Course Description:

The class will offer an introduction to the theory and practice of International Conflict and Development. Specifically this involves offering basic knowledge and skills necessary to undertake and engage in development and aid work under conditions involving violent conflict. Working in such conditions, aid and development workers can either increase the tensions within divided societies, or undertake their work in ways that increases intercommunal equity, understanding and cooperation. Students will become aware of the theoretical and practical debates taking place among the development, aid, and coexistence institutions and will explore various best practices in developmental, conflict ridden, and disaster affected societies. Students will also examine how aid often results in divisive political processes that contribute toward inequality in distribution, structural and economic inequities, and manipulation by various “inside” and “outside” groups. Such activity often exacerbates the situation making conflicts more difficult to manage and or resolve. The course will also introduce some basic concepts of human rights and humanitarian law, and will increase skills in analyzing the effectiveness of aid and development programs while simultaneously attempting to contribute to coexistence needs of divided societies.

Course Format

The overall course will be taught in two modules; Introduction to conflict and development, and Conflict and Development Practice. Each module is a stand along and students may take one or both. It is recommended, however, that students taking the Conflict and Development Practice module will have either significant experience in the development field, or have taken the Intro module. The Introduction course will meet 3 hours weekly for seven weeks and will be open to graduate students.
**Narrative.**

This class was drawn up in response to both COEX and SID students demands for a course that addressed the overlap between Development and Coexistence work in conflicted societies. In the last 5 years, there has been an increasing amount of theoretical and policy/practice relevant literature written about this phenomenon, and its importance to both the Development and Coexistence field. (See attached Bibliography)

Increasingly, both Developmental and Aid organizations working at international and national level are establishing units within their planning structures to address this overlap within their programs, and to ensure that the effects of it are positive rather than negative towards issues of Coexistence and Conflict, as well as towards Development. Such agencies include e.g. UNDP (United Nations Development Program), UNHCR (United Nations High Commission on Refugees), the World Bank, the European Union, USAID (United States Aid and Development agency), SIDA, CIDA and DiFID (the development agencies of Canada, Sweden and the UK), as well as large aid agencies such as Action Aid, Mercy Corps, and Oxfam. This module will therefore help expand the professional career possibilities of those students who take it, as well as adding to the developing research on the combined issues of interest to both fields.

It will be offered primarily to Graduate students from within GSAS, the Heller school, and the Business School.

**Overview of the class:**

The purpose of this class is to increase the knowledge and skills of students undertaking development and aid work in situations of conflict. Such work can either increase the tensions within divided societies, or be undertaken in such a way that the work can increase intercommunal equity, understanding and cooperation. Students will learn about the debates that have been taking place between the development, aid, and coexistence institutions about how to develop best practice in developmental and disaster situations in conflicted societies. They will examine how aid can play into a divisive politics of distribution and inequities, can be controlled by and used by particular groups to the exclusion of others, can be seen to assist political or military agendas, and can become part of the economy of war, thus making conflicts more difficult to resolve. They will explore issues of programming, neutrality, human rights and humanitarian law. They will also increase their skills in the creation of programs that can address both development and aid necessities, while simultaneously contributing to coexistence needs in divided societies.

**Grading:** The final grade in this course will consist of the following components:

- Class participation 15%
- In-Class Presentation 35%
Final Paper

In the final paper you are asked to write a “Memorandum” to an agency or organization of your choice (e.g., NGO, Funding Agency, Government Department or Ministry) addressing a conflict of your choice. In the memo, your objective is to urge and recommend a “conflict sensitive” approach to an intervention in the conflict you will choose. For example, you may choose to write a memo to the World Bank to fund a micro credit program as part of the post war and reconstruction and development in Iraq. In your memorandum, you are asked to identify the following:

- The main points of the conflict
- The need for an intervention (aid or development strategy)
- The relevant policy implications to ensure that the intervention “does no harm”
- Your recommendations for a conflict-sensitive strategy for implementing the intervention.

While the paper is identified as a “Memorandum”, for this class it remains an academic writing assignment. As such, appropriate references to literature, readings, and or/lectures and a short bibliography will be expected.

The final paper should be no more than 20 pages – space and a half format, 11 or 12 point type.

Due Date: The due date for the final paper will be announced in class

Class Objectives:

Week 1.

The challenges to development and humanitarian work in situations of conflict in today's world.

This session will include an overview of conflicts in the world to day, including how war has changed over the last few decades, necessitating new ways of working both in the development and aid field, as well as the coexistence field. It will also look at the academic and practical work undertaken in the last two decades on issues about how best to undertake development work in divided and conflicted societies, and at the challenges and debates which have accompanied such development.

Required Readings


**Recommended Readings**


**Week 2.**

**Undertaking conflict analysis in combination with development or aid needs analysis.**

This session will look at how one can undertake an analysis of both development and coexistence needs in a situation in conflict. Students will also look at the sensitivities of working in local partnerships within situations of conflict, and how to deal with the ethical, cultural and impartiality challenges such situations will evoke, as well as the practical challenges associated with ensuring that their work connects rather than further divides communities.

**Required Readings**


Recommended Readings


Week 3.

Humanitarian, aid and disaster relief – challenge or opportunity?

This session will look at case studies addressing issues of coexistence in the midst of humanitarian relief and aid work. While disaster situations rightly emphasize the primacy of basic humanitarian relief, in many situations, depending upon the approaches taken by the humanitarian agencies, they can also increase or decrease possibilities for coexistence work and peace building. Aceh in Indonesia, and Sri Lanka, and the effect of the tsunami on their conflicts, will be used as case studies for this session.

Required Readings


Week 4.

Ethnic and Religious Conflict and Development – Bosnia, a Case Study

In a Muslim / Catholic village near Sarajevo, rumors fly and suspicions spread. When Catholic Croats assert control, Muslim businesses are attacked, villagers arrested and harassed, and homes threatened. Three weeks later, neighbors who had been close friends for 50 years no longer speak to each other, and the peaceful coexistence between Croats and Muslims disintegrates into mutual distrust and fear.

This scenario will be made shown in a film “We are all Neighbors” produced in 1993 by Public Media Films. As a set up for the film we will discuss a brief history of the war in Bosnia and following the film we will discuss humanitarian relief efforts in Bosnia.

The following are recommended readings for the discussion:


Week 5

Challenges of foreign assistance for development and aid in situations of conflict.

The motives and characteristic of donor countries or organizations will often influence the effect of their development aid on situations of conflict. How can institutions and individuals work effectively in situations that are seen, correctly or otherwise, to be politically influenced by the partisanship or the investment dependency interests of the donor countries? Can foreign assistance help prevent and manage conflict – and if so, what are the implications for the work? Can development work assist the development of
sustainable patterns of trade and economic development that can help to minimize local and global tensions within a rapidly globalizing world? Case studies will include Rwanda, Iraq and the Palestinian West Bank.

Required Readings


2. Demekas, Dimitri et al. The Economics of Post Conflict Aid [http://www.aueb.gr/deos/Seminars/Kosma6-2-03.pdf](http://www.aueb.gr/deos/Seminars/Kosma6-2-03.pdf)


Recommended Readings


Week 6.

Many relief and development organizations working in places of civil war have raised their awareness of conflict-sensitive planning and are seeking to integrate peace-building activities into their work. This session will look at those institutions that have been attempting to mainstream issues of coexistence into their development and aid work. It will assess the challenges they have faced, and the lessons that they have learned in undertaking such mainstreaming. It will also examine the new paradigm of integrated work that is replacing older approaches of parallel or exclusive work in areas of coexistence, and of development. In particular, it will look at 3 agencies, one from the UN, one from the U.S. Government, and a major international NGO to see how they have addressed the challenge of implementing conflict-sensitive planning into all of their programs.
Required Readings:


Recommended Readings


10. The Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief, and the code of International Alert for working in situations of Conflict.

Lesson 7.

Presentations of case studies on the possible integration of development, aid, and
coexistence work in particular situations.  OR  
Presentations on the challenges and possibility of mainstreaming coexistence sensitivity into a particular development and aid organization.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY (Draft)**

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http://www.cdainc.com/  


http://www.beyandintractability.org/m/development_conflict_theory.jsp


7. Collier, Paul and Hoeffler, Anke. Aid, Policy and Growth in Post-Conflict Societies  
http://ideas.repec.org/p/wbk/wbrwps/2902.html

8. Commins, Stephen: In the Line of Fire: Development in Conflict  
http://www.developmentinpractice.org/readers/DSW/intro.htm

9. Demekas, Dimitri et al The Economics of Post Conflict Aid  
http://www.aueb.gr/deos/Seminars/Kosma6-2-03.pdf

11. Esman, Milton: Can Foreign Aid Moderate Ethnic Conflict?


14. Gourevitch, Philip (1998). We Wish to Inform You that tomorrow we will be Killed With our Families, New York: Picador.


http://www.columbia.edu/~mh2245/papers1/HV.pdf


19. International Alert: Conflict, Humanitarian Assistance and Peacebuilding: Meeting the Challenges


20. International Alert 2004. Conflict Sensitive Approaches to Development,

http://www.conflictsensitivity.org/resource_pack.html


22. IRIN Web Special on Civilian Protection in Armed Conflict

http://www.irinnews.org/webspecials/civilprotect/default.asp


29. Maresko, Deborah: Development, Relief Aid, and Creating Peace: Humanitarian Aid in Liberia's War of the 1990s

http://www.trinstitute.org/ojpcr/6_Imaresko.pdf

30. Messer, Ellen, and Cohen, Marc: Breaking the Links Between Conflict and Hunger in Africa


31. Moore, Jonathan: The Humanitarian-Development Gap
http://www.icrc.org/web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/iwpList78/EE30655200237ACBC1256B66005CFE19


http://www.acdicida.gc.ca/cida_ind.nsf/d86cbe87319a898c8525677e0072d6f8/d4fe6663c8a7824d85256aef00636e0e/$FILE/Co13.pdf

34. Pearse, Jenny: Development, NGOs, and Civil Society: the Debate and Its Future

http://www.developmentinpractice.org/readers/NGOs/intro.htm


http://www.icrc.org/web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/iwpList167/FA943455FADB895EC1256B66005C0A26


42. Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency : Reconciliation - Theory and Practice for Development Cooperation
43. The Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief, and the code of International Alert for working in situations of Conflict.


45. Uvin, Peter / OECD The Influence of Aid in Situations of Violent Conflict. Based on the results of four case studies (Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Rwanda.


http://www.ipacademy.org/Publications/Publications.htm

47. Vauz, Tony and Goodhand Jothahan (2001). Disturbing Connections: Aid and Conflict in Kyrgyzstan