**SOCIAL COHESION - TRAINING GUIDE HANDOUT**

**Social Cohesion-** describes the ability of people to work and live together. It is the quality of co-existence between groups within a community. Communities may include diversity across a range of factors, but the quality of social cohesion is based on mutual respect and trust; shared values and social participation; life satisfaction and happiness; structural equity and social justice. Peacebuilding activities focus on re-establishing or strengthening social cohesion (adapted from UNDP ACT, July 2013).

**SOCIALLY COHESIVE SOCIETIES DEMONSTRATE:**

* **Inclusion** - recognizing and encouraging diversity and equal opportunities
* **Participation** - inviting all stakeholders to be involved in decision-making processes that affect their lives.
* **Social Justice** -embracing multiple dimensions of justice and fairness within the society.

Societies with social cohesion are less likely to slip into destructive patterns and more likely to build community resilience. (DESA-ECOSOC 2015).

**Peacebuilding** aims to build, restore and enhance social cohesion.

**Child Protection** can play an important positive role in building social cohesion

Social Cohesion requires action at multiple levels, including the individual level, community and government level.

Strong social cohesion includes:

* **horizontal social cohesion** (across communities on an individual to individual level) and
* **vertical social cohesion** (across government, agencies at an individual to system level).

