

Study Unit 3

UNDERSTANDING CONFLICT ANALYSIS

(MODULE 3)

Study Unit Outline

- I. To gain deeper understanding of conflict and six of the tools available to use and reflect it where it needs and arises
Study Unit

Duration

This Study Unit requires a 2 hours of formal study time.

You may spend an additional 2-3 hours for revision

**UNDERSTANDING
PEACE AND
CONFLICT**

Introduction

Each conflict has his own imprint and special mark, what makes it special. Nonetheless, scholars define conflict as two or more individual or groups has different perspectives or share the same desire or compete on resource. Not to forget to dig deep on sharing history, root causes, actors and effects. It is very vital to identify the conflict drivers in certain situations. Aiming to reach tangible peacebuilding strategy, must work with suitable conflict analysis tool to overcome challenges may occurs. Wide spectrum of peace agreement crafts proved that not tackling the root causes, actors and conflict characters led to blocked road. This is why focusing on conflict analysis to generate positive peace and to do no harm for grass roots.

This module aims to cover understanding of conflict nature and provide tools to analyze conflict.

6

From where you can stand you can see 6. For other can see 9. It is different but it doesn't make them wrong. It takes only some effort to see from their angle (perspective).

Challenges with conflict Analysis.
Duration
This Study Unit requires weeks with 2 hours study time.
Spending an additional 2- 3 revision

Learning Outcomes of Study Unit

When completion of this unit, student will be capable for the following:

- 1.1. To gain a good understanding of conflict, issues, actors, & dynamics, with demonstrate conflict analytical skills.
 - 1.2. Analyze conflict with variety of tools
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MODULE DESCRIPTION

Conflict analysis consider as one of fundamental tool to understand the conflict context, actors and dynamic. More to mention, its importance as a basic for conflict sensitivity regarding to identify an appropriate intervention. The civil society organization, initiative or groups, that funding or directly implement may not deliberately help to fuel violent conflict or to worsen existing tensions but they need to apply an accurate analysis to improve the situation and avoid worsen the conflict.

Conflict Analysis spirts of work is to *Do no Harm* as mentioned earlier; it is about digging deep to gain more understanding of conflict and its various aspects in the conflict area. This module will help you understand the main parts of conflict analysis. It enables student to define conflict analysis, describe and use tools of conflict analysis and its patterns. The module is divided into two weeks. The module includes one quiz at the end of unit

one and exam/ assignment at the end of the first week and atest at module. Also, the student has to engage in different learning activities to encourage exchanging of knowledge and experiences.

INTRODUCTION

1. UNIT ONE

1. What is Conflict Analysis?

It defines as Instrument help practitioners to define nature, dynamics and actors participate in conflict. As well, it helps to prioritize the intervention, actions needed and the consequences of any actions and policy. Worth mentioning, appropriate strategies for project, program and dialogue designs with sensitivity lens. Important to know that conflict analysis can applied on local, national, regional and international level. Critical observation between each level is occur for example: (dynamic and issues in international level different with national level with occurrence of relation between them). Critical issues should be considered when conflict analysis take place: power relation, culture, identity, gender and right

The reason behind why analyzing conflict should be clear when you are starting the process as the following:

- To understand the dynamics and the root causes (History, present events)
- To define and identify the relevant individuals and groups involved
- To detect the power relation between the groups and their standpoints
- To ascertain factors and trends beneath the conflict
- To learn lesson learnt as well as past failures

Furthermore, knowing to handle conflict, practitioner should define the (1)

- **Working in conflict:** avoid the problems and conflict or deal with it as negative externality
- **Working on conflict:** Build program and policies regarding conflict sensitivity
- **Working around conflict:** More focusing on conflict management and resolution with engagement with conflict's drivers

2. Conflict Analysis's Fundamentals:

This unit will provide you with questions guiding to discover the real causes of conflict and to determine actors, dynamics which make analyzing conflict clear

- i. In which context the conflict happened?
 - History related to the current events
 - Economic, political, social or resource based/ environmental
 - Example: The farmers/ nomads conflict resulted hundreds of dead every rainy season. What is the contexts (competition over resource, grievances from history, identity or all of mentioned)
- ii. Who are the actors behind the conflict?
 - Who are they? What is their power? For what extend? What is their interest? Where they stand from peace and their desire? Are they support peace or against? What is cross cutting with others?
- iii. What are the root causes?
 - What are the structural causes and what are approximate?
 - Structural Causes:
(Land issues, favoritism, uneven resource distribution..etc.)
Example for structural causes: 2003 Darfur in west of Sudan triggered by favoritism of the government armed Arab tribes over Zurga tribes. Which led to loss of live and considered the region biggest genocide. Important to mention, one of the causes of Rowanda genocide was *“a drought in the south in 1989 brought further distress. State policies served only to worsen the situation. Here was an overwhelmingly agricultural population where so many small farmers were producing cash crops for export that they could no longer feed themselves. Many families could not afford food, and several hundred people died of hunger while many more came under extreme duress. It was clear to all that the drought was not solely responsible for the famine, but that political and economic policies were equally to blame.”*(3)
 - Approximate causes: (natural resource discovery, Force influence and armed proliferation)
Example1: Mined conflict mineral in eastern Congo which extracted and sold
Example2: Conflict in Sudan 2011 over oil wells which resulted to split to Sudan and South Sudan.
- iv. What are the current dynamics/ Trend?
 - What are the recent change on behavior and attitude?
 - What factors of the (profile, causes and actors) increase or decrease the conflict dynamics

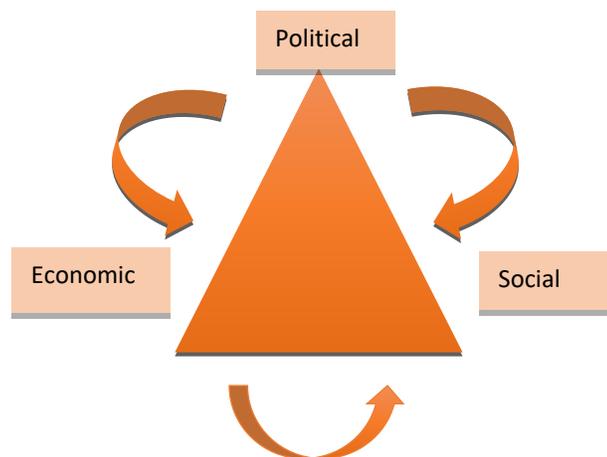
- What are the trigger to the conflict? (political, scandal, economical corruption .etc)
- What are the scenarios can be created (Best scenario / Worse scenario)
Best scenario: Fire cease, Dialogue and peace agreement
Worse scenario: Isolation, Close market, Coup, Violence or war

v. Targets and objectives of conflict analysis:

Conflict analysis should be built on participatory approach. Meaning engagement with stakeholders is ongoing process through dialogue, talks, review and reflections should take place on regular base and collaboratively. Uses of conflict analysis is to guide for systematic search and to provide with solid, real information which direct suitable interventions. Wide spectrum of participation must be included for its vital role to form quality of assumption and balancing of the future intervention. Included of the conflict sensitivity is must as this create awareness with actors and dynamics related to conflict.

vi. In what political, economic and social environment conflict is happening

Good governance formed from three important pillars. These pillars shaping the dynamics of Power, Geography, population, modern history, Political and economic structure, social composition, environment, geo strategic location. All factors



vii. Applying Gender Sensitivity Analysis

Gender sensitive analysis considered as important aspect in conflict analysis which is must be integrated in the analysis but not to forget cultural sensitivity and local condition on the other hand. Keep in mind, who is involved in planning and implementing adding to creating ways to access to gender-sensitive data and information with reflection courteous to culture and customs. Particularly, sensitive questions should be designed for marginalized women in conflict areas. To reveal their various roles (men & women), capacities and vulnerabilities. Important to mention, the effect of conflict on each of them has direct link to their gender.

Gender perspective principle is not isolated from form other perspectives such as not limited to; class, race, age and ethnicity. This principle considers as organizer for it important works in social life's arena (Families, Societies, groups and institution...Etc.)

The following levels:

- The activities as performed; responsibilities, roles, everyday jobs.
- The degree in which gender dominating over (resources, rights, and participation on decision making)
- The (normal) action of gender (girls/ boys and man/women), their behavior, manners discussion and systems of marriages, etc.
- The (supremacy) the relation between the two pillars:(female and male), female and female, male and male

For more gender understanding question creation should be consider equal representative for (men & women), consideration of gender taboo and creative means or mechanisms to include marginalized women voices.



1. What is the right definition of the Conflict Analysis?
 - a) Conflict analysis is the systematic study of the profile, causes, actors, and dynamics of conflict
 - b) Conflict analysis is the systematic study of the profile, causes, and actors.
 - c) Conflict analysis is the unsystematic study of the profile and dynamics of conflict
2. Do no harm' principles shouldn't be followed in conflict analysis:
 - a) Yes

- b) No
- c) Others
- 3. To analysis conflict all stakeholders in the areas must be contained seeking the information from all:
 - a) Yes
 - b) No not all stakeholders are important
 - c) Maybe
- 4. Analysis Conflict should perceive from a gender perspective.
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) Not all time
- 5. The activities as performed by women and men. Their tasks, roles, responsibilities should be included in conflict analysis
 - a) Yes, Indeed
 - b) No, at all
 - c) Not important
- 6. Conflict analysis can work as a tool for conflict sensitivity:
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
- 7. Select the rationale of conflict analysis from the following:
 - a) A strategy is only as good as the analysis that underlies it.
 - b) Fosters common understanding of the conflict.
 - c) Opportunity of evolution of the conflict.
 - d) All the above
- 8. Elements of a conflict analysis are:
 - a) Causes and issues, situation profile, actors and stockholders and dynamics
 - b) Causes and issues, situation profile, History and dynamics
 - c) Causes and issues, situation profile and gender

UNIT TWO

3. Key elements and tools for analyzing conflict:

Several conflict analysis tools are created to provide information on different structures and characteristics on conflict such as not limited to, (Nature, Actors, Causes and Dynamics brought from history or relation with present. This unit will discuss 7 tools of conflict analysis – Which will pursue the feature of conflict in certain dynamics

- 1) Stakeholder analysis/ Conflict mapping
- 2) Prejudice, Stereotype and Discrimination
- 3) Timeline tool
- 4) Conflict Tree
- 5) The Onion
- 6) ABC Tringle

7) The pyramid

Before use some of the different tools of conflict analysis, we should create a check list to match the purpose, needs, requirements and value of your organization.

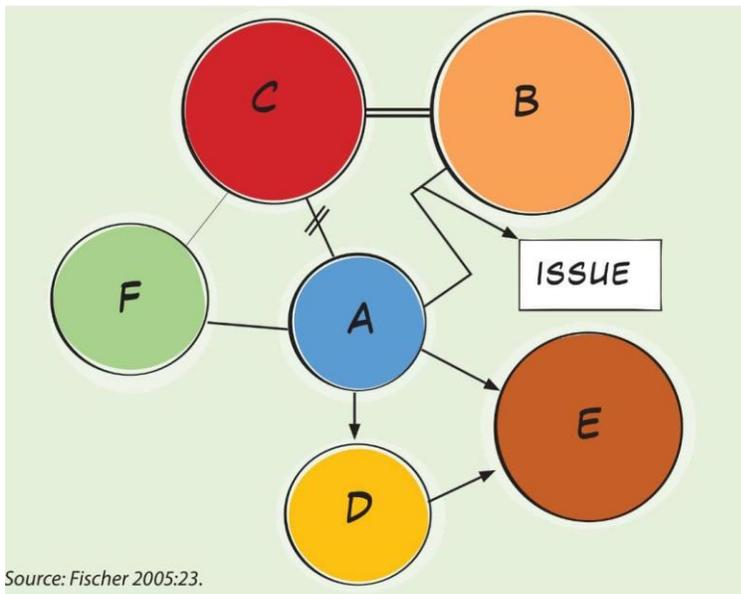
Selection of conflict analysis tools list:

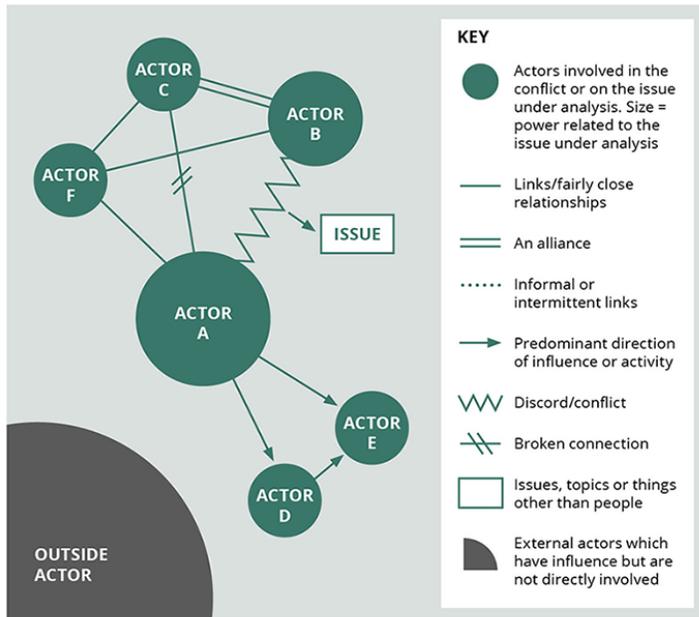
Item	Guiding Questions	Note
1	<p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the purpose of using the tool? • Is the conflict Analysis working with your aim 	
2	<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you involve the tool’s understanding of conflict? • To what extend can this tool is compatible with Organization’s value? • It is suitable to the time frame? 	
3	<p>Methodology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you insure the matching between methodology and the analysis’s purposes? • How does the tool gain Organization’s understanding? 	
4	<p>Resource Implication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the result of the tool on the (Travel required, Staff Time) • Is your organization able to provide the resources? 	
5	<p>Availability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it timely, costly accessible? • Is the organization provide full documentation? 	

Conflict Analysis tools:

1. Stakeholder analysis/ Conflict mapping:

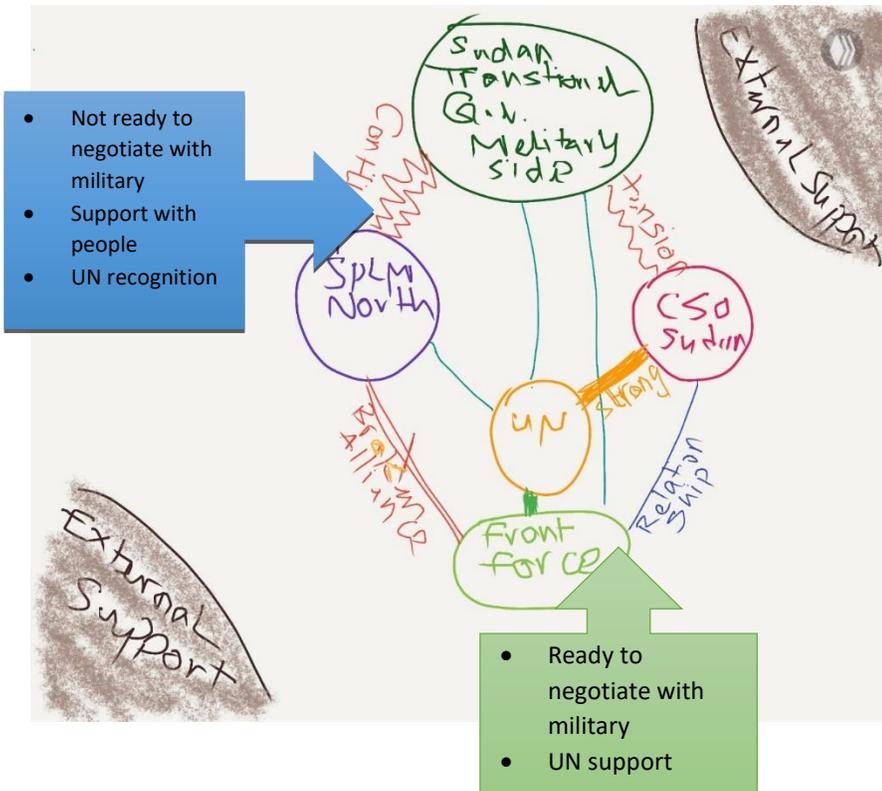
- **What it is?** A graphical procedure to visualize different relationships between parties in a conflict
- **What is the Aims?** To gain deeper knowledge which lead to clear vision on parties relationships, to specify the power; location, size and volume. To visualize where allies located or the upcoming allies. To pinpoint beginning of intervention or points of entry. As well it can be used in evaluation of the previous work.
- **When to use it?** Primary on the process life cycle with other analytical tools. As well after identifying the possible passes to help strategies the process
- **Variations:** Visual picture reflecting the geographical areas and political parties involved, demonstrating of issues, power alignments, and needs. More to add fears and motions as human to convey feeling and relations





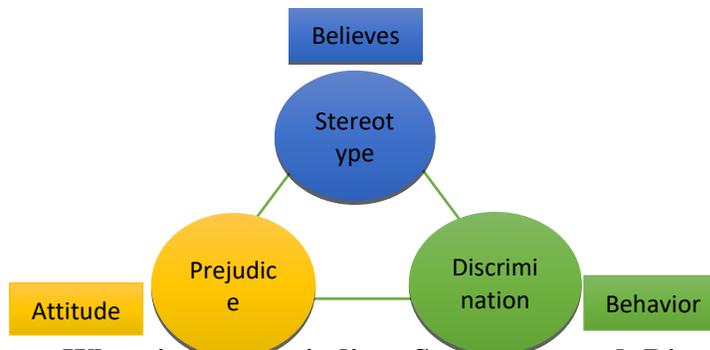
Source: Adapted from Fisher, et al. (2000: 23)

Example: Conflict Mapping of Sudan Dialogue 2021 in Juba



Juba Sudan talk 2021

2. Prejudice, Stereotype and Discrimination:



- **What is the Prejudice, Stereotype and Discrimination:** It is an analysis describes communities believes, behavior and attitude towards certain groups

Stereotype	Prejudice	Discrimination
<p>A believes (motion) positive or negative regarding characteristics of certain group.</p> <p>It can be explicit or implicit</p>	<p>Negative conclusion/ Attitude regarding certain group in prior(motion)</p> <p>It can be explicit or implicit</p>	<p>Negative behavior towards groups (action)</p>
<p>Example: Thinking that women are not competent to work in peace negotiation is stereotype</p>	<p>When women raise the need to attend the negotiation and you assume that women are emotional and weak this is prejudice(premature conclusion)</p>	<p>Deciding not to include women in the negotiation because of your stereotype and prejudice this is negative action (behavior) toward women is discrimination</p>

- **What is the Purpose:** To display and confirmation of the bias , cognitive measures to seek root of conflict
- **When to use it?** At the beginning of the process along with other analytical tools, more over it can help in peace building and support people to identify and accept their own perspective as part of the truth
- **Variation:** In groups containing the members, followed by clear dialogue and discussion concerning the events which highlighted by each other

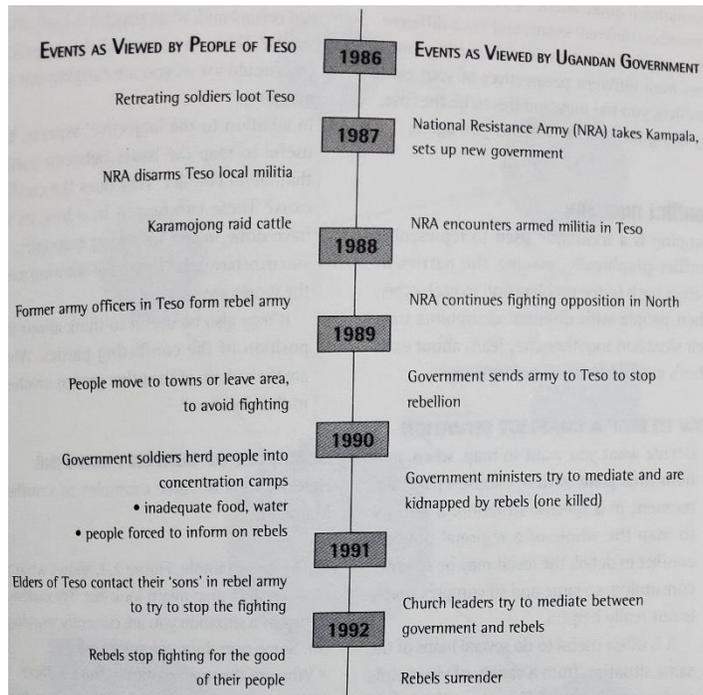
Formative Test

- 1) Discuss the three pillars which the good governance stand for
- 2) Mention two tools for the conflict analysis?
- 3) Draw a Prejudice, Stereotype and Discrimination table for a case study from your community

3. Timeline tool (6):

- **What is the time line tool?** It is a detailed visual timeline that organized events against particular scale events vs time

- **What is the Purpose:** To display history of conflict for to view the different perception of the action and events. As well to clarify which events are most important to each side
- **When to use it?** At the beginning of the process along with other analytical tools, more over it can help in strategy building and helping people to accept their own perspective and deal with it as part of the truth
- **Variation:** Exchange by the parties themselves, followed by clear dialogue and discussion concerning the events which highlighted by each other



Source: (6)

The Conflict Tree

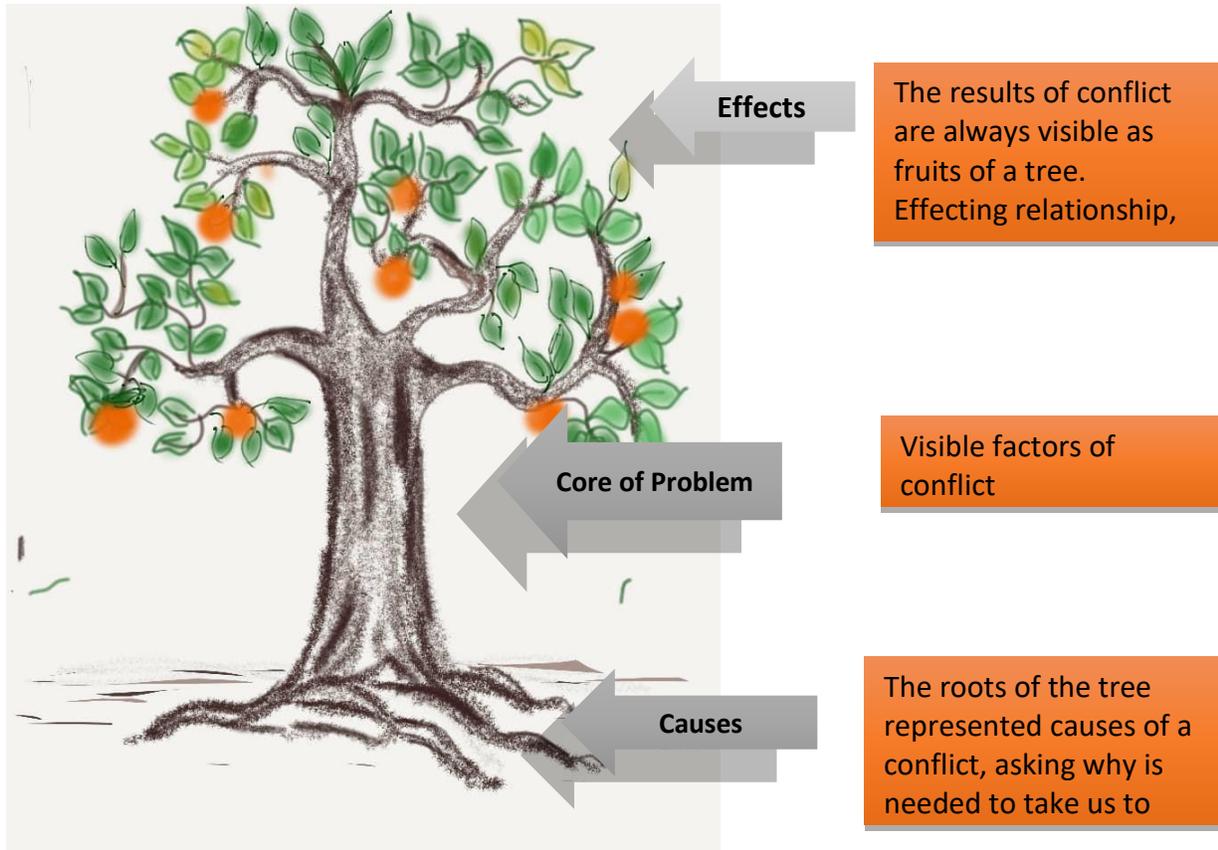
graphic:

- **What is it?** It for analyzing reasons (causes) and effects of certain conflict. One or more main (Core) problem can be detected and then in brain storm causes and effects can be detected. The effects are the display of the current or past of the conflict: what do we observe in the community as result? How are people affected? What patterns of problem behavior is detected?

Causes are usually long-term structural issues, need deep dig and good concentration to underlying the various factors the resulted to conflict.

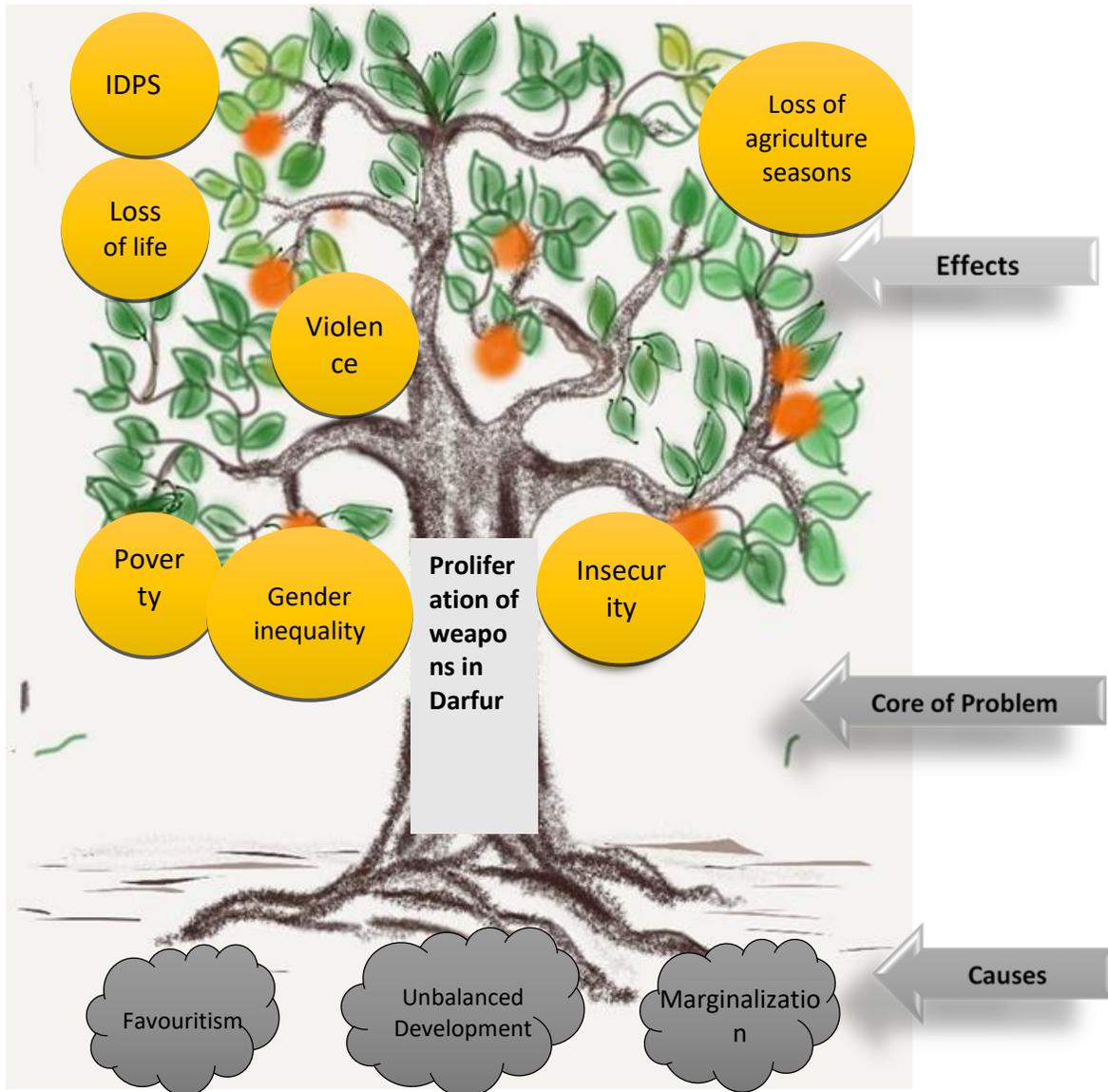
What is the Purpose: To discover root causes to conflict and problems that are related to. To differentiate between causes and effects. This will help in prioritizing and developing strategies. Notice that working on causes can produce permanent change.

- **When to use it:** Observation of initial presenting problem could be the first step in the analysis process. Basic discussion to detect the root causes and its effects. This exercise is to be done by a group of people in a workshop setting.
- **Variations:** Can be used to explore value



Source: (7)

Example for the Problem Tree tool:

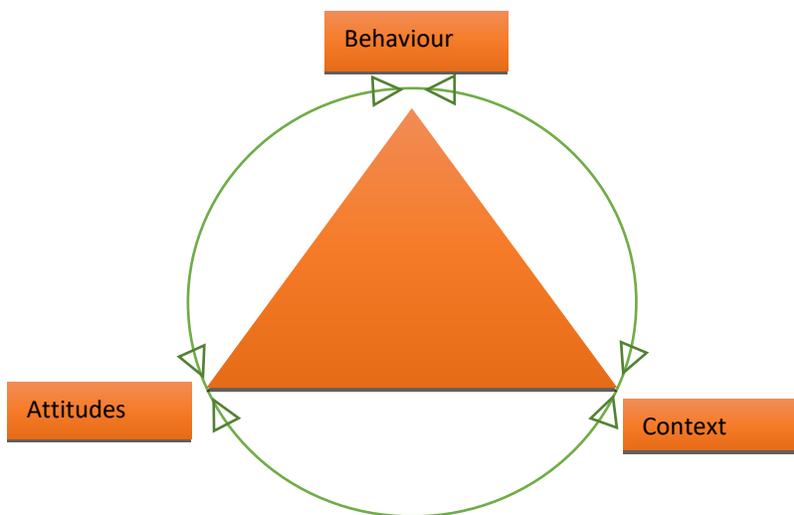


4. ABC Tringle

- **What is it?** It is an analysis tool has 3 components (attitude, behavior and context) describes the main parties involved
- **What is the purpose?** To explore the factors effects for each parties and their impact on each. To connect the parties necessities and worries which shed light on suitable intervention point.
- **When to use it?** On the start kick of the process, to achieve greater understanding regarding parties motivation. As well it can be used later to define the factors addressed by ABC intervention and their effect on each other's
- **Variations:** Later to categorize issues for the 3 components, specify a main need or fear of that party in the middle of the triangle

Note that:

These three main factors impact and leading to each other, hence the arrows leading from one to another



Example: People view Hakamat (Local Women Singers at western Sudan)

Behaviors	Attitudes	Context
People view of Hakamt: Evil women, Sing for war, Tribalism and Conflict triggers	People view Hakamt, controlled by men, emotional and closed minded	Men encourage singers to sing for war and to let people have weapon in the tripe. The since of tripe is very high and related to dignity. Producing song enthusiasm move men of the tribe to death for trip dignity and to be

		immortalized in the song of the trip.
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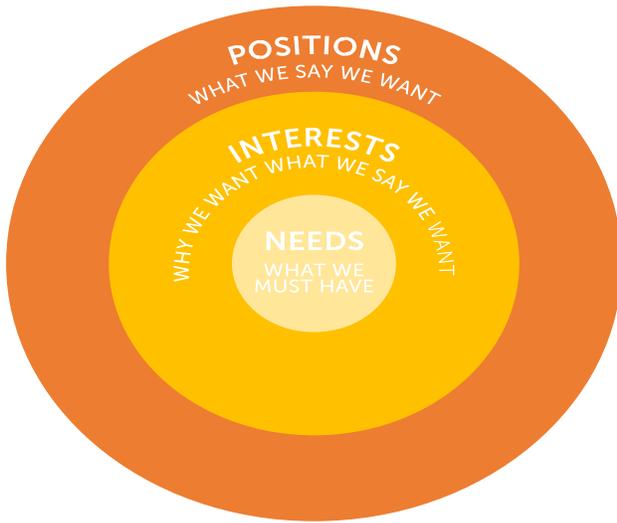
Hakamat (Local Singer) view themselves:

Behaviors	Attitudes	Context
Hakamt view themselves: The bride and dignity of the trip. Who make the trip strong and famous	Hakamt view themselves, God given and talented, superior among other women in the tribe	Hakamat view the Context as: Men should defend the trip name, heritage and legacy. So, important to not accept offend and abuse from others

5. The onion tool:

- **What is it?** A visual tool to analyze various parties perspectives, position, needs and saying
- **What is purpose?** For better understanding of party’s needs, interest and position. To discover real links between parties in the conflict to start basis for future dialogue
- **When to use it?** As part of the process (mediation or negotiation) to achieve clarity and better understanding for conflict situation, dynamics and actor’s needs. Good to be used in the preparation stage for facilitating dialogue between parties in a conflict
- **Variations:** Drawing circles reflecting positions, interests and needs

Sample for the onion tool:



Source: UNDP Training Manual for Peace Building Skills

6. The pyramid / Three level Tringle:

- **What is it?** A tool reflecting the levels of take-holders in a certain conflict.
- **What is the purpose?** To classify actors and leaders at each level in a situation with conflict has more than one level. It help on recognizing which level you are working. It is also assess to detect which type of approaches or action to work with at each level. To study creation of link between the different levels. To identify potential allies at each level.
- **When to use it?** Mostly, when conflict state has multiples levels and various actors
 When studying and investigating a conflict that appears to include actors at various levels, as well when planning to act for addressing a multi-level conflict plus, when to determine where to focus one’s energy
 (6)
- **Variations:** Indicate to each level with a tringle because each level has its own characteristics which can be define with (upper, middle and lower).



Challenges with conflict Analysis:

Conflict analysis known of its importance from begging of the entry point up to bidding the strategy. However, it is not clear from challenges and obstacles facing the process. In this unit will mention some as the following:

- **Security issues:** Security issues in Africa consider as a major factor to challenge researches and analysis. It may explore people in some cases either to investigation, prison or to risk with armed groups. In some other cases community itself can be an obstacle
- **People willing to participate:** In Some communities people will to participate maybe low or non-exited due to cultural customs and heritage. Specially, women in many conflicts area may prohibited to reflect their own perspectives. More to mention, in some points Targeted people sense of treachery and exploitation which may hold down the process.

- **Adaptability of the tool:** Some tools may not suite the conflict situation, actors or dynamics this will need strong understanding for tools and conflict situation. Also, Language as these tool been translated to local language from English which may mark an obstacle.
- Miss communication: The communication has multi-level (inside/ outside Organizations, Actors, Analysts and media)

What we have covered?

By knowing the above, we encourage you to excessive exercises it yourself for more adaptation to the tool. As well, to develop your analytical skills.

Summative Test

1) Choose the right answers:

1. There are three directions of conflict interpretation , select the sentence describes Individual Methodology Perspective:
 - a) It results due to a certain type of behavioral arrangements and thinking directions.
 - b) most conflicts are the result of responding to complex processes of containment or exclusion
 - c) The causes of feelings of embarrassment or loss.
2. Select the tools for conflict analysis:
 - a) Stockholders mapping , Onion tool and Tree problem
 - b) Stockholders mapping , Onion tool, Tree problem and Do no harm
 - c) Stockholders mapping , Tree problem and Do no harm
 - d) All of the above
3. What the Onion inner layer Describes:
 - a) Position
 - b) Interests
 - c) Needs
4. The Circle  in the stockholder map indicates parties involved in the situation relative size = power regards to the issues:

- a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) Not sure
5. What it indicates the (Fruits, Trunk and Roots) in the Tree problem:
- a) Effects, Core of problem and Causes
 - b) Core of problem, Causes and Effect
 - c) Effect, Causes and Core of problem
- 2) **What is the:**
- Time line tool?

 - What is the Purpose:

 - When to use it?
- 3) Describe the problem tree:
- 4) **Compare between ABC tringle and Pyramids in the following:**
- Definition
 - Purpose
 - When to use each of them

References

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