



Strengthening Local Ownership and Confidence-building Measures: Perspectives from Africa

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By

Takwa Zebulon Suifon
Head, PCR Unit
Conflict Management Division,
Peace and Security Department
AU Commission

Email contact: TakwaS@africa-union.org



Introduction

- The AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Policy (2006) was conceived within the African vision of renewal and sustainable development and while its activities are integrated, and must be pursued simultaneously, they are envisaged in the immediate (short-term), transition (medium-term) and development (long-term) phases.
- The scope of these activities encompasses six indicative elements, namely: security; humanitarian/emergency assistance; political governance and transition; socio-economic reconstruction and development; human rights, justice and reconciliation; and women and gender.

*) Correction due to change of distribution status



Intro...

- ❑ The AU and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and international partners have put enormous efforts in the facilitation of negotiations for peaceful resolution of existing conflicts and the effective implementation of peace agreements, in countries like Burundi, the Central African Republic (CAR), the Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Sudan and Somalia, etc.
- ❑ As a result of these activities, there has been an increasing demand for the consolidation of peace, reconstruction and development.



Challenges of post-conflict reconstruction in Africa

- How to effectively consolidate peace and prevent relapse into violence (e.g. the Sudan, Sierra Leone, Liberia);
- How to help address the root causes of conflict (Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Guinea);
- How to encourage and fast-track planning and implementation of reconstruction activities (The Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo); and
- enhance complementarities and coordination between and among diverse actors engaged in PCRDR processes (all countries emerging from conflict).
- Absence of, or delay in the coming of concrete peace dividends (all cases of PCRDR).



Challenges cont...

- Uncoordinated approach between the international actors despite rhetoric and even decisions and platforms of cooperation already established (e.g. UN-Regional organizations; UNPB and AU, Regional Economic Communities/Mechanisms, etc)
- More Conflicts and more cases for post-conflict reconstruction or rehabilitation (Libya, Cote d'Ivoire)



Ownership and Confidence Building Measures (why and how)

“A sustainable peace process is one that is locally generated and externally supported...”

- Ownership of post-conflict peace process, reconciliation and confidence building measures (CBMs) is critical; easier said than done.
- Lots of local initiatives go unnoticed especially if they are not in areas of concern to donors, regional organisations (such as DDRs, SSR, etc)
- Ownership and many levels (Regional, sub-regional, national, local/community or grassroots)



Addressing ownership gap: Banjul Decision (2006)

- Establishment of the an African Union Standing Multidimensional Committee (AUSMC) on PCRCD
- Development of African experts on PCRCD
- Mobilization of resources for the implementation of PCRCD policy
- Enhancement of African capacity
- Strengthening of capacity of relevant African NGOs to address post-conflict issues
- Establishment of an African Union Volunteers program (AUV)



Multiple Levels of Confidence

- Between partners (international community) and regional bodies or stakeholders
- Between former warring factions/parties and the interveners (partners, regional bodies);
- Between UN (peacekeepers) and the population (Liberia-Indian female contingent, DRC road/bridge construction in eastern DRC, etc)
- Confidence amongst the parties themselves (tendency of always agreeing to disagree)
- Confidence between the representatives in the peace talks and the population
- Protector and protected (e.g. market day escorts in eastern DRC)
- Confidence in the peace process itself (when peace dividends delay in coming)



Principles of AU PCRDR (Policy level)

- The policy is underpinned by **five core principles**, which constitute the basic minimum values and standards that inform action across all PCRDR activities and programmes, namely:
- African leadership,
 - National and local ownership,
 - Inclusiveness, equity and non-discrimination,
 - Cooperation and cohesion, and
 - Capacity building for sustainability.



African Leadership:

- This principle is critical to ensure that the priorities, implementation and oversight remain the responsibility of African governments and that partners in reconstruction undertake to respect this leadership;
- Because PCRDR political will to expedite the process, the AU provides strategic leadership and oversight of PCRDR on the continent;
- The AU remains seized with the reconstruction agenda, defining its parameters and leveraging the different processes including resource mobilisation, division of roles, etc;
- Member States are mobilised to provide support and solidarity to countries in transition and in post-conflict;



National and Local Ownership:

- This principle is critical to ensure that PCRDR activities are aligned to local needs and aspirations, enhance a common understanding of a shared vision, maximise support for PCRDR through the re-engagement of the population in their governance and guarantee sustainability of recovery efforts.
- Post-conflict reconstruction should assist in the rebuilding of legitimate state authority and the enhancement of national ownership of the process, creating a new consensus in governance.
- National leadership applies to all aspects of PCRDR from assessment, implementation to monitoring and evaluation.
- Partnerships, particularly at the national level, between beneficiaries and the government, state and non-state actors, are critical to successful PCRDR.



Inclusiveness, Equity and Non-Discrimination

- This principle is fundamental to addressing exclusion and inequitable distribution of power and wealth, which have traditionally been amongst the root causes of conflict. In this regard:
 - An organic link between those managing PCRDR and the general populace is an imperative.
 - A fair and equitable distribution of power and wealth is key to the prevention of escalation of unresolved or new grievances.
 - PCRDR activities promote the participation, and address the needs, of marginalised and vulnerable groups such as women and girls; the elderly; disabled; and youth, as called for under Article 14(3) of the PSC Protocol.
 - Promote the participation of the Diaspora to secure their input in all PCRDR processes.



Cooperation and Coherence

- ❑ The complex challenges of PCRD, the pressure to deliver peace dividends, and the presence of a myriad of actors require cooperation and coherence to ensure that actors and activities respond to the needs and priorities of the affected country and peoples. In this regard:
 - Cooperation and coherence clarifies, and defines roles and responsibilities in ways that guarantee national ownership, African leadership, legitimacy and accountability.
 - Coordination of actors and activities optimises the use of resources, increases effectiveness and efficiency, and improves timeliness of response.
 - Promotes transparency, mutual accountability, and shared objectives between the various local, national and international actors involved, which enhances trust and confidence across board.
 - Enhances synergy of action, integrated planning and operations.
 - Promote genuine partnerships and complementarity with the relevant international structures such as the UN Peace-building Commission.



Capacity Building for Sustainability:

- ❑ All PCRD efforts have as their goal the attainment of sustainable peace and should, as a matter of priority, build and/or strengthen national and local capacities (capacity means many things to many actors...training but what training?) Therefore:
 - All PCRD activities need to have a capacity-building component that strengthens the capabilities of society to support and legitimise national processes.
 - PCRD activities ought to utilise local expertise; and where it is weak, leverage relevant African capacity at the regional and continental levels, as well as from the Diaspora.
 - Provide guidance on modalities of international engagement in building local capacity.
 - AU multidisciplinary missions have focused on what African countries can do to alleviate the post-conflict challenge (ownership and responsibility).



Some examples of building consensus and confidence

- Addressing basic needs of the population (socio-economic activities and human security needs). How can this be done in a coherent way achieve required impact ?
- Governments of national union/unity as platforms for confidence building (short term measures)
- Organisations of elections? (but also a source of renewed violence if not well handled). What innovative ways to deal with the dilemma?
- Regional level-partnerships and innovative relations between regional bodies and civil society for prevention against lapse and relapse



Conclusion

- AU PCRDR policy intends to provide a framework for consistent and coherent strategy that will fast-track the planning and implementation of (quick-impact) programmes to consolidate peace. It is still in its implementation phase.
- Peculiar situation of women in violent conflicts; disproportionate suffering; victims of all forms of abuse and increased vulnerability even in post-conflict situations needs to be highlighted. However, women are seizing new economic and political opportunities that break traditional gender stereotypes, yet most PCRDR interventions have often ignored or marginalized the women issues.
- Is it possible to own, lead and coordinate processes when you cannot fund? The policy provides parameters to improve coherence and coordination of all action, between state and non-state actors operating at local, national, regional or/and international levels, during all phases of PCRDR.



THANK YOU