Connections between specific sectors and conflict dynamics

Any sector may be connected to conflict-related impacts or gross human rights abuses. However, some sectors or industries are more likely to be connected to risks or impacts on conflict dynamics and to gross human rights abuses because of the nature of their operations, business models, and/or activities.

Sector	Possible connection to conflict	Key resources related to conflict
Defence and weapons	Products, technologies, or services may be used in armed conflict, military operations, occupation contexts, or by actors involved in human rights abuses, creating heightened risks of contribution to conflict and severe human rights impacts.	Heightened Human Rights Due Diligence for Business in Conflict-Affected Contexts: A Guide Weapons, Dual Use tech and Financial Institutions UN Human Rights and UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, Investors, the Arms Sector and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
Private military and security	Private security forces may be involved in unlawful or arbitrary detention, excessive use of force, surveillance, access control, or close interaction with state and non-state armed actors. Additional risks may arise when they protect strategic infrastructure or natural resources linked to conflict dynamics, particularly where oversight and accountability mechanisms are inadequate.	Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights
Information and communications technology	Digital tools, surveillance systems, artificial intelligence, telecommunications infrastructure, or data services may facilitate repression, unlawful surveillance, targeting of civilians, disinformation, hate speech, or conflict escalation when misused by state or non-state actors.	Investor Alliance for Business and Human Rights Sector-wide risk Assessment: ICT Salient Issue Briefing: Conflict & Security
Mining	Operations in fragile and conflict-affected contexts may exacerbate conflict dynamics and human rights risks through competition over land, water and natural resources; land acquisition and displacement; impacts on Indigenous Peoples and the need for FPIC; labour and community rights; environmental impacts; the use of public or private security forces; disputes over benefit-sharing; and revenue flows that may benefit or reinforce conflict actors. Risks may be heightened where projects involve strategic assets, critical infrastructure, resource-intensive production, or supply chains involving vulnerable communities and smallholder farmers, particularly in contexts affected by food insecurity or armed conflict.	OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas
Infrastructure including energy		
Agriculture		OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains, Farming Through Conflict
Manufacturing including textile		War and Workers: Navigating Labor Rights and Supply Chain Risks During Active Conflicts Safety and health in textiles, clothing leather and footwear