Seed Systems in Conflict-Affected Areas: A Context Analysis Tool (CAT)

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Participation

- Only panellist microphones and cameras enabled
- Introduce yourself in the chat!
- All questions (tech & content) in the chat
- Webinar is recorded for sharing

French interpretation available

Everyone must select a language! Click “Interpretation” at the bottom of your Zoom window and select English or French.

Cliquez sur « interprétation » au bas de votre écran Zoom et sélectionnez anglais ou français.
Agenda

- ISSD Africa - SDC
- CAT background
- Conflict Analysis
- Seed Systems and Conflict
- Reflections from Implementers
- Questions
Developing the seed sector in fragile states

8 Action Research Topics

1. Developing the seed sector in fragile states
2. Effective seed insecurity response
3. Agrobiodiversity, seeds and climate change
4. Enabling seed policies
5. Enhancing seed quality assurance
6. Business models for EGS
7. Creating demand for quality seed
8. Gender dynamics in seed systems

Action learning questions

- What are the characteristics of seed systems in fragile states and how are they affected by conflict?
- How do we adapt assessments, interventions and learning in conflict-affected environments to promote more resilient seed systems?

https://issdafrica.org/
CAT Background
1. Conflict is on the rise around the globe. Seed-related proposals high.

1. To effectively intervene in fragile contexts, seed-related activities must be approached differently from how they would in more stable contexts.

1. No dedicated tool to help humanitarian actors understand fragile contexts & inform design of seed interventions

1. CAT fills the gap
Context Analysis Tool (CAT)

**Development:** Mercy Corps & ISSD Africa with SeedSystem, and input from USAID and implementers (12 reviewers from 9 organizations)

**Audience:** implementers working in conflict-affected areas of fragile states.

**Aim:** help actors quickly grasp the environment and circumstances in which seed systems function, and then to identify practical entry points for designing and implementing interventions to bolster such systems, making them more resilient.

**English and French (forthcoming)**

Complimented by the Seed Emergency Response Tool (SERT)
Section 1: Characterizing conflicts and their effects on seed system programming

Section 2: CAT Methodology
- Phase 1 - Assess the context
- Phase 2 - Explores practical programming considerations for seed-related interventions

Section 3: Practical tools
CAT
Analyzing Conflict
Characteristics of Conflict – What we see and what we don’t

At its most basic, conflict occurs when two or more parties believe that they have incompatible goals.

- Direct physical violence
- Underlying tensions
- Structural & cultural violence
- Root causes of conflict
Characteristics of Conflict – Positive & Negative Peace

NEGATIVE PEACE
... is the absence of violence or fear of violence.

POSITIVE PEACE
... is the attitudes, institutions & structures that create and sustain peaceful societies.

Well functioning government
Equitable distribution of resources
Sound business environment
Free flow of information
Low levels of corruption
Acceptance of the rights of others
Good relations with neighbours
High levels of human capital
Section 1: Characteristics of Conflict & Seed Systems

Conflict Features and Seed Systems

● Little work on characterizing conflict in relation to seed system programming

● Conflict may affect such programming, for example:
  ○ Violence → displacement → farmers working in different agroecological contexts
  ○ Discrimination and exclusion limiting market access and participation

● On the flip side, fostering inclusion and collaboration across conflict lines around a mutual interest related to agriculture, can help to build peace
Aim: to ensure that the program *minimizes* any potential negative effects it may have on the conflict and *maximizes* any potential positive effects.

The Do No Harm approach brings a focus on Connectors and Dividers.

Conflict Sensitivity in our initial analysis involves ensuring wide and inclusive participation in the analysis, and asking open-ended questions in a sensitive and trust-building manner.
‘Conflict-savvy’ refers to a set of skills someone might have that allows them to navigate the peculiarities or dangers of the conflict and to complete the task at hand — without harming themselves or communities.

For instance:
- a conflict-savvy informant can advise on which villages are accessible or which roads are mined;
- a conflict-savvy trader might know where to find scarce and adapted seed and how to move it even in turbulent times.

The logistics of an assessment in a conflict-affected region can be formidable. Having conflict-savvy informants and team members can make an important, positive difference.
Step 1: Patterns of the Conflict

**Tool:** Conflict Analysis Tool

- Define your objective
- Uncover the following:
  - Overview of the major conflicts
  - Causes of the major conflicts
  - Key actors involved
  - Existing conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms and actors
  - Recommendations from local stakeholders & Recommendations from the analysis team to address the conflict
- Framing open-ended and indirect questions
CAT
Seed Systems and Conflict
Section 1: Characteristics of Conflict & Seed Systems

Seed Systems farmers use

- Government
- Commercial

Intermediary systems
- Local seed business
- Private seed entrepreneur
- Farmer co-operatives
- Community-based seed
- Trained seed entrepreneurs

 Processes:
- Seed
- Planting
- Cultivation
- Harvesting
- Storage
- Consumption
- Genebanks
- Breeders
- Seed production
- Own
- Networks
- Markets
- Other local markets
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conflict feature</th>
<th>Type of change</th>
<th>Example(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length of stability period</td>
<td></td>
<td>North Kivu, DRC  Farmers plant crops earlier to not coincide with rebel attacks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>Changes in crop choice and management practices</td>
<td>North Kivu, DRC  Farmers change crop choice to those less susceptible to theft, such as crops that require further processing before consumption (e.g., soybean) or more time to harvest (e.g., groundnut).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor (changing access to labor and labor sharing arrangements)</td>
<td></td>
<td>South Sudan  Workers/children no longer scare away birds because it makes too much noise and attracts enemies, leading to a loss of sorghum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk of displacement</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ethiopia  Farmers change to smaller sized vessels which are put underground to hide the extent of seed stored and to be able to move vessels quickly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military tactics</td>
<td></td>
<td>Northern Uganda  Military controlled the height of field plants such as cassava so that rebel fighters cannot easily hide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market access: formal markets</td>
<td>Changes in formal seed channels; commercial system collapse</td>
<td>South Sudan  Seed companies (e.g., in Yei) shut down as soon as conflict escalates.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rwanda  Potato seed and production collapse due to stalling formal seed supply systems causing scarcities of clean seed, fungicide, and fertilizer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market access: informal markets</td>
<td>Changes in informal seed channels; market and mobility issues</td>
<td>South Sudan  People are not able to travel from one local market to another, leading to scarcity of local seeds in some areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 2: Effects of conflict on seed systems

Tool: Seed systems and conflict interview guide: broad issues

Specific questions linked to the conflict and its time period

- Have land arrangements changed?
- Have labor or cooperative arrangements changed?
- Have the key supply channels changed for key agricultural inputs (Y/N) (specify which inputs)? Have the ways in which women or youth access inputs changed?
- Has the marketing of crops changed in any way?
- Have any credit arrangements changed? Have the ways in which women or youth access credit (or other financial services) changed?
Step 2: Effects of conflict on seed systems

Tool: Seed systems and conflict interview guide: broad issues

Specific questions linked to crop issues

- Has the conflict changed any of the following:
  - Type of crops planted? If yes, with what consequences?
  - Types of varieties planted? If yes, with what consequences?
  - Timing of planting? If yes, with what consequences?
  - How crops are managed? If yes, with what consequences?
  - Who manages crops? If yes, with what consequences?
Step 3: Current status of seed systems

**Tools:** modification of Seed System Security Assessment (SSSA) tools

- **Data collection:** remote and on-the-ground
- **Stakeholder selection**
### Phase 2: Analyze and identify opportunities to improve seed system functioning

#### Decision tree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decision-making question</th>
<th>Evidence</th>
<th>Action If YES</th>
<th>Action If NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Has the specific seed security constraint(s) been identified? (Information should be crop-specific)</td>
<td>Evidence from Phase 1</td>
<td>Move to 2.2 ▼</td>
<td>What further information is needed to understand the main constraint? How can data be gathered? Do not proceed if the constraints are not clear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Has a response that addresses the seed security constraint been identified?</td>
<td>Evidence from Phase 1</td>
<td>Move to 2.3 ▼</td>
<td>Can an alternate response alleviate the specific constraint? If no, consider other non-seed aid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Has the specific response been tailored to farmers’ needs in this conflict context?</td>
<td>Evidence from Phase 1</td>
<td>Move to 2.4 ▼</td>
<td>Can the seed response be tailored more specifically to the identified conflict features? If the seed response cannot be tailored, will it lead to a negative outcome? If the seed response is not tailored enough or potentially harmful in its current form, do not implement seed aid. Consider other non-seed forms.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Phase 2: Analyze and identify opportunities to improve seed system functioning

#### Decision tree

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<tr>
<td>3.1 Have connectors and local capacities for peace been identified?</td>
<td>Evidence from Phase 1</td>
<td><strong>Move to 3.2</strong>&lt;br&gt;[▼]</td>
<td>Can you conduct further consultations with community members to identify connectors or local capacities for peace that you can engage in your seed systems program?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Does the seed system intervention involve actors who serve as local capacities for peace?</td>
<td>Evidence from Phase 1</td>
<td><strong>Move to 3.3</strong>&lt;br&gt;[▼]</td>
<td>Consult with those actors to determine how their work as local capacities for peace can connect to their work in the seed systems program, and then move to Q3.3.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Does the seed system intervention include people, places or any other dynamics that serve as connectors?</td>
<td>Evidence from Phase 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Conduct a participatory mapping of the synergies between the seed systems program and the connectors. Develop an action plan to strengthen the connectors through the seed systems program.</td>
<td></td>
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# Case Studies:
Seed security action— in conflict areas

## Phase 2: Analyze and identify opportunities to improve seed system functioning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seed security constraint</th>
<th>Case study example response/country</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seed availability</td>
<td>1 Storage pits/bags – Ethiopia, DRC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Locally produced seed moved laterally: modified direct seed distribution – Mali, South Sudan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Local market support: subsidy to traders – South Sudan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed access</td>
<td>4 Peace and Rights Days with direct seed distribution – Sierra Leone</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 Digital voucher transfer linked to small seed suppliers – Northeast Syria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed (and crop) quality</td>
<td>6 Multi-year quality seed production (dual focus on new varieties and seed health) – DRC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 Conflict-resilient crops – Rwanda, Ghana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>8 Critical remote tools (for information, training, and feedback) – Sierra Leone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Peace Days Linked to DSD: Sierra Leone

- Peace days held to open debate and heal (years of brutal civil war)
- Peace days linked to DSD to ensure distribution transparent and fair and inclusive
  - so smaller amounts of seed but to many more people
  - seed aid had been creating divisions - not solutions
Moving seed locally: Mali

- Seed availability (locally) can be a problem in high-conflict zones – especially if fields are destroyed.

- Moving seed locally (between regions) may have advantages
  - Farmers’ real crop and variety priorities are delivered
  - $$$ are injected into local economy though support of local suppliers

- Mali: case of high stress region (rainfall 200-400 mm/yr) that has specialized villages that produce pearl millet seed. These villages multiplying highly adapted varieties and now supply emergency aid.
Enhancing storage: Hermetic bags in the DRC

- Light weight storage bags— for seed and grain— used on increasingly large scale— including for conflict areas.

- Such bags are:
  - Movable (if displacement is necessary)
  - Can be hidden (in rafters, or garden plots)

- Different brands - Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS), GrainPro
Conflict-Resilient Crops

- Crops not usable in their raw form - so not worth stealing for immediate use
- Crops not requiring intensive management - so can be left untended for weeks + months
- Crops easy to transport (e.g. groundnuts vs. yams)
Concluding thoughts

- **Conflict sensitivity** and **Conflict savviness** both key process concepts

- **Seed-linked work is increasing in conflict areas** but rarely well documented or analyzed (especially with concrete cases)

- **Do No Harm** by **doing good** - seed programming should explore ways to contribute to peace as a way to be conflict sensitive

- **Conscious tailoring of approaches needed** (not just copying old models and hope they work in conflict areas)
Reflections from implementers
The methodology is not a linear progression. It adopts an instinctive step. It is iterative rather than episodic.

Its people–centered philosophy allows us to establish trust, and is consistently modelled around social inclusion.

CAT not an end on its own - helps understand the context but also employs in-depth seed security tools to guide implementation.
Feedback on the Tool: Agriculture Perspective

- The applicability and relevance of the questions to the context was well appreciated by the correspondents.
- The questions were user friendly and easily interpreted by the enumerators.
- Response to the questions by respondents was good without any ambiguity.
- Considering the season, expectations were high during the assessment.
Feedback welcome!

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- SeedSystem: Louise Sperling, sperling@seedsystem.org
- ISSD Africa: Wilfred Ouko, wouko@mercycorps.org
Questions