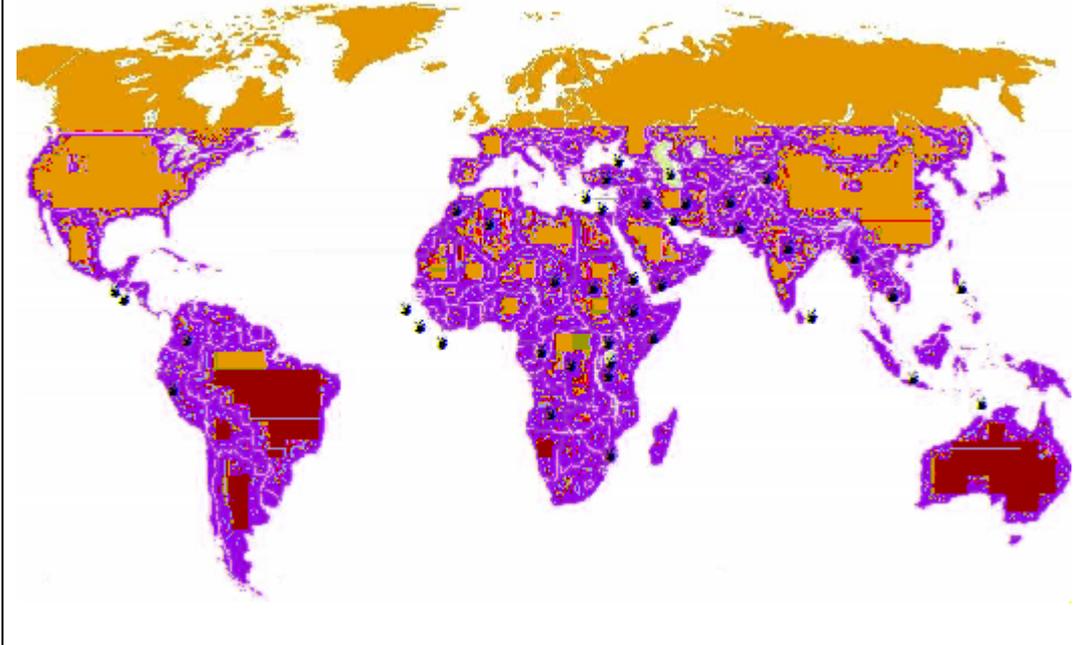# Peace-Building Strategies: Transition from Relief to Development: Why Children and Early Intervention Matter

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Human Security: a Global Concern

= Countries in which major armed conflict has occurred during 1990 to 2003.

Human Security/ War and Peace in the 21st Century

•The end of the Cold War brought remarkable changes to the global security climate. The first *HUMAN SECURITY REPORT* these changes:

> •The number of armed conflicts around the world has declined by more than 40% since the early 1990s

> •Between 1991 and 2004, 28 struggles for self-determination started or restarted, while 43 were contained or ended. There were just 25 armed secessionist conflicts under way in 2004, the lowest number since 1976

> •The number of refugees dropped by some 45% between 1992 and 2003, as more and more wars came to an end

> •The number of internally displaced increased substantially.

•Key explanation for these changes is specifically the dramatic UN-led post-Cold War increase in peacekeeping, peace-building and conflict prevention efforts.

•However, many are protracted and, in those fragile states that have experienced conflict in the past decade, the risk of returning to war will remain high for up to ten years.

•The map shows those countries (marked with black fire symbol) that experienced major armed conflict at some point between 1990 to 2003. There were 59 different major armed conflicts in 48 locations.

•Most conflicts now take place in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. Many of these countries are trapped in a volatile mix of poverty, crime, unstable and inequitable political institutions, ethnic discrimination, low state capacity and the 'bad neighborhoods" of other crisis-ridded states – all factors associated with increased risk of armed conflict.

•Thus – difficult to avoid, contain and end.

Impact of Conflict on Children

- Most affected – children and women constitute 80% of civilian deaths in conflict
- Displaced from homes
- Poor nutrition and hygienic conditions
- Deprived of rights and services including education and health care
- Separated from families – lost, abducted, recruited by armed militias
- Exposed to violence, sexual exploitation

Why Children and Peace-Building - Impact of Conflict on Children

 Because children are particularly/most affected by conflicts
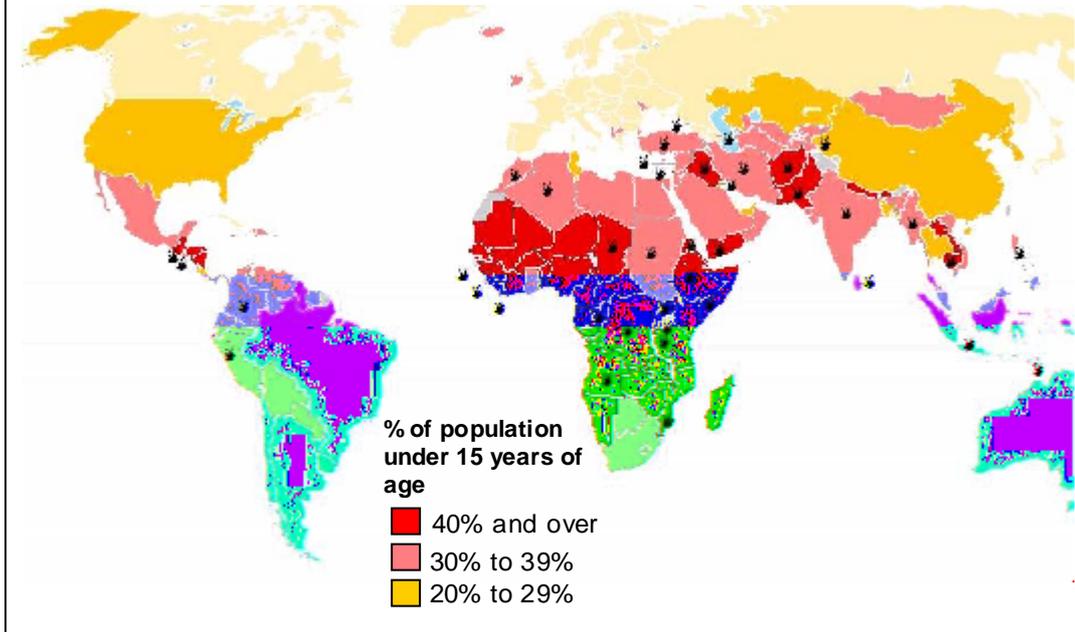
•Conflicts disproportionately affect the most vulnerable groups in society, particularly women and children who constitute 80% of the civilian deaths in conflict.

•For survivors, conflicts have a devastating impact on their lives: direct exposure to violence, dislocation, poverty or the loss of loved ones. They are faced with poor nutrition and hygienic conditions, inadequate shelter, and a lack of basic services, putting them at risk of disease.

•Recent research has shown that during the first five years of peace, the average under-five mortality rate remains 11 per cent higher than its corresponding level before the conflict (Collier, A World Bank Policy Research Report, 2003)

•Children are also subject to grave violations such as abductions, sexual violence and military recruitment and other forms of exploitation. Many are deprived of their rights to education, and basic social services, especially when attacks on schools and hospitals are part of the conflict dynamics.

A few country examples:

•An estimated 3.6 million people have been affected by the ongoing crisis in Darfur. Some 1.8 million children have been affected by the conflict, including over 15,000 children associated with armed forces and groups.

•In Colombia, an estimated 14,000 girls and boys were used as child soldiers by armed groups.

•In Somalia, an estimated 200,000 children have carried a gun or been involved with a militia since the 1991 collapse of central government.

Children Affected by Conflict

= Countries in which major armed conflict has occurred during 1990 to 2003.

% of population under 15 years of age

- 40% and over
- 30% to 39%
- 20% to 29%

Why Children and Peace-building ?

There are substantial populations of children and young people in all of these countries affected by conflict

The countries in red are those countries where the child population under the age of 15 is higher than 40 percent. As you can see, many countries have a large population of children under 15, and if you include adolescents and youth, the proportion would often represent more than one half of the total population in the country.

These children and young people will build the future of the country and therefore are a critical factor in peace-building.

Why Children and Peace-building?

- The right to live in peace…
- Children and young people are key players/part of the solution
- Failure to tap into young people's potential can also be/become part of the problem
- Children on the Peace Agenda
- Focus on/attention to children essential to accelerate progress towards MDGs

Why Children and Peace-building ?

Children and Young People are essential parts of peace building. As the future of their country, they represent the HOPE for a tomorrow that is better than today, and the quintessential MOTIVATION for a war-torn society to start RE-BUILDING and HEALING - vital elements for any peace-building process

The pursuit of peace is integral to the fulfillment of children's rights, including their rights to physical safety, health and wellbeing.

Children, young people and women are key players/part of the solution. Young people have distinct experiences in armed conflict, distinct needs and distinct capacities for recovering and contributing to peace-building: They mentor and tutor other children and provide friendship and companionship for one another. They often generate a livelihood for themselves and their families, and take on leadership roles.

Children and young people and the contributions they can make are therefore a major part of the solution, yet if neglected/forgotten can also be/become part of the problem. Experience in countries where demobilization exercises and justice sector reforms have neglected to include children has shown that this lack of attention not only has a negative effect for young people themselves, but can be detrimental to the peace building effort (child soldiers, juvenile crime etc.)

Recognizing that all children have the same rights everywhere at all times, including in times of conflict and post-conflict transition, children's rights and concerns should be integrated within all phases of peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace building activities, including early warning, prevention and recovery.

And – we cannot achieve the MDGs if we do not make significant progress in these countries. Countries either in conflict or emergency from crisis represent more than half of the countries that are current on a trajectory to fail in most MDGs – So if we are serious we MUST make progress in these countries quickly. Focusing on/attention to children in the peace process can accelerate progress towards the MDGs.

Peace-building Principles

- Build Partnerships
- National Ownership & Country Specific
- Support National Capacity
- Building Back Better – reduce disparities
- Bottom-up Approach – listen & involve people
- Children and Young People Participation
- Adequate, predictable and flexible funding
- Quick impact interventions & long-term process

- Partnership: Link to national structures, civil society to build strong coalition & local ownership
- National Ownership is essential for success and sustainability of recovery efforts, and for building consensus around recovery objectives and reinforcing local capacities. Government transition strategy and plan, based on a clear strategy and timeframe is key.
- Capacity development must be a key goal. National ownership can not fully materialize if those national actors and institutions ultimately responsible for a county do not have the required capacities to manage and lead.
- Crises are also opportunities for change and reform, the concept of "Build Back Better" seeks to avoid simply rebuilding what existed before, and places a premium on rehabilitation of services and institutions through the application of better standards and methods of reconstruction and the adaptation of improved policies. E.g. child friendly schools, providing new water and sanitation facilities, new policies for child protection.
- Bottom-up participatory approaches foster national and community ownership beyond the central government level. It is essential for sustainable results-oriented solutions to the delivery of goods and services, and the empowerment of vulnerable populations.
- Children and youth's participation throughout the transition process, with special focus on the marginalized and vulnerable young people,
- Flexible Funding – Adequate, predictable and flexible funding is essential to support peace-building efforts. Appropriate funding mechanisms are indispensable to have impact on the ground in a timely manner.
- Time Element –two dimensions in peace-building:
  1. Timely, quick-impact interventions are critical in influencing peace building outcomes, however,
  2. Peace-building is a long-term process, that may take a generation to bear fruit.

  Rapid response is necessary, but not sufficient for success.

Building Sustainable Peace

Peace-building efforts: strategic, comprehensive and focused:

- Political settlement & elections
- Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration
- Security Sector Reform
- Good governance & Public Administration
- Rule of Law and Justice systems (Law Enforcement, Transitional and independent judicial system)
- Constitutional reform and constitution making
- Human rights monitoring
- *Economic reconstruction and Social sector recovery – education, water, sanitation, health care, employment generation and reintegration – **Visible Change***

Efforts must be comprehensive

- While there is a need for a comprehensive approach, this should be guided by a **coherent, nationally led peace-building strategy involving all stakeholders**, rather than merely understanding peace-building as an accumulated list of activities – **an important task for the new Peace-building Commission and the Peace-Building Support Office**.

- Traditional peace-building efforts focused mostly on finding a settlement to the political, security aspects and constitutional reform of the conflict, such as military security, disarmament and demobilization, political settlement, and electoral assistance, as well as some of the "hardware" in terms of reconstruction of infrastructure. Absolutely essential but cannot be isolated.

- Good governance, including a focus on
    - credible leadership among national and local leaders,
    - economic policies that focus on taking advantage of the peace "dividend" to move the overall economic recovery forward and generate employment, and
    - anti-corruption measures

- A core task is to build effective public institutions, within constitutional frameworks and the rule of law. This includes support for a neutral civilian police force.

- The rule of law is a critical part of transition which will affect the establishment of a capacity to support activities by police, judiciary and corrections in ongoing operations. In post-conflict societies, a judicial system—legal frameworks, courts, judges and prosecutors, prisons—must be able to render independent and fair justice at an early stage.

- The situation may call for transitional justice mechanisms such as a tribunal dedicated to redressing past war crimes, or for a truth and reconciliation commission. These commissions can enable people to testify about their experiences and to participate in national healing processes and can include children (e.g. in Sierra Leone). In all need Special care was taken to protect victims and witnesses.

- Importance of strengthening routine human rights monitoring with local ownership for long-term improvement.

- Economic and social recovery – the keystone of recovery. Required for growth and change. Essential for confidence building – must be government led for visible change

Introducing Peace: Days of Tranquility

- "Days of Tranquility" for immunization and emergency health care
- First in El Salvador in 1984 + many later
- Cooperation with religious, civil society, and NGOs is a key.
- Participation and success created confidence ownership
- Entry point for other aid efforts

UNICEF promotes the concept of children as a 'zone of peace' as a general approach to children in armed conflict situations, and apply this concept to introduce peace. Periods of ceasefire or 'days of tranquility' have been used to facilitate access to basic social services for children. UNICEF first started this initiative 20 years ago in guerilla-held areas in El Salvador in in the mid-1980s and repeated elsewhere in many different contexts.

Ceasefire established for specific objective and limited duration e.g. for immediate access for all children to health care/vaccination. Then used these days as a means to reach out to children across the lines of conflict and bring in other necessary assistance – not only ours, but those of other organizations as well. Need broad participation - NGOs, religious and community groups – many allies essential – to maintain contacts, quickly resolve disagreements. In El Salvador, Colombia and elsewhere religious leaders played an important role as a mediator. In more recent days, Afghanistan is a very good example of this - National Immunization Days were successful because Days of Tranquility were initiated with various parties involved in the conflict. Southern Sudan and Somalia are other examples where this has worked.

In more recent times, we have seen "Days of Tranquility" in several conflict situations – in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in southern Sudan, Nepal, Angola and in Afghanistan – that these initial interventions allow us to piggyback other child-related work, such as reinforcing primary health care services and building the capacity of national staff.

Lessons
•Child rights and health as neutral entry
•Short, objective-linked ceasefire builds confidence
•Can make important progress
•Entry point for broader peace agenda

Rekindling Hope: Back to School

- Education – physical protection & help children overcome distress
- Afghanistan in 2002: an initiative by the Ministry of Education to open schools for children (boys and girls)
- Provided a visible signs of change, and reasons to hope.
- Incorporating peace-education for the future

Education: an enormously constructive role in healing war-torn communities – return to normalcy.

•Getting children to a learning environment is known to be one of the most effective ways of helping them to feel and be safe, cope with distress/trauma, and begin their emotional healing after conflict.

•Rehabilitating schools helps rebuild a protective environment for children, and establish normal routines within communities devastated by violence or war.

•Schools are places for children to develop their potential for participating in a country's future peace-building efforts

Now seen in most emergencies: Rwanda, Iraq, Afghanistan, Tsunami, Pakistan, Lebanon etc.

In Afghanistan around 2001 and 2002, the government had to be seen as making visible, rapid progress in getting aid delivered, rehabilitating infrastructure, reviving health services and reopening schools. Afghans needed to see tangible signs of change; they needed to have reason to hope for a better future.

The Back to School campaign (with vital support from Japan) emphasized equality for girls and quality for all – a powerful example of what can be done with committed national leadership and strong international support from organisations like UNICEF and thousands of partners which helped repair schools, train teachers and distribute millions of school books.

Lessons

Schools can be a key protective environment – physical safety

Play and learning important to emotional progress and change

Education can bridge differences

Long-term support required at local level – government must lead.

Education helps parents realize change

Building community - School as Zones of Peace

- Need to revive sense of social cohesion and dynamism
- Need for infrastructure and means of sustainable livelihood
- School as "spaces of peace" in communities

Comprehensive recovery and rehabilitation require a cohesive, dynamic community:

a market, school, health centre, water supply and sanitation, means of sustainable livelihood. School and education can be a vital hub for learning, social and cultural events to build stronger commitment to peace.

Schools as Spaces for Peace in South Kordofan in Southern Sudan

Following the peace agreement in the Nuba Mountains, a peace campaign was launched in 2003 in partnership with state government, local authorities, and native administration to engage children, teachers and parents in communities in the region in reconciliation and peace building activities. The pilot project focussed on cross border areas between the GoS and the SPLM-controlled areas in Kadugli locality. The programme spread from 1 community to many.

School-to-community peace outreach programmes: excellent starting points for change and peaceful coexistence in a post–conflict period.

In the Nuba Mountains approach has enabled peace building events to create forums for communities across the lines of the previous political divide to collaborate in addressing inter-community conflicts.

Lessons

Take comprehensive, and coordinated approach with many partners (Govt, UN, NGOS)

Schools as important community hub

Include longer-term support for employment, sustainable livelihoods, governance etc.

Relief must be ongoing during early phase

Building Confidence with Communities

- Peace-building from the community-level – Sierra Leone
- Use of traditional community leaders
- Local leaders compared situation of children with other communities
- Progress in decentralization: timely and favorable political environment
- Local ownership, responsibility and action for community improvement
- Stronger community ability to voice concerns and priorities

Local leaders are essential to address the rights and needs of children and to empower the community.

Sierra Leone: "Local Chiefs as Champions of Children Initiative"

Sierra Leone surfaced from war in 2002 followed by a slow transition to development. Poverty continues to choke the country's ability to fully recover. To address the overwhelming needs of children in Sierra Leone UNICEF and partners launched the Chiefs as Champions for Children Initiative in 2004, an approach using traditional authority, Paramount Chiefs, to advocate for the rights of children.

A chiefdom-level intervention makes sense on several fronts:

- Chiefs are custodians of the land and customary law and can directly influence legal changes.

- Chiefs are respected authority figures; their stature makes them an excellent vehicle to sensitise communities on promoting and protecting the rights of children, and to serve as role models.

- With decentralisation local Chiefs are in a better position to negotiate resource allocation.

Lessons

Local ownership and responsibility is essential

Broad participation for buy-in and long-term progress

Local plans along agreed norms.

Fostering Stability: DDR of Children

Demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of children combatants contributes to:

- **Overall stability and security** – condemning the future if we do not address youth and children
- **Economic stability** – education, livelihood and vocational training, employment - meaningful participation in the society
- **Personal stability** – psychosocial stability, child's development to his/her full potential

Demobilization and disarmament of ex-combattants must include rehabilitation and reintegration programme. In Liberia, UNICEF helped demobilize 12,000 child soldiers and reintegrated them into schools or enrolled in vocational training; in Burundi 3,000 child soldiers have so far been demobilized.

Liberia case study   When the fighting finally ceased in Liberia in 2003, a massive disarmament and demobilization programme began, with the eventual disarmament and demobilization of over 9,000 boys and 2,700 girls. UNICEF was key player.

Process

Pick-up points – identification, verification, support

Rapid disarmament with safety

Child-care centers

Reintegration with drop in centers & follow-up

A significant positive impact of the DD programme in Liberia: stop child involvement, return to communities, perception by children as significant milestone.

Lessons

Early Child demobilization is a right

Remember girls

Command relationship with 'leaders' difficult to change

Reintegration is essential (counseling, training, community support)

What have we learned?

- Post-conflict peace is fragile
- Long-term commitment for peace-building – not just the creation of peace
- Visible progress and national ownership essential
- Must involve youth
- Prepare action before conflict – we can work now
- Link post-conflict + prevention

What have we learned from peace-building efforts to date ?

•Fragility means that many countries fall back w/o support – plan for problems

•Commitment to long-term peace building is crucial – not just creation of peace.

•Visible progress and visibility of national ownership that the Government is in the driver seat – Be SEEN to lead

•Importance of youth: In addition to DDR of adult combatants, need to include child soldiers and youths – generational effect

•Preparing actions before conflict - know from previous experiences and plan for issues before they come up.

•School-to-community peace outreach programmes in Sudan have proven to be an excellent starting point for getting communities in conflict together towards peaceful coexistence in a post–conflict period.

How Can Japan Contribute?

- Long-term commitment to peace-building

- Support for emergency response *and* comprehensive recovery from early stage

- Contribute to national capacity building

- Strengthen Japan's own capacity to support peace-building process

Japan has shown leadership with its Human Security approach to peace building. Essential this approach continues, builds broader participation and has long-term focus. This implies multi-year funding and commitment

Need to ensure both support for humanitarian assistance and recovery – early. We cannot wait to support recovery

All efforts should focus as soon as possible on national capacity development/support

Japan can lead and should continue to invest in expertise and support.