KEY STATISTICS AND TRENDS ACROSS TIME AND MAJOR CONFLICTS

BIFAD Meeting on Agriculture and Food Security in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Contexts

October 15, 2019
NIGERIA, 1967-70

Civil war over ownership of oil resources, ethno-religious differences

50 years after the Biafran war
25 years after the genocide

RWANDA, 1994

Ethnic violence, spillover effects
TODAY – ONGOING CHALLENGES
Refugees, IDPs, Humanitarian crises

REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS
LINKED TO CURRENT OR RECENT CONFLICTS

Source: UNHCR (2016), Global Trends, Forced Displacement in 2015
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THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF CONFLICT GO BEYOND BATTLE DEATHS

• HUMAN IMPACTS – INTERGENERATIONAL EFFECTS THROUGH MALNUTRITION, LOST YEARS OF EDUCATION, TEARING OF THE “SOCIAL FABRIC”
• ASSETS LOST, ESPECIALLY FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
• SURVIVAL MAY REQUIRE SEIZING CONFLICT-SUPPORTING OPPORTUNITIES
• DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENTS WASTED
• PRIVATE SECTOR LOSSES, PROFITEERING
• LASTING DESTRUCTION OR DISRUPTION OF FOOD SYSTEMS
INTERNATIONAL WARS BETWEEN NATIONS HAVE DECLINED

MORE DATA ARE EXPANDING GRASP OF TRENDS:

- Number and kinds of events from ACLED, PRIO, WB;
- Numbers of people killed and displaced - Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, UNOCHA;
- Monitoring levels of food insecurity, hunger – WFP, FewsNet, NGOs;
- Humanitarian assistance requirements: UN, WFP, FAO, NGOs

NEW CONFLICT TRENDS HAVE EMERGED

- Civil war – state/nonstate violence - UP
- Extremist religious violence
- Communal violence
- Political conflict (electoral)

NEW EMPHASIS ON DATA

- Battles
- Explosions/remote violence
- Violence against civilians
- Riots
- Protests
- Strategic developments (context-specific changes in policies or actions)
Given the rise in civil conflicts, analysis of the local context is essential to understanding risks of violence and identifying measures to mitigate it.

- Is there an equitable distribution of natural resources, esp those needed for food production? Is productivity increasing?
- Are youth finding adequate job opportunities? Is purchasing power adequate to meet food needs?
- Are actions being taken to address climate change?
- Do healthcare services help to moderate population growth?
- How is urbanization being managed?
- Are property rights clear and secure?
- Are national or local institutions providing justice?
- Are military and police forces ensuring security?
INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS THROUGH TRADE IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE COMMODITIES SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED

- **International Trade has proved to be an important way to improve food security and the quality of diets.**
- **But we have also seen the negative impacts of market and price volatility on food security in low-income countries.**
- **Imposition of tariff and non-tariff barriers disrupts food and agricultural trade.**
- **Terms of trade are often perceived to be “unfair.”**
- **Trade-dependence for food is seen as a moral failing for political leaders.**
- **And food trade (even humanitarian food shipments) can be weaponized.**

$35 billion in food imports to Africa
CONCLUSIONS

• NEW RESPONSE PARADIGMS NEEDED. A SEQUENTIAL RESPONSE APPROACH IS NO LONGER ADEQUATE; HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS NEED TO BE INTEGRATED AND IMPLEMENTED TOGETHER.

• RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS. A FOCUS ON FOOD SYSTEMS IS LIKELY TO BE ESSENTIAL FOR BOTH SURVIVAL AND RECOVERY.

• AVERTING CONFLICT. A GREATER FOCUS ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT MAY ALSO BE KEY TO PREVENTING SOCIAL UNREST AND VIOLENT CONFLICT.

• DEEPER ANALYSIS. DATA-RICH ANALYSES ARE NEEDED TO TARGET AND PROGRAM RESOURCES EFFECTIVELY – INCLUDING INFORMATION AT THE INDIVIDUAL, HOUSEHOLD AND COMMUNITY LEVEL.