Peace, Stability, and Transition Practice

The Peace, Stability and Transition (PST) Practice Management Team works with projects and sector partners to advance technical excellence in projects in fragile and conflict-affected situations (FCAS) and increase programmatic impact. PST works with Chemonics' global workforce to "demystify" and operationalize conflict sensitivity in program design and implementation.

Our Services

Conflict Sensitivity Advisory Support. During start-up and throughout implementation, PST offers consultations with project teams to guide conflict sensitivity integration in strategic planning in line with each project's strategic framework, scope, timeline, and context. This includes:
- Assessing the conflict sensitivity of planned activities or clusters and guiding option development
- Assessing the conflict sensitivity of operational processes and recommending safeguard mechanisms
- Facilitating quarterly Pause and Reflect sessions throughout the course of a project with local staff to gauge effectiveness of conflict sensitivity measures
- Assisting in developing new conflict sensitivity measures in response to shifts in conflict dynamics
- Integrating conflict sensitivity into strategic frameworks

Training for Project Teams. PST conducts conflict sensitivity training for staff, providing a primer in the Do No Harm Framework its importance for any assistance program in a fragile or conflict affected setting. The training can be conducted concurrently with the Holistic Inclusion Approach during project startup to ensure staff can develop and implement programming through an inclusive and conflict sensitive lens. Conflict sensitivity training can also be provided as part of a strategy review or ahead of expansion to new geographic areas.

Conflict Analysis Support. PST conducts tailored conflict analyses that contribute to a project team's nuanced understanding of complex and dynamic contexts. This ensures that projects are regularly assessing and adapting to conflict factors and dynamics, informing strategic frameworks, and integrating specific conflict/context indicators as a part of monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

Evidence Reviews. PST undertakes comprehensive or meta evidence reviews to inform activity design. For example, the team undertook a review of evidence on private sector growth and workforce development in FCAS to support work planning on our GFA-funded Libya Economic Accelerator Program (LEAP), and a review of evidence on the impact of horizontal social cohesion activities in conflict and violence prevention to inform our USAID Salam in Mali.

Learning Agenda Initiatives

- **Tailored Resources.** In partnership with CDA Collaborative Learning Projects, PST engaged projects working in FCAS to capture how teams are integrating conflict sensitive approaches in three sectors: agriculture and food security (AFS), health systems, and economic growth and trade (EGT). After joint analysis, the team will produce sector-specific conflict sensitivity guides that identify common patterns of interaction between programs in these sectors and conflict dynamics. These guides will be published in 2025**.**

- **Evidence for Cumulative Impact Project.** PST gathered evidence on what works in FCAS to answer the question: which approaches successfully build momentum towards strategic objectives? The initiative piloted a new methodological framework with three projects, the USAID/OTI Libya Transition Initiative 3 &4 (2017 – 2023), FCDO's Yemen Peacebuilding Project (2020 – 2023), and USAID/CVP's Burkina Faso On Est Ensemble (2022-2024). The methodology uses the evidence-based criteria for effectiveness (or Building Blocks for Peace) produced by CDA to identify approaches that allow for strategic sequencing and layering of activities for greater cumulative impact for stabilization, conflict prevention, or other desired political outcomes. This evidence base can be leveraged to inform activity design on future programs in the OTI and non-OTI space.

How the Evidence for Cumulative Impact Project Builds on OTI's Key M&E Practices

Examine, document and revisit problem set

The Building Blocks for Peace (BBP) provide an evidence-based map to interpret and track program contributions to strategic objectives as teams develop a nuanced understanding of the problem set and the evolving context.

Define and unpack terminology

BBPs' broad but descriptive characterization of criteria determining program's impact on stabilization, conflict prevention, or other desired political outcomes, serve as a customizable but evidence-based canvas for defining specific strategic objectives.

Prioritize strong qualitative data

The description of the BBPs and the accompanying evaluation questions can orient data collection processes and are particularly useful for qualitative data.

Utilize shorter and frequent feedback loops

Incorporating BBPs' elements into program objectives can provide continuity across interventions, enhancing strategic sequencing and layering for greater cumulative impact. BBPs' clear roadmap can improve data gathering and inform activity-specific assessments and higher-level analysis.

Increase team engagement on M&E

BBPs can serve as an intermediate goal post when we are working on short-term activities in a rapidly changing context but still want to contribute to longer-term strategic objectives. As evidence-based roadmaps, BBPs facilitate targeted conversations across the team.

Open the aperture, look wider than intended

BBPs can help programs focus the image at the end of the lens when they open that aperture! Deriving from extensive field-based collaborative learning, they can assist teams in articulating higher-level results that we know will help build cumulative effect.