

Working Group on Lessons Learned
Special Session, 12 June 2008

SYNTHESIS REPORT AND SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS
Key Insights, Principles, Good Practices and Emerging Lessons in
Peacebuilding

Executive Summary

Key Insights, Principles, Good Practices and Emerging Lessons in Peacebuilding

I. Introduction

Since its entry into UN vocabulary with An Agenda for Peace in 1992, peacebuilding has evolved significantly, both as a concept and as a growing body of policy and practice. The decision to create a new peacebuilding architecture at the UN World Summit in December 2005 provided the missing institutional framework and the additional impetus to improve international assistance for peacebuilding in countries emerging from conflict. Formally launched in June 2006, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) supports post-conflict countries on its agenda through integrated approaches to peacebuilding. In accordance with its founding resolutions, the PBC a

issue areas: elections; local governance; budget support; internally displaced persons;

•

- External actors (including the United Nations, the international financial

renewed war following elections. Countries have used a range of strategies and mechanisms to alleviate the risks associated with e

truth commissions, reparation programs, security sector reform; and memorialization efforts. Key lessons from comparative experiences in diverse contexts such as Sierra Leone, South Africa and Cambodia include the following:

- There is no single formula for dealing with a past marked by massive and systematic abuse. Each society should, indeed must, choose its own path. However, it is necessary to examine prior national and international experiences to avoid repeating avoidable errors.
- National ownership as well as active consultation with and participation of the public (including victim groups) are essential.
- Timing and sequencing are important. Design of justice mechanisms and processes must balance the demands of justice with the realities of what can be achieved in the short term. Adopting a comprehensive approach to transitional justice, encompassing judicial, non-judicial and restorative justice, would help in this regard.
- In this context, the need for “transition to justice” should be taken into account while designing justice mechanisms in times of transition so to accompany transitional justice with appropriate measures to lay the foundations of a self-sustainable national justice system.
- Transitional justice measures which neglect the distinct injuries suffered by women, as well as gendered patterns of abuse faced by men and women in accessing justice, will miss opportunities to address the gender

refwqCiKmf-zCsKm.bzf --VCuK
pipjpgcS Nfbqv--VCWKmfV.b.wqCcKfbq-(vVCSKm.bq-qVCSKm.b.-vwqCIKm.bjjjRT f u [

- The successful return of IDPs requires that their safety during and after returning is guaranteed, their property and housing are restored and the environment that sustains return is created by the government with the cooperation of the international community.
- The quality of the process leading to durable solutions is critical. While IDPs usually want to return, they must be granted the free and informed choice between return to the place of origin, integration in the area of displacement or relocation in other parts of the country.
- Only if the specific needs of returnees as well as the communities receiving them are addressed can a sustained reintegration be assured.
- To overcome the traditional dichotomies between humanitarian and development processes, a development perspective needs to be integrated into finding durable solutions for IDPs.
- Quick and flexible funding

Gender and Peacebuilding: Enhancing Women's Partici

between ECOWAS, the United Nations and the European Commission. Other practical lessons include the following:

- Refugee flows, small arms, youth gangs and natural resource management are promising areas for regional cooperation. However, it is particularly important to identify concrete problems in each sub-region and to program around them through cross-country or border zone projects.
- In West Africa a regional approach to youth unemployment and the extractive industries (along the lines of the Kimberley Process for diamonds) would be particularly appropriate.
- The Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the

- Concrete, measurable, and time-bound indicators, overseen by a nationally-led monitoring mechanism, are essential for sequencing priorities and assessing progress and setbacks toward agreed commitments between the national government and its international partners.
- Greater aid effectiveness spurs national capacity and international confidence. On the other hand, donor conditionality can undermine a peace process.
- Neighboring countries can play a significant role in providing political and other forms of support.
- Peacebuilding strategic frameworks need to help sustain a political process rather than serve as another document. It is essential to bring different frameworks and approaches to peacebuilding under one umbrella.

Summing Up: Key Principles and Elements of Peacebuilding

- Specificity of peacebuilding: in order to address drivers of conflict that are context-specific, peacebuilding strategies have to be informed by accurate analysis of country realities.
- National ownership: the primary responsibility and ownership for peace

programming on the ground. While previous sessions included presentations from various departments, agencies, funds and programs, their input on selected topics could be based on a more systematic analysis of capacities and gaps.

Links with peacebuilding organizations around the world: Beyond the PBC and the UN system at large, several member states highlighted the need for the WGLL to engage more effectively with the larger peacebuilding community including regional and sub-regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, academic and research institutions and think tanks. It was noted that such collaboration would yield greater systematization of knowledge on peacebuilding.

Promoting synergies and knowledge utilization: It was proposed that the WGLL should strive to facilitate greater synergies across different actors and stakeholders with a view to promoting the sharing and application of knowledge to help advance peacebuilding policy and practice. In specific, it was noted that the WGLL should ensure that good practices and lessons learned are systematized and targeted to relevant policy and operational actors as appropriate.

Annex
WGLL Meetings 2007-2008

Peacebuilding, Elections, and Risk Reduction in Post-Conflict Contexts	20 February 2007
International Compacts	17 April 2007
Regional Approaches to Peacebuilding	8 June 2007
Peacebuilding Strategic Frameworks, Indicators, and Monitoring Mechanisms	19 September 2007
Buttressing the State's Fiscal Capacities: Comparative Lessons from Budget Support	8 November 2007
Local Governance and Decentralization Efforts in Post-conflict Countries	13 December 2007