

PRACTICAL GUIDANCE FOR GENDER-SENSITIVE CONFLICT ANALYSIS

Gender-sensitive conflict analysis is the systematic study of the gendered causes, structures, stakeholders and dynamics of conflict and peace. It is conflict analysis with a gender lens.

Addressing common gender biases in conflict analysis will provide a more accurate and comprehensive understanding of the root causes, triggers and drivers of conflict, and enable more informed and effective action.

- Recognizes that women and men, girls and boys, and gender non-conforming people may have different experiences, opportunities and constraints due to gender norms in their society
- Analyses the unequal social, political and economic power dynamics between women and men within society and how these influence opportunities and capacities for peace and security
- Relies on but goes beyond simply disaggregating data or assessing the gendered impacts of conflict; instead addresses underlying gender dynamics in society, including discriminatory or exclusionary practices, as part of addressing the root causes of conflict
- Emerged as a practice in order to address the persistent gender blindness in conflict analysis, which excludes women's different experiences, interests and needs, and which biases planning and response against women and girls

HOW PRACTICALLY?



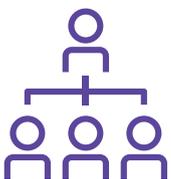
Assess the differentiated impact of armed conflict on women, men and gender non-conforming people



Analyse the different roles of women and men, from combatant to peacemakers, and how these have changed due to the conflict



Address how norms relating to masculinity and femininity drive or mitigate violence and insecurity and challenge or create opportunities for peacemaking



Expand actor mapping to identify the networks and knowledge that women, men and gender non-conforming people offer



Draw on sex-disaggregated data (e.g. numeric representation in parliament) and broaden data collection indicators (such as economic participation and maternal mortality)



Advance participatory analysis, including through consultations with diverse women's groups and women peacebuilders



EXAMPLES FOR GUIDING QUESTIONS – INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

What are the prevailing views of the underlying causes of the conflict? Are there differences or similarities between women’s and men’s views and experiences in different groups, from combatant to peacemakers?

What types of violence are there and at what levels? Is there i.e. political violence and by whom, sexual and gender-based or conflict-related sexual violence, attacks on human rights defenders, physical or online harassment? Who are the perpetrators and the victims? Which groups of women and men are particularly at risk in this conflict setting?

Who are the key actors in the conflict? Who are taking the lead in contributing to conflict? Who are taking the lead in contributing to peaceful resolution of the conflict or humanitarian response? What is the gender composition of these key actors?

Who is involved in the peace process and how? Are women represented and are gender issues addressed at each level? Which constituencies do the representatives in peace processes represent? Can addressing women’s roles in the existing cultural and societal structures create opportunities for peace (i.e., supporting women’s grassroots peace leadership, women’s access to land, etc.)?



KEY COMPONENTS:

1. Analysis of actors and context (gender aware actor mapping; power dynamics; key issues; causes and capacities)
2. Analysis of causes, evolving dynamics, and manifestations of conflict (gendered catalysts; escalatory or stabilizing factors; patterns and trends)
3. Analysis of gender dimensions of key thematic issue areas needed to achieve sustainable conflict resolution (gender and constitutions; security guarantees; DDR etc.)
4. Formulation of strategic choices and actionable recommendations about remedies and responses (that support rather than undermine women’s participation, protection, and rights)

COMMON PITFALLS:

- Treating women or men as homogenous groups
- Limiting gender to a single section in analysis (should also be mainstreamed throughout)
- Assuming women are victims with narrow protection needs and not agents or actors in conflict
- Ignoring patriarchal power dynamics
- Undertaking conflict analysis as a one-off activity and not a lens through which evolving conflict dynamics are regularly updated and addressed
- Failing to integrate gender from the early stages of conflict analysis

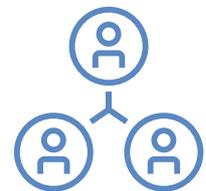
INCLUSIVE MEDIATION STRATEGIES GENERATE



Stronger national ownership



Broader entry points for confidence building



Broader societal support



More sustainable peace