



Study Unit 2

UNDERSTANDING PEACE BUILDING

(MODULE2)

Study Unit Outline

- I. What is peace building?
- II. Key considerations in peace building Process

Study Unit

Duration

This Study Unit requires a 2 hours of formal study time.

You may spend an additional 2-3 hours for revision

UNDERSTANDING PEACE BUILDING

INTRODUCTION

You are welcome to your first Unit of learning in this course by the end of the module, you will be able to understand the concept of peace, peace building as well as peace building processes.

You will also learn the key considerations in peace building Process.

Learning Outcomes of Study Unit

2

Upon completion of this study unit, you should be able to:

1.1 Construct a better understanding of peace, peacebuilding, and peacebuilding process

1.2 Highlight the key considerations in the peacebuilding Process

MODULE DESCRIPTION

This module will help you explore and define different concepts of peace, peacebuilding and peacebuilding processes as well as the key considerations in peacebuilding Process



UNIT ONE

2.1 WHAT IS PEACEBUILDING

Peace building is any effort in which different parties take to re-establish peace. These efforts are carried out by different parties with one objective: to transform conflict and restore peace. There are various ways in which this process can happen. Also, there are enormous efforts that are taken by different actors to build peace. This unit will introduce you to the concept of peace building as well as what does the actually process of peace building include.

One thing is important to be remembered: peace building could be any efforts or initiatives carried out by different actors or members of community to resolve conflict and to restore as well as to promote peace in specific localities or communities. The ultimate goal of any peace building effort is to transform conflict situation into more positive and peaceful one. Peace building efforts are also ways of preventing further escalations of the conflict to minimize both human and material cost of given conflict.

WHAT DOES PEACEBUILDING INVOLVE?

Although peacebuilding approaches and methods vary, they all aim to ensure that people are safe from harm, have access to law and justice, are involved in political decisions that affect them, have better economic opportunities, and have better livelihoods.

SOME OF THE WAYS IN WHICH THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED ARE THROUGH:

- through diplomacy and inclusive politics that bring together different political views and parties.
- Well-established government institutions
- Good justice system
- Strong security sector that has the ability to protect its citizens but also that can limit future escalation of conflicts within state's defined territory.
- When different sectors of the society interact and engage to contribute to peace building efforts.
- Increased peace education and trainings in the country.



- Good and inclusive media that can contribute to peace building efforts.

Efforts to restore and sustain peace can happen at various levels. Peace efforts could be local, that's when local people mobilize themselves to find solution for conflict, regional, which is slightly bigger than the local one because it involves larges efforts of community at regional level, national which happens when national or central government decides to restore peace and find solution to conflict in one of its territories and international, that's when international actors put effort on restoring peace and conflict resolution efforts in specific locality in the world.

WHAT CONTRIBUTES TO PEACE?

To comprehend and make more sense of what peacebuilding is, it's important to understand factors that contribute to peace. Some of the factors that contribute peace include:

- When there are equal political opportunities in the country.
- When the government respects opinions and views of opposition parties.
- When opposition parties also respect the views and government policies as well as practices.
- When rule of law is strong one.
- When all the members of the community are treated with respect and dignity.
- When inclusive politics are practiced.
- When differences are embraced by the national unity of people and their state.
- When people have fulfilling life where they have access to basic needs and wants.

2.1.1 PEACE BUILDING PROCESSES

Peacebuilding process is any effort that aims to resolve conflict and restore peace. Peacebuilding process needs to be inclusive one where everyone contributes so that it becomes successful effort. Peacebuilding efforts are aimed to bring positive relationship between conflicting parties so that future casualties are limited.

PEACE ENFORCEMENT

Peace enforcement happens when peacebuilding efforts require military action that can stand and separate between conflicting parties. Usually this happens in places where there are multiple



conflicting parties or places where there are active and ongoing conflicts. Peace enforcement is different from peacebuilding in various ways. One of the basic different lies how one effort uses military to restore peace while other includes usually dialogues and diplomatic efforts to restore peace. Peace enforcement is used when diplomatic efforts keep failing as result of not reaching consensus about peace building efforts while peacebuilding efforts include non-military efforts and more of diplomatic dialogues between conflicting parties. Usually in peace enforcement efforts that are missions usually led by United Nations to realize such peace initiatives.



Figure 1 : UN Peace keeping, Source : Sirohi, 2019

PEACE MAKING

Peacemaking is a type of conflict resolution that focuses on establishing equitable power relationships that are strong enough to prevent future conflict. It often entails establishing a system for agreeing on ethical decisions within a community or among parties who had previously used inappropriate (i.e. violent) conflict resolution methods. The goal of peacemaking is to achieve complete reconciliation between adversaries as well as new mutual understanding between parties and stakeholders.

Peacekeeping usually entails diplomatic action to bring adversarial parties to the negotiating table.



Figure 2 : Negotiating table, Source: Shutterstock, 2020

Negotiation, inquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, regional agencies or arrangements, sanctions, blockading, and violent intervention are some of the methods used to bring about peace.

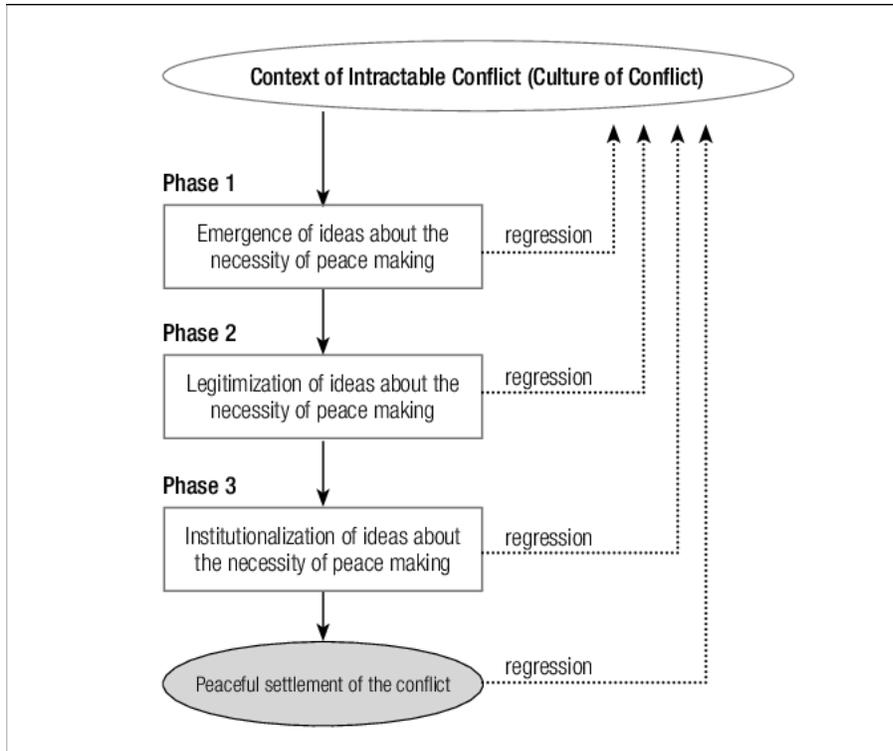


Figure 3: Context of Interactable Conflict, Source: (Bar-Tal & Halperin, 2013)

PEACE KEEPING

Peacekeeping is any effort that involves military deployment to areas in which there are very severe conflict and human catastrophes. Peacekeeping efforts usually involve actors from both regional and international community. Peacekeeping efforts also include use of military efforts to facilitate the process of restoring peace and stability in specific locality. Peacekeeping does not only include regional and international actors but also local actors especially in the country or the area where there is severe conflict. Local actors are included and respected in this process of peacekeeping so that efforts of restoring peace are smooth and sustainable ones. Peacekeeping efforts have different agendas and objectives, but they share one common one: restoring peace and stability in conflict-affected communities. Examples of peacekeeping missions include United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and United Nations Mission in Darfur.

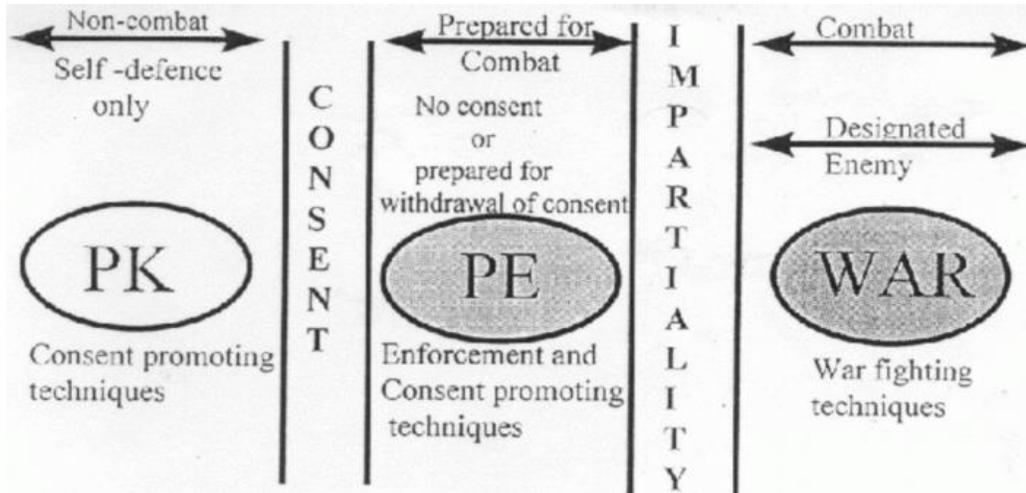


Figure 4 : Consent and Impartiality in war and conflict, Source : Emily Paddon Rhoads. (2016)



UNIT ONE QUIZ

1. **Peacebuilding** is the development of constructive personal, group, and political relationships across ethnic, religious, class, national, and racial boundaries.
 - a. False
 - b. True
2. _____ is a long-term process of encouraging people to talk, repairing relationships, and reforming institutions.
 - a. Peace destruction
 - b. Peace keeping



- c. Peace building
 - d. None of the above
3. _____ Is the use of military force to compel peace in a conflict.
- a. Peace
 - b. Peace enforcement
 - c. Peace protest
 - d. All of the above
4. Which ONE of the following can be a way of achieving peace?
- a. Improving justice
 - b. Destroying justice departments
 - c. Eliminating rule of law
 - d. B & C Only.
5. Peace is when everyone lives in _____?
- a. Fear
 - b. Confusion
 - c. Safely
 - d. State of perpetual insecurity

UNIT TWO

2.2 KEY CONSIDERATIONS IN PEACE BUILDING PROCESS

2.2.1 INCLUSIVITY

Inclusivity is very important for any peace building efforts and processes. Inclusivity has many positive merits for any conflict resolution and peace building efforts. Even though some peace building efforts may lack inclusivity there are tremendous increase in considering inclusivity for successful and sustainable peace building process. International actors that involve peace building efforts such as United Nations as well as practitioners and policy makers in such process all now consider inclusivity principle because it is seen to be very important for any peacebuilding efforts.

But the question remains what does the inclusivity include and what does it entail. Inclusivity is when all the relevant parties are included in the process. inclusivity also means ways in which local efforts are recognized, appreciated and considered. Since there are different realms in every



conflict setting, considering locality and local efforts is an important step towards achieving inclusivity that in turn can result sustained peace building process. Within the inclusivity principle in peace building process, any actor(s) that can positively contribute to the peace building process are included. These actors may include traditional elders, religious groups, women, youth and all other members of the society.



Figure 5: Inclusivity, Source: Whited 2021

2.2.2 LOCAL OWNERSHIP AND ITS NECESSITY

Local ownership of the peacebuilding process is very important and crucial step towards achieving sustained peacebuilding. Local ownership needs to be considered in any peacebuilding efforts. Showing people that the peacebuilding process is their efforts and appreciating their contribution is crucial one. Local ownership also promotes more people engaging peacebuilding efforts because of the feeling that its theirs. Therefore, local ownership is very important element that needs to be considered in every peacebuilding effort.



Figure 6: Community meeting photo Source: Cedric (2013)

WHAT IS ‘LOCAL OWNERSHIP’ AND ‘LOCAL LEADERSHIP’ IN THE CONTEXT OF PEACEBUILDING?

Local ownership of a peace process is the result of sustained local leadership in fragile and conflict-affected settings, which usually occurs when international actors recognize the need for local actors to lead peacebuilding processes from conception to implementation. Local ownership happens when international peace building efforts consider and show local people that the process of peacebuilding is also there.

2.2.3 POWER RELATIONS

Power relations is one of the important elements that needs special consideration in peacebuilding efforts. Successful peacebuilding efforts are those without power imbalances. This means that those efforts should have power balances so that no party or group of communities feel that they have no power in the actual peacebuilding process. Power relations are also important when peacebuilding efforts have local actors that also need to contribute to the peacebuilding efforts.



Lack or absence of power balances can hinder the peacebuilding process especially when some actors that involve peacebuilding process feel that they have less or no power over others. When host countries efforts and legitimacy are not considered, power imbalances can happen which can make host governments to feel that they have no power or whatsoever in their legitimate territories. There should be well-balanced power relations among the peacebuilding actors so that the process becomes very successful one. Without power balance, most of the peacebuilding efforts won't make any sense.

2.2.4 IDENTITY AND CULTURE

Every society has its own culture and identity, which influences how it lives. Identity is what makes people feel like they belong in society. Identity plays a significant role in both peace and war situations. During the peacebuilding process, identity is especially important, if there are intra-state conflicts involving people of different identities fighting over natural resources or even politics. Different parties in a conflict can target and ethnically cleanse other identity groups in the conflict, which is why identity has been at the heart of many inter-state conflicts, particularly in Africa.

Hagg and Kagwanja claim that (2007). In the process of peacebuilding, identity requires special consideration and reconfiguration. They argue in their article that special reconfiguration is required in the African context because the majority of conflicts on the continent are based on identity. The fact that the new wars are linked to identity, particularly ethnic identity, has left an indelible mark on them. While many identity markers exist, such as race, nationhood, kinship, class, religion, language, gender, age, geographic location, cultural preferences, and occupation – such as military function or herders and tillers – ethnicity is by far the most dominant axis around which conflicts have revolved (Hagg & Kagwanja, 2007).

The nature of both conflict and peacebuilding is (re)shaped by identity. For example, in Somalia's case, from 1990 to 1993, there were some clan and ethnic-based killings and massacres in the south at the start of the civil war. In this massacre, innocent children and women were killed in the southern regions. This is an example of how identity is influenced by local conflicts. Identity should be given special consideration in the peacebuilding process. If the role of identity in conflict is ignored, the peace-building process' outcome can be very fragile. To



prevent identity-based killings and other form violations, the peace-building process should include identity protection.

In the process of peacebuilding, hybrid and bottom-up approaches are required, and this is where local culture comes into play. Any peacebuilding effort should consider and respect local peacekeeping practices. Different societies have had different mechanisms for resolving their conflicts in the past. Even though it was not primarily intended to find solutions to larger conflicts, most societies have a variety of local approaches to peacebuilding, so giving the peacekeeping culture special attention is essential.

According to the above quote from Bradbury and Healy (2010), local considerations are critical, particularly in the absence of functioning state institutions capable of enforcing and establishing a long-term peace process. Even though it demonstrates how local Somalis have enjoyed their traditional conflict resolution and security maintenance in the country, this could also be true in other local contexts. Local conflict prevention and mediation mechanisms exist in various societies, and they always lead to a long-term peacebuilding process.

2.2.5 RIGHTS

Respecting rights is an important step towards achieving sustainable peacebuilding efforts. Since most conflicts include some forms of rights violation, peacebuilding efforts should aim restoring them. Peacebuilding process should include human rights respecting elements so that all the rights of humans are respected. Humans in conflict affected societies need to be treated with dignity.

human rights violations are one the first and worst results of conflicts. Conflict can even worsen human rights situations especially in areas where there are limited and weak governments. The intersection of conflict and rights is summarized in the table below.

The Intersection between Conflict and Rights	
Causes	Explanations
Denial of rights	When groups' rights are denied, this occurs.
State's inability or unwillingness to protect rights	When states are unable or unwilling to protect the rights of their citizens. This could be due to a variety of factors, including a specific



	group's political interests. For example, Somalia's previous dictator failed to prevent massacres of women and children in the northern Somali region (now self-independent republic of Somaliland). This is an example of a regime that is unresponsive to the denial of rights by a government group.
Instrumental use of rights violations by politicians	This occurs when politicians use collective memories of human rights violations to instill a sense of entitlement to retaliation.
Human rights violations	This occurs when a group's rights are consistently denied. As a result, oppressed groups have reacted violently in order to reclaim their rights. This could also be the result of direct symptoms of violent conflict, such as when warring parties torture, rape, or execute specific groups of people on a regular basis.

Table 1: Intersection between Conflict and Rights, Source: Peace Building Initiative, 2013

Conflict can occur in a variety of ways, and rights of individuals and societies can be violated during violent conflict in a variety of ways. This must be stopped and prevented in the future as part of the peace-building process. Peacebuilding should be aimed at preventing or at least deterring atrocities. For this to happen, the peace-building process must safeguard the rights of individuals and communities affected by conflict. Human rights must be protected regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, religion, or any other social strata.

2.2.6 CUSTOMARY LAW

Customary law is a rule that is based on society. It has deep roots in both the societal and contextual realms. This law is usually informal, or at the very least has an informal mechanism. Traditional law is another name for it. The term "customary law" is defined differently in different societies. Those various definitions are based on the nature of how customary law



functions in that society. For example, Bradbury & Healy (2010) define customary law in the Somali context as organic and trust-based societal rule that has its roots from Somali culture and Islamic teachings (Bradbury & Healy, 2010:114).

According to them, Many societies in the Global South have used this law to resolve conflicts for centuries, long before any other approaches to conflict prevention and peacebuilding were developed. Proponents of this law argue that it should be included in modern-day peacekeeping operations to ensure their long-term viability. For a long time, those societies in the Global South have relied on customary law. This law is applied to a variety of conflicts. This law has a broad goal that applies to a variety of situations. It's a tool for mediating or resolving conflicts between societies. This law is used in Somalia to resolve all issues, from minor to major, including bloodshed between different clans in the country. Traditional elders are at the heart of conflict resolution and peace-making activities under customary law. For example, elders dominate and are involved in Somalia's customary law. Other actors are involved, but the Elders are the largest and most important in Somalia's customary law (sometimes known as clan or traditional elders).

Local customary laws must be considered in order for any peacebuilding process to be effective and long-lasting. This is not to say that different societies' customary laws are all good or universal, but each of them has been used to resolve conflict and establish a peace process. To make peacebuilding more sustainable, effective peacebuilding processes should take local customary law into account.

Learning activity: A forum about key consideration from the learner's point of view and experience.

2.2.8 LEADERSHIP

Another important consideration that must be well-planned during the peace-building process is leadership. Any peacebuilding process requires effective leadership. It is what determines whether a peace process succeeds or fails. The type of leadership required in the process of establishing peace varies. This is dependent on the nature of the peacebuilding process. Good



leadership is necessary for any peacebuilding efforts. With good leadership, peacebuilding efforts could achieve their ultimate goal of restoring and promoting peace.



UNIT TWO QUIZ

1. Which one of the following needs special consideration during peace building process?
 - a. Foreign ownership
 - b. Inclusivity
 - c. Exclusivity
 - d. All of it
2. Local ownership is necessary considerations in peace building process?
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. Why identity and culture need to be considered in peace building process?
 - a. Because every society has unique identity and culture which is part their sense of belongness.
 - b. Cultures are not important.
 - c. Cultures and identity don not need to be considered at all.
 - d. None of the above mentioned.
4. Protection and promotion of rights is important in peace building process.
 - a. False
 - b. True
5. Peace building is necessary to avoid further conflicts and atrocities within communities and states.
 - a. True
 - b. False



SUMMARY OF THE STUDY SESSION

In this study session, you have learnt that:

In general, the concepts of peace and peace building. You have also learned the peace building process as well as the culture of peace Vs culture of violence. In addition to that you have learned the key considerations in peace building Process including Inclusivity, Local ownership, power sharing, Identity and culture, Rights, Customary law and Leadership.

A SUMMATIVE TEST

1. Define the concept of peacebuilding?
2. What does peace building involve?
3. Mention and describe the ways of achieving lasting peace?
4. What contributes to peacebuilding?
5. Define the concept of peace enforcement, peacemaking and peacekeeping?
6. Discuss the similarities and differences between peace enforcement, peacemaking and peacekeeping?
7. Discuss the advantages of peacemaking?
8. Discuss some challenges of peace enforcement?
9. Mention the key considerations in peacebuilding?

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