Complex Crises Fund (CCF)
Case Studies: Preventing and Responding to Violent Conflict

Kenya
Recognizing the history of and risks for violence around elections, $6.3 million through CCF was allocated to help mitigate violence and promote reconciliation during the 2017 election. This included support for local organizations through the Kenya Electoral Assistance Project, utilizing networks to mitigate conflict, promote community participation, and manage early-warning and response mechanisms. Funding also contributed to media monitoring, election observation, strengthening election dispute resolution, and training on effective approaches to address electoral violence. Additionally, a rapid response fund was established to address both potential conflicts and urgent, unanticipated needs.

Niger
Attacks by violent extremist groups continue to be a problem in Niger. Recognizing the threat of violence to civilians in the region and risks to U.S. interests, CCF funding is working to address some of the key drivers of extremism like youth unemployment, and feelings of exclusion among certain ethnic groups Tillaberi region of Niger. In doing so, CCF resources are supporting the Niger Community Cohesion Initiative (NCCI), which works in some of the most marginalized and remote areas of the region. NCCI partners with local leaders to provide communities with knowledge, skills and resources to resist violent extremist groups. Using a small grants program, CCF provides flexibility to respond to new developments in the conflict. CCF programming in Tillaberi complements other USAID programs operating in Agadex and Diffa.

Jordan and Syrian Refugees
CCF has been used to prevent and deescalate signs of conflict in Jordan, which has the highest influx of refugees from Syria. The Syrian refugee crisis is stressing already scarce water and sanitation, and food resources. The fund has been used to implement a two-year, $20-million water management, and conflict mediation and mitigation training in 135 communities most affected by the refugee crisis. This program has played a vital role in supporting non-violent solutions to water management in this fragile context.

Guinea
Following the first democratic Presidential election in 2010, inter-tribal conflict and lack of inter-communal and governmental connection created instability that threatened national security in the forest region of Guinea. Three years later, the Ebola epidemic heightened tensions, and violence broke out and claimed the lives of 217 of civilians and security forces. In response, USAID Guinea proposed a $1.75 million CCF funded, 18-month program for “Inside-Out Peace Building” activities to help build social cohesion and address common complex identities. The program sought to “forge a common identity, sensitize the population to tolerance, reconciliation, and conflict resolution, and create platforms for peacebuilding.”