

# Conflict Analysis



## Indicators and Tools for Early Warning and Preventive Diplomacy

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# Conflict Analysis and Early Warning



- Pre-requisites for Preventive Diplomacy
- Reporting and Representation
- Early warning tools
- Conflict analysis skills
  - *Context*
  - *Framework*
  - *Causes and Sources of Conflict*

# Preventive Diplomacy Objectives



- **Definition:**

“action to prevent disputes from arising between parties, to prevent existing disputes from escalating into conflicts and to limit the spread of the latter when they occur.” Boutros Boutros Ghali, *Agenda for Peace*

# Preventive Diplomacy Objectives



## Capacity:

- Develop effective monitoring and fact finding practices;
- Work at local, national and regional levels and engage with multiple actors;
- Build trust and mentor others;
- Develop conflict sensitivity and empathy;
- Expand the ability to work collaboratively and in consultation with others;
- Incorporate lessons learned and best

# Listening



- Skill
- Analytical tool
- Key to effective diplomacy

## Conflict Analysis: How you think about what you face



- Context: how you understand the situation, the place and the drivers of the conflict

Good analysis is neither a solution nor is it static

- Framework: How you order and prioritize information, determine what gaps exist, in order to inform programming and strategy
- Causes and sources of conflict

# Keys



- Conflict dynamics
- Stakeholders
- Relationships
- Issues

# Frameworks



- World Bank: Conflict Analysis Framework
- European Commission: Checklist for Root Causes of Conflict
- UN Staff College: Early Warning and Preventive Measures
- USAID: Conflict Assessment Framework
- DFID: Strategic Conflict Assessment
- SIDA: Manual for Conflict Analysis



# Reporting



- Reporting:
- Fundamental principles of reporting
- 5 W's
  - ✦ Who
  - ✦ What
  - ✦ When
  - ✦ Where
  - ✦ Why

# Causes of Conflict



- Root and structural causes of conflict
- Proximate causes of conflict
- Triggers
- New dynamics that prolong conflict or hinder peacebuilding

# Peacebuilding



- New dynamics or factors that might contribute to peace
- Don't ignore the peacebuilding analysis
  - Stakeholders
  - Resources
  - Relationships

# Different Levels of Analysis



- International
- Regional
- National
- Provincial
- Local
- Community

# What do you Analyze?



- Information gathering versus assessment
- Metrics versus assessment
- Metrics help anticipate and understand problems

# Assessment and Planning



- Assessment brings a level of judgment about planning, possible intervention and recognition of potential consequences

- SWOT analysis

Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats

- Ideally, good analysis will lead to an informed conclusion about what might work when and under what conditions in a particular context

- Trust building

# Avoiding state-centric approaches



- Cannot just have state-centric approaches

Localizing preventive action

The benefits of conflict analysis

Bridge between government and people re: grievances

Trust building

- It can be counterproductive to develop numerous explanations without prioritizing the key proximate and underlying causes and drivers of violence.
- It is important to vet and validate different analyses with local stakeholders.

# The value of locals



- What are the local narratives? How do locals frame the issues?
- What sub-national and local capacities exist for preventing and addressing conflict? Understanding those (and leveraging them) may be key to preventing the escalation of violence.



# Early warning



- “Early warnings are rarely ‘early,’ seldom accurate, and lack the capacity to distinguish among different kinds of conflict or crises.”

Effective prevention depends on:

- Early reaction to signs of trouble;
- A comprehensive, balanced approach to alleviate the pressures, or risk factors, that trigger violent conflict;
- Sustained efforts to resolve the underlying root causes of violence

# Goals and Means



- Determine the important variables to be monitored because they are important indicators and metrics of potential risk of violence
- Based on those identified variables, collect information and hard data to determine whether a situation is risky;
- The list is long and can be very context-specific. What indicators should be given what weight in a specific context or time period?
- Early warning can facilitate advanced planning and early deployment of supplies and personnel and prompt diplomatic efforts.

# The Stage of a Crisis is Crucial



- What structural tensions or obstacles exist? Are there accelerants or potential triggers for crisis or escalation of tension and violence?
- Identifying warning signs requires an extensive network of local expertise.

# Local Capacity for Analyzing



- Such local networks can provide information on the ground. They can be eyes and ears for the international community because they are often more attuned to conditions on the ground. But to gain a full appreciation for the local context one must continue to be a good reporter, and use a variety of sources, not just the usual suspects—i.e., those who have ties to the international community, have more education, speak English, have ties to the government (or the national opposition) and have their own agendas that lead them to tell you what they think you want to hear.
- The international community, particularly intergovernmental organizations have important roles to play in conducting fact-finding missions, distributing information, providing resources and putting a spotlight on a particular crisis or conflict.

# Early warning prospects



- Early warning is not always accurate or politically acceptable. For many, early warning is too often reactive (thus, “late” not early) not preventive. The key is not to treat the symptoms but the underlying causes.
- In most situations the key is to create local conditions which facilitate conflict prevention.