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2 February 2011 Volume 4 Issue 1

## In this issue

- Welcome to the CDA Newsletter!
- Director's Note
- What We're Learning
- What We've Done
- On the Horizon

## Welcome to the CDA Newsletter!

CDA Collaborative Learning Projects is a non-profit organization committed to improving the effectiveness of international actors who provide humanitarian assistance, engage in peace practice, and are involved in supporting sustainable development. For more information on who we are and what we do, please visit our [website](#) and [staff directory](#).

## Announcements

### New Reports and Publications!

#### New Listening Project Drafts

- [The Listening Project and Development Effectiveness](#) (Feb 2011)
- [The Listening Project and Good Humanitarian Donorship](#) (Feb 2011)

#### Reflecting on Peace Practice Cumulative Cases

- [Liberia](#) (June 2010)
- [Mindanao](#) (June 2010)
- [Solomon Islands](#) (December 2009)
- [Somalia](#) (December 2008)

#### Do No Harm Reflective Cases

- [Mindanao, Philippines](#) (March 2010)
- [Cambodia](#) (April 2010)
- [South Sudan](#) (Summer 2009)
- [Afghanistan](#) (August 2006)

#### DNH Guidance Notes and Occasional Papers

- [Gender and Do No Harm](#) (November 2010)
- [Aid in Abyei](#) (July 2009)

## Director's Note

Hello and welcome to 2011. It promises to be another exciting year for CDA with a number of important events.

In mid-year, the Listening Project will produce a synthesis report from over 6,000 interviews in twenty countries about their perceptions and ideas on the effectiveness of international assistance. There has been much interest in both the listening methodology employed by the project and the findings themselves and we also anticipate that the findings will be informative for delegates to the 4th High Level Forum on Development Effectiveness in November. The Steps Towards Conflict Prevention Project (STEPS) will also publish a final report of observations in fourteen communities that have managed to avoid being caught up in conflict even as it raged around them.

Keep an eye on later editions of this newsletter and the [CDA website](#) for further details of these publications.

Of course, all of our work is dependent on the generosity of our donors. We are all aware of the constraints on budgets of most donors as a result of the global financial crisis. Several donors have reiterated their support for CDA with financial contributions to our work and I take this opportunity to express gratitude to these donors for their support. It is extremely gratifying that CDA has been able to shore up our support base in these times.

However, CDA's reputation does not rest solely on these financial commitments. Many of the readers of this newsletter



## Corporate Engagement Community Perspective Reports

- [Afghanistan](#) (September 2010)
- [Colombia](#) (August 2010)

## Recent Trainings

### RPP Introductory Trainings

- **Cambridge, MA.** Hosted at the Mercy Corps Cambridge offices; most participants were from Boston area organizations. (December 2010)
- **Washington, D.C.** Hosted at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR) in Arlington, VA; most participants were from the D.C. area. (Jan 2011)

**DNH Training at University of Massachusetts-Boston** Marshall and colleague John Moore held a DNH training for local students and professionals. (November 2010)

**CEP Training for Kinross Mining, Community Relations Workshop, Toronto** Dost presented a full day training course on Getting it Right in community relations and social investment strategies for Kinross site management staff. (November 2010)

**Talisman Energy, Corporate Affairs Global Workshop** Dost presented a training module on company-community engagement and analysis tools for company impacts on communities. (October 2010)

## CDA Online Discussion Sites

**Check out** the [CDA Facebook page](#) and [DNH Facebook page](#) to get updates on CDA activities and share your comments, questions and feedback!

are also ardent supporters of CDA – in spirit, in kind and through their intellectual contributions. On behalf of the Board and staff of CDA, I also want to extend a special thanks for this enduring support to our endeavors.

## What We're Learning

**Addressing or Neglecting “Unfinished Business”** In this Reflecting on Peace Practice Issue paper, “unfinished business” refers to the important conflict factors that persist after achievement of a ceasefire, a peace agreement, and one or more rounds of elections. The paper identifies a series of twenty types of unfinished business, sorted into five categories, and discusses the frequency and significance of these issues in the conflict contexts, particularly whether there is any open acknowledgement of the issues and whether the issue represents a threat of a relapse into renewed violence. [Addressing or Neglecting “Unfinished Business”](#) is an excerpt from a chapter for a forthcoming volume: Andrea Bartoli, Zachariah Mampilly, and Susan Allen Nan, eds. *Peacemaking: A Reference Guide*, Praeger, forthcoming 2011.

**The ABCs of Assistance: Actions, Behaviors and their Consequences** From Do No Harm, [The ABCs of Assistance](#) is a reframing and simplification of some lessons around Resource Transfers and Implicit Ethical Messages, key elements in the original DNH Framework.

**Dealing with Corruption** In every place visited by the Listening Project, people talked about the problems of corruption in their societies and in the provision of international assistance. They consistently described ways in which international assistance efforts were influenced by corrupt people or affected by corrupt practices. [Dealing with Corruption](#), the new Issue Paper, shares their insights on why corruption is prevalent in aid efforts and provides suggestions on what aid agencies can do to limit corrupt practices and to prevent their resources from being wasted or mismanaged.

## What We've Done

**Listening Project Impact Survey** LP has created an [online survey](#) to get feedback from those who have been involved in the LP on how their involvement has had an impact on their work and the work of their organization. The survey will remain open until February 10.

**US Agency for International Development/Office of Foreign Disasters Assistance Presentation** Dayna gave a brown bag presentation on LP findings at USAID/OFDA. (January 2011)

**Hauser Center Blog** Read

Dayna's ongoing series of posts on Harvard University's Hauser Center Blog: [Humanitarian & Development NGOs Domain](#). She is writing on the findings of the Listening Project and the impact of these findings on aid and development workers. The comments sections have been great. Join the discussion!

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**RPP Meetings**

- **“Sports and Peacebuilding Symposium”** Moderated by Diana in Washington, DC at USIP (October 2010)
  - **Workshop on Theories of Change and Conflict Management and Mitigation** Diana and Peter participated in this workshop at USAID in Washington, DC. (October 2010)
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**Read this!**

**The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right** by Atul Gawande

[Now available in paperback!](#)

We put our trust in experts, and as experts, people put their trust in us, to manage the information, tasks and activities necessary to work in complex systems. Yet, even the most expert among us misses things. We forget steps or we rush through simple tasks and overlook things. We have frameworks for project design and guidance for context analysis. Even with all that information, mistakes are made. We don't always use what we know because we know so much. The practical application of all that information can be overwhelming. In his latest book, [The Checklist Manifesto](#), surgeon Atul Gawande gets to the root of how things are missed and what measures we can take to avoid mistakes. The answer, it turns out, is simple: use a

**“Enhancing Leadership for Peacebuilding”, Switzerland**

Peter was a resource person for this Senior Level Peacebuilding Course sponsored by GCSP, Interpeace, UNITAR and the Swiss Foreign Ministry (PD IV). The participants were from Swiss government, UN agencies, EU departments, OSCE, and NGOs. (November 2010)

**Presentation at the AfP/3D Security Conference, Washington, DC** Peter attended the annual AfP meetings in Annapolis and presented on a panel on “Civil Society and US Government Relations in Conflict Affected Regions” in DC. (November 2010)

**RPP Presentation, Norway** Peter and Diana presented a two-day RPP introduction to Norad. (November 2010)

**Hauser Center Study Group** Isabella spoke to the Hauser Center's NGOs and Development Study Group at Harvard on LP findings. (November, 2010)

**Field Testing the *Understanding Conflict: Field Tool for Exploration*** CEP, World Vision Canada and The Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada continue to test the tool with five exploration companies in different regions of Canada, Latin America, and Africa. The March 2011 PDAC conference will include a workshop on the tool. The draft working version of the tool is [online](#).

**Conflict Prevention and Resolution Forum, Washington, DC at Johns Hopkins SAIS** Marshall and Dost participated as panel members at events in successive months, both sponsored by Search for Common Ground. Marshall spoke on the Conflict Sensitivity panel in October. More information and video of the event is available [online](#). Dost spoke on a panel about Business in Conflict Zones in November. More information and video of the event available [online](#). (October and November 2010)

**Alliance for Peacebuilding Conference, Annapolis, MD** Dost spoke for the Economics and Business Panel, which explored how corporate engagement, private sector development, economic development, microfinance, and livelihoods activities can promote peace. (November 2010)

**CEP Consultation** Participants from companies and industry associations attended this two-day consultation in Cambridge, MA. CEP received feedback from participants about new tools and next steps for the project. A consultation report/summary will soon be available on the CDA website. (October 2010)

**Institute for Human Rights and Business Working Session for the Green Flags Initiative working session, London** Dost presented on the preliminary findings of the CEP project, which will be incorporated into the business guidance being developed by the institute. (October 2010)

**“Community Perspectives on the Business Responsibility to Respect Human Rights in Countries Affected or Threatened by Violent Conflict”** CEP is working

checklist.

### **Top 10 Business and Human Rights issues for 2011 – Institute for Human Rights and Business**

The [Institute for Human Rights and Business \(IHRB\)](#) is dedicated to being a global center of excellence and expertise on the relationship between business and internationally proclaimed human rights standards. The Institute works to raise corporate standards and strengthen public policy to ensure that the activities of companies do not contribute to human rights abuses, and in fact lead to positive outcomes. Read their list of [Top 10 Business and Human Rights Issues for 2011](#).

### **Medical Peace Work online courses**

Our friend Klaus Melf sends word that the 2011 [Medical Peace Work](#) courses are online and available. The course topics are: Health workers, conflict and peace; Medicine, health and human rights; War, weapons and conflict strategies; Structural violence & root causes of violent conflict; Peace through Health in violent conflict; Refugee and migration challenges; Prevention of interpersonal and self-directed violence.

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with the Institute for Human Rights and Business and local partners to write reports on this study based on interviews with communities in Colombia, Mindanao, Philippines, Sudan, and Afghanistan. The final report in progress and will be announced in a future Newsletter.

## **On the Horizon**

**CEP Northern Ontario Visit** Noront Resources is one of five companies field testing the "Understanding Conflict" Tool. A visit to their operations site will include meetings with the company and community members to assess the use of the tool. (February 2011)

**CEP Peru Visit** CEP will also visit the IAMGOLD Peru site (March 2011)

**Article for Humanitarian Exchange Magazine** Dayna will write an article on what LP has heard regarding partnerships for the [Humanitarian Exchange Magazine](#) published by the Humanitarian Practice Network. (January 2011)

**DNH Training** Marshall will facilitate a one day DNH training for students at Clark University in Worcester, MA (February, 2011)

**CEP Myanmar/Burma field visit** This visit will follow up and be the next in the series of CEP visits to Total operations in Myanmar/Burma. (March-April 2011)

**LP Australia Feedback Workshops** LP will hold feedback workshops in Australia hosted by AusAid and Oxfam Australia. (March 2011)

**Upcoming LP Issue Papers** New LP Issue papers on sustainability, conflict sensitivity and communication (Feb-Mar 2011).

**Two Chapters from RPP** Diana and Peter are drafting a chapter on "liberal peace" to be included in an edited volume and another Chapter for George Mason University/ICAR, which will present preliminary conclusions from the cumulative cases. Both are in process.

**RPP Core Group Meeting** RPP will hold a core group meeting to consider preliminary findings from the Cumulative Cases. (February 2011)

**RPP Feedback Workshops** RPP Issue Papers (forthcoming) will be used in multiple Feedback Workshops through the spring.

**Eastern Mennonite University Summer Peacebuilding Institute** Diana and Peter will present a course on "From Analysis to Strategy to Design: A Systems Perspective." Find out more and apply [online!](#) (May 17-29, 2011)

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**DNH Consultation** DNH is planning to hold a 3-day consultation in mid-June to discuss the findings and issue papers (forthcoming) that have come out of the Reflective Cases.

**World Conference on Humanitarian Studies: Changing Realities of Conflict and Crisis, Tufts University (Medford, MA)** Dayna will speak on a panel entitled "Why Do We Need to Listen and How Should Humanitarian Agencies Do it?" Visit the [World Conference on Humanitarian Studies](#) website for more information.

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