

### *RPP Cumulative Impact Issue Papers*

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*As part of our collaborative learning process, CDA's Reflecting on Peace Practice Program welcomes your feedback on Issue Papers regarding the topics noted below. These Issue Papers will be posted in the Reflecting on Peace Practice section of the CDA website under the "Project Documents" tab and then "Issues."*

*Please email your thoughts or questions regarding any of these Issue Papers by or before October 1, 2012 to Chloe Berwind-Dart at [cberwind@cdainc.com](mailto:cberwind@cdainc.com), and thank you for sharing your observations and suggestions.*

#### **1. Strategies for Promoting Cumulative Impacts: Clustering and sequencing within and across domains**

The case material suggests that it is possible to gain a greater understanding of how the "adding up" process works by examining clusters of key issues and how they interact with each other. A systems understanding of conflict also appears to help in this regard.

#### **2. Linkages and Convergences**

Earlier RPP processes concluded that linkages in various dimensions improve program effectiveness—but did not provide much information about what an effective linkage looks like or how to form them. This Issue Paper explores the linkage question based on the evidence from the cumulative impact case studies.

#### **3. Claims and Reality of Linkages between Peace Writ Large and peace writ little**

A significant portion of peacebuilding work occurs at the community level ("peace writ little"). The question is whether and how such work links to higher levels (provincial, national, regional—or "Peace Writ Large"). Are claims that "a lot of peace writ little will add up to Peace Writ Large" valid—and, if so, how or under what circumstances?

#### **4. Addressing or Neglecting "Persistent Issues": Threats of renewed violence or a long-term development agenda?**

Peace agreements or other political arrangements address some issues, yet neglect others. Some of the neglected issues constitute key drivers of conflict. Does neglect, avoidance or even outright denial of these problems create an ongoing threat for renewed violence? How can we know which issues will eventually precipitate armed rebellion or chronic tension and occasional riots?

## **5. Strategies for Dealing with the Hard-to-Reach**

The case material includes many different types of individuals and groups that are “hard to reach” for a range of reasons. Using a wider definition that goes beyond the classic “spoiler” category, the issue paper examines the full range of hard-to-reach types, as well as strategies for dealing with them.

## **6. “Outsider” Roles and Relationships in Cumulative Impacts**

Outsider individuals and groups can be quite helpful or quite destructive. When and under what circumstances are they most likely to damage, slow down or even destroy a peace process? When are they welcome and crucial to the adding up process?

## **7. The Contribution of Civil Society in Peacebuilding**

While civil society plays a wide range of roles in peace processes, when and how do they contribute significantly to cumulative impacts? What does the case material suggest are the most useful contributions to the adding up process for civil society groups?

## **8. Women, Gender and Peacebuilding: Do contributions add up?**

Several (though not all) of the cumulative case studies note significant contributions of women and women’s groups in generating cumulative impacts. Under what circumstances were those roles possible? Why were these effects not seen in the other case studies?

## **9. The Role of Leadership in the Adding Up Process**

Much has been made of the role of leaders in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, citing the crucial involvement of figures such as Nelson Mandela. Where have leaders played a decisive role and how have they contributed to the adding up process?