

WASH for Peace

Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding
Guidance and Tools for the WASH Sector





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A dedicated cohort of UNICEF WASH staff volunteered to participate in a co-development process to create content for the Guidance as part of a Technical Advisory Group, including:

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¹ The survey reached 130 UNICEF WASH staff, including a significant participation of national staff (53% of respondents) and field office staff (39%), ensuring the Guidance is grounded in the experiences at the front line of programme delivery. The survey also sought inputs from colleagues typically engaged in designing and developing programmes (46% of respondents from COs and 59% management and programme specialists)

² The consultative process to develop the Guidance involved 92 stakeholders including UNICEF staff and external counterparts. This was followed by several months of interactive meetings with 78 UNICEF staff across all regional offices, including 24 country offices, and including five WASH Cluster Coordinators, through which exemplary good practices, valuable lessons learned, and illustrative case studies were elicited

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Acronyms

AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations
ACLED	Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project
AFD	France Development Agency (AFD)
AUB-IFI	American University of Beirut's Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CCA	UN Common Country Analysis
CCCs	UNICEF Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian in Humanitarian Action
CDA	Conflict and Development Analysis
CE	community engagement
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
CO	UNICEF country office
CPA	Conflict and Peace Analysis
CPD	UNICEF Country Programme Document
CPFP	UNICEF Conflict Prevention, Fragility and Peacebuilding Team
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CS	conflict sensitivity
CSPB	conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding
CSI	Core Standard Indicator
CVE	Countering violent extremism
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EPP	UNICEF Emergency Preparedness Platform
ESIA	Environmental & Social Impact Assessment
ESMP	Environmental & Social Management Plan
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguards
FAO	UN Food and Agriculture Organization
FCC	fragile and conflict-affected context
FCDO	Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office
FGDs	focus group discussions
GDP	gross domestic product
GRIP	Guidance on Risk-Informed Programming
GYPI	UN PBF Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative
HAC	UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children
HDPN	Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IASG	Inter-agency Standing Committee
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IEP	Institute for Economics & Peace
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	Cluster Information Management Officers (IMOs)
IP	Implementing Partner
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KAP	knowledge, attitudes, & perceptions
KIIs	key informant interviews
LTA	UNICEF Long Term Agreements for Services
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
MFA	Netherlands Ministry for Foreign Affairs
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services
NGO	non-governmental organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Assistance Committee
PBEA	UNICEF Peacebuilding Education and Advocacy Programme
PBF	UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund
PbR	payment by results
PCAs	UNICEF Partnership Cooperation Agreements
PDs	UNICEF Programme Documents
PPF	UNICEF's Peacebuilding Programming Framework
PRIO	Peace Research Institute, Oslo
PSEA	prevention of sexual exploitation & abuse
PVE	preventing violent extremism
RBM	results-based management
RO	UNICEF Regional Office
RPBA	Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment
R-WASH	Regional Water and Sanitation Programme for Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, and Host Communities in East Africa
SBC	social and behaviour change
SBCC	social and behaviour change communication
SDC	Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDM	Service Delivery Model
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SSFAs	UNICEF Small-Scale Funding Agreements
SitAn	UNICEF Country Office Situation Analysis
SNA	Social Network Analysis
SP	UNICEF Strategic Plan
T4D	Technology for Development
ToC	theory of change
ToR	terms of reference
TPMs	UNICEF Third Party Monitors
UN	United Nations
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCT	UN country team
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNECE	UN Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNHCR	UN High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
UN PBSO	UN Peacebuilding Support Office
UNSDCF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UN SCR	UN Security Council Resolution
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WASHBAT	WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool
WASHCO	WASH Committee
WCC	WASH Cluster Coordinators
WHO	World Health Organization
WiE	WASH in emergency
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
YPI	UN PBF Youth Promotion Initiative
YPS	Youth, Peace and Security





WASH for Peace

Executive summary

Introducing the WASH for Peace Guidance and Tools

The WASH for Peace Guidance and Tools builds on **UNICEF's Peacebuilding Programming Framework**³ and aims to equip UNICEF staff, sector partners and counterparts with resources and tools to develop and implement effective WASH for Peace interventions in fragile and conflict-affected contexts (FCCs).

There are important opportunities for WASH to contribute to build and sustain peace, but a recent evaluation of UNICEF WASH programming noted that many such opportunities are missed.⁴ This is due to a number of factors: programmes in FCCs often fail to articulate explicit peacebuilding outcomes; M&E systems in the WASH sector do not systematically track social changes, making it difficult to detail contributions of WASH programming to conflict prevention and peacebuilding; and there is a lack of institutional capacity, for example to develop and implement conflict and peace analysis and integrate findings to support conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding interventions. The Guidance and Tools can help to develop much-needed staff and sector capacity, and support the development of conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding WASH programming. It can inform new *and* existing programmes, and support UNICEF country offices, WASH teams, sector partners and national counterparts to identify and leverage opportunities and develop contributions to broader multi-stakeholder peacebuilding collective outcomes.⁵

The WASH for Peace Guidance is structured in a modular way around five complementary Guides & Toolkits. These documents sequentially support the whole programme/intervention cycle, but they can also be used as stand-alone resources. Each of the Guides is accompanied by an Annex that contains tools to support application of the approaches and actions proposed in the Guidance.

RESOURCE BOX



Interactive and visual navigation features

The document includes a series of visual and interactive features to assist the reader navigating the different guidance sections and tools. Each thematic guidance and supporting toolkit are colour coded for easy identification: the **Conflict and Peace Analysis** section is purple; the **Programming section** is orange; **M&E** is yellow; **Capacity Development** green; and **Partnerships** is dark blue. Clicking on the titles found in the Tables of Content (main and of each thematic guide and toolkit) will automatically take you to the start of each relevant section and sub-sections. Across the entire document, the lined icon above the page number at the top right hand corner of each page will take you back to the main Table of Content; while the colour lines on the outer edge of each page will take you to the beginning of each relevant thematic guide. In the text, hyperlinks are clearly marked (*blue italics*) to relevant sections appear to aid quick cross-referencing. Finally, mini case studies (globe and magnifying glass) and resource boxes (light bulb) are also clearly identified by distinct icons to facilitate their identification.



³ United Nations Children's Fund, *Peacebuilding Programming Framework*, UNICEF, New York, 2023; upcoming June 2023.

⁴ Interpeace for UNICEF, *Thematic case study on WASH and peacebuilding*, 2020, p. 6; internal.

⁵ For example, through the UN Common Country Analysis (CCA) UNICEF can advocate for and include WASH for Peace child-centered data to inform its contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) peacebuilding collective outcomes. It can support efforts to better monitor the interactions between WASH programmes and conflict, and assess the contributions to peace of WASH interventions in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

Age and Gender-Sensitive Conflict and Peace Analysis (CPA)

Guide & Toolkit: This guide provides a framework and step by step guidance to design and implement a WASH-relevant and age/gender-sensitive conflict and peace analysis (CPA). Four tools are included to support the process of planning, designing and implementing a CPA:

CPA Tool 1 – Age and Gender-Sensitive WASH Conflict and Peace Analysis Framework

CPA Tool 2 – Age and Gender-Sensitive WASH Conflict and Peace Analysis Process

CPA Tool 3 – Age and Gender-Sensitive WASH Conflict and Peace Scan

CPA Tool 4 – Sample Conflict and Peace Analysis Tools

Conflict Sensitivity & Peacebuilding M&E Guide & Toolkit:

The M&E Guide and Toolkit outlines practical steps to guide the development of results frameworks and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plans to support WASH programming contributions to peace in FCCs. The Guide includes the following tools to support operationalization:

M&E Tool 1 – Conflict Sensitive and Peacebuilding WASH M&E Planning Tool

M&E Tool 2 – UNICEF Strategic Plan Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Core Standard Indicators (CSI)

M&E Tool 3 – Monitoring Attacks against WASH: the Geneva List of Principles

Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide & Toolkit: The guide outlines the steps to integrate the findings of conflict and peace analysis into programming to strengthen conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding approaches to WASH. The guide identifies potential WASH contributions to building and sustaining peace, and accompanies readers through the decision-making process for conflict sensitive and peacebuilding programme design and/or adaptation.

The guide is supported by six tools:

Programming Tool 1 – ‘Good Enough’ WASH in Emergencies Conflict Sensitivity Tool

Programming Tool 2 – WASH for Peace ToC Tool

Programming Tool 3 – Conflict-Sensitive WASH Programming Tool

Programming Tool 4 – Peacebuilding WASH Programming Tool

Programming Tool 5 – Guide to integrating a gender lens into WASH for Peace Programming

Programming Tool 6 – Guide to integrating climate resilience, conflict sensitivity, and peacebuilding – identifying and leveraging opportunities to ‘climate proof’ WASH for Peace programming

Programming Tool 7 – WASH for Peace Internal and External Advocacy Strategy Canvas

Programming Tool 8 – Sample WASH for Peace messages

Capacity Development Guide & Toolkit: This guide and toolkit provide pathways and resources to develop the capacity of WASH teams and other relevant UNICEF staff, as well as external capacity including that of implementing partners and other relevant stakeholders. The guide was developed to be used as a capacity development resource and includes step-by-step guidance and tools that can be used by country offices and WASH teams, including:

Capacity Development Tool 1 – Sample WASH Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Focal Points Guide

Capacity Development Tool 2 – Conflict sensitivity competencies

Partnerships Guide & Toolkit – leveraging capacity and resources:

This guide briefly explores the range of partnerships available to UNICEF to support the integration of conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding to WASH. Partnerships are the backbone of UNICEF’s work on the ground and, as the WASH sector embraces conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding as critically important approaches in FCCs, so new and strengthened partnerships must be developed to engage the right capacity and expertise. The guide includes the following tool to support partnership development:

Partnerships Tool 1 – Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Partner Capacity Assessment Tool



WASH for Peace

Introduction

The impacts of conflict on children and their rights to WASH

Conflicts pose a significant threat to the safety and well-being of children, and the number of children directly affected by conflict is massive and increasing – 420 million children (nearly one in five) live in areas affected by armed conflict and fragility and by 2030 this figure is likely to rise by 80 per cent if nothing is done to prevent it.⁶ Children who live in extremely fragile contexts are three times as likely to practice open defecation, four times as likely to lack basic sanitation services, and eight times as likely to lack basic drinking water services. Children under the age of 15 who are living in conflict are on average nearly three times more likely to die from diseases linked to unsafe water and sanitation than from direct violence. In conflicts, deliberate and indiscriminate attacks destroy water infrastructure, injure personnel, and cut off the power that keeps water systems running. Attacks on water systems directly impact children – when clean water becomes unavailable children are forced to rely on unsafe water, putting them at risk of disease.⁷ Conflict-induced displacement compounds these vulnerabilities and is on the rise – UNHCR estimates that 35 million (42 per cent) of forcibly displaced people by the end of 2020 were children below 18 years of age and the majority of those displaced are fleeing conflict and violence.⁸ **The interplay between conflict, climate change impacts, and the COVID-19 pandemic, has worsened the plight of children globally**, further stretching WASH systems and services in fragile and conflict-affected contexts and worsening the poverty and inequality that drives fragility and conflict. The prospects of children who live in fragile and conflict-affected contexts will determine their societies' ability to stop recurring cycles

of conflict and to build and sustain peace, and peace is directly and closely linked with the realization of children's rights to WASH.⁹

UNICEF's 'Water Under Fire' study highlighted how exclusion from services such as water and sanitation can fuel grievances and lead to violence.¹⁰ Moreover, despite good intentions, WASH interventions in fragile and conflict-affected contexts are at risk of unintentionally worsening conflict or contributing to wider conflict dynamics. The choice of where to drill boreholes, how to share and manage resources among refugee/internally displaced populations and host communities, whether to allow water points to be used for crops and/or livestock, and how to govern water resources, distribution and/or access to WASH services in contexts where exclusion is prevalent, can all be contentious issues that if not managed effectively can escalate into conflict. WASH interventions have not systematically considered how programming decisions can intersect with larger social, political, economic, cultural and environmental factors, and in turn contribute to, or exacerbate, conflict dynamics. Conflict and peace analysis is essential to understand how WASH interventions may worsen tensions and conflict or potentially address and resolve these issues.¹¹

WASH can also be a catalyst for peace – The OECD has identified WASH as a 'politically neutral' service system, which can serve as a platform for social cooperation and partnerships between citizens and government.¹² As with other social services, WASH can serve as

an important peace dividend if it is associated with the cessation of violence and as an additional benefit of a peace process or agreement between divided communities. Establishing more accountable and transparent mechanisms for water governance, which bridge state and non-state stakeholders, can lead to more effective water management and increased trust in the government, thus building vertical social cohesion. WASH programming can create incentives for joint action and provide platforms for collaboration that allow community-level trust and horizontal social cohesion to be strengthened.¹³

Gender and age intersect in important ways that enable or constrain WASH's ability to build and sustain peace – The integration of a 'gender lens' can amplify the positive impacts of WASH programmes on peace, by reducing the distinct vulnerabilities of women and girls in FCCs and by engaging them meaningfully in the pursuit of inclusive solutions and promoting their role as agents of peaceful change in their communities. A UNICEF evaluation of its engagement of young people in peacebuilding found that young women and girls were grossly underrepresented in some programmes – whether as programme implementers or programme beneficiaries.¹⁴ One in four of the world's 1.8 billion young people live in countries affected by armed conflict and organized violence. Even though young people are typically identified as the most common victims of conflict and violence and frequently singled out as perpetrators, they have also been a vital agent for peace and security in their communities and societies.¹⁵

6 UNICEF, 'UNICEF & Sustaining Peace: Strengthening the Socio-Economic Foundations of Peace through Education, Young People's Engagement & WASH', 2020 (UNICEF Thematic Paper Contribution United Nations Secretary-General's 2020 Peacebuilding & Sustaining Peace Report) <https://www.unicef.org/media/96551/file/Thematic-paper-for-2020-sg-report-mf.pdf>

7 UNICEF, 'Fast facts: WASH in conflict', 2019 <https://www.unicef.org/stories/fast-facts-water-sanitation-hygiene-conflict>

8 Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Global Internal Displacement Database, <https://www.internal-displacement.org/database/displacement-data>

9 UNICEF, 'UNICEF & Sustaining Peace: Strengthening the Socio-Economic Foundations of Peace through Education, Young People's Engagement & WASH', (UNICEF Thematic Paper Contribution United Nations Secretary-General's 2020 Peacebuilding & Sustaining Peace Report), <https://www.unicef.org/media/96551/file/Thematic-paper-for-2020-sg-report-mf.pdf>

10 UNICEF's 2019 'Water Under Fire' initiative starkly illustrated the relationship between WASH conflict and peace, framing UNICEF's position and setting out an agenda for the WASH sector to contribute to the prevention of conflict and to building and sustaining peace, <https://www.unicef.org/stories/water-under-fire>

11 UNICEF, *Water Under Fire Volume I*, 2019 <https://www.unicef.org/media/58121/file/Water-under-fire-volume-1-2019.pdf>

12 Organisation For Economic Co-Operation and Development, 'Service Delivery in Fragile Situations - Key Concepts, Findings and Lessons', 2008, <https://www.oecd.org/dac/conflict-fragility-resilience/docs/40886707.pdf>;

13 UNICEF, 'The Contribution of Social Services to Peacebuilding and Resilience: Evolving Theory and Practice', 2015 http://www.erinmccandless.net/uploads/3/1/5/5/31558725/the_contribution_of_social_services_to_peacebuilding_and_resilience_-_unicef_study_final.pdf

14 UNICEF Evaluation Office, UNICEF Engagement with Young People in Peacebuilding - Formative Evaluation; internal, 2020, p. iv

15 Ibid., p. xii.

The 2030 Sustaining Peace Agenda identified the specific contribution that WASH could make to realize SDG16 and the promotion of ‘just, peaceful and inclusive societies’ through the establishment of a High Level Panel on ‘Water for Peace’ with UNICEF as a contributor.¹⁶ The potential for WASH to build and sustain peace is clearly articulated in **UNICEF’s 2022–2025 Strategic Plan (SP)**, in which peacebuilding is a critical cross-cutting programming contribution to the realization of UNICEF’s renewed ambition to serve children in FCCs. Through the SP’s Goal Area 4, UNICEF recognizes that ‘inadequate WASH service provision can lead to [...] tensions between states and their citizens or among groups within societies’, and that there is a need for a strategic shift to ‘strengthen peacebuilding in WASH programming’. Under Goal Area 4, the SP makes the link between resilience and peacebuilding explicit: “Reducing the vulnerabilities resulting from scarcity of natural resources is also an important contributor to reducing fragility and increasing social cohesion.” It also notes the need to adopt a ‘triple nexus’ approach¹⁷ to WASH in Emergencies to address fragility and conflict effectively and sustainably.¹⁸ Working within the humanitarian-development nexus to strategically shift to integrate peacebuilding into WASH programming is planned as one of the outputs.¹⁹

The Guidance aims to help UNICEF and its WASH sector partners realize the ambitions set out by the above global and organizational commitments in practical but meaningful ways, and fill a gap in programmatic guidance to realize the full potential of WASH programming to prevent conflict, reduce fragility, and build and sustain peace.

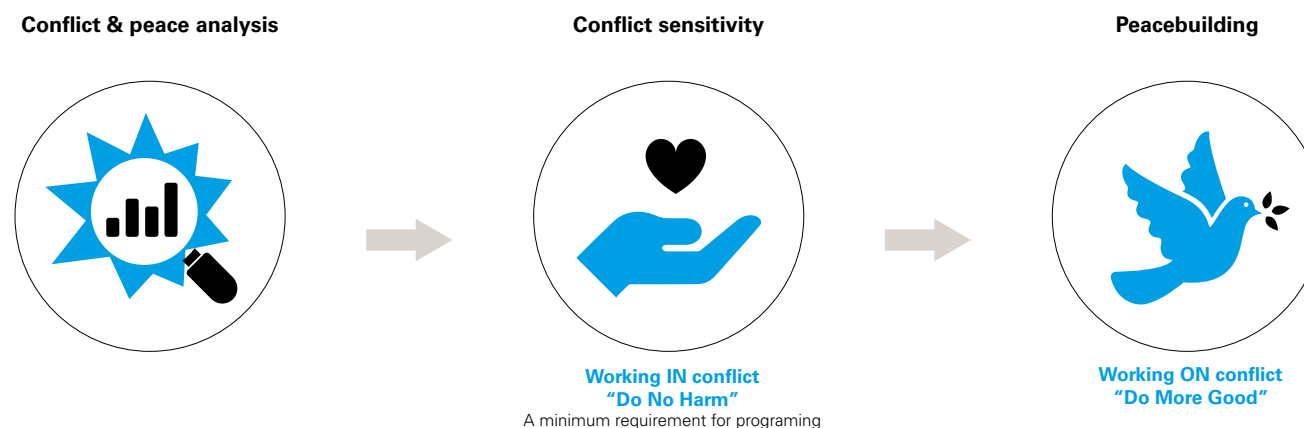
UNICEF’s approach to sustaining peace – key concepts

UNICEF’s approach to sustaining peace is described in detail in UNICEF’s Peacebuilding Programming Framework (PPF), which outlines the overall organizational theory of change and entry points, and frames the distinct contribution that UNICEF-supported programming can make to addressing fragility and conflict. For UNICEF, a child rights-based and gender-sensitive conflict and peace analysis is the first step towards conflict-sensitive programming. Conflict sensitive programming is the foundation upon which peacebuilding programming can then be developed and implemented. This programming logic is shown in Figure 1 below:

In the UNICEF context, **conflict sensitivity** (framed as ‘do no harm’) is a minimum requirement in **fragile²⁰ and conflict-affected contexts (FCCs)** and defined as developing and implementing programmes to work most effectively *in* conflict, principally through:

- Understanding the conflict context;
- Carefully considering the interactions between planned or ongoing WASH interventions and the conflict context;
- Acting upon the understanding in WASH programme design and implementation, to minimize potential negative impacts; and
- Responding to changes in conflict dynamics by adjusting programming during implementation.²¹

Figure 1 UNICEF peacebuilding programming logic



16 Ibid.

17 The triple nexus approach refers to the humanitarian, development, peace (HDP) nexus, an approach that seeks to strengthen the linkages between humanitarian, development, and peace programmes with the aim of addressing needs, reducing risks and vulnerabilities in an equitable manner, and preventing crises and conflicts, through improved coordination, coherence, and complementarity, joint analysis and, where relevant and feasible, joint up programming – see UNICEF’s Procedure on Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus; PROCEDURE/PG/2022/002; 26 September 2022;

18 UNICEF, ‘Integrated Results and Resources Framework of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025’, 2021, https://www.unicef.org/executive-board/documents/IRRF-UNICEF_Strategic_Plan_2022%E2%80%932025-SRS-2021

19 United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘WASH in the new UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025’, UNICEF, New York, 2021 pp. 19-20.

20 This document uses the OECD’s definition of fragility, and understands fragility as not synonymous with conflict but as a significant driver of conflict. Fragility, according to the OECD, is the combination of exposure to risk and insufficient coping capacities of the state, system and/or communities to manage, absorb or mitigate those risks. It occurs in a spectrum of intensity across six dimensions: economic, environmental, political, security, societal and human. The sixth dimension of fragility – the human dimension – was added in 2022 to reflect the importance of investing in people’s well-being and livelihoods; see OECD Library, ‘States of fragility 2022’, Editorial https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/c7fedf5e-en/1/2/3/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/c7fedf5e-en&csp_=ed992425c7db5557b78226a6c98c6daf&itemGO=oeed&itemContentType=book

21 UNICEF, ‘Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide’, 2016, <https://www.unicef.org/media/96576/file/Programming-Guide-Conflict-Sensitivity-and-Peacebuilding.pdf>

Conflict sensitivity is foundational and catalytic to peacebuilding. UNICEF understands **Peacebuilding** (framed as ‘do more good’) as a range of activities, projects and programmes that aim to help reduce the risk of a lapse or relapse into violent, destructive conflict. Peacebuilding is defined as working *on* conflict, with an intention to deliver peace outcomes, to:

- Reduce the risk of a lapse or relapse into violent conflict by directly addressing root causes as well as the consequences of conflict;
- Strengthen national, community and individual capacities to address conflict peacefully;
- Lay and support foundations for sustainable peace and development.²²

Peacebuilding *is not* a result or outcome – it comprises a range of activities or approaches expressly designed and intended to strengthen national capacities at different levels for conflict management, to address the causes of conflict, and to promote **positive peace**.²³ Peace is measured not simply by the absence of violence (negative peace), but defined by a more lasting peace that is built on sustainable investments in economic development and institutions as well as societal attitudes that foster peace.²⁴ An important dimension of positive peace is the resilience of a society, or its ability to absorb shocks without falling, or relapsing, into conflict.²⁵ **Building and sustaining peace**²⁶ is a process, requiring the continued, deliberate nourishment of positive peace to strengthen societies’ **resilience to conflict**.

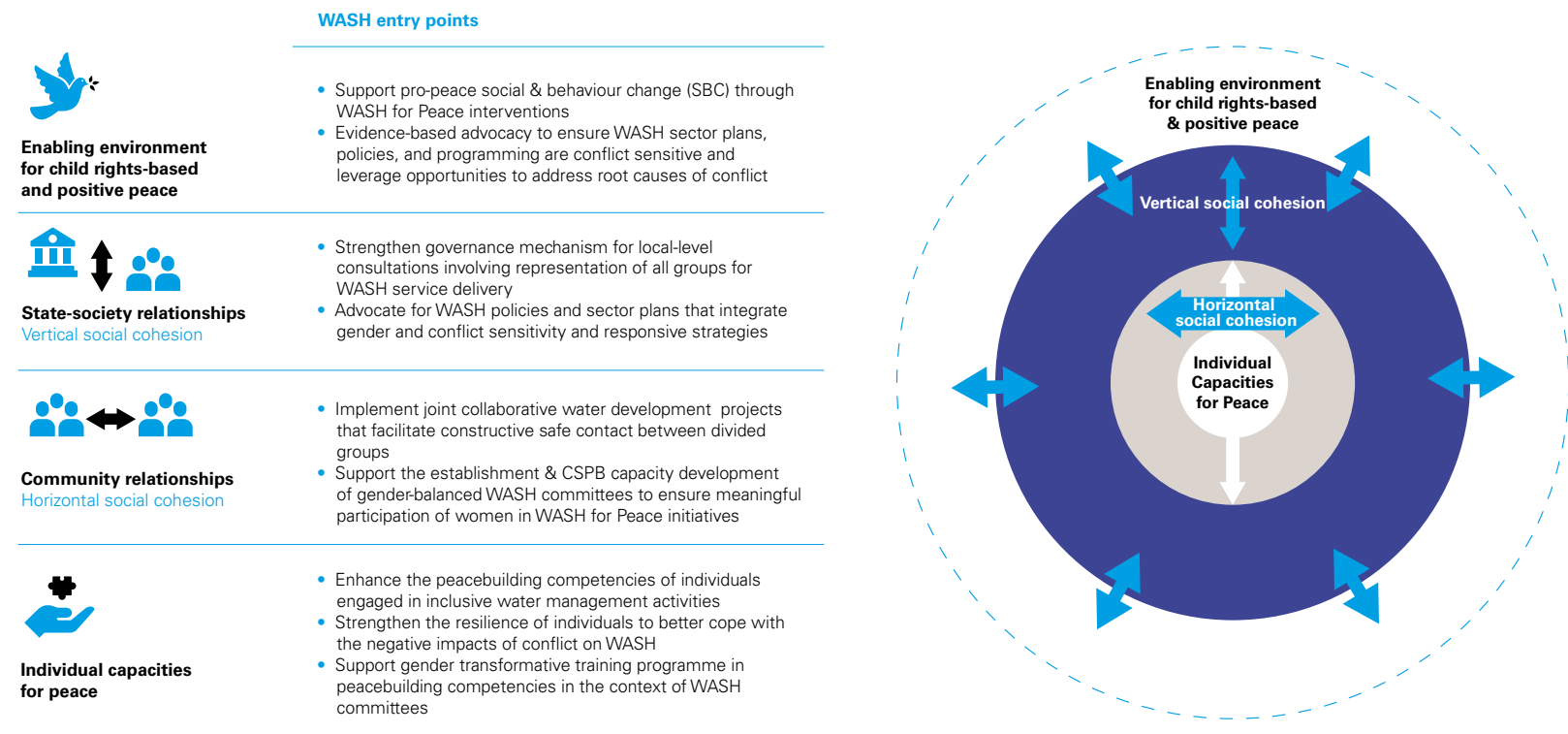
Strengthening **social cohesion** is one way in which UNICEF-supported programmes contribute to building and sustaining peace. **Social cohesion** refers to the quality of bonds and dynamics that exist between the groups within a society. Groups can be distinguished

in terms of regional, ethnic or sociocultural identities, religious and political beliefs, social class or economic sector, or on the basis of characteristics such as gender and age. The strengthening of social cohesion at the vertical (relations between the state and citizens) and horizontal levels (intra- and intergroup relations) is one of the key results that emerge from effective peacebuilding interventions.

Promoting and supporting equitable and inclusive access to basic social services, including WASH, is a fundamental way through which UNICEF contributes to peace across four levels, as shown in Figure 2.

Distinct UNICEF contributions to building and sustaining peace in FCCs include supporting an **enabling environment for child rights-based and positive peace**, the **strengthening of vertical and horizontal social cohesion**, and the **development of capacities for peace**, all of which contribute to sustaining peace by building sector, community and individual resilience to conflict.

Figure 2 UNICEF’s four levels of contribution to building and sustaining peace



22 Ibid.

23 UNSDG, ‘Good Practice Note: Conflict Sensitivity, Peacebuilding, and Sustaining Peace’ 2022, p. 12 <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/UNSDG%20Good%20Practice%20Note%20Conflict%20Sensitivity%20Peacebuilding%20Sustaining%20Peace.pdf>

24 Institute for Economics and Peace, ‘What is Positive Peace?’, 2018, <https://positivepeace.org/what-is-positive-peace>

25 Ibid.

26 On 27 April 2016, the General Assembly and the Security Council adopted substantively identical resolutions on peacebuilding (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016), respectively), concluding the 2015 review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. The resolutions introduce the term ‘sustaining peace’, which in practical terms should not be distinguished from peacebuilding. The new resolutions stress that sustaining peace is a shared task that should flow through all three pillars of the UN system’s engagements at all stages of the conflict, and in all its dimensions; see United Nations Peacebuilding, ‘Guidance Note on Sustaining Peace’, 2017 (UN Peacebuilding Support Office/Policy, Planning and Application Branch with inputs from UN entities through the Peacebuilding Contact Group), <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/guidance-note-sustaining-peace>



Age and Gender Sensitive Conflict and Peace Analysis (CPA) Guide

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WASH for Peace – Age and Gender-sensitive Conflict and Peace Analysis (CPA) Toolkit

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Age and Gender-Sensitive WASH Conflict and Peace Analysis framework	Age and Gender-Sensitive WASH Conflict and Peace Analysis (CPA) Process	Age and Gender Sensitive WASH Conflict and Peace Scan (CP Scan)	Sample Conflict and Peace Analysis Tools

This guide provides a framework to design and implement a WASH-relevant conflict and peace analysis (CPA). It complements UNICEF's Peacebuilding Programming Framework (**Step 1 – Designing and implementing an age and gender sensitive Conflict and Peace Analysis**), which outlines the overall approach to a mandate-relevant CPA, as well as UNICEF's [Guide to Conflict Analysis](#). It outlines a WASH-centred process and set of tools to support data gathering and analysis by UNICEF WASH Teams and partners, including specific guidance for adolescent and youth participation¹ that integrates a gender and age sensitive lens.

This guide identifies opportunities to leverage existing and established UNICEF processes and tools typically available to WASH teams and implementing partners at country and field office levels to collect and/or triangulate WASH-relevant conflict data to facilitate integration of the findings into programming. The focus of this guide is very much on the practical, to encourage and equip WASH staff and partners to carry out and/or lead the planning, design, and implementation of a CPA to support their work. This Guide includes a Toolkit with four practical tools to support the process of planning, designing, and implementing a CPA.

“At the center of any organization’s ability to be conflict sensitive is a robust conflict analysis carried out at the level of program implementation, and the ability to adapt programs and practices accordingly. In the WASH sector this weakness is particularly pronounced as analysis is approached from a very technical engineering standpoint that does not systematically take into account socio-political dimensions. This lack of analysis – formal and more informal – is a major impediment to improving the uptake of conflict-sensitivity within country programs.”

Interpeace for UNICEF: ‘[Evaluative Review of UNICEF’s Approaches to Peacebuilding, Social Cohesion, and Conflict-sensitivity](#)’ (Internal), 2020, p. 11

1. UNICEF-relevant age and gender sensitive conflict and peace analysis (CPA):

A CPA is the systematic study of the causes, actors, and dynamics of conflict and peace. For UNICEF, a CPA focuses on the social dimensions of conflict, the impacts of conflict on children and young people as well as their particular role in conflict and peace, protection issues, and equitable access to social services. A principled approach places gender, age and conflict sensitivity at the core of the analysis process to uphold a ‘do no harm’ approach. Such an approach also highlights opportunities to use the enquiry to begin to ‘do more good’ or adopt peacebuilding approaches, framing the conflict and peace analysis as an integral part of any intervention it seeks to inform.

A CPA serves two overarching and strategic purposes in UNICEF-supported programming:

- To ensure that the design and implementation of programmes do not exacerbate conflict dynamics, through a **conflict-sensitivity lens** (‘Do No Harm’).
- To **identify opportunities for specific peacebuilding interventions** that can increase capacities (at the national, community and individual levels) to transition out of fragility, build social cohesion, reduce violent relapses, and achieve better and more sustainable results for children (‘Do More Good’).²

¹ Based on existing UNICEF guidance: UNICEF, ‘Engaging Adolescents in Conflict Analysis – A Guidance Note’, May 2013, <https://www.unicef.org/media/59361/file>

² UNICEF, ‘Guide to Conflict Analysis’, 2016, <https://www.unicef.org/media/96581/file/Guide-to-Conflict-Analysis.pdf>, pp. 4-5.

RESOURCE BOX



The legal dimensions of conflict

UNICEF and its partners intervene in diverse conflict-affected contexts where different types of conflict interact with WASH in relevant ways – from highly localized disputes between communities around access to WASH services or management of water resources, to international armed conflict where attacks against water infrastructure or transboundary water issues are salient. Developing and implementing effective programming in FCCs may require an understanding of the relevant and applicable legal framework to identify entry points for interventions to protect and promote the rights of children to WASH. It is beyond the scope of UNICEF staff and partners or indeed this Guide to provide a legal framework to analyse conflict, but engaging legal expertise and/or sector partners such as ICRC will ensure that this important dimension of conflict is adequately captured in a CPA.

Additional resources on the legal dimensions of conflict and WASH can be found here:

Geneva Water Hub - *The Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure*:

<https://www.genevawaterhub.org/resource/geneva-list-principles-protection-water-infrastructure>;

ICRC resources on water and conflict:

<https://www.icrc.org/en/document/having-access-water-increasingly-matter-survival-conflict-zones>

2. WASH-relevant age and gender sensitive conflict and peace analysis (CPA) – Key considerations and steps

‘Do More Good’ through a WASH CPA:

Participants in a CPA could be engaged during programme implementation through a platform where conflict issues and interactions with the WASH intervention can be collaboratively discussed and addressed. The participants can become a powerful ‘peacebuilding asset’ that can be engaged to support the design and implementation of a programme.

A CPA is an integral component of any intervention it seeks to inform, and as such, it can be leveraged to begin to build the foundations of a conflict sensitive and peacebuilding intervention. The implementation of the analysis (e.g. as part of a needs/context assessment) may be the first meaningful interaction between programme staff and partners, and the communities participating in a given intervention. A well-designed and carefully implemented participatory CPA can build a positive foundation for a programme by strengthening trust and relationships with key stakeholders around issues of great importance to the lives of those affected by conflict. In some cases, the participation in the analysis of key groups in a community may provide opportunities for empowerment and inclusion – this must be carefully managed and potentially leveraged to promote the agency of key constituencies e.g. children, adolescents, youth, women, minority groups. These are valuable opportunities to ‘Do More Good’ that can already be identified and actively pursued through the CPA process, supported by the following **key considerations**:

- Conflict and peace analysis must be **conflict sensitive** and not fuel existing or new conflicts
- It must be **gender sensitive** and actively promote the inclusion and meaningful participation of women and girls to ensure their perspectives and experiences of conflict are captured in the analysis
- It must be **age sensitive** and actively promote the inclusion and meaningful participation of children, adolescents, and young people to ensure their perspectives and experiences of conflict are captured in the analysis
- It must be **participatory and inclusive** to ensure it captures diverse perspectives and experiences of conflict amongst targeted communities, including minority groups
- It must be **accountable to affected and engaged populations** – build in opportunities to present, validate, and share the findings with participants so they can benefit from their engagement

The process of designing a WASH-relevant conflict and peace analysis requires important decisions to be taken by staff –

programme managers, developers, and implementers – often in consultation with sector partners and national counterparts. The implementation of a CPA requires the engagement and support from country office management from the start to ensure that key processes such as resource mobilization, interface with strategic external counterparts, and meaningful integration into programming are effectively implemented. Key decisions to be made by management at the earliest stages of the CPA planning include:

- The readiness in terms of context and internal CO capacity;
- The overall framing of the CPA e.g. to support a Do No Harm approach to uphold minimum requirements of conflict sensitivity or whether a more explicit peacebuilding approach can be articulated;
- Whether to pursue a multi-sectoral or a WASH-specific CPA.

A clear commitment to the overall framing and aim of the CPA by management will be critical to its eventual and effective integration into programming. The next section provides suggestions and resources to support the decision-making for the development and implementation of a CPA, and is structured around the ‘why’, ‘when’, ‘where’, ‘who’, ‘what’, and ‘how’, of such a process. Each of the six sections explore options and decision-making pathways available to staff, illustrate relevant actions with examples of existing and emerging practices in the field, and provide links to relevant resources to support the relevant programming actions. The suggested steps can assist programme management to determine the need for a CPA, as well as the scope, capacity, and resources required to implement it – *see CPA Tool 2 – ‘Age and Gender-Sensitive WASH Conflict and Peace Analysis Process’ for a succinct step by step guide to the below.*

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.³ 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.**⁴

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 Index⁵ (See [2021 Global Peace Index](#)), the World Bank Group’s [Classification of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations](#),⁶ and the [UN Peacebuilding Commission’s Climate Vulnerability](#) score,⁷ can help in determining how countries rank relative to one another in terms of conflict risks and fragility. The INFORM⁸ 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 dashboards⁹ 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.

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

⁴ “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.

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

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

⁷ 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>

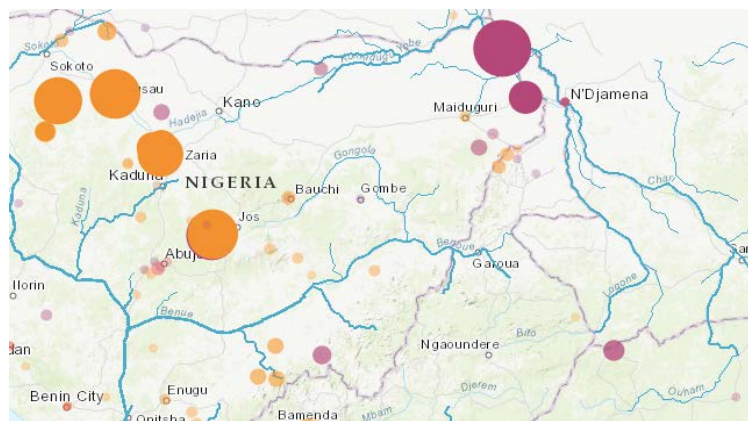
⁸ INFORM is a collaboration of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group on Risk, Early Warning and Preparedness and the European Commission; <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Risk>

⁹ 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 programmes¹⁰ – 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.¹¹ 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 peace¹².

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

¹² 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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RESOURCE BOX



When to undertake a conflict and peace analysis

- **Major planning processes:** Are there specific milestones in terms of the launch of new sector plans, programmes or initiatives that provide opportunities for advocacy and leveraging?
- **Sector management cycles:** What is the cycle for sector planning, budget allocation and fiscal reporting for WASH? Can the timing of conflict analysis converge with and influence important decision-making?
- **Seasonal calendar:** What is the seasonal calendar for WASH and conflict related hazards? Are there times of the year when conflict shocks or stresses make implementation difficult or WASH services more critical?

Adapted from: UNICEF's Guide to Risk Informed Programing (GRIP), 2018, Module 8, p. 6



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Step 2

When to do a WASH conflict and peace analysis?

CPA is a prerequisite to design risk-informed and conflict sensitive interventions in FCCs, and must therefore be undertaken at the start of strategic CO and sector programme development processes (e.g. country programme planning, WASH Annual Work Plans, WASH Cluster HNO assessments) or at the development stage of significant programs and partnerships. However, it should also be a periodic element of UNICEF planning processes in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, which should ideally be done as part of a risk-informed and conflict sensitive programme development cycle.

It is useful to revisit and update CPAs for specific programme cycle milestones (e.g. programme reviews) or when rapid changes in the conflict situation may require programme adaptation. The **requirement by UNICEF country offices to conduct cyclic risk-assessments can be leveraged**¹³ to integrate timely CPA into established programme development cycles and milestones (i.e. work plans, programme reviews), ensuring it captures the distinct nature of WASH-relevant conflict risks and related mitigation and management strategies.

A key strategic moment to conduct a WASH-relevant CPA is during the implementation of a **Situation Analysis**¹⁴ or an **Evidence Synthesis**¹⁵ to inform a new Country Programme, as these analytical products influence not only UNICEF WASH advocacy and programming but also national priorities of key partners including government and the UN Country Team through its contribution to the **Common Country**

Analysis. UNICEF's Country Programme annual reviews provide another opportunity to update the analysis. **Annual or Multi-Annual WASH Workplans** developed with national and local authorities offer another strategic and timely opportunity to undertake a CPA, and this can be done collaboratively with government and communities through participatory planning processes if appropriate and feasible.

A good opportunity to undertake and/or update WASH-specific CPA is to **leverage established and cyclic emergency preparedness planning milestones**. For example, the yearly update of UNICEF's Emergency Preparedness Plans (EPP).¹⁶ The data generated through the EPP process may not be suitable for an in-depth analysis of conflict root causes, but it can be valuable to support the development of a **Conflict and Peace Scan** (see step 6.3 below and CPA Tool 3 'Age and Gender Sensitive WASH Conflict and Peace Scan') or to regularly update an existing CPA. The yearly update of the Humanitarian Needs Overview to inform the Humanitarian Response Plan provides another opportunity to integrate a WASH-specific CPA to promote conflict sensitive and risk-informed humanitarian programmes. UNICEF role as WASH Cluster Lead Agency provides a distinct opportunity to leverage timely assessments to integrate age and gender sensitive conflict and peace analytics, and to use relevant data being collected by the WASH Cluster partners to develop and/or update analysis (e.g. access to WASH services in conflict-affected contexts).

¹³ As part of UNICEF's efforts to develop child-centred risk-sensitive programmes, "all country offices irrespective of the country's risk rating should develop a child-centred risk analysis once per planning cycle." See UNICEF, 'Integrating Humanitarian Response and Development: Programme Framework for Fragile Contexts', 2018, <https://www.unicef.org/media/96586/file/Programme-Framework-Fragile-Contexts.pdf>, pp. 3-4.

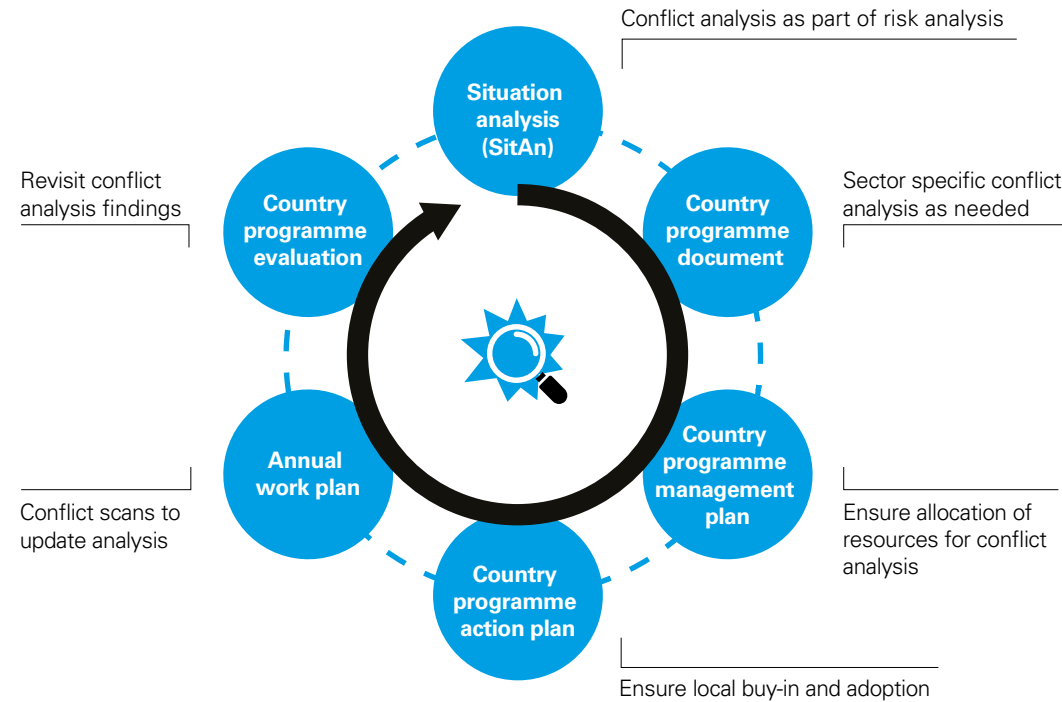
¹⁴ Situation Analysis (SitAn): A flagship analysis of the situation of children by UNICEF country offices, which can be used as a knowledge product for advocacy, including influencing policy development, adoption and implementation, public finance for children, communications, and shaping and planning country programmes. In fragile and conflict-affected contexts (FCCs), the SitAn should be informed by a conflict and peace analysis. See the New Generation Situation Analysis Guidance and Toolkit: <https://www.unicef.org/chile/media/5201/file>

¹⁵ The first step of good UNICEF Country Office programme planning is conducting an evidence synthesis. This starts with reflecting on existing evidence and data, and involves documenting the deprivations and bottlenecks that country offices will need to prioritize. The evidence synthesis is a comprehensive analysis of child rights. This includes reflecting on the multiple deprivations children and young people face, the prevailing social and behavioural drivers of these deprivations, and the barriers that must be surmounted to address them. In FCCs, the evidence synthesis should be informed by a conflict and peace analysis. See new UNICEF Country Programme Planning - Guidance to Achieve the SDGs; internal.

¹⁶ The EPP is an online tool for implementing UNICEF's Procedure on Preparedness for Emergency Response (issued in December 2017 and effective 30 March 2018). The EPP helps teams analyse risks, self-assess and monitor their operational preparedness and identify high-return actions to get ready for immediate response - before an emergency happens or a situation deteriorates; <https://epp.unicef.org/#!/EPPHome>

Figure 4 Conflict and peace analysis in the programming cycle

Conflict analysis in the programming cycle



(Source: UNICEF (2016): Guide to Conflict Analysis)¹⁷

Decisions about when to conduct a CPA will depend on different factors. Some are **predictable**, such as key programming cycles outlined above, and adequate preparations can be made to ensure sufficient resources and capacity. Some are **unpredictable**, such as an opportunity to develop a strategic WASH intervention or partnership, a sudden onset of emergency in a conflict-affected context, or a potential risk of conflict being fuelled by a WASH intervention. In the case of unpredictable analysis needs, opportunities to leverage existing sources of conflict data may be the most practical solution – these may include WASH partners or field office reports, or conflict analyses undertaken by other stakeholders. If none are available, a rapid CP Scan could be conducted.

17 UNICEF, Guide to Conflict Analysis, November 2016, <https://www.unicef.org/media/96581/file/Guide-to-Conflict-Analysis.pdf>, p. 27

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

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.

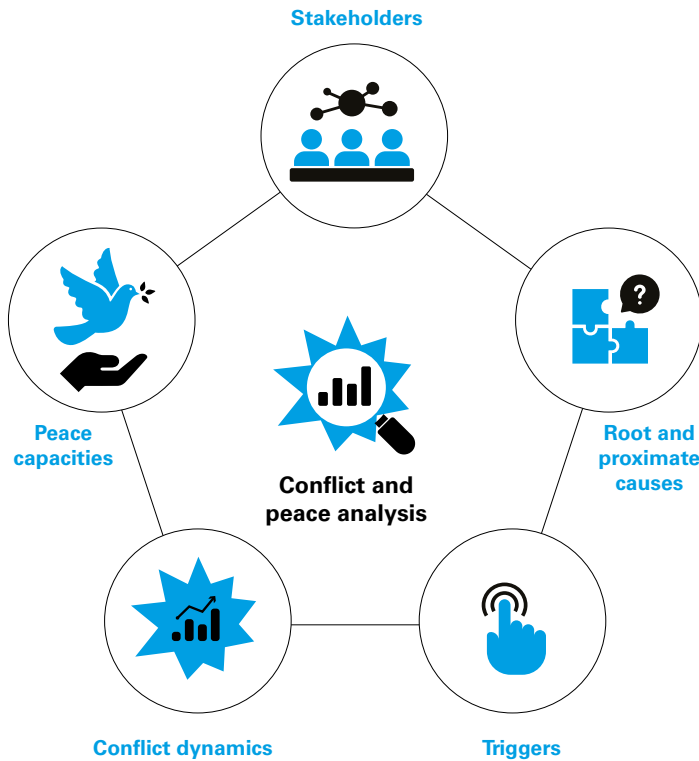


Step 5

What do we need to know?

Figure 5 Key elements of a UNICEF CPA

Adapted from UNICEF Guide to Conflict Analysis



UNICEF's [Guide to Conflict Analysis](#) outlines the **key elements of a mandate-relevant CPA** – including the examination of causes, dynamics, triggers, stakeholders, and peace capacities. The section below unpacks each of these elements through a WASH-distinct lens, while a sample of practical and visual tools to support data collection is included in CPA Tool 4 'Sample Conflict and Peace Analysis Tools'. CPA data can be collected through stakeholder inputs (e.g. community consultations, focus groups discussions, key informant interviews), or through technical WASH assessments that integrate a conflict lens (e.g. ESIA, WASH feasibility study). In both cases the below can be adapted to provide a tailored and simple analytical framework – [see CPA Tool 1 'Age and Gender-Sensitive WASH Conflict and Peace Analysis framework' for guiding questions under each category](#):

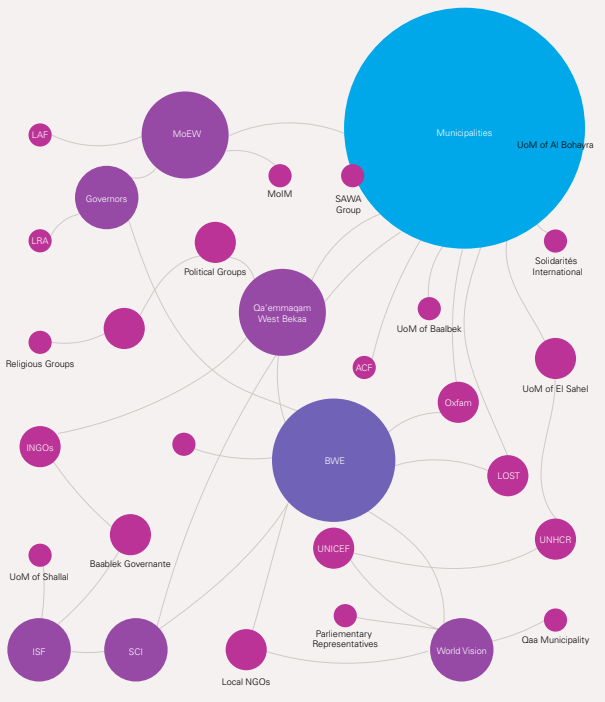
- **WASH-relevant conflict causes:** Refer to the underlying socioeconomic, cultural and institutional factors and relevant WASH interactions that create conditions for destructive conflict and violence e.g. poor governance, systematic discrimination, lack of political participation, unequal economic opportunity, grievances over natural resource allocation.
- **WASH-relevant conflict triggers:** are sudden or acute events that 'trigger' destructive conflict and violence. When working in a conflict context, it is critical to be aware of the potential triggers that can contribute to the outbreak or further escalation of tensions and violent conflict, and understand what consequences and impact these triggers can have on stakeholders and the implementation of WASH programmes.
- **WASH Stakeholder analysis and interactions (mapping):** provides an understanding of key actors' perspectives, needs and interactions with each other and the conflict context. This can provide you with new insight regarding how to engage in collaborative and inclusive partnerships, as well as stakeholders to target with new and/or adapted WASH programming – see the following country case example.
- **WASH-relevant Conflict dynamics – including water access and governance:** Understanding the 'pulse' of a conflict context requires awareness of the conflict dynamics, including patterns/trends and forces that connect or divide social groups. For example, what are WASH-relevant trends linked to the conflict that reoccur cyclically, and windows of opportunity for WASH programmatic responses?
- **WASH-relevant peace capacities:** refers to institutions, groups, traditions, events, rituals, processes/mechanisms, and people, who are positioned and equipped to address WASH-related conflict constructively and build/sustain peace through their engagement in WASH interventions. Identifying peace capacities through CPA is foundational to defining potential peacebuilding programming entry points for UNICEF sector work. Peace capacities can become the building blocks through which peacebuilding can be supported.

CASE STUDY

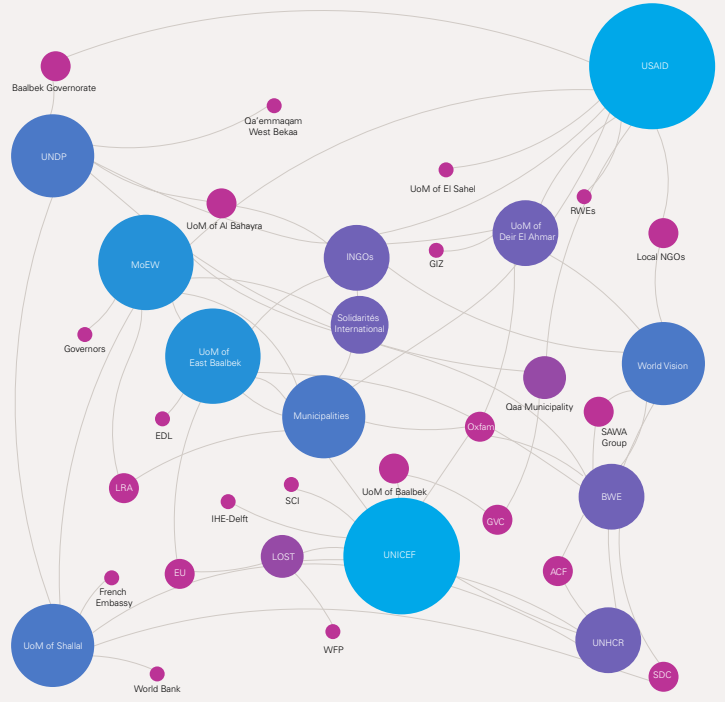
Social Network Analysis to explore stakeholder influence on WASH-related conflict

In Lebanon, UNICEF has partnered with the American University of Beirut to implement a social network analysis (SNA) has been employed to examine WASH-related conflict dynamics in areas identified as hotspots for conflict. This will inform locations of pilot projects to reduce conflict and build peace through conflict-sensitive WASH. The purpose of the SNA is to **identify the stakeholders who could be influential** in resolving tension at the district level by analyzing their communication and collaboration. SNA is used to visualize and examine the structure of social relationships and interaction in any given group.

- Role of municipalities is highlighted in both networks.
- Political groups and religious authorities play a great and influential role.
- Support of INGOs, IGOs, and their local partners is present.
- Water-related conflict resolution involves more loyal actors.



Water-related Conflict Resolution
Degree centrality: Low to High



Potential Actors in Water-Peacebuilding
Degree centrality: Low to High



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The above categories can be integrated into a GRIP multi-hazard child-centred WASH risk assessment – see below:

RESOURCE BOX



Understanding how the main elements of a conflict analysis can be integrated in the GRIP risk analysis framework:

- A **stakeholder analysis** may also be included under the 'capacities' element of the broader risk analysis.
- **Conflict dynamics** may also be looked at as an aspect of the 'capacities' and 'vulnerabilities' elements of the broader risk analysis.
- **Root and proximate causes** may also be looked at as aspects of the 'capacities' and 'vulnerabilities' elements of the broader risk analysis.
- **Triggers** are closely linked to the 'likelihood' and 'exposure' elements of the broader risk analysis and may be looked at as part of these elements.
- **Peace capacities** may be looked as an aspect of the 'capacities' element of the broader risk analysis.

Source: GRIP Assessment – Module 2 Risk Analysis

Step 6

How do we implement a WASH conflict and peace analysis?

The previous 'steps' have helped to define the parameters of the enquiry: goals and purpose (why), scope and scale (where), key stakeholders to the process (who), and a proposed and generic WASH-relevant analytical framework (what) that can be adapted to context and needs. This section will focus on the implementation of the CPA and key follow-up steps, examining practical aspects of data gathering and analysis (e.g. approach, methodology, tools) to be engaged by the WASH team and implementers. It is important to build flexibility into a CPA process to adapt to changing context and circumstances (e.g. lack of access due to insecurity, conflict outbreaks that change the analysis landscape).

6.1. Choice of methods and type of data needed

The choice of methods and tools must be tailored to the data needs, and balanced with the available resources and capacity of the WASH team and partners as relevant. **Secondary data** (that collected by others) may be sufficient to inform a CPA, or if WASH-relevant conflict and peace analyses implemented by others are available. Secondary data is generally quicker and cheaper to collect, and more accessible in contexts where security or other travel constraints limit access to respondents. **Primary data** (collected by the researcher/s) may be required to ensure up to date, tailored to the specific needs of the research, and highly context-relevant data as it can be collected directly from affected communities and locations. Primary data collection also offers opportunities to promote ownership and demand for the analysis through participatory methods. A *combination of both* is often useful e.g. implementing a secondary data desk review to gain a general understanding of the conflict from other stakeholders' perspectives and inform the design of the research, and then collecting primary data that is needs-specific to increase granularity.

Quantitative data may be more conducive to comparison and aggregation but qualitative data will provide richer and more nuanced detail on perceptions and attitudes that are central to understanding conflict and peace behaviours. The choice of **quantitative versus qualitative** data will have implications for the technical capacities required to implement the analysis – for example quantitative data collected through the use of devices such as tablets or mobile phones may require specific training to ensure the proper use of technology, whereas qualitative methodology may require the strengthening of active listening skills and may be more vulnerable to biases from both collector or analyst. A **blended approach where both types of data are collected should ideally be pursued**, and quantitative methods such as surveys can integrate qualitative questions to qualify and contextualize quantitative data.

CASE STUDY



UNICEF Lebanon has leveraged secondary data collected by UNDP and ARK to inform the activities of the Inter-Agency Social Cohesion and Livelihoods Sector, to monitor and mitigate tensions arising between Syrian refugee and host communities. The **dashboard** consolidates data along different dimensions of interaction between the two communities. The WASH team used the results from their survey to design their peacebuilding WASH programming focusing causes of tensions identified such as "competition for jobs" and "competition for resources," including WASH services.

RESOURCE BOX



Use of Kobo Toolbox in Sudan's National WASH in School Assessment to collect primary data

In 2019, Kobo Toolbox - a tablet with software that allows surveys to be digitally entered real-time - was used as the application to collect data for the first-ever national 'WASH in Schools' assessment conducted in all eighteen states of Sudan. Out of 16,300 public basic schools in Sudan, a sample of 1,120 schools was chosen from 54 localities. The assessment forms were created and validated by the technical working group, which consists of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources, as well as the Central Bureau of Statistics. Data collection took place between March and May 2019, despite the economic and political turmoil in the country. Using Kobo Toolbox for data collection is a self-controlled measure to ensure quality as the automatic logic is in place and skipping of incomplete answers is not allowed. By eliminating the process of data entry, the likelihood decreases of data entry mistakes as the enumerators enter the information on the spot. KoBo Toolbox can be used for offline for data entry, and collected information is uploaded on the cloud system once an Internet connection is available. KoBo is open-source which increases accessibility. The collected data in Sudan has been used as a baseline data for the SDGs assessment and monitoring of the progress made over time, advocacy, resource mobilization, development of standards and guidelines, and to inform programming. The scale and spread of data collection allowed for the identification of **wide disparities between states, urban and rural areas, girls' and boys' schools** making the Tool and approach conducive to collect data to inform CPA.

Source: UNICEF Sudan, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Annual Report, 2019, <https://www.unicef.org/sudan/media/3186/file/UNICEF-Sudan-Water-Sanitation-Hygiene-Annual-Report-2019.pdf>, p. 10.

A CPA should be regularly updated, if the methodology cannot be easily replicated periodically this may be challenging. Moreover, if the analysis aims to support the development of a baseline and to integrate conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding into a programme results framework, the data collected should be relevant to the measurement of progress and contributions to results. Central to the choice of methodology and tools should be the gathering of high-quality, reliable and unbiased data but also the inclusion of diverse perspectives and missing ‘voices’ – ensuring a balance between practical and principled considerations. Below are some examples of data collection tools (for more details see Annex 4: Tools for data gathering for conflict analysis of [UNICEF’s Guide to Conflict Analysis](#)):

- **Desk review:** The first step in nearly all CPA is desk review. This means collecting, organizing, reading and synthesizing available and relevant information from existing primary and secondary written sources. In particular, you should read and consider any existing conflict analysis reports for the region you are focused on, to understand what others have done.
- **Surveys:** Surveys involve the use of questionnaires to which large groups of people give responses, and are normally done in writing or verbally. They are highly scripted, using close-ended, qualifying and other kinds of questions to gather data on opinions, views, experiences, demographics, etc.
- **Key stakeholder interviews:** Interviews with individuals who are well situated to understand and comment on conflict factors and dynamics (often called ‘key informants’) are powerful for bringing depth into a CPA.
- **Focus groups:** Focus groups bring together small groups of people to discuss and gather data about perceptions, opinions, beliefs and attitudes regarding the research questions in the CPA. In conflict-affected contexts, focus groups can either be conducted from within a community or across conflict/identity lines.
- **Capacity development events:** Workshops, trainings and other capacity development initiatives on a wide range of topics (for example, development, rights, education, conflict and peace resolution, and technical and sectoral themes) can provide opportunities to gather data relevant for CPA.



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6.2. Harnessing technology

Remote data collection may be necessary due to constraints in access to targeted communities (e.g. COVID-19 or other epidemic outbreaks, security issues, natural disasters) – **innovative data collection methodologies supported by new technology** such as RapidPro and platforms such as U-report can support the implementation of conflict and peace analysis remotely. Below are some examples:

CASE STUDY



RapidPro: collects data via short message service (SMS) and other communication channels (e.g. voice; social media channels, such as Facebook Messenger, Telegram, WhatsApp) to enable real-time data collection and mass-communication with target end-users, including beneficiaries and frontline workers. RapidPro allows UNICEF and its partners to gather accurate real-time information including about WASH in remote and hard-to-reach places. <https://www.unicef.org/innovation/rapidpro>.

In **Zimbabwe**, RapidPro is integrated with Rural WASH Information Management System (RWIMS) to enable communities to report changes in WASH infrastructure functionality through SMS directly to government extension workers. RapidPro increases availability and reliability of real-time data to support national monitoring of WASH indicators, improves equity analysis, and the use of technological innovations in emergency preparedness and response. <https://www.unicef.org/innovation/stories/accelerating-delivery-water-and-sanitation-services-through-real-time-monitoring-zimbabwe>

CASE STUDY



U-Report: RapidPro also powers U-Report, UNICEF's youth, and citizen engagement platform, now active in 68 countries, benefiting over 11 million users all over the world. U-Report is available via numerous messaging, social media and SMS channels, and even works on a basic mobile phone. It is free, anonymous and easy to use.

In **Uganda**, U-Report was leveraged to capture youth perspectives on conflict and peace and to carry out rapid data gathering in specific contexts where conflict events had been reported to better understand the impact on youth. <https://www.unicef.org/innovation/U-Report>



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New technology can also be leveraged to collect and analyse information more rapidly than with traditional methods - mobile and internet networks and digitization of the collection process, can reduce time-delays, inefficiencies, and improve data quality by reducing data entry and human errors. New technologies provide the opportunity to collect a wide range of data, including sounds, pictures, and videos that can support the capturing of community perspectives on WASH-conflict interactions. New technologies can be cost saving - potentially decreasing costs associated with transportation, printing, data entry and cleaning, coding, and staff hours. The use of tablets and mobile phones requires an initial operational and infrastructure investment, but thereafter costs can be kept relatively stable. This method can facilitate regular and timely data collection to update the analysis.³³ Careful consideration of the benefits of deploying such technology must be balanced with issues like exclusion of communities or individuals that lack access or know-how.

6.3. Conflict and Peace Scan – ‘good enough’ analysis

The term ‘good enough’ conflict analysis has been adopted in the field to indicate that some level of analysis has been undertaken in an emergency setting, or in situations in which the full resources, time and access needed for a broader conflict analysis exercise are not available. While such analysis will not establish a detailed picture of conflict dynamics and underlying causes, it enables UNICEF to avoid the most obvious ways of doing harm by unintentionally contributing to conflict dynamics.

A **Conflict and Peace Scan** (CP Scan) (*see CPA Tool 3 ‘Age and Gender Sensitive WASH Conflict and Peace Scan’*) can be an important **preparatory and first data-gathering step in preparation for a fully-fledged CPA** as it contains the same core elements, but it is streamlined to collect rapid and highly focused data. The CP Scan can help to identify initial and relevant aspects of the interaction between WASH and conflict, and determine the type and stage of conflict you will be analysing, with relevant implications for the approach, methodology, and tools chosen to collect data. For example, a sudden outbreak of violence involving localized clashes between different

water users would require gaining a quick understanding of what ‘triggered’ the escalation as well as the historic trends of water use through local level consultative approaches with the communities involved; a latent conflict that has not yet escalated into violence but where grievances about exclusion from WASH and other social services among minority communities are prevalent would require a focus on equity and perceptions. A CP Scan can help to identify useful sources of data and data gaps to consider, as well as potential respondents to engage further in a broader CPA.

³³ UNICEF Mozambique, Guide on Alternative Approaches in Data And Evidence Generation During the COVID-19 Crisis, May 2020, <https://www.unicef.org/evaluation/media/2111/file/Guide%20on%20alternative%20approaches%20in%20data%20and%20evidence%20generation.pdf>

The CP Scan findings can be discussed with relevant stakeholders within your WASH team, CO – e.g. management, social policy, planning and monitoring, and relevant sector partners to determine the best approach, methodology, and tools to pursue a CPA. For example:

- If the government or other prominent political/military stakeholder has been identified to be a significant conflict party we may decide to undertake an internal CPA to manage sensitivities or risks;
- If the conflict has international cross-border dimensions you may want to engage multiple COs in the analysis, and seek support from RO to facilitate the process;
- If the exclusion of certain groups (ethnic minority, youth) is a key driver of conflict we may want to pursue a participatory methodology that provides voice and platform to these constituencies;
- If the conflict is at a latent stage we may want to design the analysis focusing on determining risks of re/occurrence, but if it is in a post-conflict stage we may want to focus on identifying capacities for peace to build and sustain peace through our intervention;
- If one of the root causes is systematic discrimination and exclusion from accessing WASH services, we may want to engage in a broad consultative exercise and focus on stakeholder interactions to identify entry points to strengthen vertical social cohesion;

A CP Scan can also be deployed as a stand-alone activity

depending on the context and needs. For example this rapid and succinct data gathering can be leveraged as a **rapid assessment tool to deploy in emergency contexts** when time and resources to identify WASH-conflict interactions to inform humanitarian response may be constrained. While an in-depth CPA is often not possible in emergencies and acute crisis, lighter efforts can be undertaken to understand local conflict dynamics. The tools in these contexts may include rapid community consultations and a quick review of existing conflict analyses. Even if implementing a quick CP Scan, ensure that your analysis considers gender, identity, geography and age as relevant dimensions of equity and inclusion.

6.4. Sources of WASH conflict and peace data

At community level there are two principal sources of data: Data captured through **WASH specialized technical assessments** such as field surveys, feasibility studies, and environmental and social impact assessments; and **data obtained directly from stakeholders** through surveys, key informant interviews, focus groups, and/or community-wide meetings. **WASH technical assessments** can be leveraged to triangulate conflict-relevant data. For example, perceptions of exclusion from water services by communities can be substantiated or challenged by technical assessments – in this case further analysis of the causes of the perceived exclusion will be required to understand the WASH conflict dynamics in the context. For example, infrastructure assessments of institutional WASH in schools or health centres can help to illustrate technical dimensions of inequity. The technical assessments can also be leveraged to promote collaborative identification of conflict issues and solutions between communities, and with local water authorities.

Observation and interactive consultation with communities

about WASH-related conflict issues on site can be very effective data-gathering methods. For example, complaints and feedback mechanisms can be leveraged to identify grievances among communities engaged in WASH programming and to monitor conflict interactions. Participatory community-based mapping can provide rich data and is conducive to visual and oral data gathering, making the process more inclusive in settings with low literacy or provide opportunities for persons living with disabilities to engage. Less structured participatory community-based engagement can help to build trust to facilitate deeper and more structured data collection through KIIs and FGDs. The **sensitivities** of discussing conflict with community and local level WASH authorities should also inform the methodology and tools employed – an indirect or ‘non-threatening’ approach may be more appropriate than explicitly framing the enquiry as a CPA, instead focusing on collecting qualitative and quantitative information on WASH while identifying areas to probe for the presence of existing or future conflict.

RESOURCE BOX



The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP)

take place every two years to incorporate the latest available WASH national data for the global SDG indicators – the process is facilitated by WHO and UNICEF country offices and collaboratively implemented with national WASH authorities and other sector stakeholders. The JMP monitors WASH at the household level and also in schools and health care facilities, and reports on inequalities in service levels between rural and urban, sub-national regions, rich and poor and other population sub-groups where data permit. The JMP inequalities database includes estimates of coverage by subnational region derived from household surveys and censuses, allowing for geographical comparisons to determine inequality at sub-national level. This provides highly relevant data to triangulate local conflict dynamics and events to explore relevant WASH-conflict interactions and correlations, while the process of collecting data collaboratively with national WASH authorities is another opportunity to leverage predictable data gathering to inform conflict analysis and/or updates. <https://washdata.org/data>

CASE STUDY



Lebanese NGO and UNICEF partner LebRelief undertakes WASH ‘Gap Free Neighborhood Analysis’

to visually map the WASH needs in project locations – the walk around the neighborhood provides opportunities for the community to identify needs through a participatory process that both generates valuable data about the WASH needs of the community and promotes a sense of ownership through the participatory and inclusive approach.

<https://leb-relief.org/>

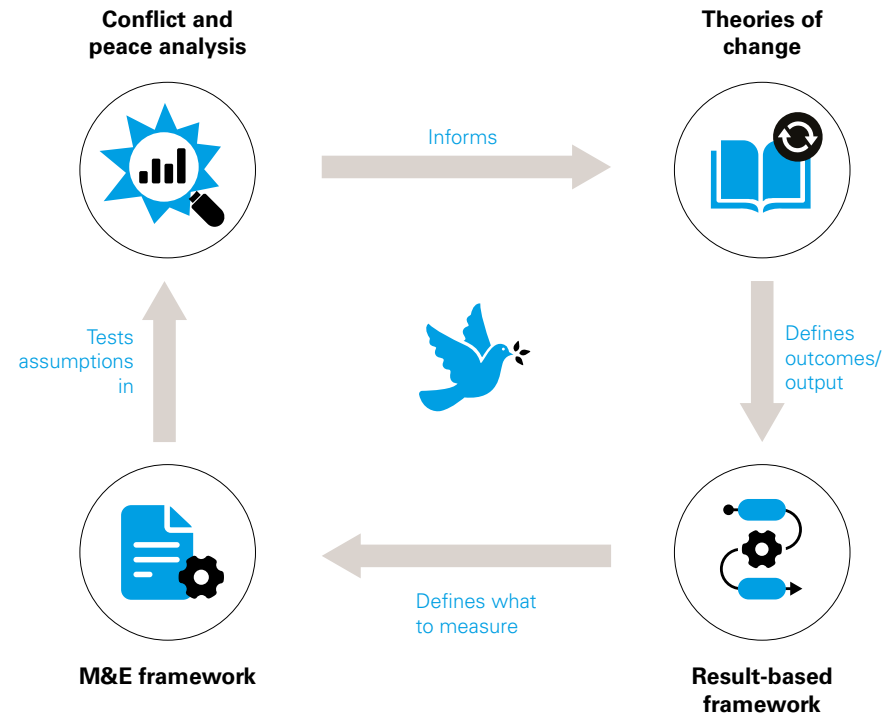


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Step 7 Integrating the findings into programming

The translation of the analysis findings into programming inputs is one of the most critical and challenging aspects of the implementation of a conflict and peace analysis – even if an analysis is undertaken specifically to inform a programme or intervention. There are opportunities at every step of the decision-making process along the planning, design, and implementation cycle that can help to **increase the relevance and applicability of the findings to programming**. Ensuring that the process is participatory and collaborative, engaging relevant stakeholders in co-development will generate demand for the analysis and promote ownership of the process and product by end users – *see CPA Tool 2 ‘Age and Gender-Sensitive WASH Conflict and Peace Analysis Process’ for suggestions to enhance the integration of findings into relevant stages of the programming cycle, to be adapted to the context.*

Figure 6
Integrating CPA findings into programming



CPA Tool 1

Age and Gender-Sensitive WASH Conflict and Peace Analysis framework



This Toolkit complements the WASH for Peace - Age and Gender Sensitive Conflict and Peace Analysis (CPA) Guide. UNICEF’s [Guide to Conflict Analysis](#) outlines the **key elements of a mandate-relevant CPA** – including the examination of causes, dynamics, triggers, stakeholders and peace capacities.³⁴ The section below discusses each of these elements from the perspective of WASH, and suggests guiding questions to frame the enquiry. The proposed questions shown in the table below can be adapted to design a context-specific analytical framework, potentially based on an initial CP Scan (see CPA Tool 3 – ‘Age and Gender Sensitive Conflict and Peace Scan’ below) where relevant WASH-conflict interactions have been identified and prioritized.

WASH-relevant conflict causes

CPA Element

the underlying socioeconomic, cultural and institutional factors and relevant WASH interactions that create conditions for destructive conflict and violence e.g. poor governance, systematic discrimination, lack of political participation, unequal economic opportunity, grievances over natural resource allocation.

Guiding questions:

- What are the structural or root causes of conflict (e.g. poor WASH service governance; exclusion of women and/or young people from access to services and/or participation; lack of political participation and representation in WASH service planning and implementation; grievances over water resource scarcity, allocation, and management) related to WASH in the project context?
- What can be considered WASH-relevant drivers or proximate causes of social divisions and violence (e.g. drought aggravating competition over pasture and water; worsening economic conditions exacerbating tensions about access to WASH services and water use; political instability and violence constraining access to WASH services; displacement placing burden on host community WASH services and water availability; pollution from poor wastewater management; lack of access to hygiene for specific communities which is seen by others as a risk for the spread of waterborne diseases)?

WASH-relevant conflict triggers

CPA Element

sudden or acute events that ‘trigger’ destructive conflict and violence. When working in a conflict context, it is critical to be aware of the potential triggers that can contribute to the outbreak or further escalation of tensions and violent conflict, and understand what consequences and impact these triggers can have on stakeholders and the implementation of WASH programmes.

Guiding questions:

- What triggers could contribute to an escalation of conflict or an outbreak of violence in the project area (e.g. elections/political transition, sudden rise in food and commodity prices, climate events) that may affect access to WASH?
- Has access to water or WASH services been a conflict trigger in the past? What else has triggered WASH-related conflicts in the past?

³⁴ UNICEF, ‘Guide to Conflict Analysis’, 2016, <https://www.unicef.org/media/96581/file/Guide-to-Conflict-Analysis.pdf>

WASH Stakeholder analysis

CPA Element

provides an understanding of key actors' perspectives, needs and interactions with each other and the conflict context. This can provide you with new insight regarding how to engage in collaborative and inclusive partnerships, as well as stakeholders to target with new and/or adapted WASH programming.

Guiding questions:

- Who are the main WASH-related conflict actors and who are their supporters? What are these actors' positions, interests, and needs in relation to WASH?
- How do they engage in the conflict and what are their capabilities e.g. to enable or constrain access to WASH?
- What is UNICEF WASH and partners' role in the conflict?
- Who is affected by the conflict and how are their rights to WASH affected?

WASH Stakeholders Interactions (mapping)

- How visible and accountable are WASH service providers, including private sector?
- If a water utility exists, is there a customer service mechanism that allows for interacting effectively with beneficiaries/customers (e.g. managing grievances, communicating with customers about service disruption/water outages)?
- During construction/upgrade work of water services, are there stakeholder (including communities) engagement opportunities?
- What is the relationship between groups with differential WASH access – influence, alliances, and formal/informal links?
- Who could mobilize groups to express discontent related to WASH issues or collaborate peacefully around WASH services and water resource management?
- How would they mobilize people (unifying the groups, organizing activities, financing initiatives)? What would their motivations be for mobilizing people? Who would be affected and how?

WASH-relevant conflict dynamics

CPA Element

Understanding the 'pulse' of a conflict context requires awareness of the conflict dynamics, including patterns/trends and forces that connect or divide social groups. For example, what are WASH-relevant trends linked to the conflict that reoccur cyclically, and windows of opportunity for WASH programmatic responses?

Guiding questions:

- Where are the conflict-prone/affected areas within the WASH intervention context?
- Is there an ongoing or prior history of conflict in relation to WASH?
- What are the recent and current conflict trends affecting or interacting with WASH?
- Have there been any attacks on WASH infrastructure or personnel?
- Has WASH been used as a weapon in conflict, e.g. cutting off water access or purposely inhibiting quantity and quality of water?
- Have WASH resources, infrastructure or institutions been unintentionally damaged by anyone during a conflict (e.g., collateral damage during armed violence) or as the result of protest? How? By whom? Who was impacted? What were the consequences?
- What are the best, worst, and most likely scenarios for the future of the conflict and its interactions with WASH (e.g. water insecurity, WASH service access constraints), and on what do they depend?
- What are the possible windows of opportunity for addressing conflict through conflict-sensitive and risk-informed WASH interventions?
- What 'connects' (e.g. joint water resource management, diverse communities sharing WASH services) and/or 'divides' (e.g. WASH access discriminatory practices across community groups, disparities in access to water based on identity) people in the project context?

WASH services and water access dynamics:³⁵

CPA Element

the underlying socioeconomic, cultural and institutional factors and relevant WASH interactions that create conditions for destructive conflict and violence e.g. poor governance, systematic discrimination, lack of political participation, unequal economic opportunity, grievances over natural resource allocation.

WASH-relevant conflict causes

CPA Element

Guiding questions:

- Who has secure and reliable access to WASH services and water? What are relevant age and gender dynamics related to access? Is any party directly or indirectly denied access to WASH and/or water in sufficient quality and quantity? If so, do affected social groups perceive this limitation to be a deliberate manifestation of a discriminatory policy? What is the relationship between groups with differential WASH access?
- Are one party's changes in water quality, quantity, or flow inhibiting water use by another party? Has human-made water scarcity or degraded water quality decreased water availability and increased the impact on the environment or human health? Has poor wastewater management led to environmental degradation in specific locations?
- Are water users highly dependent on the particular water resource in question, or can their needs be fulfilled by other means?
- Who has access to equipment or treatment options that help improve water access or quality (e.g., drills, pumps, irrigation equipment, filters and disinfectants)? Who has access to water infrastructure (e.g., dams, canals, cisterns) for domestic purposes and for income purposes? Who does not have these types of access and why not? What are the consequences of different levels of access on the different user groups?
- Who has access to data and information about WASH services and water resources, infrastructure and regulations? How do they get the information? Is it trusted?

Guiding questions:

- What are the structural or root causes of conflict (e.g. poor WASH service governance; exclusion of women and/or young people from access to services and/or participation; lack of political participation and representation in WASH service planning and implementation; grievances over water resource scarcity, allocation, and management) related to WASH in the project context?
- What can be considered WASH-relevant drivers or proximate causes of social divisions and violence (e.g. drought aggravating competition over pasture and water; worsening economic conditions exacerbating tensions about access to WASH services and water use; political instability and violence constraining access to WASH services; displacement placing burden on host community WASH services and water availability; pollution from poor wastewater management; lack of access to hygiene for specific communities which is seen by others as a risk for the spread of waterborne diseases)?

³⁵ Adapted from USAID, 'Water and Conflict - A Toolkit for Programming', 2014.

WASH services and water governance dynamics³⁶ CPA Element

provides an understanding of key actors' perspectives, needs and interactions with each other and the conflict context. This can provide you with new insight regarding how to engage in collaborative and inclusive partnerships, as well as stakeholders to target with new and/or adapted WASH programming.

WASH-relevant peace capacities: CPA Element

institutions, groups, traditions, events, rituals, processes/mechanisms, and people, who are positioned and equipped to address WASH-related conflict constructively and build/sustain peace through their engagement in WASH interventions. Identifying peace capacities through conflict analysis is foundational to defining potential peacebuilding programming entry points for UNICEF sector work. Peace capacities can become the building blocks through which peacebuilding can be supported.

Guiding questions:

- What are the formal and informal institutions that manage WASH services and water (including water resources such as water courses, lakes, ground water)? What are their respective roles technically and in terms of conflict management? How do they collaborate or conflict? Are the services they deliver considered effective, and by whom?
- Do institutions equitably mediate grievances and/or competing claims for water access, social and environmental impacts, and benefit sharing?
- Do regional/ local WASH and water management institutions have sufficient human and technical capacity to develop and implement comprehensive WASH services and water management plans?
- Have all groups (including local communities and indigenous groups) with legitimate interests, facing serious impacts, or holding formal and informal access rights to WASH services and water, been identified and recognized?
- Are these groups able to participate in management and development policy? Has the negotiation capacity of weaker groups been strengthened?
- Are WASH services and/or water resources perceived to be allocated according to political motivations or patronage?
- Do benefits from water-related development accrue to a particular identity group, economic class, or region? Have stakeholders been appropriately consulted and compensated?
- If a water utility system exists, is it (i) representative of relevant stakeholders; (ii) well-functioning and risk-informed; and (iii) politically independent, fair and transparent?
- Are water service providers (public or private) operating and maintaining the water supply sources transparently – are they charging users, is the user fee utilization clear to the users?
- How are the water and wastewater utilities perceived by users – are they considered efficient? Corrupted? Are the tariffs accepted?

Guiding questions:

- What capacities for peace or conflict mitigation can be identified (e.g. traditional dispute resolution approaches proven effective in resolving water conflicts, intercommunal WASH committees, participatory and inclusive utility boards and technical working groups)?
- Has WASH service sharing contributed to reconciliation or peacebuilding activities in the context? How and why?
- Have water resources, infrastructure (including durable water systems, wastewater and/or storm water systems) or institutions contributed to reconciliation or peacebuilding activities in the context? How and why?
- Who were the key stakeholders and what were their roles during the conflict?
- Have WASH and water resource governance mechanisms, such as user groups, emergency flood management plans or river basin organizations, functioned effectively despite a context of conflict or violence?
- How did they resist or manage the effects of conflict? Which institutions and identity groups were relevant?

CPA Tool 2

Age & Gender-Sensitive WASH Conflict & Peace Analysis (CPA) Process



Purpose

This Tool complements Steps 1-7 of the **WASH for Peace - Age and Gender Sensitive Conflict and Peace Analysis (CPA) Guide** to accompany the process of designing and implementing a CPA with a strong focus on integrating findings into programming

Why a CPA?

- To ensure that the design and implementation of UNICEF programmes do not exacerbate conflict dynamics, through a **conflict sensitivity lens** ('Do No Harm').
- To **identify opportunities for specific peacebuilding interventions** that can increase capacities (at the national, community and individual levels) to transition out of fragility, build social cohesion, reduce violent relapses, and achieve better and more sustainable results for children ('Do More Good') through UNICEF supported programmes

Why a WASH CPA?

- 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
- WASH staff and partners trained in specific technical skills relevant to the sector may be ill-equipped to engage with a CPA and adapt programmes accordingly – **developing and/or implementing a CPA can strengthen that capacity!**

Key CPA Guiding Questions

- What are the WASH-relevant **causes** of conflict in the intervention context?
- What are the WASH-relevant potential **triggers** of conflict in the intervention context?
- Who are the key WASH and conflict **stakeholders** in the intervention context and how do they relate/interact with each other?
- What are WASH-relevant **dynamics** of conflict (e.g. access, governance...) in the intervention context?
- What are key WASH-relevant **peace capacities** in the intervention context?

Planning and Design

CPA Stage

Key activities

Define the purpose and timing of the conflict analysis – why and when?

Checklist and key considerations

- Inform conflict-sensitive approaches, determine conflict risks, and/or peacebuilding programming?
- Deployed in humanitarian, development, protracted conflict settings?
- To develop new or adapt existing programmes and contribute to what type of programming cycle – CPD, workplan, PD?
- To establish a baseline or monitor conflict context/interactions with WASH?

Maximize uptake and integration

- Define the goals and purpose of the conflict analysis collaboratively with potential users – internally and externally if relevant and feasible
- Engage CO management from the very first planning discussions to frame and pitch the analysis constructively to uptake and integration and identify relevant and timely links to planning milestones – CPD, AWP;
- Timing of the findings: align to relevant milestones, identify critical planning and programming entry points within your project, section, CO, sector and ensure the integration of the analysis is formally captured in relevant processes (e.g. SitAn, GRIP, ESIA, PCA)
- Engage planners in your CO and team (Planning and Monitoring, Field Coordination and Emergencies)
- Ensure you identify and connect opportunities for upstream (advocacy, policy, sector plans) and downstream application and reflect this in your design and outputs

Key activities

Define the scope and scale of the conflict analysis – *where and at what level?*

Define the end users/ audiences for the final outputs – *who?*

Define the implementation team – *who?*

Define the participants and data sources – *who and what?*

Checklist and key considerations

- Will the CPA be implemented at transnational, national, and/or subnational levels?
- What specific locations and what implications will this have (access, language, methodology)?
- Will the CPA focus on policy/sector plans (upstream) and/or programming (downstream)?
- Consider conflict, gender, and age sensitivity – who is included/ excluded and why?
- Are research participants potential beneficiaries of an intervention informed by the analysis – need to manage expectations!
- Who will be the primary user of the findings and what are the implications for the approach and methodology (e.g. translation, inclusive format and dissemination)?
- Who are potential unintended audiences?
- Who has: Regional/context and WASH expertise? Technical conflict and WASH expertise? The capacity, resources, time, and language skills? The necessary contacts/relationships to support a WASH-specific conflict analysis?
- Who is perceived as trustworthy and inclusive by key WASH stakeholders (internal to UNICEF and external)?
- Internal or external led – can the CO/WASH team lead the CPA? Role of FOs and/or TPMs as relevant?
- If external, what outsourcing modality is relevant – research institution, implementing partner, private company? International and/or national stakeholder?
- Multi-stakeholder/strategic stakeholder engagement
- Government engagement
- Define the overall analytical framework (see Tool 1)
- Identify the sources of WASH-relevant data on conflict causes, dynamics (access and governance), conflict triggers, stakeholders (analysis and mapping), and peace capacities
- Identify stakeholders who can provide and validate/triangulate data

Maximize uptake and integration

- Ensure the geography of your analysis is defined with inputs from your field office colleagues and partners on the ground – not only will this be a reality check but also create demand and ownership
- Ensure you identify and respond to the needs for the analysis at different levels of influence and impact – national and subnational
- Define the end users and as far as possible engage them across the planning, design and implementation cycle, creating demand and promoting ownership along the way
- Engage key strategic external counterparts as relevant (Government, United Nations Agencies, Cluster and coordination mechanisms)
- Engage strategic in-country donors (KfW, SdC, EU...) to identify and advocate for resources to be allocated to translate findings into conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding WASH programming
- Leverage the ToR development process (if contracted out) to build internal consensus in the CO about the purpose, relevant deliverables, and programmatic integration actions
- Depending on the scope of the CPA, consider establishing a steering committee to engage strategic internal and external counterparts
- Engage implementing partners in the design and implementation, encouraging the integration of conflict analysis into CPA PDs
- Consult broadly to ensure that the distinct needs for data (type, disaggregation, format) of different stakeholders are understood

Key activities

Design the data-collection and analysis approaches – *how?*

Checklist and key considerations

- CP Scan v. more in-depth?
- Primary v. secondary data?
- Quantitative v. qualitative data
- Direct from stakeholders (e.g. community participation) or indirect (e.g. WASH technical assessments)?
- Best tools for direct data collection: desk review, surveys, key stakeholder interviews, focus groups, and/or capacity development events?
- Technology-based and remote tools?
- Participatory action research and transformative approaches?
- Inclusive – disability, excluded groups
- Gender sensitive/equality
- Opportunities and relevance of child and youth focused and/or led enquiry?

Maximize uptake and integration

- Design/implement participatory methodologies that capture broad and diverse perspective to ensure you don't miss key voices, stakeholders or audiences
- Include in the design specific steps to accompany the integration of key findings and recommendations
- Ensure that conflict analysis contracts/consultancies include periods of support and accompaniment to staff and partners to integrate findings into programming

Implementation³⁷

CPA Stage

Collect data – *how?*

If the CPA is being outsourced, ensure oversight to uphold UNICEF principles and commitments;

If CO/WASH team-led consider how you will 'capture' and store the data efficiently, effectively and securely:

- How will your data be gathered (paper-based, electronically, audio files, photo/video files)?
- How much data will you gather (number of KIIs/FGDs) and how will files be organized and categorized?
- How will you ensure security and integrity of the data?
- How much digital (or physical) storage is needed and available to your project?

- Define the end users and as far as possible engage them across the planning, design and implementation cycle, creating demand and promoting ownership along the way
- Engage key strategic external counterparts as relevant (Government, United Nations Agencies, Cluster and coordination mechanisms)
- Engage strategic in-country donors (KfW, SdC, EU...) to identify and advocate for resources to be allocated to translate findings into conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding WASH programming

Key activities

Analyse and validate data – how?

Checklist and key considerations

If the CPA is being outsourced, facilitate the engagement of ‘end users’ of the findings to ensure relevance;

If CO/WASH team-led create an action plan for:

- Sorting, synthesizing and analysing your data and cluster your findings using the core elements of UNICEF Conflict Analysis as your analytical framework
- Use spreadsheets or research software (e.g. NVIVO) to create categories and ‘tag’ your data looking for relevant themes and trends
- Organize your data and findings around relevant disaggregation (geographic, by identity or group, by gender, age, socioeconomic status, access to WASH, etc.)
- Capture data that appear to not fit the trends (often voices not being heard, marginal perspectives) and other striking findings related to WASH-conflict interactions

Maximize uptake and integration

- Include a final step in the analysis to identify relevant programmatic **entry points** and build ToC and result framework inputs engaging key prospective users of the findings – staff, IPs, contractors
- Include in the participatory analysis process a strategic internal CO dialogue with management to develop a CO/section response based on the findings - will it inform a ‘Do No Harm’ approach only, or will it be used to inform a broader peacebuilding strategy for the CO and the WASH sector?
- Ensure substantive **internal validation** among team, section, CO, FOs, and **external validation** with participants, strategic stakeholders, including IPs

Compile and write final conflict analysis report and other outputs – how?

If the CPA is being outsourced, facilitate the provision of timely feedback by relevant stakeholders and that validation includes participants as relevant;

If CO/WASH team-led keep the purpose of the CPA and end users in mind to: How will your data be gathered (paper-based, electronically, audio files, photo/video files)?

- Organize and present your findings using the core elements of UNICEF Conflict Analysis as your report structure if helpful
- If specific programmatic entry points have already been identified, integrate them into the structure of the report to inform and support their leveraging
- Ensure broad CO/FO/WASH section participation and of relevant external counterparts
- Consider if a summary ‘light touch’ version is necessary for and/or an external facing version of the report
- Consider translation into local languages, as well as inclusive formats that consider disabilities and specific needs of end users

- Ensure any final report and supporting deliverables (training materials, presentations) include specific actions to integrate findings to inform conflict sensitivity as well as opportunities to build peace through WASH;
- Ensure the findings are translated into practical inputs - including specific tools to monitor and measure the effective operationalization of findings to integrate conflict sensitivity as a minimum requirement (e.g. targeting criteria and messaging; conflict sensitivity process indicators, periodic conflict sensitivity audits)

Application

CPA Stage

Key activities

Disseminate the report

Checklist and key considerations

- Engage Communications and Social Policy teams to develop an external facing dissemination strategy identifying opportunities to advocate and influence
- If relevant, engage WASH sector partners to identify opportunities to leverage the findings to inform sector policies and plans
- Consider conflict sensitivity, safety and security of participants and others – is it risky to share this report beyond UNICEF? How can the findings be shared with participants?

Maximize uptake and integration

- Identify inclusive and relevant dissemination approaches and ensure the final deliverable by consultants/contractors includes diverse and inclusive formats to support uptake by diverse stakeholders – including participants in the research

Integrate findings into programming

- Use the findings to inform an internal CO/WASH Section process to identify conflict sensitivity strategies and actions, as well as programmatic entry points in existing and/or new/upcoming programmes
- Identify upcoming planning milestones (Country Programme, sector workplans, annual programme reviews) to integrate the findings to develop/update programming
- Engage PD managers to identify opportunities to integrate the findings into relevant partnerships

- Dedicate time and resources to organize a participatory (internal and/or external) integration process where **programmatic entry points** are identified with relevant staff (management, programme, planning, field offices) and partners/contractors

Develop capacity

- Use the findings to inform and/or develop training and other capacity development interventions to target staff, IPs, and other relevant stakeholders
- Build in capacity development workshops to support internalization of the findings at CO/WASH section and FO levels

- Leverage capacity development to equip staff with relevant knowledge and competencies to be able to operationalize and integrate the findings

Accompany the integration

- Identify a timeline and process to proactively support the internalization of key findings and recommendations
- Engage CO/WASH section management to identify relevant milestones and accountabilities for key actions agreed e.g. conflict sensitivity monitoring/audits

- Include a 'handover' stage to dedicated focal points within the WASH team/section, relevant programmes, and/or partnerships – they can lead the application of findings leveraging identified entry points and ensure the integration of conflict sensitivity

Do No Harm Considerations when implementing a conflict and peace analysis:³⁸

The below include aspects of a CPA that could inadvertently cause harm and suggests potential solutions to mitigate the risk

Possible negative impacts	Possible Solution
Unrealistic expectations of beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the aims of the programme explicit
The person doing the assessment is biased or may create or maintain power imbalances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Conflict analysis is shaped by the views of certain groups in society. Maintain existing hierarchical structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break the community into separate groups to gain all views. • Use local language to include everyone • Pay attention to divisions in society and marginalized groups.
Local leaders are against the programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the key influential people early in the planning and design process, and what their key concerns are.
Not fully understanding the complexities of the context.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
People will not discuss certain topics (sociocultural, belief systems, legal status)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Split community into groups where they can speak more freely • Additional consideration needed to assign appropriate facilitator (language, sociocultural status etc.)
Community members are forced to express certain point of view by people in authority or armed forces (coercion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The whole team to be alert and observe the cues among community members during the data collection (for example, drivers to quietly observe what is going on outside of meeting room) • Plain clothes person from armed force/authority • Informal communication among community members (the team may pretend not to understand local language).
The existence of a conflict between communities is denied by governmental authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a strict confidentiality on the conflict analysis and provide an external facing politically acceptable report to complement your internal product
Unbalanced team could lead to the views of particular groups being favoured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure a strong stakeholder mapping and selection of the participants, with clear and transparent criteria articulated and communicated with relevant stakeholders
Assessment could cause trauma for the person involved by bringing up negative experiences or conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure trained and skilled facilitation is deployed and avail referral mechanisms to participants exhibiting signs of distress or trauma

38 Adapted from Tearfund, 'WASH Guidance notes - A Wash Tool for Conflict Sensitive Programming', 2018.

Guidance on how to treat sensitive issues

adapted from Core Guidance: New Generation Situation Analysis

In conflict-affected contexts, the Situation Analysis will have to explore issues that raise sensitivities with governments – for example the denial of children’s rights to WASH including through conflict parties’ attacks on WASH infrastructure. When analysing sensitive or potentially sensitive issues, the following strategies could be adopted:

1. Engage the government and a broad range of stakeholders when framing the analysis. The development process should be consultative and the report should reflect the views of the various groups consulted;
2. The analysis should draw from both official sources and alternative sources of information, such as shadow reports by civil society;
3. The analysis should specifically mention differences in statistics (e.g., government figures on the number of conflict-displaced children, children lacking access to WASH due to conflict); and
4. At a minimum, the analysis should point out the existence of the issue and highlight the need to examine it closely and fill data and information gaps.
5. There will be instances when the country office will have to decide on whether extremely sensitive issues, while analyzed under the situation analysis, will have to be kept separate from the document that is nationally owned. In these cases, the country office can choose to keep the analysis in question internal to UNICEF or share it with selected partners on a confidential basis.
6. The country office may also employ other strategies on how to treat sensitive analyses as appropriate to their context.³⁹

Gender and age sensitivity considerations

Preparation:

- Have both men and women, and boys and girls as relevant, been actively involved in determining the overall purpose and ultimate uses of the CPA to be produced?

Data gathering:

- Have both men and women, and boys and girls as relevant, been engaged in data gathering activities? Are they aware of the gender dimension and able to gather gender-sensitive data? If not, will training or other capacity-building be provided to enable analysts to be gender-sensitive?
- Have gender and age sensitive indicators been developed and used during the CPA? Have the views of both women and men, boy and girls as relevant, been elicited?
- Are there practical problems in gathering data, conducting interviews and related tasks that are rooted in gender roles as practised in the society, and have ways been found to address these problems?

Analysis:

- Have both women and men, boy and girls as relevant, participated actively in analysing the data gathered and applying the analytical tools and frameworks?
- Has the resulting CPA findings been validated by both women and men, and boy and girls as relevant?
- What does the CPA reflect regarding differential impacts of conflict on women, men, girls, boys, youth and elderly?
- Has the CPA process revealed any gender and age-based differences, in terms of particular potential roles for men or women, boys and girls, in promoting peace or addressing specific conflict issues?
- Has the CPA revealed specific dynamics of the conflict that empower or disempower women and men, girls and boys, in certain ways based on their gender? Could these dynamics inform steps taken towards a sustainable conflict prevention or peacebuilding process?

Results:

- Are the outcomes of the gender and age analysis followed-up, i.e. are gender-sensitive and child rights-based specific measures proposed?

³⁹ UNICEF, 'Core Guidance: New Generation Situation Analysis', 2019, p. 15; and accompanying 'Toolkit: New Generation Situation Analysis' Thematic Area 'Risk, resilience and peacebuilding'; pp. 39-44.



Purpose

This Tool complements section 6.3 ‘Conflict and Peace Scan – ‘good enough’ analysis’ of the WASH for Peace - Age and Gender Sensitive Conflict and Peace Analysis (CPA) Guide. It can be deployed as a stand-alone rapid CPA in emergency contexts or in situations where a quick gathering of data is required. It can also be deployed as a preparatory step to a more in-depth CPA to help plan and design the same. A CP Scan can help to identify useful sources of data and data gaps to consider, as well as potential respondents to engage further in a broader peace and conflict analysis or programme monitoring. The CP Scan can be **undertaken internally within the WASH team in close collaboration with relevant field offices**, and/or with relevant and selected counterparts, as an initial brainstorming and data source identification – CPA Tool 4 ‘Sample Conflict and Peace Analysis Tools’ below, has been developed to accompany and support the implementation of the CP Scan with selected visual tools to facilitate participatory conflict and peace analysis with relevant stakeholders

Location/s:

Key conflict facts and trends

- **Type of conflict** – include descriptive features of the conflict as understood by different stakeholders/ data sources consulted e.g. *national level/localized; intercommunal/inter-ethnic/interfaith; cross-border dimensions; internal/refugee displacement; resource conflict (e.g. water, land); exclusion/marginalization grievances;*
- **Conflict Stage** - *Latent/unstable peace; Acute conflict; Protracted conflict; Post-Conflict⁴¹*
- **If latent/post-conflict** – assess the **risk of conflict (re-) occurrence** in alignment with relevant CO Emergency Preparedness Plans and GRIP conflict risk assessments, if available
- **Prominent impacts on children/women** e.g. *grave violations against children in times of war; widespread SGBV;*
- **Prominent interactions with WASH** e.g. *denial of WASH rights; attacks against WASH infrastructure/ personnel;*

WASH-relevant conflict context:

- *Conflict-prone/affected areas within the WASH intervention context*
- *Recent and current conflict trends affecting access to WASH*
- *Connectors e.g. joint water resource management, diverse communities sharing WASH services*
- *Dividers e.g. WASH access discriminatory practices across community groups, disparities in access to water based on identity, downstream pollution from wastewater*
- **Prominent interactions with WASH** e.g. *denial of WASH rights; attacks against WASH infrastructure/ personnel;*

Key WASH-related conflict stakeholders and their capabilities to enable or constrain access to WASH

⁴⁰ Adapted from UNICEF, Quick Guide to Conflict Analysis, 2016 and USAID, ‘Water and Conflict - A Toolkit for Programming’, 2014.

⁴¹ Latent/unstable peace refers to a conflict stage in which significant conflict drivers and dynamics exist that could potentially lead to overt/violent conflict (for example due to a trigger event); acute conflict refers to a conflict stage where there is overt/violent conflict; protracted conflict refers to a stage in conflict where the situation and the impacts are complex, severe and enduring; post-conflict refers to a stage that follows a cessation of hostilities (e.g. peace agreement); Source: UNICEF, Water Under Fire Vol. 1, 2019.

Location/s:**Key Findings:****Key WASH services and water access and governance dynamics:**

- *Formal and informal institutions that manage WASH services*
- *Capacity/willingness to develop and implement comprehensive WASH services and water management plans*
- *Capacity/willingness to equitably mediate WASH service grievances and/or competing claims for water access, social and environmental impacts, and benefit sharing*
- *WASH services and/or water resources allocated equitably and affordably*
- *Communities/relevant groups with no secure and reliable access to WASH services and water and why*
- *Participation of communities/relevant groups in WASH services and water management*

Key structural/root causes to WASH-related conflict *in the project context e.g. poor WASH service governance; exclusion of women and/or young people from access to services and/or participation; lack of political participation and representation in WASH service planning and implementation; grievances over water resource allocation and management; systematic discrimination and exclusion from accessing WASH services.*

Key WASH-relevant conflict drivers *e.g. drought aggravating competition over pasture and water; worsening economic conditions exacerbating tensions about access to WASH services and water use; political instability and violence constraining access to WASH services; displacement placing burden on host community WASH services and water availability.*

Key conflict triggers *e.g. elections/political transition, sudden rise in food, water, and other commodity prices, climate events, which may affect access to WASH?*

Key WASH-related capacities for peace *or conflict mitigation e.g. traditional dispute resolution approaches proven effective to resolve water conflicts, inter-communal WASH committees, participatory and inclusive utility boards and technical working groups*

Key WASH intervention-conflict context interactions *i.e. potential or actual risks of the intervention fuelling existing/new conflicts; potential or actual impacts on the intervention arising from conflict events or dynamics in the context*

Recommended next steps – *e.g. consultation with relevant FO; consultation/validation with relevant stakeholders – government counterpart, IP, sector partner, communities; immediate support to be sought from CO/RO/HQ; additional peace and conflict analysis to be undertaken.*

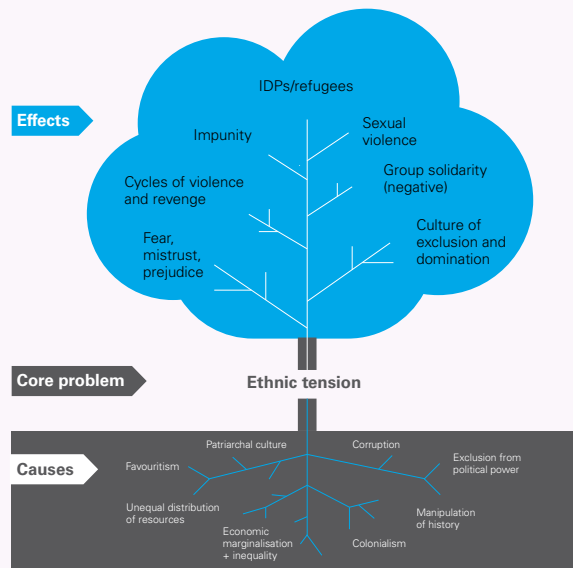
CPA Tool 4

Sample Conflict and Peace Analysis Tools



Conflict and Peace Tool⁴² – This Tool complements the above CPA Tool 3 – Age and Gender Sensitive WASH Conflict and Peace Scan, and includes a selection of easy-to-use visual tools that can be applied by staff to facilitate interactive conflict analysis processes, internally within teams, with partners, and with participating communities as relevant. They are easily adapted and conducive to facilitate discussion – and can be used with diverse groups due to their simple and visual methodologies. The below tools have been selected for their conduciveness to directly feed into either a stand-alone or a preparatory Peace and Conflict Scan (CP Scan) – see CPA Tool 3 – Age and Gender Sensitive Conflict and Peace Scan above.

Conflict Tree (example Conflict Dynamics in Burundi)



Source: Adapted from Fisher, et. al. (2000: 29)

Purpose

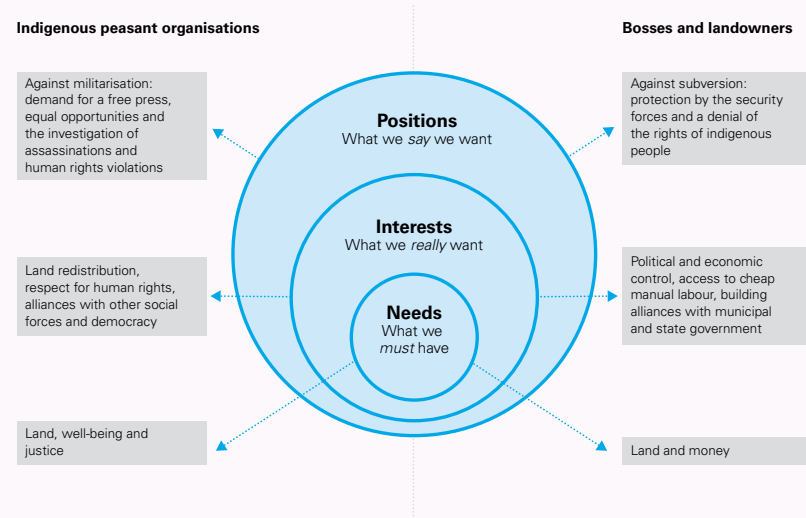
To identify key conflict issues and understand the underlying causes and effects.

The basics:

The conflict tree works with one or more core problems, and then identifies the root causes, and the effects of the problem. Effects are the current (or past) manifestations of the conflict: what do we see, how are people affected, what patterns can be observed? Causes are long-term structural issues, underlying factors that result in the conflicts. This can be a first step in conflict analysis – Use this when you need a simple tool to provide the basis for discussion within a programme team or among stakeholders. This exercise is best done by a group in a workshop setting. Draw the tree template, give participants post its or cards, ask participants to write or draw relevant factors, and ask them to post it in the 'right' place in the Tree – discuss as a group where to place the factors as causes, or effects and why.

42 Adapted from Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), 'Conflict Analysis Framework: Field Guidelines and Procedures', 2017, https://www.gppac.net/files/2018-11/GPPAC%20CAFGuide_Interactive%20version_febr2018_.pdf

Stakeholder Analysis – Position, interest and needs (example from Chiapas Mexico)⁴³



Source: Adapted from Fisher, et. al. (2000: 27)

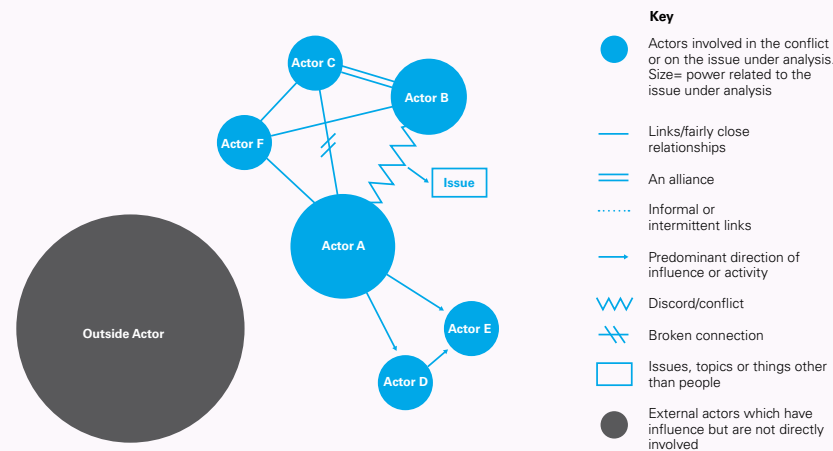
Purpose

To understand conflict parties and their relation to the conflict, including motivations and logic of each group, and identify the power dynamics among the parties.

The basics:

This is a simple tool for developing a conflict profile of strategic conflict stakeholders. You may list the primary (directly involved), secondary (interested), and tertiary (affected) parties, and then identify for each their stated (public) positions or demands, the interests that lie behind those demands, and the basic needs that might be involved. This is the first step of a stakeholder mapping – first understanding each conflict party before moving on to analyse their interactions with each other and with the conflict.

Stakeholder Mapping⁴⁴



Source: Adapted from Fisher, et. al. (2000: 23)

Purpose

To better understand the relationships between parties, identify where power and influence lies, to see who might be potential allies or ‘spoilers’.

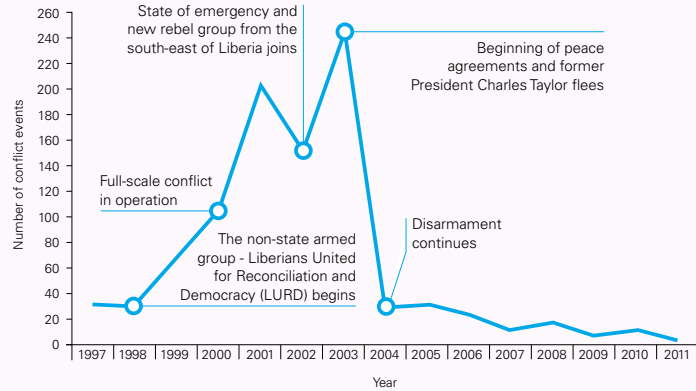
The basics:

A tool for graphically showing the relative power/influence and relationships among the parties in conflict. Stakeholder mapping is a technique used to represent the conflict graphically, placing the parties in relation to the problem and in relation to each other. If people with different viewpoints map their situation together, they may learn about each other’s experiences and perceptions. It is important to place the intervener (e.g. UNICEF, partner) in the map to identify potential interactions and influence in support of conflict-sensitive programming.

43 Herbert, S., Conflict analysis: Topic guide. Birmingham, UK: GSDRC, University of Birmingham, 2017, <https://gsdrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/ConflictAnalysis.pdf>; p.15.

44 Herbert, S., ‘Conflict analysis: Topic guide’, 2017, <https://gsdrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/ConflictAnalysis.pdf>; p.14.

Conflict Timeline⁴⁵ (example from Liberia)



Source: Adapted from Dowd&Raleigh (2012: 14)

Purpose

To visualize the 'history' of a conflict, to identify patterns to a conflict, that may help to identify future trends including recurrent triggers or dynamics that have led to de-/escalation.

The basics:

You can use a simple arrow as a timeline and ask participants to brainstorm and 'plot' key conflict events (positive/negative) since the start of the conflict. You may add a 'severity' scale to determine 'spikes' in a graph as illustrated, in relation to your choice of relevant dimensions of the conflict – e.g. impact on WASH, number of displaced, number of casualties. If you are using the tool with conflict parties, you may ask them to draw their own individual timelines and compare their 'conflict narratives' to discuss similarities/differences and enhance an understanding of the others' perspectives

RESOURCE BOX



More details about the tools included and additional ones can be found in the following resources:

- Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), 'Conflict Analysis Framework: Field Guidelines and Procedures', 2017 https://www.gppac.net/files/2018-11/GPPAC%20CAFGuide_Interactive%20version_febr2018_.pdf
- Herbert, S., 'Conflict analysis: Topic guide', 2017, GSDRC, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom <https://gsdrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/ConflictAnalysis.pdf>
- Conflict Sensitivity Community Hub, 'How To Guide to Conflict Sensitivity', 2012, <https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/646-how-to-guide-to-conflict-sensitivity>; p. 42
- UNICEF, 'Guide to Conflict Analysis', 2016, <https://www.unicef.org/media/96581/file/Guide-to-Conflict-Analysis.pdf>



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Sample WASH for Peace messages

1. Introduction – conflict sensitivity or peacebuilding?

UNICEF's Peacebuilding Framework¹ outlines the fundamental steps to develop and implement conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding programming; this Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide builds and complements this to integrate a WASH-specific focus. The Guide outlines the steps to integrate the findings of a conflict and peace analysis (CPA) or Scan into WASH programmes to strengthen conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding approaches. It includes a Toolkit with six practical tools to support the integration of conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding into WASH interventions, and two thematic mini-guides to integrate gender and climate resilience lenses into WASH for Peace programming.



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All WASH interventions in FCCs must be conflict sensitive, but not all conflict-sensitive programmes need to integrate a peacebuilding approach – *understanding the difference and making the right choice is critical*. Conflict sensitivity is a minimum requirement for programming in FCCs, and depending on the context and opportunities, a peacebuilding approach can also be integrated. Both of the programming approaches begin with an age- and gender-sensitive conflict and peace analysis. However, the key distinction between them is that peacebuilding goes further and strives to address (rather than only avoid exacerbating) the root causes and dynamics of conflict. It is important to keep in mind that conflict sensitivity needs to be the foundation of all interventions in FCCs, and therefore your peacebuilding programming must also be conflict sensitive². The below illustrates the difference with an example:

The following sections outline the practical steps and key considerations to integrate conflict sensitivity (*Section 2*) and/or peacebuilding (*Section 3*) into WASH programming.

RESOURCE BOX



What is the difference between conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding? And how does conflict sensitivity contribute to peacebuilding?

If conflict-sensitive programming is the selected approach: As part of a WASH team, you and your colleagues have decided to focus your initiative on building a borehole in an area shared by two competing communities that often resort to conflict over resources. Following hydrogeological assessment, the location of the borehole is defined, and the location of water points is agreed in consultation with representatives from both communities in mutually agreed locations. These planning steps ensured that the delivery of the WASH service is not perceived to favour a certain group and therefore did not exacerbate tensions, making the programming conflict sensitive.

If peacebuilding programming is the selected approach: In this same WASH initiative, you take a step further to not only facilitate discussions between the two communities on a mutually agreeable location for water points, but also assist them in developing collaborative arrangements for the two groups to jointly manage the borehole and build capacities to address the water-related impacts, dynamics and causes of conflict. This inclusive mechanism is further strengthened to become a community platform to open broader areas of collaboration and dialogue (e.g., shared garden and market, etc.). This results in reinforcing positive relationships among groups, thereby strengthening social cohesion at the community level, making it a peacebuilding programme.

¹ United Nations Children's Fund, *Peacebuilding Programming Framework*, UNICEF, New York, 2023; upcoming June 2023.

² UNICEF, 'Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide', 2016, <https://www.unicef.org/media/96576/file/Programming-Guide-Conflict-Sensitivity-and-Peacebuilding.pdf>;

2. The ‘what’ and the ‘how’ of conflict-sensitive WASH

Conflict sensitivity is relevant to both internal and external dimensions of the work of UNICEF WASH teams and partners in FCCs. **Internal conflict sensitivity refers to programme support** and requires attention, analysis and adjustments to UNICEF and WASH Teams’ internal policies, procedures and practices. These can refer to, for example, bias affecting choices about supply, recruitment, or contracting, and how this may affect the conflict sensitivity of an intervention. **External conflict sensitivity refers to programme implementation** and requires awareness, analysis and adjustments

to the design and implementation of WASH activities, projects, programmes and partnerships. These include equity and gender considerations, the choice of partners and participants, and how external communication and actions shapes others’ perceptions of the WASH intervention or programme in particular, and/or of UNICEF and its partners more broadly.³ Internal and external dimensions of conflict sensitivity are mutually reinforcing, and processes to strengthen organizational risk management also promote integration of conflict sensitivity *into* and *across* programmes.

2.1. Integrating conflict sensitivity throughout the WASH programming cycle

Integrating a conflict-sensitive approach to a WASH intervention entails the monitoring of relevant conflict dynamics and the interaction between project activities and these dynamics, and the adaptation of the project in response to any identified risks or conflict events throughout the programming cycle as part of an iterative and reflective approach.

WASH Conflict and Peace Analysis or Scan: Understand the context in which your WASH programme or intervention operates.

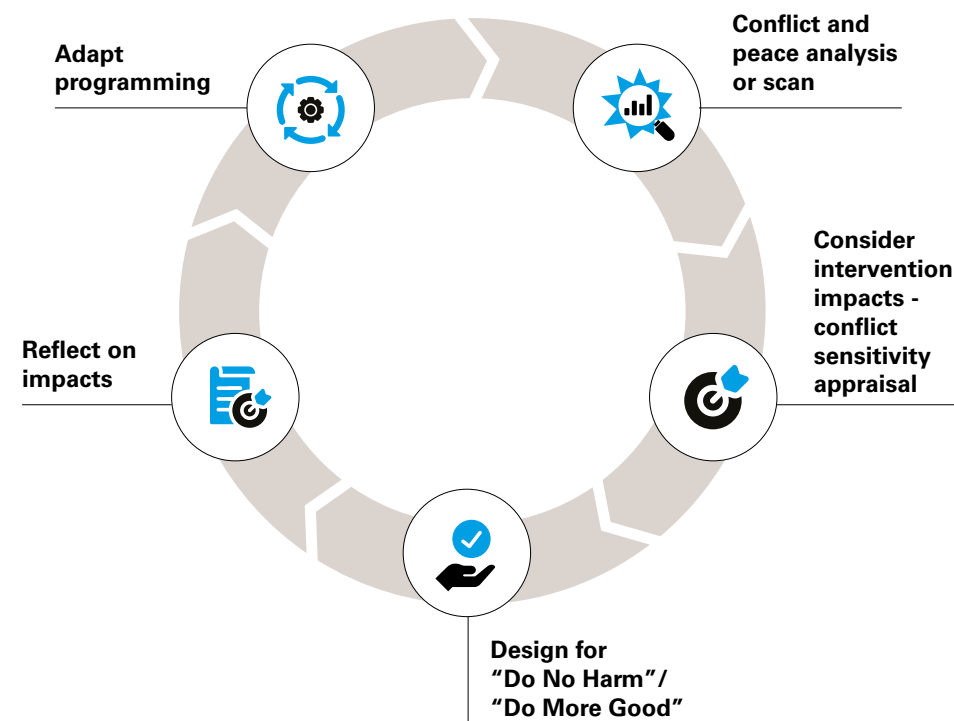
- **Consider impacts and appraise the conflict sensitivity of any planned intervention:** Consider the impacts your proposed intervention may have, particularly on dynamics between and among social groups.
- **Design for conflict sensitivity as a minimum requirement:** Address the potential interaction between your planned (or ongoing) WASH interventions and the conflict context, and ensure that the design addresses the possible conflict impacts.
- **Reflect:** Consistently reflect on the implications of your intervention using ‘reflective practice’.
- **Adapt:** Based on reflection, monitoring findings and changes in context, adjust programming to continue ensuring conflict sensitivity.

In humanitarian contexts, the above conflict-sensitive programming cycle remains relevant but must be adapted to account for constrained timelines and the specificities of a rapidly changing environment. In this case a **‘good enough’ approach** may be deployed with a more agile analysis and conflict-sensitive programme design/adaptation process – *for a step-by-step guide details see Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Toolkit, Programming Tool 1: ‘Good Enough’ WASH in Emergencies Conflict Sensitivity Tool.*

Protracted crises and ‘humanitarian to development’ transition settings may offer greater opportunity to integrate more comprehensive conflict sensitivity approaches, as illustrated by the case study from South Sudan, below.

The next section describes entry points to integrate conflict sensitivity in the three key stages of programming: **planning and design; implementation; and review and/or closure.**

Figure 7: Conflict sensitive programme cycle



3 For more details see UNICEF, ‘Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide’, 2016, pp. 18-20.

CASE STUDY

WASH Cluster Partner Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH) has integrated a conflict-sensitive approach to the WASH response in the long-term IDP settlement of Mangalla, in Central Equatoria State South Sudan



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WASH Cluster Partner Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH) has integrated a conflict-sensitive approach to the WASH response in the long-term IDP settlement of Mangalla, in Central Equatoria State South Sudan – the over 11,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were displaced by floods in Jonglei State in June 2020. The influx of IDPs, mainly Dinka agro-pastoralists, and the humanitarian response threatened to worsen complex local conflict dynamics between the Bari and Mundari residents of Mangalla (e.g. conflict over land and access to natural resources, contested

administrative status of Mangalla payam) if not handled in a conflict-sensitive manner. In addition, there are fears among Mangalla residents that some recent arrivals are not fleeing floods but rather seeking commercial opportunities in the area, signalling potential challenges to the sharing of resources.

PAH carried out an in-depth context analysis, including an **analysis of conflict dynamics and interactions with WASH**. Key informant interviews were conducted with local authorities and community leaders, and focus group discussions were held with youth, women, men, girls and elderly people from both the host community (Mundari and Bari) and IDP population in Jonglei State. Participatory safety audit exercises were held with support from protection partners before the implementation of the project. This was aimed to analyse the presence of armed groups and their influence in WASH service provision, find out the protection risks associated with the intervention in Mangalla and to jointly decide on safe methodologies of service provision. A baseline survey was conducted at community and household levels in both IDPs and the host community. PAH leveraged both internal and Cluster unified tools (WASH, Protection, Shelter) to support the in-depth analytics, including the Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility's [Conflict Sensitivity Guidance for South Sudan](#).

Extensive community consultations were conducted with youth, women, men, girls and elderly people from both the host community (Mundari and Bari) and IDPs to inform the design and implementation of the intervention. Participatory and inclusive safety audit exercises undertaken with protection cluster partners were also used to better understand conflict dynamics and potential interactions with the planned WASH intervention. A key issue identified was the exclusion of some tribes from participation and employment opportunities, so PAH

implemented highly transparent and consultative recruitment processes to identify community hygiene promoters, pump mechanics, and water user committees to minimize conflict over livelihood opportunities generated by the project. Through the participatory conflict analysis PAH learnt that land is one of the factors that cause conflict between the Mundari and Bari communities. After the settlement of the IDPs in Mangalla, the land allocation system changed, leading to illegal land allocation and conflict between IDPs and host communities. PAH only constructed the water points in locations agreed by the IDPs' leaders in close consultation with the host community to mitigate conflict as the result of the intervention.

IDPs and host communities are represented equally in all project activities to minimize issues of conflict over resources among the communities. Consultations and information sharing is done on a weekly basis as part of accountability to affected populations, and issues arising from these exchanges are used to adapt programming. For example, additional rehabilitation of water points for the host community was included in the project following implementation to avoid conflict between the IDPs and leaders of the host community. Biweekly community meetings and internal complaint and feedback mechanisms are being used to continuously monitor conflict dynamics and address any issues arising to uphold a conflict-sensitive approach. Conflict sensitivity is contributing to durable solutions to displacement in Mangalla by promoting the collaborative engagement of IDPs and host communities over the new and rehabilitated water resources and the strengthening of community-based conflict management mechanisms. PAH engaged other Cluster Partners in the analysis and partners. The lessons learned in Mangalla are being shared with Cluster Partners to promote conflict-sensitive approaches to WASH programming in IDP contexts.

2.2. Conflict-sensitive WASH programme planning and design

A critical step in ensuring the CPA or Scan findings inform programming is to integrate a conflict-sensitive approach from the very first stages of programme/intervention planning and design.

Linking conflict analysis to the project design involves:

- Reviewing all key parameters of a project in view of their link to the conflict context
- Assessing the risks that implementation may be affected by conflict issues or may contribute to tensions
- Identifying opportunities for reinforcing peace outcomes (increased dialogue between divided groups, less violence, etc.) through the planned intervention
- Identifying changes to the original project design to avoid unintentionally contributing to tensions.

Reviewing key project parameters against findings from the conflict analysis is what is referred to as a **conflict-sensitivity appraisal** of a programme or intervention and should be an integral part of programme design in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Integrating conflict sensitivity at the design stage involves using findings from the conflict analysis to review and inform all key parameters of the project: **what** the project will do; **who** will implement it and for whom, and **who** the beneficiaries/participants will be; **where** the project will be implemented; **how** the project will be implemented, and **when** the project activities will take place. It can help foresee risks and obstacles to effective implementation early on; prevent timely and costly ad hoc management of tensions arising from, or exacerbated by, a project; and help identify and leverage new opportunities to build and sustain peace. It is also important to consider if the make-up of the design team is likely to result in any bias in the project design - see [Programming Tool 3 – ‘Conflict-Sensitive WASH Programming Tool’](#) for guidance on how to conduct a conflict-sensitivity appraisal

Using participatory approaches is particularly important for conflict-sensitive programme design. Including participation, not only by staff and partners, but also community members at the design stage will enrich the conflict-sensitivity analysis of the planned project. Ensuring the distinct needs, perspectives and capacities of women and girls, and of vulnerable groups in target communities will be critical to uphold inclusive and gender-sensitive approaches. Getting different perspectives on the possible risks and opportunities linked to implementation will also help. For example, capturing potential conflict risks related to the allocation of water resources among different users (domestic use, animal rearing, agriculture) is critical to conflict sensitivity in water-scarce environments. The importance of conflict analysis and inclusion of relevant stakeholders in project design is illustrated by the example of tensions around the water services in Gorom-Gorom, Burkina Faso, as explained in the case study below.

A critical next step in designing conflict-sensitive programming is to ensure that your **overall ToC is also conflict sensitive** to underpin all programming in fragile and conflict-affected contexts – this will facilitate the integration of peacebuilding results logic into the ToC - [for details on how to develop a conflict-sensitive ToC see Programming Tool 2 ‘WASH for Peace ToC Tool’ of this Guidance.](#)

Specific activities need to be **included in the workplan** to ensure that conflict sensitivity is upheld throughout the programme cycle, and that it genuinely informs relevant programme adaptation *if and when* needed. Time and space for reflection on conflict-sensitivity issues also need to be embedded in the project workplan, for example by being explicitly included on the agenda of regular project review meetings, etc. Such activities need to be **adequately budgeted for**, as this will embed conflict sensitivity in project implementation.

- If a conflict analysis has not yet taken place to inform programme/intervention design, plan and budget for conducting or updating a conflict analysis at the start-up of the project, and for reviewing it as part of monitoring activities
- Plan and include budget line/s for capacity-building in conflict sensitivity for staff and partners involved in the project (and where relevant community representatives)
- Plan and include budget line/s for participatory monitoring and regular reflection with community members
- Plan and include budget line/s for feedback/ accountability mechanisms



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CASE STUDY

The importance of conflict analysis and inclusion of relevant stakeholders in project design – Challenges addressing tensions in IDP-hosting contexts in Burkina Faso



Gorom-Gorom is a small town in northern Burkina Faso affected by drought and water scarcity, and hosting almost 65,000 internally displaced persons due to conflict and insecurity going back 2.5 years. During this period, various WASH Cluster NGO partners have provided WASH emergency support to both host and internally displaced communities – including the construction of a small water network that took water from a borehole in a nearby village near Gorom-Gorom to the main IDP site inside town. The village was also benefiting from the network, with a dedicated standpipe. However, the network has been sabotaged several times despite repairs by the implementing NGO and the municipality, and meetings with local authorities and communities to ensure its sustainable functioning. After a final act of sabotage, it was decided not to repair it but to rather opt for alternative solutions to bring water to the IDPs site. Local sources indicate that the **exclusion of key community members from project discussions** led to dissatisfaction among host community members, while **long-standing tensions between Gorom-Gorom residents and the villagers hosting the water source** for the network was also cited as the reason for the repeated sabotage. At the time of writing the network was still not working.

2.3. Conflict-sensitive programme implementation – upholding ‘do no harm’

At the core of conflict-sensitive and risk-informed programming is **reflective practice** and **adaptive programme implementation**. They represent key principles, but must also translate into actionable programming approaches and strategies. Reflective practice should include periodic updates of the conflict analysis and the monitoring of conflict sensitivity using the Conflict Sensitivity Appraisal Tool (*see section 2.2 above and Programming Tool 3 ‘Conflict-Sensitive WASH Programming Tool’ for guidance*), and this in turn should inform the adaptation of programmatic activities to ensure that WASH interventions at a minimum ‘do no harm’ and ideally ‘do more good’. **Conflict sensitivity can be integrated at any point of the programme cycle** to respond to changes in the context, as illustrated by the example from Ethiopia in the case study below.

CASE STUDY

Strengthening conflict sensitivity of Itang integrated host-refugee Water Utility in Gambella region of Ethiopia:



The integrated host-refugee water utility scheme in Itang, Gambella, was kick-started in 2014 with support from German Development Bank (KfW) and implemented in partnership with the Regional Water Bureau. A conflict analysis (end of 2020) and sensitivity assessment (early 2021) were implemented to respond to increased tensions and incidents of sabotage disrupting water supply and to inform an ‘optimization phase’ foreseen in programme implementation. Consultations with key stakeholders and community members identified key conflict dynamics, not only between host and refugee communities, but also within local communities about the utility benefiting ‘outsiders’ (Ethiopians not originally from Gambella) brought in to work on the utility as well as business owners connected to the water supply along one of the main trading roads. Efforts were made to strengthen the risk management capacity of the utility, including a ‘contingency plan and risk register’ to address service gaps as well as strengthened grievance management and governance mechanisms. There was a decrease in conflict incidents and an improvement in collaborative engagement of the key stakeholders – the lessons learned from this process were used to inform the development of a Guidance Note to integrate conflict sensitivity, peacebuilding, and social cohesion approaches to WASH programmes:

Source: UNICEF, ‘Conflict Sensitivity, Peace Building and Social Cohesion Guideline for WASH Programming in Ethiopia’, 2022 <https://www.unicef.org/ethiopia/media/5356/file/Conflict%20Sensitivity,%20Peace%20Building%20and%20Social%20Cohesion%20Guideline%20for%20WASH%20Programming%20in%20Ethiopia.pdf>

The practical implementation of conflict sensitivity will be anchored on your M&E by monitoring the context and the two-way interaction between the intervention and the context

– impacts of context on the WASH programme/intervention, and impacts of the WASH programme/intervention on the context. For example, an impact of the intervention on the context can be the fuelling of tensions between communities due to the unequal distribution of water or contested allocation among diverse water users; an impact of the context on the intervention could be restricted access due to insecurity in the target area of an intervention - *for details on how to monitor for conflict sensitivity see the WASH for Peace M&E Guide and Toolkit*. An initial CP Scan and Conflict Sensitivity Appraisal will capture the **current and foreseen WASH–conflict interactions, but not all conflict risks can be pre-identified**. Therefore teams should monitor conflict sensitivity continuously. This should be done as a formal or informal and periodic exercise, whenever any major new activities are being initiated, or when a change in the context suggests that peace and conflict dynamics may be evolving. This can be done by asking three core questions, looking at both the immediate area of implementation of a particular action, and also the wider context:

- *What changes have we seen in the peace and conflict dynamics in the past period, and what do we foresee in the next?*
- *What two-way interactions have we seen between our WASH intervention and peace and conflict dynamics; what is the impact of these; and what can we foresee in the next period?*
- *What adaptation or mitigation actions have we taken/should we take?*

A useful way to conduct this regular contextual update is to get diverse stakeholders together for **conflict sensitivity-focused consultations**. Such discussions are useful not only to update the context analysis, but also to maintain stakeholders’ awareness of and alertness to conflict-sensitivity concerns. These consultations can be part of an overall [Accountability to Affected Populations \(AAP\)](#) feedback mechanism, ensuring we keep a finger on the pulse of our intervention’s interaction with the context. UNICEF WASH teams and partners may consider establishing conflict-sensitivity focal points in projects and partnerships at field level that can convene at regular intervals of the programme cycle (even in shorter emergency response cycles) and use the *‘Programming Tool 3 – Conflict-Sensitive WASH Programming Tool’* for guidance on how to conduct a conflict-sensitivity appraisal to monitor conflict sensitivity and trigger relevant programme adaptations. During consultations, ensure that adequate attention is paid to:

- **Gender and age dimensions of conflict sensitivity** – for example men, women, and adolescents/youth participation in the design and implementation of programmes to ensure context-relevant services that address specific needs.
- Needs and perspectives of diverse and vulnerable groups, to uphold **equity and inclusion as core elements of your conflict-sensitivity approach**. UNICEF’s WASH Guidance Note for [Leaving No One Behind](#)⁴ notes that ensuring equitable access to WASH for all without discrimination is imperative not only because it is a fundamental human right but because “inequalities between groups can lead to [...] conflict”

CASE STUDY

Gender-insensitive WASH driving conflict in the South Punjab region of Pakistan



Due to the prominent and distinct role that women and girls play in water use in rural communities of Pakistan, they are often engaged in the planning and implementation of water supply facilities in rural areas. In rural areas women fulfil traditional but prominent roles in WASH, e.g. water collection and domestic water use, and in some areas women are engaged in farming as well. However, in one case women were excluded from initial assessments for a project to construct a women’s latrine, leading to conflict in the location. An international NGO carried out an initial assessment and selected a place for the construction of the latrine in a village of South Punjab region. During assessment there was limited engagement by the women of two households, but once construction started the community were hostile towards the contractors building the latrine. Shortly after the latrine was finalized, conflict broke out in the village as one of the households denied access to the other, requiring police intervention to manage the dispute. The lack of participation by women in the design and implementation of the project and of the community more broadly in its management led to misunderstandings about ownership and access that escalated into conflict.

4 UNICEF, ‘Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH): A Guidance Note for Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)’ 2021.

CASE STUDY

Addressing conflict insensitivity through WASH Committees in East Darfur



In Shariah locality of East Darfur, intercommunal tensions rose when one of the WASH sector partners planned to build a new Water Yard (rural water supply scheme in Sudan); initially, the Water Yard was planned to be built in Gaar Hagar community, but after the geophysical survey, the location of the Water Yard was moved to nearby Soraa community as it indicated a better water yield. Unfortunately, when the Water Yard was built, the signpost showed Gaar Hagar community's name. This caused tension between two communities as people from Gaar Hagar felt they were entitled to the new water source. As UNICEF and a local NGO partner were implementing a Peacebuilding Fund project in Gaar Hagar, the WASH committee in Gaar Hagar were trained on the sustainable maintenance of existing water sources and cross-cutting themes including social cohesion. The tension between the two communities came up as an issue, and the WASH committee stepped up its intervention to hold a dialogue between two communities. The WASH committee invited the community leaders of four communities that benefit from the newly constructed Water Yard (Gaar Hagar, Soraa, Hilla Hamid and Dobag communities). After an extensive discussion facilitated by the committee members, it was agreed to establish a joint water management committee to manage and operate the Water Yard jointly, to ensure sustainability of the water source for all.

Conflict-sensitivity capacity can be built into programme implementation, for example by ensuring that implementing partners have knowledge and skills to translate conflict analysis findings into conflict-sensitive programming actions – **partners can undertake UNICEF's Introduction to risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding programming**. Moreover, supporting and engaging *participating communities* in the monitoring and management of conflict risks is critical and can add highly context-relevant capacities to your conflict-sensitivity approach. Participatory consultations can create opportunities for communities to raise concerns, tensions or fears safely, and if managed effectively can help to address issues before they escalate into violent conflict – for example, WASH committees can be used to support as in the example from East Darfur in Sudan discussed in the case study below.

Conflict sensitivity is also a critical aspect of **WASH systems strengthening work implemented with government counterparts**. Conflict sensitizing WASH sector systems, plans and policies will help to build resilience to conflict throughout the sector. If relevant, conflict analysis and conflict sensitivity can be included in trainings organized for WASH ministry officials, and can also be part of any UNICEF-supported government WASH contingency planning and emergency response strategy or programme. Often UNICEF and its partners work in complex conflict-affected environments where government counterparts are a party to conflict – in these cases balancing system strengthening work with civil society and community engagement can help to mitigate risks of UNICEF support being co-opted or perceived as biased.⁵

RESOURCE BOX

Conflict-sensitive WASH system strengthening entry point



Adapted from UNICEF, 'Guidance on Risk-Informed Programming', 2018, <https://www.unicef.org/media/57621/file>, p. 11

- Ensure that national WASH ministries or institutions perform conflict risk analysis specific to their sector, to consider how to better target those households or communities most at risk
- Support WASH national/local authorities to adapt policies, plans and budgets to consider measures and resources necessary to ensure that systems can absorb or adapt to conflict shocks and stresses
- Developing protocols, procedures, micro-plans and programmes to enhance shock-responsiveness and adaptation in the WASH sector, so as to ensure the continuity and quality of services for children
- Supporting children, adolescents and youth to engage in these processes and influence the analysis, design and implementation phases as appropriate.

⁵ UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action are also a good reference to guide the "engagement with all parties to conflict, and other stakeholders as necessary and feasible, to gain access to the populations in need"; <https://www.corecommitments.unicef.org/ccc-1-3>.

2.4. 'Conflict-sensitive WASH programme closure – exit and handover

Exit strategies are important for any project, but are critically important to consider from a conflict-sensitivity perspective. In the case of WASH investments, this is particularly pertinent when valuable assets and infrastructure must be handed over to local authorities or communities. Tensions can arise at the end of projects, particularly when communities do not fully understand the reasons why the project is ending or why an organization is leaving.

The following aspects are important to consider from a conflict sensitivity perspective, and integrated into participatory and representative programme decision-making and governance processes established to ensure early and sustained consensus about relevant risks and necessary mitigation measures – *see Programming Tool 3 'Conflict-Sensitive WASH Design and Implementation Tool' for guidance and examples of risks and mitigation measures to ensure a conflict-sensitive approach to exit/closure of programmes:*

- The exit strategy should be carefully designed before programme implementation begins in consultation with participating communities, implementing partners, and other relevant stakeholders, and should be widely shared paying attention to local language and culturally appropriate communication channels (ensuring all groups in the target community receive information and can participate), particularly in relation to plans for discontinuation.

CASE STUDY

The need for conflict-sensitive approaches to support exit and handover of water source identification



UNICEF Kenya supported a government-led and large-scale Water supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme in 2014-2018. The project funded 1,235 community water projects, mainly wells and boreholes, to improve access to safe water mainly in Western Kenya to mitigate persistent seasonal cholera outbreaks in the area. Community members later raised complaints with the local authorities that some of the projects were located on private land and had thus created conflicts over access and management of the water sources. Following the **handover of the water sources** to government counterparts, the conflicts over ownership and access persisted. Engaging a conflict-sensitive approach from the design stage, including a conflict analysis and stakeholder mapping, could have identified the potential risk of such contested ownership issues and a robust consultative process leading to a formal agreement with all stakeholders, including landowners, local authorities and water committees could have been integrated into the handover of each of the sites.

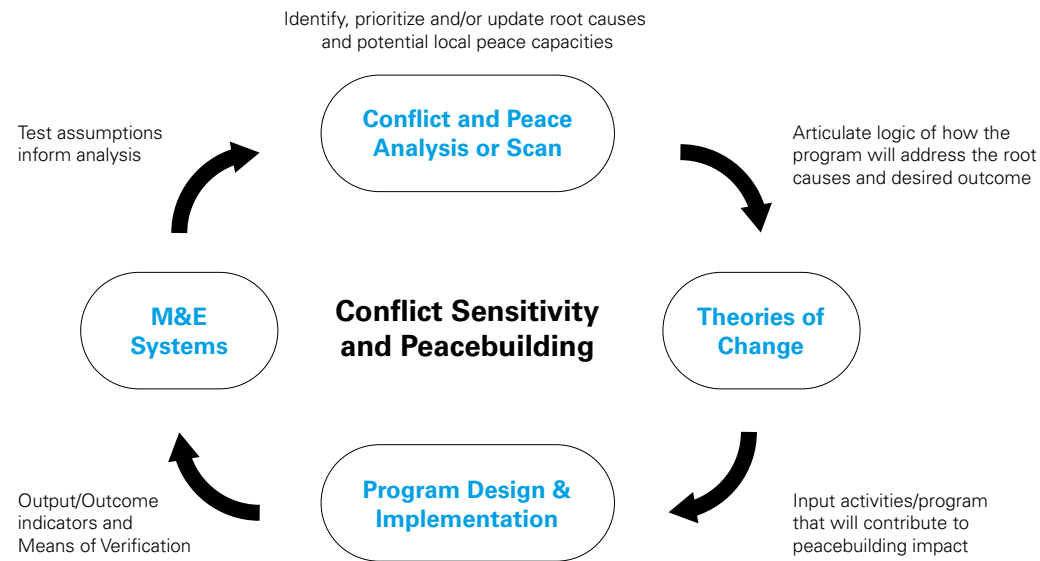
- The exit strategy should be subject to a conflict analysis and a scenario analysis and measures drawn up to mitigate against the risk of exacerbating tensions in the area through the way the project ends. Questions to be asked could include, for example, how are remaining resources shared or allocated within or across communities? How is the handover of assets/infrastructure being handled – by whom, who is the custodian? Is there a consensus on the mechanisms that have been put in place for operation and maintenance, and on the corresponding roles and responsibilities? After the project ends, what will be the security risks for local staff, partners or community members that have been involved in implementation?⁶



3. The ‘What’ and ‘How’ of peacebuilding WASH

UNICEF’s Peacebuilding Framework outlines the fundamental elements of UNICEF’s peacebuilding approach and supporting Theories of Change, while the sections below identify WASH-relevant entry points and considerations. Building on the foundation of conflict sensitivity, this section will discuss in detail the potential WASH contributions to building and sustaining peace across **the four levels** of UNICEF engagement and impacts: **enabling environment for child rights-based and positive peace, vertical social cohesion** (state-society relationships), horizontal social cohesion (community relationships), and **individual contributions to peace**.⁷ This section outlines the steps and decisions to be taken to develop and implement WASH peacebuilding programmes in line with UNICEF’s Results-Based Management (RBM)⁸ approach.

Figure 8: Peacebuilding programming cycle



RBM stresses the importance of identifying, reducing and managing risks (including conflict) in the environment – risks that may affect children, and also risks that may affect the ability of UNICEF and its partners to achieve the results as planned. The RBM programme logic is thus highly conducive to support conflict-sensitive and peace-building programming.

⁷ For more details on UNICEF’s approach to peacebuilding see the ‘UNICEF’s approach to sustaining peace’ in the introduction to the WASH for Peace Guidance
⁸ UNICEF, ‘Results-Based Management Handbook: Working together for children’, 2017, <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/media/10356/file>



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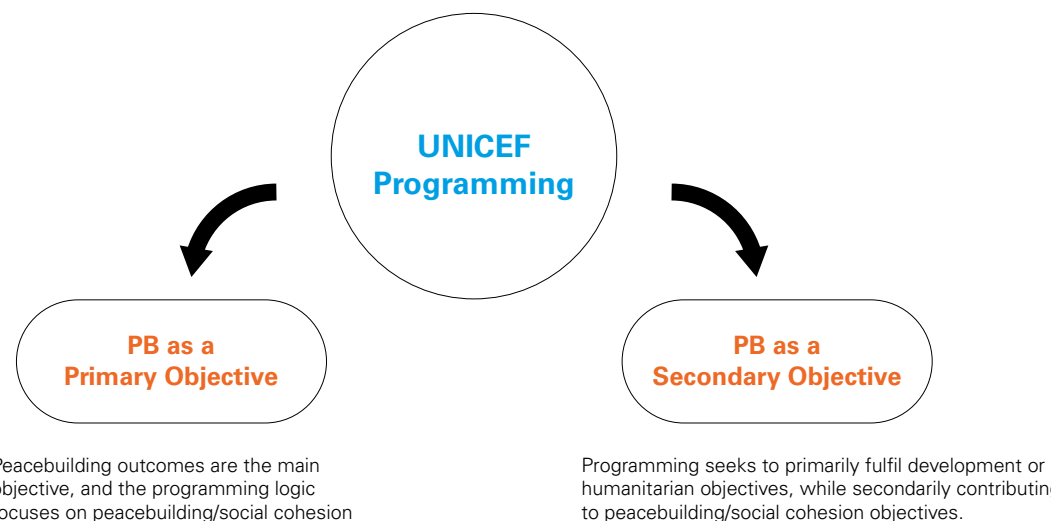
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Step 1

Defining peacebuilding as a primary or secondary objective for your WASH intervention

The findings of the CPA or Scan should give WASH teams the necessary information to determine in the first instance whether a primary focus on peacebuilding is required or relevant. If water/WASH is a critical dimension of conflict (e.g. water user conflict, exclusion from WASH) then peacebuilding as a primary objective should be considered; if there are relevant interactions between broader conflict and WASH (conflict impacts on WASH, WASH intervention in conflict-affected context) then a peacebuilding secondary objective should be considered - [see Programming Tool 4 – Peacebuilding WASH Programming Tool for guiding questions](#) to determine whether the operational environment is conducive to pursuing a peacebuilding primary objective through WASH interventions – whether stand-alone or embedded within multisectoral approaches and programmes. The same questions can help to determine how explicitly or implicitly such an approach should be integrated, and whether potential sensitivities should be considered to frame the intervention using a different language or approach.

Figure 9: Peacebuilding as Primary or Secondary Objective⁹



⁹ Adapted from UNICEF, 'Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide', 2016.

Step 2

Developing peacebuilding WASH theories of change

A most critical aspect of the strategic planning process is the development of a ToC that articulates a collective vision for reaching a desired impact and makes explicit how one level of change leads to another.¹⁰ UNICEF’s Programming Guide to Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding provides a basic structure for a ToC based on RBM results logic: “If we implement this programme, project or activity, then we will create or support peaceful change, because the programme addresses root causes, identified in the conflict and peace analysis (CPA).”

The theory of change supports increased conflict sensitivity for programming, as it is closely informed by the CPA or Scan findings. Conversely, without a well-articulated theory of change grounded in a CPA, the likelihood of doing harm, or being inefficient or ineffective, increases substantially. The example in Figure 10¹¹ illustrates how this basic structure can be used to build a WASH peacebuilding ToC focused on how inclusive community-level WASH programming can help generate social cohesion to address ‘mutual distrust and fear between two communities that negatively affects access to a shared water resource and leads to violent conflict’.

Key assumptions to be examined in the WASH for Peace ToC relate to the relationship between WASH and peacebuilding results and contributions, namely: how do WASH results contribute to peace, and how do peacebuilding results contribute to WASH? It is critical that the relationship between the two result chains is clearly articulated, and their contribution to the overall results of the intervention coherently and demonstrably captured - *for more details see Programming Tool 2 – WASH for Peace ToC Tool*, which includes examples of result statements. The next section also includes several examples of illustrative ToCs to support the development and implementation of diverse WASH for Peace Programming.

Figure 10: Basic peacebuilding Theory of Change approach



Figure 11: Example of a simple WASH ToC applying the RBM approach



RESOURCE BOX



The **UN Peacebuilding Fund’s Guidance Note on Theory of Change** notes that to complement the oversimplification of *If/Then* statements, underlying assumptions must be thoroughly unpacked - always include a substantive and well thought out ‘*Because*’ statement that links the basic results logic with the CPA, and that unpacks the assumptions about why positive change is expected to occur as a result of an intervention. This ‘unpacking’ should include the identification of multiple and potentially competing assumptions behind different approaches to addressing conflict and contribute to peace in a particular context.

¹⁰ UNICEF, ‘Guidance on Risk-Informed Programming’, 2018, <https://www.unicef.org/media/57621/file>; Module 3

¹¹ Adapted from UNICEF conflict sensitivity & peacebuilding training materials – for more information contact UNICEF Conflict Prevention, Fragility, and Peacebuilding (CPFP) Team at HQ.

Step 3

Defining WASH contributions to peace – enabling environment, vertical social cohesion, horizontal social cohesion, and individual capacities for peace

This section describes and illustrates how WASH conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding interventions can contribute to building and sustaining peace by **strengthening an enabling environment** for child rights-based and positive peace, **vertical and horizontal social cohesion and individual capacities for peace**, in line with UNICEF's overall approach to build and sustain peace.¹² *Programming Tool 4 – Peacebuilding WASH Programming Tool* provides examples of interventions for each area of contribution. WASH contributions to peace need to consider the gendered dimensions of peacebuilding. This includes the importance of enhancing efforts to address the power structures, dynamics, roles and relations between women/girls and men/boys – for more details on integrating gender responsiveness to deliver 'triple and mutually reinforcing dividends' of WASH, gender, and peace outcomes *see Programming Tool 5 – Guide to integrating a gender lens into WASH for Peace Programming*

3.1. WASH contributions to an enabling environment for child rights-based and positive peace

The UNICEF Peacebuilding Framework illustrates organization-wide efforts to fostering an enabling environment for child rights-based and positive peace by supporting the adoption of age-, gender-, and conflict-sensitive and pro-peace norms, policies and practices among key stakeholders (duty-bearers and rights-holders) globally and in FCCs. This is a central tenet of UNICEF's commitment to build and sustain peace, and reflects efforts at global, national and community levels. UNICEF's support to WASH child rights-based interventions present an opportunity and a platform for influencing community and

societal norms, and behaviours at community level. UNICEF also plays an essential advocacy and leadership role in the WASH sector, helping to shape international and national norms, policies and practices so they are conducive to peace. The below broad ToC illustrates:

Generic ToC

WASH contributing to an enabling environment for child-centered and positive peace

IF meaningful participation of children and women in WASH for peace initiatives is increased, more flexible finance for peacebuilding WASH is available, more conducive WASH for peace partnerships are established, and pro-peace social and behavior change is adopted, globally and in FCCs

THEN an enabling environment for child-centered and positive peace will be fostered

BECAUSE

- The impacts of fragility and conflict on children, young people and women will be reduced and their agency and ability to build and sustain peace through their engagement in WASH will be increased
- Key WASH stakeholders (duty bearers and right holders) globally and in FCCs will adopt age-, gender-, and conflict-sensitive and pro-peace norms, policies, and practices

Examples of WASH interventions to strengthen an enabling environment for child rights-based and positive peace include evidence-based **advocacy** to ensure WASH policies are conflict-sensitive and leverage opportunities to address root causes of conflict and supporting **pro-peace social and behaviour change (SBC)**¹³ through WASH for Peace interventions – for example, by conducting context-specific analysis to identify factors that sustain harmful norms and practices that undermine peace and perpetuate conflict, as well as potential drivers of positive change, and using the findings to target WASH SBC strategies and actions – the below illustrate how:



¹² For more details on UNICEF's overall peacebuilding approach see Key Concepts section of this Guidance Introduction.

¹³ <https://www.sbcguidance.org/>

RESOURCE BOX



Pro-peace social and behaviour change

Pro-peace social and behaviour change (SBC)

is a core UNICEF strategy that focuses not only on individual change, but also on influencing the environment to make it easier for 'changed' behaviours to be practiced. SBC also focuses on tackling the structural barriers that underpin inequity, exclusion, marginalization – all critical conflict drivers and barriers to the realization of children's rights. UNICEF's [Social and Behaviour Change \(SBC\) Guidance](#) identifies **social cohesion as a key social transformation outcome** and the links between social and individual behaviour change that can be adapted to integrate relevant aspects of SBC to 'WASH for Peace' interventions. SBC approaches and tools can enhance the enabling environment for child rights-based and positive peace by supporting the adoption of age-, gender- and conflict-sensitive and pro-peace norms, policies and practices among key WASH stakeholders (duty-bearers and rights-holders) globally and in FCCs, so the impact of fragility and conflict on children, young people and women's access to WASH is reduced and their agency and ability to build and sustain peace through their engagement if WASH initiatives is increased.

For more detail on SBC strategies and actions see <https://www.sbcguidance.org/do> more and for more information on how SBC supports UNICEF peacebuilding approach see UNICEF's [Peacebuilding Framework](#)



WASH for Peace advocacy can complement pro-peace SBC efforts on the ground to reduce fragility and prevent conflict by providing an environment that is conducive to individual and community change. Moreover, the influencing must extend not only to external stakeholders but also to key internal stakeholders to build commitment and capacity to fulfil the ambition in the Strategic Plan to leverage WASH investments to build and sustain peace in FCCs (*See this Guide's Programming Tool 7 'WASH for Peace Internal and External Advocacy Strategy Canvas'*). 'Messages' and 'asks' are core components of effective advocacy – messages convey the key political, social or moral point that is being conveyed to your audience, while an 'ask' is the 'call for action' to the target audience (*See this Guide's Programming Tool 8 – Sample WASH for Peace Messages for key messages relating to key 'WASH for Peace' themes*). Below is an example of 'WASH for Peace' advocacy with key messages, evidence and 'asks' taken from UNICEF's ['Water Under Fire'](#) initiative:¹⁴

¹⁴ UNICEF, 'Water under fire: The role of water in conflicts around the world', 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/stories/water-under-fire>; <https://www.unicef.org/reports/emergencies-development-peace-in-fragile-and-conflict-affected-contexts-2019>

Key message and evidence:

The right to safe drinking water and sanitation is rooted in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, United Nations resolutions and the Geneva conventions. It is a right that is as critical to the survival of children as food, medical care and protection from attack. Every child has the right to water and sanitation. And yet globally, in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, 420 million children lack basic sanitation and 210 million children lack access to safe drinking water.

Key asks:

To improve children's access to clean drinking water, and to save lives in conflicts and crises, UNICEF calls for three major changes:

- **Stop attacks on water and sanitation infrastructure and personnel.** Deliberate and indiscriminate attacks on water and sanitation – and the power supplies required for them to function – can be a violation of international humanitarian law. So, too, is the intentional denial of services.
- **Build a water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector capable of consistently providing high-quality water and sanitation services in emergencies.** The WASH sector needs to build technical, operational and personnel capacity to address increasingly complex and protracted crises.
- **Link life-saving humanitarian responses to the development of sustainable water and sanitation systems for all.** This requires systems to be built that can ensure the right to safe water and sanitation and prevent outbreaks of disease. And it demands that humanitarian and development organizations collaborate from the start to establish systems that will remain resilient.

3.2. WASH contributions to vertical social cohesion

Two aspects of WASH programming were identified by a WASH peacebuilding evaluative review as conducive to delivering vertical social cohesion contributions – increasing participation in decision-making processes at different levels as well as the support to accountability mechanisms.¹⁵ However, in order to leverage WASH services to strengthen state–society relations, a two-pronged approach is needed: (1) supporting the development and growth of local and national civil society (*demand*); and (2) building government knowledge and capacity on water and sanitation issues, particularly regarding the rights and responsibilities of different stakeholders, management issues and strategies, and technical information (*supply*).¹⁶ Below is a suggested and generic ToC:¹⁷

A critical aspect of vertical social cohesion is the perception of UNICEF's support to national and local governments when it comes to the delivery of WASH services. Especially in humanitarian settings, the perception among participating communities can be that UNICEF is the service provider, thus undermining government legitimacy and credibility. Ideally UNICEF and its partners should *support* the government and be perceived to act in such a supporting role, so as not to undermine efforts to build citizens' trust in the capacity of government to provide WASH services.¹⁸ This can be complemented through efforts to improve institutional accountability to ensure that greater visibility of government as a service provider contributes meaningfully to more accountable and responsive services, as part of a broader conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding WASH system strengthening approach (see section 4.2. below, 'Strengthening WASH sector governance').

3.3. WASH contributions to horizontal social cohesion

There are also important horizontal social cohesion dimensions to WASH's contribution to peace particularly where WASH services and access to water become a contested and divisive issue – for example creating divisions within communities about water fees and treatment, and conflicts along water systems that cut through areas with ethnically diverse communities. The collaborative management of WASH services and water resources to strengthen social cohesion are well-established programmatic entry points for UNICEF and partners. Below is an example of a generic ToC to support WASH contributing to horizontal social cohesion and community resilience:¹⁹

Using community-based structures to manage and maintain water facilities is common practice in the WASH sector, but this has primarily focused on enhancing the sustainability of WASH infrastructure, rather than developing social cohesion. Such structures can improve a community's capacity to create cohesive mechanisms among its diverse groups to ensure equitable access, address negative impacts of conflict, and resolve tensions and disputes around WASH service provision.²⁰ A case study from South Kordofan illustrates how.

Generic ToC

WASH contributing to vertical social cohesion

IF WASH services are planned, delivered and monitored in an equitable, participatory, responsive and relevant way, with attention to conflict sensitivity

THEN resilience capacities will be built at multiple levels
This is **BECAUSE**: quality functioning of the WASH sector, and its plan and use of resources, will enhance the capacities of institutions by:

- Helping WASH authorities develop equity-oriented and evidence-based planning frameworks for water resources
- Building trust and legitimacy in WASH sector institutions
- Enhancing the understanding of local resource pressures, providing a means to prevent water-related conflicts
- Developing government's knowledge of water and sanitation issues, particularly around rights and responsibilities

WASH contributing to horizontal social cohesion

IF WASH services are targeted at the community level through processes and platforms that enable inclusive and participatory planning and monitoring

THEN community conflict resilience capacities will be enhanced

This is **BECAUSE**: WASH services can:

- Help communities build stronger and more cohesive structures that enable them to address WASH-related conflict drivers
- Enhance resilience through strengthened local mechanisms for water management and sanitary practices
- Encourage collaborative water development projects that facilitate communication between divided groups.

15 Peacebuilding, Social Cohesion, Violence Prevention and Conflict Sensitivity', Interpeace Advisory Team (IPAT) for UNICEF, Thematic WASH and Peacebuilding Case Study: Review of UNICEF's Approach to 2020.

16 UNICEF, 'The Contribution of Social Services to Peacebuilding and Resilience: Evolving Theory and Practice', 2015, http://www.erinmccandless.net/uploads/3/1/5/5/31558725/the_contribution_of_social_services_to_peacebuilding_and_resilience_-_unicef_study_final.pdf; p. 41.

17 Ibid, p. 38.

18 Interpeace Advisory Team (IPAT) for UNICEF, Thematic WASH and Peacebuilding Case Study: Review of UNICEF's Approach to Peacebuilding, Social Cohesion, Violence Prevention and Conflict Sensitivity', 2020.

19 UNICEF, 'The Contribution of Social Services to Peacebuilding and Resilience: Evolving Theory and Practice', 2015, http://www.erinmccandless.net/uploads/3/1/5/5/31558725/the_contribution_of_social_services_to_peacebuilding_and_resilience_-_unicef_study_final.pdf; p. 38.

20 UNICEF, 'Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide', 2016, <https://www.unicef.org/media/96576/file/Programming-Guide-Conflict-Sensitivity-and-Peacebuilding.pdf>;



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Integrated host and refugee/internally displaced (IDP) communities' WASH programming has been deployed by many UNICEF country offices in collaboration with sector partners and national counterparts, and often programmes articulate explicit peacebuilding results relating to horizontal (host–refugee interactions) social cohesion being promoted through participatory planning, strengthened accountability, and the sharing of sustainable and quality WASH services and water resources. Horizontal social cohesion is central to the success of strategies to include displaced communities in national WASH systems – the case study of a UNICEF–UNHCR jointly implemented programme in East Africa illustrates:

CASE STUDY



Peacebuilding through Sector mobilization and comprehensive response in Sudan – Kadugli and Reif Shargi localities, South Kordofan

For years, nomad communities and the settled communities of Kadugli and Reif Shargi had a mutual agreement on the use of water sources. However, in 2021, a clash between nomads and settlers over damage to the water source led to the death of a settler man. In retaliation the settled communities banned the use of water facilities by all nomad communities. As the tensions rose between nomad and host communities, the local authorities and WASH sector partners intervened. A joint mapping of areas conducive to settler–nomad interaction (i.e. shared ethnicity) and potential water sources with good yields was implemented. The rehabilitation of 26 hand pumps was quickly implemented including designated pumps for nomad communities' use, leading to a decrease in tensions. WASH committees in these communities conduct regular operation and maintenance, and they also intervene when there is any disagreement or conflict at the water points. **The co-existence and sharing of resources strengthened horizontal social cohesion among different groups.**



Integrated host–refugee water utilities to strengthen horizontal social cohesion in East Africa

The KfW Regional Water and Sanitation Program for Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, and Host Communities in East Africa (R-WASH) is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and will be implemented in close cooperation with UNICEF and UNHCR in Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda from 2022 to 2027. The project is focused on the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region, which is currently home to 4.6 million refugees and asylum seekers, most (over 4 million) from South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan and Burundi. Another 8.1 million people are internally displaced in the region due to conflict and natural disasters. The lack of adequate water and sanitation has caused conflicts between host communities and refugees/IDPs in several areas. The R-WASH ambition is to contribute to, improve and/or provide more sustainable, inclusive and integrated water and sanitation services for refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities, as well as increased social cohesion, ultimately contributing to promoting peaceful coexistence for the target groups. Conflict resolution workshops and regular dialogues between both hosting and refugee communities are planned in **Ethiopia**. In **Somalia** Water Management Committees will participate in a training package that has conflict resolution units to enable them to solve water points' conflicts. In **Sudan**, activities will aim to strengthen community-based conflict and dispute resolution mechanisms and institutional capacities for conflict prevention, peacebuilding and mediation. In **Uganda**, strengthened data management for equitable planning and WASH service provision will aim to mitigate conflict risks and a climate resilience lens will be integrated. **The R-WASH programme will be integrating a robust and innovative impact evaluation to measure contributions to social cohesion.**



3.4. WASH contributions to individual capacities for peace:

For social cohesion enhancing approaches to work, it is important to strengthen and support key stakeholders' individual capacities for peace. Strengthening the peacebuilding competencies and conflict management capacity of key stakeholders engaged in WASH service delivery or in the management of water resources can mitigate conflicts arising from such investments. It can also strengthen the resilience of individuals to better cope with the negative impacts of conflict. Include supporting training and mentoring of key individuals to engage in technical WASH tasks (i.e. solar energy, soap production, latrine construction, waste management, etc.) that lead to employment in WASH investments and service delivery but also

in conflict management/problem solving to resolve WASH-related disputes. This approach suggests that a contribution to peace can be made through the personal transformation of a critical mass of individuals,²¹ and this can be integrated into their engagement with WASH services. The generic ToC below illustrates this contribution:

However, a focus on developing individual capacities for peace needs to be **balanced with broader efforts to tackle root and structural causes** of conflict through more explicit and deliberate ToCs and programming where the strengthening of capacities can become a precondition and an enabler for broader peaceful change. Often capacity development interventions focus on the means (i.e. strengthened peacebuilding competencies), neglecting the underlying causes of conflict such as inequity and exclusion.²² For example, the case study below illustrates how addressing poverty and exclusion were integrated into a successful youth programme in Lebanon to complement capacity development and trust building.

A specific focus on **adolescents and youth** to develop peacebuilding competencies and skills in support of conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding WASH can add value to the proposed entry point. Adolescents and young people experience conflict and perform distinct roles in conflict and peace – programmes and interventions **that build their peacebuilding competencies** can help to address specific conflict drivers associated with adolescents/youth and/or address intergenerational conflict that impedes their meaningful and constructive engagement in WASH for Peace initiatives – see **UNICEF's Adolescents as Peacebuilders Toolkit** and the generic ToC below, which can be adapted to capture this contribution.

The following case study illustrates current efforts by UNICEF to engage young people as agents of peaceful change through their participation in WASH interventions.

Generic ToC

A proposed ToC to apply an individual-level change approach:

- **IF** WASH services help alleviate the negative impact of violent conflict on women and men, boys and girls, and build their distinct capacities to address the underlying causes and dynamics of violent conflict,
- **THEN** women and men, girls and boys, will be able to contribute to social cohesion and more resilient, peaceful societies.
- This is **BECAUSE** WASH service delivery can build transformative, adaptive and absorptive capacities to address the psychosocial root causes and impacts of violent conflict and create inclusive and transformative social relationships in the home and the community.

Overarching Theory of Change – Adolescents and youth engagement in 'WASH for peace':

- **IF** adolescent girls and boys, and young women and men living in conflict and humanitarian situations develop competencies for peacebuilding through their engagement in WASH programmes;
- **THEN** they will be better able to cope with the challenges (e.g. conflict impacts on WASH rights) they face, influence those around them in a positive way and be drivers of peace within the communities and societies in which they live;
- This is **BECAUSE** the contextually relevant knowledge, attitudes and skills that adolescent girls and boys, and young women and men gain through their engagement in WASH programmes that build their PB competencies will increase their resilience and enable them to identify and address conflict (impacts and interactions with WASH) in their communities.

21 UNICEF, 'Adolescents as Peacebuilders Toolkit: For program planning and evaluation with the Peacebuilding Competency Framework', 2016, Prepared by Taylor O'Connor for the Adolescent Development and Participation Section' <https://www.unicef.org/media/59166/file>

22 Church, C. and Rogers, M. M., Designing for Results: Integrating Monitoring and Evaluation in Conflict Transformation Programs; Search for Common Ground, 2006, <https://documents.sfcg.org/Documents/manualpart1.pdf>; p. 31

UNICEF's Water Security for All initiative and catalytic funds to build peace through youth engagement in WASH



The world's water crisis is one of the greatest risks to society. And climate change, urbanization and increasing competition for water are only exacerbating water insecurity with each passing year. For children, water insecurity is putting their lives at risk today, and putting their futures at risk tomorrow. To address this, UNICEF has set an ambitious goal to reach 450 million children and their families (1.42 billion people) living in areas of high or extremely high water vulnerability with resilient solutions by 2025. And by 2030, for all children to have access to a safe and affordable water supply and to live in water secure communities. One key focus will be to work with communities and key stakeholders so that **equitable management of water resources and WASH services contribute to increased social cohesion, political stability and peace**. Moreover, the initiative aims to activate young people as champions and agents of change to leverage their potential as advocates and agents of change for the sustainable use and management of water, protection of the environment, and brokers of peacebuilding and conflict prevention in their schools, homes and communities. To this end, UNICEF is funding four catalytic and pilot initiatives in the Central Africa Republic, Lebanon, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea where participatory and youth focus conflict analyses have been implemented and where activities are underway to generate evidence and learning to inform scale-up. For example, in **Myanmar** 24 youth were engaged in the assessment and identification of conflict drivers and in the design of action plans for interventions to de-escalate tensions and build social capital in communities. The youth are also mobilized and willing to establish a water management committee to oversee the operation and maintenance of the water supply system, including setting up a revolving fund to ensure sustainability of the water supply system. In **Papua New Guinea** selected youths will be trained on peacebuilding and will lead community consultation with the support of implementing partners. In the **Central Africa Republic**, community groups including women, young people and children affected by violence associated with conflicts have been identified on the ground with support from the Child Protection Programme. Their capacity will be strengthened to participate in the rehabilitation, construction and management of WASH assets as well as in social cohesion strengthening.

The 'Water as Catalyst for Peace' initiative is funded through UNICEF'S Executive Director's 7 percent set aside pool of regular resources allocated annually to support innovative and critical investments to accelerate results for children – this signals a commitment by the organization to pursue and scale up conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding WASH programmes.



Identifying and leveraging peacebuilding WASH programmatic entry points

Once an overall ToC and WASH contributions to peace outcomes have been defined, relevant programmatic entry points can be identified to pursue effective WASH for Peace interventions. The choice of entry point will be informed by the findings of the CPA or Scan and context-specific opportunities that will determine the most useful approach – below are a number of broad questions that can kick-start a discussion engaging relevant stakeholders (internal/external to UNICEF) in such a process – whether it is to inform a broader sector/country office ‘WASH for Peace’ strategy or a more focused programme or localized intervention:

Guiding Questions:

1. What are **key WASH-conflict interactions** identified through your analysis (CPA/Scan)? E.g. any specific aspect of WASH services/resources is a driver of conflict or a driver of peace
2. What issues and dimensions of WASH services/resources are most relevant, prominent, and/or pressing that could **contribute to an escalation of conflict if left unaddressed**? E.g. grievances about exclusion from WASH services, disputes over scarce water resources, low participation and weak governance of WASH services, etc.
3. What **current/upcoming UNICEF WASH programmes (stand-alone or multi-sectorial) can integrate conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding approaches and pursue peace outcomes as primary or secondary objectives**? E.g. donor willingness, staff/partner capacity, conducive institutional and operational environment

The section below identifies **five broad entry points** that capture a range of prevalent UNICEF-supported WASH programming and could potentially be used to enable WASH teams and partners to frame and pursue conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding WASH interventions more systematically. These entry points have been identified in a recent UNICEF peacebuilding evaluative review and consultations for the collaborative development of this Guidance:

- Delivering **WASH peace dividends**²³ through WASH investments
- Strengthening **WASH sector governance** to improve social cohesion
- Leveraging **WASH services to address conflict**²⁴
- Promoting **water security** through ‘linked’ advocacy and programming
- Adopting a **‘triple nexus approach’**²⁵ to leverage and strengthen WASH in emergencies programming in FCCs.

The sections below describe each of the five broad entry points and illustrate their contribution to building and sustaining peace through real case studies. The overview is not meant to be exhaustive but only illustrative of the range of opportunities available to frame and integrate conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding approaches and pursue WASH contributions to peace.

1. Delivering ‘peace dividends’ through WASH investments

WASH services can provide important **peace dividends** if they are associated with the cessation of violence and perceived as a benefit of a peace process or agreement. Specific programmatic entry points adopting the above approach can, for example, include water utilities in refugee-hosting contexts, institutional/multi-sectorial WASH, water management committees, and Community-Led Total Sanitation approaches. WASH services offered as peace dividends can reduce social tensions through the provision of tangible, needed services, create incentives for non-violent behaviour and support state building efforts at critical junctures in the peace process.

CASE STUDY



In the drought-affected region of Galkayo and Habyo in Somalia, UNICEF negotiated with local clans to allow boreholes to be dug to provide clean water to communities, which the local population saw as an important **peace dividend**. The boreholes represented peace dividends (while evidently also facilitating community-level collaborative processes) as they were being dug in areas where fighting had recently ceased and where water provision could consequently be re-introduced. Through the provision of sustainable access to safe water, and ensuring effective sanitation and hygiene behaviour, the health of young children and their caretakers has been improved while the programming has also contributed to community resilience more broadly

Source: UNICEF, 2015: The Contribution of Social Services to Peacebuilding and Resilience: Evolving Theory and Practice; p.39

23 A peace dividend is a tangible benefit of peace for citizens e.g. the provision or resumption of basic social services in the aftermath of violent conflict can provide incentives for people to support and engage in pro-peace behaviors creating a context for building resilience to conflict and other risks; see UNICEF, ‘The Contribution of Social Services to Peacebuilding and Resilience: Evolving Theory and Practice’ 2015, http://www.erinmccandless.net/uploads/3/1/5/5/31558725/the_contribution_of_social_services_to_peacebuilding_and_resilience_-_unicef_study_final.pdf; p. 39.

24 Interpeace Advisory Team (IPAT) for UNICEF, Thematic WASH and Peacebuilding Case Study: Review of UNICEF’s Approach to Peacebuilding, Social Cohesion, Violence Prevention and Conflict Sensitivity’, 2020, pp. 3-6.

25 The Triple Nexus refers to the interface between humanitarian, development, and peace needs and responses required to respond in FCCs – for more information see <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/public/doc/643/643.en.pdf> and relevance to WASH see <https://www.washnet.de/en/triple-nexus-wash/>

However, peace-promoting WASH interventions can deliver local-level ‘double dividends’ of both service provision and peace/state building if these outcomes are included as explicit objectives or dynamics to be monitored as part of service delivery.²⁶

2. Strengthening WASH sector governance

Supporting conflict-sensitive **WASH sector governance** and policy reform and the development of responsive, inclusive and accountable institutions at national and subnational levels can improve state–society relations and lay foundations for a sustainable peace through the strengthening of vertical social cohesion – this in turn can build resilience to conflict of the WASH sector.

An important aspect of the relationship between WASH governance and peace is *accountability and the social contract* between service providers and communities – in contexts where there are vertical social cohesion deficits (e.g. low trust in government, low uptake of health and sanitation measures) aggravated by socioeconomic barriers, this can become a critical conflict driver. The COVID-19 pandemic and government responses have amplified these deficits and grievances in many contexts. UNICEF’s Guidance on WASH Accountability in fragile contexts notes that accountable WASH services contribute to building greater trust and social cohesion between duty-bearers and rights-holders that can reduce conflict and contribute to building peaceful societies.²⁷

3. Leveraging WASH services and water resource management to address conflict

WASH services and resources can be used to address conflict causes and/or drivers more explicitly and intentionally and, depending on the context, play the role of a connector or at least a (comparatively)

uncontested area of engagement. For example, water resource management may be an acceptable subject around which to convene parties even in the midst of high political tension or open violence.²⁸ Established good practices in **rural and urban water systems** development and management processes provide valuable opportunities to identify conflict risks and introduce prevention, mitigation and/or management strategies at early stages of intervention.²⁹ For example in rural borehole identification processes, the initial ‘mapping’ process can be used to identify water-related conflict issues. The stakeholder consultation that accompanies the process is highly conducive to identify and address conflict if it arises. In the case of urban water services, the process of setting up and managing a utility presents opportunities to identify and manage water-related conflicts. For example, if a water pipe passes near a community not serviced by the investment and they connect illegally, or if local water vendors lose their livelihoods without due consultation or compensation, can cause conflict. Identifying such conflict risks, and promoting dialogue and collaborative engagement among relevant stakeholders to address them, can be powerful ways to build and sustain peace through WASH. The case study below, from Somalia, provides an example.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene Committees (WASHCOs) can be leveraged to address conflict drivers and causes directly. They can be supported through capacity development strategies that may include conflict management skills to equip members to tackle conflicts arising from water use or service access. WASHCOs also offer opportunities to integrate gender-transformative approaches to building and sustaining peace. UNICEF research has noted the positive effects of women’s participation in water committees. For example, WASHCOs with women in key posts demonstrate improved water system functionality and more effective fee collection than committees without women in key posts.³⁰

CASE STUDY

Sustainable Water Supply Systems for Peace Building in Somalia



Four villages in Adado, Galmagdu State, Somalia, were known for continued conflict between the different sub-clans due to competition for water resources, which intensified during the dry seasons, sometimes resulting in deaths and displacements. UNICEF Somalia implemented a water supply project in 2013 that involved the drilling of four deep boreholes with elevated water reservoirs and a pump and generator house, with piped networks, water distribution points and cattle troughs. The sub-clans were involved at all stages of the project and made solid pledges to operate and maintain the facilities. In addition to the supply of safe water, the project contributed substantially to peacebuilding and creating harmony between the different sub-clans in the area by ensuring the sustained supply of water even during the dry season. The four-village water supply systems in Adado are still functional at the time of writing and being maintained by the beneficiary communities through joint management.

Source: UNICEF: ‘WASH Field Note Sustainable Water Supply Systems for Peace Building: A Case Study from Adado, Galmagdu State, Somalia’, 2020, Ref. FN/41/2020.

²⁶ Tearfund, ‘Double dividends: exploring how water, sanitation and hygiene programmes can contribute to peace- and state-building’, 2013, <https://learn.tearfund.org/-/media/learn/resources/reports/2013-tearfund-double-dividends-en.pdf>;

²⁷ Stockholm International Water Institute and UNICEF, ‘WASH Accountability in fragile contexts’, 2020, UNICEF–UNDP–SIWI Accountability for Sustainability Partnership. Stockholm and New York. Available from https://siwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/siwi_unicef_wash-accountability-in-fragiles-states_web.pdf

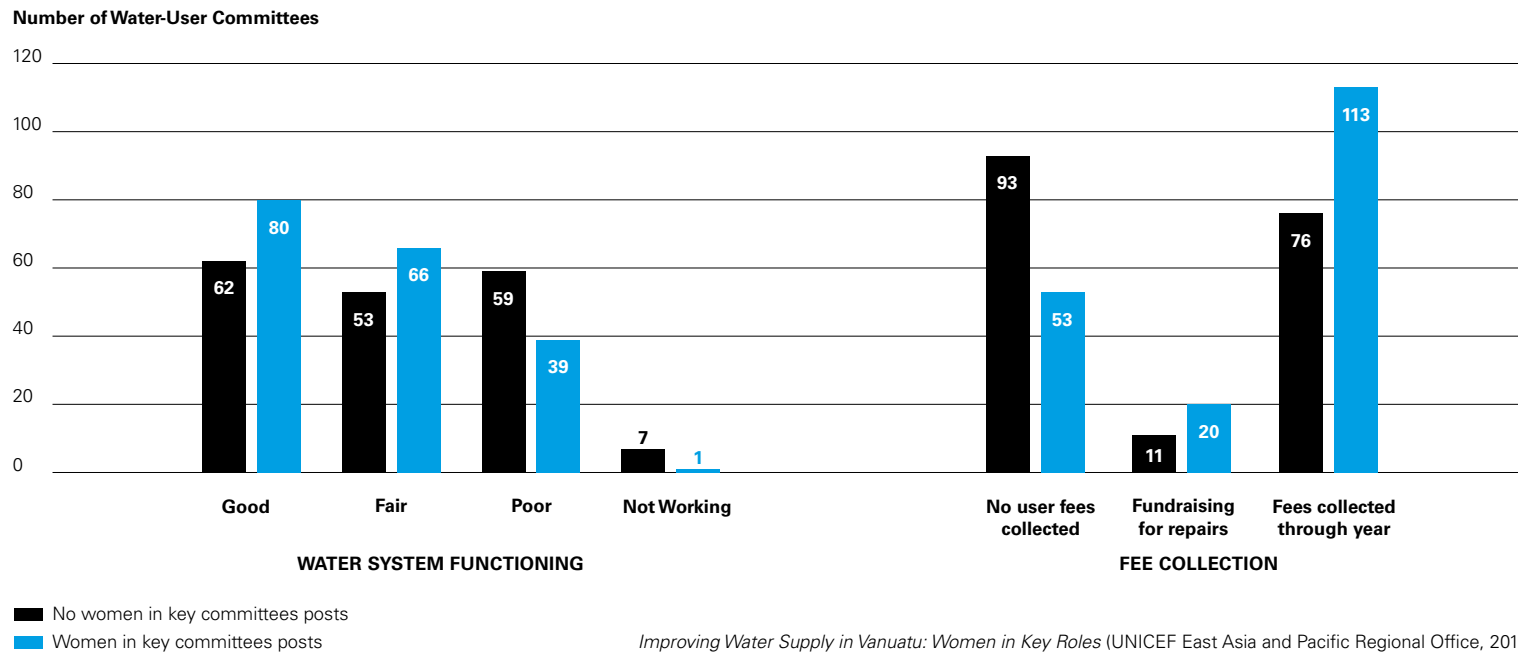
²⁸ Interpeace Advisory Team (IPAT) for UNICEF Thematic WASH and Peacebuilding Case Study: Review of UNICEF’s Approach to Peacebuilding, Social Cohesion, Violence Prevention and Conflict Sensitivity’, 2020.

²⁹ UNICEF, ‘The history of a borehole: from maps, measurements and meetings to hope - Afar region’, 2020, <https://www.unicef.org/ethiopia/stories/history-borehole-maps-measurements-and-meetings-hope>

³⁰ UNICEF, Gender-Responsive Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Key elements for effective WASH programming, March 2017, https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/global_gender_responsive_wash_programming_2017.pdf; p.7

Table 1: Positive effects of women’s participation in water committees³¹

Impact of women in key water committee positions in Vanuatu on water fee collection and system functioning



Improving Water Supply in Vanuatu: Women in Key Roles (UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, 2017)

However, despite their inclusion, women’s engagement in conflict management and ability to influence remains gender-specific and determined by their environment – for example women will intervene in the management of water use but not in the resolution of related disputes, which is traditionally left to the men. This calls for the integration of more purposeful gender-transformative approaches to realize and amplify women’s peacebuilding potential through their engagement in WASHCOs. Moreover, there have been examples of women being targeted due to their membership and participation, so such initiatives

must take a robust ‘do no harm’ approach – [see Programming Tool 5 – Guide to integrating a gender lens into WASH for Peace Programming](#)

Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) is another promising entry point to integrate more ‘deliberate’ peacebuilding that is being pioneered by UNICEF WASH teams and partner.³²The focus on behaviour change and community mobilization can be deeply transformative and generate pro-peace social capital. The example from South Darfur illustrates.

CASE STUDY

Peacebuilding Programme through CLTS, Gereida locality, South Darfur



Following the signing of the Juba Peace Agreement in August 2020, about 250 families voluntarily returned to Jurtoobak in Gereida after 15 years of displacement. Jurtoobak is located near a seasonal ravine (Wadi) where the community uses shallow hand-dug wells for drinking water and where farmers established small vegetables farms. The same ravine was used by the community to practise open defecation, which caused tensions with the farmers, disease especially in children due to contaminated water, and insecurity to women and children walking far to defecate. In October 2021 UNICEF undertook a community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approach to eliminate open defecation with the aim to improve WASH conditions, reduce outbreaks of diseases and support community-led actions to resolve recurrent conflicts. A WASH committee was established including both men and women, and committee members received training on hygiene and basic sanitation, conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Their role was to mobilize the community to construct latrines and also to promote knowledge and awareness about hygiene practices. Jurtoobak was certified as an ‘Open Defecation Free Area’ in April 2022.

31 UNICEF, Gender-Responsive Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Key elements for effective WASH programming, March 2017, https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/global_gender_responsive_wash_programming_2017.pdf; p.7

32 “As a result of CLTS the communities have agreed to stop fighting and have reached a ceasefire agreement and are now working towards a peace agreement. These communities were influenced by the sanitary and hygiene transformation that happened in their homes and village”; UNICEF, ‘Second Review of Community-Led Total Sanitation in the East Asia and Pacific Region’, 2015, https://www.unicef.org/eap/sites/unicef.org/eap/files/2018-03/Second_Review_of_Community_Led_Total_Sanitation_in_East_Asia_and_Pacific.pdf



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Embedding WASH in **multi-sectorial interventions and/or institutional WASH** can amplify the peacebuilding impact by enabling UNICEF and partners to address multifaceted fragility and grievances about the lack of, or limited access to, quality and relevant social services. For example, UNICEF's West and Central Africa region is embedding WASH as part of a broad multi-sectorial resilience strategy to pursue more deliberate contributions to social cohesion as part of an 'integrated social service package' leveraging donor interest. The examples below illustrate how school clubs can be used to promote conflict- and gender-sensitive approaches to institutional WASH.

4. Water Security – linking advocacy and programming address the causes and impacts of conflict:

A key and strategic entry point to pursue more explicit peacebuilding approaches is the **promotion of water security through 'linked' advocacy, policy and programming** to address the causes and impacts of conflict. UNICEF is uniquely positioned to pursue and promote child rights-based approaches to water, conflict, and peace challenges and solutions through coherently linked advocacy, policy and programming interventions at global, regional, national and subnational levels to reduce fragility and prevent conflict – as articulated in its Water Security for All initiative.³³ Addressing water insecurity encompasses interventions to tackle **climate risks** as a driver of conflict, **protecting WASH infrastructure and services** from conflict impacts, and contributing to the peaceful resolution of **transboundary water conflicts**.

The shift to **climate-resilient WASH** within UNICEF has accelerated programme adaptation to address climate-induced fragility and conflict. The United Nations Climate Security Mechanism³⁴ notes that the security risks that emerge from the interaction of climate change with other factors can manifest at different levels: at the subnational level it impacts on livelihoods, natural resource competition and local grievances, for example related to competing use of water in water-scarce environments; at national level linked to impacts interacting with existing social divisions and exacerbating inequity between different groups; and at transboundary or regional levels as climate change affects shared natural resources such as water. Integrating conflict and climate security assessments, and developing integrated strategies that tackle multidimensional fragility will enhance the effectiveness of programmes and interventions in FCCs. The evident uptake of the shift to a 'climate resilient WASH' agenda among WASH teams in the

most climate-affected regions and COs presents clear opportunities to leverage the relevant strategies and approaches to enhance UNICEF WASH contributions to building and sustaining peace – for a more detailed overview of the opportunities to integrate the climate shift and WASH for Peace approaches - *see Programming Tool 6 'Guide to integrating climate resilience, conflict sensitivity, and peacebuilding'*.

Protecting water infrastructure and services from the impacts of conflict³⁵ is a critical dimension of integrating conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding in WASH – mitigating the conflict risks affecting rights to WASH and building resilience of WASH systems to withstand the shocks and stresses of conflict. UNICEF's Water Under Fire campaign³⁶ starkly illustrated how increasingly, water insecurity and the decline and destruction of water and sanitation systems are causing social, economic and political instability and how this threatens the survival, health and development of children and their communities, as well as peace and development at all levels. UNICEF and its partners in the field are well placed to **monitor attacks and also good practices of collaborative engagement** amongst relevant stakeholders to advocate for the protection of water resources and infrastructure. Monitoring such incidents can generate important evidence to advocate for the inclusion of attacks against critical WASH infrastructure as part of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Grave Violations committed against the rights of the children in time of armed conflict.³⁷

³³ <https://www.unicef.org/reports/reimagining-wash-water-security-for-all>

³⁴ UN DPPA, UNDP, UNEP, UN Climate Security Mechanism Toolbox, 2020 https://dppa.un.org/sites/default/files/csm_toolbox-2-conceptual_approach.pdf

³⁵ UNSC Resolution 2573 (2021) on the "Protection of Objects Indispensable to the Survival of the Civilian Population" was unanimously adopted and noted that "ongoing armed conflicts have devastating impacts on civilians and civilian objects, including civilians engaged in duties related to the operation, maintenance or repair of civilian infrastructure that is critical to the delivery of essential services to the civilian population and their assets that are civilian as such, and on objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, exacerbate existing socio-economic fragilities and vulnerabilities, overstretch limited resources, resulting in reduced access to essential services such as [...] water, sanitation"; <https://digitalibrary.un.org/record/3924402>; the Geneva Water Hub has compiled applicable instruments for the protection of water infrastructure 'The Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure'; [https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=S%2FRES%2F2573\(2021\)&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=S%2FRES%2F2573(2021)&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False)

³⁶ UNICEF, 'Water Under Fire Volume 3: Attacks on Water and Sanitation Services in Armed Conflict and the Impacts on Children', 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/media/98976/file/Water%20Under%20Fire%20%20%20Volume3.pdf>

³⁷ <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/tools-for-action/monitoring-and-reporting/>



Building resilience to conflict of WASH systems will entail developing capacities to prevent and mitigate such attacks (e.g. by convening and supporting a monitoring platform including relevant stakeholders; by training and equipping staff and partners with relevant monitoring skills and tools) and to monitor their occurrence to determine whether such risks have been reduced.³⁹ Moreover, in some contexts it might be possible to pursue a comparable approach to the well-documented ‘schools as zones of peace’⁴⁰ and establish protected zones around water infrastructure with the agreement of all parties.⁴¹

Transboundary water conflicts and international water diplomacy are a relatively new area of engagement for UNICEF, and beyond the scope of this Guidance. However UNICEF’s Guidance Note on Programmatic Approaches to Water Scarcity notes that countries highly dependent on the flow of transboundary waters, e.g. aquifers and the surface water in lakes and rivers that are shared by more than one country, are prone to uncertainty and risk in water resource management and planning decisions beyond their borders.⁴² UNICEF’s Water Security for All initiative notes that to date, 60 percent of transboundary river basins lack a water use agreement, and where they do exist, they are often not operational. In the absence of enforced governing treaties over these water resources, and the increase in dam construction, sharing water resources across multiple states can lead to further uncertainty in water availability, with the potential to heighten tensions.⁴³

Examples of entry points to build and sustain peace through the management of transboundary conflicts include:

- Advocacy to promote agreements that manage shared waters (aquifers and surface water) – following the principle that drinking water is a human right and should not compete with other uses of water;
- Strengthening international/subnational cooperation on water to ensure coordinated approaches across the sector;
- Transboundary water authorities can use integrated water resources management processes (IWRM) to address these types of issues, and contribute to shared benefits for affected countries.⁴⁴

Expertise and experience on preventing and mediating transboundary water conflicts are available in the United Nations System, which currently has two international water conventions.⁴⁵ The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Water Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, also known as the Water Convention, includes provisions for non-parties to the treaty to access expertise and mediation resources. Additionally, some River Basin Organizations have dispute resolution mechanisms.⁴⁶

The Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure is a key reference document prepared for the use of parties to armed conflicts, international organizations, and other practitioners working in the contexts of armed conflicts, including in pre- and post-conflict situations³⁸ that can be used to develop relevant indicators - for more details see M&E Tool 3 ‘Monitoring Attacks against WASH: the Geneva List of Principles’.

38 Geneva Water Hub, The Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure, <https://www.genevawaterhub.org/resource/geneva-list-principles-protection-water-infrastructure>

39 To develop such capacity WASH staff and partners can participate in training programmes on international humanitarian law and the protection of water before, during and after armed conflicts (see for example Rule 30 on the “Dissemination of international humanitarian law, including of the rules protecting the natural environment, to the civilian population” of the ICRC Guidelines on the Protection of the Natural Environment in Armed Conflict; <https://www.icrc.org/en/publication/4382-guidelines-protection-natural-environment-armed-conflict>

40 https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/szop_report_final_9oct13.pdf

41 UNICEF, ‘Water Under Fire Volume 3: Attacks on Water and Sanitation Services in Armed Conflict and the Impacts on Children’, 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/media/98976/file/Water%20Under%20Fire%20%20%20Volume3.pdf>; p.9

42 UNICEF, ‘Guidance Note – Programmatic Approaches to Water Scarcity’, March 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/media/95341/file/UNICEF%20guidance%20note%20programmatic%20approaches%20to%20water%20scarcity.pdf>

43 <https://www.unicef.org/reports/reimagining-wash-water-security-for-all>; p. 10

44 UNICEF, ‘Guidance Note – Programmatic Approaches to Water Scarcity’, March 2021

45 <https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/about-the-convention/introduction>; <https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/protocol-on-water-and-health/about-the-protocol/introduction>

46 UNICEF Regional and Country Offices and sector partners facing transboundary water conflicts can benefit from global support via UNICEF HQ, the UNECE water convention secretariat, and respective River Basin organizations.

5. WASH in Emergencies and the Humanitarian, Development, and Peace Nexus:

Since the early 2000s, approximately half of UNICEF total WASH expenditure has been spent on emergencies⁴⁷ the majority of which are conflict-induced, and increasingly these investments are expected to deliver sustainable results including **resilience to conflict**.⁴⁸ WASH in emergency interventions that integrate peacebuilding approaches can increase the ability of communities to prevent a recurrence, respond to, and recover from shocks and stressors, including the impacts of conflict, by strengthening absorptive, adaptive and transformative capacities.⁴⁹ UNICEF's roles as a WASH sector lead in both emergency and development programming provides a valuable opportunity to promote and integrate conflict-sensitivity and peacebuilding approaches as part of a 'triple nexus' approach, in line with **UNICEF's new Procedure on Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus**.⁵⁰ For example, UNICEF is uniquely placed to leverage funding and flexibility during WASH in emergency (WiE) responses and convene diverse stakeholders (government, agencies, civil society, private sector) to tackle fragility and build resilience to conflict through WASH. Using a **HDP Nexus approach** in humanitarian contexts presents opportunities to frame and integrate conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding approaches:

- Consider the **'foundational' role of conflict sensitivity** across humanitarian development, and peacebuilding work in FCCs – use conflict sensitivity as an entry point for the humanitarian WASH community to embrace the triple nexus approach, noting that often pressure is placed on humanitarian action to be the 'departure' point for the nexus and create space for development and peacebuilding.
- **Conflict sensitivity/peacebuilding as a connector between humanitarian and development WASH** – integrating conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding approaches can help bridge some of the gaps between humanitarian response and longer-term development by breaking cycles of recurrent violence that lead to protracted long-term humanitarian needs. Conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding approaches can strengthen the resilience of WASH investments. Conflict analysis and collaborative engagement between stakeholders on the ground (host, IDP, local authorities) can help identify and leverage opportunities to integrate IDPs into strengthened WASH services (but need to incentivize the transition with development investments).

The HDP Nexus as a Framework for WASH for Peace in Emergencies:

- Consider a more **holistic and coherent understanding of the HDP Nexus**, that goes beyond 'convening and coordinating' different 'types' of actors. The HDP nexus approach is also about adopting ways of working that integrate the three approaches or work streams to deliver effectively and sustainably in FCCs (e.g. developing multitrack and multi-stakeholder responses that anchor initial emergency interventions in development plans and funding streams, and that integrate conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding approaches to address drivers and root causes of conflict).

Integrating conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding to humanitarian response remains a challenge as it is **sometimes perceived as detrimental to the principles of impartiality, neutrality and humanity**. However, in FCCs, undertaking a CPA or Scan analysis and integrating a conflict-sensitive lens can in fact help WiE teams and partners navigate complex humanitarian settings more confidently and better understand the contexts to enable them to uphold humanitarian principles and commitments. Moreover, identifying and leveraging opportunities to strengthen social cohesion and individual capacities and contributions to peace can also help deliver humanitarian assistance more effectively and sustainably. UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action presents relevant strategies and entry points to do so.⁵¹

RESOURCE BOX

German Network for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

The German Network for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) leads the "3.5 Triple Nexus" initiative in partnership with the Global WASH Cluster, Sanitation and Water for All, International Federation of the Red Cross, and UNICEF. The initiative "3.5 aims to generate global support to upscale the WASH triple nexus approach in water insecure and fragile contexts. The initiative is developing a Joint **Operating Framework** that will assist WASH policy makers and practitioners to operationalise the nexus in their own context, based on country evidence on successful collaboration in the achievement of collective WASH outcomes that accelerate sustainable development, foster resilience, and seek opportunities to contribute to peace, where relevant.



47 https://www.unicef.org/executiveboard/media/4671/file/2021-20-Evaluation_summary-WASH_in_protracted_crises_2014-2019-EN-ODS.pdf

48 UNICEF, 'The Contribution of Social Services to Peacebuilding and Resilience: Evolving Theory and Practice', 2015, http://www.erinmccandless.net/uploads/3/1/5/5/31558725/the_contribution_of_social_services_to_peacebuilding_and_resilience_-_unicef_study_final.pdf; pp. 23-24.

49 Absorptive capacity is the capacity to take intentional protective action and to cope with known shocks and stressors; adaptive capacity is the capacity to make intentional incremental adjustments in anticipation of or in response to change, in ways that create more flexibility in the future; and transformative capacity is the capacity to make intentional change to stop or reduce the causes of risk; <https://oxfamlibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/620178/gd-resilience-capacities-absorb-adapt-transform-250117-en.pdf?sequence=4&isAllowed=y>

50 UNICEF Procedure on Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus; Document Number: PROCEDURE/PG/2022/002; Effective Date: 26 September 2022

51 Linking humanitarian work and development; <https://www.corecommitments.unicef.org/cc-2-2>

Programming Tool 1

'Good Enough' WASH in Emergencies Conflict Sensitivity Tool



Purpose

This Tool complements the Programming Guide Section 2 'The 'what' and the 'how' of conflict-sensitive WASH'. It can support the integration of a conflict-sensitive lens to **WASH in emergency** (WiE) programming, when time constraints and programming modalities make it difficult to carry out a comprehensive analysis and conflict-sensitive programme design/adaptation process. The tool can also be adapted to guide a 'light touch' approach to integrate conflict sensitivity in any intervention when relevant.

Key Steps

Step 1

Carry out a localized WASH-related conflict scan (and any other integrated sector; call it 'community-based context assessment' if 'conflict' language is problematic) – integrate in existing/upcoming emergency assessments; find appropriate 'language'/'actors' to engage and use this process to gauge the appetite for conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding approaches

Step 2

Identify relevant 'conflict dynamics and interactions to watch' in consultation with key stakeholders – ensure focus on the two-way interaction (not only the risks to your intervention) and leverage this process to build trust among key stakeholders and with the WASH team/partners

Step 3

Build systematic and 'evident' monitoring efforts around these 'dynamics to watch' and leverage consultative, accountability, and/or grievance management mechanisms (e.g. accountability to affected populations) to monitor changes in a transparent and participatory way

Step 4

Build in opportunities to promptly and 'visibly' adapt practices/activities in response to Step 2 and capitalize on the moments of change to document your conflict-sensitivity 'successes/failures' so you and others can learn from the experience

Step 5

If opportunities exist, consider 'Doing More Good' – for example, identify 'local capacities for peace' amongst relevant stakeholders that can be harnessed to address WASH-relevant conflict drivers (e.g. ensure equitable access, promote collaborative engagement through water resource/WASH service management)

Step 6

Ensure that the closure and exit of your intervention is conflict sensitive –manage asset handover carefully, ensure transparent and inclusive communication with all relevant stakeholders, ensure relevant agreements about the joint management and sharing of resources/assets are in place, and ensure grievance/feedback mechanisms remain in place beyond UNICEF/IP engagement.

Conflict Sensitivity 'spot checks'

During programme implementation

- What changes have we seen in the peace and conflict dynamics in the past period, and what do we foresee in the next?
- What two-way interactions have we seen between our WASH intervention and peace and conflict dynamics; what is the impact of these; and what can we foresee in the next period?
- What adaptation or mitigation actions have we taken/should we take?

During exit/closure of programmes:

- How are remaining resources shared or allocated within or across communities?
- How is the handover of assets/infrastructure being handled – by whom, who is the custodian?
- Is there consensus on the mechanisms that have been put in place for operation and maintenance, and on the corresponding roles and responsibilities? What are the security risks for local staff, partners or community members that have been involved in implementation after the project ends?

Potential Conflict Risks and Mitigation Measures⁵¹ for WiE Programming

Response Element

Targeting and beneficiary selection

How it can contribute to conflict

- During a shift from blanket assistance to targeted interventions.
- When selection processes are not transparent.
- When targeting criteria are not well understood by all stakeholders.
- When targeting criteria overlap with, and reinforce, existing social divisions including gender inequality

Control over WASH services

- When the implementing agency exercises exclusive control over access/distribution without sufficient understanding of the context.
- When powerful actors attempt to control access/distributions and divert resources for their own gain.
- When men control the resources and exclude women from decisions/access.
- When committee members act in a non-transparent or non-accountable way.
- When marginalized groups are excluded from access/distribution.

Potential mitigation measures

- Facilitating community participation in determining targeting criteria.
- Sustained information-sharing with both beneficiaries/ participants and non-beneficiaries/ participants on targeting criteria and selection processes.
- Complaints and feedback mechanisms to identify problems during beneficiary selection.
- Understand existing social divisions and map them against the proposed criteria.
- Involve the community, including women and men, in the management of the access/distributions.
- Set up distribution committees or other participatory mechanisms with an awareness of local power dynamics.
- Ensure all committees are inclusive and representative of the entire population – including women and men.
- Balance the power of committees with robust complaints mechanisms.
- Build committees' capacity in leadership, management and conflict resolution.
- Ensure proper protection mechanisms exist during distributions to prevent violence, extortion or discrimination.

⁵² Adapted from Conflict Sensitivity Community Hub, "'How To' Guide to Conflict Sensitivity', 2012, <https://www.international-alert.org/app/uploads/2021/09/Conflict-Sensitivity-How-To-Guide-EN-2012.pdf>, p. 25

Response Element

Role of local structures

How it can contribute to conflict

- When local government and civil society actors are excluded from the emergency response.
- When local political interests try to co-opt the aid effort.

Potential mitigation measures

- Link to existing development programmes to help new emergency staff understand existing local structures.
- Develop comprehensive humanitarian partnership strategies as part of emergency preparedness.
- Dedicate time and resources to ensure involvement of local partners during the first phase of response.
- Be aware of practical barriers (language, meeting locations, gender) that can inadvertently exclude local stakeholders.
- Advocate with local political actors for the respect of humanitarian principles and the need for independent and impartial humanitarian action.

Inter-agency coordination

- When WASH emergency services are not standardized.
- When certain locations are privileged over others.
- When aid actors do not have a shared analysis of underlying conflict dynamics in the context.

- Ensure conflict sensitivity concepts are familiar to UN cluster lead agencies and OCHA.
- Support the clusters and advocate with donors at an inter-agency level for the standardization of WASH services, approaches, and geographic distribution.
- Advocate for the institutionalization of cross-sectoral forums for the analysis of conflict and context issues.

Programming Tool 2

WASH for Peace ToC Tool



Purpose

This tool complements Step 2 ‘Developing peacebuilding WASH theories of change’ of the WASH for Peace Programming Guide and provides key steps and guiding questions to develop a conflict-sensitive ToC to support WASH for Peace programming in FCCs as part of a results-based management (RBM) approach to programme development. It can also be used to develop a conflict risk-informed ToC for WASH programming that *does not pursue* a peacebuilding approach.

Step 1 Conflict-Sensitize your ToC

Key steps to develop a conflict-sensitive ToC^{51, 52} To elaborate a conflict-sensitive ToC ‘work backwards’ to identify:

Guiding questions:

Long-term change that WASH stakeholders wish to see in the lives of children and families (impact-level change/result) and relevant conflict dimensions identified in the CPA

Does the impact-level starting point consider not only the achievement of results, but also how to protect this gain from the negative impacts of conflicts? Does it consider the groups that are both vulnerable and highly exposed to conflict? Are they specifically targeted?

Several ‘preconditions’ (long- and medium-term results) that are necessary to not only achieve this change, but also protect this gain from the negative impacts of future conflict shocks and stresses, thus enhancing the resilience of children, families, communities, WASH systems and institutions (outcome-level changes/results related to a change in the performance of institutions or the behaviour of individuals)

Supply/quality dimension: *How must institutional performance change to ensure the continuous supply and quality of services during a conflict crisis? What changes in institutional performance are necessary to protect human resources?*

Demand dimension: *Does the ToC consider the changes necessary to ensure that households continue to access and demand services during a conflict crisis? Does the ToC consider the need for behaviour change (e.g. methods for the peaceful resolution of conflict) that can reduce risks and vulnerabilities?*

Enabling environment dimension: *Does the ToC recognize that some adaptation at the policy level may be necessary to protect the desired impact-level change? Does the ToC recognize the importance of decentralized planning and budgeting that integrates conflict risk reduction, preparedness and contingency planning, considering the special needs and vulnerabilities of children and other vulnerable groups? How are social norms affecting peace capacities or the commitment to reduce the vulnerability of specific groups?*

53 Adapted from Conflict Sensitivity Community Hub, ‘“How To” Guide to Conflict Sensitivity’, 2012, <https://www.international-alert.org/app/uploads/2021/09/Conflict-Sensitivity-How-To-Guide-EN-2012.pdf>, p. 10.

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

Step 1 Conflict-Sensitize your ToC

Guiding questions:

Specific short-term results that reflect a change in the capacities of WASH duty-bearers, including their capacity to reduce, mitigate or manage conflict risk (**output-level changes/results**)

Does the ToC recognize what changes are necessary to ensure that institutions and local authorities have increased capacities (authority, motivation, resources) to peacefully manage conflict? Does the ToC consider such capacities (knowledge, skills, tools and other resources) of children, parents or vulnerable groups in fragile and conflict-affected contexts?

Key WASH programme strategies that will enable all partners to move closer to the long-term goal of resilient development (or specific inputs to the change process).

Step 2 Develop your WASH for Peace ToC and results logic:

The above section outlines the process of developing a conflict-sensitive ToC. If your intervention is pursuing peacebuilding results build on your conflict sensitive ToC to integrate a results logic that **aims to directly address conflict causes/drivers and to contribute to build and sustain peace through WASH** – the below illustrates with examples:

WASH Example analysis finding

CPA or CP Scan finds that inequity in access to WASH services is a cause of grievances and violence in the programming context. The ToC might propose that by improving equitable access to WASH services, the programme will contribute to a positive impact on conflict by reducing perceptions of inequality and marginalization and by reducing conflict over access to WASH facilities

Define the outcome

In peacebuilding initiatives, outcomes can include:

- Strengthened vertical and horizontal social cohesion
- Reduced prevalence and impact of violence
- Improved perceptions of safety and security
- Enhanced trust and confidence in the legitimacy and responsiveness of state and local authorities

WASH example outcome statements

- Population in target area perceives access to WASH services to be fair, equitable and adequate
- Reduced incidence of WASH-related conflict in target areas

Step 2 Develop your WASH for Peace ToC and results logic:

Define the output

In peacebuilding initiatives, outputs can include:

- Enhanced capacity of individuals and institutions to de-escalate conflict and promote peace
- Increased capacity of individuals and institutions to launch peace-oriented initiatives
- Improved ability of institutions to prevent marginalization
- Ensured inclusivity in the management and delivery of social services

WASH example output statements

- Improved access to WASH services for target populations (disaggregated by identity group, gender, age, etc.)
- Enhanced capacity of local communities to collaborate across identity groups to sustain WASH services
- Improved capacity of local water management committees to monitor and address issues relating to marginalization in access to WASH services

Define the activities

In peacebuilding initiatives, activities (activity results) can include:

- Established functioning joint community mechanisms and collaborative networks among diverse community groups and social service providers
- Trained social service providers, community members, youth and children in peacebuilding competencies
- Trained education advisers and inspectors in peace-oriented curriculum design and methodologies
- Advocated for children and youth's participation and voice among local authorities and the community at large
- Established participatory open forums between government counterparts, civil society and community groups

WASH example activities

- **Actions/tasks** related to peacebuilding could comprise collaborative communication trainings, delivery of WASH infrastructures and capacity development of local water management committees
- **Activity results** could be enhanced capacities for jointly managing and addressing tensions and establishment of joint community mechanisms for water management



Conflict Sensitivity Appraisal⁵⁵ (CSA)

Purpose

This tool complements the WASH for Peace Programming Guide's Section 2. The 'what' and the 'how' of conflict-sensitive WASH. In fragile and conflict-affected contexts (FCCs) conflict sensitivity is a minimum requirement of all programmes and interventions. This Tool can be used to carry out an initial conflict sensitivity appraisal (CSA) to determine the potential two-way interactions between the planned intervention and relevant conflict issues identified in the Conflict and Peace Analysis or Scan (CP Scan). The CSA can help WASH teams and sector partners to jointly identify potential conflict-insensitive practices and negative impacts on context, and develop relevant mitigation actions to support programme design. When the programme or intervention is designed with an implementing partner, the CSA must be either jointly undertaken or implemented by the partner as part of the programme development process. The tool can also be used to implement periodic spot checks during implementation. The tool includes: guiding questions and prompts to design conflict-sensitive programming, key considerations and guidance to adjust programming during implementation, and a checklist and examples to illustrate types of actions that relate to key WASH interventions. A critical step in ensuring the CP Scan findings inform programming is to integrate a conflict-sensitive approach from the very first stages of programme/intervention planning and design. Linking conflict analysis to the project design involves:

- Reviewing all key parameters of a project in view of their link to the conflict context
- Assessing the risks of implementation being affected by conflict issues or contributing to tensions
- Identifying opportunities for reinforcing peace outcomes (increased dialogue between divided groups, less violence, etc.) through the planned intervention
- Identifying changes to the original project design to avoid unintentionally contributing to tensions.

Key conflict issue

Identify the key WASH–conflict interactions in the intervention context – conflict causes/drivers, stakeholders, potential two-way interactions with the planned intervention (impact of intervention on context/context impact on intervention)

Example

Water-scarce context with frequent inter-communal clashes over water points access for cattle (community X pastoralist) and irrigation (community Y agriculturalists), upcoming local elections in month X with a history of violence during campaigning

55 Adapted from Conflict Sensitivity Community Hub, "'How To' Guide to Conflict Sensitivity', 2012, <https://www.international-alert.org/app/uploads/2021/09/Conflict-Sensitivity-How-To-Guide-EN-2012.pdf>, p. 10.

Design questions	Proposed intervention design	Potential WASH-Conflict Interactions: <i>Risks & Opportunities</i>	Conflict sensitivity measure or adjustment
What?	Describe the main elements of the planned intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Risk: what aspects of the intervention approach/inputs can fuel conflict? • Opportunity: what aspects of the programme approach/inputs can mitigate conflict risks? 	How can the intervention approach/inputs be adapted to maximize opportunities and minimize risks?
Example	<i>Borehole drilling to support agricultural development in water-scarce district where communities X and Y live</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Risk: <i>planned design caters for single community/use</i> • Opportunity: <i>explore innovative design that can benefit broader community and cater for diverse needs</i> 	<i>Consider expanding the use of the water source to cater for both communities and encourage the joint management of the initiative</i>
Who?	Describe direct and indirect beneficiaries of the planned intervention and targeting criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk: what aspects of the intervention direct/indirect beneficiaries and targeting criteria can fuel conflict? • Opportunity: what aspects of the project direct/indirect beneficiaries and targeting criteria can mitigate conflict risks? 	How can the intervention project direct/indirect beneficiaries and targeting criteria be adapted to maximize opportunities and minimize risks?
Example	<i>Mainly community Y</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk: <i>exacerbating inter-communal conflict</i> • Opportunity: <i>bring two communities together to devise equitable and conflict sensitive approaches that support win-win outcomes</i> 	<i>Include both communities in the targeting, and engage both in the design and implementation</i>
Where?	Describe geographic targeting and criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk: what aspects of the intervention geographic targeting and criteria can fuel conflict? • Opportunity: what aspects of the geographic targeting and criteria can mitigate conflict risks? 	How can the intervention geographic targeting and criteria be adapted to maximize opportunities and minimize risks?
Example	<i>Project target areas more easily accessible to community Y</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk: <i>fuelling grievances among excluded communities</i> • Opportunity: <i>consider area-based approaches that leverage planned investment and/or others to promote equity</i> 	<i>Work closely with local authorities and local community leaders to link the initiative to broader WASH development plans already supported by UNICEF</i>

Design questions	Proposed intervention design	Potential WASH-Conflict Interactions: <i>Risks & Opportunities</i>	Conflict sensitivity measure or adjustment
How?	Describe the main approaches deployed in the implementation of your intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk: what aspects of the intervention approaches can fuel conflict? • Opportunity: what aspects of the intervention approaches can mitigate conflict risks? 	How can the intervention approaches be adapted to maximize opportunities and minimize risks?
Example	<i>Technical assessment of water availability, setting up of water committee with community in catchment area</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk: <i>engaging only one community risks alienating the other</i> • Opportunity: <i>engaging the other community in the assessment can enhance transparency and understanding of the planned project</i> 	<i>Set up a joint technical assessment committee to promote transparency and understanding of the technical constraints and opportunities to equitable service provision</i>
When?	Describe the timeline and key milestones of your intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk: what aspects of the timeline and key milestones of your intervention can fuel conflict? • Opportunity: what aspects of the timeline and key milestones of your intervention can mitigate conflict risks? 	How can the timeline and key milestones of your intervention be adapted to maximize opportunities and minimize risks?
Example	<i>Project to be completed in time to support next harvest in month X</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk: <i>implementation affected by upcoming electoral campaign scheduled in month X</i> • Opportunity: <i>mobilize candidates to constructively address water scarcity and conflict leveraging the planned investment</i> • <i>Conflict-Sensitive WASH Programming Checklist</i> 	<i>Work closely with local authorities and local community leaders to constructively engage and leverage the campaign and election process</i>

Conflict Sensitivity Indicators

Identify 1-2 indicators that can be used to periodically monitor the effectiveness of your CS strategy – include both objectively verifiable indicators (e.g. # incidents) but also qualitative/perception indicators (e.g. perceptions of equity of the intervention) to capture the views of key stakeholders

Monitor equity – Disaggregate all indicators by all relevant categories: gender, age, geography, ethnicity, faith, etc.

Example:

- *E.g. Decreased incidents of inter-community raids leading to violence*
- *E.g. Proportion of project participants in X and Y communities perceiving the project as benefiting both communities equitably*
- *Disaggregation of all existing intervention indicators by community and location, as well as gender and age*

Conflict-Sensitive WASH Programming Checklist⁵⁶

The conflict sensitivity checklist can be used to guide and assess the integration of conflict sensitivity across the entire programme cycle – from analysis to implementation and programme closure, capturing both internal and external dimensions of conflict sensitivity:

Analysis and needs assessment:

- Has a conflict analysis been carried out that provides basic information about the incidence and types of WASH-related conflicts in the context, including information about causes, triggers, dynamics, stakeholders, and local peace capacities?
- Has a conflict sensitivity assessment been done to understand how the proposed action/activity will affect these causes, triggers, dynamics, stakeholders, and local peace capacities?
- Did the conflict analysis capture the perspectives of all key stakeholders in the context, ensuring the participation of men and women, all identity (e.g. ethnicity, religious, cultural/linguistic, etc.) groups in the context, and adolescents and youth?
- Will this analysis be regularly reviewed and updated, and have sufficient resources been allocated to ensure this can be done in a way that participatory/inclusion principles?

Programme design and implementation:

- Does the WASH programme/intervention design take account of what the conflict analysis and conflict sensitivity assessment found? Have the causes, triggers, dynamics (water access and governance), stakeholders, and local peace capacities associated with water conflicts in the context impacted the way the project is planned and will be (or is being) carried out?
- Is the project/action supporting or assisting certain groups? Are we ensuring that this selection will not make existing differences or tensions between groups worse?
- Are we making sure that our project/action does not make tensions over access to resources (such as land or water) or services (such as associated institutional WASH in education or health care) worse?
- Does our project/action take account of any threats or opportunities that might arise from any social, cultural, political or religious events and festivals?
- Does our project/action consider seasonal changes or patterns of behaviour such as planting, harvest, dry or rainy seasons?
- Are we putting measures in place to prevent any of the factions or key conflict actors taking control of the WASH investment to further their own political or security agendas?
- Does the intervention consider potential loss of livelihoods among context stakeholders (e.g. local water trucking no longer needed, missed harvests due to WASH infrastructure construction work) and includes mitigating measures (e.g. maximizing local employment opportunities and inclusive/equitable recruitment to support construction and/or longer-term technical maintenance of WASH infrastructure, supported by skills development if capacity gaps exist)?
- When the project ends, have we considered how its closure might create a gap in the provision of a service or increase tensions?

⁵⁶ Adapted from Tearfund Conflict Sensitivity Checklist; <https://learn.tearfund.org/en/resources/tools-and-guides/project-level-conflict-sensitivity-checklist>

Conflict-Sensitive WASH Programming Checklist

Communication and accountability:

- Have we communicated the WASH programme goals, approach, and reasons for doing the project to all groups involved or affected by the intervention?
- Are certain people selected to benefit from our project? Is the way in which we select these people understood by all groups involved in, or affected by, the project?
- How is UNICEF/partner and/or the WASH intervention perceived? Do we know? Have we asked different types of people in different parts of the community so that we have a good understanding of whether our role and intentions are understood and well received?
- How will any changes to the project be communicated to groups involved in, or affected by, the project in a timely manner?
- How will this information be communicated at regular intervals throughout the life of the project? Will the information be accessible to all in the community?
- Do we have a process for reporting, recording, and following up on requests and complaints connected to the project? Is this process being used, and are those raising issues being told about the outcome of their question?

Behaviour and procedures:

- Do our actions and ways of behaving suggest that we judge different groups or factions in the same way regardless of who they may be? Are we consistent in how we respond to different groups?
- If land is being acquired by local authorities to support the establishment of WASH infrastructure, have we checked that adequate compensation processes are being followed? Although UNICEF and partners are NOT directly responsible to compensate for land and/or asset loss, monitoring the implementation and community satisfaction with the outcome can help to mitigate conflict and reputational risks!
- Have you considered the impact of those working on the programme (staff, partners, subcontractors, locally recruited labour) will have on the community and conflict dynamics e.g. ethnicity, religion, political affiliation, nationality, sex, and age?
- Have you considered the impact on conflict dynamics of your local recruitment strategy, noting the need to recruit equitably and transparently based on ability and suitability and clearly communicating recruitment procedures and decisions to participating stakeholders – where possible and appropriate, recruit members from across all communities involved in the project (or as many as possible).
- If the project is deploying a private-public partnership model (e.g. water utility) have we assessed the affordability/equity aspects to ensure tariffs and methods of payment do not discriminate or exclude certain groups?
- If we are buying resources for the project, does the way in which we decide who to buy from have a positive or neutral impact on local markets?
- Have we made sure that we are not undercutting local suppliers or depending on people who are aligned with one of the conflict factions or groups?
- If we are engaging with government officials, does the way this is done reflect and reinforce their accountability, legitimacy and transparency?

Examples of conflict risks associated with WASH interventions and proposed mitigation measures

Planning		Implementation		Review and closure	
WASH-Conflict Interactions	Mitigation	WASH-Conflict Interactions	Mitigation	WASH-Conflict Interactions	Mitigation
Intervention Examples: Water Trucking distribution					
Water delivered for free is seen as competing with water utilities' fee-based services	<i>Consult water utilities about water tariff and perhaps pay for the water trucked, and/ or inform beneficiaries that the free provision of water is exceptional</i>	The water trucking company selected does not come from the area served, and is therefore prevented from working by local authorities.	<i>Make sure local companies have a chance to participate in the bidding</i>	Lack of planning and communication on the necessary reduction and closure of water trucking activities created tensions between the benefiting community and the operator	<i>Identifying the best exit strategy and the realistic period of water trucking should be planned before the implementation, in close consultation with the community and donors, and clearly communicated to the community served.</i>
The water point identified to fill the trucks is considered by the community connected to it to have already limited capacity for themselves.	<i>To avoid potential conflict over limited water resources, carefully check the capacity of the water point and the daily quantity of water needed for the water trucking, and communicate with local communities to reach an official agreement on water extraction.</i>	After few months of implementation, monitoring shows that host communities are coming from other areas to collect the water distributed by water trucking and thus reducing the quantity for IDPs and creating conflict with them.	<i>Add additional WT distribution sites in poor densely populated host community neighbourhoods or add water point construction/ rehabilitation to your plan to satisfy host community demand.</i>	After closure of water trucking services, IDPs are obliged to take water from existing wells within host communities, creating tensions over sharing limited water resources	<i>Evaluate the level of acceptance of IDPs within surrounding communities to anticipate potential tensions, as part of the 'Do No Harm' analysis.</i> <i>Design the exit of water trucking accordingly, considering the willingness of host communities to share water resources</i> <i>A mechanism for community engagement in sharing resources should be developed in parallel to the water trucking so that there is a sustainable exit plan.</i>

Planning

WASH-Conflict Interactions

Mitigation

Implementation

WASH-Conflict Interactions

Mitigation

Review and closure

WASH-Conflict Interactions

Mitigation

Intervention Examples: **Water piped network construction**

Investing in water projects in this area is not considered as a priority by national authorities.

Gathering enough data at national level to justify the rationale behind the selection of the area

The layout of the pipeline goes through an community antagonistic to the one served

Consider providing a longer pipeline if no solid agreement can be reached between the two communities

Local authorities stop the project, considering that it will encourage the IPDs camp it serves to become sustainable, creating tensions with IDPs

Ensure that all stakeholders are involved from the planning phase and consider innovative designs to serve IDPs with semi-temporary water points.

The community hosting the water source refuses to share limited resources with the benefiting one

Map all the communities along the project and analyse their interactions. Ensure the inclusion of all communities since the design phase of the project, including creating mixed water committees who will follow up on the project implementation and take over its operation and maintenance

When the programme is over, a possible conflict risk may be rivalry between IDPs and host communities for priority use (e.g., host communities expect to be able to skip the line).

Set up a gender-balanced water committee, or a water security mechanism, or involve the local authorities in monitoring use, etc.

Develop transparent and clear water use guidelines in consultation with prospective water users ensuring the perspectives of different usages are captured (drinking, cattle, irrigation).

Ensure land titles and agreements with local communities are re-committed to before closure.

Intervention Examples: **Wastewater piped network construction**

Connecting IPDs to wastewater network is seen by authorities as an encouragement to make the camp sustainable, which is not on the authorities' agenda

Design temporary connections and/or demonstrate that the increased system capacity will be used to absorb future planned extension of the city (considering demographic growth for instance) after the camp closure.

Local authorities from neighbouring poor areas complain that there are no plans to connect them to the new pipeline.

Make sure that the project falls into an overall official master plan to cover the whole district with wastewater services. Communicate before the project starts and during its implementation on its outputs.

Local water utilities refuse to take over the facility, considering the operation and maintenance costs and lack of income from wastewater fees

Wastewater services are usually provided free, and are therefore challenging to sustain. Before investing in the project, a very thorough business model should be developed with relevant local stakeholders i.e. water authorities, municipality, the community etc.).

Ensure policy engagement/clear agreements by decision-makers as part of the programme closure approach to mitigate marginalization.

Planning

WASH-Conflict Interactions

Downstream communities consider that the system will not be able to treat additional wastewater, and therefore accuse benefiting community of planning to pollute their environment.

Mitigation

Undertake a thorough feasibility study of the treatment system to ensure additional wastewater can be absorbed, and communicate on your findings.

Implementation

WASH-Conflict Interactions

Communities downstream do not benefit from the project, but are impeded by the work implementation.

Mitigation

Through a participatory process, find innovative ways to ensure all communities impacted by the project benefit from it, for instance through the recruitment of local workers from communities affected.

Review and closure

WASH-Conflict Interactions

Connection costs (inside the premises) are not affordable for the most vulnerable communities, creating inequality and frustration between communities

Mitigation

Consider specific support for the most vulnerable families or communities through subsidies or social loans.

Intervention Examples: Public latrine construction

Landowners and local authorities have not been consulted on the latrine's location and do not want works to start; tensions between IDPs user and host communities are raised.

Make sure that landowners and local authorities are consulted and provide official authorization to build the latrine.

Latrine design does not reach official national standards (which can be higher than SPHERE), thus halting construction of the toilets.

Make sure that designs are officially approved by relevant authorities prior any implementation.

Local authorities in charge of the maintenance close the toilette to keep it clean and/or for their own use, thus creating tensions with benefiting communities

Make sure that the communities are aware of their right to access the toilets. Plan regular monitoring visits after the work has been completed to convince local authorities to keep the toilets open.

Have a grievance policy – a dispute channel that operates throughout the programme with clear accountability lines and is sustained beyond programme closure

Temporary latrines are seen as a cause of pollution by the host community, which is used to higher standards.

Do not forget that surrounding and downstream communities, even if not benefiting from the intervention, should be consulted as they can be impacted by potential pollution

The contractor is from the host community, and is accused of corruption by IDPs, which exacerbates tensions between the IPDs and host community.

Bear in mind that any construction work is also an opportunity for local people to get business, and will require people who can do both skilled and unskilled jobs. Therefore make sure that the work implementation benefits all involved communities equally.

Tension over use of latrines between different sexes (e.g. only men use the latrines and not the women) or between IDPs and host communities after hand over.

Clear signage; distance between the two blocks (Men/women), localization of the toilet close to the IDPs user, consideration of the needs from host communities.



Purpose

This tool complements the WASH for Peace Programming Guide Section 3. The 'What' and 'How' of peacebuilding WASH and aims to support the integration of peacebuilding approaches into WASH programming, building on the foundation of conflict sensitivity.

WASH for Peace interventions follow the same programming cycle as regular interventions, therefore this tool applies a broad results-based management (RBM) logic integrating dimensions of conflict sensitivity/peacebuilding as relevant. In fragile and conflict-affected contexts (FCCs) conflict sensitivity is a minimum requirement of all UNICEF-supported programmes and interventions, while opportunities to pursue peacebuilding should be considered.

Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding?

A preliminary step in programme design in FCCs is to determine whether an intervention should be conflict sensitive only or whether opportunities to also integrate peacebuilding exist and can be leveraged – the questions below can help WASH teams make that decision in consultation with relevant internal and external stakeholders:

- Is addressing the conflict causes/drivers central to effective delivery/children's rights in your context?
- Is addressing the conflict causes/drivers within the capacity of UNICEF's WASH programmes; can UNICEF influence the conflict causes/drivers?
- Is the operational (e.g. security, safety of staff and other stakeholders) and political/institutional (e.g. acceptance of UNICEF engaging, opportunities to advocate for that space to be created) context favourable?
- Do relevant capacities in conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding (key staff, implementing partners, and participating communities) exist or can they be developed?
- Are sufficient resources (e.g. staff time and funding) available to effectively implement conflict sensitive/peacebuilding programming to avoid doing harm through inadequate implementation?
- Are key stakeholders within UNICEF (country/field office, regional office, headquarters) and outside UNICEF (government, partners, communities) supportive/committed to engaging?
- Are donor partners supportive of the approach (i.e. adaptive programming, peacebuilding outcomes)?

Step 1. Defining the peacebuilding approach for your WASH intervention

Peacebuilding as a Primary or Secondary Objective?

The findings of the CP Scan should give WASH teams the necessary information to determine, in the first instance, whether a primary focus on peacebuilding is required or relevant:

- *If water/WASH is a critical dimension of conflict (e.g. water user conflict, exclusion from WASH) then peacebuilding as a primary objective should be considered;*
- *If there are relevant interactions between broader conflict and WASH (conflict impacts on WASH, WASH intervention in conflict-affected context) then a peacebuilding secondary objective should be considered.*

Can a direct and explicit approach to peacebuilding be pursued?

The guiding questions below can help WASH teams determine whether the operational environment is suitable for UNICEF and WASH to pursue peacebuilding as a primary objective for programmes and interventions, and to determine how explicitly or implicitly such an approach should be integrated:

- Do existing national/local plans and policies mention conflict and peace as relevant dimensions of children’s rights?
- Do credible national/local peacebuilding processes exist e.g. truth and reconciliation commission, inter-communal national or local dialogue?
- Are there dedicated and inclusive peacebuilding institutions at national/local levels engaging government and civil society?
- Have government/WASH sector counterparts participated constructively in a UNICEF conflict analysis (e.g. SitAn, sector specific)
- Are there other relevant stakeholders (international and/or national NGOs, faith-based institutions, CS, community-based structures) that explicitly work on conflict/peace, and are they free to carry out their work?
- Are there potential/actual WASH implementing partners that have capacity/willingness to explicitly engage in such programming?
- Are other sectors already integrating peacebuilding approaches, including within UNICEF programmes, and do opportunities exist to embed WASH within multisectoral interventions to build and sustain peace?

Step 2. Developing conflict sensitive and peacebuilding WASH Theories of Change

see Programming Tool 2 ‘WASH for Peace ToC Tool’ above, and WASH for Peace Programming Guide Step 2 ‘Developing peacebuilding WASH theories of change’

Step 3. Defining WASH contributions to peace outcomes – enabling environment, vertical social cohesion, horizontal social cohesion, and individual capacities for peace

Examples of WASH contributions to peace outcomes

Enabling environment for child rights-based and positive peace:

- *Support the adoption of age-, gender-, and conflict-sensitive and pro-peace norms, policies and practices among key WASH stakeholders (duty-bearers and rights-holders) globally and in FCCs, so the impacts of fragility and conflict on children, young people and women’s access to WASH is reduced, e.g. through evidence-based advocacy, WASH for Peace SBC interventions*

Vertical social cohesion contributions – Strengthening sector-governance and institutional accountability⁵⁷

- Strengthen systems and structures, as well as their policies, focused on equity-oriented and evidence-based WASH services management at all levels of society: local (with communities), intermediate (with states, provinces, districts, municipalities, etc.) and national; and with all stakeholders – government, communities, local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector.
- Strengthen systems and structures, as well as their policies, focused on equity-oriented and evidence-based WASH services management at all levels of society: local (with communities), intermediate (with states, provinces, districts, municipalities, etc.) and national; and with all stakeholders – government, communities, local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector.
- Support grass-roots organizations and civil society to better articulate their needs and rights vis-à-vis access to WASH services.
- Strengthen governance mechanisms for local-level ongoing consultations involving representation of all groups for WASH service delivery.
- Enhance institutional understanding of local resource pressures which result in water-related conflicts and enhancing structures for resolving them. Also, note the impact of commercial use of water resources in water-scarce environments; for example, relating to mining, hydropower installations and agro-businesses.
- Strengthen good governance through capacity development and system-strengthening approaches like orientation, training, experience sharing and exchanges.

Horizontal social cohesion contributions – Community-level programming entry points⁵⁸

- Implement joint collaborative water development projects that facilitate constructive and safe contact between divided groups and help transform past sources of conflict, or ‘dividers’ into new ‘connectors’, linking people across conflict lines.
- Create incentives for joint action and providing platforms for collaboration that allow for trust and social cohesion to grow at the community level.
- Understand, value, recover, utilize, strengthen and leverage informal and indigenous systems for managing water as potential connectors.

Individual capacities for peace – Developing competencies and skills⁵⁹

- Enhance individual understanding of the peacebuilding potential of WASH services, as a common need that can be a connector within a community rather than a divider.
- Enhance the peacebuilding competencies of individuals engaged in inclusive water management activities to support conciliatory, trustful, collaborative behaviours and their ability to resolve disputes and conflicts.
- Strengthen the resilience of individuals to better cope with the negative impacts of conflict.

⁵⁷ Adapted from UNICEF, ‘Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide’, 2016, <https://www.unicef.org/media/96576/file/Programming-Guide-Conflict-Sensitivity-and-Peacebuilding.pdf>, pp. 47-48 & 53.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid., p. 53.

Step 4. Identifying and leveraging peacebuilding WASH programmatic entry points

The choice of entry point will be informed by the findings of the CP Scan and context-specific opportunities that will determine the most conducive approach. Below are a number of broad questions that can kick-start a discussion engaging relevant stakeholders (internal/external to UNICEF) in such a process – whether it is to inform a broader sector/country office WASH for Peace strategy or a more focused programme or localized intervention:

- What are **key WASH–conflict interactions** identified through your analysis (CP Scan) e.g. is any specific aspect of WASH services/resources a driver of conflict or a driver of peace?
- What issues and dimensions of WASH services/resources are most relevant, prominent, and/or pressing that could **contribute to an escalation of conflict if left unaddressed** e.g. grievances about exclusion from WASH services, disputes over scarce water resources, low participation and weak governance of WASH services, etc.?
- What **current/upcoming UNICEF WASH programmes (stand-alone or multi-sectorial) can integrate conflict sensitive/peacebuilding approaches** and pursue peace outcomes as primary or secondary objectives e.g. donor willingness, staff/partner capacity, advantageous institutional and operational environment?

Conducive programmatic entry points

see the [Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide's Step 4 – Identifying and leveraging peacebuilding WASH programmatic entry points](#)

- *Peace dividends through WASH investments*
- *Strengthening WASH sector governance to improve social cohesion*
- *Leveraging WASH services (including water resource management) to address conflict causes – urban and rural water source identification/distribution, environmental and social safeguarding, WASH committees, Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) initiatives, and multisectoral/institutional WASH.*
- *Promoting water security – strengthening climate resilience, protecting WASH infrastructure and services, and tackling transboundary water conflicts*
- *Adoption of a 'triple nexus approach' to leverage and strengthen WiE programming in FCCs*

Specific WASH in Emergencies entry points:

- *WASH Severity Classification (WSC), a tool for more contextual analysis that could be strengthened to capture conflict-related risks/vulnerabilities.*
- *Accountability, Quality and Assurance Framework (AQAF); an AAP framework that includes surveys on perceptions and safety that could be adapted to consider conflict and strengthen conflict sensitivity.*
- *Some WCCs use safety audits that include questions to capture relevant dimensions of conflict interactions with WASH.*
- *The overall HNO/HRP process could be used by UNICEF WASH in Emergency staff and WCCs to advocate for the inclusion of conflict prevalence/social cohesion deficits as a dimension of 'needs'/impact', and thus conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding approaches as a dimension of the response.*
- *Funding and emergency appeals: WASH Cluster partners can integrate conflict sensitivity/peacebuilding approaches and considerations into national-level funding opportunities and appeals; if approved this will support and encourage the integration of conflict sensitivity/peacebuilding across WASH Cluster and sector partner activities.*

This checklist⁶⁰ can be used as part of the programme design and periodically to assess progress throughout the project cycle, particularly in relation to **perceptions** of and quality of **relationships** between key project stakeholders, including a special focus on women and adolescents/young people. The role of adolescents/youth in conflict and peace is critical, and the specific roles and responsibilities in relation to water access and use intersect with gender in meaningful ways that need to be considered in order to realize the ‘double dividends’ of water and peace in conflict-affected environments. A series of questions have been included⁶¹ to support the integration of adolescents/youth in WASH interventions. The guiding questions can be adapted depending on the context (e.g. conflict causes/dynamics, conflict/project stakeholders, local capacities for peace) and the relevant dimensions of social cohesion that the project seeks to strengthen (e.g. trust/collaboration between communities and with local authorities, conflict management capacities of key stakeholders):

Does the intervention:

- *Balance infrastructural investments (hardware) with institutional investments (software) for integrated WASH services and/or water resource management?*
- *Integrate mechanisms for dialogue and shared WASH services/resource management?*
- *Extend peace dividends (tangible benefits resulting from peace and collaboration) to remote/fragile/conflict-affected contexts?*
- *Plan to rebuild community relationships with government and service providers?*
- *Identify and strengthen capacity for collective action between and within groups to support the delivery of WASH services?*
- *Identify and strengthen systems of formal/informal accountability around WASH services between key stakeholders (government, community leaders, community)?*
- *Address inclusion and marginalization in relation to WASH services, for example mapping groups who are marginalized from accessing or using services, and integrating strategies to ensure equitable access and participation?*
- *Ensure citizens have opportunities to participate in the economic, political and social activities related to the WASH services being delivered/improved (governance architecture, community-based platforms, project related employment)?*
- *Examine/balance the relative visibility of different stakeholders delivering services and assessing the risks for the state if non-state actors have high visibility, e.g. who is visible in delivering services and what is the impact on state–society relations?*
- *Consider/promote the legitimate engagement of state officials and help communities to recognize the state as a resource they should draw on, for example increasing local government involvement in planning and facilitating improved dialogue between communities and government officials?*
- *Include internal/external dispute/conflict management mechanisms and integrate capacity development inputs to enable key stakeholders to access and benefit from these mechanisms?*
- *Prioritize adolescents and young people as positive actors and potential contributors to their societies?*
- *Create incentives for young women and men to engage and participate in community WASH platforms?*
- *Create space for young people to have decision-making roles within WASH structures being set up (e.g. WASH committees, utility management)?*
- *Include the means to identify the specific WASH needs and dynamics of adolescent boys and girls, young men and women?*

60 Adapted from Tearfund: ‘Double dividends: exploring how water, sanitation and hygiene programmes can contribute to peace- and state-building’, 2013, <https://learn.tearfund.org/-/media/learn/resources/reports/2013-tearfund-double-dividends-en.pdf>; and Catholic Relief Services: ‘Water and Conflict – Incorporating Peacebuilding into Water Development’, 2009, <https://www.crs.org/sites/default/files/tools-research/water-and-conflict.pdf>

61 UN Peacebuilding Fund – Guidance Note on Youth and Peacebuilding, 2019; https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbf_guidance_note_on_youth_and_peacebuilding_2019.pdf

Programming Tool 5

Guide to integrating a gender lens into WASH for Peace Programming



Purpose

This Tool highlights WASH-relevant dimensions of gender and peacebuilding and outlines entry points to integrate gender sensitive and transformative approaches to WASH for Peace programming.

Background

WASH contributions to peace need to consider the gendered dimensions of peacebuilding. This includes the importance of enhancing efforts to address the power structures, dynamics, roles and relations between women/girls and men/boys. In order to maximize the benefits of WASH for Peace interventions, the gender dimensions of peace need to be taken into account in analysis and programme design – at a minimum gender sensitivity must be integrated across all elements of WASH programme design and implementation; ideally, opportunities to address gender dimensions of WASH–conflict interactions must be pursued that challenge gender inequality and the exclusion of women/girls from key aspects of WASH services and resource management.

Evidence

A study analysing the relationship between gender inequality and the instances of intrastate conflict noted that: “[...] *the basic link between gender inequality and intrastate conflict is confirmed. States characterized by gender inequality are more likely to experience intrastate conflict. States characterized by gender inequality, rooted in hierarchy, discrimination, and violence, necessarily support norms of violence. As such, states with gender inequality are primed for violence. Furthermore, rebellion also seems to gain momentum from gender-defined roles and on a norm of violence inherent to gendered structural hierarchies.*”⁶² More recently, the World Bank Blog [Can gender equality prevent violent conflict?](#) succinctly presents empirical evidence drawn from diverse sources to demonstrate a positive correlation between gender equality and intra- and inter- state conflict, while citing evidence of how women’s increased socio-economic and political participation positively correlates with peace.

⁶² Caprioli, M., ‘Primed for Violence: The Role of Gender Inequality in Predicting Internal Conflict’, *International Studies Quarterly*, vol. 49, 2005, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/249387918_Primed_for_Violence_The_Role_of_Gender_Inequality_in_Predicting_Internal_Conflict, pp.161–178; in UNICEF, ‘Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide’, 2016.

Consider the distinct ways in which women, men, girls, and boys, access WASH service and use water resources according to their gender-specific roles.

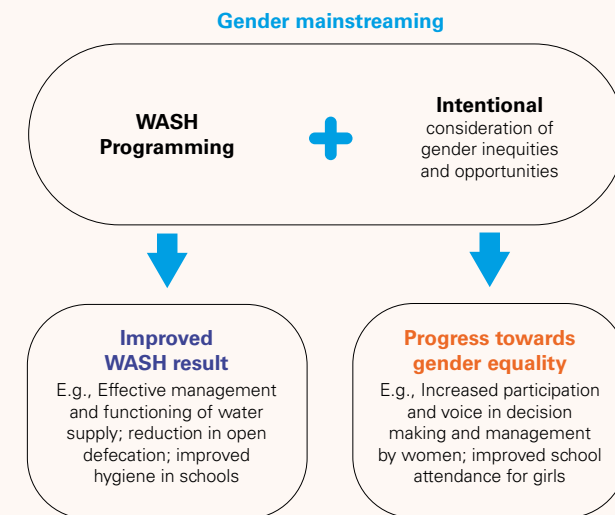
For example, women tend to have greater water needs due to domestic responsibilities that are still unequally distributed between men and women. Menstruating women have additional demands such as washing clothing and bathing when men are not present. As frequent small-scale farmers (e.g. home gardens) who are dependent on sources beyond rainfall, women and their dependents are at risk of food insecurity when alternative water sources are not available. When water is far from home, women and girls generally shoulder the burden of transporting it and these tasks lead to an increased vulnerability to violence in conflict-affected environments. Girls also face a higher risk of dropping out of school due to the time required to collect water, affecting their future opportunities.⁶²

Leverage opportunities to promote change and agency

Deep-seated discriminatory perceptions, social norms, sociocultural expectations around gender roles, and power relations, can sustain and enhance cultures of violence and contribute to conflict.⁶³ However, the transitional period following violent conflict can present opportunities to address and even transform discriminatory structures and negative gender norms as communities experience unprecedented change (e.g. increase in female-headed households, change in the role of youth, change in community leadership).⁶⁴ Conversely, women, men, girls, and boys participate in conflict management processes and contribute to peace in their communities distinctly and can bring new perspectives into traditional WASH and conflict management structures and processes (e.g. promoting inter-gender and intergenerational dialogue; promoting child/adolescent-centred dialogue).

Triple dividends – WASH, gender and peace

Sustained peacebuilding results are more likely when equitable gendered rights and positive gender roles and power relations are central aspects of the process. A key element in peacebuilding is addressing factors that undermine social cohesion. These factors include injustices at the structural and relational levels, of which unequal gender relations are an integral part. Ensuring that women and girls have an equal role in the design, management and monitoring of the WASH ecosystem can be a strategic gender-mainstreaming practice that empowers women and girls while improving WASH outcomes.⁶⁵



Integrating a gender lens to WASH programming in FCCS can help to deliver better WASH results and better contributions to peace – gender sensitivity and responsiveness can promote the **triple and mutually reinforcing dividends of WASH, gender, and peace outcomes.**⁶⁶

63 Interpeace Advisory Team (IPAT) for UNICEF, 'Thematic WASH and Peacebuilding Case Study: Review of UNICEF's Approach to Peacebuilding, Social Cohesion, Violence Prevention and Conflict Sensitivity', 2020, p. 6.

64 UNICEF, 'Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide', 2016, <https://www.unicef.org/media/96576/file/Programming-Guide-Conflict-Sensitivity-and-Peacebuilding.pdf>, p. 15

65 Ibid., p. 9

66 UNICEF, 'Gender-Responsive Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Key elements for effective WASH programming', March 2017, https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/global_gender_responsive_wash_programming_2017.pdf, p. 2.

67 See Tearfund, 'Double dividends: exploring how water, sanitation and hygiene programmes can contribute to peace- and state-building', 2013, <https://learn.tearfund.org/-/media/learn/resources/reports/2013-tearfund-double-dividends-en.pdf>

Entry points for gender WASH programming


Enabling environment for child rights-based and positive peace

- Support the generation of gender-, age-, and conflict- sensitive data to inform gender responsive and peace-building WASH sector plans and policies
- Support the adoption of gender transformative and pro-peace norms, policies and practices among key WASH stakeholders (duty-bearers and rights-holders) globally and in FCCs
- Support and pursue strategic 'WASH for Peace' partnerships to increase flexible funding for WASH in FCCs
- Support the adoption of gender responsive triple nexus approaches to ensure that programming takes into account the implications on gender equality⁶⁷


Vertical social cohesion contributions
Strengthening sector-governance and institutional accountability⁶⁸

- Support sector policy and monitoring mechanisms aimed at redressing gender-based unequal access to WASH services
- Advocate for WASH policies and sector plans that integrate gender sensitivity and responsive strategies
- Support training of WASH service providers at the national/regional and local levels in the promotion of gender-sensitive and transformative approaches to WASH
- Engage relevant stakeholders (including legal judicial and protection mechanisms) in monitoring and preventing sexual and gender-based violence linked to the implementation and access to WASH services


Horizontal social cohesion contributions
Community-level programming entry points⁶⁹

- Strengthen the role of women, across communities, in water management
- Establish community-based mechanisms to address sexual and gender-based violence arising from the implementation and access to WASH services
- Integrate strategies to shift harmful gender-related social norms in sanitation and hygiene promotion initiatives
- Support the establishment and/or capacity development of gender-balanced WASH committees and include specific capacity development and accompaniment interventions to ensure meaningful participation of women
- Support inclusive baby-friendly collaborative spaces for women/mothers from different ethnic communities to mutually support each other and to support their participation in WASH committees and other WASH resource management and decision-making processes
- Initiate school-based WASH clubs that promote positive roles of girls and boys


Individual contributions to peace
Developing individual peace capacities and skills⁷⁰

- Support gender-transformative training programmes in peacebuilding competencies, positive gender roles and power relations in the context of WASH committees, and other WASH resource management and decision-making platforms
- Train WASH service providers to uphold and promote positive social norms and attitudes about gender roles and relations to support gender-sensitive implementation and access to WASH services.
- Include age-appropriate gender transformative training programmes in peacebuilding competencies, positive gender roles and power relations as part of the capacity development of WASH school clubs

68 OECD, 'Gender Equality Across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus', 2021, [https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD\(2021\)10/En/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD(2021)10/En/pdf)

69 Adapted from UNICEF, 'Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide', 2016, <https://www.unicef.org/media/96576/file/Programming-Guide-Conflict-Sensitivity-and-Peacebuilding.pdf>, pp. 47-48 & 53.

70 Ibid.

71 UNICEF, 'Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide', 2016, <https://www.unicef.org/media/96576/file/Programming-Guide-Conflict-Sensitivity-and-Peacebuilding.pdf>, p. 53.

Programming Tool 6

Guide to integrating climate resilience, conflict sensitivity, and peacebuilding: *identifying and leveraging opportunities to 'climate-proof' WASH for Peace programming*



Purpose

This tool complements the Programming Guide Section 4.4 'Water Security – linking advocacy and programming address the causes and impacts of conflict' and aims to support WASH teams and sector partners to conflict-sensitize climate-resilient WASH programming, and/or 'climate-proof' WASH for Peace programming. The diagram below outlines the steps in the process of implementing a shift to climate-resilient WASH programming, and the table below identifies synergies between this and the conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding programming cycle.

Source - UNICEF (2020): Guidance Note - How UNICEF Regional and Country Offices can shift to climate-resilient WASH programming⁷¹

- Step 3.** Assess climate risk to WASH and set the climate rationale for UNICEF interventions
- Step 2.** Review existing climate and WASH national and sub-national priorities
- Step 1.** Conduct a stakeholder analysis reviewing structures and capacities

Understand the problem



Identify and appraise options

- Step 4.** Identify a longlist of potential options to address prioritised risks
- Step 5.** Appraise and shortlist options for UNICEF's support
- Step 6.** Screen, assess and manage the potential environmental and social implications of UNICEF climate resilient WASH initiatives

- Step 9.** Design SMART indicators for climate-resilient WASH and integrate in monitoring systems

Monitor and move forward

Deliver solutions

- Step 7.** Adjust Work Plans to be climate-resilient, and implement
- Step 8.** Identify different financing options and develop fundraising concepts and proposals

72 UNICEF: 'Guidance Note - How UNICEF Regional and Country Offices can shift to climate resilient wash programming', 2020, <https://www.unicef.org/media/109006/file/UNICEF-guidance-note-climate-shift.pdf>

WASH-Climate shift activities

Step 1: Conduct a stakeholder analysis reviewing structures and capacities

A stakeholder analysis will identify those who have an interest in or influence over WASH outcomes. It should also tell you which stakeholders are already engaging in WASH climate resilience, to be able to avoid duplication and build partnerships.

Step 2: Review existing climate and WASH established national and subnational priorities

Review existing climate and WASH national and subnational priorities to assess the links between national climate planning and WASH, and determine if the needs of vulnerable groups and children are given proper attention.

Step 3: Assess climate risk to WASH and set the climate rationale for UNICEF interventions

Convene the WASH sector, and other key stakeholders identified in Step 1 to undertake (or validate) a national WASH climate risk assessment. The analysis should build on existing evidence, observed climate impacts, and climate projections (at the timescale and geographical scope available). Key climate risks to WASH are identified, as well as potential information gaps.

WASH for Peace programming steps and synergies

WASH Conflict and Peace Analysis/ Scan

A conflict and peace analysis is about understanding the context in which your WASH programme or intervention operates. When considering impacts and designing for conflict sensitivity, include **a stakeholder analysis which also considers stakeholders already engaging in WASH climate resilience, and established national and subnational priorities.**

Step 1: Defining peacebuilding as a primary or secondary objective of your WASH intervention

If water/WASH is a critical dimension of conflict and peacebuilding is a primary objective, and this links to climate change (e.g. resource scarcity), the importance of using the WASH-climate shift guidance is clear. If there are relevant interactions between broader conflict and WASH and a peacebuilding secondary objective is considered, using WASH projects as a tool for peacebuilding can be explored.

Step 2: Developing conflict sensitive and peacebuilding WASH Theories of Change

The WASH for Peace theory of change can build on the ToCs identified in the WASH Climate shift guidance.

Step 3: Identifying and leveraging peacebuilding WASH programmatic entry points

COs can use the climate risk assessment as a lens through which to identify and leverage the three main entry points to build and sustain peace through WASH.

For example:

- *Delivering 'peace dividends' through WASH investments: Associated climate risk could be the risk of flooding due to poor drainage and negative impacts on WASH infrastructure, causing tensions in communities as a result of variations in the impacts. The entry point could be building climate resilience within the WASH infrastructure across communities.*

WASH-Climate shift activities

Step 4: Identify a longlist of potential options to address prioritized risk

Identify potential options to address the prioritized risks, keeping in mind the three key objectives of the SHIFT to climate-resilient programming

Step 5: Appraise and shortlist options for UNICEF support

Narrow down the longlist of potential climate-resilient solutions, to a prioritized and context-specific shortlist of interventions

Step 6: Screen, assess and manage the potential environmental and social implications of UNICEF climate-resilient WASH initiatives

Ensure that UNICEF environmental and social standards are observed, and that interventions have been classified according to risk level.

WASH for Peace programming steps and synergies

- *Strengthening WASH sector governance: Associated climate risk could be poor water resource management, which can cause tension in communities if there is a risk of competition over resources. The entry point could be strengthening governance structures to ensure sustainable management of resources.*
- *Leveraging WASH services to build/sustain peace: Associated climate risk could be water scarcity and consequent tension. The entry point for conflict sensitivity/peacebuilding is building and improving climate resilience in water provision, with potential cross-community led components, to build social cohesion.*

Step 4: Defining WASH contributions to peace outcomes

Based on the identified climate risks and conflict sensitivity/peacebuilding entry points to address both tensions and climate risks, identify interventions using vertical social cohesion, horizontal cohesion and/or building individual capacities for peace.

For example:

- *Vertical social cohesion: if building civil society and government knowledge and capacity on water and sanitation issues, include components of climate change risks*
- *Horizontal social cohesion: Providing new resources in a context of scarcity and strengthening the quantity and quality of interactions between communities.*
- *Individual capacity strengthening: Employ and engage youth from different locations/social groups on climate-resilient or climate friendly WASH infrastructure implementation.*

Do-No Harm

Ensure that UNICEF environmental and social standards are observed

WASH-Climate shift activities

Step 7: Adjust WASH workplans to be climate- resilient, and implement them

Adjust workplans based on the adaptations to existing programmes and any new interventions identified by the SHIFT process so far. These adjustments to existing annual or rolling workplans can then feed into country programme documents or programme reviews.

Step 8: Identify different financing options and develop fundraising concepts and proposals

This step involves considering climate and environmental financing opportunities for climate-resilient WASH programming, exploring and assessing options that take into account potentially higher upfront costs, but dramatically lower lifetime costs of climate-resilient programming.

Step 9: Design smart and climate-resilient indicators for WASH

Develop a set of climate-resilient indicators linked to the shortlisted options for interventions identified in Step 5. This means programmatic adjustments can be carried out, new programming can be integrated into existing programming, and sustainability checks with climate resilience indicators can be carried out.

WASH for Peace programming steps and synergies

WASH Programming Entry Points (Step 3 Identifying and leveraging peacebuilding WASH programmatic entry points)

also adjust for conflict sensitivity/peacebuilding aspects within existing programmes. Strategic moments for the inclusion of conflict sensitivity/ peacebuilding in WASH programming are listed under Step 3 – Defining WASH contributions to peace – enabling environment, vertical social cohesion, horizontal social cohesion, and individual contributions to peace of the Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide, and could encourage joint revision and inclusion of both climate change and conflict sensitivity/peacebuilding at various stages of the programme cycle.

Partnerships for Peace

The resource mobilization tools in the partnership section of the WASH for Peace guidance can guide COs to leverage existing funds and donors with an interest in both climate and conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding. The donor mapping is a good place to start, though the tools in the WASH for Peace Guidance can also be used to guide how COs can engage with and educate donors on the nexus between conflict, peacebuilding and climate change

Developing and implementing conflict sensitive WASH M&E

There are three core elements to conflict-sensitive M&E: monitoring the conflict context, monitoring progress of the intervention, and monitoring the interaction between the intervention and context. At each of these steps, COs can include climate-resilient indicators and monitoring to mitigate risks related to climate-tension issues. The indicators, SMQs and checklists in the WASH Climate shift guidance can be used as a starting point for integrating climate-resilient indicators into conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding indicators.

Participatory and community-based approaches to monitoring are key to ensure conflict sensitivity, and leveraging WASH community feedback mechanisms. These can also be used to reflect and capture climate change realities



This Tool complements this Guide's Section 3.1. WASH contributions to an enabling environment for child rights-based and positive peace and lists generic and suggested inputs that can be adapted to inform internal and external advocacy efforts to raise awareness and promote uptake of conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding approaches by key stakeholders within and outside UNICEF. The external 'advocacy strategy canvas' builds on UNICEF's Global Advocacy Priority 4 which is related to climate change and water insecurity. For more information on the relationship between climate change vulnerability, water insecurity, and conflict please see the WASH for Peace – Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide – 'STEP 4 – Identifying and leveraging peacebuilding WASH programmatic entry points' section.

Advocacy priority area: WASH for Peace - INTERNAL ADVOCACY

Impact statement: UNICEF WASH programming in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Contexts (FCCs) integrate conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding

1. Advocacy outcomes

What is the SMART⁷² change we seek?

Internal UNICEF stakeholders support and implement the necessary actions to integrate **conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding (CSPB)** approaches to WASH in fragile and conflict-affected contexts (FCCs)

2. Key target

Current

What does our target currently believe and how does this make them behave?

Internal stakeholders believe that CSPB approaches are too political and do not dedicate attention (analysis, planning, uptake) and resources (human, financial) to support integration

Future

What do we want to make them believe and how will this influence their behaviour?

CSPB approaches make WASH interventions in FCCs more effective, sustainable, and lead to:

- Conflict resilient WASH systems and practices
- WASH programming that contributes to build and sustain peace in FCCs

4. Barriers to advocacy

Why hasn't this happened yet?

Global commitments have not yet translated into changed management and programming practices at regional and country office levels

5. Opportunities

What might make it more likely?

If robust internal accountability systems are developed to promote and track implementation of key steps at global, regional, country office level – e.g. conflict analysis; translation into CPD/Programme Documents; systematic measurement of CSPB contributions and results

7. Key milestones

What key moments will help us deliver our objectives?

Strategic planning milestones (strategic plan, country programme, programme reviews) are leveraged to implement/update conflict analysis and integrate relevant programme design and adaptation

8. Outputs

How will we know we're on the right path?

- Advocacy targets (i.e. the people/teams we are trying to influence)
- External-facing sector guidance is developed
- Capacity development of key staff undertaken in relevant regions and country offices
- Dedicated and specialized technical support is deployed at HQ, regional and country office level as relevant

3. Other key stakeholders

Who are our key allies, partners, influencers and opponents?

Allies

- Member states and donors that support triple nexus approaches and resilient approaches to programming in FCCs
- UNICEF Management and Communication teams in regions and countries affected by fragility and conflict
- WASH staff that are members of UNICEF Peacebuilding Network, and/or have undertaken UNICEF's Agora Training Introduction to Risk-Informed, Conflict-Sensitive and Peacebuilding Programming

6. Advocacy tacticts

What tactics are likely to help us achieve our outcome, by addressing the barriers?

Lobbying with supportive evidence/proof of concept
Coalition building among identified allies and WASH for Peace champions across the organization and across programmes
Host events/webinars to showcase evidence and to promote uptake

6. Strategic Approach

We will... (pursue our chosen strategy)

- Generate evidence, develop capacity, and promote uptake of conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding approaches in WASH

9. What next?

What activities will we pursue?

- Disseminate and socialize the WASH Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Guidance
- Take/encourage others to take UNICEF's Agora Training Introduction to Risk-Informed, Conflict-Sensitive and Peacebuilding Programming
- Identify/showcase evidence of successful integration and delivery of meaningful results and contributions

Because... (of our chief insight)

Integrating CSPB approaches into WASH programming will amplify and sustain results for children in FCCs
This will... (overcome a barrier/ take advantage of an opportunity)
Promote reflective practice and programme adaptation, mobilize human and financial resources...
So that... (our goal is achieved)

Key UNICEF and WASH stakeholders (senior management, programme managers) understand the added value of CSPB approaches and support their integration

Advocacy priority area: WASH for Peace - EXTERNAL ADVOCACY

Global Advocacy Priority (GAP) 4 'Water Insecurity – conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding WASH'

Impact statement: To ensure that every child now, and in the future, has their WASH rights realized by being protected from, and prepared for, the impacts of water insecurity' – *in fragile and conflict-affected contexts through the uptake of CSPB approaches that strengthen conflict resilience of WASH systems and practices and contribute to build and sustain peace through WASH to reduce water insecurity*

1. Advocacy outcomes

What is the SMART⁷³ change we seek?

By [X], key stakeholders (Government, sector partners/donors, communities) support and participate in conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding WASH policies, plans, programming

2. Key target

Current

What does our target currently believe and how does this make them behave?

- Conflict is not framed as a direct threat to water security and WASH services by key stakeholders (Government, sector partners/donors, communities)
- Key stakeholders don't see WASH as a peacebuilding activity (Government, sector partners/donors, communities)

Future

What do we want to make them believe and how will this influence their behaviour?

- Key stakeholders (Government, sector partners/donors, communities) understand the interaction between WASH conflict, peace, and believe that integrating CSPB approaches increases effectiveness and reduces water insecurity
- Key stakeholders (Government, sector partners/donors, communities) undertake actions to integrate CSPB approaches to WASH as relevant

4. Barriers to advocacy

Why hasn't this happened yet?

- Limited understanding of WASH, conflict, peace interactions
- Limited evidence of results and contributions
- Limited capacity to act upon the understanding and evidence

5. Opportunities

What might make it more likely?

- Creating demand from key stakeholders (Government, sector partners/donors, communities)
- Demonstrating results – making the case!
- Building relationships and alliances with key stakeholders
- Amplifying youth voices to help create demand

7. Key milestones

What key moments will help us deliver our objectives?

- Key global events e.g. World Water Week, SWA Sector Ministers Meeting; and key advocacy days e.g. World Water Day, International Day of Peace
- Regional or national events/opportunities to leverage
- Key internal and external planning milestones (WASH sector, UNCT, UNICEF)

8. Outputs

How will we know we're on the right path?

- Advocacy targets set (i.e. the people/teams we are trying to influence)
- Relevant knowledge management and technical guidance developed
- Targeted messaging drafted
- Capacity of key stakeholders strengthened

3. Other key stakeholders

Who are our key allies, partners, influencers and opponents?

- Supportive Government, sector partners/donors, communities)
- Peacebuilding civil society actors – particularly youth
- Sector partners with relevant expertise/experience

6. Advocacy tacticts

What tactics are likely to help us achieve our outcome, by addressing the barriers?

- Lobbying with supportive evidence/proof of concept
- Coalition building among identified allies and champions among key stakeholders
- Host events/webinars to showcase evidence and to promote uptake among key stakeholders
- Targeted messaging: Tailoring our key messages to different audiences we are trying to reach/influence

6. Strategic Approach

We will... [pursue our chosen strategy] generate evidence, raise awareness and develop relevant capacity and leverage UNICEF's WASH sector/Cluster leadership to influence/mobilize support

9. What next?

What activities will we pursue?

- Conduct/update conflict analysis/scan to identify key WASH–conflict and peace interactions
- Develop advocacy action plan and messaging/key asks around the identified priorities
- Brief key stakeholders and identify allies and champions

Because... [of our chief insight] integrating CSPB approaches into WASH programming will amplify and sustain results for children in FCCs

This will... [overcome a barrier/ take advantage of an opportunity] create demand for these approaches to be integrated while positioning UNICEF as a key sector technical lead

So that... [our goal is achieved] key stakeholders (Government, sector partners/donors, communities) will support and participate in conflict sensitive and peacebuilding WASH initiatives and programmes that build and sustain peace

Programming Tool 8

Sample WASH for Peace messages



This Tool includes a sample of key messages that illustrate strategic interactions between WASH and conflict, and that capture key themes (resilience, fragility, triple nexus, climate, water security, gender, youth). The messages can be adapted to the operational context and substantiated with context-relevant evidence, and be deployed to support internal and external advocacy and can be used in conjunction with the above Tool 7 – WASH for Peace Internal & External Advocacy Strategy Canvas).

Conflict and WASH interactions

- Conflicts pose a significant threat to the safety and well-being of children and the number of children directly affected by conflict is massive and increasing; 420 million children (nearly one in five) live in areas affected by armed conflict and fragility and by 2030 this figure is likely to rise by 80 per cent if nothing is done to prevent it.⁷⁴
- Children who live in extremely fragile contexts are three times as likely to practise open defecation, four times as likely to lack basic sanitation services and eight times as likely to lack basic drinking water services.
- Children under 15 in conflict contexts are on average nearly three times more likely to die from diseases linked to unsafe water and sanitation than from direct violence.
- Attacks on water systems directly impact children – when clean water becomes unavailable children are forced to rely on unsafe water, putting them at risk of disease.⁷⁵
- Conflict-induced displacement compounds these vulnerabilities and is on the rise – UNHCR estimates that 35 million (42%) of forcibly displaced people by the end of 2020 were children below 18 years of age with the majority of those displaced are fleeing conflict and violence.⁷⁶
- The interplay between conflict, climate change impacts, and the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the plight of children globally – further stretching WASH systems and services in fragile and conflict-affected contexts and worsening the poverty and inequality that drives fragility and conflict.
- Protracted conflicts are on the rise and are now the main drivers of humanitarian needs – 80 per cent of all humanitarian needs are driven by violent conflicts and 70 per cent of UNICEF’s resources are spent in conflict-affected or fragile countries. Investing in conflict prevention is not only right, it is also cost-effective - for each 1 US\$1 spent on conflict prevention US\$16 is saved down the road.⁷⁷

75 UNICEF, 'UNICEF and Sustaining Peace: Strengthening the Socio-Economic Foundations of Peace through Education, Young People's Engagement and WASH', 2020 (UNICEF Thematic Paper Contribution United Nations Secretary-General's 2020 Peacebuilding & Sustaining Peace Report); <https://www.unicef.org/media/96551/file/Thematic-paper-for-2020-sg-report-mf.pdf>

76 UNICEF Regional and Country Offices and sector partners facing transboundary water conflicts can benefit from global support via UNICEF HQ, the UNECE water convention secretariat, and respective River Basin organizations.

77 Internal Displacement Tracking Matrix; <https://www.internal-displacement.org/database/displacement-data>

78 World Bank, Open Knowledge Repository, Pathways for peace: inclusive approaches for Preventing Violent Conflict, 2018, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/28337>

Risk-informed and conflict-sensitive WASH

- Despite good intentions, WASH interventions in fragile and conflict-affected contexts are at risk of unintentionally worsening conflict or contributing to wider conflict dynamics.
- The choice of where to drill boreholes, how to share and manage resources among refugee/internally displaced populations and host communities, whether to allow water points to be used for crops and/or livestock, how to govern water resources, distribution/access to WASH services in contexts where exclusion is prevalent, can all be contentious issues that if not managed effectively can escalate into conflict.
- WASH interventions that do not systematically consider how programming decisions can intersect with larger social, political, economic, cultural and environmental factors can contribute to, or exacerbate, conflict dynamics.
- WASH-relevant conflict analysis is paramount to determine how WASH interventions may exacerbate tensions and conflict, or potentially address and resolve these issues.⁷⁹
- Conflict sensitivity is a minimum requirement for UNICEF programming in fragile and conflict-affected contexts (FCCs) and particularly relevant in humanitarian action where conflict-sensitive approaches are essential to avoid doing harm through quick and ill-informed interventions.

WASH for Peace

- WASH can be a powerful catalyst for peace – the OECD has identified WASH as a ‘politically neutral’ service system, which can serve as a platform for social cooperation and partnerships between citizens and government.⁷⁹
- WASH can serve as an important ‘peace dividend’ if associated with the cessation of violence and as an outcome of a peace process or agreement between divided communities.
- WASH services offered as peace dividends can: reduce social tensions through the provision of tangible, needed services, create incentives for non-violent behaviour and support state-building efforts at critical points in the peace process.
- WASH provides unique and valuable opportunities to address not only the impacts, but also the drivers of fragility and conflict. Global crises such as climate change, water scarcity and the COVID-19 pandemic have placed a spotlight on WASH as a critical sector and opened space for CSPB approaches as a means to strengthen programming in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.
- Establishing more accountable and transparent mechanisms for WASH governance, bridging state and non-state stakeholders, can lead to more effective water management, and increased trust in the government, thus building vertical social cohesion.
- WASH programming can create incentives for joint action and provide platforms for collaboration that allow community-level trust and horizontal social cohesion to be strengthened.⁸⁰
- WASH programming that identifies and seizes opportunities to prevent and transform conflict can support UNICEF’s contribution to realizing SDG6 and SDG16 in FCCs.

79 UNICEF, ‘Water Under Fire’, Volume I, 2019, <https://www.unicef.org/media/58121/file/Water-under-fire-volume-1-2019.pdf>

80 Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), ‘Service Delivery in Fragile Situations - Key Concepts, Findings and Lessons’, 2008, <https://www.oecd.org/dac/conflict-fragility-resilience/docs/40886707.pdf>;

81 UNICEF, ‘The Contribution of Social Services to Peacebuilding and Resilience: Evolving Theory and Practice’, 2015, http://www.erinmccandless.net/uploads/3/1/5/5/31558725/the_contribution_of_social_services_to_peacebuilding_and_resilience_-_unicef_study_final.pdf

WASH for Peace and Gender

- The integration of a gender lens to the above can amplify the positive impacts of WASH programmes on peace, by reducing the distinct vulnerabilities of women and girls in FCCs and by engaging them meaningfully in the pursuit of inclusive solutions and promoting their role as agents of peaceful change in their communities.
- WASH contributions to peace need to consider the gendered dimensions of peacebuilding. This includes the importance of enhancing efforts to address the power structures, dynamics, roles and relations between women/girls and men/boys.
- The transitional period following violent conflict can present opportunities to address and even transform these dynamics and negative gender norms.⁸¹
- Sustained peacebuilding results are more likely when equitable gendered rights and positive gender roles and power relations are central aspects of the process. Integrating gender sensitivity and responsiveness can promote the triple and mutually reinforcing dividends of WASH, gender, and peace outcomes.

WASH for Peace and Youth

- One in four of the world's 1.8 billion young people live in countries affected by armed conflict and organized violence.
- Adolescents and young people experience conflict and perform distinct roles in conflict and peace – programmes and interventions that build their peacebuilding competencies can help to address specific conflict drivers associated with adolescents/youth and/or address intergenerational conflict that impedes their meaningful and constructive engagement in WASH for peace initiatives.
- Young people are powerful advocates and agents of change for sustainable use and management of water, protection of the environment, and brokers of peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

82 UNICEF, 'Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide', 2016, <https://www.unicef.org/media/96576/file/Programming-Guide-Conflict-Sensitivity-and-Peacebuilding.pdf>; p. 9



112	114	118	119	125
1. Risk-Informed Programme Monitoring – Integrating conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding into M&E	2. Developing and implementing conflict-sensitive WASH M&E	3. Developing a WASH Peacebuilding Results Framework – What to measure	4. Developing and implementing your WASH peacebuilding M&E Plan – How to measure	5. Evaluation, learning, and generating WASH for Peace evidence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2.1. Assessing and monitoring conflict risks2.2. Adapting in response to conflict risks and interactions2.3. Did conflict sensitivity work?2.4. 'Good enough' conflict-sensitive M&E		<ul style="list-style-type: none">4.1. Peacebuilding indicators4.2. Means of verification and data collection4.3. Monitoring and measuring WASH in Emergencies' contributions to peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none">5.1. Designing a WASH peacebuilding evaluation5.2. Implementing a WASH for Peace evaluation5.3. Measuring contributions to peace – social cohesion

WASH for Peace – Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit

M&E Tool 1	130	M&E Tool 2	134	M&E Tool 3	136
Conflict Sensitive and Peacebuilding WASH M&E Planning Tool		UNICEF Strategic Plan Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Core Standard Indicators (CSI)		Monitoring Attacks against WASH: the Geneva List of Principles	

This guide outlines steps in developing results frameworks and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plans to support WASH programming contributions to peace in fragile and conflict-affected contexts (FCCs). The guide does not go into the details of developing an overall results framework and M&E plan, as these would be relevant to any WASH intervention. Instead it focuses on the specific and relevant dimensions of doing so in an FCC. In such situations there is a need to integrate conflict sensitivity as a minimum requirement and to leverage opportunities to contribute to building and sustaining peace through WASH.

Section 1 shows how this guide complements UNICEF's results-based management and risk-informed programming monitoring approaches. Section 2 outlines key steps to integrate conflict sensitivity to WASH programming results frameworks and M&E plans as a minimum requirement in FCCs. Section 3 focuses on developing peacebuilding results frameworks and M&E plans to support diverse WASH for Peace interventions, and includes illustrative case studies. The Guide includes examples and case studies of efforts at UNICEF country office (CO) level to develop and implement conflict-sensitive/ peacebuilding results frameworks and M&E plans, to frame youth-led peacebuilding contributions through their participation in WASH, and to capture the social cohesion impacts of integrated host-refugee WASH investments.



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UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2022-2025 includes for the first time dedicated and substantive conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding indicators that can be leveraged to promote uptake at country office and programme level and guide the development and implementation of WASH for Peace integrated results frameworks and M&E Plans in FCCs

see M&E Tool 2 – UNICEF Strategic Plan Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Core Standard Indicators (CSI)

1. Risk-Informed Programme Monitoring – Integrating conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding into M&E

This section builds on Module 4 of UNICEF Guidance on Risk-Informed Programming (GRIP) on monitoring, and identifies opportunities to integrate conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding approaches in the design and implementation of results frameworks and M&E plans. Ensuring that your results framework captures and responds to conflict risks will not only help to you turn your conflict-sensitive approach from a ‘planning and design’ commitment into ‘actionable programming’, but also support the effective integration of a peacebuilding approach. Table 2 outlines the adaptations needed in results statements and includes examples of results statements and indicators:

Table 2: Integrating conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding into results frameworks¹

Change to result statements	Example
<p>Reflect the desired impact in terms of resilience and peace</p>	<p>UNICEF and sector partners can contribute to strengthening the resilience of children and households, WASH institutions and systems to conflict. They can also have the intention of building peace and fostering social cohesion. Ideally, the impact-level result should reflect this intention – through the result statement or indicators chosen.</p> <p>Example Impact statement and indicator: <i>Strengthened social cohesion in targeted areas through conflict-sensitive and inclusive/equitable WASH programming. Indicator: levels of trust towards water authorities and other communities</i></p>
<p>Focus targets on populations most vulnerable to conflict risks</p>	<p>UNICEF and sector partners’ results often target the most deprived populations. A conflict-sensitive result may, however, apply to the populations most at risk of conflict (those that are both extremely deprived or vulnerable and disproportionately exposed to conflict shocks and stresses). For conflict-affected countries, or those managing ongoing humanitarian action, this may involve focusing not only on affected populations that have urgent and acute needs, but also on those that are vulnerable and exposed but not yet experiencing conflict crisis.</p> <p>Example Output statement and indicator: <i>By [X], government has enhanced the technical and institutional capacity to expand conflict-sensitive WASH infrastructure and services in three of the states at greatest risk of conflict. Indicator: Proportion of district development plans in the three high-risk states that include a commitment to and budget allocation for conflict-sensitive WASH facilities.</i></p>
<p>Ensure outcomes and outputs reflect a specific commitment to strengthening performance in conflict risk reduction</p>	<p>UNICEF and sector partners can also support WASH authorities and a range of duty-bearers to reduce conflict risks by changing either their performance or their behaviour (outcome-level changes) or by enhancing their capacity to do so (output-level changes). These contributions can be reflected in the wording of the results statement or in the selection of indicators.</p> <p>Example Output statement and Indicator: <i>Conflict-affected districts adopt WASH policies, strategies and programmes that address conflict risks. Indicator: Number of districts with child-sensitive local conflict risk management plans.</i></p>

¹ Adapted from UNICEF, ‘Guidance on Risk-Informed Programming’, 2018, <https://www.unicef.org/media/95276/file/GRIP-All-Modules.pdf>, Module 3 pp. 13–14

UNICEF's risk-informed approach to monitoring can be sharpened to focus on conflict more distinctly when implementing WASH programming in FCCs. GRIP's Module 4 notes that risk-informed monitoring must be guided by slightly different management questions to those traditionally used in programming² – these can be **adapted to guide a distinctly conflict sensitive approach:**

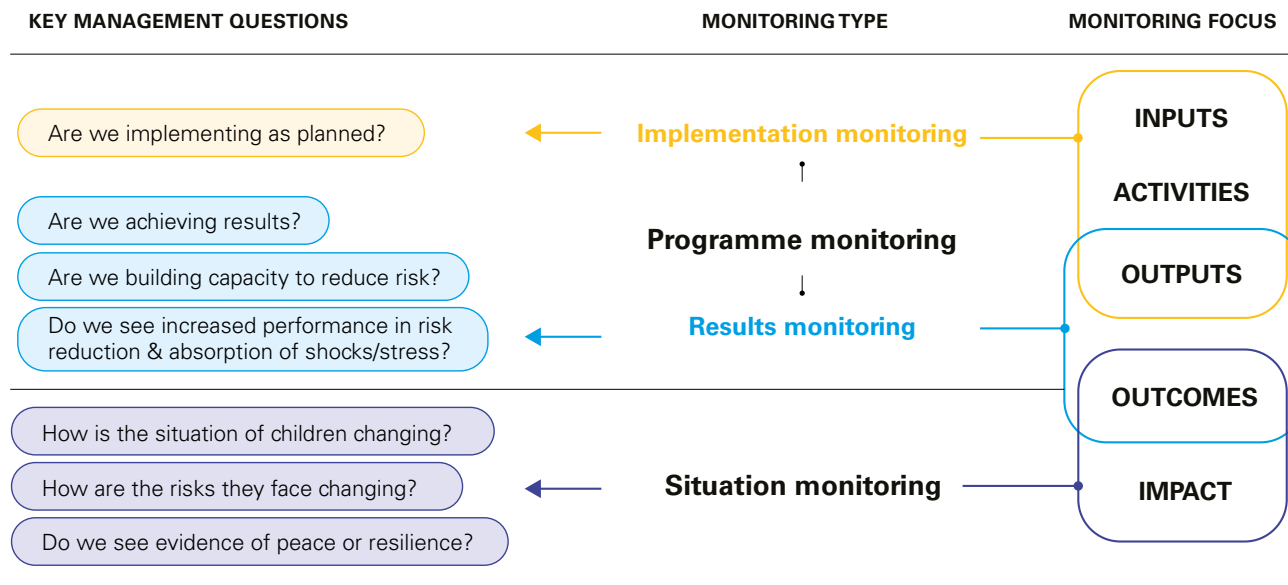
- *How is the situation of children and women changing, including in terms of shifts in **conflict risks** that can lead to a deepening of deprivation, an erosion of development progress or humanitarian crisis?*
- *Are we achieving results as planned, including for those elements of programming that build resilience and social cohesion by reducing **conflict risk**?*

Risk-informed monitoring consists of two critical dimensions: **situation monitoring**, which measures change or lack of change in the condition of children, women and the environment; and **programme monitoring**, which measures progress made against programme results (results monitoring) and how that progress is being achieved (implementation monitoring) – Figure 12 illustrates the GRIP monitoring framework and opportunities to integrate conflict sensitivity.

- **Implementation monitoring** is a good entry point to monitor the interactions between your WASH intervention and conflict, and specifically how implementation might be affecting the conflict context; for example, how host communities respond to the prospect of water trucking for a nearby IDP settlement. A key management question to strengthen the conflict sensitivity of the approach could be: *how is our implementation affecting the conflict causes, dynamics, and trends identified in our conflict and peace analysis?*

- **Results monitoring** is a good entry point to monitor the capacities of stakeholders engaged in your WASH intervention to prevent and mitigate conflict risks – for example dispute resolution capacity of a WASH committee overseeing a borehole. Key management questions to strengthen the conflict sensitivity of the approach can include: *are we building conflict management capacities among key stakeholders? Do we see an increased performance in conflict reduction?*
- **Situation monitoring** is a good entry point to monitor changes in the conflict context and regularly update your conflict and peace analysis. **A key management question to strengthen the conflict sensitivity of the approach could include:** *how are the conflict dynamics identified through the CPA changing/not changing over time?*

Figure 12: GRIP Monitoring of situation and programme – a focus on conflict³



A key aspect of monitoring the context in FCCs may include **monitoring attacks against WASH infrastructure and personnel, and indirect actions that undermine access to WASH.** The Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure is a key reference document prepared for the use of parties to armed conflicts, international organizations, and other practitioners working in the contexts of armed conflicts, including in pre- and post-conflict situations

See M&E Tool 3 – Monitoring Attacks against WASH: the Geneva List of Principles for a list of selected principles that can be adapted as relevant context indicators

² UNICEF, 'Guidance on Risk-Informed Programming', 2018, <https://www.unicef.org/media/57621/file>, Module 4, pp. 3-4
³ Ibid., p. 4

2. Developing and implementing conflict-sensitive WASH M&E

This section outlines key steps and considerations to develop and implement conflict-sensitive M&E, and can be used when programming requires the integration of conflict sensitivity only to ensure WASH interventions in FCCs are risk-informed and 'do no harm'. This section can also be used to guide the first step in developing a broader peacebuilding M&E as conflict sensitivity is also needed in this process to identify and leverage opportunities to 'Do More Good' - *for a detailed step-by-step guided process see M&E Tool 1 – WASH for Peace M&E Planning Tool*. Understanding the interaction between the conflict context and a WASH intervention is integral to a conflict-sensitive approach. Once the conflict context has been analysed, and a conflict-sensitive programme has been designed, a supportive M&E plan can be drawn up. There are three core elements to conflict-sensitive M&E: **monitoring the conflict context**, **monitoring the progress of the intervention**, and **monitoring the interaction between the intervention and context**. Each element requires dedicated and context/intervention relevant indicators. The panel below explains the difference between them and offers WASH-relevant examples.

RESOURCE BOX

Conflict Sensitivity Indicators



Adapted from Conflict Sensitivity Community Hub, 'How To' Guide to Conflict Sensitivity', 2012

Intervention indicators

Key Question: *To what extent is the intervention progressing towards achieving its objectives?*

Description: These are the indicators that any project M&E would normally include – some are directly relevant to WASH and conflict issues identified through the CP Scan (e.g. 'year-round access to water in contexts where inequitable access is causing conflict') and all can be leveraged through disaggregation by relevant categories – for example if WASH-relevant conflict fault lines exist in relation to particular identities (e.g. pastoralists, agriculturalist communities accessing the same water source) or geographies (e.g. inequitable access to WASH services by minority communities)

Conflict/context indicators

Key Question: *Are there key changes in the context? How are tensions and conflict issues relevant to WASH services and resources in the targeted areas evolving?*

Description: Conflict/context indicators will help the project team to keep the conflict analysis updated. Conflict issues are dynamic and being able to recognize, and take into account, evolutions in the context is a key element of conflict sensitivity (e.g. frequency of incidents of violence between communities A and B in WASH intervention area)

Interaction indicators

Key Question: *Is the WASH intervention having effects on the context/conflict and how? Is it being affected by particular tensions, conflict issues or evolutions in the context?*

Description: Interaction indicators will provide information on the direct interaction between the intervention and its context. Gathering such information will require a reflection on qualitative aspects of implementation, and exploring questions linked to staff and communities' perceptions towards the intervention (e.g. proportion of people in communities A and B who perceive the WASH investment as benefiting both communities equally/unequally)



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2.1. Assessing and monitoring conflict risks

Capturing assumptions and risks in the results frameworks of conflict-sensitive programming does not fundamentally differ from any other WASH intervention, except for the need to **capture the two-way interaction between intervention and conflict risks**. The risk level assessment matrix shown in Table 3 can be adapted and applied to capture both the conflict risks in the context impacting the intervention AND the conflict risks arising from the intervention to inform your conflict-sensitive monitoring framework.

Table 3: Risk-level assessment matrix – Adapted from UNICEF Results-Based Management handbook⁴

Impact	1 – UNLIKELY	2 – POSSIBLE	3 – LIKELY	4 – ALMOST CERTAIN	5 – CERTAIN/IMMINENT
5 – CRITICAL	Low	Medium	High	Very high	Extreme
4 – MAJOR	Low	Medium	High	High	Very high
3 – MODERATE	Very low	Low	Medium	High	High
2 – MINOR	Very low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium
1 – NEGLIGIBLE	Very low	Very low	Very low	Low	Low

Likelihood

The table can be adapted and used to guide a consultative conflict risk assessment to rank the level of likelihood that the conflict risk will occur and the level of impact it would have on the programme results if it did occur. The outcome of the assessment should inform the focus of the intervention’s conflict sensitivity monitoring plan to support appropriate mitigation measures; e.g. if the risk level of a WASH intervention fuelling conflict or the impact of conflict on programming is on the higher spectrum, then high-frequency interaction indicators and conflict mitigation measures should be adopted and resourced. For example:

- **Very low or low conflict risks** – leverage existing/regular indicators, monitoring systems and processes to enable you to spot-check on the intervention–conflict interaction at regular and relevant points of the implementation cycle;
- **Medium to high risks** – include dedicated interaction indicators; leverage existing/regular monitoring systems and processes and community-based feedback/consultation mechanisms to enable you to spot-check on the interaction at more frequent points of the implementation cycle;
- **Very high/extreme** – include dedicated and very high-frequency interaction indicators; set up dedicated early warning systems to supplement very frequent spot checks and monitoring.

⁴ UNICEF, ‘Results-Based Management Handbook: Working together for children’, 2017, <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/media/10356/file>, p. 57

⁵ UNICEF, ‘WASH Field Note: Third Party Monitoring of WASH in Pakistan’, 2018, <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/media/11756/file#:~:text=UNICEF%20Pakistan%20has%20found%20third,without%20compromising%20on%20monitoring%20quality>

Developing capacity of staff and partners for conflict-sensitive monitoring is key – *for more details see the Capacity Development Guide & Toolkit*. **Third party monitors (TPMs)** can be valuable assets to conflict sensitive M&E. They are private contractors deployed to complement the COs’ field-based monitoring capacity. The TPMs can be trained, equipped and supported to undertake CP Scans (*for more details see CPA Tool 3 – Age and Gender Sensitive WASH Conflict and Peace Scan*) and to monitor relevant WASH–conflict interactions. The primary technical requirements of TPMs relate to the area of programming they are expected to report on, but they typically also report against cross-cutting issues such as accountability to affected populations (AAP), prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and gender equality requirements of UNICEF-supported programmes. **Integrating the monitoring of programme-relevant conflict dynamics and interactions with WASH programming could be valuable.** TPMs could provide regular and frequent updates once a CPA and a relevant conflict-sensitive monitoring framework have been developed.⁵



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2.2. Adapting in response to conflict risks and interactions

The purpose of conflict-sensitive monitoring is to generate timely information to **adapt and respond to the issues identified**. Such data are essential for a conflict-sensitive approach, but can be very sensitive. WASH teams/partners may decide to use such information internally to guide programme adaptation rather than for external reports, to enable greater openness and better-quality responses to monitoring questions. The whole point of collecting monitoring data is that such data should be used as evidence for action or decision-taking – **reflective practice and adaptive programming** are central to conflict sensitivity. Data can be used to:

- **Consider changes to what we are doing and how we are doing it** – through considering data and feedback on grievances, and opinions on the ground about WASH-relevant conflict and interactions identified in the CP Scan and CS/Risk matrix
- **Build capacity** – Monitoring data may be used to justify additional human resources or better-skilled human resources, getting more funding, building better systems or improving the governance and management of a programme
- **Re-prioritize** – Certain aspects of the programme may need to change, based on monitoring data. It may be necessary to change implementing partners, change strategies, and/or make other adjustments⁶).

6 UNICEF, 'Results-Based Management Handbook: Working together for children', 2017, <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/media/10356/file>, pp. 124–125.

7 Conflict Sensitivity Community Hub, "'How To' Guide to Conflict Sensitivity', 2012, <https://www.international-alert.org/app/uploads/2021/09/Conflict-Sensitivity-How-To-Guide-EN-2012.pdf> p. 15

8 Saferworld, 'Conflict-sensitive approaches to development, humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding - A resource pack', 2004, <https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/148-conflict-Chapter 3 / Module 3>, pp. 6-7.

Projects can be re-designed or adapted in response to monitoring findings for several reasons, for example if:

- activities are unintentionally triggering tensions or reinforcing divisions in the community and there is a need to revise the implementation strategy to minimize those adverse effects
- underlying tensions in the target groups are hindering people's participation in activities and holding back implementation and there is a need to better understand and address those tensions to achieve progress
- opportunities exist for reinforcing community cohesion or dialogue between divided groups through project activities, and these activities could be capitalized on for the broader success of the intervention.⁷

For a conflict sensitivity strategy to be effective the M&E plan must be designed with, and endorsed by, key stakeholders including donor, management, government counterparts, implementing partners and participating communities. This will increase the chance of project adaptations being implemented effectively and smoothly.

A conflict-sensitive WASH intervention will place a high value on its projects' interactions with the context and on effective adaptation. For example, a project that underperforms on the anticipated number of boreholes drilled may, from a conflict-sensitive perspective, still be considered a success if it contributed positively to conflict dynamics. Given that the definition of a successful project can be controversial, organizations may have difficulty in valuing an under-performing conflict-sensitive project over a well-performing project that unintentionally exacerbates conflict. For an organization to enhance the way it understands success, there must be an institutional willingness and ability to think differently about how it measures impact and to respond to conflict risks with adaptive strategies.⁸

2.3. Did conflict sensitivity work?

A key challenge when undertaking **conflict-sensitive evaluation is the issue of agency or causality** – *to what extent and how did the integration of conflict sensitivity prevent conflict or positively influence conflict in the intervention context?* For example, a WASH partner NGO may be working in a remote village to provide equitable access to water resources to two ethnic groups who have historically competed and clashed over water access. Following the successful implementation of the intervention, evaluators using interaction indicators find that there has been a decrease in water-related incidents since the intervention started. The challenge of conflict-sensitive evaluation lies in finding out the reason for this change: *is this change a result of the project intervention? Of interventions by other actors operating at the same and other levels? Or of changes in the context that are unrelated to external actors?*⁹

In these situations, **‘good enough’ thinking is appropriate** as conflict-sensitive monitoring and evaluation can never provide absolute certainty. It is nevertheless important to anticipate the challenge posed by cause and effect when developing conflict-sensitive indicators. Good conflict-sensitive indicators often do not seek to address the interaction between the project and the context directly, but focus instead on more indirect factors influencing this interaction.¹⁰ In relation to the above example, the question that a ‘good enough’ indicator would help us to answer is not ‘did my project contribute to a decrease in water-related clashes?’ Instead we might want to answer questions such as: *‘what are the historical trends of water related clashes in the context (seasonal and pre-intervention)?’* or *‘what has changed in the context beyond the new WASH intervention?’*

9 Saferworld, ‘Conflict-sensitive approaches to development, humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding – A resource pack’, 2004, <https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/148-conflict->; Chapter 3, Module 3
 10 Ibid.
 11 See Saferworld, ‘Conflict-sensitive approaches to development, humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding - A resource pack’, 2004, <https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/148-conflict->; pp. 27–29.

2.4. ‘Good enough’ conflict-sensitive M&E

Integrating conflict sensitivity into WASH M&E does not need to be a complex process and it does not require specialized expertise. A pragmatic approach can be adopted to support a light touch integration of conflict sensitivity when monitoring WASH interventions in FCCs. For example, participatory and community-based feedback mechanisms or Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) processes can be leveraged as effective conflict-sensitivity M&E tools to gather data about conflict dynamics and relevant interactions with programming.¹¹ Established data collection platform such as the **WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool** can be applied to support conflict-sensitive M&E. Another pragmatic way to integrate minimum required conflict sensitivity into M&E is by **using existing WASH indicators and disaggregating by relevant categories**. The disaggregation of data by age, sex, and relevant categories to WASH–conflict interactions (e.g. geography, ethnicity, etc.) is essential to ensure the monitoring of equity, often a key dimension of conflict and already common practice in WASH programming in FCCs. **UNICEF equity focus** can provide a useful entry point to strengthen the conflict sensitivity of M&E, when differences in access to WASH services or perceptions of exclusion from these services are causing or worsening conflict. For example, a typical WASH indicator such as ‘number of children accessing handwashing facilities in school A’ can be disaggregated by geography/ethnicity and help to identify and monitor disparities and exclusion that may be causing grievances about the prevalence of disease among children belonging to marginalized minority communities.



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*As noted in the CPA Guide, the **WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool (WASH BAT)** is a relevant platform and process to analyse relevant WASH–conflict interactions and monitor contributions to resilience and peace in the WASH sector and system strengthening interventions in FCCs. Its new modules for risk analysis and additional criteria for emergency and fragile contexts include indicators that can support the collection of relevant data.*

3. Developing a WASH Peacebuilding Results Framework – What to measure

If the WASH intervention being developed aims to build and sustain peace, the conflict-sensitive approach to the M&E framework outlined in the previous section will be the first and foundational step in creating your overall peacebuilding results framework. The steps to develop a WASH for Peace theory are described in Section 3 of the Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide. The next step in the results-based programming cycle is to build a results framework to make it clear what contribution to peace the WASH intervention will deliver, how the programme intends to do so, and how the programme will measure the results. A detailed overview of the development of a results framework is not given here, as the steps will mirror those of any programme. Instead this section focuses on illustrating WASH-relevant entry points. The conflict and peace analysis of the intervention context forms the basis for the theory of change, and this in turn informs the results framework¹² - the process is shown below with WASH-relevant inputs¹³:

Table 4: WASH for Peace Results Framework Development process

Guiding Qs	Examples
<p>Key WASH-relevant conflict finding/s?</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>Inequity in access to WASH services is a cause of grievances and violence in the programming context.</p>
<p>How can we address them and contribute to build and sustain peace?</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>Basic ToC: IF equitable access to WASH services is improved in this context; THEN the programme will contribute to peace; BECAUSE it will reduce perceptions of inequality and marginalization and conflict over access to WASH facilities</p>
<p>What’s our long-term ‘WASH for Peace’ goal?</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>Impact Statement: Children, their caregivers, and their communities in this context benefit from equitable WASH services that contribute to peace</p>
<p>How can we contribute towards the long-term change?</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>Outcome statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population in target area perceives access to WASH services to be fair, equitable and adequate. Population feel and observe that conflict related to access to WASH services has been reduced
<p>What medium term changes are required?</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>Output statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access to WASH services for target populations (disaggregated by identity group, gender, age, etc.) Enhanced capacity of local communities to collaborate across identity groups to sustain WASH services Improved capacity of water management committees to monitor and address issues relating to marginalization in access to WASH services
<p>What short term results are required?</p>	<p>Activity-level result statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established and trained joint community mechanisms for water management Inclusive and equitable WASH facilities built

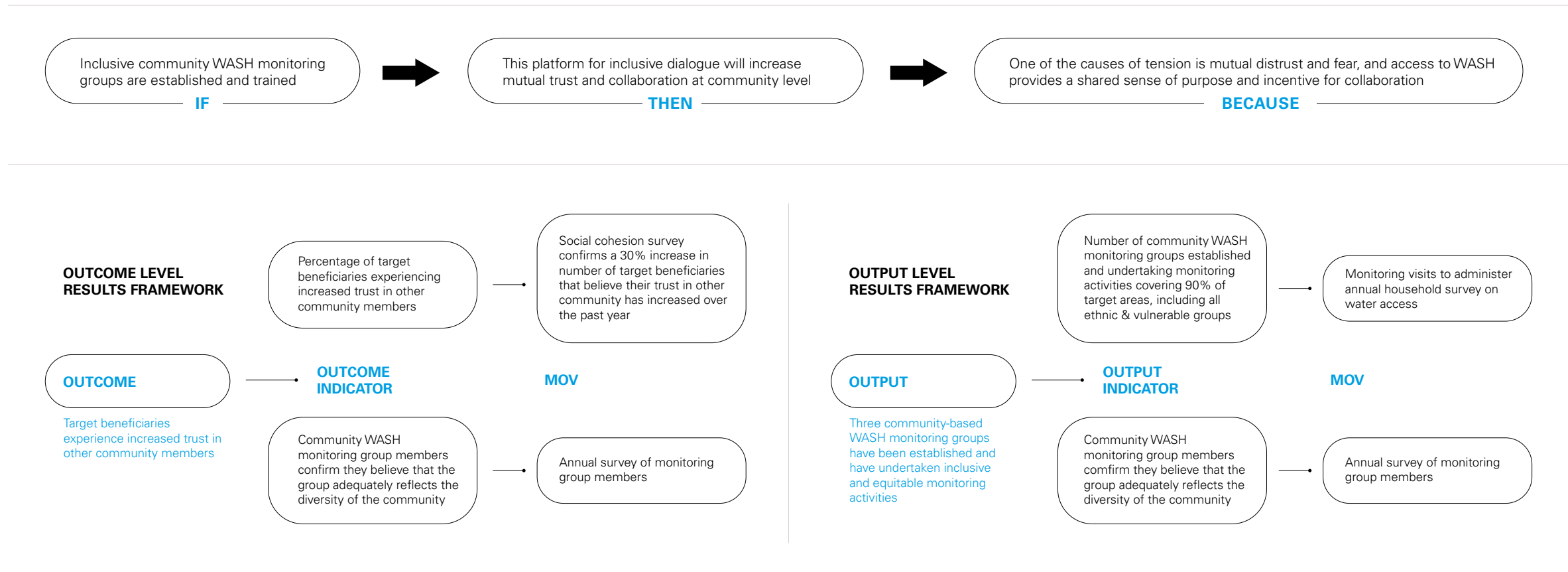
¹² UNICEF, 'Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide', 2016, <https://www.unicef.org/media/96576/file/Programming-Guide-Conflict-Sensitivity-and-Peacebuilding.pdf>; p. 29.

¹³ Adapted from UNICEF, 'Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide', 2016, p. 30.

4. Developing and implementing your WASH peacebuilding M&E Plan – How to measure

Once a sound WASH for Peace ToC and Results Framework has been developed, the next step is to identify relevant indicators as well as supporting means of verification and data-collection methodologies – namely **HOW** to measure the changes captured in the results framework. Figure 13¹⁴ illustrates this step using a simple WASH for peace ToC. It considers how inclusive community-level WASH programming can help generate social cohesion to address a key finding of a conflict analysis, namely that *'mutual distrust and fear between two communities negatively affects access to a shared water resource and leads to violent conflict'*. The figure shows Outcome and Output level results and supporting indicators and means of verification (MoVs).

Figure 13: WASH for Peace illustrative ToC and Results Framework



14 Adapted from UNICEF conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding training materials – for more information please contact UNICEF Conflict Prevention, Fragility, and Peacebuilding (CPFP) Team at HQ.

4.1. Peacebuilding indicators

M&E for peacebuilding is similar to M&E for development activities. However, as the results of peacebuilding interventions are different from those of traditional or typical development projects, peacebuilding M&E approaches also have some distinct features – **peacebuilding indicators often measure changes in perceptions, relations, behaviour and capacities related to conflict and peace.**¹⁵ Traditionally, evaluations focus on quantitative indicators; however, as peacebuilding is qualitative in nature, it is critical to integrate qualitative indicators, and to support quantitative indicators with qualitative data. The middle column of Table 5 shows examples of generic indicators to support the measurement of peacebuilding-relevant change at input, output, outcome and impact levels.

Table 5: Examples of peacebuilding indicators¹⁶

	Key questions	Potential indicators	Supporting data
Input	Were inputs the most cost efficient way to influence the situation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely delivery of financial resources. • Presence of staff, volunteers, partners, etc. • Availability and use of facilities/equipment. • Number of staff trainings/materials provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception on quality of support by staff, volunteers and other contributors. • Quality of staff trainings or materials provided.
Activity/ Output	Were activities conducted (outputs produced) as planned in terms of content, timing, location, format, quality?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of activities conducted, participants trained, events hosted, etc. • Number of publications or other outputs produced. • Number of proportion of target group expected to be involved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception of the quality of activities conducted or outputs produced. • Characteristics of participants.
Outcome	What practices, behaviours, structures, and/or policies have changed? Are there new platforms for peacebuilding or mechanisms for conflict resolution? What do these look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type/degree of change in practices and behaviours of participants or community members. • Type/degree of changes in structures or policies adopted by business, government, organizations, institutions or decision-making bodies. • Number and quality of new platforms for peacebuilding (or conflict resolution mechanisms) established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description or case studies of how new practices and behaviours, structures and policies, or new platforms for peacebuilding have influenced the community.
Impact	What happened as a result of the program/activity? Did it prevent conflict or build peace? Why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured reduction in violence; increased sense of security; improved inter-group relations. • Transformed conflict causes, drivers and/or triggers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated conflict analysis. • Community perceptions survey results.

¹⁵ UNICEF, 'Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide', 2016, <https://www.unicef.org/media/96576/file/Programming-Guide-Conflict-Sensitivity-and-Peacebuilding.pdf>; pp. 32–33

¹⁶ UNICEF, 'Adolescents as Peacebuilders Toolkit: For program planning and evaluation with the Peacebuilding Competency Framework', 2016, Prepared by Taylor O'Connor for the Adolescent Development and Participation Section', <https://www.unicef.org/media/59166/file>; p. 42.

The use of **proxy indicators** can be helpful to measure contributions to peace, particularly when the conditions for longer-term measurement of change in perceptions, relations, behaviour or capacities related to conflict and peace are beyond the means of a particular WASH intervention. In this case measuring indirect contributions to relevant dimensions of peace (e.g. social cohesion) can be helpful. Below is an example drawn from **UNICEF Ethiopia's 'Conflict Sensitivity, Peace Building and Social Cohesion Guideline for WASH Programming'**¹⁷ illustrating the use of proxy indicators to measure capacity to prevent and mitigate WASH-related conflicts at output level.

Table 6: Examples of social cohesion indicators

Measuring Social Cohesion contributions and examples of indicators

Outcome level result Statement

Key WASH services stakeholders (local authorities, communities, women/girls, children/youth) in targeted conflict-affected [...] contexts experience improved social cohesion

Perceptions of horizontal/vertical social cohesion among key WASH services stakeholders (local authorities, communities, women/girls, children/youth)

Output level result Statement

WASH governance structures and community-based platforms have enhanced capacity to prevent and mitigate conflicts arising from WASH interventions

#/type of project stakeholder trained/technically supported in WASH-related conflict management
#/type WASH-related disputes satisfactorily resolved
#/type of project related meetings engaging local authorities and communities

For example, take indicator '#/type of project related meetings engaging local authorities and communities'. If such meetings were not taking place before but are now happening regularly, this can be indicative of increased trust and willingness to collaborate (both dimensions of social cohesion). If this is positively correlated by relevant stakeholders (participants, community, implementing partner) with '#/type WASH related disputes satisfactorily resolved' (e.g. the meetings have led to the resolution) and with '#/type of project stakeholder trained/technically supported in WASH-related conflict management' (e.g. the trainings have provided the necessary capacity to contribute to the resolution of the same), then we can begin to generate evidence of social cohesion being strengthened and of a contribution to peace in the target community through the WASH intervention. For more information on Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding indicators in UNICEF's Strategic Plan's [see M&E Tool 2 – UNICEF Strategic Plan Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Core Standard Indicators](#).

4.2. Means of verification and data collection



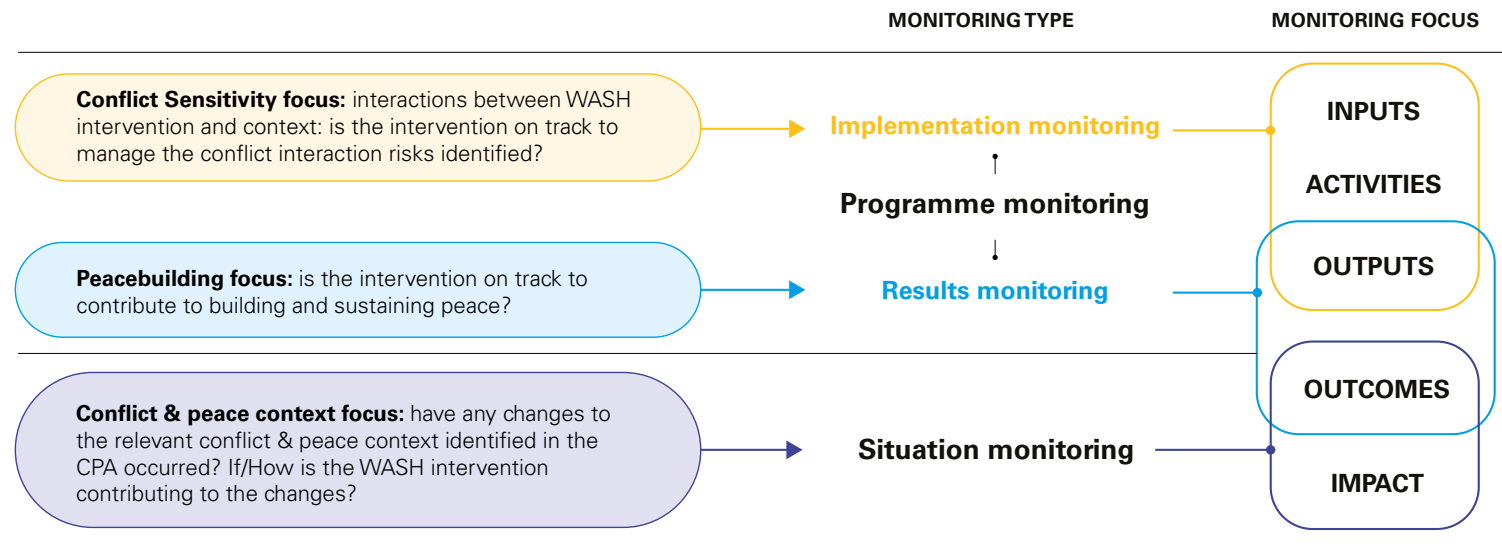
Monitoring progress towards delivering peacebuilding results can be more easily done if it is based on a robust conflict-sensitive M&E plan. WASH teams and sector partners can seek opportunities to integrate a conflict-sensitive lens and appropriate peacebuilding indicators into the results-based management monitoring framework shown in Figure 14 to generate relevant and timely data about contributions to resilience and peace made by WASH programmes. Peacebuilding monitoring would be anchored in the *results monitoring dimension*, complementing monitoring data on the context (situation monitoring) and the interactions between the intervention and the context (implementation monitoring).

¹⁷ UNICEF Ethiopia, 'Conflict Sensitivity, Peace Building and Social Cohesion Guideline for WASH Programming in Ethiopia', 2022 <https://www.unicef.org/ethiopia/media/5356/file/Conflict%20Sensitivity,%20Peace%20Building%20and%20Social%20Cohesion%20Guideline%20for%20WASH%20Programming%20in%20Ethiopia.pdf>; p. 14.

As peacebuilding M&E requires measuring changes in perceptions, relations, behaviour and capacities related to conflict and peace,

creative and innovative methodologies that are often more participatory are needed to generate such data.¹⁸ UNICEF's Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide¹⁹ includes six tools that can be used to collect qualitative and quantitative monitoring and evaluation data for peacebuilding programmes, such as key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs) as well as more child and adolescent-centred innovative methodologies such as 'peacebuilding diaries' and 'participatory video evaluations'. Below are a few examples relevant to WASH peacebuilding programming.

Figure 14: Integrating conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding into results-based management monitoring framework²⁰



RESOURCE BOX

Quantitative surveys i.e. Knowledge, Attitudes, Perceptions (KAP) surveys:

KAP surveys are ideal for collecting baseline and evaluative data. They can be implemented at national level but can also be adapted and applied at local level through tailored representative sampling approaches. UNICEF's Peacebuilding, Education and Advocacy Programme (PBEA) partnered with the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) to design and pilot KAP surveys in a number of countries to measure change over time along relevant dimensions of resilience and social cohesion including: 1) trust; 2) social relationships; 3) civic and social participation; 4) inclusions and attitudes towards social processes and services; and 5) constructive dispute resolution and its relationship to educational experiences - details of the methodology can be found in UNICEF: 'Compilation of Tools for Measuring Social Cohesion, Resilience, and Peacebuilding', 2014, https://inee.org/sites/default/files/resources/052814_UNICEF-PBEACompilationOfTools_UNICEF_English.pdf

Most significant change: The 'most significant change' technique is a form of participatory M&E in which stakeholders are involved both in deciding the sorts of change to be recorded and in analysing the information that can be used to assess the performance of a programme as a whole. Essentially, the process involves the collection of significant change stories from young people, youth, adolescents and their caretakers, and the systematic selection of the most significant of these stories by participants themselves, other stakeholders and/or staff - for example, this approach can be useful to capture any changes in young peoples' ability to engage and influence WASH related change in their communities through their participation in a UNICEF-supported WASH intervention.

Observation: One way of discerning whether participants have achieved certain competency outcomes is through group observation e.g. during group activities in which participants experientially learn peacebuilding competencies. When assessing and evaluating outcome measures through observation, it will be useful to develop a checklist or evaluation score sheet for the facilitator to use during the group activity – for example, this approach can be useful to determine if WASHCO members have gained relevant conflict management competencies and to monitor how these competencies are being applied in meetings to resolve WASH related disputes. A checklist of behaviors, actions, dynamics, outcomes, that are relevant can be captured and used by observers (implementing partners, WASHCO members, third party monitors)

18 UNICEF, 'Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide', 2016, pp. 32–33.

19 Ibid., pp. 62–66.

20 Adapted from UNICEF, 'Results-Based Management Handbook: Working together for children', 2017, <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/media/10356/file>, p. 107.

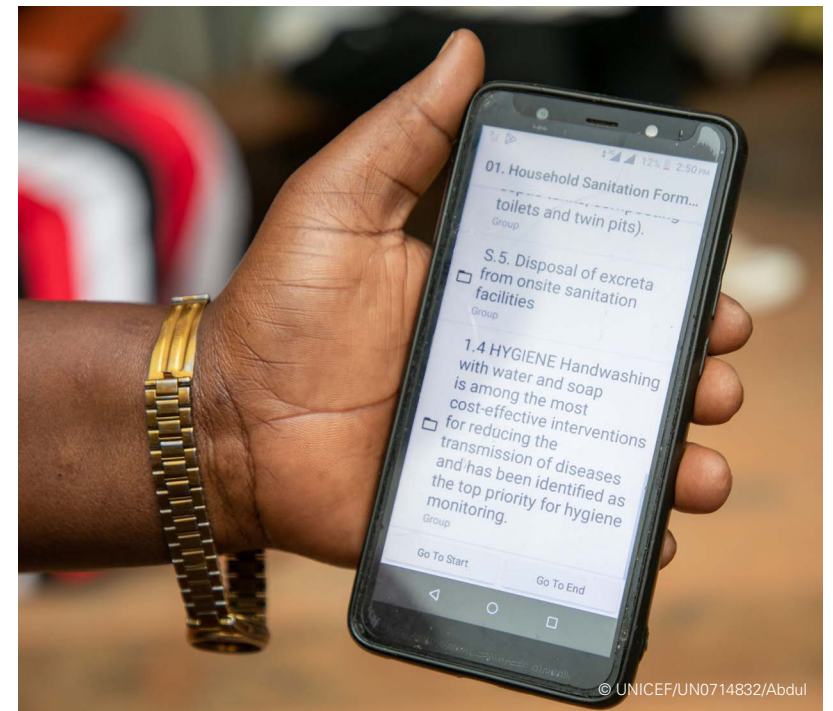
Technology for development (T4D) can be leveraged to support data collection for peacebuilding M&E. Interactive real-time monitoring platforms make it possible to strengthen vertical social cohesion by supporting the participation of communities in the design and implementation of WASH services – the platforms can be used to monitor critical aspects of conflict and peace interactions with WASH such as access and satisfaction with services, and grievances about inequity. They can also be used to monitor conflict dynamics and events related to WASH.²¹ T4D platforms and two-way communication can be leveraged simultaneously to promote and monitor conflict sensitivity/peacebuilding approaches e.g. strengthen vertical social cohesion through greater accountability and participation in services, while using the platform to regularly survey the changed perceptions of services/providers. Interactive real-time monitoring platforms can strengthen civic engagement and collective action if supported by an equity focus, ensuring that key population groups such as women, adolescents and youth are reached. Young people’s appetite for and capacity to engage with technology and innovation can be leveraged to promote inclusive and participatory engagement even in remote areas, potentially contributing to address grievances arising from exclusion and marginalization, as demonstrated by the success of the U-report platform (*see CPA Guide, Step 6.2. Harnessing technology*). Technology-based innovations are accelerating the pace of data collection and enabling quick corrective action as well as longer-term decisions. They are enabling more adaptive and responsive programming for results²² – a core aspect of conflict-sensitive programming in FCCs.

CASE STUDY

Strengthening vertical social cohesion through improved real-time WASH monitoring:



In rural **Zimbabwe**, the Government, UNICEF and partners are working to improve equitable access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services. Towards this end, the Government has invested in the **Rural WASH Information Management system** to improve data reliability, equity analysis and the use of technology in emergency preparedness and response. However, the system has struggled with several challenges, including lack of consistent communication between key informants and enumerators and the **absence of two-way engagement with communities**. To address these shortcomings, UNICEF supported the Government to develop a mobile-to-web monitoring system that captures and stores WASH information in real time, using RapidPro. The Rural WASH Information Management System provides quick access to current data on rural WASH infrastructure; and the SMS interface enables communities to report changes in the infrastructure functionality by text messages delivered directly to government representatives, allowing for quick responses to problems as they arise. With the improved functionality of water points, women and girls no longer have to travel long distances to fetch water at alternative sites and have more time available to attend to their education, economic activities and family obligations. Since the project’s inception, 1.8 million children have been reached via community real-time feedback on WASH service functionality and delivery through the use of mobile open-source technology.



²¹ UNICEF, Digital UNICEF – Harnessing the power of technology and digital innovation for children, 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/media/100211/file/DIGITAL%20UNICEF.pdf>

²² UNICEF, Digital UNICEF – Harnessing the power of technology and digital innovation for children, 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/media/100211/file/DIGITAL%20UNICEF.pdf>

4.3. Monitoring and measuring WASH in Emergencies' contributions to peace

Integrating conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding approaches to an emergency response can be challenging due to the complexity of the contexts in which emergencies occur and the speed with which organizations need to react, which leaves little opportunity for the use of sophisticated analytical and monitoring tools.²³ However, a rapid initial conflict analysis using the CP Scan (*see CPA Tool 3 – Age and Gender Sensitive Conflict and Peace Scan*) as part of a broader risk assessment (see section 2.1. Assessing and monitoring conflict risks above) will generate data about relevant WASH–conflict interactions that can then be monitored through the deployment of indicators of relevant type and frequency. Table 7 includes a selection of indicators drawn from the UNICEF 2017 indicator registry currently available at the **Global WASH Cluster page**, which can be adapted and used to capture relevant aspects of WASH–conflict interactions and help integrate resilience and social cohesion strengthening into WASH humanitarian response monitoring.

Table 7: Indicators to capture aspects of WASH–conflict interactions²⁴

Strategic objective	Indicator type	Level	Indicator
Protection	Process	Overall	#/% of projects integrating protection lens and based on the Do Not Harm approach
Protection	Baseline	Overall	#/% of targeted people identified as in need of psychosocial support or social cohesion activities
Recovery, resilience and preparedness	Outcome	Overall	#/% of WASH-critical market systems reinforced and able to provide sustained WASH assistance and anticipate future hazards/shocks
Recovery, resilience and preparedness	Process	Overall	#/% of projects integrating studies on hazards and risks
Recovery, resilience and preparedness	Outputs	Water supply	#/% of targeted people/communities identified as high-risk groups for WASH related diseases benefiting from adequate/tailored capacity-building activities/ contingency measures to anticipate future hazards/ shocks
Recovery, resilience and preparedness	Process	Overall	#/% of projects that integrate technical studies (feasibility, governance, market assessment) of water/excreta disposal/ solid waste management system (as a whole) to inform disaster resilience programme design

UNICEF’s role as WASH Cluster lead and related coordination (WASH Cluster coordinator) and information management functions (WASH Information Management Officer) can be leveraged to strengthen the monitoring of contributions to resilience and peace of WASH response in FCCs.²⁵ The responsibilities of the WASH coordination platform include setting up and overseeing the WASH response monitoring plan, which includes aspects that are highly relevant to peacebuilding, such as **equity** as articulated in the five WASH commitments on protection²⁶ (‘monitor and evaluate safe and equitable access and use of WASH services in WASH projects’) and in **disparities in the response** – these might be geographic, by type of beneficiary or response, etc. – as captured in activity reporting tools like the 5W Matrix.²⁷ The coordination platform may also identify relevant indicators to complement the strategic indicators included in the yearly Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), for example in response to the findings of a CP Scan and conflict risk assessment.²⁸ These processes and tools can be adapted depending on the context.

23 Conflict Sensitivity Community Hub, ‘“How To” Guide to Conflict Sensitivity’, 2012, <https://www.international-alert.org/app/uploads/2021/09/Conflict-Sensitivity-How-To-Guide-EN-2012.pdf>; p. 22

24 See link for UNICEF Indicator Registry here: <https://www.international-alert.org/app/uploads/2021/09/Conflict-Sensitivity-How-To-Guide-EN-2012.pdf>

25 For relevant resources please see the Global WASH Cluster site on response monitoring: <https://washcluster.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/CTK/pages/10787689/Response+monitoring>

26 <https://washcluster.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/CTK/pages/10782123/Accountability+Protection>

27 <https://washcluster.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/CTK/pages/10787664/Activity+reporting>

28 Such additional indicators should be included separately, in the Strategic Operational Framework (SOF) as noted in <https://washcluster.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/CTK/pages/10790459/Monitoring+Plan>

5. Evaluation, learning, and generating WASH for Peace evidence

A UNICEF-commissioned evaluative review of peacebuilding contributions of WASH programmes noted the need to strengthen M&E systems, and specifically that the lack of conflict analysis in WASH programming leads to a **lack of baseline data**. The review found that **statements regarding actual contributions of UNICEF WASH programming to social cohesion are mostly aspirational and anecdotal in nature**. Systematically collecting baseline and endline data concerning socio-political aspects and citizens' perceptions of WASH institutions and including such elements in programme evaluations are ways of significantly improving the understanding of the relevance of the WASH sector for peacebuilding.²⁹ Evaluation serves mainly as a programme management instrument, but it can also be a critical source of knowledge about whether UNICEF WASH interventions are doing the right thing in the right place. This feeds into the organization learning system and 'memory', thus contributing to position UNICEF as a knowledge and learning organization. Thus, the organization is expected to learn from its practices, correct them and develop new and better ways of doing what it is supposed to do.³⁰ This is critically important in relation to WASH contributions to peace, as there is a need to move away from anecdotal evidence to more systematic documentation of pathways to and measurement of results in response to the ambition articulated in the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022–2025, specifically Goal Area 4 of that plan.

29 Interpeace Advisory Team (IPAT) for UNICEF, 'Thematic WASH and Peacebuilding Case Study: Review of UNICEF's Approach to Peacebuilding, Social Cohesion, Violence Prevention and Conflict Sensitivity', 2020, p. 13.

30 Ibid., p. 103.

31 UNICEF, 'Results-Based Management Handbook: Working together for children', 2017, <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/media/10356/file>; p. 139-140.

32 UNICEF, 'Guidance Note for Conducting Evaluability Assessments in UNICEF', February 2019, <https://www.unicef.org/evaluation/media/1506/file/Evaluability%20Assessments%20Guidance.pdf>; p. 3

5.1. Designing a WASH peacebuilding evaluation

The first step in designing a context-relevant (risk-informed and conflict-sensitive) evaluation plan is to use the CP Scan findings to develop the baseline, identify priority conflict issues/ WASH interactions to monitor, and identify the purpose and focus of your foreseen evaluation.³¹ The evaluation design process begins at the earliest stages of the programme development process, when key decisions are being made about the overall intervention results (i.e. what change and how to measure it) as this will determine the nature of the evaluation and in turn the nature of the baseline to be developed. This is the case for any intervention, but in the case of conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding WASH programming in FCCs, the type of change being measured (and therefore evaluation methodologies and focus) will be distinct. For example:

- If change at impact level is related to improved social cohesion levels experienced by key WASH stakeholder groups, a KAP survey measuring pre- and post-intervention levels of relevant dimensions of social cohesion (e.g. trust, collaboration, tolerance) might be the most effective way to capture change.
- If the focus of the intervention is to reduce grievances arising from inequitable access to WASH services, collecting access data disaggregated by relevant dimensions of exclusion (e.g. sex, geography, ethnicity) before and after the intervention will be helpful, and it can be supplemented by a qualitative data-collection exercise such as structured interviews with strategic stakeholders (e.g. community leaders, authorities) and structured FGDs with relevant stakeholder groups (e.g. women, adolescents, diverse ethnic groups) to capture changes in perceptions of service access.

At the design stage, check that your baseline, results framework and M&E plan are coherent and feasible, and that the plan can help to collect the necessary data to demonstrate your contribution to building resilience and peace through your WASH intervention through your internal or external evaluation. If necessary and feasible, a **peacebuilding-focused evaluability assessment³² of the WASH intervention can be undertaken**.

RESOURCE BOX



An **evaluability assessment** is a quality assurance tool for good programme design. It is a tool to help managers make early adjustments and corrections to programme design and implementation as needed. The purpose of an evaluability assessment for UNICEF is to provide programme staff and partners with evidence on the extent to which results can be demonstrated in the near, medium and long term based on programme documentation and the monitoring systems being established. An evaluability assessment will provide assurance to stakeholders that the programme is robust, that objectives are adequately defined, that causal linkages are clarified, that its indicators are validated and measurable, and that systems are in place to measure and verify results. Evaluability assessments like evaluations are best conducted by experts with strong results-based management (RBM) and evaluation skills. The complexity of what the evaluability assessment reviews and the resources available determines whether it is externally or internally conducted – in collaboration with the Planning/M&E team in the CO – see Guidance Note for Conducting Evaluability Assessments in UNICEF.



Determining the **purpose and audience** of the evaluation is also critical, and in the case of WASH for Peace the need to generate evidence and promote organizational learning is paramount.

In politically sensitive contexts, peacebuilding evaluations may need to remain as internal documents but in other cases **evaluations can be leveraged as capacity development and advocacy processes**. For example, strategic stakeholders can be convened to generate collective knowledge and a shared understanding that can influence sector policies and plans to increase conflict sensitivity, or highlight and support efforts to address structural causes of conflict. The focus and purpose of the evaluation will determine the capacity and resources needed to implement it as well as the type of baseline data needed and the most relevant and supportive M&E plan.

5.2. Implementing a WASH for Peace evaluation

Conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding evaluation should examine not only the direct project outcomes, but also the interaction between the intervention and the context, particularly the impact of the intervention (both positive and negative; intended and unintended) on the wider community and conflict context. It is also important to consider/document relevant aspects of conflict sensitivity, such as the necessary adaptations made in response to changes in the context, or to address risks arising from the two-way interaction between the WASH intervention and context. Three key tools are required for this evaluation; namely, the results framework (to frame the exercise), the theory of change narrative (to test your logic), and the monitoring plan (outlines the indicators and corresponding baseline/targets, input for triangulation and analysis).³³ Evaluation should be considered an integral part of the programme implementation cycle, and key considerations such as gender, conflict, and age and disability sensitivity should be carefully addressed.

Peacebuilding evaluations present opportunities to use participatory action research methods and to **empower vulnerable groups**. Peacebuilding evaluation processes should have a clear intent to impart skills and information and to build agency; this can promote engagement in conflict transformative processes where conflict-affected communities actively support and measure the contribution of interventions to build and sustain peace.³⁴

Accountability for results is no less critical in humanitarian situations than in development contexts. Given the significant investments made by UNICEF and the WASH sector in responding to emergencies, it is critical to assess what is “working well, what is working less well and why, and what might be done differently.”³⁵ However, implementing a **peacebuilding evaluation in emergency response** presents distinct challenges and opportunities due to constraints related to the rapidly changing context and the often-shorter programming timeframes.

RESOURCE BOX



Peacebuilding evaluations must be...

- **Conflict sensitive** and not fuel existing or new conflicts
- **Gender sensitive** and actively promote the inclusion and participation of women and girls to ensure their perspectives and experiences of conflict are captured in the analysis
- **Age-sensitive** and actively promote the inclusion and participation of children, adolescents, and young people to ensure their perspectives and experiences of conflict are captured in the analysis
- **Participatory and inclusive** to ensure it captures diverse perspectives and experiences of conflict amongst targeted communities, including minority groups
- **Accountable to affected and engaged populations** – build in opportunities to present, validate, and share the findings with participants so they can benefit from their engagement

The [WASH Global Cluster](#) offers a number of resources to guide the design and implementation of evaluation plans that can be adapted to capture direct response outcomes and relevant contributions to peace, as well as critical risk and conflict sensitivity aspects of the response.

33 UNICEF, 'Results-Based Management Handbook: Working together for children', 2017, <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/media/10356/file>; p. 139-140.

34 Ibid., pp. 130.

35 Ibid., p. 131.

5.3. Measuring contributions to peace – social cohesion

As outlined in the Guidance Introduction, **social cohesion is a key dimensions of UNICEF’s WASH contribution to peace**. The measurement of social cohesion is thus central to demonstrating such contributions. The case study below exemplifies UNICEF’s commitment to pursue and measure WASH contributions to strengthening social cohesion.

Social cohesion is a critical dimension of sharing WASH services and water resources in FCCs, and other sector partners have developed methodologies to define and measure it. The case study below illustrates:

CASE STUDY

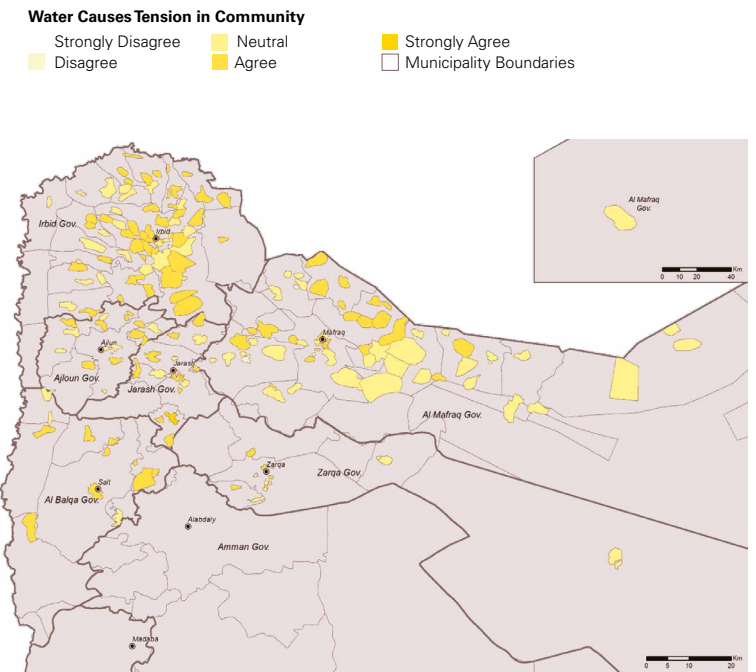
Understanding social cohesion among refugee-hosting communities in Jordan³⁶

A study by REACH:³⁷



As the fourth most water-scarce country in the world, Jordan is struggling to meet increasing demand for this most basic need. The large influx of Syrian refugees has put a severe strain on the water supply, which suffered from shortages even prior to the Syrian crisis. Districts hosting Syrian refugees have been severely affected, with the frequency of water supplied to some consumers reduced from once per week to once per month. In consultation with the government and operational partners in Jordan, REACH identified information gaps in the data currently available on the causes of tensions within the host communities. In order to address these gaps, REACH conducted a multi-sectoral assessment to identify the emerging tensions in Jordan as a result of the Syrian crisis and how they could be mitigated through social cohesion and resilience programming. Notably, some 47 percent of Syrians and 48 percent of Jordanian respondents agreed that access to water was causing tension in their community. The data collected were used to map out areas of social cohesion and resilience deficits to inform programming. The report [Understanding Social Cohesion and Resilience in Jordanian Host Communities, Assessment Report](#), 2014, has **annexes that include the tools used to collect data, including specific questions related to WASH services within the multi-sectoral enquiry** – key informant questionnaire and micro-level assessment tools to guide focus group discussion and in-depth individual assessments. The data collected through such assessments can help in developing a baseline and evaluation to determine the contribution of a WASH intervention on social cohesion (standalone or embedded in a multisectoral contribution), and the tools adapted to monitor an increase or decrease in tensions around water access throughout the programme cycle.

Map of water as a challenge to social cohesion



³⁶ REACH, Understanding Social Cohesion and Resilience in Jordanian Host Communities, 2014, <https://reliefweb.int/report/jordan/understanding-social-cohesion-and-resilience-jordanian-host-communities-assessment>, p. 17; REACH is an initiative of the Geneva-based association IMPACT, implemented with ACTED and UNOSAT in the framework of a global agreement between the three organizations. REACH aims at facilitating planning by aid actors through the provision of assessment, database and mapping services in countries that are in crisis or at-risk of crisis.

³⁷ Created in 2010, REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT) providing granular data, timely information and in-depth analysis from contexts of crisis, disaster and displacement <https://www.reach-initiative.org/>

RESOURCE BOX



UNICEF East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) measures WASH contributions to social cohesion in refugee and IDP hosting contexts

ESARO in partnership with UNHCR and KfW (Kreditanstalt Für Wiederaufbau, German Development Bank) will implement a Regional WASH Programme for Refugees, IDPs and Host Communities in East Africa (R-WASH) that will include an impact evaluation to: Assess the extent of the transformative effects of the R-WASH activities on social cohesion between refugees and host communities, within these groups, and how social cohesion impacts stability and peace in the intervention areas; Develop a feasible theory of change that articulates impact-chains and assumptions regarding causal effects of R-WASH measures on social cohesion, stability, and peace – including rigorous indicators. A baseline data collection exercise will kick off in June 2022 in refugee and IDP hosting contexts in Somalia (Doolow), Ethiopia (Kebribeyah), and Sudan (Kassala). One of the challenges identified by the evaluation methodology is the difficulty in measuring a complex and latent construct such as social cohesion (including levels of trust and cooperation), not least because the patterns of social cohesion may differ substantially across contexts. This presents the impact evaluation with a challenge as it attempts to compare social cohesion across several sites and to other studies in order to benchmark estimates, allow comparisons and enable the development of a generalizable theory of change. The baseline data collection exercise will elicit important lessons learned for UNICEF and the WASH sector as a whole.

Using the agency of young people to build peace through WASH is a central theme of the global UNICEF initiative 'Water as a Catalyst for Peace', so a key focus of results and M&E frameworks is on **measuring their capacity to contribute to social cohesion** in their communities through their engagement in WASH programming. The Myanmar case study below offers insights into this focus.

The impact-level result statement and supporting indicators capture the ambition to improve intercommunal relations and reduce WASH related disputes, as well as support access to sufficient safe water as **mutually reinforcing dimensions of social cohesion**. At the Outcome level, result statements and indicators capture the ability of youth and other key stakeholders to collaborate, advocate, and support better access to WASH. At Output level, result statements and indicators capture an improvement in capacity and engagement of youth and other key stakeholder groups in conflict resolution and good governance advocacy, as well as an improvement in WASH service provision. The overall results framework captures a contribution to peace as a primary goal through conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding WASH interventions.



CASE STUDY

Measuring 'WASH for Peace' results and youth agency in Myanmar:



The Myanmar UNICEF WASH team is implementing a WASH for Peace project with implementing partner ADRA (see Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide & Toolkit for more details on the project), which includes a participatory action research component that supports the role of youth as agents of peaceful change in their communities through their engagement in WASH. The results framework below illustrates the contribution made to social cohesion through the provision of conflict-sensitive, equitable and inclusive WASH.

Table 8: Myanmar 'WASH as a Catalyst for Peace' project's social cohesion results framework

Result level	Result statement	Selected Performance Indicators
Goal	Strengthened social cohesion in targeted areas through conflict sensitive and inclusive/equitable WASH programming.	% of people stating 'improved' intercommunal relationship % of people stating a reduction in WASH related disputes # of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs
Outcomes	Women, Youths and Leaders become trustful, collaborative and able to resolve dispute and conflicts	% of people with improved skills in problem solving and conflict resolution % of people with increased engagement in community level discussions and dispute management aspects % of people with confidence to resolute identified disputes/conflicts
	CSOs and youths are better able to build and work within coalitions to advocate for good governance, accountability and influence of duty bearers.	% of advocated issues get addressed by authority % of people with improved access to duty bearers % of people stating improved accountability among authorities
	Conflict affected population are able to access water for sustained period in an equitable manner.	# of people reached through UNICEF supported WASH infrastructures % of people stating inclusive WASH programming (accessibility and affordability of water sources)
Output	Strengthened capacity (knowledge, skills) of Women, youths and leaders on conflict resolution and peacebuilding process	# of people reached through conflict resolution and peacebuilding focused awareness raising activities # of people trained on inter communal dialogue skills
	Increased engagement of CSOs through evidence based advocacy to promote good governance and social/communal accountability	# of research conducted # of CSOs strengthened on policy analysis and advocacy # of issues identified for advocacy
	WASH infrastructures constructed in joint collaborative approach	# of WASH infrastructure constructed/renovated # of people in management committee # of HHs connecting to payment system/structure for water usage # of people reached through hygiene promotion

M&E Tool 1

Conflict Sensitive and Peacebuilding WASH M&E Planning Tool



This Tool complements the WASH for Peace – Monitoring and Evaluation Guide and outlines key steps and considerations to develop and implement conflict sensitive and peacebuilding M&E activities.

	Results	Performance indicators	Conflict- and peace-relevant disaggregation <small>(e.g. geography, ethnicity, sex/age)</small>	Baseline	Target	Means of verification			
						HOW <small>Data-collection methodology and Tools</small>	WHEN <small>Frequency linked to conflict risks</small>	WHO <small>Inclusive/ participatory focus</small>	WHERE <small>Geographical equity focus</small>
Impact									
Outcomes									
Outputs									

- Conflict risks and assumptions relevant to the WASH conditions/sector**

Including/focusing on internal and external conflict-sensitivity dimensions & recommended monitoring indicators
- Conflict risks in the context impacting the WASH intervention**

Likelihood and impact – level of risk and recommended monitoring indicators
- Conflict risks arising from the WASH intervention**

Likelihood and impact – level of risk and recommended monitoring indicators
- WASH-relevant peacebuilding events/processes**

Identify and monitor opportunities and entry points to ‘Do More Good’; identify and monitor WASH-relevant peacebuilding initiatives implemented by others

WASH Conflict-Sensitive and Peacebuilding M&E Guiding Questions and Checklist

Guiding Questions to design and implement a WASH for Peace M&E - COs shall select, adapt and use based on context

Conflict Sensitivity M&E:

- Who is conducting the monitoring – WASH team, partners, third party monitors, others? How are they perceived by the people being consulted (communities, WASH authorities, partners, other staff) and how could this affect the data?
- Who is being consulted as part of the monitoring (direct and indirect beneficiaries, non-beneficiary communities, WASH authorities, others? How diverse are the groups being consulted (ethnic groups, children and young people, women and men, girls and boys, in positions of power or marginalized))?
- When is the monitoring being conducted? What key events are taking place in the WASH intervention context that need to be considered? Integrating conflict sensitivity into the monitoring processes and project activities may require changes in timing to be responsive to the dynamics of a conflict.
- How will analysis from monitoring be used to influence relevant decision-making processes (programme design/adaptation, advocacy, staff security planning)?
- Is there regular reflection and reporting on interaction between conflict and WASH interventions?
- How do CO/WASH managers encourage and support staff/ partners directly involved in implementation and monitoring to openly share information on unintended negative consequences of WASH interventions?
- How does the CO/WASH team incentivize sharing real information of on-the-ground project complexities rather than only sharing success stories?
- Criteria of evaluations include conflict sensitivity: Do evaluations consider conflict sensitivity of an intervention, in particular wider, unintended impacts? Is understanding of conflict sensitivity a mandatory consideration when interviewing / selecting consultants?

Peacebuilding M&E:

- Does the WASH intervention have a WASH ToC and results framework informed by the CP Scan that can help you build your risk-informed, conflict-sensitive, and peacebuilding M&E Plan?
- Does your WASH results framework include impact, outcome, and/or output level result statements that explicitly capture contributions to peace and the necessary short, medium and long-term changes to achieve it?
- Does the WASH intervention results framework and M&E Plan include a distinct focus on women and girls', adolescents' and young people's contributions to peace?
- Does the WASH intervention M&E Plan include peacebuilding indicators that can capture relevant attribution and contributions?
- Does the WASH intervention M&E Plan include peacebuilding indicators that can support the measurement of changes in perceptions, relations, behaviour and capacities related to conflict and peace, including proxy indicators as relevant?
- Does the WASH intervention M&E Plan include participatory and inclusive means of verification, including relevant methodologies and tools, to generate such data?
- If a WASH in Emergency intervention, does M&E Plan include higher frequency and relevant methodologies and tools that can be deployed and leveraged by WASH Cluster Partners?
- Does the WASH intervention include a conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding baseline?
- Does the WASH intervention M&E Plan include a proposed conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding evaluation to generate evidence and support organizational learning?

Conflict-Sensitive and Peacebuilding WASH Evaluation Checklist:

- The evaluation is conflict sensitive and will not fuel existing or new conflicts
- The evaluation is gender sensitive and actively promotes the inclusion and participation of women and girls to ensure their perspectives and experiences of conflict are captured in the analysis
- The evaluation is age-sensitive and actively promotes the inclusion and participation of children, adolescents and youth to ensure their perspectives and experiences of conflict are captured in the analysis
- The evaluation is participatory and inclusive to ensure it captures diverse perspectives and experiences of conflict among targeted communities, including minority groups
- The evaluation is accountable to affected and engaged populations – it has built in opportunities to present, validate and share the findings with participants so they can benefit from their engagement

Key considerations when designing and implementing a conflict-sensitive M&E :

General M&E

- It is important to remember that M&E is an integral part of an intervention and must therefore apply the same principles and approaches to its implementation – **it must be gender, age, disability and conflict sensitive**.
- Ensuring that all groups in a community participate in the design and implementation of M&E in a conflict-affected environment will strengthen its conflict sensitivity by capturing diverse experiences and perceptions of WASH-related conflict and of people's distinct interactions with the WASH intervention.
- M&E are typically extractive processes, as data collectors take information from respondents and offer little in direct return – go back and provide feedback about the result of your monitoring and evaluation to **increase accountability** and ensure the **safe and meaningful participation** of all groups in the community. This will reduce the risk of tensions being created by the monitoring activities themselves.
- **Consult non-targeted groups as well as direct project participants** – this is particularly relevant for context and interaction indicators, as it will help generate data on changes in the broader context in which the intervention is taking place and on possible effects of the intervention on tensions or divisions between targeted and non-targeted groups.
- Conflict-sensitizing all existing steps in the process, from the design to reporting and beyond, **will require additional resources**. For instance, organizational and institutional support for **increased staff capacity development** will be needed. Sufficient time to review and adjust existing tools and processes, as well as additional time to monitor or evaluate conflict and interaction indicators will also be essential.
- Ensure your conflict-sensitive M&E Plan considers the **capacity and skills needed required by staff/partners involved**, which are likely to include: conflict analysis skills; good knowledge of the context and specifically of WASH-relevant dimensions of conflict in the context; sensitivity to the local context; local language skills; monitoring and evaluation expertise (including interviewing skills).
- **Use informal consultative processes** to complement formal monitoring systems and processes to keep the WASH CP Scan up to date and to monitor conflict sensitivity issues linked to the intervention.
- Consider the inclusion of conflict/interaction indicators in reporting formats (even if these are to be kept internal), **even where it is not required by the donor** – communicate to the donor UNICEF's conflict sensitivity minimum requirements!
- Create safe spaces for staff and communities to encourage open dialogue on the project and conflict issues and tensions faced – this can support conflict sensitivity and also ensure staff and partners' welfare in difficult situations, and where feedback and support to decisions would be helpful.

Evaluation specific

- If using an external evaluator be aware that their presence could raise expectations in the community for future or complementary activities.
- An evaluator can themselves contribute to conflict/ tensions depending on how they are viewed by the targeted communities.
- Ensure that the role of the evaluator is clear to communities and other actors.
- Ensure that both direct and indirect participants are included in the evaluation process.
- Ensure that the outcome of the evaluation is fed back to the community and all stakeholders and that they have opportunity to comment on the findings.
- Identify how learning on conflict sensitivity emerging from the evaluation can be shared with others (possibly by developing a public summary of key lessons learned) and inform future practice.
- Explicitly include a focus on assessing conflict sensitivity in the evaluator's terms of reference, including a link to this Guidance and the Conflict Sensitivity Consortium [page](#) where guidance on conflict-sensitive monitoring and evaluation is included, as well as other relevant conflict-sensitivity resources to encourage external evaluators to adopt best practices in conflict sensitivity.

Conflict-Sensitive M&E troubleshooting – Adapted from Tearfund WASH Tool for Conflict-Sensitive Programming

Activity	Possible negative impacts	Solution
The monitoring process	An outsider carrying out the monitoring may not understand the context or the programme and/or not be welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve national/local partner staff and communities in the monitoring
	People feel excluded from giving feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult both targeted and non-targeted groups • Create safe spaces for staff and communities to encourage openness in discussion
	People can't see any difference that their participation or feedback is making so feel disenfranchised from the programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give regular feedback to community members and staff • Make sure all beneficiary feedback is responded to
Final monitoring product	The monitoring does not affect the programme design, resulting in an irrelevant or potentially harmful programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do regular monitoring Regularly review the programme design and strategy and make necessary changes
	The context has changed (either improved or worsened) but the programme has stayed the same	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do regular monitoring • Keep the conflict analysis up to date



This Tool complements section 4.1 ‘Peacebuilding indicators’ of the WASH for Peace – Monitoring and Evaluation Guide. It outlines UNICEF 2022-2025 **Strategic Plan’s Core Standard Indicators** (CSI) and **Goal Area 4 (WASH)** indicators related to conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding. It includes supporting guidance as well as links to relevant resources to guide the development of supportive country office (CO) and WASH programme-level indicators and means of verification. CSIs are a required set of global standard indicators derived from the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025 (SP) results framework and to be used in programme planning, monitoring and reporting. They are designed specially to generate the country-level data that are required to calculate and track many global Strategic Plan indicators – more information available to UNICEF staff [here](#)

Change Strategy	CSI	Guidance
CS8.Risk-informed humanitarian and development nexus programming	<p>H.8.1 Percentage of countries in which UNICEF contributed to the most recent United Nations Common Country Analysis (CCA) across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to inform the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/DAPM-CSI/SitePages/H8.1.aspx</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This indicator tracks the scale of contribution to the Common Country Analysis across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to inform the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. The purpose of this indicator is to track the extent to which the CCA considers these elements through a child lens, which is crucial to UNICEF.
	<p>H.8.2 Percentage of country offices that meet organizational benchmarks on: (c) conflict-sensitive programming and (d) social cohesion and peace https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/DAPM-CSI/SitePages/H8.2%20c+d.aspx</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of this indicator is to track UNICEF’s progress on its commitment to ensure conflict-sensitive programming and to its contributions to national efforts to support social cohesion and peace.
CS8.Risk-informed humanitarian and development nexus programming	<p>H.2.7 Percentage of countries with peacebuilding, social cohesion, and violence prevention plans or processes that are child- or youth-sensitive https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/DAPM-CSI/SitePages/H2.7.aspx</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This indicator measures the extent to which major peacebuilding, social cohesion or violence prevention plans take into account the voices, interests and needs of children and/or youth and UNICEF’s role in supporting them. These plans or processes typically exist in countries affected by conflict, instability and armed violence (including gang violence), as well as countries that are not currently experiencing conflict or violence but that have deep cultural, social, economic or political divisions, significant patterns of group-based discrimination, marginalization and mistrust, have significant social tensions and/or a history of conflict or instability.

SP Goal Area 4 - WASH
Strategic Plan Indicator
Guidance

Strategic Plan Indicator 4.2.5 Number of countries integrating a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach on WASH programming through the participation of affected populations
<https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/DAPM-CSI/SitePages/4.2.5.aspx>

- The country office used a recent conflict analysis that integrated gender-based violence and was conducted/updated within 24 months to inform the design, development or adaptation of its WASH strategies and programmes
- The country office established an effective multi-stakeholder collaboration between humanitarian and development and – where needed – peace actors based on the comparative advantage of each partner
- The country office aligned its development and humanitarian agenda with a mutually supportive role for sustainable development with peace as a potential dividend

Data Points (DP)

- DP0000319 – Has the CO established an effective multi-stakeholder collaboration between humanitarian and development and, where relevant, peace and security actors based on the comparative advantage of each partner?
- DP0000320 – Do the CO's humanitarian and development WASH strategies and/or programmes have specific goals to promote vertical/horizontal social cohesion and peace?
- DP0000318 – The CO used a recent conflict analysis that integrated gender-based violence and was conducted/updated within 24 months to inform the design, development or adaptation of its WASH strategies and programmes



Purpose

Purpose: This Tool complements Section 1 'Risk-Informed Programme Monitoring – Integrating conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding into M&E' of the WASH for Peace M&E Guide. A key dimension of conflict-sensitive monitoring is the monitoring of the conflict context in relation to WASH, including attacks against WASH infrastructure and personnel, and indirect actions that undermine access to WASH. The Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure is a key **reference document** prepared for the use of parties to armed conflicts, international organizations, and other practitioners working in the contexts of armed conflicts, including in pre- and post-conflict situations. The Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure is the result of a think tank process started by the Geneva Water Hub's Platform for International Water Law in 2016 during the reflection carried out by the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace. The objective of the Geneva List is to ensure the protection of WASH infrastructure during international and non-international armed conflicts as well as to safeguard their utilization in post-conflict situations, and is addressed to both States and non-State actors.

The selected Principles listed below can be leveraged to develop conflict-sensitive and risk-responsive monitoring frameworks and plans:

Principle 6

Attacks against water infrastructure and water-related infrastructure:

Water infrastructure and water-related infrastructure are presumed to be civilian objects and, in such case, must not be attacked.

Principle 7

Attacks against the personnel working for water infrastructure and water-related infrastructure:

Personnel responsible for carrying out tasks related to the operation, maintenance, assessment, repair and rehabilitation of water infrastructure and water-related infrastructure are presumed to be civilians and, in such case, must not be attacked.

Principle 8

Indiscriminate attacks:

Attacks which do not or cannot distinguish between military objectives and civilian objects, including water infrastructure and water-related infrastructure, are prohibited.

Principle 11

Precautions against the effects of attacks:

The parties to the conflict must take all feasible precautions to protect the civilian population and civilian objects, including water infrastructure and water-related infrastructure, under their control against the effects of attacks. The parties to the conflict are encouraged to establish protected zones around water infrastructure and water-related infrastructure.

Principle 16

Forced displacement:

The control over the delivery of water, and deprivation thereof, must not be used to force the displacement of civilians. Moreover, returnees' access to water should be ensured through the reconstruction, rehabilitation and repair of water infrastructure if needed to support safe and voluntary return.

Principle 17

Humanitarian access and assistance:

Humanitarian relief personnel, including those involved in water-related activities, and their equipment must be respected and protected. The parties to the conflict are encouraged to negotiate water ceasefire agreements in order to allow the safe passage of humanitarian relief personnel, including those involved in water-related activities. The parties to the conflict are encouraged to collaborate for the operation, maintenance, assessment, repair and rehabilitation of water infrastructure and water-related infrastructure.

Principle 21

Reconstruction, rehabilitation and repair of water infrastructure and water-related infrastructure:

: Destroyed and damaged water infrastructure and water-related infrastructure should be reconstructed, rehabilitated and repaired. The equipment and other goods necessary for the reconstruction, rehabilitation, repair, operation and maintenance of water infrastructure and water-related infrastructure should be exempted from sanctions and other coercive measures.

Principle 22

Peacekeeping operations:

Protection of water infrastructure and water-related infrastructure and their reconstruction, rehabilitation and repair should be included in the mandates of the peacekeeping operations, where appropriate. Peacekeeping operations should support and provide assistance to the local authorities in the reconstruction, rehabilitation, repair, operation and maintenance of the water infrastructure and water-related infrastructure.

Principle 24

Implementation:

States must incorporate in their domestic frameworks their obligations relating to the protection of water infrastructure stemming from international law, as applicable. States must implement in their domestic frameworks international crimes relating to the protection of water infrastructure, as applicable. States are encouraged to incorporate in their domestic frameworks the recommendations of the Geneva List.

Background

The drafting of the Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure stems from the increasing use of water infrastructure as a means of warfare and the need to strengthen the role of water in peacebuilding efforts. The Geneva List was drafted in follow-up to the recommendations of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace, including on strengthening respect for and implementation of international humanitarian law in relation to water. The objective of the Geneva List is to gather for the first time in a single document the rules on the protection of water infrastructure during and after an armed conflict under different branches of international law, namely international humanitarian law, human rights law, international environmental law and international water law. Its aim is not only to restate existing binding obligations, but also to supplement them by setting forth further recommendations and good practices.

Additional principles and legal commentary are available from [The Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure](#)



Step 1 140

WASH staff and relevant partners undertake UNICEF's 'Introduction to risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding programming' online course

Step 2 141

Accompany the review and application of this Guidance

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Sample WASH Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Focal Points Guide

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Conflict sensitivity competencies

This section complements the Conflict and Peace Analysis, Programming, and M&E Guides to provide pathways and suggestions to develop the internal capacity of WASH teams and other relevant UNICEF staff, as well external capacity, including that of implementing partners and other relevant stakeholders. An internal evaluative review of UNICEF’s approaches to conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding¹ noted that much of this work is outsourced without a clear strategy on how to ‘internalize’ it within UNICEF and that institutional commitment to this agenda must be coupled with a “long-term strategy for in-house capacity development at headquarters, regional office, and country office levels.” The report noted that “staff capacities necessary for peacebuilding and social cohesion is too limited right now for the organization to have a deeper footprint in peacebuilding as a UN agency.”²

Conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding are relatively new areas of work for many WASH colleagues, and while many possess highly relevant skills and experience gained through the development and implementation of risk-informed interventions in FCCs, there is a need to ‘upskill’ and equip WASH staff to integrate distinct WASH for Peace approaches practically into their work. UNICEF country offices in FCCs that, through a conflict analysis, identify specific and relevant interactions with WASH that warrant the integration of conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding approaches, must **couple programme adaptation with capacity development support to relevant staff and external counterparts as needed.**

Key considerations:

- Balance specialized external capacity and expertise and outsourcing of specialized activities (e.g. conflict analysis, evaluations) with highly relevant **local knowledge and skills** – engage national staff, local partners, national counterparts, and participating communities’ experiences and knowledge of the context.
- Leverage diverse capacity and expertise found **within** UNICEF country offices and sector partners (e.g. social policy, planning, protection, legal, etc.) that can support the multidisciplinary approach required for conflict and peace work, using and adapting as needed the *Capacity Development Tool 1 – Sample WASH Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Focal Points Guide* that accompanies this guide to engage, develop and sustain relevant capacity.
- Tap into the specialist technical capacity embedded in UNICEF and sector partners’ **regional and global offices**, using the resources and tools included in the Partnerships for Peace Guide & Toolkit to map and identify relevant capacities in the area of intervention.
- Ensure that partners and key technical contractors (e.g. Environmental and Social Safeguarding consulting firms) possess or acquire the **minimum required and foundational competencies to uphold conflict-sensitive approaches** leveraging and adapting as needed *Partnerships Tool 1 – Partner Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Capacity Assessment Tool* *Capacity Development Tool 2 – Conflict sensitivity competencies*
- This guide was developed for use as a capacity development resource, as it includes step-by-step guidance and tools that can be used by country offices and WASH teams to accompany a capacity development process. Below is a suggested pathway to develop the capacity of WASH the team and relevant staff.

1 Interpeace Advisory Team (IPAT) for UNICEF, Thematic WASH and Peacebuilding Case Study: Review of UNICEF’s Approach to Peacebuilding, Social Cohesion, Violence Prevention and Conflict Sensitivity’, 2020. internal and available to UNICEF staff [here](#)
2 Ibid., p. 19, 21.

The Conflict Sensitivity Community Hub (CSC-Hub) is a global network of organizations and individuals working on conflict-sensitive approaches in their field. It provides resources to support conflict-sensitive programming, including the “How To” Guide to Conflict Sensitivity’ that has informed the content of this Guide: <https://www.conflictsensitivityhub.net/index.php/about-us/>



Step 1

WASH staff and relevant partners undertake UNICEF's 'Introduction to risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding programming'



The screenshot shows the UNICEF Agora website interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the UNICEF logo and the text 'for every child'. To the right of the header are 'LOGIN' and 'REGISTER' buttons. Below the header is a navigation menu with the 'AGORA' logo. The main content area features a large image of two children standing in front of a pile of rubble. Below the image is a blue button labeled 'Online Courses' with a download icon and the text 'UNICEF activity'. The course title 'Introduction to risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding programming' is displayed in a large, bold font. Below the title is a short description: 'The course covers theoretical concepts and organizational procedures on risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding programming'. Further down, there are details about the course: Topic (Focus areas, Risk-informed Programming, Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation, Social Protection, Emergency Preparedness, Peacebuilding), Format (Online courses), Provider (UNICEF), Language (English), Compatibility (Tablet, Smartphone, Agora Offline), Location (ROSA, CEE_CIS, MENA, Other, ESAR, LACR, EAPR, HQ, WCAR), Competency (Works collaboratively with others, Thinks and acts strategically, Manages ambiguity and complexity, Innovates and embraces change, Drive to achieve results for impact, Builds and maintains partnerships), and Skills+ (Child Protection, Child Protection in Humanitarian Action Coordination, MHPSS, Violence Against Girls, Boys and Women, Grave Violations in Armed Conflict, Prevention of Harmful Practices, Social Policy, Child Poverty, Social Protection, Humanitarian Cash Transfers, Knowledge Management, Knowledge Management & Organizational Learning, Partnerships, Advocacy, UNICEF Programming and Support, Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring, Strategy, Country Programme Planning, Monitoring, Social and Behavior Change).

The course covers theoretical concepts and organizational procedures on risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding programming and **includes a WASH-specific section** with relevant frameworks, tools, resources and case studies.

This guidance has been developed as a compatible and supportive learning resource for the course. At the end of the course staff and partners should be able to:

- Explain what risk-informed programming is and how the new global landscape is making risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding programming essential to all of UNICEF's work;
- Use new tools to conduct a basic child-sensitive risk analysis;
- Understand fundamental concepts related to conflict and peace and be able to conduct a basic child rights-based conflict analysis;
- Access the tools they need to design, adapt and implement risk-informed programmes that foster resilience, peace and social cohesion;
- Ensure risk-informed programmes that foster resilience, peace and social cohesion are part of integrated programming and programming in specific thematic areas;
- Identify and guard against potential negative unintended consequences of the programme – ensuring that UNICEF programmes 'do no harm'; and
- Begin to monitor risks, conflict sensitivity, risk-informed and peacebuilding programmes.

WASH staff and relevant partners undertake UNICEF's 'Introduction to risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding programming' [online course](https://agora.unicef.org/course/info.php?id=24589), which is **open to both staff and partners**.³ Managers encourage the application of the knowledge and skills gained by staff so they gain confidence to integrate conflict-sensitive approaches to their everyday work.

³ <https://agora.unicef.org/course/info.php?id=24589>

In country offices with a high risk of WASH-related conflicts it would be advisable for all WASH staff to take the course to ensure they all have the understanding and competence to integrate conflict sensitivity at a minimum. This will also give staff the necessary skills, knowledge and confidence to identify and leverage opportunities to build/sustain peace through WASH - *see 'Capacity Development Tool 2 – Conflict sensitivity competencies' for an overview of the minimum required and basic competencies.*

If more tailored and in-depth training is deemed necessary, UNICEF Programme Division's **Conflict Prevention, Fragility, and Peacebuilding Team (CPFP)** can be called on to support. Trainings are tailored and delivered by the CPFP team to requesting country offices. For example, in 2021, the CPFP team held regional WASH Peacebuilding Premier Workshops in three UNICEF regional offices (i.e. West and Central Africa, Middle East and North Africa; and East Asia and Pacific). Jointly with focal points identified for the training by COs, the CPFP prepared workshops tailored to the needs in the field. The workshops can help country office teams identify the challenges, opportunities and next steps to integrate peacebuilding into WASH programmes by complementing existing programmes and identifying entry points. The workshop will also introduce them to a wide range of peacebuilding resources for future activities in the field. The CPFP team can also provide broader technical support such as: conflict analysis planning, design and implementation; peacebuilding strategy and programme development; strategic peacebuilding advocacy and partnership building; context-relevant tools and guidance development; and M&E, evidence generation and learning. The CPFP team also host a global community of UNICEF staff who are working on or have an interest in issues relating to social cohesion and peacebuilding. By joining this community, WASH staff can obtain regular updates on upcoming events, new research and guidance, and opportunities for learning and exchange with other staff working on these issues across the organization. UNICEF WASH staff can [sign up here](#).

Step 2

Accompany the review and application of this Guidance



Accompany the review and application of this Guidance with support from technical experts in Headquarters (e.g. CPFP team), Regional, and/or country offices as relevant. For example, after completing the above-mentioned training, WASH staff could be mentored to review and test the application of relevant components/tools of this Guidance with technical support and accompaniment as a way to encourage the applicability of skills and knowledge gained.

Identify and implement further capacity development support to WASH for Peace focal points

identify and implement further capacity development support to WASH for Peace focal points among trained and mentored staff (who have undergone steps 1 and 2 above) with a focus on national staff to make use of context knowledge. WASH for Peace Focal Points could support their teams and country offices to systematically integrate these approaches. Such a capacity development process must be gender sensitive and inclusive to ensure relevant and diverse capacities are identified and strengthened. The process should target field-based colleagues who are at the front line of programme delivery and monitoring to ensure they are supported and equipped. Below is an illustrative case study of a comprehensive training undertaken by UNICEF Ethiopia that led to the establishment of a dedicated cohort of resource persons across sections and field offices:

CASE STUDY

UNICEF Ethiopia Country Office trained 63 staff on conflict sensitivity, peacebuilding and social cohesion



Between 22 February and 15 April 2021, including a number of WASH staff. The training was led by the HQ CPFPTeam and delivered remotely, with support in-country from designated facilitators among the staff. The goal of the training was to build the capacity of staff across the country office and its field offices to better understand and integrate the core elements of UNICEF's approach to conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding in their strategies and programmes. A follow-up training was implemented by the same training team between 10 and 12 May 2021 with selected graduates from the initial training to prepare them for their role as Resource Persons and support the work of their Sections and Field Offices integrating conflict-sensitive, peacebuilding and social cohesion approaches. Following the training, Resource Persons were asked to complete a self-assessment survey to identify their levels of confidence in providing support in different areas, and there was very positive feedback:

- 94% reported feeling very confident or extremely confident in presenting UNICEF's conflict-sensitivity, peacebuilding and social cohesion approach to colleagues and partners
- 88% noted that they were very or extremely confident providing basic technical inputs and advice on conflict sensitivity to their section or field office to inform programme development and planning
- 82% reported feeling very or extremely confident facilitating consultations or discussions with their field offices or sections to identify opportunities to integrate peacebuilding approaches
- 81% reported feeling very or extremely confident facilitating a conflict analysis session with implementing partners.

Source: UNICEF CPFPTeam Training Report

Please [see the Capacity Development Tool 1 – Sample WASH Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Focal Points Guide](#), which outlines relevant UNICEF competencies (e.g. analysis, adaptation, change, resilience) as well as suggested tasks and deliverables, to support the integration of conflict sensitivity, as well as peacebuilding and social cohesion approaches as relevant, into the work of WASH teams.



Step 4

Extend the capacity development process to relevant counterparts

Extend the capacity development process to relevant counterparts using the WASH for Peace Partnerships Guide and Toolkit to identify relevant implementing partners (NGOs, consulting firms), sector partners, government counterparts, civil society and communities-based networks and organizations as relevant – including a focus on organizations working with and for youth and women. One strategic entry point could be to identify higher education and/or research institutions that have dedicated programmes or capacity in WASH and conflict/peace and to seek partnerships to develop sector capacity more broadly. The case study below illustrates such a partnership between UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office and the German Jordanian University in Amman:

CASE STUDY

UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office supports the delivery of a Humanitarian Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Masters Programme at the German Jordanian University (GJU) in Amman



The German Jordanian University, Action Against Hunger, and Bioforce, in partnership with UNICEF and the Global WASH Cluster, and with the support of USAID's Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance, launched a humanitarian WASH Masters Degree programme in February 2021. The aim of this Masters is to build capacities of local WASH specialists and help them provide the necessary human capital needed to deal with the region's response to humanitarian crises, while increasing the interest of future potential specialists to enter the field. The one and a half year academic programme entails two semesters of theoretical education at GJU, a semester of practical internship in a humanitarian organization, and a final semester to complete the Masters thesis. The programme enables students to gain knowledge and experience to plan, deliver and assess risk-informed WASH programmes in humanitarian and transition contexts and to integrate issues such as gender, accountability to affected populations, protection, and inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups. A distinct focus of the programme of study is on developing and engaging national and local capacities in programming through the integration of a localization and sustainability lens, and on applying a humanitarian-development nexus approach to respond to complex and protracted crises. All Masters students have to complete a 15-week internship with a partner organization in the region. For more information see <http://www.gju.edu.jo/content/humanitarian-water-sanitation-and-hygiene-wash-12063>



A key entry point to develop sector capacity are the WASH Cluster Coordinators (WCCs) and their role to develop Cluster Partners' capacity. Using this Guidance as a resource and encouraging partners to take UNICEF's online course could build foundational and complementary capacities. The growing interest among humanitarian and development donors in supporting triple nexus approaches underlines the need to strengthen UNICEF and partners' collective capacity to deliver. The WCCs have a crucial role to play to support WASH partners and encourage humanitarian donors to invest in capacity development as illustrated by the case study:

CASE STUDY

The South Sudan WASH Cluster and the Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility (CSRF) have collaborated to support the integration of conflict sensitive approaches to the WASH humanitarian response.



Through a small task force including the CSRF and a few cluster partners, the cluster developed two conflict sensitivity check lists, to conduct a WASH-focused analysis and to ensure that conflict sensitivity is considered in project design. In addition, the cluster developed a specific set of key messages related to conflict sensitivity for its advocacy strategy, targeting all WASH stakeholders, including authorities, NGOs and donors. This was followed by a conflict sensitivity orientation course co-delivered by the CSRF and the WCC targeting 38 partners, 30 national and 8 international organisations. Participants' evaluation captured an overall increase in conflict sensitivity knowledge, and highlighted the practical application of context and interaction analysis to understand the impact of WASH programming on conflict as a particularly valuable aspect of the training. Some reflections from the participants on what they will do differently after the session included: "Integrate conflict analysis into my work, by having a better understanding of the context through context analysis"; "Plan and strategically conduct a better CS analysis and incorporate in the project design"; "Integrating CS into WASH proposals". Participants also noted the centrality of gender sensitivity to underpin conflict sensitivity. Future learning around how the new check lists are being used by Cluster members will help to inform members' next steps in using the findings to design and implement more conflict-sensitive programmes.



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The UN Peacebuilding Fund can be used for capacity development interventions that contribute to peacebuilding through the strengthening of participating communities' relevant capacities. In Sudan, the country office supported the establishment and peacebuilding conflict management training of WASH committees as illustrated in the case study below.

Developing peacebuilding capacities of WASH Committees in South Darfur



UNICEF Sudan implemented a joint programme with UNDP, UNHCR and UN HABITAT in Gereida locality of South Darfur. The 'Transition to Sustainable Peace in South Darfur – Sudan' programme was funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) to support the transitional government in strengthening peace at community level. This is part of supporting the implementation of the wider national peace process based on the Juba agreement. Lack of, and poor access to, basic social services including WASH services, especially water, are among other manifestations of inequality as well as root causes of conflict between different communities in Darfur. UNICEF's approach to peacebuilding in this programme was mainly to address the root causes of conflict by enhancing inclusive access, management, and delivery of basic services such as water, and improve accountability of service providers to beneficiaries. It aimed also at building local capacities to prevent and resolve tensions or conflicts over water. The water facilities/services provided an entry point to bring communities together to manage essential common goods, and promote a culture of peace and peaceful coexistence. UNICEF and the UN partners, with the support of the PBF Secretariat, organized a three-day basic training in concepts and tools of peacebuilding and conflict analysis to the benefit of all IPs of the programme. A WASH-specific adapted training programme was developed by UNICEF and delivered to strengthen the IP field staff (frontline) capacity, who in their turn delivered training to WASH committees. UNICEF held shorter follow-up training sessions focused on issues identified during field-based monitoring visits, an important action to maintain peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity at the core of the WASH activities. The IP's WASH staff showed and indicated that their level of knowledge, skills and confidence to train and discuss peacebuilding with community members (including WASH committees), and ability to apply a conflict-sensitivity lens was increased. At the end of the programme, a total of eight WASH committees (members include users, government officials, local administration) were established (23% women, 16% young women and 33% young men), and trained on peacebuilding tailored to recurrent conflicts in their context. At the end of the project, they registered and resolved 100% of 13 water-related disputes brought to the committees.

Step 5

Identify priority actions/entry points to integrate WASH for Peace approaches

Identify priority actions/entry points to integrate WASH for Peace approaches. Use the Guidance to accompany a process of translating capacity into conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding WASH programme design and adaptation, as relevant, and capitalize on the capacity development gains. In the same way that conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding approaches cannot be effectively integrated without capacity, so capacity will be wasted if not applied! A virtuous cycle of training, accompaniment, programme integration/adaptation, measurement of results, and sustained capacity must be promoted.



WASH for Peace

Capacity Development Toolkit

Capacity Development Tool 1

Sample WASH Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Focal Points Guide⁴



Conflict sensitivity, peacebuilding and social cohesion in WASH – Section and Field Office Focal Points Guidance

This Tool complements Step 3 of the WASH for Peace – Capacity Development Guide. It outlines suggested and UNICEF-relevant competencies, tasks and deliverables, to support the integration of conflict sensitivity, as well as peacebuilding and social cohesion approaches as relevant, into the work of WASH teams. The competencies shown here are relevant to the integration of conflict-sensitive practices (e.g. analysis, adaptation, change, and resilience) that can be nurtured to support the integration of conflict sensitivity/peacebuilding into the work of WASH teams and managers. **For UNICEF staff**, this Guidance can be adapted and used by designated focal points and their Supervisors to support WASH teams and Field Offices and inform Performance Review discussions to ensure their roles and responsibilities are adequately captured in 'Achieve'. The table below includes suggested tasks/deliverables to be captured and/or adapted as needed. **The competencies and tasks outlined can also be adapted and leveraged by partners to match and amplify the capacity of UNICEF-supported and/or sector programming in FCCs.**

Relevant UNICEF competencies	Tasks	Deliverables
<p>4. Innovates and embraces change <i>Is open to and proposes new approaches and ideas.</i> <i>Adapts and responds positively to change.</i></p> <p>Individual: Review work practices, analyse evidence-based trends to apply new methods and techniques; Respond flexibly to changing circumstances, priorities and deadlines; Display creativity, experiment with new approaches and demonstrate openness to changing existing practices.</p> <p>Team managers: Encourage innovation and promote the importance of team members engaging in change initiatives.</p>	<p>Take UNICEF’s Agora Course ‘Introduction to Risk-Informed, Conflict Sensitive, and Peacebuilding Programming’ and support the participation in the course of key WASH main/field office staff https://agora.unicef.org/course/info.php?id=24589</p> <p>Connect with UNICEF HQ PD’s Conflict Prevention, Fragility and Peacebuilding (CPFP) Team to seek technical support and to join UNICEF’s Peacebuilding Network to connect with this community of practice at UNICEF and to receive updates on resources and capacity development opportunities https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/PD-CERP/SitePages/Conflict.aspx</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training diploma shared with supervisor, FO/ Section and HR • Relevant updates, resources, capacity development opportunities shared with WASH team/WASH Cluster Partners

⁴ Adapted from UNICEF Ethiopia Country Office Resource Persons Guidance

Relevant UNICEF competencies	Tasks	Deliverables
<p>5. Manages ambiguity and complexity –<i>Demonstrate resilience and composure, get things done despite challenges and maintain performance levels in pressured, adverse and uncertain environments.</i></p> <p>Individual: Demonstrate flexibility, developing alternative plans in rapidly changing situations, uncertainty and adversity; Manage personal frustrations to avoid potential conflict.</p> <p>Team managers: Anticipate obstacles, adapt team priorities, develop alternative plans and solutions in consultation with the team; Maintain team effectiveness and morale when dealing with changing priorities or ambiguous situations; Manage the impact of complex and uncertain environments on programming activity and colleagues’ well-being.</p>	<p>Map existing and relevant capacities among partners using the WASH for Peace Partner Capacity Assessment Tool (<i>See WASH Partnerships for Peace Toolkit, Partnerships Tool 1</i>), identify tailored capacity development support in consultation with UNICEF Conflict Prevention, Fragility, and Peacebuilding Team.</p> <hr/> <p>Support the participation of relevant partners in UNICEF’s Agora course ‘Introduction to Risk-Informed, Conflict Sensitive, and Peacebuilding Programming’.</p> <hr/> <p>Organize briefing for team/partners presenting the WASH for Peace Guidance to promote its use to support the integration of conflict-sensitivity/ peacebuilding approaches.</p> <hr/> <p>Liaise with relevant FOs/Sections/Cluster Partners to conduct/update sector-relevant conflict analysis to inform relevant activities, processes and products (e.g. programme development and quality assurance activities, rolling workplans, programme documents, humanitarian assessments/response, etc.).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity assessment/ database of partners with relevant expertise/experience of conflict sensitivity/peacebuilding in WASH • Roster of relevant partners trained • Agreed action plan to integrate conflict sensitivity/ peacebuilding as relevant into WASH programmes, partnerships, WASH Cluster Partners interventions • Quarterly updates to sector-relevant and/or FO conflict profiles submitted and used to update relevant conflict monitoring platforms
<p>6. Thinks and acts strategically – <i>Understands the big picture and is able to identify potential opportunities for action and challenges that exist. Forms sound evidence-based judgments in the delivery of UNICEF’s results.</i></p> <p>Individual: Analyse and evaluate data from a wide range of sources, assessing reliability and presenting conclusions to enable informed decision-making; Adapt workplans in response to emerging situations and new requirements; Consider the long-term impact and risks of decisions and actions.</p>	<p>Review relevant Section/FO programme documents (e.g. grant proposals, reports, humanitarian and development PCAs) and contribute technical inputs to support the integration of minimum required conflict sensitivity and relevant/feasible peacebuilding/ social cohesion approaches in consultation with relevant stakeholders (e.g. FO/Section focal points, PCA partner, government counterparts).</p> <hr/> <p>Review and provide technical inputs to relevant FO/Section planning processes in consultation with internal and external stakeholders (FO/Section focal points, government counterparts, implementing partners).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical inputs developed and integrated into relevant Country Office/Section/Field Office planning processes (e.g. Country Programme Document, Sector Workplans, Emer Response Plan/Preparedness Platform, Humanitarian Res Plan, WASH Cluster Assessments) at relevant time period • Field mission reports developed capturing follow-up actions taken with relevant section/FO colleagues and partners.
<p>7. Works collaboratively with others – <i>Establish and maintain mutually supportive working relationships, demonstrating sensitivity to people of diverse backgrounds, respecting differences and ensuring that all can contribute and succeed.</i></p> <p>Individual: Address issues, conflicts and misunderstandings between self and others</p> <p>Team manager: Acknowledge conflict and disagreement in the team and work to facilitate resolution as appropriate.</p>	<p>As necessary, undertake field visits to monitor and support conflict sensitive and peacebuilding WASH programme implementation.</p> <hr/> <p>As necessary, provide technical support (preparatory meetings with prospective partners/ consultants; workplan meetings with relevant WASH Ministry/local authorities) to counterparts and implementing partners to support the effective integration of minimum required conflict sensitivity, and relevant peacebuilding and social cohesion approaches into UNICEF-supported WASH programmes and WASH Cluster Partners’ response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed action plan to integrate conflict sensitivity/ peacebuilding as relevant into WASH programmes, partnerships, WASH Cluster Partners interventions • Technical inputs developed and reflected in relevant programme documents and workplans.

Capacity Development Tool 2

Conflict sensitivity competencies⁵



This Tool complements the introductory section of the WASH for Peace Capacity Development Guide and includes a list of suggested competencies to be adapted to the different required roles (e.g. conflict analysis, conflict sensitivity monitoring, conflict sensitivity focused community consultations), including knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to uphold conflict-sensitive approaches to WASH in development and humanitarian contexts. The competencies can be used as recruitment criteria, as components of staff capacity development, and as dimensions of staff appraisal processes.

Knowledge

Understanding of conflict and conflict sensitivity

Attitude

- Accept the premise that UNICEF WASH programming or the overall organization's actions can inadvertently contribute to conflict
- Self-awareness of own biases and of how individual actions may be perceived in different contexts
- Has impartial views that do not prejudice him/her to different ethnic groups, warring factions.
- Possesses good intercultural sensitivity and understanding
- Understands the importance of, and is open to, adapting programming in response to changes in the context or stakeholder feedback
- Possesses good gender sensitivity and understanding
- Able to challenge assumptions and look for various ways to gather and analyse information
- Concerned with social justice
- Believes in the humanitarian imperative, that all parties in need deserve aid regardless of affiliation.

General skills – ability to:

- Accept the premise that UNICEF WASH programming or the overall organization's actions can inadvertently contribute to conflict
- Self-awareness of own biases and of how individual actions may be perceived in different contexts
- Has impartial views that do not prejudice him/her to different ethnic groups, warring factions.
- Possesses good intercultural sensitivity and understanding

Emergency-specific skills in conflict analysis in preparation, design and proposal writing

- Understands and uses, or is willing to learn, conflict analysis tools, both in emergency preparedness planning and for a 'good enough' analysis during emergency deployment.
- Has the ability to consider conflict flashpoints (social, political, economic) during project design and proposal writing.
- Understands how conflict sensitivity and other key standards for emergency WASH response can reinforce one another.

⁵ Conflict Sensitivity Community Hub, "'How To' Guide to Conflict Sensitivity', 2012, <https://www.international-alert.org/app/uploads/2021/09/Conflict-Sensitivity-How-To-Guide-EN-2012.pdf>, pp. 23, 39.



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Partnership Guide

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- 3.1. Joint programming with UN Agencies
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Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Partner Capacity Assessment Tool

This Guide briefly explores UNICEF's range of partnerships available to support the integration of conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding approaches to WASH, including civil society, donors and the private sector.¹ It provides guidance and resources to support the sector to strengthen partnerships in fragile and conflict-affected contexts (FCCs). Partnerships are the backbone of UNICEF's work on the ground and, as the WASH sector embraces conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding as critically important approaches in FCCs, so new and strengthened partnerships must be developed in the sector to leverage and engage the right capacity and expertise. The 2022 'WASH in the Strategic Plan' report notes that "partnerships with local civil society, youth and faith-based organizations will be expanded to strengthen the linkages between WASH and peacebuilding"; and that the inclusion of "children and adolescents into decision-making processes via youth networks for sector policy and strategy development at global and national levels" will be critical. Moreover, partnerships must reflect the role of gender transformation and disability inclusion as key dimensions of UNICEF's contribution to peace through WASH.²

The UN Partner Portal is available to UN staff <https://www.unpartnerportal.org/login> and includes a database of over 23,000 partners across multiple UN agencies. Under cross-sectoral areas, selecting the 'Conflict Sensitivity and Humanitarian Access' category brings up 1,103 partners, including 594 national NGOs that list diverse conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding experiences and expertise.

- 1 For more information see <https://www.unicef.org/partnerships#>
- 2 UNICEF, 'WASH in the new UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025', 2021, https://www.unicef.org/media/119056/file/WASH%20in%20the%20new%20UNICEF%20Strategic%20Plan_Summary.pdf; p. 37
- 3 <https://www.unicef.org/partnerships/procedure-programme-implementation-partnerships>

1. Identifying the 'right' partners – leveraging NGO capacities

UNICEF works in partnership with more than 4,000 civil society organizations (three quarters of which are local or national non-governmental organizations) to deliver over US\$1 billion in programming to communities and children around the world annually.³ UNICEF WASH staff consulted for the development of this Guidance noted that one of the key enablers to the integration of conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding approaches to WASH was the identification and engagement of partners with relevant capacity and expertise.



The WASH Strategy for Tripoli Frontlines⁴



was piloted by LebRelief in Qobbe's Baqqar and Jabal Mohsein neighbourhoods as part of a partnership with UNICEF Lebanon. The strategy succeeded in transforming neighbourhoods characterized by extreme poverty, radicalized youth, and inter-communal tensions into areas where shared WASH services have galvanized the population and social cohesion has been palpably strengthened. LebRelief brought to the partnership **experience working at grass-roots level** in these communities and a distinct approach that invested heavily in building the credibility of WASH institutions and trust among key stakeholders. One key element of the partnership was the **contextual knowledge** generated by LebRelief through its participatory and community-based mapping methodology to identify the multiple layers of conflict interactions with WASH.

National partners and community-based organizations are a critical asset to support WASH for Peace interventions as they often have deep and highly relevant knowledge of the history and dynamics of conflict in a given context, and will have developed highly contextual strategies and approaches. This was one of the key lessons learned by the WASH team in Lebanon, where the national NGO LebRelief⁵ was instrumental in identifying and leveraging opportunities to build social cohesion around water and sanitation infrastructure in a divided community – the case study in this page illustrates key aspects of their approach and contribution:

Among **UNICEF international NGO WASH partners**, many are found to possess specific capacity and expertise in conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding approaches and to have implemented research and developed tools and resources that can help to strengthen WASH sector capacity to integrate conflict sensitivity/peacebuilding. Below is a selection of examples to give a flavour of the wealth of knowledge and expertise available to WASH teams among WASH sector partners:

- **Tearfund** have done valuable research⁶ on the links between WASH, conflict and peace and have developed a step-by-step guide to the project cycle for a conflict-sensitive WASH project that has informed some of the tools developed for this Guidance.⁷
- **Save the Children** have developed a conflict management and peacebuilding resource kit for children and young people to use to analyse conflict, manage conflict and build peace – 'Conflict Management and Peacebuilding in Everyday Life: A resource kit

for children and youth⁸ – as well as a 'Conflict sensitivity guider and tools'⁹.

- **World Vision** have developed tools to support the integration of conflict sensitivity/peacebuilding, including a Good Enough Context Analysis for Rapid Response¹⁰ and an 'eLearning' course on Do No Harm to support staff capacity development. The NGO have a distinct 'children as agents for peace' approach to build resilience to conflict in communities.¹¹
- **Mercy Corps** have developed a peace and conflict programming approach that informs their climate security interventions by supporting integrated climate adaptation and strengthening natural resource governance, as well as strengthening social cohesion and conflict management practices for safer and more secure communities. This is also central to their gender-transformative approach to peacebuilding – elevating the role and responsibilities of girls and women in peacebuilding, as well as challenging and dismantling harmful gender norms that drive violent conflict.¹²
- **CARE International** (The Netherlands) have developed a Peacebuilding Toolbox showcasing peacebuilding strategies implemented by different CARE country offices and local partners as well as practical tools and case studies, including interventions to improve water access in FCCs.¹³
- **OXFAM** have developed resources to identify and mitigate conflict risks as part of the COVID-19 humanitarian response¹⁴, gender and peacebuilding resources¹⁵, as well as a briefing paper exploring opportunities to strengthen triple-nexus programming illustrated by case studies including WASH.¹⁶

4 Shared by LebRelief in February 2022

5 <https://leb-relief.org/>

6 <https://learn.tearfund.org/-/media/learn/resources/reports/2013-tearfund-double-dividends-en.pdf>; <https://cdn.odi.org/media/documents/8294.pdf>; <https://cdn.odi.org/media/documents/8293.pdf>

7 <https://learn.tearfund.org/en/resources/research-report/a-wash-tool-for-conflict-sensitive-programming>

8 <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/resourcekit-web.pdf/>

9 https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/SCI-Conflict-Sensitivity-Guider_Final-2021.pdf/

10 <https://www.wvi.org/peacebuilding-and-conflict-sensitivity/publication/good-enough-context-analysis-rapid-response>

11 <https://www.wvi.org/our-work/peacebuilding>

12 <https://www.mercycorps.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/Peace-and-Conflict-Overview-Mercy-Corps-May-2021.pdf>

13 <https://www.careinternational.org/careexpertise/peacebuilding-toolbox#:~:text=The%20Peacebuilding%20Toolbox%20includes%202013,analyze%20and%20define%20Peacebuilding%20interventions>

14 <https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/620992/gd-covid-19-and-conflict-sensitivity-030620-en.pdf?sequence=1>

15 <https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/gender-conflict-and-peacebuilding-how-conflict-can-catalyse-positive-change-for-305257/>

16 OXFAM, 'Transforming the systems that contribute to fragility and humanitarian crises: programming across the triple nexus', 2021, <https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/621203/bp-fragility-humanitarian-crises-triple-nexus-150721-en.pdf?sequence=1>; p. 5



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The organizations listed above are frequent **WASH Cluster partners** in FCCs, and this remains an important entry point to identify and support conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding partnerships using the triple-nexus approach captured in the Global WASH Cluster Strategic Plan 2022-2025.¹⁷ WASH Cluster Coordinators (through their partners' liaison and capacity development roles and responsibilities) can identify and leverage relevant conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding expertise amongst partners. Profiling exercises with partners are a good opportunity to identify relevant capacity – for example in Palestine in 2021, the WCC compiled a Cluster Partners' Profile that outlines the current partners' areas of expertise as well as identifying 'cross-cutting issues' focal points to support the capacity gaps of partners.¹⁸ In Burkina Faso, a comparable exercise in 2020 identified the specific capacities of partners' staff to, for example, do rapid assessments and to use community engagement approaches. This could be expanded to include conflict analysis, conflict sensitivity assessments, and the integration of peacebuilding into WASH programming in FCCs.¹⁹

UNICEF's 'Water Security for All' brief notes the need to mobilize the **private sector** to support innovation. Technology innovations in FCCs can improve early warning and early action systems to avert water scarcity crises and help find new sources of water to bring more equitable and affordable solutions. Philanthropists, corporations, foundations and other private sector partners can support UNICEF by investing in flexible funds for water and sanitation, or funding specific 'hotspot' country programmes. Private sector actors must

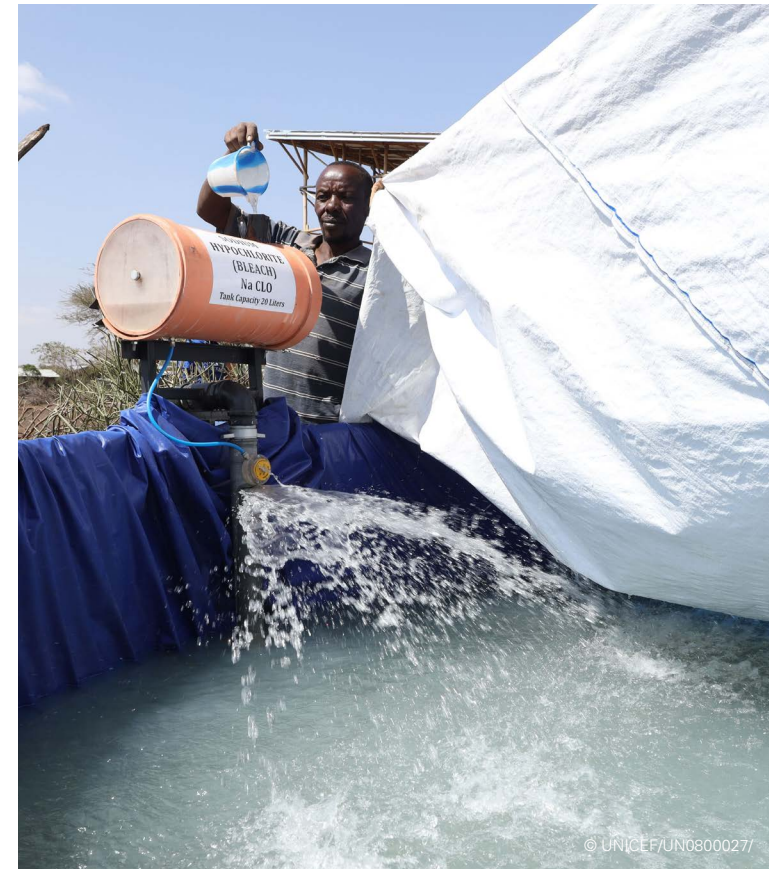
be considered in relevant stakeholder analysis to better understand their distinct role in conflict and peace. It is critical to ensure that they integrate conflict-sensitive approaches and it may be necessary to extend distinct and tailored capacity development efforts to them - *see Capacity Development Tool 2 – 'Conflict sensitivity competencies'* for suggested competencies to be developed.

UNICEF WASH teams may consider **issuing a call for 'Expressions of Interest'** to gauge existing capacity and technical expertise in conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding WASH in the country, and to identify national WASH civil society and private sector partners that can be supported to complement and enhance UNICEF's technical capacity with grounded and highly context relevant knowledge and experience. WASH teams can identify existing and trusted WASH partners implementing UNICEF-supported programmes in FCCs and support the development of their capacity to integrate conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding approaches to their work. A first step could be for the WASH team and a selection of key WASH partners to take UNICEF's Agora course risk-informed programming (*see the WASH for Peace – Capacity Development Guide for more details on this and other opportunities and resources*). Another source of partnership support includes the **Long-Term Agreement for Services (LTAS)** hosted by UNICEF's Conflict Prevention, Fragility, and Peacebuilding Team. This enables WASH teams to access a number of expert organizations holding significant technical expertise and capacities that can be deployed to support UNICEF WASH programmes in peacebuilding, social cohesion and conflict sensitivity.²⁰

CASE STUDY



In **Ethiopia**, UNICEF's WASH team held technical briefings on conflict sensitive and peacebuilding approaches targeting international and national private consulting firms involved in the implementation of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments and Management Plans of WASH investments in conflict-affected contexts – the briefings were supported by conflict-sensitivity assessments of the projects being implemented to support relevant programme adaptations.



17 https://mcusercontent.com/888e8ad28c65af24339239179/files/8c6009f7-222b-079d-4a95-d90cd2ee6337/Global_WASH_Cluster_Strategic_Plan_2022_2025_FINAL_lowres.pdf

18 <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/wash-cluster-state-palestine-partners-profile-2021>

19 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ydLgSRVg7R-yp2WtuLUKjTRU7EHlamPh/view>

20 <https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/PD-CERP/SitePages/LTAs-for-PB-and-CS.aspx#ltas-full-guidelines?CT=1589555450940&OR=OWA-NT&CID=e06a1508-6264-a60b-9b57-40caadd79e27>

2. Developing the 'right' partnerships

UNICEF benefits from many different types of partnerships (e.g. civil society, public institutions, other UN agencies and multilateral organizations, the private sector) and all present distinct opportunities to collaboratively and collectively strengthen WASH results for children in FCCs. There are various different ways to engage partners – for example through Small-Scale Funding Agreements (SSFAs) and Programme Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) with international and national NGOs, or through institutional or supply contracts through which WASH teams can tap into academia and the private sector. In all cases, the **process of selection and of partnership development must explicitly transmit the need to integrate relevant conflict sensitivity/ peacebuilding** as outlined in UNICEF's Strategic Plan and relevant organizational commitments. UNICEF's WASH for Peace approach and expectations must be adequately captured in relevant partnership supporting documents. Including clearly stated minimum requirements in partnership development frameworks and templates (e.g. ToRs for tenders, programme document reviews and submission forms), is a critical first step to ensure that the right capacity is identified and leveraged.



CASE STUDY

Ethiopia Country Office



Ethiopia Country Office introduced requirements to integrate minimum required conflict sensitivity and relevant social cohesion strengthening approaches in conflict-affected contexts for both development and humanitarian Partnership Cooperation Agreements (PCAs). This was part of a broader effort to better integrate cross-cutting issues, including AAP, gender and PSEA. The process included technical briefings with key partners and the development of technical resources (e.g. indicator guidance), as well as the development of capacity among PD managers through training and accompaniment. PCAs' Submission and Approval Forms now include criteria to support such integration, including:

The proposed programme meets minimum required conflict sensitivity, and includes:

- *A sector-relevant conflict analysis to inform the design and implementation of the intervention focusing on stakeholders, causes, dynamics, triggers, and local capacities for peace (if not included, it is planned/budgeted for)*
- *Conflict monitoring as part of M&E activities and relevant budget allocation to support it*
- *Relevant conflict-sensitive indicators capturing the two-way interaction between intervention and context*

If relevant and feasible, the programme integrates peacebuilding approaches that strengthen social cohesion, including:

- *Adequate attention paid to interactions between communities (e.g. host-IDP, host-refugee, inter-ethnic) and between the authorities and communities (e.g. local service providers/ institutions-communities). Collaboration in social services planning and delivery should be sought and supported*
- *That it identifies and supports local capacities for peace – including government and community-led peacebuilding initiatives that take account of initiatives led by adolescents and young people, women and girls; these initiatives must seek to prevent the occurrence or reoccurrence of conflict and/or support the recovery of conflict-affected communities*

A next step could be a collaborative review of existing programme documents and/or supply contracts with **selected and relevant partners to identify feasible and relevant entry points to strengthen contributions to resilience and peace** with the support of this Guidance.

3. Strategic WASH partnerships for peace

3.1 Joint programming with UN agencies



UNICEF WASH teams can consider pursuing strategic partnerships with **UN agencies** that due to their mandate are well placed to complement and strengthen relevant capacity. For example, UNICEF has collaborated with UNDP in the WASH Accountability for Sustainability partnership²¹ and to measure social cohesion through the SCORE methodology²². UNICEF and UNDP have also partnered to develop online courses on ‘Local Governance for Sustaining Peace’ and ‘Youth, Peace and Security’ (*for more details see the Capacity Development Toolkit of the Guidance*). Collaboration around these key themes is also reflected in joint programmes where UNDP has partnered with UNICEF to support WASH sector good governance and social cohesion strengthening interventions in FCCs.

21 <https://www.unicef.org/documents/accountability-wash-explaining-concept>

22 <https://www.scoreforpeace.org/>

23 <https://www.so.undp.org/content/somalia/en/home/projects/un-joint-programme-on-local-governance-and-decentralized-service.html>

CASE STUDY



UN’s Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery (JPLG) in Somalia began in 2008 and continues to this day, implemented by UNICEF, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). As part of JPLG, UNICEF led efforts to pilot decentralized service delivery in line with the Puntland and Somaliland decentralization road maps. The Service Delivery Model (SDM) that was piloted supported districts to carry out devolved service delivery in the areas of WASH, health and education. This supports decentralized and accountable social services that contribute to strengthening vertical and horizontal social cohesion.²³

CASE STUDY



UNDP and UNICEF partner in Niger to improve sanitation in FCCS

In Niger, UNDP has partnered with UNICEF through their global Water Governance Reform. The project developed the national sanitation guide, under the guidance of the Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation, and in collaboration with UNICEF, which has become the ‘go-to’ reference document for sanitation interventions. The project developed guidance for a local water and sanitation development plan (Plan Local de l’Eau et de l’Assainissement) to help municipalities analyse the water and sanitation status of their communes and prioritize investment. A total of 18 municipal water and sanitation development plans were validated. Following this support, the Government is currently developing an additional 80 local plans in all regions of the country.²⁴

Another example of a strategic UN partner to pursue peacebuilding WASH programming is UNHCR. The **blueprint for Joint Action**²⁴ guides a global WASH cooperation framework through which UNICEF and UNHCR support refugee integration into national services, including WASH. The agencies have jointly supported integrated host-refugee water utilities to strengthen horizontal social cohesion in East Africa - *for more details see section '3.3. WASH contributions to horizontal social cohesion' in the WASH for Peace – Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide.*

Strategic partnerships with **academic and research institutions** are supporting UNICEF to develop capacity and to generate valuable evidence and analytics to support WASH for Peace – for example UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office has partnered with the German Jordanian University to implement a Master's Programme in Humanitarian WASH²⁵; in Lebanon UNICEF has partnered with AUB's Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (AUB-IFI) to identify hotspots in Lebanon with high water-related stress and water-related risk to conflict and to propose and prioritize action through WASH projects to mitigate risk and reduce tensions.²⁶

3.2 Tapping into WASH for peace funding

The concept of partnerships also extends to capture the fruitful relationships established with UNICEF WASH bilateral and multilateral donor partners that increasingly recognize the unique role that WASH interventions can play to strengthen resilience and build peace in FCCs – particularly in response to growing water insecurity.²⁷ Despite this increased awareness and commitment, the need to 'make the case' remains strong and efforts to identify and mobilize resources²⁸ to support conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding approaches to WASH must be supported by evidence and advocacy. The UNICEF WASH Resource Mobilization strategy recognizes a number of underfunded and priority areas to focus on 2022 and beyond, including **linking humanitarian, development and peacebuilding** activity and **Water Security for All**.²⁹ These areas potentially offer opportunities to reorient risk-informed and resilience building WASH in FCCs to pursue more explicit conflict-sensitivity and peacebuilding approaches to resource mobilization strategies and action plans.

Donor mapping exercises by WASH Cluster Coordinators are a useful entry point to identify opportunities to leverage funds to support activities such as conflict analysis, the integration of risk-informed and conflict-sensitive approaches, and the integration of triple-nexus ways of working. This can support partnership

development efforts within the sector, including critically among national partners. In Palestine, the WCC carried out mapping in 2021 to provide orientation to WASH Cluster partners during the planning, design and implementation of their WASH interventions. The WCC targeted 30 donors through online surveys and discussions, and analysed data to identify:

- The intersections between each donor's strategy (development, building resilience, emergency response) for each WASH component.
- Funding opportunities and gaps in each WASH component.
- Donors' partnership preferences compared to Cluster partners' technical capacities.
- Funding modalities and cluster partner fundraising tools.

The findings revealed that WASH humanitarian donors in Palestine consider building resilience a main priority and a connecting bridge between humanitarian and development responses. This opens up space for Cluster partners to apply a triple nexus approach in their fundraising and response planning. In response, WASH donors can consider prioritizing support to programming that engages an integrated approach under a single funding instrument or envelope.³⁰

24 In 2020, UNHCR and UNICEF developed a Blueprint for Joint Action to accelerate joint efforts under a transformational agenda in line with the Global Compact on Refugees. The initial phase of the partnership focused on WASH, education, and child protection and was piloted in 10 countries Bangladesh, Cameroon, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, and Rwanda) – the partnership has been extended until the end of 2022; <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/unhcr-unicef-blueprint>

25 <http://www.gju.edu.jo/content/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-wash-msc-program-11637>

26 The partnership included Search for Common Ground, which complemented the mapping by targeting the identified hot spots in Baalbek and West Bekaa districts and drew community stakeholders together to explore their perceptions regarding possible, sustainable solutions to localized water-related conflicts. The study was ongoing at the time of writing – but important lessons about the methodology, partnership model, and the application of the findings can be elicited once it is finalized.

27 UNICEF, 'WASH in the new UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025', 2021, https://www.unicef.org/media/119056/file/WASH%20in%20the%20new%20UNICEF%20Strategic%20Plan_Summary.pdf; p. 37

28 At the time of writing, the WASH HQ Programme team, in close collaboration with a wide range of colleagues in COs, ROs, Private Fundraising and Partnerships (PFP), Public Partnership Division (PPD) and NatComs, are developing the WASH resource mobilization strategy, the first of its kind, with the intent to leverage the much-needed resources required to accelerate progress towards SDG 6. The objective of the WASH resource mobilization strategy is to empower UNICEF staff to engage in partnership discussions, with a specific focus on WASH, with governments, the private sector and financing institutions. This will help to make informed decisions about where best to focus UNICEF's WASH partnership efforts; see UNICEF, 'WASH in the new UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025', 2021, https://www.unicef.org/media/119056/file/WASH%20in%20the%20new%20UNICEF%20Strategic%20Plan_Summary.pdf; p. 28

29 UNICEF, WASH Resource Mobilization Strategy, 2022; internal

30 Shared by WASH Cluster State of Palestine, WASH Donors Mapping Analysis 2021, pp. 2-3.

A recent review by UN Water of the donor landscape and funding opportunities identified the thematic and sectoral preferences of all major sector donors, including directly relevant focus (such as 'peace', 'water governance', 'water scarcity', 'DRR', and 'youth') that could be mobilised to support **risk-informed, resilient, conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding WASH investments**. Donors identified as supporting linkages between water and peace include Austria, Finland, France, Netherlands, Sweden, and Switzerland. Table 9 gives an overview of its findings:

Table 9: UN Water's donor thematic and sectoral preferences overview³¹

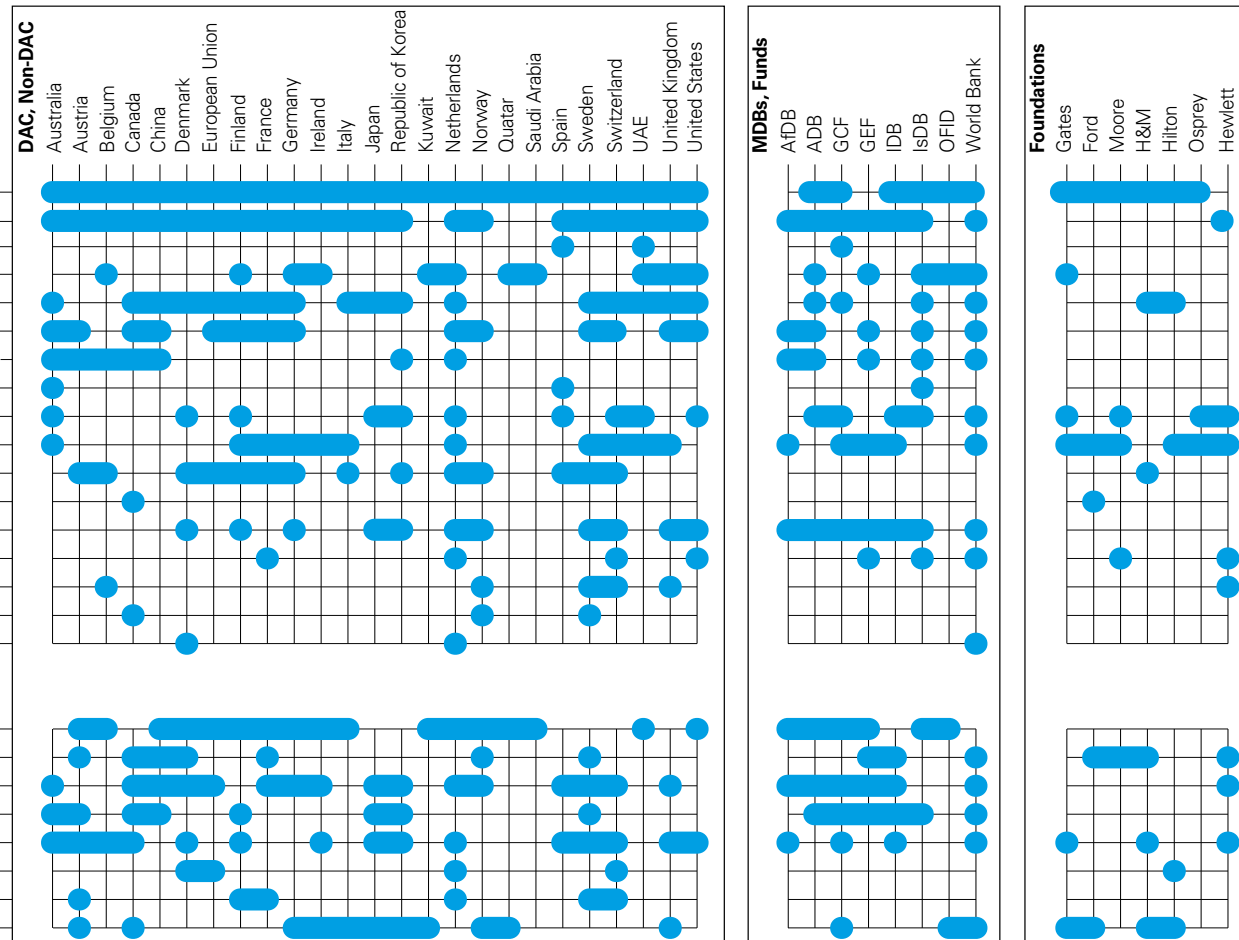
Donors water and sanitation priorities

Focus areas

- WASH
- WRM, water governance
- ...non-conventional WRM
- Water quality
- Water use efficiency
- Transboundary
- Flood and drought management
- Water scarcity
- Technology and innovation
- Data and monitoring
- Human rights to water
- ...indigenous rights to water
- Private sector participation
- Innovative financing
- Integrity, transparency
- Source-to-sea
- Valuing water

Water and sanitation linkages with other communities

- Water-energy-food nexus
- Environment
- Climate change
- DRR
- Gender
- Youth
- Peace
- Health



Note: The absence of a particular focus area does not mean it is absent from the donor's water and sanitation activity; rather, it indicates it is not a primary focus area based on reviewing the donor's strategic framework and policy. The same applies to the synergies with other sectors, which are limited to highlighting some of the significant linkages stated in donor's publications between their water and sanitation policy and the concerned sector. DRR=disaster risk reduction; UAE=United Arab Emirates; WRM=water resources management
Sources: Donor's websites and relevant policy documents

The below includes selected examples of WASH for Peace donor-supported initiatives that can inspire UNICEF WASH teams and partners to advocate and fundraise more strategically:

- **Finland's** Ministries for Foreign Affairs, Environment, and Agriculture and Forestry support the **Finnish Water Diplomacy Network**, which consists of experts from ministries, academia and research institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The network ensures the engagement of relevant peace mediation and water actors and enables their expertise to be used for both rapid response and longer-term development aims. Internationally, Finland collaborates with state and non-state actors in developing activities related to water diplomacy. These activities enhance conflict analyses and mediation, joint initiatives and capacity-building, all of which strengthen conflict prevention.³²
- **Germany's** Development Cooperation Agency (BMZ), has a **'Building peace. Strengthening resilience'** strategy that explains how transitional development assistance contributes to peaceful and inclusive communities, including explicit links between conflict and water, and the role of WASH services to promote peace.³³ BMZ's 2017 **'Water Strategy Paper'** commits its development cooperation to leverage the "potential of water as a resource for reducing conflict and mitigating the causes of displacement".³⁴

31 UN Water: Resource Mobilization Guide; Working Draft Version February 2022; <https://www.unwater.org/app/uploads/2022/03/UN-Water-Resource-Mobilization-Guide-2022-02-17.pdf>; p. 11.
32 https://www.syke.fi/en-US/Research_Development/Research_and_development_projects/Projects/Water_Cooperation_and_Peace_Finnish_Water_Way
33 <https://www.bmz.de/resource/blob/92428/factsheet-peaceful-and-inclusive-communities-ohne-bild.pdf>
34 <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/publications/publikationen-reihen/strategiepapier390-08-2017-23756>; p. 3

- **The Netherlands** Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) supports the **Water, Peace and Security initiative** to address how growing water insecurity is straining relations between people, communities and entire countries. With innovative tools and services, the WPS partnership helps stakeholders to identify and understand water-related security risks and take timely, informed and inclusive action to prevention and mitigate conflict. This includes technical support to the water authorities of countries affected by water insecurity.³⁵
- **Switzerland** through its Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC) launched and supported the **Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace**, which has 15 member countries, and continues to support the implementation of its main recommendations. Through the **Blue Peace initiative** launched in 2010, Switzerland is supporting both cross-border cooperation and national platforms for dialogue on water access issues. Switzerland offers countries its support in managing their water resources more effectively and in reducing tensions between different users (private consumers, the energy industry, agriculture, etc.) at both the national and regional levels.³⁶

Funding must become more agile and adaptable to respond to complex and protracted crises, and strong WASH donor partnerships must strive to create space for experimental approaches that allow for innovation, learning by doing, and flexibility to support programme adaptation. The generation of evidence and the development of advocacy products can help to illustrate and support the need for such change.

39

Advocating for flexible funding: UNICEF's 'Water Security for All' investment brief calls on the public and private sectors to fund WASH programming in FCCs flexibly to enable UNICEF and partners to direct investments where they are needed most to increase water security in the countries most affected. This funding gives experts the flexibility to target interventions that will have the best results and to adapt in a volatile and changing environment. It also recognizes that some partners need to designate their resources to a particular result area and proposes the development of strategic partnerships to respond to these opportunities for tailored collaboration. The publication includes useful facts and figures as well as key messages to support resource mobilization for conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding WASH in FCCs.

35 <https://waterpeacesecurity.org/>

36 <https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/themes-sdc/water/wasser-ein-element-der-sicherheit.html>

37 https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/53555846.pdf

38 SWIFT Consortium, Implementing WASH programmes in a Payment by Results context, 2015, <https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/582317/ml-swift-wash-payment-by-results-010815-en.pdf?sequence=1>; p. 7

39 SWIFT Consortium, Implementing WASH programmes in a Payment by Results context 2015, <https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/582317/ml-swift-wash-payment-by-results-010815-en.pdf?sequence=1>; p. 7

CASE STUDY

Flexible funding partnerships to support conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding WASH – The example of the payment by results (PbR) framework in FCCs



The former UK Department for International Development's (now FCDO) launched the 'Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Results Programme' (£111 million envelope implemented 2014–2021) aimed to bring equitable and sustainable water and sanitation services and hygiene practices to 4.5 million people in 11 countries. The programme was implemented by three supplier consortium (Oxfam, Tearfund, and the Overseas Development Institute) contracted under a payment by results (PbR) financing modality. The WASH Results Programme was one of the first large-scale applications of a PbR contracting modality in the sector. Suppliers had no upfront financing; 100 per cent of payments to suppliers were based on delivery of pre-specified 'results' which were independently verified by a third party. An external evaluation found that the programme was very successful in achieving its stated objectives.³⁸ A key advantage of such a financial model being applied to conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding WASH include the flexibility and space for innovation it may provide, by enabling activities to be changed provided results are achieved. In addition, the focus on sustainability and building resilience is in line with sector perceptions about what implementing partners should be aiming for with WASH programmes in fragile contexts.³⁹

The **increasing recognition among key donors of the links between climate change, water insecurity and conflict** have opened up new avenues for resource mobilization to support WASH for Peace investments, and specifically how climate finance can be leveraged to strengthen climate and conflict resilience in FCCs. Development banks, aid agencies and the private sector are the main sources of climate finance⁴⁰, a complex domain that the WASH sector has yet to significantly tap into.⁴¹

WASH teams in FCCs that can confidently and effectively frame these links and advocate for conflict- and climate-sensitive investments can unlock significant and potential new partnerships to support WASH for Peace – see *Programming Tool 6 – Guide to integrating climate resilience, conflict sensitivity, and peacebuilding for ideas*.

Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace: UNDP has published a study Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace that explores the links between climate finance, conflict and fragility, and that identifies opportunities to leverage the co-benefits of climate action for peace and security to incentivize much-needed investments in FCCs.⁴² The study identified important elements to conflict-sensitize climate action, including the inclusion of conflict analysis that captures the “indirect contributions, or co-benefits of climate change adaptation to peacebuilding [that] are often neglected in such analysis and need to be better explored and documented to develop better programming”.⁴³



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⁴⁰ **Climate finance** refers to local, national or transnational financing—drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing—that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change - <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/the-big-picture/introduction-to-climate-finance>; UNICEF's engagement in climate finance interrogates how child-sensitive finances flow from developed to developing countries to fight climate change. We question whether these flows are sufficient, new, and additional; and whether they consider the needs of children in developing countries - <https://www.unicef.org/globalinsight/finance#Climate%20finance>.

⁴¹ For more information and resources on WASH sector and climate finance please see: <https://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/knowledge-exchange/climate-finance-wash-africa-europe-middle-east-asia-pacific>

⁴² <https://www.undp.org/publications/climate-finance-sustaining-peace-making-climate-finance-work-conflict-affected-and#modal-publication-download>

⁴³ <https://www.undp.org/publications/climate-finance-sustaining-peace-making-climate-finance-work-conflict-affected-and#modal-publication-download>; p.17

Partnerships Tool 1

Partner Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Capacity Assessment Tool⁴⁴



This Tool complements the WASH for Peace Partnerships Guide and aims to support a 'light touch' assessment of the conflict sensitivity, peacebuilding and social cohesion capacity, experience, and expertise of existing and/or prospective partners to support the implementation of WASH programming in fragile and conflict-affected contexts (FCCs). Developing effective WASH partnerships that leverage conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding capacity, experience, and expertise is central to UNICEF's ability to deliver results for children in FCCs. One key aspect of this process is to determine existing capacity, experience, and expertise among our partners to support and sustain these approaches collaboratively and collectively. The questions below can be adapted and used as a self-assessment tool for partners, as a partnership development tool for WASH teams, and as a criteria/assessment tool for partner proposals (PCAs, SSFAs, etc.). The questionnaire can be applied to WASH but also multi-sectorial partnerships.

Key definitions in the context of this assessment:

Conflict sensitivity

Capacity to analyse/monitor the conflict context and the two-way interaction between interventions and context to adapt programmes in order to 'do no harm' (by not causing/exacerbating conflict) and 'do more good' (by identifying and leveraging opportunities to pursue peacebuilding programming and contribute to a more socially cohesive environment to amplify/sustain results for children in conflict-affected contexts).

Peacebuilding

Programmatic approach/interventions that: reduce the risk of a lapse or relapse into violent conflict by directly addressing root causes and consequences of conflict; strengthen national, community and individual capacities to address conflict constructively; and establish and support foundations for sustainable peace and development. UNICEF contributes to peacebuilding by supporting vertical and horizontal social cohesion, as well as individual capacities and contributions to peace.

Social cohesion

This term refers to the quality of relationships and bonds between and among members of a society – it is the glue that holds society together. Elements of social cohesion include experiences of trust, a sense of belonging, a willingness to participate, and the associated collaborative behaviours. Vertical social cohesion refers to state–citizen interactions and the quality of trust between them, and horizontal refers to interactions within and between groups in society and the quality of relationships between them.

44 Adapted from SIDA tool: https://cdn.sida.se/app/uploads/2020/12/01125249/s209461_tool_building_and_assessing_institutional_capacity_c3.pdf

1. Organizational commitment

- Does your organization (globally, regionally, nationally) have specific policies/guidelines to promote and support the application of conflict-sensitive WASH programming?
- Do your organization's country strategic programme documents (i.e. vision, goal, plan) include a commitment to conflict sensitivity, peacebuilding, and/or social cohesion through WASH?
If so, how is it framed and how would you describe your organization's distinct approach?

2. Dedicated technical expertise

This relates to current organizational technical focal points/ resource person/s in-country or regionally/ globally to support country office conflictsensitive, peacebuilding, and/or social cohesion WASH programming (i.e. conflict analysis, programme development/adaptation, CS/PB/SC specific M&E, knowledge management, etc.)

- Does your organization have a conflict-sensitivity, peacebuilding, and/or social cohesion focal point or resource person/s in-country or regionally/globally that can provide technical support to programme development, implementation and/or M&E?
If so, can they/how do they provide support to your programmes and staff?
Any other relevant information

3. Experience

This relates to demonstrable experience in (relevant context) of past/current integration of conflict sensitivity and/or WASH programming development and implementation in the areas of peacebuilding and/or social cohesion

- Has your organization undertaken or used a conflict analysis to inform WASH programme development and/or implementation in the past year?
If so, please describe the context, methodology, and/or how the findings were used.
- Does your organization regularly undertake efforts to ensure conflict sensitivity as part of its WASH programming?
If so, please explain and/or give an example of how your organization has operationalized conflict sensitivity in an actual programme in (relevant context).
- Do your organization's WASH programmes and projects in (relevant context) explicitly seek to identify and address the root causes of conflict (such as patterns of group-based exclusions and discrimination, transforming attitudes, structures and institutions) to support communities to recover from conflict and/or prevent conflict from occurring or recurring?
If so, please give an example of such a programme in (relevant context) describing the conflict issues being addressed and the peacebuilding approach employed.
- Does your organization use its M&E and learning systems to:
Track whether efforts to mitigate the risk of doing harm have been effective?
Track whether activities have had a positive effect on the conflict context (i.e. by contributing to peace, social cohesion and preventing conflict)?
Regularly document and analyse challenges and lessons learned related to the organization's impact on the conflict context, including instances of unintended negative consequences?

4. Staff capacity

- Have relevant WASH management/staff received training in conflict sensitivity in the past year?
- Does your organization have conflict-sensitivity guides and tools that are readily available to WASH management/staff?
- What are the most significant bottlenecks to your organization to integrate conflict-sensitivity, peacebuilding, social cohesion approaches to your WASH work?
Limited technical knowledge among staff Y/N
Time constraints Y/N
Resource constraints Y/N
Limited capacity of counterparts (e.g. Government, CSOs) Y/N
Limited support by donors Y/N
Other:

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