

# **E-Discussion on Economic Revitalization**



## Summary:

### *Programme Approach:*

1. Peacebuilding impact of economic revitalization
2. Programme design
3. Infrastructure
4. Employment, vocational training and reintegration
5. Land and natural resources
6. The private sector and markets

### *Non-Competence:*

7. Local ownership

### *Equality Resource:*

8. Gender

### *Policy Environment:*

9. Local policy environment

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*Importance of economic revitalization on peace building*

Economic revitalization and its various sub-sectors (employment, infrastructure, etc) can play an important role in consolidating peace and preventing



private sector. One way of ensuring a link between training and employment is to involve the private sector in curriculum development and link participants to the informal and formal market place through apprenticeships.

Short-term employment programmes, such as 'cash for food' projects, can be an important means of supporting livelihoods in the immediate aftermath of conflict. Hiring of members of local communities for infrastructure projects was cited as good practice. It was also suggested that such short-term labour projects could be managed by the private sector and combined with skills training.

In the medium- to long-term employment activities should promote the creation of sustainable jobs rather than work programmes that rely on external funding. Labour market analysis and development of a coherent national economic strategy are essential in the creation of sustainable employment. Indeed, ultimately economic revitalization depends on macro-economic policies and large scale investments in areas of growth, as opposed to smaller scale, externally funded projects and programmes.

The '3 x 6 approach', discussed in the context of Burundi, may be of wider interest for practitioners. The approach is aimed at the reintegration of conflict-affected groups and it is based on the three principles of inclusiveness, ownership and sustainability. Firstly, inclusion of ex-combatants in the implementation of microprojects can restore trust on the community level. Secondly, local ownership is achieved through the encouragement of associations that pool savings for economic reintegration projects. Finally, sustainability will involve continued support to successful associations.

#### Land tenure management

Land tenure was identified as a source of potential tensions; the issue is closely linked to rule of law and ambiguous or changing land ownership structures. The facilitation of 'land use agreements' was identified as a way to solve land tenure disputes and ensure commonly accepted standards on the use of land and investments.

Land tenure systems and land rights management strongly impact the agricultural sector. The agricultural sector was identified as a key area of growth for most post-conflict countries where the majority of the population lives in rural areas and depends on small scale agriculture for their livelihood. Ensuring secure rights to land, especially for youth and women, is a pre-requisite for increased agricultural productivity. Despite the potential of the agricultural sector to revitalize the economy, there is under-investment in projects in rural areas.

In Liberia a dispute between a government forestry agency and a local community had escalated to low-level violence. A one-year project to promote community-based natural resource management and alternative livelihoods was successful in mitigating the conflict and engendering cooperation between the community members and the government agency.

*Precedence* L

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- A youth employment project in the Niger Delta region, conducted in partnership with

gender-based violence, which can prevent women from travelling outside of the home to participate in economic activities or training programmes. At the same time, both women and men, especially young and unmarried are affected by post-war violence. Ensuring peace-dividends through economic revitalisation includes to design programmes that also give attention