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THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL STUDENT  
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

*Topic area B: "The economic and social repercussions in post conflict areas"*



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## *Topic Area B: The economic and social repercussions in post conflict areas*

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Welcoming letter by the Chairs of the ECOSOC  
Distinguished delegates,

We are more than delighted to welcome to Thessaloniki International Student Model United Nations- ThessISMUN 2019, and especially, to the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It is an honor and privilege for us to be part of this year's UN ECOSOC and we are looking forward to our communication, interaction and cooperation, both prior and during the proceedings of our Committee.

During this year's conference, the Council will deal with two topics that are highly debated currently in the meetings of it, which are "Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for Sustainable Development; New and Emerging Technologies for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals" and "The economic and social repercussions in post-conflict areas." Both topics are considered crucial for achieving prosperity for all and sustainable economic and social development on a global scale.

The study guide at hand is a product of thorough research from our part and has been written in order to provide you a deeper insight into Topic Area B. In order for you to prepare as thoroughly as possible, your personal research shall not be limited to the study guide. Thus, you have to find out your country's policy on the topic in national, regional and international level. Therefore, you are supposed to propose the adequate solutions to address the matter, bearing in mind your policy, both in your position papers and during the debate. The procedure and its outcome is defined by your effort during the sessions of the conference. We, as the board members, are always in your disposal should any wish or inquiry occurs.

Finest regards,

Ioannis Maniatakos, Chair

Anastasios-Aias Oikonomidis, Co-Chair

## Introduction to the Committee- Mandate of the UN ECOSOC

The Economic and Social Council (hereinafter ECOSOC) of the United Nations was established in 1945 and since then has been one of the six main bodies of the Organization.

Its mandate (functions and powers) is described in Chapter X of the UN Charter. Amongst others, it may make or initiate studies and reports, recommendations, resolutions and prepare draft conventions always in accordance with the matters falling within its competence, which are the international economic, social, cultural, educational and health ones<sup>1</sup>. ECOSOC is inextricably linked with the purposes of Article 1 par. 3 of the UN Charter and, thus, is considered as the principle body towards the achievement of them.

In order for these endeavors to be achieved<sup>2</sup>, ECOSOC is in continuous interaction with the civil society. It is a global forum for productive dialogues among policymakers, parliamentarians, academics, foundations, businesses, youth and 3,200+ registered non-governmental organizations. ECOSOC currently aims at advancing the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental<sup>3</sup>.

The Members of ECOSOC shall be fifty-four (54), with the possibility of reelection and with only one representative per member state. Each member state has the right to one vote and the decisions in the Economic and Social Council are made based on the majority of the members present and voting (Article 67)<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> UN Charter, Chapter X

<sup>2</sup> Department of Economic and Social Affairs, “*Natural Disasters and Sustainable Development: Understanding the Links between Development, Environment and Natural Disasters*”, Web: <http://www.unisdr.org/2006/ppew/whats-ew/pdf/wssdisdrdoc.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Un.org. (2018). About Us | UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC and SOCIAL COUNCIL. [online]. Available at: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/about-us>

<sup>4</sup> *ibid*

## Introduction

Despite the efforts of the UN and the commitment of the majority of UN members to world peace and stability<sup>5</sup>, war still rages in many parts of the world. A conflict may last for many years with disastrous consequences for people. The forms of a conflict vary in scale and complexity. Civil conflicts, prolong border clashes between neighboring countries, revolts and uprisings, take a heavy toll on lives and put the greater region, that the strife unfolds itself, into a protracted warring state. Poverty, famine, refugee influx, infectious diseases are only a few pivotal matters to be dealt with.

The importance of social and economic repercussions in post war regions can be found during the rehabilitation phases of a post-conflict state. As war rages in many parts of the globe, there are many countries embarking on post-war civil and economic reconstruction. In order to avoid a relapse into chaos and to achieve stability in the former warring region, we need to ensure that the rehabilitation process will result in the reformation of the main pillars of the state such as the civil structures, the social services and the economic recovery of the local communities. Examples of unsuccessful foreign interventions and that of prolonged foreign aid-dependent states, provides irrefutable evidence that economic reconstruction is fundamentally different from normal development. Reconstruction is an intermediate phase in which all policies, in the social and economic sectors, must be aiming at avoiding a recurrence of conflict. Experience also proved in many post-conflict situations that, despite the peculiarities of each state, planning, prioritizing, and sequence of economic and social policies are the key to an effective and viable reconstruction. The main long-term objective in post-conflict territories is the dynamic financial growth, though the short-term objective, of equal importance must be to improve security and to guarantee that population can restore basic livelihoods even if at subsistence levels<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> Un.org. (2019). History of the UN | United Nations Seventieth Anniversary. [online] Available at: <https://www.un.org/un70/en/content/history>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

Eventually every conflict, sooner or later, will deescalate thus leaving a number of problems that need to be immediately addressed. Sadly there is a dismal number of post conflict states that are currently aid-dependend to global organizations and NGOs. This stalemate must be averted and the key aspect of the issue lies in the economic recovery that will subsequently trigger the social development of the troubled local population. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations is committed to the stabilization and prosperity on a global scale via implementing regulations aiming the social and economic rebirth of war torn societies<sup>7</sup>.

## Defining the key terms of the topic

The terms below are of high importance for one to perceive the many aspects of a conflict and the deriving repercussions. The terminology is crucial and every delegate must pay the adequate caution in order to deepen the understanding in the discussed issues. The definitions and meanings could be the most helpful tool in order to find common ground in the deliberations with the rest of the representatives during the conference.

- 1. Armed Conflict:** There are two types of armed conflicts according to International Humanitarian Law: 1) “international armed conflicts, opposing two or more States, 2) non-international armed conflicts, between governmental forces and non-governmental armed groups, or between such groups only”. Taking this into consideration the establishes the main distinction between non-international armed conflicts in the meaning of Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and non-international armed conflicts is falling within the definition provided in Art. 1 of Additional Protocol II. From a legal aspect there is no other type of armed conflict. Nevertheless it is important “to

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<sup>7</sup> Un.org. (2019). *Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Recovery* | UN Economic and Social Council. [online] Available at: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/peacebuilding.shtml>

underline that a situation can evolve from one type of armed conflict to another<sup>8</sup>, depending on the facts prevailing at a certain moment”<sup>9</sup><sup>10</sup>.

2. **Military Occupation:** The effective military control of a territory or state, by the armed forces of the occupying power, is called military occupation<sup>11</sup><sup>12</sup> “Territory is considered occupied when it is actually placed under the authority of the hostile army. The occupation extends only to the territory where such authority has been established and can be exercised”<sup>13</sup>.
3. **Sovereignty:** The absolute and impended power of a political entity over its internal and external affairs<sup>14</sup>.
4. **State/Country:** An organized political community with sovereignty and direct control over a region and its inhabitants<sup>15</sup>.
5. **Annexation:** The act of acquisition of a distinct territory of one state by of another state. The annexation is a unilateral administrative act that usually follows the occupation. What differs between occupation and annexation is that the first one is a temporary situation and the second one is permanent<sup>16</sup>.

<sup>8</sup> Sse.army.gr. *Common Module “Law of Armed Conflict” (Day 3)* | Hellenic Army Academy. [online] Available at: <https://sse.army.gr/en/news/common-module-law-armed-conflict-day-3>

<sup>9</sup> Ian Davis, Dan Smith and Pieter D. Wezeman, *Armed conflict and instability in the Middle East and North Africa* | SIPRI. Sipri.org. [online] Available at: <https://www.sipri.org/yearbook/2017/03>

<sup>10</sup> Icrc.org. [online] Available at: <https://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/opinion-paper-armed-conflict.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Adam Roberts, *What is a military occupation?* Web.law.columbia.edu. (2019). [online] Available at: <https://web.law.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/microsites/gender-sexuality/Roberts%20What%20is%20Military%20Occupation.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> Jeff MacMahan, *The Morality of Military Occupation*. Philosophy.rutgers.edu (2019). [online] Available at: <https://philosophy.rutgers.edu/joomlatools-files/docman-files/The%20Morality%20of%20Military%20Occupation.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Ihl-databases.icrc.org. *Treaties, States parties, and Commentaries - Hague Convention (IV) on War on Land and its Annexed Regulations, 1907 - Regulations: Art. 42 -*. [online] Available at: <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/ihl/WebART/195-200052?OpenDocument>

<sup>14</sup> Dictionary.cambridge.org. *TERRITORY* | meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary. [online] Available at: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/territory>

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid*

## Historical background and recent developments

Among the worth mentioning achievements of mankind during the 21st century is the avoidance of an armed conflict of global scale. The effects of WWI (1914-1918), and especially those of WWII (1939-1945), were enormous in terms of loss of life and destruction of both industrial and urban infrastructure<sup>17</sup>.

Unfortunately, over 220 armed conflicts occurred globally after 1946 till 2001, almost half of them since the end of the Cold War 1989/1990. According to the statistics, during the above conflicts, there were 20 million casualties, 140 civil wars and 67 million were forced to migrate. These figures are concerning, the number of the casualties and the displaced are equivalent to half of the casualties and more than double the number of displaced persons in Europe during the World War II, which is among the bloodiest wars in the continent's long history of conflicts. The numbers are growing even today as a result of a combination of interstate, internal and internationalised regional wars in countries such as Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The cost in human lives is greater than the data suggest. Apart from the fights and the organized hostilities between the parties, there are solid evidence of intercommunal violence, organized crime, human trafficking and genocide that have occurred in many countries, during and after the conflict took place<sup>18</sup>.

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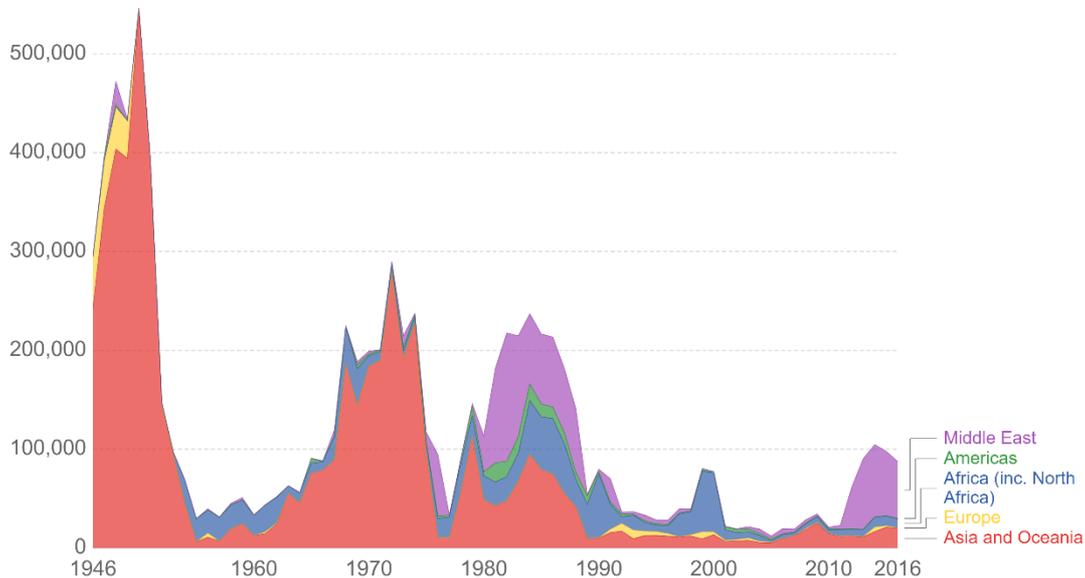
<sup>17</sup> D. Whiteman, *The Financial Facts You Never Learned About World War II*. [online] MoneyWise. Available at: <https://moneywise.com/a/financial-facts-about-world-war-ii>

<sup>18</sup> M. Panić, *POST-CONFLICT COUNTRIES: AID EFFECTIVENESS AND PERMANENT PEACE*. Un.org. [online] Available at: [http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/wess\\_bg\\_papers/bp\\_wess2008\\_panic.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/wess_bg_papers/bp_wess2008_panic.pdf)

## Battle-related deaths in state-based conflicts since 1946, by world region

The region refers not to the location of the battle but to the location of the primary state or states involved in the conflict (see 'Sources' tab). Only conflicts in which at least one party was the government of a state and which generated more than 25 battle-related deaths are included. The data refer to direct violent deaths (i.e. excluding outbreaks of disease or famine).

Our World  
in Data



Source: UCDP/PRIO

CC BY-SA

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The aftermath of the ceasefire are as important as the outcome of the conflict. The draw of new borders after a conflict is usually followed by vast migratory flows<sup>20</sup>. Approximately for USA “*the final bill for the fighting in the Pacific and Europe was massive. In today's dollars, World War II cost \$4.1 trillion, according to data from the Congressional Research Service*”<sup>21</sup>.

Since the end of the Cold War, about 100 violent conflicts have ended all over the world. However, for too many countries, the transition from war to peace is still fragile and reversible.

After the two great wars lesser conflicts escalated around the world. Of course the impact and the casualties of regional armed conflicts are less intense and can sooner be tamed and be put under control. The form of proxy wars such as Soviet invasion of

<sup>19</sup> Roser, M. *War and Peace*. [online] Our World in Data. Available at:

<https://ourworldindata.org/war-and-peace>

<sup>20</sup> Jean-Marie Guéhenno . Crisis Group. Conflict is Key to Understanding Migration. [online] Available at: <https://www.crisisgroup.org/europe-central-asia/conflict-key-understanding-migration>

<sup>21</sup> ibid

Afghanistan in 1979 and similar conflicts, especially during the Cold War era (1945-1989), resulted in the underdevelopment and extreme poverty for those regions that the fighting took place. The former Yugoslav<sup>22</sup> states recovered faster due to adequate and effective interventions and are considered to be more stable<sup>23</sup> than the Middle East countries after the Arab spring, especially in Syria and Iraq that are way more complex and are larger in scale, in comparison with Yugoslavia<sup>24</sup>.

## Discussion of the Topic.

**What follows the prolonged cessation of armed hostilities is post-conflict phase? Although insecurity and spontaneous violent incidences are not entirely absent during that phase, it is characterized by the increasing large-scale development aid and private investment. According to experts a period of post-conflict status may last between approximately five and twenty years<sup>25</sup>. A fragile post conflict state is considered unable to perform basic functions including administration, justice and most importantly health. In the following chapters we shall elaborate on the main issues that a post-conflict state must surpass during the rehabilitation period<sup>26</sup>.**

### Famine and refugees (demographics).

For decades famine was an infrequent phenomenon and declined almost to vanishing point. Yet since 2017 and the outbreak of the war in Yemen famine crisis emerged, that has already claimed thousands of lives. Apart from the war-induced starvation in

<sup>22</sup>Time Lines Balkans 1940s to 1999. Washington Post. [online] Available at:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/gdpr-consent/?destination=%2fwp-srv%2finatl%2flongterm%2fbalkans%2ftimeline.htm%3f&utm\\_term=.03201476e187](https://www.washingtonpost.com/gdpr-consent/?destination=%2fwp-srv%2finatl%2flongterm%2fbalkans%2ftimeline.htm%3f&utm_term=.03201476e187)

<sup>23</sup>Marek Dabrowski and Yana Myachenkova. *The Western Balkans on the road to the European Union* Bruegel.org. [online] Available at: [http://bruegel.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/PC-04\\_2018.pdf](http://bruegel.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/PC-04_2018.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> Primoz Manfreda, *6 Ways Arab Spring Impacted the Middle East*. ThoughtCo. [online] Available at: <https://www.thoughtco.com/arab-spring-impact-on-middle-east-2353038>

<sup>25</sup>Anila Daulatzai. *What Comes after the After? Notes on a "Post-conflict" Afghanistan — Cultural Anthropology*. Culanth.org. [online] Available at: <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/503-what-comes-after-the-after-notes-on-a-post-conflict-afghanistan>

<sup>26</sup> Bayard Roberts a, Preeti Patel b & Martin McKee. *Noncommunicable diseases and post-conflict countries* |Who.int. WHO [online] Available at: <https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/90/1/11-098863/en/>

many South American countries, the economic collapse due to rivalries that, in many cases, resulted in the selective allocation of food and other essential provisions, caused an unprecedented mass migratory flow to North American countries, mostly USA. There are many reports of severe malnutrition and an increasing mortality rate due to starvation and the spread of diseases<sup>27</sup>. A major issue in a post conflict region is the food shortage due to lack of supplies, malnutrition is widespread among the recovering population. There are many difficulties on agriculture, for example the anti-personnel mines make much of agricultural land hazardous and thus unusable. In Cambodia for instance, as much as 35 per cent of the land could not be used after the war for the above reason. Angola, Mozambique and several other states in the African continent dealt with similar problems regarded generally as being “*among the most landmined countries in the world*”. The rest of the civil infrastructure such as bridges, roads, ports, airports and railway networks present similar mine hazards, as a result the distribution of agricultural goods and other, as well as exports and imports, seemed both difficult and risky<sup>28</sup>.

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<sup>27</sup>Batul Sadliwala and Alex de Waal, *The Emerging Crisis: Is Famine Returning as a Major Driver of Migration?* - World. ReliefWeb. [online] Available at:

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/emerging-crisis-famine-returning-major-driver-migration>

<sup>28</sup> M. Panić, *POST-CONFLICT COUNTRIES: AID EFFECTIVENESS AND PERMANENT PEACE*. Un.org. [online] Available at:

[http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/wess\\_bg\\_papers/bp\\_wess2008\\_panic.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/wess_bg_papers/bp_wess2008_panic.pdf)

## Areas affected

Total numbers in need of humanitarian assistance across the region:

# 12.4 million

### Dadaab refugee camp

Over 1,000 arrivals each day, 25% of new arrivals' children are malnourished

### Dollo Ado refugee camp

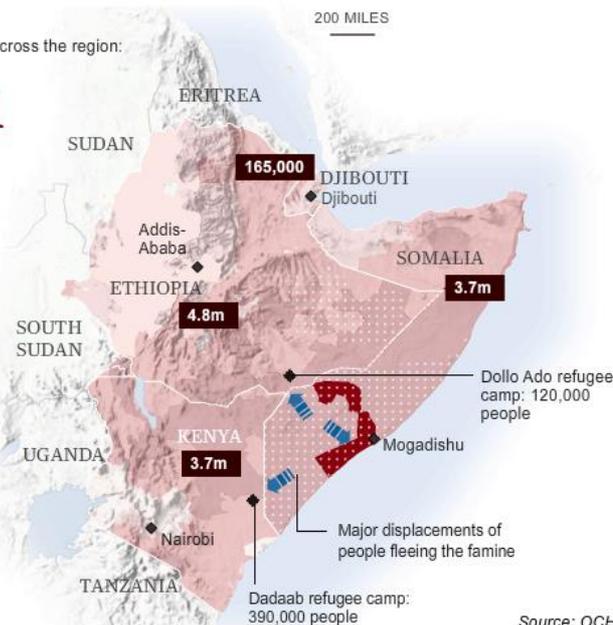
54,000 new arrivals in 2011, 50% of new arrivals' children are malnourished

### Key:

 Estimated population in need of assistance:

### Food security situation:

-  None or minimal
-  Stressed
-  Crisis
-  Emergency
-  Catastrophe/famine
-  Limited humanitarian access



Source: OCHA 29

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Global Early Warning-Early Action (EWEA) report and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), sounded the alarm in 2017<sup>30</sup> as the level of famine globally is increased and there is a sharp decline in agricultural production as a result of the prolonged conflict in many regions. As indicated by the FAO<sup>31</sup>, six regions, including Yemen, South Sudan, and Somalia are depicted as confronting the risk of starvation having their food production rates decreased to a dangerous level described by UN Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Mark Lowcock as “*an imminent and great big famine.*”<sup>32</sup>.

As hunger makes a worrying return, the global stage of immigration shows the potential consequences for population displacement and new migratory waves. The final text of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration to be adopted by most UN Member States in December, recognizes food insecurity as one of the many

<sup>29</sup> *Famine and its human effects in the Horn of Africa*. [online] Refugees International. studentsrij, V. Japan Blog. Available at: <https://refugeesinternationalj.wordpress.com/2011/11/30/famine-and-its-human-effects-in-the-horn-of-africa/>

<sup>30</sup> Batul Sadliwala and Alex de Waal, *The Emerging Crisis: Is Famine Returning as a Major Driver of Migration?* - World. ReliefWeb. [online] Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/emerging-crisis-famine-returning-major-driver-migration>

<sup>31</sup> Ibid

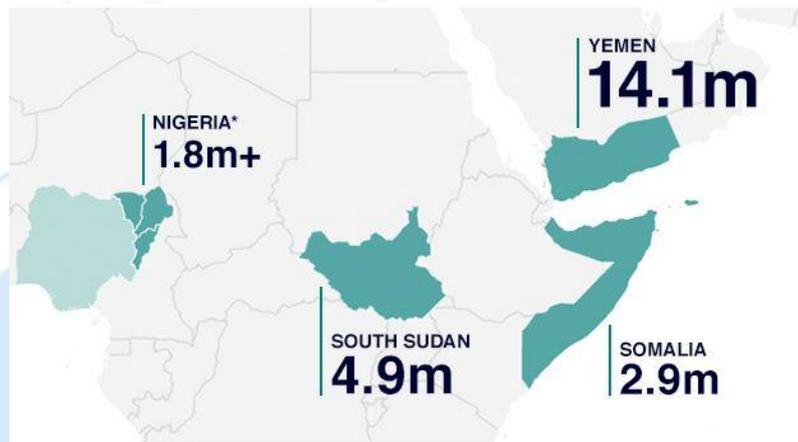
<sup>32</sup> Ibid

negative factors of migration, the effects of which must be minimized, and violation of rights to avoid detention of migrants.

But famine-food crises that cause elevated mortality over a specific period of time are distinct from food insecurity and hunger characterized by underdevelopment. The Global Compact's perfunctory mention of food insecurity is the fact that surprisingly little is known about the connection between acute food crises and population mobility. If famines are indeed making a return, this is a critical issue for policymakers.

### Food crisis

People facing severe food insecurity



\*North east provinces of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe worst affected  
Numbers show those facing severe food insecurity using the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) system.

Source: IPCinfo.org, Fews.net, WFP



The combination of prolonged drought along with armed clashes pose a threat to the agrarian activities and livelihoods leaving the countryside desolated. The widespread starvation and the forced displacement cause a demographic collapse<sup>33</sup>. Those states will become gradually depended to humanitarian aid. In Somalia during the famine of 1992 220.000 people died and during the recent famine between 2010 and 2012 260.000 people starved to death<sup>34</sup>. In conclusion the fighting, in countries whose economic structure is based on agricultural production, leads to starvation and migration to neighboring countries.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid

<sup>34</sup> *Somalia drought claims dozens of lives*. BBC News. [online] Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-39166746>

## Health and Hygiene, prevention of diseases.

Another crucial aspect of post conflict and recovering regions is the spread of diseases that most of the times is linked with poor hygiene conditions and the lack of medication and supplies for treatment or professional medical staff.

The shifting geopolitics and global economics combined with demographic development is changing the type of countries affected by conflict, for example, the Balkans, the Caucasus region and Sri Lanka were far more developed than the African countries or the states of the African crescent, yet the scale of diseases and epidemics linked to post the post conflict situation is almost equal. A majority of people with communicable diseases in underdeveloped states seem to have survive due to long-term treatment, by NGOs humanitarian missions and medical support, but they are then left vulnerable in times of conflict<sup>35</sup>. The baseline health service capacity in underdeveloped and poor countries is decreased even more after a conflict leading to the highest ratios linked to noncombat-related mortality. The rapid expand on global health aid is approximately<sup>36</sup> reaching twenty billion, worldwide. Yet the majority of post conflict-affected states have not receive a proportionate share of health aid based on their needs. Afghanistan and Iraq are the exception because of US and European donors have also strategic investments linked to the local economy and natural resources of the area<sup>37</sup>.

The role of the military in promoting health in fragile states recovering from conflict requires careful attention. The military can be a major player in disaster relief and support Military health systems, disease surveillance and research and emergency provision highly increase health services in matters of quality and quantity. However, it should not be assigned responsibilities to contribute to the development of civil health systems or to use health as a short - term stability intervention. When the military carries out other health activities, it should be aware of the potential links and

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<sup>35</sup> Rohini Jonnalagadda Haar and Leonard S. Rubenstein .*Health in Postconflict and Fragile States*.Usip.org. [online] Available at: [https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/SR\\_301.pdf](https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/SR_301.pdf)

<sup>36</sup> Ibid

<sup>37</sup> Ibid

tensions between the assistance it can provide and the strengthening of health systems<sup>38</sup>.

### Vulnerable groups

In accordance with International Humanitarian Law, vulnerable members of the society with special needs are entitled to special protection. Women and children are subjected to special respect and protection particularly against all forms of exploitation and ill-treatment<sup>39</sup>. This special status of increased protection is attributed to children due to their age and vulnerability. Women are also under special protection considering their increased needs in terms of health, hygiene and last but not least, their role as mothers. Under International Humanitarian Law, children are not considered "vulnerable" as such. On the contrary, the law recognizes that women are vulnerable in certain circumstances due to their physical characteristics and special needs, such as pregnant women, maternity cases or mothers of young children. Children, considering their legitimate dependency on adults along with their physical and mental susceptibility and limited capacities, must be protected not only during conflicts but also during the post-conflict period, which is deemed to be equally unsafe<sup>40</sup>. Women's sensitivity often stems from the fact that armed conflicts today have changed in such a way that citizens are increasingly trapped in battles and women bear the burden of burdening the daily lives of their families. Women are particularly vulnerable to poverty, exclusion and suffering caused by armed conflicts when they are already discriminated against in times of peace<sup>41</sup>.

In some conflicts, when women, as bodies of future generations, are considered to be cultural and ethnic identity depots, they may be vulnerable to attacks or threats from the community if they do not comply with their assigned role. They can also target the enemy to change or destroy this role. Furthermore, in addition to military casualties,

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<sup>38</sup> Ibid

<sup>39</sup> Articles 76-78 of the Additional Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions, 1977

<sup>40</sup> *Women in war: a particularly vulnerable group?* - ICRC. Icrc.org. (2019). [online] Available at: <https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/resources/documents/feature/2007/women-vulnerability-010307.htm>

<sup>41</sup> Ibid

many lives are lost during and after armed conflicts through sexual violence, diseases and the lack of essential medical services. As a matter of fact spread of disease has been associated with the post-conflict period. Moreover, changes in the nature of recent civil strives and conflicts have made the connection between the two even stronger because of *“the deliberate targeting of civilians and the widespread use of rape as a systematic tool of warfare”*. According to estimates, the HIV virus is killing more than ten times as many people in Africa as the armed conflicts. The majority of the infected were women and children<sup>42</sup>.

Sexual violence has been used by many armed groups and extremist parties as a vehicle of persecution, directed particularly against women and girls of reproductive age, as the perceived transmitters of cultural and ethnic identity and the symbolic repositories of familial and national *“honour”*. Those patterns of sexual and reproductive violence are embedded in the underlying structural conditions, including inequality, discrimination on the basis of gender and are often exacerbated by militarization. Sexual violence in turn impedes the realization of other rights. Moreover, another pattern found in African countries is the threat of sexual violence in order to constrain the freedom of movement: the more militarized an area, the more constrained civilian existence becomes, with devastating effects on lives and livelihoods<sup>43</sup>.

The use of sexual violence as a method of war and the requirement that women carry more children to replace sons who have died make women particularly vulnerable. The special needs arising from such a situation must be taken into account. The degree of vulnerability of individuals and groups at risk should be constantly reviewed in the light of changes in the situation on the ground. A group that was not considered vulnerable during the initial evaluation may later be considered as such and vice ver-

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<sup>42</sup> M. Panić, *POST-CONFLICT COUNTRIES: AID EFFECTIVENESS AND PERMANENT PEACE*. Un.org. [online] Available at: [http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/wess\\_bg\\_papers/bp\\_wess2008\\_panic.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/wess_bg_papers/bp_wess2008_panic.pdf)

<sup>43</sup> *CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE*. Un.org. [online] Available at: <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/reports/sg-reports/SG-REPORT-2017-CRSV-SPREAD.pdf>

sa<sup>44</sup>. Women and children are the backbone of the post-war societies so they must be protected if we are to achieve stability and prosperity in troubled regions<sup>45</sup>.

## Economic recovery

### Infrastructure

The restoration of the infrastructure is crucial to the recovery process of war-torn countries. For example, in Africa, the access rates to electricity, in conflict-affected countries, are about 75% lower than in countries that have not been affected<sup>46</sup>. Equivalently, there are less than one third of the phone lines per hundred people, only half roads are paved and the percentage of the population with access treated waters are fifteen percentage points lower than in non-war-recovering countries. Another example is that almost ten years after the cessation of mass violence in Kosovo, there are still power outages that lasts for many hours, several times a week, even in Pristina, the Kosovar capital. Water cuts are also a reality for the new-paved country. In Monrovia (Liberia), after the war in 2003 the main source of drinking water were manual<sup>47</sup>, for several years, although US \$ 5,000 will have partially recovered the main tube from treatment and about \$ 12 million would have rebuilt running water across the city<sup>48</sup>. The abovementioned deficiencies are not universal in all post-conflict regions, there are countries with infrastructure, occasionally better than the average of their regions<sup>49</sup>.

From an economic point of view, infrastructure facilitates economic activity by reducing unit costs, expanding markets and facilitating trade. One example of this is the rapid spread of cell phones and the significant economic benefits this has brought,

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<sup>44</sup> Ibid

<sup>45</sup> *Reach Out Refugee Protection Training Project*. Unhcr.org. [online] Available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/4371fa162.pdf>

<sup>46</sup> *Rebuilding for Tomorrow: PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN FRAGILE AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED SITUATIONS IN AFRICA*. Ifc.org. (2019). [online] Available at: [https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/7440fe80485e6a868cacfd299ede9589/IFC\\_CASA\\_SmartLessons\\_Booklet.pdf?MOD=AJPERES](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/7440fe80485e6a868cacfd299ede9589/IFC_CASA_SmartLessons_Booklet.pdf?MOD=AJPERES)

<sup>47</sup> *WaterAid, Liberia | WaterAid Global*. [online] Available at: <https://www.wateraid.org/where-we-work/liberia>

<sup>48</sup> *Proposal - Liberia: Rebuilding for Growth and Development Anon*, Symposium 2009. [online] Available at: <https://www.global-economic-symposium.org/knowledgebase/the-global-polity/repairing-failed-states/proposals/liberia-rebuilding-for-growth-and-development>

<sup>49</sup> Ibid

particularly in assisting the diffusion of market information especially in South-Asian countries<sup>50</sup>. Yet some recent research, including in post-conflict countries, gives a more nuanced view suggesting that the effect of infrastructural investment on productivity and output is highly context-specific. This underlines the importance of undertaking rigorous analysis of local needs and priorities<sup>51</sup>.

For post-conflict economies, the locally sourced working force and materials combined with infrastructure rehabilitation projects, can provide much-needed employment and economic opportunities, with substantial multiplier effects on local communities and the aggregate economy. This underlines the vital necessity to repose on and strengthen indigenous working force. We should consider even food-for-work schemes that if deployed in post-conflict settings and with the right modifications according to the needs of each local society, could be established in order to support indigenous drivers. The development impact of these programs can be found in areas where food is bought from local sources, as this helps the households of food suppliers to obtain cash that will be later spent locally on other indigenous products. An important preliminary policy deduction seems to be that the case for post-war infrastructure cannot be based solely on the standard growth argument, a view which may have favored large-scale projects in relation to rural supply routes and community infrastructure, for instance. Eventually, the question is not whether infrastructure as such is beneficial in recovering economies, but what type of schemes and external aid are most needed and most fit to sustain the economic development<sup>52</sup>.

Extensive infrastructural restoration continues to encounter major challenges in early post-conflict periods. The deficiency in local technical capacities is often a serious problem, as technical cognition and proficiency may have deteriorated during the strife and senior technical labor force may have been lost or have abandoned the state.

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<sup>50</sup> Stéphane Straub and Akiko Terada-Hagiwara. *Infrastructure and Growth in Developing Asia*. Adb.org. (2019). [online] Available at:

<https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/28275/economics-wp231.pdf>

<sup>51</sup> Chris Milner, Oliver Morrissey and Evious Zgovu, *Trade Facilitation in Developing Countries*. Nottingham.ac.uk. (2019). [online] Available at:

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/credit/documents/papers/08-05.pdf>

<sup>52</sup> *The Inclusive Growth and Development Report 2017*. Wwww3.weforum.org. (2019). [online] Available at: [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_Forum\\_IncGrwth\\_2017.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Forum_IncGrwth_2017.pdf)

For example in Timor-Leste, before the eruption of the war, managers and qualified technicians had been predominantly Indonesian and they had subsequently returned to their country. The same happened in Mostar (Bosnia) where the majority of the workers in the local water company with knowledge of the distribution network had either died during the conflict or had emigrated. Such manpower shortfalls have a number of negative impacts such as delays in enacting essential regulatory and structural reforms in infrastructure sectors. There are cases that the externally-sponsored initiatives have not been sensitive enough in dealing the repercussions of war<sup>53</sup>.

### Investments

The situation in Bosnia, for instance, the donor community assisted in rehabilitating basic social services as a means of attracting back displaced populations. The responsibility for these services was then turned over to the newly installed federal state and municipal authorities, even when this meant splitting water companies and resources between Bosnian Serb and Muslim population centers, with all the associated operational issues and implications for social tension. Then again, there is evidence of the positive consequences through an approach that respects the pivotal role of local populations and local dynamics<sup>54</sup>. The case in many countries, including Rwanda and Cambodia, man-based infrastructure construction was proved to be between ten to thirty percent less costly than capital-intensive options and resulted into two and four times higher employment rates. This is far more important during a post-conflict period. After 1992, in the first decade, the labor-based Rural Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project in post-conflict Cambodia offered to the local working community more than three million paid workdays (around half of them were for women). Simultaneously, they trained hundreds of laborers, private contractors and government staff. The project resulted in repairing and reconstructing over 600 km of rural roads, 80 bridges, 460 culvert crossings and 26 irrigation water gates<sup>55</sup>.

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<sup>53</sup> Ibid

<sup>54</sup> Ibid

<sup>55</sup> Brian Wenk, *The work of giants- rebuilding Cambodia*. Ilo.org. (2019). [online] Available at: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmstp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-phnom-penh/documents/projectdocumentation/wcms\\_112974.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmstp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-phnom-penh/documents/projectdocumentation/wcms_112974.pdf)

The recovery of the local population after the conflict significantly depends on the human capital they embody. Human capital is considered as the reserve of education, skills and aptitudes embodied in the working force. This capital is most of the times depleted by war, and this can undermine the prospects for society's rehabilitation process. Therefore, investing in people in order to reverse the damage of the war is an important aspect of post-war economic recovery. For this process to be successful In reforming the surviving human capital, it is important to consider and face the social or ethnic inequities in societies that may have contributed to conflict dynamics in the first place<sup>56</sup>.

### **Sustainability**

Education is also affected by a conflict. The negative impact on education is greater on secondary and tertiary education and has less of an impact on primary education. As a matter of fact, in the regions for which data are available, primary school enrolment in post-conflict countries has on average exceeded the median enrolment ratio in non-conflict developing countries as early as the third year after conflict ended<sup>57</sup>. Nevertheless, in many recovering countries, adult literacy rates have remained below the average for developing countries several years after the end of the war. On the contrary, secondary and tertiary education levels begin to recover during the first year of peace, but remain approximately five to ten percentage points below than other developing countries even a decade after the conflict ended. This inveterate effect may be explained if one considers the higher operating maintenance and opportunity costs associated with higher levels of education for households in societies impoverished by the prolonged fighting. Furthermore, these levels of education require highly qualified teaching personnel that may have died during the war or, in most of the cases, migrated to neighboring countries<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> Ibid

<sup>57</sup> Scott Gates Håvard Hegre Håvard Mogleiv Nygård Håvard Strand, *WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2011 BACKGROUND PAPER CONSEQUENCES OF CIVIL CONFLICT*. Folk.uio.no. (2019).

[online] Available at: <http://folk.uio.no/haavarmn/wdrbackgroundpaper.pdf>

<sup>58</sup> Ibid

A proportion of the investment needs for human capital formation can be met through projects and initiatives that require a limited amount of resources and knowledge. Nevertheless, the extremely low level of college and university education indicators and the predominance of teenagers and young adults among ex-combatants can entail the loss of a generation's human resource<sup>59</sup>. Reintegration programs could contribute to avoid this loss by providing professional training, formal education or on-the-job activities. Initiatives involving educational programs aiming in providing ways of formal primary education or skills to young people above primary school leaving age have been explored in Northern Uganda, the Somaliland region and Southern Sudan, for instance. For post-war countries The So-called "alternative basic education" initiatives may be particularly relevant. These use, for example, vocational training with options including driving, computing, tailoring and accelerated learning projects (condensing eight years of schooling into four)<sup>60</sup>.

According to the needs of the locals and the specific circumstances of the region, programs can be planned and be put into practice. In most scenarios, health indicators remain deplorable for several years after the war, especially among women and children. Infant mortality rates in Afghanistan, Angola, Syria, Liberia and Sierra Leone, among the highest in the world, have hardly improved over the past decades. Another study of twenty seven post-war countries underlined that even seven years after the end of the fighting almost eight percent of all infants still died before they reached the age of one. This is mostly attributed to famine and infectious diseases. In addition, the prevalence of acute malnutrition among under-five-year-old children can be as high as eighty-one percent in recovering populations, as in the displacement camp of Ame in southern Sudan in 1993<sup>61</sup>. In contrast, the aforementioned study shows that adult female mortality decreased sharply post-war, even below the median for non-conflict developing countries of 260 per 100,000 adults. The mortality level for males

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<sup>59</sup>Pamela Baxter and Lynne Bethke, *Alternative education: filling the gap in emergency and post-conflict situations*. Unesdoc.unesco.org. (2019). [online] Available at: [https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000184938\\_eng](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000184938_eng)

<sup>60</sup> Ibid

<sup>61</sup>Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF, *A fair chance for every child| The State of The World's Children 2016*. Unicef.org. [online] Available at: [https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF\\_SOWC\\_2016.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_SOWC_2016.pdf)

has tended to remain the same or, in a few cases, fall only slightly, from approximately 320 to 310 per 100,000 adults by the seventh year of enduring peace, a level only a bit higher than the rates observed in non-conflict developing countries (around 300 per 100,000 adults)<sup>62</sup>. Eventually, a life expectancy level at birth has remained dramatically low in post-war regions and has in some cases stalled at around 45 years between 1970 and 2006<sup>63</sup>.

### **Priorities in rehabilitation process**

In conclusion, there are four main priorities in order to reconstitute human capital after conflict:

1. First, the rehabilitation aim should be, after a rigorous analysis of their pre-war flaws and distortions, mostly the reformation of the existing human capital rather than the restoration of the pre-existing systems. This procedure requires in-depth needs assessments, from the very beginning of the project, if possible even before the ceasefire and the formal end of hostilities. The sectors of health and education are vital for the shape of the social norms and interactions. Accordingly, the overarching need for conflict sensitivity in all rehabilitation programs and projects is particularly important for these fields.
2. Secondly it is crucial that new projects and initiatives aimed at restoring or supporting basic service delivery such as primary education and essential hygiene and healthcare needs build, in the first instance, on local knowledge and efforts.
3. Third, the question on whether the health or education field must be given priority, will be answered based on the dependency of the state of each system on each sector, the war damage suffered and of course the needs of the society.
4. Fourth, the restoration and improvement of the economic infrastructure, though important, should not be at the expense of health and education. The

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<sup>62</sup> Director and lead author Selim Jahan and deputy director Eva Jespersen, *Human Development Report 2015 /Work for Human Development*. Hdr.undp.org. (2019). [online] Available at: [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2015\\_human\\_development\\_report.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2015_human_development_report.pdf)

<sup>63</sup> Ibid

primary goal is that the donor funding will be increased in absolute terms for both post-conflict infrastructure and social sectors rehabilitation.



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The success of rehabilitation programs lies in ensuring that the interventions are taking into consideration the complexity and specific environment and dynamics that emerge from conflict.

## Legal Framework

For the adequate understanding of the topic we have to examine the legal actions of the international community that have been taken in order to effectively deal with the economic and social repercussions in post-war societies. The main propose of the United Nations is functioning is the promotion of peace and security in the meaning of long term stability and prosperity globally.

Having taken these parameters into account, the UN body has produced certain legal documents that address the issue of conflicts around the globe, via the establishment

<sup>64</sup> *People's Process in Post-disaster and Post-conflict Recovery and Reconstruction*. Anon, [online] Available at: [https://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/95751/B.d.04.%20People%27s%20Process%20in%20Post-disaster%20and%20Post-conflict%20Recov%20and%20Reconst\\_UN-Habitat.pdf](https://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/95751/B.d.04.%20People%27s%20Process%20in%20Post-disaster%20and%20Post-conflict%20Recov%20and%20Reconst_UN-Habitat.pdf)

of certain Commissions that have as their main objective the promotion and preservation of stability. Such Commission is the **Peacebuilding Commission** that was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in order to function as an inter-governmental advisory body<sup>65</sup>. The Article 2 of the Resolution that establishes the Commission dictates that the following shall be the main purposes of the Commission:

*(a) To bring together all relevant actors to marshal resources and to advise on and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peace building and recovery.*

*(b) To focus attention on the reconstruction and institution-building efforts necessary for recovery from conflict and to support the development of integrated strategies in order to lay the foundation for sustainable development.*

*(c) To provide recommendations and information to improve the coordination of all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations, to develop best practices, to help to ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities and to extend the period of attention given by the international community to post conflict recovery<sup>66</sup>.*

Most notably, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations has established Ad Hoc Advisory Groups for emerging post-conflict African countries in order to effectively address the social and economic repercussion of the strife and actively preserve the stability on the region.

With its resolution 2002/1 the Economic and Social Council created a framework for advisory group(s) on African countries emerging from conflict with a view to assessing the humanitarian and economic needs of these countries and elaborating a long-term action plan of support that begins with the integration of relief into development. ECOSOC, during that time, responded to a request made by the General As-

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<sup>65</sup> UNITED NATIONS PEACEBUILDING | *Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace*. Un.org. [online] Available at: <https://www.un.org/peacebuildin/>

<sup>66</sup>Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2005| Un.org. (2019). United Nations Official Document. [online] Available at: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/60/180](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/60/180)

sembly in its resolution 55/217 on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, and followed-up on its Ministerial Declaration of 2001, (A/56/3/Rev.1) which focused on the role of the United Nations in support of the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development<sup>67</sup>.

The purpose of those ad hoc committees was to advocate the needs of those countries that were emerging from conflict and promote a close cooperation between the national authorities and global organizations international community. After the formation of the Peacebuilding Commission those advisory committees were transferred under its authority and its mandate.

## Conclusion

In order to manage the vast repercussions of a conflict is to form a conducive environment for sustainable social and economic rehabilitation. The successful project will be the one that assures citizens of their security, supports economic development by protecting property and investments, offering economic incentives and guarantying predictable and fair taxes and opportunities to all economic, provides an adequate infrastructure. Right after the ceasefire, substitute external sources can help providing some of these enabling conditions in the absence of effective administration. There are many cases, in which the initial security and stabilization process has been backed by international peacekeepers. At the same time, a range of non-state actors, including NGOs, the foreign private sector, local authorities and even former armed groups, have undertaken the reconstruction of basic infrastructure and the provision of basic social services, often with the monetary enhancement of the international community.

Finally, a serious threat in post-conflict environments is the controversial situation where the abundance of external aid undermines the government's efforts to rehabilitate and expand the state capacities. The presence of the external support in the country is used to maintain the presence of the international community. Yet that presence

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<sup>67</sup> Un.org. (2019). ECOSOC. [online] Available at: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/index.shtml>

is defiantly not a long-ranged solution. For the economic recovery to be sustainable, external programs of support are required to devote significantly more resources than the currently existing ones, to rebuilding local structures, in some cases, from the very beginning. The auxiliary support of foreign actors in the recovery of the state is vital for any project though external activities should never undermine or set aside the indigenous fiscal and growth actors.



## Points to be addressed

1. How patterns of sexual violence affect the internal migratory?
2. What is the importance of regional cooperation between governmental and non-governmental organizations (private investors)?
3. How the foreign aid gets involved in the rehabilitation of infrastructure?
4. How can the economic incentives reinstitute the local markets?
5. How a country can maintain financial transparency during the recovery period?
6. What are the implications of foreign involvement in post-conflict states?
7. Which is the best way of distributing the foreign economic aid?
8. How can the local working force be reformed and get involved in the rehabilitation process?
9. Which are main priorities in a post-conflict region?

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