

# BEST PRACTICES IN CONFLICT AREAS

BY ABURA LEVI (DPO KOTIDO)

# Biography and Session Information

- Levi Abura, Kotido District Production & Marketing Coordinator, Karamoja, Uganda has a Masters of Science in Crop Production (Magnum) Jerusalem University – 2003, Bachelor of Science in Agric.(Econ) Makerere University. He is also a National Coordinator for water harvesting in IGAD Region.
- His presentation define best practices in areas of conflict, describe the relationship between conflict and food security and suggest best practices in areas of conflict to address food security.

# The Key words are; conflict, best practice, and food security

- Definition of conflict
- How does conflict manifest itself
- Definition of food security
- Relations between food security and conflict
- Which one comes first? The case of an egg and chicken which one comes first
- Best practices in conflict areas

# WHAT IS CONFLICT?

- Conflict is a condition in which people experience a clash of opposing wants, or needs (oxford dictionary).
- There are two types of conflicts: Organisational and Social.
- For the purpose of this presentation we shall limit ourselves to Social conflicts.

# COMPONENTS

- Disagreements or differences in the position of the parties involved.
- For it to emerge actors take sides according to beliefs, values and needs. Some people participate in the conflict without realizing.
- The third component is needs, beliefs, interests and concerns (Behman2012)

# HOW DOES IT MANIFEST ITSELF?

- Political studies of the economic motivations of war have argued that conflict was precipitated in some cases by GREED ( the desire to control resources) and in the others by grievances (the perception of unfairness by those receiving the short end of contested resources (Collier, 2000, Collier and Hoelfer, 2004).

# CONFLICT CONTINUED

- High value agriculture resources may also be responsible when competing groups fight over access to land and water resources to produce high value commodities like coffee or cotton.
- For example the collapse of coffee prices led to a sudden drop in income for small farmers in Rwanda and contributed to the complex forces that contributed to the 1994 genocide (Uvin 1996, Messer and Cohen 2006).

# CONFLICT CONTINUED

- Countries that depend on primary commodity exports with a quarter of its National income coming from them has a risk of conflict four times greater than one without primary commodity exports (Collier 2000).
- Miguel et., al. 2004 found that rainfall shocks have a dramatic impact on the likelihood of a civil war: a five % point negative rainfall shock increases the likelihood of a civil war the following year by nearly one half.

# CONFLICT CONTINUED

- Brackner and Ciccone, 2007 found that the effect of low growth on the likelihood of a civil war is significantly weaker in countries with democratic institutions. They noted that low growth increases the likelihood of a civil war in autocracies.

## DEFINITION OF FOOD SECURITY

- Food security is when all the people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and Nutritious food that meets dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO 2006).

# COMPONENTS OF FOOD SECURITY

- **Availability:** The availability of food in sufficient quantities of appropriate qualities.
- **Access:** It should be accessible by individuals who has adequate resources to acquire appropriate foods for a nutritious diet on a regular basis.
- **Utilization:** Utilization of food through adequate diet, clean water, sanitation, and health care to reach a nutritional well being where all physiological needs are met

## COMPONENTS CONTINUED

- **Stability:** Population, households, or individuals must have access to food at all times and should not risk losing access as a consequence of sudden shocks or cyclical events.
- The bullet above shows what is associated with outbreaks of social unrest or more severe forms of conflict. In many cases conflict has been a major cause of food insecurity. Conflict can arise over food production, land and water resources.

# FOOD SECURITY AND CONFLICT

- Understanding the food insecurity and conflict helps us to identify entry points to for dealing with both . It is critical in breaking the vicious cycle in rural areas that tend to be poorer and depend on agriculture for food and livelihoods.

# FOOD INSECURITY AS A RESULT OF CONFLICT

- Conflict destroy land, water, biological and social resources for food production.
- According to WFP report 2004, every year in the 1990's thirty million people in more than 60 countries were displaced or had their livelihoods destroyed by conflict
- At the moment there are influx of refugees into Europe from Syria, Yemen and Iraq due to the war.

# CONFLICT AS A SOURCE OF FOOD INSECURITY

- In 1921 the people of Abim experience the first famine.
- The period was called OGAIWA from the Swahili word GAWA.
- Reason first world war and pacification of Karamoja.
- Killing of a British Captain in Nyakwae

# CONFLICT AND FOOD SECURITY

- In 1947/1948 famine struck Abim District.
- Reason Second world war. Forceful conscription into the army.
- All energetic men were in hiding to avoid forceful recruitment.
- Food production was given less attention

# CONFLICT AND FOOD SECURITY

- 1957/1958 There was famine called orengelaga.
- Bungles turned red due to lack of ghee to smear them.
- This is when fighting started between Ngijie and Ethur with the Bokora at a water point.
- In Nangolebwal Morulem Sub County Abim District.

## CONFLICT AND FOOD SECURITY

- 1980 was the mother of all famines. Karamoja lost about 20,000 people.
- There was overthrow of Amin in 1979.
- Fleeing soldiers opened all the ammunition Dump in Moroto Barracks.
- Guns were looted in bundles, women were carrying them like fire wood.
- A gate to lawlessness was opened in Karamoja

## FOOD SECURITY AND CONFLICT

- The roads were risky because of road thuggery
- No food or medicine could come to the region
- Unnecessary killings were taking place
- You enter into a small argument when you win your colleague goes for a gun and way lay you or even come to your house.
- It was worsened by outbreak of cholera.

## THE USE OF HUNGER AS A WEAPON (food war)

- Giving food to pro government areas
- The Sudan Civil war (1983 - 84) arose as a rebellion against Northern dominated government
- Hunger was used as a weapon leading to deaths of 7% in a camp every week.
- The ensuing famine led to full scale war (stewart 1998).

# TRENDS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE THAT THREATEN STABILITY

- Increase in population. Currently 6.8 billion.
- Competition for land and water, that leads to conflict.
- Climate change effects and migration
- Schlenker and Lobell (2010) estimated yield response to climate change for, maize, sorghum, millet, ground nut and cassava does not exceed 27%

## BEST PRACTICES IN CONFLICT AREAS

- Whatever practice we shall choose depend on what results we experience in areas in conflict
- If it is food insecurity that has caused conflict, then we address food security first.
- If it is conflict that has caused food insecurity then we address conflict first.
- In most cases we address both at the same time. You provide food as well as addressing conflict.

# FOOD AID AS AN ENTRY POINT IN RESOLVING CONFLICT

- Food AID is a major tool for dealing with conflict especially in Sub Saharan Africa.
- According to Abdulai et al. 2004, food aid has increased from one million metric tons in 1970s to 3.3 million metric tons in 1990s.
- Food AID has been key to stabilize volatile social situations.
- When we went to Loki as a IGAD team in 2005, almost every ten minutes planes were landing or taking off with food to S. Sudan. At the same time peace talks were taking place.

# HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

- Direct distribution of food to vulnerable group
- Therapeutic feeding to sub groups.
- Timeliness of food delivery is vital to avoid deaths
- Transport is always a challenge.
- Small quantities food reserves should be held in different locations in hard to reach regions

## HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES CONTD.

- Emergency food aid distribution is done for three months.
- If the situation cannot be contained it is extended for nine months.
- Then a rehabilitation phase is entered into.
- Repair of infrastructures like roads, health units, water provision, schools, input distribution etc.

## DISADVANTAGES OF FOOD AID

- If continued for long it has effects
- It lowers domestic food prices undermining local food production.
- This delays recovery of rural livelihoods.
- Induced changes in recipients food consumption and natural use patterns (Messer et al. 1998, Teodosijevic 2003, Barret 2006)

# FOOD AID

- The adverse effects can be minimised
- Effective management
- Accurate targeting
- Timing of food aid to the households

# FOOD AID AS INSTRUMENT OF CONFLICT

- Local authorities deny disfavored population food.
- Shipments can be looted
- Humanitarian agencies denied access to food insecure populations.
- It creates dependency syndrome, while failing to address underlying causes of the problem (Barret 2006, Stewart 1998)

# FOOD SECURITY IN FRAGILE AND CONFLICT AREAS

- The food aid should be linked to long term agricultural investments to reduce food insecurity.
- Predictability of future situations i.e. early warning systems should be put in place.
- In cases where land is the cause of conflict land policies should be addressed to speed up developments

## FRAGILE AREAS CONTD.

- Contingency plans are necessary in fragile areas as it is the basis for rapid response and appropriate actions.
- It enables government, NGOs, and UN Agencies to anticipate and plan in advance, the type of food, logistical arrangements, bottle necks in accessing insecure roads, and distributions points in remote areas.

# FOOD MOVEMENTS FROM SURPLUS TO DEFICIT AREAS

- Movement of food from surplus areas to deficit areas should be expeditiously conducted to save lives.
- When there is food deficits in a Country a ban on exports of food grains should be imposed.
- International Trade on food commodities should be liberalized other than putting restrictions (Anderson et al.,2006)

# CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATIONS AND REDUCTION OF GHG

- Climate change puts stress on land and water and escalates food insecurity.
- Agriculture and climate change are linked.
- Agriculture is responsible for 15% of GHG emitted and it can mitigate it.
- Farmers need help to adapt to climate change. (Nelson 2009)
- According to Kyoto protocol(2005) the gas emissions are supposed to be reduced by 20 – 40 % by 2020.

## CLIMATE CHANGE CONTD.

- In order to improve agricultural resilience to climate change funds must be made available to increase and disseminate knowledge (Rabbinge 2009).
- Increase funding to consultative Group on International Agricultural research (CGIAR)
- Regional and National Research Organisations
- And Extension services

## FRAGILE AREAS CNTD.

- Environmental and climate change concerns should be addressed
- Environmental impact assessment on projects should be done on projects to ensure sustainable resource use.
- International Food Policy Research Institute(IFPRI) recommended increase in Agricultural investments to meet the millennium Dev. Goals by 2015 to \$ 4.8 billion in Sub Saharan Africa. This was meant to support the Maputo declaration of Gov. spending 10%
- Of National budgets on Agriculture (World Bank 2009a, Fan and Rosegrant 2008).

## FRAGILE AREAS CONTINUED

- According to Dr. Eyasu Elias Associate Professor and project manager of CASCAPE (capacity building for scaling up of evidence based best practices for Agricultural production in Ethiopia) in a recent symposium in Jerusalem University September 2015, Many Countries in Sub Saharan Africa has not responded to Maputo declaration, hence stagnation in food production and continued poverty.

# FOOD RESERVES

- Emergency National, Regional and local food reserves should be established (Braun and Torero 2009).
- In order to check price volatility.
- Grain stores for buffer stocks should be maintained by National Governments and Humanitarian Organizations in fragile areas

## INTENSIVE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- Ethiopia has 11% economic growth per annum
- This one of the highest in Sub Saharan Africa
- This is because of intensive extension services among others
- It has 70,000 Development Agencies
- 11,000 farmer training centers targeting 18,000

## SACRIFICE AND INVOLVEMENT

- When you have decided to get involved in working in conflict areas it should be for good or bad.
- If you get to work in conflict areas you should involve the local population as much as possible.
- In the case of livelihood you develop local NGOs.

# INCOOPERATING BIOTECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE

- In East Africa Uganda has the least participation in biotechnology.
- Genetically modified Organisms (GMOs) are created by Nature only that it takes a long time – Natural Selection
- What biotechnologies do is to shorten the process.
- I was attending a meeting with ICRISAT on orphan crops – F. Millet and sorghum.

## BIOTECH. CONTD.

- The research for good quality f. millet and sorghum is starting this year and will be available to farmers in 2021.
- What can be done is simple, remove a cell from apical meristem and grow it in tissue culture.
- The vigorous varieties are selected
- In three years it is available to farmers

## BIOTECH. CONTD

- BT (*Bacillus Thuringensis*) maize is becoming popular because it reduces the use of pesticides.
- Terminator genes are very popular weapon in denying farmers biotechnology.
- In Israel mosquitoes do not cause malaria because it has been disarmed.
- We can grow BT cotton

## BIOTECH. CONTD.

- In USA I am sure the farmers should be growing blue cotton now.
- Passive smoking causes mutation in human beings.

# CONCLUSION

- Our population is growing at 3.5% annually
- We need food to feed the population
- Karamoja is one of the areas with fragile ecosystems
- It is prone to famine and conflict. We should device a means of fast and extensive food production
- We cannot rule out biotechnology
- We should not entertain conflicts aggravated by food insecurity.

## CONCLUSION CONTD.

- Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) should be promoted and protected.
- This increases accessibility in times of food insecurity to the households.
- These Associations are very popular in the villages.
- Some unscrupulous members borrow money and refuse to pay back

## CONCLUSION CONTD.

- When the issue is taken to court they buy lawyers.
- Who come and declare that there is no law for VSLA.
- The case is dismissed with costs to the disadvantage of poor farmers.
- Therefore a law should be enacted to protect the famers.

