

Consultancy

Enterprise Office



WHAT PRICE PEACE?

CLIENT: DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID)

REGIONAL FOCUS: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

CONTENT: CONSIDERING THE COST AND EFFECTIVENESS OF DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO CONFLICT PREVENTION

BACKGROUND AND REQUIREMENTS

A study was commissioned by DFID to strengthen the evidence base for the international community's engagement in conflict prevention. The scope of the study was threefold: firstly to summarise the challenges of estimating the costs of conflicts and measuring the effectiveness of interventions, secondly to provide a flexible framework for how costs and effectiveness of different activities and instruments can best be compared, and thirdly to investigate the case for allocating limited resources to conflict prevention.



APPROACH

A project team was created, bringing together SOAS academics with expertise in conflict analysis, conflict prevention and response and quantitative economic research. An Advisory Group was established to include experts from a range of backgrounds as well as key international stakeholders. The consultants met regularly with key DFID throughout the project and also engaged with a cross-Whitehall Advisory Group established by the relevant government departments.



OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

The SOAS consultancy team produced a critical review of existing cost effectiveness / cost benefit analysis of conflict prevention and a final report including summaries of case studies. A presentation to DFID and other parts of the UK government was made to share the findings of the study. The study made a significant contribution to DFID's conflict policy and assisted DFID in comparing costs and effectiveness of conflict prevention activities and instruments, helping with decisions relating to the allocation of limited resources.



SUMITOMO CHEMICAL COMPANY

CLIENT: REGIONAL FOCUS: EAST AFRICA

CONTENT: DETERMINING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A MANUFACTURING FACILITY IN TANZANIA

BACKGROUND AND REQUIREMENTS

The Sumitomo Chemical Company commissioned SOAS, University of London to investigate the economic impact of its large-scale malaria bed-net (Olyset® Net) manufacturing facility in Kisongo near Arusha, Tanzania, a joint venture with A to Z Textile Mills. The aim was to explore the wider benefits to the local and regional communities brought by the manufacturing facility through employment, better education and increased services, demonstrating the benefits of business investment rather than relying on aid donations.

APPROACH

The project was led by Dr Michael Jennings, Senior Lecturer from the Development Studies department at SOAS. Field research was carried out in Tanzania and involved a survey of factory employees and people employed in local businesses providing services to the factory. The survey sought to demonstrate the economic gains from formal waged employment: the benefits gained by individuals from the financial security; and the extent to which the local economy and services have improved as a result. The main survey was supported by a series of semi-structured interviews which were conducted with factory management and officials from Arusha and the region. This part of the study sought to assess attitudes to corporate responsibility and how the company engages with the wider community.



OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

The findings of the report showed that the Kisongo factory, which employs over 7,000 people (mostly women who otherwise would have no regular employment), has made a significant contribution to the local economy and to the economic well-being of employees and their families. This is largely related to the fact that employees are able to receive regular wages in a sustainable job, which also provides training in transferable skills.

The research also identified a fundamental weakness impacting the factory and its employees, one which threatens to undercut the very real economic gains made by the 7,000 employees, their families, and surrounding local businesses. The report highlighted the damaging effect donor procurement policies – which prioritise cost factors over broader developmental ones – on factories such as that owned by A-Z. It called upon donors engaged in purchasing long-lasting insecticide-treated bed-nets for anti-malaria programmes to consider the economic and social benefits of supporting local industries, which can help support roll-back malaria efforts.

Academics and representatives from donor organisations and malaria-focused charities attended a launch event at SOAS on publication of the report to highlight the issues raised in the report and raise awareness of procurement policies and the impact they have on the economies of developing countries. Subsequently, the key findings of the report on procurement policies in bed-net programmes were reported to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Malaria. The recommendations were also brought before the board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for consideration.



SAFETY, SECURITY AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING IN SOMALILAND

CLIENTS: DANISH DEMINING GROUP (DDG)

GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING (GICHD)

REGIONAL FOCUS: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

CONTENT: DEVELOPMENT/HUMANITARIAN

PROJECT TYPE: IMPACT AND EVALUATION STUDY

BACKGROUND AND REQUIREMENTS

In 2008, DDG began implementing a Community Safety Programme (CSP) to 'contribute to the stabilisation of fragile parts of Somalia by enhancing community safety of conflict effected populations' and to facilitate socio economic development. The CSP included the following components: community entry, community safety planning, firearm safety education (FSE), mine risk education (MRE), and conflict management education (CME), the provision of safe storage devices, community-police partnerships, explosive ordnance disposal and mine risk education and advocacy.

In 2013, the Danish Demining Group (DDG), the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and SOAS, University of London formed a tripartite agreement in order to carry out a study of the impact of the Community Safety Programme. The study was led by Dr Laura Hammond, Reader in Development Studies at SOAS, University of London and an expert on the Horn of Africa and conflict and development issues. The objective of the study was to conduct an impact assessment of the DDG's Community Safety Programme (CSP) in Somaliland in order to establish if improvements at various levels had been achieved since the start of the programme. In particular, the study sought to find out if any improvement or deterioration in people's perceived levels of safety and security in their communities had occurred as well as any improvement or deterioration in people's socio-economic wellbeing.

APPROACH

The project was supervised by Dr Laura Hammond (Team Leader) of SOAS and by Ms Åsa Massleberg (Gender Advisor) of the GICHD.

Fieldwork in Somaliland was supervised by DDG, which oversaw the work of three data collection teams, which gathered both qualitative and quantitative information from 12 communities in urban and rural areas of Somaliland. A total of 378 households were surveyed. SOAS PhD student Nimo Ilhan Ali assisted the project as a leader of one of the teams and in data analysis. The study focused on indicators of correlations as well as in people's perceptions of changes to local safety and security as well as socioeconomic wellbeing.

OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

The survey found that there had been improvements overall in levels of safety and security, and in most cases improvements in socio-economic wellbeing. Respondents saw a strong correlation between these two dynamics. All components of the CSP were highly valued by the community. Eight recommendations for the further improvement of the programme were produced:

- Continue Community Safety Programme (CSP) activities
- Conduct further research on the impact of DDG activities in urban areas
- Refine Conflict Management Education (CME) to focus in more depth on land and property-based conflicts
- Include more women as CME trainers and facilitators, and adapt CME activities to better address security concerns of women, including (but not limited to) rape and sexual violence
- Amend elements of the CME programme to address the possible applications of interpersonal conflict management for conflicts at higher (including inter-clan) levels
- Ensure that safe storage devices (SSDs) are made available to poorer community members as well as those who are better off
- Provide community safety training through hagbad (savings associations)
- Provide more training to community and district safety committees on all aspects of DDG's safety interventions





For more information on consultancy please
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