
Report Submitted to the External Review Panel

Social and Economic Policy
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Peace, Conflict and Development (PCD) is a program at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) that supports applied research on the causes of conflict and on post-conflict challenges. PCD contributes to IDRC’s mission of “empowerment through knowledge” by supporting research to enhance accountability and encourage dialogue; strengthen peacebuilding policies and practices; and build the skills of researchers in conflict zones. In a dense, highly northern- and donor-driven research field, PCD’s comparative advantage is to support southern actors as generators of knowledge, pursue strong south-north collaborations, and encourage analytical and multidisciplinary research. PCD partners with research institutes, universities, networks of researchers, civil society organizations and policymakers. Over the past five years, PCD has faced challenges but overall has made a substantial contribution to the research field in peace and conflict.

BACKGROUND

PROGRAMMING FRAMEWORK

PCD is in its third prospectus period (2005-2011). Its programming framework has evolved to reflect lessons learned and contextual changes, while acknowledging its relatively small size. PCD’s current framework is structured around four research themes that guide country-specific, regional, and global research projects. This thematic approach helps PCD build a critical mass of research on particular issues, as well as providing opportunities for cross-regional collaborations. The themes encompass a wide set of interlocking issues that reflect the complex nature of the contexts examined, while encouraging multi-disciplinary approaches and holistic solutions.

As the prospectus unfolded, PCD realized a refined thematic scope would allow more coherence in its research objectives and program-level outcomes. In 2007, PCD began collectively examining all concept notes on a quarterly basis: a review process that provides checks and balances on PCD’s project selection and provides room for discussions on project-level strategic directions. In 2007, PCD selected priority areas within each theme. To complement this approach, each program officer was appointed to lead these priority areas. The lead’s role is to provide input on projects related to their priority area and to look for opportunities for cross-regional projects and exchanges between partners. PCD also made concerted efforts to develop thematic programming and networks through workshops and thematic competitions.

While PCD’s programming is becoming more focused, the team is also cognizant of the need for flexibility: ten percent of the team’s annual programming budget is set aside (the “flex fund”) to respond to windows of opportunity for research on Canadian and international foreign policy objectives.
The following is an overview of PCD funding throughout the prospectus period (including the projects that began in 2004 and continued throughout the current prospectus):

![PCD Prospectus period 2005-2011](image)

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**THEMES**

**Democratic Processes in Governance and Peacebuilding**

This is PCD’s largest and, arguably, broadest thematic area. It examines inclusive approaches to peace processes, political integration of non-state actors, as well as examining power relations and institutional arrangements.

In the 2007-2008 workplan, the team identified “democracy and conflict” as a priority area. In 2008, PCD launched the Democratization and Peacebuilding research competition (104936) to develop more programming coherence on the topic of “crafting institutions,” specifically on the challenges of building sustainable and inclusive democracies in countries emerging from war or where conflict might emerge. Four research projects were selected through a peer-review process.

**Security and Insecurity**

This theme encompasses security sector reform (SSR); the responsibility to protect; and crime and public insecurity. SSR was an early cornerstone of PCD’s programming. In the first year of the current prospectus, PCD organized the workshop “New Directions in Security Sector Reform”, and commissioned two evaluations of its programming, a background paper, and regional papers (103183). Based on the gaps identified at the workshop, PCD supported the
Global Consortium on Security Transformation (104178, 105255) as well as regional work in South Asia (103780) and the Arab region (103724, 104693).

In the 2008-2009 workplan, the PCD team re-affirmed that security transformation would remain a priority area. PCD is developing programming on the link between political and criminal violence, especially in Latin America. A first, limited call for proposals, organized in spring 2006, did not yield satisfactory submissions. However, a second call was launched in summer 2008, and the project selected was: “Youth Violence, Organized Crime and Public Insecurity (Central America, Haiti, Mexico)” (105471).

**Political Economy of Peace and Conflict**

This is PCD’s smallest research theme. Most projects fall into one of three categories: globalization and conflict; natural resources and land; and remittances and diasporas. The prospectus focused on the first of these three categories. In late 2004, the team launched the “Globalization, Conflict and Peacebuilding” competition and two global projects were selected (102736).

In the 2007-2008 workplan, PCD identified a research gap on remittances and diasporas in conflict zones. It is developing a regionally-diverse cluster of projects that includes projects on Colombia (104027), Sri Lanka (103776), Lebanon (105039), Sudan (105040, 105672) and Somalia (104614), as well as a multi-country project under development by Georgetown University (105671).

**Violence, Trauma, Justice and Reconciliation**

A new research theme for PCD in its 2005-2011 prospectus, it is now PCD’s second largest theme. PCD developed an ongoing relationship with the International Center for Transitional Justice (102701, 103378, and 104729). PCD also encourages southern perspectives on transitional justice, such as supporting a network of African researchers (102862, 105353).

PCD also supports a cluster of projects on psychosocial approaches to coping with trauma, which provide meaningful opportunities for exchanges between the peacebuilding community and psychological practitioners, including a global project headed by the International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE) (105691).

**GEOGRAPHIC BREADTH**

PCD’s inception began in 1996 as the Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Program Initiative (PBR). The objective was to insert evidence-based research into peace processes, with a focus on a small number of countries undergoing conflict-to-peace transitions and rapidly evolving environments. This approach was challenging for a number of reasons.

In its second prospectus (2000-2005), PBR developed a more geographically-balanced portfolio with programming in three regions. Under the current prospectus, PCD planned programming in Latin America, the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa (including development of programming in East and West Africa), and developed programming in Asia. PCD programming hinges on its staff’s deep contextual knowledge. Limited human resources constrained programming in West Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Caribbean. Despite this challenge, PCD supports projects with case studies in these regions. In all other regions, PCD supports country-based and regional
projects while developing a large portfolio of cross-regional projects. PCD refined its regional programming at team retreats and through regional explorations. In its 2009-2010 workplan, it added an objective to continue seeking out programming opportunities in areas of key Canadian foreign policy interest (including Afghanistan, Haiti, Sierra Leone and Sudan).

PROGRAMMING CHALLENGES AND TEAM RESPONSES

PCD’s programming focuses on post-conflict and peacebuilding contexts, in addition to supporting research on conflict prevention, including countries where conflict has subsided. The prospectus’ definition of conflict was rather narrow: “prolonged combat between the military forces of two or more governments, or of one government and at least one organized group, and incurring the battle-related deaths of at least 1,000 people during the entire conflict”. PCD maintained flexibility by looking at political violence more broadly, including its relationship to criminal violence.

PCD encountered some challenges as a result of its complex thematic foci and limited resources. The main challenge is to sustain programmatic balance: thematically and regionally; between country-specific and regional/cross-regional projects; and between flexibility and coherence. Throughout the prospectus period, PCD focused its programming and developed various mechanisms to achieve this balance, including assigning priority areas to team members, and team concept note reviews. PCD also seeks to address the balance between projects aimed at influencing policy, as well as promoting capacity development. In 2007, PCD pursued a more deliberate capacity development strategy by approving two projects explicitly designed to provide training and scholarships to young researchers.

PCD works in difficult research settings, which poses some challenges. The prospectus identified risks including “instability, poverty and inequities that deeply undermine institutional capacities […], educated middle class flight, including those in the intellectual, policy, NGO and public service communities”. Researchers have methodological and ethical challenges, including the availability of reliable data and potential risks to research participants. The “Evaluation of Peace, Conflict and Development Research Support” examines some of these challenges, and concludes that PCD has been broadly successful in identifying good researchers and research institutions, and maintaining the flexibility necessary to foster quality research projects in difficult circumstances (104848).

Finally, PCD experienced significant staff turnover during the prospectus period. This caused a lack of continuity in some project monitoring and development. Though efforts were made to mitigate these changes, PCD remained challenged by its limited human resources.

Overall, PCD’s approach to programming has yielded some significant successes and outcomes, to be discussed in the following pages. Moreover, the programming challenges outlined above provided opportunities for PCD to refine its approach, including focusing its research themes and developing team processes like concept note reviews. The program expanded regionally and developed a significant portfolio of inter-regional projects, and it made substantive contributions to the peace and conflict research field.
RESEARCH FINDINGS

The following section provides an overview of PCD-supported research findings, which are organized by thematic area. PCD chose to highlight a suite of projects according to several criteria. First, these projects represent both a geographic and thematic cross-section of PCD programming, with examples of PCD’s partnerships with different southern institutions and organizations. Second, these projects are notable for the quality of their outputs, with many of the findings described below being published in books, scholarly journals, etc. Finally, these projects have all contributed in some way to PCD’s attempts to put forward rich evidence-based analysis on areas considered to be developmentally important within the field of peace and conflict studies.

VIOLENCE, TRAUMA, JUSTICE and RECONCILIATION

PCD-supported research on this theme helps to make the case that clinical approaches to treating conflict-related trauma possess a number of limitations. Psychosocial approaches, on the other hand, provide more context-appropriate models that can promote healing.

PCD has supported various projects whose findings propose psychosocial approaches to addressing trauma. For example, researchers in the project “Trauma, Development and Peacebuilding: Toward an Integrated Psychological Approach” argue that while a medicalized approach to treating trauma can have some merit, victims of conflict do not only suffer as the result of individualized (and easily identifiable) traumatic incidents (104622). Instead, psychological distress is generated by a personal accumulation of traumatic experiences that produce intense feelings of fear, guilt and shame. The research suggests that it makes little sense to pursue victim treatment via a clinical approach that emphasizes simple diagnoses and individual counselling. In its place, this project argues the need to pursue ethnographic and epidemiological studies that make use of narrative approaches to help both victims and their communities recall their own sources of suffering. In addition the research suggests the need to devise culturally-appropriate support mechanisms for victims and their communities to facilitate their own recovery.

In the project Palestinian Adolescents Coping with Trauma (PACT), researchers from Birzeit and Queen’s Universities contend that behavioural responses witnessed in Palestinian youth to the violence associated with the second intifada cannot be explained solely by clinical models of individualized post-traumatic stress (103302/104728). Instead, accepted patterns of cultural behaviour will determine the ways in which psychological distress is conceptualized, experienced and communicated. As an example, this project suggests that the close-knit nature of extended Palestinian families means that even if a Palestinian adolescent does not experience violence directly, the suffering of a cousin or uncle could prove equally traumatic and lead to the manifestation of severe trauma. This propensity to suffer via collective violations and violence would often be ignored within a clinical context, but is seized upon as important by socially-oriented and culturally-aware treatment models.
Further evidence that responses to trauma are often socially-constructed is documented in the project “Minority Women Negotiating Citizenship: Action Research Project” (102867). This project, conducted by Yungatar, argues that Indian Muslim women’s ability to recover from gender-based and communal violence has not been due to medicalized psychological treatment. Instead, it has occurred due to women’s own agency and their ability to take advantage of new “social spaces” that may open up to them in the aftermath of conflict. In other words, women may recover more quickly from trauma if they can find empowerment in the more public roles they take on when male relatives are killed or incapacitated by conflict. These projects suggest a strong social element connected to the treatment of post-conflict stress that cannot be localized entirely within a clinical framework. Finally, the project “Transitional Justice and the Rise of the Truth and Reconciliation Model in Africa: Emerging Lessons” has seen researchers at the Nairobi Peace Initiative (NPI) suggest that transitional justice mechanisms like truth and reconciliation commissions (TRCs) would be more effective if they incorporated socially-based approaches to the treatment of trauma into their practices (103749). In recognition that healing must occur on a communal/social as well as individual level, the project argues that it is especially important in the African context that TRCs recognize grassroots dynamics and are responsive to the needs and expectations of local communities. This means that if victim healing is to occur, TRCs should seek to address grievances on a community-wide basis so that communal feelings of fear, guilt and shame can begin to be excised in an atmosphere of mutual social support.

PCD-supported research shows that transitional justice mechanisms have a greater chance of being relevant to conflict-affected communities when they are responsive, publicly visible, and context-appropriate.

In recent years, transitional justice has become seen as an increasingly important component of post-conflict recovery and reconciliation. TRCs are arguably the most well-known form of transitional justice based on their highly publicized activities in countries like Chile and South Africa. However, how effective are TRCs in meeting their stated objectives of delivering “truth” and “justice” to the victims of conflict? PCD has approached this question through its collaboration with NPI on its project looking at TRCs in Africa. This study reveals that there are considerable discrepancies in terms of what victims expect TRCs to provide and what these commissions are actually able to deliver given their “on the ground” capabilities. This project argues that TRCs lack visibility at the grassroots level, possess weak “follow-up” mechanisms to ensure the implementation of key rulings and have only weak linkages with national or international courts. This means that there is little popular awareness of what the TRCs established in different African countries actually do, and little expectation that they can deliver on their promises. This is a theme that is reinforced in PCD’s project “Understanding Trauma and Reconciliation following Mass Violence of a Political Nature (India)” (103496). In this project, the focus is not on TRCs but on restorative justice, such as reparations. However, similar problems are identified. Many victims of communal violence in Gujarat are not aware of the avenues available to them to pursue reparations due to a lack of knowledge about reparation availability as well as an overriding popular belief that the Indian state is not responsive to their needs. As such, many victims of conflict see little point in seeking restorative justice in the first place.

PCD has supported the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) to carry out two projects called “Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding” (104729) as well as “Gender and
Reparations: Opportunities for Transitional Democracies – Phase II” (103403). The former project raises important questions about the ability of transitional justice mechanisms to succeed in fragile post-conflict environments. The project claims that civil society weakness and the elite-dominated nature of transitional justice in many countries means that these mechanisms may be less effective in assisting the grassroots achieve a real sense of justice. The latter project echoes this view and further suggests that a lack of a strong gender dimension means that mechanisms—such as reparations—lack accessibility and relevance for female victims of conflict. Indeed, the lack of capacity of TRCs to address gender-based violence (i.e. due to a lack of knowledge amongst commission staff) means that TRCs in many countries do too little to end impunity in relation to violence against women. This shortcoming makes many female survivors question the value of transitional justice altogether. Both these projects contend that organizing transitional justice at least partially from a bottom-up and inclusive approach should begin to address these serious shortcomings.

POLITICAL ECONOMY OF CONFLICT

PCD-supported research on diasporas and remittances shows that diasporas play diverse roles when it comes to fostering peace and fomenting conflict. PCD-supported research on this topic is helping to refine empirical evidence on the nature of diaspora politics and transnational peace and conflict linkages.

Political violence in countries such as Lebanon, Somalia and Sri Lanka has given new impetus to debates surrounding the role that diasporas play in impacting peace and conflict dynamics in their origin countries. The growing contribution of remittances to the economies of many fragile states has also raised queries as to whether these financial flows are contributing to inclusive economic development or are being used for more overtly political purposes to support sectarianism and even armed groups. PCD has sought to establish an empirically-sound entry point into this debate through two projects, “Home Politics Abroad: Role of Lebanese Diaspora in Conflict, Peacebuilding and Democratic Development” (105039) and “Diasporas, Transnationalism and Global Engagement: Tamil and Sinhala Transnational Communities and Networks in Canada and their Nexus in Sri Lanka” (103776). Both of these projects, undertaken by researchers at the Lebanese American University and the Colombo-based ICES respectively, suggest that diasporas and their remittances play both positive and negative roles, often simultaneously. In Lebanon, remittances are contributing to economic stability by providing foreign exchange to the national economy while also supplying individuals with the finances they need to invest in small businesses. On the other hand, the research notes that sectarian divisions in Lebanon may be replicated in the diaspora itself. This means that some diasporic Lebanese communities use remittances to support armed groups such as Hezbollah or the Maronite Kataeb Party that can be relied upon to forcefully (and even violently) assert sectarian interests at home.

In Sri Lanka, this situation repeats itself with remittances from Sinhalese and Tamil communities in Canada being used for substantial socio-economic benefit. This helps to upgrade schools, improve the quality of health facilities. However, the sense of grievance of the Tamil diaspora related to Tamil oppression at the hands of a Sinhalese-dominated government means that some members of this community have also shown a willingness to use remittances to support armed groups like the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). While the research findings are...
not necessarily counter-intuitive, they do make the case that diaspora activities and their impact on peace and conflict dynamics are multifaceted.

**PCD-supported research on the political economy of peace and conflict reveals a complex interrelationship between globalization and the outbreak of conflict in fragile states.**

The extent to which globalization has a positive or negative impact on conflict-prone states has often been the subject of ideologically-charged debate. To those on the left, globalization plays a direct role in weakening state institutions and fostering the high levels of socio-economic inequality that allow conflicts to emerge or intensify. Those on the right argue that by freeing global markets, developing countries will experience greater growth and associated reductions in poverty levels which should, over time, reduce the likelihood of conflict. PCD sought to apply a rigorous methodological approach to addressing this debate through its launching of a “Research Competition on Globalization, Conflict and Peacebuilding” (102736). One of the competition participants, Colombian researcher Francisco Gutiérrez, employed a database of ninety country case studies and more than fifty different indicators. He examined the correlations between different facets of globalized neo-liberalism and their impact on the outbreak and/or intensification of violent conflict.

The research found the existence of a negative and significant relationship between globalization and conflict. In other words, the more open a country is to transnational flows of capital, goods and ideas, the less likely the country is to fall prey to conflict. At the same time, this research also suggests that if neo-liberal policies are put in place after a conflict has already begun, these policies may exacerbate cleavages that contributed to violence in the first place. Finally, the research also asserts that neo-liberal policy frameworks do play a role (either directly or indirectly) in increasing levels of socio-economic inequality and this, in turn, does act as a significant conflict trigger.

As the global economy continues to become more integrated, the impact of this integration on conflict dynamics remains variable and should be evaluated based on context-specific circumstances rather than ideological criteria.

**DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES IN GOVERNANCE AND PEACEBUILDING**

**PCD-supported research on this theme reveals that democratic peacebuilding become vulnerable to failure if initiatives do not expand beyond the elite level to address the interests and needs of a wide array of different stakeholders, such as ethnic minorities.**

For states recovering from sustained violent conflict, a debate exists whether meaningful development can best be pursued via a bureaucratized top-down approach emphasizing state leadership or through grassroots-driven democracy characterized by civil society activism. PCD-supported research in this thematic area points to the need for democratic participation in post-conflict states, particularly where it relates to traditionally excluded groups such as ethnic minorities and women. For example, researchers involved with the project “Democratic Governability in the Andean Region: Political and Institutional Reforms and Social Movements” make the case that the failure of recent pro-democracy political reforms in many Andean countries can be blamed on regional governments that rarely incorporate social movements,
particularly those run by (and for) indigenous people, into state leadership and broad strategies for democratic peacebuilding (104108). The research contends that many state actors find it easier to sideline or co-opt civil society altogether because dealing with social movements’ demands on issues such as indigenous people’s ownership rights over land and natural resources could conflict with a governments’ goal of pursuing free trade. When Andean states do introduce more responsive and participatory governance systems, they do so without undertaking substantive consultation with grassroots actors, thereby lacking popular legitimacy. In a similar vein, the project “Post-Tsunami Reconstruction in the Context of War”, pursued by researches from ICES in Sri Lanka, argues that the centralization of post-tsunami reconstruction initiatives in both Indonesian Aceh and Sri Lanka undermined early peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts (103604). In particular, government programs designed to rehabilitate devastated communities and reassure these communities about the state’s commitment to their future have not found widespread support. This is because the programs excluded civil society as well as political groups supported by the grassroots, such as the Free Aceh Movement, in decisions regarding the distribution of foreign aid.

PCD-supported research is also making the case that some political processes that claim to enhance democracy and promote peace are invariably flawed due to their exclusionary “elite-driven nature. The project “Human Rights and Peace Audit on Partition as a Method of Resolving Ethno-National Conflicts in South Asia – Phase I” was pursued by the South Asian Forum for Human Rights (103989, 105546). The researchers argue based on such case studies as Indian Kashmir and the North East as well as Sri Lanka’s majority-Tamil areas, that partition and federalist decentralization are not effective remedies for resolving ethno-national conflicts. This is because the political decision-making that accompanies ideas surrounding partition are almost always made in a top-down manner and involve exclusionary negotiations between elites that act to deny notions of citizenship to ethnic minorities. The research contends that one of the consequences is that these processes tend to produce undemocratic outcomes that deny rights to marginalized stakeholders in partitioned and federalized areas when the partition or federalism are undertaken as a means to resolve conflict. This, in turn, makes it more unlikely that the structural sources of instability that cause conflict, such as poverty and ethnic exclusion, will be competently addressed. These projects make the case that without active civil society engagement, political initiatives designed to promote democracy and peacebuilding will be ineffective and could, in some cases catalyze further violence.

PCD-supported research on democratic peacebuilding and governance is highlighting the need to recognize informal or traditional forms of governance as playing a greater role in influencing democratic processes in transitioning or post-conflict states. Importantly, this research also sheds light on the negative implications of such governance systems on women’s rights.

At both the academic and policy-based levels, the adoption of traditional forms of judicial and political practice has been advocated as a means of strengthening democracy in conflict-affected nations. In Africa, where state weakness and conflict derive at least in part from the lack of legitimacy of the post-colonial state, the idea of adopting customary governance practices is seen as a particularly meaningful idea. PCD has explored the implications of this issue from a peace and conflict perspective through both its “Democratization and Peacebuilding Competition” (104936) as well as the project “Gender and Generational Analysis of Armed Conflict, Peace and Justice Processes – Phase II” (103312). In the competition, PCD-
supported researchers from both the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and Pennsylvania State University argue that governance problems in many African states can be traced to the fact that such countries have sought to impose state authority at the expense of traditional forms of political organization and economic production, such as sidelining chieftaincies.\textsuperscript{49} This creates a situation of institutional incompatibility whereby the types of political systems being imposed by state elites do not respond to the interests and needs of local populations.\textsuperscript{50} This, in turn, causes disaffection amongst many communities and, in countries such as Nigeria, could play a role in triggering violence against resented state authorities. The key message from this research is that by neglecting tradition and custom in the process of state-building, there is little opportunity for the nation-state to achieve the legitimacy necessary to capture the loyalty of its citizens.

At the same time, PCD’s support of a project on gender and generational analysis offers a contrary, but no less important, perspective. This project was undertaken by the Feinstein International Center at Tufts University. It claims that while traditional forms of governance may indeed possess a high level of legitimacy, they are remarkably ineffective when it comes to addressing the consequences of conflict, particularly in relation to women’s rights.\textsuperscript{51} In southern Sudan and northern Uganda, women’s grievances related to sexual violence have often been ignored. This is because interpretations of traditional legal norms often prove unwilling to tackle the issue of sexual violence, often because these systems assign blame for rape to female victims rather than perpetrators.\textsuperscript{52} Consequently, this research argues that the emotional connection that communities may enjoy with “tradition” should not be used as a rationale for accepting injustice, particularly for the women who bear the brunt of violent conflict.

SECURITY AND INSECURITY

PCD-supported research shows that in developing countries (and especially in post-conflict situations) where the state cannot guarantee security, there exist a multitude of security risks that undermine both citizen security and democratic governance.

Across many parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America, the proliferation of weak states has created security vacuums in which assorted armed groups can exploit resources, undermine established systems of governance and terrorize civilian populations with relative impunity. Prevailing research on peace and conflict issues has used case studies like Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Somalia to demonstrate the impact of state weakness on breeding citizen insecurity. For its part, PCD has sought to highlight lesser-known country examples where the government’s inability to ensure security within its own borders has led to considerable crises in state stability. For example, the project “Comparative Research on Resolution of Conflicts in East Africa” collaborated with researchers from the Addis Ababa-based Development Policy Management Forum (DPMF) (102011). They noted that in locations like the Horn of Africa and northern Kenya where state institutions have always been weak, small-scale pastoralist conflicts have intensified to the point where they have become serious sources of regional instability. The research points to the failure of the Kenyan government to develop effective border policing or establish a strong army presence along its northern border. As a result, groups such as Ethiopia’s Oromo Liberation Front have profited by smuggling small arms to Kenyan factions warring over cattle and access to grazing land.\textsuperscript{53} This influx of small arms has
led to a mounting death toll amongst pastoralist communities and has made much of northern Kenya politically unstable.

The project “Security Governance on Ecuador’s Northern Border” with Facultad Latinoamericana Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) Ecuador suggests that while instability in northern Ecuador is partly a natural outgrowth of conflict in neighbouring Colombia, the Ecuadorian state itself is at fault for doing too little to implement a sound system of security governance in the provinces of Esmeraldas, Carchi and Sucumbíos (105304). Specifically, an insufficient number of police and an inadequate overall state presence in the three provinces allow smuggling and extortion related to the drug trade to thrive. This, in turn, helps to create a security environment in which citizen trust in the democratic state is undermined. The research shows that this lack of a state security presence becomes even more damaging when the state also lacks an economic presence. In these three provinces, periodic closures of the Colombian border, as well as a lack of state investment in economic growth, have lured people into criminality as a means to survive. This project, as well as the above-mentioned East Africa study, demonstrates that a number of factors may contribute to the emergence of conflict. However the extent to which these conflicts grow and become institutionalized as aspects of daily life will depend on the capacity of state security actors to identify potential threats and mobilize adequate resources to contain them.

**PCD-supported research demonstrates that the proliferation of security actors in conflict-affected countries in the global south highlights the importance of introducing more democratic and civilian-based oversight of national and regional security sectors.**

The predatory nature of security services in many conflict-affected states combined with the lack of democratic oversight of their activities has emerged as a major governance issue in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia. The literature on SSR argues that in many countries, security forces act as little more than extensions of oppressive state power. PCD has undertaken two regionally-focused projects related to SSR: “Reforming Security Sector Governance in South Asia” (103780) and “Security Sector Reform in the Arab Region” (103724). In the former project, researchers from the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) in New Delhi argue that despite the effectiveness and professionalization of security forces in countries like Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, existing mechanisms to ensure accountability and state control over these forces are weak. This is especially true at the local level, where petty political corruption, such as judicial appointments, often leads to the poor monitoring of security forces in certain localities. More importantly, the research identified severe shortcomings when it comes to civil society participation in the South Asian security debate. Citizen input is rarely sought by regional governments when it comes to determining the best ways of making security forces more accountable, transparent and cognizant of human rights. In locations such as Kashmir, India’s North East and Sri Lanka, the research suggests that this inability of citizens to exert popular pressure for change in the behaviour of their national security sectors has facilitated impunity and widespread rights abuses.

PCD’s project on SSR in the Arab World, undertaken by researchers with the Arab Reform Initiative (ARI), arrives at similar conclusions about insufficient civilian input into the role of regional security services. However, this project differs from its South Asian counterpart by making the intuitive (but controversial) case that SSR can only be accomplished in parallel with
wide-ranging political reforms that establish democratic principles throughout various state structures. The research, for example, notes that the overwhelming power of the executive branch and the corresponding weaknesses of legislative and judicial authorities in many Arab countries means that security services tend to operate simply as extensions of executive power (as seen with the Palestinian Authority under Fatah). At the same time, the research acknowledges that civil-military relations tend to define the types of political transitions that are possible in Arab countries, so the vested interests of regional security services will make political reform difficult in the short-term. However, PCD’s contribution with both of its regional SSR projects is to make the case that regardless of considerable challenges, “democratic” SSR is a desirable outcome that must be guided by the participation of stakeholders at both the state and non-state levels.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The PCD team has chosen to highlight five program-level outcomes. The outcomes are based on a series of team discussions about PCD-supported research processes that generated significant results at a program level. The team agreed that programming was stronger in both SSR and transitional justice. While significant project-level outcomes exist in the other two thematic areas, the team agreed that the projects did not add up to program level outcomes, for reasons outlined in the section on lessons and conclusions. More broadly, PCD promotes local ownership and capacity building in its programming. Finally, PCD has contributed to knowledge about issues in gender and conflict research.

These program-level outcomes reflect PCD’s view of its value-added to the peace and conflict field. Each outcome contains an overall statement, followed by elements that describe PCD’s efforts and contributions. The outcomes are supported by a rich suite of projects that are varied in region, location, and scale.

PCD contributes to the advancement of the peacebuilding field on the important issue of security sector reform.

Violence and persistent insecurity compromise the sustainable development, democratic governance, and human security of millions of people. The concept of SSR emerged in the post-Cold War era as a development-centered approach to promoting increased transparency, accountability, and rule of law principles within security services in post-conflict and transitional countries. SSR has assumed growing importance in the international policy arena as international donors have sought to link it to broader processes of stabilization, reconstruction, and democratization.

Despite its increased prominence, the SSR field still suffers from several tensions, short-comings, and challenges. Those most relevant to PCD as a research donor include: 1) a weak empirical base for donor SSR policies and interventions; 2) weak linkages between research, policy and
practitioner communities; 3) the resurgence of hard security concerns post 9/11, and; 4) the technical nature of donor SSR agendas that emphasize professionalization of security services and de-emphasize the role of civil society in specific conflict and post-conflict contexts.

The PCD prospectus cites civil society engagement and oversight of security policies as an important element of security, democratic governance and ultimately conflict prevention. With the above challenges in mind, and building on substantial SSR programming in the previous prospectus period, PCD supports research and research capacity building in developing countries on the thematic issue of security and insecurity, with a specific entry point on SSR.

**PCD contributes to the knowledge base on SSR through its support for innovative, evidence-based research.**

To assess the current state of SSR research, and to identify emerging SSR trends, PCD commissioned an expert background paper and in 2005 organized an international workshop of fifty participants representing fifteen countries entitled “New Directions in Security Sector Reform” (103183). The background paper and workshop discussions identified the need to support SSR researchers and civil society members in South Asia and the Middle East to develop and implement indigenous agendas for SSR research, based on country case studies and comparative analysis. In addition to regional gaps, workshop participants identified the privatization of security as an important emerging issue.

PCD partners with the ARI on a research project that brings together country researchers from eight Arab countries: Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Yemen, the Gulf, and Iraq (104693, 103724). The country case studies analyze the specific political and socio-economic factors that influence the SSR process in national contexts. Thematic papers draw on the case studies to derive comparative insight on SSR and issues such as gender, sectarianism, rule of law, privatization of security, and regional sources of insecurity. The project is expected to provide evidence-based analysis of the relationship between SSR and democratic reform processes in the Arab world. Few studies exist on SSR in Arab countries such as Yemen, the Gulf States, and Algeria, and even fewer studies take a regional approach to SSR in the Middle East. This project will produce one of the first comparative studies of SSR in the Arab world available in both Arabic and English.

PCD is partnering with the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) in India in the implementation of a regional study of SSR in South Asia (103780), including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. The SSR debate in South Asia, aside from Afghanistan, has been largely confined to government circles, with little input from either civil society or the scholarly community. The project seeks to reverse this trend by publishing status papers on national security sectors that critically examine military doctrines, defense policies, and defense expenditures. These papers aim to educate civil society on the need for SSR and promote civil society engagement in holding state security actors publically accountable.

PCD-supported research on the privatization of security in Africa is significant for its analysis of the impact of private security and military companies on human security in unstable African states (103396). This research makes important distinctions between types of private security actors, including mercenaries, and examines their roles in peace and stability operations. By
drawing these distinctions, this research is producing evidence to inform efforts to regulate this burgeoning industry. 68

These projects are a sample of PCD-supported research that is producing locally-generated data and analysis on SSR processes in specific national and regional contexts. This is contributing to a growing body of case study literature.

**PCD builds mechanisms for collaboration between SSR stakeholders through its support to issue-based networks and the development of major collaborative research initiatives.**

PCD-supported researchers examine case studies within and across regions. Using these comparisons, researchers are producing valuable insights that contribute to the academic and policy literature on SSR. Inter-regional examination of case studies fosters collaboration and expands the research and practitioner community to advance the field. As mentioned above, PCD supports regional research initiatives in both the Middle East and South Asia. SSR researchers in Yemen, where reform processes are nascent, are benefitting from the experience and insight of their colleagues from Morocco, who are drawing on a long history of democratic and SSR in that country. Each country study is presented and discussed at regional workshops, and revised to reflect the discussions. In the IPCS project, the six regional institutes that comprise the core South Asian SSR network will partner with national institutes such as universities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to facilitate national level SSR research, and to create a larger civil society SSR network. The regional nature of the network responds to the need for better understanding of the linkages between each country’s security policies and the security of the South Asian region as a whole.

In addition to these regional initiatives, PCD supported the establishment of a Global Consortium on Security Transformation that promotes inter-regional collaboration between SSR researchers from Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, and Europe (105255, 104178). 69 It does so by 1) periodic colloquium; 2) inter-regional thematic working groups; 3) a multi-lingual website in English, Spanish, and French and e-bulletin in English and Spanish; 4) small research grants; and 5) research fellowships. It differs from existing networks such as the Global Facilitation Network for Security Sector Reform, supported by DFID, 70 through: south-south as well as south-north links; sharing research findings and policy lessons among regional networks; promoting cross-regional research; fostering evidence-based policy dialogue; and reaching out to a broad range of policy constituencies not normally considered in security analysis and policy-making. Researchers from the Middle East and Latin America, for example, find greater comparability in their contextual experiences on issues such as national defense cultures and historical experiences of colonialism. Rather than relying on normative SSR frameworks produced by northern actors, these researchers learn from each other’s experiences of SSR processes and challenges.

Often at the receiving end of international donor policies on SSR, southern researchers find voice in south-south collaborative mechanisms to define their own conceptual framework for approaching security-related issues. For example, the “security transformation” contained in the Global Consortium’s title refers to an explicitly southern understanding of SSR. It provides new perspectives concerning security dilemmas and the expanding concept of security, including a bottom-up strategy involving social actors and citizens’ approach.
PCD engages key constituencies for SSR research and analysis through the inclusion of important stakeholders in the research process, the support of policy-relevant research, and the implementation of targeted dissemination strategies.

Military actors in conflict-affected countries have continued to dominate the SSR discourse, privileging SSR practice that strengthens state security rather than citizen security. To counter this perspective, PCD promotes the involvement of non-state actors in democratic security sector governance.

Democratizing the SSR debate means including civil society perspectives and the interaction between non-state and state actors on security issues. PCD partners identify and take advantage of opportunities to facilitate exchanges between key actors in such debates. ARI engaged members of the Egyptian security services and members of the Egyptian human rights community (104693, 103724). Similar interactions occurred in Lebanon, where both the Minister of Interior and the Director General of the Internal Security Forces participated in the ARI SSR workshop alongside researchers and NGO representatives. The impact of these interactions remains to be seen, and will likely be very difficult to directly attribute to ARI. Nevertheless, this engagement is significant because it is one of the few times that members of Arab security services have met with Arab civil society in a cooperative manner to discuss potential reforms.71

The PCD-supported Global Consortium on Security Transformation explicitly frames its research and advocacy around incorporating new voices into SSR debates and analysis, including civil society and communities most in need of security (104178, 105255). The Consortium’s Working Group on Regional Security from Above and Below (WGRS) focuses on promoting these perspectives.72

PCD supports researchers at the Berghof Research Institute to tackle the important issue of how to meaningfully involve non-state armed groups (NSAGs) in political processes (105768). The research focuses on the challenges of negotiating and implementing security-related transitions within an interdependent process of political transformation. Critical perceptions of NSAGs are important, because they see SSR and disarmament, demobilization and re-integration (DDR) as state-centered, thus compromising incentives for participation.

PCD’s success in this field may be attributed to a strategic bottom-up approach with three components: 1) an independent peer-reviewed assessment of the state of the field followed by an international workshop; 2) team consensus on the desirability of expanding SSR research in South Asia and the Middle East, and promoting networking among SSR analysts more broadly; and 3) supporting the development of local agendas for research and advocacy on issues critical to peacebuilding by identifying and working with strong local partners with convening power and credibility among various stakeholders.

SSR research in conflict-affected countries can be very sensitive, since democratic governance and reform of the security sector often entails a redistribution of power from security to non-security actors. PCD-supported research enables researchers, civil society, government representatives, and security actors to meet discreetly and securely, where they can engage more frankly than is possible in open forums with media and donors present. This discreet
approach is particularly relevant in a number of projects (103724, 104693, 103613), where the richness of the publications is derived from the discussions allowed to develop in closed workshops and meetings.

PCD has had moderate success in leveraging external funds for several of the SSR projects. The Global Consortium is also supported by the Open Society Institute and the Ford Foundation, while the Swiss Foreign Ministry also supports the Berghof research on NSAGs. PCD has had less success in leveraging external support at a program level for its SSR research, despite attempts to engage both DFID and the Canadian government. While staff turnovers in these organizations and in PCD may have been a contributing factor, PCD was unable to adequately articulate and convey a program-level approach to our SSR programming that would have attracted other donors. While individual projects were strong, an overall framework that tied these projects together in a coherent package was lacking when DFID and DFAIT were approached.

**PCD contributes substantively to the development of the transitional justice field, including the study of post-conflict trauma**

Transitional Justice emerged in the late 1980s to recognize the victims of systematic violations of human rights.\(^\text{73}\) It provides a form of justice purported to have positive, transformative powers at a societal level. Underlying the transitional justice paradigm is the normative assumption that justice promotes peace, reconciliation and democracy. While transitional justice mechanisms were developed to address violations under excessive use of state power by authoritarian regimes, they are also widely adopted in conflict-to-peace transitions in countries as varied as Guatemala, Sierra Leone, and Timor-Leste. Indeed, transitional justice became part of not only the peacebuilding lexicon, but is also viewed itself as a means to build peace.\(^\text{74}\)

The transitional justice field, while increasingly prevalent on the international policy scene, also has substantial gaps that additional research can fill. At present, this field is mostly based on norms rather than empirical evidence to support the claims that transitional justice mechanisms have produced either beneficial or harmful effects.\(^\text{75}\) Despite a variety of existing mechanisms, TRCs have become synonymous with transitional justice. These commissions have “gained currency as the realistic, rather than the ideal, compromise,”\(^\text{77}\) whether they are appropriate for the context or not.

A significant element of the transitional justice field is dedicated to finding effective ways of addressing psychological consequences of violence and oppression. Currently, the field of study that examines post-conflict trauma is dominated by northern experts\(^\text{78}\) intervention models are generally clinical in nature and focused on individual treatment, despite the reality of collective experiences of trauma, and community-based resilience strategies.

The PCD prospectus acknowledges that “dealing with the past so that it does not undermine prospects for peaceful co-existence is critical to long-term durable peace”.\(^\text{79}\) With this in mind, PCD’s programming developed a strong focus on transitional justice and trauma. The
International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)\textsuperscript{80} was identified as a key partner in the prospectus, especially for their work on reparations. PCD continued their relationship with ICTJ, awarding a $1.5 million institutional grant in 2008. PCD also supported fourteen projects on transitional justice and trauma with southern partners. These research projects developed recommendations for practices that are built from ground-up assessment of needs and resiliency mechanisms.

\textbf{PCD contributes to the knowledge base on transitional justice and trauma issues through its support to innovative and evidence-based research.}

Since 2002, PCD has supported ICTJ in their important research into the theory and practice of reparations as an element of transitional justice (101476).\textsuperscript{81} In the current prospectus period, ICTJ’s funding was extended to examine the specific gender dimensions of reparations programs and policies. In a study that is the first of its kind, ICTJ commissioned gendered analyses of reparations programs in six post-conflict states,\textsuperscript{82} as well as eight thematic studies.\textsuperscript{83} This empirical and theoretical work analyses the potential of gendered reparations to both meaningfully redress violence against women and to transform sexual hierarchies in the transitional justice process.

In addition to ICTJ’s work on reparations, PCD supported innovative research that augments the documentation and understanding of reparations practices in Latin America and South Asia. PCD partnered with the Universidad de San Buenaventura Cartagena to research reparation policies that targeted Colombia’s displaced people (102865). This participatory research has documented the social marginalization and exclusion experienced by Colombia’s forced migrants, and the bureaucratic hurdles that compromises effective reparations policies. The research critically notes that current policies do not address the structural causes of conflict in Colombia. On the contrary, the project shows how these policies contribute to the legitimization of social injustice for Colombia’s internally displaced.\textsuperscript{84} In South Asia, researcher Harsh Mander conducted interviews and focus groups among victims of sectarian violence in Gujarat and Delhi (103496). The research examined how ordinary citizens viewed the Indian government’s attempts (or lack thereof) to provide compensation and restorative justice in the aftermath of political violence. The research revealed that ordinary citizens had abandoned their claims for compensation, and instead hardened their positions on punitive justice as a result of the government’s failure to implement transitional justice mechanisms. Both projects point to the potential of victims’ frustration in the face of state inaction on compensation and reparations to contribute to further violence.\textsuperscript{85}

The discourse and response strategies of mental health professionals working with survivors of war and political violence are dominated by the paradigm of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This biomedical approach assumes a universal response to trauma, which can then be treated with specific therapeutic (and individual) protocols.\textsuperscript{86} Both ICTJ and other PCD-supported research on transitional justice point to the psychological importance of redressing past grievances and abuses.

PCD-supported research on psychosocial approaches to trauma gathers field-based evidence that interrogates assumptions underpinning the biomedical approach to trauma and its treatment in the industrialized world. Rather than assuming that trauma is a single event experienced only at an individual level, psychosocial approaches investigate the effects of
exposure to chronic and intergenerational violence that is directed against families, communities and societies. For example, the PACT project with the Institute of Community and Public Health (ICPH) at Birzeit University in the West Bank\(^87\) gathered data that demonstrated clear differences between how girls and boys experience and cope with exposure to collective violence (101323, 103302, 104728). The project also developed community-based intervention models based on the socio-political and cultural aspects of the target population.\(^88\) Similarly in Colombia, the Universidad de los Andes in Bogota is gathering data on trauma experienced by youth in several regions of the country (104626). Preliminary findings point to the linkages between individuals’ sense of trauma and the sense of abandonment and loss that is felt by their extended social groups.\(^89\)

**PCD builds mechanisms for collaboration among peace and conflict researchers on transitional justice and trauma issues through the establishment and support of issue-based networks and multidisciplinary collaborative research initiatives.**

Research on transitional justice has generally been dominated by scholars from the developed world that narrowly focus on legal elements of the subject.\(^90\) However, most experiences of transitional justice mechanisms are in developing countries, in dynamic and complex contexts. PCD has supported South Africa’s Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) to establish the African Transitional Justice Research Network (ATJRN). The network was designed to build the capacity of African transitional justice scholars and practitioners. It evaluates the extent to which various truth and reconciliation measures are culturally, politically, and socially appropriate for the diverse African contexts (102862, 105353). It is the first pan-African network of its kind on transitional justice. The interactive website that underpins the network provides an important space for information and knowledge exchange. The ATJRN is complemented by the International Journal of Transitional Justice,\(^91\) a joint initiative between CSVR and the Human Rights Centre, University of California, Berkeley, and partially funded by PCD. The journal is based in South Africa, with editorial hubs in Berkeley and Oxford. It is an important contribution to the field because it is a peer-reviewed venue for high profile transitional justice writers and because senior researchers partner with junior researchers from the Network to publish co-authored articles.

Another model for interaction is an INCORE network on psychosocial approaches to trauma (104622, 105691). The first phase of the project brought together twenty-two experts from around the world who work on psychosocial approaches to trauma, peacebuilding and development. At this roundtable conference, participants sought to define a new research agenda that adopts a multi-disciplinary (clinical psychology and peace and conflict researchers), multi-modal, collaborative and multi-systemic approach in psychosocial work. They emphasized the need to use both ethnographic and epidemiological methodologies when researching conflict-affected communities. PCD is currently supporting a major collaborative research initiative with the INCORE network that will outline how to intervene in conflict and post-conflict situations from a psychosocial perspective. This approach to interventions has the potential to expand and enhance peacebuilding and development efforts, along with other forms of social transformation. This will be achieved through case studies in Sri Lanka, India, Kashmir, Palestine, Guatemala, Colombia, Mozambique and Northern Ireland, and the creation of policy practice guidelines. Case studies and guidelines will be disseminated through a handbook and a focused policy workshop with key policymakers and a dedicated website hosted by INCORE. Through
this work, PCD is building bridges between important epistemological communities for the advancement of sustainable peacebuilding practices.

PCD engages key constituencies for transitional justice and trauma through inclusion of important stakeholders in the research process, and support for research that seeks to strengthen the research-to-practice link.

A significant challenge in the transitional justice field is to link research-to-policy and practice. PCD supports projects that connect research to practitioners and policymakers. ICTJ’s office in the Middle East (103378, 104729) conducted a consultation process among Palestinians and Israelis to help identify whether transitional justice methodologies, tools, and processes can help prepare for future peacebuilding and justice-seeking efforts. In the past few months, ICTJ worked with local organizations in Gaza to strengthen capacities around promoting accountability. As the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Gaza proceeded, ICTJ provided support and advice on conducting public hearings in Gaza.

The NPI project on TRCs in Africa also targeted policymakers, parliamentarians, and other stakeholders, including the Kofi Annan mediation team after the post-election violence in Kenya (103749). In April 2008, NPI brought together researchers working on TRCs in Ghana, South Africa, Sierra Leone and Liberia to share their findings with Kenyan government officials involved in drafting that country’s Truth, Justice and Reconciliation bill. PCD-supported researchers subsequently briefed Kenyan members of parliament before the vote in parliament, and then addressed the commissioners after the formation of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission. 92

With regards to psychosocial approaches to trauma, PCD partners in both Colombia (104626) and Palestine have developed community intervention models based on empirical research among conflict-affected youth communities. The PACT team at ICPH collaborates with community-based rehabilitation (CBR) centres in the West Bank to implement a psychosocial program developed by PACT researchers (101323, 103302, and 104728). In Colombia, PCD-supported researchers have developed a toolkit for practitioners intervening at the community-level to assist internally-displaced people cope with trauma, with a special focus on youth (104626).

As in PCD programming on SSR, PCD’s ability to achieve a program-level outcome on the thematic issue of transitional justice and trauma may be attributed to the team’s focused approach. Past programming provided a platform to launch exploratory research on specific issues such as gender and reparations; and psychosocial approaches to post-conflict trauma. Strong staff expertise and commitment to transitional justice focused PCD’s efforts to build relationships with key partners. These partners in turn coordinated multi-dimensional projects to advance the transitional justice and trauma agendas from a southern perspective.
PCD builds local ownership of, and engagement in, peacebuilding research and practices in conflict-affected regions.

Promoting local ownership of peacebuilding measures in conflict-affected states, by engaging local expertise and capacity, is a long-standing goal of the international donor community. The international community has struggled to provide effective and meaningful support to states and societies experiencing conflict and acute fragility. This is due in part to the precise nature of the challenges, and the lack of understanding of how best to provide support. Rhetoric notwithstanding, most peacebuilding research, coordination, and knowledge exchange is dominated by northern institutions with little substantive input from southern researchers or other analysts from conflict-affected countries. International donors are coming to increasingly realize that locally generated research and analysis would address these knowledge gaps, helping them to improve their policies and actions on the ground.

The prospectus states that the team “interacts with and supports southern actors as generators of knowledge, rather than as mere recipients or repositories of information.” PCD recognizes that local research and analysis is essential to the success of sustainable and context-sensitive security and development measures and democratic governance.

**PCD increases participation of southern peacebuilding actors in determining research agendas and priorities by engaging in responsive and demand-driven programming.**

Extensive consultations and explorations with southern peacebuilding experts and partners underpin PCD programming. PCD held experts group meetings in South Asia, the Middle East, East Africa and Latin America and Caribbean. At these meetings, southern peace and conflict researchers articulated research priorities based on deep contextual knowledge of local socio-political dynamics. In South Asia, local consultations led to regional projects on the legacy of partition for contemporary conflicts, and the role of impunity among South Asian security services. In Africa, partners pointed to conceptual and methodological training for young researchers in peace and conflict studies as a priority in that region, leading to an important capacity-building program at UPEACE (103989, 103780, 104617). Mid-prospectus consultations in Cairo and Rio de Janeiro provided an important opportunity for the PCD team to refine thematic approaches to reflect on regional specificities, such as new security challenges and the impact of constitutional challenges. Thematic consultations, such as the “New Directions in Security Sector Reform” workshop, revealed knowledge gaps as identified by southern analysts, leading to exploratory programming in South Asia and the Middle East with significant potential to advance the field (103183).

These consultations were discreet events in a larger process of consultation that informs the daily work of the PCD program. Program officers are in part recruited for their regional expertise and knowledge of specific conflict contexts. They travel frequently each year to meet with both current and potential partners to assess research priorities. The majority of PCD projects...
emerge from this consultative process, or from unsolicited proposals submitted by previous and current partners. In the two cases where PCD launched open competition processes for projects (Globalization, Conflict and Peacebuilding in 2004 and Democratization and Peacebuilding in 2007), the calls for proposals were broadly framed to appeal to an expanded pool of potential PCD partners (102736, 104936). In each competition, new partnerships were cultivated with institutions who had not received PCD funding previously.

An important corollary to PCD’s support for southern-generated peace and conflict research is PCD’s efforts to promote these perspectives in international academic and policy forums. PCD supported the participation of its partners and other southern researchers in regional studies conferences, including: the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) and the Latin American Studies Association (LASA); in international research consortia such as the Research Consortium on Remittances in Conflict and Crisis at Georgetown University, the Global Consortium on Security Transformation, and the INCORE network on integrated approaches to trauma and development; and in international peacebuilding policy forums such as the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) (104348, 105255, 104622, 105520). While these efforts have had mixed results, as will be discussed below, they are important opportunities for southern researchers to interact substantively with southern and northern colleagues, so that the peacebuilding field is more inclusive of southern-generated evidence, perspectives, and analysis.

To facilitate southern perspectives and scholarship in an applied academic environment, PCD established and continues to support three peer-reviewed journals dedicated to peace and conflict research:

*Africa Peace and Conflict Journal (APCJ)* – Beginning in December 2008, this journal is published bi-annually by UPEACE (104617). This journal focuses on the challenges of dealing with violent conflict, and offers practical and scholarly ideas on promoting peacebuilding across the region. APCJ fills a notable gap related to the shortage of academic publications available on peace and conflict issues in Africa. It connects peace and conflict studies with topics related to wider development and human security issues.

*Journal of Peacebuilding and Development* – Published three times a year by the International Peace and Conflict Resolution unit at the School of International Service, American University in Washington, DC (102420, 104580), the journal seeks to bring together activists, policymakers and practitioners to focus on transformative approaches to peacebuilding.

*The International Journal of Transitional Justice* – With an editorial hub based in CSVR in South Africa, this peer-reviewed journal is published by Oxford Journals three times a year (104289). The journal is particularly interested in local analysis to understand and evaluate the types of strategies employed by governments and international organizations to redress human rights abuses and to promote social reconstruction in the aftermath of violent conflict.

PCD creates opportunities for marginalized and vulnerable stakeholders to make demands for increased participation and transparency in political and decision-making processes through its support to inclusive research processes that enhance government and donor accountability.
Contrary to technocratic approaches to peacebuilding that emphasize strengthening formal state institutions and agencies in conflict-affected countries, PCD and its partners recognize that peacebuilding requires the inclusion of all actors. Local communities impacted by conflict, civil society organizations, non-state actors, and researchers have a role to play in transforming unjust social relations, redistributing power, enhancing accountability mechanisms, and advocating for truth and human rights.

Several projects were developed to take a more explicit bottom-up approach to enable the participation of marginalized actors in the peacebuilding research and dissemination process. With PCD support, ICES in Colombo undertook an analysis of international humanitarian assistance efforts in Aceh and Sri Lanka in the wake of the 2004 tsunami. Through multi-sited, micro-level studies in affected local communities, the research analyzed how aid programs, executed by the state, International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), and rebels, exacerbate or alleviate existing conflicts between and within these communities. ICES researchers argue that village organization and the maintenance of a community’s pre-existing social capital are essential elements in peacebuilding that should not be overtaken by the prerequisites of large donor-funded physical reconstruction projects. In the case of post-tsunami Aceh, they argue, keeping disaster-affected communities within a shared physical space rather than separating them in barrack-like accommodations would minimize the risk of social isolation that could result in violence to address grievances. In Guatemala, Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamérica (CIRMA) developed a context-sensitive monitoring and evaluation framework, using Outcome Mapping. This framework assessed the impact of citizen-to-citizen dialogue and inter-ethnic awareness programs on peacebuilding, such as group dialogue sessions with youth leaders and a mobile exhibit on inter-ethnic tolerance. Also in Latin America, PCD supported a Judicial Observatory that developed a specific methodology to facilitate civil society monitoring of the administration of justice in Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic, in key areas such as juvenile justice and criminal investigation. Importantly, the project facilitated indigenous people’s access to their country’s justice system.

Other PCD projects have created space for marginalized political actors to engage in dialogue and debate on the legitimacy of governance arrangements in conflict-affected contexts. In Palestine, PCD partners in the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research produced detailed research on the growing divisions between the old and young guard within the Fatah movement. Findings revealed that the majority of the Fatah membership identified with the young guard, despite the leadership being overwhelmingly from the old guard. This allowed reformers in the party to demand increased participation and transparency in the key Sixth Congress held in August 2009. Implications of changes within Fatah for the peace process remain unclear at this point, although PCD partner Khalil Shikaki predicts that the young guard’s push for Palestinian state formation and SSR will improve the prospects for a more equitable negotiating process between Palestinians and Israelis.

Also in the region, PCD partners Mada al-Carmel are currently engaged in a multi-faceted research project that assesses the impact of political strategies of Israel’s Palestinian minority population on Israeli democracy. Concerned by growing radicalism on both sides, Mada researchers will assess which strategies provide the most potential for enhancing Arab-Israeli democratic participation, while reducing the risk of political violence.

PCD-supported project on NSAGs in transition with the Berghof Research Center analyses the challenges that confront armed groups when they seek to make the transition to become
political parties (103613, 105768). In its first phase, the project established a network of peer advisors between members of former NSAGs who have made the transition in South Asia, Latin America, Europe and Africa. The network includes local researchers with access to these NSAGs. Through their proactive engagement in action research coordinated by Berghof, both the local researchers and members of the NSAGs have enhanced their analytical skills in conceptual, empirical and comparative research. In the recent commencement of the second phase, the researchers and peer network will focus specifically on security transition challenges facing NSAGs (105768). This issue was identified in the first phase as being particularly important due the predominantly donor-driven agendas of DDR and SSR programs.

To enhance accountability mechanisms, PCD supports projects that examine rights claims. The South Asia Forum for Human Rights undertook research to revisit the notion of partition, as well as ethnic federalism, as a tool of conflict resolution in that region (103989). The researchers contend that elite-driven partition processes in the past have reinforced insider-outsider politics, leading to new sets of conflict-enabling cleavages. In terms of current regional secessionist movements in Assam and Kashmir, the project argues that the inclusion community leaders and human rights groups will be necessary to ensure that partition/ethnic federal arrangements are pursued in the best interests of local communities, rather than self-serving elites who promote irredentism. In Colombia, researchers at the Universidad de San Buenaventura Cartagena investigated the avenues available to Colombian internally-displaced persons (IDPs) to claim reparations for physical and psychological harms suffered (102865). The research documents a number of obstacles that impede the ability of IDPs to access reparations. It proposes specific policy recommendations to streamline access to compensation, and to make state efforts at symbolic reparations that are emotionally meaningful to victims. Additionally, the researchers established an online portal to disseminate their findings and recommendations; provide a space for reparation-seeking victims of conflict to connect with one another; and with legal NGOs to pursue their claims vis-à-vis the Colombian government.99

Promoting local ownership in research has its challenges. PCD is acutely aware that the category of southern researchers is vague, and that a researcher’s geographic location does not necessarily make him or her “local” in orientation. Many PCD projects with researchers located “in situ” do not necessarily promote local ownership in the transformative sense described above. While they may accomplish other objectives such as contributing to important debates, their elite training and networking locates them firmly within conventional academic discourses found in the developed world.

As mentioned above, PCD’s attempts to encourage substantive southern participation in international forums has had mixed results. Where country-based projects on thematic issues have been networked with each other and scaled up to the global level, south-north interactions between researchers have been more successful. This may be attributed to the substantial role played by southern researchers in developing emerging research agendas. Two examples are the Global Consortium on Security Transformation and the INCORE network on trauma and peacebuilding. Southern engagement via PCD with the UN peacebuilding architecture such as the PBSO was much less substantive, since the PBSO seemingly adheres to a more conventional understanding of local ownership that seeks southern validation and support for already established agendas.
Since the 1990s, peace and conflict research around the peacebuilding agenda has grown tremendously, though notably more so in academic and policy circles of the developed world than in the south. It is a multi-disciplinary enterprise that incorporates political science, international relations, sociology, law, economics, as well as security and development studies. Though it is a broad field that is diverse and vibrant, it is also prone to conceptual and methodological weakness. As an evolving field, peacebuilding research is moving towards greater professionalization, definition, theoretical sophistication and empirical rigour, but the challenges are still significant.  

The prospectus states that “PCD-supported projects are used to build capacity for more rigorous, methodologically creative, and collaborative (between researchers, civil society actors and decision-makers) research.” It does so primarily through interventions designed to build the capacity of individual researchers to conceive and conduct peace and conflict research.  

**PCD facilitates methodological and conceptual training of peace and conflict researchers through targeted training programs.**

A meeting of experts organized by PCD in Nairobi in 2006 pointed to persistent capacity gaps in peace and conflict research. These gaps hinder the ability of African research institutes and civil society to provide independent, high-quality analysis and policy guidance on major peacebuilding issues. IDRC partnered with UPEACE in Addis Ababa to provide three consecutive week-long training workshops on elements of peace research (methodological, conceptual, and substantive) to twenty-six participants, drawn from East, West, and Southern Africa. The Peace Research Capacity Building workshops were linked to a further UPEACE-IDRC Initiative for PhD Research and Studies Awards Program in Peace, Conflict, and Development in Africa (104617). In each of three years this initiative awarded ten doctoral research grants to African PhD candidates based in African Universities. The Doctoral Research Awards will facilitate the awardees to complete their theses; strengthen their research skills by offering access to updated resource materials; and, in some instances, provide opportunities to participate in short-term research internships and attachments in University or research centre environments. In addition to the Doctoral Research Awards, the UPEACE-IDRC Awards Program also supports two full time PhD students, based at African Universities. All awardees attend the Peace Research Capacity Building workshops, and will submit articles for publication in the peer-reviewed Africa Peace and Conflict Journal, published by UPEACE.

In South Asia, PCD-supported the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Immersion Program on Peace, Violence and Development: Analytical and Conceptual Capacity-Building in Research trained more than twenty young Pakistani professionals on research methods and
peacebuilding concepts (104807). This nineteen-week course was conducted by senior South Asian academics. Its main objectives were to enable Pakistani graduates and young professionals to intellectually grasp current debates on peace, violence, and development; to undertake multidisciplinary research and analysis; and to improve their writing and advocacy skills. In addition to the intensive training, junior workshop participants benefited from peer networking with senior South Asian scholars, and a rigorous peer review of their research assignments. In some cases, this led to publications.103

**PCD cultivates young peacebuilding researchers through support to inter-generational mentoring in projects and inclusive networks.**

While capacity-building is not an explicit objective of many PCD projects, substantial mentoring between senior and junior researchers often takes place in PCD-supported research processes. In the Institute of Law at Birzeit University, two projects funded by PCD linked senior and junior researchers (101610, 103785). Senior faculty members from the Law, Sociology, Political Science, and Women’s Studies departments each collaborated with two junior researchers throughout the conceptualization, data gathering, analysis, and write-up phases of the Institute’s research into informal justice and legal reform in Palestine. At least two of these junior researchers have moved on to graduate work in Europe and the United States, and in at least two cases, Palestinian graduate students abroad returned to Palestine to take part in PCD-funded research. In Lebanon, senior researchers on a PCD project analyzing the role of the Lebanese diaspora on home-country political dynamics provided intensive training to junior research team members on qualitative interview methods, which they don’t receive as part of the university’s standard methods coursework (105039). In a South Asian project on understanding impunity, the lead senior researcher and the IDRC responsible program officer assessed the performance of junior researchers one year into the project’s three-year cycle (104788). They determined that a targeted training intervention was necessary to bring junior team members up to speed on the project’s theoretical and analytical structure. As a result, PCD provided supplementary funding for a ten-day training program that improved the engagement of the junior researchers with the project, and led to more beneficial mentoring thereafter. In Africa, a multi-phase project led by Tufts University pursuing gender and generational analyses of armed conflict developed a strong multidisciplinary team of northern and southern researchers that accessed local communities in Northern Uganda (102081, 103312, 104885). Tufts University subsequently secured scholarships for four members of the local research team to study in the United States and further develop their knowledge and research skills.104

PCD-supported networks provide targeted opportunities for young researchers to pursue peace and conflict studies. The Global Consortium on Security Transformation administers a small grants program (104178, 105255). It is directed at young researchers and professionals below the age of 35 from developing countries who want to pursue aspects of security studies from non-traditional perspectives. This year’s grantees will pursue a wide range of security issues, including the role of women in new security regimes in South Kivu, DRC, and youth perspectives on security transformation in Nepal. In Africa, the ATJRN operates a website and listserv that has grown to over 900 members: the majority of whom are early to mid-career researchers.105 In addition, the Fellows Programme with the *International Journal of Transitional Justice* focuses on building the writing and analytical skills of young researchers.106 Launched in 2008, this program selected six fellows from Sri Lanka, East Timor, Peru, Liberia, Uganda and Colombia.
Fellows attended a workshop to learn about writing for journals, as well as media writing, taught by Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Roy Gutman. After the workshop, each fellow was partnered with a senior fellow to prepare an article for the journal for review.

**PCD strengthens the research institutions that provide capacity building opportunities for a new generation of peacebuilding researchers.**

PCD uses multi-phased and long-term support to research institutions in conflict-affected countries, to contribute to the sustainability of organizations. This provides the incentive for peace and conflict researchers to remain in their region, and apply their research skills to seek solutions to local development problems. Multi-year support to the ICPH at Birzeit University, via the PACT project, enabled the Institute to retain a core research team and bring young research team members on board throughout the course of the project (103302, 104728). As well as providing important field research and analysis opportunities to young Palestinian researchers, PACT team members published extensively in scientific journals. Upon examination of ICPH’s record of publications, editors of the Lancet identified ICPH as the lead organization for a special issue of the journal on health in the Occupied Territories. Additionally, multi-year support to other research institutes at Birzeit University, including the Institute of Law and the Institute for Women’s Studies, have provided opportunities to young Palestinian researchers to participate in substantive research processes and publish research findings (102657, 103785, 102080).

As described above, PCD supports UPEACE in Addis Ababa to provide Peace Research Capacity-building workshops, as well as Doctoral fellowships and PhD scholarships (in conjunction with IDRC’s Centre for Training and Awards Program [CTAP]). However, UPEACE has also benefitted from strong support from PCD and CTAP to develop their ability to launch and implement the Fellowships/Scholarships competitions process. After a poor response to the initial call for proposals, UPEACE worked with PCD and CTAP to address weaknesses in the process, and relaunched the competition. Response to the second call was much stronger, both in terms of regional diversity and gender balance. The third competition, recently launched, shows marked improvement in UPEACE’s ability to manage the competitions process.

PCD is one of the few donors who consistently support research capacity in difficult environments. However, PCD was not explicit about its capacity-building objectives, either at a program or project level. This has contributed to a limited ability to assess PCD’s influence or value-added on this issue, beyond anecdotal reporting from partners.

While *de facto* capacity development of young researchers might occur within several PCD projects, a clearer understanding of capacity building challenges and assumptions, both at an individual and an institutional level, could contribute to stronger interventions by PCD that are more proactive rather than reactive. An unexpected development in the UPEACE project, for example, was the recognition that the university supervisors of doctoral candidates had limited ability to support candidates in the proposal-writing process. Proposals received by UPEACE for the competition were generally of very low quality, even though they had been approved by candidates’ supervisors. UPEACE and PCD are in the process of finding appropriate ways to include the supervisors of doctoral candidates in the research capacity building workshops.
Women suffer disproportionately from the vagaries of conflict. Whether through sexual and gender-based violence, political exclusion, or economic marginalization, women bear the brunt of the impunity that accompanies the breakdown in the rule of law. The fact that women are often victims in conflict and its aftermath should not, however, obscure their role as agents in conflict prevention and recovery, and as necessary participants in formal peace processes. UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace and security represents significant progress in the international discourse on gender equality and peacebuilding, and international organizations such as OECD-DAC, the World Bank, and various UN agencies provide guidelines for making post-conflict policies and programs more gender sensitive. Despite these advances, women face significant challenges to the realization of their human rights and development potential in conflict and post-conflict societies.

PCD supports important gender research that adds to the knowledge base on the specific problems faced by women in conflict-affected situations.

Developments in the international discourse on sexual and gender-based violence in conflict, such as UNSCR 1820, have not necessarily translated into greater knowledge or acknowledgement of this phenomenon in national and local contexts. PCD has supported research that looks at the use and impact of sexual violence as a strategy in organized violence in South Asia and Africa. In South Asia, the Understanding Impunity project is breaking new grounds in gender analysis by investigating the complex patterns of sexual violence in Gujarat, Kashmir, and the North East, along with their implications for, and understanding of, human rights violation and impunity (104788). This is cutting edge work in South Asian scholarship where gender and sexual violence is often treated as an issue of secondary importance, and where sexual violence remains a taboo in sociological research. The project is developing gender sensitive research methodologies which are designed to break down these taboos. The project also aims to help influence change in the Indian state’s laws dealing with the elements of crime and penal provisions that focus on victims and perpetrators as individuals. In Uganda, PCD-supported Tufts University in implementing Phase II of the Survey on War-Affected Youth, which gathered data on the specific effects of war violence on women and girls in the conflicted-affected northern region. This data will be used to support better evidence-based programming among service providers, including humanitarian organizations. In South Africa, PCD partners CSVR are undertaking a comprehensive analysis of patterns and trends in violence in the post-apartheid period, including the use of gender-based violence (101688, 104289). The research shows that traditional legal norms in many rural areas that hold women responsible for maintaining their “sexual purity” are impeding the ability of female victims of rape to access justice.
PCD is strengthening the policy relevance of gender research through the inclusion of key stakeholders and topics in PCD-supported research processes.

PCD supported research on gender and reparations with ICTJ (103403). The book which resulted from this project, based on six case studies and thematic papers, proposes that truth and reconciliation models must include a stronger gender dimension. ICTJ has made significant progress in influencing policymakers, victims groups and other stakeholder thinking on why it makes sense to design and implement reparations taking into account the gender differentiated forms of harm that often result from authoritarianism or armed conflict. In Colombia, the Commission on Reconciliation and Reparation Plan of Action asked ICTJ for support on how to gender mainstream its work. The Commission created a permanent gender and marginalized populations working group, and the resulting Plan of Action has a specific section on gender. In Morocco, when the country was undertaking its first truth commission “Instance Équité et Réconciliation” (IER), ICTJ offered technical advice to high-level decision makers on reparations policies for over a year. As a result, the IER includes recommendations that emphasize the specific harms done to women.

Similarly in Colombia, PCD has supported research that highlights the need for gender sensitive justice mechanisms. The project on land seizures in Colombia links women's land rights to truth, justice and reparations processes (105303). The research provides an overview of the history of land conflicts in Colombia, stressing the (non) participation and (non) visibility of women and their land rights. The research also points to the absence of land rights in the current reparation legislation. The research process has incorporated the participation of women as victims and agents, and included a gender training activity for field researchers and assistants.

PCD also supported research on gender justice in Guatemala, which focused on the specific experience of gender violence among Mayan women during Guatemala’s long political conflict (102657). This initiative has contributed to the historic memory of sexual violence, its dissemination at different levels and audiences, and to the understanding of the healing process of surviving victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

In Palestine, the Institute for Community and Public Health gathered sex-disaggregated data on adolescents’ experience of exposure to violence, and their coping mechanisms. This revealed that females exhibit psychomatic symptoms, while males exhibit physically aggressive behavior. ICPH developed intervention models that took into account gender specific differences in the way in which adolescents viewed health and life satisfaction in times of conflict. Working in conjunction with the Palestinian Ministry of Health, this model is now being implemented through the CBR system in the West Bank.

PCD contributes to the meaningful involvement of women and gender perspectives in peacebuilding research and policy engagement.

PCD has promoted research on the role of women as leaders and engaged political actors during conflict and its transformation. PCD supports the Instituto de Estudios Regionales (Universidad de Antioquia, Medellín) on a project on engendering reintegration programs of ex-combatants (102072, 103964). This participatory research process brings together former female combatants from both state and NSAGs to build a common platform to promote the participation of Colombian women in DDR programs and in truth, reconciliation, and reparations.
processes. The project facilitates the exchange of women's experiences as peacebuilding agents in Colombia and surrounding countries.

In India, PCD partners Yugantar lead a project entitled “Minority Women Negotiating Citizenship,” which analyzes the different strategies and roles adopted by female survivors of the 2002 communal violence in Gujarat (102867). The research investigates how these women negotiate access to justice, livelihoods, and compensation for their families and communities. The project shifts the focus away from women's identity as victims to promote their agency in negotiating peace processes and reclaiming their position as citizen subjects. In the context of India, the research is important in counteracting preconceived notions of Muslim women as passive agents restricted to the private sphere.

In the project on land seizures in Colombia, particular attention is paid to the impact of land loss on displaced peasant women (105303). The project analyses the historical ways through which rural women access land in Colombia, and the specific ways they lost their properties or possessions by abandonment and seizures. The lack of historical acknowledgement of women's rights to property places them at a disadvantage to men when claiming rights. This ongoing project examines women's involvement and leadership in the peasant movement and their current actions as rights claimants. It aims to contribute to a better understanding of land seizures and conflicts, and allow for inclusive design of gender-sensitive reparations and land tenure programs, in preparation for a potential Truth Commission in Colombia.

Peace and conflict research remains largely gender unaware, resulting in challenges to promote gender-sensitive research. There is in general a lack of capacity to analyze things from a gendered perspective, though PCD has encouraged research partners to do so. In some cases, PCD was not as successful as planned in promoting gender sensitive approaches to peacebuilding research. For example, the Global Consortium on Security Transformation tried to set up a thematic working group on gender, but was unable to get sufficient support or interest from consortium members (104178, 105255). In some projects, gender has been added as an afterthought, largely as result of PCD intervention, but with no sustained effort to integrate gender analysis more substantively. However, continued help from and engagement by PCD program officers resulted in several projects incorporating a gendered analysis of their research projects when they had been originally conceived to be gender-neutral. Examples would include projects such as Kashmir: New Voices, New Approaches (102633); the impunity project in India (104788); and the call for proposal on youth violence, organized crime and public security in Mexico, Central America and Haiti (105471), where a sound gender analysis was listed as a key objective.

PCD works in a challenging environment. Researchers work in insecure conditions, situations can change rapidly, and the field can present obstacles, such as inherent gender insensitivity among stakeholders. In addition, researchers work with practitioners from dynamic backgrounds and interdisciplinary environments. While supporting researchers in these difficult circumstances, PCD must engage with Canadian and international foreign policy agendas that tend to focus on

**STRATEGIC LESSONS**

PCD works in a challenging environment. Researchers work in insecure conditions, situations can change rapidly, and the field can present obstacles, such as inherent gender insensitivity among stakeholders. In addition, researchers work with practitioners from dynamic backgrounds and interdisciplinary environments. While supporting researchers in these difficult circumstances, PCD must engage with Canadian and international foreign policy agendas that tend to focus on
short-term peacebuilding approaches. PCD must respond to these demands to create effective programming on peace and conflict research.

PCD has learned several lessons from its programming over the past four years. While many of the projects in this prospectus are ongoing, PCD is able to derive a number of lessons from its choices in thematic approaches, efforts to engage, and strategies for dissemination.

The need for a sharper focus on programming

PCD’s current thematic programming, while responsive to partner interests, is too broad and has too many entry points. A sharper concentration would allow for more focused programming and targeted approaches for research and dissemination.

PCD’s prospectus was written to consider a wide variety of themes in peace and conflict research. The program was designed to be responsive to existing and potential partners, as opposed to driving one particular area of programming. The broad themes allowed PCD to engage with a wider variety of research partners, and identify potentially new areas of research, such as addressing psycho-social dimensions of trauma. It also meant that PCD was trying to respond to too many areas of interest within peace and conflict research.

Two of PCD’s themes had a more specific focus. As explained in the outcome section, PCD’s efforts in Security and Insecurity, and Violence, Trauma, Justice and Reconciliation, led to more tangible results in contributing to the field. Regarding the theme of Democratic Processes in Governance and Peacebuilding, too many entry points diluted the focus, and PCD had trouble connecting the projects at a program level. Furthermore, PCD had trouble establishing its niche in this field, as many actors were already deeply engaged with these themes. On the theme of Political Economy of Conflict, a combination of a smaller number of proposals received, and a disparate set of entry points made it difficult early in the prospectus period for PCD to establish a platform for programming in this area. PCD attempted to address this weakness by supporting research on diasporas and remittances. PCD’s programming is stronger when it focuses on more carefully delineated issues that are fundamental to broader debates. For example, PCD research on SSR contributes to a lively debate on sequencing of reforms in democratic transitions, as explained in the outcome section.

PCD’s portfolio includes projects that address sub-national, national, regional and inter-regional conflict dynamics. These projects range from examining specific case studies at the sub-national level, to integrating methodological approaches and theoretical frameworks. PCD has seen the benefits from these different levels of analysis. In local and country-focused programming, PCD is able to engage the partners at a deeper level and obtain a meaningful understanding of stakeholder priorities. At regional and inter-regional levels, opportunities exist for sharing knowledge and new ideas, such as introducing psycho-social frameworks to address trauma. PCD programming is stronger when there is a concerted effort to link levels of analysis to reinforce learning. PCD needs to develop stronger criteria and be more selective with project proposals to achieve meaningful comparability within and across regions.

In terms of responding to a variety of stakeholders, PCD is trying to maintain a balance between programming that accommodates the Canadian foreign policy agenda, as well as the priorities of southern research partners. Some attempts to achieve this, such as highlighting a Canadian
foreign policy objective through a Responsibility to Protect (R2P) entry point, were not successful. Though PCD worked with partners to develop projects on this issue, it did not resonate. The partners perceived it as a Canadian-driven initiative that did not have an immediate application in southern contexts. PCD listened to its partners, and did not move ahead with programming that was not seen as relevant to southern researchers.

The need for broader engagement

Despite challenging contexts for conducting research, PCD has engaged with strong intermediary partners. PCD’s program officers identified opportunities for collaborating with both established researchers and institutions. The program also identified key resource people and institutions to help build networks for collaboration.

PCD’s approaches to engaging stakeholders via competitions have yielded mixed results. The Democratization and Peacebuilding competition did not garner substantial engagement from the Canadian foreign policy community, who were consulted at a later stage after the call for proposals had been developed. Furthermore, PCD could strengthen the incentives and mechanisms for collaboration among the competition winner that would increase potential for inter-regional networking as well as substantive thematic insight. Conversely, targeted competitions resulted in greater collaboration, such as the Youth Violence, Organized Crime and Public Insecurity competition. Researchers who previously contributed to this theme were invited to compete. PCD focused on one sub-region, specific sub-themes, and established linkages with international and Canadian NGOs, other donors and researchers to jointly select the winning proposal. PCD engaged with the Canadian government to participate in the selection process from the beginning, thus elevating the project’s interest and profile.

PCD should play a more effective intermediary role between its partners and other stakeholders to identify opportunities for research to inform policy and practice. This includes building its engagement with domestic foreign policy agendas and international donors through ongoing communication and other forums. This would require more concerted effort and time devoted to synthesizing research findings and effectively communicating with relevant policy actors at all stages of the prospectus cycle.

The need for better monitoring and measuring

PCD could conduct more systematic and ongoing conflict and research capacity assessments that are thematic and regionally based. These assessments would enable program officers and partners to see the potential niches for research.

The PCD team convenes to review concept notes approximately four times per year. These discussions shape the research themes and allow team members to discuss relevant priorities within the region. This type of team effort would be more effective not only at the outset, but at several stages: monitoring, evaluation, dissemination and collective learning among the PCD team.

Regarding monitoring and evaluation, PCD needs to be cognizant of developments in the field, such as changes in methodologies. PCD can build on IDRC tools such as the PAD and rPCR to
ensure more detailed project monitoring is documented, discussed and analyzed among the team. This will facilitate clearer directions within each project, themes, and the program.

**The need for more strategic communications**

PCD would benefit from developing systematic and more understandable tools for monitoring and articulating progress throughout research projects. The team directed the bulk of its efforts into facilitating project development at the early stages, but did not build communication and dissemination strategies for projects at the very beginning. PCD needs to develop focused dissemination strategies at the project and program levels, such as pursuing networking opportunities, as well as drafting communications pieces and publications.

At the project level, PCD could better assist researchers conceptualize opportunities for disseminating research. In some projects, researchers have produced peer-reviewed publications. However, PCD needs to be more rigorous in identifying opportunities for high-quality publications.

PCD should have ongoing consultations with partners regarding communication. For example, reports could include a space for partners to communicate the impact of their research findings. In addition, partners should identify other forms of communication beyond peer-reviewed publications to reach other target audiences including decision-makers. These consultations could facilitate targeted dissemination strategies beyond IDRC, to build networks and strengthen future PCD projects.

PCD could build on its work with successful themes and create an **in focus** book for SSR, and violence, trauma, justice and reconciliation to highlight its efforts on these particular themes.

**CONCLUSION**

PCD supports research that provides the evidence and analysis needed to improve peacebuilding strategies and address conflict. The PCD prospectus highlighted the debates in the field, and aimed for programming flexibility to respond to these debates.

The broad nature of the peace and conflict field, however, and the modest resources of the PCD team, necessitates a degree of focus to maximize the program’s potential to positively influence scholarly and policy debates. The need for focus does not necessarily mean narrowing emphasis to one or two clearly defined substantive issues. Focus, for the PCD team, would emanate from several sources: a clearly articulated theory of change, an identification of PCD’s specific value-added or niche with a realistic assessment of its resources, clearly defined strategies for achieving program objectives, and a sustained reflexive process on the program’s achievements and challenges.

PCD’s approach to encouraging more rigorous southern-generated research on peace and conflict issues feed into broader developments in the field that increasingly recognize limitations of top-down interventions. A growing emphasis in the peacebuilding field on local priorities,
contexts, and dynamics in conflict-affected countries will support demand for this kind of research.

1 PCD’s staff varied between five and seven Full-Time Equivalent, including a program assistant; a research officer; and two to three Program Officers work only part-time for the PCD team. The PCD team also hires a research intern and a half-time summer student (split with another PI). Its yearly budget for 2005-2009 was $5 - 6.4 million per annum, while the 2009-2010 budget is $3.0 million (IDRC programming budgets have been reduced in the current fiscal year). PCD supports between 18 and 25 projects per fiscal year, at an average project size of CAD $325,000. Over 90% of its budget supports Research Projects (RPs), while the remaining funds goes to Research Support Projects (RSPs): workshops, evaluations, funds for dissemination, funds for a pre-project development phase, training.

2 In 2009: Emma Naughton on remittances; Navsharan Singh on psycho-social approaches to trauma; Njeri Karuru on capacity building; Markus Gottsbacher on public insecurity and security sector reform; and Gerd Schönwälder on democracy and conflict (prior to his departure from the PCD team in February 2009)

3 In particular, the “New Directions in Security Sector Reform” workshop (103183)


5 Four themes by percentage of PCD budget, April 2005-Sept. 2009: Democratic Processes in Governance and Peacebuilding - 32.6%; Violence, Trauma, Justice and Reconciliation - 29.1%; Political Economy of Peace and Conflict - 13.5%; Security and Insecurity - 19%; Cross-cutting - 5.9%

6 Democratization and Peacebuilding concept note, Gerd Schönwälder; project 104936: http://irims.idrc.ca/irims/ViewDocument.asp?Key=PPB+232%2D01%2D01%2D104936+UNC+174509

7 The four winning proposals for the Democratization and Peacebuilding competition (104936) can be viewed here: http://irims.idrc.ca/irims/ViewDocument.asp?Key=PPB+232%2D01%2D02%2D104936+UNC+174536

8 The first on PCD-supported research in Guatemala: http://irims.idrc.ca/irims/ViewDocument.asp?Key=PPB+232%2D01%2D01%2D103183+UNC+119318; the second on PCD-supported research in Africa: http://irims.idrc.ca/irims/ViewDocument.asp?Key=PPB+232%2D01%2D103183+UNC+119319


12 Internal concept note: http://irims.idrc.ca/irims/ViewDocument.asp?Key=PPB+232%2D01%2D02%2D102736+UNC+173905; Call for proposals: http://irims.idrc.ca/irims/ViewDocument.asp?Key=PPB+232%2D01%2D02%2D102736+UNC+173906

13 In 1996, programming was focused in six countries: South Africa, Angola, Mozambique, Eritrea, Palestine and Cambodia. Seventy percent of funds went to African programming. Cambodia and Eritrea were dropped during the first prospectus period because of external political and internal human resources constraints, and Guatemala was added.

14 It was difficult for PBR to find a niche when a country switched its focus from peace processes to development-writ-large (such as South Africa) or when a peace process was stalled (as in Darfur). In addition, while PBR-supported partners produced interesting, context-specific research, the emphasis on peacebuilding processes was difficult to transfer to new settings.

15 Southern Africa, Middle East and Central America.

PCD’s regional spread between 2005 and September 2009 was spread out as follows: Latin America 15.2%; Middle East and North America 18.6%; South Asia 8.8%; Africa: 22.9%; and Global 34.5%.

Regional consultations: December 2005 in South Asia (Chandigarh); February 2006 in East Africa (Nairobi); February 2008 in the Middle East (Cairo); June 2009 in Latin America (Rio de Janeiro).

http://irims.idrc.ca/irims/viewDocument.asp?Key=SECR+121%2D04%2D25+UNC+29694

“Immersion Program on Peace, Violence and Development” (104807) in South Asia; “Building Peace and Security Research Capacity in Eastern Africa” (104617)

PCD Prospectus, p. 38.

http://irims.idrc.ca/irims/viewDocument.asp?Key=SECR+121%2D04%2D25+UNC+29694


For example, the “Democratization and Peacebuilding” competition (104936) was initiated by the former program leader who wrote the concept note, launched the call for concept notes, and oversaw the project selection process. The four winning projects were then handed over to a program officer who joined the team in May 2008, but who left eight months later. It was then passed along to the Director, who left IDRC as well. Project monitoring continues on a case-by-case basis, as program officers travel to the countries where the lead researchers are based. However, one of the objectives of the competition was to create opportunities for regionally-dispersed researchers from the four projects to exchange ideas on their research processes and findings; the realization of this objective has so far been hampered by staff turnover.


Ibid: pg. 3-6.


Ibid: pg. 5.

Ibid: pg. 6


Ibid: pg. 3-5.


Ibid: pg. 1-2, 8.


“The Institute for Migration Studies at the Lebanese American University – Beirut, Lebanon concerning the IDRC-funded project entitled: *Home Politics Abroad: The Role of the Lebanese Diaspora in Conflict, Peace Building andDemocratic Development*”: pg. 1-2. 


Ibid: pg. 1.


Ibid.

“Ibid.”


Ibid: pg. 3-4. *See also project Bulletins for more information on some of these issues*


Ibid.

“A Regional Gender and Generational Analysis of Armed Conflict, Peace and Justice Processes, and Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration: Northern Uganda, Eastern Uganda, and South Sudan” by Dr. Dyan Mazurana et al., *Report Submitted to IDRC* (June 2008): pg. 8, 12.


Ibid.


Ibid.


Ibid: pg. 3

Ibid: pg. 1, 28-29.

Ibid: pg. 3, 24, 28


Ibid: pg. 7.

For more information on the emergence of SSR as a major peace and security research theme, see the “OECD-DAC Handbook on SSR: Supporting Security and Justice”, which can be downloaded here: http://www.oecd.org/document/6/0,3343,en_2649_33693550_37417926_1_1_1_1,00.html

Ibid: pg. 1, 28-29.

Ibid: pg. 3, 24, 28

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Ibid: pg. 7.
This workshop included nine presenters from both northern and southern institutions like the Centre for International Policy, the Instituto de Esenanza para el Desarrollo Sostenible (IEPADES), the Institute for Comparative Studies and Criminal Law in Guatemala, Africa Security Dialogue and Research and the Global Facilitation Network for Security Sector Reform (among others). More information on this conference can be found at:


Website of the Arab Reform Initiative: http://arab-reform.net/

Website of the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies: http://www.ipcs.org/


See “Security Sector Reform (SSR) in the Arab Region: Workshop/June 12-23, 2006/Amman-Jordan” by the Centre for Strategic Studies (CSS) – Minutes: pg. 13 or the ARI “Narrative Report” by Nasma Haidar.


“Security and Peace from Above and Below: The Regional Working Group” by Allan de los Reyes, Global Consortium on Security Transformation E-Bulletin No. 2 (May 2009). This bulletin can be found at:

http://www.securitytransformation.org/ebulletin.php

“TRANISITONAL JUSTICE Approaches” by the International Centre for TRANISITONAL JUSTICE (2009)

http://www.ictranisitonaljustice.org/en/transitionaljustice


http://www.socialsciences.uottawa.ca/cpei-cips/eng/policybriefs.asp#transitional justice

Ibid.

“TRANISITONAL JUSTICE Approaches” by the International Centre for TRANISITONAL JUSTICE (2009)

http://www.ictranisitonaljustice.org/en/transitionaljustice


www.idea.int/publications/reconciliation/.../reconciliation_full.pdf

Ibid.

PCD Prospectus, p. 29

http://irims.idrc.ca/irims/ViewDocument.asp?Key=SECR+121%2D04%2D25+UNC+29694

Website of the International Center for TRANISITONAL JUSTICE: <www.ictranisitonaljustice.org>. It should be noted that PCD’s funding is mostly for research projects undertaken by the ICTRANISITONAL JUSTICE’s Research Unit: http://www.ictranisitonaljustice.org/en/research/projects/research/index.html


http://www.cambridge.org/uk/catalogue/catalogue.asp?isbn=9780521517928

See Final Technical Report,

http://irims.idrc.ca/ViewDocument.asp?Key=PPB+232%2D01%2D02%2D102865+UNC+180528


Queens University and ICPH funded the first two phases of Palestinian Adolescents Coping with Trauma by the Institute of Community and Public Health, Birzeit University, (2004). http://irims.idrc.ca/getDocument.asp?documentNumber=146230


See website for the Africa Peace and Conflict Journal: http://www.apcj.upeace.org/

Key issues discussed in APCJ include: evaluating non-violent strategies for conflict resolution, giving voice to “indigenous” actors and their ideas on peacebuilding, and promoting different forms of reconciliation (especially related to trauma and different approaches to promoting healing amongst the victims of conflict). Notably, the journal uses gender as a cross-cutting issue to examine various topics.

See website http://www.aupeace.org/publications/peacedev_journal


The International Journal of Transitional Justice discusses a number of TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE-related issues including the functioning of truth commissions, the applicability of international human rights law to various country contexts, the implementation of national and international prosecution regimes for perpetrators, the repatriation of ex-combatants and the value of different types of institutional reforms that could be used to enhance the accountability of national justice systems.


Portal Website: http://www.justiciayreparaciones.org

“The Peacebuilding Roundtable: Bringing Research Perspectives to Inform the UN’s Peacebuilding Work” – Project Concept Note (second draft)

PCD Prospectus, p.20 http://irims.idrc.ca/irims/ViewDocument.asp?Key=SECR+121%2D04%2D25+UNC+29694

Information on these workshops can be found at: http://www.upeace.org/search/results.cfm


See “African TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE Network Evaluation Report”, which can be accessed at:


See United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325:


Project Completion Report, by Colleen Duggan, IDRC.