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## **Network for Integrity in Reconstruction: Corruption, Effectiveness and Accountability in Post-War Countries**

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### **Overview**

The Network for Integrity in Reconstruction (NIR) project started in May 2005 with a three-fold aim:

- To produce policy-relevant research and case studies on a previously under-researched yet critical issue – corruption and integrity in post-war reconstruction;
- To facilitate a network of informed civil society leaders from post-war countries ready to take a lead in advocating and advancing integrity reforms;
- To build a constituency of committed reconstruction actors (including aid, diplomatic and peace-keeping actors) who in turn share their approach, policy problems and solutions and help turn practical policy recommendations into action.

The defining threat of post-war countries is the risk of a return to violence. Fifty percent of countries that have entered a peace agreement after persistent conflict have descended to violent conflict again within 10 years. Public expectations are high in post-war countries. Governments are expected to deliver, or least to be seen to be trying by behaving with integrity. If peace is seen to bring corruption and inequality rather than security and fairness, the threat of a return to war is high. The legitimacy of the government and the reconstruction process is at the core of the stability of post-war countries, in short, of the prospects for peace.

The relation between integrity, the legitimacy of the reconstruction process and stability is little understood. NIR explores the degree to which a systematic approach to integrity reform in post-war reconstruction settings might significantly contribute to improving both the effectiveness of recovery and decrease the likelihood of reverting to open conflict.

Integrity is defined as accountability (including transparency as a pre-requisite for accountability and community participation), professionalism (value for money, contextualised knowledge) and corruption control.

Tiri is an international NGO based in London that partners with civil society, governments, and business to create networks of committed change agents dedicated to strategic integrity reform.

The paper is the culmination of a series of studies of post-war reconstruction in eight countries commissioned by Tiri and funded by the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Foundation Open Society Institute. Studies are accessible on: [http://www.tiri.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=96&Itemid=66](http://www.tiri.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=96&Itemid=66)

These constitute the most extensive empirical research on the topic to date.

Eight local policy centres undertook research using a shared terms of reference. The countries covered are Afghanistan, Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo, Lebanon, Mozambique, Palestine, Sierra Leone, Timor Leste. The research is the basis for an advocacy and monitoring agenda to promote integrity in reconstruction both within the eight countries and internationally. Together, these organisations form the Network for Integrity in Reconstruction.

The project facilitates a growing network of civil society leaders from post-war countries committed to integrity in the reconstruction process. The Network was formally launched in January 2007.

The research outputs by April 2007 include:

- Reconstruction national integrity system survey mapping each country's integrity systems and reform processes
- Reconstruction survey mapping the opportunities for corruption presented by the reconstruction process in each country
- Case studies of integrity reforms and corruption cases for each country
- Opinion surveys and focus groups detailing local experiences
- The NIR policy paper bringing together the findings of all reports together with recommendations for donors, post-war governments and civil society

## Current Country Partners

Current members of the network are:

Afghanistan:	Integrity Watch Afghanistan
Bosnia-Herzegovina:	Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues
Kosova:	Kosovar Stability Initiative
Lebanon:	Lebanese Transparency Association and the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies
Palestine:	The Coalition for Accountability and Integrity – AMAN
Mozambique:	Centro de Integridade Publica
Sierra Leone:	National Accountability Group
Timor Leste:	Timorese Institute for Development Studies

The network will grow to incorporate civil society groups from other emerging post-war reconstruction settings over the next two years.

## Contact Details

Martin Tisné  
Assoc. Programme Director, Tiri  
Downstream Building 3<sup>rd</sup> fl,  
1, London Bridge  
London SE1 9BG

Tel: +44-20-70221905  
Fax: +44-20-7021906  
Mobile: +44-7979344692  
martin.tisne@tiri.org  
<http://www.tiri.org>