Overall armed conflict and violence has a negative effect on the lives and life perspectives of women and men, girls and boys who experience and survive armed violence and war.

Both women and men suffer from war that includes traumas, abuses and loss of control over and access to important resources.

The impact of these changes is experienced in different ways. As a result, gender inequalities are often exacerbated during periods of armed conflict, this mechanism continues during post-conflict reconstruction. A gender analysis of armed conflict and violence makes visible how these changes unfold and helps to assesses the impact of those changes on women and men.

Why a Gender Analysis?

Gender analysis of conflict gives you a better understanding of social (power) relations at work and how they are influenced by violence, armed conflict and war:

Gender analysis of conflict helps to understand:

- the different experiences of men and women, girls and boys before, during and after war and armed conflicts;
- the different impact of violence and armed conflict on women and men, girls and boys;
- the way gender roles change during and after armed conflicts,
- the way gender-based inequalities both shape and are shaped by armed conflict, war, and violence.
- The way gender intersects with other forms of social categories that can themselves be the (primary) source of discrimination including age, class, ethnicity, religion, (dis)abilities, etc.

Gender Analysis of conflict examines the gender-specific dimensions of armed conflict by assessing:

- How are women and men, girls and boys affected by conflict?
- What are the gender-specific dimensions of the conflict during different phases of the conflict: What role are women and men, girls and boys playing in before, during and after the conflict?
- How do gender roles and women’s and men’s status in society change during the different conflict phases?
• Has the relationship between the sexes changed because of the conflict?
• Has the scope of action of women and men increased or decreased? What does that mean for the chances and opportunities they have in life? And their prospect in post-conflict?
• Who is subject to what form of violence? Who commits acts of violence and what is the purpose? What do communities do to counter such violence and how can our intervention help to respond to it and support those who fight against it?
• Who is involved in peacemaking efforts? How are women and men involved? Who participates in decisions concerning security and peace?
• Which gender issues are crucial to the peace process? How can these issues be integrated in the peace process?

The Gender & Conflict Analytical Framework

The analytical framework takes the following into consideration:

Women and men:\n• as social actors experience violence and conflict differently, both as victims and as perpetrators
• have different access to resources (including power and decision making) during conflict and conditions of violence;
• as social actors have different roles, relations, and identities in peace-building and violence reduction initiatives;
• may have different needs and interests on a practical level and in strategic interests.

1 based on Caroline O.N. Moser (1993)
Step-by-Step Guide to the Gender Analytical Framework of Conflict

**Circle 1: "Who is doing What?" - Gender Roles and Division of Labor**

The analysis of the gender division of labor using “gender roles” is the first step of any gender analysis. In order to understand the “who” it is necessary to understand women and men in all their diversity (age, class, ethnicity, race, religion, (dis)abilities). In situations of conflict, the question is, what are the changes? Example: in situations of armed conflict

- More women are becoming heads of households
- More women are becoming breadwinners of the family;
- Are women engaging armed fighting and/or other war supporting activities? What is their role? Where are they changes?
- What is the impact?
- Is there a shift from women’s and men’s reproductive towards productive role? What are the gains and losses for women and men in this process?

**Circle 2: “Who is in Control?” - Women’s and men’s access to and control over resources**

In conflict situations, important changes that occur next to the availability of resources, but also in terms of control over and access to resources. Resources can be economic, political and social, (time can be an important resource too). Based on differences in access to and control over resources disparities and inequalities are created and shaped

What changes occur for example in control over/access to ones income, access to finances, credit or land, access to weapons?

Where are differences between men and women for example in access to and control over information, physical mobility, physical integrity, political and civic rights, right to protection from sexual gender-based violence, access to justice, right to reparation etc.

What rights are influencing access to and control over resources? Right to land titles? What inheritance rights exist?

Documentation: Who is registered and is holding identity cards? This will influence access to for example: not only land titles, but also credit schemes, access and right to (widow, orphanage) pensions, etc.

**Circle 3: “Who has the Saying?” Women’s and Men’s Participation in Decision-making**

“Who” is participating in what kind of decisions? Here it is again important to understand the “who” in all its diversity, since many men alongside women are excluded from important decision-making that concerns their security and questions about war and peace.

In situations of conflict the question is where are the changes at levels of participation. What kind of barriers and obstacles to participation exist for men and women? What kind of women and men (in all their diversity) face obstacles and barriers.

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2 See also SDC Gender in Practice Fact Sheet, Sheet 4.
To fully understand the barriers and obstacles to meaningful participation, it is important to apply the analysis at different levels participation at the household, community, national and international level and understand how they are interrelated.

Circle 4: „Who Needs What“- Women and Men (girls and boys) Gender-Specific Needs and Interests

Due to differences in social status, as well as different access to resources and services, men and women have different needs and capacities to cope with the (negative) impact of conflict.

... and helps to assessing Female or Male Vulnerability

Risks are gender-specific and based on gender-specific roles, tasks and the socio-economic status of a person thus a stereotypical or binary constructions of victims/women and perpetrators/men are misleading.

A gender analysis brings to light the gender-specific vulnerabilities and capacities of individuals and groups by asking who is vulnerable to what kind of risk?

Phases and Levels of a Gender Analysis of Conflict

Gender Analysis of Conflict ask to apply a gender lens at different levels of analysis in different stages of conflict

Different Phases of Conflict

Based on Cynthia Cockburn’s framework, we can differentiate between three to four “main” stages of conflict:

- pre-conflict situation—before armed violence
- open conflict—times of war and repression
- process of peacebuilding
- post-conflict situation

Note: Different phases of conflict are chaotic and phases often overlap. Yet, the distinction helps to get an understanding of shifting gender roles and the diversification of gender roles and norms during times of accelerated social and economic changes that are characteristic of armed conflicts and war.

Levels of Gender Analysis

Micro /meso/ macro level:

- International / multilateral
- National / State
- Community
- Individual / Household

ANNEX

Table below shows examples of gender-specific dimensions in different phases of conflicts and at different levels of analysis.

1) Pre-Conflict Phase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels of Analysis</th>
<th>Features of conflict situation</th>
<th>Possible Gender-specific dimensions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal /Household</td>
<td>Increased physical violence</td>
<td>Domestic violence and GBV against women and children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Increased perceived and experienced insecurity &amp; uncertainty</td>
<td>Women and men may define and perceive security in different ways and hence may have different security needs. Men highly frustrated by general climate of fear, violence and job uncertainty unable to live up to traditional notions of „manliness“.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nation/State</td>
<td>Increased militarization in society; Propaganda intends to mobilise support for military action. The media might be used as an instrument for (hate) propaganda and ethnic scapegoating. Peace organisations mobilise against militarization and military action. The media might be used as an instrument for propaganda.</td>
<td>Appeals by national media and policy making to a stereotypical understanding of femininity and masculinity are promoted and perpetuated. Use of gender images in political mobilisation, e.g. women subversively use traditional images associated with womanhood and motherhood to mobilise support for peace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>Early Warning Systems Preventative Diplomacy</td>
<td>General lack of knowledge and awareness of gender-related/specific issues (like gender-based violence, women’s human rights) Women and their gender-specific interests are often excluded from the formal discussions given their lack of participation and access in pre-conflict decision-making organisations and institutions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2) Open (escalating) Conflict

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels of Analysis</th>
<th>Features of conflict situation</th>
<th>Gender-specific dimensions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal/Household</td>
<td>Psychological Trauma, physical violence, casualties &amp; death; Household structures change or collapse,</td>
<td>Men tend to be involved in fighting as soldiers/combatants. Yet, in many conflicts, women make up significant numbers of combatants. Women are part of the “supporting structures” of military groups/armies (cooks/maids, spouses/partners, prostitutes, exs slaves) Gender relations can be subject to stress and change. The traditional division of labour within a family may be under pressure. Survival strategies often necessitate changes in the gender division of labour. Women may become responsible for an increased number of dependents. Women’s new political role (peace movement, resistance, armed struggle)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Material shortages (shortages of food, health care, water, fuel, etc)</td>
<td>Social pressure on men grows</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Men who are not involved in the fighting come under greater psychological and social pressure.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>In times of economic and social hardship, they are increasingly unable properly to fulfil their socially assigned roles as breadwinners and heads of households.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Women’s role as provider of the everyday needs of the family may mean increased stress and work as basic goods are more difficult to locate. Girls may also face an increased workload.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nation/State</td>
<td>Creation of refugees and displaced people</td>
<td>People’s ability to respond to an emergency situation is influenced by whether they are male or female. Women and men refugees (as well as boys and girls) often have different needs and priorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>Dialogue and peace negotiations</td>
<td>Women and their gender-specific interests are often excluded from the formal discussions given their lack of participation and access in pre-conflict decision-making organisations and institutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Humanitarian interventions; Peacekeeping missions</td>
<td>Increased commercial sex trade (women trafficking, forced prostitution including child prostitution);</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### 3) Post-Conflict & Reconstruction Phase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels of Analysis</th>
<th>Features of conflict situation</th>
<th>Gender-specific dimensions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal/ Household and Community</td>
<td>Availability of small and light arms; Violence as a means to solve conflict is accepted Male dominated politics - decision over future set up of society... Networks of patronage and kinship continue.</td>
<td>Domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence and human rights violations remain high and continue after cease fire agreements. Why? (availability of weapons, “brutalization of war, regaining masculine self-esteem in own family, community) In many post-conflict situations, the most obvious negative consequences include social exclusion and socio-cultural discrimination against women. Women’s exclusion from decision-making processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nation/State &amp; International</td>
<td>Male dominated politics - decision over future set up of society... Holding of elections and Political parties as gatekeepers Demobilisation of combatants Intern’l investments in employment creation, health care, etc.</td>
<td>Political activity evolves around male-dominated “peace talks”, - many separate official and unofficial “secret” negotiations, mostly without involving civil society and academia. These talks cover the most important conflict issues and should lead to a “new” Constitution, legal and social reforms in the realm of governance and human rights, repatriation of refugees, demobilisation of soldiers,... Women face specific obstacles in voting, in standing for election and in having gender equality issues discussed as election issues. Quotas are important first step, but not enough. Combatants often assumed to be all male. If priority is granted to young men, women do not benefit from land allocations, credit schemes, etc. Reconstruction programmes may not recognize or give priority to supporting female health needs, domestic responsibilities or needs for skills training &amp; credit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sources


UN WOMEN (2012), Policy Briefing Paper Gender and Conflict Analysis in UN WOMEN Source Book

SDC (2003), Toolkit „Gender in Practice” Fact Sheet. DEZA publication.