



## Security, Reconstruction and Peace

# Reconstruction for crisis prevention

### The challenge

Conflicts and armed hostilities within a developing country or emerging economy wipe out the livelihoods above all of disadvantaged individuals and groups. They destroy the physical, economic, political and social infrastructure of a country and create an atmosphere marked by highly volatile and impenetrable structures and mechanisms. The challenge is to ensure the swift reconstruction of local infrastructure and to put in place an environment that will enable the population affected to secure their livelihoods in the long term.

### Our approach

We promote the ability of the people to resolve conflicts peacefully and foster reconciliation, reintegration and violence prevention. In reconstruction for crisis prevention, we combine our experience in the field of development-oriented emergency and transition aid with innovative approaches in crisis prevention and peacebuilding.

Taking special account of national reconstruction programmes, our approach can be adapted to bring it into line with the specific local and regional conditions on the ground. Depending on this, various core modules can be adapted to the given situation and combined with one another. The local population is actively involved in devising and realising the measures. The programme management aims to ensure efficient implementation of the measures and transparency in order placing and funding allocation.

### Our services

The following modules in the field of reconstruction for crisis prevention can be combined with one another as appropriate:

- **Rehabilitation and reconstruction of local infrastructure:** By realising housing construction and infrastructure promotion measures, the local population once again gains access to basic services.
- **Promotion of local and regional organisational structures:** We support effective administration, which is in a position to perform the essential tasks expected of a state.
- **Food security:** We can mitigate the acute emergency situation by providing a sustainable, adequate supply of food.
- **Primary health care:** We help put in place elementary health care and thus help provide primary health care services for the local population.
- **Income generation and employment promotion:** By creating jobs and strengthening small businesses, we generate income and thus ensure as swift as possible a transition to normal life.
- **Restoration of the foundations for agricultural production:** Higher yields and more stable harvests help ensure that food becomes available on a sustainable basis.
- **Improving security and preventing violence:** By reintegrating individuals deemed to have a high potential to resort to violence, such as ex-combatants, into society, we enhance the security of the population.
- **Reconciliation and reintegration:** We strengthen the self-healing and self-help capabilities of individuals, communities and societies.



## The benefits

Our approach to reconstruction for crisis prevention optimises the social and economic living conditions of individuals affected by armed hostilities or natural disasters. At the same time, the risk that future crises will erupt is significantly reduced with the help of stabilising measures.

Our multisectoral approach and long-standing experience in the field of emergency and transition assistance, as well as a combination of innovative crisis prevention and conflict resolution measures, allow us to draw on a range of tried and tested instruments. GIZ's efficient programme management is supplemented by conflict-sensitive planning and project design instruments.

## An example from the field

Since February 2002, a ceasefire has officially been in place in Sri Lanka between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. After renewed heavy fighting and a military victory in May 2009, the government declared the civil war officially over. But that does not, of course, mean that normal life has yet resumed in the worst affected regions of the country. Many families are unable to earn a living on their own. A large percentage of public infrastructure and private homes have been destroyed, while social networks and basic services have ground to a halt.

The "Northern Rehabilitation Project" aims to ensure the active participation of the population in the socioeconomic development of the country.

The project area covers the districts worst hit by the civil war, and spans areas outside of those held by the different parties to the conflict. The project combines measures to repair physical infrastructure with social and economic reintegration activities, and also supports communities and local authorities in building managerial capabilities.

In selected areas of northern Sri Lanka, support has been provided to rebuild homes destroyed in the fighting within the framework of measures to cover basic needs. Of the 38 schools that used to exist in Kopay District, 37 have been restored, although three of these have been closed again temporarily in the intervening period. In this area, another 6,000 people now have access to drinking water, which means that almost 70% of the population that did not previously have access to water have now been supplied using water tanks. Citizen participation has been significantly increased. The number of representatives of community members at advisory meetings rose over a three-year period from 52 to over 800. But there is still no real indication that the genuine needs of the population have been identified. Because of this high level of participation, in fact, the general level of dissatisfaction with decisions is on the rise: 88% of the population do not feel that their interests are served in the current situation. This was an important piece of information for decision-makers, who began for the first time to feel peaceful but coordinated pressure from civil society.

Initial results can already be seen. Thanks to training courses, the staff of municipalities are now able to provide participatory support for development processes in the individual towns and villages. This enhances the efficiency of the administration and the quality of services. Constructive conflict management mechanisms have also been developed in municipalities with the help of the principles of good governance and at national level with the help of targeted cooperation involving the former warring parties.

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