EMERGING ISSUES IN RESEARCH ON CONFLICT, TERRORISM AND DEVELOPMENT
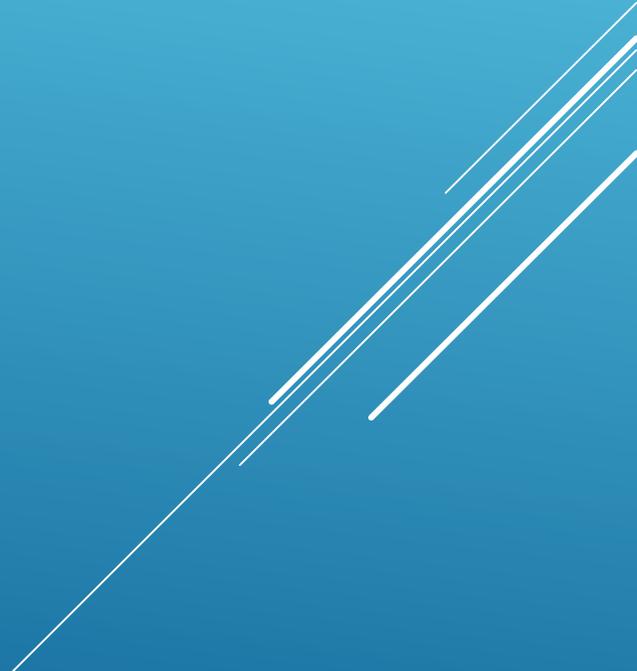
10th International Conference on African Development
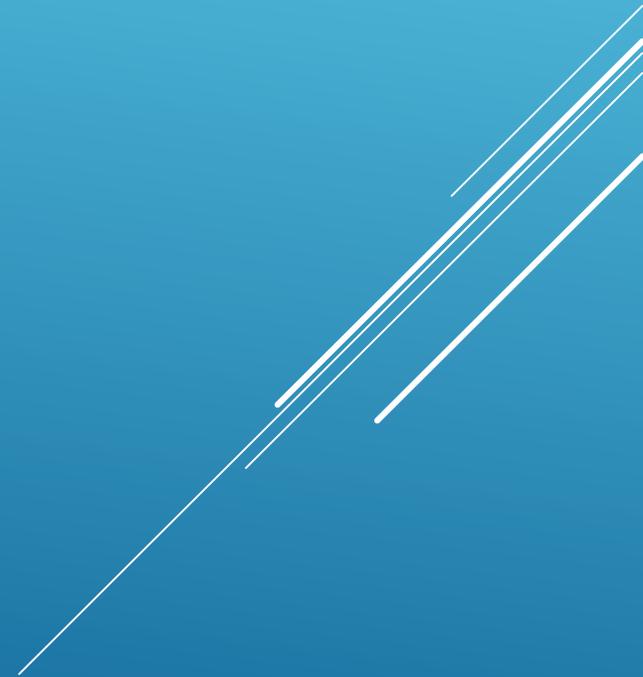
August 18, 2018

Adesoji Adelaja

John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor in Land Policy
Michigan State University

SUMMARY

- Growing incidence of conflict in Africa.

- The nexus between conflict and development.

- Emerging demand for information and knowledge.

- What do we already know.

- Knowledge gaps and possible research agenda.

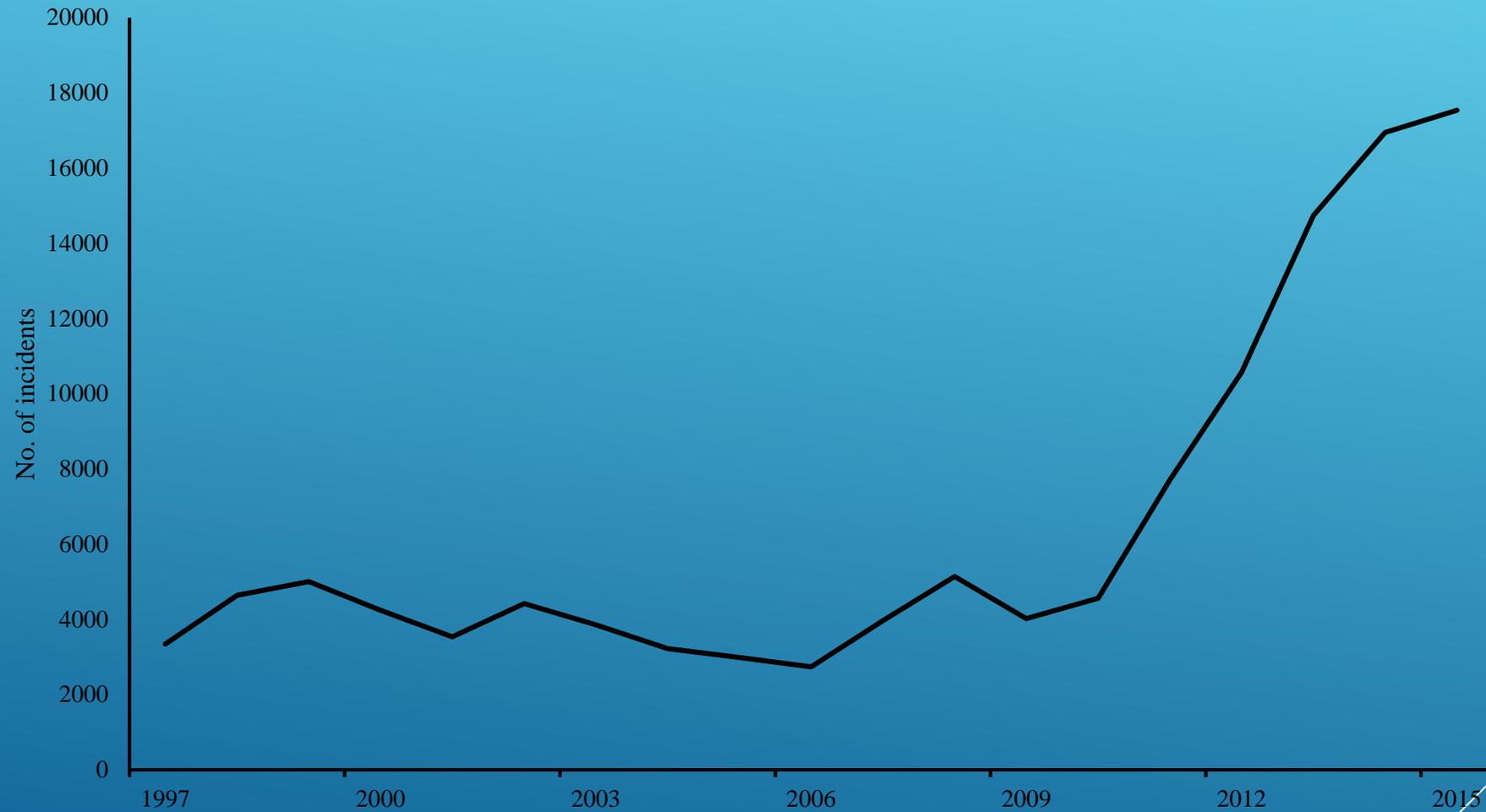- CTD Collaboratory @ MSU.

- Resource opportunities.
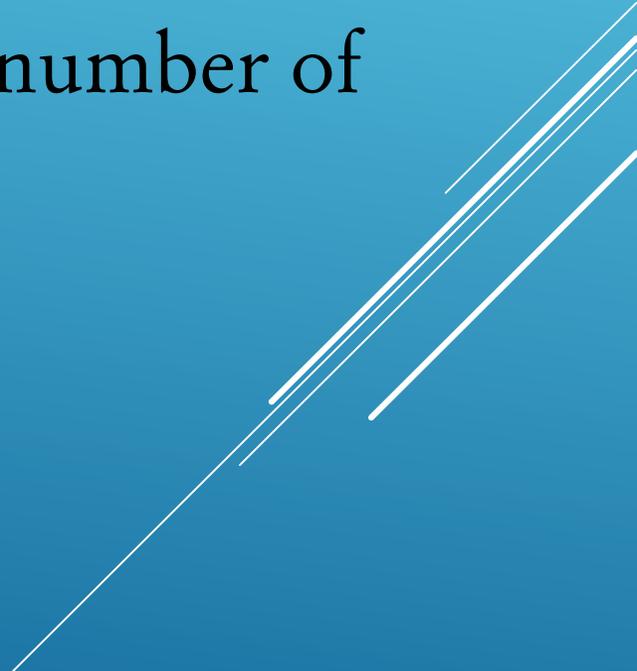
BACKGROUND

GROWING INCIDENCE OF CONFLICT IN AFRICA

▶ In recent years, Africa has experienced a significant surge in the incidence of unrest:

  ▶ From ∼ 3000 incidents in 2006 to ∼ 18,000 in 2015 (ACLED).

▶ Transition from the historic localized civil conflicts (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire & Guinea-Bissau) to recent regional insurgencies in the Sahel , which affected Mali, Niger and Mauritania.

▶ Terrorist organizations such Nigeria's Boko Haram and Somalia's Al-Shabaab have evolved from regional groups into global security threats with territorial control interests.

▶ Africa appears to be more vulnerable to violent civil strife and unrest as conflict incidence is trending rapidly upward..

INCIDENCE OF UNREST IN AFRICA, 1997-2015

No. of incidents

Source: Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED)

WHAT CAUSES CONFLICT AND UNREST

▸ A significant body of literature has sought to explain various types of conflict (domestic terrorism, transnational terrorism, territorial terrorism, riots, battles, communal clashes, etc.).

▸ The increase in unrest has been attributed to a number of factors, including:

  ▸ (a) economic and developmental challenges,

  ▸ (b) bad governance and corruption,

  ▸ (c) ethnic and religious tensions, and
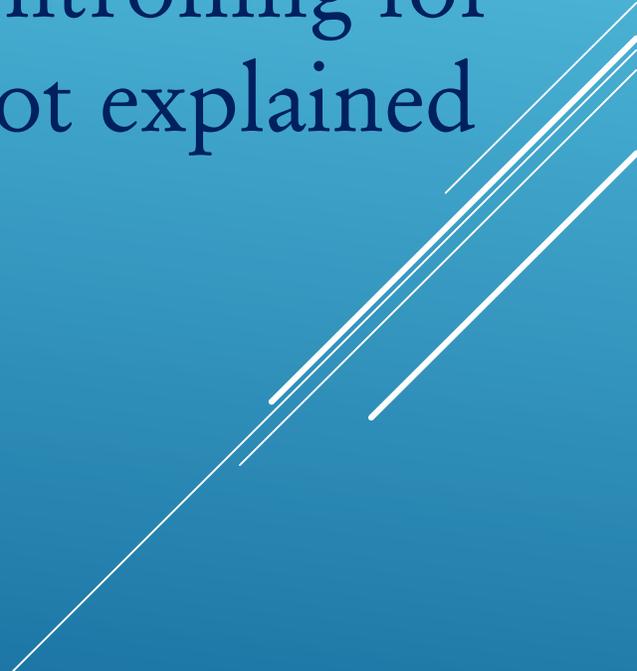
  ▸ (d) human rights violations.

ROOT CAUSES OF UNREST -*ECONOMIC & DEVELOPMENT-RELATED*

The relationship between low income, poverty and terrorism is inconclusive in the literature.

- Enders, Hoover and Sandler (2014) found a nonlinear income-terrorism relationship, suggesting that terrorist attacks are more concentrated in middle-income countries.

- Gassebner and Luechinger (2011) found that terrorism is positively associated with infant mortality rate, life expectancy, literacy rates, primary school enrollment, and secondary school enrollment.

- Collier and Hoeffler (2004) found that the male secondary school enrollment rate is negatively related to the incidence of civil war.

ROOT CAUSES OF UNREST - *ETHNIC & RELIGIOUS*

- Religious fundamentalism and persecution, religious or ethnic diversity, and ethnic tensions are root causes of terrorism (Wilkinson, 1986; Piazza, 2006).

- Fearon and Laitin (2003) found that after controlling for per capita income, the risk for civil war is not explained by religious or ethnic characteristics.

ROOT CAUSES OF UNREST -*SOCIALLY RELATED*

- Socially-related root causes of terrorism include social and cultural stratification (Piazza, 2006), human rights abuses, absence of law and order and existence of wars (Gassebner and Luechinger, 2011).

- High population density makes it easier for multiple people to organize into a terror group and better enables terrorists to attacks more visible and easier to reach target.

ROOT CAUSES OF UNREST -*POLITICAL*

- Piazza (2006) and George (2016) suggest that the incident of terrorism is increased by political root causes such as corruption and bad governance.

- Political proximity to the US, the existence of centrist governments, greater military spending, larger foreign portfolio investment, higher degree of urbanization, and OECD membership increase terrorism.

- Other political root causes identified in the literature include low level of democracy or civil liberty, less generous social welfare policy, structure of party politics such as government fractionalization, political instability, and large, complex, multiparty systems.

- While not all of these root causes are relevant in an African context, the literature provides useful pointers in modeling unrest in Africa.

WHAT DO WE KNOW?

▸ Specific development indicators have been linked with specific forms of conflict.

▸ Lack of development can lead to conflict.

WHAT DON'T WE KNOW?

▸ No specific information on the relative roles of specific root causes.

▸ No specific information on the relative impacts of specific root causes on various forms of conflict.

▸ Our session at 4.30 will present some findings from current research.

CONFLICT AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO DEVELOPMENT.

▸ Outcome-based evidence by FAO 2017 report

  ▸ Those countries left behind in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are mostly states struggling with conflict, violence and fragility.

  ▸ 60% of the world's hungry and 75% of stunted children under-five live in conflict-affected countries.

  ▸ 489 million of a total of 815 million chronically undernourished in 2016 lived in conflict affected regions.

  ▸ The weighted average prevalence of undernourishment in the 46 countries affected by conflict is on average 1.4 - 4.4% higher than for all other countries.

  ▸ Depending on the type, conflict can create a ground-zero effect by nullifying past development achievements (Adelaja and George, 2018).

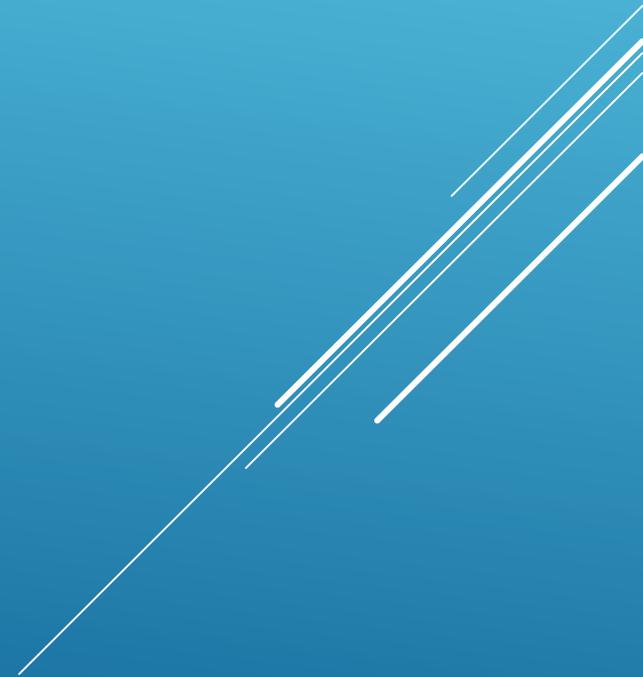# CONFLICT AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO DEVELOPMENT.

- Empirical Evidence
  - Impacts on economic production, trade, and public finances (Sandler and Enders, 2004).
  - Impacts on agriculture, food systems and rural livelihoods (Adelaja and George, 2018).
  - Impact through displacement of people (FAO, 2017).
  - Impact through distrust in authorities and democratic institutions (George, 2015).
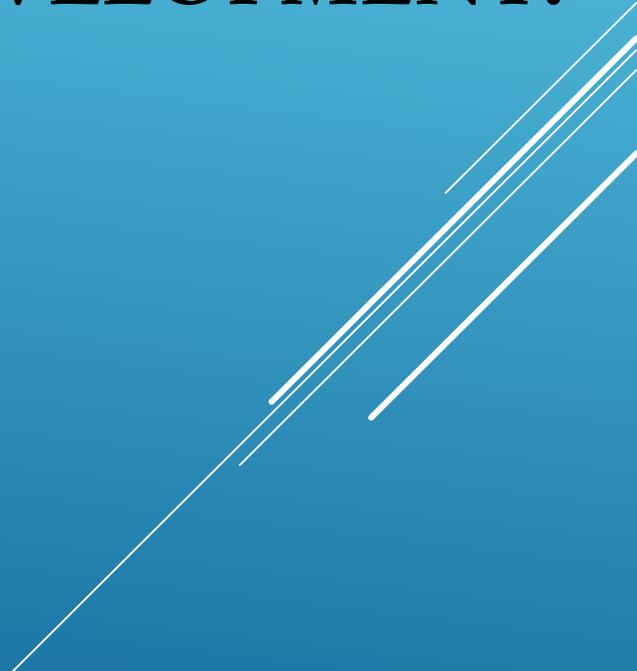
VICIOUS CYCLE OF CONFLICT AND DEVELOPMENT.

Conflict

Lack of
Development

HISTORICAL US VIEW OF CONFLICT & DEVELOPMENT:
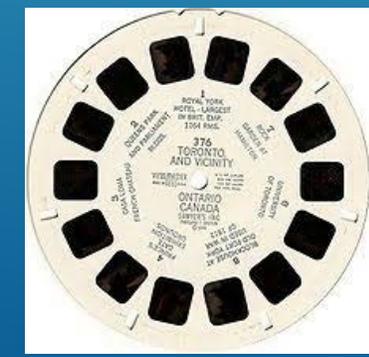
FOOD SECURITY EXAMPLE.

US VIEW OF GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY: PAST

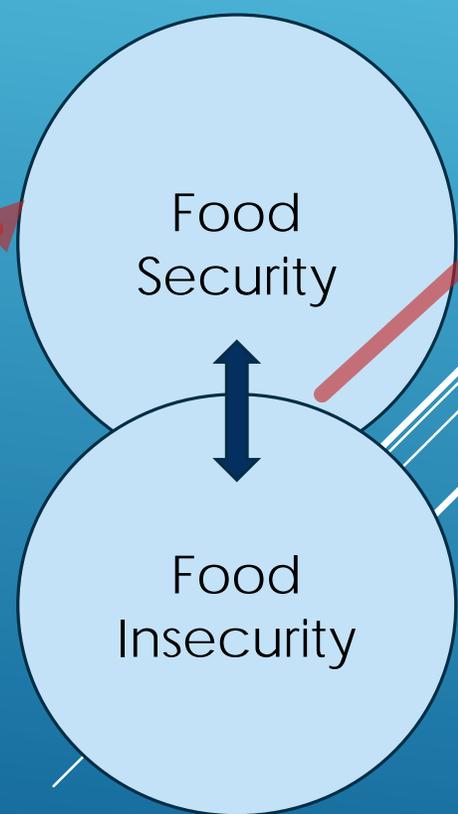**Goal:** Ensuring that <u>people</u> have sufficient food by aligning short-term assistance with long-term strategy to help countries feed their own people.

Why: The US cares and this strategy promotes global peace and stability.

•<u>Conflict</u>
•Ag Productivity (AV)
•Ag Markets (AV/AC)
•Ag Policy (AV/AC)
•Ag Pricing (AC/ST)
•Inclusive Growth (AV/AC)
•Climate Change (AV)
•Institutions (AV/AC)
•Governance (AV/AC)
•Infrastructure (AV/AC)
•Technology (AV)
•Education (AV/AC)
•Partnerships (AV/AC)
•Private Sector (AV)
•Urban/Rural (AV/AC)
•Irrigation (UT)
•Research (AV)
•Financial Access (AC)

CAUSES

Food Security

Food Insecurity

CONSEQUENCES

•Health
•Hunger
•Poverty
•Education.
•Malnutrition.
•Labor Market Potential
•Wellness
•Youth development
•Trust in Democracy.
•Women Empowerment.
•Self Reliance
•<u>Conflict</u>

SOLUTION: Support Food Security in developing countries.

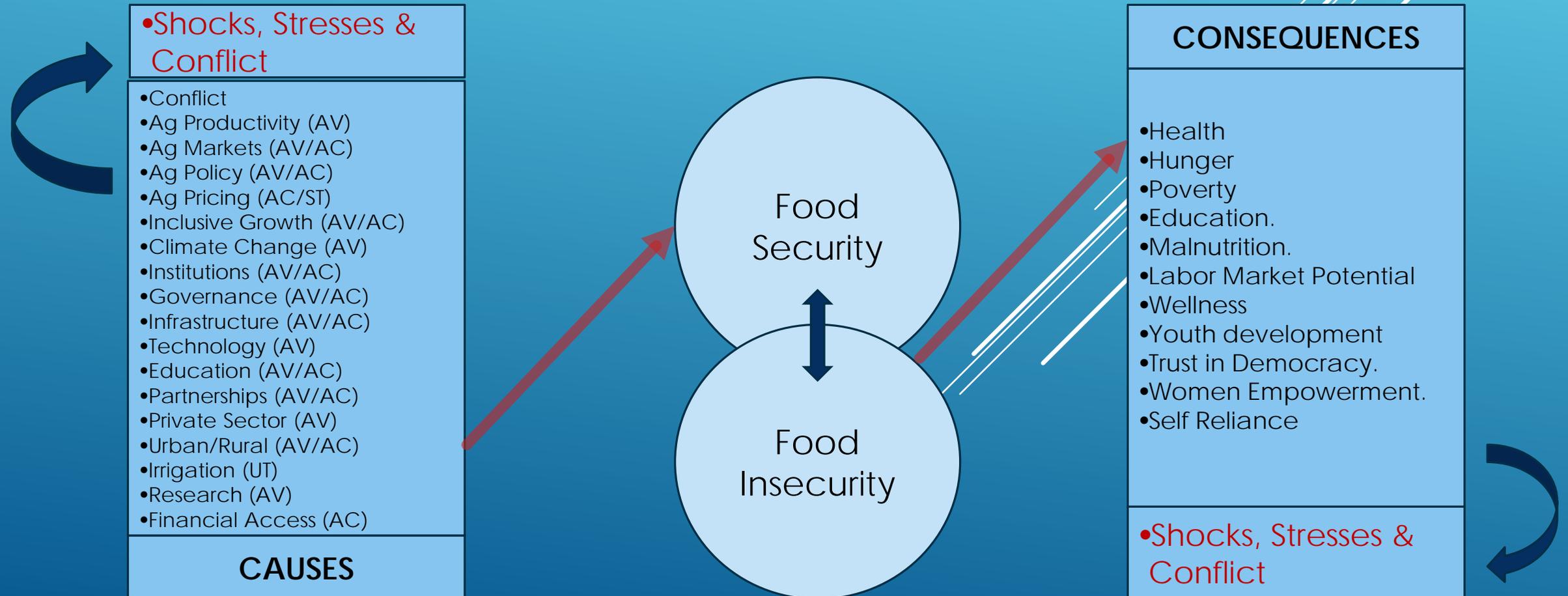# US SHIFT IN POLITICAL CLIMATE AND AID PRIORITIES—Examples of Policy Changing the Research Landscape.

US VIEW OF GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY : FUTURE

Goal: Increased focus on building resilience to break cycle, reduce need for humanitarian assistance and accelerate journey to self reliance.
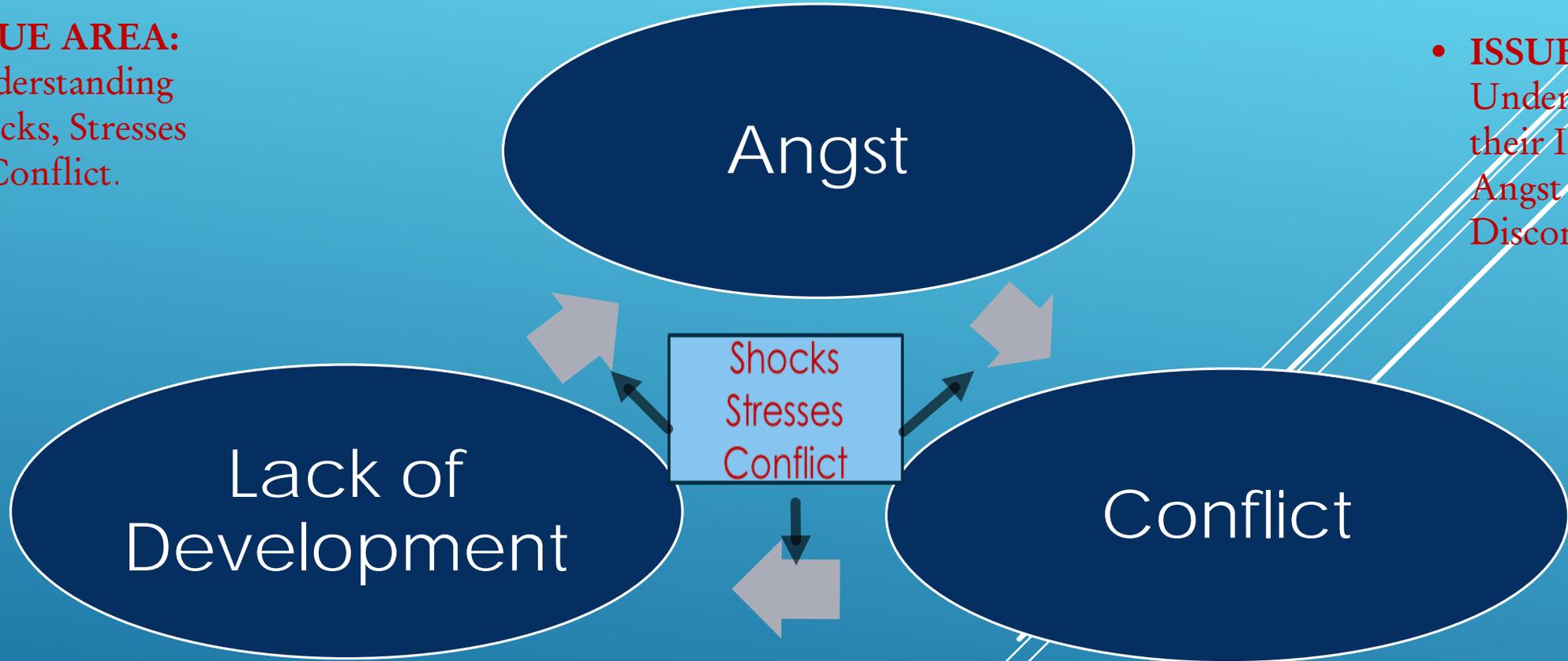
Why: New Shocks, Stresses and Conflict; Need to Avoid chronic vulnerability, poverty and hunger; These threaten US security and are National Security Threats; Need to better align US Defense and Security interests.

Actions: Reorganize and Refocus (from BFS to BRFS); Import Water and Climate Adaptation from Bureau of Economic Growth, Education and Empowerment (E3); Four new Centers (Resilience, Agriculture, Water and Nutrition)

•Shocks, Stresses & Conflict

- •Conflict
- •Ag Productivity (AV)
- •Ag Markets (AV/AC)
- •Ag Policy (AV/AC)
- •Ag Pricing (AC/ST)
- •Inclusive Growth (AV/AC)
- •Climate Change (AV)
- •Institutions (AV/AC)
- •Governance (AV/AC)
- •Infrastructure (AV/AC)
- •Technology (AV)
- •Education (AV/AC)
- •Partnerships (AV/AC)
- •Private Sector (AV)
- •Urban/Rural (AV/AC)
- •Irrigation (UT)
- •Research (AV)
- •Financial Access (AC)

CAUSES

Food Security

Food Insecurity

CONSEQUENCES

- •Health
- •Hunger
- •Poverty
- •Education.
- •Malnutrition.
- •Labor Market Potential
- •Wellness
- •Youth development
- •Trust in Democracy.
- •Women Empowerment.
- •Self Reliance

•Shocks, Stresses & Conflict

VICIOUS CYCLE OF CONFLICT

- **ISSUE AREA:** Understanding Shocks, Stresses & Conflict.

- **ISSUE AREA:** Understanding their Impacts on Angst and Discontent.

Angst

Lack of Development

Shocks
Stresses
Conflict

Conflict

- **ISSUE AREA:** Understanding How Conflict Impacts on Development

- **ISSUE AREA:** Understanding How Angst Causes Conflict

SPECIFIC RESEARCH QUESTIONS

PREVENT: MANAGING CRITICAL SOURCES OF CONFLICT, UNREST, AND TERRORISM:

- What is the role of youth unemployment on crisis?

- What is the role of food insecurity in crisis?

- What is the role of desertification and climate change in crisis?

- What is the role of educational attainment in crisis?

- What roles do additional factors such as ethnic marginalization, poverty, press freedom, democracy, corruption, and governance have in crisis?

- What would an early warning system look like and how would it work?

- How can we quantify angst as a precursor to crisis?

- What are the pathways between root causes, grievances, angst, and various forms of unrest

IMPROVE THE CAPACITY TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS AND IMPACTS:

- What is the impact of crisis on agriculture and food security?
- What is the impact of crisis on economic development?
- What is the impact of crisis on migration?
- What is the impact of crisis on the growth rates of different sectors? Different regions?
- What is the impact of crisis on civil society?
- What is the impact of crisis on public services such as education and health care?
- What is the impact of crisis on infrastructure?
- What is the impact of crisis on governance (including national budgets and policy decisions)?
- What is the impact of crisis on political institutions?

EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT POST-CRISIS REHABILITATION, RECONSTRUCTION, & RESETTLEMENT POLICIES & PROGRAMS:

- What would a cost estimation model to predict humanitarian needs look like? How can it help inform program development?

- What would a cost estimation model to predict reconstruction needs look like? How can it help inform program development?

- What would a cost estimation model to predict resettlement needs look like? How can it help inform program development?

- What do short- and long-term impact evaluations of post-conflict policies and programs tell us?

- What examples of best practice in the coordination of humanitarian activities (inc. donor support) exist?

- Does national rehabilitation planning contribute to the success of rehabilitation efforts? How?

PROVIDE KNOWLEDGE TO INCREASE CAPACITY TO MANAGE CRITICAL CRISIS ELEMENTS AS THEY OCCUR:

- Can we improve the prediction of attack place choices of terrorist organizations based on better understanding of the objective functions?
- What determines the attack location choices of terrorists?
- What determines attack modes of terrorists (e.g. suicide bombings, mass bombings, armed attacks, armed attacks, etc.)?
- What determines target preferences (e.g. places of worship, roads and infrastructure, targeted people, large crowds, etc.)?
- What is the relationship between motivations, resource-base, and attack choices?
- What does the lifecycle of terrorist groups look like?
- How terrorist organizations grow?
- How do terrorist groups fail?

OTHER CHALLENGES IN CONFLICT REGIONS

- How to identify vulnerable places (economics and Spatial Analysis).
- Development-related Early Warning Indicators (Data Analytics).
- Economically Efficient Crisis mitigation strategies (Economic Analysis).
- Place Resilience Index (Economic Analysis and Data Analytics).
- Refining the "Building Back Better" concept (Policy Analysis).
- Building Institutional capacity and governance structures (Technical Assistance).
- Youth and women empowerment (Technical Assistance and Direct Outreach).
- Obtaining Real-Time non-survey based Food Security

THE HIGHER EDUCATION CLIMATE

▸ Significant expertise across numerous disciplines in areas such as:

   ▸ conflict prevention & resolution, peace studies, law and justice, criminology, political science, economics, geography, sociology, anthropology, history, other humanities, education, psychology, area studies, planning, design, construction management, business, emergency management & development.

▸ START, other centers, and many scholars with little systemic synergy to government, military, intelligence & international stakeholders.

▸ Lone wolf successes in terms of connectivity.

▸ Underfunded research and programs.

▸ Isolated major funding opportunities.

▸ Limited number of integrated and coordinated programs, especially in grant getting.
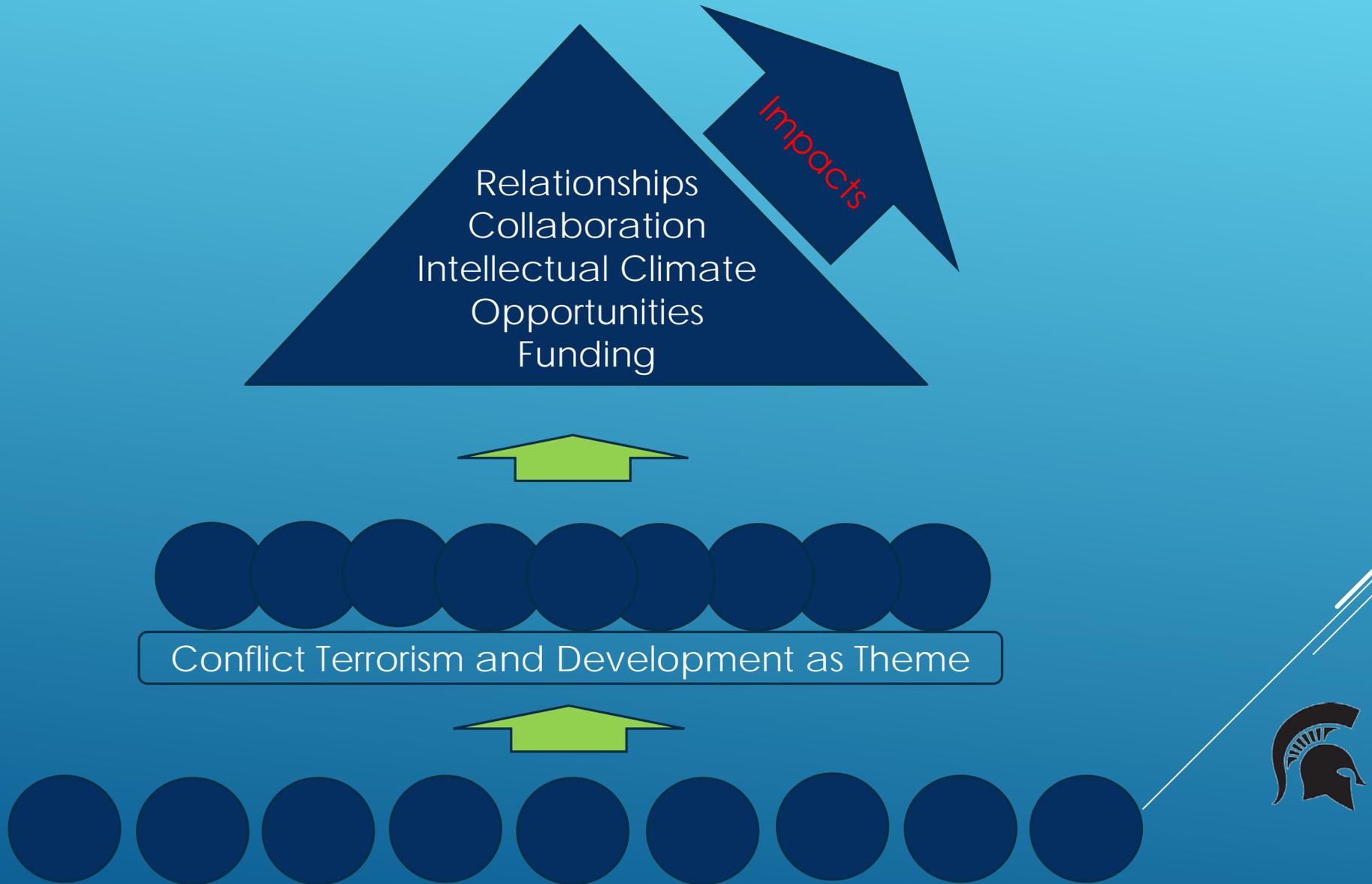
▸ Disconnect between academics and policymaking.

MSU RESPONSE --- CTD COLLABORATORY

▸ The CTD Collaboratory is a mechanism faculty with common interests in various dimensions of conflict, unrest, terrorism and development to work more closely together in pursuing strategic opportunities.

▸ The idea is to expand MSU's institutional strength through an informal working group.

▸ CTD brings partners to the table: e.g. Western Michigan University

▸ Selected goals.

  ▸ Promote institutional synergy to highlight MSU's institutional strength.

  ▸ Develop team capacity to access unusual resources.

CTD APPROACH

Impacts

Relationships
Collaboration
Intellectual Climate
Opportunities
Funding

Conflict Terrorism and Development as Theme

RESOURCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CTD RESEARCH

▶ US Dept. of Defense (e.g., Minerva Research Institute, Office of Naval Research).

▶ US Dept. of Homeland Security (e.g., START funding ending).

▶ US State Department (USAID, etc.).

▶ Foreign and International Governments (EU, UN, etc.).

▶ Development Partners (DFID, GIZ, KOICA, JICA, etc.).

▶ Foundations (Ford, Rockefeller, MacArthur, Kellogg, etc.)

▶ Think Tanks (Carter Center, USIP, Woodrow Wilson Center, etc.)

- For more information on CTD, contact:
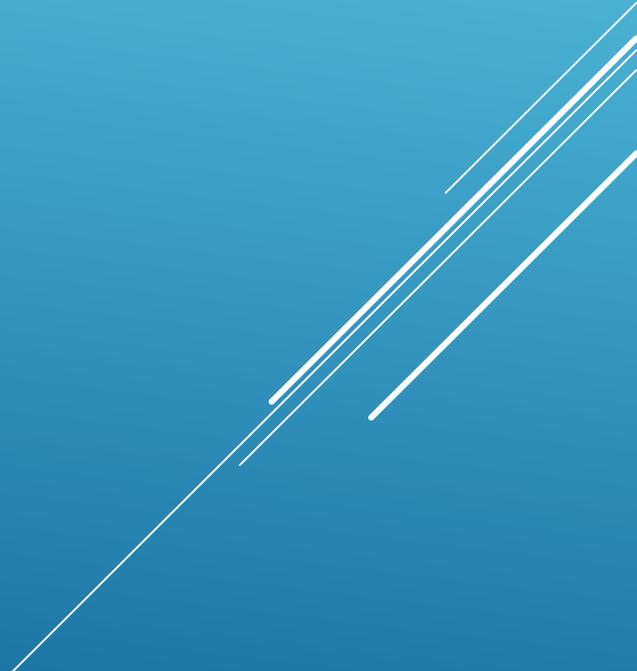
    Soji Adelaja
    John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor in Land Policy
    Michigan State University
    Email: adelaja@msu.edu

    THANK YOU