

Advanced Course on Conflict, Crisis and Transitions.

Location: York, England

Dates: 21-28 July, 2010

The Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG) at the Overseas Development Institute and the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit (PRDU) at the University of York are partnering to offer the 'Advanced Course on Conflict, Crisis and Transitions', a week-long programme targeting mid-career and senior professionals.

The past decade has seen a surge in attention to supporting countries affected by and recovering from conflict. A parallel growth has also occurred in the number of professionals working in the fields of humanitarian, development and post-conflict recovery policymaking and practice. They are faced with the myriad of challenges associated with contexts transitioning from conflict to peace yet, rarely have the opportunity to reflect upon critical concepts, practical challenges and policy dilemmas that are crucial in terms of supporting effective transitions.

The Advanced Course on Conflict, Crisis and Transitions will facilitate learning and guided reflection on these critical issues. It will bring together mid-career and senior professionals in York for one week each summer. While there, they will engage in a participatory learning experience that combines lectures with small group discussions and exercises, with the possibility of also publishing an analytical piece.

Participants

The Advanced Course is targeted to mid-career and senior professionals with at least 7 years of experience in humanitarian assistance, international development, post-conflict recovery, disaster management, foreign policy, and/or the military. A significant number of participants will come from bilateral and multilateral policy-making and aid financing institutions, foreign ministries, the military, United Nations agencies, NGOs, research centres, and private firms, including independent consultants.

Content

The Advanced Course will revolve around five core topics, while providing participants with the flexibility to select one of two specialised tracks that are most applicable to their professional background ('Governance and Security' or 'Humanitarian Action in Transitional Contexts').

Core topics to be included in the Advanced Course include the following:

- (1) Key concepts: conflict, fragility, risk, humanitarian action, and recovery
- (2) Applied approaches to the analysis of fragility and conflict vulnerability
- (3) The architecture of transitional assistance : global governance and aid financing
- (4) Back to basics: livelihoods, basic services and economic growth
- (5) Evaluation and evidence-based policymaking and practice: metrics for conflict, fragility, and recovery

Furthermore, based on participants' interests and areas of specialisation, those in attendance will be able to take part, during the second half of the Advanced Course, in one of the two following tracks.

<i>Track One – Governance and Security</i>	<i>Track Two –Humanitarian Action in Transitional Contexts</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Political settlements: elections and political parties (2) Legitimacy and its discontents: integrity, corruption, and accountability (3) Governmental capacity building and public administration reform (4) Security sector reform/ Demobilisation and reintegration of combatants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) International Humanitarian Law and Civilian Protection (2) Displacement, return and reintegration (3) Humanitarian-Development nexus (4) Transitional justice and human rights

Topics will be addressed through presentations and lectures by leading experts, followed by small group discussions facilitated by experts from ODI and the University of York. While assignments will not be required of participants, all will have the option to draft a short analytical piece. The strongest papers will be considered for publication in a special edition of *Humanitarian Exchange*, a publication of the Humanitarian Practice Network at ODI.

Dates & Logistics

The first Advanced Course will take place between **21 and 28 July 2010** on the campus of the University of York. Participants are responsible for their own travel to York, though on-site costs, including accommodation, are included within the course fee (see below).

How to Apply

Applications can be made by downloading the [application form](#) and sending it to d.white@odi.org.uk

You are requested to provide information on your current employment, previous experience, and sectoral or thematic specialisation. The deadline for applications is May 3rd 2010.

Fees

£1,200 Institutional Participant: A participant who is employed and sponsored by a governmental, international, or non-governmental organisation

£1000 Individual Participant: A participant who is currently self-employed, retired, or unemployed or who will be paying his or her fees separate from an employer or sponsoring organisation

For further information, contact Samir Elhawary (s.elhawary@odi.org.uk), Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute.

Conflict, Crisis and transitions

Track One Modules

Political Settlements: Elections and Political Parties

Post-crisis and post-conflict political settlements in fragile contexts such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Zimbabwe often serve to prolong rather than resolve tensions. Political parties, rather than representing advocacy coalitions, re-establish conflict-linked divisions; their in-fighting not only maintains fragility but also impedes process on the sorts of economic and political reforms necessary for delivering basic services and facilitating private sector development. This session will involve a comparative analysis, based on facilitators' and participants' experience, of political settlements and political party formation, competition, and cooperation in the aftermath of crises. Discussions will revolve around questions such as the following: What varieties of post-crisis/conflict political settlements exist? In what forms and under what conditions can these help to ameliorate 'fragility' and conflict vulnerability? How can political coalitions and parties help contribute to the formation of 'developmental states' which contribute to effective service delivery and poverty alleviation?

Legitimacy and Its Discontents: Integrity, Corruption, and Accountability

A 'crisis of legitimacy' has been declared from Afghanistan to Pakistan, Nepal, and Yemen. Weak governance, as typified by corruption and a lack of accountability, is perceived to be the hallmark of fragility, insecurity, and persistent under-development in many conflict-affected and impoverished countries. The term has, in recent years, come to be used nearly as a synonym for good governance and effective leadership, though it remains under-examined. This component will focus primarily upon corruption and anti-corruption measures, though it will also address broader questions such as the following: What is legitimacy, and how is it consistent and divergent across contexts? How can international actors and governing institutions gain legitimacy? What are the major challenges to legitimacy, and how can they be avoided?

Governmental Capacity Building and Public Administration Reform

The development of institutional capacities among governing bodies in fragile and crisis-affected states is one of the most common cross-cutting themes for development practitioners. Yet it has also remained a persistent challenge. From stand-alone trainings to 'mainstreamed' capacity building, mentoring, and 'twinning', many approaches have been attempted, each based upon a series of hypothetical benefits. This session will enable participants to consider the range of options for governmental capacity building and share their experiences with one another. Closely related to the issue of institutional capacity is public administration reform and, in particular, decentralisation. Means through which decision-making authority and resources can be effectively devolved from the national to the sub-national and municipal level will, in particular, be examined.

Security Sector Reform, including Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration

Reforms of the police and military as well as other security services are a key component of post-conflict recovery interventions in fragile contexts, as are the disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration (DDR) of former combatants. Best practices are slowly being developed for each of these activities though, simultaneously, new approaches and challenges are emerging. In Iraq and Afghanistan, for instance, large-scale security services are being established for counter-insurgency operations, while militias are being mobilised (rather than demobilised) to support the state and guard against its opponents (often where they had been demobilised just years earlier). The widespread use of private security companies (PSCs) and private military companies (PMCs) means that corporations as well as customary, non-state actors are taking an increasing responsibility for security provision. The implications of such recent developments will be examined within this module.

Track Two Modules

International Humanitarian Law and Civilian Protection

International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is a set of rules that seeks to limit the impacts of armed conflict. It provides a crucial framework for the protection of civilians, aiming to save lives and alleviate suffering. In the face of terrorism, the prevalence of non-state actors in conflict and the increasingly blurred distinctions between civilians and combatants, understanding the role and relevance of the 'rules of war' is of fundamental importance. This session will provide an overview of IHL and explore the complexities of its application to current conflicts. When does IHL apply? How does IHL protect civilians in armed conflicts? What are the challenges to implementing IHL in current armed conflicts and other violent contexts?

Displacement, Return, and Reintegration

Displacement is a critical strategy to minimise threats and negative impacts posed by conflict, natural disasters and persecution. Displacement has important political, economic and security implications not just for those who displace, but also for communities and governments which host them. Whether people move within their borders or are granted asylum in other countries, international frameworks and assistance responses are being challenged by changing dynamics of displacement, including addressing urban displacement, climate-induced migration and promoting holistic reintegration in fragile environments like Southern Sudan. This component will explore these modern challenges, as well as emerging innovative and good practices for addressing them.

Humanitarian-Development Nexus

How to respond to humanitarian emergencies and address longer term development needs in crisis and post-conflict contexts has been a source of rich debate – and arguably little progress – for the past two decades. While much of this debate has centred on the humanitarian-development nexus, aid agencies and policy-makers are increasingly questioning how peace building, state building and stabilisation fit into this complex equation. Given the long-term nature of crises and the phenomenon of 'neither war nor peace' in contexts like the Democratic Republic of Congo, it is imperative to move beyond old debates on theoretical linkages between humanitarian and development assistance, to more fully understanding the role of aid architecture and trade-offs between different approaches. Nowhere is this more relevant in transitional settings, where assistance modalities may shift from primarily working around the state to working through government agencies amidst high levels of vulnerability and political instability. This session will investigate the extent to which policy and practice on integrating humanitarian and development approaches respond to real-world programming challenges; whether there is a need for new aid paradigms; and practical cases where aid actors have successfully (and unsuccessfully) created synergies between different assistance approaches in crisis and transitional contexts.

Transitional Justice and Human Rights

The end of conflict frequently means the initiation of processes intended to address past injustices, including but not limited to 'ethnic cleansing', mass rape, and the forcible recruitment of child combatants. Furthermore, steps are undertaken in the pursuit of human rights which focus upon preventing such abuses in the future. This component of the course, which will be led by the Centre for Applied Human Rights (CAHR) at the University of York, will provide participants with an introduction to transitional justice, international human rights law, and relevant practical skills. It will include a focus upon various mechanisms of transitional justice, including trials, truth commissions, reparations and memorialisation. Based upon comparative analysis of contexts such as South Africa, Rwanda, Nepal, and Northern Ireland, the instructors will identify what has been done by local and interventional actors, and with what levels of success, in order to pursue justice and human rights.