

The Health and Peacebuilding Filter

An assessment tool to determine how health projects or programs may contribute to peacebuilding in conflict-affected countries

INDIVIDUAL version

Health and Peace

In recent years, international research and field work has explored the links between conflict, peace and development. The research indicates that humanitarian interventions and development assistance programs can assist in alleviating tensions and thus contribute to peacebuilding. On the other hand, if poorly planned and undertaken, these efforts may also contribute to exacerbating tensions in conflict-affected societies. Various sectors, such as health, have begun to examine how their own practices may affect both the conflict and the potential for peace.

Health professionals have an important role to play in protecting life and alleviating suffering in complex emergencies or in fragile situations. Two key issues for the health sector are:

1. How do we ensure that health programs 'do no harm' and that they do not reinforce inequality and contribute to community division?
2. What are the avenues and the limits to health activities acting as a 'bridge to peace'?

Facilitating an exchange of experiences between those working on health and those working on peacebuilding will be of value.

Contact details

For more information regarding this Filter and its application, please contact the UNSW Health and Conflict Project at healthandconflict@unsw.edu.au or the following website: <http://www.sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/SPHCMWeb.nsf/page/AUSCAN>

The *Health and Peacebuilding Filter* is designed to provide rapid assessment of peacebuilding and conflict prevention components of health initiatives in conflict-affected societies.

This *Individual* version of the Filter can be applied to existing health projects or programs to guide revisions or modifications to enhance conflict sensitivity and the health-related contributions to peacebuilding. The Filter is not prescriptive, rather, it can feed into an analysis of a project or program by:

- identifying project areas already applying peacebuilding principles
- drawing attention to where health-related activities might make matters worse
- suggesting further actions and resources

The Filter concepts are relevant and can be used in a variety of ways during the project cycle. We encourage users to adapt it for use in design, planning, monitoring and evaluation.

A separate *Group* version of this tool may be used for group consensus building or as a design tool.

Understanding the Format

The Filter is divided into five colour-coded sections that reflect core principles underlying a peacebuilding approach to health:

Peacebuilding Principles:	
Section 1	Cultural Sensitivity
Section 2	Conflict Sensitivity
Section 3	Social Justice
Section 4	Social Cohesion
Section 5	Good Governance

These five core peacebuilding principles were derived through literature reviews, key informant interviews, conference workshops, focus group sessions, and in-country piloting of the Filter. While individually, each principle is important towards fulfilling a peacebuilding objective, it is their collective integration into a project or program that will provide an environment more conducive to peacebuilding. Together they reflect good development practice, especially important in fragile settings.

Each section includes a list of indicators to consider when developing, implementing or reviewing health initiatives in conflict-affected settings. They are qualitative and are not meant to be rigidly measured.

Instructions for Using the Filter

Completing the Filter

After reading the indicator item, decide whether you 'Agree' (A) or 'Disagree' (D) with the statement. If you feel strongly about agreeing or disagreeing, then circle the 'Strongly Agree' (SA) or 'Strongly Disagree' (SD) box. In some cases, you may have examples in different parts of the project or at different times of both agreeing and disagreeing; in this case circle the box which says 'Both Agree & Disagree' (B). For some indicators, you may not know enough about a project or how it is operating to select an answer. In this case circle 'Don't Know' (DK). [If the indicator statement does not apply to your project, circle 'Not Applicable' (NA).]

The Companion Manual provides details of the underlying concepts, more information on individual items in the Filter, and suggestions on how these may apply to your health project's design or operation. You might find it useful to have the Companion Manual open at the relevant section while completing the Filter. It will prompt you to think about the issues raised. It also provides field examples and further reading which you can follow up. Using both the Filter and Companion Manual together, it is estimated to take around one hour to complete. An example of a worked section of the Filter is presented below.

Response: The desk officer or project manager disagrees with the statement, and realises a potential project weakness in coordinating with external groups.

Comments: Briefly describe the activities in the project that relate to this item; these may be strengths or weaknesses. Use this column to note any reflections or further questions that emerge around this issue. The comments section *must* be completed when 'D' or 'SD' is selected so as to 'do no harm.'

SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; B = Both Agree & Disagree; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree; DK = Don't Know; NA = Not Applicable

Principle	Indicator	Response							Comments
Good Governance	9.1 The project includes mechanisms to coordinate with other groups in the community.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No links established with women's groups No formal mechanisms for working with local health volunteers Have begun developing relationships with health clinic and hospital staff

Using the Action Plan

The Action Plan section offers space to think about how to take forward information uncovered from completing the Filter. Completing the Action Plan should draw on information supplied by the Filter, but should not be viewed as a fixed formula for developing one. The Filter should highlight project strengths and opportunities, such as where there are many 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' responses. It may also flag risk areas where the project may be reinforcing divisions or grievances that feed into conflict or disputes, such as where lots of 'Disagree' responses appear. In this situation, action may be required to avoid harm being done and improve project practice. Where there are lots of 'Don't Know', the main action point may be to get more information.

The Companion Manual has further ideas, resources and readings which may assist you in developing an Action Plan. The second half of the Companion Manual lists some useful ideas and further resources to work with. The following is a continuation of the worked example above for using the Action Plan:

Principle	Indicator	Project Response
Good Governance	9. Community capacity-building & empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange meeting with women's organisation Find out about local consortium of NGOs, how to join, what other health orgs are involved Talk with clinic staff about the health volunteer activities, who coordinates, whom to contact

Health and Peacebuilding Filter

Health and Peacebuilding Filter

SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; B = Both Agree & Disagree; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree; DK = Don't Know; NA = Not Applicable

Principle	Indicator	Responses							Comments
Cultural Sensitivity	1. Cultural sensitivity								
	1.1 The project promotes sensitivity to local cultures and to their differing approaches to health, wellbeing, illness, and death.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	1.2 The project recognises the specific contributions to health that can be made by local and traditional practices and those of conventional medical and primary health care.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	1.3 The project demonstrates knowledge and respect of cultural rituals and practices through how it organises its programs and activities.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
Conflict Sensitivity	2. Conflict awareness & responsiveness								
	2.1 The project provides training to assist staff to deal with issues related to the armed conflict.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	2.2 The project is sensitive to the nature of previous and ongoing conflict as demonstrated in its own approaches to engaging with the community.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	2.3 The project models non-violent resolution of local disputes.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	2.4 The project incorporates positive elements of local cultural beliefs in relation to violence and conflict resolution.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	3. Trust								
	3.1 The project is sensitive to health-related issues that have contributed to mistrust in this community.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
3.2 The project has processes in place which will help it gain the trust of different communities, NGOs and government agencies with which it works.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA		
3.3 The project promotes the building of trust among staff, individuals and community groups.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA		

SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; B = Both Agree & Disagree; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree; DK = Don't Know; NA = Not Applicable

Principle	Indicator	Responses							Comments	
Social Justice	4. Equity and non-discrimination									
	4.1	The project seeks to promote tolerance and reduce discrimination.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	4.2	The project contributes to addressing inequalities within the community.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	4.3	The project makes effective provisions for inclusion of specific vulnerable groups.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	4.4	The project ensures that access is not limited by economic or other barriers.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	5. Gender									
	5.1	The project demonstrates sensitivity to gender issues in its design and implementation.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	5.2	The project conducts gender sensitivity training with its staff.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
Social Cohesion	6. Community cohesion									
	6.1	The project takes into account changes in community structures which have arisen during, or as a result of, the armed conflict.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	6.2	The project contributes to bridging the divide between different groups in the community.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	6.3	The project supports and reinforces community reconciliation efforts.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	7. Psychosocial well-being									
	7.1	The project is sensitive to key factors which affect the community's psychosocial health and well-being.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
7.2	The project is supportive of social recovery for individuals, families and communities.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA		

SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; B = Both Agree & Disagree; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree; DK = Don't Know; NA = Not Applicable

Principle	Indicator	Responses							Comments	
Good Governance	8. Community capacity-building and empowerment									
	8.1	The project has established mechanisms for genuine community participation in all phases, including monitoring and evaluation.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	8.2	There is local ownership of the project.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	8.3	The project provides for the development of leadership and advocacy skills among staff and community members.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	9. Sustainability and coordination									
	9.1	The project includes mechanisms to coordinate with other groups in the community.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	9.2	The project participates actively in building networks with local groups, local and international NGOs, and donor organisations.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	9.3	Plans for long-term sustainability of project activities have been developed.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	10. Transparency and accountability									
	10.1	The project encourages transparency and accountability of decision-making to local communities.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	10.2	The project strengthens the ability of community members to elicit greater accountability from central health service providers and government departments.	SA	A	B	D	SD	DK	NA	
	Other Issues	Note here any other important health, peace and conflict issues associated with this project:								


Health and Peacebuilding Action Plan

After completing the full Filter, you can begin to create an Action Plan for the project here. Please note that the information supplied in the earlier parts of the Filter should be used as a contribution to the Action Plan, not as a fixed formula for developing one. When responding, think about the following questions:

- What must the project do better? How can this be done? Who will do it?
- What is the project doing really well? How can this be extended?
- By when should these things be done?

Health and Peacebuilding Action Plan		
Principle	Indicator	Project Responses
Cultural Sensitivity	1. Cultural sensitivity	
Conflict Sensitivity	2. Conflict awareness & responsiveness	
	3. Trust	
Social Justice	4. Equity & non-discrimination	
	5. Gender	

Principle	Indicator	Project Responses
Social Cohesion	6. Community cohesion	
	7. Psychosocial well-being	
Good Governance	8. Community capacity-building & empowerment	
	9. Sustainability & coordination	
	10. Transparency & accountability	
Other		



The research has been funded by AusAID. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Commonwealth of Australia. The Commonwealth of Australia accepts no responsibility for any loss, damage or injury resulting from reliance on any of the information or views contained in this publication.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2006

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced by any process without prior written permission from the Commonwealth available from the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to the Commonwealth Copyright Administration, Intellectual Property Branch, Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, GPO Box 2154, Canberra ACT 2601 or posted at <http://www.dcita.gov.au>