

## Step 1

# Why do we need a wash conflict and peace analysis?

## 1.1. Determining the risk of WASH-related conflict

**Figure 3 Shocks and stresses specific to the WASH sector**

(Source – GRIP Module 8, p. 7)



A critical purpose of a CPA is to identify conflict risks in a given context, and to explore the interactions between interventions and risk, so that risk-informed WASH programmes can be developed. UNICEF’s [Guidance for Risk Informed Programming \(GRIP\)](#) recognizes conflict as a distinct risk and suggests specific sources of data to ensure it is captured adequately.<sup>3</sup> The GRIP process and methodology is conducive to embed conflict as part of a child-centred multi-hazard risk assessment, which can be conducive in contexts where pursuing a stand-alone CPA may not be feasible – for example in politically challenging contexts or where resources for a stand-alone analysis are not available. However, the national-level scope and humanitarian risk focus means that subnational conflict dynamics or structural dimensions of conflict may not be adequately captured. Therefore, and if feasible, a specific **CPA can be undertaken to complement the multi-hazard risk assessments.**<sup>4</sup>

**At national level,** a number of complementary tools can support UNICEF country office and WASH teams to determine the country’s risk rating, including conflict. For example, the Institute for Economics and Peace’s Global Peace Index<sup>5</sup> (See [2021 Global Peace Index](#)), the World Bank Group’s [Classification of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations](#),<sup>6</sup> and the [UN Peacebuilding Commission’s Climate Vulnerability](#) score,<sup>7</sup> can help in determining how countries rank relative to one another in terms of conflict risks and fragility. The INFORM<sup>8</sup> global and open-

source risk assessment for humanitarian crises and disasters is a useful platform to leverage conflict-specific data (prevalence and projected risks) at national and subnational levels. The platform generates a conflict risk index per country and the number of people that are likely to be affected, which can help to inform mitigation measures and response targets. UNICEF’s global real-time monitoring dashboard initiative brings diverse spatial layers, from UNICEF presence and activities, to risks and vulnerability factors (including conflict), in order to provide a comprehensive overview of the situation. The dashboards<sup>9</sup> can generate important WASH-relevant conflict data and interactions with other dimensions of risk (e.g. climate change vulnerabilities and natural disasters) to determine WASH relevant conflict risks.

The national data produced through these global initiatives can be triangulated with other national-level conflict risks assessments undertaken by other agencies on the ground such as the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) or the UN Development Programme (UNDP). This data can be overlaid with WASH-relevant indicators (e.g. access to WASH services, water scarcity), and/or any spatial risk assessment or child-centred risk mapping (as per GRIP Module No. 2), to capture potential links between conflict and WASH in specific geographies calling for in-depth and WASH-relevant CPA to further investigate this critical interface.

<sup>3</sup> UNICEF, ‘Guidance on Risk-Informed Programming’, 2018, <https://www.unicef.org/media/95276/file/GRIP-All-Modules.pdf>, Module 8 p. 7

<sup>4</sup> “High-risk countries or areas experiencing armed conflict, civil unrest and/or major threats to social cohesion may consider developing a specific conflict analysis. Given that many conflicts, particularly within states, emerge in response to a belief that a specific group or area is being marginalized, a conflict analysis can improve conflict sensitivity in existing programming and also support the design of programmes to proactively build social cohesion and peace”; See UNICEF, ‘Integrating Humanitarian Response and Development: Programme Framework for Fragile Contexts’, 2018, p. 6.

<sup>5</sup> Institute for Economics and Peace, Global Peace Index 2021: Measuring Peace in a Complex World, June 2021, <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/resources/>.

<sup>6</sup> World Bank Group’s Classification of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations; <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/harmonized-list-of-fragile-situations>

<sup>7</sup> Rüttinger, L. for the Climate Security Expert Network, ‘Climate-Fragility Policy Paper: Climate Change in the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission and Fund’, 2020, <https://climate-diplomacy.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/Climate%20Change%20in%20the%20UN%20Peacebuilding%20Commission%20and%20Fund.pdf>

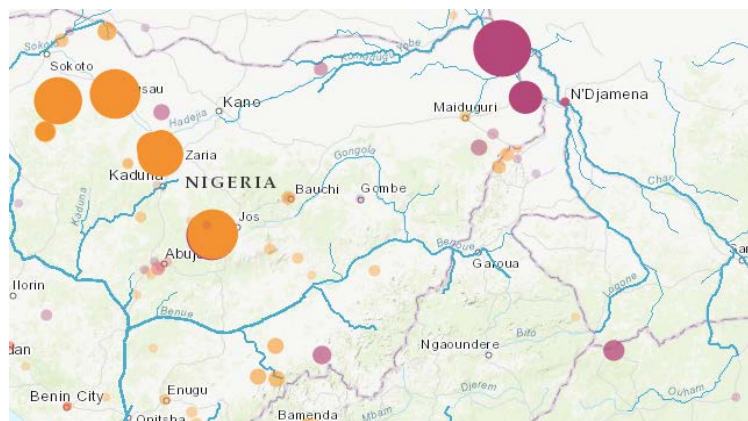
<sup>8</sup> INFORM is a collaboration of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group on Risk, Early Warning and Preparedness and the European Commission; <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Risk>

<sup>9</sup> Currently initiated (either partially or fully running) in 14 countries - Somalia, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Cameroon, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Togo, Sudan, and Ukraine.

## The Nigeria Risk Analysis dashboard



The [Nigeria Risk Analysis](#) dashboard consolidates data across the six geo-political zones of the country, the Nigeria sub-national risk analysis covers 12 different risks at the level of Local Government Areas (LGA), including floods; epidemics; and conflict and violence. This initiative was led by the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, and the National Emergency Management Agency, with support from UNICEF. The objective of this analysis is to mitigate the impact of these multiple risks, by assessing and forecasting the risks people face at community level, understanding related vulnerabilities and capacities, and fostering effective risk management approaches among agencies addressing the same or similar threats.



Risk Monitoring

Current conflict incidents (ACLED)

Event Type

- Protests
- Explosions/Remote violence
- Riots
- Violence against civilians
- Battles
- Strategic developments

At **subnational/local level** guiding questions may help to frame the risk of WASH-related conflict and determine the need to carry out a focused CPA engaging field offices, partners, and/or participating communities to inform interventions. A WASH-focused CPA can help to mitigate risks of taking for granted an apparently conducive environment based on initial consultations and/or a history of collaborative engagement with our government counterparts and other key stakeholders - the often high stakes involved in WASH investments mean that dynamics on the ground can be much more complex than perceived and that these can change rapidly as implementation begins.

Another avenue to **identify WASH-related conflict risks is UNICEF's requirement to integrate Environmental and Social Safeguards**

*The World Bank's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) recommends conflict analysis as a risk-management tool to assess the degree to which a project could exacerbate existing tensions and inequality within society, and be negatively affected by existing tensions, conflict and instability.*

(World Bank, 'The World Bank Environmental and Social Framework', 2017, p. 23.)

10 UNICEF's Social and Environmental Standards and Procedures (SESSP) document outlines the approach that should be taken to screen, assess, and manage the potential social and environmental implications of UNICEF programmes and projects. The Social and Environmental Screening Note (SESN) provides detailed guidance for how the screening component of the SESSP should be undertaken in order to: (1) identify potential social and environmental risks and their significance; (2) determine the project's risk category (low, moderate, high); and (3) determine the level of social and environmental assessment and management required to address potential risks and impacts.

(ESS) to its programmes<sup>10</sup> – this process calls for the screening of risks by programme staff during the design of a donor proposal. Any projects considered 'high risk' must undertake an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), and *if conflict is among the 'high risks' identified, the ESIA must include a robust conflict analysis that informs a conflict sensitivity and conflict management component of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)*. An initial Conflict and Peace Scan (CP Scan, see Step 6.3 'Conflict and Peace Scan – 'good enough' analysis' below) can be implemented as part of an ESIA to determine conflict risks, and the same can be updated periodically to assess the effectiveness of conflict risk management measures included in the ESMP and to ensure relevant programme adaptations.



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## RESOURCE BOX



### Five basic questions determine the likelihood of WASH-related conflict:

1. Do two or more parties hold competing claims on a water resource or WASH service? Does an unequal power relationship exist between the parties?
2. Do water resource/WASH service sharing parties belong to different groups of society? Do tensions unrelated to water/WASH exist between these groups? Is WASH infrastructure deployed across conflict lines so that conflict-affected communities are WASH interdependent?
3. Are water resource/WASH service management mechanisms effective, enforced, and perceived as fair and representative?
4. Is lack of water, flooding, or water resources development impacting health, depriving people of their livelihood, or forcing them to migrate?
5. Do water resource/WASH service management institutions and relevant populations have the capacity to adapt to situations of water variability (scarcity and abundance)?

*Adapted from USAID: Water and Conflict – A Toolkit for Programming, 2014*

## 1.2. Determining the purpose of a WASH-specific CPA

Determining the specific applications of your WASH-specific CPA is an important step in the planning process as this will determine how you 'situate' your enquiry within a number of potential external and/or internal processes, as well as the overall approach and methodology - a **WASH-specific CPA can be developed to:**

- **Inform the design or adaptation of new or existing programmes.** Large-scale and complex WASH programmes require robust and sophisticated CPA - including political economy analysis that examines impacts on livelihoods and power structures - to understand the incentives and disincentives for conflict engagement by key stakeholders that the intervention will interact with. Strategic donor partnerships may necessitate the inclusion of CPA and risk mitigation measures to inform programme development. WASH CPA analysis may be undertaken to develop a baseline to monitor conflict sensitivity and/or to determine social cohesion prevalence or deficits in a given context to enable the measurement of WASH programming contributions to peace outcomes.
- **Support UNICEF's 'upstream' WASH work** – for example a CPA might be implemented to identify the causes and impacts of conflict on children's access to WASH in a particular context to support fundraising efforts or develop an advocacy strategy. A CPA may also be undertaken to support the development of conflict sensitive WASH sector plans or policies at national or local levels.
- **Inform a humanitarian response WASH needs assessment,** whether to inform the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) or Cluster-wide efforts. A CPA could be used to inform and guide the overall WASH humanitarian response ensuring risk-informed and conflict sensitive approaches are integrated.



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- **Integrate a 'humanitarian, development, and peace' (HDP) nexus approach,** as captured in UNICEF's new HDP Nexus Procedure.<sup>11</sup> UNICEF's 'Water Under Fire' identified the HDP Nexus as a critical framework for the WASH sector to support the transition from humanitarian response to development work in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. This transition is not a linear progression - most fragile contexts must simultaneously respond to humanitarian needs in some parts of the country, recovery in others, and development and peace elsewhere. In protracted conflict, multiple phases often occur in the same location and at the same time due to frequent cycles of both conflict and periods of relative stability. Taking into account these overlapping and simultaneous emergency, recovery and development phases within a given context requires robust and regularly updated CPA. A CPA can help to better understand the relevant interactions between WASH and conflict in these diverse and complex contexts and to devise effective humanitarian interventions that build resilience and contribute to peace<sup>12</sup>.

<sup>11</sup> UNICEF, 'Procedure on Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus', Document Number: PROCEDURE/PG/2022/002; Effective Date: 26 September 2022; internal

<sup>12</sup> UNICEF: Water Under Fire – Volume 1, 2019, <https://www.unicef.org/media/58121/file/Water-under-fire-volume-1-2019.pdf>; p. 32



## RESOURCE BOX



### Why a WASH-specific conflict and peace analysis?

1. Existing conflict analysis may be unsuitable, unavailable or insufficient for use by WASH actors - analyses conducted by country-level partners may be at the political economy or 'higher' level and cannot inform the WASH sector about local dynamics
2. Use of other conflict analyses completed by a United Nations mission, OCHA and/or a United Nations Country Team may be restricted, even among other United Nations entities, due to their sensitive nature.
3. In other cases, conflict analysis may be highly decentralized, leaving WASH actors dependent on local actors' capacity to produce up-to-date, quality analyses.
4. In the context of a shrinking humanitarian space, the need to work remotely poses significant challenges to the systematic development of an accurate, context-wide conflict analysis.
5. In many contexts, the situation and dynamics on the ground can change rapidly, calling for light and ongoing conflict scanning – often missing in challenging security environments.
6. WASH experts trained in specific technical skills relevant to the sector may be ill-equipped to engage with conflict analysis or conflict scanning information and adapt service delivery accordingly. There is often no system for monitoring and reporting on the unintended consequences of WASH interventions, both for the purposes of institutional and sector learning, and to improve practice.

Source: UNICEF, 'Water Under Fire', Volume 1, 2019, p. 22

## RESOURCE BOX



### Examples of WASH-specific applications for a CPA:

- Inform the development and/or update of WASH programmes and planning processes to ensure conflict sensitive and peacebuilding approaches are adequately integrated
- Inform a larger national assessment of the WASH country situation, ensuring that there is adequate consideration of conflict risks
- Influence policies, plans and programmes for the reform or strengthening of the WASH sector in FCCs
- Inform WASH preparedness or contingency plans that consider the needs of all persons, including the most vulnerable, in humanitarian response and ensure the integration of a HDP Nexus approach
- Ensure that Cluster/Sector specific guidance for all humanitarian partners consider conflict dynamics within the context
- Ensure that measures of conflict risk and conflict risk reduction are included in national monitoring systems, including those for the WASH sector and water quality monitoring
- Ensure that conflict and multi-hazard risk assessment methodologies used by national WASH directorates or other national authorities consider the special needs, vulnerabilities and capacities girls and boys, and women and men, or that they enable and support children, adolescents and youth to participate in conflict risk assessments
- To open up opportunities to tap into new funding and partnerships around the HDP Nexus

## RESOURCE BOX



### Opportunities for conflict and peace analysis to be integrated into the work of the WASH Cluster in support of HDP Nexus approaches:

- WASH Severity Classification (WSC) contextual analysis tool that could capture conflict-related risks/vulnerabilities;
- Accountability, Quality and Assurance Framework (AQAF) includes surveys on perceptions and safety that could be leveraged to consider conflict and strengthen conflict sensitivity;
- Safety Audits could include questions that capture relevant dimensions of conflict interactions with WASH;
- The overall HNO process can integrate conflict as a distinct dimension of 'needs' and 'impact'.



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