CONFLICT SCANS:
The Ebola outbreak in DRC, rumors, and ensuring a conflict sensitive response

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Search for Common Ground
Presentation Overview

- The history and evolution of Conflict Scans
- The methodology
- What worked well and why
- The challenges
- What we have learned
Conflict Scans: What are they?

“Conflict scans are a specific approach to conflict analysis. They inform programming by allowing us to comprehend the changing dynamics and evolution of a conflict or peace initiatives within short periods of time.”

- To understand the **evolution** and dynamics of conflicts
- To plan or **adapt** program/project activities (of Search and partners) based on the specificities of the context and changing dynamics
- To ensure that Search and/or other actors **do no harm**
- To promote **dialogue, reflection** and reduction of tensions
**Conflict Scans in DRC**

Scans are heavily based on the DNH approach. Scans make recommendations to consortium partners on how to implement activities in a conflict-sensitive way based on community perceptions.
Conflict Scan Methodology & Emergency response

A qualitative research method aimed at:
(1) Informing humanitarian actors involved in the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) response what are the rumors around response activities that cause resistance from the community;
(2) Providing recommendations around conflict sensitivity based on connecting and dividing elements of the environment.

Inclusion and participation are critical aspects of the method:
- Research design involves project teams, conflict analysts, and ILT
- Data is collected from community members and project staff in the field
## Do No Harm Approach

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**Context**

**Actions & Behaviours**
**Data Analysis**

**Data Matrix**
- Compiles raw data from FGDs and KIIIs
- Compiles similar responses
- Disaggregates by: location, sex (horizontally) and research question (vertically)

**Data analysis**
- Data cleaning
- Data disaggregation
- Vertical and horizontal analysis
Conflict Scans are conducted every two months and a two page update is conducted monthly based on information collected from community restitutions and Ebola coordination meetings.
What Works

Provides project-specific options

Works with the context’s elements (Connectors and Dividers)
Challenges

- Local capacities are low
- Lack of trust of research team
- Long validation chain
- Subjective answers from response teams
- Rapid changing context
What Have We Learned?

- The importance of conducting *conflict analyses* before conflict scans
- The utility of *qualitative data* during an emergency response
- **Inclusive** design process allows research to be more relevant for *emergency responders*
Are there opportunities for conflict scans to become a research tool to progressively inform emergency projects on conflict sensitivity?

How can the process become more rapid and adaptable to emergency contexts?
THANK YOU!

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