

**CHECKLIST OF ISSUES RELATING TO POWER, POLITICAL ECONOMY & CONFLICT**

- Identify the key areas of power differences or conflict in the study area (these can range from gender, through conflict over natural resources (land, water, grazing rights), political competition between different parties, issues of ethnic differences...
- Who are the different actors affected by or involved in the conflict/ tension or imbalance of power? This analysis should include consideration of state and non-state actors.
- What are the relationships between those actors? Who gains from these relationships and who loses, and how do they do so?
- What has been the history and dynamics of those differences? How have they developed over time?
- Are those differences reflected in the livelihoods strategies that different groups pursue? Is there a high concentration of one group in particular activities?
- Are those differences reflected in the asset holdings and wealth of different groups?
- What are the reasons for those differences? Are there legal or customary barriers to entry to certain activities or to ownership of assets? Do those barriers serve the interests of any group? How can those barriers be overcome?
- To what extent do the political or economic interests of different groups put them potentially in conflict with one another? Where might the sources of conflict and competition be? Conversely, where might the sources of cooperation and mutual interest be?
- How do existing policies and structures facilitate or hinder different groups from pursuing their interests? (Consider access to natural resources, to services, to markets, to credit and finance, to benefits such as food aid or social safety nets...)
- What is the capacity of the different groups and actors to bring about change?
- What triggers could bring about conflict? (Consider policy changes, political factors, natural hazards...)
- In case of open conflict, how might the ability to pursue normal livelihood strategies be affected? Consider displacement, violence against the population, disruption to supplies of goods, access to markets, access to land and other natural resources, means of production, destruction of infrastructure, breakdown of law and order? Will this vary by group within the population? Does this influence the dynamics of the conflict itself?
- Which groups may become targets of violence? What may expose them to violence? Consider the sources of tension, and consider that assets may become liabilities in times of conflict by making owners attractive targets.