BASELINE STUDY OF CONFLICT CAPACITY OF STAKEHOLDERS IN THE WASH PROGRAMME ACROSS 10 LGAS IN THE NIGER DELTA

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STUDY COMMISSIONED BY

PIND/UNICEF NIGERIA for the EU Niger Delta Support Program (NDSP)

RESEARCH CONDUCTED AND REPORTED BY

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

P4P – Partners for Peace

DPM - Digital Peace Map

EW - Early Warning

EWP - Early warning platform

FGD – Focus Group Discussion

FMWR – Federal Ministry of Water Resources

KII – Key Informant Interview

LGA – Local Government Area

MICS - Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey

PMRT - Peace Monitoring and Response Team

RUWASA – Rural Water and Sanitation Agency

WASH – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

WASHCom - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Committee

INTRODUCTION

Water and sanitation are two significant components in the overall development of a nation. Water, as a finite natural resource, is necessary for sustenance of life and ecological systems (Esrey et al, 1991). In recognition of the harm 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 the needs. Notable efforts at the international level include among others, development of water management strategies at regional, national and local levels that seek to promote both equitable access and adequate supplies (United Nations, 2001). At the national level, the Federal Government of Nigeria in January 2000 launched its National Policy on Water Supply and Sanitation, with the aim of providing sufficient 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 efforts of the federal government 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 generally 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[1]. 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) report of 2011 reveal that a large percentage of households in the 5 Niger Delta states of Rivers, Bayelsa, Akwa Ibom, Edo and Delta, use unimproved water sources for drinking and unimproved sanitation. Similarly, the report stated that out of the 5 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

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[1] Nkwocha, E. & Onyekwere, E., 2009. Impact of EU micro-programmes programme in Water and Sanitation on Rural Communities in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria.

do not have access to improved water supply facilities.

In recent times, a number of donor agencies (UNICEF, USAID, The World Bank, etc.) have vigorously engaged in the provision of water supply and sanitation systems in the rural areas of the Niger Delta Region where there are perceived gaps in access to these services. However, the very volatile nature of the Niger Delta had in the past impacted on the results achieved with regards to efforts at improving Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) over the years. Monies appropriated by different development agencies for the provision of WASH facilities in the Niger Delta Region have not achieved desired results due to the region's volatility, instability and constant eruption of violent conflicts. In the past 2 decades, the Niger Delta region has played host to inter-ethnic and inter-communal violence and militancy activities that led to massive loss of lives and property and displacement of a large number of persons from their homes and settlement.

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 Amnesty Programme in the Niger Delta, 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 development programmes could in themselves be sources of conflicts or escalators of conflicts where they already exist. The need to mainstream conflict sensitivity into development programmes therefore makes it imperative that a good assessment and understanding of the Niger Delta conflicts and their possible impact on planned WASH programmes be carried out to ensure desired level of success.

As part of promoting the provision of water and Sanitation, UNICEF/PIND WASH programme aims to assess the conflict situation in the identified LGAs, determine the current capacity of local actors to understand and mitigate such conflict as a benchmark, and build their capacity for understanding and mitigating their local 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 capacity is adequately built on conflict sensitivity and conflict management. The basic tenet is that if effort is made to build the ability of local actors and players to understand conflict, evaluate the causes of conflict, mitigate conflict – both its growth and impacts, and at the same time build skills to address the causes and impacts of conflicts within the communities, it would ensure WASH programme sustainability and improve cohesion and peaceful co-existence amongst programme communities.

This baseline study therefor aimed at assessing the level of understanding of conflict as well as conflict management capacity of key stakeholders in the implementation of the EU/UNICEF WASH programme in 10 LGAs across 5 Niger Delta States. Hence the study aims to measure

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

METHODOLOGY

The PIND/UNICEF programme was designed to cover 5 Niger Delta states and 2 LGAs per state as follows:

Edo State- Etsako West & Ovia South West

Delta State- Isoko South & Ndokwa West

Akwa Ibom State- Nsit Atai & Obot Akara

Rivers State - Akuku Toru & Opobo Nkoro

Bayelsa State - Brass & Kolokuma Opokuma

The base line assessment process entailed the

1) Methodology/planning meeting- This meeting involved the programme implementing partners from PIND, local implementing NGOs, and community actors, who worked with a development consultant as a team to develop the methodology, indicators and data gathering tools for Baseline data as well as the LGA conflict profiles.

2) Field work- This entailed data gathering for baseline assessment and conflict assessments in the 10 LGAs. A combination of quantitative and qualitative methods were used for the study.

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

1) Stakeholders understanding of the types, stages, causes and actors in conflict within the LGA.
   i. Number/% of stakeholders who understand types of conflict
   ii. Number/% of stakeholders who understand stages of conflict
   iii. Number/% of stakeholders who understand causes of conflict
   iv. Number/% of stakeholders who understand actors in conflict

2) Stakeholders skills for conflict analysis and intervention in conflict
   i. Number/% of stakeholders who understand what conflict analysis
   ii. Number/% of stakeholders who have used conflict analysis
   iii. Number of conflict analysis tools used by the stakeholders

      iv. Number/% of stakeholders who have intervened in conflict based on outcome of conflict analysis
       v. Number/% of stakeholders who regularly use Conflict analysis in their work

3) Stakeholders ability for varied types of Peacebuilding engagements
        i. Number/% of stakeholders who have engaged in conflict analysis
       ii. Number/% of stakeholders who have engaged in Dialogue
     iii. Number/% of stakeholders who have engaged mediation
      iv. Number/% of stakeholders who have engaged advocacy

4) Stakeholders awareness of availability of a platform for coordination of peacebuilding activities
        i. Number who are aware of P4P as a coordinating platform for CSOs effort in peacebuilding
       ii. Number who are members of P4P or have worked with them
     iii. Number of stakeholders who are aware of Use of the P4P 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 input in the development and implementation of the programme plan from a conflict sensitive perspective

6) Stakeholders ability to mainstream conflict sensitivity into programme
        i. Number of stakeholders who have integrated conflict assessment into programme cycle (planning, designing, implementation, Monitoring and closure of programme)

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.

Quantitative assessment tools consisted of a coded questionnaire, which was structured to elicit information for the baseline assessment of stakeholders' capacity. Questionnaires used mainly focused on capturing the baseline data on the conflict understanding and conflict mitigation capacity of stakeholders in the target LGAs while also eliciting information on the conflict situation.

Qualitative tools were also used to gather data for assessment of conflict situations/profile in the LGAs (Conflict profile presented in Section 2 of this report). Qualitative Components of the study were achieved using a mix of Desk review/content analysis, Key informant interviews (KII) and Focus group discussion (FGD).

> FGD and KIIs focused mainly on assessing the conflict situation and also provided information on the current capacities of stakeholder for conflict mitigation.

> For FGDs, coverage was purposeful while respondent selection was convenient. (Communities with current conflicts were specifically targeted, while available key informants were identified and reached thereafter)

> Key Informant selection was a combination of purposeful, convenient and snowballing, where identification of respondents was based on recommendation/leads from other respondents.

Guide questions were developed and used for the KII and FGDs and employing tape recording and note taking, reports were produced for analysis.

The planned study sample for quantitative data consisted of 150 questionnaire respondents. The 150 questionnaires were administered to a total of 150 participants (15 per LGA) which were comprised of 100 participants drawn from the WashComs (10 per LGA), and 50 other participants (10 per state) made up of the UNICEF WASH state Consultant, the State Head of RUWASA and 4 persons from each of the LGAs identified as follows:

- UNICEF WASH local Consultant
- Chair, Federation of WASHComm

- Coordinator, WASH Unit
- A field officer

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

For Qualitative aspects of the study, 112 Focus group discussions were held and 73 Key Informant interviews were also 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 2 Communities selected per ward from the identified wards based on

    a) UNICEF definition of rural communities

    b) Severity of conflict or frequency of incidences based on literature and desk review (the P4P EW incidence reports amongst other were used as determinants).

- 2-4 FGDs and 1-2 KIIs conducted per community
    - FGDs focused on
        - Local Women groups
        - Local Youth groups
        - Traditional and religious leaders
        - CSO staff and activist groups identified in these locations
    - KIIs focused especially on leaders of 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 study 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 used. Data processing employed field—based transcription of FGDs and KIIs and data generated was passed multi-level review - LGA coordinators, State leads, etc.

Following the generation of results along the lines of the programme monitoring indicators, manual and electronic data analysis was used. Analysis was conducted along themes using the programme 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 5 identified States of – 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. 29% were Farmers, 21% were civil servants while others were in a range of occupations, which included teaching, trading, students, and graduate applicants. 50% 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 the attitude towards the issue, which in turn affects practice. Hence there is need to understand what is known and understood about conflict as this would in turn determine the attitude towards conflict and its management.

Fig.1 : Respondents Understanding of the term 'Conflict'
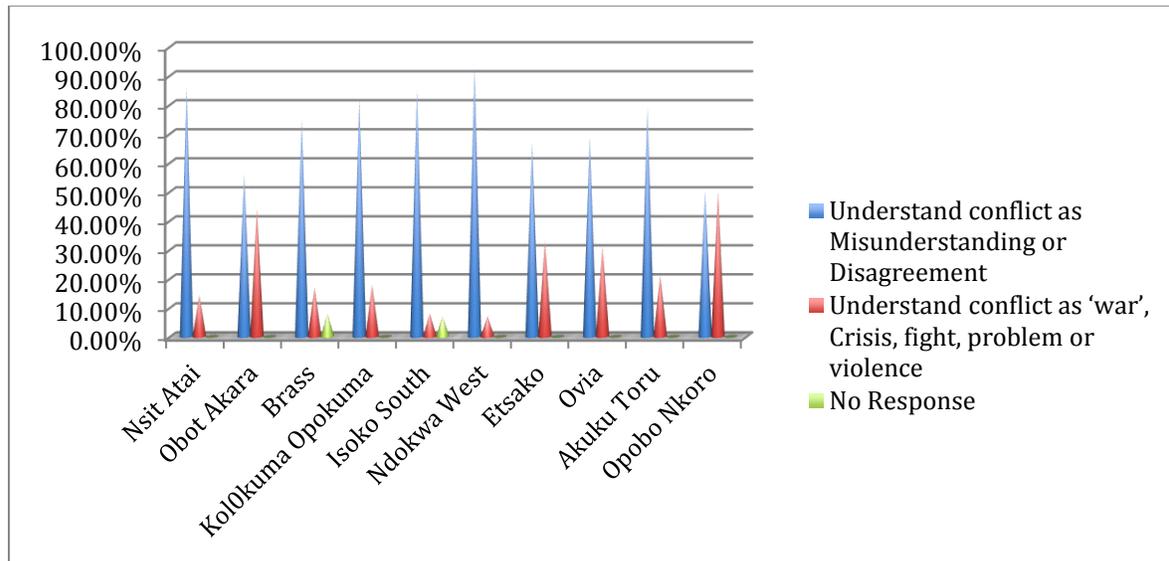
Fig 1 shows that majority of respondent had a fair understanding of conflict either as 'disagreement' or 'misunderstanding'. Although 24.3% of respondents understood conflict negatively, as 'fight', 'crisis', killing', etc., majority (74.2%) identified conflict as either 'misunderstanding' or 'disagreement.

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%*
Kol0kuma 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%*	*-*
AVERAGE	*74.2%*	*24.3%*	*1.5%*

In measuring understanding of the types of conflict, respondents were considered to understand conflict typology if they were able to mention 3 or more types of conflict. Only 14.7% of respondent were able to mention 3 types of conflict correctly. In Etsako, Ovian and Kolokuma Opokuma LGAs none of the respondent was able to mention 3 types of conflict. Respondents in Brass (41.7%) and Akuku Toru (35.7%) ranked highest in understanding of types of conflict (see Table 2, Fig 2).

Table 2: % of stakeholders who understand typology of conflict

LGA	Respondents that 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*
AVERAGE	*14.7*
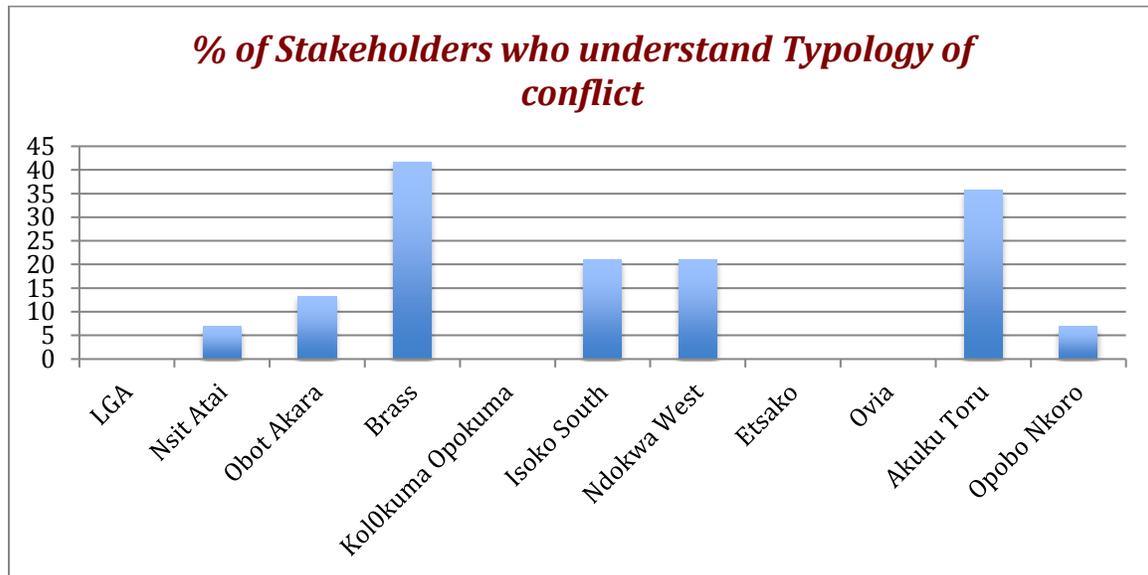
Looking at responses on understanding of stages of conflict, many respondents were unable to identify the 5 basic stages of conflict. Some respondents were able to describe what obtains at specific stages of conflict such as 'stoppage of killings' as description for de-escalation stage of conflict. Measuring understanding of the stages of conflict was based on ability to mention or describe at least 2 stages of conflict. 38% of respondents were able to identify 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
Kol0kuma Opokuma	18.2
Isoko South	14
Ndokwa West	57.1
Etsako	91.7
Ovia	7.7
Akuku Toru	78.6
Opobo Nkoro	39.3
AVERAGE	38

Fig. 3: Respondents Understanding of Stages of Conflict
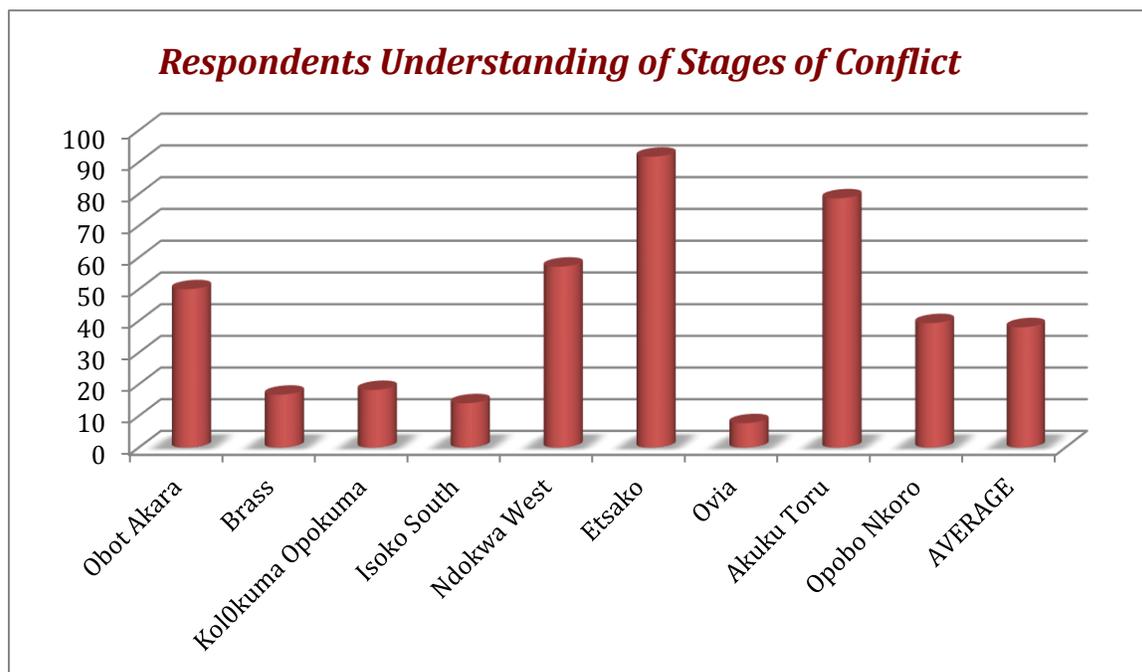
Although the average understanding of the stages of conflict by respondents is rather low (38%) Fig. 3 shows that respondents in Etsako, Akuku Toru and Obot Akara have a significantly higher understanding of stages of conflict than respondents from other LGAs.

Understanding of the different categories of actors in conflict 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 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
Kol0kuma Opokuma	0
Isoko South	7

Ndokwa West	*0*
Etsako	*33*
Ovia	*0*
Akuku Toru	*0*
Opobo Nkoro	*0*
AVERAGE	***4***

With regards to understanding of the causes of conflict, many respondents were able to cite examples of causes of conflict, which depicted understanding of the issue however most responses could not categorize the causes of conflict. Specific issues that cause conflict such as land, money, chieftaincy tussle were mentioned rather than categorize the cause of conflict as resource based.

Availability of Skills for Conflict Analysis and Intervention in Conflict

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

Skills for conflict analysis are important in order to better understand the historical and current events unfolding in a conflict, determine who is involved in a conflict, figure out what factors and trends are contributing to the conflict, explore 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 determine how to adequately respond to conflict and strategize on interventions.

In assessing respondents' understanding of conflict analysis, it was found that 40.8% of respondents rightly mentioned or explained some aspects of conflict analysis. Whereas no respondent from Etsako was able to explain what conflict analysis is, all respondent (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/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 1 or more elements of conflict analyzed.

Fig. 4: Respondent's understanding of aspects of conflict analysis

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 (Fig. 4).

Table 5: Respondent's 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 1 or more element of conflict analyzed
Nsit Atai	17.9	29	7
Obot Akara	21	14	7
Brass	41.7	0	0
Kol0kuma 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
AVERAGE	40.8	32.9	7.4

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
Kol0kuma Opokuma	9	9
Isoko South	29	29
Ndokwa West	7	7
Etsako	0	0
Ovia	18	18
Akuku Toru	14	7
Opobo Nkoro	21	14
AVERAGE	14.1	16.2

In assessing number of conflict analysis tools used by the stakeholders 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 I Okolokuma Okpokuma who said he had used 'survey' as conflict analysis tool.

Table 7: Respondents who have intervened in 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)
Ndokwa West	7	0	

Etsako	*0*	*0*	
Ovia	*31*	*0*	
Akuku Toru	*0*	*0*	
Opobo Nkoro	*21*	*0*	
AVERAGE	*11.8*	*0.7*	

In response to whether they have participated in the use of conflict analysis, one of the respondent who responded in the affirmative to this explained the role played 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.*

This is a confirmation of the limitation of the respondents understanding of what conflict analysis is.

In assessing the frequency of use of conflict analysis by respondents in their work, it was found that majority had never used conflict analysis as a basis for the interventions engaged in the course of their work. Over 50% indicated they had 'Never' used conflict analysis in their work (Fig. 5).

Fig. 5: How frequently Conflict Analysis is used in Work
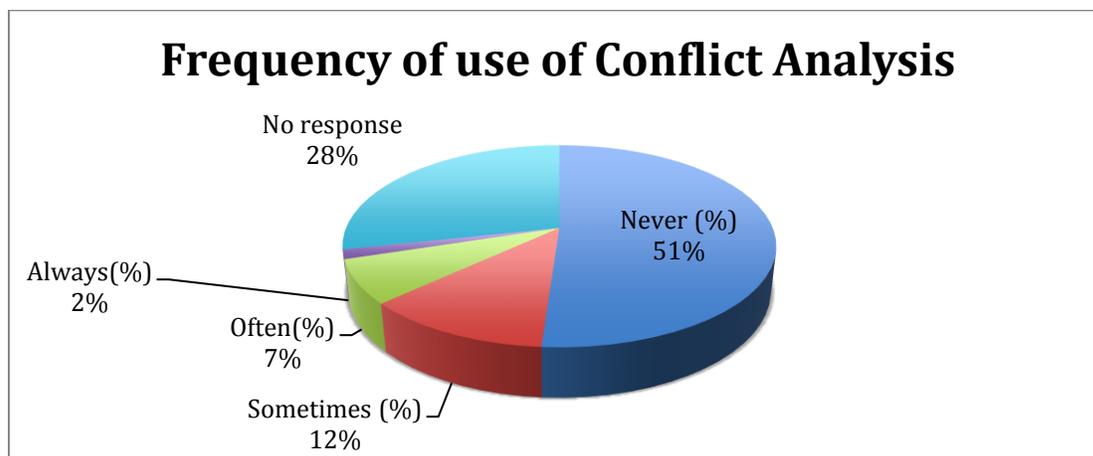
There were however some significant differences between LGAs with regards to the frequency of use of conflict analysis in their work. While as many as 93% of respondents

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 same. It must however be noted that as many as 89% and 42% of respondents in Akuku Toru and Isoko South respectively did not respond at all to this question.

The large number of respondents, who did not respond to this question, is a definite indication that they were not very 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
Kol0kuma 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
AVERAGE	**51.1**	**12.0**	**7.0**	**1.5**

Ability for varied types of Peacebuilding engagements

Basic peacebuilding skills are required n the management of conflict and consolidation of peace within communities. Conflict is an inevitable part of life and conflict management and peacebuilding skills determine the level of success in human interactions that may be attained. An assessment of peacebuilding engagements by respondents would show how much peacebuilding and conflict management skills they possess.

An assessment of respondents' engagement in dialogue, mediation and advocacy across the 10 LGAs shows that 45.1% of respondents have been engaged in dialogue, 26.6% engaged in mediation, while 17.0% have engaged in advocacy (See Table 9).

Table 9: Respondents engagement in different peacebuilding processes

LGA	Respondents who have engaged Dialogue in Peacebuilding (%)	Respondents who have engaged Mediation in Peacebuilding (%)	Respondents who have engaged advocacy in Peacebuilding (%)
Nsit Atai	86	57	43
Obot Akara	36	14	14
Brass	25	17	17
Kolokuma Opokuma	18	9	18
Isoko South	36	43	29
Ndokwa West	36	36	14
Etsako	33	8	0
Ovia	69	38	0
Akuku Toru	91	50	21
Opobo Nkoro	21	14	14
AVERAGE	45.1	28.6	17.0

Fig. 6: Engagement in Peacebuilding Processes
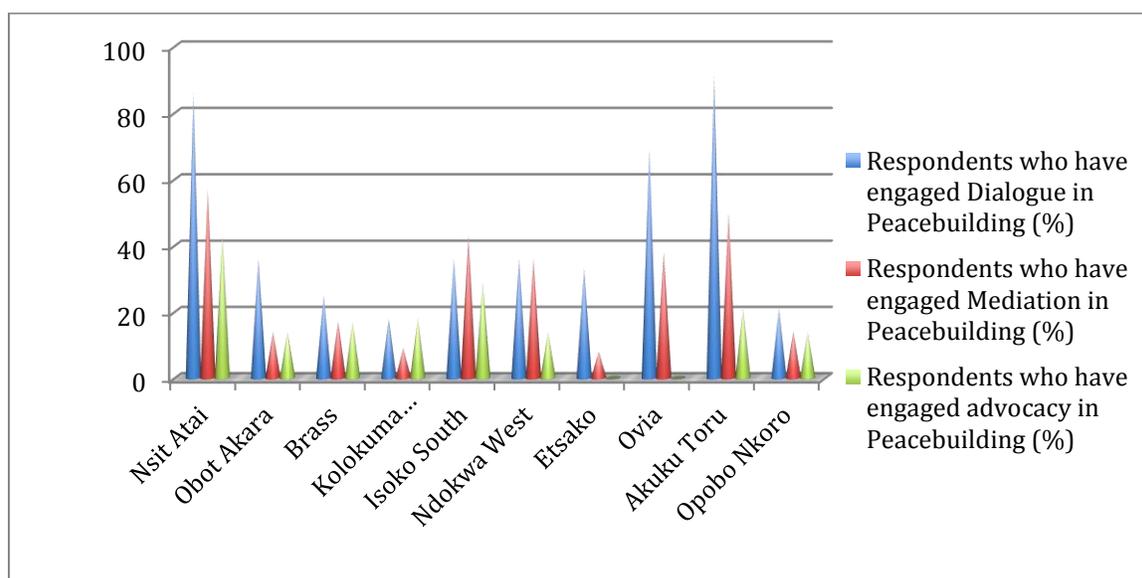
Explanations of how advocacy was carried out show that many of the respondents who indicated that they had engaged in advocacy understand the rudiments and purpose of advocacy.

For mediation, circumstances in which mediation was used were cited, but in most responses, there was no clear presentation of how mediation was used or a show of clear understanding of mediation as a peacebuilding process.

Fig. 6 shows that many respondents in Nsit Atai, Akuku Toru and Ovia have been engaged in dialogue as a peacebuilding process. However, virtually all respondents describe their use of dialogue as a peacebuilding method to be facilitation of discussions for the purpose of identifying 'problems' and 'advising conflicting parties on how to end the problem'.

Awareness of Peacebuilding Coordination Platforms

Awareness of peacebuilding coordination platforms is important for synergy and support in the face of addressing local conflicts. Understanding of the availability of such a support base was the basis for assessment of respondents' awareness of peacebuilding coordination platforms.

In measuring the extent of respondents' awareness of and engagement with Partners for Peace (P4P) only 12% of respondents were aware of P4P. 0.7% were P4P members or had reported incidences to the P4P SMS-based Early Warning Platform (see Table 10).

There is a need to build on and take advantage of existing platforms such as P4P in enhancing peacebuilding efforts with regards to the WASH programme.

Table 10: Extent of Respondents' awareness of and engagement with P4P

LGA	Awareness of P4P (%)	Membership of P4P (%)	Worked for/with P4P (%)	Have reported incidences to P4P SMS based EWP (%)
Nsit Atai	21	7	8	7
Obot Akara	0	0	0	0
Brass	8	0	8	0
Kol0kuma Opokuma	0	0	0	0
Isoko South	29	0	0	0

Ndokwa 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
AVERAGE	**12.4**	**0.7**	**1.6**	**0.7**

In Brass, one respondent explained that he learned about P4P when he worked with a member of P4P in intervening in a conflict situation within their community. This is indicative of collaborative efforts already happening between P4P and other peacebuilding set ups within communities. However, in Nsit Atai, although 8% of respondents said they had worked for/with P4P, the nature of work with P4P could not be explained. This therefore raises questions on the veracity of that response. Many of the respondents who are aware of P4P described it as 'a peacemaking group', which is a confirmation of awareness of activities that P4P was engaged in within the communities.

Responses as to whether respondents are aware of the Digital Peace Map (DPM) shows that Nsit Atai, Isoko South and Ovia only are aware of this. 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
Kol0kuma Opokuma	0	0
Isoko South	7	7
Ndokwa West	0	0
Etsako	0	0
Ovia	18	0

Akuku Toru	0	0
Opobo Nkoro	0	0
AVERAGE	**5.8**	**2.8**

Understanding of Possible Effect of Development Programmes on Conflict Contexts

Research has shown that conflicts do not only impact the success of development programmes but development programmes could in themselves be sources of conflicts or escalators of conflicts where they already exist. On another 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 conflict and peace potentials of the WASH programme, 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% see the programme as a potential source of peace/bonding within communities. A total of 19.5% of respondents did not give an opinion on the matter. Again, this may be a result of not being conversant or comfortable with the questions, or a result of lack of understanding of the interactions between conflict and development programmes.

Table.12: Respondents' opinion of the WASH programme Conflict and Peace Potentials

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
Kol0kuma Opokuma	0	36
Isoko South	21	64
Ndokwa West	7	93
Etsako	0	67

Ovia	18	63
Akuku Toru	7	71
Opobo Nkoro	7	93
AVERAGE	**9.6**	**70.9**

Fig. 7 shows that no respondents in Etsako as well as Kolokuma Okpokuma considered the WASH programme a possible source of conflict. In all the other LGAs the WASH programme was largely considered a source of peace and bonding and only minimally a source of conflict.

Fig. 7: Potential of the WASH programme for Peace/ conflict
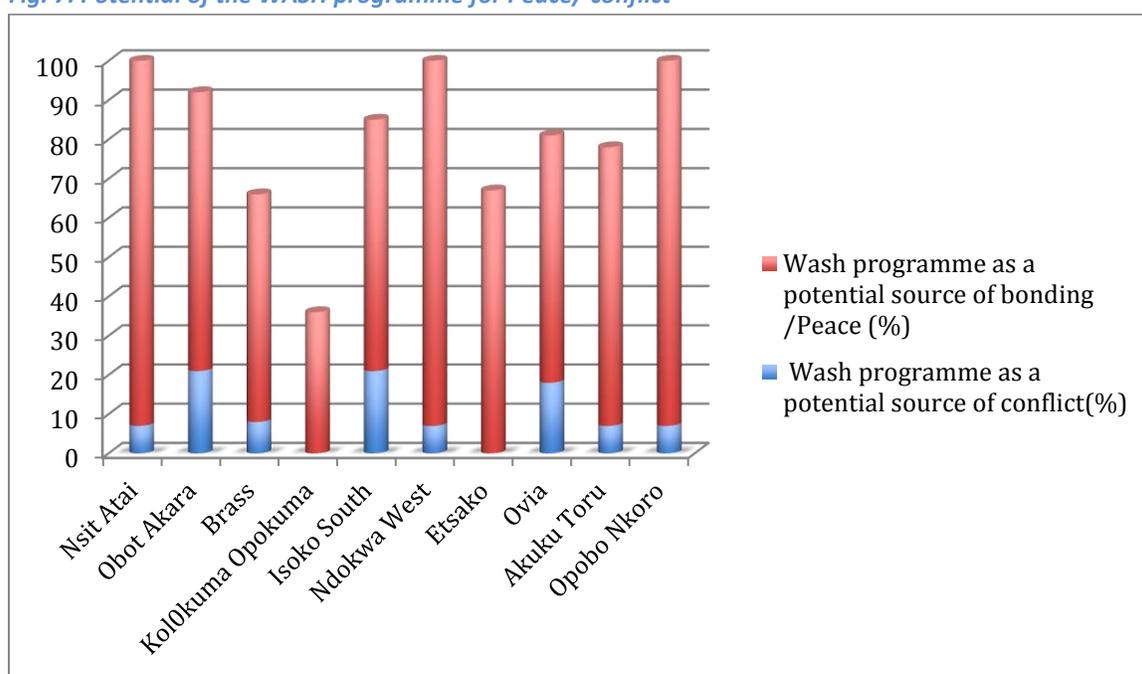
Some of the reasons given for WASH programme as a potential source of conflict as captured by respondents are as follows:

'...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 life style and approach to their water, sanitation/hygiene behaviour of the old thriving to force them to change their old behaviour that is handful to health.'

'...competition between communities to benefit from the WASH programme'

Reasons given by respondents for WASH programme as a potential source of Peace/Bonding on the other hand 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 govt.'

'...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

Sensitivity to conflict at all stages is key to diminishing the possibility of conflict adversely affecting the outcomes of development programmes. The need to mainstream conflict sensitivity into development programmes is imperative, and a good understanding of conflict sensitivity of stakeholders in the WASH programme would be

necessary for its success. Sensitivity to conflict all through the programme cycle would be one major way of minimizing the threats to the programme.

On whether respondents use conflict assessment in their programming, it was found that on 15.4% of respondents had ever referred to any form of conflict assessment in the development and implementation of programmes, while 9.1% have actually used conflict assessment to improve on development programmes. In Etsako LGA, all respondents had neither referred to conflict assessment in the development and implementation of programmes nor used conflict assessment to improve on development programmes (see Table 13).

Table 13: Whether Respondents Use Conflict Assessment in Programming

LGA	Respondents who refer to conflict assessment in the development And implementation of Programs (%)	Respondents who have used conflict Assessment to improve development programmes (%)
Nsit Atai	29	29
Obot Akara	14	7
Brass	8	0
Kol0kuma Opokuma	18	9
Isoko South	14	14
Ndokwa West	14	7
Etsako	0	0
Ovia	36	18
Akuku Toru	7	7
Opobo Nkoro	14	0
AVERAGE	15.4	9.1

Majority of the respondents who have used conflict assessment to improve on development programs did so either during the planning or implementation phase of programmes.

One respondent from Brass indicated the 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 the programme. It is important that conflict assessment be mainstreamed into development programmes as part of the exit strategy to ensure continuity and consolidation of the outcomes of the programme.

With regards to using conflict assessment for interventions conflict assessment was reportedly used by 1 respondent in Kolokuma Okpokuma in the selection of intervention measures to improve the health of community members. Same respondent indicated using conflict assessment at all stages of the programme cycle.

In Ndokwa West, Conflict assessment was 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 conflict assessment through out the programme cycle while another indicated using conflict assessment at the planning and implementation stages of programmes.

Effectiveness of Peace Monitoring and Response Platforms in promoting social dialogue

11.8% of respondents indicated knowing of a platform established to promote dialogue between social groups. Almost all of these identified P4P as the platform they know. About a third (3.9%) of these respondents who indicated knowing a conflict monitoring and response platform also indicated that they know the Peace Monitoring and Response Team although no respondent indicated being a member of the PMRT.

Table 14: Respondents Awareness of Peace and Monitoring Platforms

LGA	Respondents know of any monitoring and response platform established to promote dialogue between social groups (%)	Respondents who know about the Peace Monitoring and Response Team (%)	Respondents who are members of PMRT
Nsit Atai	36	14	0
Obot Akara	29	0	0

Brass	0	0	0
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
AVERAGE	**11.8**	**3.9**	**0**

DISCUSSION

Based on the results presented above, the discussion is centered on thematic issues of the study as outlined above in the results section.

Assessment of Understanding of Conflict

The term conflict is one that is largely well understood by a majority of respondents with 74.2% describing conflict as a form of misunderstanding or disagreement. For these ones, conflict was seen as an occurrence which was neither negative nor positive on its own but a differential in goals and objectives of the conflicting parties which depending on how it is handled could result in a positive or negative outcome.

It must however be noted that almost a quarter of the respondents still saw conflict as a negative occurrence and described it in terms of negative outcomes such as killings, fight, etc.

Respondents' understanding of typology of conflict is very low. Only 14.7% of respondents could identify the types of conflict. A good understanding of types of conflict enable conflict managers to anticipate and preempt the possibility of conflicts growing from one type to the other and be able to contain such conflict.

Understanding of the stages of conflict by respondents was also low (38%) as majority of respondents were unable to properly identify the stages of conflict. The importance of proper identification of stages of conflict is that the stage of conflict determines the right

conflict management intervention. Inability to identify the stage at which a conflict is in would result in erroneous interventions and lack of desired results from the interventions. Such erroneous intervention could actually lead to new conflict or escalation of the on-going conflict.

Due to the importance attached to ability to identify stages of conflict the glaring disparity in this regard between LGAs means that more effort needs to be put into some LGAs - Brass, Isoko South, Kolokuma Okpokuma and Ovia - than others.

Of all the components examined under respondents understanding of conflict, identification of the categories of actors in conflict ranked lowest. Only 4% of respondent were able to identify the categories of actors in a conflict. Understanding of categories of actors helps in the identification and categorization of those involved or affected by conflict. This categorization is important during interventions as it informs how the different actors stakeholders are approached (depending on their category) in the course of managing the conflict. The role played by different actors in a peace or conflict agenda can only be understood and taken advantage of when actors are well categorized.

Although many respondents were able to describe causes of conflict, the categories of conflict did not appear to be well understood by them. Understanding the cause of conflict by category is important as it informs the approach towards addressing such conflict. A combination of causes based on categories of causes also helps determine the approach to manage the conflict. Identifying and addressing information and resource based conflict for instance, would provide a feeling of compatibility and ability to reach agreements in spite of difference in goals between conflicting parties. This would now provide a platform for delving into psychological and value based conflicts.

Availability of Skills for Conflict Analysis and Intervention in Conflict

40.8% of responds have an idea of what conflict analysis is although the level of understanding varied across these respondents. It is noteworthy that a variation of understanding from one LGA to another was very obvious as Ndokwa stood out with all respondents were able to describe / explain conflict analysis. This result is however questionable as only 7% of respondents from Ndokwa indicated that they know the major

elements and were able to correctly identify these elements. This shows that respondents in Ndokwa had the basic understanding and could explain/describe what conflict analysis is but were not knowledgeable enough to identify the elements of conflict analyzed. In all only 7.4% of respondents were able to identify one or more elements analyzed in conflict. 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 Okolokuma Okpokuma who said he had used 'survey' as conflict analysis tool.

 Respondents showed a limitation in the understanding of conflict analysis generally, particularly with regards to what it entails, what is analysed and the tools used for analysis. Cited responses from respondents buttress the veracity of the fact that most respondents did not at all understand conflict analysis and this explains the large number who avoided responding to questions on conflict analysis.

It was found that majority of respondents neither used conflict analysis in the course of their work nor understood its use in their work. Such ignorance means that interventions in conflict would be done blindly without adequate understanding of the conflict issues. Thus, outcomes of conflict management or peacebuilding efforts is at best expected to have very superficial results as conflict would only be handled based on 'surface presentation'.

Ability for varied types of Peacebuilding engagements

45.1%, 28.6% and 17% of respondents were found to have engaged dialogue, mediation and advocacy respectively in the course of their work. Although explanations by respondents of how advocacy was carried out showed an understanding of what advocacy is and what it entails, the same could not be said about mediation and dialogue. Most responses did not show how the mediation process was used. Many respondents in Nsit Atai, Akuku Toru and Ovia indicated they have been engaged in dialogue as a peacebuilding process. However, the explanation of the use of Dialogue confirmed that the intervention used was a discussion between the conflicting parties. Respondents facilitated discussions between conflicting parties such that each party stated what

occurred in order to identify the 'problems' following which conflicting parties were 'advised on how to end the problem'. Thus, respondents who indicated they had used dialogue were unable to explain correctly the use of dialogue as a conflict management process, which enables parties to present the issues in a non-judgemental atmosphere with the aim of understanding the others' perspectives and being understood as far as the conflict issues are concerned.

The results show that most respondents do not have the ability for peacebuilding engagements, which are very necessary for the management of conflicts and consolidation of peace within communities.

Awareness of Peacebuilding Coordination Platforms

Respondents' awareness of peacebuilding coordination platforms was found to be low. P4P is one of the largest Peace Coordinating platforms in the Niger Delta. It is therefore important not only to be aware of such a platform but for stakeholders in each of the LGAs to establish linkages with such a platform for leverage. Peacebuilding coordination platforms provide the required support base that peace work requires and ensure synergy for maximizing results of interventions. The low level (12.4%) of awareness of P4P as a peacebuilding coordination platform creates a gap that needs to be filled in order to maximize the gains of the WASH project.

Looking at the sources from which the few respondents who are aware of P4P learnt about the platform: the EU and website, more concerted effort should be made to establish sources of information within LGAs for propagation of available peacebuilding coordination platforms.

The low percentage of respondents who know about the DPM (5.8%) and the even lower percentage who have actually sourced information form this platform (2.8%) also point to the need for increased awareness creation on its availability and way of accessing the Map. The Map is meant to be a readily available and easily accessible source of information on conflict issues specifically for states in the Niger Delta. The WASH programme would be greatly enhanced if stakeholders in the programme can take advantage of the Map. Drawing attention to P4P and the DPM at every available

opportunity through out the duration of the WASH programme would help to achieve this.

Understanding of Possible Effect of Development Programmes on Conflict Contexts

9.6% of respondents across the 10 LGAs considered the WASH programme as a potential source of conflict as against 70.9% who see the project as a potential source of peace/bonding within communities.

The consciousness of the possibility of the WASH programme to be both a source of conflict as well as a source of peace/bonding enables stake holders look out for these possibilities in order to ensure early detection of conflict and address them such that the conflict does not escalate and degenerate into a negative outcome. The high number of respondents who did not see the WASH project as a possible source of conflict demands that stakeholders be sensitized on this possibility. Many are aware of the possible peace generating effects of development projects but not the conflict generating possibilities either in terms of being a source of conflict or impacting negatively on already existing conflict situations. Sensitizing stakeholders is therefore very important.

Ability to mainstream conflict sensitivity into Development programmes

Only 15.4% of respondents were found to refer to outcomes of conflict assessment to improve development and implementation of programmes. A little more than half of these actually used such assessment in improving their development programmes. This shows that development programmes have largely been carried out in atmospheres that were devoid of conflict sensitivity.

Respondents who had used conflict assessment to improve on development programs did so either during the planning, Designing, or implementation phase of programmes. No respondent indicated the use of conflict assessment at the closure/exit stage of the programme. The need for conflict assessment at the closure phase cannot be overemphasized. It is important that conflict assessment be mainstreamed into development programmes as part of the exit strategy to ensure continuity and consolidation of the outcomes of the programme. Many completed development programmes have actually created major conflicts following the closure of the project and

exit of programmers. Being able to assess the possibility of a programme generating conflict following closure and putting mechanisms in place to forestall this including addressing the possible reasons for the preempted conflict would ensure that the results are not only sustained but that the project becomes a major source of peace following the exit of the programmers.

The dearth of conflict sensitivity and mainstreaming of conflict observed amongst the respondents could be due to ignorance on the need to be conflict sensitive and in situations where there is awareness of this need, the absence of the technical know how of mainstreaming conflict sensitivity into development programmes. Not knowing the necessity nor understanding how to achieve this would be a major limitation for mainstream conflict sensitivity into development programmes. A good understanding of conflict assessment for each stage of a development programme would ensure conflict sensitivity is mainstreamed into programmes, also, being conflict sensitive and mainstreaming such sensitivity would in turn reduce the chances of conflicts arising or escalating as a result of development projects all through the programme cycle.

Effectiveness of Peace Monitoring and Response Platforms in promoting social dialogue

Although respondents claimed to know of peace monitoring and response platforms, all the respondents who indicated this only identified 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 measure with the progression of the WASH project.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The level of understanding of conflict amongst respondents is low and there is need to deliberately build capacity for understanding conflict so as to enhance their productivity as conflict managers and peace builders..

2. There is an apparent dearth of skills for conflict analysis. In order to better understand the historical and current events unfolding in a conflict, determine who is involved in a conflict, figure out what factors and trends are contributing to the conflict, explore 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 determine how to adequately respond to conflict and strategize on interventions, capacity needs to be built for conflict analysis across all 10 LGAs.

3. Ability for varied types of peace engagements necessary for peace building and conflict management is lacking. Capacity for varied peacebuilding skills need to be built across all the 10 LGAs to enable stakeholders get involved effectively in peacebuilding engagements within their communities.

4. Awareness of peacebuilding coordinating platforms such as P4P and the Digital Peace Map is low. Need to increase awareness of P4P through increased publishing of P4P activities particularly the Digital peace map. More concerted effort should be made to establish sources of information within LGAs for propagation of available peacebuilding coordination platforms. P4P and other peacebuilding coordination platforms should be taken advantage of to enhance peace bulding efforts as regards the WASH programme.

5. Majority of respondents are unaware of the possible effects of development programmes on conflict contexts. Capacity building through training should be provided for stakeholders in the WASH programme to sensitize them on the possible effects of the programme on conflict contexts

6. Only a small percentage (9.1%) actually understands conflict sensitivity and have improved development programmes by mainstreaming conflict sensitivity into programmes. Capacities of stakeholders need to be built on conflict sensitivity and how to mainstream conflict sensitivity into all stages of programme cycle.

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