



CAPABLE PARTNERS PROGRAM (CAP)

Conflict-Sensitive Programming through Monitoring and Evaluation

The Capable Partners Program designed and facilitated a pilot workshop in Ghana in November 2004 for staff from USAID Missions, international PVOs, and local NGOs on conflict-sensitive monitoring and evaluation (M&E). When sensitive to the unique considerations of working in conflict-affected areas, M&E can be an important tool in preventing or de-scaling conflict, allowing projects to be designed and redesigned to maximize effectiveness.

Participants came from 11 countries in western and central Africa, where they face everything from unstable peace to full-blown civil war and their organizations address concerns as disparate as food security, microfinance, and peace-building. CAP led participants in identifying conflict as the direct result of one of three sources:

- ♦ **Structural Sources:** the pervasive conditions that affect large populations over a long time but do not themselves cause violence: resource scarcity, rampant unemployment, and historical divisions. Although these situations do not inevitably produce conflict, they inherently facilitate mobilizing militant groups, when crises spark aggression.
- ♦ **Enabling Sources:** the political processes and institutions that pressure the underlying “structural sources” until violent or divisive policies or actions erupt: weak government, discriminatory laws and practices (e.g. colonial privileges bestowed on one ethnic group), diamonds to finance armed insurgencies, etc.
- ♦ **Triggering Sources:** the destabilizing actions that instigate violence or hostility: bombings, assassinations, provocative speech, and high-stakes events such as elections. Often these “triggering sources” spiral smaller disputes and tensions into increasingly violent conflict, which progressively polarizes the opposed groups, making reconciliation more difficult.

Using these categories, CAP introduced participants to an [analysis framework](#) to help them assess the extent to which their programs:

- ♦ Contribute to stopping the key driving factor(s) of the conflict;
- ♦ Create or reform institutions/mechanisms to address the specific grievances or injustices that fuel conflict;
- ♦ Cause participants and communities to develop independent initiatives that decrease what segregates their society, increase what integrates it, or address other causes of conflict;
- ♦ Prompt people increasingly to resist violence and provocations to violence; and
- ♦ Increase people’s security and sense of security.

The workshop was funded through an Associate Award under CAP by USAID/DCHA/PVC-ASHA and USAIS/AFR and designed in coordination with USAID/WARP and USAID/CMM. Several of the workshop resources are available for use on www.NGOConnect.NET along with CAP’s publication, *Conflict-Sensitive Monitoring and Evaluation: Keys for Successful Programming*.

Barney Singer
CAP Chief of Party
AED Center for Civil Society
& Governance
Email: bsinger@aed.org
Tel. 202.884.8918

Adele Liskov
CAP Cognizant
Technical Officer
USAID/DCHA/PVC-ASHA
Email: aliskov@usaid.gov
Tel. 202.712.0690

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