

Expert Group Meeting

Strengthening national capacity for the integration of sustainable development principles into development strategies of countries emerging from conflict

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OBJECTIVE

- ▶ Introduce DESA 3-YEAR development account project
“Strengthening national capacity for the integration of sustainable development principles into development strategies in countries emerging from conflict”
- ▶ Overview the projects work plan and activities

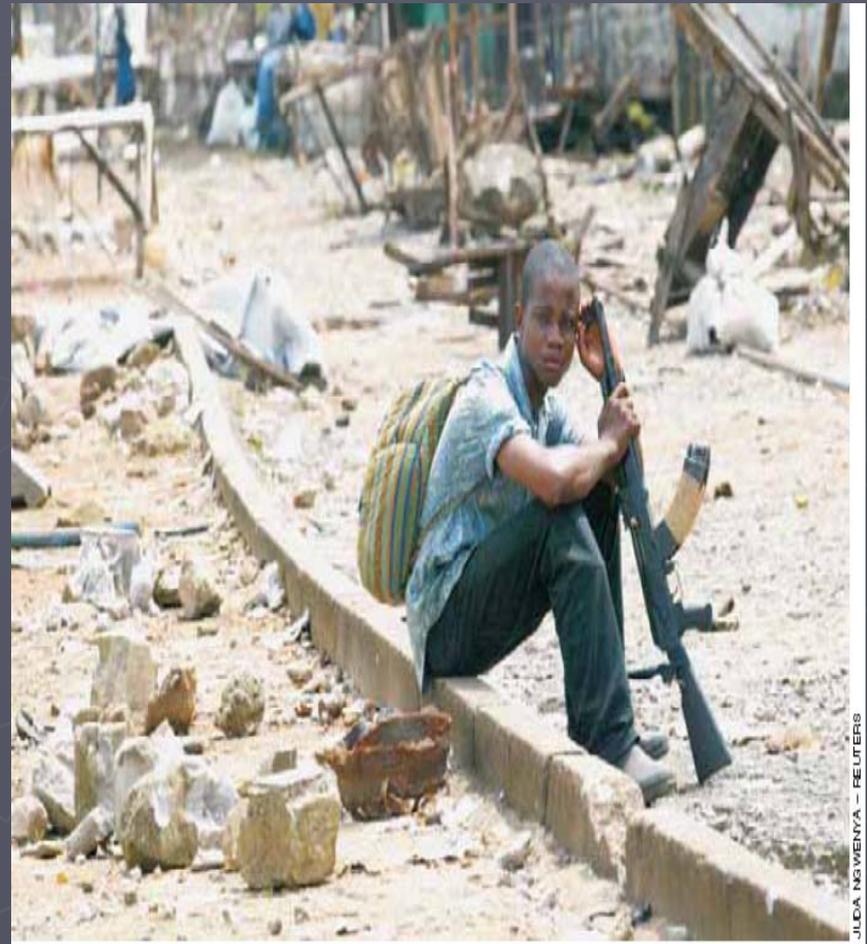
Nexus between peace, security and development.



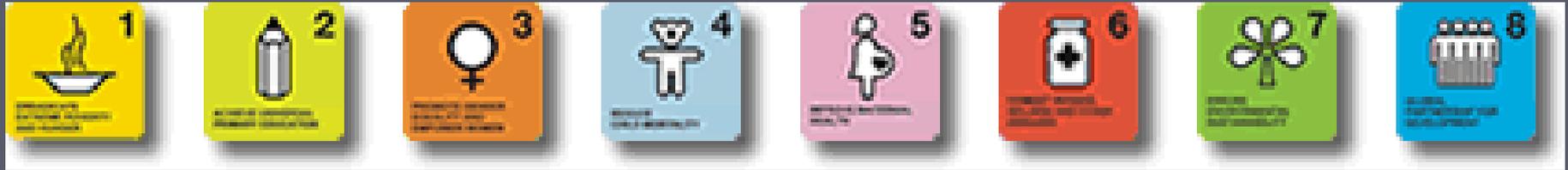
- ▶ Peace enhances development opportunities while development can help prevent conflicts and reinforce peace and security.
- ▶ Many SG's Reports addressed the linkage between Security and Development including: *"The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa" in 1998*
 - Addressed the sources of conflict and mechanisms to build durable peace and promote economic growth in Africa.
 - Highlighted social development, social justice, investment in human resources, and public health priorities were highlighted

Unsustainable Development

- ▶ A cause and consequence of violent conflicts within countries:
 - inequality in access to natural resources
 - environmental degradation
 - social disparities
 - ineffective governance structures
 - lack of economic progress



Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)



► Status of MDGs in countries emerging from conflict:

- *“of the 34 poor countries farthest from reaching the MDGs, 22 (65%) are in, or emerging from conflict [1].”*

- *Number of policy briefs on security and development including Fitz-Gerald, A.M. (2004). ‘Addressing the Security-Development Nexus: Implications for Joined-Up Government.’*

Sustainable Development in Conflict-Affected Countries

- ▶ Two out of ten post-conflict countries in Africa and two out of ten post-conflict countries in Asia and the Pacific are taking Sustainable Development approach in their comprehensive development frameworks.
- ▶ DESA/DSD. Mapping of Sustainable Development Strategies in Countries Emerging from Conflict: Africa. 2009
- ▶ DESA/DSD. Mapping of Sustainable Development Strategies in Countries Emerging from Conflict: Asia and the Pacific. 2009

Obstacles to Application of Sustainable Development Principles in Post Conflict Countries

- ▶ Poverty reduction remains a major threat to the further development of the region.
- ▶ Lack of institutional capacity
- ▶ Budgetary and financial constraints
- ▶ Poor governance
- ▶ Corruption

NSDS in Post Conflict Countries

- ▶ Sources, types and consequences of conflicts are typically very distinctive
- ▶ Methodologies for post conflict countries are different from those applicable in non-conflict countries
- ▶ As conflicts typically erode governance structures and because national institutions take longer to develop than local ones, post-conflict strategies will place a far stronger focus on local actors than 'standard' NSDS processes.
- ▶ Compared to strategies in countries with a stable environment, the post-conflict country approach may look more like a set of actions linked by an overall framework rather than an elaborated path-dependent plan.

NSDS in Post Conflict Countries, cont'd

► DESA/DSD role:

- There are three important tracks:

- The economic growth

- NSDS is a mechanism of getting a common agenda that DSD has a lot of experience in this area;

- Environmental Security – looking into relationship between natural resources (both scarcity and its abundance) and conflict and how good management of natural resources can act as a threat minimizer.

DESA/DSD Project

- ▶ Part of the effort to improve capacities of countries emerging from conflict to integrate sustainable development principles into development strategies and, thereby, to increase the likelihood of sustainable peace

Project Objectives

- Objective I:
 - Producing methodologies (scalable toolkit) based on NSDS guidelines that explain and illustrate ways to integrate sustainable development principles into national development strategies as part of peace-building

Project Objectives, CONTD.

➤ Objective II:

- Increasing capacities to utilize sustainable development principles in policy-making in conflict-affected countries.

Project Objectives

- ▶ To achieve Objective I “Producing methodologies and scalable toolkit” :
 - Convene expert group meeting (EGM) to bring leading experts, within and outside the UN-system, in NSDS and sustainable development planning
 - Establish expert advisory group to guide key elements of project implementation
 - Map current NSDS approach in comprehensive development frameworks in use in Africa and Asia and the Pacific
 - Map existing methodologies and tools and identify gaps
 - Conduct national assessment and consultation missions
 - Create guidance notes and a scalable toolkit of appropriate yet flexible methodologies and make accessible

Project Objectives

- ▶ To achieve Objective II “capacity building”:
 - Test tools and methodologies in Pilot Countries according to national circumstances and priorities
 - Conduct national workshops (one in each participating Pilot country in Africa, Asia and the Pacific.
 - Provide access and integrate methodological materials in toolkit for training in NSDS development, monitoring and assessment in all training and capacity building activities
 - Conduct two regional workshops (one in Africa and one in Asia and the Pacific)
 - Conduct national interventions in the participating countries (*Such as working group meetings, stakeholder consultations or other strategically targeted activities*).

Project's Indicators

- ▶ Increased availability of toolkits that explain and illustrate ways for integrating sustainable development
- ▶ Increased number of trained participating government officials with direct involvement in the national development planning process
- ▶ Increased number of countries that report progress in the development and implementation of strategies and development processes that include sustainable development principles

Risks/Assumptions

- ▶ Contributing experts available at time required
- ▶ Countries interested and able to participate in project activities
- ▶ Participating government officials have access to necessary technology, including adequate internet functionality
- ▶ High turn-over rates of government staff avoided
- ▶ Further stresses on human, financial and institutional capacity avoided
- ▶ Ongoing political stability in participating countries
- ▶ Participating civil society representatives consistently engaged in a meaningful way

Project Timelines 2009-2011

► Current timeline:

- Objective I: Creation of guidance notes and a scalable toolkits
 - Jan 2009 to June 2010
- Objective II: Capacity development :
 - July 2010- Dec 2011

► Potential future works:

- Maintain and keep guidance notes, and tool kits current, available and relevant on an on-going basis.
- Expansion of project to other regions

Project Implementation

- Executing Department: DESA
- Co-operating Agencies: UNEP, UNDP, PBSO, DPA, DPKO, UN-HABITAT, World Bank, Country Teams and the regional commissions
- Regional/National Counterpart: Institutions and Ministries of planning and finance in the selected countries

What we expect from the EGM

- ▶ Establish expert advisory group to guide key elements of project implementation
- ▶ Input, recommendations and proposes areas to be tackled to achieve the main project objectives

Thank You

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<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/index.html>