Conflict

- Over 50 countries have experienced significant periods of conflict since 1980.
- 15 of 20 poorest countries have had a major conflict in the past 15 years.
- Nearly every low-income country is adjacent to a country that has experienced breakdown and war.
- 2003 saw a total of 36 armed conflicts in 28 countries.
In early 2004, war and persecution resulted in:

- 10 million refugees
- 25 million internally displaced people worldwide.
Categories of Conflict

Categories

- Territorial conflict (Succession conflicts in decolonized territories)
- Ethnic/sectarian/tribal conflict (Civil wars)
- Political and Ideological Conflict
- Intensive external intervention
Countries and Conflict

Types of Country-Conflict

- countries that are vulnerable to conflict
  - Levels of poverty
- countries that are affected by conflict
- countries in transition from conflict (post-conflict)
Features of Post-Conflict Countries

- Insecurity
- Uncertainty
- Violence and repeated cycles of violence
- Increase in poverty
  - Conflict has impoverished countries and wiped out the achievements of decades of economic development
- Loss of human life
- Physical destruction
Features of Post-Conflict Countries...

- Population displacement
  - 30 countries have had more than 10% of their population displaced through conflict
  - In 10 countries the proportion is more than 40%

[Graph showing Internally Displaced Persons 1990-97 (millions)]

Source: United States Committee for Refugees
GLOBAL MAP OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE, 2004

Note: Data for Colombia has been accumulated since 1985 and for Algeria since 1992.

Figure by MIT OCW.
Post-Conflict Reconstruction (PCR)

Definition of the World Bank

What is Post-Conflict Reconstruction

Definition of the World Bank

- Does not refer only to the reconstruction of physical infrastructure.
- Does not necessarily signify a rebuilding of the socio-economic framework that existed in a country prior to the onset of conflict.
- Conflicts, particularly long-lasting conflict, transform societies, and a return to the past may NOT be possible or desirable.
- Often, the inequities and fragility of the economies and weak governance structures of such societies have played a significant role in creating the conditions for conflict.
- In such cases, what is needed is a reconstruction of the enabling conditions for a functioning peacetime society in the economy and society and in the framework of governance and rule of law.
What is Post-Conflict Reconstruction…

- Since the early 1990s, the reconstruction of war-torn societies has become a subspecialty within the broader development agenda.

- Post-conflict reconstruction is a critical step in a continuum between humanitarian relief and longer-term development assistance.

- “Good development, or development that addresses inequity, exclusion, and indignity, is in itself the best form of conflict prevention.” (Nat Colletta, Manager, Post-Conflict Unit, World Bank)
What is Post-Conflict Reconstruction...

- Post-conflict development is something that defies the exact boundaries of traditional forms of assistance: it is neither sustainable development nor is it humanitarian response.” (Mark Malloch Brown, Vice President, WB)

- Flexibility. Flexible enough to meet the emergency needs. Yet visionary enough to create the foundation for further development.

- Beside the immediate relief, reconstruction is supposed to meet and contribute to long run objectives of development.
Post War Reconstruction vs. Post-Conflict Reconstruction

- Post-war reconstruction has focused on rebuilding infrastructure; it is easier to rebuild roads and bridges than it is to reconstruct institutions and strengthen the social fabric of a society.

- Many difficulties are associated with restoring trust and social cohesion after violent conflict.
Post-Conflict Reconstruction: The Lack of Theory

- Fragile political and social conditions endemic to war-torn societies complicate the use of traditional methods of structural adjustment

- A new field needs redefinition
Post-Conflict Reconstruction

Post 9/11 Definition

Large scales of international intervention in Post-conflict countries in order to change drastically the arenas of the Political, institutional, legal, economic, social, cultural, and spatial settings.
The Concepts behind Post-Conflict Reconstruction

“Building Peace Through Development”
(The World Bank Group)
Development, Cycle of Conflict, and Post-Conflict Reconstruction

- Back on development path
- On development path
- Post-conflict
- Country At risk
- In violent conflict
Fields of Intervention in Post-Conflict Countries

- Social Intervention
- Political
- Humanitarian
- Security
- Institutional and legal (the role of law)
- Economic
- Civil Society
- Human rights
- Cultural
- “Women” (Gender issues)
Scales of Political and Institutional Interventions

Different scales in terms of Political and Institutional interventions

- Minor Intervention: Bosnia, Kosovo
- Intensive Intervention: Somalia, Haiti, Sudan, DarFur, Iraq, Afghanistan
- Extreme Grand Intervention: Iraq, Afghanistan

Scales of Intervention
Between April and June 1994, 800,000 people were killed in a programmed genocide.

GDP fell by 50 percent.

Stability was restored after a new government took over in July 1994.

On the economic front, the country registered a very high level of growth in the immediate aftermath of the conflict, before stabilizing it at a steady 6 to 7 percent a year.

It took until 2002 to reach again the GDP of 1992 – and it may take until 2020 to reach the level of income per capita it had in 1990.
Rwanda

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Agenda of Post-Conflict Reconstruction

- Managing conflicts
- Promoting reconciliation and peace
  - “Agenda for Peace”*
    - Quickly became a milestone for peace after the end of the Cold War
- Preventing conflict reoccurrence
- Avoiding future conflicts

*Boutros Boutros Ghali, the Secretary General; January, 31 1992*
The Concepts Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Critiques

- Western Concepts of Justice, Statehood, and Culture
- American Hegemony Neocolonialist
- Control and a New-Order
- Modernist Concept

- In fact, post-conflict countries still experience high levels of social, ethnic, and religious conflicts, violence, human rights abuse and a large scale of population displacement
- “In-Conflict countries”? 