

A WASH TOOL FOR CONFLICT SENSITIVE PROGRAMMING

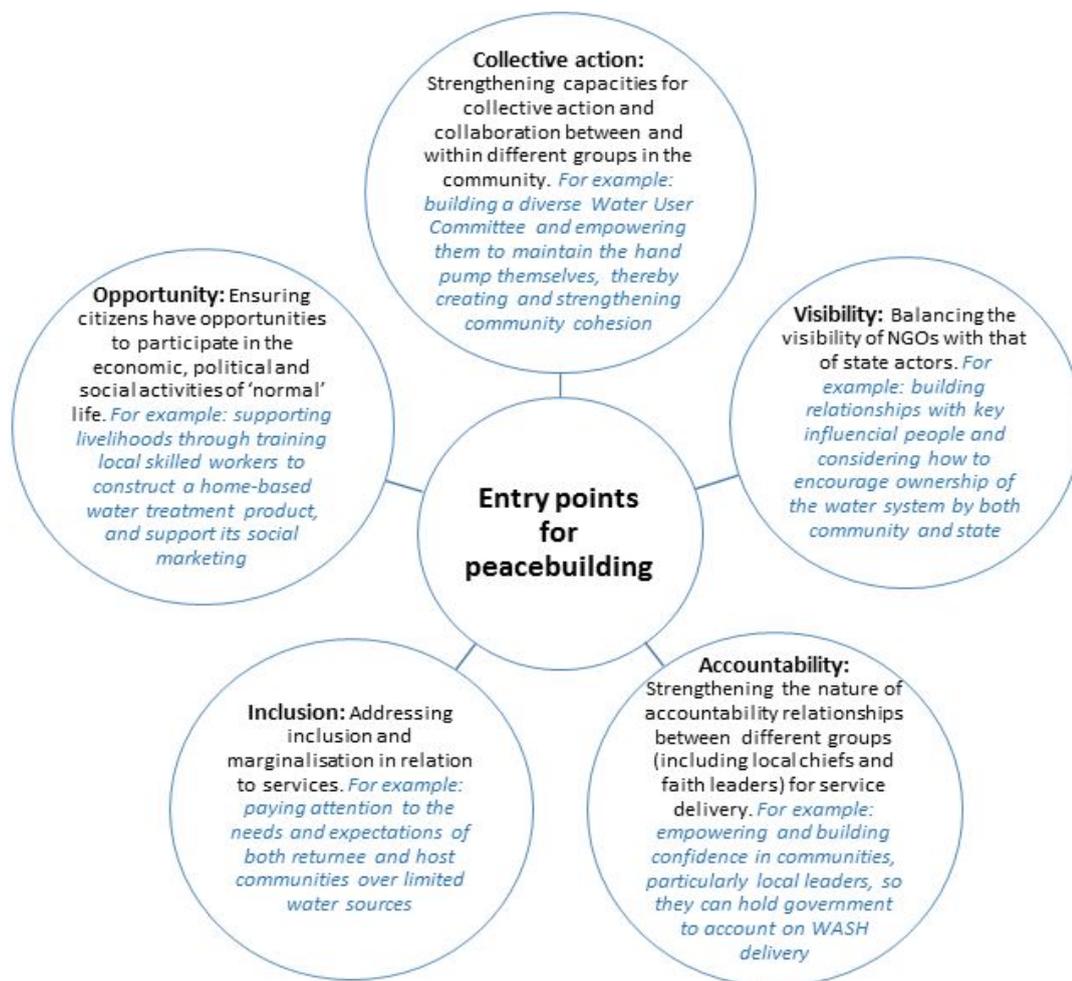
Fragile and Conflict Affected States (FCAS) make up a large majority of the contexts in which Tearfund’s WASH programmes take place. Globally, 1 in 4 people live in a FCAS. They account for 65% of the people without access to safe water, and 54% of the people without access to improved sanitation (Data from World Development Report 2011).

There is a difference between conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding. Conflict sensitivity is the minimum standard for WASH programming and involves having a good understanding of the context and acting to minimise any negative impacts. Peacebuilding goes a step further to be actively involved in addressing the root causes of violence and promoting peace and reconciliation.

While WASH programmes alone do not present the best opportunity for countrywide peacebuilding, there are local level opportunities for WASH programmes to make an important contribution to peace. WASH programmes should be designed to take better account of, and sometimes make a contribution to, peacebuilding goals at the local level.

PEACEBUILDING

Recent research by Tearfund ([Double Dividends](#)) identified five generic ‘entry points’ for peacebuilding. These ‘entry points’ are places where WASH programmes could incorporate small contributions to local peacebuilding.



Box 1 Case study demonstrating the effect WASH programmes can have on local peacebuilding with other communities

Swima Village, South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo
After the 1998- 2003 conflict in the DRC, the village's piped water system was severely damaged and the group in charge of its management had lost human capacity.
Tearfund became involved in Swima village in 2003 and one of the expressed desires of the community was to rehabilitate the piped water system. A committee was created and Tearfund helped build the capacity of the committee to rehabilitate and expand the existing piped water supply. The piped water supply network now provides safe water to more than 60,000 people and it is being independently managed within the community. Women were included in all stages of the water project and were active leaders in decision-making.
Meanwhile, there was deep-rooted ongoing inter-community tension with the village upstream along the issue of water quality. The tension between the villages was rapidly escalating to a point where open conflict was imminent. Women from both communities met to discuss the water quality issue, which was a first step towards reconciliation. This led to the committee extending the piped water system to the other community and following which, peace has been restored.

The next section will address the how to address conflict sensitivity in the project cycle. Implementing a WASH programme in a FCAS has specific challenges and opportunities. These challenges will be listed at their point of concern in the project cycle.

CONFLICT SENSITIVITY IN THE PROJECT CYCLE



NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING

Do a full conflict analysis at this point if the project has the time and resources for it. Where it is not feasible or possible to do a full conflict analysis, there should always be some minimum identification and addressing of issues that could lead to conflict ([Rapid conflict analysis](#)). The conflict analysis can be integrated into the needs assessment stage, although at least some analysis needs to be done before the needs assessment so issues are anticipated early and the assessment itself is aware of these issues, and itself does not cause problems.

Conflict analyses should be an ongoing process and should be done at least every 6 months- more frequently where appropriate and feasible. Tearfund recommends the use of four tools to aid conflict analysis: Conflict mapping, ABC triangle¹, Timeline², and Conflict tree. How to use these tools can be found in the [Tearfund Good Practice Guide on Conflict Sensitivity](#).

¹ A tool to analyse the Attitudes, Behaviour and Contexts for each of the major parties

² A graphic that shows events plotted against time

Table 1 Main factors to consider when carrying out a conflict analysis

Activity	Possible negative impacts	Solution	Key thinking
Carrying out the conflict analysis	Unrealistic expectations of beneficiaries.	Make the aims of the programme explicit	Realistic expectations
	The person doing the assessment is biased or may create or maintain power imbalances.	Involve as many groups as possible including partner staff and community members This will not remove all bias or power imbalances but could limit or reduce them	Who is involved in the assessment, and who is leading the process?
	Conflict analysis is shaped by the views of certain groups in society. Maintain existing hierarchical structures	Break the community into separate groups to gain all views. Use local language to include everyone Pay attention to divisions in society and marginalised groups.	Who is being consulted?
	Local leaders are against the programme	Identify the key influential people early in the planning and design process, and what their key concerns are.	Get buy in from key influential people
	Think about who controls or manages the water system currently		
	Not fully understanding the complexities of the context. Outsiders, particularly, not getting access to entire information or opinions	Use Project staff and community members Regularly update the conflict analysis Use outside research and other agencies.	Understanding the complexities
	People will not discuss certain topics (socio-cultural, belief systems, legal status)	Split community into groups where they can speak more freely	Sensitivities in the community
	Think about women's hygiene and open defecation which may be topics that people will not discuss		

DESIGN



Table 2 **Main factors to consider during the design process, relating to both the process itself and the final design product**

Activity	Possible negative impacts	Solution	Key thinking
The design process	Groups of society omitted from design process leading to narrow design	Include as many groups as possible in design and key leaders from within these groups. Pay attention to divisions in society and marginalised groups. Use the conflict analysis to gain a full range of opinions	Who is being asked to participate
	The person in charge of designing the programme may be biased or have partial information	Include as many people and groups as possible in design	Who is designing the programme
	People feel they are not listened to in design process	Create feedback mechanisms for community members and staff for the design process	Accountability
Final design product	People feel the programme is irrelevant to them or to the community	Create feedback mechanisms for community members and staff	How will it benefit each group of beneficiaries
	Pay particular attention to the different water-use priorities (irrigation, animals, industry)		
	The programme will exacerbate tensions because of where, when or for whom	Use the conflict analysis to design programme Regularly update the conflict analysis and monitor the context	Where it will be implemented When the activities will take place Who the beneficiaries will be
	Specific WASH concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who owns the water source and the land? • Who is upstream/downstream, and how will the WASH project affect them? • Are there groups that are in conflict over WASH issues (nomadic pastoralists/ local farmers; IDP or returnees/local host community)? • Will there be conflict over having to share with different groups regarding status in the community? 		
	Unintended side effects	Assess the potential impact of the project's design before you commence activities. While there will be side-effects, they need to be recognised and mitigated as far as possible	What is the impact of the programme?

	Inappropriate or inadequate links with local government- either too close and perceived as partial, or no links with key influences	<p>Complete full stakeholder analysis</p> <p>Try to understand local dynamics and perceptions</p> <p>Publicise the impartiality and neutrality of the organisation</p>	Appropriateness of association with local governance

Box 2 Case study demonstrating an excellent approach to helping IDPs even while they are likely to move on

Iraq
 Conflict with ISIS has caused several families to be displaced. Many are still in immense need and are still fearful due to the conflict. Families have also suffered incredible trauma. Tearfund is working with the Internally Displaced People (IDP) to provide essential WASH services such a digging kit to dig a latrine pit. A latrine slab and cabin were then delivered and installed on top of the pit allowing for a private, outside latrine. Tearfund also provided jerry cans for water storage, a hand washing station and hygiene items. The team also conducted some hygiene promotion sessions. The items, including the latrine, are all designed to be moveable as the IDP population is still very fluid.

IMPLEMENTATION



Table 3 Main factors to consider during the implementation stage

Activity	Possible negative impacts	Possible positive	Solution	Key thinking
Recruitment	Jealousy if all new staff from one community		Recruit in a transparent and equal opportunity way based on ability and suitability, clearly communicating recruitment decisions to participating stakeholders. Where possible and appropriate, recruit members from across all (or as many as possible) communities involved in the project.	Equal employment opportunities
	Increased tension because of identity of staff		Consider the impact of those working on the programme will have in the community. Think about the ethnicity, religion, political affiliation and nationality of staff	Specific recruitment to the local context
Project implementation	Some groups feel marginalised from WASH programme. Maintains existing inequalities and hierarchies	Reduced tensions over WASH service delivery and basic needs provision	Make sure all groups are represented in the Water User Committee (WUC) to achieve clarity of need and expectation, targeting marginalised groups	Inclusion and basic needs provision
	Think about groups that might find normal WASH services like latrines or wells impractical or unsafe (women, children, people with disabilities)			
		Community can reduce tensions and work together on WASH dividends	Increase capacities for collective action and collaboration on programmes	Community participation
	Staff do not understand complexities of context		Train staff (and communities if possible) in understanding and using conflict sensitivity	Capacity building of staff
Poor facilitation of CLTS could cause conflict through how the community manages people who do not comply with ODF status				

Box 3 Case study showing how the provision of WASH services can reduce tensions within a community

Chuidok Boma- Motot Payam- South Sudan.

Before the Tearfund WASH intervention, the people of Chuidok community were drinking water from the open pond where safe drinking water was a big problem. During the dry season, they experienced water scarcity, causing friction and conflict between clans. This is now in the past as a result of the Tearfund intervention and the water security achieved by 3 bore holes. Five community members from Chuidok were trained as hand pump mechanics to maintain and repair the broken down boreholes.

In spite of continued conflict in the local area with sporadic attacks which result in population movements, the Tearfund local staff and the Water User Committee continue to work to repair boreholes and conduct community / IDP discussions on hygiene and sanitation.



Hand Pump mechanic rehabilitating a borehole in Chuidok (Photo By: William Arop (TF M&E Officer))

MONITORING & EVALUATION



Table 4 Main factors to consider during the monitoring process, relating to both the process itself and the final monitoring product.

Activity	Possible negative impacts	Solution	Key thinking
The monitoring process	An outsider carrying out the monitoring may not understand the context or the programme	Involve partner staff and communities in the monitoring	Who is doing the monitoring
	People feel excluded from giving feedback	Consult both targeted and non-targeted groups Create safe spaces for staff and communities to encourage openness in discussion	Who is being consulted
	People can't see any difference that their participation or feedback is making so feel disenfranchised with the programme	Give regular feedback to community members and staff Make sure all beneficiary feedback is responded to	Being accountable to beneficiaries
Final monitoring product	The monitoring does not affect the programme design resulting in an irrelevant or potentially harmful programme	Do regular monitoring Regularly review the programme design and strategy and make necessary changes	How will the results from the monitoring affect the programme design
	The context has changed (either improved or worsened) but the programme has stayed the same	Do regular monitoring Keep the conflict analysis uptodate	How will the changing context affect the programme design

KEY LEARNING

- Make it standard practice to look for peacebuilding 'entry points' rather than considering them an optional extra which is often ignored
- Undertake thorough and ongoing conflict analysis for all programmes, monitoring programmes' impact on these dynamics and adjusting them accordingly
- Get specialised help from organisations that analyse conflict and work on peacebuilding

USEFUL LINKS

[Tearfund's good practice guide on conflict sensitivity](#) (Tearfund, 2007) This guide gives overview of conflict sensitivity. It explains how to use the conflict analysis tools

[Double Dividends: Exploring how Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Programmes can contribute to Peace- and State- Building](#) (Tearfund, 2013) This report is a summary of a larger study into peace and state building. It provides good research into how a WASH programme can incorporate peace and state building into its programmes

[Roots 4- Peacebuilding within our communities.](#)(Tearfund, 2003) This guide gives good understanding on what is conflict and what the biblical view of reconciliation is. It also provides practical help for peacebuilding

[Conflict Sensitivity Assessment](#) (Tearfund, 2015) This guide explains what a Conflict sensitivity assessment is and how to do it

[Rapid Conflict analysis](#) (Tearfund, 2015) This is a practical guide to doing a conflict analysis where there is little time

[Conflict Sensitivity Checklist](#) (Tearfund, 2015) This checklist is a helpful guide to ensuring conflict sensitivity