

Niger Tri-Border Region Data Mapping Case Study

Period of Performance: September 9 - September 22, 2017



Practice Area: Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE)

Donor/Client: United States Special Operations Forces Command Africa (SOCAF)

Location: Western Tillaberi, Niger (Tera, Yatakala, Bankilare, Dolbel, & Petelkole). Tri-Border Region.

Enumerators: 14

Surveys: 2,397

Qualitative Engagements: 40

Project Objectives & Theory of Change

Engage communities in the Tillaberi region in order to comprehensively assess local community grievances and vulnerabilities conducive to radicalization and Violent Extremist Organization (VEO) recruitment, and identify credible community actors to sustainably increase community resilience.

- **Project Objective 1:** *Collect and analyze actionable, operational data with a range of uses for VEO recruitment and P/CVE and community resilience programming.*
- **Project Objective 2:** *Recommend potential targeted, data-driven community resilience programming.*

Theory of Change

If civil society groups apply best data practices while engaging communities to understand the cross-sectoral drivers of radicalization and their systemic causes, and conduct resiliency programming that increases positive collective action and increased stakeholder participation in the local context, communities formerly at-risk of radicalization will have outcomes that strengthen their capacity to resist radicalizing dynamics and influences.

Key Findings

Niger's Tri-Border Region (Niger – Burkina Faso – Mali), north of Niamey and west of Tillaberi, comprising the Tera and Bankilare departments, is an area of high concern for cross-border radicalization and instability due to its geographic remoteness, high socio-economic vulnerability, and low or non-existent presence of effective Nigerien security forces and government services.

Based on IMPL. PROJECT data, there are three primary Sources of Instability (SOIs) in the region:

- 1) **Lack of Security:** Insufficient quantity and quality of gendarmes, lack of military presence in vulnerable areas, lack of freedom of movement/road access in vulnerable areas, lack of ability for communities to defend themselves, violent extremist groups leverage transborder families.
- 2) **Lack of Livelihoods:** Low agricultural yields, underdeveloped job market, no access to credit/capital, education system not aligned to job market, and a lack of secondary and tertiary sectors.
- 3) **Water-Related Issues:** The Sahel's expansion in the last 30 years, climate change, inadequate/lack of water infrastructure, lack of water resources, increase in population is straining existing resources.

**Note: Malnutrition, a fourth SOI, can be addressed through intervention efforts aimed toward the first three SOIs.*

Targeting these vulnerabilities through development programming and host government capacity-building efforts would be transformative. Efforts that counter these SOIs will cultivate resilient communities by addressing key points of exploitation for VEO radicalization and violence.

Particularly of concern are survey responses of males 15-34 years old, the population most susceptible to radicalization and VEO recruitment, who make up 21% of the total data sample. The respondents in this age group overwhelmingly identified lack of food and/or livelihoods as their greatest problem (53%), followed by the lack of potable water (24%), which through diarrhea and water-borne illness exacerbates the pervasive and persistent food security and malnutrition problems. Finally 13% of respondents in this demographic identified lack of security as the biggest problem facing their community. IMPL. PROJECT data shows 39% of respondents in this key demographic identified livelihoods programming, particularly resilient, cooperative-based local measures as their preferred solution to these complex problems.

Methodology

IMPL. PROJECT conducted this Data Mapping project in four phases:

- **Phase I:** Initial Data Mapping & Identification of Local Partners
- **Phase II:** Vetting & Validation of Systemic Causes
- **Phase III:** Baseline Establishment & Indicator Recommendation
- **Phase IV:** Data Analysis & Final Report Generation

Between September 11-19, 2017 (9 days), IMPL. PROJECT hired and trained 14 local enumerators from Tera, Yatakala, Bankilare, Dolbel, and Petelkole, Niger. A total of 2,397 community perception surveys and 40 qualitative engagements (comprising Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), and Site Assessments), were completed. All engagements and surveys were conducted in-person, are

anonymized, and geo-tagged.

IMPL. PROJECT conducted this project according to our standard field methodology: large-scale, face-to-face structured surveys (quantitative, smart device-based), followed by deep dive cross-sectoral investigations (qualitative) conducted by the leadership team into the underlying dynamics emphasized within the survey data. These cross-sectoral investigations are based on the quantitative surveys and focus on mapping the interconnectedness of sectors, identifying systemic causes of problems as opposed to symptoms, and analyzing which programmatic interventions will have the most impact toward communities' desired outcomes. IMPL. PROJECT sourced its enumerators through a vetting process facilitated by local partners. Enumerators were required to have French fluency and smart device literacy. The enumerators utilized a "person-on-the-street" approach instead of going house to house, allowing access to a diverse population as most families are working during the day.

Programming Recommendations

Follow-on programming recommendations based on community priorities.

- 1) Consistent presence by the government, security forces, and NGOs.
- 2) Establish community governance entities.
- 3) Support to the Nigerian government and their security activities.