



We provide M&E, research and technical assistance in fragile and active conflict areas.

We work for international organizations, governments and civil society, deploying multi-national and highly specialized teams of experts.

Conflict Sensitivity and Monitoring & Evaluation

André Kahlmeyer | Brussels | 17 May 2019

Abidjan | Abuja | Belgrade | Brussels | Cairo | Islamabad | Istanbul | Munich | Yangon | Washington DC

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2. Where does it matter
3. In what project contexts does it matter
4. Differences for M&E in stable and fragile contexts
5. Examples from our work
6. Possible solutions for integrating conflict sensitivity
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1. Why does conflict sensitivity matter

1. The EU and other donors increasingly engage in situations of conflict and fragility
2. Promoting resilience and development, even under adversary conditions, is a priority for the EU (and others)
3. Reaching Outcomes and Impact is substantially more challenging in fragile contexts
4. Doing harm and not being conflict sensitive come at a high price for donors and intended beneficiaries

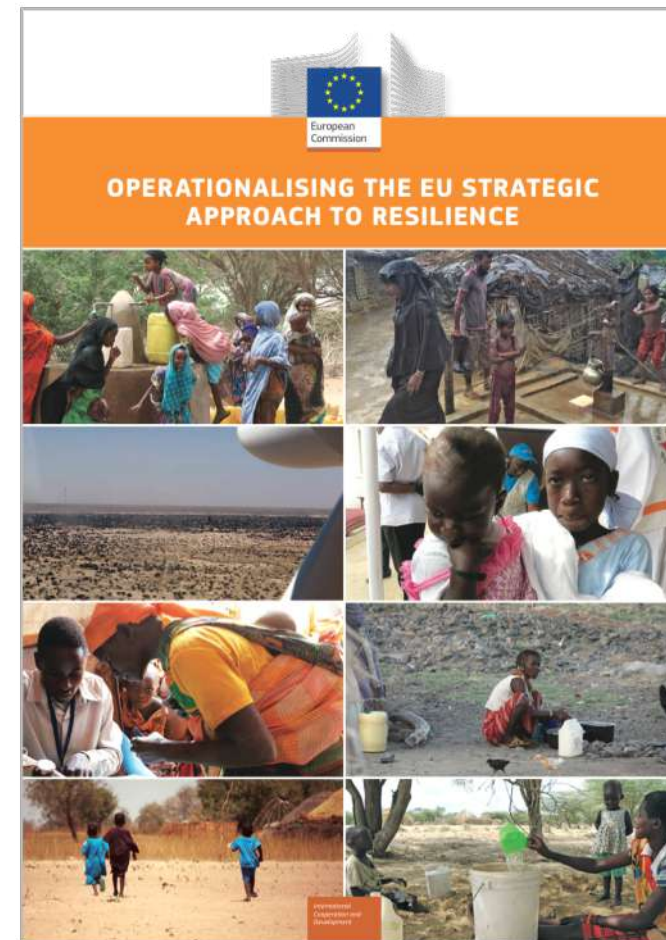
% of the world's poorest living in fragile & conflict affected states (FCAS)

20%
in 2005

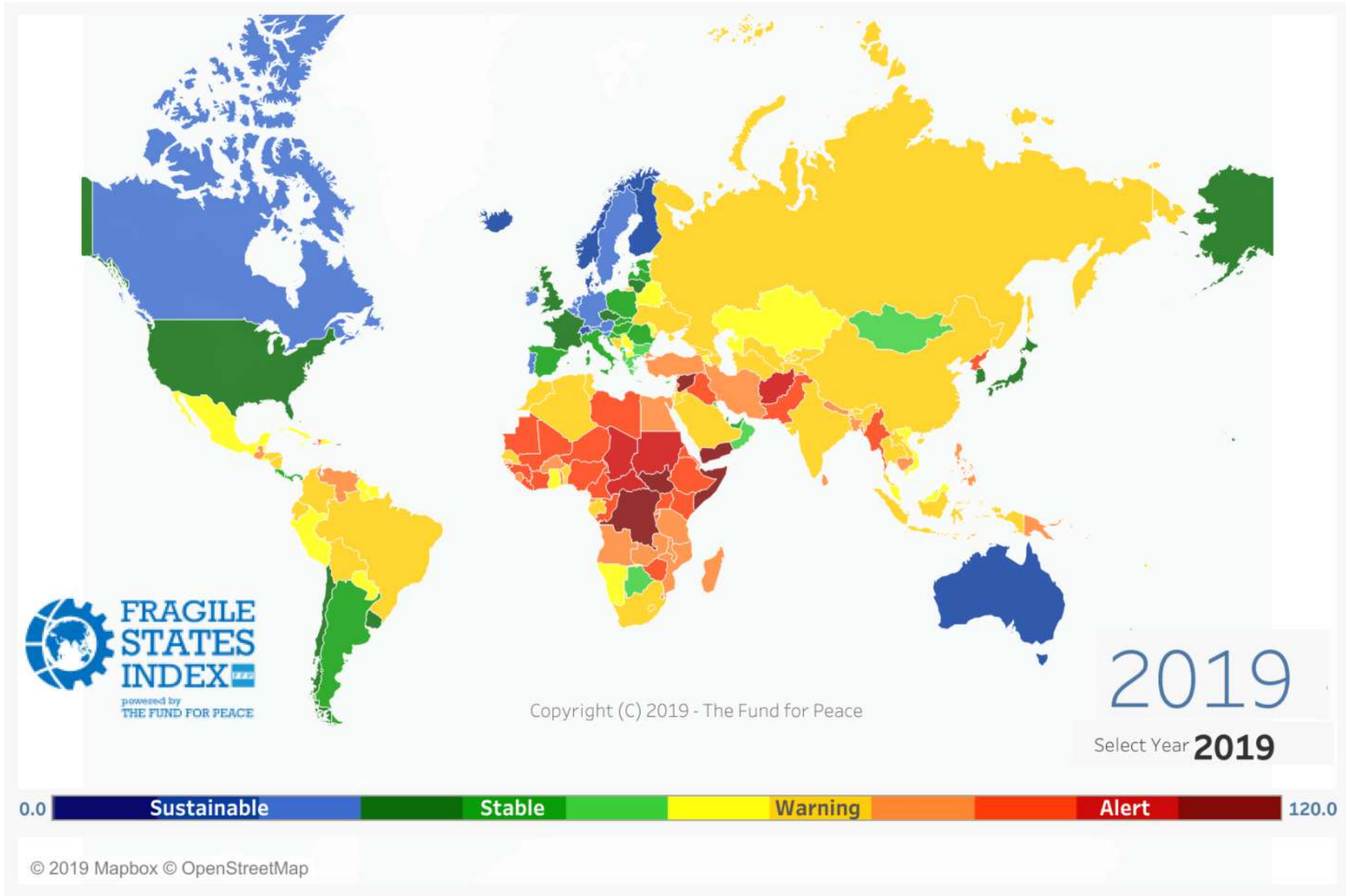
43%
in 2015

62%
in 2030

Source: [EC](#), Resilience and Fragility



2. Where does it matter



2. Where does it matter




Indicators for the Global Conflict Risk Index

(Joint Staff Working Document EU conflict Early Warning System, Council of the European Union, 9 August 2017, 11648/17)

Risk area	Concept	Indicator
Political	Regime type	Regime Type
		Lack of democracy
	Regime performance	Government Effectiveness
		Level of Repression
Security	Current conflict situation	Empowerment Rights
		Recent internal conflict
	History of conflict	Neighbours with HVC
		Years since HVC
Social	Social cohesion and diversity	Corruption
		Ethnic Power Change
		Ethnic compilation
		Transnational Ethnic Bonds
	Public security and health	Homicide Rate
		Infant Mortality
Economy	Development and distribution	GDP per capita
		Income inequality
		Openness
	Provisions and employment	Food security
		Unemployment
Geography - Environment	Geographic challenge	Water Stress
		Oil Production
		Structural constraints
	Demographics	Population size
		Youth bulge

Source: <http://conflictrisk.jrc.ec.europa.eu/Methodology>

3. In what project contexts does it matter

Approach	“On conflict”	“In conflict”	“Around conflict”
Definition	A project is directly targeting conflict drivers and actors with the aim of peacebuilding and stabilisation	A project is targeting other development sectors but recognises the conflict context	A project does not take the conflict context into consideration
Risk of being insensitive	No Outcomes and Impact, no contribution to peace, reputational risks	No Outcomes and Impact, reputational risks	No Outcomes and Impact, reputational risks
M&E context	Indicators 	No indicators 	No indicators 

4. Differences for M&E in stable and in fragile contexts

Main challenges that affect both project implementation and monitoring and evaluation of projects in fragile contexts:

- Security risks for staff and partners
- Availability of data (baselines, real time)
- Changing dynamics (access, power, interests)
- Political challenges (who to work with)
- Suspicious and controlling governments, shrinking operating space
- Challenges for accountability

5. Examples from our work

Evaluation of the UNDP-administered Multi Donor Trust Fund in Darfur (working “on conflict”)



UN Darfur Fund

Indicators at relevant levels:

1. **Establishment of local peace committees: have they been established? How many? (Output)**
2. **Use of the peace committees: are relevant conflict cases taken to the committees? How many? What percentage of conflicts? (Outcome)**
3. **How many conflictive cases are actually solved in a sustainable way? (Impact)**
4. **Perception of committees and functioning after UN funding ends? (Sustainability)**



Source: UNAMID

5. Examples from our work

Evaluation of Economic Cluster Development in the Palestinian Territories (working “in conflict”)

Indicators and evaluation process:

- No peace, conflict or conflict sensitivity indicators in project design and M&E
- Economic development indicators; change of perception and attitudes
- Conflictive context affected project implementation in various ways and was reflected in evaluation process and reporting; but less straightforward



Source: <http://www.pal-cluster.ps>

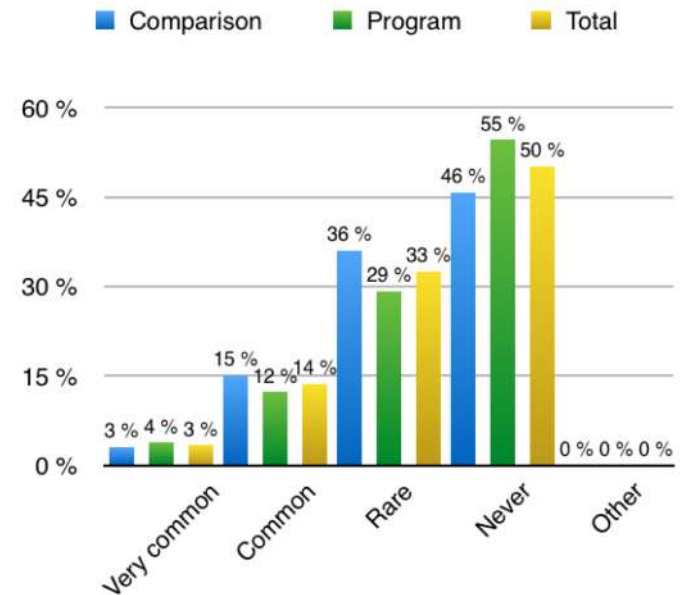
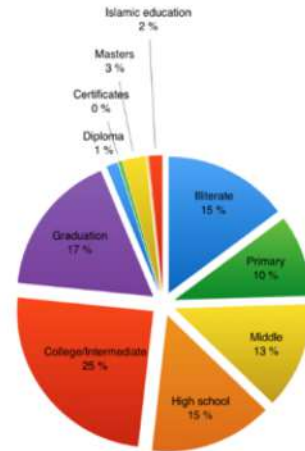
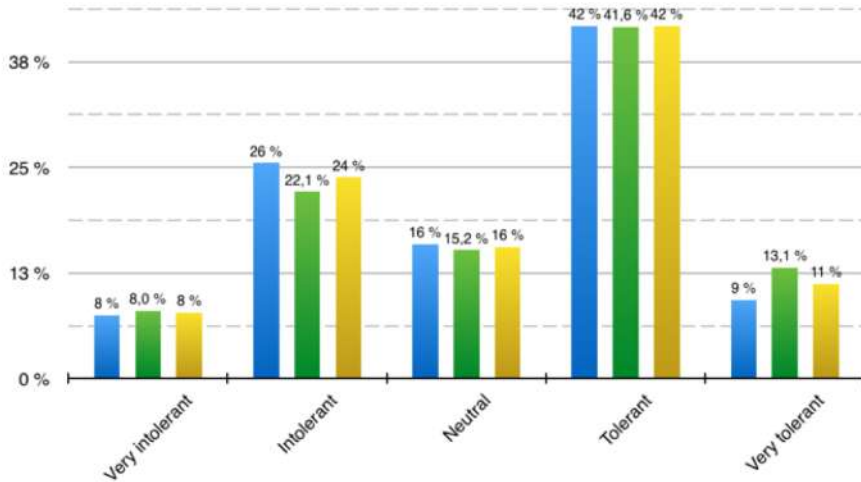
5. Examples from our work

Pakistan: Support to violent extremist groups

● Illiterate ● Primary ● Middle ● High school ● College/Intermediate ● Graduation
● Diploma ● Certificates ● Masters ● PhD ● Islamic education

Perception of level of tolerance from religious, ethnic, socioeconomic, and linguistic groups, by group affiliation (program/comparison).

$n=6199$. $Pearson\ chi^2(4) = 28.5722$ $Pr = 0.000$



Perception of frequency of people in area accepting use of violence to achieve social, political, or religious goals by group affiliation (program/comparison)

$n=5804$. $Pearson\ chi^2(4) = 53.1154$ $Pr = 0.000$

6. Possible solutions for integrating conflict sensitivity

Definition Conflict Sensitivity (Swiss Peace):

Conflict sensitivity is the ability of an organization to

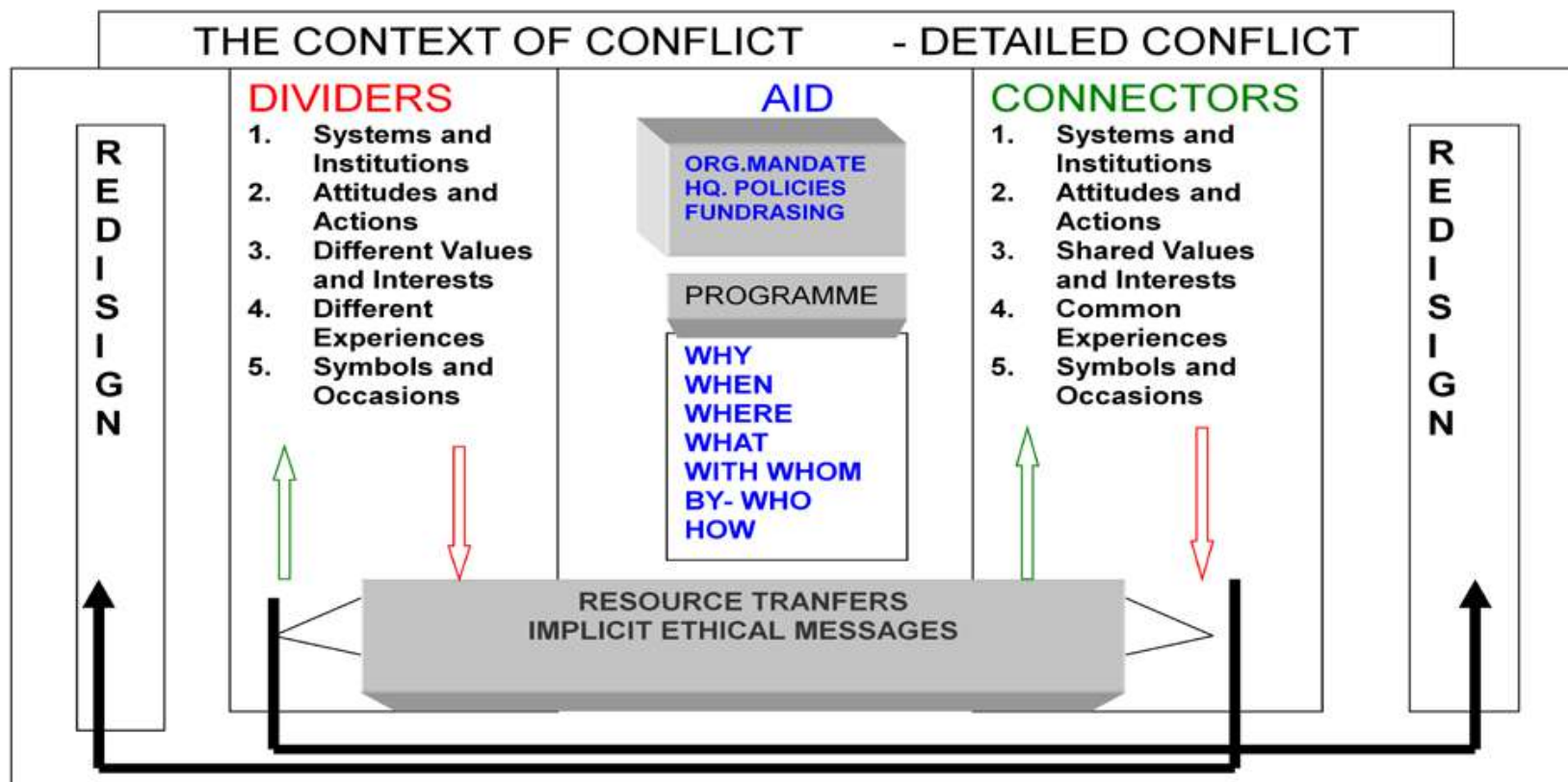
- a) understand the context in which it is operating in, in particular to understand intergroup tensions and the “divisive” issues with a potential for conflict, and the “connecting” issues with the potential to mitigate conflict and strengthen social cohesion**
- a) understand the interaction between its intervention and that context, and**
- a) act upon that understanding, in order to avoid unintentionally feeding into further division, and to maximize the potential contribution to strengthen social cohesion and peace.**

6. Possible solutions for integrating conflict sensitivity

In practice this means, one should

- Understand the context in which you operate
 - Conflict and context analysis, political economy analysis, stakeholder consultations
- Reflect on the interaction between your intervention and the context
 - Internal exercise, reflected in logframe, planning documents
- Act upon the understanding of this interaction, in order to avoid negative impacts and maximize positive impact
 - Regular re-checking and re-adjustment whenever necessary, being honest, learning from failure

6. Possible solutions for integrating conflict sensitivity

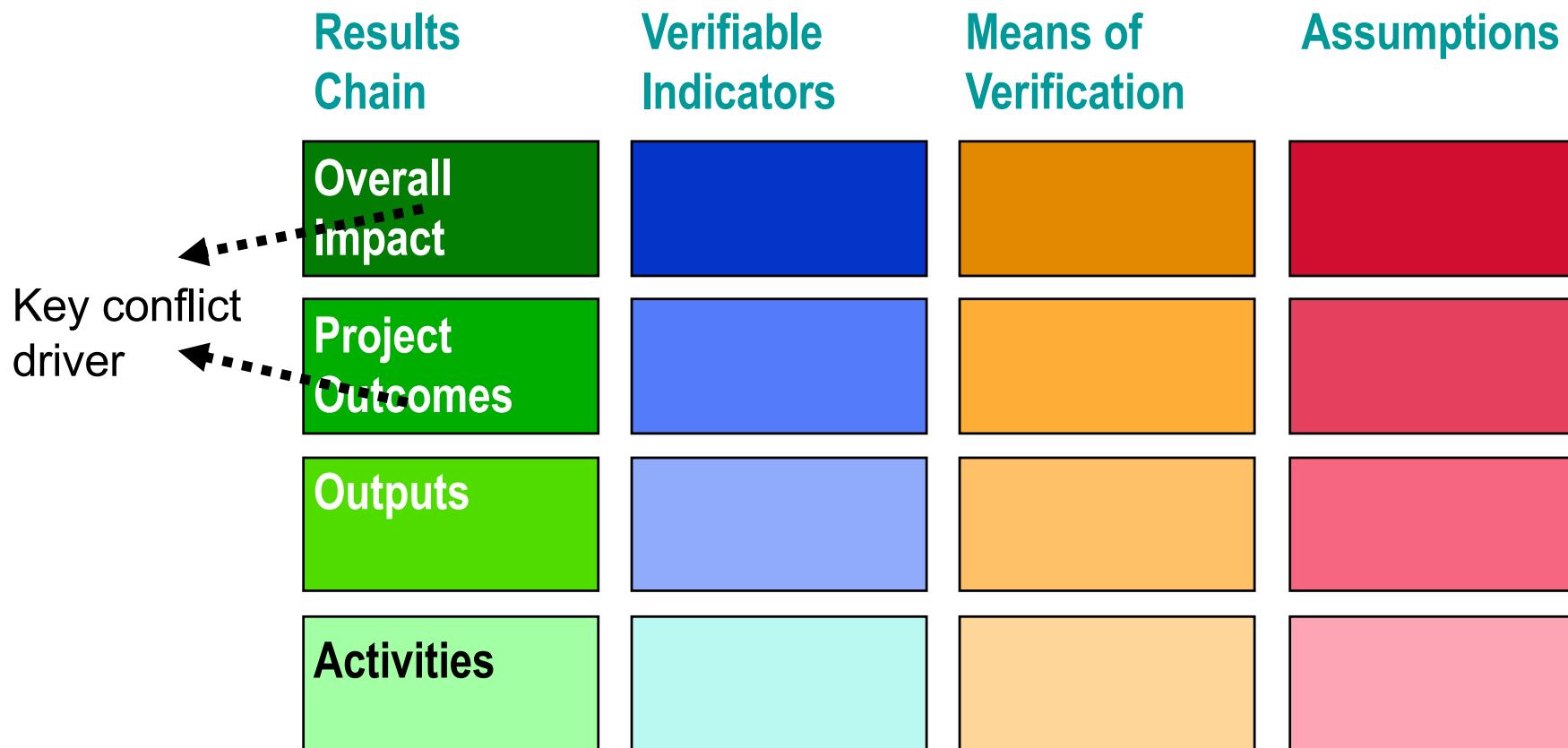


Source: GIZ, Capacity Works handbook

In this model, being conflict sensitive means systematically supporting connecting elements and connectors and reducing dividing elements and dividers

6. Possible solutions for integrating conflict sensitivity

Stabilization and Peacebuilding – How and how much are projects actually tailored to peace and conflict?



6. Possible solutions for integrating conflict sensitivity

M&E in Fragile States – Data Weaknesses

In fragile contexts, data will almost always be of poor quality. This complicates the ability to develop viable theories of change, establish indicators, baselines and targets.

→ Possible solutions:

Short term

- Understand and explain biases in your data
- Minimum viable data (do not gold plate)
- Triangulation of information – using qualitative and quantitative sources

Medium term

- Innovative methods (satellite, mobile data, info sourcing)
- Use data from other institutions/agencies

Longer term

- Invest in capacity building in developing local data

6. Possible solutions for integrating conflict sensitivity

M&E in Fragile States – Staff turnover

Fragile contexts often have a rapidly changing environment. High staff turnover and lack of skills may mean that programme managers and implementers are not able to conduct robust monitoring and evaluation.

→ Possible solutions:

Short term

- Good processes and tools
- Standard logframe and indicators

Medium term

- Create space for learning across organizations

Longer term

- Senior leaders must buy into Monitoring and Evaluation Agenda
- Local ownership by staff in country

7. Conclusion

1. The EU and other donors increasingly engage in situations of conflict and fragility and are adapting and tailoring their approaches and tools
2. Promoting resilience and development, even under adversary conditions, is a priority for the EU (and other donors), but it requires additional tools, skills and resources
3. Reaching Outcomes and Impact - and capturing both through monitoring and evaluation - is substantially more challenging in fragile contexts
4. Doing harm and not being conflict sensitive come at a high price for donors and beneficiaries. But there is **no alternative** to promoting conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm



Thank you for your time!

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