

Glossary

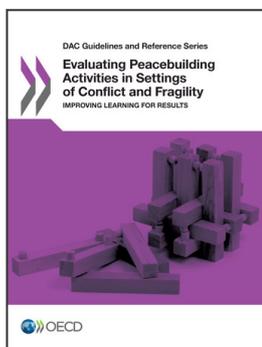
Activity	Actions taken or work performed through which inputs, such as funds, technical assistance and other types of resources, are mobilised to produce specific outputs (OECD, 2002). In this guidance, “activity” may include projects, programmes, policies and country assistance strategies. See also intervention .
Attribution	The ascribing of a causal link to observed (or expected to be observed) changes and a specific intervention (OECD, 2002).
Baseline study	An analysis describing the situation prior to a development intervention, against which progress can be assessed or comparisons made (OECD, 2002).
Conflict analysis	A systematic study of the political, economic, social, historical and cultural factors that directly influence the shape, dynamics and direction of existing or potential conflicts. It includes an analysis of conflict causes and dynamics as well as assessments of the profiles, motivations, objectives and resources of conflict protagonists (CDA, 2007; Conflict Sensitivity Consortium, 2004).
Conflict mapping	A representation of the main aspects of a conflict analysis, illustrating relationships between actors, causes, causal relationships, etc.
Conflict prevention	Actions undertaken to reduce tensions and to prevent the outbreak or recurrence of violent conflict. Beyond short-term actions, it includes the notion of long-term engagement. It consists of operational prevention , (i.e. immediate measures applicable in the face of crisis), and structural prevention , i.e. measures to ensure that crises do not arise in the first place or, if they do, that they do not recur (OECD, 2001b; United Nations, 2001a).
Conflict sensitivity	Systematically taking into account both the positive and negative impacts of interventions, in terms of conflict or peace dynamics, on the contexts in which they are undertaken, and, conversely, the implications of these contexts for the design and implementation of interventions (Conflict Sensitivity Consortium, 2004).
Counterfactual	The situation or condition which hypothetically may prevail for individuals, organisations, or groups were there no intervention, e.g. the war that would have occurred had a peacebuilding intervention not taken place.

Country programme	One or more donor's or agency's portfolio of interventions and the assistance strategy behind them, in a partner (recipient) country.
Driving factors of conflict	The trends, currents, causes or fundamental influences that affect a conflict and help determine its characteristics, direction and ultimate outcome.
Do no harm	Ways in which international humanitarian and development assistance given in conflict settings may be provided so that, rather than exacerbating and worsening the conflict, it helps local people disengage from fighting and develop systems for settling the problems which prompt conflict within their societies (CDA, 2004; OECD 2010d).
Evaluability	Extent to which an activity or programme can be evaluated in a reliable, credible fashion. Evaluability assessments call for the early review of a proposed activity or programme in order to ascertain whether its objectives are adequately defined and its results verifiable (OECD, 2002).
Evaluation	Evaluation refers to the process of determining merit, worth or value of an activity, policy or programme. It consists of the systematic and objective assessment of an on-going or completed project, programme or policy, its design, implementation and results. The aim is to determine the relevance and fulfilment of objectives, development efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. An evaluation should provide information that is credible and useful, enabling the incorporation of lessons learned into the decision-making process of both recipients and donors (Scriven, 1991; OECD, 2002).
Ex ante evaluation	Evaluation performed before the implementation phase of an intervention (OECD, 2002).
Ex post evaluation	Evaluation of an intervention after it has been completed (OECD, 2002).
Formative evaluation	Evaluation intended to improve performance, most often conducted during the implementation phase of projects or programmes.
Fragility, fragile state, fragile situation	National, regional and local territories where the state (including central and local authorities) has weak capacity to carry out basic governance functions, and lacks the ability to develop mutually constructive relations with society. Fragile states are also more vulnerable to internal or external shocks such as economic crises or natural disasters (OECD 2011b). These situations tend to be characterised by poor governance, to be prone to violent conflict, and to show limited progress towards development. An aggregate of governance and security criteria, or of capacity, accountability and legitimacy criteria are usually used as measures of fragility.

Goal	The higher-order objective to which a development intervention is intended to contribute (OECD, 2002).
Impacts	Positive or negative, primary and secondary effects produced by an intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended (OECD, 2002). Results that lie beyond immediate outcomes or sphere of an intervention and influence the intensity, shape or likelihood of a conflict.
Indicator	Quantitative or qualitative factor or variable that provides a simple and reliable means to measure achievement, to reflect the changes connected to an intervention, or to help assess the performance of a development actor (OECD, 2002).
Inputs	The financial, human, and material resources used for the development intervention (OECD, 2002).
Intervention	A general term that refers to the subject of the evaluation and may refer to an activity, project, programme, strategy, policy, topic, sector, operational area, country strategy, institutional performance, etc. Examples are policy advice, projects, programmes (OECD, 2010c).
Joint evaluation	An evaluation involving more than one donor agency and/or country partner (OECD, 2002).
Logical framework (log frame)	Management tool used to improve the design of interventions, most often at the project level. It involves identifying strategic elements (inputs, outputs, outcomes, impact) and their causal relationships, indicators, and the assumptions or risks that may influence success and failure. It thus facilitates planning, execution and evaluation of development interventions.
Monitoring	A continuing function that uses systematic collection of data on specified indicators to provide management and the main stakeholders of an intervention with information regarding the use of allocated funds, the extent of progress, the likely achievement of objectives and the obstacles that stand in the way of improved performance (OECD, 2002).
Objective (project or programme objective)	The intended physical, financial, institutional, social, environmental, or other results to which a project or programme is expected to contribute (OECD, 2002).
Outcome	The likely or achieved short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention's outputs (OECD, 2002).
Outputs	The products, capital goods, and services which result from a conflict prevention and peacebuilding intervention (OECD, 2002).
Participatory evaluation	Evaluation method in which representatives of agencies and stakeholders (including beneficiaries) work together in designing, carrying out, and interpreting an evaluation (OECD, 2002).

Peace analysis	An assessment of the peacebuilding environment, including existing peace efforts, actors, de-escalating factors (reduce armed conflict or tensions), and connectors (Paffenholz and Reyhler, 2007).
Peacebuilding	Actions and policies “aimed at preventing the outbreak, the recurrence or continuation of armed conflict”, encompassing “a wide range of political, developmental, humanitarian and human rights programmes and mechanisms”, including “short and long term actions tailored to address the particular needs of societies sliding into conflict or emerging from it” (UN, 2001b). Includes long-term support to, and establishment of, viable political and socio-economic and cultural institutions capable of addressing the proximate and root causes of conflicts, as well as other initiatives aimed at creating the necessary conditions for sustained peace and stability (OECD, 2001b).
Policy coherence	The systematic promotion of mutually reinforcing policy actions across government departments and agencies, creating synergies towards achieving the agreed objectives (OECD, 2001c). There are four dimensions of coherence: a) consistency between ends and means of a policy; b) consistency of policies and activities across government departments; c) consistency of policies and activities pursued by different actors; and d) alignment of policies, activities and processes between external actors and conflict affected or conflict prone countries (Picciotto and Weaving, 2006).
Product	An evaluation product is the output of an evaluation process and may take different forms, including written or oral reports, visual presentations, community meeting or videos.
Programme theory (see also logical framework and theory of change)	A programme theory is a hypothesis or model of how a programme is intended to produce intended results and the factors affecting or determining its success. A programme theory often combines a theory of change and an implementation model (Bamberger <i>et al.</i> , 2006).
Project/programme cycle management (PCM)	Management approach that systematically follows the cycle of planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the intervention.
Reliability	Reliability refers to the consistency or dependability of data and evaluation judgements, with reference to the quality of the instruments, procedures and analyses used to collect and analyse data. Evaluation information is reliable when repeated observations under similar conditions produce similar results. Reliability contributes to credibility that can be additionally enhanced through a transparent evaluation process (OECD, 1991).

Results based management (RBM)	A management strategy focusing on performance and achievement of outputs, outcomes and impacts.
Result	The output, outcome or impact (intended or unintended, positive and/or negative) of a development intervention.
Risk assessment/risk analysis	An analysis or an assessment of factors (called assumptions in the log frame) that affect or are likely to affect the successful achievement of an intervention's objectives. A detailed examination of the potential unwanted and negative consequences to human life, health, property, or the environment posed by an intervention; a systematic process for providing information regarding such undesirable consequences; the process of quantification of the probabilities and expected impacts for (OECD, 2002).
Stakeholders	Agencies, organisations, groups or individuals who have a direct or indirect interest in the intervention or its evaluation (OECD, 2002).
Statebuilding	Statebuilding is a term used to describe the construction of a legitimate, functioning state. The OECD/DAC has defined statebuilding as an internal process to enhance capacity, institutions and legitimacy of the state, driven by state-society relations (OECD, 2008a).
Summative evaluation	A study conducted at the end of an intervention (or a phase of that intervention) to determine the extent to which anticipated outcomes were produced. Summative evaluation is intended to provide information about the worth of the programme (OECD, 2002).
Terms of reference (TOR)	A written document presenting the purpose and scope of the evaluation, the methods to be used, the standard against which performance is to be assessed or analyses are to be conducted, the resource and time allocated, and reporting requirements (OECD, 2002).
Theory of change	The assumptions that link a programme's inputs and activities to the attainment of desired ends. A set of beliefs about how and why an initiative will work to change the conflict. It includes both implementation theory and programme theory (Weiss, 1995; Church and Rogers, 2006).
Theory-based evaluation	An evaluation that tracks the anticipated sequence of linkages from inputs and activities to outcomes and impacts (Weiss, 1995).
Triangulation	The use of multiple theories, methods and/or data sources to verify and substantiate an assessment. It is used to overcome the biases that come from unitary disciplines, single observers, self-interested informants, and partial methods (OECD, 2002; Weiss, 1995).
Validity	The extent to which data collection strategies and instruments measure what they purport to measure (OECD, 2002). "External validity" refers to the extent to which findings or conclusions from one evaluation/context are applicable and valid in another.



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