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PEACEBUILDING, RIGHTS AND INCLUSION

OXFAM IBIS' THEMATIC PROFILE

This thematic profile is based on the previous work and concept of Oxfam IBIS on Fragility and Resilience. It has been approved by the Oxfam IBIS Board March 2017 and will form part of the 2017 strategic development process of Oxfam IBIS.

More than 2 billion people live in fragile and conflict affected states. It is estimated that by 2018 around half, and by 2030 most, of the world's poor will live in fragile and conflict affected states. Out of the 65 million reportedly displaced by conflict and violence today, 95% live in developing countries. At the same time, 90% of the violent conflicts that erupted in the 2000s were old conflict. The record of lasting peace agreements does not tell a story of success in promoting sustainable peace.

These trends in violent conflicts and its consequences have elicited a major refocusing of development and humanitarian assistance to conflict affected states. More than 50% of all ODA funding is targeting fragile and conflict affected states. Despite this emphasis, fragile and conflict affected states were far behind non-fragile states in the implementation of the MDGs. The question therefore remains: what is causing this failure; not only in promoting development in conflict affected contexts, but also in supporting sustainable peace.

While much discussion has gone into exploring new ways of working in conflict-affected states, there has been little actual change. Conflict sensitive programming is widely mainstreamed however this has not significantly changed the record in relation to sustainable peace. Also, policy frameworks and fora such as the New Deal and International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and State-building have not succeeded in changing the conditions for effective implementation of efforts to promote peace and address the causes of violent conflict to the degree hoped for.



The most recent high-level policy efforts include the review of the peacebuilding architecture, the 'new agenda' of the UN Secretary General Guterres as well as the 'new way of working' with a renewed emphasis on linking development, humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts in efforts to generate 'collective outcomes'.

According to its new Development and Humanitarian Strategy 2017, Denmark will invest in peace, stability and protection and increased resilience in developing countries. Denmark will contribute to a coordinated effort for peace and stability. The stabilizing efforts, including combatting violent extremism, will be implemented in the hot spots of the world and hubs of instability for example in and around Syria and Iraq, Afghanistan, the Sahel region in Africa, and the Horn of Africa. The Danish Development and Humanitarian Strategy 2017 has SDG Goal 16 on peace, justice and institutional development at the center. The focus on fragile and conflict-affected contexts in Oxfam International has increased over the years, both in terms of addressing the consequences of violent conflict through humanitarian interventions and in terms of addressing the causes of violent conflict through development and peacebuilding efforts. A particular emphasis on the role of women in peacebuilding and gender justice and, the role of youth in peacebuilding and 'Rights in Crisis' are at the forefront, but also new ways of engaging with business and their role in peacebuilding are developed.

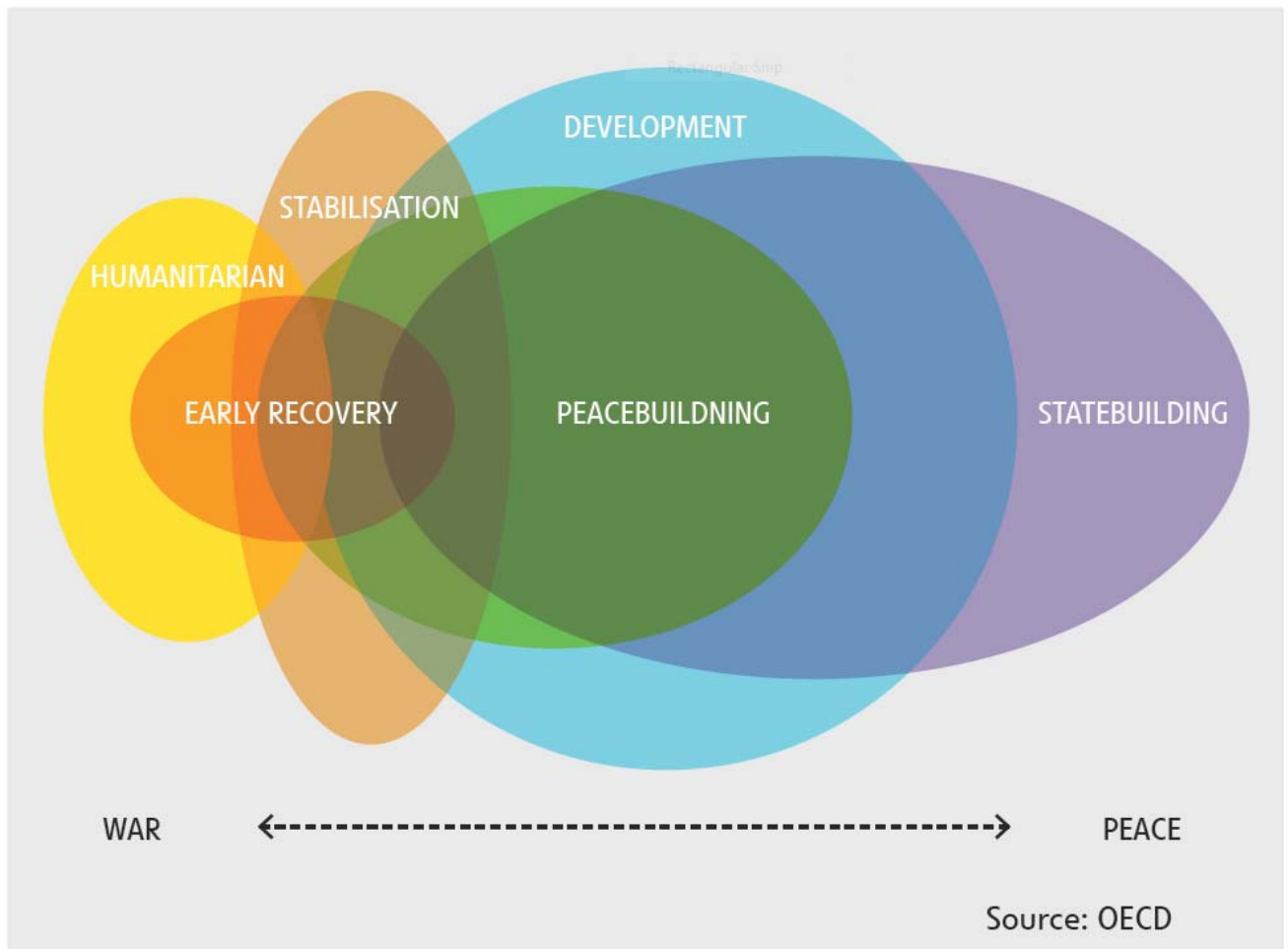
THEORIES AND DEFINITIONS

- WHAT DO WE MEAN WHEN WE SAY PEACEBUILDING?

Although there is increased focus on how to link development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding efforts, for example in the "new way of working" agenda, it is not implied that everyone should be doing all these things at the same time. Peacebuilding is different from short-term efforts to address a crisis and stop the violence. Thus it is not the same as crisis management, stabilisation, early recovery, humanitarian aid, and/or peace negotiations. As it is clear from the figure below, peacebuilding is a long-term engagement to promote sustainable peace. Peacebuilding is normally considered an encompassing term for efforts that address the causes of violent conflict, promote establishment and strengthening of mechanisms to deal with conflict in constructive ways, and strengthen resilience of communities against violence and eruption of new types of destructive conflicts.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACEBUILDING

Many of the typical causes of violent conflicts are human rights related and are linked to inequality in access, opportunity, and inclusion. Discrimination and violations of social and economic rights function as underlying causes, creating the grievances and group identities that may, under some circumstances, motivate violence. Violations of civil and political rights are more clearly identifiable as direct conflict triggers. In violent conflicts the full range of human rights are typically violated – with human rights violations as both cause and consequence of violent conflict and as an important dimension that, if addressed effectively, can contribute to peacebuilding processes. Human rights related causes of armed conflict include discrimination, lack of access to public services and opportunities of certain groups in a society, lack of access to justice, illegitimate political and state institutions that do not secure inclusion of marginalized groups, impunity for violence committed by state institutions in the form of torture, harassment, illegal detentions, etc. Human rights related consequences of armed conflict comprise direct violence that undermines the right to life, displacement from peoples' original home and at times from their families, a culture of impunity that does not give people access to recognition of harm done or an appropriate remedy when violations have been committed, lack of access to education, health and development, etc. Thus, violent conflict causes human rights violations; human rights violations cause violent conflict – and long term peacebuilding in conflict affected regions demands an integrated understanding of peacebuilding, rights and inclusion.



1. THE MAINSTREAMING PATH - SUSTAINABLE PEACE AS A SECONDARY AIM

Oxfam IBIS has since its establishment in 1966 worked in fragile and conflict affected contexts. It was originally engaged in supporting the liberation movements of Southern Africa and their struggle against Apartheid and colonial rule. Part of this support was undertaken through education and empowerment that generated new ideas and ways to move the countries forward after independence. Already at this time inequality and lack of access to education were identified as key causes of violent conflict and if addressed would serve as drivers for peaceful change. Today the documentation of these causal relations is pervasive. Thus, in and of itself the efforts of Oxfam IBIS to enhance equal access to quality education and economic justice in conflict-affected contexts contribute to sustainable peace.

During the recent decade, Oxfam IBIS has worked in South Sudan, Angola, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Bolivia. The extensive experience gained in how to operate within conflict affected contexts directly informs the organization's work on strengthening quality education, democratic development, and economic justice as ways both to promote economic development and sustainable peace. Significant results have been achieved in enhancing equal access to quality education and promoting economic justice in conflict-affected contexts despite the global negative trends. At the core of this success lies the partnership approach of Oxfam IBIS and the long-term engagement that allows for joint exploration and development of locally relevant solutions to even the most difficult challenges in areas affected by violent conflicts. In addition Oxfam IBIS has within the context of Oxfam International developed a conflict sensitive approach to education that involves ongoing conflict analysis, vulnerability analysis and risk analysis and attentiveness to inclusivity, equality, accountability, and transparency in programming.

Oxfam IBIS will together with Oxfam International during the program period strengthen its methodology on working effectively in fragile and conflict affected states and engage in broadening the scope of such methodologies, particularly in the areas of promoting quality education, democratic development, gender inclusion, and economic equality. We will partner with research institutions in order to develop evidence on what works and what doesn't and to explore the causal relations between education, inequality and conflict and peace.

2. SUSTAINABLE PEACE AS THE PRIMARY AIM

Oxfam IBIS will during the next five years enhance its role in promoting sustainable peace by building on its existing work in education, democratic development, and economic justice. Discrimination and inequality in access to education, livelihood, justice, and political participation are root causes of violent conflict, and if addressed provide better chances for peace agreements to lead to sustainable peace. Oxfam IBIS has already worked on these issues for many years, but with a strengthened priority area on conflict and peace, the experiences will be consolidated in increasingly more effective ways of eliciting change.

The overall change goal of Oxfam IBIS is to strengthen sustainable peacebuilding and prevention of violent conflict through strengthening the participation of women and youth in peace processes. A central assumption is that the inclusion of women and youth in peace processes leads to increased sustainability of peace agreements. According to evidence-based research the voice of women and youth in peace processes is crucial. Two main UN Security Council resolutions create a strong mandate to strengthen the role of women and youth in peacebuilding; the UN-SCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security (2000) and the UN-SCR 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) (2015). The YPS is an age-responsive approach to UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and the two are inextricably linked, with the YPS agenda re-emphasizing the pivotal role of young women and bringing the voices and innovative ideas of both young men and women to the forefront.

Oxfam IBIS will hence focus primarily on the two target groups in its work on addressing root causes of conflict and support sustainable peace, namely women and youth (and potentially also business on a pilot basis).

Documentation shows that when women have been significantly involved in peace processes, the risk of renewed violent conflict is reduced. At the same time the empowerment of women to drive and participate in development efforts more broadly contributes to addressing a number of conflict causes.

The importance of strengthening the role of women in peace processes has as, noted above, been elaborated in UN-SCR 1325 and its follow-up resolutions and reports. Gender inclusivity forms a critical component of the sustaining peace agenda. A number of Oxfam member affiliates are working on enhancing gender equality and participation of women in peace processes and more broadly conflict affected states, both at programmatic level and in the global campaigns and advocacy efforts of for example the UN-NY liaison office of Oxfam International. Oxfam Novib will in 2018 finance a gender/1325 advocacy adviser at the Oxfam-NY office.

Youth have long been considered an important target group for efforts to address the causes and drivers of conflict. Young men in particular with no job or means of livelihood, and with no prospect to find alternatives to taking up arms in order to make a living and gain recognition and identify, are seen as key potential drivers for renewed violent conflicts. UN Security Council Resolution 2250 from 2015, go beyond the focus of youth as potential 'spoilers' to youth as a resource that needs to be included in peacebuilding processes in diverse ways. While a first Oxfam IBIS take on youth and peacebuilding would focus on education, life-skills, and employment for youth, a second entails a much broader focus on participation of youth in platforms and decision-making fora related to peacebuilding and political mechanisms. Through its long-term work on education, democratic development and livelihood skills in a number of conflict affected contexts, Oxfam IBIS has extensive knowledge of working with youth on related issues.

3. TRANSFORMING THE SYSTEMIC CONDITIONS FOR SUPPORT TO AND COLLABORATION ON PEACEBUILDING

Building on Oxfam IBIS' and Oxfam International's extensive engagement in efforts to promote aid effectiveness and strong partnership approaches, the third 'path' will contain initiatives that promote transformative change in the conditions for peacebuilding and other types of efforts in conflict affected contexts. Most agree that changes are needed in the conditions for funding, programming and implementing peacebuilding efforts in order to promote a conducive space for collaboration on peacebuilding. While the scope of the challenge has been known for years, it has proved easier said than done. There is now a pressing need to come up with innovative ways to jointly explore, visualise and take action on developing new forms of collaboration on peacebuilding and human rights and ensuring a positive space for such action.

The initiative consists of several components, including a dialogue component engaging policy makers and practitioners in a 'transformative scenario planning' and systemic change process, an innovation lab, a bottom-up approach to mobilizing 'other' voices through creative communication and digital platforms, as well as an analysis and research component. One of the concrete results of the project will be to facilitate a process of change in the conditions and practices of key international actors in three conflict affected country cases where UN and bilateral organization have extensive presence, thereby facilitating systemic transformation. The project is expected to have a duration of five years, and will be implemented by a coalition of partner organizations.

The objective of the initiative is to develop new avenues for multi-stakeholder collaboration in a robust global peace infrastructure. It aims to create systemic transformation by initiating a process of change in the conditions and practices of key international actors in three conflict affected country cases where multilateral and bilateral organizations have extensive presence.

Preliminary approval of funding for a one-year 'incubator' project has been obtained from a US private foundation. This funding will allow Oxfam IBIS to strengthen its capacity in the area of peacebuilding, bringing to the surface existing capacities in this area, linking up to global policy agendas and exploring the possibility of enhancing this focus within the broader scope of Oxfam.

HOW OXFAM IBIS WILL WORK

- To ensure participation and equality of women in peacebuilding processes and ensure that causes and consequences of violent conflict that specifically impact women are addressed.
- To ensure participation of youth in peacebuilding processes and ensure that the root causes of conflict that involves youth in particular are addressed in collaboration with the youth themselves.

In addition Oxfam IBIS will consider to undertake pilot projects that explore and address the role of business in peacebuilding with the aim of ensuring that business in conflict affected contexts are involved in efforts to address root causes of conflict, and that they work in a way that contributes to accountability, equality, and participation.

According to Oxfam's strategy "engagement with business, whether multinational companies or small and medium-sized enterprises is critical. This may take the form of tough challenge or deep collaboration to achieve corporate accountability as well as effective partnerships for innovative change with the state, business and civil society working together in a mutually accountable way. Oxfam recognizes the enormous positive impact that progressive businesses can have in reducing global poverty. But businesses that put profits before people and the planet should be called to account for the harm they do to poor and vulnerable communities and the damage they do to the environment."

The approach to working with these target groups and themes will take place at programmatic level in specific country contexts, at regional level in collaboration with organizations like WANEP in West Africa, as well as at policy level, for example in relation to policy discussions and agendas on UN-SCR 1325 and UN-SCR 2250, UN Global Compact, and the SDG agenda. Oxfam IBIS will work with its partners within the Oxfam family (including Oxfam Novib) to support policy engagement related to women, youth and business at the level of UN-HQ (for example by supporting a policy adviser in NY). Also, this effort will feed into and strengthen the 'Rights in Crisis' campaign of Oxfam International.

Both at country and regional level, Oxfam IBIS will promote capacity and tools within Oxfam country offices and among its partners to facilitate strategic discussion among diverse groups of stakeholders on how to programme and implement humanitarian and development efforts. These efforts should proactively aim to address causes of violent conflict and establish national mechanisms to prevent and tackle renewed violent conflict. This 'path' will open up for broader analysis, dialogue and innovation on how to address the most critical issues and causes of the violent conflict for example in the Sahel region. A focus on countering violent radicalization will be integrated into these dialogues. Concrete 'incubator' projects will be developed on the basis of the dialogues and a learning cycle will result in new ideas and projects and roll-out of initiatives that prove to be most effective.

FURTHER DOCUMENTATION AND REFERENCES

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<https://www.pbsbdialogue.org/en/>

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