005-2011):** The existence of local level conflicts despite the CPA. Also, reduced livelihood support, e.g. shift to return and state building.

2. **Post-CPA period (2011-to present):** The 2013/16 conflicts and politicization of local conflicts, war strategy, economic crisis and natural disasters, leading to high dependence on market.
Key takeaways from the historical trends:

• Conflict is a major cause of food security in SS, but also natural disasters and economic crisis, etc.

• Weakening of social networks, and loss of assets, etc. plus poverty, unemployment etc., can cause conflict. What do you think about this assertion?

• In South Sudan, about 80% of the population lives in rural areas and has mixed livelihoods, with 81% practicing farming and over 70% practicing livestock keeping.
Understanding conflict sensitivity: Key elements of Conflict Sensitivity

• **Understand** the local context, particularly conflict risks and processes.
  
  → **Context/Conflict analysis**:

• **Analyse** the interaction between your aid or programme and the context to identify risks and opportunities
  
  → **Interaction analysis**

• **Act** on this analysis to reduce risks and improve benefits
  
  → **Adaptation**
Understanding the interaction between the context and our work: Transfer of resources

- **Market Effects**
  - Influx of goods, prices

- **Distribution Effects**
  - Distribution of goods, money, capacity along conflict lines

- **Substitution Effects**
  - Replacing existing systems

- **Legitimization Effects**
  - Enhance power of certain groups. People can get legitimacy from your work.

- **Theft, diversion, corruption**
  - Are resources and services reaching intended people?
Conflict and food security programming

All types of aid, incl. FS pgrms can contribute to conflict; for example:

- Conflicts over type and distribution of aid and benefits
- *Who* delivers the aid, and *how*?
- Changes in relative empowerment and legitimacy
- Impacts on corruption, crime or abuse

*Local Perceptions matter as much as ‘facts’*
## Case study of Jonglei state:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Understanding the context (inter-group relations) through conflict analysis</th>
<th>Types of conflict: intragroup and inter-group conflicts, history of conflict, causes of conflict (historical tensions, cattle raiding, child abduction, etc.), and conflict dynamics.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understanding the interaction between the context and the intervention through interaction analysis</td>
<td>Is FS pgrm to one group is angering another, for instance? Is the selection of beneficiaries and delivery of FS assets done in a transparent way? Is the perm legitimizing one group? How is FS perm is perceived by different groups in the communities where you are working? How is it affected existing patterns of vulnerability, marginalisation and conflict? Who are the main sources of authority and influencers – for better or worse – in the communities where you are working? What are the existing community capacities and responses in addressing conflict?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actin upon the understanding to adapt programming</td>
<td>Should consider beneficiaries for each other side; should work with authorities to support both populations, should develop good accountability system, should develop join projects that enhance social relations, etc.</td>
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Conflict Sensitivity

Conflict sensitive aid/ pgrms designed and implemented to:

‘Do no Harm’: Avoid or reduce the risks of (unintentionally) contributing to risks of conflict and insecurity

Identify and take opportunities to help to prevent and reduce violent conflict
Questions and Comments