FROM UN PEACEKEEPING TO PEACE OPERATIONS & BACK TO PEACEBUILDING DILEMMAS

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Objectives of the presentation

- To briefly discuss peacekeeping as a tool of the international community in conflict situations

- Its evolution in concept, practice and context - from traditional peacekeeping to peace support operations

- To discuss how inadequacies in peacekeeping triggered the development of the concept of peacebuilding

- Highlight some of notable dilemmas that international peacebuilding effort encounter in the face of continued humanitarian crisis & political uncertainty in conflict ravaged societies

Introduction

➤ Attending to large scale conflict is like attending to urgent medical case that demands protecting the patient from further infections through treatment to achieve healing

➤ The external effort of keeping parties to the conflict physically apart from each other is referred to as peacekeeping

➤ While efforts to diminish hostilities, transform mistrust & fears to produce positive relations between people and their communities is called peacebuilding

➤ The complexity in nature, in causes & resolution of civil wars makes peacebuilding not an easy enterprise, with isolated cases of success – Mozambique, Sierra Leone, East Timor etc

Evolution of Peacekeeping

- Evolved around the birth of the United Nations in the aftermath of WW2
- Offering cease-fire monitoring, buffer zones, plenary administration of countries emerging from war
- During this period peace was understood to mean reduction of violence, which Johan Galtung referred to *as tendency to focus on direct rather structural violence*
- It was meant to keep 'negative peace' beneficial to external actors rather than local people

Characteristics of Peacekeeping Missions

- Designed within a single political order – UN Charter (chapter 6 or 7)
- In theory, it claims impartiality to the conflict – no political interest to either side
- Neutral by not judging any party to the conflict as to constitute a threat to international peace
- Drawing authority from consent of host state, a sharp contradiction to humanitarian imperative
- In post – conflict reconstruction paradigm, peacekeeping aids peacebuilding as stage setters

Peace Support Operations

➤ Emerged in the 1990s with reconceptualization of the meaning of peace within the parameters of the UN authority and mandate

➤ Peace meant to lie in the structures that facilitated social – re-engineering of war shattered societies

➤ That peace therefore, would be achieved through reconstructed social structures and processes

➤ It includes delivering basic security, peace dividends, confidence building in political effort, strengthening national capacity to lead the recovery process (source: UN report June 1009)

➤ These pillars of new thinking in peacebuilding, created an evolution of actors in conflict zones – UN, donors, INGOs etc

➤ Illustrates the extent to which peacebuilding has been sub-contracted / privatized

What is Peacebuilding?

- Peacebuilding is an action that identifies and supports structures that tend to strengthen and solidify peace in order to avoid {re}lapse into conflict (UN SG Agenda for Peace, 1992)

- The crafting of the concept highlights other dimensions to peacebuilding process – *conflict prevention, local ownership, self sustaining peace*

- It is a process to be implemented within the constraints of localized ownership , supported by international community, for self sustaining peace

- In scenarios of violent conflicts, peacebuilding is, at least aided by peacekeeping / peace support operations

Peacebuilding Dilemmas

Despite knowing what constitutes peace, the process of achieving it posses numerous challenges emanating from:

- Contemporary peace operations that are modelled on universal liberal interventionism which is not negotiable & gives less attention to how peace should be seen from the perspective of local population

- The model is designed to mirror peace from the binoculars of the international community

- Even sub-contracted agencies in peacebuilding process must be mediated by the western template which has gained global posture

Peacebuilding Dilemmas, cont'd

➢ The incompatibilities in goals and methods of achieving peace between peacebuilders and peacekeepers. Peacekeeping was designed to keep negative peace (absence of violence) while peacebuilding seeks to create conditions for achieving positive peace in entire affected community by addressing conditions that led or have potential to revert this community into violence.

➢ Peacekeeping is concerned with stabilization while peacebuilding focuses on transformation but each of them has the impetus to impact negatively on the other. This so because of UN intervention is normally a package containing mandates within mandates, ranging from protection of civilians to working with armed forces who may in fact perpetrators of human rights violations against civilians.

Peacebuilding Dilemmas, cont'd

➢ Lack of deliberate policy in involvement of women in peace process both as victims and active drivers of recovery process

➢ Counter - productive behavior of some major actors fragments international support for peacebuilding

➢ Lack of convertible timings and sequencing within the framework of recovery – security, livelihoods, land rights etc require urgent attention while electoral process can undermine a fragile peace if not handled carefully despite its importance in legitimizing political authority

Peacebuilding Dilemmas, cont'd

➢ The propensity of the international community to work with men in governance and economic affairs negatively exploiting positive gender relations gained by women during conflict
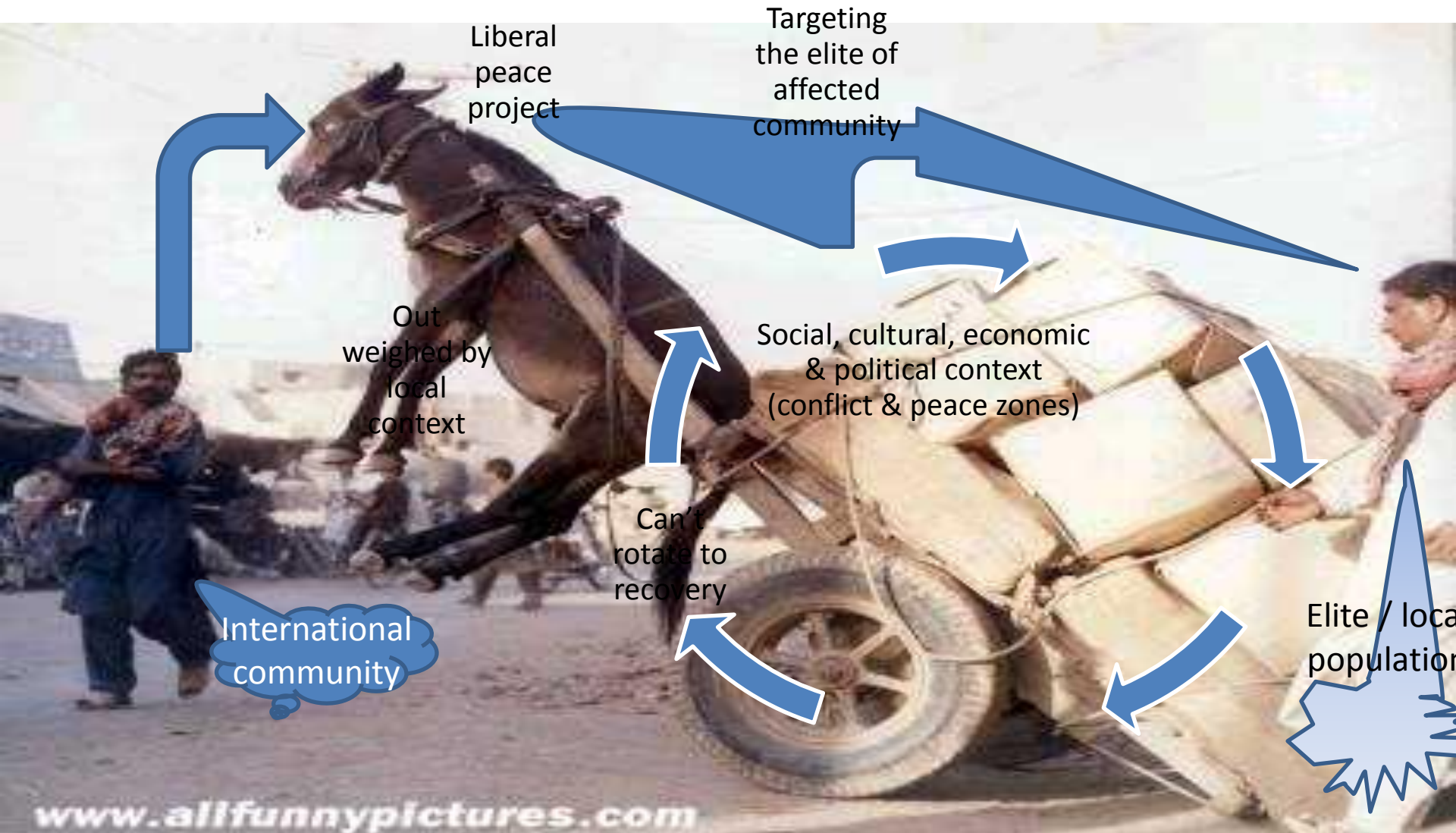
During armed
Conflict, women
head many HHs

Peacebuilding Dilemmas, cont'd

➢ Failure by the international community to pacify post conflict insecurity and political uncertainty through robust and inclusive peace process that can cultivate support from a broad section of the affected population

➢ Inadequate contextualization of the interlink of external effort and transformative wheels embedded within the constraints of social - political and economic setting of the affected community in order to bring multiple voices to peace consolidation table that ultimately broadens the sense of ownership around common vision

Conventional peacebuilding Vs Sustainable peace

Liberal peace project

Targeting the elite of affected community

Out weighed by local context

Social, cultural, economic & political context (conflict & peace zones)

Can't rotate to recovery

International community

Elite / local population

www.allfunnypictures.com

Way forward????

Peace rests on people themselves, their will and capacity and is a word that carries a meaning in the context in which it is being used. Just as this!!!!!

Thank You!