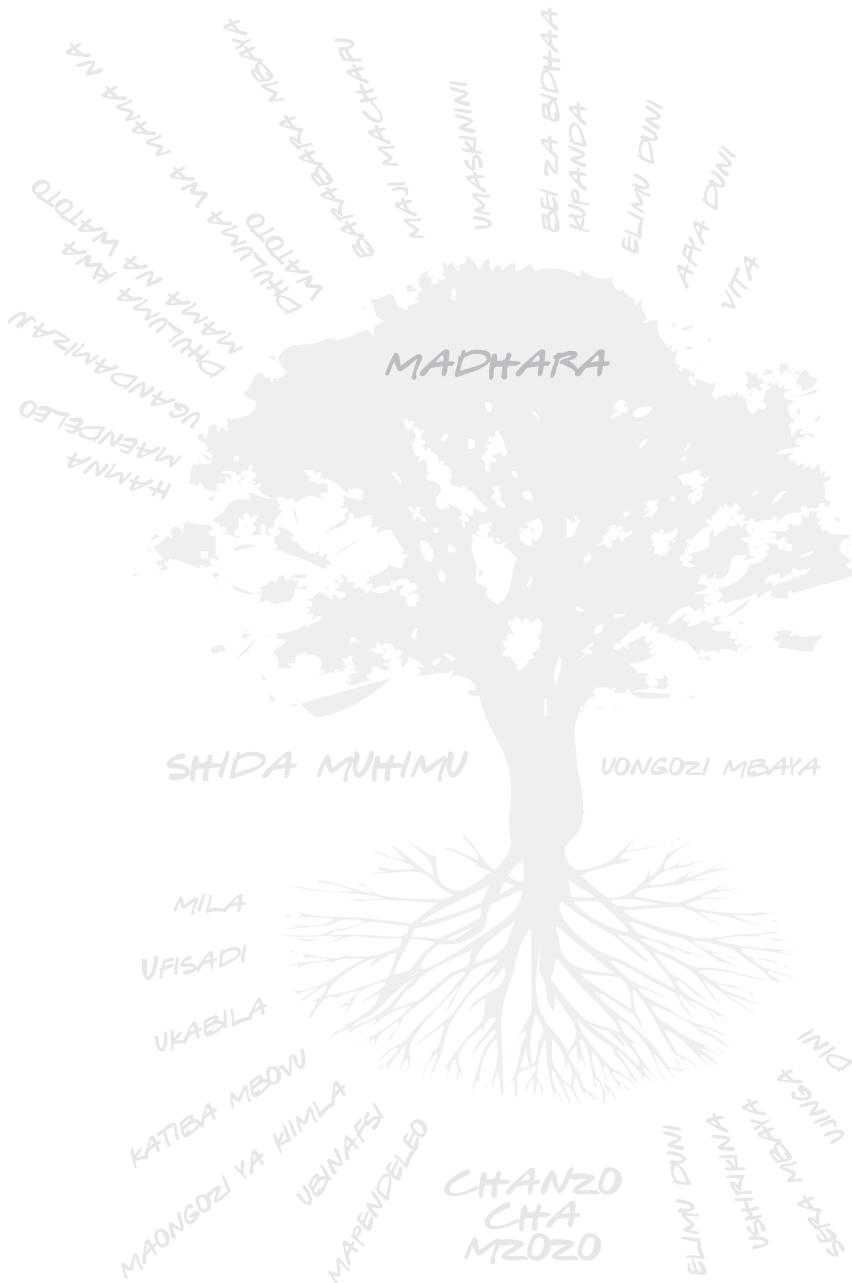


Kenya Conflict Analysis **SUMMARY REPORT**

Embracing the Practice of Conflict Sensitive Approaches

*An analysis of the
Kenyan context*



Conflict Sensitivity Consortium



“Conflict sensitivity is a deliberate and systematic practice that ensures that our processes and actions minimize negative and maximize positive effects within a given context, based on the awareness about the interaction between the said processes and actions and the particular context”

Conflict sensitivity is about deeply understanding a context and being intimately aware of the impact of interventions in an area as well as the implicit messages communicated to beneficiaries in the process of implementation.

Conflict Sensitivity Project- Concept to Impact

The practice of Conflict Sensitivity –Concept to Impact project is intended to strengthen the practice of the conflict sensitivity throughout and beyond a broad spectrum of humanitarian, peace-building and multimandated organization. The Conflict Consortium comprises of eight NGO's in Kenya and work in six thematic areas to deliver its work: To improve policies and practices that support conflict sensitive approaches, across broad network of organizations; effecting changes

at both organizational and programmatic levels, focus on learning strategy, advocacy and outreach and field test pilot for generating conflict sensitive messages.

Conflict Analysis as Central Theme to the Practice of Conflict Sensitivity

Conflict analysis is the core focal point in the practice of conflict sensitive and without good and deeper understanding of the context where interventions are situated; organizations that support partners, work with the governments or directly implement programs may unintentionally help to fuel conflict or to exacerbate existing tensions.

Conflict analysis helps organizations towards a better understanding of the area in which they work.

This particular conflict analysis –‘Embracing the Practice of Conflict Sensitive: An analysis of the Kenyan context’ was borne out of a series of processes undergone by the Kenya Conflict Sensitivity Consortium in its implementation of the DFID funded “Practice of Conflict Sensitivity Project”:

***Members from pokot in Tangulbei
discusses Conflict issues***



The objective of the study was to develop an overview of the context and current conflict trends, analyse the key stakeholders, map out conflict related risks and Conflict sensitive opportunities.

Key standard themes harnessed during the study include; analysis of structural causes of conflict, actor analysis, a brief on conflict dynamics, scenario analysis and finally recommendatory statements based on findings of the research.

Implications for Consortium Members, Other Civil Society Groups, Partners and Government

There are a number of contextual realities that define and constitute the key driving factors of Kenya's conflicts, as pointed out in the conflict analysis report:

- Identity consciousness and politics
- Resource scarcity and competition for it
- Governance issues and clamour for better governance
- Illicit small arms flows and possession
- Organised gangs, warriors and militias

Identity Consciousness and Politics

Manipulation of ethnic and clan identities by elites to mobilize groups around political (and sometimes violent) objectives, this becomes a major conflict driver

Resource Scarcity and Competition

Issues of leadership wrangles, political positions, economic resources, land, and pasture are valued ends from which groups compete. This competition comes with its own variances based on the contexts. Resource scarcity becomes a root cause of conflict where groups pursue zero-sum approaches to resource use and management

Governance Issues

Issues to do with struggle for boundaries and their control (in this case clamour for ethnicised administrative units and ethnocentric administrative boundaries and/or constituencies) plays a clear role as conflict driver. Some administrative units

legitimise ethnic ideology and the exclusivity (in resource use and control) that comes with it.

Illicit Small Arms Flows and Possession

Small arms and light weapons (SALW) are a major indicator of the potentiality for armed conflict (especially in arid and semi arid areas). A subsequent communal arms race only accelerates the ascent to violence. In this case SALW are conflict drivers.

Organised Gangs, Warriors and Militias

The youth are a major resource for peace or conflict. Their organisation and conscription into organised gangs, warriors and/or militias institutionalises and sustains the culture of violence at the communal level both in urban and rural areas.

The conflict drivers highlighted above has been a major challenge the consortium members and their partners have been grappled with during implementation of their programs. Addressing one in unintended manner always lead to organization creating ripples and tension in where they work

It is also necessary to point out that most of the conflicts analysed are inter-connected with others in a neighbouring district and/or province (or even country, in the case of northern Kenya). This is a cautionary note – that in analysing conflicts, the temptation to isolate them into issues independent of other related dynamics in the envioning areas can yield misleading or half baked findings.

Key Conflict Sensitive Issues Observed During the Analysis Field Work

In line with conflict sensitive practices and in relation to the findings, a number of helpful observations can be made and conflict sensitive questions asked about what the conflict analysis says Consortium's need to engage to make our work conflict sensitive:

- i. Interventions will most likely be interpreted through the ethnic/clan lens. Communities may ask questions like:
- ii. Organisational staffing is laden with unwitting messages. Communities keenly judge

- organisational staff asking questions like:
- iii. There is a dilemma relating to whether agency interventions perpetuate marginalisation:
 - iv. Organisational mandates versus community needs:
 - v. How sensitive are we when communicating organisational policy to the community?

- vi. How do we desist from using the same ethnic/ clan lenses that communities use in viewing each other?
- vii. How area focused are we? Should we consider broader approaches where needed?

Report recommendation

- Integrate findings of the study into member agencies' context analyses of their respective areas of focus
- Develop specific strategies for minimizing agencies' (inadvertent) contributions to conflict in their areas of focus. For instance, there may be need to review organisational communication, human resource, and partnership policies (and so on), in order to minimise the potential for misunderstandings with partners and beneficiaries or to eliminate the possibility of being branded as too ethnic (and so on)
- Assess the feasibility of, and eventually develop an intra-Consortium strategy of cooperation to achieve several aims:
 - › Redress the problem of the marginalised of the marginalised as discussed earlier
 - › Maximise on each agencies' area of strength
 - › Harmonise policies that may be sources of negative impacts on the ground (e.g. per diems, etc)
- Develop educational materials on the place of conflict analysis in conflict sensitivity (and related information)
- Engage relevant government actors on the need for a broad but systematic application of conflict sensitivity
- Strengthen and widen capacity building initiatives (on conflict sensitivity) to include partners and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. government and inter-governmental actors). Such initiatives should also target local peace



structures, such as District Peace Committees and Cross-Border Peace and Reconciliation Committees.

To the Government

- Through the National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management (NSC), integrate conflict sensitivity in to the National Policy on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management
- Through relevant commissions and offices (e.g. TJRC, National Commission on Integration, NSC etc), implement a broad but systematic conflict sensitive practice
- Strengthen local peace structures, such as District Peace Committees and Cross-Border Peace and Reconciliation Committees and make them as locally owned and driven as possible.