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Pathways from Peace to Resilience

Evidence from the Greater Horn of Africa on the Links between Conflict Management and Resilience to Food Security Shocks
Why Resilience?
How do we measure it?

A set of capacities…

used in connection with shocks / stresses…

indexed to development outcomes.
Key Findings

#1: Improved security enabled greater freedom of movement and access to key resources needed to cope with drought

#2: Greater freedom of movement and access to natural resources reduced reliance on distressful coping mechanisms
Implications

Policy makers:

Treat conflict as a disaster risk to be reduced, rather than an externality – put conflict on the resilience agenda

Programmers:

Strengthen local governance and social cohesion that underpin resilience
Wait – But Why?

What about conflict management and peace-building programs are effective in strengthening households’ resilience to multiple shocks and stresses?
Recent Research

PATHWAYS FROM PEACE TO RESILIENCE:
Evidence from the Greater Horn of Africa on the Links between Conflict Management and Resilience to Food Security Shocks
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MercyCorps
USAID
Research Questions

How do conflict management and peace-building programs affect households’ resilience to shocks and stresses in pastoral areas in the greater HOA?

1) **Social Cohesion**: Do stronger relationships between traditionally conflicting groups better enable communities to employ adaptive capacities in preparation for shocks and stresses and facilitate quicker recovery from them?

2) **Enabling Institutional Environment**: If influential leaders are better equipped to prevent and resolve conflict, will there be improvements in security, mobility, and people’s access to the resources they need to effectively manage shocks?
Conceptual Framework

**THEORY OF CHANGE**

**SOCIAL COHESION**
- Improved and/or more interactions among community groups

**ENABLING INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT**
- Improved working relationships between conflict management actors

**OBJECTIVE**

**PECASE & SECURITY OUTCOMES**
- Less conflict
- More effective conflict resolution
- Improved freedom of movement

**RESILIENCE OUTCOMES**
- Greater ability to manage/cope with shocks and stresses while meeting household food needs

**Economic, climate-related or conflict-related shocks**
Study Areas

Northern Karamoja

The Mandera Triangle
Prevalence of Shocks

Figure 2. Mean number of shocks experienced by households in the previous 12 months
Methodology

Mixed methods approach
• HH surveys
• Individual & group interviews
• Quantitative & Qualitative data collected mid-2013 & mid-2015

Analysis - Multivariate regression
• Trends over time
• Correlated relationships b/w variables of interest
• Qualitative contribution analysis
KEY FINDINGS:
Food Security Outcomes

Building resilience to shocks through peacebuilding efforts can support food security goals.
Institutional Environment → Resilience

Stronger institutional-level conflict management capacities appear to support households to manage food security shocks.

In particular:

- The ability of formal or informal leaders to negotiate access to natural resources for their communities or support households affected by shocks.

- Government representatives and traditional leaders working closely together on dispute resolution.
Not all forms of social capital are equal when it comes to building resilience:

- Bonding social capital within ethnic groups appeared important in Uganda.
- In neither location were levels of social cohesion between traditional conflicting ethnic groups linked to better food security in the face of shocks.
Conclusions and Implications

Peacebuilding efforts can support resilience goals

- Aid actors interested in building resilience to food security shocks in fragile and insecure contexts should **gear greater investment towards conflict management interventions**

- **Strengthening local conflict management skills and systems can mitigate the negative effects of shocks, both economic and climate-related, on households food security**
Conclusions and Implications

Building social cohesion may not enhance resilience on its own

- Conflict management must go beyond strengthening ties between traditionally conflicting groups to contribute to the transformative changes needed to enhance resilience.

Strengthening local conflict management institutions appears vital

- Programs with peace and resilience goals should work to improve institutional-level conflict management capacities, where such institutions are functioning.
Questions?

Report available at: https://www.mercycorps.org/research-resources/pathways-for-peace

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