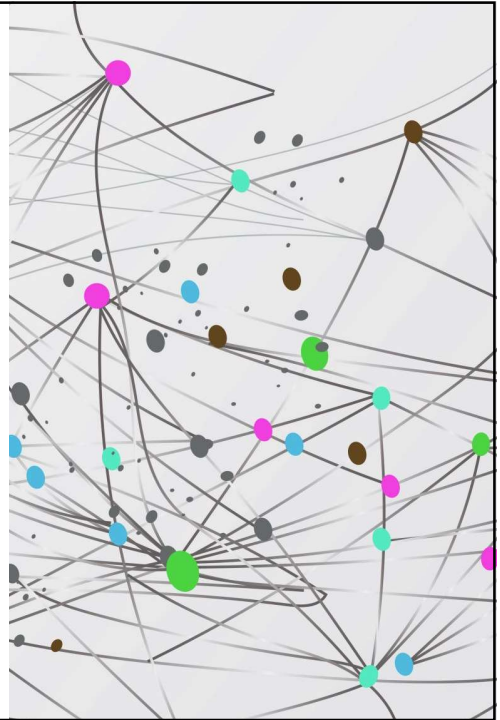


Context Analysis and Actor Mapping



1

Objectives

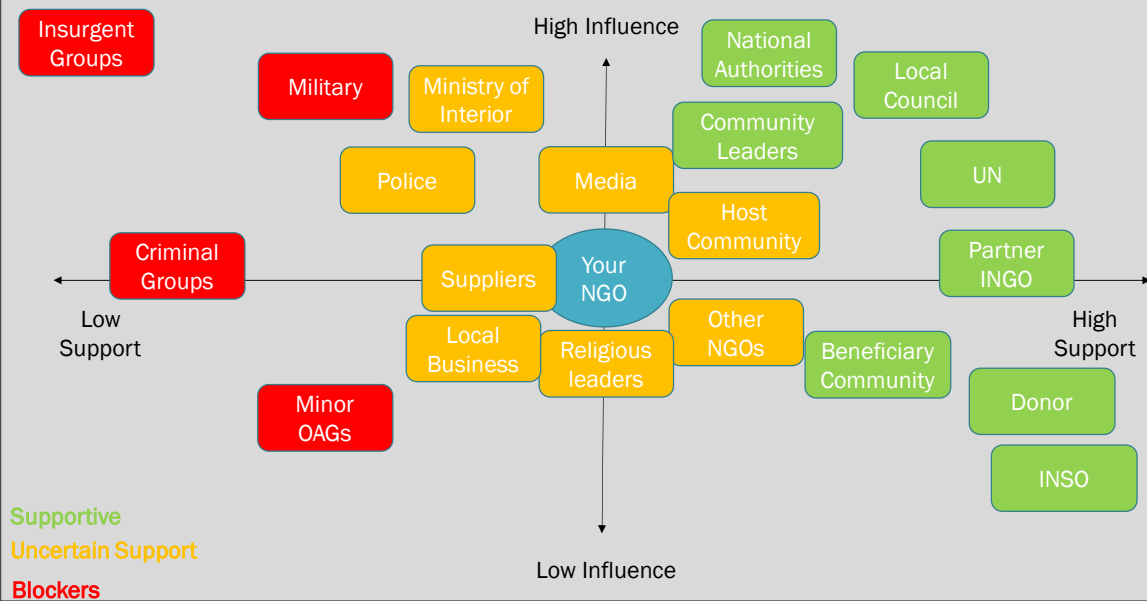
- Conduct Actor Mapping
- Understand the importance of a Context Analysis and how to conduct one
- Produce a Context Analysis

2

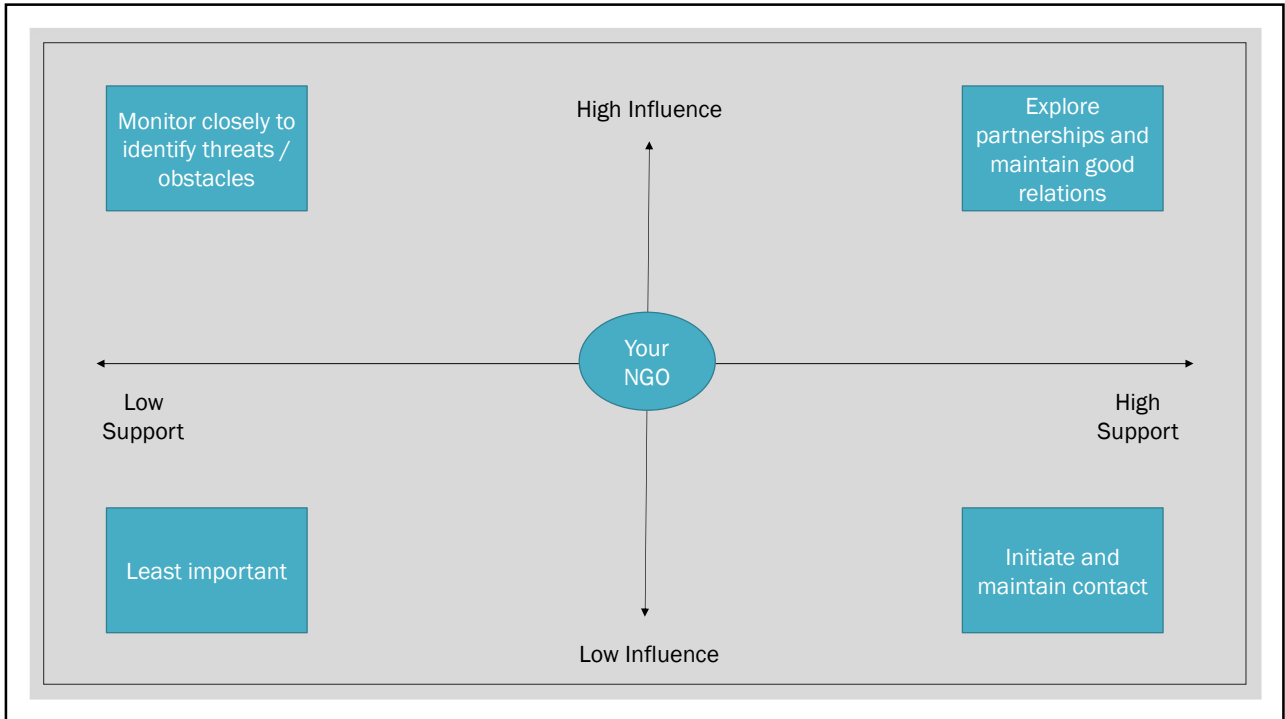
Actor Mapping

- Actor Mapping identifies the key stakeholders that will impact your organisation's ability to operate
- Actors present include:
 - Community Leaders
 - Local authorities and relevant departments
 - Local security forces
 - Beneficiaries
 - Local Communities / Tribal groups / influential individuals
 - Other Organisations (UN/NGOs)
 - Donors and partner NGOs
- Can be done at multiple levels, from Country / Area to township

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Context Analysis

- Different organisations may use different systems to analyse the context.
- A context analysis helps you understand the environment you are working in and identify what threats there may be to your operations which can then be included in your SRA.
- In better understanding your operational environment you can better plan programs (for example, socially conservative contexts may be resistant to some gender / protection programs and this may affect your acceptance. Building acceptance through well received programs may be necessary prior to considering more challenging programs.
- Information discovered in the context analysis may affect your understanding of your actor mapping and adjustment of the actor map may be required.
- Understanding context is key to future decision making. By better understanding the context your management team will be better informed and will make better decisions.
- Should be structured so that you understand the dynamics of each category.

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Context Analysis

- Information sources:
 - INSO
 - UN/OCHA
 - Other NGOs operating in the area
 - Staff / community sources
 - Social Media (ensure to verify sources and identify those that are reliable)
 - External Analysis: various thinktanks and academic studies
 - Working Groups / Clusters
 - Local authorities (councils, ministries, etc.)
- Different methodologies for categorisation:
 - Social & Political / Conflict / Crime & Security / Terrorism / Kidnap / Humanitarian Space / Infrastructure
 - Armed Conflict / Terrorism / Crime / Civil Unrest / Hazards
 - Security / Environment / Infrastructure / Political / Medical

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PESTLE

- Politics
- Economics
- Social
- Technological
- Legal
- Environmental

8

Politics

Examples:

- Ongoing conflict threats. Identify targeting patterns (proximity to front lines, targeting of medical facilities / urban areas / OAG positions)
- Different governance systems in different areas – permissions, registration issues
- Relationship between political parties and OAGs
- Groups consolidating control over extremist factions, both internally and with other rebel groups
- Group closely affiliated with third countries
- Access and restrictions in certain areas
- Asymmetric attacks by insurgent groups (IED attacks in public spaces)
- Asymmetric attacks and occasional skirmishing between OAGs (UVIED, small arms fire, roadside IED)
- GoT political sensitivities – foreign interference / banned groups

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Economic

Examples:

- Economic downturn – devaluation of currency
- Lack of employment, competition over NGO jobs / contracts – pressure on NGOs for employment / contracts
- Poverty, especially among IDP communities / camp residents – economic pressure on employment. Petty Crime.
- Competition over distributions and receipt of services
- COVID restrictions hampering commercial activity
- Coercion by authorities or communities in employment / contracts

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Social

Examples:

- Tension between IDPs and established residents
- Conservative areas, may be sensitive to employment of female staff or to certain gender / protection programs
- Tensions between host communities and IDPs
- Psychosocial needs from years of conflict
- Displaced persons lacking family networks

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Technological

Examples:

- Social media a double-edged sword – can act in favour of or against NGOs
- Rumours often spread on social media, can damage organisational reputation – need for communications plan
- Sensitive information may be stored in WhatsApp conversations / intercepted by security forces
- Security forces sensitive to smartphones / GPS tech / Satphones / VHF
- NGOs may be accused of spying if they pass on sensitive information or locations
- Highly secure messaging apps may be treated with suspicion

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Legal

Examples:

- Restrictions imposed on employment of staff / obligation to comply with relevant legislation
- Registration obligations with specific Ministries
- Employment regulations – COVID specific laws on ending staff contracts
- Donor regulations on dealing with sanctioned groups / CAESAR Act
- Aid diversion / corruption in procurement / supply
- Regulation of cross border movement

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Environmental

Examples:

- Extreme weather events causing flooding and road closures
- Dust storms and extreme heat in summer
- Poor roads / lack of vehicle safety standards / poor driving culture
- Limited visibility on roads at night or in winter (fog / rain)
- COVID-19 widespread, lack of compliance by community in use of precautions (mask use, hygiene, social distancing difficult in crowded residences / camps / markets). Restrictions imposed on gatherings due to social distancing
- Availability of fresh water in some localities

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Next Steps

- Share information with staff and management through reporting / staff briefings / visitor briefs
- Identify threats and assess them in your SRA
- Determine suitability of programs and how they will be implemented
- Continual review, either on a schedule (3 or 6 months) or on context change