

# Food Security and Conflict Integration

Leveraging Food Systems  
Towards a More Peaceful World

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**MAY 31**

9am ET



# TODAY'S Agenda

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Opening Remarks & Introductions



Feed the Future Toolkit: Conflict Integration



Livelihoods for Resilience: Lessons  
Learned from Ethiopia's Northern Conflict



What Works for Resilient Food Security in  
Conflict Settings



Moderated Panel and Open Q&A

# Meet Today's Speakers

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**Jessica Anderson**

Senior Conflict Advisor |  
USAID, Center for Resilience



**Elisabeth Farmer**

Chief of Party | CARE Ethiopia,  
Livelihoods for Resilience Activity



**Olga Petryniak**

Senior Director, Resilience  
Portfolio | Mercy Corps



# Jessica Anderson

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**Senior Conflict Advisor**  
USAID, Center for Resilience



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**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# Feed the Future and Conflict Integration: A Toolkit for Programming

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**Jessie Anderson**  
**RFS/Center for Resilience**

Wednesday, May 31, 2023



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

MAY 2023

## Feed the Future and Conflict Integration

A Toolkit for Programming



# How Bad Is the Global Food Crisis Going to Get?

Ukraine War Squeezes Street Snack in Uganda

*Somalis Are Going Hungry. Their Government Isn't Calling It a Famine.*

Humanitarian groups say Somalia's leaders are resisting a formal declaration of famine that could unlock aid and save lives.

*How Russia's War on Ukraine Is Worsening Global Starvation*

Figure 1. Regional Trends in Populations Exposed to Conflict

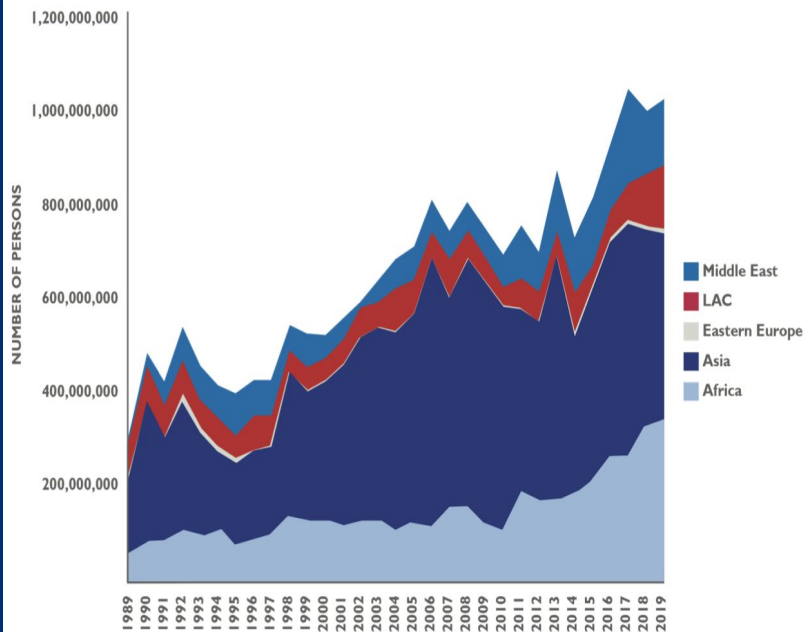
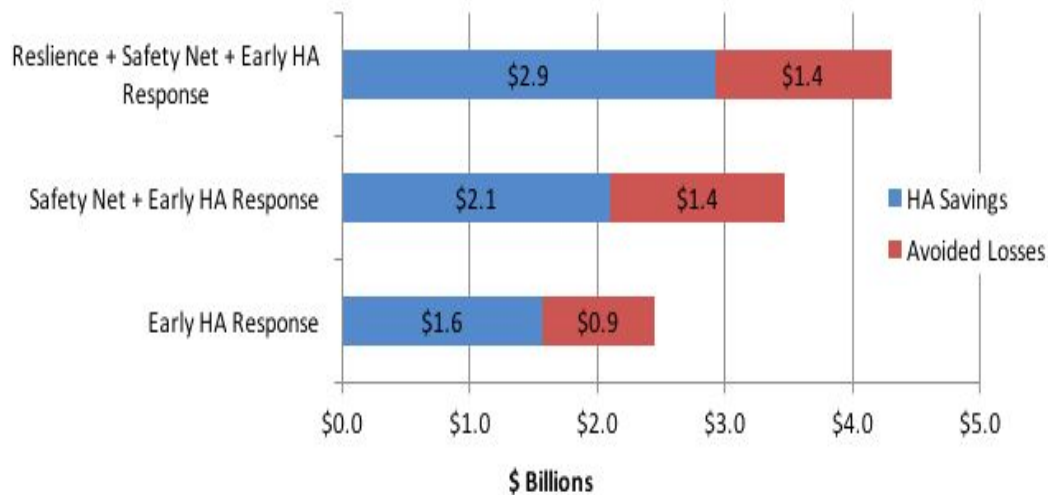


Table 1. Acute Food Crises and Political Stability

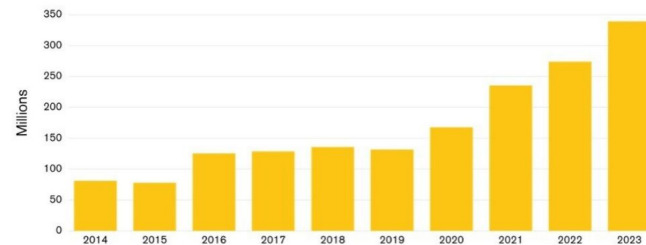
Country	Total Persons in Crisis (WFP), 2019	% Population Acutely Food Insecure (USAID), 2021*	Total Population, 2018	% Total	Rank, Fragile States Index, 2019 <sup>2</sup>	Ongoing Armed Conflict, 2019
South Sudan	7.0	>60%	11.0	64%	3rd	Yes
Yemen	15.9	>60%	28.5	56%	1st	Yes
Syria	6.6	N/A	16.9	39%	4th	Yes
Haiti	3.7	20-40%	11.1	33%	12th	No
Venezuela	9.3	N/A	28.9	32%	32nd	No
Afghanistan	11.3	20-40%	37.2	30%	9th	Yes
Dem. Rep. Congo	15.6	5-20%	84.1	19%	5th	Yes
Sudan	5.9	20-40%	41.8	14%	8th	Yes
Ethiopia	8.0	5-20%	109.2	7%	23rd	Yes
Nigeria	5.0	5-20%	195.9	3%	14th	Yes

\* Denotes forecasts for May 2021 based on Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) (2020).  
Sources: GNFC (2020), World Bank (2020), Fund for Peace (2020), Petterson and Öberg (2020).

## Humanitarian Assistance Savings and Avoided Losses Over 15 year Period for Population of 15 million (in \$ billion)

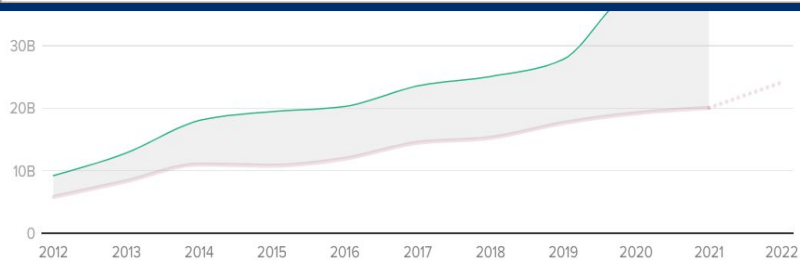


## NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HUMANITARIAN NEED WORLDWIDE



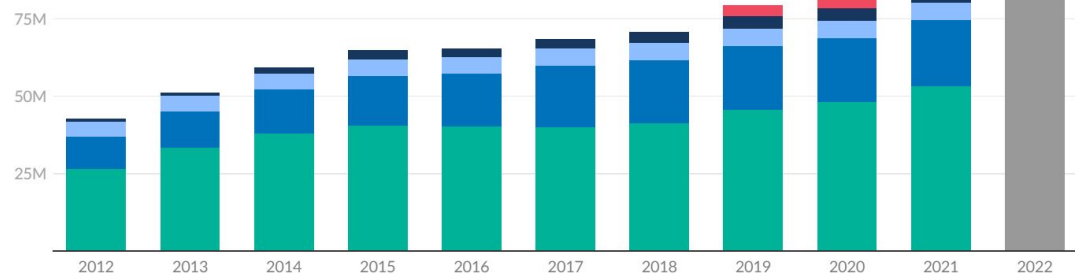
Emergency Watchlist 2023

The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance worldwide is expected to reach 340 million in 2023. Image: International Rescue Committee



Funding for 2022 as of 21 November 2022. Appeals for 2022 started at \$41 billion, before new emergencies including the conflict in Ukraine increased the total.

Source: FTS OCHA, via GHO 2023



Source: Economics of Resilience and Early Recovery. Courtenay Cabot Venton  
Note: 2022 figures are estimated using data available as of 9 June 2022





**What's in the toolkit?**



# What is in the Toolkit?

- Key concepts
- Throughout the program cycle...
  - Conflict sensitive theory of change, activity design and implementation and MEL
- Resilience and conflict integration
- Programming examples
- Mission case studies
- Overarching takeaways





# Overarching Key Takeaways



Conduct conflict and violence assessments



Prioritize adaptive management



Always begin with conflict sensitivity



Work with and through local systems and partners



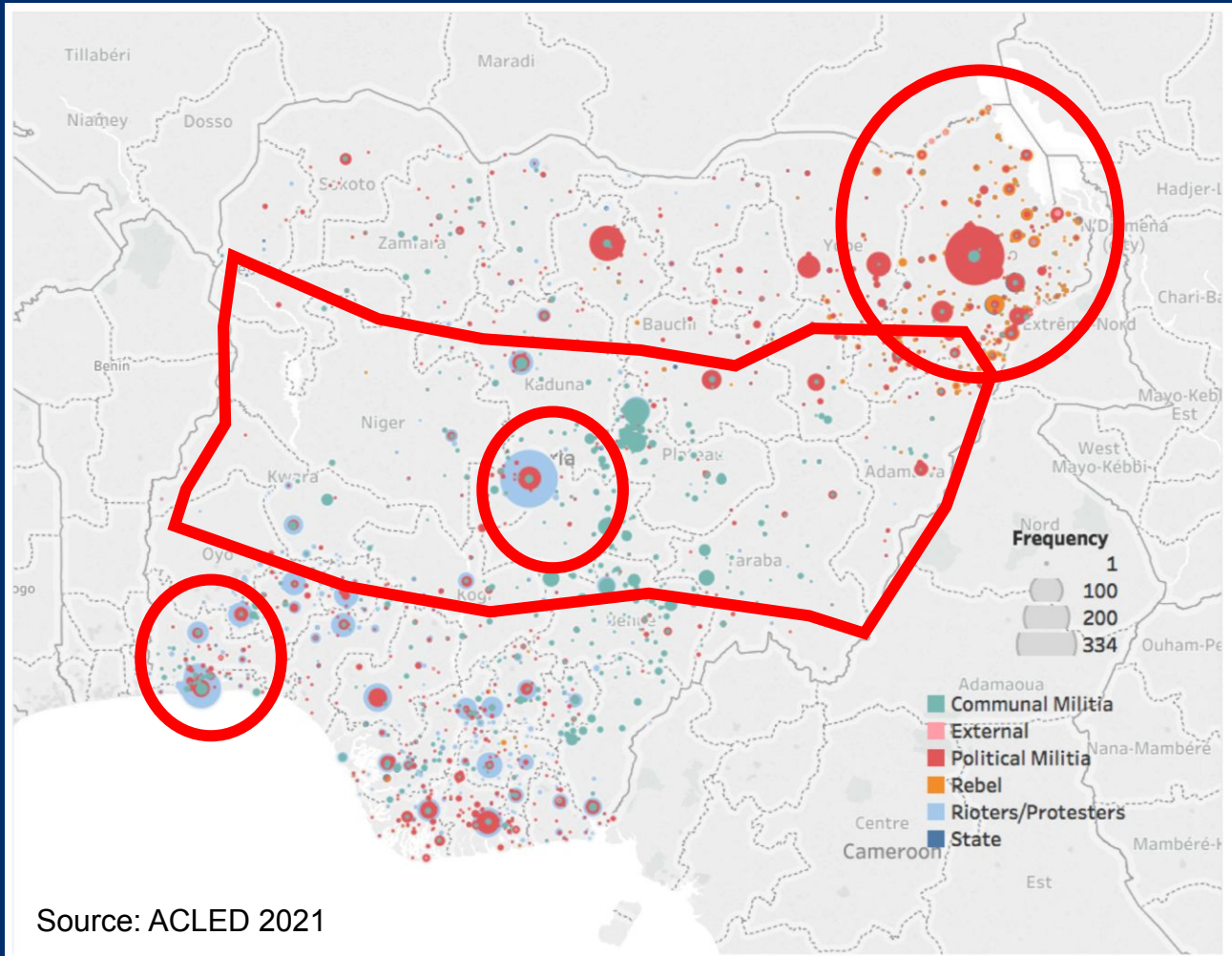
Recognize the complex risk environment and build resilience



Ensure Humanitarian, Development, and Peace Assistance Coherence



Identify windows of opportunity and peace dividends



# Niger's Terres Eau Vie Activity

## TWO-WAY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ACTIVITY & CONTEXT

Meeting NRM goals impossible without addressing conflict

NRM needs to address local and national dynamics fueling conflict

## UNDERSTAND CONTEXT

National policy favors farmers over pastoralists

Conflict rising as climate change shifts livestock corridors



## ADAPT ACCORDINGLY

Farmers and pastoralists delimit corridors and co-create shared rules through local conventions

Land reform advocacy at national levels addressing pastoralist exclusion

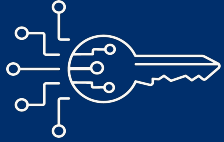
## SHARED DYNAMICS OF PEACE, SECURITY & SECTOR GOALS

Shared info and rules around land use strengthen NRM, peace and security

Reduced conflict begets future interdependence and collaboration



# Honduras



## KEY TAKEAWAYS



- Context: Droughts in agricultural regions have led to movement towards urban centers, which has elevated potential for violence. These conditions in turn drive out-migration.
- Conflict sensitivity tools: Conducted a VCAF and workshop to integrate findings; Mission Order on conflict sensitivity; establishment of Conflict Sensitivity Integration Hub

# Honduras

- **Conducted VCAF:** Featured core elements associated with conflict analysis and included recommendations to facilitate dispersion of conflict sensitive programming:
  - Emphasizing importance of flexibility
  - Supporting local partners beyond the standard five-year grant period
  - Underlining need to have champions at staff and leadership level
  - Advocating for inclusion of Indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples as key advisors & hosting professional development opportunities

# Honduras

- **Workshop to mainstream VCAF findings:** Mission hosted a VCAF Application Workshop with staff to help launch discussions about how to integrate conflict sensitivity into current programming
- **Mission Order on conflict sensitivity:** Elevates concept, ensuring Implementing Partners encounter it in procurement and award contracts
- **Establishment of Conflict Sensitivity Integration Hub:** Two-year project with FHI 360 to integrate into planning and design activities; also offers technical assistance in cases where Implementing Partners have limited experience





# Elisabeth Farmer

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**Chief of Party**

CARE Ethiopia, Livelihoods  
for Resilience Activity



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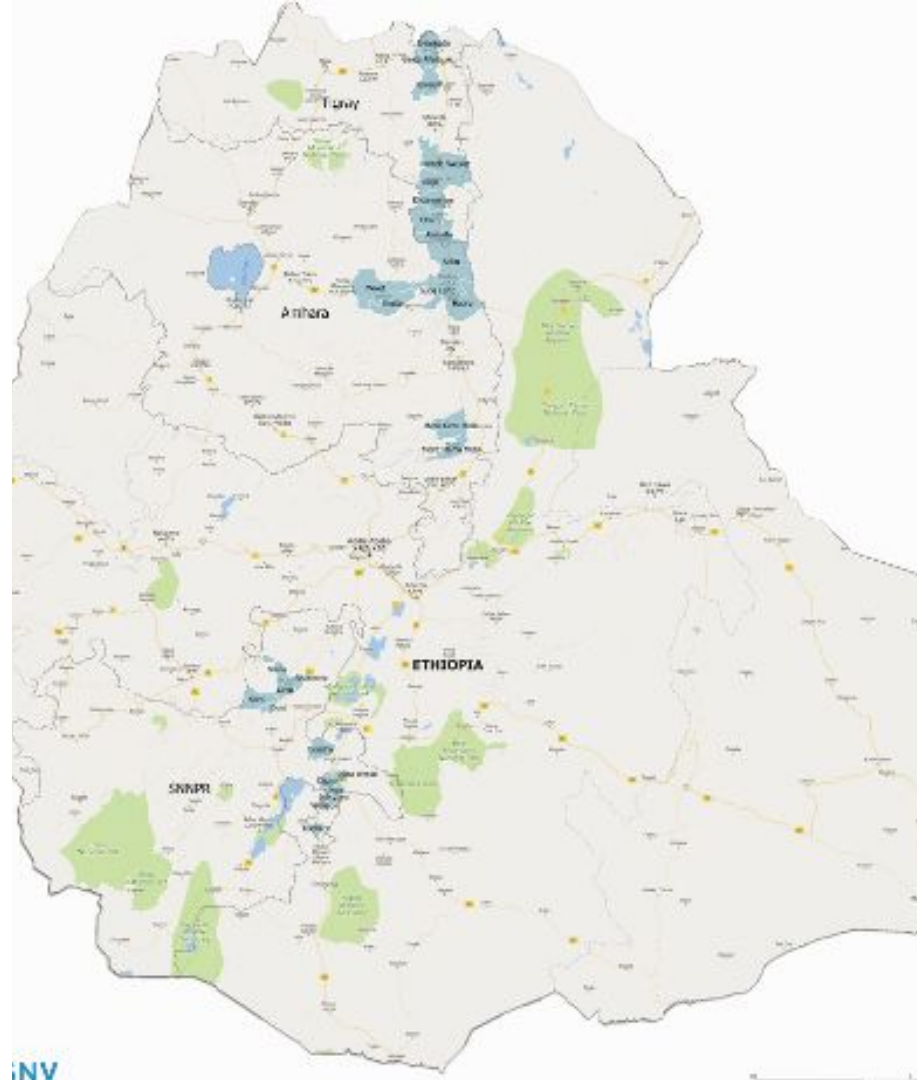
## Livelihoods for Resilience: lessons learned in resilience from Ethiopia's northern conflict

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# Livelihoods for Resilience (2016 - 2023)

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- Working with over 97,000 poor rural households across Ethiopia
- Building resilience to shocks through livelihood interventions, women's empowerment, financial inclusion, nutrition, climate change adaptation, and market systems development
- Working toward graduation from the Government of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP)





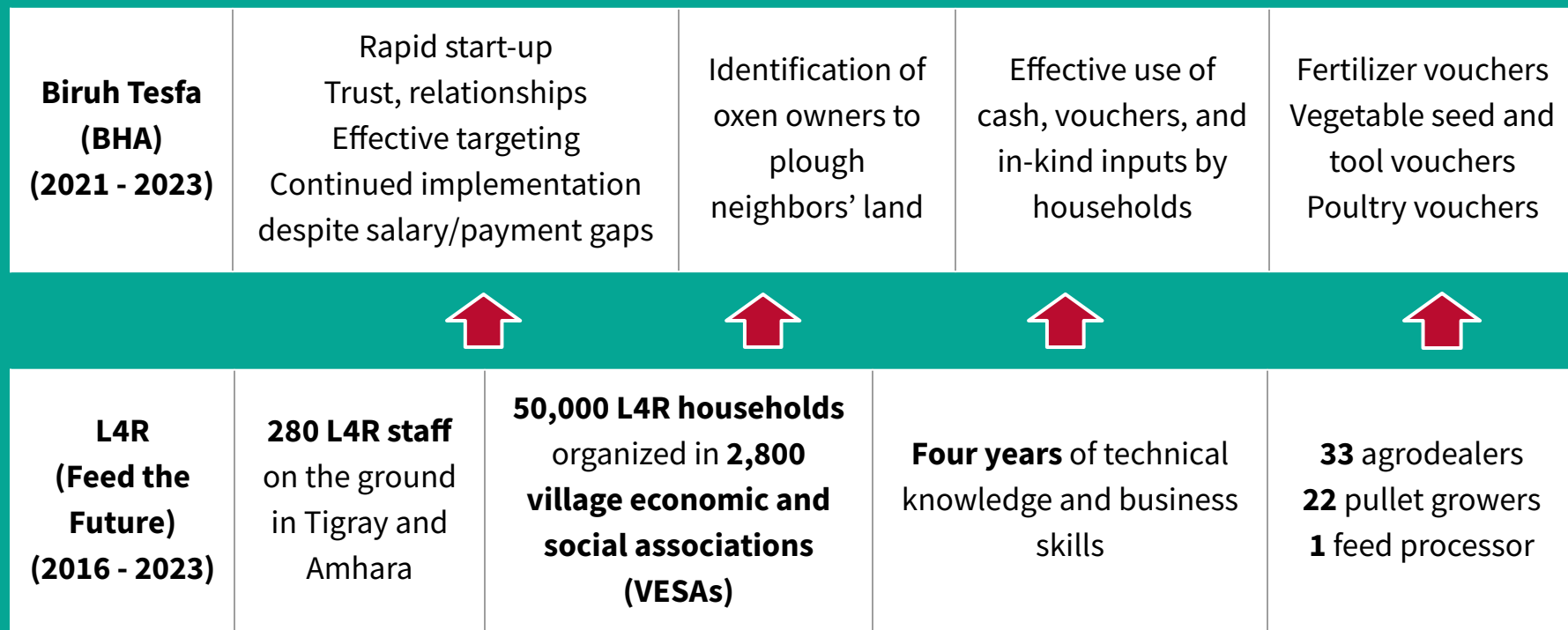
# Ethiopia's northern conflict (2020–2022)

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- Started in Tigray in Nov 2020 and cut the region off from the rest of Ethiopia for two years
- Caused massive displacement, gender-based violence, loss of assets and income
- Prevented farmers from harvesting crops
- Disrupted market systems and the usual flows of agricultural inputs into Tigray, threatening to disrupt agricultural production and cause a major food security crisis in the region
- Led to a pausing of L4R implementation
- Conflict expanded into Amhara in July 2021



# How L4R laid the foundation for Biruh Tesfa to be effective



## Resilience factor #1

Village economic and social associations (VESAs) are adaptive and provide critical support in times of crisis

- Operated as sophisticated, adaptive financial institutions
- Provided a platform for communal support





## Resilience factor #2

L4R diversified livelihoods and gave households business experience; Biruh Tesfa protected gains

Engagement of local entrepreneurs/private sector helped enable gains, and protect those gains

*“You saved our lives and our animals. These animals will be a springboard for us to rebuild.”*



## Resilience factor #3

L4R women's empowerment interventions helped prepare women for the roles they would need to play







1.

VESAs, livelihood diversification/business experience, and women's empowerment are all critical to resilience—but must be built over time

2.

Layering of humanitarian support on longer-term development interventions is highly effective... but requires the stars to align!

3.

Access to finance is critical to diversification—loan rescheduling will be critical to bouncing back

4.

Vouchers contribute to household and market systems resilience



# Olga Petryniak

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**Senior Director**

Mercy Corps, Resilience Portfolio



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# LEARNING WHAT WORKS FOR RESILIENT FOOD SECURITY IN CONFLICT SETTINGS



**NORTHEAST NIGERIA JOINT LIVELIHOOD AND MARKET RECOVERY ASSESSMENT**

USAID, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, IFAD, Mercy Corps, and other partners.

**THE CURRENCY OF CONNECTIONS**

The Resilience Exchange Co-Editor of the Resilience Exchange Report Series

USAID, WFP, Mercy Corps, and other partners.

**ADVANCING PEACE IN COMPLEX CRISES**

2017-2018

**Background**

We set a goal to assess complex crises, understand conflict and its drivers, and the role of humanitarian response in addressing them. This report is a synthesis of our findings and offers a framework for understanding and addressing complex crises.

**Complex crises: A framework**

Complex crises are characterized by multiple drivers, including political, economic, and environmental factors, and often involve multiple actors and stakeholders. This report provides a framework for understanding and addressing complex crises, and offers a synthesis of our findings and offers a framework for understanding and addressing complex crises.

**Beyond Cash**

Making markets work in crisis

MERCY CORPS

**FOOD SECURITY STRATEGIES FOR COMPLEX CRISES**

Evidence for a different approach

APRIL 2018

Conflict has a grave impact on food and nutrition security, and humanitarian's ability to advance it around the world. Of the 875 million people in the world who are chronically food insecure or malnourished, 60 percent live in countries affected by violent conflict.<sup>1</sup> In early 2017, four violence-ridden countries were put on famine alert: South Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria and Yemen, with famine also likely occurring in northeast Nigeria in late 2016, and parts of South Sudan teetering into famine mid-2017. While each of these contexts is different, the combination of conflict and fragility layered over other pre-existing stresses makes them each so complex. And complex crises pose unique challenges to humanitarians seeking to build sustainable food and nutrition security.

Even if we acknowledge the root causes of conflict in humanitarian response strategies, humanitarians cannot stop wars. At the same time, considerable access constraints in violent conflict contexts make it even more difficult to deliver aid effectively. The recent commercial trade blockades in Yemen or extreme levels of violence in northeast Nigeria underpin this point. As complex crises like these become protracted, traditional efforts to support emergency food and nutrition security — in-kind rations, cash-based transfers, distributions of seeds, tools and other non-food items — are unable to sustain improvements in longer-term food and nutrition security. Even though some of these inputs, such as cash-based transfers, can help maintain markets and other systems during crises, they are ultimately unsustainable on their own.

<sup>1</sup> FAO et al., The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017: Building Resilience for Peace and Food Security (Rome: FAO, 2017).

MERCY CORPS Food security strategies for complex crises > 1



**TOWARDS RESILIENCE: ADVANCING COLLECTIVE IMPACT IN PROTRACTED CRISES**

MAY, 2020





# Building Resilient Food Security in Conflict Settings

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- Rapid, real-time analysis of risk factors that drive and perpetuate conflict
- Support to local market and social systems to strengthen sources of resilience.
- Short-term violence prevention paired with efforts to transform structural drivers of conflict
  - Conflict sensitivity
  - Dialogue, Mediation and Negotiation Skills
  - Inclusive governance and market systems



**Strengthening Inclusive Markets and  
Social Connections in Protracted Crises**  
**Rural Resilience Activity, Nigeria**





# Coping and adapting at scale

- ✓ Over 4,300 MSME's (producers, processors, traders) supported - over \$300,000 in annual revenue
- ✓ 48,000 individuals continuously participating in group-based savings and lending
- ✓ 200-400% increases in yields and related trade in cowpea, rice and groundnut.
- ✓ Shock-responsive cash assistance reported as principal reason for production expansion and business growth
- ✓ Active participation in groups and strong social capital persisted through shocks.





Strengthening inclusive governance  
and climate-resilient agricultural  
systems in conflict settings.

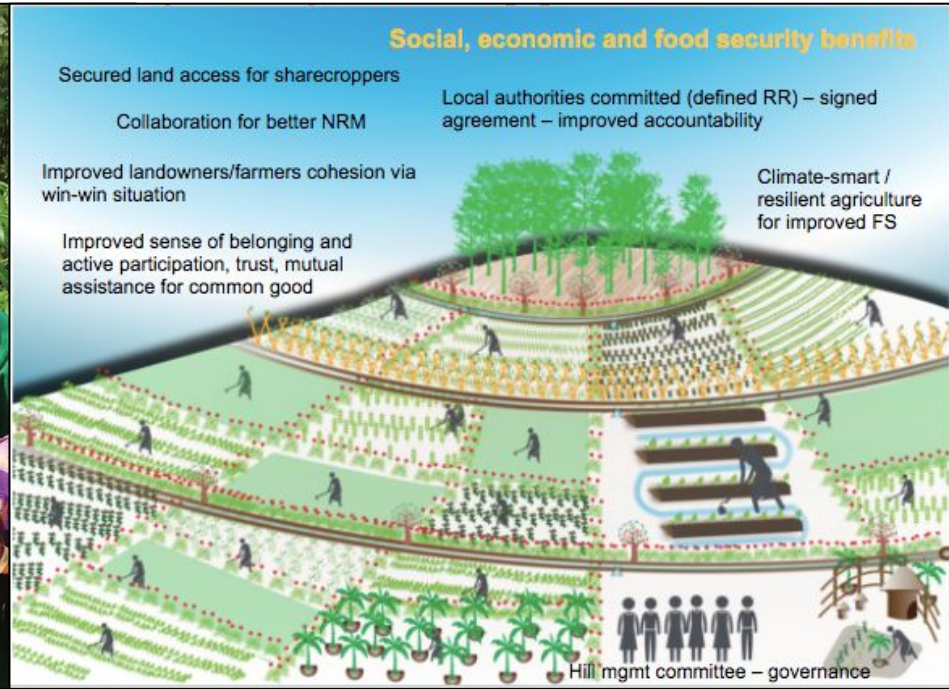
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Food Security Program,  
South Kivu, DRC





# Building resilience to conflict and climate change through improved land management: “The Hill” Approach





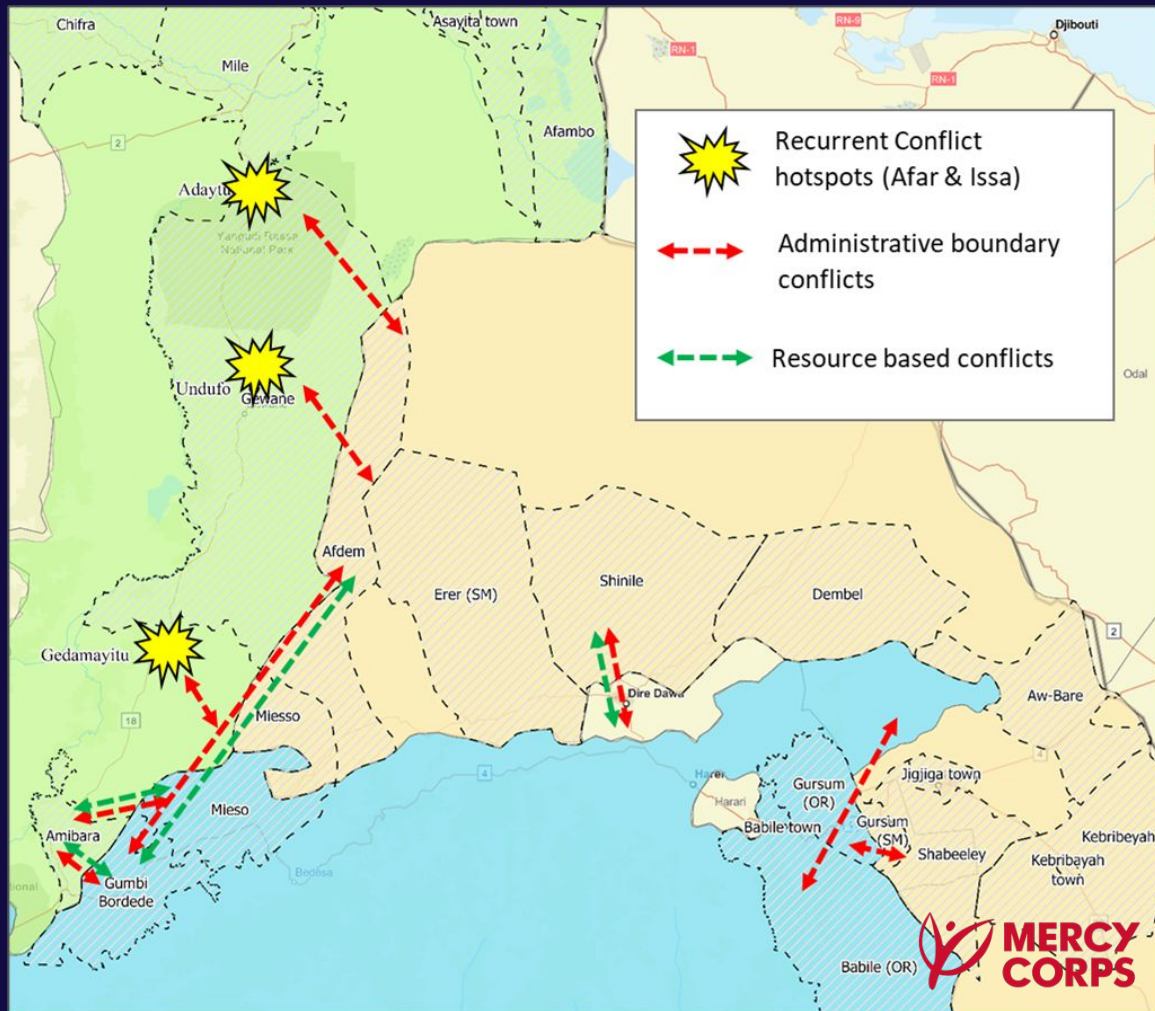
# FSP Results in Applying the Hill Approach

- ✓ Increase in tenure security through written contracts lasting 2+ years: 2,500 farmers across 18 pilot hills
- ✓ Strengthened mechanisms for conflict resolution and mitigation among tenants, sharecroppers, and landowners
- ✓ Increased social capital across tenant farmers, and farmers and landowners
- ✓ Increased soil productivity and agricultural yields.



# Strengthening Institutions and Community Capacities for Peace in Pastoral Areas

## RIPA-N, Ethiopia





# RIPA-N Conflict Integration

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

## The challenge

Senior decision-makers in conflict hotspots make decisions that exacerbate or fail to mitigate conflict



## System change

Improved capacities and skills for conflict-sensitive decision-making for senior government leaders



## Intended outcome

Senior leaders in conflict hotspots use processes and make decisions that mitigate conflict risks





# Thank You

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