Good Governance Practices: A Mechanism to Mitigate the Impact of Conflict on Development

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Strengthening Good Governance Practices in Conflict affected Countries: Lessons Learned and the Way Forward

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Security, Development and Human Rights are Interrelated and Mutually Reinforcing, One Cannot Last Without the Other.

2005 Outcome Document
Contents

I. Patterns and Dynamics of Conflict and Instability in the ESCWA Region: An Unfavorable Environment for Good Governance

II. Good Governance, Peace Building and Development

III. Setting the Stage: Mitigating the Good Governance Deficit in the ESCWA Region
Contents

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A Region Beset by Conflict and Political Tension

- Major Wars (every 10 years on average, major regional conflict with long term repercussions):
  - Arab-Israeli Conflicts and occupation by Israel of Palestine and other Arab lands, including 2006 Israeli-Lebanese war, 2008/9 War on Gaza Strip
  - Three Gulf Wars

- Political Instability and Numerous Flash Points
  - Threats of civil wars/internal strife
Political Tension, Conflict and De-Development: The Spillover Effect

- Political Tension
- Conflict
- Collapse of Weak State Institutions

Spillover Effects
- Refugees
- Diverging resources from development to military spending
- Illegal Migration
- Brain Drain
- Capital Flight
- Negative Economic Growth
- Religious Extremism
- Terrorism
- Mushrooming of ethno-sectarian tensions

De-Development
I. Patterns and Dynamics of Conflict and Instability in the ESCWA Region: An Unfavorable Environment for Good Governance

The Vicious Cycle
Conflict Affected Countries: The Local Dimension

Weak State Institutions

Conflict / Political Tensions
De-Development

Deficient Local Socio-Economic Performance and Reform Processes

International/Regional/Local Competing Interests
Common Patterns of Local Conflicts and Political Tension in the ESCWA Region

• Protracted

• Short-lived political accommodations

• Conflicts are not continuous but intermittent: times of apparent stability are plagued by constant tensions and are interrupted by sporadic periods of heightened clashes

• Most conflicts in the region are interlinked
Common Patterns of Governance Deficit in Conflict Affected Countries

- Rigid centralized decision-making – political and security considerations override
- Patronage, corruption and clientelism
- Inefficient state institutions/services and outdated administrative practices
- Widening gap between rich and poor, leaders and people
- Polarized leadership

National State Institutions Unable to Address Political Discord or Economic Grievances

Increased instability, poverty, unemployment
Contents

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II. Good Governance, Peace Building and Development

III. Setting the Stage: Mitigating the Good Governance Deficit in the ESCWA Region
The Virtuous Cycle of Sustainable Peace and Development
Good Governance in the Post-Conflict Phase

Commitment of Key Political Actors

Security

Stability

Rule of Law

Legitimate, Credible, Efficient and Viable State Institutions

Participatory Public Policy Formulation
Contents

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III. Setting the Stage: Mitigating the Good Governance Deficit in the ESCWA Region
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Attempting to Break the Vicious Cycle in Conflict Affected Countries

- Political Commitment
- Adequate Skills of Civil Servants

SERVICE PROVISION ENTITIES
Water, health, sanitation, electricity, education

Improved Service Delivery
→ Increased Efficiency of State Institutions and Local Governance Structures
→ Strengthened Stability, Development, and Reconciliation Efforts

Political Dividends for Ruling Elite
Creation of an **Internal Dynamic** within Essential Service Provision Sectors

**Middle Managers**
- Future Leaders
- Interaction with Staff
- Field/Technical Experience

**Train peers and staff**

**Capacity-Building Modules (TOT)**

**Impact Assessment of Trainers and Trainees**

**Continuous Evolution and Development of Toolkit**

**Drivers of Administrative & Managerial Reform**

**Institution-Building**
III. Setting the Stage: Mitigating the Good Governance Deficit in the ESCWA Region

Capacity-Building Modules

- Develop a comprehensive national capacity-building strategy
- Programme based on National Needs and Local Resources
- Concerted effort
- Cost effectiveness
- Results oriented/Realizable Goals

- Tap into Regional Success Stories. Success stories within the region are easier to emulate:
  - Cultural barriers are less pronounced (language, traditions)
  - Similarities of socio-economic givens (similar development patterns)
  - Examples of successes “closer to home” make them seem more viable (increased confidence by target group)

Knowledge and skills are easier to transfer
Mobilizing the Commitment of Key Political Actors

- Benefits rendered would encompass constituency from which they derive their legitimacy and political influence → claim of improving livelihood of followers → political capital

- Public awareness/media campaign of the objectives and benefits of the comprehensive national capacity-building strategy, with particular emphasis on political endorsement of the covenant by key political actors → infringement could prove politically costly

- Endorsement and involvement of key political actors (through their qualified constituencies operating within the service delivery branches of the public sector) grants full ownership of the process.
III. Setting the Stage: Mitigating the Good Governance Deficit in the ESCWA Region

Good Governance Practices: A Mechanism to Mitigate the Impact of Conflict on Development

• Creation of an internal sustainable dynamic within the service provision sector is a building bloc for an indigenous institution-building process

• A strong service provision sector is able to mitigate the impact of conflict on the development infrastructure and contribute towards peace as well as nation building efforts
Thank You.