

# United States Institute of Peace

## Enhancing Social Well-Being in Fragile States

Course Facilitator: Jeffrey W. Helsing

### Agenda

Social well-being is considered a critical end state for societies emerging from conflict – equally as important as security, rule of law, economic development and good governance. Enhancing social well-being is one of the core objectives of peace operations. This course will serve as a forum to explore the fundamentals of successful humanitarian assistance and will address longer-term needs for social well-being and development in fragile states, such as promoting peaceful coexistence between parties to the conflict, dealing with the needs of refugees and displaced persons, and strengthening civil society.

Learning Objectives – By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Enhance their analytical skills in order to better understand conflict and peacebuilding and the promotion of peaceful coexistence;
- Examine and understand best practices in promoting social well-being via delivery of basic necessities, provision of social services, and assuring environmental protection;
- Manage the challenges, risks, rewards and trade-offs of efforts to promote social well-being;
- Develop a framework that will help in prioritizing peacebuilding and peace operations efforts;
- Explore the links between social well-being, security, governance, rule of law and economic development;
- Understand the key components of reconciliation and the relationship between reconciliation and social well-being.

### Day 1

**8:30 – 8:45**                      *Registration*

**8:45 – 9:30**                      **Session 1: *Introductions and Course Overview***

- Definitions and Terms
- Critical, Overarching Themes
- Critical Questions to address

**9:30 – 10:30**                    **Session 2:** *Group discussion of Social Well-Being as a critical component of peacebuilding*

Questions to consider:

- What do we mean by social well-being?
- What kind of health care and education should we envision?
- How can social capital be restored?
- What is “do no harm”?
- Why should local capacity be emphasized?

**10:30 – 10:45**                    *Break*

**10:45 – 11:30**                    **Session 3:** *Discussion and Exercise 1: Conflict Analysis and Assessment*

**11:30 – 12:30**                    **Session 4:** *Do Good Things Always Go Together? Thinking about Consequences, Risks and Trade-offs*  
Moderated Discussion

**12:30 – 1:30**                    *Lunch*

**1:30 – 2:45**                    **Session 5:** *Best practices regarding planning and management issues*

Questions/issues to consider:

- Preintervention planning
- In planning that embodies the principle of “do no harm” how do we assess end goals, risks and trade-offs?
- Balance between quick results and long-term sustainability
- Transition from relief to providing sustained services and governance
- Regional and international cooperation
- Public information and education (and public perception)
  - Can one manage public perceptions for policy and program successes and failures?
  - Are there best practices in managing public perceptions about policies and projects?

**2:45 – 3:00**                    *Break*

**3:00 – 3:45**                    **Session 6:** *The Implications of Transitional Justice for Reconciliation – Individuals, Institutions and Societies*  
Presentation: Hugo van der Merwe, Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, South Africa

Key questions and issues:

- What is transitional justice – goals, components and models?
- What impact does transitional justice have on efforts at reconciliation – at the institutional, societal and individual levels?
- How can reconciliation take root in a society and become sustainable?

**3:45 – 4:30**

**Session 7:** *Exercise 2: Truth, Justice, Peace, Mercy*

Day 2

**8:45 – 9:00**

*Debrief of Day One*

**9:00 – 10:00**

**Session 8:** *Access to and Delivery of Basic Health Needs in Fragile Societies*

Presentation: Dr. Ron Waldman, Team Leader for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, USAID, and Professor of Public Health, Columbia University

Key questions and issues:

- What are the current trends in health system reconstruction--including enabling and inhibiting factors?
- What are the human rights implications of post conflict health systems?
- What role does the re-establishment of health services play in the political stabilization process?

**10:00 – 10:15**

*Break*

**10:15 – 11:30**

**Session 9:** *Values, Norms and Practices in the Protection of Health*

Presentation: Leonard Rubenstein, USIP and Physicians for Human Rights

Key questions and issues:

- What is the priority of health protection in armed conflict?
- What are obstacles to protection?
- What is the place of health in peacebuilding?

**11:30 – 12:30**

**Session 10:** *Exercise 3: Health Care – Risks, Rewards and Trade-Offs*

**12:30 – 1:30**

*Lunch*

- 1:30 – 2:45**      **Session 11:** *Case Study: Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Haiti*
- 2:45 – 3:00**      *Break*
- 3:00 – 4:30**      **Session 12:** *The Difficulties in Promoting Social Well-Being in Haiti*  
Presentation: Robert Maguire, USIP and Trinity University Haiti Group  
Key issues:
- Not understanding the nature of the conflict.
  - Taking sides in the absence of dispute resolution or reconciliation.
  - Embracing singularity where there are multiple dimensions.
  - Prescribing medicine without meeting the patient.
  - Choosing expediency and the least resistant path in who you work with, what you do, and where you do it.

Day 3

- 8:45 – 9:00**      *Debrief of Day Two*
- 9:00 – 10:00**      **Session 13:** *Education Reform in Post-Conflict Societies*  
Presentation: Jeff Helsing  
Key questions and issues:
- How can education contribute to or complement peacebuilding efforts?
  - Should there be a greater emphasis on content or pedagogy?
  - Should the focus be on local or national capacity?
- 10:00 – 10:45**      **Session 14:** *Exercise 4: Planning for Delivering Education in Emergencies and Early Reconstruction Efforts*
- 10:45 – 11:00**      *Break*
- 11:00 – 12:30**      **Session 15:** *Education and Peacebuilding: Lessons from the Field*  
Presentation and discussion: Linda Bishai and Maria Jessop-Mandel, USIP  
Key issues:
- Why the education sector is so important.
  - The critical elements of education.
  - Strategies to address education issues in conflict areas.

- 12:30 – 1:30**                      *Lunch*
- 1:30 – 2:45**                      **Session 16:** *Experiences and perceptions of post-conflict impunity and transitional justice mechanisms at the local levels: Lessons from Guatemala*  
Presentation and discussion: Tani Adams, USIP and International Institute of Learning for Social Reconciliation  
Key Issues:
- How people make sense of their lives at the family/community level 25 years after violence and genocidal acts occurred.
  - The challenges for international and national transitional justice and reconciliation efforts.

**2:45 – 3:00**                      *Break*

- 3:00 – 4:30**                      **Session 17:** *The Role of the Past and Efforts at Reconciliation*  
Presentation: Jeff Helsing, USIP  
Key questions and issues:
- How is history politicized?
  - Can dealing with the past contribute to reconciliation?
  - Shaping social identity.

Day 4

**8:45 – 9:00**                      *Debrief of Day Three*

- 9:00 – 10:00**                      **Session 18:** *Right of Return and Resettlement: Refugees*  
Video Presentation: *Returning Home*

**10:00 – 10:45**                      **Session 19:** *Exercise 5: What Worked in Mozambique*

**10:45 – 11:00**                      *Break*

- 11:00 – 12:30**                      **Session 20:** *Incorporating Gender Awareness into Social Well-Being Programs*  
Presentation: Nadia Gerspacher, USIP  
Key Issues:
- Involving women in the process of promoting a peaceful coexistence of parties.
  - Engendering reintegration of child soldiers and return of refugees.
  - Engendering the promoting social change (education).

- 12:30 – 1:30**                      *Lunch*
- 1:30 – 2:45**                      **Session 21: *Developing Local Capacity***  
Presentation: Nadia Gerspacher, USIP  
Key Issues:
- Defining and assessing capacity - asking the correct questions.
  - What capacities are key for conflict transformation/development.
  - Dilemmas the "capacity builders" face.
- 2:45 – 3:00**                      *Break*
- 3:00 – 4:30**                      **Session 22: *Understanding the Cultural Context***  
Presentation: Peter Weinberger, USIP  
Key Issues:
- Communication/delegation of authority in humanitarian assistance.
  - Individualism and Collectivism and how this impacts refugee resettlement/"right of return" issues.

Day 5

- 8:45 – 9:00**                      *Debrief of Day Four*
- 9:00 – 10:00**                      **Session 23: *The Environmental Challenges in Post-Conflict Countries***  
Presentation: Mishkat Al Moumin, George Mason University, former Minister of Environment in Iraq  
Key issues:
- The challenges of environmental problems in post conflict countries.
  - How management of resources can be a policy tool to prevent the conflict from resuming.
  - Successful management requires operating on the local level.
- 10:00 – 10:45**                      **Session 24: *Video Presentation on Afghanistan and the Environment***
- 10:45 – 11:00**                      *Break*
- 11:00 – 12:30**                      **Session 25: *Environmental Planning in a Post-Conflict Context***  
Presentation: Mishkat Al Moumin

**12:30 – 1:30**

*Lunch*

**1:30 – 2:45**

**Session 26:** *The Interrelationship between Social Well-Being and Security, Economic Development, Good Governance and Rule of Law*

Exercise and Group Discussion

Facilitator: Jeff Helsing

**2:45 – 3:00**

*Break*

**3:00 – 4:30**

**Session 27:** *Concluding Session and Final De-Brief*