Sida

The Peace and Conflict Tool Box gathers knowledge material and method support on an integrated conflict perspective and peaceful and inclusive societies, in the form of Tools, Briefs and Thematic Overviews.

With an integrated conflict perspective opportunities to contribute to conflict prevention and inclusive peacebuilding are identified, and risks of conflict insensitive practices are mitigated.

[TOOL]
Defining Key Concepts, Tools and Operational Responses

KEY CONCEPTS

What is peace?

To define peace, a distinction is commonly made between **negative peace**, defined as the absence of violence or fear of violence, and **positive peace**. The latter more holistic definition of peace takes into consideration the capacity of a society to meet the needs of citizens, reduce the number of grievances that arise and resolve remaining disagreements and root causes of conflict without the use of violence.

How is peace linked to sustainable development?

The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) has developed the Positive Peace Index[1], which gathers data on drivers of conflict, **resilience**[2] and peacefulness in an attempt to build a statistical index measuring underlying multidimensional variables of positive peace. Building on this data IEP has created the Eight Pillars of Peace[3] as a conceptual framework for understanding and describing the factors (such as gender equality, inclusive economic growth and equitable distribution of resources) that create peaceful societies.

What is conflict?

A conflict is a disagreement between two or more individuals or groups. Conflicts are a natural part of every society and can be positive as long as they are managed constructively. A conflict becomes violent when one or several parties seek to attain their goals with destructive means and resort to violence or threat of violence in one form or another.[4]

Purpose and intended use:

This Tool defines key concepts, analytical models and tools, as well as operational responses and approaches that are commonly referred to in Sida's Peace and Conflict Tool Box. The Tool thus facilitates the understanding and absorption of guidance provided in other tools, such as the tool on Sida's approach to an integrated conflict perspective.

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1   IEP: Positive Peace Report, 2016
2   Sida's working definition: "The ability of an individual, a community, a country or a region; to anticipate risks, respond and cope with shocks and stresses; (both natural and manmade crises), while addressing the; underlying root causes of risks, to then recover and continue to; develop"
3   See IEP: Eight Pillars of Peace – Understanding the Key Attitudes and Institutions that Underpin Peaceful Societies
4   Further information, Uppsala Conflict Data Program

Direct violence vs structural violence

A distinction is made between **direct physical violence** (i.e. war, murder, rape and assault) and **structural violence** (i.e. injustice, discrimination and exploitation) built into a political, economic, social and cultural system. The two types of violence are, however, closely inter-linked and direct physical violence is most often caused by structural violence.

There are particular gendered dimensions of violence that have a disproportionate and different impact on women and men, girls and boys. Gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual violence tend to increase during and after violent conflicts.[5]

What is fragility?

Fragility and **fragile situations**[6] have emerged as common concepts to understand a state's or society's heightened exposure to risk (taking into consideration the complexity and inter-linkages of different risks) combined with a low capacity to mitigate or absorb these risks and chocks.

How is conflict and violence linked to poverty?

While it is debated whether poverty can be a cause of conflict, there is a more common understanding of the co-relation between an unequal distribution of wealth, and of access to power and influence with higher levels of conflict. Violent conflicts, as well as significant levels of structural violence, contribute to poverty, and make the paths out of poverty more difficult. Violent conflicts have various negative impacts on human security and consume considerable resources that could have been used for poverty alleviation. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was particularly challenging in fragile and conflict-affected countries. The OECD-DAC estimates that by 2030, over 60% of people living in extreme poverty will live in fragile and conflict affected areas.

THE CONFLICT CYCLE

The **conflict cycle** illustrates the need for an integrated conflict perspective beyond situations directly affected by violent conflict. In order to prevent conflicts from becoming violent, it is important to identify and address **situations of submerged tensions**, including structural conditions that may make a country vulnerable to eruptions of violent conflicts.

Situations of rising tension are characterised by clear manifestations of crisis conditions and evidenced e.g. by a deepening of the general situation of political crisis and disorientation, open discrimination and oppression of certain population groups, social unrest, armed opposition, and shrinking space for civil society actors.

When the state fails to respond to demands of the opposition and general public, these situations may lead to **violent conflic**t. Violent conflicts are caused by multi-dimensional root causes and grievances, global drivers and risks and often involve armed state and non-state actors as well as international actors and interests.

Post-conflict situations are often fragile and characterised by lack of rule of law, lack of access to justice and sustained or increased levels of violence. In these situations, it is crucial to address root causes of the previous conflict, aimed at preventing relapse into violence, and achieving inclusive and **sustained peace**.


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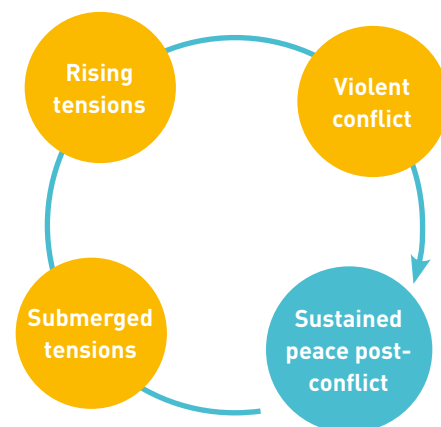
5 Further guidance, see Sida's Gender Tool-box
6 The OECD is currently updating the most commonly used definition of fragility.
   Further reading, States of Fragility Report 2016.

ANALYTICAL MODELS AND TOOLS

Context and multi-dimensional poverty analyses

Strong knowledge of the local context is central for ensuring strategic and conflict-sensitive support in situations affected by fragility, conflict and violence.

Sida's Framework for Multi-dimensional Poverty Analysis provides a tool for context analysis. With reference to the wider evidence-base on the linkages between fragility, violence, conflict and poverty – the analytical framework identifies lack of human security as a key dimension of being poor – together with lack of opportunities, power and voice and resources. The framework, which is currently being updated and piloted in selected programme countries, also provides guidance on identifying structural causes of violence and conflict in a given context.
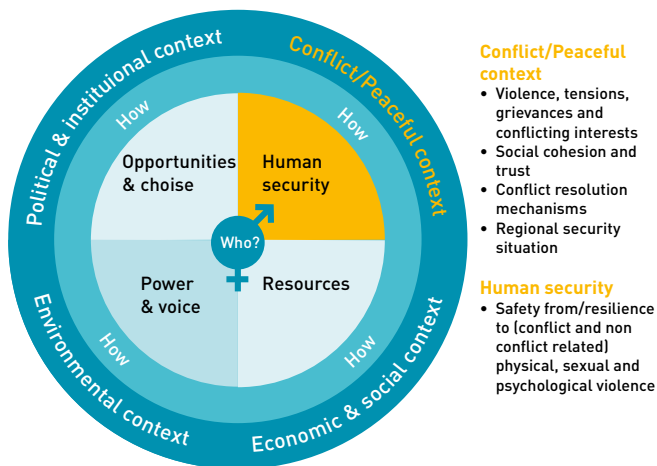
Conflict analysis

Conflict analysis can be carried out to complement a poverty analysis. It serves as an important tool to help Sida and its partners to better understand how development cooperation is affected by, and can in turn affect, potential or ongoing violent conflicts. The required depth of the analysis will vary depending on the specific mandate and principle development objective of a strategy, programme or project. However, no matter whether you are working *in conflict* (i.e. any development intervention implemented in a conflict-affected context) or *on conflict* (i.e. peace and security activities), it is important to assess conflict dynamics and risk, and to identify dividers and sources of tension as well as connectors and opportunities for peace. Such analysis helps strengthening the conflict sensitivity and effectiveness of strategies, programmes, and projects.

Conflict sensitivity and conflict sensitivity analysis

Conflict sensitivity builds on the recognition that development cooperation is seldom neutral, but rather understood to become part of the context – and in conflict situations, to become part of the conflict. Conflict insensitive aid risks reinforcing conflict, while conflict sensitive aid can contribute to strengthening local capacities for peace.

A conflict sensitive approach involves *the ability of an organisation to develop a sound understanding of the two-way interaction between activities and context and acting to minimise negative impacts and maximise positive impacts of interventions on conflict, within an organization's given priorities/objectives (mandate)*.

There are a variety of tools for assessing, planning and implementing conflict-sensitive humanitarian, development and peacebuilding initiatives. The two most commonly used models are the Do-No-Harm approach[7] and Conflict impact assessment[8],[9].

OPERATIONAL PERSPECTIVES, APPROACHES AND RESPONSES

An integrated conflict perspective

Building on the concepts and tools presented above, an integrated conflict perspective in development cooperation implies an increased focus on identifying 'hidden potentials' to contribute to conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, through traditional peace instruments, as well as new and innovative methods and mechanisms. Thus, the perspective should, in addition to ensuring that aid is conflict-sensitive, be understood in the context of strengthened Swedish and international commitments to contribute to conflict prevention, peace and security.

Sida and its partners should seek to integrate the perspective across different contexts (all phases of the conflict cycle) as well as different sectors and thematic areas (through a multi-dimensional understanding of poverty) in all development efforts aimed at transforming attitudes, structures and institutions.[10]

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7   Further guidance on the methodology, see e.g. "The Do No Harm Framework: A Brief Description of Seven Steps"
8   Further guidance on the methodology, see e.g. SDC Tip Sheet – Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment
9   Further guidance on how Sida applies conflict sensitivity at the programme management level Tool: Conflict Sensitivity in Programme Management.
10 Further guidance, see Tool: Sida´s Approach to an Integrated Peace & Conflict Perspective.

Conflict prevention, inclusive and sustainable peacebuilding

Conflict prevention includes a variety of activities aimed at anticipating and averting the outbreak of violent conflict, as well as preventing the relapse into conflict.

The concept has evolved to include a broad range of longer-term efforts targeting structural causes of conflict and violence. Efforts can for example include mediation, dialogue and other types of confidence-building activities, as well as human rights promotion and protection. Development cooperation can also support communities in dealing with localised forms of violence and conflict, and support people in creating or strengthening institutions and mechanisms in support of peaceful conflict resolution.

Conflict prevention is a key priority in Swedish humanitarian aid as well as long-term development cooperation as expressed in Sweden's National Commitments at the World Humanitarian Summit, and in the Swedish Aid Policy Framework

Conflict resolution and **peacebuilding** initiatives aims to contribute to a peaceful termination of a violent conflict and provide opportunities for **sustained peace**, through for example mediation, dialogue and other types of confidence-building activities.

Agenda 2030 for sustainable development identifies peace, justice and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions as the core of sustainable development. SDG 16 aimed at promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, sets out to address all forms of violence and structural causes of violence. The goal further has a strong focus on inclusiveness and non-discrimination, and recognises the need for coherent and integrated national, regional and global responses to drivers and sources of violence.

> **Sida's Manual for Conflict Analysis (2006) describes the promotion of peace and security as:**
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> "All activities, within the specific framework of development cooperation, that consciously target the attitudes and behaviours of parties to a conflict as well as the structural instability, and have the primary or secondary goal of increasing security, preventing violent conflict or contributing to its resolution"

Women, Peace and Security

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security was adopted in 2000. Seven subsequent resolutions have been adopted and together make up the international agenda for Women, Peace and Security. The resolutions establish that women's increased participation – in preventing, managing and resolving conflicts and in peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction efforts – is a prerequisite for attaining sustainable peace and security. As such, gender equality forms a key part of building peaceful communities. This is a clear focus of Sweden's feminist foreign policy and the National Action Plan for the period 2016–2020. The plan aims to ensure that the agenda is integrated in all efforts that aim to contribute to inclusive peace processes and peacebuilding; conflict prevention; and the protection of women and girls. Sida has a central role in the implementation of the action plan.[11]

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[11] Further guidance and reading - see Brief on Women, Peace and Security in Sida's Gender Tool.