Governance and Conflict Relapse
Expert Group Meeting
May 31st, 2011
EMERGING AND CONFLICT RELATED ISSUES (ECRI) SECTION

“Good Governance in Conflict Affected Countries: Revisiting the Priorities”

MAY 31ST, 2011
Poor governance is a catalyst for conflict.

Conflict reinforces poor governance practices.
Vicious Cycle of Conflict and Governance Deficit

- Conflict
- Ceasefire/Peace Deal
- Political Accommodations
- Weak Public Sector
Governance and Conflict

Aftermath of Conflict

Insecurity
Political Uncertainty

High expectations for:
• Political and social stability
• Reconstruction
• Peace
• Provision of Basic Services
• Restoration of Core Government Functions
• Economic Revitalization

Requires Good Governance Practices
Why did citizens rise?

- Government failed to provide the most basic services
- Unemployment was widespread
- Restricted freedom of press
- Limited political debate
- Weak participatory mechanisms
- Nepotism and predatory corruption
- Police brutality, human rights violations and repression
The Interacting Variables of Conflict

**Governance Deficit**

- Lack of Political Will
  - Geopolitical volatility
  - Power sharing agreements
  - Corruption, rents, “easy money”

- Weak State Structures
  - No checks and balances
  - Lack of resources and training
  - Obsolete administration
  - No broad political participation
  - Corruption and nepotism
  - Non state actors

- Public Discourse
  - No priority on civic values
  - Repression, dissent and poor economic performance
  - Lack of freedom challenged, resistance movements

- External Factors
  - Spillover effects: Refugees, Brain Drain, Increased Military Spending, etc.
  - Forces of Globalization and Global Emerging Trends (i.e. Food Crisis)
  - International/Regional Power Politics

Potential Conflict Relapse
Difficult Governance Reform
What is required is reemphasizing good governance
Good governance in conflict settings is the **optimal utilization** of resources by all stakeholders for the **delivery of essential services** to the entire civilian population, thereby mitigating the impact of conflict on development and strengthening peacebuilding efforts.
National: ruling elite (leaders of factions, political parties, non-state actors, etc.)

International: donors, multilateral agencies (World Bank, UN, and International Civil Society)

Beneficiaries: entire civilian population, including conflict driven displaced, residents in marginalized areas or “hot spots”
Primary focus on
Essential Service Provision

Sound governance practices
Resilience to withstand conflict

Sustainable Peace, Reconciliation and Development
Suggested Approach: Optimal Utilization of Resources

Generate Political Will

Separate technical from the political National Will (Arab Spring)

Strengthen National Institutional Capacity

Build human resources, infrastructure and administrative legislation

Coordinate Efforts by Development Practitioners

Focus on essential service provision

Long term commitment to build resilient public sector
In this new approach:

- Reestablishment of Social Network
- Driver of National Purpose
- Reinforce National Identity and Legitimacy
- Mitigation of Political Fractures
- Infrastructure for Development and Recovery

Public service delivery

Reconciliation process
Concerted efforts of development practitioners

Create a public sector that is resilient to conflict and able to address adverse elements.

The only entity capable of generating donor concerted efforts is the national government and its specialized institutions:
- Aid Coordination
- Recovery Coordination
- Planning and Prevention
Civilians’ basic needs are covered, even during conflict

Thank you
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