The first meeting of the Experts Group for the reconstruction of Pocitelj, Bosnia-Herzegovina, took place in Mostar and Pocitelj on 3rd and 4th August 2001. The meeting was opened by the Federal Minister of Physical Planning and Environment, Mr Ramiz Mehmedagic, and was also attended by the Deputy Federal Minister of Education, Science and Culture, Dr Dubravko Lovrenovic, as well as a number of high officials from the Canton and Municipality level.

In recognition of the great cultural and political importance of the rehabilitation of the historic settlement, the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina have approved the initial plans for the rebuilding which were proposed by the Federal Ministry of Physical Planning and Environment. To be implemented between 2001–07, the plans were developed under the leadership of the Assistant Minister, Mrs Amra Hadzimuhamedovic, based on an original study undertaken by the PRDU in 1996–97. They aim to:

- protect and restore the cultural heritage within the walled settlement;
- enable a two-way return of displaced people – back to Pocitelj, and from Pocitelj to their pre-war homes;
- implement long-term measures for preservation and presentation of cultural heritage in Pocitelj within a viable economic programme;
- resolve the immediate and long-term problems of infrastructure.

In order to start the project, the government has allocated 2 million DM in its budget for 2001, and has named a group of experts to steer the design and implementation of the detailed plans for reconstruction. The Experts Group consists of: Dr Sultan Barakat (Chairman); Mr Jon Calame; Professor Vjekoslava Sankovic Simcic; Dr Fehim Hadzimuhamedovic; Darko Minarik; and Ferhad Mulabegovic.
Editorial

Since 1996, the number of reported hydro-meteorological disasters (e.g. droughts, floods and wind storms) has more than doubled, according to World Disasters Report 2001, published by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

This alarming trend, aggravated by climate change and economic globalisation, must be a major worry for those concerned with post-disaster relief and reconstruction – from aid workers to National Governments. More disasters equals a demand for more money (or a watering down of existing funding), and more internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees. With areas becoming disaster-struck on a regular basis, millions more ‘ecological refugees’ are being created. Where will they all go?

Over the last few months it seems to me that the UK has been a microcosm of the World’s present and future troubles. The plight of ‘asylum seekers’ has become a major political football; racial tension fuelled by far-right Nationalists has resulted in rioting in some of our towns; refugees on a housing estate in Glasgow, Scotland, have been attacked, one murdered, because local residents resent what they see as preferential treatment to the incomers; and recent ‘record-breaking’ flooding in the UK has created our own IDPs, and affected local and national economies. Until we all accept that globalisation includes ‘global responsibility’, the future looks even more unsettled.

Oslo lecture

For the third year running, PRDU DPhil student Arne Strand lectured on the Peace Research course at the International Summer School in Oslo, Norway. The six-week course, run for more than 30 years, is organised by the University of Oslo and the International Peace Research Institute (PRIO). Arne lectured on post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation, particularly focusing on the role of inter- and non-governmental organisations, drawing on work experience and recent research from Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Altajir Lectureship in Post-war Recovery Studies

In March, interviews took place for this new position within the Post-war Reconstruction & Development Unit. The award is an exciting development and aims to enhance the PRDU’s international reputation for research and teaching. The new post has been awarded to Dr Alpaslan Özerdem who, since completing his DPhil in 1998, has worked as a Research and Teaching Assistant within the PRDU. His lecturing and research experience will add to the strength of the Unit. The lectureship is for four years and commences in October 2001.

This unique and interesting post brings together many of Dr Özerdem’s academic and professional interests in post-war reconstruction and development, with specific reference to the rebuilding of war-torn Muslim communities and the recovery of their social, economic and physical environments.

The Altajir Lectureship in Post-war Recovery Studies has been generously funded by The Altajir World of Islam Trust, which was founded as a registered British Charity and Educational Foundation in 1983 under the sponsorship of His Excellency Mohammed Madhi Altajir. Since its inception, it has maintained an annual scholarship and research programme, primarily designed to assist Muslim students studying in western universities and colleges. It also promotes academic publishing, conferences and seminars.

PRDU in Sri Lanka

A PRDU team recently undertook a review of the Consortium for Humanitarian Agencies (CHA), an NGO coordinating body. The aim of the exercise was to advise on the role that CHA and its membership could play in a post-war Sri Lanka. The team further contributed to a CHA organised workshop on ‘The Concepts, Tools and Issues for Recovery and Reconstruction’ in Colombo, 26–27 April.

The nature and scope of humanitarian activities and operations in Sri Lanka are circumscribed by the ever changing nature of the conflict. Agencies face access restrictions to uncleared areas, and constant problems in securing accurate information, which is often subject to censure. They often need to conform to regulations that challenge their humanitarian mandates in order for any assistance to be delivered. This difficult working environment means that the work of humanitarian agencies and CHA is dominated by processes of complex diplomacy and bureaucratic negotiation.

However, recent developments in Sri Lanka have brought about an opportunity for agencies, donors and the Government of Sri Lanka to address the challenges of planning for a post-war situation. Reconstruction and development activities have to be addressed alongside relief measures. In addition, the government – requested by the donors and assisted by the World Bank – initiated back in 1999 a process to develop a Framework for Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, the ‘3R’ Framework, which would have an influence on CHA’s work. In light of these challenges CHA asked the PRDU team – led by Dr Sultan Barakat, accompanied by Dr Mark Evans and Arne Strand – to review their activities and advise on future direction.

More information about the workshop and the findings of the mission can be obtained from Jeewan Thiagarajah, Executive Director of CHA (e-mail: cha_prog@sri.lanka.net).
Welcome Anna

Best wishes to Hazel Parker, who left the PRDU in March to move back to her home town of Beverley. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Hazel for all that she did for the Unit during her time in York.

Stepping into Hazel’s shoes is Anna O’Connell. Until January, Anna was working in London as an Event Manager organising conferences, product launches and functions for clients such as Virgin, Cartier and KPMG. Before that she implemented promotional activity for The Daily Telegraph and The Sunday Telegraph newspapers.

Anna has previous experience of working in an academic environment, having spent a year in the Faculty of Law at the University of Sydney, Australia, in 1989–90. She enjoys experiencing different cultures, and has travelled to Africa and South-East Asia as well as countries closer to home.

Her main duties relate to the day-to-day administration of the PRDU. If you have any queries about the MA course or the professional training short course programme (see below), Anna would be delighted to help.

Professional Development in Post-war Recovery Studies at the PRDU 2001–2

The MA in Post-war Recovery Studies is structured on a modular basis, which means it is possible to offer short course training for professionals. Each course is three weeks duration. It is, however, possible to enrol for individual weeks. The schedule is as follows:

module 1
(15 October – 2 November 2001)
Understanding conflict and international response

module 2
(12–30 November 2001)
Practical skills of working with communities in conflict

module 3
(7–25 January 2002)
Strategic planning and project evaluation

module 4
(4–22 February 2002)
Managerial, organisational & training skills

For more information, or to book a course, please contact Anna O’Connell.

Reintegrating former combatants in Kosovo

The PRDU research programme on reintegration of former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) combatants in the post-conflict society, which is funded by the United States Institute of Peace, has now entered its final phase. During the second phase of the field study in May 2001, Dr Alpaslan Özerdem interviewed more than 40 former combatants who have been assisted by the International Organisation for Migration’s (IOM) Information Counselling and Referral Service (ICRS) Programme, composed of the Reintegration Fund and Service Referral arms.

Dr Özerdem during an interview with a female former combatant in Podujevo, Kosovo.

The other important aspect of reintegration strategy is the training of the 5,052-strong Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) – whose future role is envisaged by the international community to be in terms of a civilian, uniformed, multi-ethnic corps aimed at responding to disasters affecting the population of Kosovo.

The third phase of the field work, in mid-July, will focus on former combatants who are now active and reservists members of KPC, as well as those who joined Kosovo Police Service (KPS). The successful implementation of this reintegration programme will no doubt play a significant role in the establishment of peace in Kosovo. To date, almost 13,000 of the 25,723 registered KLA combatants have received long-term assistance in one form or another from IOM. The PRDU research, led by Dr Sultan Barakat, aims to assess the initial impacts of the international community’s strategy for the reintegration of KLA combatants.

The main source of information for the research has been obtained from in-depth interviews with former combatants and those practitioners involved in the implementation of the strategy. The research will be completed in September 2001.

Surveying Northern Ireland’s political attitudes

A major annual survey of a cross-section of Northern Ireland’s population can show not only how opinions vary between the Catholic and Protestant communities, but also how important political and cultural events affect current attitudes.

Dr Roger MacGinty, PRDU lecturer, is principal investigator of the political attitudes module of the ‘Northern Ireland Life and Times’ survey. Jointly run by the Queen’s University of Belfast and the University of Ulster, the survey involves face-to-face interviews with a random, representative sample of 1,800 adults in their own homes.

Some of the results of the 2000 survey have been published in the Belfast Telegraph during April this year, and others will be the focus of forthcoming journal articles.

Comparing results with those of past years can give a good indicator of changing attitudes towards, for example, the reform of Northern Ireland’s police force, the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The 2000 survey shows that just over a quarter of Protestants aged 18 to 29 would encourage a relative to join the police – a sharp decline from 1999 when the figure was almost a half. On the other hand there has been a drop in the number of young Catholics who would discourage a relative from joining over the same period (34 per cent from 43 per cent).
My placement was sponsored by FORUT – a Norwegian and Swedish funded organisation which has been campaigning for solidarity and development in Sri Lanka since 1981. The assignment focused on whether humanitarian assistance could be improved in the Vavuniya District (north Sri Lanka) by utilising government support and services.

I looked at what the NGOs were doing in Vavuniya, and how their work related to the local government, and its responsibilities. In Vavuniya there are 21 local NGOs, six international NGOs and two United Nations agencies, all of whom are involved in relief and development in the District. My assignment gave me the opportunity to see the aid ‘industry’ in action, and to gauge their opinions on the Vavuniya humanitarian situation, as well as looking at the issues from the perspective of the local government and, more importantly, the local beneficiaries.

In terms of personal development, my experience in Vavuniya was invaluable – an opportunity to work in a conflict area, and a chance to learn about the constraints that exist in such a volatile situation. It was a chance to learn about working and living in a culture which is very different from my own.

What struck me most was the way in which people who have had their lives destroyed, and who are enduring appaling living conditions, can still manage to smile.

Sarah HOLT, United Kingdom

During my placement in Geneva with the Humanitarian Cease-fires Project – part of the Emergency Health Intelligence and Capacity Building Unit (EHC) of the World Health Organisation (WHO) – I undertook bibliographical research, gathered specific and contextual information on countries eligible for case studies, and assisted in drafting a report on Humanitarian Cease-fires.

Humanitarian cease-fires are temporary truces to facilitate the safe passage of workers into conflict zones, to carry out specific humanitarian tasks over a limited time period. They can also provide an opportunity for peace building activities. The WHO was concerned that there should be a systematic study of these cease-fires, many of which are ad hoc, in order to identify possible best practice.

I had access to, and full support from, the EHC staff and completed, in cooperation with colleagues, reports and concept papers for internal use. My placement was just long enough to give me a feel for a large organisation and its sub-groups.

Guido GALLI, Italy

I undertook a placement with the Promotion of Refugee Law Section, Department of International Protection at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Geneva. UNHCR’s primary responsibility is the protection of refugees, or persons displaced across international boundaries, but it is currently engaged in internal consultations within the Department of International Protection (DIP) in an attempt to clarify its policy on IDPs. The interpretation of this policy will have a significant impact on how UNHCR’s officials operate in the field.

I was set to work with DIP on developing the notion of ‘national protection’ or specific approaches to the IDP problem. As part of the internal dialogue, DIP planned a roundtable discussion on the IDP issue with key individuals from the organisation and representatives from other relevant bodies. I was asked to organise the event that would focus on prevention, protection, humanitarian assistance, return and reintegration.

The preparatory work for the colloquium required me to write an in-depth discussion paper on UNHCR IDP policy, with particular focus on UNHCR operations connected with IDP return and reintegration to their homes and places of original residence. I also wrote two country-specific overviews on the issue. All of this was framed by the Guiding Principles on internal displacement that are based on International Humanitarian Law and human rights law. Time-scheduling difficulties meant the postponement of the roundtable discussion, but I have been invited to return and participate in the event later in the Summer.

In preparation for my MA dissertation, I interviewed UNHCR and other UN Agency staff members, NGO and donor representatives, and collaborated with other students engaged in postgraduate research. I was also able to use the extensive library at Palais des Nations, and the Centre for Documentation and research at the UNHCR.

The placement gave me an in-house policy perspective which I am anxious to complement with experience of operational implementation. I have come away with an interest in many more issues than I arrived with. This was a good experience all round!

Lucy WOOD, United Kingdom
A n important component of the MA is the practical experience students gain during their 6- to 8-week placements. It gives them the chance to work for a host organisation of their choice, often in a country or field of work new to them. Each student gives a placement presentation, assessed as part of the MA. Five presentations are summarised on these two pages.

The PRDU would like to express its sincere thanks to all of the hosts for their valuable support this year. Below is a list of students, their hosts (in bold) and the host countries (in brackets).

- Frances ALESI
  ILO (Switzerland)

- Basel ALMISSHAL
  John Thompson & Partners (UK)

- John Thompson & Partners (Bosnia)
  Bejle Municipality (Bosnia)

- Richard BROWN
  International Medical Corps (Malaku)

- Silvia DE GASPERIS
  Movimondo (Italy)

- Saman DE SILVA
  ICCROM (Italy)

- Monika EROS-SARNYAI
  The Mayor's Office (Subotica, Yugoslavia)

- Guido GALLI
  World Health Organisation (Switzerland)

- Ivan GEBRE-MEDHEN
  VOICE (Belgium)

- Sarah HOLT
  FORUT (Switzerland)

- Chris JACOBS
  IFCRC (Switzerland)

- Mark KNIGHT
  The World Bank (USA)

- Georgina McALLISTER
  DID (UK)

- Matthew PARRY
  UNOCHA (USA)

- Zoe ROHDE
  Netherlands Development Organisation; Moyo District Local Government (Uganda)

- Aashfaq SHAIKH
  Federal Ministry for Planning & Environment (Bosnia)

- Kathryn SHILLITO
  ILO (Switzerland)

- Kamran SIDDIQUI
  Agency for Rehabilitation & Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (Pakistan)

- John SIMMONS
  UNOCHA (Switzerland)

- Bronan SOENNECKEN
  OSCE Mission to Croatia (Croatia)

- Emmanuel TIGERE
  DID (UK)

- Norman TOMLINSON
  SFOR (Bosnia Herzegovina)

- David WARDELL
  IFRC (Kenya, Somalia, Switzerland)

- Laura WATKINS
  FORUT (Sri Lanka)

- Simon WEATHERBED
  FORUT (Sri Lanka)

- Lucy WOOD
  UNHCR (Switzerland)

- Fuyuko YAMAMOTO
  World Health Organisation (Switzerland)

- Zoe ROHDE
  OMAR International (Pakistan)

- Yuko YOSHIDA
  CPAU (Pakistan)

- Gergana ZAIDAN
  RIWAQ; Bethlehem 2000 Project (Palestine)

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**... Student Placements**

**Mine clearance and awareness in Afghanistan**

**Planning for refugees**

My placement with the Organisation for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR) – based in Peshawar, Pakistan, and Kabul, Afghanistan – stemmed from a trip to Cambodia last year, in which humanitarian problems caused by these weapons became clear to me. OMAR’s Humanitarian Mine Action programmes extend beyond the clearance of mines and unexploded ordinance, to mine awareness education, and victim assistance.

I was able to interview those involved in mine clearance and related humanitarian and rehabilitation activities, and observe them at work. For example, I visited a number of community-based initiatives that specialised in the rehabilitation and retraining of mine victims. What was striking was the determination among many victims to rebuild their lives and re-enter the employment market.

I had come to the placement with a number of preconceptions on how aid agencies operated. The first-hand experience I gained allowed me to re-evaluate these, and get a better understanding of the NGO ‘business’ – something that will be useful when planning my career.

Fuyuko YAMAMOTO, Japan

I spent almost two months with the District Planning Unit in Moyo, Northern Uganda. The area has been host to refugee flows for a protracted period, and since President Museveni came to power in 1986 the government has been implementing civil service reforms and a programme of decentralisation. I was interested in how local governments and communities perceive these changes, and how they impact on dealing with refugee issues.

A review of government papers and NGO reports allowed me to build a picture of the impact of local government planning and decentralisation. A more practical understanding came through formal and informal interviews with district officials, NGO workers and community members. I was able to gain insights into the perceptions of people on the ground, and the threats and opportunities that people associate with the inclusion of refugees in district planning.

Overall, the placement was a unique experience, allowing me to understand the importance of grassroots participation, and the need to build the capacity of local institutions if sustainable development and meaningful recovery is to be achieved.

Zoe ROHDE, United Kingdom

OMAR’s programmes include mine awareness education for children in Kabul, Afghanistan.
The MA students that came to the PRDU in October 2000 comprised the largest, most diverse group of scholars and practitioners the Unit had ever seen. The logistical challenge of conducting a field study as a group of 31 was greatly helped by the humble, generous and inexhaustible learnedness of Zoran Milovic in consultation with Sultan Barakat, who led the visit. Zoran helped prepare a timetable taking in more than a dozen cities and towns throughout the Country in what were formally UN protected sectors. Just twelve days were allowed, into which the PRDU packed: over 60 meetings with international organisations, NGOs, foreign diplomats, mayors, government authorities, academics and civil servants; numerous formal dinners; unplanned and invaluable survivor interviews; and even aerial observation flights over eastern Slavonia, Vukovar and the Danube basin.

The trip began on 3 December in Zagreb, with an early morning tour through the sun-warmed streets. Zagreb also introduced the students to major contemporary political and social influences, including the British Ambassador to Croatia, leaders of the Serb Democratic Forum (a major political organisation), the Croatian Ministry for Public Works Reconstruction and Construction, and UNHCR (one of the biggest international players in the Country).

Observations
Throughout the trip, various theoretical concepts discussed within the MA course could be observed, translated into practice within the recovery environment. For example, the changing needs of communities associated with a relief-to-development continuum. With reconstruction planning having begun prior to the war’s official end in 1995, many parts of the Country, especially in the north, are beginning to see development and are even planning for improvements that will go above and beyond what existed in Former Yugoslavia. Proactive mayors are being inspired by ideas of ‘turning the disaster into an opportunity’. Thus Bilje – a town outside Osijek heavily damaged by artillery, landmines and troop movements – was slowly being transformed into what may become one of Europe’s most treasured natural wildlife preserves.

It is unequivocally the promise of future European integration that is driving much of the development and planning throughout Croatia. In the area around the twin towns of Lipik and Pakrac the need for foreign investment was emphasised. In the historical, and once renowned, spa facilities of Lipik, the hotel and park grounds were so heavily damaged during the war that engineers and builders will be dependent not only on foreign investors, but also on blue prints of the baths in Baden-Baden, Germany, after which Lipik was patterned. Pakrac has also seen foreign investors seeking opportunity amongst its rubble. A business park has been established on the outskirts of the town, and a furniture factory and various enterprising agricultural businesses have been set up. Ironically, agriculture is an attractive business to foreign investors because of the war. Swathes of Croatian farmland have lain fallow for a decade and, with the rise in demand within the European Union for ecologically-friendly farming techniques, Croatia is taking the opportunity to position itself as a ‘bread basket’ for organic produce.

Moving south into what was the heart of the Krajina, the PRDU visited the city of Knin, around which Serb resistance was centered until August 1995 when the Croatian army pushed through in operation ‘Storm’, thus ending the war. Knin poses one of the biggest challenges to the Country. Before the war the area had been largely made up of ethnic Serbs. Since then it has witnessed a concentration of Croatian refugees from Bosnia and Kosovo, and thus much of its recovery is hindered by complex issues that revolve around the need for reconstruction as well as legal clarity and government policy on the rights of citizens from all ethnic backgrounds. As members of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) expressed to the students, the window of opportunity for the return of refugees to the area is believed to be rapidly closing. Returns have been increasing in recent years, but the economic status of the region, with its associated high level of unemployment and the lack of accommodation due to destruction or occupancy of homes by other refugees and settlers, makes it extremely difficult for people to stay.
members of society. Even for returnees and ethnic minorities the situation is far better than in many other environments. At the same time, the security is not the result of an oppressive regime, but rather the product of what was portrayed to the PRDU as a sincerely progressive and committed police force that was built up under the close supervision of the EU and the OSCE.

Greater obstacles to recovery exist because of the direct consequences of the former power relations between Slobodan Milosevic and the late Franjo Tudjman. The official November 2000 estimates of the Croatian Office for Displaced Person and Refugees placed the number of refugees and IDPs still not in their homes at around 300,000. This means that half of the Croatians that were displaced or left the Country have started lives elsewhere or are unable to return. Also looming over possible returnees is the burdened national economy with an official unemployment rate of 22% (in areas like Knin and Vukovar this figure is well over 50%). The lack of opportunity is further complicated by the need to rebuild homes. In places like Lipik over 50% of the housing stock was destroyed; in rural areas throughout the Country the figure can rise to 90%. For those that have returned with the desire to rebuild their lives, there is also the constant threat of an estimated two million landmines.

Whilst relieving such day to day difficulties faced by citizens is regularly on the stated agendas of politicians in Zagreb, the overwhelming feeling that the PRDU received during its trip was that the highly centralised government has a difficult time implementing its policies on the ground, especially when it does not always get the cooperation of local government politicians. The ‘top-down’ approach is perhaps a more difficult way for governments to progress in recovery once past the initial consolidation period of a democratic transition. Fortunately, many politicians appear to be aware of this, and it is hoped that future legislation and political manoeuvring may eventually bring greater balance to the distribution of power.

When it comes to the strength of the Croatian social fabric, and to the building of civil capacities in society, the future is hopeful. While gender and psycho-social issues that effect those most deeply scarred by war are generally overlooked outside of the urban centres, there is a strong base of national NGOs that is looking to fill the gap, not only for the government, but also for the international community as it prepares to scale down its efforts in the Country. The most important thing for those organisations will be the provision of training for their staff, and investment of resources for their work. Such efforts will be crucial, as often the ethnic divide was painfully obvious to the students as they met with, and listened to, people throughout the Country – minority children face discrimination in the schoolyards; workers may find it impossible to get a job based on their political stance during the war; one neighbour may have their home completely rebuilt, while the other is forced to sleep in their relative’s garage because a refugee has illegally occupied their home.

In Croatia, reconstruction is progressing at a respectable rate. Churches and cultural monuments are being rebuilt across the Country, but they have not served to unify communities as one might hope. In fact in many ways they serve only to remind of the rifts in society that proliferated the act of war. The social fabric will require time to mend, and be able to bear the weight of any further political or economic conflict.

The students and faculty of the PRDU were encouraged by the progress that has been achieved, and were able to take with them greater insight into the successful strategies, programmes and attitudes that have given Croatia so much hope for its future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Zoran Milićević from IJM for the critical role he played in organising and guiding the visit, and to the various Municipalities visited: Bosnia-Herzegovina Heritage Rescue; British Ambassador to Croatia; The British Council, Zagreb; Croatian Ministry of Reconstruction; The Mayors of Dvor and Osijek; The Open Society; The Serb Democratic Forum; The World Bank; UNHCR.

Laura Watkins, MA student, interviews a Croatian family who were displaced from Kosovo.

Reflections
At times, students and faculty were able to reflect on the depth of sorrow and desperation within the Country. This was especially visible in the war-scared and often empty villages of the countryside, through which the PRDU bus would wind for hours at a time. For many, the humbling experience of being in Croatia was a simple reminder of why they were working and studying in the field of humanitarian aid.

In order to most efficiently coordinate research during the Field Study, students were given a list of themes from which each chose a focus. The end of the trip gave the students an opportunity to present a report to their hosts which expressed their accumulated observations and analyses made throughout the Country on the following ten topics: needs assessment, economy, return of refugees and displaced, the role of the international and regional players, cultural and natural heritage, psycho-social needs, reconciliation, housing reconstruction, gender issues, and civil society and governance. The report was not only presented orally to invited guests, but also reproduced for dissemination amongst the interlocutors and hosts. It became, in this way, a partial ‘thank you’ for the never-lacking hospitality and cordiality of the people with whom the PRDU met.

Some of the lessons learned have served to shed light on many issues that effect recovery in other post-conflict environments. The recovery process in Croatia is, to a great extent, helped by the relative level of security that the government is able to provide for all.

Housing reconstruction schemes in the Knin area.
Women, War and Peace Building

This conference – organised by the PRDU, in conjunction with International Alert – took place at the King’s Manor, York in February this year. The aim was to highlight and strengthen the role of women and their participation in development, security and sustainable peace issues. The main topics for discussion were:

- Post-conflict reconstruction (governance, demobilisation etc) – how do men’s and women’s contributions differ?
- Women’s positive contribution to the peace processes – case studies
- Changing the status quo – using media to highlight women’s contribution to peace building.
- Preaching to the unconverted – bridging gaps between academics, NGOs and policy makers.

During the conference four main themes emerged from the presentations, under which a summary of the key points from discussions are listed here.

The following presentations were made at the conference:

**Women Building Peace** Ancil Adrian-Paul, Campaign Manager, International Alert.

**Training the Troops – Gender and the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations** Angela Mackay, UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations – Training Unit, New York.

**Kosovo – Missed Opportunity, Lessons for the Future** Lesley Abdela.

**Some thoughts on women’s participation in violence** Susie Jacobs, Department of Sociology, Manchester Metropolitan University.

**Palestinian Women, Violence and the Peace Process** Maria Holt, CAABU.

**Woman’s Place? Women’s role in peacebuilding and reconciliation** Laura Watkins, PRDU, University of York.

**Palestinian Women in Lebanon – their Capacities and Vulnerabilities** Rebecca Roberts, Department of Politics, University of York.

**On Gender, Conflict and Democracy: the case of the Sudanese Opposition in Exile** Nada Ali, Sudanese Women’s Alliance.

**Gender and Democracy in the Aftermath of the War in Bosnia-Herzegovina** Cynthia Cockburn, City University.

**Post-conflict reconstruction and gender analysis in Kosovo** Professor Chris Corrin, Politics Department, University of Glasgow.

**Gender training**

How can gender training be incorporated as an integral part of the response to peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace building? International organisations such as the UN, OSCE and military, when deployed on peace missions, need to understand the role of gender and the importance of it in all aspects of work. There is a need to train staff in all organisations operating in post-conflict situations to ensure they are sensitive to gender issues. The gender issue should not be dismissed as culturally too complicated as an excuse to ignore it. Gender, as an issue should be addressed in country-specific policies as carried out by International Alert in Sri Lanka and Burundi.

**Women and negotiations**

How can empirical evidence of women’s role in negotiations be gathered, disseminated and incorporated into future processes, with a view to developing best practice? Women are not formally represented in peace negotiations. As a large element of the population they should be represented in their own right. The introduction of a male/female ratio would ensure fair representation in all negotiations. It would also change the dynamics of the negotiations, as in most post-war situations the former warring factions dominate the political parties. Women’s involvement in negotiations will not overcome all problems, for example there are limits to what women’s groups can achieve in Israel and Palestine. There is no empirical evidence to show how the outcome changes when women are involved in negotiations. There is a need for neutral space for formal and informal meetings.

**Women’s participation in violence**

It was accepted that women do actively participate in violent acts during conflicts; violence is not only perpetrated by men. Women, men and children suffer from sexual assault during conflict and they should all be treated as victims when required. It was noted that the main perpetrators were male. As the conflict changes the manifestations of violence change and the impact on women changes. Coping strategies exist in all conflicts, and observers should not stereotype the conflict and its effect on the population or their coping strategies – for example not all women in Afghanistan survive by prostitution.

**Demobilisation**

How can DDR strategies be designed to enable women to obtain equal access to social, political and economic mechanisms? Women should be considered in demobilisation plans. Currently women are considered dependants even if they are ex-combatants. During DDR they should be treated as ex-combatants and offered the same long-term assistance with reintegration as male ex-combatants.

**Future work**

It was agreed that the four themes would be the basis for more research in the PRDU.

The papers presented at the conference are currently being collated. To place an order, please contact Anna O’Connell.
Primary Health Care Provision

Developing programmes in Colombia

Monica Riutort, Primary Health Care Delegate, Canadian Red Cross, reports on a recent meeting designed to build on the present Canadian-Colombian programme.

During August 21–25, 2001 the Canadian Red Cross organised an international meeting in Riohacha, Colombia, to analyse the primary health care programmes which are being implemented in Honduras, Nicaragua, The Philippines and Sri Lanka.

Representatives of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent attended, together with Dr Sultan Barakat, PRDU, who presented lessons learnt from the Federation’s Study of Puntland, Somalia (see right).

The Primary Health Care programme developed by the Red Cross in Colombia works with the most vulnerable communities, and frames its activities within the general System of Social Security and Health, supporting and complementing the activities of the local health system. It aims to strengthen community participation in health areas, through education and training, as a basis for future sustainability. However, the widespread and increasing prevalence of violence in Colombia has caused disintegration of the public health service provider’s network and has worsened inequity in the distribution of human resources.

The meeting in Riohacha allowed the sharing of experience, thought and ideas on how to work in primary health care with the most vulnerable communities, and how to develop tools, methodologies and strategies to measure and monitor impact and the sustainability of programmes in regions of conflict.

Puntland pilot project boost

Sean Deely, Senior Officer for Post Conflict Recovery in the IFRC’s Disaster Preparedness and Response department (and former PRDU MA student), updates the Federation’s venture to implement a health-sector rehabilitation project in Puntland State, Somalia.

Plagued by major health problems, Puntland’s population of over one million is spread out over an area bigger than England, with few roads and fewer health facilities. An estimated 60 per cent of this population is nomadic.

Fatima, a 17 year old Somali woman, had been in labour for over 48 hours when Rugiyo – a midwife at the Somali Red Crescent Society’s (SRCS) Mother and Child Health Clinic (MCH) in Qarhis, northeast Somalia – was called to see her. Fatima had collapsed near the village after a three-hour trek. Her husband carried her to a house and rushed to alert staff at the Clinic. This would be her first child. Like almost all Somali women, Fatima had been circumcised. As a consequence, safe childbirth requires an episiotomy – a surgical procedure. Rugiyo found that the episiotomy performed by the local birth attendant a few days earlier was insufficient. Only a vertical incision had been made and the child was trapped in the birth canal. Rugiyo made a lateral incision and assisted with the birth.

Midwife Serad Aden Mohamed, Health Officer at the Garowe Red Crescent branch, supervises seven National Society MCH clinics. “We have many cases like this” she confirmed. “Because there are few clinics, women rely on traditional birth attendants, most of whom have no formal training. When complications arise they don’t know what to do”. Many women die in childbirth as a result – the maternal mortality rate in Somalia is the highest in the world. Infant mortality is high also.

Sustaining the service

In 1993 the SRCS, supported by the International Federation, developed an integrated health care programme. In the absence of a central health service, 12 health posts and 34 National Society health clinics were opened throughout the country. Twelve of these clinics are located in the Puntland. They are dependent on outside aid from the Federation and the World Bank, while UNICEF provides some drugs and training support for clinic staff.

Today, the challenge is how to convert an essentially emergency-driven project into a sustainable service. In a joint initiative between the Federation, the National Society and the World Bank, a health sector rehabilitation study was carried out to identify a system to share the cost of maintaining the clinics. The first phase of the study concluded in March 2001 with the setting up of a one-year pilot project for sustaining primary health service provision in Qarhis clinic. This new project establishes a partnership between the Community Elders in Qarhis, the Directorate of Health in Puntland State’s Ministry of Social Affairs, and the SRCS. The cost of running the clinic will be shared among the three partners – National Society (80%), community (15%), Directorate of Health (5%).

Thankfully for Fatima, the clinic continues to function – for now. “We don’t know what would have happened if the midwife had not been available today, but probably both Fatima and her child would have died” said Serad Aden Mohamed.

Agreeing the share of running costs for the Qarhis clinic. From left to right: Dr Abdel Rahaman (Puntland’s Director of Health); Dr Ahmed M. Hassan (President, SRCS); Sultan Barakat (study Team Leader); the Chairman of Qarhis village; and Sean Deely (IFRC, Geneva).

revival ISSUE 15 • AUGUST 2001 PAGE 9
Urban challenge in the era of liberation: South Lebanon

Last April’s international conference in Beirut – jointly organised by Beirut Arab University (BAU), Hariri Foundation and the United Nations’ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) – proposed ways in which the reconstruction of South Lebanon can be carried out following the Israeli withdrawal from the region in May 2000. Researchers, officials and practitioners from Lebanon, other Arab countries and Europe gathered to present papers and discuss international experiences and viewpoints.

Alpaslan Özerdem, PRDU, presented a paper prepared jointly with Sultan Barakat. Strategic Planning of Post-war Reconstruction: Cross Cultural Perspective examined a number of significant considerations in the formulation of reconstruction policies. The ‘Regional Socio-Economic Development Programme for South Lebanon’ (prepared by a consortium of five specialist consultants, including PRDU, for the Lebanese Government in 1998–9) was included in the paper as an example of a national reconstruction strategy.

Conference delegates in Beirut.

Conference organiser, Professor Ahmed Soliman, warned that uncontrolled construction could turn the South into a version of quarry-scarred Mount Lebanon unless development was properly planned. With this in mind, the conference made recommendations including:

- Accelerate the removal of landmines in partnership with humanitarian agencies.
- Create Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships between government, private developers, landowners and civil society as the way forward for urban land development.
- Establish the institutional framework to identify needs of liberated areas in order to bring them back to normal life.
- Implement infrastructure and services projects that will support the return of residents to their towns and villages.
- Establish a Network of Arab Planning and Architecture Academic and Research Institutions (NAPA), to facilitate communication, education and research in urban development. Conference requested ESCWA to coordinate the Network, with support of UNESCO and other partners.
- Identify options for stimulating the local economy; in particular, agriculture, tourism, and stone quarrying.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Dr Özerdem’s travel expenses were covered by the British Council in Lebanon.

Disaster response

Margaret Chard, a DPhil candidate at the PRDU, was invited by the European Foundation Centre (EFC) with the Council on Foundations (COF) of the USA, to participate in the Disaster Response Workshop in Kingston, Jamaica, 17–19 June 2001. The Workshop was convened to contribute to the Disaster Response Initiative of the EFC and COF to meet concerns of their members (foundations and corporate grantmakers) that their allocation of resources in response to disasters should be better informed and based on general ‘lessons learned’ from previous practice.

A draft document of principles and practice had been previously prepared by a working group. Workshop participants – 40 ‘experts’ from academic institutions, NGOs, government and international organisations, as well as the foundations and corporate grantmakers themselves – spent three days appraising the content and structure of the document in working groups and plenaries. It was concluded that the final document to be prepared by EFC and COF for their members should incorporate the following points:

- **Mission statement:** this should make clear that ‘disasters’ occur when a vulnerable population encounters a natural (or man-made) hazard. Response should aim to reduce vulnerability through mitigation and preparedness.

- **The role of grantmakers:** they cannot match the financial and logistical capacity of the big relief agencies; they can give flexible, small-scale, low-level funding which, in the case of foundations at least, is not subject to short-term deadlines; they can support recovery work, filling the gap between relief and development; they can often address ethical/moral issues by convening interested parties to press for policy change; they can promote the spread of information and knowledge.

- **Practice should:** address root causes; support local capacity building; support local disaster plan formulation/preparedness measures; co-ordinate with other actors (both local and international); choose local partners whenever possible; allow flexibility (no blueprints or deadlines).

- **Accountability:** it must be clear ‘to whom?’ (beyond the board members); evaluation and monitoring are important, and social impact assessment is a better way to account for the use of funds than expenditure monitoring.

- **Communication and education:** grantmakers should work with the media; they should support education and training for awareness and preparedness; they should communicate lessons learned by facilitating exchanges of professionals, workshops, and information sharing, making full use of modern technology.

Although the document’s primary purpose will be to support the work of the EFC and COF member organisations, to which it will be circulated, the Workshop felt that it could eventually have a wider circulation as a means of building consensus for best practice amongst practitioners and grantmakers in the field of disaster response.
Planning recovery to minimise future risk

This extract is taken from the World Disasters Report 2001 introduction by Didier J Cherpitel, Secretary General, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The overall aim of my DPhil is to provide a more effective strategy for humanitarian intervention in states where sovereignty is contested. In this respect, Aceh is important because 25 years of secessionist conflict have produced fluctuating numbers of internally displaced people (IDPs). Also, in July 2000, the Government of Indonesia and the GAM (the rebel force) agreed to a six month ‘Humanitarian Pause’. Subsequent short-term humanitarian cease-fires during 2001 have ironically resulted in an escalation in violence and a resurgence of IDPs.

My field research found that:

- despite variations in information and statistics on IDPs, it was evident that in some locations the numbers have increased significantly in the past few months;
- traditional places of refuge for IDPs were becoming increasingly unsafe. Consequently, many had started to seek refuge in mountains nearby and at sea, thereby making assistance from NGOs tenuous;
- recent escalation in violence, and statements made by the GAM, suggest the beginning of a systematic, ethnic cleansing policy of non-Acehnese.
- unless water and sanitation is improved immediately, a medical emergency is inevitable.
- the intentional killing of several human rights activists and NGO staff have forced international NGOs to withdraw from operations, and local agencies verified that their assistance has been reduced considerably through widespread fear and intimidation.

Until the breaches in humanitarian law are addressed and corrected, displacement in Aceh will continue to spiral downwards, along with the chances of sustainable peace.

Macro-factors driving disasters are beyond the scope of aid. But not beyond the remit of humanitarian advocacy, which can champion solutions to these root causes with both national and international institutions. The ever-increasing risk posed by disasters will only be contained by addressing the intentional killing of several human rights activists and NGO staff have forced international NGOs to withdraw from operations, and local agencies verified that their assistance has been reduced considerably through widespread fear and intimidation. Until the breaches in humanitarian law are addressed and corrected, displacement in Aceh will continue to spiral downwards, along with the chances of sustainable peace.

There were more disasters in 2000 than in previous years of the decade. The good news is that the year 2000 saw significantly less people killed by disaster. Some 20,000 as compared to the average of 75,000 per year during the decade. The bad news is that the number of people affected by disasters went up to 256 million compared with an average from 1991 to 2000 of 211 million per year. A major cause [of this increase] is the increase in the number of hydro-meteorological disasters such as floods, wind storms and droughts.

Against this background, this year’s World Disasters Report looks at the subject of, and the difficulties in, recovery from disasters. The overall picture, particularly for those in the most disaster-prone countries, is far from encouraging. Chapters in this edition ... look at the way in which recurrent disasters from floods in Asia to drought in the Horn of Africa to wind storms in Latin America are sweeping away development gains and calling into question the possibility of recovery. Gaps between life-saving relief and longer-term development can leave disaster-affected people stranded. Technical solutions that do not adequately take account of community’s needs may mean that reconstruction does not lead to recovery.

In the past, post-disaster reconstruction has focused too much on rebuilding physical infrastructure. But there is more to recovery than concrete. Local livelihoods, economies and institutions have to be strengthened and rebuilt. Volunteer networks, from Bangladesh to the Caribbean, are a critical part of many early warning and disaster preparedness systems. Investment in the social capital of disaster-affected communities is key to building sustainable recovery.

Too often those affected by disaster, such as the families affected by floods in Viet Nam and mudslides in Venezuela, are rebuilding their homes and communities the way they were before the disaster. They are literally ‘reconstructing the risk’, leaving them just as exposed to future hazards. They don’t have the resources to do otherwise and they can’t wait for the benefits of long-term development. This transitional period, which may start days or hours after disaster, is where humanitarian organisations need to play a more effective role. This role may include strengthening homes against flood waters, encouraging the community to draw up a ‘risk map’ or establishing locally-based preparedness measures.

However, action at the local level alone will not bring genuine recovery from disasters. Root causes need identifying and tackling. In many cases, nature’s contribution to ‘natural’ disasters is simply to expose the effects of deeper, structural causes – from global warming and unplanned urbanisation to trade liberalisation and political marginalisation. The effects of man’s action are often evident – many natural catastrophes are unnatural in their origins.

Macro-factors driving disasters are beyond the scope of aid. But not beyond the remit of humanitarian advocacy, which can champion solutions to these root causes with both national and international institutions. The ever-increasing risk posed by disasters will only be contained by putting the planet’s vulnerable people at the centre of disaster response and humanitarian advocacy.

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Struggling to prevent internal displacement in Aceh

DPhil student David Connolly reports on field research in the province of Aceh, Indonesia, during March.
Congratulations to the thirteen students who graduated as Master of Arts in Post-war Recovery Studies on 12 July 2001. Unfortunately, some were too busy working in conflict areas around the world to be able to attend the ceremony in York, but pictured here are (left to right): Monica Ribeiro, Andrew McElroy, Sultan Barakat (PRDU Director), Ehasan Zia, Michael McKeon and Gary Power. Also awarded their degrees were: Margaret Chard, Andrew Gilmour, Evan Hoffman, Zilha Kapisazovic, Nicola Lander, Geoffrey Mugumuya, Nicholas Nobbs and Ian Oliver.

PRDU appoints new Visiting Research Fellow

The PRDU has appointed a Visiting Fellow to coordinate academic research on the Chiapas area of Mexico, regarding the implication of the decisions summarised here (under the heading Outline of the peace process in Chiapas), and the impact that government programmes could have on the overall peace process.

Dr Citlali Rovirosa-Madrazo travelled to Chiapas as a war correspondent in January 1994, during the first days of conflict. Her PhD thesis (Essex University 1995) was perhaps the first in-depth academic research regarding the Zapatista uprising – understanding the underlying message of the early Zapatista discourse and the meaning of the indigenous rebellion, and predicting the implications that the indigenous uprising would have, not only within Mexico and its constitution, but worldwide.

On completion of her PhD, Dr Rovirosa-Madrazo – previously a journalist and a practitioner working in various countries including Lebanon and Nicaragua – travelled to Mexico City where she acts as parliamentary adviser and researcher at the Mexican Senate’s Human Rights and International Relations Commissions. She lobbied for peace and has produced a number of publications and projects aimed at the peace process and reconstruction of Chiapas.

Outline of the peace process in Chiapas

In March 2000 the world witnessed one of the most extraordinary events in contemporary history: a guerrilla organisation that had led an armed struggle and actually declared war on the Mexican State (Chiapas 1994) made an unprecedented move for peace. A command delegation from the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) lay down its weapons and marched from the remote jungles of Chiapas into Mexico City. The demonstration was joined by hundreds of thousands throughout the country and came to be regarded as the ‘peace march’. Never before had the country witnessed a civil protest of such scale.

The EZLN had announced its decision to march into Mexico City shortly after President Fox took office and sent to Congress a bill aimed at protecting the rights of the indigenous population. The bill, known as Ley Cocopa was drafted during peace talks back in 1996. It was based on the San Andres Peace Accords signed by the EZLN and the federal government the same year. But former President Zedillo refused to send it to Congress. Peace talks then came to a halt.

In March this year, in the context of President Fox’s move to tackle the reform and alleged commitments to peace from the new administration, the Zapatistas announced three conditions to resume talks: the withdrawal of government troops from seven military bases in rebel territory; the release of Zapatista prisoners; and approval by Congress of the Ley Cocopa.

Reluctantly, Congressmen agreed to receive a delegation of native leaders and actually allowed them to address the Members of Parliament and speak on the floor of Congress. For the first time in history, millions of Mexicans could listen to representatives of the ethnic minorities, whilst hundreds of international delegates were invited to attend such a unique occasion, and thousands of international observers and journalists joined the peace rally.

It was hoped that the bill for the rights of the ethnic minorities would be at last enacted. However, things turned out to be different. The Upper Chamber issued a dictum that fell far short of the San Andres Peace Accord’s terms. The bill was passed in its new form. The EZLN categorically rejected the bill. The Zapatistas, as well as the largest indigenous organisation in the country, the Congreso Nacional Indigena (CNI), said it failed to recognise Mexico’s natives’ collective rights, as well as rights to their original territories and natural resources. They claimed that the bill did not reflect the peace agreement reached between EZLN and the government of 1996. Under-Commander Marcos ordered his negotiators to halt all communication. Zapatistas returned to the southern jungle and went underground again.

As the enactments of the constitutional reforms were a crucial demand for resuming talks, any peace negotiation became remote again. Unless correlation of forces in the local congresses throughout the country change, and unless they reject the bill and send it back to the Senate, peace is unlikely in the foreseeable future.