



Welcome!

Conflict Analysis  
in Support of  
EU External Action

Brussels, 27 April 2016



# Objectives

By the end of the session, participants will have acquired an understanding of:

- Conflict concepts and trends
- Implications for the EU
- Conflict sensitivity
- EU methodology for conflict analysis
- Practical overview of the methodology using a case study



## What do we mean by peace?

- A basic definition is the absence of violence or 'negative peace'.
- This can disguise structural forms of violence, such as discrimination, underlying grievances or lack of avenues for challenging existing power structures in a peaceful way
- Positive peace is characterised by social harmony, respect for human rights and inclusive social and economic development
- Peacebuilding aims to establish positive peace



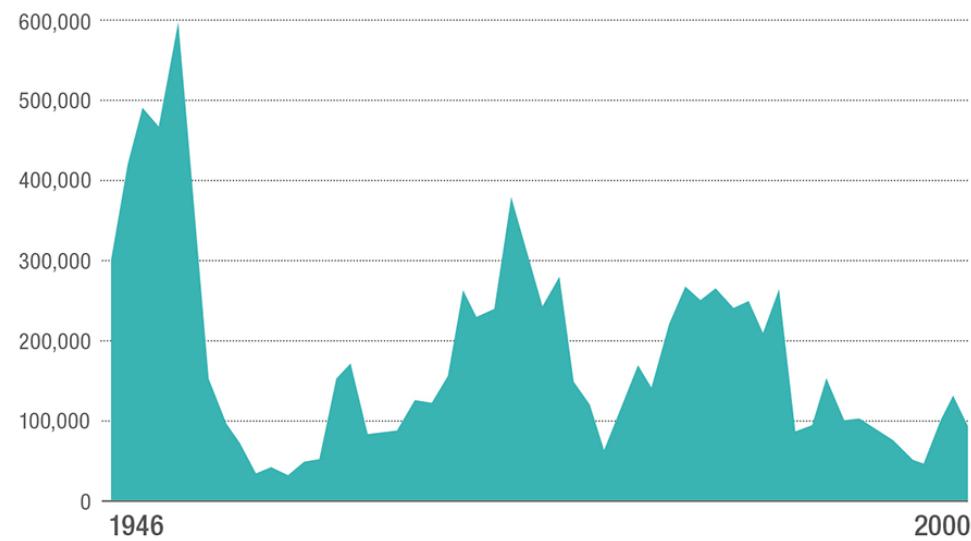
## What do we mean by conflict?

- Conflict is a normal part of human interaction
- It is the natural result when individuals and groups have incompatible needs, interests or beliefs
- The challenge we need to address is the violent conflict that emerges which is badly managed.

# Conflict trends

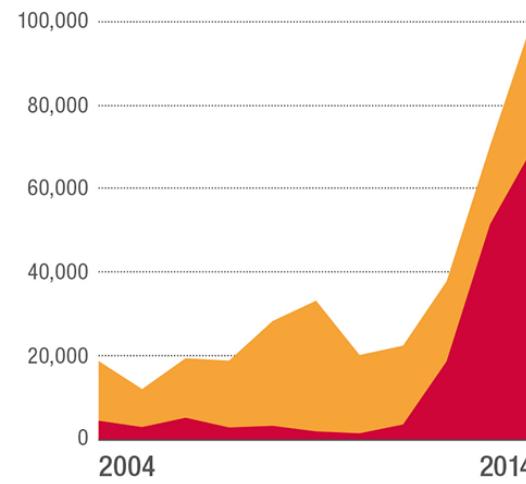
## Conflict has become less deadly

Battle-related deaths



## However, violence in the Middle East is reversing this trend

■ Total ■ Middle East





## Conflict trends

**Conflict has become more protracted**

Average length of conflict (years)



# Conflict trends

Interstate conflicts  
are now rare

Worldwide, 2013



Organised crime and drug-related violence are major problems,  
particularly in Latin America

Despite only holding 8% of the world population, Latin America accounts for:



of the world's  
homicides



of the world's  
kidnappings



## Implications for the EU?

- Over 1.5 billion people now live in fragile and conflict affected states or in countries with very high levels of violence
- In 2005 20% of the world's population living in absolute poverty resided in FCAS. By 2015 this number had more than doubled to 43%. By 2030 even under the best case scenario 62% of the global poor will be located in FCAS.
- Conflict is a threat to EU interests:
  - Security (terrorism, regional instability, energy supplies, migration)
  - Prosperity and trade
  - Global poverty reduction; War is described as 'development in reverse'

The EU has the ambition, mandate and global reach to 'preserve peace, prevent conflict and strengthen international security' (Article 21 of the Lisbon Treaty).



## **The effect of conflict and fragility on developmental outcomes.**

- People in fragile and conflict-affected states are more than twice as likely to be undernourished as those in other developing countries.
- They are more than three times as likely to be unable to send their children to school; twice as likely to see their children die before the age of five; and more than twice as likely to lack access to clean water.
- The average cost of internal armed conflict can be equivalent to more than thirty years of GDP growth for a medium-size developing country.



## **The EU's Comprehensive Approach to external conflict and crisis**

All relevant EU players (EU institutions and MS) working together on:

- A shared understanding of the context
- Coherent objectives and strategies
- Implementing actions

Requires a common vision for a specific situation, to ensure a joined up, coherent approach



# The OECD Fragile States Principles

- 1. Context is the starting point**
- 2. Do no harm**
- 3. Statebuilding is the central objective**
- 4. Prioritise prevention**
- 5. Political, security and development objectives are linked**
- 6. Promote non-discrimination as a basis for inclusive and stable societies**
- 7. Align with local priorities in different ways and in different contexts**
- 8. Agree on practical co-ordination mechanisms between international actors**
- 9. Act fast... but stay engaged long enough to give success a chance**
- 10. Avoid pockets of exclusion (“aid orphans”)**



## What is conflict sensitivity / conflict-sensitive approaches?

Conflict sensitivity is acting with the understanding that *any initiative* conducted in a conflict-affected environment will *interact* with that conflict and that such interaction will have consequences that may have **positive** or **negative effects**.

It is a **deliberate and systematic approach** to ensuring we understand and minimise these negative effects (risks) and maximise positive effects of our actions (opportunities).

To be conflict sensitive you need to:

Understand the **context**;

Understand the **interaction** between your engagement and the context;

**Act** upon this understanding in order to avoid negative impacts and maximize positive impacts.

# What is conflict sensitivity / conflict-sensitive approaches?



EU Conflict Sensitivity Course | Overview of conflict sensitivity

GENERAL INTRODUCTION ON CONFLICT SENSITIVITY

PART 1: General introduction on conflict sensitivity

PART 2: Practical case studies

ENTER THE MEETING ROOM

Click 'ENTER THE MEETING ROOM' to proceed.



EU Conflict Sensitivity Course | Overview of conflict sensitivity

CONFFLICT

Click 'CONTINUE' to advance.

CONFLICT

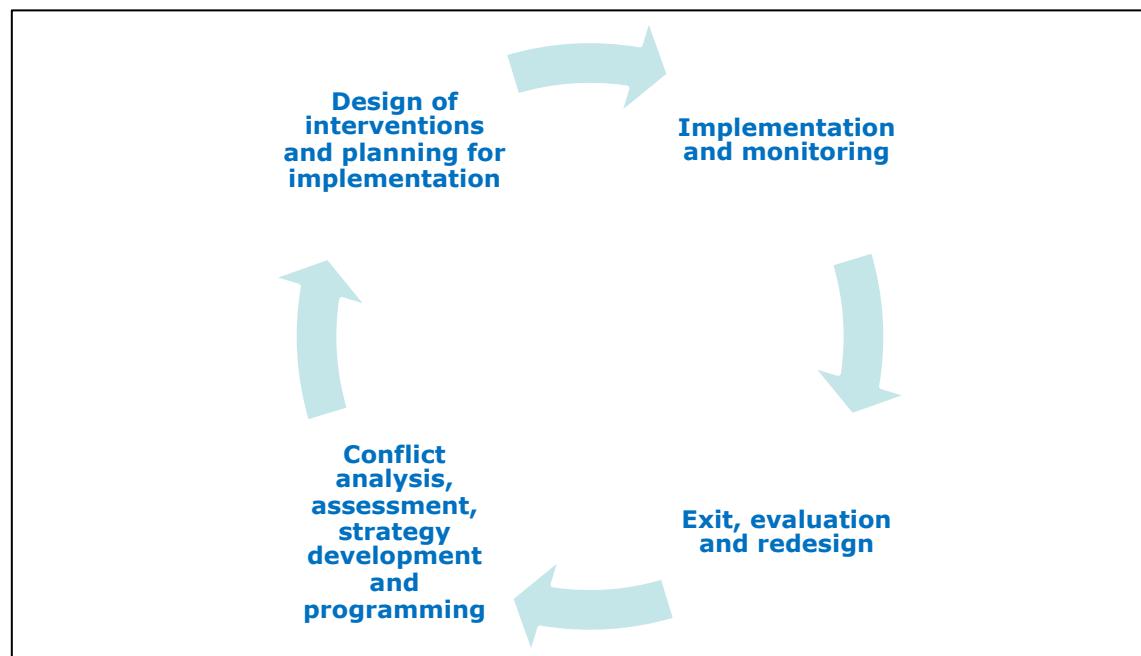
Conflict occurs when two or more parties find their interests, needs or beliefs are incompatible.

Any context is affected by conflict in one way or another

The very process of development is in many ways inherently conflictual

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# Appling a conflict sensitive approach to interventions





## What does conflict analysis entail?

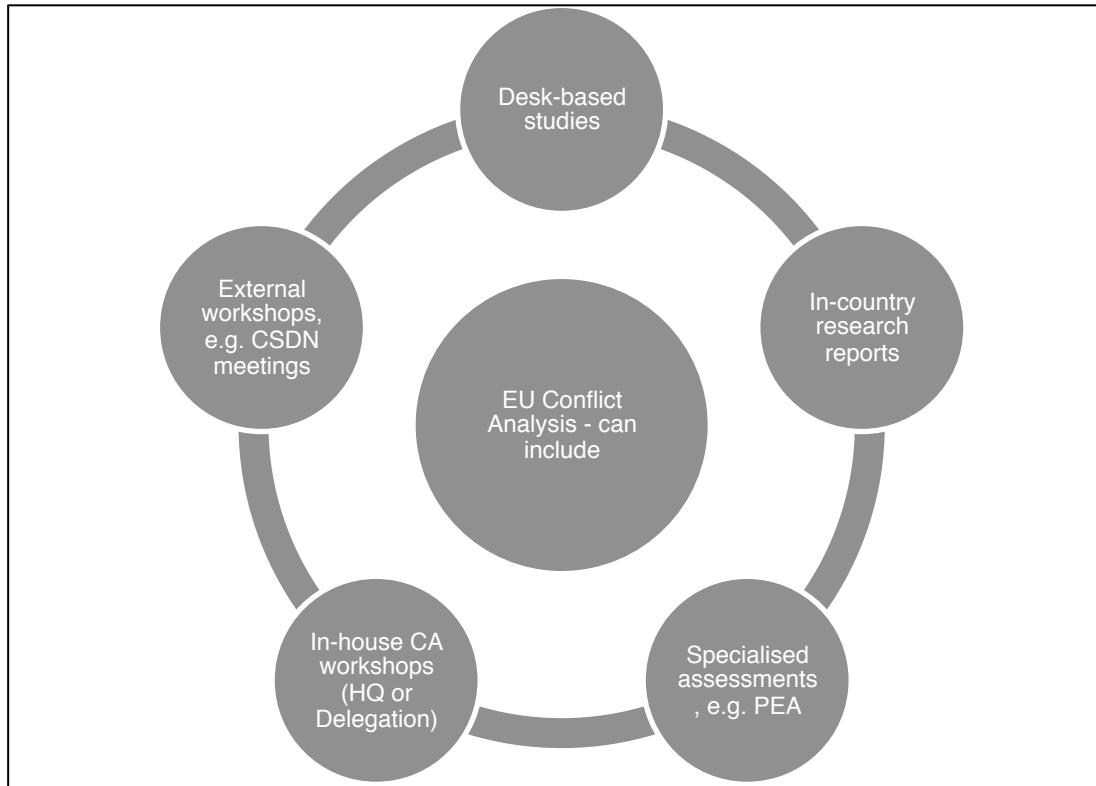
- Not one way
  - 'light touch' methodology vs more granular approach
  - Internal/external
  - Conflict analysis components built into projects
  - Fragility Assessments, Post Conflict Needs Assessments etc
- Both a process and a product
- Involves those who need to own the findings (EU Institutions, Member States, partners, civil society)

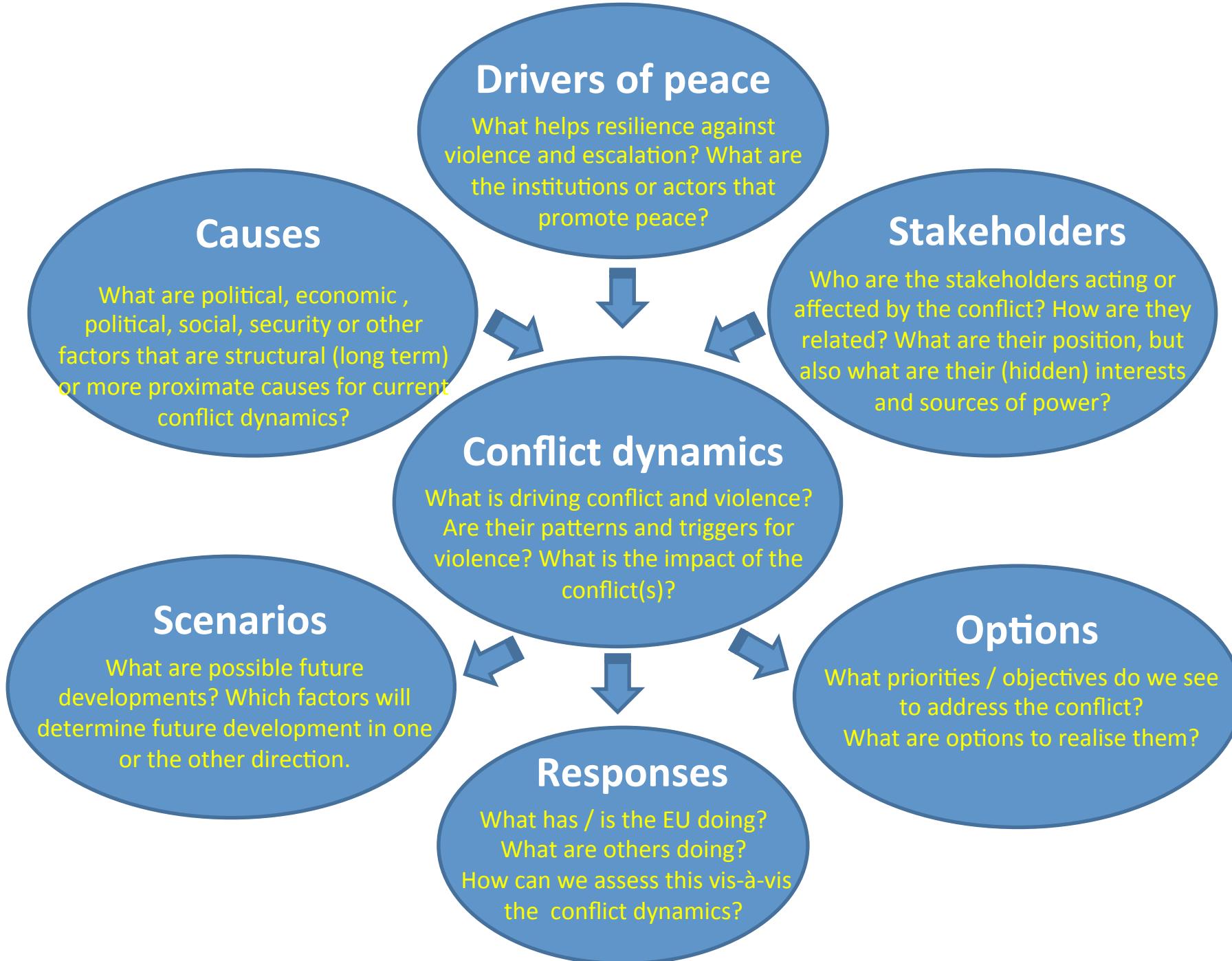


## **A more granular approach - The Research and Evidence Facility**

- The REF aims to collate, synthesise and produce evidence and policy relevant knowledge to inform targeted interventions so that they have a positive impact on addressing instability and forced displacement.
- It will do so by generating new research and evidence, engaging with research bodies primarily based in the Horn of Africa,

## Possible Elements of an EU Conflict Analysis Process







## Some recent examples

- Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)
- Central African Republic (jointly with the UN)
- Chad
- Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
- Guatemala (led by the Delegation, in coordination with Member States)
- Lebanon
- Liberia
- Libya
- Syria
- Northern Nigeria
- Sudan
- Yemen
- Gulf of Guinea
- Kenya
- Somalia
- **Fragility and Migration Assessments for Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan and Ethiopia**



## Causes of conflict

	Security	Political	Economic	Social
International				
National				
Local				



## Doing the grid

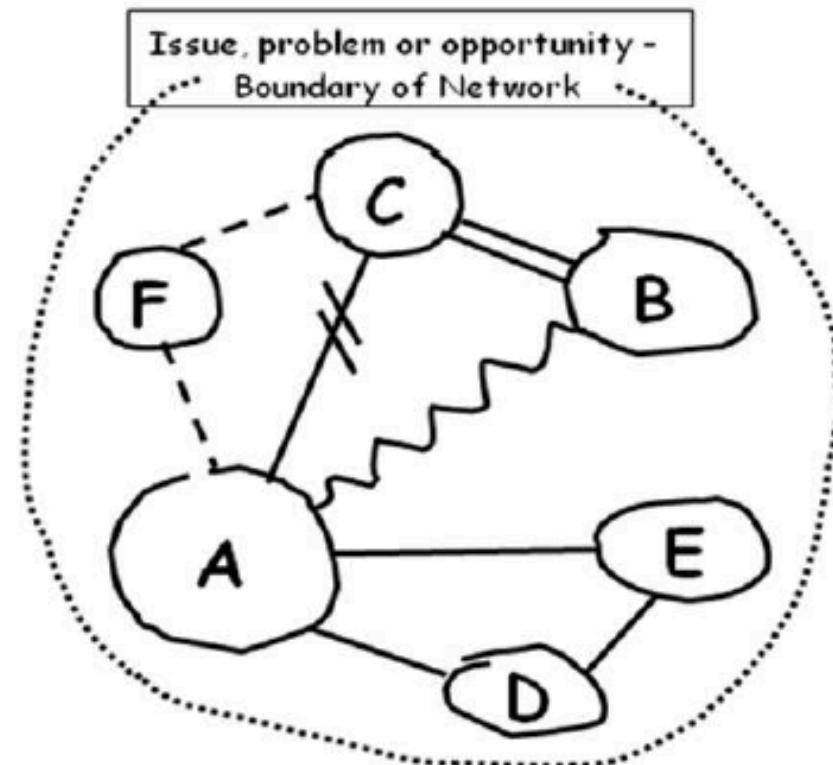
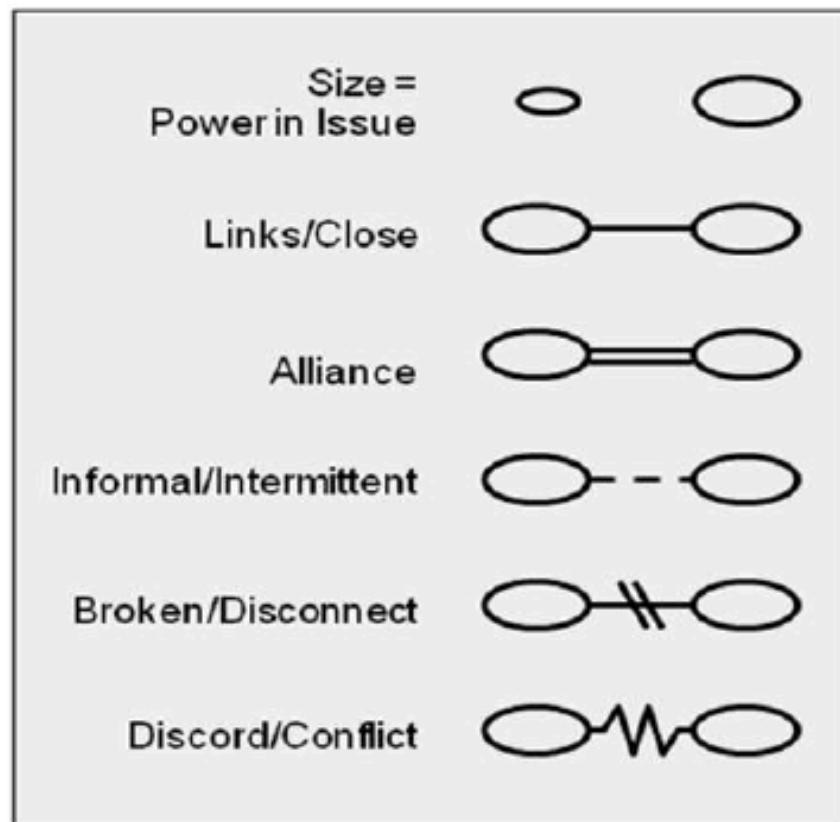
Think about all the factors – political, economic, social etc.

Structural and proximate causes

Don't worry about where in the grid, get it down

Remember external factors

# Stakeholder analysis





## Scenario planning

- Describe how 'the world' might look in the future
- Possible 'paths' to the future
- Based on an analysis of key uncertainties/drivers of change
- Not predictions or forecasts
- Future will contain elements of each of the scenarios



## Resources and documents

- EU Staff Handbook for Operating in Situations of Conflict and Fragility
- EU guidance note on Conflict Analysis



# Close