**Context Indicators**

**Types and common sources**

***Source: PMP Tool Kit***

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| **Type**  | **Definition**  | **Situations for which a context indicator may be appropriate**  | **Possible indicators**  |
| Country Context  | Measure conditions relevant to the performance of the CDCS and projects, such as macroeconomic, social, and political conditions that are beyond the management control of the Mission and its partners.  | Depending on the country, there are a number of context factors that the Mission may want to track. For example, in a country which is highly dependent on natural resource extraction, a decline in global commodity prices could change the country’s macroeconomic context and have a direct bearing on the Mission’s economic growth programming.  | Global Commodity Prices (for relevant commodities), Export of Relevant Commodity as a Percent of GDP  |
| Assumption  | A general condition that must hold true in order to achieve the project or R/CDCS results. They are outside of the control or influence of USAID and its partners.  | Every year flooding affects certain provinces; while USAID programming accounts for seasonal flooding, it assumes that flooding will remain contained to select provinces and not significantly deviate from levels observed over the past five years.  | Peak Over Threshold (POT); Areal Flood Index (total inundated area); Data from the National Water Development Board (NWDB)  |
| Game-Changer  | A newly introduced element or factor that changes an existing context or project in a significant way. These are outside of the control of the USG and its partners.  | Recently discovered natural oil and gas will have such volume that potential revenue generation is expected to have significant implications for growth, public service delivery and employment and introduce opportunities for rent-seeking behavior at all levels of society.  | Annual Social Services budget as a percent of GNP; Annual Ministry of Petroleum budget as a percentage of GNP  |
| Risk  | A condition that could negatively influence program outcomes.  | Large-scale ethnic conflict that could surpass the international community’s capacity to manage or contain the conflict.  | Percentage of population located in conflict areas; percentage of new international appeals for funding not fulfilled in 3 months; rating on violence threshold index (red, yellow, green)  |

**Common sources of context indicator data include:**

* European Commission, i.e., Eurostat data
* United Nationals datasets, such as the Millennium Development Goals
* World Bank datasets, such as on Governance and “Doing Business”
* OECD, including environmental datasets
* Transparency International
* Freedom House International
* Human Rights Watch
* Amnesty International
* World Economic Forum (trade data)
* National statistical offices of the host government
* Bilateral donor datasets
* Regional organizations, such as the Organization for American States
* Academic organizations, both local and international
* Media organizations, such as The Economist
* Private-sector research firms, i.e., Gallup.