

USAID: Conflict Assessment Framework



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Homeland Defense & Security
Information Analysis Center



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

CONFLICT ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW

HDIAC WEBINAR – November 5, 2020

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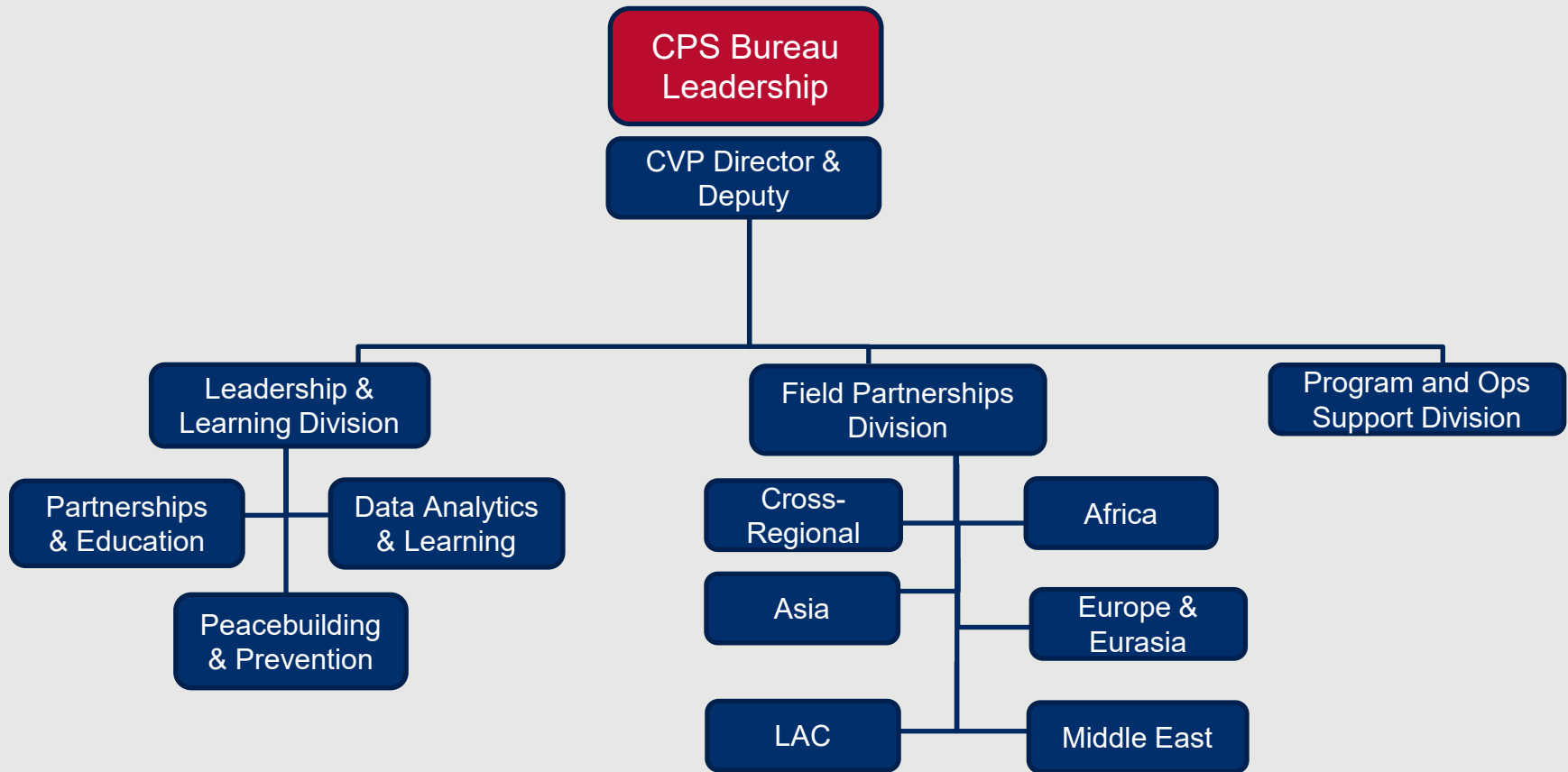
Center for Conflict and Violence Prevention

Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization: Established in July 2020 and also includes Office of Transition Initiatives and Office of Civil-Military Cooperation

CVP Vision: CVP envisions a world in which societies prevent and peacefully resolve conflict and violence.

CVP Mission: CVP brings people, programs, and resources to USAID Missions overseas that are engaging in conflict mitigation and peacebuilding. CVP is also a key architect of USAID's renewed commitment to enabling conflict prevention and stabilization programs that support a country on its journey to self-reliance.

CVP Structure



USAID CONFLICT ASSESSMENT

A USAID conflict assessment consists of two stages:

- A **diagnosis** of the situation
- Recommendations for an appropriate **response**

Diagnosis

Response

THE CONFLICT ASSESSMENT

Phases of work

- **Preparation** *Desk Study, Field Implementation Plan, logistical preparation, pre-interviews.*
- **Pre-fieldwork** *Team orientation, fieldwork planning, meetings with mission and embassy, initial interviews.*
- **Fieldwork** *One or more regional teams: USAID, consultants, and interagency, 10-15 days*
- **Post-fieldwork** *Synthesis and debrief*
- **Report** *Dissemination of findings and recommendations*

3Fs

Framework Component		Lines of Inquiry	Facts	Feelings	Forecasts
Diagnosis	Context	Physical and geographic characteristics	Desk		
		History	Desk		
		Socio-economic and demographic characteristics	Desk		
		External Influences	Desk/Field	Field	Field
	Dynamics	Grievance & Resilience: Identities	Desk/Field	Field	Field
		Grievance & Resilience: Institutions	Desk/Field	Field	Field
		Grievance & Resilience: Social patterns	Desk/Field	Field	Field
		Key Mobilizers	Desk/Field	Field	Field
	Trajectories	Trends and Triggers	Desk/Field	Field	Field
	Response	Short- and long-term response contexts	Current USG engagements	Desk/Field	Field
Current engagements by other international actors			Desk/Field	Field	Field

DIAGNOSIS

Diagnosis



Diagnosis consists of:

- Identifying the current **conflict dynamics** (a snapshot)
- Developing likely future **trajectories** (turning the snapshot into a movie)

CONFLICT DYNAMICS

Diagnosis

Conflict Dynamics

Trajectories



Conflict dynamics

- Describe the interplay between:
- Latent **grievances** and **resiliencies**
 - **Key actors** active in **mobilizing** them

Grievance + Mobilization = **Conflict driver**

Resilience + Mobilization = **Mitigating factor**

CONTEXT

Diagnosis

Conflict Dynamics

Trajectories

Context

History

Physical and geographical characteristics

Socio-economic and demographic characteristics

External influences

SOCIAL PATTERNS

Diagnosis

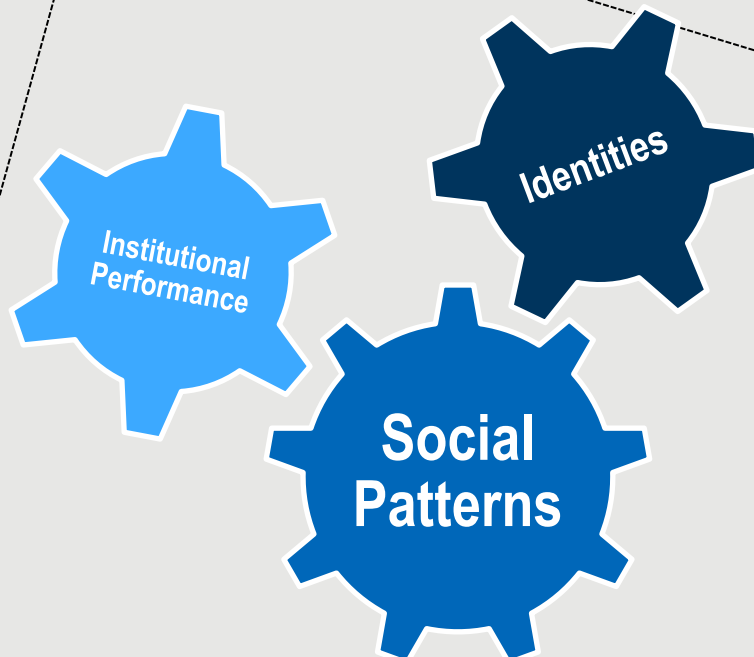
Conflict Dynamics

Trajectories

Context

Grievance
Resilience

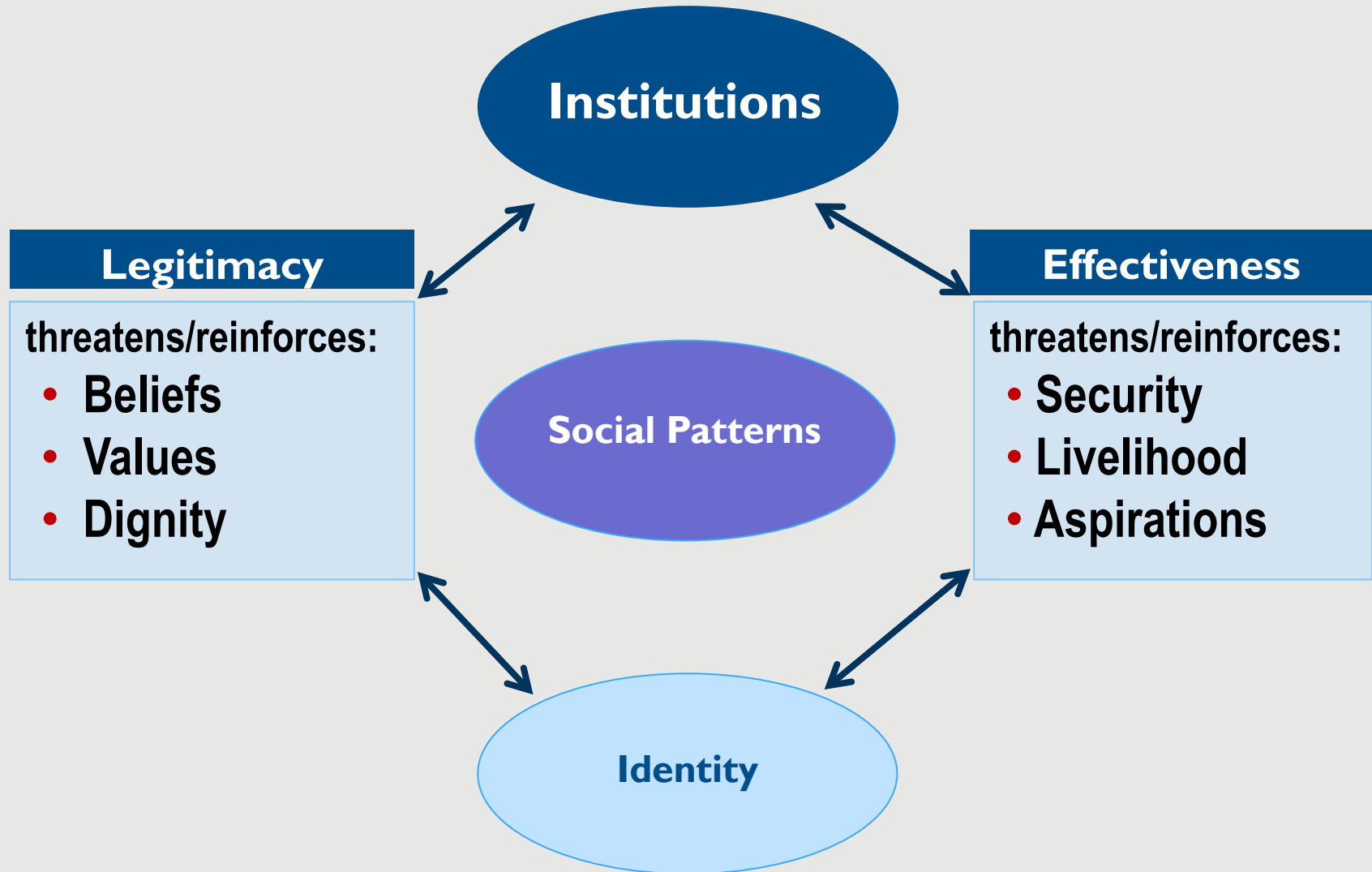
Key
Mobilizers



Grievance and *resilience* emerge from *social patterns*, especially those where:

- Institutional performance threatens or bolsters...
- ... Identities

SOCIAL PATTERNS



SOCIAL PATTERNS OF GRIEVANCE

- . . . that threaten identities
- . . . that produce outcomes considered ineffective, illegitimate, or both
- . . . resulting in grievances

1. Elitism

2. Exclusion

3. Chronic capacity deficits

- Systemic stagnation
- Strategic resources
- Ungoverned space

4. Transitional moment: unmet expectations

5. Corruption/rent-seeking

MITIGATING FACTORS

- ...form as a result of interactions between institutions and identity groups
- ...are not always normatively positive
- ...mitigate against *violent* conflict

- *RESILIENCY* is the ability to withstand and recover from shocks.
- During conflict analysis, we often look for societal and institutional resiliencies that mitigate the potential for violence.

KEY MOBILIZERS

Diagnosis

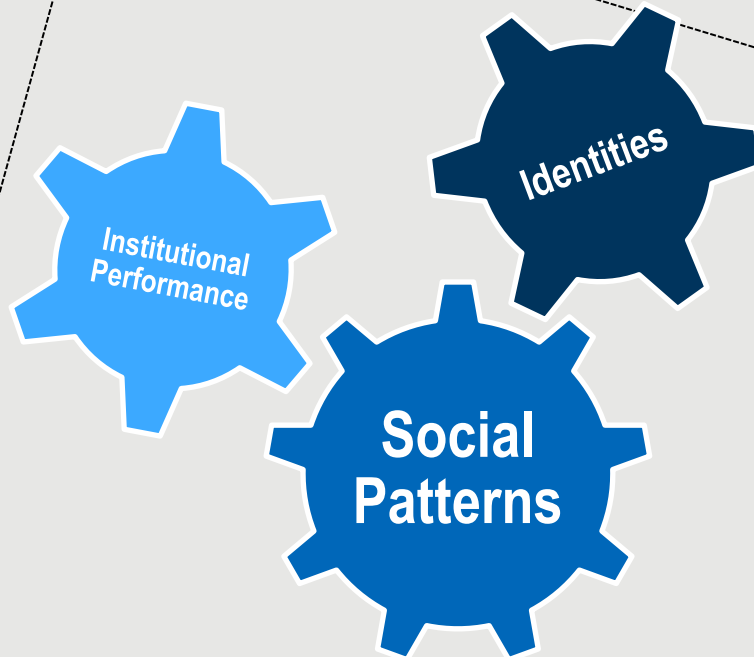
Conflict Dynamics

Trajectories

Context

Grievance
Resilience

Key
Mobilizers



- Social conflict is driven by **key actors mobilizing** others on the basis of grievances.
- Similar actors may mobilize resiliencies to drive for peace and stability too.

TRAJECTORIES

Diagnosis

Conflict Dynamics

Trajectories

Context

Grievance
Resilience

Key
Mobilizers

Identities

Institutional
Performance

Social
Patterns

Trends

Triggers

Trajectories consider the different ways conflict dynamics could **trend** and the **triggers** that can push the trend in one direction or the other

ANALYTICAL NARRATIVE

Analytical Narrative

Diagnosis

Conflict Dynamics

Trajectories

Context

**Grievance
Resilience**

**Key
Mobilizers**

Trends

Triggers

Identities

**Institutional
Performance**

**Social
Patterns**

The analysis supports a narrative; a compelling story

SYNTHESIS

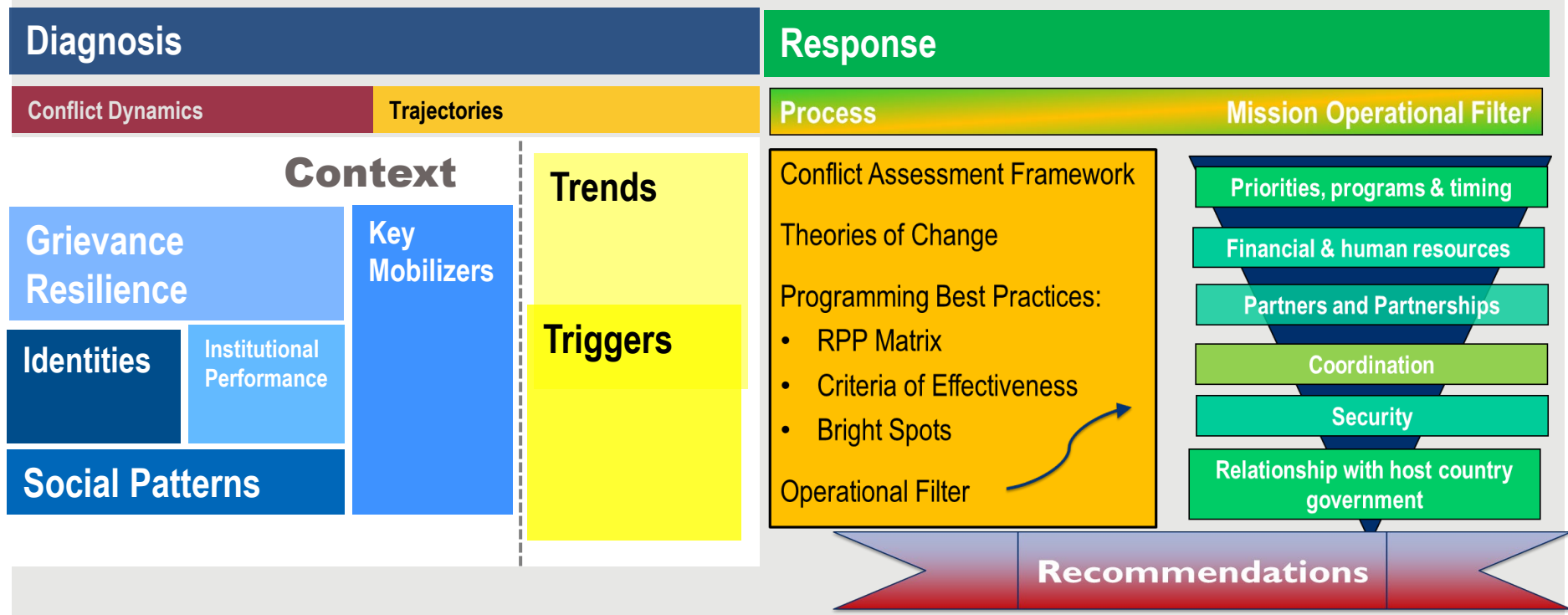
Goal: Develop a cohesive analytical narrative to inform decision-making.

Analytical narrative emerges from:

- **Analysis**, or the process of mentally breaking down of a whole into its constituent parts.
- **Synthesis**, or the process of reconstituting a whole from its parts.

Synthesis brings together the impressions and insights from the data collection phase into a collectively shared understanding of the conflict dynamics.

CONFLICT ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK 2.0



Diagnosis

Response

Conflict Dynamics

Trajectories

Process

Mission Operational Filter

Context

Trends

Triggers

Grievance Resilience

Key Mobilizers

Identities

Institutional Performance

Social Patterns

Conflict Assessment Framework

Theories of Change

Programming Best Practices:

- RPP Matrix
- Criteria of Effectiveness
- Bright Spots

Operational Filter

- Priorities, programs & timing
- Financial & human resources
- Partners and Partnerships
- Coordination
- Security
- Relationship with host country government

Recommendations

Questions?

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