

# INTRODUCTION

## 1. IMPLEMENTING VIOLENCE PREVENTION

“Moving upstream” is the slogan of the OECD/DAC guidelines on preventing violent conflicts. This means: let us focus on concrete ways of implementing violence prevention before conflicts seriously get hot. The international community’s experience in post conflict transition is much broader than its experience in adequately applying preventive measures. One reason for this is that the way leading from guidelines on preventive peacebuilding to the implementation into local action is cumbersome.

The Tip Sheets (section three) of this handbook are designed to link SDC’s peacebuilding policy and the ten principles (section one) with the CSPM instrument (section two). While the **CSPM** leads you step-by-step through the **Programme Cycle Manage-**

**ment** (PCM) with **procedural indications**, the Tip Sheets provide both methodological as well as thematic guidance. The aim of combining the CSPM and Tip Sheets is two-fold: first, it should help in **planning** a conflict-sensitive country programme, and second, it should facilitate **implementing** violence prevention concretely and appropriately in a given context.

This handbook is meant for country directors and programme managers on the one hand, and desk officers, national programme officers, and implementing partners on the other. Depending on their role and tasks, some might want to focus more on the peacebuilding principles, some on the procedural aspects of CSPM, and some on specific Tip Sheets.

## 2. GUIDING THROUGH THIS HANDBOOK

You might have some basic questions before starting to read and apply this handbook. You might be interested in better understanding concepts of “peace”, “prevention” or “conflict”; you might want to learn some of the “conflict vocabulary” before engaging yourself in a working group or participating at a seminar; or you might be interested in distinguishing between different “schools” or “approaches” in order to make a choice. Here are some hints for your orientation.

The handbook is composed of four sections:

1. It starts with the **SDC Guidelines on Peacebuilding**. Published in six languages in February 2003, these policy guidelines help us to better understand the inter-linkages between conflict, peace, and development cooperation. If you wish to know more about SDC’s understanding of **conflict transformation**, we invite you to read the guidelines. They also provide some guidance to differentiate between what we would call long-term **“peace development”** and more short-term **“peace promotion”** at the political and the diplomatic level. The **ten principles** on peacebuilding reflect the SDC experience in this strategic field of action.
2. The second section introduces **Conflict-Sensitive Programme Management (CSPM)** in order to prevent and mitigate violence and transform conflicts in the context of SDC’s work. The section distinguishes between **CSPM Basic** and **CSPM Comprehensive** which are adapted to SDC’s PCM, and encompass the **“Do No Harm” (DNH)**-approach and a **three-dimensional concept of**

**violence prevention**. The CSPM puts an emphasis on **power** (shift, asymmetry, distribution, access, struggle) as one of the main sources of violent conflict in the local context of development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

3. The third section comprises an open series of **Tip Sheets** that will be updated whenever there is the need to deal with new topics. We distinguish between **methodological** and **thematic** Tip Sheets. The first provide guidance for the best use of the CSPM instrument. The latter highlight the main aspects of a specific topic. The Tip Sheets are prepared by COPRET (Conflict Prevention and Transformation) in collaboration with consultants as well as by the donor community in the DAC/CPDC framework (the OECD Tip Sheets are called Issues Briefs).
4. In order to promote an internationally shared understanding in our thematic field of action, we decided to integrate an entire **“Resource Pack”** in section four. These “Conflict-sensitive approaches to development, humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding” were developed in consortium with partner organisations such as the Africa Peace Forum, International Alert and Saferworld. The Resource Pack was sponsored by IDRC, CIDA, Minbuza, GTZ and SIDA. The introduction to the Resource Pack contains a well designed **glossary** with the **main terms** that are used internationally both by research institutes as well as bi- and multilateral agencies. There is a helpful annex consisting of a **bibliography** and further reading.

### 3. MAKING THE BEST USE OF THE TIP SHEETS

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When you apply CSPM in the course of the PCM (planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) you can follow the model pathway as designed in the CSPM instrument (see chapter 4.5: “**CSPM within the Programme Cycle Management**”). In the form of a flow chart, you will find a process design that will help you elaborate whether your programme is part of a context where you only need to apply a **DNH**-approach, or if you are working in a fragile or crisis situation, where you need to apply **CSPM Basic** or **Comprehensive**. At a certain stage of the process, you may want to know how to do a context analysis, what to do to be more preventive and conflict-sensitive, and what peacebuilding activities of SDC look like. How can you proceed?

The **Tip Sheets** can give you advice in your choice and decision making. The methodological Tip Sheets illustrate how to best conduct a **conflict analysis** in a participatory and interactive way or an **impact as-**

**essment**. If you want to learn more about a specific topic such as for example **gender and peacebuilding, small arms and light weapons, SSR** or links between the **environment and conflict** you can make use of the thematic Tip Sheets. The Resource Pack in section four can be consulted to get additional or alternative ideas about conflict-sensitive development cooperation. It includes a comprehensive chapter on “conflict analysis”.

Please do not hesitate to contact the COPRET Division if you have questions about the handbook or if you need advice or assistance concerning CSPM and implementing peacebuilding activities at the local level. It is our job to respond to your requests as professionally as we can.

### 4. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND SERVICES

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Not every aspect of this complex topic can be covered by a single publication. This handbook attempts to be a comprehensive approach to conflict transformation and peacebuilding in the framework of development cooperation and humanitarian aid. However, in an emerging and dynamic field there is always much more for us all to learn and to improve.

For specific needs we recommend the following resources and services:

- The OECD/DAC guidelines “Helping prevent violent conflict” (<http://www.oecd.org>)
- “Gender, conflict-transformation and the psychosocial approach”, a toolkit by SDC (COPRET/GOV)

- KOFF-Newsletter by the Center for Peacebuilding. The newsletter on peacebuilding activities of the Swiss Foreign Ministry and over 30 Swiss NGOs is published monthly in German, French and English. (<http://www.swisspeace.org/koff/newsletter.htm>)
- “Contributions to Transforming Economies of Violence”, by swisspeace
- “Focus on Gender and Peace-building”: newsletter published three times a year by cfd, a Swiss NGO for Women’s Empowerment, at the request of and in collaboration with SDC (in German, French and English)

Please consult our web site for more information:  
[www.deza.admin.ch](http://www.deza.admin.ch) (> Themes > Peacebuilding)