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Resilience Evaluation, Analysis and Learning

CRISIS ANALYTICS IN RESILIENCE AND NEXUS PROGRAMMING

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November 17, 2021 | 8:30 - 10:00 AM ET

Welcome & Important Instructions

- Select English or French: Everyone must select a language!

- Sélectionnez anglais ou français : Chacun doit choisir une langue !

- Fill out the poll on your screen
- Introduce yourself in the chat

Remember:

- Mute yourself when not speaking
- Reach out to Suzanne or Emily in the chat for any tech support

- Remplissez le sondage sur votre écran
- Présentez-vous dans le chat

N'oubliez pas :

- Coupez le son lorsque vous ne parlez pas
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AGENDA

Welcome

Presentation

- Scene-Setting: Risk and Resilience Assessments in Crisis Contexts
- What is Crisis Analytics in Mercy Corps?
- Crisis Analytics in the DRC: A Case Study
- Lessons and Recommendations

Panel discussion

Audience Q&A

Zoom Poll:

We have the analytical tools we need to predict evolving shocks and stresses in conflict settings?

- Yes/No/Somewhat

Our analytical tools in conflict settings are being used effectively to support resilience interventions across humanitarian-development-peace investments?

- Yes/No/Somewhat

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE:

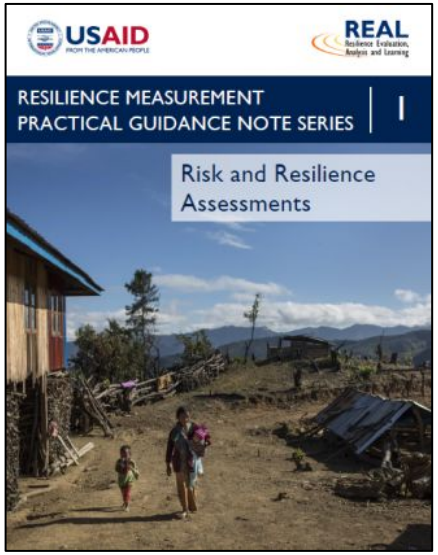
PROGRAMMING TO SHOCKS AND STRESSES THAT DEFINE CONFLICT SETTINGS

RESILIENCE IN CONFLICT SETTINGS?

- What are the shocks and stresses defining conflict contexts?
- What resilience capacities, or sources of resilience matter?
- What works to support these resilience capacities?

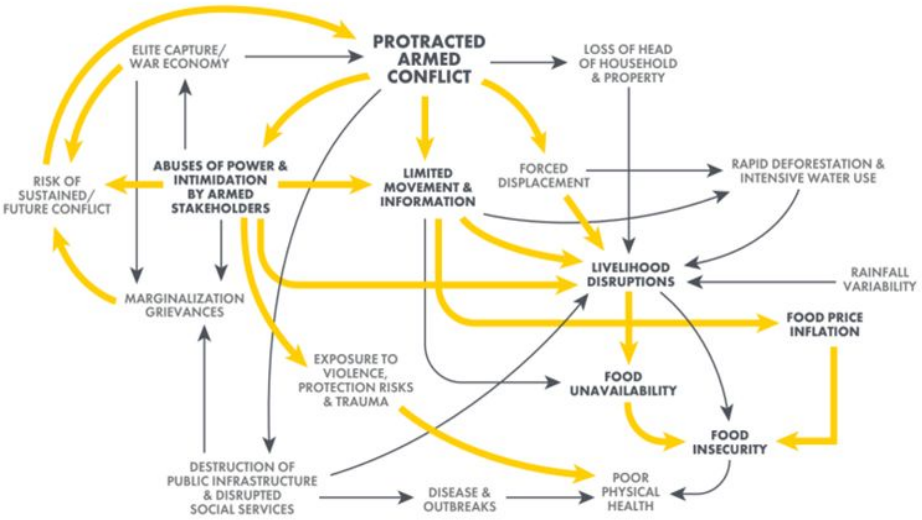
RISK and RESILIENCE ASSESSMENTS

Resilience programs rely on analysis of shocks and stresses, and resilience capacities, to inform activities that build the ability of program participants to achieve well-being in crisis-affected environments.



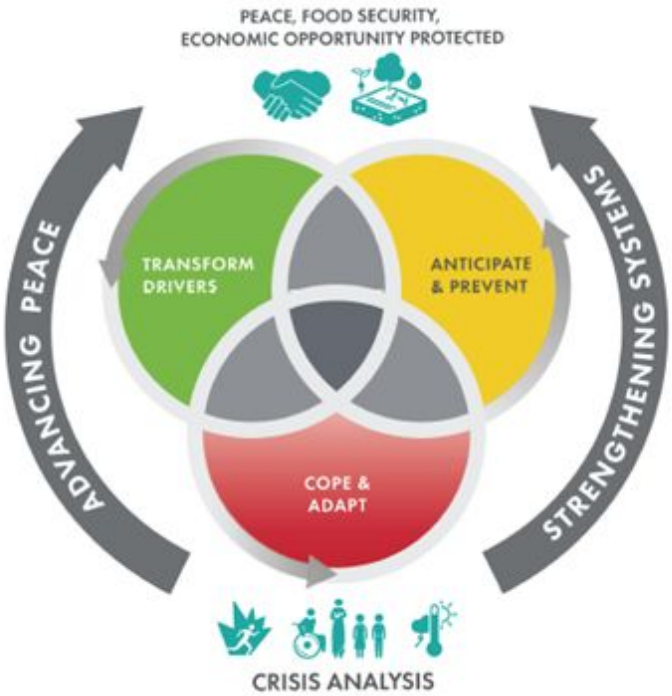
RISK and RESILIENCE ASSESSMENTS in CONFLICT SETTINGS

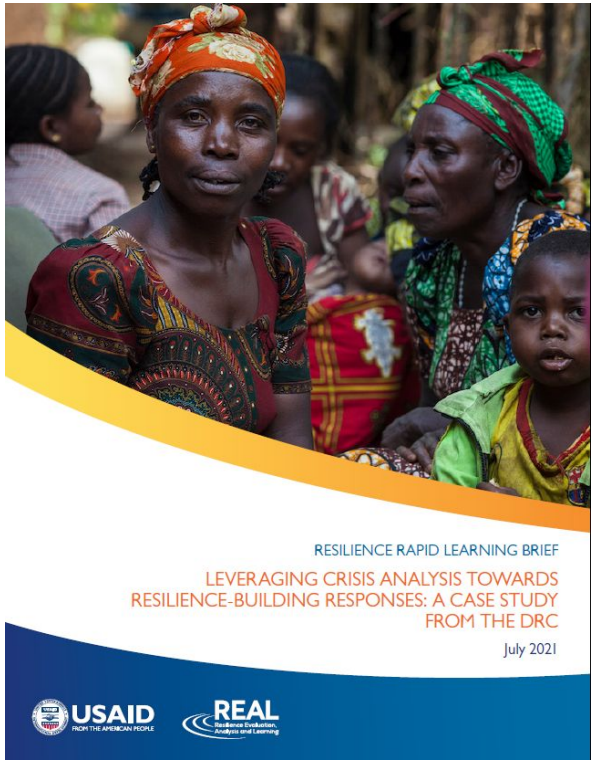
Shocks and stresses that emanate directly from conflict evolve quickly into a series of downstream shocks that are often divorced from root causes.



Top shocks and stressors identified by respondents:	
Armed conflict	228
Presence of armed stakeholders	197
Limited Movement	189
Limitations on Livelihoods	266
Food Insecurity	277

EXPLORING ANALYTICS AS PART OF REAL RAPID LEARNING SERIES





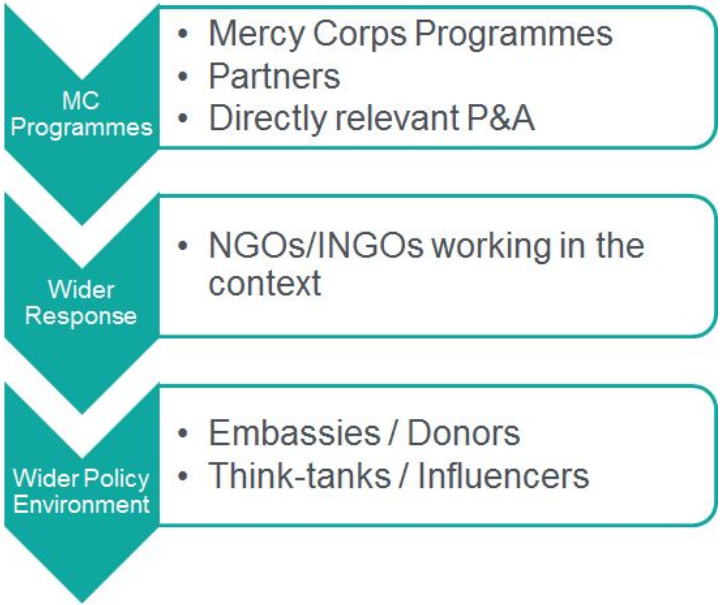
CRISIS ANALYTICS AT MERCY CORPS

What is Crisis Analytics @MC?

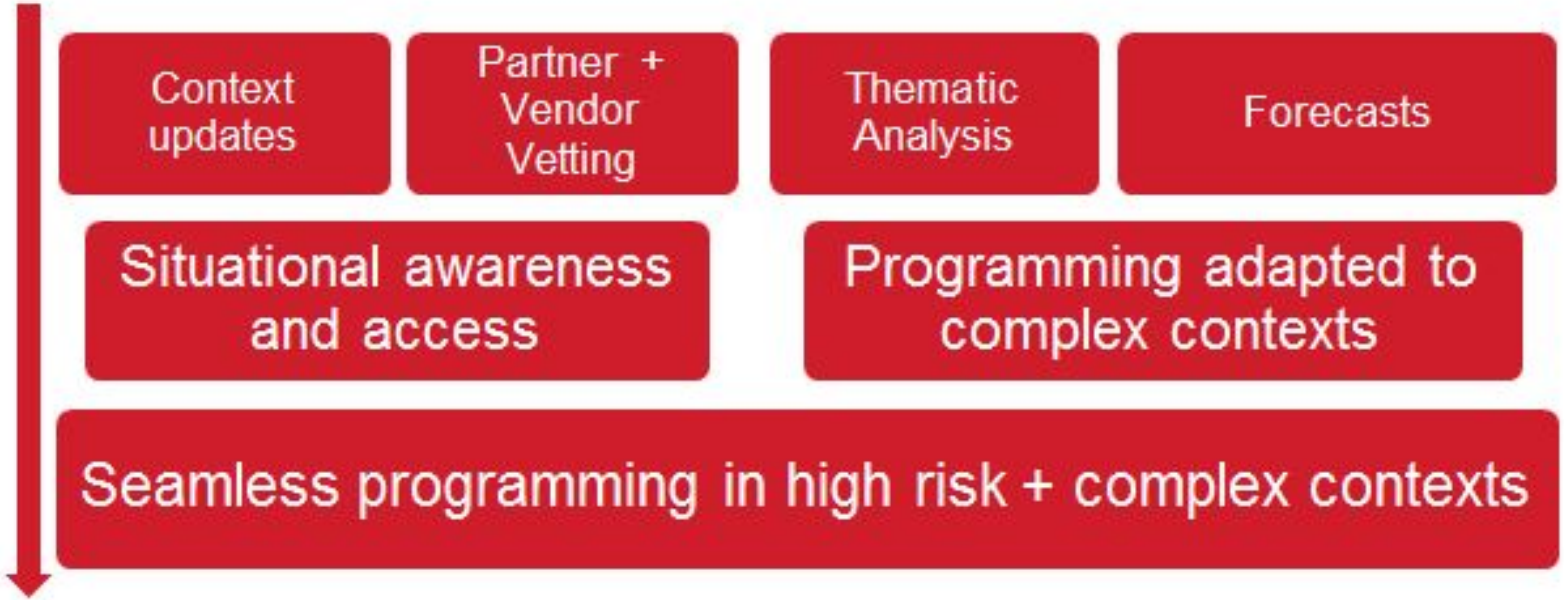
Mercy Corps' crisis analytics teams aggregate and analyze data **to improve decision making** and access in complex crises.

Layering information from **primary sources**, open sources and responders' programmatic data, and combining it with analysis by subject matter experts.

Analysis **grounded in Mercy Corps' status as an operational NGO**, keeping our products constructive and relevant for humanitarian responders and donors within a given crisis.



What does CA offer?



WHAT WE HAVE FOCUSED ON

Access + Security	Violence + civil disobedience | *Blame + narrative tracking at community level* | Community and government disposition to INGOs/NGOs | *Physical access impediments*
Critical communities Needs	New or aggravated basic needs | Markets and supply chains, especially looking at breaks in local market systems and economies that could cause delayed impacts, food security conditions
Conflict	Moves by armed opposition groups or governments to launch new military campaigns or scale up existing campaigns | *Monitoring of armed conflict stabilisers and spoilers*
Governance	Major policy changes by Governments | *Focus on economic policies* | Human rights issue tracking, focusing on government responses unfairly targeting or benefiting specific groups, rumor tracking
Migration & Displacement	Push/pull factors aggravated by COVID-19, particularly looking at narratives/rumours, conflict, emerging need, government policy

Some Recent Examples

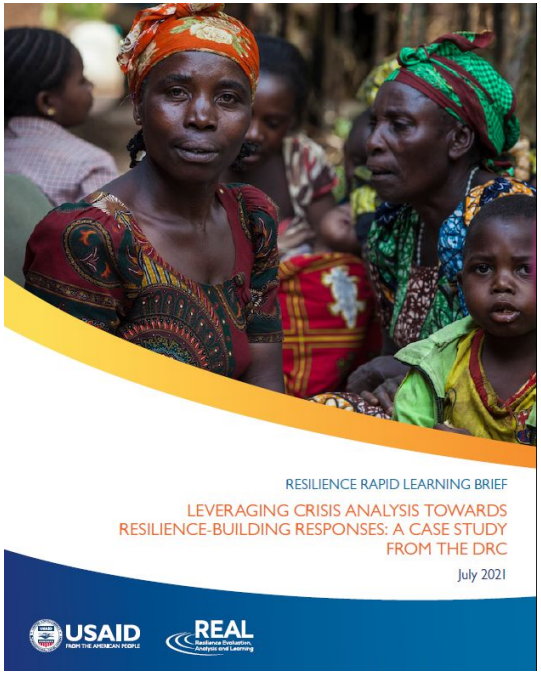
Food price predictions

Night lights reflectance

Night lights have been used to estimate electricity consumption, population density and economic output.

Measuring agricultural water stress

The impact of drought on various agriculture producing areas of northeast Syria was estimated using changes in vegetation water content (May 2020 to May 2021), a proxy for the extent and vigor of agricultural production.



Democratic Republic of the Congo

Humanitarian Analysis Reports

2019-2020

188 Displacement Alerts

12 Monthly Reports
7 Situation Reports
32 Weekly Reports
2 Scenario Reports

8 Context Evaluations

2 Political Bulletins

28 Perception Tracker Reports

3 Joint Market Bulletins

CRISIS ANALYTICS IN THE DRC: OPPORTUNITIES FOR MOVING TOWARDS RESILIENCE THROUGH HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENTS

Areas of Inquiry

- Have CHAT analyses helped teams anticipate potential shocks and crisis dynamics in their context (i.e. potential for violence, displacement, price spikes)?
- Have CHAT analyses led to specific program decisions that either improves participants ability to cope, anticipate or prevent those shocks, and promotes future well-being?
- How can CHAT analyses be better shaped and utilized to improve decision-making capabilities towards more effective and robust programming in crisis contexts?

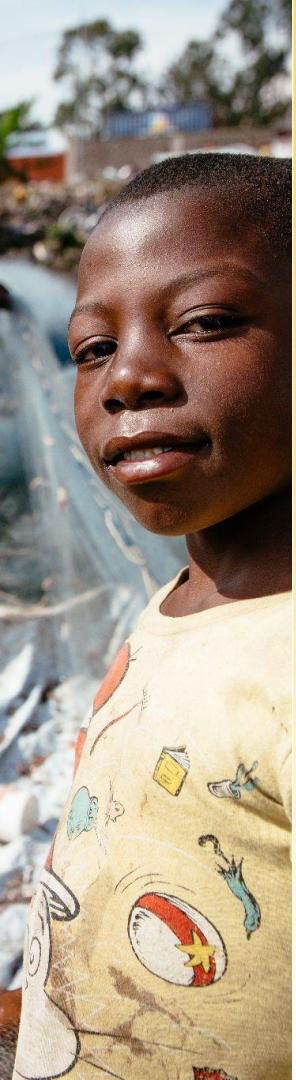
CASE 1: Understanding displacement in Ituri

From good distribution to cash and livelihoods support:

- IDPs settling in areas characterized by ethnic and language similarities, cultural affiliation, shared trade, and often strong social or even familial ties that provided them with refuge.
- IDPs were staying 8-9 months, if not more in host community., and not being displaced on a frequent basis.
- Recognition that shelter and emergency goods provision was inappropriate – pivot to cash assistance to support markets and livelihoods.
- Inequitable goods distribution to the displaced in areas with well established family ties could have had wider negative implications for the local host economy, and potentially fractured social relationships

Opportunities for deeper analysis and application:

- Opportunity for better understanding evolving market and economic dynamics in the area to better tailor cash assistance and support market linkages and facilitation.



Key Insight

Continuous and granular analysis of conflict and displacement dynamics in protracted crisis can provide a clear picture of where it is possible for humanitarian investments to go beyond meeting immediate needs, and take a medium-term approach to programming that lays the foundation for resilience.

CASE 2: Preventing compounding shocks through perception tracking

Ituri:

- Mercy Corps' C-HAT ascertained that at distant village leader was spreading misinformation through a local youth group.
- Mercy Corps began to actively and directly engage the youth group to help counter misinformation.
- Youth group ended up being a core partner in ebola messaging campaign.

Beni:

- Perception tracker included as part of scoping to plan for ebola response.
- Discussions of "Mercy Corps" and "UKAID" led to rumors that the organization was coming for dead bodies, and that it was affiliated with Al-Qaeda.
- Contextual understanding led to carefully designed messaging campaign in partnership with local leaders, youth groups, and other key institutions, who became key central partners in countering the spread of ebola.

Key Insight

Mercy Corps' work to consistently monitor the "pulse" of the community in a very tense and difficult context, and counter negative perceptions when they arose, allowed for not only immediate life-saving programming to take place; it also helped to build trust, strengthened partnership with community structures and supported a conflict sensitive interventions, thus strengthening the potential for resilience to take root.

Case 3: Missed opportunities in strategizing with peacebuilders and development actors

- Deep dive analysis coupled with displacement alerts in Beni and Ituri correctly predicted potential areas of clashes over 4-5 months, movements of rebel groups, and the intention of new armed actors.

- Analyses shared with humanitarian donors and actors supported pre-positioning funds, planning for staff deployment, develop pre-positioning protocols, etc.

- Analyses were not shared with peace and development actors or related expertise in this area.

- Missed opportunities to:
  - seek dialogue or negotiation opportunities,
  - lay groundwork for engagement with host communities,
  - understand potential threats to markets and provide related assistance.

Key Insight

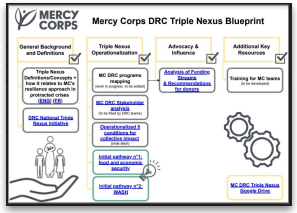
The ability of crisis analysis teams to produce in-depth reports on evolving crisis dynamics, including the intentions and motives of armed groups, provides invaluable information that could be better utilized by peace and development actors to adjust their interventions before the full escalation of a crisis. These reports should be shared - and implications discussed - with a broader array of stakeholders.

Key Lessons

- Crisis Analytics in the DRC is highly relevant not only for humanitarian actors, but peace and development implementers, and can steer collective action.
- The Crisis Analytics methodology was seen as providing clear value-add to existing humanitarian situational analysis, which often focus on occurrence and needs, but not on motivations, root cause, and systemic implications.
- Crisis Analytics information was not currently broadly disseminated, nor requested, suggesting a missed opportunity for strengthening resilience.
- Stronger partnership across program and Crisis Analytics teams could further improve relevance of data to resilience programming

How is the DRC taking these lessons forward?

1 Triple Nexus Initiative articulated an initial blueprint



2 Recommendation made during April CLT on Triple Nexus Initiative

Triple Nexus Initiative

How to leverage the CHAT to reach collective impact?

- CHAT products provide critical contextual information to adopt a conflict-sensitive approach, improve community acceptance, and avoid exacerbating existing tensions.
- CHAT currently mainly financed within emergency budgets → less implication with DA
- Current integration efforts: bi-weekly presentations (CHAT + security)

To be strengthened?

- CHAT role in identifying areas for short and long-term interventions to advance CO
- 2 way-information sharing system between CHAT and programs to inform adaptive management and portfolio SLI
- A more centered place for the CHAT within the mission
- Partnership to support proposal development / ToC
- Knowledge management and institutional memory within PaQ ?

3 Narrowing Focus on a Couple Priorities from Operationalization "Menu"

Moving the C-HAT out of HA Department

Humanitarian Strategy - area-based TN pilot for Beni

Possible joint monitoring indicators in areas (stability)

Programs articulating their needs to C-HAT via MOUs

From Swassa & C-HAT MOU:

- Credibility of administrative organizations in eyes of population
- Security and accessibility at sites
- Perceptions of humanitarian actors
- Crises that disrupt purchasing power of households and willingness to pay for WATSAN services

Zoom

Poll: (highly relevant, somewhat relevant, not relevant)
From your perspectives, how relevant is this type of data in supporting resilience programming in conflict contexts?

Poll: (highly relevant, somewhat relevant, not relevant)
From your perspective, how critical is it to invest in real-time risk analytics for resilience programming?

LESSONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADVANCING UPTAKE OF CRISIS ANALYTICS FOR INTERVENTION DESIGN

Recommendation I:

Crisis analytics should be an essential component of humanitarian, peace, and development programs' decision-making in conflict contexts if local investments are to build resilience and avert future humanitarian need

Recommendation 2:

Donors should fund independent crisis analysis hubs at a portfolio, or area-level, thus ensuring the continuous availability of highly relevant, actionable, real-time crisis data for humanitarian, development, and peace actors operating in a particular context.

Recommendation 3:

Crisis analysts should be incorporated into program budgets and connected to assessment and monitoring teams to help shape and gather more granular information relevant to a localized project context.

Recommendation 4:

Donors and implementing partners should leverage existing coordination structures to disseminate crisis analysis information widely, and use the data for shared planning that informs collective action.

PANEL DISCUSSION

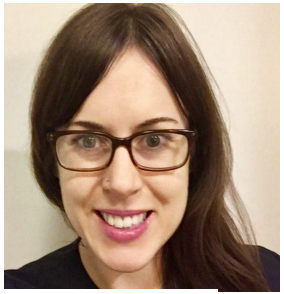
Panel Discussion

Olga Petryniak, Senior Director of Global Resilience and Food Security, Mercy Corps

Jim Arbogast, Senior Director for Crisis Analytics, Mercy Corps

Fagueye Sonko, Manager Mercy Corps' Congo humanitarian analysis team

Onesphore Bangenza, Mercy Corps DRC

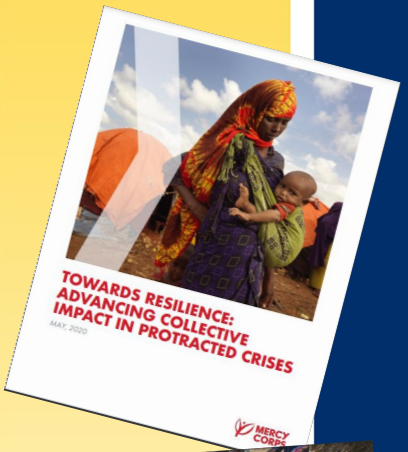


Jessica Anderson, Senior Conflict Advisor with USAID's Center for Resilience

Taylor Garrett, USAID, DRC Mission

DISCUSSION

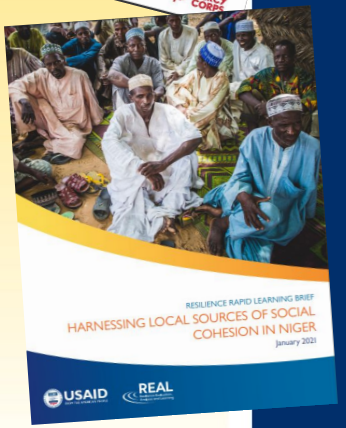
REAL RESILIENCE IN PROTRACTED CRISES DISCUSSION SERIES



This series explores three main elements of resilience in protracted crises:

- ➔ continuous context analysis,
- ➔ strengthening violence prevention, and
- ➔ supporting local market and social systems

Series will discuss how USAID investments can be better designed and delivered to protect current and future well-being in recurrent and protracted crises.



Discussion series Info page *- link in chat box*