

AGENDA ITEM VII.

Evaluating in settings of fragility

Room Document 9.

Overview of Resources and Recent work on Evaluating in Settings of Violent Conflict and Fragility

This document has been prepared by the Secretariat *for information*. This note provides an overview of the network's recent work in the area of evaluating peacebuilding, conflict prevention, humanitarian and development interventions in settings of violent conflict and fragility. A list of key resources is provided for members' reference. Members will be invited to share recent work in this field and to discuss any needs for further development.

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16th Meeting

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The Evaluation Network's engagement in peacebuilding evaluation

Work on the topic of evaluating in settings of violent conflict and fragility began in the Evaluation Network in the 1990's under the framework of "difficult partnerships". Along with the rest of the aid community, evaluation departments found themselves struggling to work in and understand the role of external partners in settings of protracted conflict. As donor policy and programmes in this field were articulated and funding increased (particularly after the attacks of September 11, 2001, the involvement of evaluation in issues of peace and conflict grew. The Conflict, Peace and Development Network of the DAC was working on improving programme design, monitoring and evaluation in these fields and approached the Evaluation Network in the mid-2000s for support; a collaboration between the two groups was launched. This partnership culminated in the development (2007) and testing of draft guidance in southern Sudan, eastern DRC, Sri Lanka, Haiti and elsewhere (2007-2012). The guidance was revised and published in 2012 and a web-portal created to help stimulate the community of practice and encourage further learning.

Network members continue to carry out thematic and programme evaluations of peacebuilding and state-building support efforts, as well as programme and policy evaluations (see Annex 1). Danida, IOB Netherlands, KfW, the AfDB, the World Bank IEG and others have recently carried out major thematic or policy evaluations in this field. DFID is funding research on providing aid in highly insecure environments, with a draft paper on monitoring and evaluation due out in March. On the humanitarian front, a number of specific initiatives are underway within the humanitarian community (see SPHERE, OCHA, ALNAP) and there have also been attempts to look at humanitarian aid in fragile settings from a conflict-sensitivity perspective and to evaluate it together with other forms of aid in protracted crises (as was done in the DRC evaluation).

While it is felt that the guidance and recent learning from experience have helped improve approaches to evaluation in these settings, many challenges remain and there is still a visible "evaluation gap" in countries affected by violent conflict. Following completion of the guidance, members from Denmark, Norway and the Secretariat (working in their private capacities) worked with the evaluation teams involved in piloting the draft guidance and other researchers in the field to publish a book of case studies on the evaluation methodologies.

Through the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) and the International Dialogue / g7+ fragile states group, DAC members and partners are pursuing a "New Deal for Fragile States" (<http://www.newdeal4peace.org/>) including "compacts" between fragile states and international partners, which aim to coordinate and focus co-operation on strategic priorities such as job creation.

In May 2012, the Secretariat and a number of network members participated in a workshop on joint civil/military evaluation hosted by NATO Strategic Allied Command Transformation. Building on the discussions at that event, and other work of NATO to better understand development evaluation and to learn from humanitarian and development actors, NATO produced a book on operations assessment in conflict settings.

United Nations organisations are also very active in this field and have produced a number of resources on conflict analysis, monitoring, programme design and evaluation. The bulk of work on peacebuilding evaluation is underway in NGOs and implementing organisations, including research bodies such as CDA and Search for Common Ground – with whom we worked on the guidance. The

“Peacebuilding Evaluation Coalition” (hosted by the Alliance for Peacebuilding in the US) is another forum where implementing agencies, donors and partners are working to improve evaluation of peacebuilding interventions.

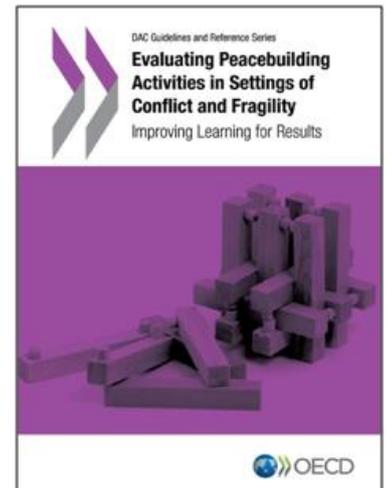
Key Resources

OECD DAC guidance on “Evaluating Peacebuilding Activities in Settings of Violent Conflict and Fragility – Improving Learning for results” (OECD 2012)

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/evaluatingconflictpreventionandpeacebuilding.htm>

Available online in English and French; An Arabic version is currently being developed, with the support of Norway. The publication provides step-by-step guidance on evaluation, and urges donors and partners to:

- Base their work on a clear understanding of the conflict context, its key drivers, political economy, dynamics and actors, and a deep analysis of how their own activities will interact with and impact (directly or indirectly) on peacebuilding and statebuilding processes.
- Use critical analysis to generate more credible information about the effectiveness and results of their peacebuilding strategies.
- Question the underlying assumptions of their work and strengthen the evidence-base for peacebuilding support by testing their theories about how change happens.



A Web Portal was developed with Search for Common Ground’s Learning Portal for Design, Monitoring & Evaluation (DM&E) for Peacebuilding:

<http://www.dmeforpeace.org/> In addition to a Discussion Space on the guidance, the website contains many useful resources for evaluators.

Examples of studies, tools and other resources for peacebuilding evaluation

- The *Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation* contains a wealth of information – see in particular Section II: Analysing Conflict and Assessing Conflict Transformation
<http://www.berghof-handbook.net/>
- “Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding: A Selected Bibliography of Evaluation of Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding Initiatives” (Catherine Morris)
<http://www.peacemakers.ca/bibliography/bib25evaluation.html>
- “Developing OECD DAC Guidance on Evaluating in Settings of Violent Conflict and Fragility,” *Journal of Peacebuilding & Development* (September 2013) by Megan G. Kennedy-Chouane
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15423166.2013.817747>
- The Peacebuilding Evaluation Coalition - <http://www.allianceforpeacebuilding.org/> , including USIP special report, *Improving Peacebuilding Evaluation: A Whole-of-Field Approach*
- *Evaluation Methodologies for Aid in Conflict* ed. Winckler-Andersen, Bull and Kennedy-Chouane Link: <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415870801/>

- “Recent developments in measuring progress in conflict environments” (NATO): <http://www.act.nato.int/volume-1-innovation-in-operations-assessment-recent-developments-in-measuring-progress-in-conflict-environments>
- “Proof of Concept: Nine Examples of Peacebuilding Evaluation” (from Alliance for Peacebuilding) http://www.allianceforpeacebuilding.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/USIP-AfP_2011_Peacebuilding_.pdf
- “Evaluating Stabilization Interventions” by Brown & Samii, with Kulma https://files.nyu.edu/cds2083/public/docs/evaluating_stabilization_interventions_120816sh_ortenedb.pdf
- “Reflective Peacebuilding: A Planning, Monitoring, and Learning Tool Kit” for peacebuilding practitioners (Kroc Institute and Catholic Relief Services' Southeast East Asia Regional Office) <http://kroc.nd.edu/research/books/strategic-peacebuilding/275>
- On humanitarian aid in conflict settings, see for example:
 - ALNAP: <http://www.alnap.org/>
 - The Sphere Project: <http://www.sphereproject.org/resources/>
 - [Guidance for Evaluating Humanitarian Assistance in Complex Emergencies](#) (OECD)
 - UN OCHA evaluation reports: <http://www.unocha.org/what-we-do/policy/thematic-areas/evaluations-of-humanitarian-response/reports>

Annex 1. Recent evaluations by DAC members

For a full list and links to reports visit DReC:

www.oecd.org/derec/publicationsdocuments/conflictpeaceandsecurity

Evaluation reports

IEG (2013), World Bank Group Assistance to Low-Income Fragile and Conflict-Affected States, The World Bank

SDC (2012), Evaluation of Performance of SDC instruments in fragile and conflict-affected contexts

AfDB (2012), Evaluation of the assistance of the African Development Bank to Fragile States

GIZ (2013), Results: good, but too local, Summary of the cross-section evaluation Crisis Prevention and Peacebuilding

Danida (2012), Effective statebuilding? A review of evaluations of international statebuilding support in fragile contexts, Ministry of Foreign affairs of Denmark

Danida (2013), Joint Evaluation of The International support to the peace process in Nepal 2006-12, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Danida (2012), Danish support to statebuilding and improved livelihoods in Afghanistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Danida (2012), Economic development and service delivery in fragile states, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Other

IOB (2013), *Mixed results for Dutch policy in fragile states*, IOB Evaluation Newsletter # 13 08, Dutch Ministry of foreign affairs

KfW (2013) "Fragile Settings: Lasting Impact" 12th Evaluation Report on Projects and Programmes in Developing Countries 2011-2013.

SADEV (2012), Adaptation of aid in situations of conflict and fragility, study of Sida's support system for conflict sensitivity and the case of Liberia

OECD (2012), Evaluating Peacebuilding Activities in Settings of Conflict and Fragility: Improving Learning for Results