

Step 3

Who should be engaged in a WASH conflict and peace analysis?

The stakeholders to be considered in relation to a CPA include: its target audience, those engaged in the design and implementation, and the research participants.¹⁸ The identification of key CPA stakeholders must be informed by equity, inclusion, and conflict sensitivity – who is included and excluded, and why, needs to be carefully considered to avoid doing harm. For example, research participants may be the eventual beneficiaries of an intervention informed by the analysis, but not in all cases – important issues arise about carefully managing expectations among participants about the ‘benefits’ of their engagement in the analysis.

3.1. Determining the end users

Clearly defining the **end users, audience or readers** for the final CPA outputs (e.g. WASH technical experts/wider audience, internal/external to UNICEF, national/local level stakeholders, adults/children, diverse groups and communities) is critical to its design. Considering this at the earliest stages of design will help to define a number of key parameters for the CPA (e.g. technical and analytical depth, language/translation requirements, inclusive formats and dissemination) with important implications on resources and capacity required. The *intended or unintended audience* will also have important implications for the **sensitivity of the content** – even if a CPA is internal, the possibility of it reaching external audiences must be factored in. Therefore, the scope and focus of the analysis must be designed accordingly, and consultation with relevant stakeholders (e.g. government, civil society) to communicate and define the purpose of the exercise, should be considered – *See CPA Tool 2 ‘Age and Gender-Sensitive WASH Conflict and Peace Analysis Process’ for guidance to treat sensitive issues.*

3.2. Determining the CPA design and implementation team

Who leads the design and implementation of a WASH-specific CPA will depend on the purpose, expertise required, and resources available to undertake it. Adequate financial resources must be allocated in workplans and programme documents to ensure the necessary technical capacity and expertise can be leveraged by UNICEF and its partners. CPA requires a multidisciplinary approach, and depending on the context, may include specialized engineering (e.g. urban planning, rural land planning), legal (e.g. if active conflict knowledge of international humanitarian law), as well as political and socioeconomic knowledge and expertise. These capacity may exist within UNICEF or a partner organization either in-country or at regional/global levels, or it may require outsourcing to assemble the required competencies.

In many cases, working with **research institutions or consultants** to implement a CPA may be the most effective and efficient approach – this may be particularly the case when the analysis is being undertaken as part of broader analyses or assessments (e.g. SitAn, ESIA) and requires specialized technical expertise. The services of such partners can be acquired by UNICEF WASH teams through institutional contracts or consultancies, but also through established Long Term Agreements for Services (LTAs) with organizations that possess conflict and peace analysis expertise. The engagement of international consultants or institutional contractors can ensure that technical specialization is acquired, but conflict sensitivity requires engaging in highly contextualized ways of working and thus ‘balancing’ global perspectives with local knowledge and expertise should be considered (e.g. engaging WASH national staff within UNICEF and/or national partners in planning, design, and implementation of the CPA).

RESOURCE BOX

Guiding questions to identify key CPA stakeholders



- *Who has the regional/context and WASH expertise?*
- *Who has the technical conflict and WASH expertise?*
- *Who has the capacity, resources, time, and language skills?*
- *Who has necessary contacts/relationships to support a WASH-specific conflict analysis?*
- *Who is viewed as trustworthy and inclusive by key WASH stakeholders (internal to UNICEF and external)?*

Source: UNICEF (2016): *Guide to Conflict Analysis*

¹⁸ Adapted from UNICEF, ‘Guide to Conflict Analysis’, 2016, <https://www.unicef.org/media/96581/file/Guide-to-Conflict-Analysis.pdf>

The engagement of **implementing partners** who may have global, regional, or in-country resources and expertise in WASH-specific analysis - *and in the case of local partners also in-depth knowledge of the context* - will create opportunities to tap into that capacity to strengthen the conflict sensitivity of UNICEF-supported WASH interventions implemented with partners. UNICEF country offices and WASH teams may consider reviewing partnership programme documents to integrate conflict sensitivity minimum requirements in FCCs, and specifically the need to carry out a WASH-relevant CPA as the Ethiopia CO example illustrates.

It will be critical that the 'outsourcing' of the analysis does not undermine the uptake of the findings by critical stakeholders such as staff, partners, and communities as relevant. It is recommended that the process to plan, design, and implement the CPA include staff that will eventually use the findings to design and/or adapt interventions and to monitor relevant WASH-conflict interactions. This process and relevant accountabilities must be clearly captured in the ToRs guiding the engagement, including specific steps to accompany the integration of key findings and recommendations.¹⁹

CASE STUDY



In **Lebanon CO**, Search for Common Ground (SfCG) and the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs of the American University of Beirut (IFI) have partnered with UNICEF to undertake a WASH conflict analysis to inform integration of peacebuilding into WASH programmes in targeted locations – the engagement of an international and a local research partner have supported the integration of complementary but distinct capacities and methodologies, while also triangulating data leveraging the academic perspective brought by IFI and the community-based non-academic perspective provided by SfCG. The need to balance the academic contribution was identified through a consultative process between UNICEF and IFI to determine the purpose and needs of the study.



In **Ethiopia CO**, guidance was developed to integrate conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding into partnership development processes - Submission and Approval Forms were updated to capture minimum requirements in conflict sensitivity and criteria to apply a peacebuilding approach - **including the need to conduct a conflict analysis to support emergency and development programming**

RESOURCE BOX

Tapping into WASH-specific conflict analysis expertise:



- **Tap into HQ** – the Conflict Prevention, Fragility and Peacebuilding (CPFP) Team in HQ can support the planning, design, implementation of a conflict analysis
- **Tap into RO expertise** – where programme staff specialized in resilience and risk-informed programming that can be engaged to support
- **Long-term Agreements (LTAs)** with consultants and institutions that can be deployed to support WASH-specific conflict analysis could be pursued at country office levels
- **Seek and build partnerships with global, regional, and in-country research institutions** that can support WASH-specific conflict analysis – balancing international and national expertise and promoting the localization of key processes and actions



¹⁹ UNICEF's Programme Division's Conflict Prevention, Fragility, and Peacebuilding Team can support WASH Teams to develop tailored ToRs and sample ToRS can be obtained through Sharepoint.

In some cases, a simple or rapid CP Scan (*CP Scan, see Step 6.3 below*) is sufficient and can be **undertaken in-house by the WASH team with support from relevant CO sections** (e.g. social policy, planning, M&E) and technical staff with relevant expertise if available (peacebuilding, resilience). WASH national staff are a distinct asset to any CPA, both within and outside of UNICEF (e.g. implementing partners) – they have knowledge of the context and the technical background in WASH and are uniquely equipped to intuitively understand the interactions between conflict and WASH in their communities. However, leveraging national staff's expertise and knowledge of the context must be carefully balanced with safety considerations (e.g. engaging in a CPA may endanger staff), internal conflict sensitivity (e.g. staff may belong to communities engaged or affected by conflict; staff of a particular community may be overrepresented in the research team), and most critically, welfare (e.g. staff may find their engagement with a CPA personally challenging).

Equipping WASH staff, including field office WASH staff, with relevant knowledge and competencies to be able to undertake a basic WASH-relevant CP Scan (and/or to oversee the design and implementation of a more comprehensive analysis), to monitor WASH-conflict interactions, and to translate findings into relevant programme inputs, will be crucial to uphold conflict sensitivity and risk-informed programming minimum requirements – *for more details on how to develop internal capacity to support CPA see the below, and the Capacity Development Guide and Toolkit of this Guidance.*

RESOURCE BOX

Develop internal capacity in WASH conflict analysis:



- Hire technical specialists and/or develop the capacity of existing WASH staff to undertake and/or design and oversee the implementation of WASH-specific conflict analysis
- Encourage WASH staff to undertake UNICEF's online training 'Introduction to risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding programming' to uphold UNICEF's minimum requirements in fragile and conflict affected contexts
- Additional training can be undertaken through the UN System Staff College (UNSSC) who host the Integrated Analysis for Sustaining Peace [here](#)
- HQ's CPFPP team can develop and deliver tailored CO/WASH team trainings and accompaniment here
- Consider the designation of 'conflict sensitivity' focal points in your team and equip and support them to undertake and/or lead the planning, design, and implementation of WASH-specific conflict analysis by external stakeholders
- Support the development of key competencies and skills to enable staff to integrate relevant actions into their day to day work



UNICEF WASH teams can conduct a CPA on their own or jointly with other relevant and strategic sector actors – multi-stakeholder processes such as the UNSDCF, HNO/HRP, national WASH sector policies and plans development, bring together government and non-government counterparts and offer opportunities to promote the integration of conflict sensitive and risk-informed approaches.

WASH stakeholders that could be consulted or fully participate in a WASH conflict analysis process include: *technical counterparts of the ministry or directorate of water, rural development or environment, and its various units and administrative levels; local networks of WASH professionals, public health officials, development partners such as other United Nations agencies, donors, the private sector, academia and bilateral/multilateral entities; and other facets of civil society such as community leaders, NGOs and community-based organizations, and community groups involved in WASH activities.*

Adapted from: UNICEF, 'Guidance on Risk-Informed Programming', 2018, Module 8.

Key strategic partners to support WASH-relevant CPA include the **UN World Food Programme (WFP)** that often conducts conflict analysis to support resilience building and social cohesion strengthening interventions examining water scarcity²⁰ and the **UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** who has developed a guidance to carry out conflict analysis and has conducted

conflict analysis examining the role of water access and resource management in conflict.²¹ The **UN Development Programme (UNDP)** has a distinct mandate and capacity in conflict and peace, while also supporting WASH through its adaptive water governance and integrated water resource management programming. UNDP led the development of the **Conflict and Development Analysis (CDA)** tool, now adopted by the UN family as the flagship tool to analysis conflict and inform peacebuilding programming. A collaboration with UNDP can leverage their CDA methodology to analyse the relationship between water and conflict through a political economy and governance lens – and specifically how natural resources including water relate to ownership, production and distribution of wealth, and power relations and transitions.²²

A key strategic partner that can be engaged to support a WASH CPA includes the **WASH Cluster**. One of the core functions of the WASH Cluster coordination platform is to support analysis of WASH humanitarian needs, and these frequently intersect with conflict dynamics and impacts. The WASH Cluster Coordinators, with the support of Information Management Officers (IMOs), set up the WASH sector assessment and analysis strategy to define the information needs, make necessary arrangements to gather required data, and plan the type and level of relevant analysis.²³ This provides opportunities to leverage data being collected by others and/or to advocate and collaborate with the WASH Cluster and partners to integrate a conflict and peace lens to conflict sensitize the same. The engagement of the WCC and Partners will also strengthen sector capacity to undertake and integrate the findings of CPA into WASH emergency planning, preparedness, and response and to promote a **triple nexus approach** by engaging humanitarian and development WASH stakeholders to jointly examine and respond to conflict risks.

If feasible, relevant national ministries or technical directorates or departments responsible for WASH services should be consulted or engaged in the development and implementation of a CPA. Engaging WASH authorities at national and/or local levels will promote integration into sector plans and policies, but may necessitate adapting the scope and focus to ensure buy-in and uptake of government counterparts. Whether UNICEF supports or leads, strong ownership and steering by UNICEF senior management will be critical to ensure the participation of higher-level national counterparts. UNICEF country offices may consider establishing joint accountability and management structures²⁴ such as steering committees with national counterparts and/or strategic partners participating that can oversee the planning, design, and implementation of the analysis – comparable arrangements can be made at subnational level to match the geographic scope of the analysis. Setting up such structures will not only support coordination, but can also help to **'share' the risks of undertaking a CPA in politically sensitive contexts**. Conflict and peace data can potentially be threatening to authorities in some contexts, and so transparent and credible assessments conducted jointly might be more appropriate – if a joint assessment is deemed unfeasible or too sensitive the country office and WASH team must decide an appropriate 'framing' and modality (e.g. internal, part of a child-centred and broader enquiry about WASH equity, or impacts of conflict on children's enjoyment of WASH rights). In some cases, national authorities lead platforms to collect and analyse conflict data as part of a broader disaster and risk management efforts or as part of national peacebuilding effort, as is the case in Kenya as captured in the example below. If this is the case, the leveraging of such government-sanctioned resources can help to navigate sensitivities of conducting a CPA noting the need to ensure the independence and integrity of the exercise.

20 For example see World Food Programme (WFP), 'Prospects for Resilience Amid Fragility: Conflict Analysis of Al-Qurna and Al-Dair Districts in Basra Governorate', 2022, https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000137616/download/?_ga=2.110880134.2067978521.1648798396-508528534.1648798396;

21 For example see Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO): 'Guide To Context Analysis Informing FAO Decision-Making - Approaches to working in fragile and conflict-affected contexts', 2019, <https://www.fao.org/3/ca5968en/CA5968EN.pdf>;
FAO: 'The Niger – Analysis of conflicts over transhumance in Diffa region', 2021, <https://www.fao.org/3/cb6957en/cb6957en.pdf>;

22 UNDP, 'Conducting a Conflict & Development Analysis; Module 12 - Using the CDA for Thematic Conflict Links: Natural Resources', 2017 <https://www.undp.org/publications/conducting-conflict-and-development-analysis>, p. 174

23 <https://washcluster.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/CTK/pages/10782377/WASH+SOF>

24 UNICEF, 'Guidance on Risk-Informed Programming', 2018, <https://www.unicef.org/media/95276/file/GRIP-All-Modules.pdf>, Module 8, p. 6.

CASE STUDY



UNICEF Kenya WASH colleagues used the resources available at the Government's National Steering Committee on Peace Building and Conflict Management Platform <https://www.nscpeace.go.ke/> to understand conflict dynamics and map hotspots to inform the WASH emergency minimum preparedness actions (MPAs) in Western Kenya during the 2017 general elections. The Platform is a valuable resource that can inform the contextual analysis for new WASH programme or expansion of a WASH programme to a new area.



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3.3. Engaging communities

The participation of communities targeted by a WASH CPA offers an opportunity to enhance its relevance and to promote principled approaches to the same. Defining who the subject of the enquiry is and how they will be engaged is critical and the below must be carefully considered:

- **Diversity and inclusion** – How will you ensure that your data are as reflective of all social groups and identities as possible? Working with partners (government, civil society and other international organizations) can help to identify people and groups to include in your data-gathering efforts.
- **Age and Gender sensitivity** – How will you ensure that both your process and outcomes are gender-sensitive (ensuring the equal, consistent and meaningful participation of women, men, girls, and boys) and age sensitive (ensuring they respond to the needs of children and young people)?
- **Accessibility and inclusion** – How will you ensure that you can actually access the people and data you need? Working with trusted partners can be a major resource for gaining access to people, areas and information, particularly those traditionally excluded from participation in community-based research
- **Conflict sensitivity** – How will you ensure that your CPA efforts 'do no harm', for example rising expectations of assistance in exchange for participation or through the exclusion of a particular group causing grievances? Carefully consider the safety and security of those sharing information for the analysis (as well as UNICEF staff and partners), movement restrictions, risks of association with UNICEF, and what language would be appropriate in contexts where there is sensitivity around the explicit use of words such as 'conflict' and 'peace'?²⁵

The perspectives of women and girls in WASH-specific CPA are critical – they experience distinct WASH-related conflict impacts but also bring distinct perspectives, agency, and capacities to identify and unpack WASH-relevant conflict issues to be analysed and subsequently monitored. A CPA should visibly and specifically integrate actions to ensure that space is created to capture voices and representation of both women and men, girls and boys, in relation to the WASH and conflict interactions that are relevant to them:

- **During the design phase**, ensure meaningful participation of women and girls, as well as men and boys, in developing the approach, methodology, and tools, so that relevant data can then be captured.
- **During the implementation**, keep in mind that 'participatory activities' do not automatically ensure that women and girls' voices are heard or that their perspectives are considered - obstacles for woman and girls to participate in social settings, in leadership and in decision-making, must be identified and proactively addressed. This may require segregating some activities by age and sex to allow for more open and honest sharing, but also convene mixed group interactions that can provide valuable insight into important dynamics between sexes and ages around WASH-conflict interactions. Mixed group interactions, however, should be facilitated with care and conflict sensitivity to avoid breaking and disrespecting social norms and/or fuelling tensions among participants.
- **Ensure that all activities are conducted in a gender-sensitive way** by those implementing the CPA – WASH team, partners, contractors - facilitators should have a basic understanding of how the relative status of women and girls and men and boys in that community might be reflected in any activities conducted and/or affected by their participation in the CPA.²⁶

²⁵ Adapted from UNICEF, 'Guide to Conflict Analysis', 2016, <https://www.unicef.org/media/96581/file/Guide-to-Conflict-Analysis.pdf>

²⁶ Ibid

Make sure to build in opportunities to **engage children and adolescents in community-based participatory data-collection** activities and to deploy suitable methodologies that integrate robust ethical standards²⁷ and safeguarding mechanisms.²⁸ Child-friendly methodologies require skilled and trained facilitation and oversight, as well as explicit and informed consent. Support, from families and communities to create a conducive and safe environment is critical. If schools in the target areas of the CPA have active 'WASH in School' clubs, they can be leveraged to assist with data collection and analysis in age-appropriate ways, and to facilitate the participation of children and adolescents in their school and community – including out of school children. UNICEF has leveraged its WASH in Schools programming in the Pacific to develop guidance and useful and adaptable resources to promote participation of children as agents for change, which can be adapted to support WASH-relevant and child-centred CPA.²⁹

The role of adolescents and/or young people in the CPA will be critical to ensure that their experiences, perspectives, agency, and capacity in relation to WASH and conflict are captured. Adolescents (10-19 years old) and/or young people (15-24) play distinct roles and responsibilities in access and management of water resources and have distinct WASH service needs. These intersect with gender in meaningful ways that need to be considered in an inclusive CPA. Adolescents and/or young people are often distinctly engaged in conflict (e.g. as child soldiers, as survivors of gender and age-specific violence and exploitation), with important inter-generational dimensions of their agency and experience (e.g. adults in their families and communities may be perpetrators of such direct and indirect forms of violence, elders in their communities may 'instrumentalize' or blame

adolescents and young people for driving conflict). Carefully managed gender and age sensitive participatory action research can provide opportunities to better understand these dynamics and to positively influence and transform the same. UNICEF's [Engaging Adolescents in Conflict Analysis](#) note and [UNFPAs Youth, Peace and Security - A Programming Handbook](#) provide useful guidance on how to facilitate the participation of adolescents in CPA – *See CPA Tool 2 – Age and Gender-Sensitive WASH Conflict and Peace Analysis Process for guiding questions to integrate adolescents and youth perspectives.*

During armed conflict, the lives of **children with disabilities** are affected by deteriorating services, increasing need and deepening poverty, while the destruction of infrastructure can create physical barriers that reduce access to critical WASH services. Children and adults with disabilities are often overlooked in access to humanitarian assistance, this can be due to lack of awareness, inaccessibility, stigma and discrimination, or to lack of capacity of humanitarian personnel, among other factors.³⁰ It is therefore imperative that an analysis of WASH-conflict interactions integrates a disability lens. Whether you are specifically exploring the WASH-relevant interactions between conflict and disability in a given context, or ensuring the inclusion of persons living with disabilities in your conflict and peace analysis, there are specific considerations to ensure your analysis captures the distinct experiences, perspectives, and capacities of children, adolescents, and young people living with disabilities. **UNICEF's Make it Count** Guidance offers useful tips and checklists on how to design participatory and inclusive data-collection and monitoring tools that can be adapted to inform a CPA.³¹ **UNICEF's Take Us Seriously** promotes and supports disability-inclusive research approaches for and by children with disabilities, including in FCCs.³²

From the design phases to the final compilation, writing, and dissemination of the analysis, all stages of the **CPA should be considered as an intervention with the potential for negative impacts** on the context and participating communities - relevant considerations of equity, inclusion, and conflict sensitivity must be applied. Whether WASH teams undertake community-based CPA or CP Scan, or partners do so as part of UNICEF-supported programmes, the **potential negative impacts should be considered and mitigated to support a 'Do No Harm' approach** – for example in relation to who controls or manages the water systems and/or access to WASH services, or potentially culturally-sensitive topics like women's hygiene and open defecation that might require splitting communities into groups where such topics can be broached safely – *See CPA Tool 2 'Age and Gender-Sensitive WASH Conflict and Peace Analysis Process' for guidance on how to integrate Do No Harm considerations.*



27 UNICEF Procedure on Ethical Standards in Research, Evaluation, Data Collection And Analysis (2021) - Document Number: CF/PD/DRP/2015-001 v.2 March 2021; Effective Date: April, 2021; <https://www.unicef-irc.org/files/documents/d-4221-Final-Procedure-Ethical-Standards-Evidence-2021.pdf>

28 UNICEF (2016): Policy on Conduct Promoting the Protection and Safeguarding of Children; Executive Directive CF/EXD/2016-006 1 July 2016; <https://www.unicef.org/supply/media/886/file/Policy%20on%20Conduct%20Promoting%20the%20Protection%20and%20Safeguarding%20of%20Children.pdf>

29 UNICEF, 'Effective approaches to engage and empower children as Agents of Change in WASH in Schools: Documentation of WASH in Schools approaches in the Pacific', 2019, https://livelearn.org/assets/media/docs/resources/O3-Children-as-Agents_Digital.pdf

30 UNICEF, 'Children with Disabilities in Situations of Armed Conflict – Discussion Paper', 2018, https://sites.unicef.org/disabilities/files/Children_with_Disabilities_in_Situations_of_Armed_Conflict-Discussion_Paper.pdf

31 UNICEF, "'Make it Count': Guidance on disability inclusive WASH programme data collection, monitoring and reporting', 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/media/114921/file/WASH%20Disability%20Toolkit.pdf>

32 UNICEF, 'TAKE US SERIOUSLY! Engaging Children with Disabilities in Decisions Affecting their Lives', 2013, https://sites.unicef.org/disabilities/files/Take_Us_Seriously.pdf