

Tearfund Disaster Management Key Learning

Conflict

Last Updated: 15 November 2009

Specific actionable recommendations and relevant background information

1 Carefully consider how the organisation's neutrality will be perceived in relation to its targeting criteria

Source of Learning:
Various

Background Information:
In many conflict situations, teams have had to carefully consider their targeting criteria to ensure they are not perceived as favouring one side in a conflict eg. displaced population, host population and other population. In Darfur it has been important to assist vulnerable nomadic populations, vulnerable IDP populations and their hosts.

2 Carefully consider how the organisation's targeting criteria might cause resentment in a community

Source of Learning:
Sierra Leone, South Sudan, DRC, Other

Background Information:
For projects where large scale resettlement is underway, there is a danger that if the focus is exclusively on returnees rather than the existing population (who are often also chronically vulnerable), there may be imbalance in the assistance provided and resentment towards the returnees as well as towards the NGOs. In countries such as Sierra Leone, South Sudan and DRC, we learnt that targeting criteria need to embrace vulnerable residents as well as vulnerable returnees and to take an inclusive approach.

<p>3</p>	<p>Thoroughly understand issues of land ownership in order to avoid legitimising the action of aggressors, such as illegal land occupation</p>
	<p><u>Source of Learning:</u> Darfur / Sudan</p>
	<p><u>Background Information:</u> In the Darfur programme, teams have needed to avoid providing water points on disputed land, which may be perceived as providing legitimacy for an illegal occupation of a village.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Consider including peace workshops in communities to facilitate dialogue and reconciliation</p>
	<p><u>Source of Learning:</u> Sierra Leone</p>
	<p><u>Background Information:</u> In Sierra Leone, conflict transformation workshops were held within project communities. Through the workshops communities were able to analyse the reasons behind the civil war, discuss long standing grudges and issues of resentment towards the different armed actors in the conflict. The training motivated some communities so much that they formed a peace committee, they have been able to forgive those who wronged them during the war, and they have resolved to deal with future disputes locally within the village without the situation escalating.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Encourage exposure visits for project staff to other locations with examples of good practice</p>
	<p><u>Source of Learning:</u> Various</p>
	<p><u>Background Information:</u> Organise exposure trips for field managers to visit sites of Good Practice in other programmes and partners to see how conflict sensitivity and peace building is applied.</p>