



# Dili International Conference on the post-2015 Development Agenda

**'Development for all: Stop conflict, build states and eradicate poverty'**

*26-28 February 2013, Dili Convention Centre*

*Dili, Timor-Leste*

## BRIEFING NOTE - SESSION 2b

# Peacebuilding through Human Security and Personal Safety

The Dili International Conference is generously supported by:



Australian Government  
AusAID



- Peacebuilding and disaster risk reduction share major challenges: both require long-term reconstruction; both often face the “gap” of assistance in a transition from emergency assistance to reconstruction; and both are about overcoming vulnerability and increasing resilience.
- Overcoming vulnerabilities and increasing resilience require functioning institutions which can respond to the needs of people. But institutions are ultimately founded on people and so are communities and states. It should be underscored that individuals, especially the most vulnerable, take the brunt in both conflicts and natural disasters; at the same time, it is people who are the drivers of reconstruction and peacebuilding.
- In this session, the participants are expected to discuss how we can better ensure people’s safety, protect and empower individuals and forge a stronger social contract, while reviewing the challenges and efforts concerning peacebuilding and disaster risk reduction. Participants will also consider possible ways to reflect peacebuilding and disaster risk reduction in the post-2015 development agenda.

## 1. Challenges in Post-Conflict Peacebuilding

### (1) Current Situations

- **1.5 billion people live in conflict-affected and fragile states.**
- **About 70% of fragile states have seen conflict since 1989.**
- **Basic governance transformations may take 20-40 years.**
- **30% of Official Development Assistance (ODA) is spent in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.**
- **These countries are furthest away from achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).**

Peace and security offer the foundation for and greatly impact on other development issues. For example, worldwide, among children of primary school age not in school, 42% (28 million) live in poor countries affected by conflict.

Post-conflict situations offer opportunities to address the root causes of conflicts. The individual, institutional and societal capacities should be strengthened in order to prevent the recurrence of violence, provide people with basic security and safety, bolster the rule of law, and build confidence in political processes and strengthen national capacities for sustainable peace and development. People should have access to basic services such as health, education, and opportunities to fully develop their own potential.

### (2) What is required to address challenges of peacebuilding? Efforts and Lessons learned.

#### (i) The UN Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is designed to facilitate recovery from conflict and to support the development of integrated strategies in order to lay the foundation for sustainable development. The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) addresses immediate needs in countries emerging from conflict at a time when sufficient resources are not available from other funding mechanisms.

Although certain progress has been made, the reports on their activities identify many challenges in peacebuilding and statebuilding. There is no “silver bullet” applicable to every country or region, as we need to address country-specific factors. The capacity of actors, including UN organizations, governments, donors and NGOs, can be weak in post-conflict settings; further collaboration among partners is indispensable. Gender mainstreaming is essential to facilitate nationbuilding and statebuilding, considering the women’s role in conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding.

#### (ii) A New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States

“A New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States” is an initiative of the G7+ group and development partners that focuses on new ways of engaging and identifies commitments to build mutual trust and achieve better results in fragile states. In considering peace and security, the New Deal regards the term “security” as the safety of people: personal safety.

The New Deal recognizes that the achievement of peacebuilding and statebuilding depends on the ownership of the fragile states. Therefore it is important to enhance capabilities of government to deliver basic services, foster economic empowerment for inclusive and sustainable development. Harmonization of assistance with the national and local context is called for. The initiative also points out the importance of constructive state-society relations and the empowerment of women, youth and marginalized groups.

## **2. Disaster Risk Reduction**

### **(1) Current Situations**

- *Every year, **about 200 million people** are affected by natural disasters.*
- ***Citizens of developing countries account for 90%** of the victims.*
- ***Economic losses are significant: in 2011, more than USD 350 billion.***
- ***Over the past 30 years, the world's population has grown by 87 %. The proportion of the population living in flood-prone river basins increased by 114% and on cyclone-exposed coastline by 192%.***
- ***More than half of the world's large cities, with populations ranging from 2 to 15 million, are currently located in areas of high risk of seismic activity.***

Given the impacts of natural disasters, disaster risk reduction is critical for ensuring people's livelihood and realizing sustainable growth and development. The earthquake in Haiti in 2010 caused economic loss of USD 7.9 billion or equivalent to 120% of its GDP. Disasters can instantly wipe away long-term development efforts and pose threats for sustainable development.

Reconstruction from natural disasters presents opportunities to build resilient societies through such means as a better city planning, building resilient infrastructure, including schools and hospitals, and education on disaster risk reduction. But we can do better. By mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development efforts, we can reduce vulnerabilities well in advance of natural hazards.

### **(2) What is required to address challenges in disaster risk reduction?: Efforts and lessons learned**

#### **(i) The UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction and Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015**

In 2005, the second United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction was held in Hyogo, Japan and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA) was adopted and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, as the guide to reducing disaster risk. The third Conference will be held in Japan in early 2015.

The HFA recognizes that the complexities and cross-cutting nature of disaster risk demands a holistic differentiated response, and therefore disaster risk should be addressed through partnership of various stakeholders, not only governments but also individual citizens and the private sector. It also regards the use of knowledge, innovation and education as a key priority to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.

Year 2015 presents a great opportunity to mainstream disaster risk reduction: by establishing an effective post-2015 HFA and by incorporating disaster risk reduction in the post-2015 development agenda.

#### **(ii) Pacific Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Program**

Every year, on average, the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) suffer from damage caused by natural disasters estimated at USD 284 million. In May 2012, the Pacific Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (PDRFI) Program was launched, as a joint effort between the Government of Japan and the World Bank to assist PICs in strengthening their financial resilience against natural and climate-related disasters. This is a good example of various stakeholders jointly supporting fragile governments to develop their own capacity to tackle the risks and challenges posed by natural disasters.

## **3. Efforts to address the issues of peacebuilding and disaster risk reduction in the post-2015 development agenda**

The challenges for peacebuilding and disaster risk reduction are multi-faceted and require holistic approaches. Both require effective institutions which can deliver services to people. People, in turn, make these institutions and drive efforts for building a more resilient community and state. Through the virtuous interactions between states, communities and people, we can form a stronger social contract upon which sustainable development is realized.

There is a growing consensus that the post-2015 development agenda should be simple, clear, easy to understand, and

measurable so that the new framework can garner strong political support. Establishing such a framework, which also addresses our priorities, is a true challenge. How can we best reflect peacebuilding and disaster risk reduction in the post-2015 development agenda? Below are two examples of efforts in that direction.

### **(1) Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs)**

“A New Deal for engagement in fragile states” suggests the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs) as an important foundation to enable progress towards the MDGs and to guide the work in fragile and conflict-affected states.

The PSGs include the following five goals:

- ✓ **Legitimate Politics** – Foster inclusive political settlements and conflict resolution
- ✓ **Security** – Establish and strengthen people’s security
- ✓ **Justice**- Address injustices and increase people’s access to justice
- ✓ **Economic Foundations** – Generate employment and improve livelihoods
- ✓ **Revenues & Services** –Manage revenue and build capacity for accountable and fair service delivery

### **(2) Human Security**

While national security remains pivotal to peace and stability, there is a growing recognition of the need for an expanded paradigm of security, considering the complexity and interrelatedness of the challenges we face, including conflicts and natural disasters. Human security, a simple yet comprehensive principle, promotes integrated solutions to such complex and cross-cutting challenges.

In September 2012, the second United Nations General Assembly Resolution on human security (A/RES/66/290) was adopted, in which Member States agreed upon a common understanding on human security [see UN resolution attached]. Human security focuses on people, in particular vulnerable individuals, and promotes people-centered, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented measures that seek to overcome obstacles to ensure peace and security, human rights, and promote development through the protection and empowerment of all people and all communities. Human security is distinct from the responsibility to protect (R2P) and its implementation.

Peacebuilding and disaster risk reduction call for the protection and empowerment of individuals through holistic approaches, in other words, human security. By reaching out to every individual, including the most vulnerable, human security helps realize effective statebuilding and reconstruction. Through the interactions between institutions and people for their protection and empowerment, a stronger social contract will be forged, which in turn will enable concerted efforts for statebuilding and sustainable development.

In fact, the added-values of human security are not limited to peacebuilding and disaster risk reduction and apply to every challenge for the post-2015 development agenda, such as poverty eradication, health, education, the empowerment of women and gender equality.

## **4. Discussion points**

What should we reflect in the post-2015 development agenda in order to address peacebuilding and disaster risk reduction challenges while keeping in mind the need for a simple, clear, easy-to-understand framework?

In the discussion, we need to consider:

- What is necessary to address the challenges of peacebuilding, human security and disaster risk reduction?
- How can we garner stronger support for peacebuilding, human security and disaster risk reduction in the post-2015 discussions?
- How can we reflect the need for peacebuilding, human security and disaster risk reduction in the post-2015 development agenda?
- How can we address country specific situations in the new framework?