

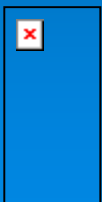
POVERTY, CONFLICT AND THE MDGs IN THE PACIFIC REGION

“There can be no peace without security, and there can be no security without peace, and there will be neither without respect for human rights”

Kofi Anan
In Larger Freedom 2005

“Of the 34 countries furthest from achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), 22 are suffering as a result of current or recent conflicts”

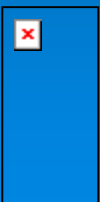
(UNDP, Conflict and Development Analysis, 2003).



Pacific Sub Regional Centre

Presentation Structure

1. International Context, poverty/conflict nexus & UNDP experience
2. Pacific context
3. How Conflict Reduction and Achieving MDGs work together
4. Concluding Remarks



United Nations: Foundation

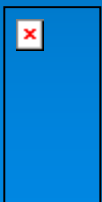
➤ The Founding Principles of the United Nations

- **Peace**
- **Security**
- **Development**

- Represent the CORE of the United Nation's Mandate;
- Are the STANDARDS for the international community

The UN has created a complex system to operationalize these principles:

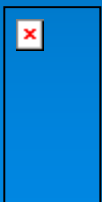
- UN Bodies (e.g. UN Security Council, UN Committees 1, 2 and 3, Functional Commissions, etc);
- Specialist agencies (UNDP, ILO, UNEP, etc);
- Binding treaties (e.g. CEDAW, Convention of the Rights of the Child, etc);
- Declarations and international agreements.



Millennium Declaration & MDGs

Focus on:

- Peace & security
- Human rights
- Good governance
- Reproductive health
- Countries in crisis & post-crisis



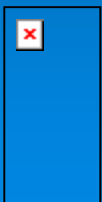
Millennium Development Goals

Seek to achieve the following for all:

- Economic well-being
- Social development
- Environmental sustainability

The MDG's and Declaration recognize that:

- Peace, security and good governance form the backdrop
- Processes for setting priorities and achievement of MDGs can be effectively linked to processes that promote peace-building and social cohesion;
- Building national capacities and broadening the base are essential to MDG processes and peace building.

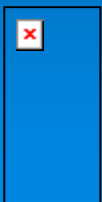


Poverty / conflict nexus

The relationship between poverty and conflict is complex. Many poor countries are not immersed in violent conflict; many rich countries suffer from outbursts of violent conflict.

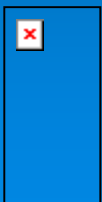
There are many factors that contribute to conflict and affect development processes:

- Extreme horizontal inequalities between groups
- Competition over scarce resources and the development of conflict linked economies
- Poor governance particularly lack of accountable and transparent institutions
- Lack of access to justice, fair treatment and redress;
- Corruption
- Poor leadership



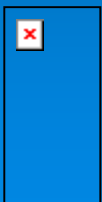
Conflict and the MDGs

- Conflict erodes past gains very rapidly (infrastructure, human resources, development level, access to ODA, etc)
- Reconstruction is very expensive to the state, the private sector and communities
- Conflict exacerbates the condition and position of women and girls in nearly all contexts and make them more vulnerable to violence, HIV/AIDS, and other forms of abuse)
- Conflict creates insecurity and undermines the rule of law and governance system, putting development on hold



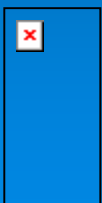
Conflict and the MDGs (Cont.)

- Development should incorporate measures to counteract the negative impact of conflict for interventions to be sustainable
- Policies, practices and processes that maximize peace-building opportunities will minimize negative impacts of development and maximize opportunities for social cohesion



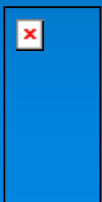
UNDP's experience to-date:

- In many countries, conflict and social instability are amongst the key barriers to achieve the MDGs
- Development is not conflict neutral: assistance creates incentives or disincentives for conflict that can bring together or divide communities
- Sustainable development requires the mutually reinforcing goals of social peace, respect for the rule of law and human rights; social and economic development
- Democratic institutions and participatory governance are essential to lasting peace
- Promoting and strengthening human rights facilitates a focus on the disadvantaged and marginalized groups who often bear the brunt of conflict



Pacific context

- A number of countries have or are experiencing conflict or social instability:
 - PNG
 - Solomon Islands
 - Fiji
- Political instability that could degenerate in Vanuatu and Tonga



Causes of Instability & Conflict in the Pacific

- Poverty & hardship on increase affecting social groups in different ways
- Rising unemployment and limited opportunities
- Increasing urbanization and demographic changes
 - Inadequate provision social services and access to housing;
 - Deterioration of the environment
 - Rising crime, alcohol consumption, drug use
- Inadequate interface between modern and traditional state structures (e.g. justice systems)



Causes of Instability and Conflict in the Pacific cont.

- Unequal access and control over strategic productive resources and assets such as land
- Lack of basic services in rural areas and in some cases for marginalized groups
- Exclusion and marginalization on the basis of ethno-religious identity
- Unresponsive leadership, limited structures and processes for participation
- Corruption



HOW CONFLICT REDUCTION AND ACHIEVING MDGs WORK CAN TOGETHER?

IMPROVING THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

- Strengthening democratic governance
- Promoting inclusive and participatory processes
- Generating multi-stakeholder consensus on priorities, entry points, approaches and benchmarks
- Working on establishing more professional, transparent, accountable and effective public and private institutions
- Strengthening formal and non formal dispute resolution systems
- Promoting the rule of law and human rights
- Strengthening the professionalism, accountability and responsiveness of the security apparatuses

MDG GOALS

➤ Economic well-being

- reducing poverty
- Promoting horizontal equality and redressing differences between social groups
- Creating opportunities and employment for young men

➤ Social development

- equal access to all levels of education
- promotion of inclusive education and a multi-cultural curriculum
- more & better employment opportunities for women
- adequate health services for all groups
- Reducing vulnerability to infectious diseases & NCDs

➤ Environmental sustainability

- equal access to safe drinking water
- improved sanitation
- control over environmental and energy resources

➤ Property rights & assets for all groups



Concluding Remarks

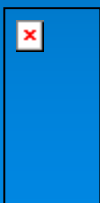
Achievement of the MDGs is a longer term process that requires political commitment, resources and time. It calls for:

- An inclusive, peace orientated process where all stakeholders are involved and have a voice
- Attention to ensure marginalized and vulnerable groups are listened to and responded to
- Building processes and structures that promote peaceful solutions and agreed benchmarks
- Strengthening responsible institutions
- Positive leadership

Good quantitative and qualitative data collection (sex and other disaggregated) is crucial to devise effective responses that reach those most in need

Perceptions and attitudes are as important as facts in conflict affected environments. These need to be factored in the design of strategies

Progress (or lack thereof) needs to be effectively monitored by a range of stakeholders including civil society



Thank you ...



Pacific Sub Regional Centre