

ICTD 2012 Open Session – The Role of ICTs in Post-Conflict Situations

- Date / time: Thursday 15 March, 2012; 4.00-5:30 pm (4th session of the day)
- Location: [Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center](#), Atlanta, USA room tba
- Session organizer: *infoDev* (www.infodiv.org), a Global Partnership of the World Bank
- For more information and registration, see: <http://ictd2012.org/>

Description of Session

Conflict, within and between countries, is a major cause and consequence of poverty. But conflicts do end, and the challenge then is to bring relief and stability quickly, through good governance matched with rising living standards, in order to create the right conditions for nation-building. Emerging successfully from conflict is fundamental to continued development success, and the wider development community is increasingly focused on making this a reality. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) can play an important role in that process. However, despite increasing use of ICTs during conflict, the ICT4D community is largely missing from the longer-term post-conflict discussion.

With the support of UKaid, *infoDev*, a division of the World Bank, is currently researching the role of ICTs in post-conflict situations. The study will serve as the first large-scale comparative analysis of the role that ICT plays in countries emerging from conflict. It will serve to raise awareness of the benefits of prioritizing ICT initiatives in reconstruction, stimulate discussion on the principles and priorities for policymakers and donors, and identify the role of information in post-conflict development and social cohesion. The input case studies, which will largely be completed by March 2012, cover Timor-Leste, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Rwanda, Liberia, and Tunisia. Thereafter, it is planned to develop a high-level policy framework that distills the lessons from those countries.

This study and workshop will serve to build momentum towards a broader research agenda and engagement on this key development issue. This proposed session would provide a first opportunity for critical review of the input studies and will help shape the policy framework. It will take the form of a workshop to discuss the case studies and to draw lessons from them, drawing upon audience interaction. The researchers will be able to explain the insights from their time in-country.

Panel

- Tim Kelly, Lead ICT Policy Specialist at *infoDev* (moderator)
- Prof. Michael Best, Georgia Tech, on the Liberia case study
- Prof. Rohan Samarajiva, founding CEO of LIRNEasia, on the Sri Lanka case study
- Zack Brisson, Principal of Reboot, on the Tunisia case study
- Prof. Colin Maclay, Managing Director of the Berkman Center at Harvard University (commentator, invited, tbc)
- Heather Leson, Director Community of Engagement, Ushahidi