**The Conflict Intervention Spectrum[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Programs working in conflict contexts will always engage with conflict in a variety of ways, even if it is not in their mandate to do so. The application of conflict sensitivity frameworks can help organizations to at least avoid negatively affecting conflict dynamics and begin to work toward generating positive effects.



1. **Avoiding Negative Effects**At a minimum, engagement in contexts of conflict should seek to avoid exacerbating the conflict. Applying conflict sensitivity frameworks can assist program staff in identifying how their programs may have negative effects on connectors (local capacities for peace) or dividers (sources of tension), as well as which program adjustments can be made to avoid those effects.
2. **Building on Positive Effects**

Building on positive effects in a conflict requires close attention to what is already working to bring people together and the ways groups are overcoming their divisions. Strategic programming choices can help build on existing connectors, or further reduce divisions in contexts of conflict.

1. **Contributing to Peace**

Programs that intend to contribute to peace must address conflict dynamics directly by strategically planning their interventions to reduce key drivers of conflict and/or build upon key driving factors for peace.

1. Conflict Sensitivity resource developed under the USAID-funded Fragility and Conflict Technical Research Services (FACTRS) managed by the Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)