



Evaluation and Impact Assessment of Peacebuilding Projects

Advanced course

Facilitators: Emery Brusset and Tony Vaux

Overview

This course aims to improve our **methodologies to carry out assessments of conflict situations and subsequently evaluate the performance of peace-building activities** such as conflict resolution, access to justice, security sector reform and confidence building.

As there are no accepted answers to the main methodology questions, we will be working with participants to find the methods that suit them and their organisations.

Expected outputs

This is situated between a course and a workshop.

Participants will be-

- Aware of current thinking on the issues and know where to look for the literature
- Recognise the relationship between evaluation and assessment
- Equipped to use the methods used by EB and TV
- Ready to engage with their organisations on policy relating to conflict

Participants

This will be more suitable **for heads of M&E as well as senior managers** (say at regional level) rather than for front-line programme staff.

The course follows on the introductory course given every year at the INCORE Summer School of the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland:

<http://www.incore.ulster.ac.uk/courses/ss/ss.html>.

The present advanced course is intended for those with experience in evaluations and an interest and general experience of conflict situations. It will be held **in English on a large property in Belgium. The fee for the course is €800 for the four day period, all living expenses included.**

This course is based on the principle that interaction and discussion improves learning. Real case examples brought up by professionals in this field, discussions, exercises and role-plays will be key aspects to the course design. Each participant will be encouraged to suggest a real case study in advance of the course which will serve to form the basis of the testing of methods.

Provisional Schedule

4 September 2006	
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of participants; definition of links between conflict assessment and evaluation. Role of a policy and analytical framework.
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review: DFID's conflict analysis tool. Case study on Nepal. Discussion
5 September 2006	
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the score card method; issue of upward aggregation of figures for overall conclusions.
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review: the objectives tree and the cascade of objectives; possibility of logical leaps and difficulty of decreasing attribution. Case studies and discussion
6 September 2006	
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review: conflict mapping, and actor analysis. Case studies and discussion.
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflict and disasters -Integrating other risks and vulnerabilities. Sharing of experiences
7 September 2006	
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Codes and standards. Devising an organisational policy for conflict assessment and evaluation.
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lessons drawn and next steps in the field.

1. Reason for the Training

This training underpins a growing **number of evaluations in conflict prevention and peace-building** (broadly defined as reducing levels of violence through non-coercive methods).

There are at present **few developed methodologies for the evaluation of conflict prevention and peace-building programmes**. As Church and Sholdice found in the 2003 INCORE study: “evaluation theory specific to conflict resolution has not kept up with the demand” (2002, p 5). The challenge is to find a method which can be recognised as a verifiable assessment of performance.

“Where methodologies exist, they are used by a small segment of stakeholders and often it is an ad hoc process conforming to the needs of the moment and limited by lack of skills, understanding and resources.” (ibid, p 1) Moreover the temptation, for reasons of resources and complexity of the subject, is to concentrate on the delivery of the intended outputs, and not analyse rigorously the subsequent effects on the conflict.

However organisations which specialise in this field are beginning to see it as their fiduciary **responsibility to generate guidelines on the design of objectives, indicators, and monitoring systems** to enable evaluations to verify the quality of the outcomes of individual projects.

The present training was developed to respond to this need. It is a cooperative project bringing together experts from varied fields and many perspectives concerning information collection and analysis.



2. Nature of the Training

The training will not cover the intricacies of the management of evaluation expertise and the collection of information. These topics are covered in the first evaluation training (for which a manual has been generated and will be circulated at this advanced training). Similarly the course will not cover theoretical subjects about the nature of peace-building and conflict prevention.

The training will be situated at an **intermediary point between a specialist discussion and a standard structured training module**. It will be open to the use of case studies, proposed by those who have signed up. However to avoid circular discussion, an approach is proposed which will rely on the **testing of a methodology based on mapping**.

The participants should ideally be drawn from the evaluation and the programming community, composed of people who have carried out evaluations (not necessarily linked to conflict prevention), who have commissioned evaluations, or whose programmes have been evaluated.



3. Profile of the Facilitators

Mr Emery Brusset

Mr Brusset is a professional evaluator and Director of Channel Research (an evaluation company with a focus on conflict situations), based in Brussels. He is trained in international relations and sociology from Yale University and the London School of Economics. After a career in the United Nations agencies (UNHCR, UNDP) serving in Iraq, Sudan and Rwanda, Mr Brusset has worked over an eleven year period conducting evaluations. Examples of recent assignments are the evaluation of the UK Conflict Prevention Pools, USAID peace-building programmes in Macedonia, Burundi and Senegal, and risk assessments for companies such as BP in Georgia.

His expertise covers conflict prevention, human rights, the promotion of the rule of law, and humanitarian aid. He has carried out training in conflict handling for DFID staff, and is one of the facilitators of the introductory course on the present subject taught every year at the University of Ulster Summer School.

Mr Tony Vaux

With over 25 years' experience in the management of relief and development responses within Oxfam GB, Mr Tony Vaux is a leading expert in the field of conflict analysis for aid agencies. He became an independent consultant specialising in conflict in 2000. He is co-author

