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**The Socioeconomic Impacts of the ECOSEC Project on Refugees and Internally Displaced
Persons: The ICRC/Nigerian Red Cross (NRC) Perspective,**

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Introduction and background

The origin of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement was traced to Henri Jean Dunant, a Swiss humanitarian and an established businessman, who travelled to the King of Austria to discuss business terms with him on the 25th of June, 1859. It so happened that during this travel, a war broke out between Austrian and Frenchmen in Solferino, this battle is largely referred to as the Battle of Solferino, in June 1859. Dunant witnessed the killing of over forty thousand soldiers and very many wounded in the battle field and there was no care for the wounded in this battle. Henri Dunant, organized emergency aid services for Austrian and French wounded.

Upon return from this trip, he published a book in 1862. In his book *Un Souvenir de Solferino* (1862; *A Memory of Solferino*) he proposed the formation in all countries of voluntary relief societies, and in 1863 the International Committee for the Relief of the Wounded was created. This organization in turn spawned national Red Cross societies (Eneji, 2022).

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The International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent as it was formerly known until 1986 when it was now changed to the International Red Cross. The International Red Cross is a humanitarian agency with national affiliates in almost every country of the world. The Red Cross movement began with the founding of the International Committee for the Relief of the Wounded which is now known as the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1863 by Henri Dunant and his colleagues. Jean-Henri Dunant was born on the 8th of May 1828 and lived till the 30th of October 1910, a Swiss Christian, humanitarian, businessman and social activist. He was the visionary, promoter and co-founder and father of the Red Cross. Others who helped nurture and birth the Red Cross include Louis Appia, Guillaume-Henri Dufour, Henry Dunant, Théodore Maunoir, Gustave Moynier, these five are usually referred to as the ‘big five’.

The Red Cross was established to care for victims of battle in time of war, but later national Red Cross societies were created to aid in the prevention and relief of human suffering generally. Its peacetime activities include first aid, accident prevention, water safety, training of Nurses’ aids and mothers’ assistants, and maintenance of maternal and child welfare centers and medical clinics, blood banks and numerous other services. The movement began and still has its international headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The operations of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement are guided by a lot of international conventions and protocols.

The Geneva Convention of August 22, 1864, the first multilateral agreement on the Red Cross, committed signatory governments to care for the wounded of war, whether enemy or friend. Later, this convention was revised and new conventions were adopted to protect victims of warfare at sea (1907), prisoners of war (1929) and civilians in time of war (1949). The worldwide structure of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement now consists of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC; Comité International de la Croix-Rouge); the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge); and the national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies (ICRC, 2016).

The governing committee of the ICRC is an independent council of 25 Swiss citizens with headquarters at Geneva. During wartime the ICRC acts as an intermediary among belligerents and

also among national Red Cross societies. It also visits prisoners in war camps and provides relief supplies, mail and information for their relatives. The ICRC was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1917 and 1944 and shared a third Nobel Prize for Peace with the League of Red Cross Societies (now International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) in 1963. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which has a secretariat in Geneva, helps provide relief after natural disaster and aids in the development of national societies.

The meaning of this is that while the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent provides material relief and other emergency services to victims of human induced crises like war, epidemic, violence outbreak and civil uprising and unrest, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent provides materials relief and emergency services to people during natural disasters like earthquake, flooding, volcanic eruption etc.

Like mentioned earlier on, the Nigerian Red Cross is an affiliate national society of the ICRC/IFRC. Every country of the world outside the Switzerland has a national society which is registered and chartered with the International movement. The Nigerian Red Cross Society was established by an Act of Parliament in 1960 and became the 86th Member National Society of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Now International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) on 4th of February 1961 as an auxiliary to the Government in Humanitarian Services. It is important to also state that in every country, there is only one national society, which is only one Red Cross. The Nigerian Red Cross is a humanitarian organization just like the mother organization with the sole aim of alleviating human suffering especially during war time.

Before the establishment of the ICRC, the big five drew a proposal to the first international convention in Geneva on how the activities of Red Cross should be. Among the proposals written in the final resolutions of the conference, adopted on 29 October 1863 were:

- The formation of national relief societies for wounded soldiers;
- Neutrality and protection for wounded soldiers;
- The utilization of volunteer forces for relief assistance on the battlefield;

- The organization of additional conferences to enact these concepts

Here too, was the proposal for the introduction of a common distinctive protection symbol for medical personnel in the field, namely a white armlet bearing a red cross.

According to the history of the earlier formation of the Red Cross, the following are the main functions of the Red Cross:

- To extend relief and help to the victims of any calamity- war, fire, flood, famine, earthquakes, etc
- To procure and supply blood for the victims of war and other calamities
- To extend all possible first-aid in an accident
- To educate people on accident prevention
- To arrange for ambulance service in all emergencies
- To look after maternal and child welfare centers
- Train midwives.

The Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement

According to ICRC (2016) at the 20th International Conference in Neue Hofburg, Vienna, held from the 2nd to the 9th of October 1965, delegates "proclaimed" seven fundamental principles which are shared by all components of the Movement, and they were added to the official statutes of the Movement in 1986. The durability and universal acceptance of the fundamental principle is a result of the process through which they came into being in the form they have. Rather than an effort to arrive at agreement, it was an attempt to discover what successful operations and organizational units, over the past 100 years had in common. As a result, the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent were not revealed, but found through a deliberate and participatory process of discovery.

That makes it even more important to note that the text that appears under each "heading" is an integral part of the Principle in question and not an interpretation that can vary with time and place. The seven fundamental principles are the guiding principles which are cardinal in the daily life and operation of the Red Cross globally. It is the belief in the fundamental principles that unite Red Cross activities and operations all over the world. These seven fundamental principles of the

ICRC are: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality. A brief explanation would do us some good here:

Humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavors in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

Impartiality

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavors to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

Neutrality

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Independence

The Movement is independent, the National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

Voluntary Service

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for any gain.

Unity

There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

The research setting and background

The study area are communities within Cross River State, Nigeria where natural disasters and communal clashes have taken place. Over the last thirteen years (2010-2023), natural disasters like flooding, landslide, ethnic violence and war situation have ravaged some Cross-River communities, especially in the northern and central part of the state. Between 2010-2023, the state has recorded not less than ten serious incidence of communal clashes between Ugaga and Itega, Okpame, Igabu, Yache in Yala LGA and their Tiv Neighbors in Benue State, Ochon and Okuni, Ukelle and their Izii neighbors in Ebonyi state, Ebom and Ebijakara fueled by the intermediary Usumutong, Nko and Mkpani, Onyadama and Nko, the Apiapum , Ababene, Ovonum, Ofat among others.

The States was also ravaged by natural disasters like land slide in Bumaji and Danare, flooding in Obudu- Ukpe, Alege, Utugwang, Ukorshe, Ukwrutung, Igwo, Ukwelubudu; Obanliku, Bekwarra-Ukpah, Gakem, Otukpuru, Nyanya, Ijibor, Ugboro, Ukpada, Akurinyi, Utugbo, Ububa Ebechua, Ogoja-Ishibori, Abakpa; Yala- Igede, Okpoma, Yahe, Ukelle, Boki-Biajua, Arangha, Nsadop, Bawop, Oku, etc. Ikom-Nde, Ekpkpa, Okuni, Ikom town, Adijinkpo, Balep,ETC, Etung, little Agbokim, Agbokim Waterfalls, Agbokim Caraboat, Etome, Ajasor, Efriya, Ekumaya, Nsofang, Mkopt, Itaka, Okoroba; same occurred in Obubra, Abi, Yakurr, Biase, Odukpani among others.

The wave of this natural disaster displaced so many people from their ancestral homes, farms and farm produces including crops were washed away by the flood, most communities became homeless in their own homes, means of livelihoods destroyed and swept away by the flood. Animals and other properties were not spared in the wave of these natural disasters. The war that broke out within these communities listed left untold hardships among the people. People were

displaced and they ran away to other communities for safety, food crops and other means of livelihoods were destroyed by enemies making human livelihood really a very difficult thing.

In all these disaster and conflict situations, rescue operations, relief materials and other livelihoods means were provided by the International Committee and Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement. To guarantee sustainable livelihoods and economic security, the ICRC project team went with various forms of interventions to these communities through the provision of relief material, livelihood enhancement training and provision among others. One principal component of the rescue and relief provision was the EcoSec project in these communities.

Socioeconomic development

Majorly, the socioeconomic dimensions of every community are key to their living standard. What do they eat? what can they produce, what quantity do they produce, where do they sell their produce, what do they get from the sales of their produce and how do they achieve their social and infrastructural development, who provides their security and right's recognition in the society? How are their welfare catered for and by who? What natural assets or resources do they have to ginger their development and production capacity? Are they dependent on external support for livelihoods or they provide their needs themselves? After all their production, do they have enough to take out for sales to other communities? What is their social relationship with other communities especially their neighboring communities? What kinship do they have among community members and with their neighbors? All these questions seem to address the socioeconomic dimensions of those in need, the war-torn communities, the conflict and disaster ravaged communities and communities where violence occurred (Burhan, Salam, Abou- Hamdan, & Tariq, 2021; Eneji, 2022).

Ntamu, Abia, Edinyang and Eneji, (2014) did a gender diagnosis and opined that most often, during war time and crisis situation, women are most hit. The men might be hunted down as enemies during war times, but most often, the women are allowed and seen as harmless, except in situation where the women rise in arms against the opponents' soldiers. During war time or

disaster crisis, women become more vulnerable than their male counterparts because the economic and social impacts of losing their means of livelihoods, shelter and other properties affects women the more (Ntamu, Eneji, Omang & Edinyang, 2013; Ntamu, et al., 2014). According to Channa, Chen, Pina, Ricker-Gilbert & Stein, (2019) in most societies of the world, most women are engaged in one form of menial livelihood activities or the other like: agriculture, petty trading, growing of market gardening fruits and vegetables, horticulture, animal rearing among others.

Others engaged in one form or trades like baking, sewing, cooking, hairdressing, cottage industries to make a living. While most of the women are majorly farmers, some are even heads of households who are traders. This means that the onus of providing to meet the daily dietary needs, social and health needs of these households whose heads are female rest wholly on their shoulders, hence they engage in regular social and economic activities to like farming activities, petty trading and other forms of livelihoods activities to feed their families and save some for the market (Chenna, et al., 2019; Ojo & Baiyegunhi, 2020a & 2020b; Bonfanti, Vigolo & Yfantidou, 2021).

Let me restate again, that the alleviation of human suffering and intervention from the international movement has been segmented into two broad perspective for easy management and avoidance of duplication of intervention services within their limited resources. The IFRC are those engaged in alleviating and intervening during natural disasters, while ICRC intervene during human induced calamities like war, epidemics, conflicts and violence including farmers-herders clash. Looking further at the place of EcoSec in crises management during natural disaster like climate change, natural disasters, war and conflicts, which authors like Pandey, Kumar, Archie, Gupta, Joshi, Valente and Petrosillo, (2018) opined has dealt a heavy blow on most of these victims' productivity as a result of epidemics, food insecurity, killing and destruction of properties including farm produce, late arrival of rainfall, early stoppage of rainfall, excessive sunlight and heat, salt water intrusion into arable land, drought, soil erosion and loss of soil fertility among others.

These actions have led many to flee their original homes for safety. Animal herders on the other hand are not spared from the effects of the same climate change or disasters, (Eneji, et al.,

2022). Due to the late arrival and early stoppage of rainfall, grasses for animal grazing are becoming scarce and herders' needs to feed their animals by grazing into farm lands. Crops stored are also affected by climate conditions (Pandey, et al., 2018; Omerkhil, Kumar, Mallick, Meru, Chand, Rawat & Pandey, 2020; Eneji, Obim & Udumo, 2014; Eneji, Asuquo, Ray, Eneji & Ekpo, 2015).

During war time, natural disasters, conflict or violent situations including other human induced violence, most persons are forced to flee their original homes for safety, when they flee and seek asylum elsewhere, they do not normally flee with their means of livelihoods. Very few could carry some few things to survive on. Even if they do, the amount carried and the number of persons dependent on such items may overwhelm the quantity carried. These supplies would last just a few days. What becomes of the near future when these supplies carried re exhausted? This position is dependent on the human population to be served during these calamity or crises.

EcoSec and socioeconomic development of the population at risk

EcoSec (in full) means economic security, the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC) defines economic security as the ability of individuals, households or communities to cover their essential needs sustainably and with dignity. Food, basic shelter, clothing and hygiene qualify as essential needs, as does the related expenditure; the essential assets needed to earn a living, and the costs associated with health care and education also qualify (ICRC, 2016; Eneji, 2022). The ICRC's Economic Security (EcoSec) Unit, which is part of the Assistance Division, seeks to establish if people affected by different kinds of crisis and conflict can cover their essential needs sustainably. If they cannot do so, EcoSec steps in to help protect lives and restore livelihoods.

Economic security is pivotal for the well-being of individuals, households and communities affected by conflict or other violence, and by climate change and natural hazards. It gives them the foundation on which to build their ability to absorb and adapt to shocks; chronic and unexpected, that threatens to overwhelm their coping mechanisms, and to manage future stresses and risks. EcoSec is central to ICRC's efforts to save lives, alleviate suffering, protect human dignity, and

respond to the needs of people affected. EcoSec has expertise in a number of different areas: nutrition and food security; agriculture; livestock; cash and voucher assistance; market-based programing; microeconomic initiatives; and livelihoods. It is also fostering knowledge and experience in other areas: socio-economic resilience; 'climatesmart' programing; urban livelihoods, and analysis and evidence. All this is supplemented by the expertise of other ICRC divisions and units including Protection, WatHab, Health, WEC and COM (https://www.icrc.org/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/Activities/ecosec_strategy_2020-2023.pdf).

EcoSec concentrates on restoring one or several of what are known as "key livelihood outcomes" with some fundamental questions: These are:

1. **Food consumption:** What are the people eating? Does their diet cover their nutritional requirements, what quantity do they have to eat?
2. **Food production:** Are the people able to hunt, fish, produce food or forage as they normally would?
3. **Income:** Do the affected people earn or obtain enough money to cover their basic expenses?
4. **Living conditions:** Are the people protected against bad weather? Do they have the means to cook food? Can they maintain basic standards of hygiene?
5. **Capacity:** Can the government, civil society, National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies and others help meet the people's economic security needs?
6. **Livelihoods:** Can the people generate money, food and other basic needs themselves? Are they self reliant or dependent on other's goodwill?

EcoSec addresses these matters through:

- **Relief activities:** These are implemented quickly and efficiently with a view to saving lives and protecting livelihoods at immediate risk. Examples include distributing food and essential household items.

- **Livelihood-support activities:** These are designed to bolster livelihoods sustainably. Examples include microeconomic initiatives, cash transfers and distributing farming tools or seed soft loan or grants, along with training.
- **Capacity-building activities:** These aim to build up the capacities of important local institutions so that people affected by crisis or conflict can benefit from improved services. Such activities are often combined with livelihood-support programs for maximum impact. For instance, EcoSec works with veterinarians to organize campaigns to vaccinate people's livestock in conflict-affected areas.

EcoSec strives to be as accountable as possible to the people they help, these people in need come first. EcoSec make sure that they are well informed, their needs met and their voices heard. In addition, needs assessments and rigorous monitoring and evaluation ensure that programs continue to provide pertinent and ever better aid. EcoSec staff are experts in livelihood analysis, nutrition, agronomy and agricultural economics, veterinary science, livestock production and management and financial management.

The ICRC's work to promote economic security aims to ensure that households and communities affected by conflict or armed violence can meet essential needs and maintain or restore sustainable livelihoods. Its activities range from emergency distributions of food and essential household items to programs for sustainable food production and microeconomic initiatives. Needs covered include food, shelter, access to health care and education. Economic security activities are closely linked to health, water and habitat programs. All these activities come within the ICRC's global mission to protect victims of conflict.

Socioeconomic development of those in need

When EcoSec is properly implemented, population at risk like the poor households, the casualties of violence, war and those affected by natural disasters are helped to get back to their feet when some economic and livelihoods measures are taken by the ICRC through their EcoSec activities and projects. Looking at the activities and services provided by the ICRC EcoSec units,

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there is every tendency that the social and economic aspects of human growth and development can be covered and enhanced. The ICRC has defined four degrees of crisis regarding the coverage of essential needs and adjusts its response accordingly.

- In pre-crisis and acute crisis situations, the response meets essential needs; the aim is to save lives.

- In chronic crisis and post-crisis situations, the response promotes economic consolidation and reconstruction; the aim is to support livelihoods.

The Economic Security (EcoSec) Unit assess needs at household level in order to obtain first-hand local information.

- Action taken may include providing services directly, to make up for shortfalls from regular providers, supporting local service providers, persuading the authorities to shoulder their responsibilities and encouraging action by third parties where needed.

Relief aid is primarily intended to save lives and protect livelihoods when they are at immediate risk. This is done by giving people access to goods essential for their survival, such as household items, food, seed and tools. At the same time, ICRC delegates maintain a dialogue with all parties to improve the protection of these populations at risk.

Production aid is intended to spur food production and possibly generate income, and ultimately to restore sustainable livelihoods. This means preserving household or community productive assets, such as agriculture, livestock and other cottage industries. The aid includes vaccinating, culling and restocking herds, distributing tools, seed and fishing tackle and promoting micro-economic initiatives and capacity-building efforts.

Structural aid, provided mainly in chronic crisis and post-crisis settings, is intended to revive the output of sustainable productive assets (agriculture, for example) by encouraging service providers and other parties concerned to provide the required input, such as seed and tools. It may also be used to promote improvements in such areas as agricultural extension services and State-delivered social welfare programs.

Micro-economic initiatives aim to strengthen income generation in households and entire communities in a sustainable manner and in a given time frame. The projects are tailored to meet individual needs, as expressed by the recipients. The most commonly used micro-economic tools are productive grants, vocational training and small loans. The cost of EcoSec programs amounts to about 20 per cent of ICRC field expenditure. The unit employs some 90 expatriate and 200 national staff, working in about 30 countries. They include specialists in a variety of fields, who also give training to local staff of the ICRC and its partners.

The economic security initiative of ICRC sets out the strategic objectives and the enablers required to provide good-quality relief, food security, and livelihood support for people affected in order to realize the ICRC's ambition to have a sustainable humanitarian impact. The ICRC uses 'other situations of violence' (hereafter 'other violence') to refer to situations of collective violence, perpetrated by one or several groups, that do not reach the threshold of an 'armed conflict', but that may have significant humanitarian consequences.

The ICRC strives to secure, reinforce or reestablish adequate nutrition, living conditions and sustainable livelihoods for people affected by different stages, degrees or kinds of crisis (pre, post, acute, or chronic), and in various settings (urban, peri-urban, and rural environments or temporary settlements). EcoSec teams adapt their responses to the vulnerabilities of people: diversity and inclusion are primary considerations are potential barriers to people's access to humanitarian support. EcoSec's activities aim to reduce people's exposure to the risks created by conflict or other violence (including in combination with climate hazards): they respond to life-threatening needs, strengthen resilience to socio-economic risks, and support access to durable solutions. These EcoSec activities are an intrinsic component of the ICRC's multidisciplinary and collective approach to achieving desired protection outcomes.

EcoSec is also committed to ensuring that its programs do not cause harm, either to the people affected or to their environment. The EcoSec strategy enables the ICRC to balance provision of timely life-saving aid with the realization of broader and longer-term outcomes for people affected. The strategy calls for the development and implementation of adapted responses

that are promoting economic security and overall resilience to shocks. This will entail reinforcing emergency-response capacities; consolidating programs and approaches to strengthen the resilience of people affected; and continuing to invest in approaches that help them to become more self-sufficient.

Problem Analysis

It is expected that the number of people in need of humanitarian aid will continue to grow: as many as 168 million people are expected to seek assistance in 2023 and beyond. Protracted conflict, other violence, and climate change are the main drivers for a wide range of needs, from preservation of life to recovery. The ICRC's institutional strategy for 2019–2022 identified socio-economic inequalities, underdevelopment and poverty as key consequences of conflict, violence and disaster as sources of social and political tensions. It is difficult to establish causal linkages between economic distress and conflict or other violence. However, some of the consequences of conflict for a country are plain to see: attrition of state services; erosion of resilience capacities and formal and informal social safety nets; reinforcement of negative coping mechanisms; and in the worst cases, destitution of large numbers of people.

ICRC (2023) observed that protracted conflict, often extended by the economic downturn dims prospects for socioeconomic recovery, inter alia, because of deficient social services, disrupted markets and inadequate infrastructure makes matters worse. ICRC, (2016) estimated that civil conflict costs the average developing country 30 years' worth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and that trade levels take 20 years to recover after major episodes of violence. These economic challenges are accentuated by longer term trends such as climate change, demographic pressures and unplanned urbanization. As a result, while progress is being made in various parts of the world towards realizing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, underdeveloped countries affected by conflict or other violence are struggling to make any headway.

International humanitarian law contains rules that are aimed at protecting civilians during armed conflict and ensuring that their basic needs are met. For example, it is prohibited to attack objects indispensable to the civilian population, including foodstuffs and drinking water

installations and supplies. When the basic needs of the population are not met, humanitarian activities offered by impartial humanitarian organizations must be accepted. Intentionally using starvation of the civilian population as a method of warfare, including denying them access from humanitarian relief to civilians in need, is also prohibited and constitutes a war crime. The consequences for the populations affected if these rules are not respected, and more generally of economic distress as a result of conflict or other situations of violence are very grave.

At present, more than 490 million people in the countries where the ICRC works do not have enough to eat. An adequate diet is a necessary condition for building productive households and societies; but the accessibility of safe and nutritious food in adequate quantities is often hindered by various economic, security and conflict situations; including lack and poverty, with very low livelihoods standards in conflict and war torn countries of the world (The World Bank Development Report, 2020; OCHA, Global Humanitarian Overview 2020). The result in the short term is acute, and sometime fatal, the long-term result is chronic malnutrition that thwarts communities' efforts to lead healthy and productive lives. Stable security conditions, functioning services, efficient management of resources, and sustainable livelihoods are all vital in ensuring that people have enough to eat, which has already been noted is a necessary building block for development. This is an issue demanding urgent action:

These populations include people in urban settings who are heavily reliant on rural areas and/or on imports, not only for food, but also for their livelihood. Every aspect of a market system, goods, services and labor is made fragile by conflict. Where there is no state apparatus, or where the state is dysfunctional, communities and private actors organize themselves to ensure production, employment and service provision. Certain systems; informal markets and networks flourish. War economies emerge and decisions about access and benefits are discriminatory and riddled with bias. It is widely acknowledged that humanitarian action should aim not only to provide life-saving support, but also to have a sustainable humanitarian impact by strengthening the resilience of communities and institutions to shocks.

During an emergency, lives can be saved by the timely provision of food, essential household items and cash. However, people affected must also be empowered to obtain these things by their own means as soon as possible after a shock. Enabling households to restore or establish livelihoods will strengthen their resilience to future crises, regardless of whether these crises are caused by conflict or other violence or are climatic in nature. An enabling environment, even one with the bare minimum of services and infrastructure, can help sustain livelihoods and allow

A war economy combines the following: efforts to finance a war; illegal and criminal activities that flourish with impunity; and a survival economy. The winners, i.e. those profiting from war, may resist any attempt to restore peace, law and order (peace spoilers) and also prevent people from living in dignity and cover their basic needs and expenditures in spite of the ravages of war.

Carbonnier, (2016) found that security and access remain issues of great concern to the ICRC. EcoSec activities often require close interaction with households and communities and sustained proximity to them throughout a project cycle. Frequently, this also necessitates the presence of large teams in the field for extended periods of time. Efficient management of staff exposure, while ensuring good-quality responses and accountability to people affected, is a primary consideration. Innovative programming together with community-based approaches, partnerships, and the required technology are needed to deliver relevant EcoSec responses at large scale in complex environments.

Donor country counterterrorism legislation and policies impose limits on who can receive what and where. Because of its household-based approach, EcoSec is particularly subjected to increasingly detailed donor scrutiny including who is receiving what; individual proof of receipt of assistance by beneficiaries; reporting on program and project outcomes rather than outputs; and aggregated data on gender, age and diversity (etc.) of our beneficiaries.

The growing demands from external stakeholders for compliance and transparency have generated new internal processes and added new responsibilities notably to EcoSec managers who struggle to balance institutional processes with their operational and managerial duties.

To address the issues raised by the operators of EcoSec, some strategic orientations were put in place, these orientations include:

Emergency response

EcoSec seeks to Reinforce the ICRC's capacity to respond in a timely, efficient and effective manner to economic security needs in emergencies. Investment in preparedness is key to successful longer-term impact of ICRC responses. For instance, the ability to deliver timely and successful emergency aid carried out in accordance with the humanitarian imperative to "do no harm" prepares the ground for livelihood support that is more sustainable.

Resilience strengthening

Strengthen the resilience of populations affected by collaborating across areas of ICRC expertise and ensuring a continuum of support from emergency to recovery for sustainable humanitarian impact. Strengthening the resilience of people affected requires a detailed understanding of household and community dynamics and capacities and of the surrounding environment. To be relevant and useful, responses must involve the people affected. Multi-sectoral and longer-term programming is required to support over time, the populations living in contexts of protracted, recurrent or predictable crises, in order to strengthen their capacity to absorb and adapt to shocks, such as climate hazards and environmental degradation, that exacerbate the vulnerability of people living in conflict.

Pathways to self-sufficiency

Support the efforts of people affected to become self-sufficient through people-centric, innovative, flexible and durable responses by seeking sustainability and scale through partnerships. Humanitarian aid is one of many livelihood strategies of survival and recovery for people affected, but it is clearly not their preferred state of being. Self-sufficiency and financial certainty enable households to make better choices and long-term plans. The ICRC aims to enable people to meet

their essential needs and unavoidable expenditures in a “sustainable and dignified manner”. ‘Sustainability’ must not be confused with ‘resilience’. Sustainability implies continuity, stability and predictability. ‘Resilience’ refers to the capacity of people or a system to bounce back after a shock and in the best case, to be able to weather any subsequent similar shocks.

Enablers

Working across disciplines to provide a holistic humanitarian response, providing a truly impactful response to the needs of people affected requires effective engagement with communities and a multidisciplinary approach. This means collaboration among various sections of the ICRC, the communities affected throughout the Results Based Management (RBM) cycle, including the carrying out of joint assessments, problem and response analyses, response design, monitoring, evaluation, and learning. Shared and/or collaborative tools and processes must be developed jointly.

Actions

Promote and ensure cross-cutting approaches in the ICRC’s overall analysis of and response to needs to such matters as nutrition, health, socioeconomic issues, livelihoods and resilience strengthening. In designing and carrying out impactful nutrition related activities, attention should be paid specifically to ensuring that nutrition is recognized as a multidisciplinary responsibility of the ICRC.

Reinforcing data and reporting, analysis and evidence, and digitalization capacities

Accurate and relevant data are crucial for designing programs and measuring results. EcoSec should focus on building its capacities in collecting, analyzing and using data for decision making purposes. At the same time, it will seek to enhance internal and external collaboration in such areas as data collection and reporting, analysis and evidence, and digitalization. Such collaboration will include combining secondary and primary (internal) data on key indicators for ICRC responses to create an early warning system.

Consolidating human-resource management and learning & development

Successful programming requires dedicated and competent staff. Given the rate of growth and turnover among them, retaining and nurturing staff is an issue that deserves close attention. Strategic workforce planning which must include the integration of new staff and effective management of the compendium process and the career interests of individual staff members - mobile and resident must be of great importance.

Partnering for enhanced outcomes

For EcoSec to diversify and scale its response, partnerships must be of great importance. The unit already has several formal and informal partnerships throughout the world. These partnerships are often with national societies, government ministries, or related to cash and voucher activities. EcoSec must have the ability and flexibility to form partnerships that are of the greatest possible benefit to people affected.

Enhancing operational support

The unit's drive to enhance quality and innovation in the ICRC's economic security activities, and in its own contribution to the realization of broadly defined protection outcomes, requires a network of skilled EcoSec staff. EcoSec specialists at headquarters and in the various regions have an important role in ensuring the maintenance of high standards in programs globally

Conclusion

The impacts of human induced violence including natural disaster have been mitigated in a whole lot of ways, while the Ecosec project of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in collaboration with the Nigerian Red Cross Society has gone long way to strengthen the economic security of the affected persons including building their resilience for sustainability. this did not only improve their livelihoods, but also enhanced their socioeconomic development, while removing them from living below the poverty line. in effect the Ecosec project has improved the socioeconomic status of the internally displaced persons and refugees, by giving them a new lease of life. This was done through the provision of means of livelihood, soft loans and grants and

provision of seedling and trainings for agricultural production of crops and animals. While some trades were also taught to the refugees and internally displaced persons. All these attempts have improved their socioeconomic status and their living standards.

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