What is IPACS?



- IPACS is a local context analysis tool that enables better understanding of a specific area where a programme or project will take place.
- A team of trained staff (approx 5 people) can use IPACS during the assessment, monitoring, implementation or evaluation phase of a programme, project, or activity.
- IPACS can be conducted as an inter-agency exercise.
- It generates recommendations for how a project or programme can minimise negative impact and maximise positive impact.

- It is built on two key tools:
- The industry-standard Do No Harm (DNH) tool, which helps projects build on community connectors and minimise dividers.
- 2. Integrating Peacebuilding in Programming (IPIPs), a tool that helps integrate five strategic peacebuilding processes into large-scale programmes:
 - good governance;
 - community capacities that generate hope;
 - coalitions across boundaries;
 - transformed relationships; and
 - just distribution of sustainable resources

How does IPACS work?



Identity and plan how the communities you serve can best benefit from this tool. Appoint someone to **plan the IPACS logistics**, including: selecting facilitation team, designing assessment questions, and collecting data. Plan at least one month in advance.

Collect data around the context, connectors and dividers, programme perceptions and impact, and the five strategic processes. Conduct key Informant interviews **(KIIs)** and focus group discussions **(FGDs)** with engaged adults, youth and children in the community (beneficiaries and non beneficiaries, including community leaders). Use participatory learning and action tools.

Analyse and compile the data into a report. Facilitators can use a report template that summarises all the data collected from the IPACS components and presents recommendations for the project, programme, or activity.

Communicate the findings to the project or programme management staff. The IPACS facilitation team finalises an executive summary and a short presentation within 3 days of the analysis. The project or programme team is responsible for ongoing context monitoring and integration of the IPACS findings into the project or programme management.

IPACS for Emergency Response

How is it different than a standard IPACS?

- The IPACS for Emergency Response is a simplified version of the standard tool, enabling humanitarian staff to conduct more rapid community-level assessments.
- The tool focuses predominantly on the steps needed to ensure Do No Harm (DNH) and leaves IPIP (the five strategic processes) for use at a later stage, during transition of humanitarian response to short and longer term recovery.
- The entire process is shorter, taking about 2 weeks including training, data collection, analysis, report write-up and dissemination of results in contrast to a full IPACS which typically require a longer period.
- IPACS in emergencies provides the flexibility for users to use minimal data collection tools, particularly if time and resources are limited.

To access the IPACS materials

(either Standard or Emergency Response)

please contact peacebuilding@wvi.org

