

Protecting the Vulnerable:

The Design and Implementation
of Effective Safety Nets



December 2 - 13, 2002

Washington, DC

The World Bank

A stylized world map with a light green and yellow color scheme, overlaid with a light blue grid of latitude and longitude lines. The map is centered on the African continent.

Social Safety Nets in Conflict-Affected Countries

Presentation

December 11, 2002

SSN in Conflict-Affected Countries

- ‘Post-conflict’ difficult concept – rarely a clean end to violent conflict.
 - 50% chance that large scale violence may erupt within first 5 years of peace settlement.
 - The sources of conflict may still be unresolved.
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SSN in Conflict-Affected Countries

❖ **Violent conflict increases vulnerability**

- more people vulnerable than before
- more severely affected
- new groups of vulnerable

❖ **Decreased domestic capacity for support**

- breakdown of welfare systems
 - reduced budgets
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SSN in Conflict-Affected Countries

❖ **Vulnerability include specifically conflict-induced issues (Sri Lanka, 2000):**

- displacement
 - fragmented families and communities
 - insecurity
 - fear, harassment, hatred, distrust
 - disrupted production
 - disrupted education
 - psychosocial reactions
 - dependency on relief handouts
 - intimidating security arrangements
 - victims of predatory activities
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SSN in Conflict-Affected Countries

❖ **How to help recovery? Focus on:**

➤ **Material capacity**

➤ **Social capacity**

➤ **Attitudinal capacity**

SSN in Conflict-Affected Countries



SEILA Reconciliation Program in Cambodia:

- **Facilitated dialogue and coordination between groups previously in conflict**
 - **Addressed immediate rehabilitation needs**
 - **Established decentralized rural development structure**
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SSN in Conflict-Affected Countries

- ❖ **Support to reintegrate demobilized combatants**
 - **End insecurity**
 - **Normalize production, boost economy**
 - **Humanitarian need**
 - **Reward for sacrifice, compensation for coercion**
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SSN in Conflict-Affected Countries

❖ Eritrea Demobilization and Reintegration Program:

- Part of post-war reconstruction effort
 - Inclusive approach – also IDPs and returnees supported
 - Reintegration support not entitlement but opportunities offered
 - Economic reintegration: employment (training, referral), micro credit and micro business development, small-scale rural development
 - Social reintegration: information and sensitization, first-line counseling, specialized counseling (psychosocial, HIV/AIDS, disabled), community activities
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SSN in Conflict-Affected Countries

- ❖ **Key ethical principles agreed by parties to conflict and providers of assistance (Sri Lanka):**
 - **Fundamental rights of those affected by conflict for humanitarian support**
 - **Humanitarian access to all population groups in need**
 - **Opportunities for movement of goods and people**
 - **Secure environment where civilians reside or work**
 - **Military-civilian relations**
 - ❖ **International Humanitarian Law, Geneva Conventions**
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SSN in Conflict-Affected Countries

❖ **Sensitivity to conflict:**

- **Attention to sources of conflict and roles played by different groups**
 - **Impacts of interventions – positive/negative, direct/indirect, intentional/unintentional**
 - **See all aspects of a project through a ‘conflict lens’**
 - **Conflict impact assessment to underpin plans**
 - **Indicators for monitoring of potential impact**
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