



WHAT

is Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

This Action Guide provides guidance to DanChurchAid (DCA) staff and partners addressing conflict drivers in fragile contexts, and suggest approaches to integrate Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding in programmes. This Guide seeks to convey an overall understanding of the what, why and how DCA works with Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding.

Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding is defined as follows:

In DCA Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding is understood as a broad range of approaches implemented in conflict-affected contexts motivated by a commitment to address the drivers of violence to transform conflict and promote lasting, just and sustainable peace.

Fragile contexts demand varied multi-disciplinary approaches to address often unique and complex challenges which require holistic, flexible, and innovative responses. Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding speaks directly to the peace component of DCA's Triple Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach to Saving Lives, Building Resilient Communities, and Fighting Extreme Inequality.

Key characteristics and link to SDGs:

Examples of initiatives that encompass elements of Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding include:

- Faith-actor engagement in peace platforms
- Dialogue
- Mediation
- Reconciliation
- Social cohesion
- Early warning
- Conflict transformation / management / resolution
- Transformation of violent extremism
- Peace education / peace messaging
- Community safety planning
- Peace committees / groups

Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding is applicable to all SDGs in conflict-affected settings, with an emphasis on SDG 16 and added relevance to SDGs 5, 10, and 13.



WHY

is conflict prevention and peacebuilding important?

Globally, violent conflict is the cause of 80% of all humanitarian needs. Clearly, the reasons why conflicts erupt are multiple and complex, often with far-reaching consequences. Understanding why a conflict occurs and how to respond is therefore critical for any intervention. Operating in complex settings demands a thorough understanding of the context to inform local responses that embrace immediate humanitarian action together with practices that also include longer-term aspirations for development and durable peacebuilding. The theory behind this approach posits that if the drivers of conflict are addressed as part of a holistic triple humanitarian-development-peace nexus response, then communities are more likely to strengthen their capacities to prevent conflict and build peace locally.

DCA and partners engage in Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding by:

- Absorbing short-term action into a longer-term vision of fulfilling community aspirations and locally validated needs.
- Including DCA's Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach to Saving Lives, Building Resilient Communities and Fighting Extreme Inequality.

Link to DCA strategy and policies

- As described in the International Strategy 2019-2022, DCA operates in a complex, fragile and ever-changing world where armed conflicts, violent confrontations, climate related disasters, poverty and extreme inequality continue to cause human suffering (p.5). DCA recognises violent conflict as both a challenge and a key area of work (p.17, p.19).
- The Strategy outlines DCA, as a multi-mandated organisation with a long track record of working across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, it is well-equipped and fit for spanning systems and breaking down silos; DCA can engage in multi-stakeholder platforms and work with partners and communities in both local, national and global arenas to alleviate humanitarian needs and create and long-term sustainable development, and sustainable peace (p.7).

- Further recognised in the strategy is the value of initiatives to engage with relevant stakeholders on conflict resolution, mediation, and inclusive dialogue primarily at community level (p.20).
- Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding is linked to several global initiatives involving donors, organisations, institutions, and communities. This includes the SDGs, specifically SDG 16 with its emphasis on peace. This is in addition to the OECD DAC's priority on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. As well as the role of peace in the Grand Bargain, the UN Development System Reform, Charter 4 Change, Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement of Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes, UNSCR 1325 & 2250, Pathways for Peace initiative, UNDPs Multi-faith Advisory Committee, and The NGO Working Group on the United Nations Security Council. Not to mention Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding increasingly included in wider international policy discussions on climate change, state fragility, governance, forced displacement, transforming violent extremism, and migration.

HOW

DCA works on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

The common thread to all DCA's Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding work is to promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies. DCA's added emphasis is on people as central drivers of change able to address violence through initiatives that strengthen active **P**articipation, cultivate **A**ccountability, encourage **N**on-discrimination (inclusive of gender, age, & diversity), support community **E**mpowerment, and **L**inking to Human Rights frameworks (PANEL). Such a broad all-encompassing approach allows for flexible responses centred on people and context.

To integrate Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding in DCA activities, you may wish to consider the following:

- Take a Conflict Sensitive/Do No Harm approach to programming. The possibility of substantial harm increases when interventions fail to identify and address the detrimental effects of otherwise well-intended actions. Especially in settings affected by violent conflict, where the provision of assistance is rarely (if ever) perceived as neutral.
- Contemplate a Conflict Sensitive/Do No Harm assessment as a first step (see Action Guide on Conflict Sensitivity) to inform implementation by 1) analysing the context (identify drivers of peace and conflict), 2) analysing the two-way interaction between the context and proposed activities, and 3) adjusting activities to avert harmful outcomes and reinforce opportunities that support peace.
- Actively include women and youth in all initiatives. Consider gender, age and diversity inclusion in all programming, as well as other self-identified social groupings (e.g. cultural, ethnic, religious, communal).
- Factor in responses to multiple forms of violence such as direct *physical violence* (e.g. war, ecological destruction, murder, rape, and assault); *structural violence* (e.g. discrimination, injustice, exclusion); and *cultures of violence* that normalise physical and structural violence in society through cultural channels (e.g. language, ideology, art, music, law, science, social media, press, TV & radio).
- Promote 'silo-free' responses, informed by the context and defined by the agency of people in crises. Contemplate responses that absorb short-term action into a longer-term vision of fulfilling community aspirations and addressing locally validated needs.
- Ensure M&E systems are sufficiently resourced to analyse progress, investigate evidence of change, and to learn more about what works and what does not.

Should you require additional technical assistance on Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding, support is available in the following areas:

- Conflict Sensitivity support (e.g. assessments, training, ToRs).

- Technical input on donor proposals and reports that include Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding.
- Quality assurance on initiatives that include a Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding dimension.
- Advice on programme design and implementation for initiatives that include Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding.
- Guidance and feedback on implementing Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding initiatives.

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Contact HRMA advisor, **Sunra Lambert-Baj**, at sulb@dca.dk for more information on any of the issues relating to conflict prevention and peace building

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Resources:

Should you want to learn more about Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding, please check out the resources below:

DCA FABO site Gender and GBV in CVA – Essential tools for developing gender-sensitive and gender-responsive programmes. See <https://fabo.org/course/CashGBV>.

Network for Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding (Denmark). Conflict Analysis Guidelines. See <http://www.globaltfokus.dk/om-os/organisationen/arbejdsgrupper/netvaerk-for-konfliktforebyggelse-og-fred>.

Introduction to Conflict Sensitivity FABO. See <http://www.fabo.org/course/conflictsensitivity>

Simon Fisher et al. Working with Conflict. See https://books.google.dk/books/about/Working_With_Conflict.html?id=YCPEoKBIS54C&redir_esc=y and <https://www.amazon.com/Working-Conflict-Skills-Strategies-Action/dp/1856498379>.

Saferworld, International Alert et al. How to Guide to Conflict Sensitivity. See <https://www.international-alert.org/publications/how-guide-conflict-sensitivity>.

UN System Staff College. Conflict Sensitivity Course. See <http://portals.unssc.org/enrol/index.php?id=16>

Saferworld. Gender Analysis of Conflict Toolkit. See <https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/1076-gender-analysis-of-conflict>.

Saferworld. Gender and Community Safety. See <https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/1072-gender-and-community-security>.

Saferworld. Community Safety Handbook. See <https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/806-community-security-handbook>

Saferworld. Transforming Conflict and Building Peace. See <https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/797-training-of-trainers-manual-transforming-conflict-and-building-peace>

Fionnuala Ni Aolain et al. The Oxford Handbook of Gender and Conflict. See <https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/797-training-of-trainers-manual-transforming-conflict-and-building-peace>.

CARE/CDA. Monitoring & Evaluating Conflict Sensitivity- methodological challenges & practical solutions. See https://insights.careinternational.org.uk/media/k2/attachments/Monitoring_and_evaluating_conflict_sensitivity_challenges_and_solutions_vfinal.pdf.

USIP. Tools for Creative Peacebuilding. See https://www.usipglobalcampus.org/wp-login.php?action=login&redirect_to=/training-overview/tools-for-creative-peacebuilding/

Berghof Foundation. Dialogue Tools. See <https://berghof-foundation.org> and <https://berghof-foundation.org/library/national-dialogue-handbook>

Berghof Foundation. Conflict Transformation Tools. See <https://berghof-foundation.org/library/berghof-handbook-for-conflict-transformation>

Berghof Foundation. Transformation of Violent Extremism. See <https://berghof-foundation.org>

Search for Common Ground. Prevention of Violent Extremism. See <https://www.sfcg.org/transforming-violent-extremism-peacebuilders-guide/>

Search for Common Ground. Social Cohesion Tools. See <https://www.sfcg.org/social-cohesion-stronger-communities/>

UNDP. Community Safety and Social Cohesion. See <https://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/en/home/library/recovery-and-peacebuilding/community-mobilization-guidebook.html>

AFD. Defining Social Cohesion. See <https://www.afd.fr/en/ressources/defining-social-cohesion>