

Emergency aid, rebuilding and peace consolidation

From acute crisis management to long-term capacity building

Crisis management and the rebuilding of post-conflict societies are among the key challenges in development policy, and they are gaining significance in light of the current global political situation. KfW Development Bank supports the transition from acute crisis to long-term state building with the aim of promoting sustainable peace and development.

Context

While the number of violent conflicts had been falling since the end of the Cold War, a renewed increase in military confrontations has been seen since 2010. According to figures from the Peace Research Institute Oslo, the world saw a record high in 2018, with a total of 52 active war-like conflicts in 36 different countries. This development is also reflected in the increase in states classed as “fragile”. While the OECD placed a total of 45 countries in this category in 2009, the number had increased to 58 a decade later. One major challenge here is that fragile contexts have very limited ability to break out of the downward spiral of violence once it has begun. Although in the past there was insufficient attention paid to designing the transition from emergency aid to capacity building, KfW's activity, in line with the Humanitarian Development Peace (HDP) Nexus, increasingly aims to effectively combine short-term measures and long-term development cooperation work. To achieve sustainable impacts, acute crisis management requires long-term capacity building. On behalf of the German federal government and using government funds, KfW Development Bank adopts numerous development approaches and projects to

help overcome challenges, from acute crisis management to structural rebuilding and peace consolidation.

The KfW development approach

Following acute violent conflicts, KfW initially works to secure basic services for affected populations. While foreign and security policy actors try to find a political solution to the crisis, Financial Cooperation helps to restore basic public services (e.g. food security, water supply, etc.). Furthermore, KfW aims to maintain or rebuild core state functions, especially at community level. Measures of this sort enable, for example, the continuation or recommencement of basic education through free school meal programmes or by financing teachers' salaries. As well as specific measures, KfW's involvement aims to achieve a ‘peace dividend’ for the affected population, which can help to re-establish the social contract and build confidence in the state in the medium term. The development approaches also include ‘Cash for Work’ programmes where beneficiaries receive remuneration to set up services which benefit the community, or labour-intensive rebuilding measures. On the one hand, these types of measure create income to secure people's livelihoods, and on the other, the work that is created helps to build a basis for peaceful development going forward.

Many of the longer-term FC measures aim to secure the (volatile) peace in the long term and support the partner countries in their return to a sustainable development path. Here, KfW Development bank supports post-conflict societies with a wide range of measures. Initially, these include projects to sustainably improve food security, increase income and invest in agricultural market infrastructure. They are closely associated with the rebuilding of infrastructure in areas of a country which have been destroyed. Among other things, support is provided to rebuild schools, health stations, bridges and other types of transport infrastructure. To revitalise the local economy too, KfW is involved in rebuilding through private sector-funded measures in vocational qualification, the development of value crea-

tion chains and the establishment of financial services. In the public sector, this portfolio of measures is enhanced through municipal development approaches, the strengthening of social security systems and democratisation, to support states which have been rocked by crises and conflicts on their path towards becoming stable societies. Where possible and where it makes sense to do so, the programmes are linked to measures which promote peace and a sense of community (e.g. victim compensation funds, village community centres, sports facilities, etc.).

The effective linking of short-term aid measures and longer-term structural approaches is particularly significant in ensuring that the escape from the spiral of fragility is successful in the long term. Specialist international development jargon refers to the 'humanitarian development peace (HDP) nexus'. This approach takes the huge complexity of crises and conflicts as its starting point and recognises the need for all sectors to work together in a coordinated fashion to break repeating cycles of violence and fragility. KfW Development Bank is aware of this need and adjusts its processes and instruments accordingly. As a financier, KfW can cooperate with a broad spectrum of partners (state, non-governmental and supra-state actors, etc.), including across countries and sectors, allowing it to cover the whole continuum of measures, from short-term emergency aid to long-term rebuilding.

>>>

Contact

KfW Group
KfW Development Bank
Competence Centre for Social Development and Peace
Palmengartenstrasse 5–9
60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Telephone +49 69 7431 2150
dominik.balthasar@kfw.de



Rehabilitation of roads in Liberia. Source: KfW photo archive, photographer: Bernhard Schurian

Liberia — Reintegration and Recovery

The Reintegration and Recovery Programme in Liberia (RRP), which German organisation Welthungerhilfe (World Hunger Aid) has run since 2005, is an example of an effective combination of short-term aid measures and longer-term development projects. The project, which is currently in its fifth phase, was originally designed based on fast-acting measures and was very multi-sectoral in nature. Thanks to the increasing political stability in the country, the focus is now on improving living conditions in the traditionally neglected south east of Liberia, to help consolidate peace further. With close to EUR 15 million, it is currently supporting water and sanitation in particular, as well as agriculture and market access. While local authorities are involved in selecting and implementing individual measures, the latter are increasingly rolled out in cooperation with local organisations. Despite this shift in priorities, the project expanded to include the Ebola Support Programme during the Ebola pandemic, in order to meet the country's acute needs and provide another round of emergency aid. Since 2005, investments of more than EUR 60 million have been made in the West African country under the RRP.