



# BASELINE STUDY

OF CONFLICT CAPACITY OF STAKEHOLDERS  
IN THE WASH PROGRAMME ACROSS  
10 LGAs IN THE NIGER DELTA

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## OF CONFLICT CAPACITY OF STAKEHOLDERS IN THE WASH PROGRAMME ACROSS 10 LGAs IN THE NIGER DELTA

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STUDY COMMISSIONED BY

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# INSIGHT

In recent times, a number of donor agencies (UNICEF, USAID, The World Bank, etc.) have engaged in the provision of water and sanitation systems in rural areas of the Niger Delta where there are gaps in access to these services. However, funds appropriated by different development agencies for the provision of WASH facilities in the region have not achieved desired results due to the region's volatility, and the constant eruption of violent conflicts. In the past two decades, the Niger Delta region has seen inter-ethnic and inter-communal violence and militancy that has led to the massive loss of lives and property, and the displacement of large numbers of people.

# CONTENTS

<b>Acknowledgments</b>	<b>3</b>
List of Tables	4
List of Figures	4
Abbreviations and Acronyms	4
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
Objectives of Study	6
<b>Methodology</b>	<b>7</b>
Assessment Tools	8
Data Processing and Analysis	10
<b>Results</b>	<b>11</b>
Demographics	11
Understanding of Conflict	11
Availability of Skills for Conflict Analysis and Intervention	15
Ability for Varied Types of Peace-building Engagements	19
Awareness of Peace-building Coordination Platforms	21
Understanding Possible Effects of Development Programmes on Conflict Contexts	23
Ability to Mainstream Conflict Sensitivity into Development Programmes	25
Effectiveness of Peace Monitoring and Response Platforms in Promoting Social Dialogue	27
<b>Discussion</b>	<b>28</b>
Assessment of Understanding of Conflict	28
Availability of Skills for Conflict Analysis and Intervention in Conflict	29
Ability for Varied Types of Peace-building Engagements	29
Awareness of Peace-building Coordination Platforms	29
Understanding of Possible Effects of Development Programmes on Conflict Contexts	30
Ability to Mainstream Conflict Sensitivity into Development Programmes	30
Effectiveness of Peace Monitoring and Response Platforms in Promoting Social Dialogue	31
<b>Conclusions and Recommendations</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>33</b>

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Also my profound gratitude goes to staff of PIND and their NGO partners who worked tirelessly to ensure the collection and collation of the data used for this study

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**DR. NAOMI E. N. AKPAN-ITA**

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1:	Respondents' understanding of the term 'conflict'
Table 2:	Percentage of stakeholders who understand typology of conflict
Table 3:	Respondents' understanding of stages of conflict
Table 4:	Respondents' understanding of actors in conflict
Table 5:	Respondents' understanding of conflict analysis
Table 6:	Whether respondents ever used conflict analysis in programming
Table 7:	Respondents who have intervened in conflict, based on outcome of conflict analysis
Table 8:	How often respondents' use conflict analysis in their work
Table 9:	Respondents engagement in different peace-building processes
Table 10:	Extent of respondents' awareness of and engagement with P4P
Table 11:	Whether respondents are aware of the DPM as source of information
Table 12:	Respondents' opinion of the WASH programme's conflict and peace potential
Table 13:	Whether respondents' use conflict assessment in programming
Table 14:	Respondents' awareness of peace and monitoring platforms

## LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 1:	Respondents' Understanding of the Term 'Conflict'
Fig. 2:	Stakeholders' Understanding of Typology of Conflict
Fig. 3:	Respondents' Understanding of Stages of Conflict
Fig. 4:	Respondents' Understanding of Aspects of Conflict Analysis
Fig. 5:	How Frequently Conflict Analysis is used in Work
Fig. 6:	Engagement in Peace-building Processes
Fig. 7:	Potential of the WASH Programme for Peace/Conflict

## ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

<b>P4P</b>	Partners for Peace	<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
<b>DPM</b>	Digital Peace Map	<b>PMRT</b>	Peace Monitoring and Response Team
<b>EW</b>	Early Warning	<b>RUWASSA</b>	Rural Water and Sanitation Agency
<b>EWP</b>	Early Warning Platform	<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>FGD</b>	Focus Group Discussion	<b>WASHCOM</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Committee
<b>FMWR</b>	Federal Ministry of Water Resources		
<b>KII</b>	Key Informant Interview		
<b>LGA</b>	Local Government Area		

# INTRODUCTION

Water and sanitation are two significant components in the overall development of a nation. Water, as a finite natural resource, is necessary for the sustenance of life and ecological systems (Esrey et al, 1991). In recognition of the harm that inadequate water supply and sanitation services could cause to quality of life, the international community and Nigeria, respectively, have continued to make efforts to address these needs. Notable efforts at the international level include the development of water management strategies that seek to promote both equitable access and adequate supplies at regional, national and local levels (United Nations, 2001). In January 2000 the Federal Government of Nigeria launched its National Policy on Water Supply and Sanitation, with the aim of providing potable water and adequate sanitation to all Nigerians (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2000; FMWR, 2000). At the local level, many state governments and their local government authorities (LGAs) have complemented the federal government's efforts by creating different authorities (water boards, rural water development agencies, etc.) to provide water for the masses. Despite these efforts, studies have revealed that the levels of water and sanitation services within the country still remain unsatisfactory (Onyenechere, 2004; Okereke, 2000; Uzoma, 1996), and highly politicized (Igwe et al, 2007).

Many studies in Nigeria have revealed that the Niger Delta Region is the least served in terms of basic infrastructure such as electricity, roads, water and sanitation. The states of the Niger Delta have a clear and urgent need for improvements in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) of 2011 revealed that a large percentage of households in the five Niger Delta states of Rivers, Bayelsa, Akwa Ibom, Edo and Delta, use unimproved water sources for drinking and sanitation. Similarly, the report stated that out of the five states mentioned above only Akwa Ibom had a low percentage (3.6%) of people in a household without toilet access (i.e. people using open defecation). Open defecation rates ranged from 16.6% to 32.1% in the other four states. On the average, more than two-thirds of the population in these states do not have access to improved water supply facilities.

In recent times, a number of donor agencies (UNICEF, USAID, The World Bank, etc.) have engaged in the provision of water and sanitation systems in rural areas of the Niger Delta where there are gaps in access to these services. However, funds appropriated by different development agencies for the provision of WASH facilities in the region have not achieved desired results due to the region's volatility, and the constant eruption of violent conflicts. In the past two decades, the Niger Delta region has seen inter-ethnic and inter-communal violence and militancy that has led to the massive loss of lives and property, and the displacement of large numbers of people.

Although there has been a decline in the outbreak of militancy and inter-ethnic violence in the region in recent times, particularly following the federal government's Amnesty Programme, there remain deep and unresolved drivers of conflicts that could spark more violence and deaths if not properly addressed.

Studies have shown that conflicts do not only impact the success of development programmes, but that development programmes could themselves be sources or escalators of conflict. Therefore it is imperative to mainstream conflict sensitivity into development programmes so that a good assessment of the Niger Delta's conflicts be carried out to ensure an understanding of their possible impacts on planned WASH programmes.

As part of promoting the provision of water and sanitation, the UNICEF/PIND WASH programme aims to assess and mitigate the conflict situation in the identified LGAs as well as determine and build the current capacity of local actors to understand and mitigate their own conflicts.

## **OBJECTIVES OF STUDY**

The programme is based on the assumption that Niger Delta communities have the capacity to plan, execute and manage their WASH facilities on a sustainable basis if their conflict sensitivity and conflict management abilities are improved. If local actors and players can be helped to understand, evaluate and mitigate both the growth and impact of conflict within their communities, it would ensure sustainability of WASH programmes and improve their peaceful co-existence.

This baseline study is therefore aimed at assessing the level of understanding of conflicts, as well as the conflict management capacity, of key stakeholders in the implementation of the EU/UNICEF WASH programme in 10 LGAs across five Niger Delta states. The study aims to measure:

- i. Understanding of conflict
- ii. Ability to analyze/assess conflict
- iii. Skills for conflict mitigation and peace-building
- iv. Awareness of availability of peace-building coordinating platforms
- v. Awareness of and engagement with peace monitoring and response platforms

# METHODOLOGY

The PIND/UNICEF programme was designed to cover five Niger Delta states and two LGAs per state as follows:

- Edo State - Etsako West and Ovia South-West
- Delta State - Isoko South and Ndokwa West
- Akwa Ibom State - Nsit Atai and Obot Akara
- Rivers State - Akuku-Toru and Opobo Nkoro
- Bayelsa State - Brass and Kolokuma Opokuma

The baseline assessment process included:

- Methodology/Planning meeting - This meeting involved the programme implementing partners from PIND, local implementing NGOs, and community actors working with a development consultant to develop the methodology, indicators and data-gathering tools for the baseline data, as well as the LGAs' conflict profiles.
- Fieldwork - This entailed data-gathering for the baseline and conflict assessments in the 10 LGAs using a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods.

The development of quantitative and qualitative assessment tools was preceded by the formulation of 24 indicators for the programme along seven themes as follows:

- 1) Stakeholders' understanding of the types, stages, causes and actors of conflict within the LGA.
  - i. Number/Percentage of stakeholders who understand types of conflict
  - ii. Number/Percentage of stakeholders who understand the stages of conflict
  - iii. Number/Percentage of stakeholders who understand the causes of conflict
  - iv. Number/Percentage of stakeholders who understand who are the actors in conflict
- 2) Stakeholders' skills for conflict analysis and intervention in conflict.

- i. Number/Percentage of stakeholders who understand what is conflict analysis
  - ii. Number/Percentage of stakeholders who have used conflict analysis
  - iii. Number of conflict analysis tools used by the stakeholders
  - iv. Number/Percentage of stakeholders who have intervened in conflict based on the outcome of conflict analysis
  - v. Number/Percentage of stakeholders who regularly use conflict analysis in their work
- 3) Stakeholders' ability for varied types of peace-building engagements.
- i. Number/ percentage of stakeholders who have engaged in conflict analysis
  - ii. Number/ percentage of stakeholders who have engaged in dialogue
  - iii. Number/ percentage of stakeholders who have engaged in mediation
  - iv. Number/ percentage of stakeholders who have engaged in advocacy
- 4) Stakeholders' awareness of a platform for the coordination of peace-building activities.
- i. Number who are aware of P4P as a coordinating platform for CSOs effort in peace-building
  - ii. Number who are members of Partners for Peace (P4P) or have worked with them
  - iii. Number of stakeholders who are aware of the P4P's SMS-based early warning platform
  - iv. Number of stakeholders who have identified the Digital Peace Map as a source of information
- 5) Stakeholders' understanding of the possible effect of their programme on the conflict context they are working in.
- i. Number of stakeholders who are aware that their activities can lead to a change in the conflict context
  - ii. Number of stakeholders who make inputs in the development and implementation of the programme plan from a conflict-sensitive perspective
- 6) Stakeholders' ability to mainstream conflict sensitivity into their programmes.
- i. Number of stakeholders who have integrated conflict assessment into their programme cycle (planning, design, implementation, monitoring and closure)
- 7) Peace monitoring and response platform established to promote social dialogue and community bonding.
- i. Number of platforms established for monitoring and response to promote social dialogue
  - ii. Number of conflict incidences reported by the PMRT
  - iii. Number of interventions engaged in by the PMRT

These indicators also informed the development of the assessment tools.

## ASSESSMENT TOOLS

The quantitative assessment tools used to gather data for assessment of conflict situations/profile in the LGAs (conflict profile presented in Section 2 of this report) consisted of a coded questionnaire

which was structured to elicit information for the baseline assessment of stakeholders' capacity.

The questionnaires focused on capturing the baseline data of stakeholders' capacity for conflict understanding and conflict mitigation in the target LGAs while also soliciting for information on the conflict situation.

The qualitative components of the study were achieved using a mix of desk review/content analysis, key informant interviews (KII) and focus group discussions (FGD).

The FGDs and KIIs focused on assessing the conflict situation and provided information on the current capacities of stakeholder for conflict mitigation. Communities with current conflicts were specifically targeted for the FGDs, while the selection of Key Informants was done through a combination of purposeful, convenient and snowballing techniques where respondents were identified and contacted based on recommendations/leads from other respondents. Guide questions were developed and used for the KIIs and FGDs while reports were produced for analysis by tape recording and taking notes of responses.

The study sample for quantitative data consisted of 150 questionnaire respondents. Questionnaires were administered to a total of 150 participants (15 per LGA). The participants were comprised of 100 persons drawn from the WASHCOMs (10 per LGA), and 50 participants from each of the LGAs identified (10 per state) made up of:

- The UNICEF WASH State Consultant
- The State Head of RUWASSA
- UNICEF WASH local consultant
- Chair, Federation of WASHCOM
- Coordinator, WASH Unit
- A Field Officer

Of these, a total of 134 questionnaires were eventually retrieved for analysis.

For the qualitative aspects of the study, 112 focus group discussions were held and 73 key informant interviews were conducted across the 10 LGAs. The spread of qualitative data gathering across the 10 LGAs was based on the following:

- Random selection of 25% of the wards in each LGA
- Maximum of two communities per ward selected based on:
  - UNICEF definition of rural communities
  - Severity of conflict or frequency of incidences based on literature and desk review (the P4P EW incidence reports, amongst others, were used as determinants).
- 2-4 FGDs per community focusing on:
  - Local women groups
  - Local youth groups
  - Traditional and religious leaders
  - CSO staff and the activist groups identified in these locations
  - 1-2 KIIs focused on the leaders of the above-listed groups

To ensure accuracy and uniformity in data-gathering, training was conducted for key members of the field team by the consultant. The following points were explained during the training:

- Overall survey objectives
- Essence of the survey

- Survey methodology
- Role of interviewers and data clerks
- Advocacy and ethical issues
- The need for interviewers and supervisors to understand that they cannot take decisions that impact upon the methodology on their own.

## **DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS**

Data quality was critical and entailed triangulation based on multiple data sources. Data processing employed field-based transcriptions of the FGDs and KIIs and the data generated passed a multi-level review that included LGA coordinators, and state leads, including others.

Following the generation of results, both manual and electronic analysis of the data was conducted in line with the programme's monitoring indicators.

# RESULTS

The study was a baseline assessment of the current capacity of local actors to understand and mitigate conflict in 10 selected LGAs of five identified states: Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta, Edo and Rivers in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. A total of one hundred and fifty (150) questionnaires were calculated for administration across the 10 LGAs, however, of this number 134 questionnaires were retrieved and considered eligible and suitable for analysis, giving a response rate of 89.3%.

The output of analysis conducted on the collected data is presented here below as percentages, in cross tabulations and charts for the 10 LGAs targeted by this study.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Of the 133 respondents across the 10 LGAs 79% were male and 57% were above the age of 35 years. Twenty-nine percent were farmers, 21% were civil servants while the remaining were in a range of occupations, which included teaching, trading, students, and graduate applicants. Fifty percent of respondents had secondary school education while 30% had tertiary education as the highest level of education attained. All respondents either live or work in the LGAs for which they provided responses.

## UNDERSTANDING OF CONFLICT

Social psychology research has shown that the more comprehensive and complex knowledge is, the stronger its impact on attitude. What is known about an issue in most cases affects attitudes towards the issue, which in turn affects practice. Hence there is a need to understand what is known and understood about conflict as this will, in turn, determine attitudes towards conflict and its management.

*Figure 1* shows that a majority of respondents had a fair understanding of conflict, either as 'disagreement' or 'misunderstanding'. Although 24.3% of respondents understood conflict negatively as 'fight', 'crisis', or 'killing', the majority (74.2%) identified conflict as either 'misunderstanding' or 'disagreement'.

FIGURE 1: RESPONDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF THE TERM 'CONFLICT'

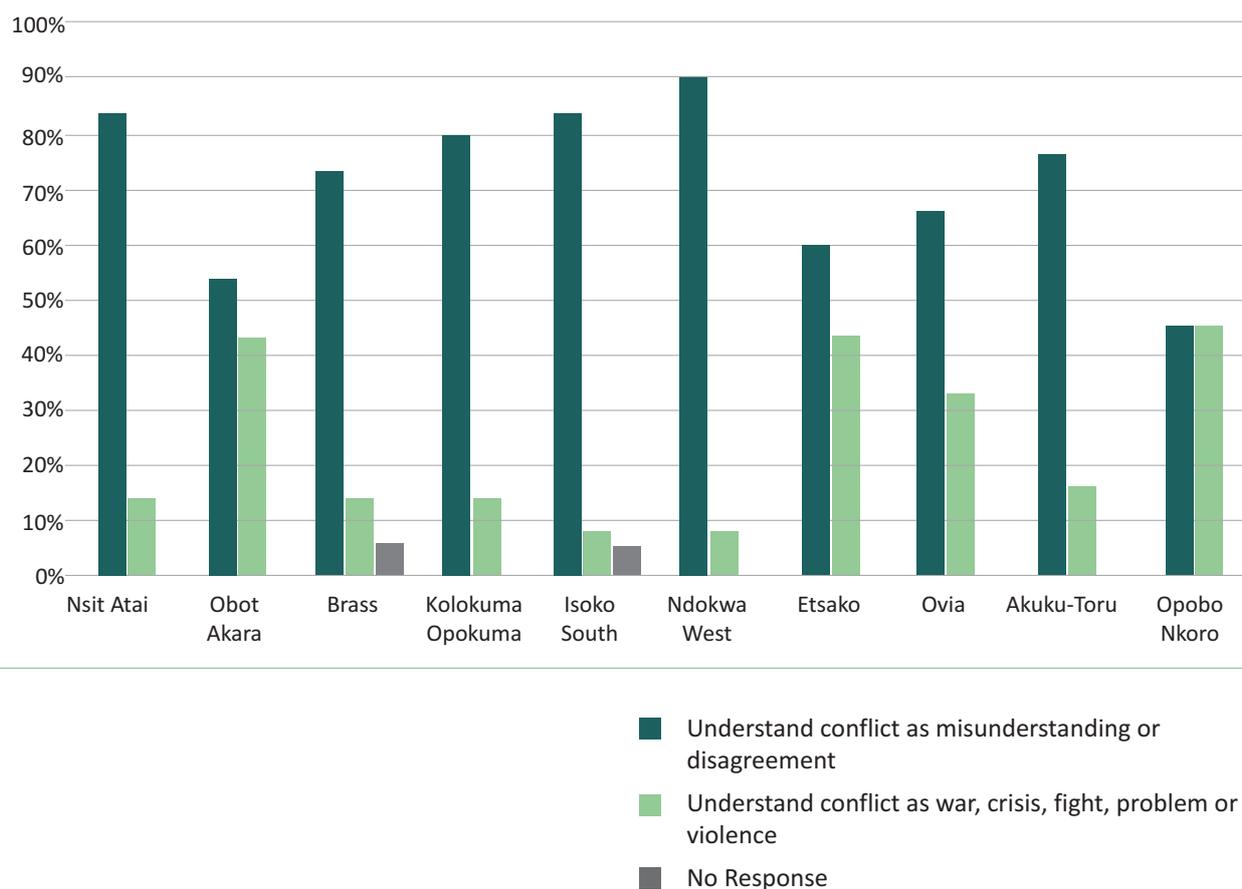


TABLE 1: RESPONDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF THE TERM 'CONFLICT'

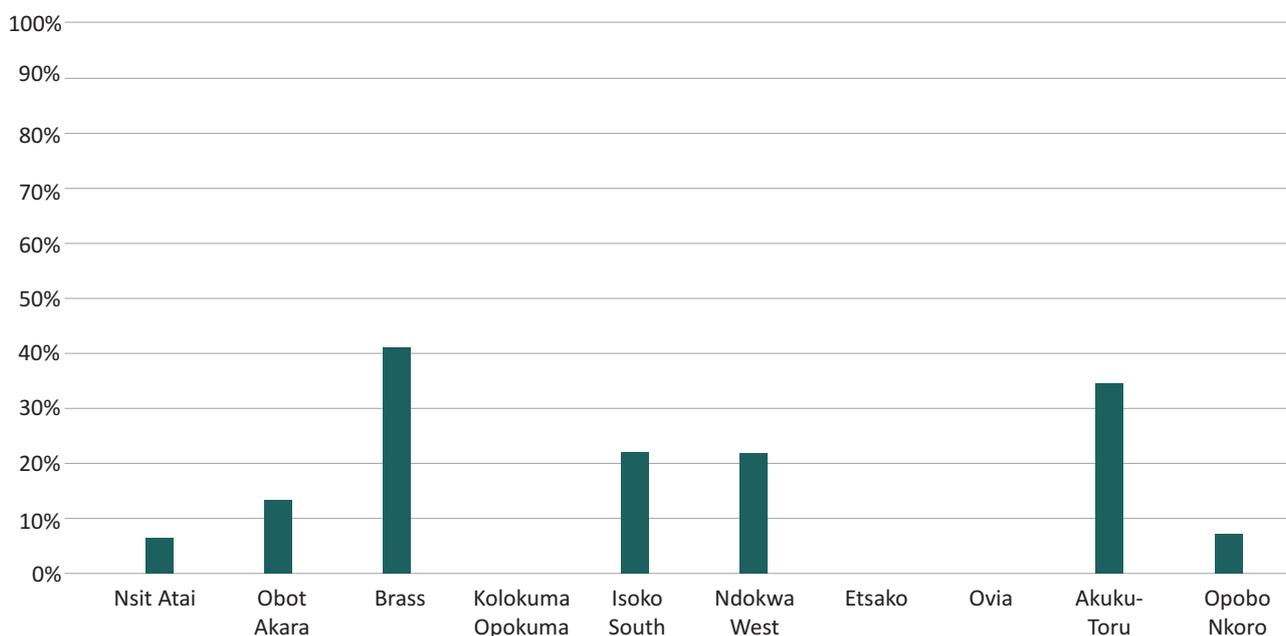
LGA	Understand conflict as misunderstanding or disagreement	Understand conflict as war, crisis, fight, problem or violence	No Response
Nsit Atai	85.7%	14.3%	-
Obot Akara	56%	44%	-
Brass	75%	17%	8%
Kolokuma/Opokuma	82%	18%	-
Isoko South	85%	8%	7%
Ndokwa West	93%	7%	-
Etsako	67%	33%	-
Ovia	69%	31%	-
Akuku Toru	79%	21%	-
Opobo Nkoro	50%	50%	-
<b>Average</b>	<b>74.2%</b>	<b>24.3%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>

In measuring understanding of the types of conflict, respondents were considered to understand conflict typology if they were able to mention three or more types of conflict however, only 14.7% of respondents were able to mention three types of conflict correctly. In Etsako, Ovia and Kolokuma/Opokuma LGAs none of the respondent was able to mention three types of conflict. Respondents in Brass (41.7%) and Akuku-Toru (35.7%) ranked highest in understanding of types of conflict (see Table 2, Figure 2).

TABLE 2: PERCENTAGE OF STAKEHOLDERS WHO UNDERSTAND THE TYPOLOGY OF CONFLICT

LGA	Respondents who identified at least 3 types of conflict (%)
Nsit Atai	7
Obot Akara	13.3
Brass	41.7
Kolokuma/Opokuma	0
Isoko South	21
Ndokwa West	21
Etsako	0
Ovia	0
Akuku Toru	35.7
Opobo Nkoro	7
<b>Average</b>	<b>14.7</b>

FIGURE 2: PERCENTAGE OF STAKEHOLDERS WHO UNDERSTAND TYPOLOGY OF CONFLICT

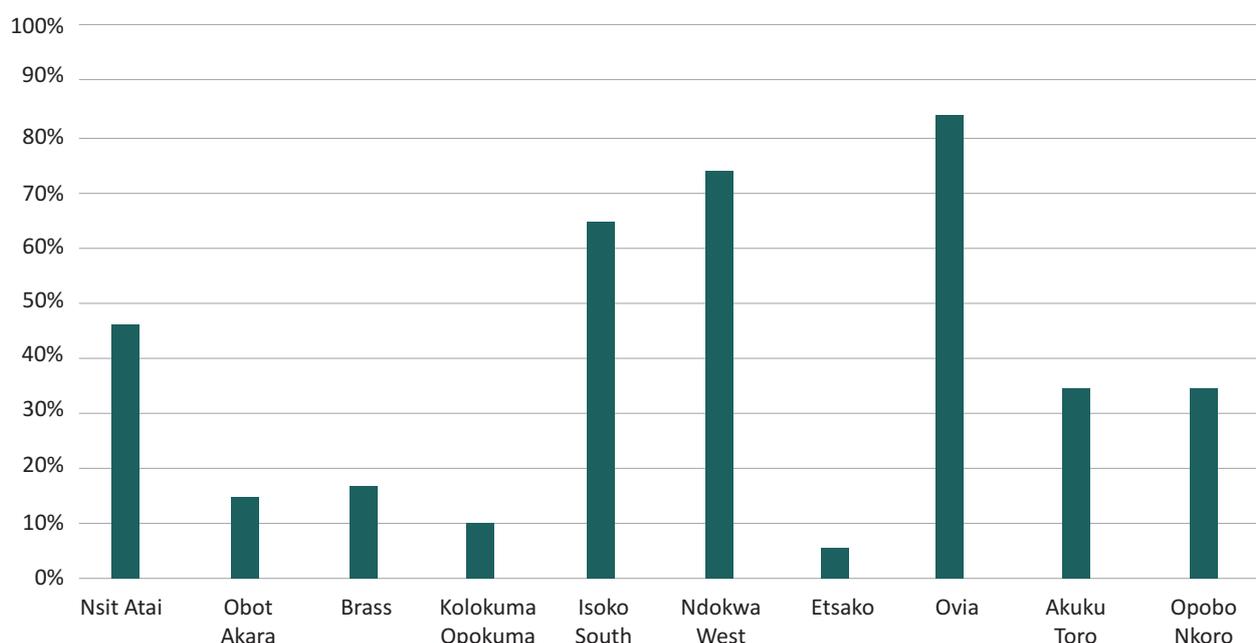


Looking at responses on understanding of stages of conflict, many respondents were unable to identify the five basic stages of conflict. Some respondents were able to describe what obtains at specific stages of conflict, such as ‘stoppage of killings’ as a description for the de-escalation stage of a conflict. Measuring understandings of the stages of conflict was based on the ability to mention or describe at least two stages of conflict. Thirty-eight percent of respondents were able to identify at least two stages of conflict.

TABLE 3: RESPONDENTS’ UNDERSTANDING OF STAGES OF CONFLICT

LGA	Respondents who understand stages of conflict (%)
Nsit Atai	7
Obot Akara	50
Brass	16.7
Kolokuma/Opokuma	18.2
Isoko South	14
Ndakwa West	57.1
Etsako	91.7
Ovia	7.7
Akuku Toru	78.6
Opobo Nkoro	39.3
<b>Average</b>	<b>38</b>

FIGURE 3: RESPONDENTS’ UNDERSTANDING OF STAGES OF CONFLICT



Although the average understanding of the stages of conflict by respondents was rather low (38%), Fig. 3 shows that respondents in Etsako, Akuku Toru and Obot Akara had a significantly higher understanding of the stages of conflict than respondents from other LGAs.

An understanding of the different categories of actors in conflicts amongst respondent across the 10 LGAs was found to be very low (4%). Respondents were unable to mention any categories of actors and stakeholders in conflict in all the LGAs except in Isoko South and Etsako where 7% and 33% respectively of the respondents were able to identify the different categories of actors in conflict

TABLE 4: RESPONDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF ACTORS IN CONFLICT

LGA	Respondents who understand categories of actors in conflict (%)
Nsit Atai	0
Obot Akara	0
Brass	0
Kolokuma/Opokuma	0
Isoko South	7
Ndakwa West	0
Etsako	33
Ovia	0
Akuku Toru	0
Opobo Nkoro	0
<b>Average</b>	<b>4</b>

Many respondents were able to cite examples of causes of conflict, which showed an understanding of the issue, however most responses could not categorize the causes of conflict. Rather than categorize causes of conflict as resource-based, specific issues that could cause conflict, such as land, money, and chieftaincy tussles, were mentioned.

## AVAILABILITY OF SKILLS FOR CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND INTERVENTION

Conflict analysis is the process of closely examining a conflict in order to understand what is happening and why. With the help of methodological tools we can get a critical awareness about the issues in the conflict and better understand the underlying root causes, connections and consequences.

Conflict analysis skills are important in order to better understand the events unfolding, determine who is involved, figure out what factors and trends are contributing to it, explore what motivates people to use violence, identify the main issues or fault lines of the conflict, learn from past experience, and determine how to adequately respond and strategize on interventions.

In assessing respondents' understanding of conflict analysis, it was found that 40.8% of respondents rightly mentioned or explained some aspect of conflict analysis. Whereas no respondent from Etsako was able to explain conflict analysis, all respondents (100%) in Ndokwa West were able to mention or explain aspects of conflict analysis and what it entails (*see Table 5*).

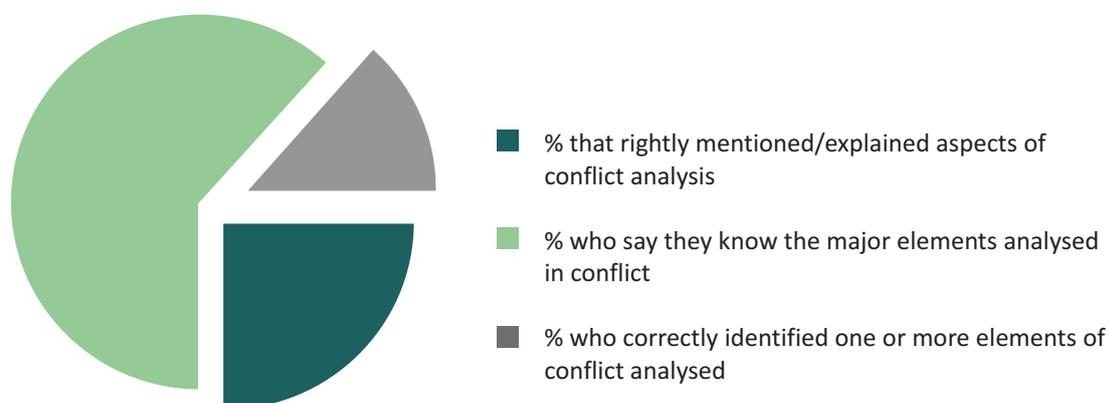
Although 41.7% of respondents in Brass LGA rightly mentioned or explained aspects of conflict analysis, none of the respondents from the LGA admitted to knowing the elements of conflict analyzed. Only 7.4% of respondents across the 10 LGAs were actually able to correctly identify one or more elements of conflict analyzed.

TABLE 5: RESPONDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF CONFLICT ANALYSIS

LGA	% that rightly mentioned/explained aspects of conflict analysis	% who say they know the major elements analyzed in conflict	% who correctly identified one or more elements of conflict analyzed
Nsit Atai	17.9	29	7
Obot Akara	21	14	7
Brass	41.7	0	0
Kolokuma/Opokuma	36.4	36.4	9
Isoko South	36	36	7
Ndokwa West	100	7	7
Etsako	0	67	0
Ovia	55	18	9
Akuku-Toru	79	93	7
Opobo Nkoro	21	29	21
<b>Average</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>7.4</b>

Although the percentage of respondents who indicated knowledge of the major elements analyzed in conflict were about the same as those who correctly mentioned or explained aspects of conflict, there is a significant drop in the number of respondents who actually identified these elements (Figure 4).

FIG. 4: RESPONDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF ASPECTS OF CONFLICT ANALYSIS



Only 2.8% of respondents indicated that they had ever used conflict analysis tools, and the 'Onion Model' of analysis was the only correctly mentioned tool of analysis. The only other tool mentioned was by a respondent in Kolokuma Opokuma who said he had used 'survey' as conflict analysis tool.

TABLE 6: WHETHER RESPONDENTS EVER USED CONFLICT ANALYSIS IN PROGRAMMING

LGA	Used conflict analysis in programming (%)	Been involved in the process of conflict analysis in the course of your work (%)
Nsit Atai	29	71
Obot Akara	14	7
Brass	0	0
Kolokuma/Opokuma	9	9
Isoko South	29	29
Ndakwa West	7	7
Etsako	0	0
Ovia	18	18
Akuku-Toru	14	7
Opobo Nkoro	21	14
<b>Average</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>16.2</b>

In response to whether they had ever used conflict analysis, one of the respondents said yes. However, their understanding of the definition of conflict analysis was limited as they explained their role thus:

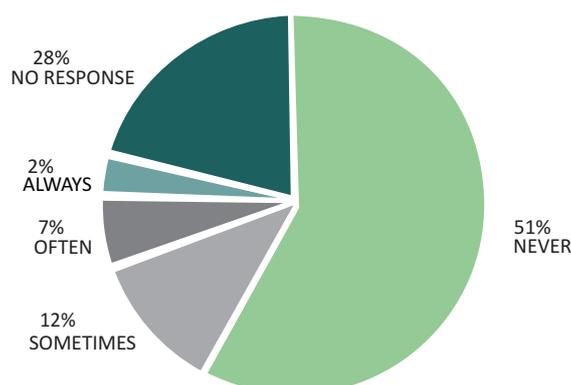
*“...Participated in guinea worm survey by going to different communities and administering a questionnaire to determine whether there was guinea worm and what was being done.”*

TABLE 7: RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE INTERVENED IN A CONFLICT BASED ON OUTCOME OF CONFLICT ANALYSIS

LGA	Resolved a dispute based on outcome of conflict analysis (%)	Used conflict analysis in any other way
Nsit Atai	7	0
Obot Akara	14	0
Brass	0	0
Kolokuma/Opokuma	9	0
Isoko South	29	7 (Dispute between staff in an office)
Ndakwa West	7	0
Etsako	0	0
Ovia	31	0
Akuku-Toru	0	0
Opobo Nkoro	21	0
<b>Average</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>

In assessing the frequency of the use of conflict analysis by respondents in the course of their work, it was found that the majority (over 50%) had never used conflict analysis as a basis for their interventions (*Figure 5*).

FIGURE. 5: HOW FREQUENTLY CONFLICT ANALYSIS IS USED IN WORK



There were some significant differences in the frequency of use of conflict analysis between LGAs. While as many as 93% of respondents in Ndokwa West indicated never having used conflict analysis in their work, only 17% of respondents in Isoko South, and 7% of respondents in Akuku Toru indicated the same. However, it must be noted that as many as 89% and 42% of respondents in Akuku Toru and Isoko South, respectively, did not respond to this question. The large number of respondents who did not respond to this question is a definite indication that they were not conversant with this.

**TABLE 8: HOW OFTEN RESPONDENTS USE CONFLICT ANALYSIS IN THEIR WORK**

LGA	Never (%)	Sometimes (%)	Often (%)	Always (%)
Nsit Atai	71	7	21	0
Obot Akara	10	0	1	1
Brass	50	8	0	0
Kolokuma/Opokuma	74	8	18	0
Isoko South	17	33	8	0
Ndokwa West	93	7	0	0
Etsako	75	25	0	0
Ovia	50	25	8	0
Akuku-Toru	7	0	7	7
Opobo Nkoro	64	7	7	7
<b>Average</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>

## ABILITY FOR VARIED TYPES OF PEACE-BUILDING ENGAGEMENTS

Having good basic conflict management and peace-building skills can ensure a higher level of success in dealing with the conflict that is an inevitable part of any human interaction. Such skills are required in the management of conflict and the consolidation of peace within communities. An assessment of peace-building engagements among respondents will show how much peace-building skills they possess.

An assessment of respondents' engagement in dialogue, mediation and advocacy across the 10 LGAs showed that 45.1% of respondents have been engaged in dialogue, 26.6% engaged in mediation, while 17% have engaged in advocacy (See Table 9).

TABLE 9: RESPONDENTS' ENGAGEMENT IN DIFFERENT PEACE-BUILDING PROCESSES

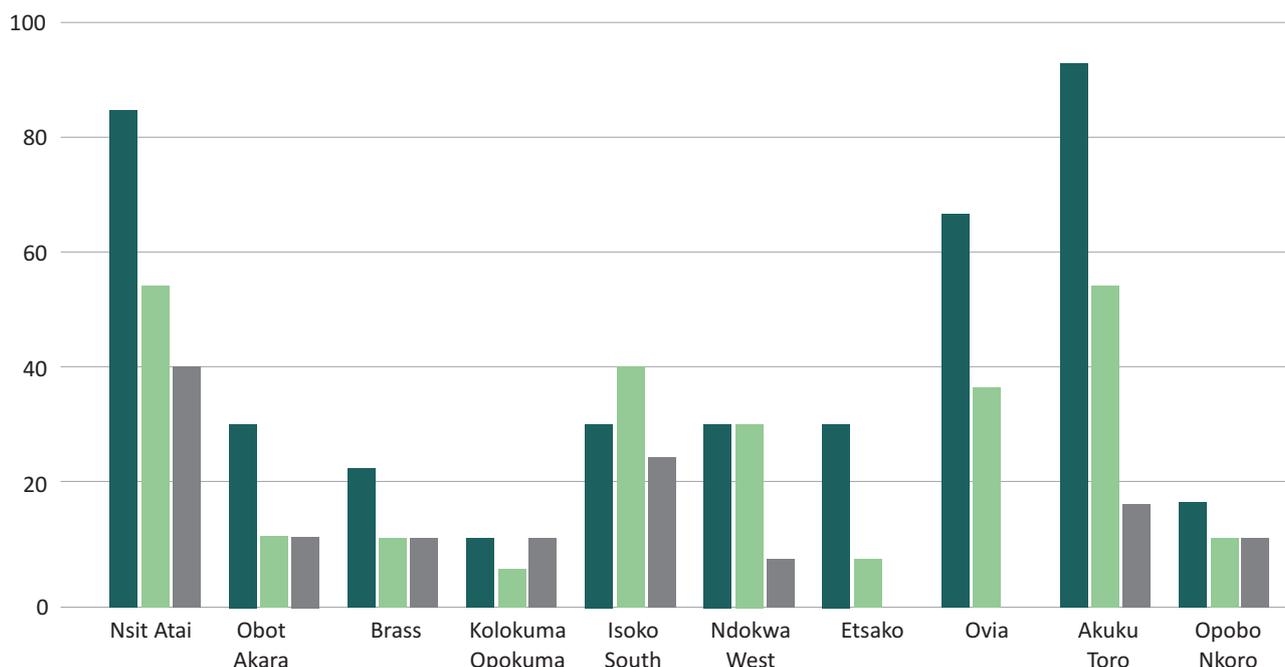
LGA	Respondents who have engaged dialogue in peace-building (%)	Respondents who have engaged mediation in peace-building (%)	Respondents who have engaged advocacy in peace-building (%)
Nsit Atai	86	57	43
Obot Akara	36	14	14
Brass	25	17	17
Kolokuma/Opokuma	18	9	18
Isoko South	36	43	29
Ndakwa West	36	36	14
Etsako	33	8	0
Ovia	69	38	0
Akuku-Toru	91	50	21
Opobo Nkoro	21	14	14
<b>Average</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>17.0</b>

From their explanations of how advocacy was carried out, many of the respondents who indicated that they had engaged in advocacy showed that they understood the rudiments and purpose of advocacy.

In the circumstances in which mediation was cited, most responses showed there was no clear presentation of how it was used or a clear understanding of it as a peace-building process.

Figure 6 shows that many respondents in Nsit Atai, Akuku-Toru and Ovia had engaged in dialogue as a peace-building process. However, virtually all respondents described their use of dialogue as a peace-building method to facilitate discussions for the purpose of identifying problems and advising conflicting parties on how to end the problem.

FIG. 6: ENGAGEMENT IN PEACE-BUILDING PROCESSES



- Respondents who have engaged dialogue in peacebuilding (%)
- Respondents who have engaged in mediation in peacebuilding (%)
- Respondents who have engaged in advocacy in peacebuilding (%)

### AWARENESS OF PEACE-BUILDING COORDINATION PLATFORMS

An assessment of the respondents’ awareness of and engagement with peace-building coordination platforms, such as Partners for Peace (P4P), which are important for synergy and support in addressing local conflicts, was necessary to understand the availability of such a support base to respondents.

However, only 12% of respondents were aware of P4P. Less than 1% (0.7%) were P4P members or had reported incidences to P4P’s SMS-based Early Warning Platform (see Table 10). Thus it is clear there is a need to increase engagement with existing platforms such as P4P to enhance peace-building efforts with regards to the WASH programme.

TABLE 10: EXTENT OF RESPONDENTS' AWARENESS OF AND ENGAGEMENT WITH P4P

LGA	Awareness of P4P (%)	Membership in P4P (%)	Worked for/with P4P (%)	Have reported incidences to P4P's SMS-based EWP (%)
Nsit Atai	21	7	8	7
Obot Akara	0	0	0	0
Brass	8	0	8	0
Kolokuma/Opokuma	0	0	0	0
Isoko South	29	0	0	0
Ndakwa West	7	0	0	0
Etsako	0	0	0	0
Ovia	31	0	0	0
Akuku-Toru	14	0	0	0
Opobo Nkoro	14	0	0	0
<b>Average</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>

In Brass, one respondent explained that he learned about P4P when he worked with one of their members to intervene in a conflict situation within their community. This is indicative of collaborative efforts already happening between P4P and other peace-building set ups within communities. However, in Nsit Atai, although 8% of respondents said they had worked for or with P4P, the nature of their work could not be explained. This therefore raises questions about the veracity of their responses. Many of the respondents who are aware of P4P described it as 'a peacemaking group', a confirmation of their awareness of P4P's activities.

As to whether respondents were aware of the Digital Peace Map (DPM) responses showed that only Nsit Atai, Isoko South and Ovia were aware of it. Sources from which respondents became aware of the platform were the UN Department of Security and Safety and also the Internet. Respondents from Nsit Atai and Isoko South have also accessed information on the DPM (see Table 11).

TABLE 11: WHETHER RESPONDENTS ARE AWARE OF THE DPM AS SOURCE OF INFORMATION

LGA	Respondents who are aware of existence of DPM (%)	Accessed information on the DPM (%)
Nsit Atai	33	21
Obot Akara	0	0
Brass	0	0
Kolokuma/Opokuma	0	0
Isoko South	7	7
Ndakwa West	7	0
Etsako	0	0
Ovia	18	0
Akuku-Toru	0	0
Opobo Nkoro	0	0
<b>Average</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>

## UNDERSTANDING POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES ON CONFLICT CONTEXTS

Research has shown that in some cases development programmes could themselves be sources of conflicts or escalators where conflicts already exist. On the other hand, development programmes have been found to be major sources of bonding and peace generation within communities. There was a need to measure respondents' understanding of the possible effects of development programmes on conflict, and vice versa, as proper levels of understanding would help safeguard against the possibility of conflicts scuttling the success of the WASH programme.

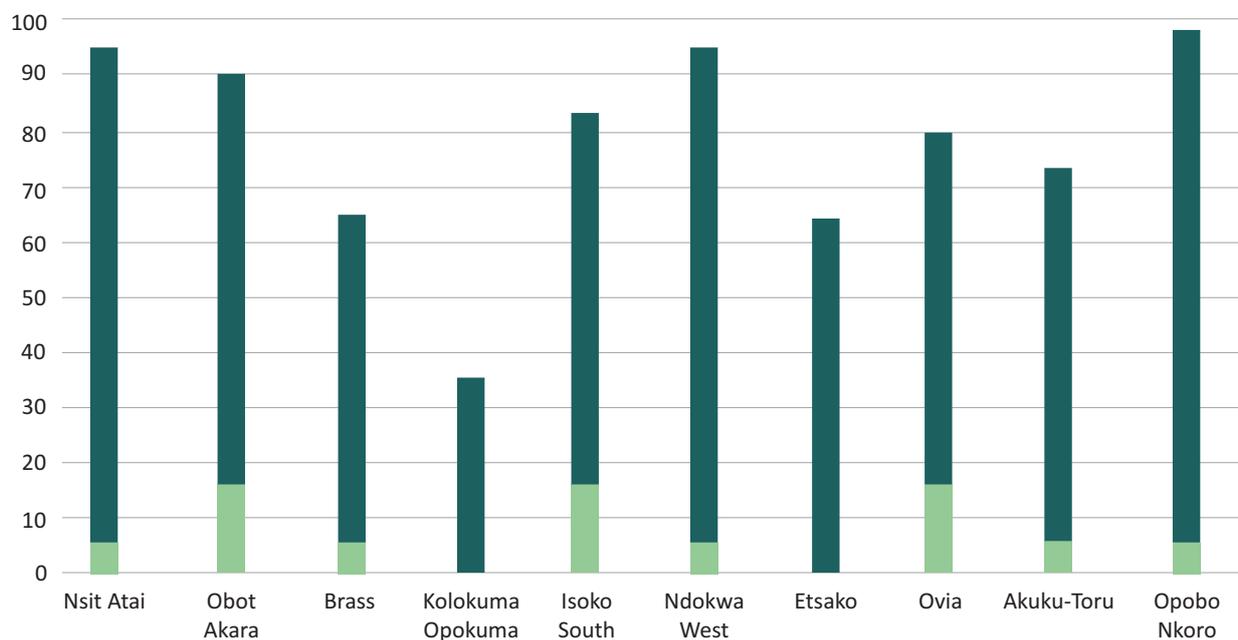
In assessing respondents' opinion of the potential of the WASH programme for conflict and peace, it was found that only 9.6% of respondents across the 10 LGAs considered the WASH programme as a potential source of conflict while 70.9% saw it as a potential source of peace/bonding within their communities. A total of 19.5% of respondents did not give an opinion on the matter. This may be a result of not being comfortable with the questions, or a lack of understanding of the relationships between conflict and development programmes

TABLE 12: RESPONDENTS' OPINION OF THE WASH PROGRAMME'S POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT AND PEACE

LGA	WASH programme as a potential source of conflict (%)	WASH programme as a potential source of bonding /peace (%)
Nsit Atai	7	93
Obot Akara	21	71
Brass	8	58
Kolokuma/Opokuma	0	36
Isoko South	21	64
Ndakwa West	7	93
Etsako	0	67
Ovia	18	63
Akuku-Toru	7	71
Opobo Nkoro	7	93
<b>Average</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>70.9</b>

Figure 7 shows that the WASH programme was largely considered a source of peace and bonding and only minimally a source of conflict in all the LGAs. In particular, no respondents in Etsako, as well as Kolokuma/Opokuma, considered the WASH programme a possible source of conflict.

FIGURE 7: POTENTIAL OF THE WASH PROGRAMME FOR PEACE/CONFLICT



Some of the reasons given for the WASH programme as a potential source of conflict, as captured by respondents, are as follows:

*“...The chief could manipulate programme in his personal favour.”*

*“...WASHCOMS are expecting payment from donor agencies to be active. Issue of counterpart contribution.”*

*“...a situation whereby the community ruler wants a water programme while the community leader wants toilet facilities. Misunderstanding will then surface.”*

*“...introducing new lifestyle and approach to their water, sanitation/hygiene behaviour of the old, striving to force them to change their old behaviour that is harmful to health.”*

*“...competition between communities to benefit from the WASH programme”*

On the other hand some of the reasons given by respondents for the WASH programme as a potential source of peace/bonding are:

*“...draws the members of the community together and bonds them. Cleaning the environment reduces the chances of waste-related conflict.”*

*“...The provision of WASH services will decrease violent agitation by communities for better living conditions.”*

*“...When people have basic necessities of life they are at peace with one another and government.”*

*“...community cooperation, joint programme would bring different groups of people in the community together.”*

*“...the availability of water programme in area has reduced stress of going to distance for such amenities, thereby minimizing fighting in the process of trying to struggle with the neighbouring communities for such.”*

*“...Facilitates education and training programmes which promote understanding amongst the people.”*

*“...it will provide various communities with a forum to discuss WASH thereby promoting better understanding amongst the people and fostering peace.”*

## **ABILITY TO MAINSTREAM CONFLICT SENSITIVITY INTO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES**

Making sure that stakeholders in the WASH programme are sensitive to conflict at all stages is necessary in order to diminish the possibility that conflicts might adversely affect the programme’s outcome. Thus, one major way to minimize the threats to the programme would be to get a good understanding of stakeholders’ conflict sensitivity and work to mainstream conflict sensitivity into the programme.

Unfortunately, it was found that only 15.4% of respondents had ever referred to any form of conflict assessment in the development and implementation of their programmes, while only 9.1% had actually used conflict assessments to improve their development programmes. In Etsako LGA, none of the respondents had ever referred to conflict assessment in the development and implementation of their programmes or used conflict assessments to improve their development programmes (see Table 13).

TABLE 13: WHETHER RESPONDENTS USE CONFLICT ASSESSMENTS IN PROGRAMMING

LGA	Respondents who refer to conflict assessment in the development and implementation of programmes (%)	Respondents who have used conflict assessments to improve development programmes (%)
Nsit Atai	29	29
Obot Akara	14	7
Brass	8	0
Kolokuma/Opokuma	18	9
Isoko South	14	14
Ndakwa West	14	7
Etsako	0	0
Ovia	36	18
Akuku-Toru	7	7
Opobo Nkoro	14	0
<b>Average</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>9.1</b>

The majority of respondents who had used conflict assessments to improve on their development programs did so either during the planning or implementation phase of those programmes. One respondent from Brass indicated their use of conflict assessment at the design stage of programme cycle. No respondent indicated the use of conflict assessment at the closure/exit stage of their programme.

When it came to using conflict assessments for interventions, only one respondent in Kolokuma Opokuma used a conflict assessment in the selection of intervention measures to improve the health of community members. The same respondent also indicated that they used a conflict assessment at all stages of the programme cycle.

In Ndakwa West, conflict assessments were used to improve programmes as follows:

*'...by allowing all the stakeholders to participate in decision-making, get involved in implementation - who does what - and also exchange ideas, leading to good interaction among them all.'*

Also in Ndokwa West, one respondent indicated that he used a conflict assessment throughout his programme cycle while another indicated using a conflict assessment at the planning and implementation stages of their programmes.

## EFFECTIVENESS OF PEACE MONITORING AND RESPONSE PLATFORMS IN PROMOTING SOCIAL DIALOGUE

Only 11.8% of respondents indicated knowing about a conflict monitoring and response platform established to promote dialogue between social groups. Almost all of these identified P4P as the platform they knew. About a third (3.9%) of these respondents also indicated that they knew of the Peace Monitoring and Response Team (PMRT). None of the respondents indicated being a member of it PMRT.

TABLE 14: RESPONDENTS' AWARENESS OF PEACE AND MONITORING PLATFORMS

LGA	Respondents who know of any monitoring and response platform established to promote dialogue between social groups (%)	Respondents who know about the PMRT (%)	Respondents who are members of PMRT
Nsit Atai	36	14	0
Obot Akara	29	0	0
Brass	8	0	8
Kolokuma/Opokuma	0	0	0
Isoko South	17	7	0
Ndokwa West	0	0	0
Etsako	0	0	0
Ovia	36	18	0
Akuku-Toru	0	0	0
Opobo Nkoro	0	0	0
<b>Average</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>0</b>

# DISCUSSION

Based on the data presented in the results section, the discussion will focus on the thematic issues of the study.

## ASSESSMENT OF UNDERSTANDING OF CONFLICT

A majority of respondents understood the term conflict with 74.2% describing it as a form of misunderstanding or disagreement. For them, conflict itself was neither negative nor positive but was a differential in the goals and objectives of the conflicting parties and could result in a positive or negative outcome, depending on how it was handled.

However it must be noted that almost a quarter of the respondents saw conflict as a negative occurrence and described it in terms of its negative outcomes such as killings and fights.

Respondents' understanding of the typology of conflict was very low. Only 14.7% of respondents could identify three types of conflict. This was worrying as a good understanding of different types of conflict would enable conflict managers to anticipate conflicts and contain them.

The respondents' understanding of the stages of conflict was also low. Only 38% of respondents were able to properly identify the stages of conflict. Because knowing the stage of a conflict determines the right intervention, an inability to identify the stage which a conflict is in would result in erroneous interventions. Such mistakes could actually lead to new conflicts or escalate on-going ones. Thus, the glaring disparity between LGAs in this regard means that more effort needs to be put into some LGAs – such as Brass, Isoko South, Kolokuma Opokuma, and Ovia - than others.

Of all the components of respondents' understanding of conflict examined, the ability to identify the categories of actors in conflicts ranked lowest. Only 4% of respondents were able to make this identification.

Being able to understand the various categories of actors helps in the identification and categorization of those involved or affected by conflict. This is important during interventions as it informs how to approach different actors and stakeholders in the course of managing the conflict. Although many respondents were able to describe the causes of conflict, they did not appear to fully understand the categories of conflict. Understanding the cause of conflict by category is important as it helps determine the most appropriate approach towards addressing the conflict. Knowing the

differences between an information-based and a value-based conflict, or a psychological and a resource-based conflict, for instance, would give conflict managers a greater ability to reach agreements in spite of the conflicting parties' different goals.

## **AVAILABILITY OF SKILLS FOR CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND INTERVENTION IN CONFLICT**

Many of the respondents (40.8%) had an idea of what conflict analysis was, although the level of understanding varied from one LGA to another. Ndokwa LGA stood out as the only place where all respondents could describe or explain what conflict analysis was. However, only 7% of these respondents were able to correctly identify the elements of conflict analysis.

This showed that respondents in Ndokwa had a basic understanding of conflict analysis but were not knowledgeable enough to identify its elements. In all, only 7.4% of respondents were able to identify this.

In addition, only 2.8% of respondents indicated that they had ever used conflict analysis tools, the 'Onion Model' of analysis being the only correct tool of analysis mentioned. One respondent in Kolokuma Opokuma said he had used 'survey' as conflict analysis tool.

Generally, respondents showed a limited understanding of conflict analysis, particularly what it entailed, what was analysed and the tools used for analysis. This might explain the large number who avoided responding to questions on conflict analysis on the whole.

It was found that a majority of respondents neither understood nor used conflict analysis in the course of their work. Such ignorance means that interventions might be done blindly and any successes might be largely superficial.

## **ABILITY FOR VARIED TYPES OF PEACE-BUILDING ENGAGEMENTS**

In the course of their work 45.1% of respondents were found to have engaged in dialogue 28.6% in mediation and 17% in advocacy. Although respondents' explanations of how advocacy was carried out showed an understanding of what it is and what it entails, the same could not be said about mediation and dialogue.

In Nsit Atai, Akuku Toru and Ovia LGAs many respondents indicated that they had engaged dialogue as a peace-building process, however, further explanations confirmed that the intervention was respondents facilitating a discussion between the conflicting parties. In these discussions each party would state what had occurred in order to identify the 'problems'. The conflicting parties would then be 'advised on how to end the problem'. This is very different from dialogue as a conflict management process that enables each party to present their issues in a non-judgemental atmosphere with the aim of understanding the others' perspectives and being understood in turn. As for mediation, most responses did not show how this process was used.

The results showed that most respondents did not have the ability for peace-building engagements which is necessary for the management of conflicts and the consolidation of peace within communities.

## **AWARENESS OF PEACE-BUILDING COORDINATION PLATFORMS**

The survey found that most respondents were not aware of existing peace-building coordination platforms. This is problematic because peace-building coordination platforms provide a necessary support base for peace work and can help maximize intervention results.

P4P is one of the largest peace coordinating platforms in the Niger Delta therefore it is important for stakeholders in each of the LGAs to not only be aware of it but to establish linkages with it for leverage. However only 12.4% of respondents knew about P4P and most of them had learned about the platform through the EU and other websites.

A similarly low percentage of respondents (5.8%) knew about the DPM and an even lower percentage (2.8%) had actually sourced information from it. The map is meant to be a readily available and easily accessible source of information on conflict, specifically for states in the Niger Delta. That the majority of respondents neither knew about it nor had ever used it, points to a need to create more awareness about it.

This shows that there is a large knowledge gap that needs to be filled in order to maximize the gains of the WASH project. Drawing attention to both P4P and the DPM at every available opportunity throughout the duration of the WASH programme would help to achieve this.

## **UNDERSTANDING POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES ON CONFLICT CONTEXTS**

Only 9.6% of respondents across the 10 LGAs considered the WASH programme as a potential source of conflict while 70.9% saw it as a potential source of peace and bonding within communities.

However, being conscious that there is a possibility for the WASH programme to be both a source of conflict as well as a source of peace/bonding allows stakeholders to detect potential conflicts early and address them so that they do not escalate or degenerate into a negative outcome. The high number of respondents who did not see the WASH project as a possible source of conflict means that stakeholders need to be sensitized on the possibility of development projects being a source of conflict or impacting negatively on already existing conflict situations.

Only 15.4% of respondents could refer to conflict assessments that improved the development and implementation of their programmes and a little more than half of these had actually used such assessments. This shows that development programmes in these LGAs have been carried out in atmospheres that were largely devoid of conflict sensitivity.

## **ABILITY TO MAINSTREAM CONFLICT SENSITIVITY INTO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES**

Respondents who had used conflict assessments to improve their development programmes did so only during the planning, design, or implementation phases. No respondent indicated the use of conflict assessments at the closure or exit stages of their programmes.

The need for conflict assessments at the closure phase of development programmes cannot be overemphasized as it ensures the continuity and consolidation of the programme's outcomes. Many completed development programmes have actually created major conflicts following their closure and the exit of their programmers. Being able to assess this possibility and putting mechanisms in place to forestall it, such as addressing potential reasons for conflict, would ensure that the project results are sustained and the project becomes a major source of peace following the exit of its programmers.

The dearth of conflict sensitivity observed amongst the respondents could be due to ignorance. Furthermore, in situations where there is an awareness of this need, there is an absence of the technical know-how to mainstream it. A good understanding of how to conduct conflict assessments

completed development programmes have actually created major conflicts following their closure and the exit of their programmers. Being able to assess this possibility and putting mechanisms in place to forestall it, such as addressing potential reasons for conflict, would ensure that the project results are sustained and the project becomes a major source of peace following the exit of its programmers.

The dearth of conflict sensitivity observed amongst the respondents could be due to ignorance. Furthermore, in situations where there is an awareness of this need, there is an absence of the technical know-how to mainstream it. A good understanding of how to conduct conflict assessments for each stage of a development programme would ensure that conflict sensitivity is mainstreamed into the programme. Such sensitivity would in turn reduce the chances of conflicts arising or escalating as a result of the project.

### **EFFECTIVENESS OF PEACE MONITORING AND RESPONSE PLATFORMS IN PROMOTING SOCIAL DIALOGUE**

Although a small number of respondents (11.8%) claimed to know of any peace monitoring and response platforms, those who did could only identify P4P as that platform. 3.9% of respondents also indicated knowing the peace Monitoring and Response Team (PMRT).

However, since the PMRT was not in existence as at the time data was gathered for this study, it was expected that no respondents would know about the team nor be a member of the PMRT and this would be the baseline against which change would be measured with the progression of the WASH project.

# CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The level of conflict understanding amongst respondents is low and there is a need to build their capacity as conflict managers and peace builders.
2. There is a dearth of conflict analysis skills among respondents. The capacity for conflict analysis needs to be improved across all 10 LGAs in order for programmers to better understand:
  - The historical contexts unfolding in a conflict,
  - Who is involved in a conflict,
  - The factors and trends are contributing to the conflict,
  - What motivates people to use violence or engage in conflict,
  - Identify the main issues or 'fault lines' of the conflict,
  - Learn from past experience, and
  - Strategize on how to adequately respond and intervene.
3. The ability necessary for peace-building and conflict management is lacking. Stakeholders across all the 10 LGAs need to learn a variety of peace-building skills to enable them to effectively promote peace-building engagements within their communities.
4. There is a need to increase the awareness of peace-building coordinating platforms such as P4P and the Digital Peace Map through increased publication of their activities. More sources of information should be established within the LGAs in order to enhance the WASH programme's peace-building efforts.
5. A majority of respondents are unaware of the possible effects of development programmes on conflict contexts. Training should be provided for WASH programme stakeholders to sensitize them on the programme's possible effects in conflict contexts.
6. Only a small percentage of respondents (9.1%) actually understand conflict sensitivity and have improved their development programmes by mainstreaming conflict sensitivity into them. Stakeholders need to know how to mainstream conflict sensitivity into all stages of their programme cycles.

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# **BASELINE STUDY**

**OF CONFLICT CAPACITY OF STAKEHOLDERS  
IN THE WASH PROGRAMME ACROSS  
10 LGAs IN THE NIGER DELTA**