



SPECIALISED TRAINING COURSE: CONFLICT-SENSITIVE ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN POST-WAR CONTEXTS

21 – 26 November 2011, Nepal

Course Concept and Programme

This highly practical course is designed for organisations and individuals involved in economic recovery and development efforts in conflict- and post-war contexts. It will help participants integrate this 'conflict' dimension in their programming. Exploring key issues around the real constraints for economic recovery in these settings, the course will help participants minimise possible negative interactions between their work and conflict dynamics; think through opportunities for using their programming to have positive impacts in these situations; and thereby contribute to overall chances of success of their work.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, participants will:

- Understand main concepts, approaches and good practice in conflict-sensitive economic recovery
- Be able to apply these to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes
- Know how to integrate economic recovery interventions with peacebuilding initiatives
- Have jointly developed practical responses to challenges faced by economic recovery efforts in post-war settings.

COURSE PROGRAMME AND APPROACH

This week-long training course is designed for South Asia-based development agencies and peacebuilding organisations with ongoing or planned economic recovery and development work in war-affected areas. It will bring together experienced programme and project managers and implementers in an interactive setting to build skills and knowledge on conflict-sensitive economic recovery. By ensuring a balanced participation from international, national and local organisations, donor agencies and government, the course will facilitate exchange between practitioners working at different levels, and reflect a spectrum of approaches, working methods and perspectives on economic recovery in the aftermath of conflict.

COURSE METHODOLOGY

In order to cater to real-life needs and reflect the most current good practice in this area, the course content is developed in partnership with a network of practitioners and experts from Sri Lanka-based development agencies.

Given the novelty of this field, the course is designed to be highly participatory and facilitative, offering a 'laboratory environment' where participants can bring and work through real-life case studies of economic recovery efforts and the challenges they face.

Using a mix of teaching and participatory methods, discussions will be facilitated by a group of trainers with expertise in conflict-sensitivity and economic dimensions of peacebuilding from different countries.

BACKGROUND TO THE COURSE

It is by now a widely accepted truth that in situations of potential, ongoing or recent violent conflict, development efforts can have unintended consequences on conflict dynamics. All too often these consequences are negative. Thus, activities that on the surface may seem benign, can unintentionally contribute to the factors that fuel tensions and even violence. However, despite increasing commitment from a number of international agencies to 'do no harm' and 'conflict-sensitive' approaches, serious challenges remain to apply these to economic recovery efforts in particular, to ensure that they can make a lasting and positive impact. This is for a number of reasons:

- Especially in transition contexts, institutional pressures to disburse high volumes of aid and to get back to 'development as usual' as soon as possible mean that practices adopted and lessons learnt during conflict are not necessarily carried forward into the post-war period. Yet international experience suggests that there remains a 50% risk of countries sliding back into war up to a decade after the end of major hostilities.
- While 'do no harm' and conflict-sensitivity principles have found wide resonance in the humanitarian aid world and the 'softer' sides of development, those working on the 'harder' side of development such as infrastructure rehabilitation, economic recovery or investment promotion, are only beginning to grapple with the challenges of operating in conflict-affected and post-war environments. This despite the fact that economic development and recovery efforts often inject large amounts of resources into fragile situations, thereby inevitably touching political and governance legacies of war, as well as conflict dynamics at the local level.
- Even though many organisations have increased their own conflict-sensitivity capacity over a number of years, for example through specialist personnel, method and tool development, operationalising conflict-sensitivity across an organisation and at different levels remains a challenge. Especially practitioners on the ground often find it difficult to apply concepts in practice, and use tools or adapt programming to adopt conflict-sensitivity principles.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Applicants should have:

- y A minimum of 2 years relevant experience in economic development and recovery programming and implementation
- y Experience of working in a conflict or post-conflict context
- y Be in a middle or senior management level position within their organisation
- y Strong English skills

APPLICATIONS AND FEES

To apply online please go to www.pdisl.org or for more information email info@pdisl.org or frances@pdisl.org

International organisations and institutions: \$600

National organisations and institutions: \$300

Early Bird deadline and rate: by 30th September, discount of \$50.00