



## A2 ACTIVITIES TO REVEAL HIDDEN ISSUES

# Understanding conflict attitudes, behaviours and context (ABC triangle)



## Why use this activity?

This tool helps us to understand the relationships between different groups of people and what might be causing tension and conflict between them. It also looks at the impacts of conflict on different people.

This tool can be used with a group to help reveal and understand a conflict. It can also form part of a conflict analysis. See **Tool C2: Conflict analysis**.



## A brief description

A simple framework for exploring the causes and impacts of conflict.



## You will need

- Space for different groups to meet and discuss ideas safely
- Large pieces of paper and pens



## Timeline

1-2 hours, depending on the number of groups considered

Be aware of the impacts that discussing conflict issues may have on people and relationships. Issues relating to conflict can be very sensitive and, unless they are approached with an open and non-judgemental attitude, ensuring everyone is included and listened to, activities could end up causing more harm than good. If discussing a particular conflict-related issue could put someone or a group of people at risk, then think very carefully about how and whether to start any discussions. If this is the case, it might be safer to do this activity on your own, in a smaller group, or in separate groups with an intermediary until everyone is ready to meet.

Awareness raising

Children &amp; youth

Climate &amp; environment

Conflict &amp; peacebuilding

Corruption &amp; governance

Disaster risk management

Discrimination &amp; inclusion

Food &amp; livelihoods

Gender &amp; sexual violence

Health &amp; HIV

Influencing decision-makers

Migration &amp; trafficking

Water, sanitation &amp; hygiene



## What to do

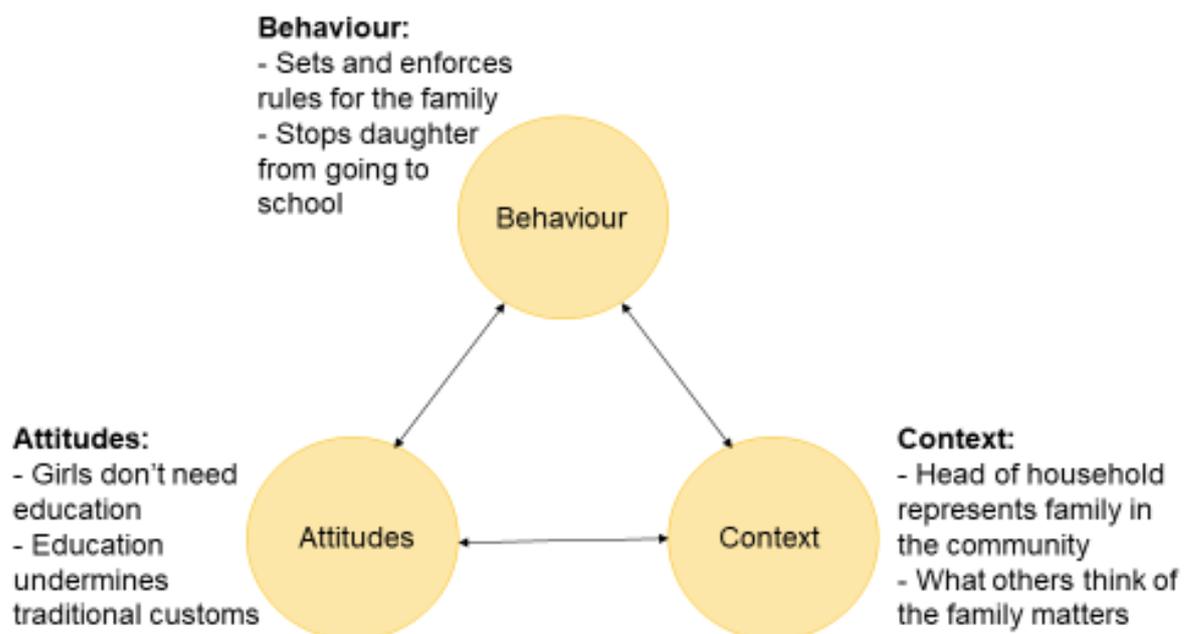
Conflicts are not always about the things we are first told they are about. We can think about this as a triangle. The things that we can see are the **behaviour** of the different groups involved, but these behaviours are often based on the wider **context** that the group finds itself in and the **attitudes** that the group holds. Behaviour, attitudes and context all influence each other, and so changes in context can lead to changes in attitude and behaviour. Similarly, changes in behaviour can lead to changes in attitude and ultimately the context.

The ABC triangle is a simple framework for exploring the impact and causes of conflict. You should complete one triangle for each of the major groups involved in the conflict.

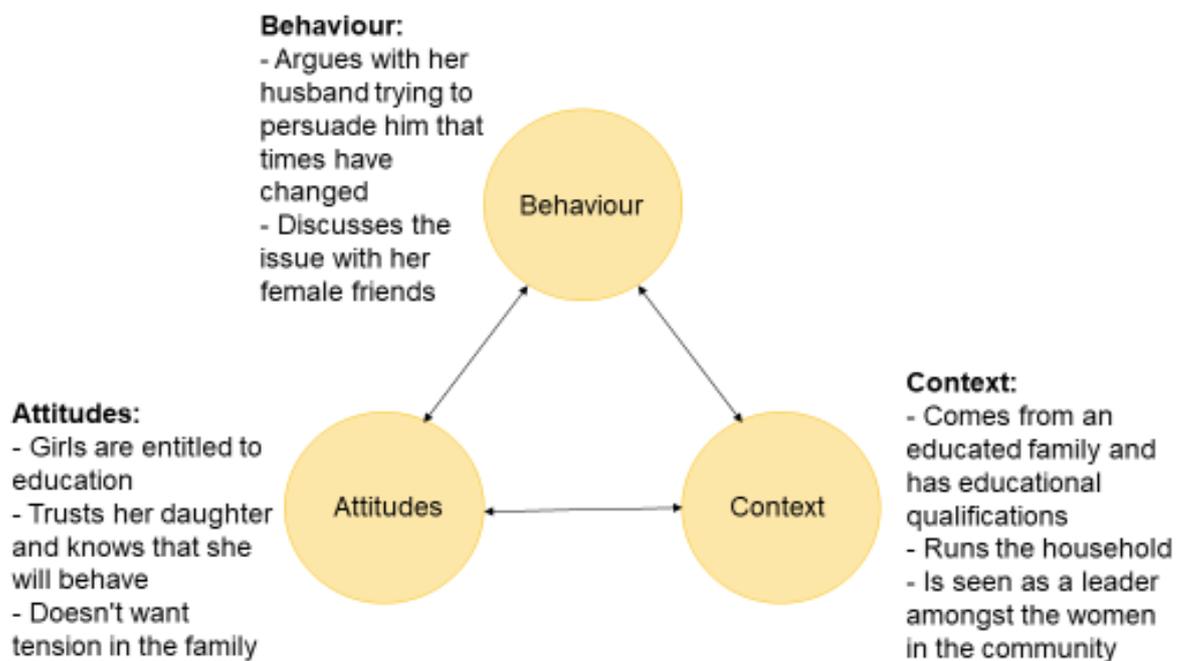
One simple way to do this is to put yourself in the position of the different groups and think about why they might behave as they do. If we think about the attitude, behaviour and context for each group involved in the conflict, then it might show us that the conflict is more complex than we originally thought, and may even have 'roots' that seem unrelated to the behaviours we see.

Here are examples focussed on girls' education. The first triangle shows a father's opinion of girl's education. The second shows a mother's view.

Example 1: A father's opinion on girls' education



## Example 2: A mother's opinion on girls' education



If you are working in areas affected by conflict, you can use the triangle to answer questions like:

- How will our work be affected by the behaviours we have identified? Will it affect any of the contextual factors that drive the conflict?
- How will our staff and our work be perceived by each group, given the attitudes we have identified?

If you are working to try to resolve or transform conflict, you can also use the triangle to answer:

- How can our work restore relationships by addressing negative attitudes?
- How can our work improve the contextual factors that are driving the conflict?
- How can our work encourage more constructive behaviours?

### Next steps

As a next step, you may wish to carry out some of the Bible studies in Section B that look at conflict and peacebuilding.

If you have done this activity as part of a conflict analysis, you may wish to use other tools to continue with your analysis. See the box below for a list of related tools.



## Finding out more

- Tearfund (2013) Footsteps 92 – *Conflict and peace*  
[http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/footsteps/footsteps\\_91-100/footsteps\\_92/](http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/footsteps/footsteps_91-100/footsteps_92/)
- Tearfund (2003) Roots 4 – *Peacebuilding within our communities*  
[http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/roots/peace-building\\_within\\_our\\_communities/](http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/roots/peace-building_within_our_communities/)
- World Vision International (2006) A Shared Future: Local Capacities for Peace in Community Development - <http://reliefweb.int/report/world/shared-future-local-capacities-peace-community-development>
- Other resources from World Vision International, such as 'Making sense of turbulent contexts' and 'Do no harm' can be found at <http://www.wvi.org/peacebuilding>

### Related tools:

- A1 – Revealing conflict: information for facilitators [*A1: Conflict & peacebuilding-1*]
- A2 – Do people feel safe? [*A2: Conflict & peacebuilding-1*]
- A2 – Conflict timeline - revealing how conflict has changed over time [*A2: Conflict & peacebuilding-2*]
- Stakeholder matrix - understanding the people affected by conflict and the relationships between them [*A2: Conflict & peacebuilding-3*]
- A2 – Conflict map [*A2: Conflict & peacebuilding-5*]
- B – Christ triumphs over conflict [*B: Conflict & peacebuilding-1*]
- B – Love your enemies (Bible study) [*B: Conflict & peacebuilding-2*]
- B – Unity in Christ (Bible study) [*B: Conflict & peacebuilding-3*]
- C2 – Conflict analysis [*C2: Conflict & peacebuilding-1*]
- C2 – Conflict sensitivity assessment [*C2: Conflict & peacebuilding-2*]
- C2 – Planning projects and actions – a conflict sensitivity checklist [*C2: Conflict & peacebuilding-3*]

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