

How to assess conflict sensitivity in programme/project proposals

The objective of this paper is to provide a short guide to Sida programme officers and partners on key aspects of conflict sensitivity to consider when elaborating or assessing proposals. The contents are valid both for projects and programmes that aim to promote peace and security, as well as for projects and programmes that do not have as their main goal to promote peace and security, but are to be implemented in an environment of tensions or violent conflict.

CONTEXT ANALYSIS

A context analysis should answer the questions “*Why is there conflict/tensions? Who drives the conflict/tensions and who can stop it? Who is affected by the conflict/tensions?*” by conducting an analysis of conflict-related aspects such as root causes to conflict/tensions, actors, power relations and dynamics. It should identify both conflicting factors (dividers/sources of tension), as well as uniting factors (connectors/capacities for peace). The analysis should preferably relate to the planned level of intervention, i.e. a project that is supposed to be implemented on the local level should be based on a good understanding of the local dynamics.

PROGRAMME DESIGN

A description of the programme and its design, including a reasoning around the choices made in relation to the conclusions from the context analysis. Key questions include “*Why? Where? What? When? With whom (partners)? By whom (staff)? For whom (beneficiaries)? How?*”. The description should also include an assessment of how the proposed project/programme relates to the identified dividers and connectors, i.e. possible impact on the conflict risks and capacities for peace. It may also be

relevant to describe the alternatives, for example to answer the question “*Why these particular partners, and not others?*”. Depending on the conclusions from the context analysis and the situation at hand, the selection of target groups may be important to describe in more detail. Who is the target group? Who is not part of the target group, and for what reason? How does this relate to existing tensions in society (i.e. the conflict situation)? Is an inclusive approach applied? Has the target group been involved in the design?

IMPLEMENTATION

A description of what capacities the implementing organisation and its partners have that will assist in applying a conflict sensitive approach, and how conflict sensitivity is/will be integrated into existing systems, such as monitoring and evaluation, and reported on. This may also include an elaboration of how the implementing partner intends to continuously monitor the context and adapt the intervention to changing realities.

RISK ANALYSIS

A risk analysis that takes into account conflict-related risks and its possible impact on the implementation of the project/programme, and includes suggested ways of mitigating these risks.

Further reading

<https://www.sida.se/peaceandconflicttoolbox>