



Regional Learning & Advocacy Programme for Vulnerable Dryland Communities

DRAFT GOOD PRACTICE PRINCIPLES ON CONFLICT SENSITIVE PROGRAMMING IN THE DRYLANDS OF THE HORN OF AFRICA¹

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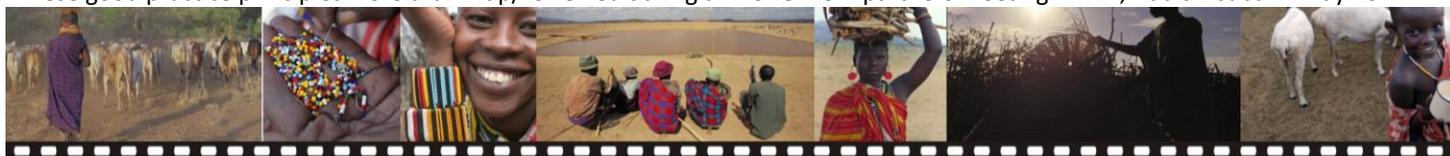
INTRODUCTION

'If we did a better job of managing our resources sustainably, conflicts over them would be reduced. So, protecting the global environment is directly related to securing peace', Hon. Professor Wangari Maathai, 2004 Nobel Laureate.

Berger (2003) and Gurevich (2010) described in detail the traditional settings of pastoralist conflicts which mainly are driven by their life under conditions of extreme variability caused by rainfall, low carrying capacity, which affects biomass and the NDVI, but also occurrence of flash floods leading to their high mobility. But also the prevalent tribal governance that stemmed from the nomadism is closely linked to conflict management, which is characterized by its highly regulated system that includes herd sharing and splitting, several customary institutions and a clear social hierarchy, which in case of the Yaa clans reaches to authority power and law enforcement for particular disputes on grazing regime, water, forest resources. Generally, the tribal governance systems are institutions for livelihood security, they encompass a detailed knowledge of natural resources, ability to settle conflicts, define common rules, ensure compliance and apply sanctions.

There are several ways to list and categorize the destabilizing factors leading to increased conflict and environmental degradation. In the following we adopted the approach of the 6 capitals (natural, human, financial, physical, political, and social) that has been used also by Nori (200x). Threats to natural capital include the non-accessing of specific natural resources or migratory routes, which may originated from excessive pastoral use or external encroachment, erroneous development investments or state policy and law (e.g. land privatization). But also undermined traditional approaches to resource management form a threat, such as the inability of traditional institutions to settle conflicts, some national government interventions,

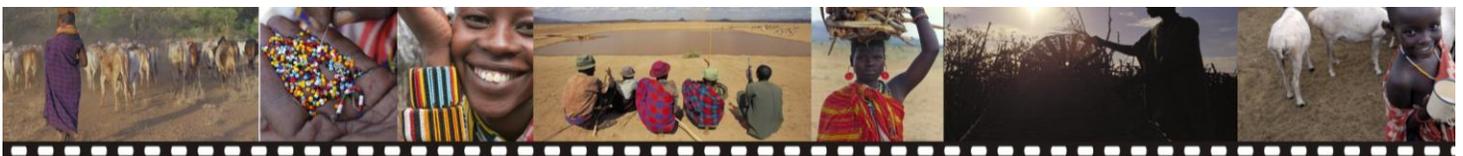
¹ These good practice principles were drawn up/reviewed during an ECHO DCM partners meeting in ILRI, Addis Ababa in May 2011



sedentarization, detrimental national policies, undermined land tenure & loss of access to key resources. Threats to human capital is largely expressed by violence, displacement, migration and diseases, but also the inability of resource access rights, decision making, knowledge transfer, and contingency exchanges. Variations in prices of critical staples may have repercussions on pastoralists nutritional and health status, absence of appropriate service delivery, e.g. mobile health services and mobile schools. Population growth and increased settlement leads to water development. While boreholes have altered annual grazing patterns, less mobility and increased sedentization had led to higher exposure to disasters and increased dependence to food aid. Threats to financial capital, the livestock, is reflected by any change affecting integrity, market prices, accessing remittance income and urban or market-based, alternative sources of income such as government employment. Threats to physical capital could be the destruction or deterioration of infrastructure and facilities for water, communication, migration or grazing. Threats to political and social capital could represent the corrosion of groups allowing to spread risk, practice common resource management, provide support to each other in times of crisis. Most of those threats occur through generational and gender struggles or external drivers, result in breakdown of customary structures based on trust, reciprocity and mutual exchanges. Drought and international borders are exuberating movement restriction, non existence of communication, security gaps that support cross border criminal activities, which causes insecurity and increased settlement in urban areas.

Over the past couple of years the community of researchers and practitioners has been developing more effective approaches and tools for working in zones of violent conflict or in the aftermath of violent conflict or wars. While the aid community has become much more aware of the need to 'Do no harm' (Anderson 1999) by working conflict sensitive, the peace community has started looking into ways of more effectively contributing to peace building by evaluating peace building efforts (Paffenholz 2005 and Gbaydee 2011).

In brief, conflict sensitivity in aid programmes is based on the understanding that there were always traditional ways for conflict resolution. After the cold war increased internal conflicts (e.g. Rwanda) have led to a re-orientation of the formerly strongly impartial & neutral aid actors and a debate started whether the humanitarian community has responsibility and a role in this context. Anderson et al. developed the 'Local Capacities for Peace Approach', better known as 'Do no harm', while Reychler et al. started to develop 'Conflict Impact Assessment Systems' (CIAS) focusing on the macro policy level. Bush developed a 'Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment' (PCIA) methodology comparable to environmental or gender impact assessment, also designed for the project level of interventions.



Whilst food aid remains the main way of meeting basic food needs in conflict, agencies have increasingly implemented a range of food security/livelihoods programmes to help meet basic needs and reduce protection risks, in both acute and protracted phases of conflict and disasters. During programming focus is given to minimizing the risk of diversion, theft or attack. Many agencies seek to achieve this by avoiding the direct distribution of in-kind goods or cash, and by close monitoring of both the context and the process of distribution. Risks associated with cash distribution are minimized by delivery via local banks or money-transfer companies, or by distributing only small quantities on a regular basis (Jaspers & Maxwell, 2009).

Vulnerability is related to lack of power and marginalization. These same dynamics make the targeting of assistance more difficult. The risks associated with the provision of assets as part of livelihoods programming need to be minimized. Asset support has to consider the social and economic relations between as well as within groups, so as not to reinforce social disruption or unequal power relations.

Policies, institutions and processes can be broadly interpreted as both the formal and informal governance environment, which determines control over assets, the types of livelihood strategies that people can use, who is able to use them and thus ultimately who is vulnerable.

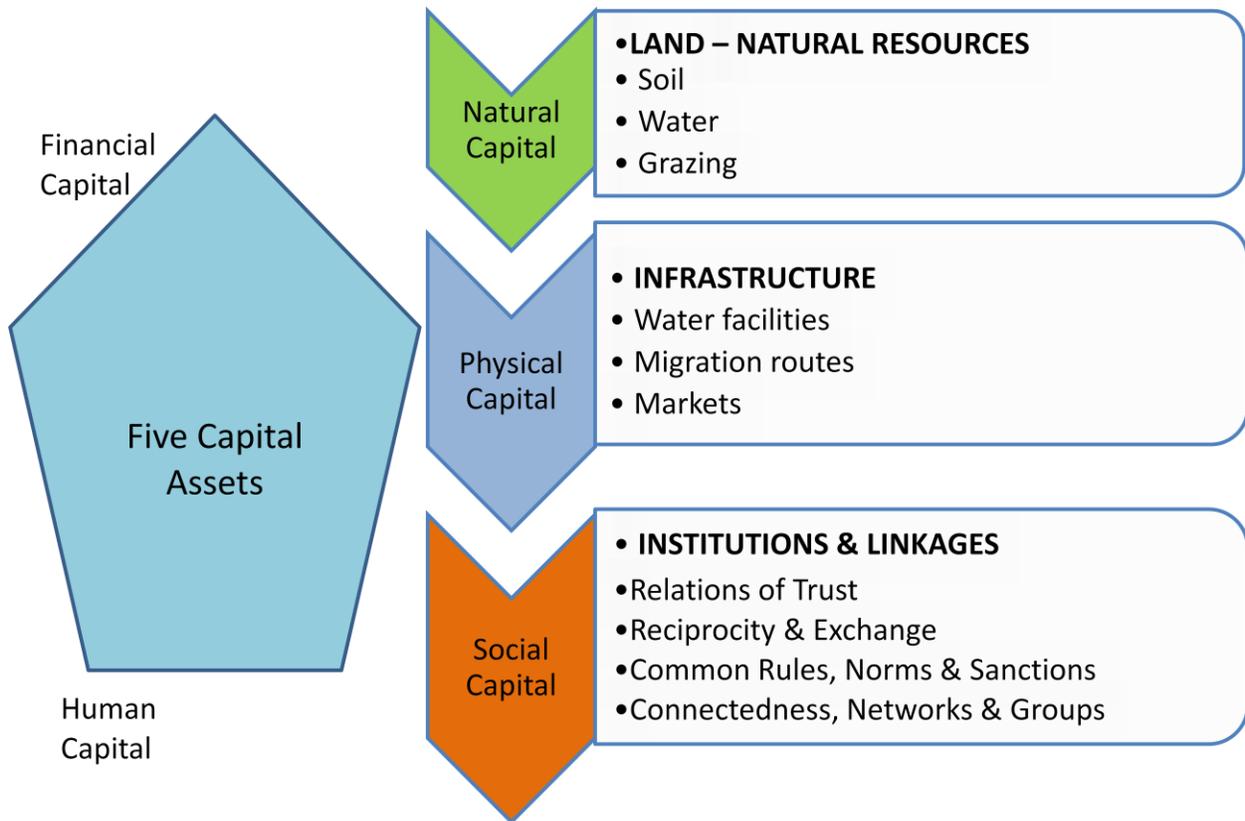
The key considerations for conflict-sensitive programming include therefore:

- To understand the operating context and develop strategies to address both the causes and consequences of conflict
- To analyse the potential positive and negative impacts of various response options
- To develop strategies which minimise negative impacts and maximise positive ones

While planning the aid programme, it is recommended to identify the conflict capacities, dividers or sources of tension and identifying connectors or local capacities for peace (Systems and Institutions; Attitudes and Actions; Different Values and Interests; Different Experiences; Symbols and Occasions). It may also help analysing the effect of resource transfers on the community (there are Allocation Effects; Market Effects; Distribution Effects; Substitution Effects; Legitimization Effects). Further it is recommended to reflect the implicit ethical messages of the actions (Arms and Power; Disrespect, mistrust, competition among aid agencies; Aid workers and impunity; Different value for different life).

The good practice principles for conflict sensitive programming are divided into the key livelihood assets as outlined in the sustainable livelihood approach. We have during the workshop prioritised three of the five/six assets.



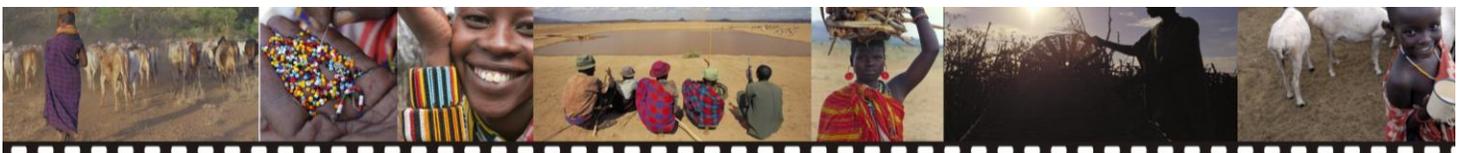


Natural Capital

- Understand the operational context - consider macro and micro level resource mapping and land use (water, grazing market migratory routes etc) which should inform the micro level.
- Prepare participatory resource maps of various communities and countercheck with neighbouring communities – important to claims by various communities.
- Verify the impact of proposed intervention on natural resource use and conflict. Example of farming vs pastoralism like in Hurri Hills.
- Link CMDRR be linked to conflict sensitive programming; when conflict is identified
- Facilitate resource use agreements in liaison with state authority e.g. reciprocal grazing agreements to enhance resource sharing and increasing capacity

Physical Capital

- Liaise with communities in allocating physical structure in a bid to enhance peaceful coexistence example of Gabbra and Dassenach of Northern Marsabit



- Maximize opportunities of joint intervention and learning between conflicting communities. Example of construction of wells undertaken jointly by Gabbra and Dassenach in order to transfer skills.
- Understand access routes, seasonal dynamics in order enhance access of staff.
- In-depth analysis pre-intervention and sharing to ensure peaceful access through markets and migratory routes. (Negotiation of access, facilities along market and migratory routes).
- Understanding the limits of communication and information exchange

Social Capital

- Refer to existing information and undertake literature review social dynamics of communities in an operation area and update situation of social relationships before intervention.
- Programming be designed to enhance well-being in a holistic manner not only physical but also psychological.
- Involvement of appropriate and legitimate institutions at local and district level.
- Facilitate & support community institutions to events and ceremonies.
- Understanding the leadership and governance structures in operational areas – identifying gaps and opportunities that would enhance
- Facilitating dialogue between different governance systems (traditional and national)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Actor	Actions		
	Policy	Organizational	Operational
Local Institutions	Staff aware of conflict sensitivity & have basic concepts on conflict.	Build coalitions with organizations working in neighbouring communities	Build advocacy capacity



Governments	Investment in pastoral areas to reduce conflicts Transparency for resource allocation Recognition and collaboration with local institutions Promotion of pro-pastoral policies	Transparency for resource allocation Inter-ministerial planning and coordination Harmonized cross-border and inter-ethnic programming Impartiality and needs based in interventions	Improve communication and information exchange Transparency for resource allocation Community exchange
IOs/INGOs	Staff are aware of conflict sensitivity Accountability e.g. Good Enough Guide ECB; Rights Based Approach Staff recruitment and operational guidelines.	Integrate conflict sensitive programming concepts in their project documents	Participatory planning with communities of interventions Undertake robust analysis and integrate lessons learnt to ensure conflict sensitivity
Donor Agencies	Understanding the need and supporting studies in context. Increase funding of organizational capacity development. Ensure that conflicts sensitive reflections are undertaken.	Improve donor coordination	Provide for flexibility in program design to foster conflict sensitive programming

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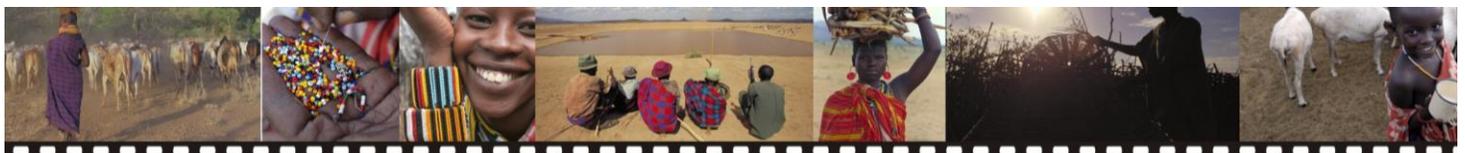
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Please send comments/suggestions on this document and relevant good practice experiences/studies to:

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION



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