Objective: By the end of this session, participants will be able to conduct a basic conflict diagnosis using the conflict equation.

Activity: Conflict Diagnosis Exercise

1. Take 5 minutes to read the two-page conflict scenario on Bolivia found in your binder.
2. As a group, identify a recorder and spokesperson to report out.
3. Take 15 minutes to conduct a basic conflict diagnosis of the scenario, attempting to apply all three elements of the conflict equation with your colleagues. Encourage everyone in your group to participate.
4. Prepare a 3 – 5 minute report on your findings. You may use a flipchart as a visual aid.
Conflict Diagnosis: The Conflict Equation
The conflict equation

Motives + Means + Opportunity = Violent Conflict
Institutions

Legitimacy
threatens/reinforces:
- Beliefs
- Values
- Dignity

Social Patterns

Effectiveness
threatens/reinforces:
- Security
- Livelihood
- Aspirations

Identity
Motives

Social Patterns of Grievance

. . . That threaten identities

. . . That produce outcomes considered ineffective, illegitimate, or both

. . . May result in mobilization of identity groups

1. Elitism
2. Exclusion
3. Chronic capacity deficits
   - Systemic stagnation
   - Strategic resources
   - Ungoverned space
4. Transitional moment: unmet expectations
5. Corruption
The conflict equation

Motives + Means = Violent Conflict
Key actors

... Mobilize grievances, giving them structure and direction, including use of violence

... May be individuals or organizations

... Have a range of aims in mobilizing grievances
  - Social justice
  - Ideology
  - Political aspirations
  - Economic gain

... Have varying capacities
  - Leadership
  - Financial
  - Organizational
  - Unrestricted Operating Space

Not all actors are key actors
Motives + Means + Opportunity = Violent Conflict
A triggering event

. . . Moments in time that create opportunities for key actors to advance their agendas

. . . Creates a short-term window of vulnerability

- Elections
- Passage of legislation
- Ruling in a court case
- Assassinations
- Targeted political violence
- Holidays
- Natural disaster
Opportunity

Motives + Means + Opportunity = Violent Conflict

Please read the Bolivia case study and in your groups:

1. Conduct a basic conflict diagnosis attempting to apply all 3 of the elements in the conflict equation.
2. Identify a group spokesperson who is prepared to present the group’s analysis.
Context

Mitigating Factors

Elaborating the equation

Case Study: Bolivia
Context
Conditions that are treated as givens in the analysis:

- Physical attributes
- Natural resource endowments
- History
- Socio-economic characteristics
- External influences

- Poverty/low quality of life
- Bad neighborhood
- Recent history of conflict
- Low level of economic growth/recession
- Heterogeneity (2 or 3 equally sized groups)
- Youth bulge

Conditions are conflict risk factors, not causes
Mitigating Factors

- Form as a result of interactions between institutions and identity groups
- Are not always normatively positive
- Mitigate against violent conflict

- **RESILIENCY** is the ability to withstand and recover from shocks.
- During conflict analysis, we often look for societal and institutional resiliencies that mitigate the potential for violence.
## Conflict equation

### Context

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motives</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Log" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Basket" /></td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Match" /></td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Rain" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Conflict Drivers
- **Grievances**
- **Key Actors**
- **+ Triggers**
- **Violent Conflict**

### Mitigating Factors
- **Latent Grievances**
- **Key Actors**
- **+ Moments**
- **Non-violent Conflict**
Conflict Diagnosis:
The Conflict Equation

Motives + Means + Opportunity = Violent Conflict
Protesters in Bolivia Seek More Autonomy

SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia — Tens of thousands of antigovernment demonstrators flooded the streets of this city and three other provincial capitals on Saturday as four of Bolivia’s wealthiest provinces celebrated efforts to seek greater autonomy from the central government.

The protests here in Bolivia’s most prosperous city, though they were a direct affront to President Evo Morales, had a festive spirit, as people waved green-and-white flags marked, “Now We Are Autonomous.”

“We don’t want Bolivia to disintegrate,” said Zenon Mita, 46, who runs a construction business here. “We just want Evo to recognize that we have our own priorities.”

Although the president sent hundreds of police officers to reinforce security in Santa Cruz and other capitals as fears of violence grew, there were no signs of a major armed presence on the streets. The only violence reported was an explosion on the fifth floor of the Palace of Justice; no one was hurt.

But in Santa Rosa, an agricultural town near Santa Cruz, local television reported that more than 50 people were hurt in rock-throwing clashes on the main plaza as supporters of Mr. Morales traveled there in buses for a counter protest.

Morales supporters, meanwhile, gathered in the capital, La Paz, to celebrate a new Constitution aimed at strengthening the rights of indigenous groups.

The passage of the Constitution in a chaotic assembly last week that was boycotted by the president’s critics set off the moves to seek greater autonomy in eastern Bolivia. A national referendum will determine whether the Constitution will take effect.

The “autonomy statutes” of the four provinces are the biggest challenge yet to Mr. Morales, who is Bolivia’s first indigenous president. The regional charters fall short of declaring independence, but supporters seek to give provincial officials power over natural gas royalties, agricultural policies and police forces.
The regional statutes, which are also subject to public referendum, have not taken effect. But they set in motion conditions for a clash between Mr. Morales and the regions of Bolivia that are richest in petroleum and arable land.

Officials in La Paz have lashed out at the autonomy moves, describing them as racist efforts from largely mixed-race provinces to resist attempts to redistribute wealth among the country’s poor. Grievances against the relatively prosperous east are most intense in the western highlands, home to Aymara and Quechua Indians.

Vice President Álvaro García Linera accused the elite in Santa Cruz, the richest lowland province, of “separatist and racist attitudes,” in comments to the official news agency on Friday. Mr. García Linera said Santa Cruz was seeking to limit migration of Indians from the altiplano, or highlands, with its new statute, effectively restricting Mr. Morales’s land reform project.

Political leaders here make no secret of their distaste for Mr. Morales’s policies. “Evo is putting us on the road to chaos with ideas that discriminate against people who are not indigenous,” Branko Marinkovic, the president of the Pro-Santa Cruz Committee, said in an interview. “No one wants to invest or create jobs in this environment.”

In addition to sending extra police officers to Santa Cruz and other capitals, the central government put the armed forces on alert. Mr. Morales, an ally of Hugo Chávez, Venezuela’s president, has also stepped up his criticism of the United States in recent days, accusing Washington of fomenting unrest here.

Mr. Morales spoke before thousands of supporters in downtown La Paz on Saturday, some of whom were waving the wiphala, a multicolored flag representing indigenous people in Bolivia. A few others, presumably supporters of Mr. Morales from Santa Cruz, waved the province’s green-and-white flag.

“Don’t be scared!” Mr. Morales yelled into the microphone in the televised speech. “We are united and organized!” Silvia Lazarte, the Quechua Indian who presided over the constitutional assembly, stood by the president.

Attempting to show that the armed forces were aligned with Mr. Morales in a country prone to coups in the last century, members of the army, air force and navy appeared alongside the president in La Paz.

“Death to the Yankees!” Mr. Morales said, finishing the address with a chant common in the Chapare, the coca-growing region where he commands a strong following, but rare in his speeches before other audiences.

Alex Contreras, Mr. Morales’s spokesman, told reporters in La Paz that one option to lessen the tensions would be to have European ambassadors step in to mediate between the government and the provinces. But neither side seemed ready for mediation on Saturday. Attention focused instead on two dramatically different visions for the country’s future.