

Conflict sensitivity

Conflict sensitivity is about working in a way that is sensitive to the context you are operating in, to guard against aggravating existing or potential conflicts.

- Conflicts arise due to poverty (i.e. contested access to limited services or resources) or inequality (i.e. amongst ethnic, religious or political groups).
- The grievances that fuel conflict can quickly turn to greed.
- Insurgents initially seek funds / food for survival but this can be taken over by powerful / political interests i.e. looting, blockades, ransoms, illegal trading
- Humanitarian assistance presents a significant risk to aggravating conflict through the diversion or manipulation of aid supplies.

Approaches that address the underlying causes of conflict:

- Promote human security, respect for human rights, political / judicial reforms
- Tackle inequality, exclusion and discrimination to prevent grievances arising.
- Combine peace building, sustainable development and strengthening civil society with short term humanitarian relief .

A conflict sensitive approach	How to achieve this
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understand the context you are operating in ▪ Understand the interaction between your programme and that context ▪ Apply this knowledge to avoid negative impacts (do no harm) and maximise positive impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Carry out and regularly review a conflict analysis ▪ Link the conflict analysis with the project cycle for your intervention ▪ Plan, implement, monitor and evaluate your programme in a conflict sensitive way – including making changes to avoid negative impacts.

Conflict analysis

Analyse the context	Map other responses	Design your strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research country's history - Analyse security, political, economic and social issues - Identify conflict actors - Identify conflict trigger factors and possible outcomes, power of grievances and greed and opportunities for peace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify interests and policies of international and local security, political, financial, social and development agencies - Consider whether they are a cause of or response to, the conflict. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider supporting a common approach. - Adjust interventions in line with analysis - Support security, political, economic and social reforms tackling the causes of conflict.

Do No Harm

Humanitarian assistance given without consideration of conflict sensitivity can increase the risk and incidence of violence, waste limited aid resources and leave those affected worse off as a result of your intervention.

Adopting a conflict sensitive approach will do no harm by:

- Decreasing the levels of, or potential for, violence
- Reducing the risk of death or injury to beneficiaries and humanitarian workers
- Minimising lost or wasted resources through trouble shooting or corruption
- Reducing the risk of project delays, closure or early withdrawal
- Promoting rapid recovery and sustainability

Guiding principles of a conflict sensitive approach:

All aspects are tailored to suit the local context

Use participatory processes

Take account of the conflicting views, interests and perceptions of all other actors

Be neutral and impartial

Be transparent in communications and approach

Respect people's ownership of the conflict and their own suffering

Be accountable for your own actions

Work in partnership and co-ordinate with other actors

Complement and build on local capacities and the efforts of others

Be timely in your response.

<p>All In Diary CD Resources:</p> <p>© Goodhand, Vaux & Walker / DFID Conducting conflict assessments © Africa Peace Forum, Center for Conflict Resolution, CHA, FEWER, International Alert, Saferworld (2003), Conflict-Sensitive Approaches to Development, Humanitarian Assistance and Peace building, Chapter 1 © CARE (2001) Benefits Harms Handbook</p>	<p>Web links for further information</p> <p>http://www.transcend.org/ http://www.saferworld.co.uk/ ; http://www.international-alert.org http://www.codep.org.uk/; http://www.cdainc.com/publications/cda_books.php</p>
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