

## CONFLICT SENSITIVITY – PSF GUIDANCE

The PSF is committed to embedding Conflict Sensitivity in all our funded projects. It is imperative that all initiatives minimise negative impact and maximise positive impact on the prospects for building social cohesion Myanmar. As such, all initiatives should have a conflict sensitive approach from start to finish.

Conflict Sensitivity is the ability of an organization to:

- 1) understand the context it operates in,
- 2) understand the interaction between its intervention and that context, and
- 3) act upon this understanding in order to minimise negative impacts and maximise positive impacts on conflict.

In your proposal, we would like you to show:

- 1) How you understand the context; on the local, regional and/or national level as appropriate for the project. Please note that we encourage all partners to share their understanding of the conflict with others to help better our shared understanding.
- 2) How you see the project interacting with the context; on the local, regional and/or national level as appropriate for the project.
- 3) How the project is designed to act upon its awareness of the context in order to minimise negative impacts and maximise positive impacts on conflict.
- 4) How the project is designed to be flexible and agile in responding to Myanmar's dynamic and evolving context throughout the project, from start to finish.

### Approach to Conflict Sensitivity

The 'Do No Harm' (DNH) principle is one of the primary approaches to implement conflict sensitivity in your programme planning and implementation. DNH can be used to anticipate, adapt, and respond to changes in a dynamic context.

### Steps to Applying Conflict Sensitivity

- 1) Review the context, aiming to understand different perspectives on the conflict
- 2) Identify the key dividers and connectors in the context
- 3) Map critical details of the project with conflict sensitivity in mind, such as: project design and approach, resource transfers, staffing, activities, location, timing, objectives, beneficiaries, partners and engagement with authorities.
- 4) Reflect on the behaviour of staff (especially regarding respect, accountability, fairness and transparency) and its impact on conflict dynamics.
- 5) Plan to be a conflict sensitive project throughout the project cycle, and within your own organisations (such as in HR, finance and procurement).

To apply a conflict sensitive approach, the below are three primary DNH tools:

#### Dividers and Connectors Analysis (DCA)

Dividers are issues, factors, and elements in societies which divide people from each other and serve

as sources of tension. Connectors are issues, factors, and elements which connect people and can serve as local capacities for peace. Dividers are Connectors are not individual people.

All interventions interact with both Dividers and Connectors, either making them worse or making them better. Some key questions for you to consider when identifying Dividers and Connectors are as follows:

- 1) What factors in this situation divide people or create social fragmentation?
- 2) What factors in this situation connect people or support social cohesion?
- 3) What are the current threats to social cohesion?
- 4) What can cause tension to rise in this situation?
- 5) What are the current supports to social cohesion?
- 6) What brings people together?

### **Critical Detail Mapping (CDM)**

CDM is used to analyse the design, approaches and activities of a project.

Six Critical Details

- 1) Targeting - Who are the recipients of support? How did we select them? Why?
- 2) Resources - What are the specific resources we are bringing in and why?
- 3) Staffing- Who are our staff? Why did we choose these specific people?
- 4) Partnering – Who do we work with and why? How did we select them?
- 5) Working with authorities - How do we interact and engage with local authorities? Why?
- 6) How - How do we design and implement the intervention? Why this approach?

In addition to these critical details, it is also important to reflect on the impact that the behaviour of staff, partners and volunteers have on the dividers and connectors in the context. Key considerations include:

- Respect: is your behaviour sending messages that local communities and stakeholders are being respected?
- Accountability: is your behaviour sending messages that staff, partners and volunteers are taking responsibility for their actions and listening to the concerns of local communities and stakeholders?
- Fairness: are you acting in a way that local communities and stakeholders experience as fair and just?
- Transparency: are you taking steps to ensure that information about your intervention is accessible, understandable and part of a two-way dialogue with communities and stakeholders?

For more resources and guidance please see: [https://raftmyanmar.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/DNH-Mainstreaming-Guide\\_ENG.pdf](https://raftmyanmar.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/DNH-Mainstreaming-Guide_ENG.pdf)

### **Contact**

The PSF team can be contacted for support in understanding and applying conflict sensitivity. Just contact one of the PSF Programme Officers.