

associated with Boko Haram as well as the other unique challenges in the criminal justice response to terrorism in Northeast Nigeria.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this Action is based on a main assumption that a holistic approach covers the disengagement and reintegration of former associates, reconciliation between them and the communities, and reviewing the cases related to actions of extreme violent organisations. Accordingly, this Action will contribute to stabilising selected areas in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States by enhancing community preparedness for reintegration. Furthermore, reducing the rejection and stigmatisation of former associates will prepare the ground for community-based healing and reconciliation. This assumption will be supported by restorative justice processes and social impact projects that will be formulated through a human rights-based and community-led approach, possibly including the reconstruction of social and productive infrastructure as a form of restitution and reparation. Additionally, this Action assumes that with the activities proposed, criminal justice will be strengthened.

Therefore, if reintegration and reconciliation of former armed non-state combatants and Boko Haram associates is community-driven and contributes to addressing the drivers of the conflict, then peace and stability in the Northeast will be enhanced because the risk of recidivism and future recruitments into NSAGs is reduced.

If communities are sensitised, psychologically and socio-economically prepared, and supported before and during the reintegration of fully rehabilitated, low-risk associates, then rejection and stigmatisation of former associates will reduce because of communities' access to reliable and transparent information on the process.

If a stratified community-led cluster approach is adopted to provide comprehensive economic, psychological, and socio-political alternatives to former associates, vigilantes and people living in the most vulnerable situations in the community, then social cohesion will increase and the risk of recidivism and the ability of violent extremist organisations to recruit will decrease because sustainable alternatives for violence are increased.

If a process is developed for non-state security providers to be professionalised and/or disarmed, demobilised, and reintegrated, then a conducive environment for reconciliation and reintegration is promoted because community security is further enhanced as additional alternatives to violence are created for a key-risk groups, and the legitimate State authority is strengthened in target areas.

Additionally, according to the experience gained with implementing the EU Support for Reconciliation and Reintegration of Former Armed non-state Combatants and Boko Haram Associates (S2R), *if* local transitional or restorative rights-based and gender responsive justice mechanisms are developed at the community level, then the community's sense of injustice will be reduced and societies will begin to heal, because it creates an enabling environment for reconciliation between low-risk former associates and victims/survivors of the conflict.

And, *if* there is sufficient political commitment at the federal, state, and community levels to implementing policy actions to guarantee community safety and security, then the capacity to investigate terrorism cases and maintain the Joint Investigation Centre (JIC) and Terrorism Investigation Branch (TIB) will be reinforced, because the judiciary will be foundationally strengthened in the long term.

Finally, *if* comprehensive, inclusive, gender responsive, and accountable structures to manage DDRR activities are created between and across the various levels of government and communities, then the Federal and State's legitimacy will begin to be restored and prospects enhanced for a long-term peace dividend, because it will improve levels of trust between citizens as rights holders and government as duty bearer.