



CDA's Expertise in Conflict Sensitivity / Do No Harm

CDA COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECTS

CDA Collaborative Learning Projects (CDA, cdacollaborative.org) is a non-profit organization committed to improving the effectiveness of those who work to provide humanitarian assistance, engage in peace practice, support sustainable development, and conduct corporate operations in a socially responsible manner. Through our [collaborative learning process](#), we combine rigorous analysis with pragmatic field-level work to deliver [practical tools](#) to field staff and policymakers alike, based on the findings from the collaborative learning processes. CDA is based in Cambridge, MA, United States, and has an office in Myanmar, which was established to support local application of conflict-sensitivity practices of national and international actors. CDA's activities are structured around two pillars: Collaborative Learning (including applied research) and Advisory Services (including coaching, mentoring, and longer-term accompaniment), tailored to our diverse range of partner and clients. CDA neither implements country-level projects, nor directly engages in advocacy. Our partners and clients value our independence and experience as a convener and facilitator of multi-stakeholder engagements.

GLOBAL LEARNING IN CONFLICT SENSITIVITY / DO NO HARM

CDA helps policy makers, practitioners and organizations improve the quality, effectiveness and accountability of their work through better tools for understanding and adapting to the contexts in which they operate. In the early 1990s, our founder, Mary B. Anderson, noticed that many humanitarian and development organizations were concerned about some of their activities exacerbating conflict and violence. This dilemma launched the Do No Harm program, which involved over 100 aid organizations, and more than 1000 practitioners from all over the world, resulting in the 1999 publication of *Do No Harm: How Aid Can Support Peace – Or War*. CDA was among the first to raise such issues and equip practitioners to address them, prompting a true 'paradigm shift' among international actors.

As a result, 'Do No Harm' has now become synonymous with conflict sensitivity. Conflict sensitivity refers to the practice of understanding how aid interacts with conflict in a particular context, to mitigate unintended negative effects, and to influence conflict positively wherever possible, through humanitarian, development and/or peacebuilding interventions. CDA continues to respond to practitioners' questions and challenges in advancing conflict sensitivity practice. Our current collaborative learning agenda focuses on the Monitoring and Evaluation of conflict sensitivity as a key enabler of adaptive, context-appropriate programming in conflict-affected contexts.

SELECTION OF RECENT COLLABORATIVE LEARNING AND APPLIED RESEARCH ENGAGEMENTS

Learning Partners	Collaborators	Substance	Region	Period
UK DFID, Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs, Global Affairs Canada	Saferworld, swisspeace	Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility - South Sudan: Leading the learning component of collaborative initiative to develop and test innovative approaches.	South Sudan	2016-ongoing
US Agency for International Development	Management Systems International	Fragility and Conflict Technical Research Services: researched and developed customized conflict sensitivity resources and guidance for USAID staff.	Global	2015-ongoing
Conflict Sensitivity Community - Hub		Founding member of emergent conflict sensitivity network / community of practice.	Global	2014-ongoing
World Vision International		Conflict Sensitivity Meta-Trends: Analysis of meta-trends from conflict sensitivity reports from 54 contexts, plus WVI's programmatic responses.	Global	2014-2016

SELECTION OF RECENT ADVISORY SERVICE ENGAGEMENTS

Clients / Partners	Substance	Region	Period
One Earth Future Foundation	Training: Conflict analysis workshop including both DNH and systems analysis for program strategists and planners.	USA / East Africa	2017
PartnersGlobal	Training: Do No Harm practitioner skills training for PartnersGlobal staff and partners.	USA / Global	2017
Management Systems International	Analysis: Conflict systems analysis and accompanying DNH assessment of program plans, in North and South Kivu, DR Congo.	DR Congo	2017
SIDA, in consortium with Saferworld, swisspeace, Stockholm Policy Group, Global Emergency Group	Human security and humanitarian assistance helpdesk, featuring conflict sensitivity briefings	Global/Various countries	2016-ongoing
European Union, Organization of American States, Caribbean Community	Training: Integrated Reflecting on Peace Practice and DNH workshops, for participants engaged in political analysis and disaster risk reduction.	Americas	2016
Paung Sie Facility (Peace Support Fund), USAID Office of Transition Initiatives	CDA country office provides conflict sensitivity training, assessments, and accompaniment for local and international organizations.	Myanmar	2015-onwards
Kvinna Till Kvinna	Analysis: Do No Harm analyses for two regions in Syria, and DNH application for programs in Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon.	Middle East	2015-2016
Barcelona International Peace Resource Centre	'Practical Tools for Promoting Positive Change in Complex Contexts' – Training workshops combining Do No Harm and Reflecting on Peace Practice	Global	2014-2016
Norwegian Refugee Council - Jordan	Training: DNH Training of Trainers / Field Assessment, combining classroom work and field visits in order to generate a DNH analysis.	Middle East	2015
US Agency for International Development – Nepal	Analysis: Facilitated DNH analyses for three operational regions plus development of customized checklist for USAID-Nepal.	Nepal	2015

SELECT KEY PUBLICATIONS

- Anderson, Mary B. *Options for Aid in Conflict: Lessons from Field Experience*. Cambridge, MA: CDA Collaborative Learning Projects, 2000.
- Anderson, Mary B. *Do No Harm: How Aid Can Support Peace – Or War*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1999.
- Aron, Gabrielle. "Reshaping engagement: Perspectives on conflict sensitivity in Rakhine state." Yangon: CDA Collaborative Learning Projects, 2016.
- Aron, Gabrielle and David Gilmore. "Navigating Change: Crisis and Crossroads in the Rakhine State Context." Yangon: CDA Collaborative Learning Projects, 2017.
- Barnard-Webster, Kiely, Nicole Goddard, and Isabella Jean. "Monitoring and Evaluation of Conflict Sensitivity: Practical Considerations" in *Conflict Sensitivity: Taking it to the Next Level* swisspeace working paper, February 2016 edited by Sabina Handschin, Eric Abitbol, and Rina Alluri: 88-95.
- CDA Collaborative Learning Projects. "Do No Harm Workshop Trainer's Manual." Cambridge, MA: CDA, 2016.
- Chigas, Diana, and Nicole Goddard. "Monitoring and Evaluation of Conflict Sensitivity – Methodological Considerations." *Evaluation Connections* (August 2016): 10-11.
- Goldwyn, Rachel and Diana Chigas. "Monitoring and Evaluating Conflict Sensitivity: Methodological Challenges and Practical Solutions." A Conflict, Crime, and Violence Results Initiative (CCVRI) product. London: Care International UK, CDA Collaborative Learning Projects, and DFID, 2013.
- Goddard, Nicole. *Conflict Sensitivity Mainstreaming Efforts*. Cambridge, MA: CDA Collaborative Learning Projects, 2014.
- Goddard, Nicole, and Dilshan Annaraj. "Conflict Sensitivity Meta-Trends Analysis." CDA Collaborative Learning Projects and World Vision International, 2017.
- Goddard, Nicole and Maureen Lempke. "Do No Harm in Land Tenure and Property Rights." CDA Collaborative Learning Projects, 2012.
- Woodrow, Peter and Diana Chigas. "A Distinction with a Difference: Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding." Cambridge, MA: CDA Collaborative Learning Projects, 2009.

OUR TEAM

The contact information for, and profiles of key CDA staff with relevant Conflict Sensitivity expertise can be found at:

cdacollaborative.org/what-we-do/conflict-sensitivity