

# Study Unit 5

## PEACE BUILDING APPROACHES AND STRATEGIES (MODULE 5)

### Study Unit Outline

- 5.1 Peace building approaches
  - 1. Definition
  - 2. Evolution
  - 3. principles
  - 4. Approaches
- 5.2 Peace building strategies
  - 1. Steps and practical strategies
  - 2. Sector specific strategies
    - Human rights, human security and peace building
    - Democracy and peace building
    - Development and peace building
    - Gender and peace building
    - Resolution 1325 - responsive peace building
    - Resolution 2250 on youth and peace building
- 5.3 Stakeholders in peace building

### Study Unit Duration

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

### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the fifth module of the peace building and conflict resolution and diplomacy course.

Peace building approaches and strategies are critical elements of promoting sustainable peace. This module takes you through critical peace building approaches, general and sector specific strategies as well as highlight of stakeholders in peace building initiatives.

### Learning Outcomes of Study Unit 5

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

- 5.1 Articulate and use peace building approaches
- 5.2 Utilise various specific peace building strategies
- 5.3 Identify potential stakeholders

## 5.1 Peace Building approaches

What is this unit about? Because this unit is about peace building approaches, an examination of what peace building approaches are is provided so that by the end, you should be able to:

- Explain what peace building is
- Discuss evolution of peace building
- Enumerate peace building principles
- Highlight peace building approaches
- Use peace building approaches at different levels of peace building initiatives.

### Questions

- How would you define peace and peace building?
- What, in your view, are peace building approaches?

#### 1. Definitions

There are a number of peace building approaches that peace builders can utilize in their efforts to advance peace. Before we consider those approaches however, we need to know what peace and peace building mean.

Peace may be defined in variety of ways: Many people would take peace to be a state of harmony with no hostility or physical violence.

With regards to definition of peace building, it may be defined in different ways as well by different people. For some, peace building is both a process and a goal which seeks not only to end direct violence, but also build just and sustainable peace. According to Conciliation Resources, an international organisation whose mission is to stop violence, peace building is a process that is undertaken to resolve current conflicts and prevent future conflicts by addressing the causes of a problem and building a comprehensive strategy to encourage lasting peace. Furthermore, some consider peace building as a long

term process that facilitates establishment of durable peace and tries to prevent reoccurrence of violence.

In whatever way peace building is defined, the central focus of peace building is often on addressing the root causes of the conflict through reconciliation, institutional building as well as political and social transformation. It seeks to, first and foremost, establish cordial relations between ordinary citizens on both sides of the conflict. Peace building often endeavours to build bridges between the ordinary people, open channels of communication and gets people involved in joint projects.

## **2. Evolution of peace building**

The field of peace building has been evolving over the last several decades. The word, peace building, first came into use in 1995 when it was published in the UN agenda for peace. It emerged to respond to situations often created by violence, conflict and seeks to prevent, reduce, transform and help people to recover.

At the initial phases of peace building, the focus was on post conflict settings that recognized the need for conflict resolution, capacity development as well as working towards sustainable peace. However, it has now expanded to cover all stages of conflict cycle. Peace building efforts and activities are thus no longer limited to crisis intervention or conflict management, but have extended to encompass post conflict activities that can propagate and establish durable peace.

## **3. Principles of peace building**

Peace building, as is the case with other areas, has a number of principles for directing peace building initiatives. These principles, spelt out in CRS participants manual on peace building fundamentals, 2018, emphasize the following as key to effective peace building efforts:

1. Peace building intervention should be design in such a way as to address the factors that caused the conflict

2. Integrate methodology that can achieve the right relationships in all programming.
3. Peace building intervention should be based on the felt needs of the given community and should involve all the parties that will be affected by the intervention.
4. Peace building initiatives are to be based on long term commitment.
5. Compliment indigenous non-violent approaches to conflict transformation and reconciliation.
6. Peace building is done through local partners.
7. Build the capacity of civil society to make them effective in promoting peace.
8. Uses all-inclusive peace building approaches with primary focus on the local community, while at the same time engage the middle and the top levels of leadership of the given society.
9. Carry out in-depth participatory analysis of the peace building issues
10. To strategically include campaign at the appropriate levels to in order to influence transformation of unjust structures and systems that impede peace building.

#### 4. **Approaches to peace building**

With regards to approaches to peace building, there are many peace building frameworks available to practitioners for responding to conflicts or peace building. However, the most popular framework is one that is associated with John Paul Lederach (Lederach 97, 37) which is based on three prong approaches – top down, middle out and bottom up as depicted in the structure below:

## Types of Actors

## Approaches to Building Peace

### Level 1: Top Leadership

Military/political/religious leaders with high visibility

Focus on high-level negotiations  
Emphasizes cease-fire  
Led by highly visible, single mediator

### Level 2: Middle-Range Leadership

Leaders respected in sectors  
Ethnic/religious leaders  
Academics/intellectuals  
Humanitarian leaders (NGOs)

Problem-solving workshops  
Training in conflict resolution  
Peace commissions  
Insider-partial teams

### Level 3: Grassroots Leadership

Local leaders  
Leaders of indigenous NGOs  
Community developers  
Local health officials  
Refugee camp leaders

Local peace commissions  
Grassroots training  
Prejudice reduction  
Psychosocial work in postwar trauma

Affected Population

Derived from John Paul Lederach, *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies* (Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press, 1997), 39.

The model is designed on the basis that there are leaders at every level of any society as enumerated here under:-

### 1. Bottom-up approach

With the bottom up approach, social change is assumed to occur if people at the grassroots level can be mobilized to effect such a change. Influential people at this level are the local community leaders and religious leaders, key personnel of NGOs working in the area as well as other groups like religious, women and youth groups. At this level, peace building approach include training, psychosocial support and confidence building.

### 2. Top-down

This is the approach that assumes that decisions made at the highest level would invariably bring about change in the whole society. This may however not always be the case, particularly when the leadership lack legitimacy or if the institutions are weak. At this level are highly visible leaders including political, military, religious leaders, leaders of international organizations as well as high level government officials. With this approach, peace building is focused on negotiations and ceasefires and is often led by one single mediator.

### **3. The middle level approach**

The middle level approach, on the other hand, assumes change can be realised when the leaders in the middle of the social strata are engaged in the peace building interventions given that they can access both the top – level and the bottom level leaders of the society. However, it is sometimes the case that the middle level may not have the credibility or deep roots in the community. The leaders found at this level would include: Ethnic/clan/traditional leaders, religious leaders, academicians, NGO leaders and professionals. Key activities at this level include problem solving workshops, training of participants in conflict resolution and peace commissions (Lederach, 1997, 37).



1. Which of the following principles is not one of the peace building principles upon which to base peace building intervention?
  - a. Principle that focuses attention on addressing the root causes of a conflict
  - b. Principle that is based on expert defined needs
  - c. Principle that builds upon traditional non-violent approaches to conflict transformation and reconciliation

2. Which of the following is one of the peace building approaches, please indicate all that apply.

- a. Top down
- b. Middle level
- c. Bottom up
- d. Neither

3. The first step in undertaking peace building activities for parties is to:

- a. Present what they see as solution to the conflict
- b. For mediators to recommend solution to the conflict
- c. Design peace building activities
- d. Vision the kind of peace they desire

4. Which of the following is not the focus of intervention at the phase of conflict prevention?

- a. Protection of minorities
- b. Development of systems of institutions
- c. Strengthening of democratic institutions
- d. Securing respect for human rights

## 5.2 Peace building strategies

This unit introduces you to some of the general and segment specific strategies for peace building to equip you with knowledge at the end of which you will be able to:

- Discuss initial steps in peace building
- Enumerate practical peace building strategies
- Highlight segment specific peace building strategies
- Identify peace building partners

### 1. Steps in peace building

Peace building is a two sided process that on the one side, seeks to prevent, reduce or transform violent conflict or war, while on the other, it endeavours to construct and improve existing peaceful structures and activities. To this end, there are some strategies that can help achieve the desired objectives.

The first step in initiating peace building activities is to consider what kind of peace the concerned parties need. The parties have to have a vision of the kind of peace they want as a critical step before everything else. The exercise of visioning the kind of peace needed would give the parties the motivation to resist difficulties and explore other options for achieving the peace they want. Visioning peace is therefore a necessary entry point as it gives the people an Orientation of what the people want before starting to talk about all the problems that they have to deal with.

With the vision of peace agreed to, an action plan for peace building can be developed. As some of the key concerns of peace builders is prevention of conflict from escalating into violence or reducing violence where it has already occurred, they exert efforts early enough to prevent progression of conflict into outright violence. Peace building activities may be initiated during peaceful period before outbreak of violence by undertaking pre-emptive conflict management and violence prevention measures. These measures are to be aimed at interrupting the eruption of violence through restraining offenders. The



measures could include organising dialogue and negotiations for the potential parties to a problem or supporting joint activities.

However, when violence has already occurred and is in progress, Peace building activities should be directed to mediation, arbitration or some activities that would show to the parties to conflict benefits of cooperation. In a situation where violence has broken out, it is necessary to record the consequences in order to help the process of seeking legal redress afterwards.

In post-conflict period, peace building activities may be very broad. These may include, for example, confidence building, facilitation of dialogue, negotiation, mediation, arbitration, litigation as well as reconstruction, reconciliation and trauma healing work.

## **2. Practical peace building strategies**

In order to increase the chance of successful peace building initiatives it is imperative to use the following practical strategies to steer the process:

### **1. Recognizing the burden of long-term violence**

In undertaking peace building initiative, parties in conflict need to be made to realize the burden of long term detrimental effects of violence. Often, violence destroys those things over which the parties fight. This then makes the fighting meaningless and leaves the parties worse off in the end.

### **2. Enlisting plans from the locals**

Although senior government officials are quite often the ones engaged in peace talks, it is important to seek the opinion of the local people on what they consider to be the problems and how to resolve them. This process will not only increase the chances of attaining peace, it will also engage the people in the process and make them to desire peace all the more.

### **3. Conflict transformation**

This entails training many actors to be able to detect a potential conflict as a way of Identifying social problem that may otherwise be invisible. Early identification of problem would then turn the conflict to be an opportunity that can improve relations between people and initiate positive changes in the society.

#### **4. Insider-outsider links**

Connect peace building programmes with the relevant organizations around the world. Such linkage can have twin benefits of bringing international resources into local peace building process, while at the same time creating plans that address specific needs of the parties.

#### **5. Dealing with spoilers**

It is sometimes the case that some actors may not be interested in peace building processes for varying reasons and therefore try to derail the peace building processes altogether. In such cases, the best strategy for dealing with such actors would be to engage them effectively so as to either, bring them on board, or limit their ability to reignite conflict.

### **5.2.3 Segment specific peace building Strategies**

#### **1. Human rights, Human security and peace building.**

Brain storming questions:

- What are the issues you will think of when you hear about Human rights, Human Security and peace building?

#### **Definitions**

First, it is import to know that there is fundamental distinction between human rights and peace building as each would need a different peace building approach.

Human rights concern human security and therefore use individual approach, while peace building is a collective approach. Nevertheless, human rights promotion policies and development policies go hand in hand because the two are interdependent. Promotion and protection of human rights serves to prevent escalation of conflict into violence and also establishes the basis for sustainable peace.

### **Focus of intervention**

Each of the phases of conflict would require different intervention focus.

At the phase of conflict prevention, emphasis is focused on protection of minorities, strengthening of democratic institutions and securing respect for human rights. Prevention of massive human rights violation and control as well as resolution of conflicts before they get out of hand is the major concerns of preventive action. However, for conflict prevention efforts to be successful, state institutions have to be reformed. But if there is no political will and reforms are resisted, then eruption of violence may not be ruled out.

At the peace building phase, focus is on development of systems of institutions to enable them deliver long term future results. The past is also addressed here to heal wounds and prevent them from infecting the future. But to address the past atrocities or injustice, the truth has to be known as without knowing it, it is not possible to achieve healing and reconciliation. Furthermore, structural causes of violence covering political, socio-economic and freedom of expression rights have to be addressed.

Securing all these rights can provide some safeguards against domination and discrimination. In the socio-economic field, the rights-based approach can improve peoples' economic conditions, social and political well-being. It can also oblige the state to guarantee the enjoyment of these rights by the people equally. It is therefore important to have strategic focus at every phases of the conflict as a way of securing human rights, human security and promoting peace building.

## **1. Democracy and Peace building**

Brain storming questions:

- What is democracy and its relation to peace building
- What are some of the most suitable approaches to effective peace building?

### **1. Definitions**

Democracy is a word that one hears quite often, but it is one that is misunderstood and misused by many people.

Democracy is a word derived from Greek word: Demos (people), may be defined as government in which the supreme power is vested in the people (US Embassy Seoul 2017). In some countries, democracy may be exercised directly by the people, while in others, it exercised indirectly by people representatives.

Peace building, on the other hand, is a process that seeks to address the underlying causes of conflict, help people to resolve their differences peacefully and lay foundations to prevent future violence. International Alert, an organisation with mission to end chronic violence and build durable peace defines peace building as “a long-term process that encourages people to talk, repair relationships and reform institutions”.

### **2. Evolution of democracy and peace building**

Democracy and peace building were never the centre of focus when the major world powers were still engaged in what was then known as cold war. However, the disintegration of the Soviet Union with the consequent end of cold war, led to acceptance of democratic governance as essential framework for peace building. This was based on the assumption that democratic governments are most likely to promote good governance.

Democracy is central in peace building and is indeed perceived as framework for peace building. In the period preceding the cold war era, democracy has become “part and parcel of peace agreements and post conflict peace-building efforts carried out under the auspices of the United Nations” (Gilles and Boulder, 2005).

Democracy is intrinsically and instrumentally a good thing as it provides free choice and allows for political participation. From this standpoint, it is claimed to be accountable and therefore guarantees good governance that can lead to emergence of market-oriented economies.

But there is ongoing debate on whether democratic institutions can spur economic development process. For some, democracy does not facilitate economic development and would sight the experience of Korea, Taiwan, and Indonesia which are authoritarian but are able to steer their countries on successful development process than in those countries with elected democracy, like India.

### **3. Methods of promoting democracy**

Traditional method of democracy and peace building has often assumed that development of secure and stable democratic state will be attained when state structures and institutions are built and function within the constitution, regulations and laws. Furthermore, it is necessary for citizens to mount moral and political pressure as effective methods for promoting democracy as such pressures could deter bad behaviour. However, this is not usually the case where there is culturally diverse and divided society. In such setting, members of one ethnic group would consider members of the other communities as natural enemies.

But despite the good intentions, International Community often fails to promote the value of democracy in conflict ridden society. This is why some countries engaged in conflict would remain unstable after signing a peace agreement and quite often return to hostilities soon thereafter and this demonstrates the difficulties inherent in democracy promotion efforts.

#### **4. UN Peace building**

In an attempt to address the drivers of conflict, UN operations, from the year 2000 took on peace building as key component in their peace operations. This shift was due to the numerous social grievances and fragile state institutions challenges the UN Peace Keeping operations were encountering. Deeply rooted unresolved social grievances and fragile institutions to address the grievances often create a condition of no peace no war. Due to this state of affairs, the UN undertook wide range of peace building activities:

First, it increased focus on conflict prevention and humanitarian actions as well as expanding multi-party peace building efforts.

Secondly, the setting up of the international criminal court: The encountered challenges forced emergency of new international norms aimed at preventing potential situations of mass identity-based violence. The most important of the new norms was the setting up of the International Criminal Court based on Rome Statute of 2002 to prosecute crimes committed against humanity, genocide and war crimes as well as crimes of failure to protect.

Thirdly, the UN shifted its focus from peace building to state building and set up a Peace building Commission to manage coordination problems within complex state building efforts.

Another shift, the UN body is beginning to gravitate towards, is the shift to local ownership of peace building activities. This shift is informed by the realization that the top- down approach of peace building often overlooks the concept of everyday peace as conceived by the conflict affected communities.

Furthermore, some local communities are highly capable of maintaining peace and protecting civilians during conflicts even in the absence of strong government institution.

However, despite concerted efforts to promote democracy and peace through various peace building interventions, there remain tremendous challenges that if not overcome would render promotion of democracy and peace to remain elusive. Although different conflicts have unique context and elements, there are four common challenges that often impede promoting of democracy and sustainable peace if not addressed:

The first of these challenges concern the zero- sum and winner take all mentality. In such situation, leaders of the opposing parties would need to be made to view collaboration as the best way of achieving mutual interest. Thus, collaboration amongst leaders of divided communities remains the sure way of promoting and sustaining democracy and peace.

Another area that often poses great challenge in efforts to promote democracy and peace is restoration of broken relationships and trust amongst leaders of the conflicting parties. Restoring relationships and trust amongst leaders has not been easy but it is critical for successful promotion of democracy and sustainable peace.

The third obstacle concerns the difficulty of securing consensus amongst leaders of the conflicting parties on the rules of the game. Such consensus would require participation of all leaders of the parties to the conflict in the process. If consensus cannot be reached, promotion of democracy and sustainable peace will remain unattainable.

The fourth challenge concern difficulty of making leaders of the parties to the conflict learn how to listen to each other's concerns as well as making them to express their views in such a way as to facilitate agreement on common ground and solutions. Then, they would need to be trained in effective communication and negotiation skills.

#### A formative Test at the end of the first week

1. What does dealing with spoilers mean as peacebuilding approach?
2. Define conflict transformation.
3. Democracy is part and parcel of peace agreement and post-conflict peacebuilding efforts. Explain.

4. To increase the chances of peace building initiatives, there are a number of strategies to use, please identify all that apply

- a. Identifying and shaming of errant parties
- b. Making parties to recognise the burden of long-term violence
- c. Conflict transformation through training actors in conflict detection
- d. Engaging with peace spoilers in order to win or contain them

5. The focus of peace building at the initial phase is on post-conflict settings that recognised the need for conflict resolution and capacity development

- a. True
- b. False

6. Promotion of human rights and peace building uses the same approach

- a. True
- b. False

### **3. Development and Peacebuilding**

Brainstorming questions:

- What is development?
- What is peace building?

#### **1. Definitions: Development and Sustainable development and peace building**

- Monash university of South Africa defines Development as a process that creates growth, progress and positive change. The purpose of development is to improve the living conditions of the people which is possible when there is income and available employment opportunities



- Sustainable development, on the other hand, can be defined as an approach that exploits the resources of a country in such a way that makes provisions for the needs of future generation for the same resources.
- Peace building: Peace building is a post-conflict intervention that is aimed at finding answers to the factors that caused the conflict so that it cannot erupt again.

## **2. Development and sustainable development**

In recent years, the issue of development became the main agenda throughout the world. However, there was and is growing awareness that economic growth alone, does not necessarily lead to a rise in the level and quality of life of the people. Some professionals would look at development from the perspectives of the factors that impede development and cause people to remain in poverty. Common factors would include civil wars and natural resources scarcity.

## **3. Critical factors that impede development and necessitating Peace building**

Conflict and instability pose great impediment to economic stability and are by themselves the very reasons for undertaking peace building initiatives. Indeed, conflict in any given country can, amongst other things, destroy infrastructure, disrupt trade, distort markets and can reverse decades of development (Mercy Corps 2011). As a result, it is not practically possible for development to take place during conflict. Economic development would, in such settings, be undermined or stagnated where it had taken off. Because any insecurity and violence threaten development, peace and stability are therefore key components of and pre-requisite to development. Thus addressing factors that cause instability and disrupt business activities is a prerequisite to lift people out of social problems such as poverty, hunger and inequality.

Therefore, for development to occur there has to be peaceful and stable environment as their absence would mean that development and business-related activities cannot

take place. Thus, promoting peace is a necessary pre-requisite for sustainable development to take off which in turn would reduce incidence of poverty.

Another factor that can cause conflict is poverty. It is an accepted reality that in the majority of cases, most conflicts are caused by poverty and in others, scarcity of resources. As a result, development efforts may be undermined where poverty prevails in a given society.

#### **4. Integrated development and peace building**

Development and peace building are very important areas as they determine the quality of life people can have. However, there are different perspectives on whether the two topics belong together.

For some, development and peace building are two distinctive stages of phased process that are undertaken independent of each other and under different circumstance. However some consider the two to be mutually reinforcing and may be carried out simultaneously.

Despite the different perspectives on these topics – whether they can be undertaken jointly or independently, the fact remains that development and peace building are areas that need great focus, particularly in the Third World countries.

Development in any country and setting is a multi-stakeholders business. It involves the government, development partners as well as the communities. Development partners compliment government efforts in providing solutions to multi-faceted problems in a given community or society. They design development projects and programmes that promote reconciliation and peace building in situation of conflict and violence. As they do so, they need to adopt approaches that place the communities at the centre of the development projects. Such approach would lead to

Sustainable development which would promote the economic and social progress of the people as well as environmental protection.

The essence of environmental protection relates to the fact that over-exploitation and mismanagement of the natural resources can lead to depletion of those resources.

Sustainable development is generally accepted to mean “the improvement in the standard of living and welfare of the relevant population within the limits of the capacity of the ecosystems by maintaining the natural assets and their biological diversity for the benefit of the present and future generations” (Mignolli, 2017). In other words, sustainable development is a development that exploits resources to meet the needs of the present, while taking care also to cater for the needs of the future generation. Such definition underscores the primacy of economic development as well as preservation of natural resources and environmental protection to safeguard the needs of the present and the future generation. This is why countries, like those under the EU, have incorporated trade policies in their sustainable development policies to guide their dealing with Third world countries, with the aim of boosting the economy of the partner countries as well as ensuring sound management of resources, efficient development of institutions and protection of the environment.

Achieving such balance situation would therefore require comprehensive approach that both tackle the drivers of conflicts to eliminate the consequences they cause while at the same time stimulating development. Such approaches may include the following:

1. Strengthening the civil society:

Peace and sustainable development may be achieved by strengthening the civil society and other actors involved in provision of basic social services. When the Civil society is strengthened, it can support business enterprises and livelihood opportunities that would result in peace and sustainable development. In South Sudan, some organisations focus their intervention to strengthen inclusive community structures as a way of tackling the drivers of conflict such as lack of economic opportunities, feelings of marginalisation

and distrust. Their working through the community structures is aimed at restoring the social fabric of the conflict affected communities and further contribute to:

- Increasing knowledge and changing attitudes towards plurality and inclusion
- Building social cohesion
- Working with vulnerable groups, like youth to prevent them from being mobilised to engage in violence
- Establishing positive relationship between the communities and the local authorities

Provided there is peaceful environment, all actors would in a position to work for positive changes that can facilitate sustainable development. Businesses would provide employment that provide income to the citizens. The income that employees get from the employment would enable them to provide for their needs and make them to be more productive. The profits business get from their operations would be reinvested for improvement or expansion of the businesses.

## 2. Peace building initiatives

In conflict related settings, the most appropriate approach to undertake development would be to integrate it with peace building initiatives. Integrating these interventions and being guided by the principle of “do no harm”, would ensure that existing conflicts are not exacerbated and emergency of new disputes are prevented.

In South Sudan, some development agencies have sought to promote peace building by designing projects that address the root causes of conflict. For example, CARE South Sudan designs its peace building intervention by forming village savings and loans association as well as peace committees and clubs. The organisation asserts that such interventions empower the communities with skills and knowledge, improve their economic resilience

and facilitate reconciliation, as well as accord the people opportunities to engage in income generating activities and microenterprises that make linkages with traders across different ethnic communities (CARE 2020).

### 3. Investment in economic development

To prevent occurrence of conflict and allow for economic development, it is best to invest in economic development. Achieving economic growth to attaining economic development would reduce the likelihood of conflict and civil wars in a given country. To this end, many initiatives can be undertaken:

- Develop projects or programmes that are geared towards addressing the factors that perpetuate prevalence of poverty and the resulting conflicts. By intervening with projects and programmes that tackle the issues which sustain poverty and conflict, the target population can come out of abject poverty.
- Development and implementation of initiatives that promote peace by reducing economic incentives for violence and supporting local private sector actors to contribute to peace building.
- Building trust and confidence amongst the parties to conflict and enable them to resolve economic disputes and address market dysfunctions caused by violence.
- Economic development and peace building programmes need to be based on the theory of change that lead to improvement in peace, stability and development through:
  1. Building or rebuilding economic relationships amongst communities that were entangled in conflict. By doing so, incentives for peace would be raised when the parties see that there are tangible economic benefits in cooperation than pursuing “a winner take it all” mentality.
  2. Cross-border economic engagement. Building cross-border economic ties nurtures economic interdependence between countries for mutual benefits.

3. Reducing violent competition over economic resources: Where there is fierce competition between groups over scarce resources, market driven economic development would need to be linked to negotiated agreements that govern access to and use of resources to ensure sustainability of agreements.
4. Youth empowerment and economic engagement: Poverty, coupled with unemployment can push the youth to engage in violence. Without any beneficial option, the youth remain idle and become more frustrated. To lift the youth out of such situation, it is best to provide them with skills development opportunities to increase the chances of their employability or enable them engage in productive activities. For example in South Sudan youth in different parts of the country have engaged in violent conflict with NGOs that they accuse of engaging in employment malpractice that deny the local people employment opportunities.

#### **5.2.3.4 Gender and Peace building**

Brainstorming questions:

- What do you understand by the word gender?

##### **1. Definitions**

As with any other definition, gender may be defined in different ways by different people. Broadly however, gender is a word that is used to describe the characteristics of women and men that are socially constructed. A government of Canada organisation, the Canadian Institute of Health Research, defines gender as “all socially constructed roles, behaviours, expressions and identities of girls, boys, men and women” (CIHR, 2020).

##### **2. Concept of Gender and peace building**

The concept of gender and peace building has been evolving from the mid 1990s. The evolution led to shift in thinking about the role of gender and gender relations in development. The shift in this thinking was informed by the realization that, men, as was often the case in many fields, tend to dominate in every aspects of development and in particular, in peace building processes. This male domination perpetuated unequal power relation between men and women as a result of which women voices are missing in the decision-making processes. Institutions also do not accommodate women interests adequately and this only serves to obstruct progress towards gender equality.

In 1995, a world conference on women that was held in Beijing made a declaration that requires all governments to integrate gender perspectives in conflict resolutions. Also, the millennium development goals call for promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women.

Another significant development in this front was the assertion by the then UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, of growing recognition of women's role that can no longer be minimized or ignored at all stages of conflict and peace building.

### **3. Factors that contribute to marginalisation of women**

The minimization or complete disregard to women's role was and has been due, in part, to some general misperception that women, by their very nature, are peaceful beings and that most conflicts are carried out by men. Due to such misperception, women have often been marginalized in peace talks for ending conflicts. This has meant that their concerns are often not taken into account in most peace settlements.

Another factor that often marginalisation is that they are perceived as passive recipients of the outcome of decisions and activities made by men and are often regarded as victims. Due to this, they continue to be left out of peace building processes. Their work in rebuilding communities, building peace and overcoming trauma has often been minimised or disregarded altogether.

Furthermore, the dictates of patriarchal societies where men are the determinants of everything and exercise absolute authority in all matters, coupled with lack of political will from the competent authorities continue to be significant barriers to women's role in peace building interventions.

#### 4. **Significance of involving women in peace building**

Involvement of women in peace settlement is as important because they help in full understanding of the root causes of the conflict and developing of innovative and viable solutions necessary for establishing sustainable peace. This is because, during conflicts, women often suffer the most, although they try to play critical role in the midst of their tribulations.

Secondly women stand out to be important stakeholders in any peace building initiatives. This is because they are important source of information on human rights abuses as they live through it during conflicts. The horrific experiences of women during war make their engagement in decision making all the more necessary to achieve healing and reconciliation.

Thirdly, women are better placed to seek common ground and address underlying causes of conflicts.

Fourthly, during conflicts, women often play instrumental role in propagating peace and bridging divided parties in a conflict. During Sudan and South Sudan's multiple conflicts for example, women and women organizations were effective in economic empowerment, good governance and reconciliation activities. They engaged in provision of education to the children while men were busy fighting, providing livelihoods skills training as well as adult education. In the area of governance, women organizations and those women in leadership positions have also engaged in advocacy efforts for promoting their inclusion in decision making positions. They work hard to bring about reconciliation as in the case of Wunlit peace agreement reached between different factions of the Sudan



Peoples' Liberation Movement and Army during the Sudan's civil war as can be illustrated by the following picture:



##### **5. Growing recognition of women role in peace building**

There is now growing recognition that women are better placed to promote peace as they can easily cross religious, ethnic and tribal divides.

Indeed, women do play significant role in peace building as in all other areas. For example, in developing a country's constitution, women can ensure that equality is reflected in the language of the constitution. The process of ensuring inclusion of gender equality in the constitution is also known as engendering the constitution. Women representation in political institutions and the legislature has become another area that has attracted attention.

It is therefore a positive sign that women role in peace building is beginning to be widely accepted as vital. Women involvement in peace building process is critical as they may help design a lasting peace that will be advantageous to the empowerment, inclusion and protection of women. In South Sudan, the space is beginning to open up for women participation in activities that used to be preserve of the male counterpart as can be seen in the following picture:



It is therefore critical to ensure that women are included in all peace building initiatives for inclusivity and ensure that their needs are taken into account. Women voices have to be accommodated in such issues as peace and security. They can mobilize across communities and can use their social roles and networks to prevent violence and promote peace.

With this recognition, approaches that attempt to engender development empower women and perception of women as active participants in peace building processes have began to gain ground.

Many governments would now make specific provisions for inclusion of women in their constitutions. Women, in political institutions, play key role in demanding accountability and transparency in different areas of the government.

Finally, Gender equality and peace may also be considered as goals that have to, and must be achieved. This may be realized by adopting a gendered approach in all peace building activities using the mutually reinforcing theories that assert that the attainment of peace leads to greater gender equality or that peace will be achieved if gender equality is attained.

#### **5.2.3.5 Resolution 1325 - responsive peace building**

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, adopted in 2000, called for gender mainstreaming in relation to Peace and security. This was a ground breaking resolution as it had the potential to transform UN peacekeeping activities. It was also the first time that the Security Council dedicated an entire session solely on gender issues and particularly on women's participation in conflict and post-conflict situations. Before that, UN and other actors' activities were designed and implemented without taking into account the different impact of conflict and post-conflict environments on women and men. Men continue to dominate during the conflict in military peacekeeping roles but also post-conflict during the reconciliation process.

Thus, the resolution marked the first recognition and attempts to address women, peace and security issues. It acknowledged the disproportionate negative impact which conflicts can have on women and asserted the importance of incorporating gender perspective in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and reconciliation efforts. The UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is therefore a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women and men an integral dimension of design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The resolution pushes for increased participation of women at all levels of decision making, protection of women and girls from sexual and gender base violence, improving intervention strategies and advancement of relief and recovery efforts through gendered lens. Furthermore, it called on all member states to gear effort towards bringing about equal gender representation and participation in all endeavours for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

As a result, women's participation in governmental positions has since been growing in post-conflict societies and women have been gaining entry to play important roles in decision making processes. In addition, gender mainstreaming within the UN peacekeeping and peace building activities has led to provision of specific training and development of gender training materials in relation to gender implications of the peacekeepers' work.

#### **5.2.3.6 Resolution 2250 on youth and peace building**

The UN Security Council passed resolution 2250 on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015 on Youth and peace building out of realisation that young people can play an important and positive role in the maintenance of peace and promotion of international peace and security. The resolution points out five key pillars for action:

- Youth participation
- Youth protection,
- Conflict prevention
- Partnerships
- Disengagement
- Reintegration.

The resolution direct member states to accord youth a greater voice in decision-making in all matters and for them to establish mechanisms for enabling young people to participate meaningfully in peace processes. In particular, the UN Security Council resolution also directed the Secretary-General of the United Nations to carry out a:

*“study on young people's positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution, and urges Member States to “increase, as appropriate, their political, financial, technical and logistical support, that take account of the needs and participation of youth in peace efforts, in conflict and post-conflict situations, including those undertaken by relevant entities, funds and programmes, and other relevant bodies and actors at regional and international levels” (UN Resolution 2250).*

Due to the resolution and the directive, many governments are now giving space for youth participation and including them in the national constitutions.

In South Sudan, youth engage in variety of activities, including taking tea together as a way of building confidence among themselves as can be seen in the following picture:



The youth have begun to realise the importance of peace as its absence has been disrupting their lives and livelihoods and are increasingly becoming instruments of transformation.



1. Sustainable development is a development that aims to:
  - a. Exploit a country's resources to the maximum to meet the needs of the ever-growing population
  - b. Borrow enough resources to meet present needs
  - c. Prioritise economic growth
  - d. Meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs.

2. Prevention or reduction of conflict in a given country may be achieved through:

- a. Equipping parties to better defend their interests
- b. Promote social welfare where citizens are provided some services at cost to the government
- c. Buying off weapons from the hands of the citizens
- d. Investing in economic development

3. The benefits of development partners working through the local structures include:

- a. Knowing the errant parties in order to shame and punish them
- b. Establishing positive relationship between the communities and the local authorities
- c. Building social cohesion
- d. Increasing knowledge and changing attitudes towards plurality and inclusion

4. Economic growth alone does not lead to rise in the living level and quality of life

- a. True
- b. False

5. Peace and stability are not necessarily pre-condition to development

- a. True
- b. False

6. The UN Security resolution 1325 has amongst other things, lead to:

- a. Entranced resistance from member countries to affirmative action
- b. Role reversal where men become the marginalised in every aspect of public
- c. Increased hostilities between men and women
- d. Increase in women participation in government positions and decision-making processes

7. Highlight the range of peace building initiatives that the United Nations took from the year 2000

- a. Bringing about regime change

- b. Setting up of the International Criminal Court
- c. State building by setting up Peace Building Commission
- d. Conflict prevention and humanitarian action

## Unit three

### 5.3 Stakeholders for peace building

This unit introduces you to the partners to peace building. By the end of the unit, you will be able to:

- List categories of actors involved in peace building
- Highlight the importance of structures in supporting peace-building activities

Peace building is a complex process and so are the actors. There are so many actors as categorised in the multi-track diplomacy segments chart. They are all involved in peace building arena all aiming to achieve a successful outcome.

However, quite often, there are some actors who go against all peace building efforts. Therefore in carrying out peace building work, it is important for those involved to be aware of the power of spoilers or conflict holders. In peace building as in conflict resolution, use of multi-track diplomacy is necessary. This is the approach where different actors are involved in the peace building processes. UPSC IAS (2019) depicts multi-track diplomacy as having nine segments as depicted in the following diagram below:





It is recognized that different actors involved in peace building activities are more effective working together than as individuals. Indeed some actors see opportunity to contribute to peace building by coordinating with other actors, building collaborative relationships as they seek to address structural roots of a conflict.

In Diplomatic peace building strategy, creation of structures that support implementation of peace culture is essential, if not critical. This is more so because even a signed peace agreement cannot create peace without the requisite structures in place. Quite often, such structure would include: economic, military and community infrastructure. From this standpoint, peace building would mean “arriving at a contract to which all parties can agree; and it implies creating institutions, building trust and establishing a belief among all society members that these institutions are indeed the best way to solve societal problems” (CRS 2018). Peace building activities under diplomatic peace building structure include economic development programmes, strengthening democracy and governances and supporting indigenous Nongovernmental organizations or their creation.

#### **5.4. Summary**

As conflicts and violence continue to erupt through the world, it is all the more necessary for peace builders to exert more effort to prevent conflicts, resolve conflicts and undertake peace building programmes.

To achieve sustainable peace, appropriate approaches as well as general and sector specific strategies have to be used.

Equally important is identification of and working in partnership with various stakeholders engaged in the peace building activities.

#### **Final exam questions**

- 1) What do you understand by “peace building approaches and strategies”?
- 2) What lessons have you learnt from past or present peace building activities?
- 3) Describe Lederach approaches for peacebuilding?



- 4) What would you consider to be the most important aspects in peace building strategies?
- 5) Mention the peace building practical strategies and define only two of them.
- 6) What are the most suitable approaches to spur development and effective peace building?
- 7) 9. Promoting peace is a necessary pre-requisite for sustainable development to take off which in turn would reduce incidence of poverty.
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 8) The main elements of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 encompass
  - a. Push for increased participation of women at all levels of decision making
  - b. Maintenance and respect to demands of patriarchal society
  - c. Calling for member states to gear efforts towards bringing about gender equality
  - d. Protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence
- 9) Acceptance of democratic governance as essential framework for peace building only occurred after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the cold war
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 10) Based on the module materials and your experience, do you think that:
  - a. Getting individual women involved in decision making bodies would guarantee better treatment of women in a given society?
  - b. What do you think would ensure that women have strong voices and their needs are addressed?
- 11) Highlight the key developments that hastened the move towards bringing about gender equity
  - a. Call by all government to work to bring about gender equity
  - b. The Millennium development goals
  - c. Assertion by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to the effect that women's role could no longer be ignored nor minimised.
- 12) Women are better placed in bringing about peace because they can easily cross religious, ethnic or tribal divides.



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- 19) [www.edu.gov.mb.ca](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca)
- 20) [www.usip.org](http://www.usip.org)
- 21) Ibid