BASEL PEACE FORUM - SIDE EVENT

Moving towards Peace? Perspectives on the Peace-Migration Nexus
January 9, 2020, 12:15 – 5 pm, Basel

Workshop Agenda

12:15 Registration, Light Lunch & Exhibition
12:50 Welcome
   • Laurent Goetschel, swisspeace
13:00 Introduction
   • Conradin Rasi, Section Migration Foreign Policy, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
13:15 Inputs
   • Ruhi Naz, Research Initiatives Bangladesh: Social Cohesion in the Rohingya Refugee Crisis in Bangladesh
   • Ester Ruiz de Azua, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Ethiopia: Migration Governance, Peace & Stability in Ethiopia, and beyond
   • Arancha (Araceli) García del Soto, Colombian Truth Commission: Participation of People in Exile in the Colombian Truth Commission

Reflections
   • Esther Meininghaus, Bonn International Center for Conversion (bicc)
   • Andrea Zellhuber, terre des hommes
   • Reem al-Assil, Common Purpose (tbc)

14:30 Break
14:45 Breakout Sessions
16:15 Plenary Discussion
16:45 Wrap Up & Outlook
17:00 End

Moderators & Facilitators:
   • Lea Suter, PeacePrints
   • Anna Leissing, KOFF
   • Andrea Grossenbacher, KOFF
BREAKOUT SESSION 1 “SOCIAL COHESION”

Building on the input on social cohesion in the context of the Rohingya refugee crisis, this group will identify and discuss issues that are relevant to social cohesion in migration-affected contexts, bringing in different perspectives and experiences. The goal is to develop concrete guidelines on how to design peacebuilding policies and programs that address social cohesion in migration-affected contexts. The output will go into a “toolbox” aimed at providing guidance to Switzerland on how to address migration issues in peacebuilding.

KEY QUESTION
How can Switzerland design peacebuilding policies and programs that address social cohesion in migration-affected contexts?

RATIONALE
There is a common assumption that refugees, migrants and IDPs contribute to the breakdown of social cohesion. However, researchers, practitioners and policymakers find that, on the contrary, they can generate economic, social and cultural benefits for societies in countries of origin, transit and destination. For instance, studies have found that refugees, migrants and IDP’s pursuit of livelihood can increase human security because economic activities help to recreate social and economic interdependence within and between communities, and can restore social networks based on the exchange of labour, assets and food. In addition, while migratory movements can create challenges for security, they also push states towards cooperation, exchange of information and coordination of policies at the regional and global level. Nevertheless, while the presence of IDP’s, refugees and migrants can have positive effects on a society, it can also put a strain on the economy, political and social order of a receiving country. It may cause anxiety among the host community concerning economic opportunities due to growing competition over scarce natural resources, as well as jobs and social services. This can lead to grievances and resentment by the receiving communities, especially when they feel that refugees, migrants or IDPs receive preferential treatment by the government and humanitarian agencies. Moreover, changes in ethnic, religious and linguistic composition of the receiving country are often perceived as a threat and can thus destabilize social and political balances. The presence of IDP’s, refugees or migrants might also shift the balance of power in a community and exacerbate previously existing inter-communal tensions.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS
How to deal with issues such as conflict and social cohesion in protracted displacement situations?
How to tackle the issue of social cohesion in urban contexts? What initiatives aim at fostering social cohesion in these contexts, with a view to preventing violence? How to design actions that take into account issues of social cohesion between and among local groups and refugee and migrant communities in host countries?

OUTPUT
- A list of guiding questions/principles
- A flipchart sheet with 3-5 priority points

The guiding questions and principles should be:

→ Solution-oriented (focus on ‘do’ formulations)
→ Context-specific
→ Constructive
→ Complementary (however, it is okay to have contradictory points, too!)
→ Innovative and ‘out of the box’.
BREAKOUT SESSION 2 “MIGRATION GOVERNANCE”

Building on the input on migration governance and peace and stability in Ethiopia and the broader region, this group will identify and discuss issues that are key to conflict-sensitive migration governance, bringing in different perspectives and experiences. The goal is to develop concrete guidelines on how to design peacebuilding policies and programs that contribute to conflict-sensitive migration governance. The output will go into a “toolbox” aimed at providing guidance to Switzerland on how to address migration issues in peacebuilding.

KEY QUESTION
How can Switzerland design peacebuilding policies and programs that contribute to conflict-sensitive migration governance?

RATIONALE
Recent reports and studies indicate that migration policies, which fail to adopt holistic approaches, increase the vulnerability of individuals and lead to increased insecurity, instability and the (re-) emergence of (violent) conflicts at community, state and regional levels. As a result, the international community has been calling for comprehensive approaches to migration governance rooted in principles of solidarity, human rights and international humanitarian law, and drawing on development and peacebuilding tools. Yet, perceptions of (forced) migration as a threat to societal and state security dominate the public and political discourse in many regions of the world, creating a narrow perspective on migration. Tendencies to prioritize state security over human security, international principles of solidarity and safety and rights of IDP’s, refugees and migrants are growing. As increasingly narrow and securitized approaches to migration governance clash with global calls for more comprehensive, conflict-sensitive and human rights-based approaches, tensions and dilemmas arise for peacebuilding policy and programming in the context of the current global migration governance landscape.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS
How to deal with the challenges and dilemmas that arise for peacebuilding in the current global migration governance landscape? How to address the consequences arising from securitized migration policies, with a view towards preventing the (re-)occurrence of violent conflict? How to design peacebuilding initiatives that integrate the protection and promotion of rights of migrants, including asylum seekers, refugees and IDPs as comprehensive elements? How to contribute to conflict-sensitive migration policies?

OUTPUT
- A list of guiding questions/principles
- A flipchart sheet with 3-5 priority points

The guiding questions and principles should be:

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→ Complementary (however, it is okay to have contradictory points, too!)
→ Innovative and ‘out of the box’.
BREAKOUT SESSION 3 “PARTICIPATION”

Building on the input on participation of people in exile in the Colombian Truth Commission, this group will identify and discuss issues that are relevant to meaningful participation of people in exile in peace processes, bringing in different perspectives and experiences. The goal is to develop concrete guidelines on how to design peacebuilding policies and programs that address the issue of participation of people in exile in peace processes. The output will go into a “toolbox” aimed at providing guidance to Switzerland on how to address migration issues in peacebuilding.

KEY QUESTION
How can Switzerland design peacebuilding policies and programs that address the participation of people in exile in peace processes?

RATIONALE
Refugees, IDPs, migrants and the so-called ‘diaspora’ are often excluded from peace processes in their countries of origin, and in host countries. Yet, they might have a considerable influence on on-going conflict dynamics as well as post-war reconciliation. While refugees, IDPs, migrants and the diaspora can play a role as ‘peace wreckers’ by reproducing conflict attitudes, they can also play a very important role as bridge-builders and in fostering reconciliation. Thus, under the right conditions, they can act as agents of change and have a positive influence on peace and dealing with the past processes. Including voices of the refugees, IDPs, migrants and the diaspora brings in new narratives and perspectives on the conflict, and thus allows for a more comprehensive evidence gathering. The demand for more recognition of the rights and agency of refugees, IDPs and migrants stands out in recent scholarly literature, and increasingly in policy and practice. Both the need to include political rights and demands, the ‘refugee plight’, in the agenda of peace processes, as well as the need to ensure the participation of different groups of refugees, IDPs, migrants and diaspora in political processes in their countries of origin and in host countries are key elements in this regard. In order to achieve long term and sustainable results, policies and programmes must recognize refugees’, IDPs’ and migrants’ agency in shaping their trajectory and contributing to dealing with or solving their displacement situation, as well as peace processes in their countries of origin. Moreover, it is important that peace agreements clarify the obligations of governments towards displaced populations as well as roles and responsibilities with regard to durable solutions. While there is a recognition for the importance of inclusive peace processes, challenges regarding implementation remain at the policy and practice level.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS
How to deal with the challenges that arise for peacebuilding policy and practice in regards to meaningful participation of people in exile in peace processes? How to enhance engagement of people in exile in dealing with the past and other peace processes in countries of origin? How can returnees contribute to these processes? What to do to ensure and promote political participation of migrants, including asylum seekers, refugees and IDPs, both in countries of origin and host countries?

OUTPUT
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