



The Fund for Peace Conflict Prevention and Recovery Program

C.A.S.T. – The FFP Conflict Assessment System Tool

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, internal conflicts have become one of the greatest threats to international security. International organizations, national governments, non-government organizations, and members of civil society, among others, have been forced to respond to internal conflicts and their devastating effects. Unfortunately, the majority of those responses have been too little and too late, often occurring after violence has erupted and the international community's options for response are limited to peacekeeping initiatives or military interventions.

Waiting until violence erupts does little to advance world peace and international security. Conflict prevention is worth the investment, especially if it results in generating timely warnings and earlier and less costly interventions.

Since 1994, The Fund for Peace has been developing a cutting-edge model, the “Analytical Model of Internal Conflict and State Collapse,” to analyze and assess states at risk of internal conflict. Originally published in 1998, and tested extensively, The Fund for Peace model enables analysts and decision-makers to have a broader and deeper understanding of the complicated interaction within a given society and to measure progress over time – before, during, and after conflict.

The methodology incorporates both quantitative and qualitative indicators and a conceptual framework that allows analysts to anticipate, assess and manage conflict situations using data from multiple sources. It develops analysts' capacity for both conflict early warning and assessment of recovery for informed decision-making.

The software, known as the Conflict Assessment System Tool (C.A.S.T.), uses The Fund for Peace's comprehensive analytical model to anticipate impending conflicts worldwide. In developing C.A.S.T., The Fund for Peace uses the most sophisticated information technologies available, integrating video and/or audio clips, digital photos, documents, and other data sources into its interactive, user-friendly interface. C.A.S.T. processes data from multiple sources, organizes it and creates graphic displays that identify major social, political/military and economic trends that track the increase or reduction of the risk of conflict. It also creates a standard database methodology for collecting and sorting information relevant to internal conflicts around the world.

The Fund for Peace designs customized versions of C.A.S.T. software that are simple to use, and can produce a number of reports in the life cycle of a conflict. The Fund for Peace also offers training in the methodology and produces specific country studies. Software demonstrations are available by appointment. For more information, please contact Anne V. Russell, Director, Conflict Prevention and Recovery Program, The Fund for Peace, 11th Floor, 1701 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006, Tel: (202) 223-7940, x209, Fax: (202) 223-7947 – or visit The Fund for Peace website at www.fundforpeace.org