



Humanitarian
Leadership
Academy

A quick guide to

Conflict Sensitivity

All aid interventions have an impact on the context and conversely, the context dynamics can positively or negatively affect aid interventions.

Commitment to neutrality should not obscure the fact that aid has a political component anytime that the intervention aims at influencing change in favour of marginalised groups.



When working with a conflict sensitive approach we can, as humanitarian and development actors, contribute to solving or preventing conflicts, directly or indirectly, by building the foundation for social cohesion and peace.

We are conflict sensitive when we **understand** and adapt our interventions to the relevant context, and in that way avoid or minimise negative impacts and maximise positive and sustainable impacts.

Conflict sensitivity is not limited to armed or violent conflict. It is also addressing marginalisation and socio-economic inequalities in all shapes and forms. There are often multiple conflicts in one location, and multiple layers of conflicts.



Each context is different. Conflict analysis helps identifying underlying tensions (dividers) between actors or groups that could hurt or reduce communities' participation or benefits from the activities that we and/or our partners implement.

Conflict analysis also contributes to identify positive drivers for peace and social cohesion.

It is important to ensure that the conflict analysis is informed by local knowledge and the **meaningful and safe participation** of particularly vulnerable and marginalised groups. Consider gender, identity and age as various groups might be affected differently by the conflict and play different roles in building capacity for peace.



Through conflict sensitivity assessments of our interventions, we avoid actions or decisions (from our staff or our partners) that could **unintentionally trigger tensions or increase divisions** between people in contexts in which we work, while also monitoring and reducing risks for our own operations.

A conflict sensitivity assessment also helps us to identify opportunities for **strengthening social cohesion** between divided groups or stakeholders, shifting towards building greater resilience and preventing conflicts.

Conflict sensitivity should be considered at **every step of the project cycle** and within broader strategic and operational decisions.

It cuts across various areas of work such as partner selection, human resources, procurement, advocacy, and business development.



You can find more information about
Conflict Sensitivity by visiting **Kaya**

For more information on the Humanitarian
Leadership Academy:

www.humanitarianleadershipacademy.org