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Mid-term survey

Midline survey Report: Nigeria (Jere LGA)

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1. Introduction

The Lake Chad Basin region is currently facing a deep socio-economic, political, security and environmental crisis. In support of emergency solidarity actions carried out by humanitarian actors in the area, RESILAC proposes a pro-resilience approach that contributes to the economic recovery and the strengthening of the resilience of the most affected territories. To this end, the project implements activities to promote economic development, preserve social cohesion and strengthen the institutional capacity of the authorities in Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad. The project embodies in a single large-scale initiative the multi-country, multi-sector, multi-stakeholder approach to strengthening the triple nexus of "humanitarian aid, development and peace".

In Nigeria, RESILAC is in its third year of implementation and intervening in Seven (7) communities in Jere LGA in Borno State reaching 33,015 people. This report presents the consolidated results of the mid-term survey conducted between June and July 2021 in Nigeria. The objective is to provide an overview of the evolution of the context and to measure the progress made by the project.

2. Methodology

The Midline Evaluation applied a mixed methods approach and utilized participatory rural appraisal techniques to mitigate the deficiencies of the design. Key analytical techniques used include comparison of the situation of beneficiaries at project inception and their current socioeconomic situation. Evaluation of the performance indicator values against baseline findings, design as qualitative perception of beneficiaries concerning the factors that contributed to the changes that occurred in their lives over the project period.

Data was collected using qualitative and quantitative techniques. Methodology adopted includes administration of structured questionnaire on 383 households, 101 youths, 102 producer group members, 4 CSO's and 3 LGA representatives. Similarly, a group of Producers, youths and community members were engaged for the participatory rural appraisal. This gave a broader understanding of the findings from the quantitative interview.

3. Limitations

The Sample size for the survey was 600 beneficiaries as against 586 sampled. This was primarily constrained by the growing insecurity around Gongolong community. As a result, data collection was not carried out in that in that Gongolong community in Jere LGA as well as Munguno and Kukawa LG's which were amongst the project locations from initiation.

It is worth pointing out that the findings of the survey are responses of the interviewees and can bias because of several factors. There are possibilities that respondents will favor responses that confirm their preconceived ideas and give less weight to responses that work against them.

4. Key Findings

a. Eroded community social capital and increasingly fragmented communities.

The findings shows a decline in the community social fabric. The community asset score declined by about 4 points on the average (-4%), since baseline in 2019, from 35 to 31.

b. A population vulnerable to psycho-trauma and psychological suffering

The results reflect a low level of well-being in the intervention areas, where 23% consider themselves to be apparently in a state of wellbeing. The increase of insecurity (AOG attacks, intra-family conflicts and gender-based violence) can be linked to the identified traumas.

c. Natural resources subject to instrumentalization

The results show a positive evolution of people's opinion on equitable access to natural resources: 80% of people believe that resources are equitably accessible. The raising insecurity was linked to the main limitation to access natural resources.

d. Future prospects: a comprehensive and adapted socio-economic reintegration scheme

The respondents emphasized the importance of the support on the management of their professional activities: reading, writing, and arithmetic are vital abilities for improved management and administration. Among those who had begun a micro-project, 87% felt that this support had enabled them to reintegrate into economic life in their community.

e. Agriculture as a key to climate change mitigation and socio-economic revitalization

The average rate of adoption of the innovative techniques is 97%. This suggests that practically all farmers have learned and are using the approaches in their fields. Fresh fodder production, bio pesticide generation, furrow and ridge sowing, plant spacing and intercropping are the most successful strategies. This has influenced their income and living conditions positively.

f. Decentralization mitigated by lack of financial and technical resources

All actors interviewed agreed that the project helps them to make decisions in their community. However, of the four (4) organizations supported since project inception, only 14% have a consolidated level, 29% have an emerging level and 57% are still at the initial level. Furthermore, the output of these efforts through a positive evolution of women's participation in the decision making spheres from an average of 21% in 2019 to 36% at Midline.

g. A more responsible response to the communities affected by the crisis

The findings revealed that 38% of the people surveyed felt sufficiently informed about the project. As for the relevance of the action, in line with the findings of the project's evaluation exercises, 31% believe that the support received corresponds to their expectations. Similarly, 31% said that RESILAC makes a difference in their lives.

5. Analysis by Objective

SO 1 / Strengthen human capital, social cohesion and collective and sustainable management of natural resources

5.1 Community Social Capital

The socio-economic impacts of the conflict in the Northeast Nigeria have caused a deteriorating economy for households. Today, 9.2 million people require urgent assistance in the period (March to May 2021). During the projected period (June to August 2021), these figures are expected to increase to 12.8 million people unless resilience driven interventions and humanitarian assistance in conflict affected LGAs is sustained¹.

The findings from the midterm survey shows a decline in the community social fabric. The community asset score declined by about 4 points on the average (-4%), since baseline in 2019, from 35 to 31.

The survey measures the set of resources that members of a community bring to support their development to get the average level of commitment, access to information, participation and economic capital with aim of measuring the evolution as the project progresses.

In Borno state, areas that have been indirectly impacted by the conflict (due to trade disruptions or hosting of IDPs) requires medium-term measures to restore economic productivity and livelihoods, restart provision of public services, and reconstruct damaged infrastructure.

The chart below present a scale of 10 to 50 representing the rate of community asset reveals the perception of the members of the community. The scale consists of 10 statements on which the respondents agreed or disagreed.

Members of the community...

Fig. 1 Evolution of CAS score

1. consider themselves, above all, nigerian

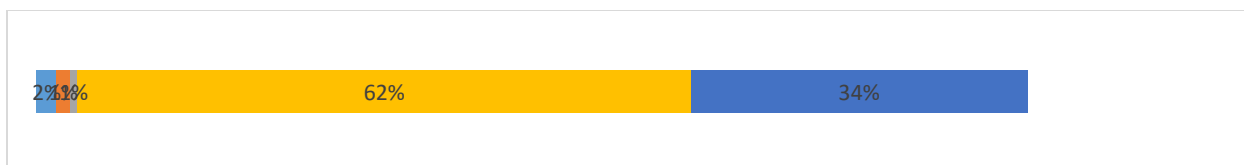


¹ <https://fscluster.org/nigeria/document/final-fiche-report-march-2021-cadre>

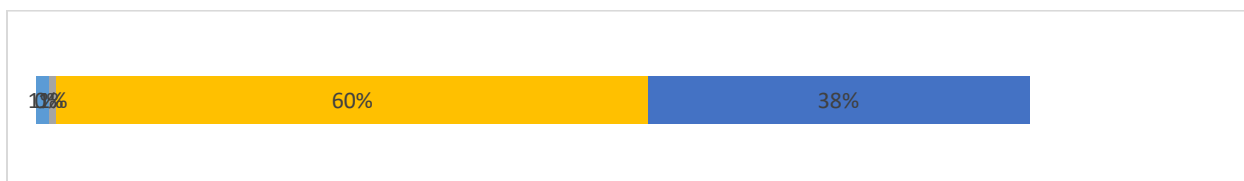
2. share, for the most part, the same living conditions



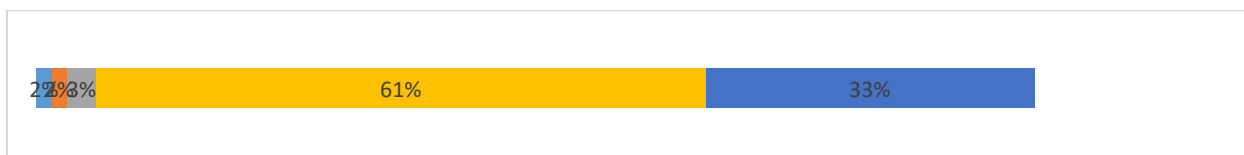
3. trust each other most of the time



4. easily identify key persons



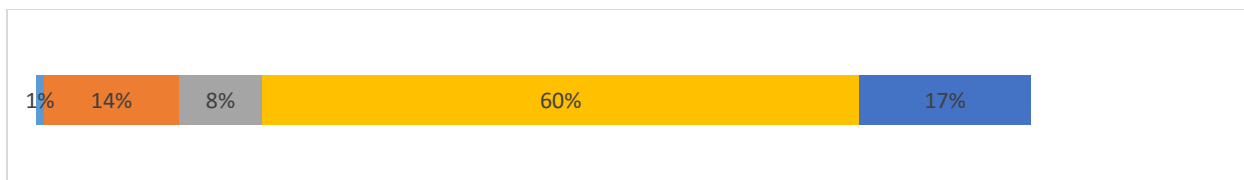
5. know when important community events are taking place



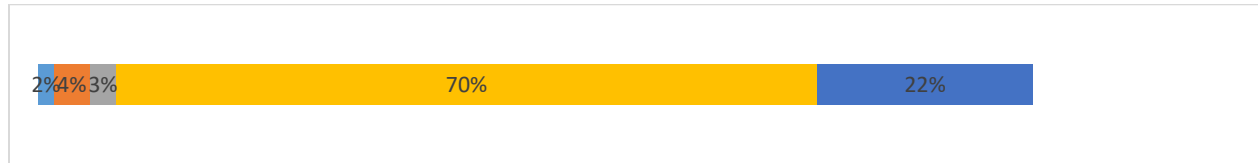
6. generally work together on important issues



7. are, for the most part, part of a community group or association



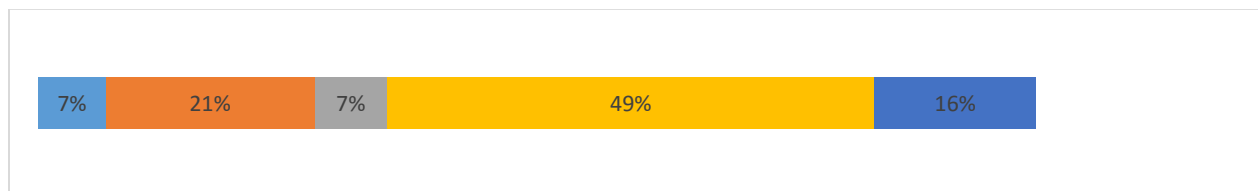
8. often get together to find solutions to common problems



9. are encouraged to participate in making decisions



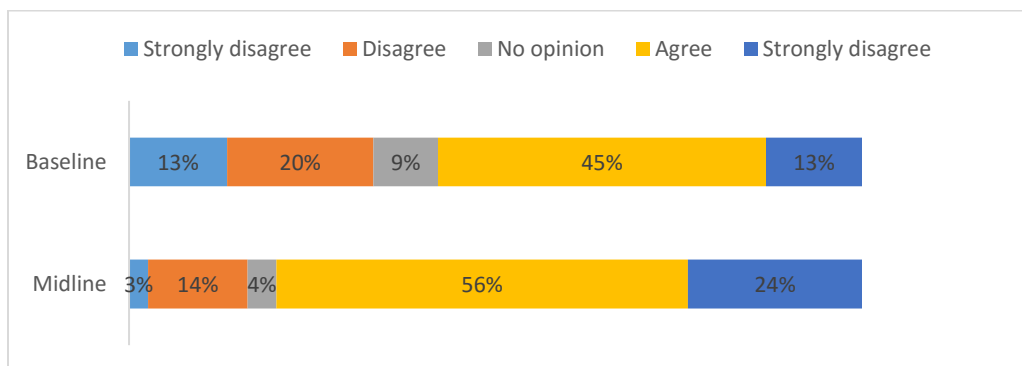
10. have enough money to support programs for community improvement



5.2 Access to Natural Resources

In the area of intervention, the insecurity has increasingly accelerated in the outskirts of the metropolis, resentment of access to natural resources and other unexpected developments. However, the results of the survey show a positive evolution of people's opinion on equitable access to natural resources: **80% of people believe that resources are equitably accessible, only 3% strongly disagree.**

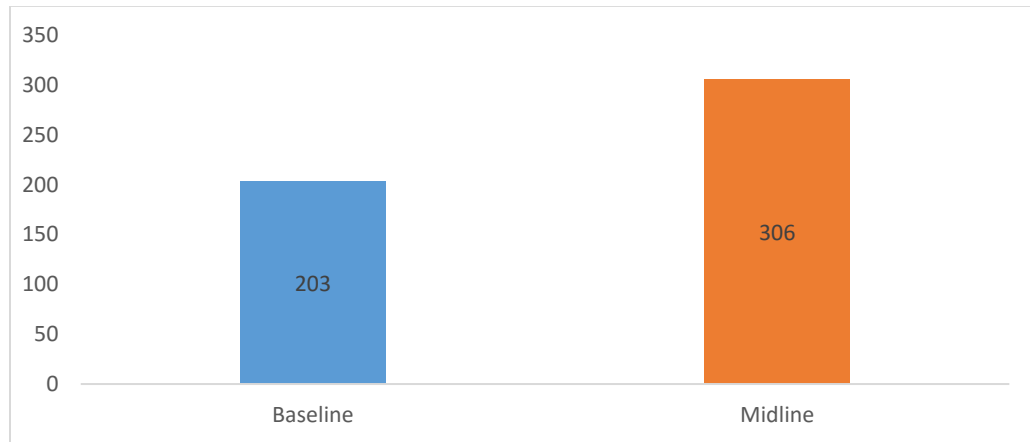
Fig. 2 Evolution of the perception of access to RRNNs



Furthermore, the raising unrest was reported to be the main limitation to access natural resources. The respondents identified Sexual Abuse, killing, kidnapping, burglary and hijacking as the form of unrest that cause them to panic. **The intensity of the unrest**

appears to permit the ad-hoc nature of restrictive measures aimed at reducing accountability to national authorities over community management and boosting community perceptions of resource control. During the initial baseline survey in 2019, respondents debunk the influence of power relations on the distribution and quality of land, which was managed directly by village chiefs with little involvement of community or state actors.

Fig. 3 Comparative evolution of the number of "agree" or "strongly agree" responses



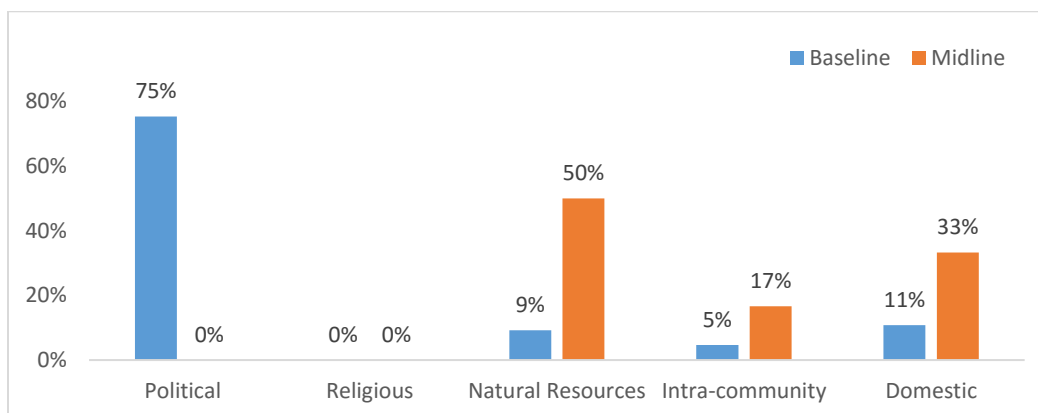
Additionally, the community development plan and priority setting is at the development stage. This delay is because of the depleting security in the implementing locations, which led to withdrawal from from Monguno and Kukawa, two out of three implementing LGAs.

5.3 Community Conflicts

The continuation of conflict in Northeast Nigeria has created a complex humanitarian crisis, rendering sections of Borno State inaccessible for host members of the community and humanitarians to provide response for the affected populations. Limited number of grazing lands, access to farmlands and humanitarian response to few populations in the community has resulted to mistrust and have resulted to inter/intra-communal conflicts.

From the trend depicted in chat 4 below, **communities feel that they are increasingly confronted with conflicts related to the exploitation of natural resources and intra-community conflicts.** They constitute, respectively, 50% and 17% of the most recurrent conflicts indicated in 2021, whereas they represented 5% and 9% in the initial survey in 2019.

Fig. 4 Comparative evolution of the most recurrent conflicts identified by the communities

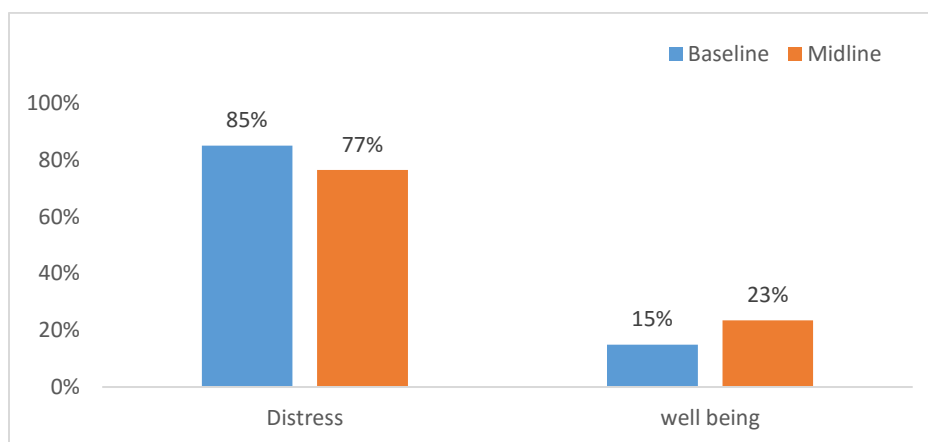


5.4 Mental Health and Well-being

This complex context of protracted violence, abuse, killings, disappearances, enslavement and imprisonment has had a profound impact on the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of people in the northeast Nigeria. Millions of people have been affected, either first-hand or through indirect exposure to violence. Entire families and communities live in fear, fleeing their villages to seek refuge in safer areas, bigger cities or neighboring countries ². In addition, the most affected areas lack professionals and specialized mental health care services.

The results of the survey reflect a low level of well-being in the intervention areas, where **77% of respondents are in a state of subjective psychological distress**. The increase of insecurity (AOG attacks, intra-family conflicts and gender-based violence) can be linked to the identified traumas. The most frequent symptoms of psychological distress vary from sleep disorders, depression, fatigue, loss of appetite and psychosomatic complaints.

Fig. 5 Subjective well-being status



² <https://odihp.org/magazine/mental-health-and-psychosocial-needs-and-response-in-conflict-affected-areas-of-north-east-nigeria/>

Despite of the population's significant psychological demands, **implementing communities lack trained mental health experts and resources**. International actors operating in humanitarian sectors provide the majority of psychosocial support services. However, health-care systems are unskilled to deal with people who are suffering from psychological distress.

Of the institutional actors interviewed, **86% knew of the existence of a psychosocial support service in their area**. As to who provides the service, 100% identified the RESILAC project.

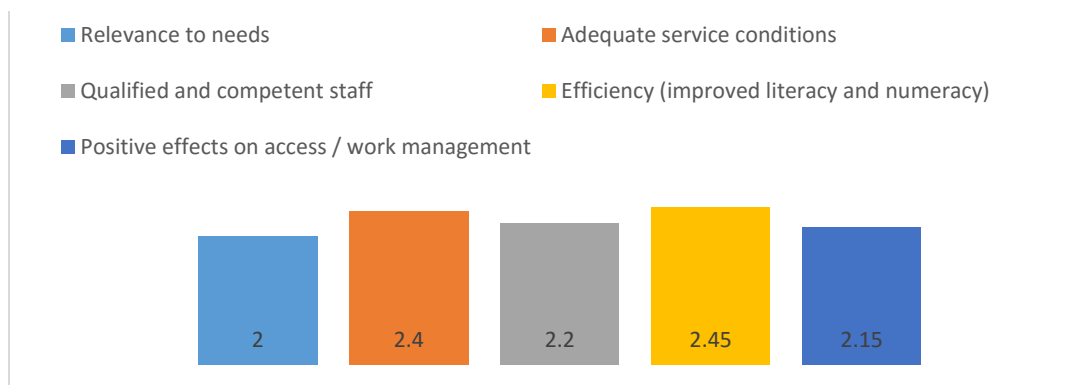
SO 2 / Promote economic recovery and resilience through access to employment and intensified production systems adapted to climate change

The Lake Chad Basin had enjoyed a flourishing economic dynamism. The combination of flood recession agriculture, livestock farming and fishing had allowed the region to enjoy a certain economic dynamism for the benefit of an extremely mobile and cosmopolitan population. The ongoing conflict has significantly affected economic production in Borno state, which is largely based on farming, pastoralism and fishing, and accounts for 80% of all livelihoods. The main impacts of the conflict include inaccessibility and loss of productive assets and inputs due to displacement and destruction, the disruption of markets due to the physical destruction of facilities.

5.5 Socio-economic reintegration of young people

In the implementing communities, RESILAC project supported the integration of youths into functional literacy cycle, technical vocational training and support for the creation and launch of micro-projects through a sequential program. According to the results of the survey, **the assessment of the quality of the service and its direct effects is relative, with an average score of 2**.

Fig. 6 Average assessment score for the education-training-integration system



The results, however, show a substantially lower rating (2 out of 4). This could be in terms of the project's services and collaboration with national services. Furthermore, **the program is part of an ongoing process that is expected to last six months. The health crisis, which delayed the literacy program's implementation, disturbed the articulation of the several stages³.** Furthermore, the project was unable to reach out to the beneficiaries during the crisis, hence information about the development was not widespread, as it requires physical meeting of the beneficiaries and other stakeholders as well. The learning session is still in the initial implementation stage and continued after the lockdown across intervention areas.

Effects (intended and unintended)

Generally, the **respondents emphasized the importance of the support on the management of their professional activities:** reading, writing, and arithmetic are vital abilities for improved management and administration. Among those who had begun a micro-project, **87% felt that this support had enabled them to reintegrate into economic life.** Among them, the majority consider that they have reinvested the profits obtained in their community by increasing their income, transferring skills to peers or integrating new people into their economic activity.

5.6 Support for Producers

RESILAC project initiatives includes approaches such as agro-ecological supports that are diverse, integrated and use climate change resilient systems to ensure the long-term balance between food production and the sustainability of natural resources.

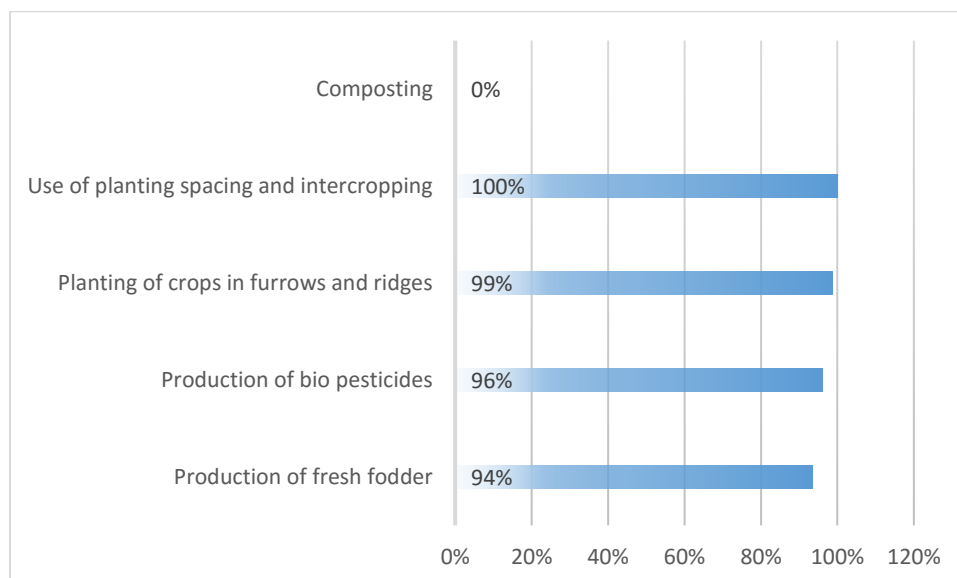
However, the liability on smallholder farmers who depend on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods are particularly acute. Other factors includes change in climate and limited technical knowledge limit the productivity of the small holders.

Furthermore, the smallholder farmers in the rural communities are supported by RESILAC in the recovery of local climate-change techniques and practices through Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and experimental sites (Demo Plot).

Of the individuals categorized as learners surveyed who participated in the training and awareness sessions, **the average rate of adoption of the innovative techniques is 97%.** This suggests that practically all farmers have learned and are using the approaches in their fields. **Fresh fodder production, bio pesticide generation, furrow and ridge sowing, plant spacing and intercropping** are the most successful strategies.

Fig. 7 Rate of use of innovative agricultural techniques and practices

³The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented public health emergency affecting humanitarian response and Education of young people especially in conflict affected areas



Farmers adopt a variety of techniques that they've learned on their crops. The crops identified to have experimented the techniques includes onions, okra, sorghum and beans.

What effects (intended and unintended)?

Based on the survey findings, community members who utilize the knowledge attained from capacity building trainings on innovative agricultural practices recognize the knowledge. The efforts taken initially to identify and upgrade the indigenous methods was helpful in this context have not been in vain. Today, **93% of the producers surveyed say that the techniques respond to the problems they encountered in their farming activities.**

Although the application in the fields is still in the start-up phase, the people surveyed have already noted some direct effects on their production through the adoption of these techniques:

Amongst the producers interviewed, **95% consider that they have improved their yield**, having obtained a better cost-investment or even a higher production. **94% highlight an increased quality of their production/harvest**, with a faster growth of the seeds and a better quality of the products; **2% had an improvement in the soil fertility**, which would have a positive impact in the next seasons. In addition, 5% of people noted **other effects such as a decrease in the rate of indebtedness, an increase in their income and a strong progression in the coverage of their household needs.**

More so, the indirect effects includes 1% already reinvested in the purchase of a new land, 3% purchased equipment for their agricultural production and **96% of people have already transferred their knowledge to their peers.**

Fig. 8 Direct effects on agricultural production

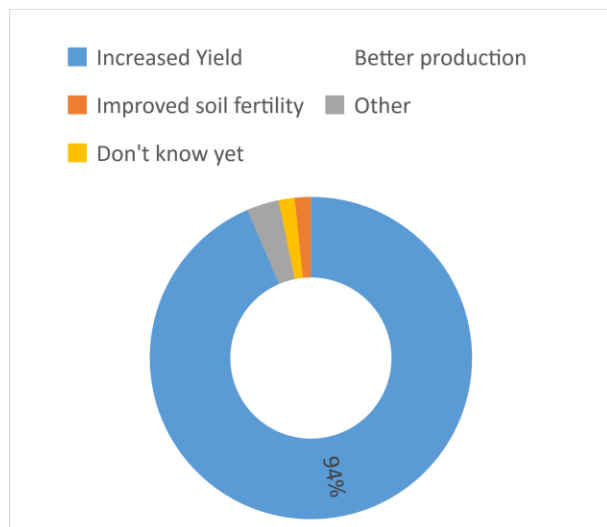
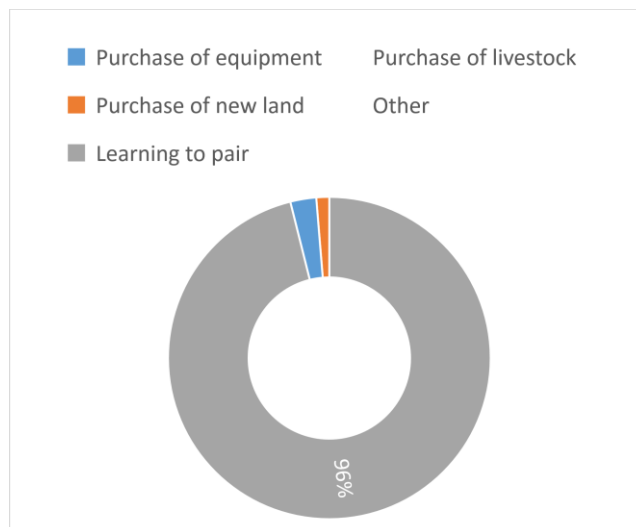


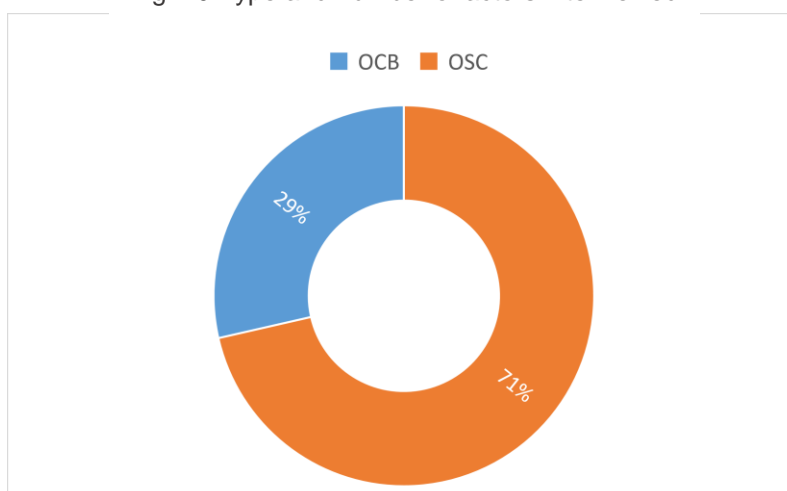
Fig. 9 Indirect effects outside the field



SO 3 / Enhance and consolidate territorial actors by promoting dialogue and commitment and by strengthening their capacities

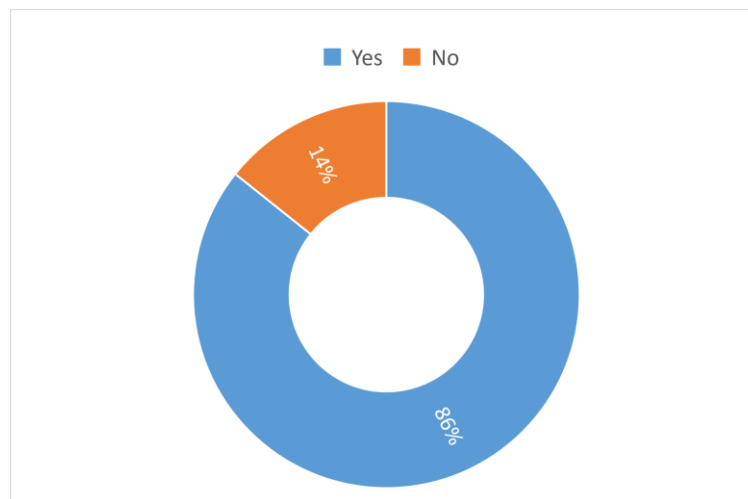
As the globalization process increasingly opens societies to one another and diversifies them internally, the recent process of political and national decentralization of states resulted to civil society actors having limited resources and skills. In this sense, the project supports the various actors in their role as project owners for local development and community management, around communal development plans, and in accordance with national policies and strategies.

Fig. 10 Type and number of actors interviewed



Of all the stakeholders surveyed, 86% participate in the mechanisms and committees set up for the concerted governance of the project. As for the opinion on their role in the steering, the results of the survey indicate that 86% of the stakeholders believe they play a significant role in the implementation of RESILAC, while 14% have the opposite opinion. Further findings revealed that 100% agrees that the project helps them to make decisions in their community.

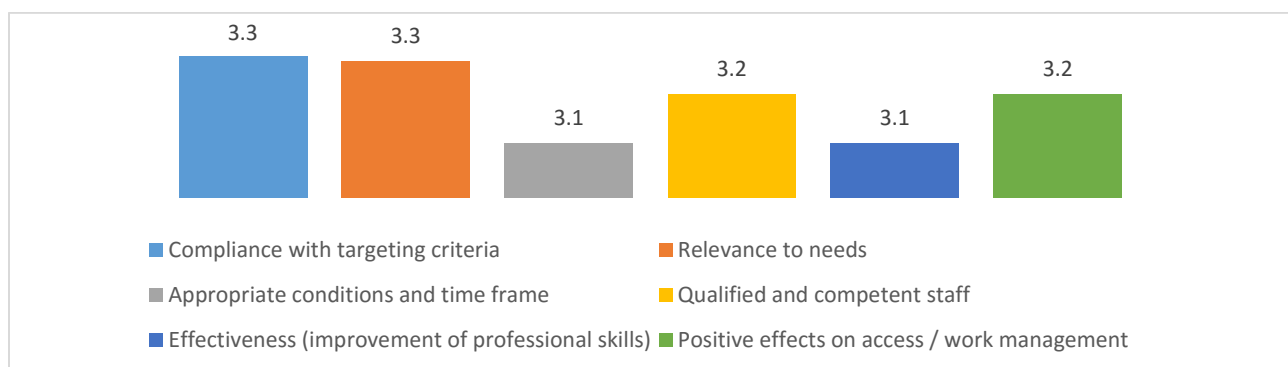
Fig. 11 Assessment of participation in project steering by type of actor



5.7 Strengthening local actors

RESILAC offers various types of support and training to strengthen the skills of the various stakeholders. After three years of implementation, the results show that the average assessment of stakeholders on the evolution of their role is 4 (out of a total score of 4), indicating a **positive level of satisfaction with the support and capacity building offered.**

Fig. 12 Average assessment score on the evolution of their role by type of actor



Overall, four (4) CSOs were selected using the OCA tool, has continuously supported the project since inception of the project. The results show that **out of the 4 organizations and 3 LGA representatives assessed, only 14% have a consolidated level, 29% have an emerging level and 57% are still at the initial level.**

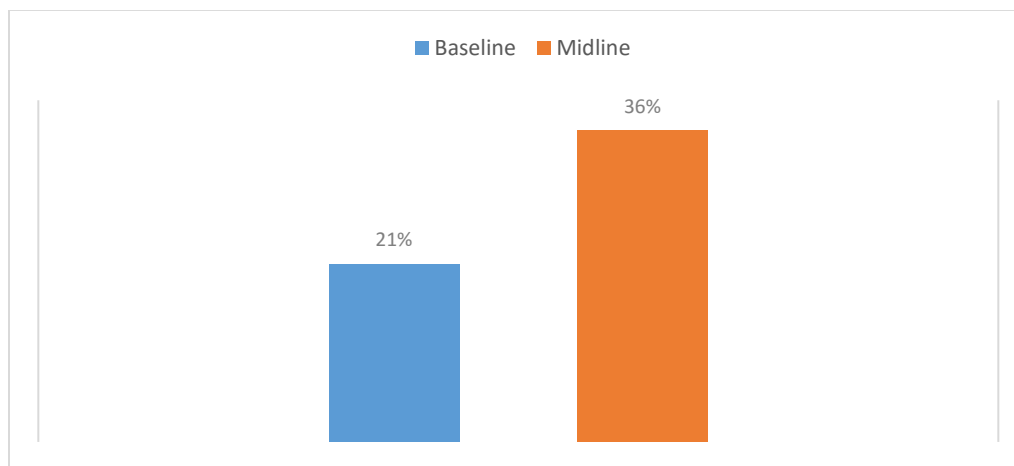
5.8 Gender

Gender inequality in northeastern Nigeria is deteriorating as women have fewer opportunities for economic participation than men, less access to basic and higher education, greater health and safety risks, all of these being driven by women's lack of economic empowerment. However, gender equality and women's empowerment is a key factor for sustainable development and stability.

Particular emphasis is placed on the gender mainstreaming of the RESILAC project. To contribute to this, activities related to institutional and organizational strengthening ensure that women's participation in local organizations involved in the implementation of the project is strengthened.

The results of the survey show the output of these efforts through a positive evolution from an **average of 21% women's participation in the local organizations involved in 2019 to 36% at Midline.**

Fig. 13 Evolution of women's participation in the decision-making spheres of local organizations by



OS4 / Produce knowledge useful for the quality of project interventions in a crisis context and for the decision-making of local actors

5.9 Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS)

The survey results indicate a positive evolution of the project's quality approach, with an average improvement rate of 112% since the initial survey conducted in 2019. However, the high rate of improvement can be partially explained by the level of progress of the activities, most of which are within the start-up phase as at the time of the baseline survey. Whereas today, the impact on the living conditions of the communities have improved.

However, with the inclusion of young people in soft skills (literacy, arithmetic and Vocational education) and the expansion of psychosocial support across other communities, there are prospects that the results will be promising in terms of the project's capacity to listen, participate and learn in subsequent evaluations.

Amongst the interviewed individuals, 38% of the people surveyed felt sufficiently informed about the project. As for the relevance of the action, in line with the findings of the project's evaluation exercises, 31% believe that the support received corresponds to their expectations. Similarly, the results show that 31% say that RESILAC makes a difference in their lives.

Evolution of the communities' opinion, relevance and effects of the action

Fig. 14 sufficiently informed about RESILAC

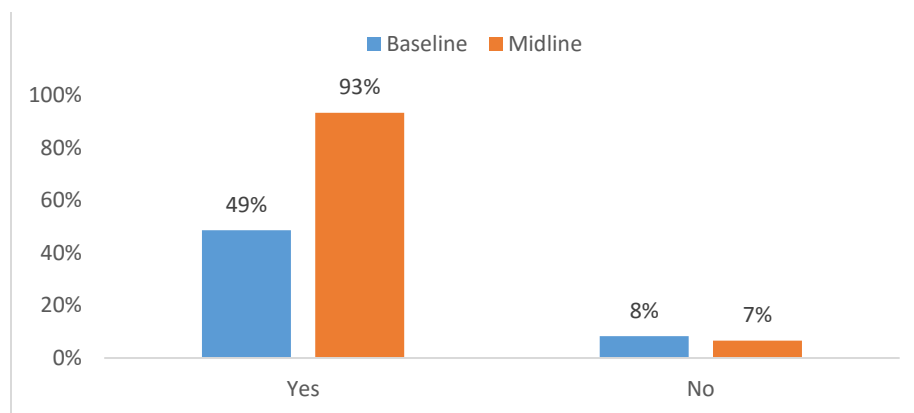


Fig. 15 Support by RESILAC correspond to your expectations

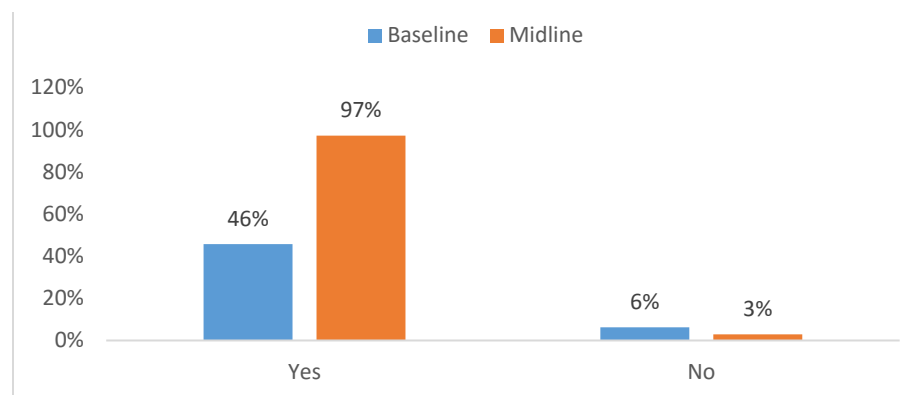
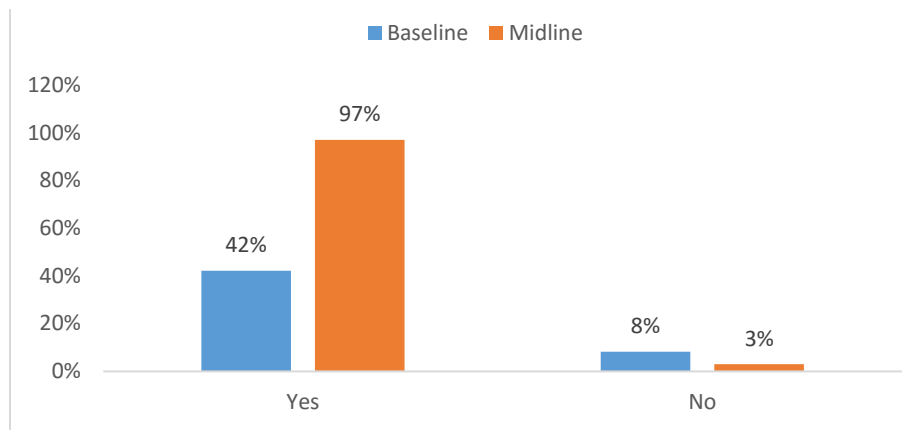


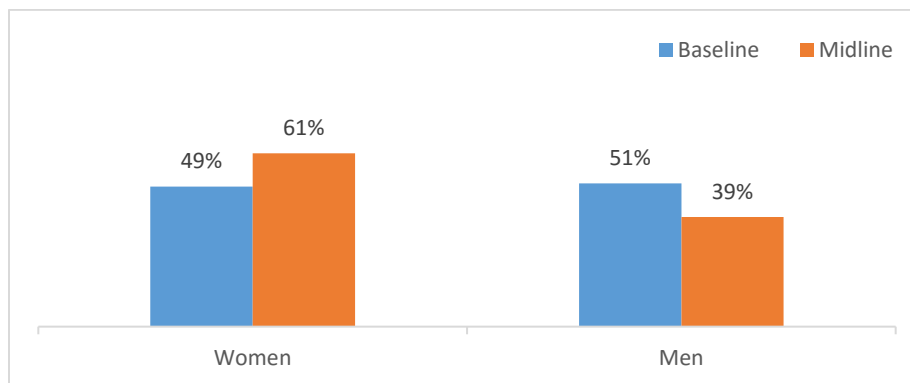
Fig. 16 RESILAC project make a difference to your life



6.0 Socio-demographic profile of respondents

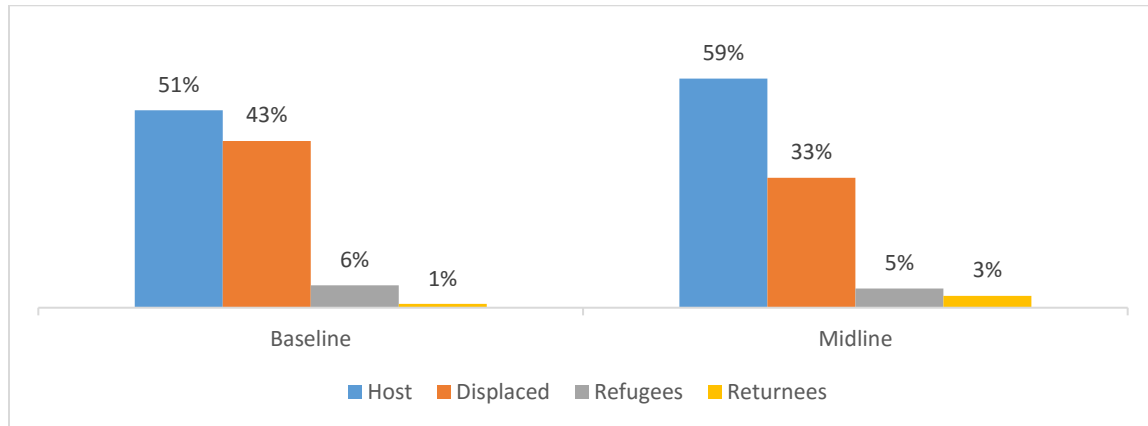
In order to capture the full range of realities in the different intervention areas, the survey covered 593 people from different socio-economic backgrounds in the seven (7) communities, 39% of whom were women and 61% men.

Fig 17 Respondent's gender



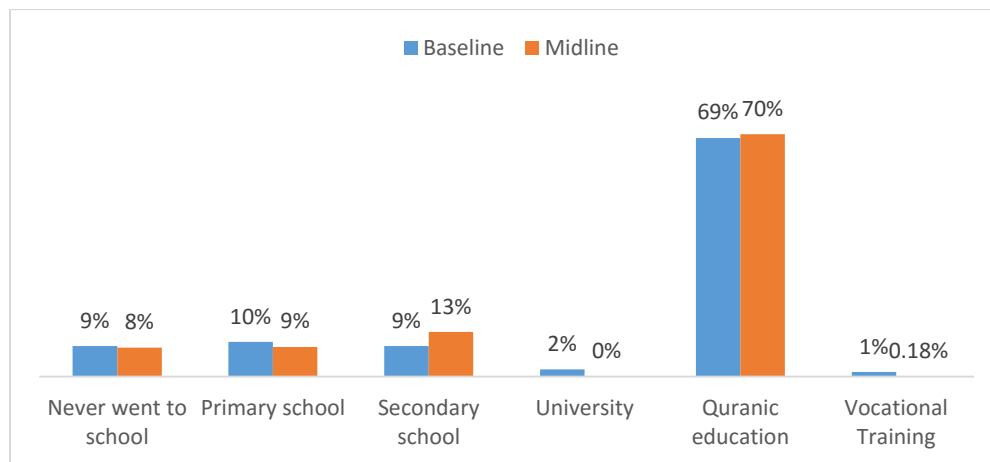
Mostly rural residents, 59% of those surveyed were from host communities, with a lesser representation of IDPs, returnees and displaced individuals.

Fig 18 Respondent's status



Findings on individual education reveals that 100% of the respondents did not have higher education. Majority 70% had attained Qur'anic education, 21% had attended basic education, and only 0.1% had access to vocational training. Of the 8% who had never studied, 7% were women.

Fig 19 Respondent's Qualification



On average, the men surveyed are 33 years old, are mainly engaged in agriculture, livestock breeding and petty trade, while the women are 32 years old on average, and are engaged in petty trade, household chores and handicrafts.