

Conflict Sensitivity and Aid: Can Funding Fuel Conflict?

Tuesday, October 12th from 9:30 to 11:00am

at
Johns Hopkins SAIS
Nitze Building, Kenny Auditorium
1740 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington D.C.

Forum Details:

In 2009, leading donor countries gave nearly US \$120 billion in official development assistance (ODA) to lower-income countries and this figure will rise to US \$130 billion in 2010. Transparency International reports that much of this aid goes to countries facing instability and conflict where funding might find its way into the arms trade, military training and equipment. Often well intentioned organizations are faced with difficult decisions as militia soldiers tax their work or use their medical facilities. Even training programs can have unforeseen ill effects when they fail to be conflict sensitive. Some programs can boost divisions in conflict-affected societies. But what is conflict sensitivity? How is it being implemented? What are the donor responsibilities and how can aid organizations ensure that they are not funding the conflict?

Speakers

Neil Levine

Director of the Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation

Paul Miller

Foreign Aid Advisor, Catholic Relief Services

Marshall Wallace

Project Director, Do No Harm, CDA Collaborative Learning Projects

Moderator

P. Terrence Hopmann

Conflict Management Program Director, Johns Hopkins SAIS

Bios

Neil Levine

Neil Levine is the Director of the Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) at USAID. CMM leads USAID's efforts to identify and analyze sources of conflict, supports early responses to address the causes and consequences of instability and violent conflict, and seeks to integrate conflict mitigation and management into USAID's analysis, strategies and programs. Mr. Levine joined the USAID in 1993 as a Congressional Liaison Officer. From 1995 to 2000, he was the Deputy Director of the Office of Central American Affairs. Mr. Levine is a graduate of Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

Paul Miller

Paul Miller is Foreign Aid Advisor at Catholic Relief Services headquarters in Baltimore. Mr. Miller joined CRS in 1987 and has served as country representative in Senegal and Brazil, Senior Africa Desk Officer and Africa Team Leader in headquarters and Director of Strategic Issues. He has also chaired the International Affairs Committee of the Caritas Internationalis Confederation. Mr. Miller has a B.A. in History from Brown University and a master's degree in International Affairs from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

Marshall Wallace

Marshall Wallace directs STEPS and the Do No Harm project at CDA and is a member of the Board of Directors. He joined CDA in 1997 as the Project Coordinator for the original Local Capacities for Peace Project. Mr. Wallace has worked with humanitarian relief and development organizations in more than thirty countries on the impacts of assistance on conflict and developing appropriate responses to those impacts.

P. Terrence Hopmann

Dr. P. Terrence Hopmann is Professor of International Relations and Director of the Conflict Management Program at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Formerly he was the chair of the Political Science Department at Brown University. Dr. Hopmann also served as vice president of the International Studies Association, editor of the International Studies Quarterly, and a senior fellow at the United States Institute of Peace and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. His main research focuses on the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

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