



A2 ACTIVITIES TO REVEAL HIDDEN ISSUES

Conflict map



Why use this activity?

This tool helps us to understand the relationships between different groups of people and what might be causing conflict between some groups. 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 impact and causes 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 & youth

Climate & environment

Conflict & peacebuilding

Corruption & governance

Disaster risk management

Discrimination & inclusion

Food & livelihoods

Gender & sexual violence

Health & HIV

Influencing decision-makers

Migration & trafficking

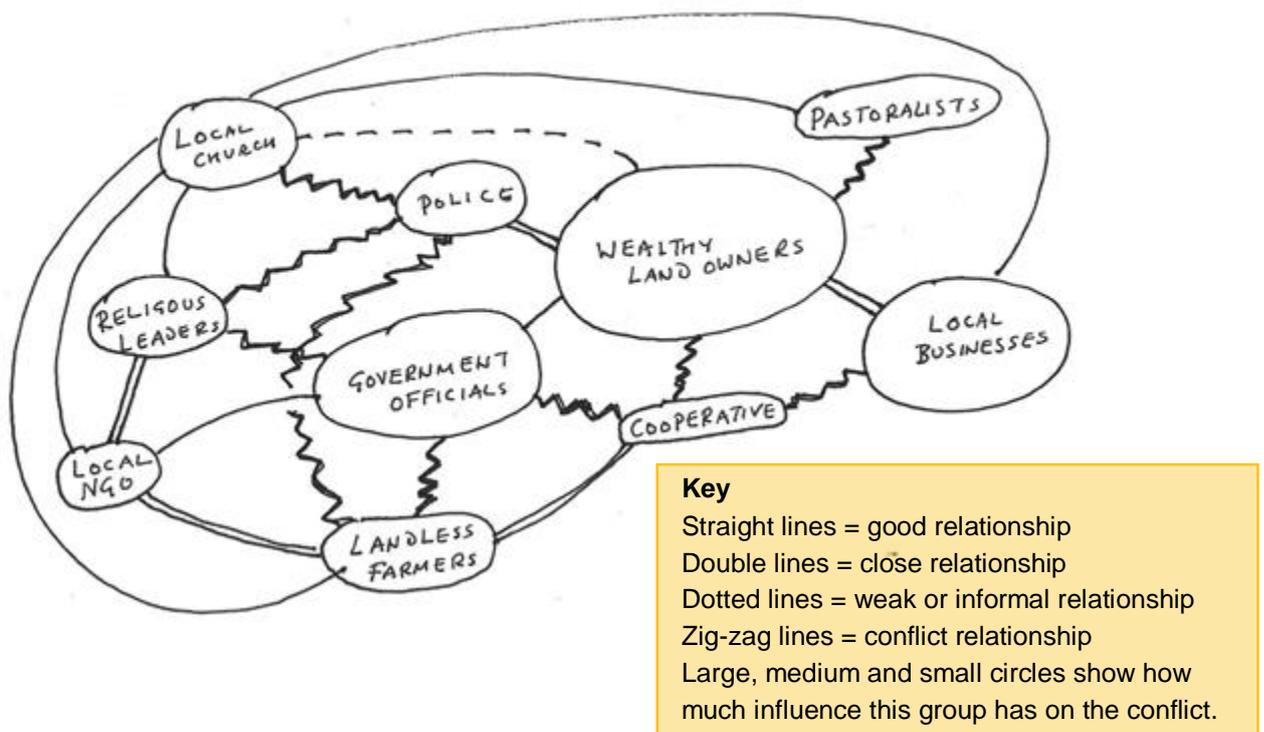
Water, sanitation & hygiene



What to do

This conflict map is sometimes also known as a relationship map or actor map. It uses circles to show the main groups involved in the conflict, and lines to represent the types of relationships between them.

Understanding each group involved in a conflict is very useful, but all groups and every person has a relationship with other groups and people. Drawing a picture that represents these relationships can help us understand why one particular group or person behaves in a certain way due to their relationship with another person or group within the context. It can also show who might have influence with who, and therefore suggest ways in which those groups could play a role as facilitators or reconcilers between opposing groups.



If you are working *in conflict*, in places where there is violence, but you are not trying to address the conflict directly (this is called being conflict sensitive), you can use the map to answer questions such as these:

- Given our relationships with some groups, how are other groups likely to perceive us? Try to make sure you cannot be perceived as being partial to one side of the conflict.
- Who on this map do we need to form a relationship with? Do we need to mend a relationship with anyone on the map?
- Who on this map benefits from our work? How could that affect the conflict and other groups' perceptions of us?

If you are working *on conflict* (working directly on reconciliation, peace-building and addressing the underlying causes of violence), you can also use the map to answer:

- Which relationships could we restore, strengthen or build to help reduce conflict?
- Can we engage with all the groups who have the most influence in the conflict?
- Does our work address the root causes of broken relationships between any groups on this map?

Next steps

The group may have identified actions they want to take to encourage better relationships. What are the next steps that can be taken to carry out these actions? You may wish to carry out some of the Bible studies in Section B of *Reveal* 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.



Notes

This activity is based on an article first published in Tearfund's magazine, Footsteps 92 - http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/footsteps/footsteps_91-100/footsteps_92/



Finding out more

- Tearfund (2013) Footsteps 92 – *Conflict and peace* 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/
- 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 – Understanding conflict attitudes, behaviours and context (ABC triangle) [A1: *Conflict & peacebuilding-4*]
- 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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