Case studies on the impact of local peacebuilding in conflict-affected countries worldwide

1.5 billion people live in countries affected by conflict.

Not one country affected by conflict has achieved any of the Millennium Development Goals.

40% of wars restart within 10 years of an official peace treaty.

Something is wrong with current global efforts to stop wars and start development in the poorest countries on earth.

Local First explores a new model for how this can be done: by putting local people first.

Written by seven international development agencies, Local First examines successful peacebuilding programmes that have been led by local people. It ranges across many aspects of preventing and resolving conflicts – from disarming rebels in DR Congo, to supporting small and medium enterprises in Afghanistan, from holding governments to account in Timor-Leste, to improving justice in Cambodia.

These issues reflect the World Bank’s World Development Report 2011, which identified as key priorities the improvement of security, justice and livelihoods in conflict zones.

“This book offers independent evidence of the effectiveness of peacebuilding when it is led by local people not outsiders. It reflects the findings of many organisations that believe in the power of local leadership.”

– Carolyn Hayman OBE, Peace Direct

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