



# Barometer of cultural and religious pluralism

*Evaluating identity tensions to prevent conflict.*

## Barometer of pluralism

The **Barometer of cultural and religious pluralism** is an instrument capable of assessing and reporting on the level of identity-related tensions within a society. It provides an assessment of a society's capacity to absorb shocks, whether endogenous or exogenous, in order to preserve the common good. It consists of an innovative, replicable methodology conceived by Observatoire Pharos and its international research partners, which makes it possible to analyze cultural and religious dynamics in different social spheres, taking into account facts, perceptions and opinions. The aim of the Barometer is to capture the profound fragility of societies, identifying the forces of fragmentation as well as the forces of cohesion, and alerting to the risks of conflict.

These evidence-based assessments make it possible to establish a diagnosis and formulate recommendations. Addressed to decision-makers and civil society actors, they pave the way to advocacy actions and support for the implementation of appropriate solutions to bring peace to societies. Assessments are carried out on a local scale, i.e. at the level of a town or region, to ensure a certain representativeness and to present relevant data for concrete action by change actors. A comparison between several localities in the same country enables a comparative analysis.

## Methodology

The Barometer methodology was developed in collaboration with Adyan Foundation (Lebanon), Université Saint Esprit de Kaslik (Lebanon), LMI-MACOTER (Mali) and CéSor - EHESS (France). The methodology consists of a set of 22 parameterized and contextualized criteria, divided into 3 dimensions and 9 sub-dimensions, which form the evaluation grid. An experiment was carried out in three Lebanese localities in 2023.



### POLITICAL SPHERE

DIMENSION RELATED TO THE PLACE OF BELIEFS AND CONVICTIONS IN RELATION TO THE ORGANIZATION OF POWER IN SOCIETY AND PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL LIFE

1. DEMOCRATIC CONDITIONS

2. POLITICAL CONVICTIONS, PRACTICES AND AFFILIATIONS

3. POLITICS IN RELATION TO BELIEFS, PRACTICES AND AFFILIATIONS

8 CRITERIA



### SOCIAL SPHERE

DIMENSIONS RELATED TO THE COMMON GOOD, CITIZENSHIP AND SOCIAL COHESION

1. PLURALITY IN THE SOCIAL SPHERE

2. PLURALITY AND COMMON SENS

3. COLLECTIVE DYNAMIC

8 CRITERIA



### PRIVATE SPHERE

THE DIMENSION RELATED TO INTIMATE PERCEPTIONS OF SELF AND OTHER

1. INDIVIDUAL POSITIONING

2. PERCEPTION OF THE OTHER

3. EXPERIENCED PLURALITY

6 CRITERIA

The data is collected using a mixed method based on expert analysis and field surveys to link **facts, perceptions and opinions**.

Activities	Results and deliverables
Identification of target localities and a local partner	<b>Preliminary study report</b> , for internal use (project partners and contributors)
Documentary and ethnographic research	
Adaptation of the methodology	<b>Finalized methodology documents:</b> criteria grid, expert questionnaires, survey questionnaires, sampling
Training local interviewers	
Qualitative surveys with a representative sample of the population studied ( semi-directive interviews)	<b>Publication of a report:</b> framing of the national context; presentation of the local context; analysis of evaluation results and perception studies
Qualitative surveys with experts (historians, anthropologists, economists, political scientists)	
Analysis of results, drafting and publication of a report	
Report dissemination, advocacy activities	<b>Feedback and exchange event</b> with institutional and civil society actors involved in the target localities
	<b>Publication of recommendations</b> resulting from discussions with change actors

### *Impact and perspective*

The Barometer is a tool designed to report on how cultural and religious diversity is experienced and managed in a given area.

The Barometer can be used to :

- **Carry out a diagnosis of cultural and religious dynamics**, highlighting the main issues, i.e. the areas of tension and fragility that need to be addressed, as well as the factors of cohesion that need to be supported and enhanced.
- **Sharing this diagnosis with all the relevant local actors** to initiate a process of reflection and action in response to the findings.

The methodology can be applied in different contexts, for example:

- **Within a local authority**, targeting public authorities, representatives of civil society and economic actors.  
*E.g.: The Barometer was used in three Lebanese areas.*
- **Within an organisation**, to provide keys to understanding the issues involved in managing diversity  
*E.g.: The Barometer currently being carried out in the day centre of Secours Catholique in Roubaix aims to provide concrete information on the state of relations between beneficiaries and volunteers.*
- **As part of humanitarian or development projects**, as a tool for assessing the impact of operations on the social cohesion of the area in which they take place.  
*E.g.: Small-scale tests have been carried out in localities where a project to support associations committed to social cohesion in the Sahel was implemented.*

Regular updating of the analysis would also make it possible to:

- **Monitor developments** over time
- **Develop an early warning mechanism** based on the systematic identification of factors of instability and signals of deterioration in social cohesion