

Session 5:

Contextual Analysis: A Framework for Understanding Challenges

TIME: 60 MINUTES

ACTIVITIES:

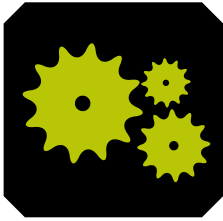
*presentation on context,
followed by a group
discussion.*

SESSION OBJECTIVES:

- to consolidate and summarise the challenges and threats presented by participants on Day One; and
- to provide structure for developing practical strategies by identifying key challenges and threats.

ADAPTATION NOTES:

This session can range from highly structured (with a semi-formal written presentation as shown below) to less formal (reporting back to participants).

EXERCISE:

PAGE 1/2

FORMAT:

PRESENTATION

Contextual Analysis:

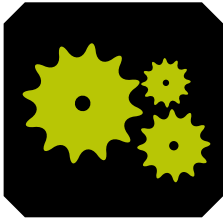
A framework for understanding challenges

TIME: 60 MINREQUIRED MATERIALS: FLIPCHART PAPER AND MARKER PENS.SUMMARY:

This is a summary of the threats and challenges presented on Day One – in a clear format, and ideally written up on a flipchart. After the presentation, participants should be given an opportunity to discuss and make comments.

FACILITATION NOTES:

This is a particularly useful process for groups that are struggling to shift from discussing the larger political aspects of their security challenges – that is, the underlying causes and drivers of insecurity in their context – to the specific challenges and threats that they, and their organisations, are facing. For example, while patriarchy, conflict and rising fundamentalism are key *factors* in the creation of an insecure environment for women human rights defenders, they are not the specific challenges that participants need to address at an integrated security workshop. Rather, the threat of rape, attacks on family members, aggressive slander in the media and/or kidnapping are the kind of very specific challenges that participants should seek to address on Day Two. An example of a contextual analysis prepared for the South Caucasus Integrated Security Workshop in 2009 is set out below:



EXERCISE:

PAGE 2/2

FORMAT:

PRESENTATION

Contextual Analysis:

A framework for understanding challenges

Contextual Analysis

What are the Key Contextual Challenges in our Overall Environment?

- Historic 'Waves' (Nationalism, Post-communism, The Rose Revolution)
- Economic Pressures
- International Relations
- Conflict ('Post' and 'Pre')
- Rising Fundamentalisms
- Patriarchy/'Culture'
- 'Imitation' Democracies

How do these Challenges affect our Operation Environment?

Increasing

- Violence Against Women
- Criminal Influences/Pressure
- Threats to Independence and Freedom

Decreasing

- Financial Support
- Community Support
- Respect and Protection
- Freedom of Expression
- Freedom of Movement

What are the Priority Threats to Activists an our Work?

Legal and Administrative Pressure from the State

- Restrictive NGO laws.
- Financial restrictions against NGO sector.

Risk of Physical Violence

- Beatings, rape
- Border Crossings
- Arrest, detention, hostage-taking, disappearance

Stander/Defamation

- Physical threats against family members: psychological pressure, economic pressure.
- 'Criminalisation' – calling activist spies, traitors, terrorists.

Psychological and Physical Health

- Uncertainty (don't know the future, can't plan), causes stress.
- Difficulty in establishing psychological boundaries in the face of violence.
- Effects on the psychical health.

Threats to Family (and from Family)

- Physical threats against family members; psychological pressure, economic pressure.
- Family members don't agree with the work, try to restrict you.