

Meeting Minutes
of the Local Programme Advisory Committee (LPAC) for the project
“Climate Security Project”

Date:20/07/2023

Participants:

<i>Chairperson</i>	Ashraf Usman
<i>Permanent LPAC Members</i>	Ashraf Usman, Sally Swinnen, Nurudden Bashar Saleh, Eugene Teinjei, Adamu Garba. Deputy Governor Sokoto state, Ministry of Humanitarian, Ministry of Environment and state emergency management agency (SEMA)
<i>Invited Members:</i>	GISCO and peoples health peace and progress
<i>Project presented by:</i>	Ashraf Usman
<i>Secretary</i>	

Agenda:

Meeting with the projects key stakeholders to present the projects overview and to determine the projects site selection on 20th July 2023 at 4 to 5:30pm.

Minutes

The long-awaited Climate security meeting events of the day started with The UNDP North west team lead having fruitful discussions with the deputy Governor of Sokoto State both in private and plenary. On behalf of UNDP, the team lead expressed the organizations commitment to supporting the long-term developmental goals of the state. To begin with, the UNDP team’s discussions with the Sokoto State team focused on the following area:

- Overview of the Climate Security Project
- Implementation and inception phase of the Climate Security project.
- Conflict prevention and promoting peacebuilding using climate Security approaches

The team lead presented the climate security projects which eroded the following key points of discussions:

- The genesis of the conflict is the dispute between the Famers and Herders requirements for resources. Either because grazing lands or farm land has been encroached upon

- Factors that are causing this include the rising population, the reduced productivity of the land, increasing poverty and evidential climate changes
- The rainy season is coming a lot later than in the past and is for a shorter period of time. This in turn effects the way farmer plan and harvest their crops and the routes of the herders.
- The grazing routes were mapped in the 80s and have changed either because urban development, farmers encroaching on arable land or the desertification of many areas.
- Some of the land has been official reclaimed but some illegally take for subsistence farming purposes.
- The Herders are at one with their animals and take the theft and killing of one of their animals very seriously.
- When cattle theft/ killing happens for ‘encroching’ on farmers cultivated areas or eating farmers crops the herders respond extremely violently .
- The payback and retaliation is often far worse than the initial crime.
- You can Identify that the areas of conflice are often centered around water source
- The significant rain loss means there is a real need for drought resilient seeds
- Smuggling of small and light arms and weaponry on the boarder is facilitating the banditry
- Addressing the lucid boarder trade of weapon smuggling should be factored into the conflict.
- A key indicate of the smuggling methods will be how the food and produce is smuggled between the boarders eg grain being taken to Nigeria should illicit further questioning as it does not align with the conventional trading system between the two nations – it is likely that the weapons are being stuffed into the grain sacks etc. – it goes against the nature of the business.
- We should look to engage the Niger boarder force as they are an important mitigating actor in this conflict
- The concentration of the conflict, weapon smuggling and Climate & Conflict IDPs are located in the region of Sabon Birni. If we are looking regions that are boarder towns then it is important to invest in the areas that are in the most need. That would be the location of Sabon Birni
- Accepting the Site selection as an indicator to asses where to choose a location – does Sabon Birni not fit the criteria?
- Recognized the need to establish the pilot location in an area where the margins for success are higher.
- After engaging with the * Security the three pilot sites in the Illela LGA recommending the communities of Illela Central, Kamalu and Njema.

The following issues were raised during the discussion:

- Lack of boarder security coordination between Nigeria and Niger boarder
- Smuggling of illicit weapons across the boarders is currently on the high side, and it increases the banditry and insecurity activities within the boarder communities
- Priotizing the projects site selection

The LPAC made the following conclusions:

- Engage the Niger boarder force as they are an important mitigating actor in this conflict
- Recognize the need to establish the pilot location in an area where the margins for success are higher.
- Addressing the lucid boarder trade of weapon smuggling should be factored into the program.