

Introduction to Land Rights in Conflict

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1 November 2011



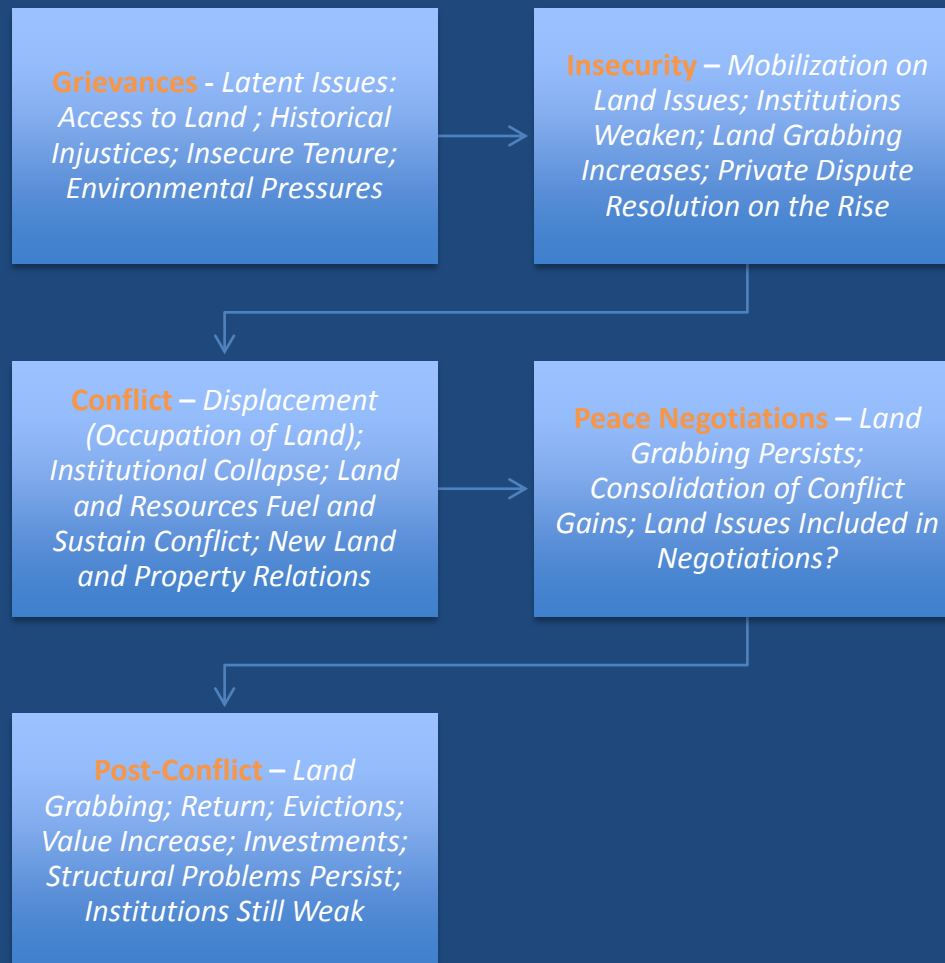
SOITM

Scale: 1:5,000



Conflict Cycle

Connections between Conflict and Land



Conflict Cycle

Connections between Conflict and Land

- Land is not only an issue in conflict, also relevant in transitional and post-natural disaster contexts;
- Land frequently plays a role in micro-level tensions and conflicts, which can feed into macro-level violence and conflict
- Conflict cycle presentation is to some extent misleading: many structural issues persist throughout all phases, clean breaks are rare;
- After conflict: communities and individuals do not wait for local or international “outsiders” to develop “coping mechanisms” and tailored solutions;
- Land issues do not affect all equally: vulnerable groups and individuals invariably suffer the most before, during and after conflict.

Conflict and Land

Common Post-Conflict Challenges

- Competing land claims that accompany “peace dividend”:
 - Return of displaced persons, refugees and ex-combatants;
 - Secondary occupancy and abandoned land;
 - Depleted housing stock and livelihood challenges;
 - (Post-)conflict urbanisation; and
 - Mined land
- Structural land issues that require broad legal, policy and institutional reform;
- Land management institutions and dispute resolution mechanisms require strengthening or overhaul; and
- Strong pressures to act quickly: humanitarian imperatives; population expectations; political drivers

Conflict and Land

International Engagement

- Direct engagement:
 - a history of reluctance to engage due to perceived or real complexity; political sensitivity; and lack of awareness;
 - past few years have seen an upsurge of interest within the international system in conflict and land and natural resources;
 - programming is increasing, but land remains a sector where gaps in international responses and awareness are acute.
- Indirect engagement:
 - many international assistance activities, humanitarian or otherwise, have a profound impact on local land relations;
 - lack of awareness and phenomenon of shifting responsibilities for medium- and longer-term impact elsewhere persists;
 - “do no harm” and self-interested pragmatism both plead for up-front recognition and integration of land-related impacts

Conflict and Land

International Engagement - Lessons Learned

- Inter-sectorial nature of land issues poses a coordination challenge at both national and international level which needs to be tackled early on;
- Land needs to be integrated in conflict analysis and impact assessments, and land interventions need to integrate conflict impact assessments;
- Local context is central, and “practicability” needs to be a central concern: grand schemes and plans often do not work (but sometimes can);
- Technical support isolated from political engagement may not work: usually an integral approach is required; and
- Ignoring land issues that have the potential to undermine peace-building or reignite conflict is seldom a good idea.