



Wilton Park

Programme

Rethinking statebuilding, fragility and conflict

Monday 31 October – Wednesday 2 November 2016 | WP1499

Context and objectives

Within the new SDG framework governments are committed to building effective institutions and significantly reducing violence. How states can best do this, what role aid should play in supporting it and how SDG commitments relate to previously agreed fragile states principles and the New Deal all require fresh thinking. 2016 is an opportune moment to take stock of approaches to conflict and fragility in the light of new commitments made to conflict prevention at the World Humanitarian Summit, and following the UN peacebuilding and peacekeeping reviews.

There is a growing perception that approaches to conflicts, fragility and state-building need to be fundamentally re-thought following setbacks in contexts such as South Sudan and across the Middle East. Donors including the UK and Australian governments are in the process of reviewing and updating their approaches to conflict, fragility and state-building. The World Bank and the UN are preparing a new report for 2017 on the role of development interventions in preventing conflict and violence. These debates need to be informed by high quality empirical research.

The UK is committed to increasingly focussing its aid on fragile and conflict affected places and has developed a new 'building stability' framework informed by its investments in research and evidence on fragility. DFID has funded a number of important multi-year research programmes focussed on conflict and fragility, which are coming to an end in 2016. The Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium (SLRC) is a 6 year global research programme on livelihoods and access to services in conflicts led by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). The workshop will also be informed by leading researchers affiliated with the Justice and Security Research Programme, ReBuild and other efforts examining how to support peoples' access to health and education and rebuild livelihoods in conflicts, and whether or not this contributes to legitimacy and state-building.

This workshop will bring together hot off the press empirical research, practitioners and policy makers to have in depth discussions about how to improve the policy and practice of international engagement and domestic action in places affected by conflict. There will be a particular geographic focus on the most difficult situations of conflict and fragility, where conflicts are ongoing and state authority is contested including South Sudan, Somalia, Afghanistan, and the Middle East.

The conference will enable fresh thinking within a neutral, confidential and collaborative environment to inspire new approaches to better tackling conflict, fragility and violence informed by rigorous research. Specific objectives include:

- to examine experience and identify key lessons through in-depth discussion of case studies and new empirical research;

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- to explore new thinking and approaches regarding how development aid can more effectively help to counter conflict, fragility and violence and foster state legitimacy;
- to assess how to implement new approaches and frameworks for tackling conflict, fragility and violence, taking into account the linkages, dilemmas and trade-offs between different goals and policy options.

Outputs and impact

Following the workshop SLRC will lead on producing a summary report of the workshop deliberations, to include a policy brief on 10 ways that peacebuilding and state-building should be done differently. The workshop discussions and written products will help inform:

- the UN and World Bank's planned 2017 report on development and conflict prevention;
- the roll-out and translation into action of DFID's new stability framework; and
- next steps for the New Deal, in particular how it should work in ongoing conflicts where state authority is contested.

Monday 31 October

1300-1430

Participants arrive and buffet lunch available

1500

Welcome and introduction

Robert Grant

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

Marta Foresti

Interim Executive Director, Overseas Development Institute, London

1515-1645

1. The challenges of conflict and violence for development aid

Have the last 10 years of investment in post conflict state-building disappointed? Should the concepts, the implementation or just the expectations about what state-building could achieve be adjusted?

Alexandre Marc

Chief Specialist, Fragility, Conflict and Violence, The World Bank Group, Washington DC

Joëlle Jenny

Former Director for Security Policy and Conflict Prevention, European External Action Service, Brussels

1645-1730

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1730-1900

2. Evolving policy approaches to state-building and their evidentiary basis

What does new empirical research say about how people experience peace negotiations, security and aid in conflict? What lessons can be taken about how to build state capacities to support livelihoods and access to services, particularly in ongoing conflicts and where state authority is contested? What commonalities and differences are there between major research projects and findings? What are the implications for existing approaches? What are key building blocks for tackling conflict and violence, and the linkages between them?

Dominik Zaum

Research Dean, University of Reading

Marcus Lenzen

Senior Conflict Adviser and Team Leader, Building Stability Hub, Department for

International Development, London

1900

Reception followed by dinner

Tuesday 1 November

0800-0900

Breakfast

0900-0930

3. Case study terms of reference

Summary of key points of first day discussions and their role in the case study discussions. Review of methodology and goals of the case study break out groups.

Rurik Marsden

Deputy Director, Research and Evidence Division, Department for International Development, London

0930-1100

4. Case study assessment in parallel breakout groups

What lessons have emerged from experience in, South Sudan, Afghanistan, the Middle East, Somalia and other conflict-affected areas over the last decade? How should these inform future approaches to peacebuilding, justice, livelihoods and service delivery?

The breakout groups will consider how aid in the four case studies delivered against five key building blocks for achieving stability in conflict-affected environments. Could different policies have delivered better results?

Each group will have a facilitator, one expert speaker to give a 10 minute introductory talk, and a rapporteur.

Somalia

Facilitator

Babu Rahman

Deputy Head, Research Analysts, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

Speaker

Hussein Kasim

Chief Policy Analyst, Somalia Stability Fund, Nairobi, Kenya

South Sudan

Facilitator

Mareike Schomerus

Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London

Speaker

Frederick Carver

Independent, Addis Ababa

Afghanistan

Facilitator

Lou Perrotta

Consultant, Former Head of Lessons Team, Stabilisation Unit, London

Speaker

Timor Sharan

Senior Analyst, International Crisis Group, Kabul

Middle East

Facilitator

Andrew Rathmell

Managing Director, Aktis Strategy Limited, London

Speakers

Maha Yahya

Director, Carnegie Middle East Center, Beirut

Paul Salem

Vice President for Policy and Research, Middle East Institute, Washington DC

1100-1130

Tea/coffee

1130-1300

5. Wicked problems

Breakout group rapporteurs will each raise two 'wicked problems' arising from the preceding case study discussions. An expert panel of research project leaders will address these challenges, with further elaboration through roundtable discussion.

Rachel Slater

Research Director, Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium (SLRC) , Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London

Mary Kaldor

Professor, Global Governance; Director, Civil Society and Human Security Research Unit, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), London

Christine Bell

Assistant Principal (Global Justice), Professor of Constitutional Law, University of Edinburgh

Charles Call

Non Resident Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution, Washington DC

1300-1500

Lunch

1500-1630

6. Continuation of session three case study case study assessments in parallel breakout groups

1630-1700

Tea/coffee

1700-1830

7. Report back in plenary session from case study breakout group discussions and formulation of topics for session 8 breakout groups

1900

Reception followed by dinner with after dinner speaker

Rory Stewart

Minister of State, Department for International Development, London

Wednesday 2 November

0800-0900

Breakfast and checkout

0900-1100

8. Putting policy into practice

These breakout groups will provide an opportunity to draw all of the discussions together to consider how to put into practice major elements of a new policy framework for development aid in conflict environments. Conference participants will collectively define the topics for these breakout groups during the second half of the preceding session (interactive software will assist with this process).

Facilitators:

Tom Parks

Regional Governance and Fragility Specialist, Asia, Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Bangkok

Jago Salmon

Advisor UN/WB Partnership in Fragile and Conflict Affected States, United Nations, New York

Karin von Hippel

Director General, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), London

Marie-Joëlle Zahar

Professor of Political Science, Director, Research Network on Peace Operations, University of Montréal

1100-1130

Tea/coffee

1130-1140

9. eQuestionnaire

Completion of online eQuestionnaire

1140-1300

10. Report back in plenary session from session 8 breakout groups and concluding discussion

Following the breakout group reports back, a facilitated discussion will take place on linkages, dilemmas, trade-offs and policy options. What are key takeaways from the meeting regarding: the rolling out of DFID's new stability framework in changed policy and practice, the contents of the forthcoming 2017 World Bank and UN report on conflict prevention, and the research agenda going forward to support evolving thinking on working in and after conflicts?

Alexandre Marc

Chief Specialist, Fragility, Conflict and Violence, The World Bank Group, Washington DC

Marcus Lenzen

Senior Conflict Adviser and Team Leader, Building Stability Hub, Department for International Development, London

Habib Ur Rehman Mayar

Deputy General Secretary, G7 Plus + Secretariat, Dili

Paul Harvey

Partner, Humanitarian Outcomes, London

1300

Lunch

1400

Participants depart