

CONFLICT SENSITIVE APPROACHES TO DEVELOPMENT

Transforming Conflict for Development Towards Sustainable Peace

This training module is one of four prepared on developing skills for conflict management in sub-Saharan Africa. The modules are intended to enhance Governments' capacities to anticipate and respond to conflicts and crises by formulating policies and strategies for the early mitigation and on-going management of conflicts before they become violent.

WORKSHOP THEME

Conflict-sensitive approaches to development can help manage the complexities of rapid change, mitigate internal tensions and handle conflict in ways that avert violence and promote social cohesion. Equipping development practitioners with conflict transformation tools can amplify the role that development plays in mitigating destructive conflict and can make development a more pro-active tool in pre-empting or preventing conflict.

This workshop aims to serve as a model of inclusive development processes where participants come together as equals in an environment where an open and frank discussion takes place. It aims to build relationships and develop processes that can be sustained beyond the workshop. It will, therefore, use a range of participatory methods and sharing exercises to help participants understand the concepts, develop and use appropriate planning methods, and take with them a fluency with conflict-sensitive tools.

OBJECTIVES

In the ***conflict sensitive approaches to development*** training workshop, participants will:

- Identify and understand the challenges presented by current development practice;
- Encourage reflection on existing organizational working practices in order to promote more effective ways of linking peace and development;
- Explore the values and attitudes that support good development practice;
- Refine skills for effective, integrated planning and implementation of conflict sensitive development;
- Upgrade skills for evaluating the impact of development on peace and conflict; and
- Build relationships and linkages between development actors at different levels and from different sectors.

GOAL

The core challenge needing to be addressed is the gap between the *rhetoric* of good development practice and the *reality* of development planning and implementation. The workshop aims at understanding the extent and consequences of this gap and developing strategies to narrow or eliminate it. To do so will help ensure that development becomes a resource for conflict transformation, systemic change and sustainable peace.

It is expected that as a result of the processes and linkages initiated in this workshop, policy makers and participants will develop a new orientation on how to operationalize a conflict awareness dimension in their development practice. Further, it is hoped that this will help them re-orient national development policies so as to include pre-conflict prevention and peace-building strategies integrally in all of the manifestations of such policies.

PARTICIPANTS AND DURATION

Participants will be drawn from: national government officials (all levels), local government officials (all levels), national and international NGOs (national and regional officials), multilateral, bilateral and intergovernmental development agencies, private sector and appropriate individuals from training institutes in order to have diverse representation, a strategic multiplier effect and to create a synergistic network. The training will be delivered over five days.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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