

# Pocket Guide to Conflict Assessment and Peacebuilding Planning

Website for the Book: [www.conflict-assessment-and-peacebuilding-planning.org](http://www.conflict-assessment-and-peacebuilding-planning.org) with templates and teaching tools

## Why conduct a conflict assessment?

Both to increase the effectiveness of peacebuilding efforts and reduce the chance that an intervention will cause harm or be counterproductive.

## Outline and Key Questions:

1. **Self assessment** is a process of identifying ones own cultural biases, perspectives, interests, and assumptions about a conflict, and then identifying ones own resources, capacities and networks to prioritize planning on what is possible and pragmatic. Are we overconfident about what we think we know? Do we know what we don't know? Are we more afraid of not acting than of making mistakes resulting in second order effects? How are we articulating and testing our assumptions about what is driving conflict and our theories of change to reduce conflict? How are we ensuring that we are not looking for problems that fit the solutions we already have available to offer?
2. **Conflict Assessment** is an interactive research process to conceptually organize factors driving conflict and supporting peace. How are we ensuring that we triangulate data and then look for disagreements in perceptions that may be important to understand between people or groups with different perceptions? Are we assessing and mapping local capacity in addition to diagnosing the problems? Are we making sure that local people are involved in interpreting the data?
3. **Theories of Change** or the "program rationale" is the perceived logic between the key factors driving conflict or supporting peace and what type of peacebuilding effort will impact these factors. How do people think change will come about? What are their stories, metaphors and ideas? What evidence exists that these theories are accurate?
4. **Designing and Planning** is a process of identifying SMART goals that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely. Planning includes deciding whom you will work with, what you will do, and where and when you will do it. What are your strategies to move from micro to macro impacts by scaling up peacebuilding efforts?
5. **Monitoring and Evaluation** (M & E) includes measuring short-term outputs and outcomes as well as long-term interrelated impacts of multiple actors, multiple programs and multi-sectors. Ideally, the indicators chosen for monitoring and evaluation link to the identified theories of change. Research methods collect data for these indicators based on expected outputs, outcomes, and impacts and levels of sustainability of the peacebuilding effort. Ultimately, a variety of peacebuilding efforts should synchronize and harmonize with each other to impact broader human security indicators.



## POCKET GUIDE TO CONFLICT ASSESSMENT & PEACEBUILDING PLANNING

	Self-Assessment	Conflict Assessment Lenses	Theory of Change	Peacebuilding Planning
<b>WHERE</b>	How well do you understand the local context, language, cultures, religions, etc.? Where will you work?	Where is the conflict taking place - in what cultural, social, economic, justice, and political context or system?	If x parts of the context are at the root of conflict and division or provide a foundation of resilience and connection between people, what will influence these factors?	<b>How will the context interact with your efforts?</b> Given your self-assessment, identify your capacity to impact the elements of the context that drive conflict and your ability to foster institutional and cultural resilience.
<b>WHO</b>	Where are you in the stakeholder map? Where do you have social capital? To which key actors do you relate?	Who are the stakeholders – the people who have a stake or interest in the conflict?	If x individual or group is driving or mitigating conflict, then what action will incentivize them to change?	<b>Who will you work with?</b> Given your self-assessment, decide whom to work with to improve relationships between key stakeholders or support key actors who could play a peacebuilding role between key stakeholders.
<b>WHY</b>	How do stakeholders perceive your motivations?	Why are the stakeholders acting the way they do? What are their motivations?	If x group is motivated to drive or mitigate conflict, what will change or support their motivations?	<b>Why will you work?</b> Given your self-assessment of your motivations and how stakeholders perceive your motivations, identify how these align with the motivations of the key actors. What is your goal?
<b>WHAT</b>	What are you capable of doing to address the key drivers and mitigators of conflict?	What factors are driving or mitigating conflict?	If x power sources are driving and mitigating conflict, what actions will influence these factors?	<b>What will you do?</b> Given your self-assessment, identify which driving and mitigating factors you will address.
<b>HOW</b>	What are your resources, means, or sources of power? How will these shape your efforts?	How is conflict manifested? What are the stakeholders' means and sources of power?	If x power sources are driving conflict, what will influence these sources of power?	<b>How will you shift power sources in support of peace?</b> Given your self-assessment, identify and prioritize your capacities to reduce dividers and to increase local capacities for peace.
<b>WHEN</b>	Do you have an ability to respond quickly to windows of vulnerability or opportunity?	Are historical patterns or cycles of the conflict evident?	If x times are conducive to violence or peace, what will influence these times?	<b>When is the best timing for your peacebuilding efforts?</b> Given historical patterns, identify possible windows of opportunity or vulnerability and potential triggers and trends of future scenarios.