

Step 4

Where and at what level to implement a WASH conflict and peace analysis?

An important choice to design a fit for purpose WASH CPA, and closely related to its purpose and the type of prevalent WASH-conflict interactions, is the 'situation' of the same – both in terms of **geography** (target locations) but also in terms of the **level** at which we 'pitch' the enquiry (e.g. regional, national, subnational). UNICEF's upstream and downstream work presents opportunities for influence and impact at different levels, and to integrate the findings of WASH-specific CPA in sector policies and plans at national and local levels, as well as into interventions targeting affected communities. UNICEF's strong partnerships with national WASH authorities, as well as with local government and communities through its extensive field presence, provide opportunities to develop and implement conflict sensitive and risk-informed WASH interventions at national scale but also highly localized.

The **choice of geographic scope and level of analysis must consider relevant opportunities and constraints.** For example, macro-level conflict issues might be harder to tackle and may require multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder interventions, but this level of analysis might be needed to ensure advocacy and upstream work is conflict sensitive and risk-informed. On the other hand, micro-level issues might be easier to tackle and a focus on localized conflict dynamics may provide a more conducive environment for UNICEF WASH teams to engage with local authorities and communities leveraging field presence and strong local partnerships. However, an effective and relevant localized analysis will require an examination of structural/root causes that are often linked to national systems and processes, whilst local conflict dynamics will often be susceptible to national-level events and change. A complementary approach may be the most suitable option aiming to 'balance' geographic scope and levels of analysis to ensure a comprehensive yet nuanced enquiry – examples from Lebanon and Central African Republic are shared to illustrate.

CASE STUDY

Water as a Catalyst for Peace – balancing geographic scope and levels of analysis:



In **Lebanon**, an initial macro-level mapping of relevant dimensions of WASH-related conflict by the American University of Beirut (AUB) e.g. water availability, vulnerability, poverty, religious and political tensions, population growth, livelihood diversity, was undertaken to identify 'geographic hotspots' – AUB and Search for Common Ground (SfCG) then carried out a social network analysis at various levels (political, municipal and community-level) in these areas to identify key stakeholders and programming entry points to develop pilot projects to reduce conflict and build peace through WASH in these locations.



In **Central African Republic**, a national level and multi-sectorial conflict analysis was undertaken to inform the CPD and a complementary WASH-specific and participatory action research component implemented focusing on two distinct locations that will inform programme adaptation.



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