

ANTICIPATORY ACTION (AA) IN COMPLEX SETTINGS:

WAHAFA Guidelines on
Navigating AA, Conflict and
Displacement





INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT?

- This document is designed to try and support WAHAFA partners applying for Build projects in navigating some of the complexities around Anticipatory Action (AA) for displacement and / or conflict.
- Within the AA field, there is growing interest in addressing displacement and / or conflict within AA mechanisms. Displacement is fundamentally linked with humanitarian emergencies and conflict remains the key driver of humanitarian needs globally.
- If AA is intended to reduce impacts and save lives by enabling timely and targeted actions, working to address displacement and / or conflict with AA mechanisms is significant.

CONTENTS

These guidelines are made of two parts:

1. Displacement (Pages 2-5)
 2. Conflict (Pages 6-9)
- We strongly recommend reading the relevant section(s) ahead of WAHAFA Build project proposal

DO NO HARM

When considering AA, Displacement and Conflict, it is essential that the ‘Do No Harm’ principle is at the forefront of Build project design, as with all good programming.

For any Build project proposal, the following questions must be considered:

- Can you ensure that your activities won’t lead to new conflict or violence or escalate existing tensions?

- At WHH, we aim to address these challenges and appreciate our partners’ shared concerns for navigating the complexities of AA, displacement and conflict. Recognizing its intricacy, **we identify potential entry points and opportunities for engagement within this document.**
- It is important that all Build proposals clearly lay out what is meant by ‘AA and Displacement’ or ‘AA and Conflict’. Rather than adhering to one single definition or approach, these guidelines aim to help you navigate these complex topics as a WAHAFA Build Project.
- This is a working document, and our guidelines may change based on learnings in the AA community. Feedback is always welcome.

submission as each contains key considerations for your proposal and Build project development.

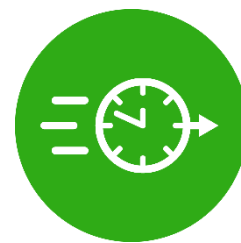
- Examples given are largely fictional but based on real-world contexts, as both displacement and conflict are developing areas for AA. Further reading is provided for those who wish to read more about the topics.

Ultimately, is your approach truly AA for displacement or conflict, or is it good practice conflict sensitive programming we would expect for any hazard?



- Is it ethical to prevent displacement as an impact? Would preventing displacement or influencing a displacement route risk doing harm to communities?
- As with all good programming on any hazard, does your organization have protection mainstreaming guidelines to take into consideration? These should be mentioned as part of your proposal.

ANTICIPATORY ACTION AND DISPLACEMENT



WHAT DO WE MEAN BY DISPLACEMENT?

- The United Nations High Commission for Refugees ([UNHCR](#)) defines displacement as the **involuntary or forced movement** of people from their homes or countries. Displacement can be caused by a variety of factors including conflict, violence, natural hazards and climate change. People can be displaced both within their country’s borders (internally displaced person – IDP) or over international borders (refugees).
- **Can pastoralists be considered displaced?** The extent to which pastoralists, with their nomadic lifestyles, can be considered displaced has been a topic of debate, as the distinction between voluntary and forced movement is not always easy to determine. However, if you are working with pastoralist communities who face loss of livestock and changes to their migration routes due to predictable hazards, you could consider this as part of an AA and Displacement project ([IDMC](#)).
- **Host communities** may also be impacted by displacement, as well as those who remain in communities which are experiencing displacement. In these cases, displacement is an important part of your context, contributing to vulnerability in the face of other hazards.

WHAT KEY QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ANSWERED WHEN DEVELOPING A PROPOSAL FOR ‘AA AND DISPLACEMENT’?

- When developing a WAHAFa Build proposal (or setting up an AA mechanism independently from WAHAFa), we recommend that you start by asking yourselves the questions in Table 1. **Please clearly lay out questions 1 and 2 in the WAHAFa Build proposal** as for any other hazard.
- While we recommend that you also do a quick “reality check” with the questions on the right-hand side, a Build project will support designing your trigger mechanism and prioritizing and validating anticipatory actions with communities.

Table 1. Key questions to consider when working on ‘AA and Displacement’

Essential for a Build proposal:	Consider as a ‘reality check’ during Build proposal development*:
1. What do you predict?	...and how? Which data / early warning system?
2. What do you prevent?	...and how? Which anticipatory actions?
<i>If you can answer the above essential questions and you have a Theory of Change, please reflect on the following questions. All three questions must be answered with “yes” to enable an Anticipatory Action Plan:</i>	
	3a. Do you / does your organization have the capacity and expertise ?
	3b. Do you/ does your organization have enough time? i.e., lead time between warning, hazard and impact(s)?
	3c. Do you / does your organization have enough resources? (e.g., Staff and money from WAHAFa funding and/or other sources?)

*Note these questions will be fully developed during a Build project

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL ENTRY POINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ‘AA AND DISPLACEMENT’?

There are three potential entry points when considering AA and Displacement:

1. Displacement as a vulnerability
 2. Displacement as a preventable impact
 3. Impacts of displacement (e.g. shelter, WASH, Health)
- If you want to apply for a Build project linking AA and Displacement, the decision tree (Figure 1) is intended to help you think through your approach and Table 3 provides more information on entry points, key considerations and examples.

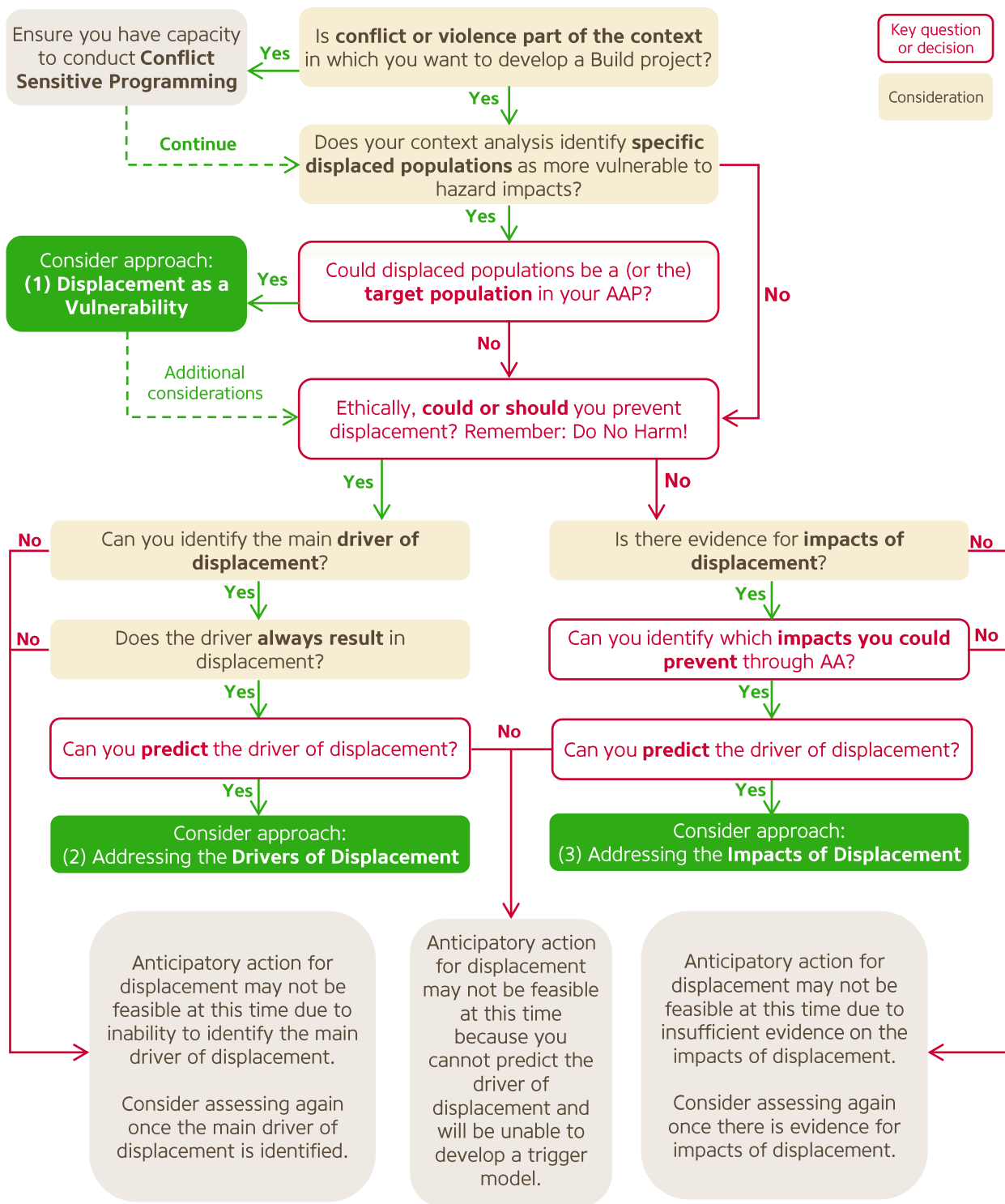


Figure 1. Flowchart of quick questions to consider your approach to 'AA and Displacement'. Once you have identified your possible approach, see additional considerations in Table 2.

Table 2. Entry points, key considerations, and examples for AA and Displacement

DESCRIPTION	KEY CONSIDERATIONS	EXAMPLE(S)
APPROACH 1: DISPLACEMENT AS A VULNERABILITY		
<p>Context analysis may identify that specific displaced populations are more vulnerable to the impacts of natural and man-made hazards. These populations may represent key target populations for <u>all</u> AAPs, not just those focused on displacement.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">KEY QUESTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could displaced populations and / or host communities be a (or the) target population in your Anticipatory Action Plan? • What is the time frame of displaced populations (temporal, permanent, secondary displacement)? Understanding the displacement dynamics can help identify the most appropriate anticipatory actions. • What are vulnerabilities within displaced populations based on their characteristics (e.g. age, sex)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDPs, who have been displaced for over five years, reside in poorly constructed shelters and are often impacted by predictable, harsh winter storms. Actions to mitigate the impacts of, and respond to, the storms are taken each year by humanitarian organizations. • A refugee camp does not have access to early warning information other population groups can access. • Poorly serviced urban areas comprising refugees and host communities are more vulnerable to extreme heat, seeing adverse health impacts, particularly amongst the elderly.
APPROACH 2: DISPLACEMENT AS AN IMPACT		
<p>Displacement is often one of the primary impacts of hazards events. There are many different drivers of displacement, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural hazards (disaster displacement), e.g. drought, dry spells, floods, tropical cyclones • Conflict, e.g. conflict escalation, new conflict outbreaks, fear of conflict • Violence, e.g. between pastoralists or gang-related violence • Political instability. E.g. violence in the run-up to and aftermath of elections 	<p style="text-align: center;">KEY QUESTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What driver of displacement do you predict? • Is it ethical to prevent displacement? Would preventing displacement leave communities facing harm? • What are displacement impact variations across different community groups (e.g. age, gender, sex, specific livelihoods, socioeconomic status)? <p style="text-align: center;">CONSIDERATIONS FOR NATURAL HAZARDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the hazard always result in displacement? • For slow onset hazards, is the hazard the primary displacement driver? • Is the displacement normal practice to avoid harm? <p style="text-align: center;">CONSIDERATIONS FOR CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does displacement vary according to the type of conflict or violence (e.g. intercommunal, intracommunal, interstate)? • Does displacement vary depending on the cause of the violence (e.g. resource-based, political violence)? • How does displacement vary over time (e.g. at the onset of conflict or violence, during ongoing conflict, as conflict modalities change)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tensions between two armed groups from adjacent communities have persisted for years, seeing occasional upticks in violence that drive displacement. Violence is once again rising, so peacebuilding activities are conducted to prevent an increase in displacement due to increased tensions. • A community is routinely impacted by flooding with some years seeing more expansive floods. The floods are predictable, and the community has an established evacuation route. However, some community members cannot evacuate due to mobility restrictions and the evacuation sites are overcrowded. The community identifies cleaning of drainage channels before anticipated urban flooding to prevent water from rising and reduce the necessity of evacuation.
APPROACH 3: IMPACTS OF DISPLACEMENT		
<p>Once people are displaced, this cascades into further adverse humanitarian impacts. These impacts can occur at the place of origin, along displacement routes, and in displacement sites (for both displaced and host populations).</p> <p>Impacts can include, and are not limited to, Protection, WASH, Health, Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">KEY QUESTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What driver of displacement do you predict? • Do you have evidence* for impacts of the displacement? • Which impacts could you prevent (and how)? <p><small>*As part of your risk analysis, evidence could come from historical event reports, FGDs with communities, KIs with stakeholders, etc.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the displacement route recurrent / forecastable? Are there specific risks along the route that can be mitigated? • International vs. internal displacement – does this impact actions to minimize impacts? • <i>Where</i> do you want to implement your activities? • Can you ensure community access in the Build and Fuel phases, particularly in conflict-affected settings? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community affected by river floods has an evacuation site for severe events. Actions are taken on a seasonal forecast to ensure a safe evacuation site which meets minimum standards for shelter and WASH. • An economic crisis sees continued outward population movements from a country, with spikes relating to economic indicators. People move along similar routes each time and are exposed to significant protection risks. Services are put in place to minimize the risks along these routes, particularly focused on women and children. • Pre-stocking medical supplies at the point of arrival for anticipated displacement due to violence.

WHAT IS THE LINK WITH ANTICIPATORY ACTION AND CONFLICT?

- ‘AA and Displacement’ is often linked to similar considerations around ‘AA and Conflict’, as conflict is commonly a driver of displacement, and hazards can more adversely impact conflict-displaced populations.
- If you are considering working in a conflict-affected setting, or predicting drivers of conflict to address displacement, please also see the guidelines on [AA and Conflict](#).

FURTHER READING ON AA AND DISPLACEMENT

CIMA Research Foundation, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) (2024). *Floods and Drought Displacement risk in Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan*. HABITABLE Research Paper. Geneva: IDMC. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/yhtnnsmt>

Easton-Calabria, Evan; Siffert, Adeline; Moore, Joanna; Jjemba, Eddie (2024). Anticipatory action to build displaced populations’ resilience at the intersection of climate change, conflict and displacement. *Humanitarian Exchange Magazine*, Issue **84**, Article 14. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/y3fr3mjj>

Easton-Calabria, Evan; Jaime, Catalina; Shenouda, Benjamin (2022). *Anticipatory action in refugee and IDP camps: challenges, opportunities and considerations*. Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/3ab8m4y6>

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) (2014). *How can pastoralists become displaced when they lead traditionally mobile lifestyles?*. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/bx79cfbk>

Rost, Nicolas (2023). *Can we predict conflict displacement?* Geneva: IDMC. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/mvzryerp>

Tárraga, José María; Sevillano-Marco, Eva; Teresa Miranda, Maria (2022). *The state-of-the-art on drought displacement modelling*. Geneva: IDMC. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4hxdrt4k>

ANTICIPATORY ACTION AND CONFLICT



WHAT DO WE MEAN BY CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE?

We follow the lead of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), grounding definitions of conflict and violence through the lens of International Humanitarian Law (IHL):

- **Conflict** refers to armed conflict involving the use of force between states or organized armed groups. This includes international armed conflicts (i.e. between states, such as between Russia and Ukraine) and non-international armed conflicts (i.e. conflicts between a state and non-state armed groups, or between non-state armed groups themselves, such as conflict between non-state armed groups in Colombia). You can find more information from ICRC [here](#).
- **Violence** is a broad definition that refers to any use of force causing harm, destruction of assets or disruption to lives and livelihoods. Violence may lead to armed conflict but does not meet the intensity or organization levels of armed conflicts (i.e. chains of command or ability to launch coordinated attacks). Examples include violence related to organized crime in Brazil or Western Europe, or sectarian violence in Pakistan. You can find more information [here](#).

WHAT KEY QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ANSWERED WHEN DEVELOPING A PROPOSAL FOR ‘AA AND CONFLICT’?

- When developing a WAHAFa Build proposal (or setting up an AA mechanism independently from WAHAFa), we recommend that you start by asking yourselves the questions in Table 3. **Please clearly lay out questions 1 and 2 in the WAHAFa Build proposal** as for any other hazard.
- While we recommend that you also do a quick “reality check” with the questions on the right-hand side, a Build project will support designing your trigger mechanism and prioritizing and validating anticipatory actions with communities.

Table 3. Key questions to consider when working on ‘AA and Conflict’

Essential for a Build proposal:	Consider as a ‘reality check’ during Build proposal development*:
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*Note these questions will be fully developed during a Build project

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL ENTRY POINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ‘AA AND CONFLICT’?

Conflict sensitive programming applies to all Build proposals in conflict-affected settings. In addition, there are two potential entry points when considering AA and Conflict / violence:

1. AA for natural hazards **IN** a conflict setting.
2. AA **FOR** spikes in ongoing / seasonal conflicts.

NOTE: We **cannot** support Build project proposals for

major new conflict outbreaks at this time (e.g. Sudan, Ukraine) due to reasons including lack of historical data and inability to predict or set thresholds.

- If you want to apply for a Build project linking AA and Conflict, the decision tree (Figure 2) is intended to help you think through your approach and Table 4 provides more information on entry points, key considerations and examples.

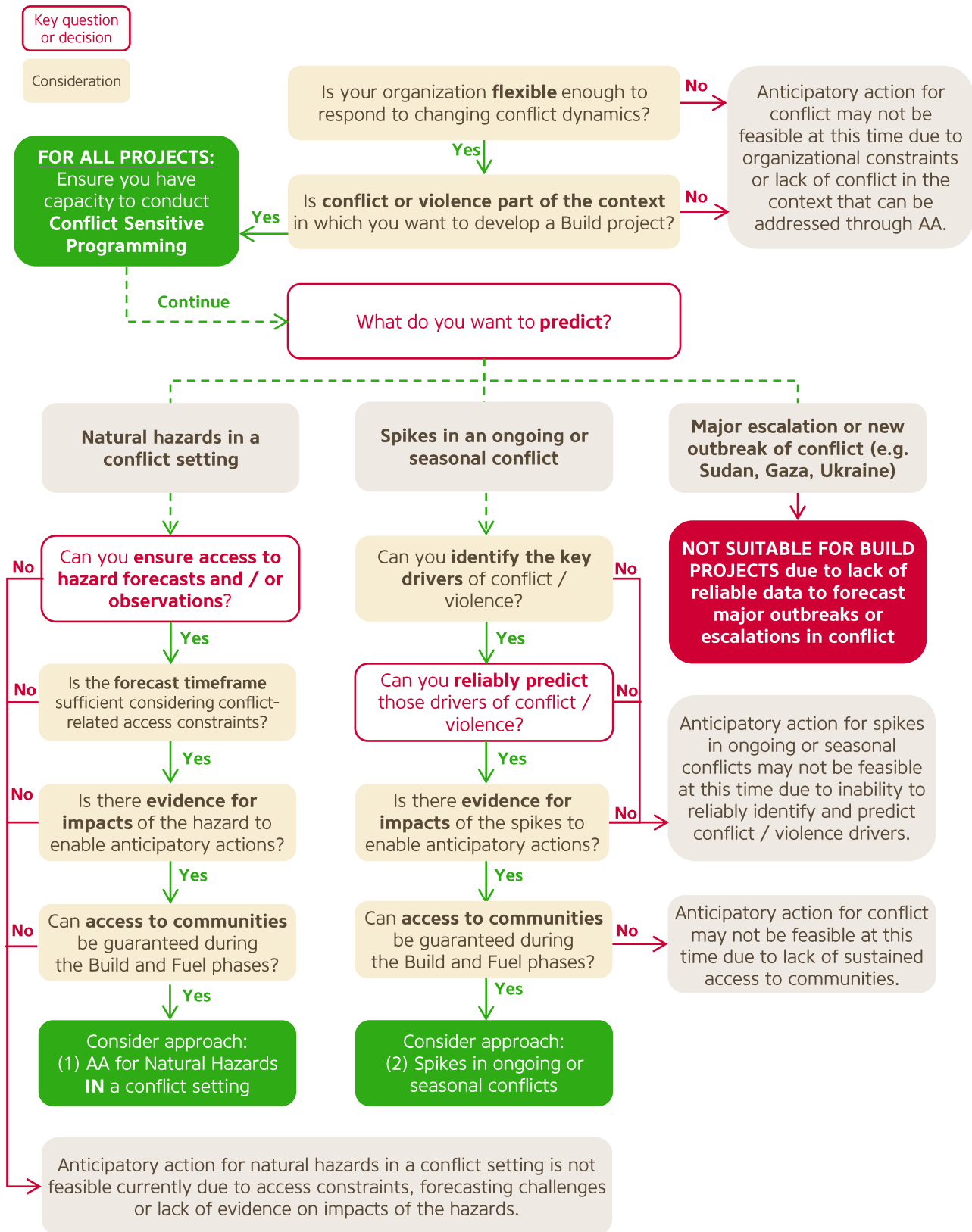


Figure 2. Flowchart of quick questions to consider your approach to ‘AA and Conflict’. Once you have identified your possible approach, see additional considerations in Table 4.

Table 4. Entry points, key considerations, and examples for AA and Conflict

DESCRIPTION	KEY CONSIDERATIONS	EXAMPLE(S)
FOR ALL AA IN CONFLICT SETTINGS: CONFLICT SENSITIVE PROGRAMMING		
<p>If conflict is a key factor in your context, regardless of the hazard, conflict sensitive programming is a critical requirement of your proposal. Conducting a conflict analysis to examine the various types and causes of conflict, assessing the main actors and drivers of peace is key. This supports minimizing the chances of inadvertently having a negative impact on conflict dynamics.</p>	<p>Your organization may already have their own guidelines on conflict analysis and conflict risk assessments to support your Build project proposal. Applying conflict sensitivity for AA requires risk and vulnerability assessments that consider power dynamics, social inequalities, and the potential for unintended consequences, to avoid exacerbating tensions or harming affected communities.</p> <p>Considerations for <u>all</u> Build projects in a conflict-affected setting include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you ensure access to data and information informing you AA model even in a conflict setting? • How can you apply your experience with conflict-sensitive planning in an anticipatory context? • Can access to and participation of communities be guaranteed during Build and Fuel phases? • Is your organization flexible enough to respond to changing conflict dynamics? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two communities often experience conflict over shared natural resources and face risks from river floods. During focus group discussions with the two communities, they identify different prioritized actions in the face of floods. The conflict risk assessment identifies that a program deploying different actions risks exacerbating tensions between the communities. A decision is made to apply all actions across both communities, minimizing the risk of AA doing harm.
APPROACH 1: NATURAL HAZARDS IN A CONFLICT SETTING		
<p>The goal of this approach is preventing or minimizing the impacts of natural hazards in a conflict-affected context, for example, cyclones, drought, heatwaves in a conflict setting.</p> <p>Conflict likely exacerbates vulnerabilities to natural hazards, whilst presenting challenges for monitoring, forecasting and communicating the risk of natural hazards.</p>	<p><u>Other key considerations in additional those already included as part of conflict sensitive programming:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have sufficient access to reliable climate / weather forecasts? These may need to be from international sources depending on conflict damage and functionality of national services. • Do you have sufficient information on different conflict-affected groups, including displaced populations and host communities, to identify the most vulnerable? • Is the timeframe of natural hazard forecasts sufficient to take action considering conflict-related access constraints may slow ability to access communities? • How do the impacts of the natural hazards vary with changes in conflict intensity? Does this change your actions or targeting approach? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An active conflict zone has a considerable number of elderly people residing close to the frontline. They have remained accessible throughout the conflict to date. Harsh, forecastable winter storms cause adverse health impacts every year, but actions can be taken to minimize these impacts. • People who are internally displaced due to conflict are residing in IDP camps within a province experiencing active conflict. Access is limited, available only through local humanitarian partners and civil society organizations. The province is impacted by cyclones, seeing damage to shelters and outbreaks of water-borne diseases.
APPROACH 2: SPIKES IN ONGOING OR SEASONAL CONFLICTS		
<p>The goal of this approach is to prevent either an escalation of an existing low intensity conflict / violence OR prevent the impacts of conflict.</p> <p>If you are considering developing an AAP for rare spikes or outbreaks of new conflict (e.g. Sudan, Gaza, Ukraine), these <u>cannot be considered</u> at this time as there would be insufficient evidence and data to develop a trigger model.</p>	<p><u>Other key considerations in additional those already included as part of conflict sensitive programming:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What drivers of conflict / violence do to predict and how? Is there sufficient historical data to identify spikes and their impacts? • What impacts do you prevent and how? If you are considering actions to <i>prevent</i> a conflict / violence escalation, does your organization have sufficient presence, experience and trust established to conduct peacebuilding-type activities? • As part of you conflict analysis, have you thoroughly established the drivers of conflict / violence, i.e. are there seasonal fluctuations, links with natural hazards / resource scarcity, political or livelihood calendars? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A country has been experiencing conflict for several years. The number of conflict incidents fluctuates from year-to-year, with some years seeing spikes that drive displacement and increase adverse humanitarian outcomes. Anticipatory actions could include pre-stocking WASH and shelter kits in IDP arrival locations. • Violence between pastoralist groups is not uncommon, as different groups compete for pasture and target each other's livestock. A well-maintained violence reporting system notes an uptick in the number of incidents. Well-timed peacebuilding activities reduce tensions.

WHAT IS THE LINK WITH ANTICIPATORY ACTION AND DISPLACEMENT?

- ‘AA and Conflict’ is often linked to similar considerations around ‘AA and Displacement’, as conflict is commonly a driver of displacement, which can cascade to see further adverse impacts.
- If you are considering working on a conflict setting **and** working to prevent or respond to the impacts of displacement, please also see the guidelines on [AA and Displacement](#).

FURTHER READING ON AA AND CONFLICT

Caldwell, Seth (2022). *Assessing the Feasibility of Conflict Prediction for Anticipatory Action*. Centre for Humanitarian Data Blogs. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4tmjhr3w>

Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (n.d.). *Climate & Conflict: Compounding impacts of climate and conflict on vulnerable people*. (ArcGIS Storymaps). Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4rs476ra>

Sauerhammer, Liesa; Schillinger, Juliane; Bolte, Patrick; Peters, Laura (2024) *Navigating fragility, conflict and violence to strengthen community resilience. A Handbook for Disaster Risk Reduction Practitioners*. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), German Red Cross and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/yesuzpsz>

Scholz, Cornelia; Jaime, Catalina; Raju, Emmanuel; Coughlan De Perez, Erin and van Aalst, Maarten (2024). Off the grid: utilizing OpenStreetMap for early warning and early action in conflict settings in Sudan. *Frontiers in Climate*, **6**. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fclim.2024.1439940>

Wagner, Marie; Jaime, Catalina (2020). *An agenda for expanding Forecast-based Action to situations of conflict*. Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi) Working Paper, Berlin: GPPi. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/54c5at8x>

To connect on the topic of AA and Conflict, you can also join the **Anticipatory Action in Conflict Practitioners’ Group** at the Anticipation Hub:

<https://www.anticipation-hub.org/anticipatory-action-in-conflict-practitioners-group>

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