

Guidance for Inclusion of Conflict Sensitivity in Evaluation SOWs

SOW SECTION	CONSIDERATIONS FOR CONFLICT SENSITIVITY
Purpose of the Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the evaluation is of a sectoral program operating in a conflict context, should the purpose of the evaluation include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ information about the relational aspects of the activity and the context? ○ lessons learned from programming in this setting? Lessons learned can inform future programs and decisions of USAID leadership, partner governments, and/or other key stakeholders
Background: Description of the Problem and Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a summary of the conflict context and any conflict sensitivity considerations that were part of the project/activity design. For example, describe the possible impact of the conflict context on the larger development context. • Describe changes in the conflict context since the original design. • Consider which factors in the conflict context (original assumptions) that might have affected the strategy/project/activity did or did not hold true.
Background: Description of the Intervention to be evaluated and Theory of Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a summary of any substantive changes (modifications) in the evaluated strategy/project/activity related to the conflict context and when they were effective. Include an explanation of why these changes were made, especially if related to conflict sensitivity concerns. • Describe how the project/activity was intended to be conflict sensitive in terms of the TOC, expected results and processes.
Background: Summary of the Project/Activity MEL Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include any documents that shed light on MEL conflict sensitivity, regardless of whether conflict sensitivity and indicators for conflict sensitivity were considered/included in the original design. For example, what plans were made to monitor the conflict context?
Evaluation Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider including at least one question, or sub-question, evaluating the conflict sensitivity of the project/activity, including both outcomes and process. This will help build data and evidence for the utility of CS. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The interaction between the conflict context and the project/activity; • The relationship between conflict dynamics and identities, and how this relationship affected outcomes for different identity groups; • Whether the implementing partner established local mechanisms to ensure conflict sensitivity and whether this was effective for all identified groups. • Impact Evaluation SOWs should specify the sub-groups to be included in the analysis of potential differential effects on key identity groups. • Include instructions for disaggregating data by relevant key identity groups in the conflict context. • Specify where an examination of gender dynamics is expected. Where appropriate, the evaluation questions can include a separate question aimed at evaluating the identity-specific effects of the activity or project and how these effects are related to the conflict. <p style="margin-top: 10px;"><i>If you want the evaluators to provide recommendations, describe what aspects of the program, project, or activity recommendations should address. This includes</i></p>

	<p><i>recommendations for improving the conflict sensitivity of current or future programming.</i></p>
<p>Evaluation Design and Methodology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If an impact evaluation is desired, will this be feasible in the conflict context? Consider conducting an evaluability assessment to determine what type of evaluation is feasible. Alternatively, allow the evaluators to provide the optimum design with a detailed explanation. • Any known limitations that the conflict context might have on the data to be collected, including limits on where and when data can be collected. • Include expectations for the specification of research sub-questions regarding the interaction of conflict dynamics/context and the activity • Include expectations that evaluation data be collected and analyzed with attention to different identity groups, and how gender intersects with other identities. • Request that all aspects of the design be discussed with regard to conflict sensitivity; these will include such aspects as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection methods—timing, enumerator recruitment, enumerator training, recruitment of respondents, instrument design, informed consent, locations, AV recording, etc. • Data quality assurance processes • Data storage and transmission, including protection of PII • Request that the offeror account for ethical considerations related to conflict sensitivity, such as protocols for ensuring respondents are not harmed (especially if there are sensitive questions involved, respondents who fear for their safety, etc.), collection and safety of private data, how evaluators should represent themselves (to protect respondents and themselves) • What role, if any, will beneficiaries/local communities have in the design and conduct of the evaluation?
<p>Deliverables and Reporting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider what information will be shared with beneficiaries/local communities. How might this information best be shared (e.g. summary report, presentation, etc.)?
<p>Evaluation Team Composition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider matching the team composition to the key identity groups in the conflict context, including gender considerations. • Consider how to ensure equal access to positions and/or solicitations. • Consider the language needs and preferences of local groups. Does choice of language signal any bias? • Identify the amount of conflict expertise needed on the team. • Ensure that the local consultants can provide the needed cultural lenses. All team members need to be trusted counterparts. Consider what background and professional characteristics will increase the perception of the evaluators' legitimacy and impartiality by respondents from each key identity group, especially for the local evaluators selected for the team (political, familial, tribal biases, etc.). • Consider who can travel to the locations selected. Will everyone on the team have access? How might this affect the quality of data collected? • How might splitting up the team into two sub-teams, as per usual practice, affect the safety of the evaluators? The ability to collect data, or the quality of data collected?

Evaluation Schedule

- Consider the conflict context when determining how long it will take to collect data and when to collect it. For example,
- if all focus groups need to be disaggregated by identity group, this will take longer than when mixed focused groups are possible.
- it might take longer in conflict-affected environments to get permission to visit communities, set up interviews, focus groups, etc.
- Consider the timing for data collection and whether there are dates or events planned that might affect the evaluation. For example, are there elections planned or seasonal weather events that might put the evaluation and respondents at risk or skew results?