

*The role of NGOs and
Communities in Post-conflict
Reconstruction of HD
Services*

**HD Learning Week
November 6 - 2006**

Objectives

- To discuss/understand:
- Major issues facing **provision of HD services** in Post-conflict settings
- How **NGOs can effectively be used** to provide HD services
- **Role for communities** in ensuring sustainable and quality services
- **Level of participation, ownership and accountability** of NGOs, Communities and public authorities.

1. The social capital argument

- Communities' involvement (and NGOs supporting them) can strengthen social capital – and address some of the fundamental causes of the conflict

2. The knowledge argument

- Communities (and NGOs supporting them) know better than anybody else their HD needs
- And their broader local economic development agenda.

3. The capacity argument

- Communities (and NGOs supporting them) have some basic capacity to identify, implement and (also) to run HD projects.
- Capacity needs to be reinforced and unleashed, but it is there.

4. The efficiency argument

- Communities and NGOs can be more efficient (cost/quality/time) in rebuilding HD services
- In particular, more efficient than public authorities (local or central)

5. Implementation challenge

- NGOs may be quicker, more efficient and have more capacity. But they are not present in the most rural areas, costs are higher (especially when it is international NGOs).
- When communities manage provision of HD services there is more ownership, costs are cheaper, O&M is better, and capacity is built in the community. However: 1) slower in delivering and 2) significant costs in building community capacity to manage the project and services.

6. Accountability challenge

- What is the level of participation, ownership and accountability required from NGOs, communities and public authorities in delivering acceptable levels of HD services?
- Major challenges in the interaction among partners.

7. Sustainability challenge

- In many post-conflict countries, communities are required to finance a significant share of staffing/other recurrent costs associated with HD services.
- Poverty levels, lack of opportunities, and reconstruction needs, may limit their ability to finance such costs.

8. Today's session

- Sierra Leone – Beneficiary Assessment of the WB financed CDD project (NSAP)
- Afghanistan – Community participation in the Education sector and evaluation of NGO intervention in the Health sector
- Liberia – Communities and NGOs participation in local development

9. Speakers

- Aki Stavrou – Partner NCG – Beneficiary Assessment – Sierra Leone
- Ben Loevinsohn – SASHD - Contracting with NGOs in Afghanistan
- Discussion/break
- Steve Archibald – IDL Group – The Updated of the RSA – Liberia
- Scherezad Latif and Habibullah Wajdi (SASHD) - The education sector project – Afghanistan
- Discussion/end of session