

COMPONENT BRIEF: INCREASING CONFLICT SENSITIVITY OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

OBJECTIVE

Contribute to conflict sensitive design and implementation of the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) programmes in Nigeria.

OUR APPROACH

We have developed links with a number of international programmes aiming to achieve poverty and violent conflict reduction results in conflict-affected regions of Nigeria. These include DFID programmes, as well as programmes of other international development partners, agencies and NGOs.

Our approach to working with DFID and other international development partners varies depending on the partner, the sector of work the partners are focused on and the context of the geographic area where the partner is implementing programming. NSRP focuses on providing direct, tailor-made, collaborative technical assistance to international development actors such as DFID. We build capacity for both conflict and context analysis to DFID-funded programmes, serve as a resource for DFID and other interested donors and development partners on conflict sensitivity, and provide training on a number of topics such as conflict sensitivity and peace building. Through this approach, we seek to strengthen the conflict sensitivity of multiple sectors of donor-funded programmes in Nigeria.

WHO WE WORK WITH

We support several DFID-funded programmes across three main sectors: human development, governance and economic growth.

- Mobilising for Development Programme (M4D)
- Propcom Maikarfi (PROPCOM)
- Growth and Employment in States (GEMS-3)
- Nigeria Infrastructure Advisory Facility (NIAF)
- Educational Sector Support Programme in Nigeria (ESSPIN)
- State Accountability and Voice Initiative (SAVI)



Conflict sensitivity – what is it?

Conflict sensitivity is an analytical lens that enables an agency (whether national government, development partner, NGO or private sector) to take steps to:

- Understand the context in which it operates – especially conflict dynamics
- Understand the interaction between its own intervention and the context
- Act to avoid negative impacts (often referred to as 'do no harm') and maximise positive impacts, with regard to conflict

Source: International Alert, Saferworld et. al. (2004)
Conflict-sensitive Approaches to Development,
Humanitarian Assistance and Peace Building

OUR WORK

We take a two-pronged approach to supporting DFID through technical assistance; one designed to build DFID Nigeria (DFID-N) staff capacity and the other designed to build capacity of selected DFID-funded programmes in Nigeria.

Brown bag sessions with DFID-N staff: In order to build capacity of DFID staff on the merits of adopting a conflict-sensitive approach to programme design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation, we host a number of brown bag sessions. During these sessions, we discuss cases from other fragile and conflict-affected contexts where programmes have adopted conflict-sensitive approaches to activity implementation, and host question-and-answer sessions to assure that the applicable lessons from other contexts are deduced.

Collaboration DFID-funded programmes: In order to deliver tailor-made technical support, we collaborate with selected DFID-funded programmes operating in Nigeria. Partner programmes are those that work in areas affected by violence and whose activities are likely to impact on the conflict context.

Technical Support: NSRP provides technical support to DFID-funded programmes through conflict and context analysis, conducting conflict sensitive organizational assessments throughout the entire project cycle, and providing a number of trainings such as conflict sensitivity training, training on facilitation skills for multi-stakeholder dialogue, effective communication skills training, negotiation and mediation trainings.

FIND OUT MORE

Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme
www.nsrp-nigeria.org

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Being conflict sensitive includes asking the following sorts of questions:

- Could the programme be fuelling competition and tension within communities and creating perceptions of favouring or being linked to one ethnic or religious group as a result of how it distributes opportunities linked to the programme?
- Could it be endangering beneficiaries and partners where they are seen to be linked to a 'Western' agenda; or where a stronger voice in attempting to hold authorities accountable resulting from interventions provokes repressive responses and tension?
- Could activities be co-opted by powerful actors or factions to further their own agendas?
- Could perceptions and prejudices among the programme's own staff influence priorities and actions in a way that reinforces conflict dynamics?
- Could the need to ensure security of staff and partners inadvertently reinforce state security providers' legitimacy and actions even in locations where these are themselves aggravating conflict – for example, where the programme is required to rely on military escorts in a conflict zone?

CASE STUDY

Briefing on conflict sensitivity for DFID national programme managers

In 2013, NSRP provided a briefing on conflict sensitivity during the DFID-organised national programme managers' meeting in Abuja. During this session, a presentation illustrating the background of conflict sensitivity was presented to over 20 programme managers of DFID-funded programmes. As a result of this session, several programmes expressed interest in receiving technical assistance from NSRP on conflict sensitivity.

If your organisation is interested in learning more about conflict sensitivity or requires assistance in making policies and programmes more conflict sensitive, please contact us.

