Applying the SCORE Index to Map Social Cohesion and Coexistence in Liberia

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Outline

• SCORE background and methodology
• Application in Liberia
• Results and implications from the Liberia project
• Future prospects for SCORE
Search for Common Ground

• Search for Common Ground, founded in 1982, is the world’s largest peacebuilding organization
• Our mission is to transform the way the world deals with conflict, away from adversarial approaches, toward cooperative solutions
Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) Index

- Developed by UNDP-ACT and the Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD), with USAID funding
- SCORE uses a process framework to guide the assessment of social cohesion in conflict-affected societies through multi-stakeholder collaboration
- Combines participatory research process with advanced data analysis to identify the drivers of conflict dynamics
SCORE in Practice

- **Stage 1: Participatory Conceptual Design**
  - Participatory system mapping, including international development partners and local stakeholders, based on global theoretical frameworks AND national issues / dynamics.

- **Stage 2: Selection / Adaptation of Measurement Instruments**
  - Use of library of indicators from past SCORE projects and new indicators stemming from Stage 1 AND design of new measurement instruments as needed.

- **Stage 3: Data Collection and Analysis**
  - Multiple data streams (e.g. general population, youth, experts, social media) collected, on which predictive analytics are applied: regression, structural equation modelling, etc.

- **Stage 4: Participatory Policy Dialogue**
  - Collaborative workshops with policy stakeholders to explore SCORE findings and design interventions that hold greatest potential for positive impact.
SCORE in Liberia

• Critical moment in Liberia’s post-war history
  • Consolidation of peace and conflict transformation
  • October 2017 presidential elections
  • March 2018 departure of UNMIL
• Year 1 Pilot Phase (2016-2017): the Partnership Framework and data collection
• Year 2 Expansion (2018): expanded survey and Governance Assessment
Results in Liberia

- 5 Policy Briefs
  - Violent tendencies
  - Civil trust and co-existence
  - Development orientation
  - Political tribalism
  - UNMIL departure from Liberia
- 5 reconciliation plans in counties identified to be at risk
Example: Violent Tendencies
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1. Governance and Human Security
   - Efficacy of National Frameworks
   - Physical Insecurity (Urban Violence, assault)
   - Information Consumption

2. Intergroup harmony
   - Forgiveness
   - Negative Intergroup Feelings
   - Discrimination
   - Political Tribalism

3. Psycho-social resilience
   - Emphaty
   - Executive Skills
   - Family Coherence
   - Community Cooperation
Implications for Programming

• Helps identify policy entry points
• Short and Medium Term
  • Good governance
  • Effective security provision (e.g., policing)
  • Improving human security
  • Community cooperation
• Long Term
  • Inclusive education experiences
  • Peace education
  • Improving social healing processes
  • Developing executive skills
Future Prospects for Search and SCORE

- Allows us to do program design on critical elements of conflict prevention and transformation
- Helps understand what levers to pull, where to target what, what activities make sense in which places
- Linking individual-level factors to institutional characteristics
THANK YOU!