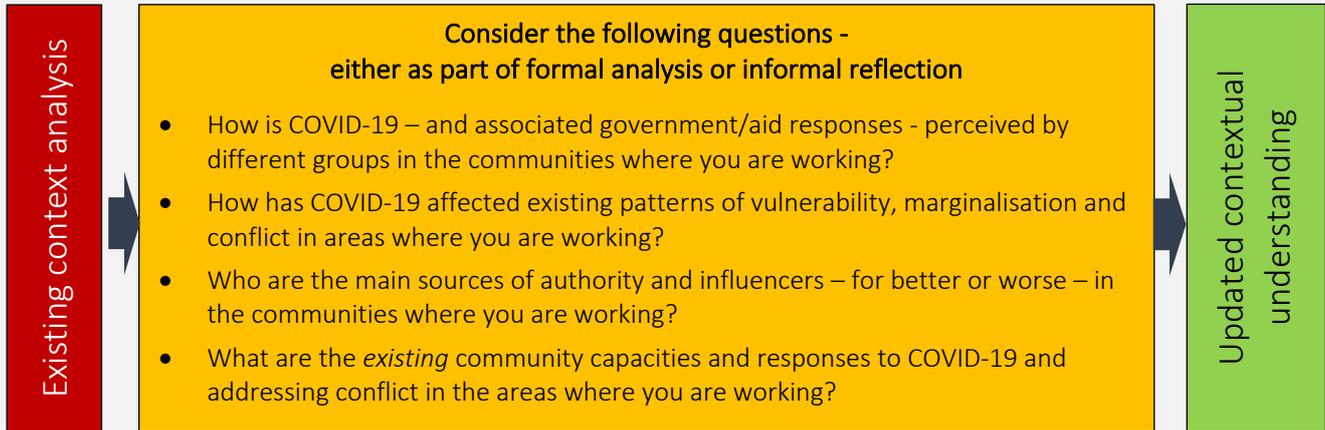


Considerations for a conflict-sensitive COVID-19 response in South Sudan

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a significant impact on all aspects of South Sudanese life. The effects on South Sudan's economy, politics and society is placing communities and the aid sector under immense pressures. This is resulting in new tensions, as well as interact with existing ones. This guidance highlights the main conflict sensitivity issues practitioners should consider when designing their COVID-19 responses.

Step 1: Understand the context: COVID-19 in South Sudan



Step 2: Understand how a COVID-19 response can drive, pre-empt and address emerging tensions...

- ... Over rumours, stigma and discrimination
- ... Over pressure to adapt cultural norms and practices
- ... Over 'broken' commitments and lack of consultation with local partners and communities
- ... Over movement restrictions and (perceived equity of) access to resources and services
- ... Over gender roles and frustrated social expectations
- ... Over interrupted dispute resolution and national/local peace processes

Step 3: Adapt your COVID-19 response to mitigate tensions by considering the following:

| Principles | Capacities |
|--|---|
| <p>Leverage networks and messaging activities to correct misinformation and ensure people or communities do not get blamed or targeted</p> <p>Adapt responses to the diverse local contexts, traditions and cultures of South Sudan</p> <p>Consider how gender and identity influence vulnerability <u>to</u> and propensity <u>for</u> and conflict</p> <p>Involve South Sudanese staff and organisations in design to ensure responses are aligned with local norms and practices</p> <p>Build on existing local capacities to increase ownership, adaptation and replication</p> | <p>What organisational incentives are in place to motivate behaviour change?</p> <p>Are there spaces for participation of local influencers and community delivery models?</p> <p>Do staff understand a conflict sensitive approach, and receive guidance, training and mentorship?</p> <p>What role can procurement, operations, and HR play in supporting a conflict-sensitive response?</p> <p>How can we share analysis between organisations to inform each other's understanding and response?</p> <p>How can more coordinated responses (e.g. shared referral pathways, feedback mechanisms, events) help address access and resource constraints?</p> |