Summary of Security Risk Assessment

for the Agro-Climate Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) October 22nd, 2021

Introduction

The Northern States including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) is faced by rapid desert encroachment from severe to moderate and marginal. The impacted states include: Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Yobe, Zamfara, FCT, Benue, Nasarawa, Kogi, Plateau, Adamawa, Taraba, Niger, Kwara and Kaduna.

The perennial problem of desertification became obvious, due to climate change, human activities and climate variation such as prolong droughts and flood. The urgent and dire need to address this problem brought about the Agro-Climatice Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) project by the government of Nigeria[NSM1][EAS2]. The ACReSAL project is embarked on by the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) to build community resilience as well as improve the sustainable productivity of its natural resources in the 19 northern statespart of Nigeria namely: Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Yobe, Zamfara, Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Benue, Nasarawa, Kogi, Plateau, Adamawa, Taraba, Niger, Kwara and Kaduna. The proposed project, through a participatory approach, will include the following component activities:

1. Component A. Dry Land Management
2. Component B. Community Climate Resilience
3. Component C. Climate Change Institutional Strengthening and Project Management
4. Component D. Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC)

However, this laudable project is exposed to potential risks by the general insecurity in most parts of the Northern States and the FCT, hence the need for a proper assessment of the security risk in the project area to the extent that it could affect the project, project workers and project beneficiaries, as well as the need to identify adequate measures to manage such security risk.

Security Risk Pattern[EAS3] in the Project Areas

The security situation in most part of the Northern States remains fragile as revealed by intelligence analysis of data from ACLED and various official data as made available by the state security agencies and open sources including the media both conventional and social media.

This security risk assessment identified threats and the vulnerability of the project to these threats, their likely impact and the drivers of insecurity including terrorism and insurgency, farmers herders' clashes, banditry, kidnapping and opportunistic and violent crimes such as

break ins, mugging, road blockage, attack on travel routes, armed robbery and gang violence, etc.

Summary of Risks in the Project Areas[EAS4]

Insurgency and Terrorism: This relates to the activities of groups such as Jama'atul Ahlis Sunna lil Dawatil wal Jihad (JAS) or Boko Haram and the Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) seek to establish a Sharia caliphate in the Lake Chad Basin. These groups attempt to take over territories and impose their own version of Islamic doctrines on their victims. Their main areas of influence are in Borno, its borders with Yobe and Adamawa States.

Armed Banditry: Banditry is carried out by assailants who are popularly described as "unknown gunmen". These group rustle cattle, displace communities and engage in kidnap for ransom. The bandits operate in most part of north central and northwest states, especially in Katsina, Zamfara, Niger, Kaduna and Kebbi.

Kidnapping: This involves forceful adoption (abduction) and taking away of people by criminals or terrorist groups to raise money through ransom payment to buy weapons and equipment to further their operations. The most affected states including Kaduna, Katsina, Niger and Zamfara, where communities have informants and suppliers feeding in on the industry

Opportunistic Crime: These are opportunistic crimes resulting from limited job and high unemployment rates.

Farmers and Herders Violence: These are clashes between farmers and herders which is becoming frequent and attackers more emboldened. The situation is particularly worsened by emerging ethnic and religious dimensions the crisis has adopted. This threat remains one of the most severe challenges in Nigeria security space particularly around the middle belt.

Road Travel Risk: Road travel remains porous to attacks by criminal gangs who engage in robbery, extortion, and kidnap for ransom. Mostly driven by financial benefits, these attacks target persons perceived to be wealthy, including business and government officials due to the believe that they have high "ransom" value.

Gang Violence: This category involves violence committed by criminal gangs involved in large-scale cattle rustling, kidnapping for ransom, armed robbery, pillage, and attacks on gold miners and traders. The authorities sometimes also refer to these gangs as "bandits" although this report describes them as "criminal" groups, gangs or organizations.

The assessment categorised the locations according to the assessed threat and risk levels namely:

High Risk: These are areas with high security threat resulting from the activities of terrorist groups[EAS5] and insurgency. Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Zamfara, Kaduna, Kastina, Niger, Sokoto, Benue.

Medium Risk: These are areas where the risk is not as high as obtained in situation of terrorist/ insurgent activities, however, there are prevalence of banditry and kidnapping activities. Plateau, Nasarawa, FCT, Bauchi, Kebbi.

Low Risk: These are areas with occasional kidnapping and farmers / herder clashes[EAS6]

Kogi, Kwara, Gombe, Kano, Taraba, Jigawa.

Furthermore, the assessment identified the following activities as having the most potential risks [NSM7][EAS8]and requiring enhanced mitigation measures:

- Travelling by Air and Road
- Interface by relevant project stakeholders/focal points, with local stakeholders in the project space.
- Interface with project host communities, this will involve community engagements and sensing
- Frequent trips through and from the project sites.
- Construction and occupation of project sites.
- Survey and mapping of project sites.

In addition, other ACReSAL project activities identified as having risk exposure relates to community and household level investment intervention such as agricultural / irrigation support, community level infrastructure / household intervention in water harvesting etc including landscape restoration/ micro watershed and community development plans activities.

Proposed Security Risk Mitigation Principle[EAS9]

Having identified the risk and possible impact on the project in the event of any breach of security and attack, this security risk assessment framework provides the guideline for the development of appropriate state level security assessments and management plans prior to the start of any activities in the relevant State. State Level Security Management Plan will also include clear escalation protocol and responsibility in the event that security situation worsens in any site.

To address identified risk at state level, the project will deploy both public and private security force to provide protection for the project. The use of these security forces will be guided by the following principles[NSM10][EAS11][NSM12][EAS13]:

i. Adherence to the Voluntary Principles of Security and Human Rights abuses and Code of Conduct.[NSM14][EAS15] In addition,

- All private and public security forces to be deployed or dedicated to the project must be subjected to screening for any past human rights violations and be trained on SEA/SH and GBV prevention, human rights and international humanitarian law, etc.
- All private and public security force to be deployed must be trained on conduct of conduct on the use of force and must have signed the required code of conduct before deployment to the project.

- Setting up of a security management structure / forum at the federal and state levels.[NSM16][EAS17][NSM18][EAS19]   This structure will be an inter-agency security committee or forum that will be responsible for coordinating the operation of all security forces (private and public security) and for sharing security information and incident reports. The security focal person at the Federal level under the guidance of the National Project Coordinators will be in charge of facilitating the set up / collaboration and keeping records including those of stakeholders.

- The security focal person at the federal level will be responsible for the security of the project throughout the project's life. The federal security focal person and state level security officers who will oversee the day-to-day activities (including supervising the deployment of security officer - public and private) shall ensure coordination of all security requirements /activities with the relevant office/officer in charge of the state Government Security Agency/Agencies (GSAs).

- Effective communications system is vital for personal safety and security of project personnel. In other to monitor staff movements more effectively, and to alert others or to be alerted in the event of potential insecurity and to avoid incident, the state level SMP will included an effective communication system such as cellular phones (with consideration for service providers with reliable coverage in the state) including computer enabled communication capability, land line and radio phones.

- The state security focal persons will report all security, safety, and serious health incidences to the State project coordinator who will report to the relevant state security agency and National Project Coordinator at the Federal level, where appropriate. The confidentiality of the reporting will ultimately be the responsibility of the state security focal person. The basic principle will be to convey the required information quickly and efficiently to those responsible to provide help including escalation process if situation worsens. Reports must be kept in a secure location and only accessible to the appropriate authorities to ensure confidentiality.

  ii.

iii.   The adoption of the 4Ds security strategy namely - deterrence, detection, delay (Any security measures / device put in place to limit security threat before call for help), and denial(Any security measure / Action put in place to avoid any security

breach) [NSM20][EAS21]against all hostile activities throughout the project lifecycle. To be ensured by project deployed security forces.

iv. Escort security protocol of lead (Is the team of security officers responsible for leading a convoy movement from point A to Point B or from one location to another.) and chase[NSM22][EAS23](is a team of security officers responsible for deterring any potential threat during convoy movement from one location to another), to reduce risks associated with road travels in recent day Nigeria

v. Continuous threat forecast and appraisal through an intelligence risk management program.

vi. Leveraging on the public and private security to provide protection and timely / actionable intelligence [NSM24][EAS25][NSM26][EAS27]but ensuring strict observance of relevant human rights, limited use of force and personnel non lethal requirements e.g batons, pepper spray, hand cuffs, whistles etc.

vii. Constant engagements with the local communities and other relevant stakeholders [EAS28]if and when the need arises on any of the project sites as documented in the project SEP.

viii. State level SMP will include a system to receive and address security / security force personnel related allegations / complain such as abuse of power, excessive use of force, retaliation, sexual harassment and exploitation, gender-based violence etc. Allegations or incidents related to security personnel must be documented and reported to the Bank through the federal level security focal persons within 48 hours of the incident occurring.

State Level Security Risk Assessment[EAS29]

Prior to commencement of state level SMP, the PIU through the security management structure / forum will conduct a security risk assessment (which will be on-going and the SMP revised accordingly) with all relevant stakeholders including community members, youth, traditional rulers and all relevant state security institution involved in security matters to determine the threat level of the security of the state. All developed security management plan by each state will be reviewed and cleared by the state / federal security focal persons with guidance from the world Bank.