BUSINESS CASE ASSESSMENT FOR Accelerating Development Investments in Famine Response and Prevention

IN NORTH-EAST NIGERIA, SOMALIA, SOUTH SUDAN AND YEMEN



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Empowered lives. Resilient nations.



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REPORT PREPARED FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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ACRONYMS

AfDB	African Development Bank
AfPCNI	Nigerian Presidential Committee for the North East Initiative
ARCSS	Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan
CPA	Sudan Comprehensive Peace Agreement
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DNA	Damage Needs Assessment
ERRY	Enhanced Rural Resilience in Yemen Project
EU	European Union
FAO	UN Food and Agricultural Organization
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
ICF	UN Interim Cooperation Framework
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPC	Integrated Phase Classification
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
NDP	Somali National Development Plan
NFI	Non-Food Items
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PSG	Peace and Statebuilding Goals
RPBA	Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and gender based violence
SPLM	Sudan People's Liberation Movement
SSDP	South Sudan Development Plan
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMISS	UN Mission in South Sudan
UNSF	United Nations Strategic Framework
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In recent years, a combination of armed conflict, climatic shocks and long-standing socioeconomic and governance deficits in north-east Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen have led to acute humanitarian emergencies and famine or near famine situations.

In response to the United Nations Secretary-General's call to action in February 2017, a significant increase in humanitarian assistance has temporarily prevented worst-case scenarios from materializing. This has been accompanied by renewed focus on a more holistic approach to famine prevention and response that brings together life-saving assistance with measures to strengthen resilience and end conflict. In all four countries, attempts are underway to operationalize joint approaches by humanitarian, development and peace actors within the framework of the 'New Way of Working', with the overall collective aim of addressing the complex causes of famine to both mitigate its impact and prevent its reoccurrence.

The objective of this study is to inform the further development of a comprehensive approach to famine prevention and response at global and country levels by taking a deeper look at the complex dynamics of famine causation in the four countries; the underlying conceptual and operational tenets of a holistic approach to addressing famine risk; and the salience, added value and inter-relationship of humanitarian, development and peace interventions. It seeks to illustrate - based on data and evidence collected how increased development investments in particular can assist countries in breaking chronic cycles of crisis and famine and put them on a sustainable path to resilient development, and the urgency of such investments in parallel to ongoing humanitarian operations and peacebuilding efforts.

The case for increased investment in development and peacebuilding to address famines articulated in this paper is derived from an analysis of the situation in north-east Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen which are summarized in the following chapters. The present chapter provides a synthesis of key findings, from which the following general conclusions and recommendations emerge:

Famines as 'complex emergencies'. As described in section 2, the four cases clearly demonstrate that heightened famine risk is a consequence of complex interactions between a range of different drivers, including conflict, environmental shocks and structurally weak social, economic and governance systems. The four cases also highlight how the disruption and loss caused by these drivers can in turn lead to a vicious cycle whereby institutions, systems and individual coping capacities are further weakened and eroded. Consequently, the analysis of famine risk and response measures can no longer be the sole preserve of the climate change specialist or agricultural economist, but rather requires a multi-disciplinary approach that cuts across the humanitarian, development, conflict resolution/peacebuilding communities. A key policy recommendation emerging from this is the need for strengthened collaboration on common frameworks and methodologies, such as the pilot UN-World Bank Humanitarian-Development-Peace initiative, for analyzing the drivers and underlying causes of

famine risk, identifying and monitoring early warning indicators, and developing preventive, mitigating and recovery measures.

Bridging the humanitarian, development and peace nexus. The protracted and/or cyclical shocks and other drivers of famine risk in the four countries underscore the importance of a comprehensive approach to prevention and recovery, as outlined in section 3, that combines life-saving assistance and strengthening of individual and systemic coping capacities within an overall long-term framework for addressing underlying development deficits and root cases of grievance and conflict. Building resilience—defined as "the ability of individuals, communities and institutions to cope, recover and transform in response to crises"-should constitute the linchpin and conceptual foundation for this comprehensive approach. As ongoing efforts in the four countries demonstrate, there are clear complementarities between humanitarian and development efforts, with the latter serving to consolidate and sustain short-term mitigation gains while also addressing some of the social and economic deficits driving vulnerability. At the same time, improving security and prioritizing peacebuilding as objectives across political, development and humanitarian efforts, is also critical both to mitigate further disruptions to livelihoods and essential systems, and to address new forms of conflict that may emerge in context of deep social and economic destabilization and loss.



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