



## PLOW Learning Resource: Conflict and Rehabilitation

### *Important Note:*

This learning resource was developed as part of the Professional Development for Livelihoods Advisers Website (PLOW) which was operational between 2006-2008.

PLOW was funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) and supported the professional development of DFID livelihoods advisers. PLOW hosted 17 learning modules of which this is one. Modules were produced using guidance provided by the Livelihoods Technical Competence Framework that described technical competencies, knowledge, and experience required by DFID Livelihoods Advisers.

PLOW modules were designed to help advisers get up to speed on areas of the competency framework, to prepare for new postings, or to refresh existing knowledge on particular subject areas. They were produced and developed by a partnership comprising the Programme of Advisory Support Service (PASS) and Livelihoods Connect based at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS). Each module was written by an expert or experts in the subject and provided:

- an overview of the subject in a briefing note;
- key texts;
- a summary of recent policy debates;
- points on where to find other resources; and
- a glossary of key terms used in the briefing note.

Although the learning modules produced were written with the DFID Livelihoods cadre in mind they were accessible to a global audience through the website.

Twelve of the original PLOW modules are now hosted on the Evidence on Demand website. This PLOW module was produced between 2005 and 2008 and has not been updated since. Some of the material that it draws upon may no longer represent current thinking and some of the links to resources may no longer exist. Nevertheless, we believe that it is still a useful resource that provides useful reference material.





## Conflict and Rehabilitation

Theme Editor: **Kate Longley<sup>1</sup>**  
**Tom Slaymaker<sup>2</sup>**  
**Paul Harvey<sup>3</sup>**  
**(Overseas Development Institute)**

Rehabilitation in countries affected by conflict (e.g. Afghanistan, Angola, Colombia, DR Congo, Liberia, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Southern Sudan, Sri Lanka, among others) presents a number of conceptual and practical challenges. Although often regarded as the 'link' between relief and development, rehabilitation is constrained by the differing objectives, mandates and operating rules of the two forms of aid. Humanitarian agencies operating in protracted emergencies, while primarily concerned with saving lives in the short term, are increasingly interested in protecting and promoting livelihoods in the long term. If they have the technical capacity required to implement livelihood approaches, they are often constrained by the organisational and administrative distinctions existing between relief and development within the international aid system. Development-oriented personnel, on the other hand, often lack awareness of issues and debates within the humanitarian sector that are necessary for principled programming.

The so-called 'transition' from humanitarian relief to rehabilitation is particularly problematic where 'durable disorder' prevails in the form of continuing violence, the weakness or absence of formal and informal institutions, the lack of political legitimacy, and high risks associated with economic investments. Effective action to strengthen livelihoods in such situations will need to take account of the politics and power structures that exist, and remember that investments may provide opportunities to those who seek the change the local balance of power.

This Briefing Note looks at how relief can be linked to development in conflict-affected situations in ways that contribute to the livelihood strategies of poor people. It starts by explaining the difficulties in defining key terms, and then explores the impacts of conflict on - particularly - rural livelihoods. Current programming and policy approaches to support rural livelihoods affected by conflict are presented and critiqued. Key texts are highlighted as suggested reading, and a number of on-going and emerging topics of debate are summarised.

### *Contents:*

- [Briefing Note](#)
- [Key Texts](#)
- [Policy Debates](#)
- [Further Reading](#)

<sup>1</sup> Trained in social anthropology, with a PhD fieldwork in Sierra Leone. Currently based in Nairobi, working under a partnership between ODI and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). For more information <http://www.odi.org.uk/programmes/humanitarian-policy-group/>

<sup>2</sup> A geographer specialising in social and economic aspects of natural resource management and rural development in the context of poverty reduction strategies. For more information <http://www.odi.org.uk/programmes/water-policy/default.asp>

<sup>3</sup> Previously worked in the Emergencies Unit of Concern Worldwide, and managed country programmes for Children's Aid Direct in Sierra Leone, Kosovo and North Korea. For more information <http://www.odi.org.uk/programmes/humanitarian-policy-group/>

## Briefing Note

### *Contents:*

- [Key Terms and Problems of Definition](#)
- [Impacts of Conflict on Productive Livelihoods](#)
- [Principled Approaches to Post-Conflict Programming](#)
- [Policy and Institutional Challenges](#)

## Key Terms and Problems of Definition

Chronic conflict and post-conflict transitions. Contemporary conflicts are understood as a crisis of political authority and governance where ‘fragile states’ are either unable or unwilling to fulfil core functions leading to breakdown in the contract between the state and its citizens. The focus of this Briefing Note is countries emerging from conflict, but use of the term ‘post-conflict’ does not necessarily imply absolute peace. The emergence from conflict involves multiple transitions: in security (from war to peace); a political transition (from authoritarianism to a more participatory form of government); and a socio-economic transition that includes the rebuilding of economic capacities. Transition can involve change in either direction, and spans an undefined period of time.

Relief and development assistance. Relief is essentially designed to save lives in the face of temporary threats to livelihoods, but the chronic nature of contemporary conflict means that conventional relief responses are often inadequate. Development assistance, on the other hand, is designed to alleviate poverty and promote economic growth. Institutional breakdown, loss of human capital and increased levels of vulnerability present an enormous challenge in post-conflict settings. Even if donors deem emerging government structures legitimate to receive funding, their capacity to absorb funds and deliver goods and services is often extremely limited. In such contexts non state providers typically fulfil a vital role in the delivery of aid, whether officially earmarked for ‘relief’ or ‘development’.

Humanitarian action. The concept of humanitarianism concerns the application of the humanitarian ethic and its working out in practice. The humanitarian ethic is typically expressed as the humanitarian imperative: the duty to act in the face of mass human suffering, to prevent or alleviate such suffering, particularly in situations of armed conflict or natural disaster. Humanitarianism has a number of principles associated with it: the primary principles include those underlying international humanitarian law and the principles of humanity and impartiality; secondary principles (such as neutrality and independence) relate specifically to the conduct of humanitarian actors, as elaborated in the widely-endorsed Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief. The provision of protection and assistance are inextricable humanitarian concerns.

Rehabilitation: to rebuild or reform? Although rehabilitation is often regarded as the link between relief and development, such a linkage is constrained by the differing objectives, mandates and operating rules of these two forms of assistance. Terms like rehabilitation, reconstruction, and recovery imply a return to a former supposedly stable and desirable state of affairs, but a return to the pre-conflict situation may merely recreate the conditions that led to war in the first place. The political imperative to achieve quick impacts (both by new governments as well as donors) may in some cases impede the development of sustainable institutions. A key challenge in such contexts is to strike an appropriate balance between the short-term need to rebuild quickly and the long-term desire to reform.

## Poverty, Vulnerability and the Impacts of Conflict on Productive Livelihoods

The poorest people and the poorest countries in the world today are primarily those who are experiencing or emerging from conflict. To be truly effective, global efforts to alleviate poverty cannot afford to ignore such contexts. Yet development aid instruments tend to be designed to alleviate poverty in politically stable contexts, and the provision of aid in post-conflict situations presents a number of

challenges. In effect, those who are most in need of assistance are often those who the international aid system finds it most difficult to reach: the political conditions that create the deepest and most intractable poverty are the same that often preclude effective and ethical developmental assistance. In this context, there is a need to improve understanding both of the particular needs of populations living in these situations and the constraints they face in maintaining their livelihoods.

The popular perception of people caught up in complex emergencies as helpless victims dependent on humanitarian aid is misleading. It is increasingly recognised that people are mostly forced to survive without aid by coping and adapting their livelihoods to the circumstances of chronic conflict. Empirical analysis suggests that rural livelihood strategies are often remarkably resilient on account of their complex and dynamic nature. A key question for agencies therefore is how do people manage to survive and pursue livelihoods amidst the day to day stress of coping in an uncertain and violent environment and how can they be more effectively supported. A livelihoods framework is useful in understanding the impacts of conflict, but vulnerability must be placed more centrally, the political economy of conflict must be integrated into the analysis, and a temporal dimension is also required. Power and wealth relations and the processes that create, sustain and transform these relationships over time need to be considered.

## Principled Approaches to Post-Conflict Programming

There is a commonly held view that rehabilitation involves a shift away from food aid to food security interventions. Food security interventions might include the protection and promotion of primary production; income generation and employment; and support to ensure the functioning of local markets (see Sphere Guidelines). In recent years, there has been a rapid expansion of the use of cash, vouchers and micro-credit services in post-conflict situations, and useful lessons are now beginning to emerge ([Box 1](#)). [*Note for natural disaster rehabilitation: ODI is developing tools for implementing cash interventions in response to tsunami in Asia. Further details can be obtained from Paul Harvey.*] Although these interventions are considered to be part of 'market-based' programming, there is very little understanding to date of how cash-based interventions might impact on existing markets or contribute to future economic growth.

Case study research suggests that individual food security interventions are often out of sync with the realities of productive livelihoods because the notion of 'crisis' shapes the aid response. This emphasis on responding to crisis fails to reflect the resilience, capacities and ingenuity of rural populations, and often misconstrues coping strategies for livelihood strategies. Transient support to coping strategies through input distribution or time-bound cash or food for work programmes will fail to support livelihood strategies unless there is also consideration of the services and resources necessary in the longer term. Project-based approaches thus need to be linked not only to a greater understanding of what rural people actually do but also to an overall strategy for the delivery of inputs and services. This requires greater attention to institutional forms at meso and macro levels.

Support for institutional capacity-building, however, risks compromising humanitarian principles. In applying livelihoods approaches in post-conflict rehabilitation contexts, a major unresolved issue is how to reconcile livelihood or developmental principles (in particular sustainability) with humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence. Improving coordination is arguably key to effective post-conflict rehabilitation programming, but the necessary transition from UN coordination to government coordination is made difficult due to lack of government capacity and the challenges in linking micro level projects with national programmes. The concept of social protection provides a useful lens for thinking about synergies between ad hoc relief projects and more systematic programmes of livelihood protection and promotion. However, practical lessons are only just beginning to emerge from the limited experience to date in the use of social protection mechanisms in countries emerging from conflict ([Box 2](#)). Given the political and social inequalities that characterise chronic and post-conflict situations, there is a risk that social protection may merely serve to exacerbate inequality.

## Policy and Institutional Challenges

Challenges exist in enhancing three types of institutions: state or public sector institutions; private sector institutions; and those that form a part of what is generally referred to as civil society. There is a need to recognize and build on informal institutions that will have inevitably taken centre stage during the conflict years, since conflict may have severely reduced the ability of formal institutions to be effective. A particular conundrum is how to strike an appropriate balance between the short term need to rebuild state institutions, and the longer term desire to reform those institutions which may have been one of the causes of conflict in the first place, or are simply no longer appropriate to present circumstances and current development thinking. Post-conflict policies and strategies often stress that development should be private sector led, yet there is very little practical understanding of what this entails, particularly given the weak economic and regulatory environment for private sector investment and the lack of trust between stakeholders (Box 3). Efforts to build or empower civil society must question the assumptions that local organisations necessarily share the same objectives as the aid community. While local institutions are the first (and most reliable) source of support for the destitute and those experiencing livelihood shocks, they are often also mechanisms that reinforce structural poverty (Box 4).

### Box 1: The Emergency Cash Relief Program in NE Somalia

The Emergency Cash Relief Program (ECRP) was implemented in 2004 in response to prolonged drought in Sool and Sanaag, a contested area in Northeastern Somalia. The ECRP aimed to increase the purchasing power of vulnerable populations through the provision of \$50 USD to 13,380 households. Evaluations revealed that the grants allowed beneficiaries to repay their debt and extend their credit, as well as meeting essential needs (food, water and health). Although implemented in a politically tense situation, the project itself is not thought to have contributed to inter-state tensions, though it antagonized both the Somaliland administration and strained relations between the implementing agencies and other Somaliland-based NGOs. Despite allegations of cash misuse and diversion, none of the grant was used to purchase *qat* or arms. Lessons emerging from the project include the need for greater inter-agency collaboration to allow for the implementation of complementary interventions to maximize impact of the cash grant.

Source: Degan Ali et al (2005) Cash relief in a contested area: lessons from Somalia. HPN Network Paper 50. London: ODI

### Box 2: The use of social funds in Sierra Leone

The Sierra Leone National Social Action Project (NSAP, 2003-8) provides multi-sectoral funding to assist war-affected communities to restore infrastructure and services and build local capacity for collective action. The project supports community initiatives based on a model of community-driven recovery in which projects are identified, appraised, implemented and maintained by the beneficiary communities, who assume responsibility for recruiting NGOs and/or local contractors to provide the technical and logistical support necessary for project implementation. The underlying objective of community-based initiatives is the development of social capital within communities since it is believed that enhanced social capital allows for social action to be more sustainable in the long term. Community-based initiatives are promoted using a participatory, demand-driven approach in which the role of NGOs shifts from implementing agency to facilitating agency. The NSAP approach aims to address vulnerability through building social capital and to reduce poverty through community empowerment, but whether the project really understands the root causes of vulnerability in agrarian society has been questioned by some (Richards et al., 2003), suggesting that NSAP may be ill-equipped to tackle issues of vulnerability and inequity through social funds.

Source: Longley, Christoplos & Slaymaker, 2005

### Box 3: Lessons from reform and marketisation in Cambodia

Following the Paris peace agreements in 1991, Cambodia was extremely dependent on external donors, leaving its government with little control over the reconstruction agenda, and resulting in a programme that was incompatible with Cambodia's socio-economic and political needs. Donors approached recovery with over-realistic expectations and pre-conceived ideas, but little intimate knowledge. Down-sizing the civil service was prioritised but lacked high-level or civil-service support and overlooked the fact that service jobs were a source of vital (licit and illicit) income. Rapid economic liberalisation mainly benefited urban areas and the elite but increased rural insecurity. Because rule-of-law did not accompany the process entrepreneurs aimed at quick profits (often from illegal activity) rather than long-term investment, and violence became the main arbiter in disputes. Most profits from economic activity were either channelled into the war with the Khmer Rouge or used to bolster the power-bases of the leaders of government factions. The Cambodian example shows that imposing rapid marketisation on a weak political and legal framework can exacerbate political tensions and increase socio-economic insecurity among vulnerable groups. Donors must distinguish between what is desirable and what is feasible within post-conflict societies, and recognise that attaching conditions to aid cannot substitute for weak institutions or a lack of political consensus. Post-war reforms need to be part of a broader strategy to strengthen political governance and restore socio-economic security.

Source: Hendrickson, H. 2001, 'Globalisation, insecurity and post-war reconstruction: Cambodia's precarious transition', IDS Bulletin, vol. 32 no. 2, 2001, p98-106

### Box 4: Questioning the role of local shuras in rehabilitation in Afghanistan

The traditional councils, or *shuras* are the lynchpin in the visions of the aid community (and to some extent the government as well) for the institutional infrastructure that will support future agricultural and rural development, and for rebuilding what is popularly assumed to be heavily depleted social capital. But both the rationale and the sustainability of *shura*-based community development must be questioned. Even otherwise laudatory reviews of the role of the *shuras* acknowledge that "What the agency expects the *shura* to do, in the function of a Village Development Association, is something very different from what the *shura* is used to do, what it is set up to do, and what the community expects it to do" (Harpviken 2001:11). Despite concerted efforts at 'empowerment', extending to over a decade, an evaluation of one major integrated rural development programme notes with concern that not a single *shura* has "graduated" from programme support (Reddick 2003).

Source: Longley, Christoplos & Slaymaker, 2005

## Key Texts

### **Recovery from Armed Conflict in Developing Countries: An Economic and Political Analysis**

G. Harris (ed.) ,1999, London & New York: Routledge

(Recommended Reading - Chapter 4 G.Harris *Reconstruction, Recovery and Development: The Main Tasks*

This text outlines the characteristics of post-conflict situations and shows that the way in which a war ends fundamentally affects the nature of reconstruction and rehabilitation. It describes the transition from war to peace and the difficulties in agreeing when a war is 'over'. It also reviews other issues such as financing recovery, short-term and long-term tasks, and the process of reconciliation.

### **Dilemmas and Definitions in Post-Conflict Rehabilitation**

Higazi, A., 2003, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), Maastricht.

This text outlines four key dilemmas emerging from a study of EC responses to conflict: when to engage; the strategic approach needed to match the complexities of conflict; the institutional arrangements required for the effective implementation of policies; and ensuring a coherent political response.

## Policy Debates

### Contents:

- [Understanding Livelihoods](#)
- [Service Delivery](#)
- [Markets and Pro-poor Growth](#)
- [Microfinance, Cash and Vouchers](#)
- [Social Protection](#)
- [Aid and State Building](#)
- [Humanitarian Principles](#)

## Understanding livelihoods in chronic conflict and post-conflict situations

How do people manage to survive and pursue livelihoods amidst the day to day stress of coping in an uncertain and violent environment and how can they be more effectively supported? An understanding of the political economy of conflict, and the complex nature of risk and vulnerability is important in order to understand livelihoods in countries emerging from conflict. The Household Economy Approach originally developed by Save the Children offers a methodology that has been widely used in countries affected by conflict to understand livelihoods, poverty and vulnerability.

**Power, Livelihoods and Conflict: Case Studies in Political Economy Analysis for Humanitarian Action.** Collinson, S. (ed.), 2003, HPG Report 13, ODI

**Violent Conflict, Poverty and Chronic Poverty** Goodhand, J., 2001, CPRC Working Paper 6. CPRC, University of Birmingham.

**Livelihoods, Chronic Conflict and Humanitarian Response: A Synthesis of Current Practice.** Longley, C. & Maxwell, D., 2003, Natural Resource Perspectives No. 89. ODI.

**The Household Economy Approach: A resource manual for practitioners,** 2000, Development Manual 6, Save the Children (UK), 2000

## Service Delivery in Difficult Environments

There is extensive on-going debate on the merits of the various types of interventions and systems designed to provide water, education, health, agricultural and veterinary services and inputs in difficult environments. The political landscape of such contexts is thought to be key in shaping service delivery approaches and the respective roles of state and non-state actors (private sector, NGO, UN).

**Approaches in Improving the Delivery of Social Services in Difficult Environments** Berry, C., Forder, A., Sultan, S. & Moreno-Torres, 2004, PRDE Working Paper. DFID.

**Beyond Seeds and Tools: Effective Support to Farmers in Emergencies** Longley, C. and Sperling, L. (eds.) 2002, Special issue of *Disasters* 26 (4).

**Models for Service Delivery in Conflict-affected Environments: Drawing Lessons from the Experience of the Ushirika/GBV Partnership Programmes in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo** Dijkzeul, D., 2005, International Rescue Committee  
Read summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/>



## Markets and pro-poor growth in post-conflict situations

Private sector development is critically important for the long-term economic recovery of economies affected by conflict. However, there is an urgent need for greater accountability and an overall political strategy that limits the power of those who have gained control of the markets through force of arms and illicit activities. Market growth that is neither free nor equitable has the potential to seriously undermine post-conflict development. It is therefore essential that policy makers focus not only the economic benefits of growth but also on its political implications.

**Building Institutions in Post-Conflict African Economies** Aron, J. 2002, WIDER Discussion Paper DP2002/124, UNU/WIDER, Helsinki.

**Enhancing the Private Sector Contribution to Post-War Recovery in Poor Countries** Tilman Brück, Valpy FitzGerald, Arturo Grigsby, 2000, Queen Elizabeth House (QEP) Working Paper Series 45 (1). Oxford University.

Read Part 1 (Comparative Analysis): (Please refer to PLOW CD for full PDF Version)

Read Part 2 (Nicaragua): (Please refer to PLOW CD for full PDF Version)

Read Part 3 (Mozambique): (Please refer to PLOW CD for full PDF Version)

**Trading in Power: The Politics of 'Free' Markets in Afghanistan** Sarah Lister and Adam Pain, 2004, AREU Briefing Paper

**World Bank resources on Private Sector Development in Conflict-Affected Countries**

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTMIGDEV/Resources/2838212-1160686302996/AfricaGrowth.pdf>

## Use of micro-finance, cash and vouchers in emergencies and recovery

One approach to promoting markets is to stimulate demand by putting resources (cash or vouchers) to purchase services in the hands of beneficiaries, in the hope that they will then become clients or even customers of emerging service providers. The use of cash in emergencies is becoming increasingly acceptable; experience with post-conflict micro-finance is growing, but both remain controversial. To date, vouchers have tended to be used to allow beneficiaries to access seeds and other agricultural inputs, but have also been used for other productive assets

**Cash and Vouchers in Emergencies** Harvey, P , 2005, HPG Paper, ODI

**Microfinance during and after armed conflict: Lessons from Angola, Cambodia, Mozambique and Rwanda** Wilson, T., 2002, Durham: Mountjoy Research Centre.

**CRS Seed Vouchers and Fairs: Using Markets in Disaster Response** .Bramel, P., T. Remington, and M. McNeil (eds.) 2004. Nairobi: CRS East Africa.

**Post Conflict Micro-Finance Project**

<http://www.microfinancegateway.org/p/site/m/template.rc/1.11.47710/>

## Social protection – synergies between livelihood protection and promotion and applications in post-conflict

It has recently been argued that there is substantial unexploited scope for greater synergy between social protection and livelihood promotion and that this can provide a useful approach in addressing

vulnerability among communities in countries emerging from conflict (see PASS project pages). Although social protection has been promoted in policy documents for Afghanistan and Sudan, practical applications and the lessons emerging remain limited.

**Social Protection and pro-poor agricultural growth: what scope for synergies** Farrington, J & Slater, R. & Holmes, R (2004) *Natural Resource Perspectives* 91, January 2004. ODI.

**Evaluating Social Funds. A Cross-Country Analysis of Country Investments.** Rawlings, L et al., 2004, World Bank.

**General Review of Current Social Protection Policies and Programmes** A Synthesis paper prepared for DFID. Shepherd, A. et al (2004) ODI

**Mainstreaming safety nets in the social protection policy agenda: A new vision or the same old perspective?** Gentilini, U. ,2005, Paper presented at Conference on Social Protection for Chronic Poverty. CPRC, Manchester University.

## Aid policy and state building in difficult environments

Although policy approaches to linking relief and development in protracted crises and post-conflict situations have begun to explore areas of shared responsibility, there remain serious differences of opinion between humanitarian and development actors on the issue of state building. A key question relates to how development actors should position themselves in relation to governments that are engaged in major hostilities, or that stand accused of human rights violations. With the new security agenda, there is increasing coherence between aid, politics, trade, diplomacy and military activities, yet some argue that such an integrated approach risks undermining the ability of humanitarian aid to relieve poverty and suffering.

**Beyond the Continuum: An Overview of the Changing Role of Aid Policy in Protracted Crises**, Joanna Macrae and Adele Harmer (2004) Briefing Paper 16, London: ODI.

**A Critical Review of the 'Poor Performers' Debate**, Chapter 2 in 'Aid to 'Poorly Performing' Countries: a Critical Review of Debates and Issues', Macrae, J et al., 2004,. Chapter 2 London: ODI.  
See chapter 2

**Community-driven reconstruction as an instrument in war to peace transitions.** Cliffe, S, Guggenheim, S. & Kostner, M., 2003, World Bank.

**Try Again, Fail Again, Fail Better? War, the State and the 'Post-Conflict Challenge in Afghanistan** Cramer, C. and Goodhand, J., 2002, *Development and Change*, vol. 33, no. 5, pp.885-909  
Read Summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/842>

**Senior Level Forum on Development Effectiveness in Fragile States, Harmonisation and alignment in fragile States.** Christiansen, K., Coyle, E. & Lockhart, C., 2004, OECD

## Humanitarian Principles

The three core humanitarian principles are: impartiality (the provision of aid according to and in proportion to need); neutrality (dealing equally with both sides to a conflict and not discriminating on the basis of gender, ethnicity, class or other traits); and independence (the independence of humanitarian objectives from any political, military or economic considerations). There are particular difficulties in applying the principles in practice, particularly in post-conflict rehabilitation where livelihoods or rights-based principles are also important but not necessarily compatible with humanitarian principles.

**The Principles of Humanitarian Action in Practice** Macrae, J. & Leader, N., 2000, HPG Report 2, March 2000.

**Fidelity and Variation: Discerning the Development and Evolution of the Humanitarian Idea** Slim, H , 2000, The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs, 24 (1): 5-22

**Background Note: The Relevance of Humanitarian Principles** FIFC, 2004, Informal Meeting, Humanitarian Aid Committee, Dublin, March 25-26, 2004



## Further Reading

Research and technical resources to explore Rehabilitation and Conflict themes in more depth.  
**International Crisis Group (ICG)**

Web: <http://www.crisisgroup.org>

ICG is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation, with over 110 staff members on five continents, working through field-based analysis and high-level advocacy to prevent and resolve deadly conflict. Crisis Group produces regular analytical reports containing practical recommendations targeted at key international decision-takers. It also publishes *CrisisWatch*, a 12-page monthly bulletin, providing a succinct regular update on the state of play in all the most significant situations of conflict or potential conflict around the world.

**Sphere Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response**

Web: <http://www.sphereproject.org/handbook/>

This sets out what people affected by disasters have a right to expect from humanitarian assistance. The aim of the Sphere Project is to improve the quality of assistance provided to people affected by disasters, and to enhance the accountability of the humanitarian system in disaster response.

**ODI Livelihoods and Chronic Conflict Working Papers Series**

Web: [http://www.odi.org.uk/publications/working\\_papers/livelihood\\_chronic\\_conflict.html](http://www.odi.org.uk/publications/working_papers/livelihood_chronic_conflict.html)

These ten papers review the range of ways in which livelihoods approaches are currently used by operational agencies and researchers working in situations of chronic conflict and political instability. The aim of the series is to document current practice so that useful lessons can be learned and applied to ensure for more effective policies, needs assessment, and aid programming to support livelihoods during protracted conflict.

**Governance Resource Centre Exchange - Topic on Conflict**

Web: [http://www.grc-exchange.org/g\\_themes/conflict\\_reconstruction.html](http://www.grc-exchange.org/g_themes/conflict_reconstruction.html)

This introduces the governance aspects of conflict analysis, conflict prevention, and reconstruction in countries affected by conflict. The website also includes resources relating to political systems, public financial management, aid policy, service delivery, the role of the private sector in peacebuilding, security and justice and case studies from conflict-affected contexts.

**The Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU)**

Web: <http://www.areu.org.af/>

AREU is an independent research organisation whose mission is to conduct and facilitate action-oriented research and learning that informs and influences policy and practice. AREU's current research framework includes seven themes: education; gender; governance; health; livelihoods and vulnerability; natural resource management; and political economy and markets. All their publications are available on the website.

**Chronic conflict** An acute crisis of political authority and governance where 'fragile states' are either unable or unwilling to fulfil core functions leading to a breakdown in the contract between the state and its citizens.

**Development assistance** Development assistance is designed to alleviate poverty and promote economic growth. This is in contrast to Relief which is essentially designed to save lives in the face of temporary threats to livelihoods.

**Food for work programmes** Food for work programmes have been promoted for their capacity to target poor populations by providing food in return for work on public goods so offering a reliable safety net by. Empirical evidence is mixed however.

**Food Security** The condition when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

**Humanitarian Principles** Humanitarian principles are based on the work of the Red Cross, and they have their underpinnings in international humanitarian law. The principles are a type of framework for how individuals/organisations act, a "code of conduct" for everyone present in a complex emergency, including the warring parties.

Three principles are referred to in the Conflict and Rehabilitation briefing paper - impartiality, neutrality and independence.

**Neutrality** This refers to not taking sides in the hostilities or in controversies based on political, racial, religious or ideological identity (non-partisanship/independence). Transparency and openness are key issues to keep neutrality. For an organization, which has human rights principles at its core, neutrality does not imply, however, that behind an argument of wanting to stay neutral the organization could decide to take no action at all in response to human rights violations. Neutrality for an organization that has taken on a rights-based approach must therefore not be an obstacle to tackling human rights violations.

**Impartiality** Aid is delivered to all those who are suffering, the guiding principle is only their need and the corresponding right. Human rights are the basis and the framework for an assessment of needs. The idea is, based on our definition of protection, that depending on which right are to be fulfilled (for example, the right to health or the right to a fair trial), the aid community should respond with the appropriate assistance, advocacy and action. Accordingly, this principle can include both the proportionality to need as well as the principle of non-discrimination. Proportionality to the need also reflects accountability of the aid community to the victims as well as to donors. It is crucial to emphasize state responsibility in the context of ensuring that aid is delivered in an impartial way.

**Independence** Decisions on humanitarian intervention should be based on needs alone, independent of military or political objectives.

**Impartiality** One of the key Humanitarian Principles . Aid is delivered to all those who are suffering, the guiding principle is only their need and the corresponding right. Human rights are the basis and the framework for an assessment of needs. The idea is, based on our definition of protection, that depending on which right are to be fulfilled (for example, the right to health or the right to a fair trial), the aid community should respond with the appropriate assistance, advocacy and action. Accordingly, this principle can include both the proportionality to need as well as the principle of non-discrimination. Proportionality to the need also reflects accountability of the aid community to the victims as well as to donors. It is crucial to emphasize state responsibility in the context of ensuring that aid is delivered in an impartial way.

**Independence** One of the key Humanitarian Principles. The Principle of Independence broadly means that decisions on humanitarian intervention should be based on needs alone, independent of military or political objectives.

**Neutrality** This refers to not taking sides in the hostilities or in controversies based on political, racial, religious or ideological identity (non-partisanship/independence). Transparency and openness are key issues to keep neutrality. For an organization, which has human rights principles at its core, neutrality does not imply, however, that behind an argument of wanting to stay neutral the organization could decide to take no action at all in response to human rights violations. Neutrality for an organization that has taken on a rights-based approach must therefore not be an obstacle to tackling human rights violations. One of the key Humanitarian Principles.

**Political economy analysis** Political economy analysis focuses on power and wealth relations and on the processes that create, sustain and transform these relationships over time; it is essentially concerned with understanding the interaction of political and economic processes and associated dynamics of power and powerlessness between different groups and institutions in society. In situations of chronic conflict, political economy is concerned both with political dynamics (such as group-based rebellion against the state) and with economic forces (such as war economies) - both 'grievance' and 'greed' - which are combined in changing patterns of power and vulnerability, creating both 'winners' and 'losers'

**Post-conflict** A situation in which a country is emerging from conflict. The use of the term 'post-conflict' does not necessarily imply absolute peace. The emergence from conflict involves multiple transitions: in security (from war to peace); a political transition (from authoritarianism to a more participatory form of government); and a socio-economic transition that includes the rebuilding of economic capacities. Transition can involve change in either direction, and spans an undefined period of time.

**Rehabilitation** Rehabilitation is often regarded as the link between relief and development, such a linkage is constrained by the differing objectives, mandates and operating rules of these two forms of assistance. Terms like rehabilitation, reconstruction, and recovery imply a return to a former supposedly stable and desirable state of affairs, but a return to the pre-conflict situation may merely recreate the conditions that led to war in the first place. A key challenge in such contexts is to strike an appropriate balance between the short term need to rebuild quickly and the long term desire to reform.

**Social protection** In recent years there has been a growing interest in social protection among donor agencies. In its broadest sense, social protection can be defined as an approach to thinking about the processes, policies and interventions which respond to the economic, social, political and security risks and constraints poor and vulnerable people face. According to the World Bank, the purpose of social protection is essentially threefold:

- to reduce the vulnerability of low-income households with regard to basic consumption and services;
- to allow households to shift income efficiently over the life-cycle, thus financing consumption when needed; and
- to enhance equity particularly with regard to exposure to, and the effects of adverse shocks. Social protection is concerned with the ways in which individuals' or households' resilience to adverse events can be strengthened.

**Vulnerability** The probability or risk of falling into, or deeper into, poverty.

