

UNDP, PBSO, UNISDR and UNICEF

**IMPACT OF CONFLICT, VIOLENCE AND DISASTER ON LONG-TERM
DEVELOPMENT**

**A GLOBAL THEMATIC CONSULTATION
BUILDING THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

July 2012– February 2013

1.0 BACKGROUND

While the United Nations and world leaders have accelerated progress to achieve the MDGs by the end of 2015, global, regional and national discussions on the future of development beyond 2015 are gaining pace. The Secretary-General, in his report, *Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015*” (A/66/126)¹ emphasizes that, in order to formulate the best possible development framework for post-2015, inclusive, open, participatory and transparent multi-stakeholder consultations should guide the agenda-setting process.

The SG has specifically requested UNDP and UNDESA to establish a group of technical experts (UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda) to coordinate the assessment of ongoing efforts, and propose a system-wide roadmap for the formulation of a post-2015 development agenda, in consultation with all stakeholders. In addition, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on MDG indicators, led by the UN Statistics Division (UNSD), includes a Task Team on Lessons Learned in MDG Monitoring to provide technical inputs to guide the formulation of the post-2015 monitoring framework, including possible indicators to monitor development progress in the future.

The UN system Task Team has now issued its report “Realizing the Future We Want for All²”, which emphasizes four key dimensions of a more holistic approach to a future UN development framework, namely (1) inclusive social development; (2) inclusive economic development; (3) environmental sustainability; and (4) peace and security. The report does not make specific recommendations on the post-2015 framework, but proposes a roadmap that includes a series of open and inclusive consultations in late 2012 and early 2013, while the SG’s High-Level Panel would work in parallel. This part of the process would culminate in a special event in connection with the 68th session of the General Assembly in 2013. After this event, the intergovernmental process is expected to become more directly engaged with member states and shift towards a stronger focus on negotiating the specific content of the new framework leading up to 2015.

Box 1: Thematic Consultations	
Theme	Lead
Inequalities	UNICEF/UN Women
Nutrition and Food Security	FAO/WFP
Governance	UNDP/OHCHR
Growth & Employment	UNDP/ILO
Conflict and Fragility	UNDP/PBSO/UNISDR/UNICEF
Health	UNICEF/WHO
Education	UNESCO/UNICEF
Environmental Sustainability	UNDP/UNEP
Population Dynamics	UNFPA/UNHABITAT

Responding to the SG’s call, UNDG has launched the ‘Building the post-2015 development agenda: open and inclusive global consultations’ project, with the aim to build and lead a strategic coalition of partners to undertake bottom-up consultations on future global challenges guided by UN norms and informed by extensive research. The project will: 1) undertake inclusive national

¹ The Report A/66/126 is available at: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=a/66/126

² The report is available at: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/beyond2015.shtml>

dialogues in at least 50 countries; 2) conduct global and regional thematic consultations around 9 themes indicated in Box 1; 3) commission research papers on the central challenges for development beyond 2015; and 4) organize web-based interactive consultations and information exchange. The project will move away from traditional notions of consultation, which have been viewed as inadvertently deepening the perception of exclusion and marginalization of voices of the poor and vulnerable groups, by harnessing innovative alternative approaches to bottom-up consultation with focus on amplifying the voices of poor and vulnerable groups in the post-2015 development agenda setting process.³

UNDP, PBSO, UNISDR and UNICEF are tasked to co-lead the organization of the global thematic bottom-up consultations on the potential impact of conflict and disasters caused by natural hazards in achieving any agreed post-2015 development goals; and generate strategies for mitigating such negative impact. This note lays out the proposed process for undertaking the assigned task.

2.0 RATIONALE

Conflict, violence and disaster risks are widely recognized as some of the most significant obstacles to MDG achievement in all developing countries.

The link between conflict and development was highlighted in the Secretary-General's 2009 Report on "Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict" and more recently in the World Bank's 2011 World Development Report (WDR) on Conflict, Security and Development that also focused on the challenge of citizen security and armed violence.

At the Fourth High Level Forum in Busan in November 2011, the International Dialogue (ID) on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding shared with the international community a "New Deal for Engagement with Fragile States" intended to address gaps in development in conflict affected states that had not been sufficiently addressed by the global development agenda, particularly the MDGs. The New Deal outlined five Peacebuilding and Statebuilding goals as basis for development. The ID is expected to bring these goals up for discussion during the post-2015 debate.

Other than conflict, disasters caused by natural hazards in countries without the necessary capacities to deal with their consequences have also significantly disrupted MDG achievement. The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) which currently provides the basis for work on disaster risk reduction will conclude in 2015 and consultations on a new framework to address disaster risk reduction in development contexts post-2015 have been initiated, as requested by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-sixth Session (66/199). The Chair's Summary of the Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2011 referred to a first outline of a post-2015 framework at the next Global Platform in 2013.

Conflicts, violence and disasters are closely linked issues. On the one hand, disasters can create or exacerbate existing conflict, for example by creating or deepening inequality in access to resources. On the other hand, conflict and criminal violence can increase vulnerability to disaster through displacement and strain on institutions and public services. Additionally, the adverse effects of climate change are likely to exacerbate extreme events and therefore increase the possibility of resource based conflicts.

³To determine the alternative consultative approaches the Post-2015 WG have organized series of e-discussions on lessons learnt from consultations and suggestion for alternative approaches.

These developments reinforce the need to consider the impact of conflict, violence and disaster in the post-2015 development goal setting process.

3.0 BROAD AIM

The aim of the thematic consultation is to provide a platform where all stakeholders in the post-2015 agenda will get the opportunity to examine and debate current thinking on conflict and disaster risks in order to deepen understanding of the impact of conflict, violence and disasters caused by natural hazards on development, as well as the role of underdevelopment in amplifying the impact of conflict and disasters. The process will critically review existing policies, theories, and tools in use for understanding and responding to these conflict fragilities and disaster vulnerabilities.

The consultation will adopt a multi-stakeholder dialogue approach—engaging governments, the private sector, civil society organizations, foundations, trade unions, academics, the media, youth, local traditional leaders, etc. Sustained dialogue over time is a vital tool for reflective interactive learning and for envisioning the future. It helps simplify complexity, coordinate multiple meanings, foster innovation, and expand deliberative spaces. These outcomes are vital to trust and legitimacy building, which will ultimately translate into ownership of the new development agenda.

3.1 Specific Objectives

The thematic consultation will:

- Build broad participatory coalitions around a post-2015 conflict prevention, armed violence reduction and disaster risk reduction agenda;
- Foster understanding among stakeholders and develop shared visions while promoting a culture of participation;
- Generate lessons learnt on the impact of conflict, violence and disasters on development and vice versa, particularly in the implementation of the MDGs;
- Identify a commonly agreed way forward for the post-2015 agenda on conflict, violence and disaster;
- Build networks among the actors involved in on-going initiatives on the post-2015 development agenda;
- Provide direct contribution to the formulation of a post-2015 development agenda; and
- Establish an Expert Reference Group on the impact of conflict, violence and disaster on development post-2015 that will continue to support the agenda setting process beyond the consultation phase.

4.0 PROPOSED APPROACH TO THE DIALOGUE

Departing from the usual practice of international consultative processes where international actors take centre stage, this dialogue will be based on the introspection and experiences of especially the poor and vulnerable groups through broad civil society representation. The following strategies are proposed:

Desk Review: While the global consultation on this subject is forward looking there has been a number of useful policy research work done in recent years by various UN departments, agencies, and fund; the World Bank, the EU, academic think-tanks, civil society organizations, etc. Many regional and global think tanks have also undertaken extensive studies with conflict and natural disaster themes in recent years, in anticipation of the post-MDGs development debate. These and other related studies will provide the background for framing the agenda for the consultation. In other words we will aim to identify ‘what we know already’ and focus the research work on ‘what more we need to know’ to better inform post-2015 development agenda-setting in the area of conflict and disaster risk reduction.

E-discussion: A web-based consultation using the various UN and non-UN community of practice platforms, including civil society, will be launched for dialogue on the key fragility and vulnerability issues. The consultation will also target e-platforms of key universities in the developing countries to draw input from students in those countries. Opportunities to engage with the disaster risk reduction community through upcoming on-line consultations related to the post-HFA process will also be explored.

Background Papers: Research on salient conflict, violence and disaster related fragility/vulnerability factors will be conducted in cooperation with key partners, including at the regional level. The research would aim to engage the most vulnerable communities including those with no access to the web based platforms. The background papers will also draw on materials from the e-discussions and will serve as background documents for the regional and global consultations.

Regional Consultations: There will be three regional consultations with one in Africa to focus on conflict and fragility, a second in Asia on disaster risk reduction and a third in Latin America with a focus on lessons learnt on citizen security, armed violence and its impact on development. Each regional consultation will engage partners at the regional level, including think-tanks, regional inter-governmental institutions and networks of regional civil society organizations. The consultation in Asia will be arranged in conjunction with an already planned consultation event on the post-Hyogo Framework in Jakarta in October, and arrangements will be led by UNISDR and BCPR’s Disaster Risk Reduction Team. The consultation in Africa will be held in a conflict affected country with a strong engagement in the post-2015 debate and the International Dialogue. The consultation in Latin America will be held if sufficient funding can be mobilized, and will be held in a country that is engaged in the debate on citizen security and armed violence reduction.

Global Consultation: A final Global Consultation will be arranged in Helsinki to bring together findings from the regional consultations. It will be attended by representatives from the regional consultations and high level leaders from countries at most risk from these fragilities and vulnerabilities. The outcomes of the thematic consultation related to disaster risk reduction are also expected to feed into the Fourth Session of the Global platform on 19-22 May 2013, and preparations for the second World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015.

4.1 Proposed Participants

In each regional meeting, representation will be balanced between civil society, the private sector, governments, regional intergovernmental organizations and relevant UN and international agencies. At least six international practitioners, experts, and policymakers who are renowned for their work in this area will be invited and supported to attend and contribute to the dialogue. The names will be jointly discussed and agreed by the partners. The International Dialogue and the g7+ will also be invited to participate in the global process together with other relevant groups.

4.2 Management Arrangements

Cosponsors: Two or three high level representatives of developing and donor countries (in this case Finland) will be identified to provide the consultation process with visibility and momentum and to promote the conclusions in the continuing post-2015 debate at a high level after the consultation. They will launch the ediscussion and will be present at the Helsinki event and if possible present the keynotes in the regional consultations.

Steering Group: UNDP, PBSO, UNICEF and UNISDR will serve as co-leads and steering group for the consultation project. These will bring in other UN and non-UN agencies and institutions with complementary expertise and capacity to support the process. The three lead agencies are expected to allocate sufficient human and where possible financial resources from their organizations for this process. The steering group will determine the regional partnerships and oversee all activities of the consultation.

Main donor: Finland will provide the majority of the funding for the consultation process and will engage with the Steering Group to provide advice and practical support leading up to and including the event in Helsinki. If necessary, Finnish Embassies will provide support for outreach and logistics to arrange regional consultations, especially in Latin America, where there may be a particular need.

Fund Manager: UNDP will act as the fund manager and administer the day-to-day activities through an Independent Consultant (IC) to be selected by the partners. The IC will be guided by and report to the Steering Group and supervised on a daily basis by the Team Leader of the UNDP/BCPR Policy Team. UNDP will ensure the compilation and delivery of the final report with the support of the partners.

Expert Reference Group: An expert reference group will serve as an advisory panel to the consultation process and will consist of 6 - 10 individuals. Each member will have broad, geographically diverse experience and deep expertise in related conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and disaster risk reduction areas. The group will offer advice, critical thinking, and provide quality assurance throughout the consultation process. It will contribute to framing the consultation as well as providing feedback on materials emanating from the process. The Group will come together primarily in a series of telephone conferences and will also be linked by a temporary wiki to exchange ideas and developments throughout the project. Participants in the expert reference group will be drawn from practitioners and academics with experience in the UN system, the international financial institutions, multilateral development banks, regional organizations, national governments, think tank experts, civil society and business.

5.0 PROPOSED ISSUES AND THEMES

The issues and themes of the consultation will be presented in a series of 10 to 15 short discussion papers that will be solicited from expert academics and practitioners. The papers will summarize existing knowledge, highlight emerging conclusions and recommendations for action and suggest issues for discussion.

The proposed themes are organized in two categories: a) international lessons learnt in understanding the impact of conflict, violence and disaster on development; and b) critical review of local and national experiences with the interaction between conflict and/or disasters and development.

Possible topics could be:

- a. Evidence of the relationship between MDG achievement and disasters;
- b. Evidence of the relationship between MDG achievement and armed violence;
- c. The effects of investing in prevention of violent conflict, peacebuilding and statebuilding and maintenance of development gains and accelerated development;
- d. The effects of investing in disaster risk reduction on MDG achievement;
- e. Models for integrating context analysis and context sensitivity in program design;
- f. Use of goals, targets and indicators for peace, citizen security and disaster reduction results;
- g. The role of social cohesion in building national capacities for resilience to internal and external shocks;
- h. The role of local institutions for development, in terms of capacity but also in terms of their perceived legitimacy by local people and the extent they involve local people;
- i. Building resilient states for sustainable and accelerated long-term development
- j. Gender dimensions of fragility and resilience;
- k. Recovery and transition to development: An approach to strengthen development sustainability.

6.0 EXPECTED RESULTS

- Shared understanding is established of the salient factors related to conflict-related fragility and disaster-related vulnerability that impact long-term development;
- Innovative policy response options to conflict-related fragility and disaster vulnerability have been identified;
- Networks and coalition of stakeholders – including at the highest level - are committed to advancing policy responses in the post-2015 process; and
- Comprehensive report from the process has been developed, published and disseminated.

7.0 TIMELINE

The consultation will conclude by end of March 2013.

The planning of the consultation will be based on the following detailed indicative timeline:

Activities	Months									
	July '12	Aug '12	Sept '12	Oct '12	Nov '12	Dec '12	Jan '13	Feb '13	Mar '13	
Form Steering Group and agree roles and responsibilities	X									
Recruit Consultant and project Coordinator		X								
Resource Mobilization for additional funding		X	X							
Establish Expert's Reference Group			X							
Launch E-discussion on the linkage between conflict and disasters on development			X	X						
Commission papers			X	X	X					
Regional Consultation in Asia on Disaster				X						
Regional Consultation in Africa on Conflict					X					
Regional Consultation in Latin America on Citizen Security						X				
Global Consultation in Helsinki								X		

