Presentation Outline

• Peacebuilding, complexity and evaluation methods
• Short introduction to SenseMaker (Video)
• Baseline assessment: A3B for Peace Project in the Philippines
• Final evaluation: Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) Project in Ecuador
• Final reflections on the SenseMaker method
Peacebuilding initiatives constantly deal with complexity. Complexity requires probing, making sense and adapting.
Stories, at scale, illuminate insights and impact amid complexity

Inclusion of many voices allows to combine qualitative and quantitative data
Respondents self-signification adds layers of information

Peacebuilding evaluation methods matter for program participants
The SenseMaker Method
1. Uses a narrative as the entry point

The starting point is a narrative that the respondent chooses to share about a specific and real experience, moment or event, which reveals what is important to the person sharing the narrative.
Facilitates self-interpretation of experiences

Follow-up questions called “signifier questions” facilitate further reflection and interpretation of the experience, reducing the influence of the evaluator or researcher and providing additional layers of information about the experience shared.
Binding, Bonding and Bridging (A3B) for Peace
3-year project (2016 – 2019) funded by USAID's Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation

Baseline evaluation
I was at home yesterday when I heard shooting outside. There were two separate shots, and it was around 11 at night. I was shocked when it happened because someone has died again. Every week there is such an incident and so I am quite used to it. I don't know what the cause of the shooting was. The next day I found out from my neighbor that the one who died was just renting here, and just got involved in a conflict between drug addicts. She was mistaken for an asset of the police so she was killed. That is how it is in our community; when there is a new face, he/she is always looked at as a police asset. No one reported this to the police and no one came to the aid of the victim. People here are used to keeping things to themselves because we are afraid that we would get involved and be killed.

(Female youth leader)
Respondents deliberate over and nuance their responses

In the context of your story, people’s response to the situation was...

- Taking away the root cause
- No particular action
- Controlling the damage

N = 783 (93.5%) in the triad
N = 837
In your story, the following actor has the ...

Community Power and Commitment to Change the Situation

Commitment to change the situation

N = 837 (all the sample)
## Change in the strategy focus from competence to commitment

In your story, the commitment, power and competence of the following actors to change the situation was...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actor</th>
<th>Commitment</th>
<th>Power</th>
<th>Competence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Government Unit</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional / religious leaders</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Conflict Resolution Committee</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = 831  
(all the sample)
In the context of your story, people’s response to the situation was...

Support from higher level government

Communities take responsibility

Local peace & order structures do their job

N = 837

N = 810 (96.8%) in the triad
Promoting sensemaking and adaptation to deal with complexity

• Improved the understanding of the different causes and nature of conflict in different localities to develop refined and locally-tailored implementation strategies:
  – Shifting the focus of the intervention from capacity development to promoting the commitment of communities and local actors.
  – Designing more contextualized public safety plans.
  – Sharing and analyzing findings with youth groups to design their peace agenda.
A Pathway from Emergency to Recovery, Adaptation, Transformation and Integration

- **3 months**: People with basic needs met
- **6 months**: People retake control over their lives and are empowered
- **24 months**: People with income-generation options
- **48 months**: People integrated in society and with influence

Population, Refugees and Migration Project in Ecuador
Multiple events forced people to migrate

N = 342 (sub-sample of Colombians and Venezuelans)

Why did you make the decision to migrate to Ecuador?

The most important among Colombians were the threat to their life or freedom and the armed conflict. For Venezuelans the economic crisis, but also threats to their life or freedom.

- Physical or emotional aggression
- Death, illness or accident
- Domestic violence and family disintegration
- Extortion or kidnapping
- Loss of source of income or employment
- Economic crisis
- Political/social conflict
- Armed conflict
- Threat to life or freedom

% OF RESPONDENTS

Venezuelans

Colombians

% OF RESPONDENTS
## Length of Support and Livelihoods

As a result of the experience you have shared, your family current livelihoods allows you to...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of project support received</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Not even cover monthly basic expenditures</th>
<th>Save to achieve longer-term goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 6 months</td>
<td>43.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months to 2 years</td>
<td>35.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 2 years</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sustained support for at least 2 years is needed to provide refugees with opportunities for their social and economic integration.

N = 484 (all the sample)
Integration in Host Communities

Thinking on the experience you have shared, How do you feel now with respect to...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Integration criteria</th>
<th>Received less than 6 months of support</th>
<th>Received less than 6 months of support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Very dissatisfied</td>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptance and respect showed by others</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Bar chart" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Bar chart" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation and contribution to the community</td>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Bar chart" /></td>
<td><img src="image6" alt="Bar chart" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support from the community</td>
<td><img src="image9" alt="Bar chart" /></td>
<td><img src="image10" alt="Bar chart" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = 342
In the experience that you have shared, How did you feel in each of the following moments?

- **Before the event**
- **Immediately after**
- **Sometime after**
- **Now**

Very vulnerable and unprotected

With many opportunities to progress

Pathways

N = 484 (all the sample)
The Pathway at the Median

N = 484 (all the sample)

With many opportunities to progress

Very vulnerable and unprotected

Before    Immediately after    Sometime after    Now

A steep fall

A resilient pathway at the median
People with shorter-term support rebounded worse

With many opportunities to progress

Very vulnerable and unprotected

N = 342 (sub-sample of Colombians and Venezuelans)
Promoted learning and generated needed evidence

• Humanitarian aid is a stepping stone for recovery, adaptation and integration

• Significant changes requires a longer-term approach to refugees support.

• Strengthening economic resilience, through financial education, savings and complementary livelihoods support is key for adaptation.

• Promoting social cohesion is transformative for both host and refugee communities.

• Refugees contribute to local economic development, if given the appropriate support.
Supports respondents’ reflection on their experiences

Exit questions showed that the process was friendly even for illiterate respondents and promoted respondents’ reflection, building awareness and self-esteem. In some cases it was even seen as a healing process.

It helped me to reflect on the experience that I lived in a different manner.... Thanks so much for this exclusive workshop for myself.

This is the first time that I can talk about what happened to me... Thanks for giving me this opportunity and listening.
The Method Matters

How we conduct evaluations in the context of peace, conflict, and human rights should consider quality while ensuring respect for human dignity