

Welcome



**MERCY
CORPS**



I-SING

**Investing in the Safety and Integrity
of Nigerian Girls & Boys**

Program Overview

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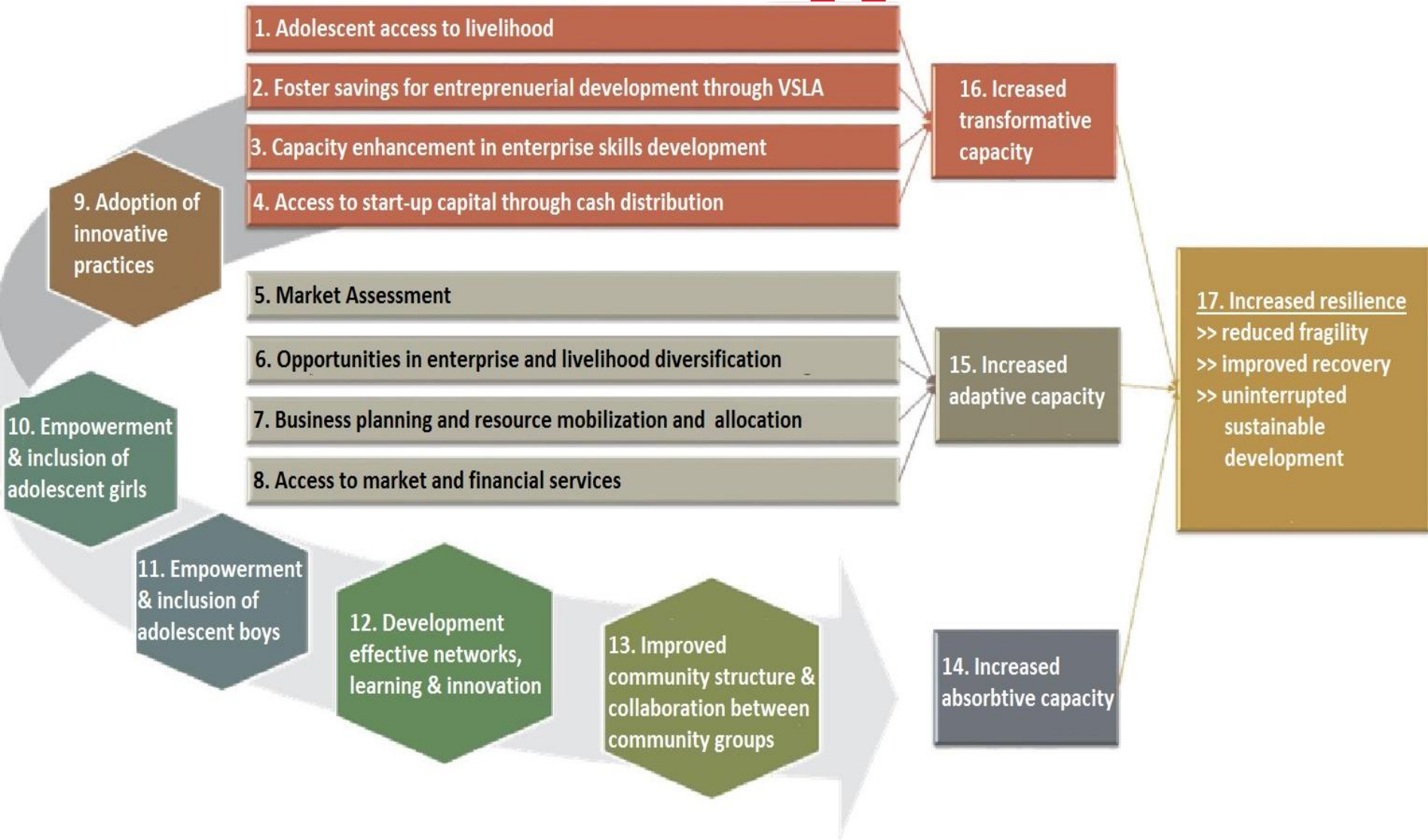
I-SING

Major Activities

- ✓ Enrolment of 17000 beneficiaries into Safe spaces
- ✓ Recruitment and training of 984 mentors and coordinators
- ✓ Development of a health and life skills and financial education curriculum for boys and girls
- ✓ Training of more than 961 community members on protection
- ✓ Livelihood interventions-considered safe and acceptable for 5,100 older adolescent's-grants



Our Resilience Approach



What we Achieved

- ✓ Set up safe spaces to build self-confidence, self-esteem and make friends: the process has strengthened the resilience capacity of adolescents in facing life challenges and positive contributors in their respective communities = 16,947 successfully completed safe spaces
- ✓ The program has created jobs for 984 mentors and coordinators + increase the number of skilled personnel in 31 communities
- ✓ Set up 247 VSLAs for adolescent's to access credit and to broaden their circle of friendship

What we Achieved

- ✓ Capacities of adolescents built in enterprise skills, to develop viable business plans Provided means of livelihood through distribution of grants to 4,923 adolescents
- ✓ Distribution of cash grants to 4,923 adolescents: Establishment of micro and small enterprises for adolescents through access to finance, Business Development Support, trainings and market access
- ✓ Linked 2,800 (+ additional 56 in MDG) adolescents to local skill artisans/centers 90% completion rate: only 38 did not complete learning. Adolescents were linked to the local market through local market fares and the just concluded ISING Summit

What we Achieved : VSLA Share - Out

Share Value Summary Across Program Locations: Share Price Between NGN 20 to 100

Location	Share Value	Lowest Share Received	Average Share Received	Highest Share Received	Average Return on Investment
South Borno	2,094,642 NGN (5,211 EUR)	300 NGN (0.74 EUR)	2,650 NGN (7 EUR)	12,350 NGN (31 EUR)	750 NGN
Gombe	2,731,923 NGN (6,796 EUR)	540 NGN (1.34 EUR)	2,750 NGN (9 Euros)	13,580 NGN (34 EUR)	800 NGN
Maiduguri	815,480 NGN (2,029 EUR)	100 NGN (0.24 EUR)	1,100 NGN (3 EUR)	2,100 NGN (5 EUR)	500 NGN
TOTAL	5,637,145 NGN (14,023 EUR)				

CHALLENGES

- Community fears-Chibok
- Culture and religion
- Perceptions related to relief vs skills building
- Security
- Identification of Safe spaces
- Some community leaders asking for incentives

KEY LESSONS LEARNT

- ❑ Working with local artisans reduces protection risks in the community by providing skilled labor closer to the adolescent girls
- ❑ The safe spaces approach for the adolescent's was a fun and learning experience that enabled adolescent's to learn, giving the adolescents opportunity to participate in the program improves their self-confidence, which in turn allows them to articulate their needs better in the community, integrate and support each other in the community
- ❑ The phased approach helped us replicate better programming across the project locations
- ❑ Working with Mentors, coordinators, community advisory committees encouraged acceptance and remain key resources persons in the community having been trained on various topics by program staff

KEY LESSONS LEARNT

- ❑ Collaboration with other agencies ensures access to services for adolescent's e.g. working closely with the Ministry of Women affairs in Gombe enabled the program link adolescent's to access birth registration documents
- ❑ Engaging adolescents in safe spaces before livelihood interventions improves better outcomes for them.
- ❑ Safe spaces + grant disbursement to start businesses + skill building = Autonomy. We know safe spaces alone are not enough
- ❑ Developing a strategy for cash disbursement and including guardians for the adolescent's reduces the risk of fraud and other protection issues
- ❑ Accountability between the community and program staff is key for the successful implementation of the project. Creating and enabling avenues for the community to report any mal practice ensures transparency and trust

Conclusion about Early Recovery in ongoing conflict and protracted crisis

- ❑ Strengthening Government and systems to be more responsive and coordinated in the delivery of services.
- ❑ Linking beneficiary and communities to existing Government initiatives to enhance and further strengthen their resilience.
- ❑ Strengthening Private partnership collaboration and leveraging on these partnerships for sustainability and workforce development.
- ❑ Facilitating access to formal financial services to promote the expansion, growth and development of micro enterprises.
- ❑ Strengthening capacities and promoting local ownership of programs.



**THANK
YOU**

