

POVERTY AND CONFLICT

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OVERVIEW

- **Background**
- **Causes & Consequences**
- **Lessons**
- **Policy Implications**
- **What's Next**

BACKGROUND

- **Combat Poverty & Pobal (ADM) jointly deliver the Peace Programme in the Border Counties since 1995**
- **Combat Poverty**
 - state advisory agency developing and promoting evidence-based proposals and measures to combat poverty in Ireland
- **Pobal**
 - Manages programmes on behalf of EU and Irish Government which support social inclusion, reconciliation and equality and which support integrated social and economic development
- **Office in Monaghan – ADM/CPA ⇔ Border Action**
- **Cross Border partners**
 - Community Foundation for Northern Ireland
 - Co-operation Ireland

BACKGROUND

- Currently delivering Peace II Programme (and extension)
- 2000 – 2006
- €97.6m
- 470 projects

What has this got to do with combating poverty?

Key Questions

- Is poverty a cause of conflict?
- Is poverty a consequence of conflict?
- How can we have policies that promote both social inclusion and peace-building?
- *Research Study by Hillyard, Rolston and Tomlinson, 2005*

Key Issues - Context

- Lack of discussion on the causes and consequences of the conflict
- Impact of the conflict considerable
 - 3,600 killed; >45,000 injured in NI
- **Strong but complex relationship between poverty and conflict**

Key Issues - Causes

- Deaths and injuries greatest in disadvantaged areas
- Poverty on its own will not necessarily lead to conflict but reductions in poverty & inequality reduce likelihood of poverty
- Societies that are more equal are more stable and more socially cohesive
- Levels of inequality may be more important than poverty in relation to levels of violence and conflict

Key Issues - Consequences

- Destruction of infrastructure
- Increased expenditure on security
- Higher mortality & morbidity
- High level of public sector employment
- Displacement of populations

Lessons

- Need to focus on social issues, reconciliation and civic participation as well as physical and economic "reconstruction"
- Need to reconstruct civil society, education & health services, & relationships
- Peace agreements are an important framework
 - Fragile
 - Armed conflicts can reoccur

To reconstruct society need...

- To strengthen good governance
- A formal mechanism to address human rights
- Disarmament and re-integration of former combatants
- To build consensus and accountability on law and order
- To address position of women, children and young people
- To tackle problems of marginalisation
- To strengthen civic participation

Policy Implications

- Economic, social and cultural rights should underpin any anti-poverty strategy
- Address income and other inequalities
- Pay particular attention to women, children, young people, victims and ex-combatants
- Invest in disadvantaged areas
- “Mobilise all the actors” – civic participation
- Cross border anti-poverty co-operation
- Conflict reduction / peace building indicator as part of monitoring poverty reduction

Next Steps

- Irish National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion
- National Development Plan
- NI Anti-Poverty Strategy
- Peace III
- NI Devolved Government

And so

Tackling poverty and conflict go hand in hand

- ***Tackle inequalities***
- ***Invest in disadvantaged communities***
 - ***Support civic participation***
- ***Initiatives for women, children, young people, victims and ex-combatants***
- ***Promote reconciliation and relationships***
 - ***Good governance***
 - ***Peace Agreement***
