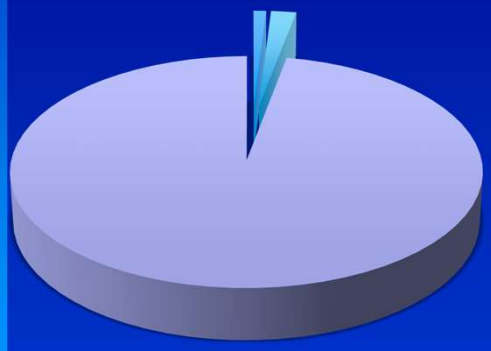
Post-Conflict Recovery: Best-case National Organizations

B. Knauft
Emory University
Carnegie CPRP Program
2013-2015

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

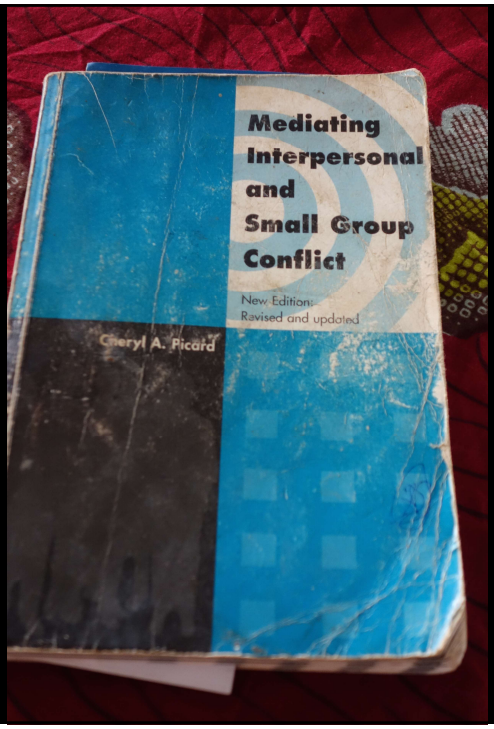
- In poor developing countries, the state is often viewed by the populace as . . .
  - Corrupt
  - Predatory
  - Serving the elite
  - Dangerous
  - To be avoided rather than engaged

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


Mediating Interpersonal and Small Group Conflict
New Edition: Revised and updated
Cheryl A. Picard

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 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

STRENGTHENING
TRADITIONAL LEADERS' DISPUTE
RESOLUTION
USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
THE
CARTER CENTER

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

"Local knowledge/perspectives"

Thank you to CCNY for sponsorship