Post-Conflict Recovery: Best-case National Organizations

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States in Transition Priorities

- Peacebuilding and Statebuilding as mutually reinforcing processes
- Great need for more . . .
  - *Local knowledge* of relation between violence, development, and recovery
  - *Application* of local knowledge to policy and practice on the ground
- Needed: what statebuilding and peacebuilding looks like from African perspectives
“Local knowledge/perspectives”

- elite
- professional
- populace
Peacebuilding vs. Statebuilding

- In poor developing countries, the state is often viewed by the populace as . . .
  - Corrupt
  - Predatory
  - Serving the elite
  - Dangerous
  - To be avoided rather than engaged

The State <-> Civil strife <-> Peace: “It’s easier to break it than to fix it”

- State can more easily cause warfare and strife (legitimate / illegitimate violence) . . .
- than it can cause peace.
- The state depends much more on the populace for promoting peace than for fomenting war / civil strife
- State motivation to facilitate peace may be weak
- State ability to facilitate peace may be weak
Our key organizational findings

- Importance of best-case national NGOs/CBOs
- Articulating state <-> populace interests
- Efficient and committed
- Threading the needle
- Needles in the haystack
- Underappreciated / underfinanced / understudied
Comparative Post-Conflict Recovery Project (CPRP)

- BEST-CASE focus
- Comparative: West Africa -> Asia
- Post-conflict / neither-peace-nor-war
- “Recovery” ~ sustainable development
- Land issues
  - Developing agrarian economy
  - Vis-à-vis mining / logging / agribusiness concessions
CPRP principal activities

- Direct dialogue & learning experience across developing countries in the global south
  - Identification of CPRP fellows
  - Monrovia, Liberia workshop (incl. field engagements)
  - Mandalay, Myanmar workshop (incl. field engagements)
  - Development Studies panel & mtgs, London
Challenges

- Identifying appropriate fellows
- Limitations on scale / # of fellows
- Language = English
- South – South travel & visas
- Meeting challenges: extraordinary effort and acumen of global Fellows
### Content Contributions

- **Value of direct South-South experience and engagement**
- **Level of intellectual <-> practical understanding**
  - +/- Gov’t connections / programs polities
  - +/- Social activism / movements / resistance
- **Stated value in confidential exit questionnaires**
Larger findings:
Best-case national NGOs / CBOs

- Moderate in size (10-30 employees)
- Stably funded for years
- High autonomy
- High professional morale / commitment
- Fiscally responsible
- Creative and flexible to gov’t & populace
- Emphasis on “giving rather than getting”
Undersupported Connections in Peacebuilding

International donors/programs

(needless control)

Best-case national NGOs

Statebuilding Peacebuilding

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