



Conflict Sensitivity in Emergency Response

Strategy and Action Plan of the CS Consortium project "The Practice of Conflict-Sensitivity – Concept to Impact" by the UK CS Consortium 'Emergency Working Group' (CAFOD, International Alert, Action Aid)

Activity 5.5 Apply and evaluate CSA methodology in a rapid onset emergency

Under this activity, the CS Consortium has already produced a set of guidelines to incorporate CS Approaches in the first 30 days of an emergency. Many of the consortium members felt that this guide was not adapted to be piloted as such. The guide has some good examples of the value of applying CSA in emergencies drawing on case studies presented in the annexes. The document also provides valuable guidance with regard to emergency preparedness and for organisations involved in emergencies to ensure that response staff are trained in and able to use CSA in humanitarian and emergency work. However that guide also has limitations which the consortium has recognised and is addressing. The following strategy aims to enable the consortium to assist emergency response and humanitarian staff to practically apply conflict sensitive approaches in planning, preparedness and interventions.

The three-fold strategy has the following objectives:

1. To link up with lead thinkers & practitioners involved in debates around humanitarian best practice in order to engage them on the following issues:
 - a. What CSA approaches have been applied in emergency situations and what benefits did those approaches bring?
 - b. What else needs to be done to improve the quality and effectiveness of interventions in terms of conflict sensitivity and how best can we document learning from CSA application?
 - c. How can we document best practices in conflict sensitivity in ways that are relevant and practical for those who plan and implement humanitarian and emergency interventions?
2. Review and contribute to the revision/enhancement of existing resources (SPHERE, Good enough Guide) and engage with existing initiatives (HAP, CBHA, ECB, VOICE) to incorporate and promote CSA in humanitarian/emergency practice.
3. Pilot CSA in existing interventions implemented by at least two of the CS Consortium members. The idea is to select an agency who implements through partners (i.e. CAFOD) and an agency who is a direct implementer (i.e. Save the Children). Each agency will select at least one

humanitarian/emergency project where CSA will be applied. It does not have to be an onset emergency. CSA could be applied at the beginning of the implementation, at design stage, or while implementation is underway. It is envisaged that some of the recommendations and guidelines present in the Emergency Guide already produced by the CS Consortium will be integrated in the pilot. Also it is hoped that the findings and recommendations from the seminar (under objective 1) will be useful for these pilots.

Action plan:

1. Link up with academia/think leaders – An initial list of people has been drawn, but is not exhaustive, to include:
 - Neil Barry (Chase/Dfid)
 - George Fenton (WV)
 - John Mitchell (CARE Geneva)
 - Margie Buchanan Smith (independent)
 - Hugo Slim (consultant and academic)
 - Jane Hocking (Oxfam)
 - Jeremy Loveless (Oxfam)
 - Mark Duffield (Academic)
 - Nick Stockton (HAP)

Cynthia of International Alert will contact the above and start engaging with them. By the end of October all the above will have been contacted and ToRs for a seminar will be drafted by Cynthia and shared with CS Consortium members.

2. We have already started to engage with SPHERE; CS project coordinator sent suggestions for revisions to incorporate CSA in the guide and promote the work/resources of CS Consortium through its website. The next step is to contact CBHA director and Amany of Action Aid has already done so (meeting scheduled for mid-November 2010). Alessandra of CAFOD will get in touch with the ECB and Good Enough Guide to explore ways of engaging with them. All the steps will be documented.
3. CAFOD is already interested in piloting CSA in emergency interventions. CAFOD will be identifying a suitable project and will work on management buy-in and final go ahead. The Steering Committee will engage with Save the Children to assess their interest in piloting CSA as part of one of their emergency intervention.