Resilience in the Context of Peacebuilding

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1. Resilience (working definition)
2. Peacebuilding context
   (1) Bosnia and Herzegovina
      - Make the local voice heard
   (2) Afghanistan
      - Strengthen resilience of women
3. Resilience and Peacebuilding
Resilience (working definition)

Working definition of **resilience** in the peacebuilding context: an ability of individuals, a community, or a society to recover from or adjust to the damage caused by a violent conflict.

Differences between empowerment and resilience (Brodsky & Cattaneo, 2013)

- Empowerment - socially enacted
- Resilience - only in the context of risk
- Resilience – internal changes; empowerment – external changes
Bosnia and Herzegovina (BH)

Political Division

Bosniacs

Croats

Serbs

Division in:
Education
Media (TV, journals, radio, etc.)
Incentives and Sanctions in Peacebuilding of BH

Incentives

“Open City Initiatives”
A UN agency’s initiative to support municipalities which declared willingness to accept return of former inhabitants.

→ failure because the support depended on the expression of willingness, not the actual support for return

Sanctions

➢ No reconstruction/rehabilitation support
➢ Identification of “hardline” municipalities

Voice of local people who support normalization
“… the international focus is much more heavily weighted toward identifying threats rather than on local capacities to manage them” (Menkhaus, 2013, p.6)
Women’s rights were mentioned as one of the justifications of foreign intervention.
Strengthen resilience of women

Empowerment of women

Patriarchal society

Role of women

Strengthen resilience
Resilience and Peacebuilding

• Criticism against liberal peacebuilding
  ✓ Application of Western model
  ✓ Transformation led by international actors
  → “local ownership”
  • Focus on “everyday” by post-liberal peacebuilding
  ✓ Search for local agents
  • Peacebuilding from below
Rights-based Approach for Peacebuilding

- Human rights realization itself increases resilience.
- Removing inhibiting factors transforms the society in the direction of sustainable peace.