



COLLABORATIVE LEARNINGS

VOL II, ISSUE 2 (October 2009)

## Welcome to CDA's Quarterly Newsletter

CDA's Newsletter provides updates about our recent activities and publications, including reports on what the projects are learning *right now*. Most items have a link to a PDF document or a section on our website. If you do not want to receive this newsletter, click to UNSUBSCRIBE.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Mary retired this month.

We are grateful to her for all she has contributed to the field and for all that she taught us. We will miss her unfailing good humor and optimism. We will miss her sharp insights and challenging questions. We will miss her insisting that it is time for ice cream. She claims she is going to do "nothing". While we do not believe her, we wish her well!

CDA will continue to work for the world Mary envisioned. We will continue to stand for evidence-based analysis through collaborative learning. We will continue to listen to you, our friends and colleagues around the world, as Mary did.

Steve Darvill will begin as Executive Director of CDA on February 1. Until then, Diana will be our Interim Executive Director.

## HIGHLIGHTED PAPER

### "A Distinction with a Difference: Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding"

*Are peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity the same thing? Different but related? Completely separate?* Increasingly, practitioners and policy makers give different - and often opposing - answers to these questions. Experience shows that conflating the two concepts *or* treating them as entirely distinct and unrelated, results in poorly conceived programming and reduces effectiveness. This [article](#) examines the damage done by this conceptual confusion, and proposes some ways to distinguish peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity that, evidence suggests, may lead to more effective peacebuilding and conflict sensitive practice.

## WHAT WE ARE LEARNING

### ISSUES

In this section, we include the identification and brief exploration of *issues*, thoughts on *training* or *methodology*, announcements of new *project concepts*, etc. While most of the items here are "first drafts"

of learnings and only tentative, we feel enough confidence in their findings that we want our friends and colleagues to test them against their own experiences.

**Do No Harm and Peacebuilding** This [paper](#) presents five lessons from the DNH Reflective Case Studies about how practitioners use DNH in peacebuilding work. It was originally presented by Nicole as a speech in Bogota, Colombia on September 17, 2009.

**"Listening to the Experiences of the Long-term Displaced"** The Listening Project published this [article](#) in *Forced Migration Review* (FMR 33, September 2009). The article offers insights from people who have lived in protracted displacement situations, based on evidence gathered during listening exercises in Angola, Bosnia, Cambodia, Kenya, Kosovo, Sri Lanka, and on the Thai-Burma border.

**"Techniques for Assessing Programmatic Results: Social Performance Indicators"** This [paper](#) from CEP presents thoughts on the linkages from social performance indicators in the private sector to the public sector's ability to accurately assess programmatic results.

## WHAT WE'RE DOING

Where have we been and what have we written?

***Donors Conference*** In September, CDA hosted a conference for donors in Cambridge to explore issues arising from all of CDA's projects that impact the effectiveness of donor interactions.

Do No Harm has gone social: we're on [Facebook](#) and you can follow us on [Twitter](#) - CDA\_DoNoHarm. Or hashtag your DNH entries with #DNH and we'll find you!

## NEW REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

***Reflecting on Peace Practice in Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation*** RPP's article, "Systems Thinking and the Evaluation of Peacebuilding Programming," will be published in the forthcoming Handbook.

***Second DNH Trainer Survey*** The latest DNH trainer survey was sent out in September. If you have not yet completed the survey, please do so by December 15th. If you are a DNH trainer and did not receive the survey, please [contact us](#).

### ***DNH Reflective Case Studies Available Online***

- Somalia (December 2008)
- Afghanistan (August 2006)

### ***Listening Exercise Reports published and translated***

- Lebanon (May, July 2009) ([English](#)) (Arabic - forthcoming)
- Timor Leste (October 2008) ([English](#)) (Tetum - forthcoming)

## WHERE WE'VE BEEN

***Book Release for Acción Sin Daño, Spanish language translation of Do No Harm*** On September 17 and 18 the Universidad Nacional de Colombia hosted an event to debut the Spanish translation of Mary B. Anderson's book, *Do No Harm: How Aid Can Support Peace - Or War*. Please [contact us](#) if you would like to receive a copy in Spanish.

### ***DNH Consultations on the Reflective Case Studies***

- Bogota, Colombia (September 2009)
- Oslo, Norway (September 2009)
- Nairobi, Kenya (October 2009)

***Listening Exercise in Mindanao, Philippines*** (August 2009)

***Listening Exercise in Burma/Myanmar*** (August-September 2009)

***Listening Exercise in Solomon Islands*** (October 2009)

***LP Presentation in Toronto, Canada*** Dayna gave a presentation for the third annual meeting of the Faith-Based Organizations Forum. (October 2009)

***STEPS Feedback Workshop in Bogota, Colombia*** (September 2009)

***Review of Getting it Right Critical Resource*** [reviewed](#) CEP's book. *Getting it Right* is available for [purchase](#). (September 2009)

***CEP initial findings available from the exploratory trip to Ecuador*** (May 2009) ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))

***CEP Site Visit to the Ecuadorian mining company Ecuacorriente S.A.*** (August 2009)

***CEP visited Sakhalin Energy in Russia*** This visit is part of a pilot project to test the practical applicability of "Grievance Principles" that were developed as part of the mandate of the UN Special Representative on Business and Human Rights. (September 2009)

***CEP met with the Trade Minister of the Netherlands*** CEP presented its findings to date and discussed how these lessons can be used for Dutch companies operating abroad. (September 2009)

***CEP presentation at the 2009 Business for Social Responsibility Conference - Reset Economy. Reset World.*** Dost spoke at the working session "Corporate Stakeholder Engagement: Time to Evolve Our Language and Approach?" (October 2009)

### ***RPP Cumulative Impacts Case Study Visits***

- Mindanao (September 2009)
- Mozambique (October 2009)

- The Solomon Islands (October 2009)

***RPP Assessing UN Conflict Prevention Initiative*** RPP has begun an assessment of conflict prevention initiatives supported by UNDP Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery and the UN Framework Team for Conflict Prevention. As part this assessment, the RPP Co-Directors will be reviewing BCPR programs in Ghana, Ecuador and Kenya, and interviewing a range of UN staff and external observers.

## **ON THE HORIZON**

Upcoming project initiatives and trainings.

***DNH in Copenhagen*** January 22-25, Marshall will be at the conference "Global Response - Health and Violent Conflict in a Globalized World"

***Listening Exercise in Mali*** (November/December) [Let us know](#) if you or your colleagues are interested in participating!

***LP Feedback Workshops*** The LP plans to hold additional Feedback Workshops to help add to, nuance, develop, and improve the analysis of the evidence gathered to date. [Let us know](#) if you or your colleagues are interested in participating! Upcoming feedback workshops include

- Dakar
- Bamako
- Nairobi
- London
- Manila
- New York City
- Canberra
- Melbourne

***RPP systems thinking meeting with practitioners in Zurich, Switzerland in November.***

***RPP Consultation on the Cumulative Cases in Cambridge, Massachusetts (January 2010)***

***RPP Cumulative Case Study Visit to Liberia (early 2010)***

***RPP Cumulative Case Study Feedback Workshops (dates and locations TBA)***

***DNH in Liberia*** DNH will be working with the Peacebuilding Office of the Government of Liberia (November 2009)

***DNH Reflective Case Study Feedback Consultations (dates and locations TBA)***

**TRAININGS (Upcoming)**

***Are you organizing or hosting a DNH training in the coming year? [Let us know!](#)***

*RPP training in Oslo (November 2009) Oslo Development Forum*

*RPP-II (advanced) Training of Consultant/Advisors in Basel Switzerland (November 2009)*

*RPP in Bangkok* (December 2009) This session is specifically for AusAID master trainers.

*RPP-I Trainings in 2010 in Asia, North America, and West Africa*

*RPP-II Trainings in 2010 in Nairobi and Bujumbura* RPP-II trainings are follow up sessions for participants who attended RPP-I trainings . These sessions will include newly developed material on systems thinking.

## **READ THIS**

Sometimes we are really impressed by something we've read. And sometimes someone has written something about us or one of our tools, we would like to share that with you too.

*Fixing Failed States: A Framework for Rebuilding a Fractured World* by Ashraf Ghani and Clare Lockhart is a policy level analysis of this enterprise in which we are all engaged. While a lot of us are field level practitioners, we need to be attentive to how what we do fits into an overall strategic framework. This book is as important to us as it is to the Ministers. If you read one professional book this year, it must be this one. Then give your copy to your favorite (or least favorite!) politician and insist they read it too.

## **THANKS!**

Please check CDA's website for updated information. There are too many interesting things happening to fit them all in this brief newsletter. [www.cdainc.com](http://www.cdainc.com)