EDITORIAL

The financial crisis that is gripping, and crippling the world has serious implications for humanitarian aid funding, and all those who rely on it. Having bailed out the world’s financial industry, governments will now be under pressure to cut back on international aid and development spending. Charitable donations will also come under pressure as unemployment and inflation rise.

With a significant reduction in global development aid looking likely, the immediate consequences for recipients could be disastrous. However, it is the medium- and long-term legacies of such actions which will come back to haunt us all – morally and financially.

According to Oxfam, $104 billion was spent on global development aid in 2007. According to some experts the cost of the financial bail-out in the United States alone could be as much as $3 trillion. The resources allocated to help the poorest people on our planet are modest indeed in comparison.

Recent events have emphasised the fact that where there is a political will, there is a way. Political wills will be tested over the coming months – let’s hope they are not found wanting.

Ghani M Wad

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ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC POST TO FOCUS ON WAR-TORN ISLAMIC NATIONS

A new lecturer post within the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit at the University of York will help to focus attention on the challenges of rebuilding Islamic societies in the aftermath of conflict.

The post arises as a result of a generous grant from the Al Tajir Trust to support the PRDU’s expansion of continuing professional development and commissioned research work under the leadership of Professor Sultan Barakat, and builds upon the long and very successful relationship between the Al Tajir Trust and the University of York which is now approaching its 10th anniversary. This expansion will increase the capacity on PRDU’s MA in Post-war Recovery Studies course which in 2007 received 170 applications for 30 places.

Although the primary duty of the post will be to undertake lecturing and tutoring at postgraduate level both in York and abroad, the successful candidate is expected to develop a long-term research agenda that explores the evolving nature of humanitarianism and post-war reconstruction in the World of Islam.

In his granting letter to the Vice Chancellor, Mr Richard Muir wrote: “The Al Tajir Trust is delighted that it has been able to support the creation of the Al Tajir Lectureship in Post-war Recovery Studies at University of York. This reflects the Trust’s very positive experience in developing a long term relationship with the PRDU at York over a number of years. The Trust has been impressed with the quality of the Unit’s teaching and research and the significant contribution it is making to the recovery of war torn countries”.

Given the nature of the many contemporary conflicts there is an urgent need to better understand the way Muslim societies and nations respond to conflict and manage recovery following the aftermath. Having invested a lot of effort in developing our relationship with the Regional Human Security Centre in Jordan, this post will help deliver quality courses for a wider audience in Amman.

PRDU Director, Professor Sultan Barakat, said: “We have had a long and fruitful relationship with the Al Tajir Trust, and its continued support is of enormous importance to the success of PRDU. There is an urgent need to provide training in the Middle East for reconstruction professionals who cannot travel to the UK to read for the PRDU MA or similar courses. The work of the Al Tajir Lecturer in Amman will help to address this problem, as well as helping us to meet the demand for places on the MA course in York.”
On 18 November, one of the world’s most noted leaders and speakers, HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, will deliver the first of a series of annual lectures on Post-war Recovery. The series will be named after HRH in recognition of his many achievements in this field.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Brian Cantor, will introduce His Royal Highness, and The Most Reverend & Right Honourable Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, will act as discussant. In his lecture Toward Reconstruction/Development and a Regional Charter for the Middle East, HRH will be examining the contemporary challenges of reconstruction there. The Prince is a global leader in the pursuit of human security and inter-faith dialogue and cooperation, and his support has helped the PRDU to become a leader in the revival of war-torn societies around the world.

Graduands join PRDU research team

The PRDU welcomes (back) Steven A. Zyck, as a Research Fellow. Prior to assuming this post, Steven was the Country Director for the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. He has also developed counselling services throughout the Republic of the Marshall Islands; evaluated reintegration assistance to demobilised Mujahideen in Afghanistan; and examined the psychological dynamics of peacebuilding in Bosnia. As a Fulbright Scholar, Steven gained an MA with Distinction in Post-war Recovery Studies at the PRDU.

We also welcome Jenny Hunt, who has recently completed the MA in Post-war Recovery Studies and who will be working alongside Professor Sultan Barakat as a Research Assistant.

PRDU News

The value of peace

What is the value of peace to the world economy? This and other such thought-provoking questions were tackled by the Australian philanthropist, Mr Steve Killelea, during his lecture for PRDU staff and students at York on 29 May 2008.

When Steve founded the Global Peace Index (GPI) in 2007, he embarked on the first study ever to measure and rank states based on their peacefulness. So far a broad range of 24 internal drivers of peace have been identified and examined in depth, including political instability, the number of jailed persons, the exports of major conventional weapons, and United Nations deployments. In using the index, it is now possible to demonstrate correlations between peace and a country’s level of income, transparency of government and regional integration.

Drawing upon his previous success as an entrepreneur, Steve has recognised the importance of gathering support. Endorsement for the GPI has come rapidly from an array of world leaders such as the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former US President Jimmy Carter and former President of Ireland Mary Robinson. Nevertheless, the GPI has also attracted criticism and skepticism. Some have raised the relevant factors of peace that have so far been excluded by the index. Others have concerns that the index could inadvertently strengthen existing divisions by steering international investment away from the less peaceful states.

Judging from Steve’s approach to the lecture though, and his eagerness to take questions from the floor, there was a clear message that the GPI team recognises the need for consultation and discussion. Accordingly, scholars in particular have a crucial role to play, from testing the accuracy of the index to taking this distinctive addition to the peace discourse even further.

We are pleased to announce, therefore, that Professor Sultan Barakat has agreed to serve on the International Expert Panel for the 2009 GPI. This year the Panel will specifically focus on the statistical rigour and methodological foundation of the indicators and drivers of peace; and the links of GPI results with economic, social and developmental indicators around the world.

WANA launch brings a new regional agenda for stability

In Amman, on 15 October 2008, Professor Sultan Barakat participated in the launch of the Senior Advisory Meeting for the West Asia North Africa (WANA) process, which aims to facilitate and fortify regional dialogue. Members of the WANA senior advisory group include HRH Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland and 2008 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, and Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation. The meeting was facilitated by Professor Barakat.

The region has long lacked a unified vision to solve its crises despite its numerous economic, political and social challenges. The WANA initiative represents an opportunity for forging a new order, underpinned by human security. One of the Senior Advisory members, Professor Rehman Sobhan, states ‘it is indeed important to emphasise human security as the centre-piece of the agenda and to recognise that there is more to individuals than the role in the economy – it is necessary to address the issues that generate human insecurity’. Mr Ahtisaari, WANA’s President, emphasised the significance of focusing upon individual and community, rather than simply national, needs and priorities in pursuit of genuine human security.

HRH Prince Hassan’s opening speech expressed the key objectives of the WANA process: strengthening multilateral dialogue, building trust and working together to establish a continuous exchange of initiatives and ideas. The PRDU shares the objectives of the WANA and looks forward to working alongside its prestigious advocates to empower civil society and to generate concrete policies aimed and promoting both development and stability as pathways to peace.
Hope for displaced Iraqis in Jordan?

Building on the MA Field Visit (page 14)

On 28 October 2008, the Regional Human Security Centre (RHSC) in Amman hosted the fourth Policy Forum ‘Iraqis in Jordan’. Facilitated by PRDU Director, Professor Sultan Barakat, the Forum discussed the Iraqis’ legality and residency status, the approach taken by governmental organisations assisting Iraqis, and the research now needed.

Made explicit during the discussions was the importance of detailed qualitative data concerning the Iraqis’ economic and social situation. The need to move away from ad-hoc policy-making towards a principled approach, was the over-riding conclusion. The nature of this approach was debated with no clear agreement. Those arguing for a legal framework highlighted the need for Jordan to sign the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention. By not doing so it limits the legal status and rights of Iraqis. In contrast, many argued that a legal framework was impractical, and suggested that a practical framework – reliant on the trust of the government to adopt a ‘blind eye’ policy that would ignore the illegal residency of many Iraqis in Jordan but provide for their basic needs – would be more effective. In anticipating that this would be abused to the detriment of Iraqis’ welfare, many were cautious of this approach.

There is a desperate need for coordination. The lack of a concrete, tangible discourse to refer to and work from has often left the stakeholders’ plans for assisting Iraqi refugees at odds with each other. In opting for an open discussion at the Forum, the RHSC allowed the different organisations to present diverse solutions. Dialogue will be critical to resolve the Iraqi refugee situation, as will additional research into new areas, including how Iraqi livelihoods in Jordan can benefit both Jordanians and Iraqis.

The PRDU – a hub of research and consultancy in DDR

Evaluating military downsizing in BiH

In August 2008, the PRDU completed an evaluation of military downsizing in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). Undertaken by Professor Sultan Barakat and Steven Zycck, the evaluation sought to unearth the success and sustainability of reintegration options for ‘redundant’ military personnel, and the capacity gains and needs of the now-unified Ministry of Defence.

The evaluation included more than two weeks of field work, in-depth interviews with 30 demobilised soldiers, and surveys with another 90 who had been assisted by the project being evaluated – the NATO/PP Trust Fund Programme for Assistance to Redundant Military Personnel. By early 2009, this will have provided nearly 3,000 individuals with support related to agriculture, small business, education, training or employment.

It was found that redundant military personnel had received an economic boost from the assistance provided, and several had established remarkably innovative and successful enterprises. The innovation, furthermore, served as a reminder of the critical importance of full engagement with state structures, regardless of their fragmentation along ethnic lines, in order to build capacity and intra-governmental cooperation.

Preparation of ICRS Manual awarded to PRDU

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) awarded Dr Alp Özerdem with a special assignment contract for the preparation of the ICRS (Information, Counselling and Referral Services) Manual for Assistance to Former Combatants. Working with Sukanya Podder, who is currently conducting PhD research on child soldiers at the PRDU, Alp initiated the process in May and the manual was ready for publication in October 2008.

New DDR book published

Dr Alp Özerdem’s latest book, Post-war Recovery: Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration, was published by I.B. Tauris in October 2008. It explores the planning, implementation and effectiveness of DDR in Afghanistan, Kosovo, El Salvador and Sierra Leone, and draws out lessons to be learned.

How ‘voluntary’ is the recruitment of child soldiers in Mindanao?

Drawing on their research experience and interest, Dr Alpaslan Özerdem and Sukanya Podder undertook a two-week field visit to the Philippines in September 2008 to explore the nuances of the voluntary recruitment of child soldiers in Mindanao. Supported by a Research Priming Fund from the Department of Politics, and in collaboration with Eddie L. Quitoriano – a former PRDU Chevening Conflict Resolution Course participant – the research took place in Manila and Iligan city.

Initial findings suggest that the most significant challenge for reintegration of child soldiers is a denial of the problem at local levels, in government, and in civil society organisations (CSOs). While there was full awareness of the issue, it was not considered a possible source of insecurity and future conflict escalation. Some national CSOs were more active in addressing the child soldier problem, but seemed to have their hands tied in terms of offering real solutions. There is urgent need for acknowledgement at all levels that help is required to address the needs of children and young people who are being deprived of better opportunities and find no escape from violence.

The researchers’ objective is now to prepare a proposal for a two-to-three year research funding in order to explore comprehensively the whole context of child soldier recruitment and reintegration in Mindanao.

Non-western approaches to aid

Dr Alp Özerdem and Dr Roger Mac Ginty have received funding from the University’s research priming fund to investigate the role of non-western aid in relief and reconstruction. This will involve study visits to some of the Gulf countries, and organisation of an international workshop in York.
Research focus on Lebanon

Researching the housing resurrection in southern Lebanon

In September of this year, the PRDU joined with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to examine the reconstruction of housing in southern Lebanon following the July 2006 war with Israel. This initiative was launched by NRC, one of the most important international NGOs engaged in this process, in an effort to strengthen their future interventions and to reveal the remaining needs and challenges of community members.

These challenges are substantial. Approximately 9,400 homes were destroyed in southern Lebanon during the July 2006 war, and the process of compensation has been complex yet fascinating. Non-state actors provided initial payments to people whose homes had been damaged or destroyed, while the government took several months longer and has failed to provide the full amounts it had initially promised. A lack of transparency and concerns regarding the extra-legal capture of reconstruction funds are real. When combined with a more active non-state sector involved in housing compensation, and massive influxes of financing from nearly all Gulf countries, fears of weakened governance and, potentially, instability rise to the fore.

Earthquakes have created an additional challenge and one which will be addressed by the PRDU. Low-level seismic activity has created visible damage to homes, and experts indicate that a major earthquake is long overdue in the region. It is feared that war-damaged houses, or homes weakened by small earthquakes, could be particularly vulnerable. Compounding matters is the rising cost of construction materials, which many experts indicate has led contractors to ‘cut corners’ and use low-quality cement and less steel than is required.

To address these challenges, Sultan Barakat and Steve Zyck will research, jointly with NRC, the compensation processes employed by different Lebanese and international actors, and the vulnerability of recently constructed homes to natural or man-made disasters. All findings will be presented to the international community.

Commissioned PRDU research shows the role that non-western donors are playing

One of the remarkable aspects of the reconstruction of Lebanon in the aftermath of the Israeli-Hezbollah war in 2006 is the extent to which non-western donors (especially Gulf States) have played a role in the recovery process. Saudi Arabia, for example, pledged $590m for the reconstruction of Lebanon, while Kuwait pledged $315m. These sums by far outweigh the $140m pledged by the United States and the $111m by the European Union.

University of York graduate Dr Christine Sylva Hamieh and PRDU staff member Dr Roger Mac Ginty were commissioned by the UK’s Overseas Development Institute (ODI) to examine the role of non-Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donorship in Lebanon. The DAC is a 22 member group of mainly western states who coordinate their aid policies through the OECD. This project was part of a wider ODI project on the ‘diversity of donorship’ which examines the changing face of humanitarian and development intervention as increasing numbers of states – many of them from the Arab and Muslim world – become large-scale overseas donors.

The project was tasked to examine the extent of non-DAC donorship (in the overall Lebanese context), as well as the modalities of this donorship. It involved extensive desk research along with field research in the form of interviews with key personnel in ministries, international organisations, INGOs, NGOs and the specialist relief organisations of a number of non-DAC states. The research showed that the sheer scale of non-DAC reconstruction activity has had an enormous impact on the reconstruction of Lebanon. It also showed that the non-DAC donors were by no means a homogenous bunch. Instead, there were significant differences in how they operated, their attitudes towards coordination, and the routes that they used to disburse their funding.

Lebanon’s highly political context adds an extra dimension to the reconstruction story. A number of external donors (both western and non-western) are treating the reconstruction of Lebanon as another battlefield in the effort to extend or contain the Shia renaissance.

The full report will be available online later in the year on the Overseas Development Institute’s Humanitarian Policy Network’s website: www.odihpn.org/
I n 2008, the PRDU built on its Memorandum of Understanding with the London-based NGO, Tiri, and advanced its project on integrity in post-war reconstruction through an in-country workshop in Sierra Leone and a short course in Budapest.

From Sierra Leone ...
In March, Dr David Connolly designed and delivered a participatory workshop in Sierra Leone on the practical ways that communities can monitor reconstruction programmes, and how such grassroots processes can strengthen the effectiveness of reconstruction through accountability and transparency.

Workshop participants completing a group exercise.

The workshop was organised on behalf of the Centre for Democracy and Human Rights – a local NGO and Tiri’s Sierra Leone partner within its innovative Network on Integrity in Reconstruction (NIR). The sessions took place in Magburaka and involved community leaders from across Tonkolili Province. Similar training sessions were then rolled out in Afghanistan, East Timor and Palestine during April and May. It is anticipated that the impacts of this grassroots monitoring will be researched across the network during 2008/09.

For the Sierra Leone workshop, visit: www.york.ac.uk/depts/poli/prdu/revival/SL%20Workshop%20Report.doc

... to Budapest
In July, the PRDU returned to the Central European University in Budapest to convene a policy lab on ‘integrity in post-war reconstruction’, as part of the prestigious Integrity Reform summer school course. Participants came from Tiri’s four NIR country partners in tandem with representatives of SIDA, Transparency International and civil society from Aceh Province (Indonesia) and Liberia.

While the 2007 policy lab concentrated on understanding and conceptualising post-war reconstruction and its relationship with integrity (see revival issue 23), the 2008 lab sought to advance these findings by establishing the role that civil society organisations can play in increasing integrity in reconstruction and its public value, with close reference to Afghanistan, East Timor, Palestine and Sierra Leone.

It is anticipated that these four main conclusions will now shape the next phase of Tiri’s NIR during 2008/09:
1. Civil society organisations can enable communities to play more active and proactive roles in recovery through facilitating the participatory monitoring of reconstruction projects and programmes;
2. Each community ought to construct its own model of participatory monitoring to ensure that integrity in reconstruction is adequately understood, measured and monitored;
3. Participatory monitoring at the community level is a viable strategy for incorporating integrity in reconstruction because it addresses common weaknesses in accountability, competence and corruption-control through bottom-up sustainable partnerships with local, national and international actors; and
4. Focusing upon the end goal of ‘public value’ is useful in guiding and assessing reconstruction, and the operational concept of integrity is a viable means to this end goal.

The 8-day course was convened by Professor Sultan Barakat with Professor Mark Evans (PRDU), Dr David Connolly, Mr Martin Tisné (NIR Programme Director), and Ms Claire Schouten (NIR Programme Manager) acting as a resource person.

The policy lab report is published on the PRDU website. Visit www.tiri.org for more information about Tiri.
To find out more about the Integrity Reform course, visit http://sunlearning.ceu.hu/

ISPI partnership going strong
In the last issue of revival we brought news of a long-term partnership between the PRDU and the Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale (ISPI) in Milan – Italy’s specialist institute in international affairs. Some recent collaborations are highlighted below:

PRDU teaching in Milan
In May, Dr David Connolly (PRDU Research Fellow) delivered a series of lectures on post-war reconstruction reform, drawing upon his field experience in Afghanistan, Indonesia and Sierra Leone.

Following this, PRDU Associate, Major (Ret) Michael Murphy, examined the increasing levels of civil-military cooperation in Afghanistan and Iraq. Major Murphy drew upon his most recent role as Deputy Team Leader and Chief of Staff of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Basra, as well as first-hand insight from post-tsunami Indonesia, Sierra Leone and the Balkans.

The lectures by Dr Connolly and Major Murphy formed part of ISPI’s Master’s Degree in International Affairs, and brought together students from its Development and Emergencies groups.

Istanbul to host continuing education course next Spring
Dr Alp Özderem is currently involved in the planning of a one-week continuing education course on ‘disasters, conflict and reconstruction’, in partnership with ISPI and ITU-CEDM (Istanbul Technical University – Centre of Excellence for Disaster Management). The course will take place in Istanbul in Spring 2009.
Focus on Afghanistan ...

PRDU contributes to a fuller understanding of conflict.

Post-conflict reconstruction efforts which fail to emerge from a conflict-sensitive approach put a country at risk of continued violence and insecurity. Such an approach is best pursued through an in-depth conflict assessment. Yet Afghanistan, one of the most critical and widely followed conflict zones of the past decade has, until recently, avoided a comprehensive conflict assessment despite a variety of valiant local analyses.

The PRDU, from March through June of this year, filled this gap and, in its capacity as a member of Her Majesty’s Government’s (HMG) Fragile States Development Consortium (FSDC), produced an insightful Strategic Conflict Assessment (SCA). This document will help to guide HMG’s future reconstruction and security operations in Afghanistan and will be utilised in the creation of the Department for International Development’s (DFID) Country Assistance Plan (CAP) and Joint Donor Response (JDR).

According to PRDU’s Director, Professor Sultan Barakat, “this has been one of the most intriguing projects undertaken by the PRDU in recent years.” He continued: “It has allowed us to bring together leading experts on Afghanistan to carefully reconsider the sources of conflict in Afghanistan and how the international intervention has seemingly failed to mitigate these.”

The resulting 100-page SCA report, part of a broader engagement entitled ‘Understanding Afghanistan’, was written by Professor Barakat, who led a PRDU team including some of the leading experts on Afghanistan. The report was rooted not only in field research conducted during April and May of this year but also in a lengthy literature review concerning Afghanistan. This literature review asks critical but inadequately understood questions such as how a relatively small Taliban managed to pacify a country which, at present, is believed to be perpetually insecure and ungovernable. The conflict analysis itself, which takes a political-economic as well as socio-cultural perspective, examines the structures, actors and dynamics relevant to conflict in Afghanistan, the sources of financing and material support for the Taliban-led insurgency and the impact of the international response upon conflict.

It concludes with a series of strategies for utilising political, military, security sector and reconstruction interventions to prevent further escalation and bring the conflict to a peaceful resolution.

While the report’s specific findings cannot be disclosed, the following general points, many of which have been made separately and previously by experts and analysts, were found in the course of the project.

• Insecurity has been rising exponentially in Afghanistan. In the first quarter of 2008, for example, two-thirds more attacks occurred than in the same period a year earlier. The number of resulting casualties increased by more than three-quarters.
• This insecurity coupled with rampant corruption in the public sector, particularly among the police, has led to a lack of confidence in the government. It is seen as neither benign nor beneficial, as neither competent nor credible. The subsequent lack of legitimacy has opened the State to challenge by ‘warlords’, narcotics trafficking networks and, most notably, the Taliban-led insurgency and has, in fact, prevented the Afghan public from adequately restraining these ‘spoilers’.
• The international response has failed to improve security despite a near-doubling of reconstruction and development assistance for each of the past several years. Clearly, the US-led Coalition and its NATO partners are as unable to ‘buy’ their way to peace as they are to bomb their way to security. On the latter point, aggressive military action has tended to support insurgent recruitment and off-set any claimed security benefits, a similar dynamic as occurs following US-led poppy eradication efforts.
• The failure of military and economic solutions to the conflict implies that, if any successful approach is to be found, it may necessitate a political or diplomatic route previously opposed by segments of the international community.
The call for negotiation with the Taliban gains momentum

In the July 2008 edition of Parliamentary Brief magazine, Professor Sultan Barakat, called for the initiation of talks and, eventually, power sharing with the Taliban. Since then the call for negotiation has gained the support of leading Afghan politicians; and American military commanders in the region, including US Central Commander General David Petraeus, have echoed the call despite the public position of politicians back in Washington. Similarly, the Saudi government recently launched an initiative to lay the groundwork for the sorts of talks long advocated by Professor Barakat.

In an article entitled Talk, and the Taliban could fall apart, Professor Barakat highlights the growing diversity of factions and motives within the Taliban-led insurgency. He concludes that the Bonn Agreement, which set the stage for post-Taliban Afghanistan, should have included – and should be amended to allow – a role for the Taliban in the Afghan government, thus turning a violent conflict into a political one.

The article then sets out an Afghan-led strategy for convincing the Taliban and affiliated groups – through military power and the erosion of insurgent recruitment – that incorporation into the Afghan state is more advantageous than remaining as constantly threatened insurgents. Professor Barakat writes that “[n]egotiation can work. Afghan history has shown that, in most cases, the only alternative is defeat at the hands of a native insurgency. Conditions in Afghanistan, particularly among the seemingly monolithic but highly fragmented ‘insurgency’, make such a route both attractive and plausible.”

This piece builds upon Professor Barakat’s first article in Parliamentary Brief, published in May 2008, and entitled Why is life not getting better in Afghanistan?. Professor Barakat wrote, “[s]imply put, foreign governments continue to pursue their own desire for national security while, in many cases, marginalising the needs of the Afghan people.” This central finding is followed up in an analysis of reconstruction priorities, security and aid financing.

One critical problem noted by Professor Barakat is the tendency to bypass the Afghan government in the design of reconstruction programmes as well as in military and diplomatic planning. He notes that “international zeal for reconstruction and an impatient expectation of immediate results has led the world to dictate daily events in Afghanistan in a counter-democratic manner.”

Lack of confidence in the government has opened the State to challenge by narcotics trafficking networks.

• A political approach to the conflict will only be possible once all stakeholders, including the Taliban-led insurgency, self-interested Afghan political figures, the international community and, potentially, narcotics traffickers become convinced that their goals are unobtainable amidst rising violence.

These findings reflect a critical re-thinking of the conflict in Afghanistan. They highlight the need to re-visit the post-9/11 binary approach to conflict, to challenge the perception of diplomacy as appeasement and to pursue capable and credible governance as a pre-condition for post-conflict reconstruction and security sector reform. Such concepts have been conveyed in the SCA report and have the potential to contribute to improved security in Afghanistan.

As Professor Barakat indicated, “The ‘Understanding Afghanistan’ assessment is unique among PRDU initiatives in its ability to consider post-war recovery not just in the context of conflict-sensitive development assistance but in the light of broader conceptual, military, diplomatic, economic and socio-cultural paradigms and dynamics. This is exactly what we need to see more frequently, reconstruction in dialogue with and incorporated within a full range of interventions rather than as a stand-alone undertaking.”
Roohul AMIN
Afghanistan
(OSI/FCO/Altajir/ 
University of York Scholarship)
Background in economics

In 2004, after returning to the country which I had left in my childhood, I could not find a single pillar standing on the roads of Kabul which had been saved from bullets. Since the 1970s, every Afghan has suffered due to the conflicts. Cute kids working on the streets, and frustrated Afghans, pushed me to think of a subject other than economics with which I can help my country rebuild through the gross root level approach. I am very keen to dedicate myself to the welfare organisations that work for the street children.

Makshud ARIPOV
Tajikistan
(OSI/FCO/Altajir/ 
University of York Scholarship)
Background in economics

My three degrees, and a number of professional development training courses, helped me to carry out daily responsibilities at UNDP Tajikistan where I was Area Manager (2007–8) and Senior Economic Development Advisor (2004–5). Other jobs have included: Deputy Regional Programme Manager for Central Asia Countries (IREX: 2006); Senior Assistant on Economic & Environmental Issues (OSCE: 2000–4); and Finance Director Assistant (British-Tajik JV on mining and production of gold: 1998–2000).

Roderick BESSELING
Netherlands
Background in international relations and global politics

I graduated from Nottingham Trent University with a BA in International Relations and Global Politics. During my time there, I volunteered for the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum as well as Childhealth Advocacy International. I organized and attended two United Nations Peace Operations Training Institute courses in Global Terrorism and Peacekeeping and International Conflict Resolution. These have inspired me to develop a set of skills which will allow me to be involved in humanitarian assistance.

Charlotte CHUNG
United Kingdom
Background in history and politics

Having touched on the issues of conflict, development, and humanitarian action in my History and Politics degree at York, I undertook this MA with a view to reaching a deeper understanding of these subjects at a practical level. I hope to be able to reconcile my idealist belief in a universally applicable ethical approach to humanitarian action, with the problems in making this a reality – brought to light by my studies in South Africa’s complex cycle of violence, and the global problem of the displacement and repatriation of refugees.

Tuomi-Tuulia ERVASTI
Finland
Background in politics

I graduated in 2008 from Aberystwyth University with a BScEcon (Hons) in International Politics and Strategic Studies. Prior to my degree I assisted two MPs in the Finnish Parliament, and later, during my studies, I did an internship in the Ministry of Defence. These two placements gave me a valuable insight into politics and policymaking at a national level. Through my undergraduate studies I deepened my interest in issues related to military affairs, war and security, which is why I have come to the PRDU.

Dominic FRITZ
Germany
Background in political science and public administration

I recently completed a BA in Political Science and Public Administration after studying at the University of Konstanz (Germany) and the Institut d’Études Politiques Paris (France). During the last years, I gained experience as a volunteer and intern for several organisations like Médecins du Monde, Caritas, Inclusion Romania, and the German development agency GTZ. I have a special interest in the protection of vulnerable groups like children or persons with disabilities in post-conflict settings.
During my undergraduate studies in PPE, I could only briefly cover humanitarianism. After finishing the course in 2006, I read more sources about contemporary civil wars and the humanitarian efforts undertaken in those areas. As an outsider to the field, I realised it was all too easy to criticise. I therefore wanted to develop a grounding in the academic and methodological aspects of post-war work, in the hope of better understanding the challenges and opportunities for aid.

I have always been interested in international relations, but during my degree I travelled to the Balkans and my interest in post-war recovery began. After graduating in 2006 I moved to the Japanese island of Okinawa which was victim to one of the bloodiest battles of WWII. More than 60 years later there are very clear long-term scars on the society, and unresolved grievances. Through this course I am hoping to gain field experience and improve my theoretical understanding of the issues involved in a post-conflict situation.

I completed my MA in post-colonial literature in 2008. My interests led me to research Arabic cultures, so that I finished my course with a dissertation on the effects of the Arab-Israeli conflict upon the development of Palestinian masculinity, as reflected in literature. That was when I first began to develop a sense of social awareness, realising how little of the world I knew from just watching the news. This MA offers me the opportunity to shift my educational direction, while focussing on the areas I had been studying.

I graduated in July from Florence University with a BA (Hons) in Peace Operation, Mediation and Conflict Resolution. Whilst at university I was involved in many experiences of mediation and migrants’ reintegration. However, it was only after a six-month work placement in Palestine that I realised I would like to focus more on humanitarian and reconstruction projects. I hope this MA will provide me with necessary skills and knowledge to get involved in this field professionally.

My interest in post-war development probably started after spending two weeks in bomb-shelled and bullet-ridden Sarajevo in early 1997 (aged 10). My main interest is Latin America, and I have travelled, studied, and done voluntary work throughout the region. Here I have seen various approaches to the ongoing rehabilitation from war; from hugely impressive acceptance, confrontation and reintegration in parts of El Salvador, to the ongoing segregation and inequalities pertaining, in part, from civil war in Guatemala.

After graduating, I decided to do some volunteer trips with Go Out and Make a Difference (Go-Mad) to Africa, Latin American and Asia. After each trip, I returned to Los Angeles and accepted jobs compromising between my dreams and paying off my debts. Being raised by Mexican and Salvadorian immigrants, I have realized that injustice in the world is too widespread to be solved through volunteer activity. Consequently, I want to attack the roots of these problems and play a more substantial role defending those who are suffering injustice.

In July I graduated from the University of Aberystwyth with a degree in International Politics and Third World Studies. The degree built upon five years of work experience within the fundraising side of the charitable sector, and travel experience in Central America and East Africa. I hope that this course will deepen my understanding of the challenges facing societies following conflict, and equip me with the practical knowledge to further a career within the post-war recovery sector.
### MA Student Profiles 2008–09

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marco McALLISTER</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>1 Background in economics and politics</td>
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<td>Laura PLESTED</td>
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<td>Laura PURVES</td>
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<td>Mark McGuinness</td>
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<td>Ben POINTING</td>
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<td>Nicola Pyatt</td>
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<td>6 Background in geography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gulru Nabieva</td>
<td>Tajikistan (OSI/FCO/Altajir/ University of York Scholarship)</td>
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<td>Natasha Price</td>
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**Marco McALLISTER**

I graduated from the University of York with a BA in Economics and Politics in 2008. Throughout my years at university, I developed a growing interest in the area of conflict resolution, and I always tried to focus my studies on issues relating to conflict and peace processes. I feel this MA will offer me a concrete chance to understand more, and in depth, the theoretical and practical difficulties related to the transition from violence to peace. My hope is to pursue a future career in conflict resolution.

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**Laura PLESTED**

My interest in the field of post-war recovery has developed as a result of three areas of personal experience: a year spent working within the charitable sector; time spent travelling in central America; and my undergraduate degree in politics at the University of York. I began to explore academic literature in the field of post-war recovery during my undergraducacy, and hope that this course will enable me to develop both a pragmatic understanding of the field, and the practical skills necessary to follow a career path within this sector.

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**Laura PURVES**

I have come to York after completing an MA in history at Aberdeen. I was born in Kent but spent most of my childhood overseas in Malaysia, Sri Lanka and the Middle East – some of which have their own issues of war and internal conflict. I’ve travelled widely in Europe and have done some hands-on developmental work in village communities in Ghana and Tanzania. I’m really looking forward to my studies in York, and hope that this course will help focus my interest in the practical application of post-war reconstruction.

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**Mark McGuinness**

In 2008 I graduated from the University of York with a BA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics. Part of my undergraduate work focussed on security issues in the post-Cold War era. It was in the course of these studies that I gained a particular interest in assessing the role of gender in war narratives and in conduct during and after wars. I chose to undertake this MA in order to both continue this work and gain a greater insight into the broader problems, debates and practices involved in post-war recovery.

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**Nicola Pyatt**

My previous degree in Geography at Sheffield afforded me the opportunity to further my interest in development academically. Through this, combined with time spent in Sri Lanka, Jordan and Kenya during gap years, I began to see the many diverse ways in which even a small-scale conflict can devastate societies and seriously hinder their development. I am hoping a greater understanding of this field will allow me to pursue a career in humanitarian assistance.

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**Gulru Nabieva**

In 2007 I graduated from the American University of Central Asia, with a BA in American Studies. I continued my education at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, and obtained an MA in political science. During the years of my studies, I got the opportunity to undertake work placements at: the Richland Center for Economic Cooperation (WI, USA); OSCE Field Office in Khujand (TJK); and OSCE Secretariat in Vienna. These internships increased my interest in the field of pre- and post-conflict management, resolution, and reconstruction.

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**Natasha Price**

I have recently graduated from the University of York with a BA (Hons) in Politics. Before starting university I took part in a five week expedition to Brazil. Volunteering in a local school enabled me to witness some of the difficulties associated with development and sparked my interest in this area. My dissertation explored the role of women in peace processes, and I have spent the summer interning with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) at their headquarters in Delhi.

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**Ben Pointing**

I graduated from the University of York with a degree in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics in 2008. Having taken the module Politics of Humanitarian Action in War Torn Areas, I realised that there is at times a very real difference between the ideals of relief agencies acting in the field, and the choices that have to be made in reality. One of the reasons I chose this MA is because I feel the time spent in the field will be useful in reconciling the differences between the academic study of providing post-war relief, and the reality on the ground.

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**Laura Purves**

My interest in the area of conflict resolution, the transition from violence to peace, and my undergraduate degree in politics at the University of York. I began to explore academic literature in the field of post-war recovery during my undergraducacy, and hope that this course will enable me to develop both a pragmatic understanding of the field, and the practical skills necessary to follow a career path within this sector.
Osamu SATO
Japan
Background in business administration and development studies

After graduating from Aoyama Gakuin University with a BA in business administration, and working for a private ICT company for four years, I joined an international NGO in 2005. Since then I have been engaged in development and relief work across eight countries including Afghanistan, Pakistan and Indonesia. Following this experience, I completed a one-year postgraduate diploma programme in development studies at a Japanese institute just before coming to York.

Rebecca THORNE
United Kingdom
Background in human geography and planning

I have just graduated from Cardiff University with a BSc (Hons) in Geography (Human) and Planning. Following a field trip to Belfast I chose to focus my dissertation on the conflict in Northern Ireland. My research centred upon the formation and expression of various identities within an area of East Belfast, and how these contributed to the continuation of tensions between various communities. I have come to understand the importance of place, identity, power and territory in such disputes, and hope to explore these themes further.

Samuel TURNER
United Kingdom
Background in politics and sociology

I graduated from the University of York (2008) with a BA in Politics and Sociology. Before university I spent a year teaching in a rural village in Guyana, and have spent the last two summers in South Africa with the student-based charity ‘Tenteleni’, which works with schools and communities in a number of African countries with a focus on HIV/AIDS education. Throughout my life I have held a keen interest in issues of conflict and development, and am keen to venture into a career in this sector of work.

Mohammad WAHDAT
Afghanistan
(.OSI/FCO/Altajir/University of York Scholarship)
Background in development studies

Since 2003 I have been working for the development and political fields in Afghanistan. Firstly with Japan International Cooperation Agency where I served as a Program Officer in the economic governance field. In 2007 I joined the European Union Special Representative Office for Afghanistan and worked there for almost two years as a Political Officer and special aide to the EUSR. With this scholarship, I am hoping to go back to Afghanistan’s political arena with a better understanding of post-war recovery.

2008 graduands

Congratulations to these students who received their degrees at the 2008 graduation ceremonies in York in March and July 2008 – those with (D) after their name gained distinctions:

- Darren Atkinson
- Najla Ayoubi
- Marziya Baydulloeva
- Louise Dear (D)
- Jean-Baptiste Diao
- Patrick Halton
- Ahmad Hassan
- Christopher Hayes
- Geraldine Hill (D)
- Robert Hoyer
- Kumiko Katayama
- Michael Murphy
- Yuto Nagano
- Janet Oeverland (D)
- Karolina Olofsson (D)
- Clare O’Reilly
- Abdul Basir Oria
- Victoria Scott
- Jessica Spain
- Mai Terawaki
- Benjamin Welby (D)

Group photo of those who were able to attend the graduation ceremony.

Simon ROBINS, a graduate student at the PRDU, has been awarded a studentship by the UK Economic and Social Science Research Council (ESRC) to complete PhD research on the issue of persons missing during conflict. The project aims to understand the needs of the families of those disappeared or otherwise unaccounted for as a result of conflict, and how states emerging from conflict can address these needs. The provisional title of Simon’s PhD thesis is: Addressing the needs of families of the Missing: A test of contemporary approaches to transitional justice. The work also attempts to address broader issues of how the needs of victims of conflict impinge upon the effort to build a sustainable peace for communities recovering from conflict.

Simon is currently doing fieldwork in Nepal, where more than 1,200 persons remain missing following the decade-long Maoist insurgency. The peace process has recently reached a conclusion with election of a new Government led by the Maoists. One of their greatest challenges will be to address the needs of victims of the conflict, including families of the missing. Research with families to date shows that they needs include knowing the fate of their loved ones, as well as economic support following the loss of breadwinners and justice through prosecutions of the perpetrators of disappearances. The transitional justice process that is now beginning in Nepal will aim to address these needs in an environment that remains politically sensitive, with those who fought the war on both sides playing leading roles. One of the questions the research asks is how can the needs of families of victims be addressed, particularly the need for justice, without threatening the delicate peace process? Simon will also conduct research in East Timor and Kosovo, contexts where various types of judicial process as well as a Truth Commission (Timor) and a working group on disappearances (Kosovo) have attempted to address needs of families of the missing.

Simon’s work is supervised by Professor Sultan Barakat, with Professor Paul Gready acting as his back-up supervisor.
A valuable support: The PRDU is sincerely grateful to all of the host organisations for their support. Extracts of five are shown here.

- Interpeace Switzerland
- Timor-Leste
- Interpeace/INEP Guinea-Bissau
- UNDP – Interpeace Israel
- Uganda Red Cross Society Uganda
- ICOMOS Georgi
- Medecins Sans Frontieres London
- Club de Madrid Spain
- Independent Directorate for Local Government Afghanistan
- UNDP Lebanon
- UNDP/UNOSIL Sierra Leone
- Christian Association of Nigeria Nigeria
- Centre for Mental Health & Counselling Nepal
- The Halo Trust Dumfries
- CARE International Jordan
- Asian Study Centre for Political & Conflict Transformation (ASPECT) Nepal
- Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (AREDP) Afghanistan
- Rwanda Demobilisation & Reintegration Commission Rwanda
- InFact Sri Lanka
- Regional Human Security Centre Jordan
- International Bar Association London
- UNRWA Jordan
- UNRWA Jerusalem
- UNDP BCPR Unit Geneva
- UNMIT Timor-Leste
- Sierra Leone Red Cross Society Sierra Leone
- Forum for Community Emepowerment (FORCE) Nepal
- UNDP Tajikistan

Child soldiers in Rwanda

My placement was with the Rwanda Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (RDRC), researching the situation of child soldiers with its Child Protection and Liaison Office. Rwanda is recovering well from the 1994 genocide, and looking towards modernisation and development. Most of the internal problems of child soldiers have been dealt with, and Rwanda is now trying to tackle the problem of Rwandese soldiers (both children and adults) who, having fled from Rwanda after the ousting of the genocidal government, have become embroiled in conflicts in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo. It is estimated that there are around 2,500 Rwandese children involved in the fighting in Congo. The UN mission is Congo (MONUC) is currently trying to repatriate them, and the Rwandan government is taking responsibility for their rehabilitation and reintegration into Rwandan society.

My task was to conduct a baseline survey on the work of the RDRC and their beneficiaries and write an up-to-date report for them concerning the status and welfare of child ex-combatants in Rwanda. In addition to the report, further tasks emerged over the course of the placement including recommending and writing project proposals, designing information campaigns, and assisting with training support given to the children. The placement gave me work experience in the field, and an insight into working for a government ministry.

Suda Perera United Kingdom

Reconstruction issues in Lebanon

During my placement with UNDP, I was able to research the international economics and domestic politics surrounding property reconstruction in Dahiye, south Beirut, where a mee of construction companies are attempting to repair the damage inflicted by the 33-day Israeli attack in 2006.

Dahiye is a densely built-up area of large tower blocks, often poorly built in the haste to rebuild after the Civil War, so the damage was inevitable once the bombs dropped. Its reconstruction is a huge task but, whilst the government has spent around $1.1 billion so far, progress is seen to be slow. There are a number of reasons for this. Pledges of money made by foreign countries may not have been fulfilled, whilst costs of materials are rising fast. Many buildings are not properly registered, making the task of compensating people much harder.

Two different solutions for assessing the damage and administering compensation have been offered by the government and Hezbollah’s agency.

Government assessment is done by experts from the Central Fund for the Displaced, then by experts from the Ministry of the Displaced and finally by an external engineering firm. By January 2007 the government started to issue cheques – a process involving three governmental Ministries. Such efforts are to ensure fairness and transparency, but they can make the government seem inactive.

By contrast Hezbollah started to compensate the day after the war ended. They make their own assessments and give ‘presents’ to people in Dahiye. NGOs operating in the area believe this has been a fair and effective process, although some citizens think it favours those related directly to Hezbollah.

Worryingly, neither compensation package offers a solution for all the micro-businesses which have been destroyed. As well as physical damage, they lost much of their clientele, and those remaining have a lower purchasing power, and are buying less.

Jenny Hunt United Kingdom
Developing education projects in Sierra Leone

The decade-long civil war in Sierra Leone devastated the country, leaving over half of the population displaced and basic services such as healthcare and education in ruins. Eight years after peace returned to the country, the reconstruction and development of the education sector is progressing slowly. The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society were kind enough to provide me with a work placement that allowed me to combine both research among NGOs, donors and the UN in the capital Freetown, as well as getting the experience of practical work in the field. I travelled with the Humanitarian Values section of the Society around the country, working on education projects with war-affected children, and on social projects with those whose lives had been devastated by the war.

This combination of fieldwork, research, and administration in the headquarters allowed me to experience what life would be like working for such an internationally renowned organisation. It also gave me the chance to work with dedicated and friendly local people on problems that are affecting their country. My research was on the combination of aid dependency, corruption, and lack of capacity in the education sector, and how this was affecting its reconstruction and development. I was fortunate enough to be able to interview all the key stakeholders in the education sector, from the Ministry of Education itself right down to teachers, pupils, and parents. Seeing development in action was a priceless experience.

Amy Thornton United Kingdom

Helping Iraqi asylum seekers in Jordan

I conducted my work placement with UNHCR Jordan Operation – the agency mandated by the United Nations to lead and coordinate humanitarian assistance operations for the Iraqi asylum seekers in Jordan. UNHCR provides material assistance (cash assistance, food and non food items) to a large number of vulnerable Iraqis and it also organises resettlement of identified refugees to third countries, mainly Australia, United States, Canada and also the UK.

I took part in counselling sessions, inside and outside Amman, which the office organises almost on a daily basis to receive feedback from the Iraqis. An important part of my job was also to support my supervisor in drafting reports, standard operations procedures used as guidelines to implement projects for the Iraqis, and other daily activities. The knowledge and experience I acquired with UNHCR was extremely useful. Although I had previously worked in challenging environments in different UN missions, I found dealing with refugees very demanding, due to the tragic living experiences of these people and the continuous relationship that I had to keep with them.

My efforts and interest were highly appreciated, and at the end of the internship UNHCR offered me a consultancy job, which I accepted.

Barbara de Anna Italy
MA Field Visit to Jordan
How are Iraqi refugees impacting on the country?

The 2007/08 field study visit focused on one of the most contemporary and challenging recovery questions to do with the displacement of 1.5 million Iraqis. The visit was led by Sultan Barakat under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince El-Hassan bin Talal, and hosted by the Regional Human Security Centre (RHSC) in Amman. The RHSC is an independent institution which strives to move the Human Security agenda through research, training and dialogue facilitation – an ideal hosting partner when taking into account the Field Study theme of Human Security.

The students applied multiple research methods comprising diverse Rapid Rural Appraisal techniques, surveys and interviews, together with secondary data gathering. The impact of the Iraqi Refugees on Jordan was analysed and evaluated in four key areas – Education, Health, Housing and Livelihoods – which are reported on here by a student member from each group.

Livelihoods

Is the Iraqi need for a livelihood a burden or benefit to Jordan?

In any society it is known and accepted that the means to livelihood, specifically access to legal employment, is one of the most important links to economic self-sufficiency. This is especially important for those Iraqi refugees whose basic requirements are not being afforded either by Jordan or the international community – leaving them marginalised both socially and economically.

The main aspect that we found particularly challenging during the research was the lack of accessible information on the ‘livelihoods impact’, as there has been little research conducted into this field previously. We saw this challenge as an opportunity to conduct research in ‘virgin ground’.

Our main research strategy was through case studies. This provides a systematic way of evaluating situations, collecting and analysing data and reporting the pertinent facts and results. The main qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection used were interviews (structured and semi-structured) and questionnaires. Such flexibility allowed the questions to be amended or the sequence of questions to be changed depending upon the target audience. Being participatory ensured that actual experiences were shared through dialogue.

A total number of 26 interviews were conducted with both elite and non-elite interviewees and as an aid in obtaining the necessary required mass of credible and relevant base-line data, a total number of 67 questionnaires were conducted. The analysis of the research data was conducted in a two stage process; initially the data was identified and organised into the pre-selected component parts and then the most relevant components were then amalgamated in such a way as to provide a better understanding of the facts.

Perhaps the most salient conclusion of the Field Study was the fact that the high proportion of economic activity in Jordan indicates a vibrant labour market, and those Iraqi refugees in legal employment have brought a great amount of benefit to the Jordanian economy. The downward employment mobility of those Iraqi refugees engaged in illegal employment represents however a considerable opportunity loss for Jordan; in simple terms the Jordanian Government has failed to harness a major source of untapped potential.

It was found that the Iraqi refugees in Jordan are not a significant burden in relation to livelihoods, but are an untapped and underused capacity that could contribute to the economy validity of Jordan more effectively.

Finally it is appreciated that whilst the majority of Iraqi’s in Jordan have no residency rights or working permits, they don’t live in appalling refugee camps which is the case in many examples around the world. When taken in the context of the Field Study research ‘exercise’, emotive feelings are generated and experienced personally because of the feeling of helplessness. It is hoped that our findings can alleviate part of the suffering experienced by Iraqi refugees, but it was not an ‘explicit objective’ of the research ‘exercise’.

Mark Frankish United Kingdom

| Housing |

How effective are coping mechanisms in dealing with the challenges that Iraqis face in terms of housing in Amman?

Our field research focused on the physical, legal, financial, and social aspects of housing. By meeting with decision makers (government leaders and NGOs), Jordanians and Iraqis, we were able to formulate an informed answer to our research question.

The four main housing challenges that Iraqis face in Amman are: securing housing needs (physical); lack of legal status (legal); paying for housing (financial); and, lack of interaction (social). Iraqis cope with these challenges by utilising mechanisms that can be grouped under the following headings: government; NGOs; community; family; and, individual.

After analysing the collected data, we made conclusions as to the effectiveness of the coping mechanisms used by Iraqis to deal with the housing challenges they face. First, for the short-term, both Iraqis’ basic housing needs and their ability to pay for housing are effectively addressed by the coping mechanisms employed. Second, in contrast, their remaining two challenges (lack of legal status and lack of interaction) are not being dealt with at all. Third, and finally, despite the effectiveness of the currently employed coping mechanisms to address their physical and financial challenges, they are not sustainable solutions. Our suggestions for the next steps in addressing the Iraqis’ housing plight include: promoting contact between Iraqis and their host community; allowing Iraqis to work legally; and, possibly providing them with some form of social housing.

Cecilia Laverty USA
Health

How has the Iraqi refugee influx impacted on Jordan’s health system?

Prior to going to Jordan, the health group used secondary sources to collect relevant data on the Iraqi crisis, and filled the remaining information gaps with data obtained from primary sources in Jordan. Using the Sphere Handbook (2004) as the guiding document, we analysed aspects such as water supply, sanitation, access to health services, health systems and infrastructure. The group benefited greatly from information provided by WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, Ministry of Health, Jordanian Red Crescent, Caritas and others relevant agencies.

We concluded that, despite the obvious strains that the Iraqi influx had put on the Jordanian health infrastructure, there had been adequate mechanisms put in place to meet the increased demand for health care. Emergency health care services for Iraqis were integrated into the mainstream national healthcare system to avoid the creation of a parallel structure. It was established that NGOs and private health service providers significantly contributed to meeting the needs of the Iraqis, hence reducing the burden of health care obligation carried by the Jordanian Ministry of health.

In addition, we found out that primary health care was free for all, regardless of nationality. While psychosocial needs were prevalent among the Iraqis, they generally expressed satisfaction with the level and quality of health care service provided to them in Jordan.

Samson Barrigye Uganda

Education

How has the influx of Iraqi children affected Jordan’s education system?

About 500,000 school-aged children fled from the war in Iraq; about 200,000 of them have found a safe haven in Jordan. For Jordanian schools already filled to capacity due to natural growth, the influx of Iraqi school children has now reached a critical point.

Our research included surveys and interviews with Iraqi families, headmasters, teachers, representatives of the Ministry of Education and international organisations. Information gathering was enriched by secondary data and a two-day briefing of various NGOs and researchers in Amman. Particular emphasis was put on analysing the consequences of the government’s decision (in August 2007) to allow Iraqi children to go to public schools regardless of their legal status. Key findings were:

- Due to lack of legal status and the consequential lack of a sustained income, the absence of financial resources to cover school-uniforms, books and especially transportation still prevents Iraqi children from going to school.
- For many Iraqi children the new Jordanian curriculum is challenging. This, combined with the emotional stress of refugee life, makes them more likely to drop out of school.
- The Jordanian education system is already stretched to its limits: teaching materials, buildings, and teachers are limited. The influx of Iraqi children generally aggravates these lack of resources.
- Two major threats to the future education system in Jordan were identified: future funding and politics. If cuts in funding occur due to lack of political commitment, Jordan will not be able to solve the education problem alone. If the social, economic, and security situations in Jordan deteriorate, Iraqi refugee school children may become the scapegoats. A deteriorating situation in Iraq or in the region, together with more refugees pouring into Jordan, could result in a collapse of the education system.
- In contrast to the threats, there are positive benefits to be had if a decision was made to invest in the education system. Having access to schools not only gives Iraqi children stability, new hope and future prospects, but it also ensures that there will be an educated generation who would have the capacity to contribute to the economic reconstruction of a future Iraq. Having children in school also helps their families to settle into a more inclusive environment. For the Jordanian state, the additional burden on the education system can also be seen as a chance to strengthen it, with the help of increased aid money – bringing benefits to Jordanians and Iraqis.

Acknowledgment should be given to the Jordanian government for opening public schools to Iraqi children. If the international community is not able to share responsibility and obligation with the host country, there is significant risk of a deepening humanitarian refugee crisis with unpredictable consequences for the political stability of the Middle East region.

Andrea Iro Germany

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan and HRH Prince Rashid bin El Hassan, Chairman of the Regional Human Security Centre, for their generous support throughout the field visit. Sincerest gratitude to the following people and organisations that helped to make the visit a resounding success: Majeda Al-Assaf (The Higher Council for Science and Technology); Harriet Dodd (Director, CARE International Jordan); Laura Smith (International Coordinator, Jordan Red Crescent); Dennis Walto (Country Director for Jordan and Lebanon, Save the Children); Father Emmanuel Al-Baria (Syrian Orthodox Church at Ashrafya); Suleiman Hassanat (Director, CARE Centre, for their generous support throughout the field visit. Thanks to Dr Baker Hiyari from the Royal Institute of Interfaith Studies for hosting an evening lecture, Shiaism in Islam, by Dr Mahjoub Zweiri. All staff at the RHSC and UNWRA for their invaluable assistance and logistical support. Students from Yarmouk University and the University of Jordan who acted as translators throughout the field trip. Special mention to Dr Laura Watkins a former PhD student at The University of York for her tireless effort and hard work throughout.
The PRDU held its annual Chevening Course on Conflict Resolution from January to April 2008, with Professor Sultan Barakat as Course Director, Dr David Connolly, Course Convenor, and Ms Sally Carter, Course Administrator. Sponsored by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), 12 senior fellows were selected to participate from Burma, Cambodia, Egypt, Georgia, Nepal, Nigeria, South Africa and Sudan. The fellows not only brought together their distinct country perspectives but also used the 12 weeks to reflect on and share their diverse professional backgrounds. As leading civil society representatives and senior civil servants, they explored the importance of inclusive approaches when thinking about and resolving violent conflict.

2008 marked the third year of this prestigious initiative at York. The syllabus maintained its focus on conflict analysis, negotiation skills and post-war recovery but also brought in several new themes such as the role of religion, civil-military relations and bilateral diplomacy.

Leading academics and practitioners from outside the university who contributed on the course included: Mr Thomas Ansorg (Saferworld), Ms Rosemary Durward (Royal Military Academy Sandhurst), Mr St. John Gould (FCO’s Conflict Group), Ms Manuela Leonhardt (independent consultant), Ms Joan McGregor (Responding to Conflict), and the former British Ambassador to Oman and Kuwait, Mr Richard Muir. The PRDU was also delighted to welcome back Dr Brandon Hamber, Dr Ben Hoffman, Dr William Lume, Mr Gianni Ruffini, and Mr Matthias Stiefel.

While stressing the importance of theory in guiding our understanding of violent conflict, the course remained practice-oriented throughout. In particular, for the 2-week work attachment, each of the fellows applied a chosen interest with a leading nongovernmental organisation in the UK and beyond. In 2008, the participating organisations were Amnesty International, Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office, International Alert, International IDEA, Islamic Relief, Minority Rights Group International, Muslim Aid, St Ethelburga’s Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, Saferworld, and Search for Common Ground.

In February, the fellows also completed a one-week field visit to Amsterdam and The Hague, kindly hosted by PRDU Associate Professor Gerd Junne and the University of Amsterdam. In engaging with the distinctive Dutch and EU approaches to conflict at the local and international levels, discussions and meetings were held with senior staff at the European Centre for Conflict Prevention, the Human Rights and Peace-building Department at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Neighbourhood Mediation, and Oxfam Novib.

For more information on this FCO initiative visit: www.york.ac.uk/depts/poli/prdu/current_chevening/ and www.chevening.com/home/