



SPICE

Securing Peace In Crisis Environments

Crisis Prevention and Conflict Transformation

Small Arms Control

Security Sector Reform



Newsletter 4/2003 (July/August)

Dear reader,

this edition of the SPICE newsletter will focus on small arms control. Amongst other things, you will be informed about the second UN conference on small arms control held in New York, and on the options for development cooperation to curb uncontrolled proliferation and misuse of small arms, taking Angola as an example. A book review, together with a summary of the results of the "Kids and Guns" workshop at the Eschborn Dialogue 2003, will provide further information on this key topic.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and, as always, we look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions.

**Best wishes from
your SPICE team**



Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH

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▶ Small Arms Control

International Conference on Small Arms Control: Something really is happening...

From 7 to 11 July 2003, the UN First Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action was held in New York.

The UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (disarmament.un.org/cab/poa.html) is now two years old. Reason enough to look out for its first impacts.

When the United Nations convened a conference of all states to discuss small arms control in mid-2001, expectations were high. Following the success of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, many observers assumed that the civilised members of the international community would also be able to agree on stricter rules for the production and distribution of small arms. It was a sobering moment when influential states such as the USA and China, for quite different reasons, took the position that they wished to avoid legally binding rules on the uncontrolled transfer of small arms. After the first conference it was primarily European donors and Japan that had provided funding for implementation of the non-binding UN Programme of Action. Germany is making a significant contribution through the GTZ-based project "Development Cooperation and Small Arms Control (decosac)" commissioned by BMZ (German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development).

It had been agreed that implementation would be reviewed every two years. So it was that in New York around 100 states met to report on their national programmes to control the illegal transfer and misuse of small arms. It quickly became clear that, for most states, small arms control has become a serious human security issue. Although the international declarations are not legally binding, almost 90 states have established National Focal Points responsible for coordinating legislation, weapons destruction and arms control. The transition from the multilateral declarations to detailed national programmes is also reflected in the

broad range of measures, most of which are driven by domestic policy considerations.

The reports presented by African states were unequivocal. They focused on the struggle against illegal arms transfers from civil wars, and on how to tackle the problem of child soldiers. Since small arms are being smuggled from one flashpoint to another and then sold, African regional organisations (ECOWAS, SADC, EAC) are now becoming involved in small arms control. In Latin America, programmes focus on urban violence and drug-related crime. The OSCE states are trying to develop a joint framework for the control of war weapons. Through its Federal Foreign Office, Germany is involved in developing best practices with which the OSCE members in future intend to regulate the arms trade and to mark weapons. Marking and tracing is designed to allow improved monitoring of compliance with export controls.

No doubt there are several reasons why small arms control has become an issue in many countries, without international political pressure having been applied. In many countries, including the USA, the new security debate that emerged in response to the events of the 11th of September 2001 has generated various attitudes to the control of small arms and light weapons. The USA for instance is now also pressing for restrictions on the sale of man-portable air defence systems (ManPADS) to non-governmental actors. The war on terrorism is also the context in which small arms control is being pursued by the state in many smaller, crisis-prone countries.

In very many countries of Africa and Latin America, aspects of the small arms control debate have been placed on the agenda by human rights groups, peace initiatives and specialised NGOs. Small arms control has become a point of crystallisation in campaigns for improved community security, peace education in schools, campaigns against domestic violence, as well as campaigns for improved monitoring of the armed forces and militias. This was also the context in which the NGO network International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) then presented the only report on implementation of the UN recommendations.

This UN conference was not about adopting resolutions or new recommendations. What did emerge clearly was that the issues are becoming more complex. Agreements on export control and weapons marking can only

be effective if and when they are introduced by the major producing countries on a legally binding basis. It is therefore important that the UN Programme of Action be complemented by negotiations on binding standards. In the future, the organisations pressing for small arms control for development intend to link the issue more closely to poverty reduction programmes and the Millennium Development Goals. To this end, DFID and UNDP have prepared thematic inputs. In the future, many international NGOs intend to invest more in the training of local NGO staff. In many countries there is also considerable scope for capacity building within interior ministries and police forces, to help facilitate both the efficient planning of national programmes and their implementation in accordance with the rule of law.

There is still a great deal to do. The next UN small arms conference will take place in 2005.

Further information on the conference is available at:

<http://www.gtz.de/smallarms/english/aktuelles.html>

Colin Gleichmann
Programme Manager decosac

Development Cooperation and Small Arms Control: A Project Example in Angola

"For every situation we have the counter-measure"

Vitali Klitschko after his fight against Lewis

Nobody would describe the options open to development cooperation in quite such categorical terms, and certainly not its options for influencing crisis or conflict situations. The means available to Technical Cooperation (TC) to generate impacts are limited. This also applies to development-oriented attempts to stem the uncontrolled proliferation and misuse of small arms. Nonetheless, the fact that significant inputs can still be provided within the scope of development cooperation is demonstrated by the example of Angola.

Since December 2002, decosac has been supporting the Angolan NGO "Angola 2000". Established in 1999, the NGO has since been actively involved in the peace process. The ceasefire of April 2002 created circumstances more conducive to its work. The small arms problem has become more and more evident, especially to the Angolans themselves. Fear of rising crime is an important factor here. At the

same time, the successful continuation of the peace process as a whole will depend on a solution to the small arms problem being found.

What are the "counter-measures" now being applied by Angola 2000? At the national level, Angola 2000 is raising decision-makers' awareness of the small arms issue. In doing so it aims to encourage the decision-makers to launch countrywide measures or to improve existing measures. Examples of such measures include the creation or optimisation of arms legislation, the countrywide registration of weapons, or – and this is a declared goal of Angola 2000 – the preparation of a comprehensive national action plan. At the local level, the NGO's work aims to raise public awareness of the problem. To this end, household surveys are being conducted in three provinces. These measures are designed to survey the public's assessment of the peace process and the security situation, their subjective feeling of safety, their access to weapons, and the link between small arms proliferation and crime on the one hand, and Angola's economic and social development on the other. Through these surveys the NGO is able to kill two birds with one stone: First of all the survey results will make its future work much easier. Secondly, the surveyed population will be made more aware of the problem, thus laying the foundations for political dialogue.

What are the results so far?

At least since the ceasefire of April 2002, interest in building a lasting peace in Angola has been mounting. This bodes well for the work of Angola 2002. Under these favourable circumstances, the NGO has already succeeded in helping boost national dialogue. Small arms control is now high on the agenda both in the media and in the political arena. The wheels have also been set in motion at the local level. Cooperation with the police force at the local level has worked well, for instance. The police in particular are directly affected by the problems resulting from the uncontrolled proliferation and misuse of small arms.

The involvement of local civil society initiatives has once again proved key to the sustainability of development cooperation interventions. There is further potential for capacity building here. Without well trained local personnel, it is very difficult for processes to be sustained, making achievement of their long-term objectives very difficult. Sustainability requires

local expertise and ownership. Otherwise positive initiatives, such as the work performed by Angola 2000 in the provinces, may eventually peter out. In turn, these necessary conditions for sustainability can only be met if and when adequate financial and human resources are available.

The results of the surveys have been published in: Rocha, John und Jefferson, Clare 2003: Small arms and light weapons: perspectives for peace, security and development (ISBN 0958465045).

Christine Rosenbrock
decosac

Book Review: A History of People and Weapons

Jürgen Grässlin, a leading arms control campaigner and critical shareholder, has written a book about small arms. Three books in one, actually. One book about a family in Somaliland, one book about a Kurdish teacher in Turkey, and one book about the Swabian company Heckler & Koch. The common denominator is the G3.

The G3 rifle is the most widely distributed automatic small arm manufactured in Germany. The author estimates that between 7 and 10 million pieces are in circulation worldwide. Only the Russian AK-74 and the Israeli Uzi exceed that figure.

Circulation is an innocuous term for what the international agreements refer to as the uncontrolled proliferation and misuse of small arms. Grässlin excels in tracing the convoluted paths of uncontrolled proliferation. He has already spent decades investigating the German arms industry and its links to other countries. He leaves no stone unturned. As in a company history, he notes changes in the top management, as well as modifications to the weapon types produced and licences granted to other countries.

German arms reach other countries through legal deliveries and licensing agreements. But what happens to the weapons? In answering this question, Grässlin goes one step further. He aims to "let the victims speak for themselves". He visits families whose relatives were killed by bullets fired from small arms. These family portraits are the most impressive part of the book. These are families attempting with all the strength they can muster to live in peace, and strive for human rights and

education. Yet they are doing so in the midst of war, and in "countries that don't appear on any map". And all around them – German guns that kill and cripple.

At this point, Grässlin omits certain details in his portrayal of the complexities of global trade. He devotes too little attention to the causes of the conflicts in the societies described, and the sheer scale of the violence employed. Though he is as knowledgeable when describing all the export permits and licences granted for the G3 as he is when describing the local arms market in Somaliland, the author then attempts to create a direct link between his readers and the victims. It is his belief that, if the production of weapons is "a moral issue", then we are also responsible for the lives of these victims. Yet surely this ought not to detract from the responsibility of those societies whose citizens and families make war on each other. This is the only path to solutions for peace, with or without arms. This is because, in the weapon culture that prevails in the Horn of Africa, peaceful co-existence is not yet possible without private gun ownership. Peace negotiations certainly are, though, as demonstrated by the positive steps taken recently at the Somali Peace Conference.

What the book does show, however, is that much can be done for small arms control and for the care of victims, if and when the required funds and initiative are in place. Local human rights organisations are given a say, and the work of German development cooperation in the context of these problems is described (GTZ, ViVo, BICC, BITS). In the Horn of Africa in particular, the importance of programmes for ex-combatants (GTZ) and persons traumatised by war (ViVo) clearly emerges.

Small arms control – including export control – is a key contribution to peace building. Impacts should only be expected in the long term, however. The last licences for the G3 rifle were granted more than 20 years ago. Yet production and illegal proliferation continue – with the known effects.

Jürgen Grässlin: *Versteck dich, wenn sie schießen.*
480 pages, plates, bound, € 19.90
Munich: Droemer, 2003

Colin Gleichmann
Programme Manager decosac

► Eschborn Dialogue 2003: Workshop Results

The two workshops on crisis prevention, conflict transformation and peace building held on June 18 within the scope of the Eschborn Dialogue 2003 were a complete success. There are plans to publish the workshop results in full. A brief summary of the results is given below.

Kids and Guns – Youth and Violence

Violence is fascinating – especially for children and youth. The game of power and subjection is as old as humankind itself. However, in many developing countries a violent environment has arisen in which development-oriented youth work is no longer possible. One factor leading to this situation is the uncontrolled availability of small arms.

The "Kids and Guns" workshop at this year's Eschborn Dialogue focused on instruments to stem armed violence among youth. A wealth of diverse expertise was brought to bear by scholars, development practitioners and youth workers as they debated various approaches for tackling armed violence among youth in developing countries.

"What do we put in young people's hands when we take their weapons away from them?"

Such were the pointed terms in which Peter Wetzels, professor of criminology at the University of Hamburg, phrased the key problem addressed by the workshop, which was moderated by Dr. Heribert Weiland of the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute. In Professor Wetzels' view, the conventional rationale put forward to explain youth violence – a combination of poverty, social deprivation and/or drug addiction – falls short of the mark. As he saw it, young people on the one hand engage in a violent display of their ability to defend themselves in order to avoid becoming victims of violence. On the other hand, male adolescents seek to protect their honour through acts of violence, and in so doing to "experience the thrill of the self".

In the experience of Sabena Donath, a conflict trainer in Germany, violence prevention above all means helping ensure that a young person does not experience the avoidance of violence as a loss of honour. In her view, young people need to be equipped with the skills to rise above becoming either perpetrator or victim. In

this context the youth coordinator of the police force in Frankfurt, Rolf-Dieter Baer, warned against harbouring any illusions. As he saw it, simply transferring ideals was not enough, because young people needed to deal with the harsh reality of life on the streets. There, young people can often only avoid becoming the victims of violence by themselves resorting to violence, he said.

Harnessing Positive Energy

Young people do possess positive energy and values. Jürgen Griesbeck of "street football world" emphasised that such energy simply needed to be channelled through appropriate activities such as football. In Medellín, Colombia, football is often the trigger for violence, with male players often feeling the need to prove themselves in front of female spectators. Violent behaviour can be positively influenced by forming mixed teams including at least two girls. The introduction of a further change to the rules, namely that a girl has to score the first goal, creates a positive team-building and training situation, said Griesbeck. He went on to point out that football can only provide the initial stimulus, which then needs to be supported by other structures.

Joana Ebbinghaus of the GTZ-supported "Crisis Prevention and the Promotion of Conflict Transformation Potentials" project in the Nusa Tenggara region in East Indonesia, reported that drama work could also be used as an instrument to resolve potential conflicts in rural regions. She indicated that young people were being given the skills to express their emotions and deal with them appropriately by placing their own reality on the stage. Also, she said, they can gain a voice in society through this creative process.

Referring to the "Conflict Transformation and Violence Prevention in Peri-urban Zones - Convivencia" project in Bogotá, Colombia, Oliver Lenze of the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau said that violence prevention could also be achieved by improving the residential environment. Through investment in municipal infrastructure such as parks and sports facilities, the social climate in peri-urban zones could be positively influenced, thus raising the threshold of violence, he said.

In the GTZ-supported "Peace and Development Project" in South African townships, young people appointed as

community peace workers are being given responsibility for public safety by their communities – and in cooperation with the police. Project leader Ulrich Burgmer reported that they patrol the township unarmed day and night, preventing or dealing with violent attacks. After one year's voluntary service, young people are offered the prospect of professional training.



Photo: Kathrin Lock

Evaluation Needs to be Improved

"Is every folk dance troupe now to be considered a violence prevention measure?" asked Professor Wetzels provocatively, touching on the sore point of the inadequate monitoring and evaluation methods of many violence prevention projects. He drew attention to the problem of crime that goes undetected or unrecorded in the statistics. He pointed out that this could lead to an inaccurate evaluation of actual trends in violent activity. Furthermore, he said, the complex causes of violence often meant a lack of appropriate indicators to demonstrate the link between project impacts and positive trends in violent activity. In Wetzels' view at least, a survey of the perpetrators and victims plus a comparison with a neutral control group would be absolutely essential for professional evaluation. Even where financial resources are scarce, he said, projects should from the outset be designed such that impact analysis is financially feasible.

Torge Kübler / Volker Anders
decosac

Children and Youth in Crises and Conflicts

Are children and youth capable of actively influencing social change processes in the context of crises and conflicts? If so, then how can TC/development cooperation strengthen

children and youth as promoters of social development?

Innovative Peace Education is a Must

In the experience of Dr. Christian Salazar Volkmann, UNICEF programme coordinator in Viet Nam, although peace education cannot avert wars, it can help prevent crises by creating historical awareness. According to Dr. Volkmann, peace education programmes should be incorporated into history teaching, especially in post-war situations. In many developing countries, low enrolment rates mean that informal education is the best way to reach youth. To capture the interest of young people with low educational status, innovative pedagogic approaches are required: Teaching aids should be adapted to the respective language and cultural context, and pedagogic approaches should be oriented less towards knowledge transfer, and more towards dialogue. Unfortunately, young people's interest in historical or political issues is low, as younger generations in particular look to the future once conflicts come to an end. Generally speaking it is easier to whip up people's enthusiasm for war than it is to get them to work for peace. German development cooperation could make an international contribution to peace education, as only few countries have created as much scope for historical memory as Germany has in its strategies, debates and materials for peace education.

Thinking and Acting Self-Reliantly

Silke Maier-Witt of the Civil Peace Service Forum in Kosovo sees one task of development cooperation as being to educate people to think for themselves, and act accordingly. Having the courage of your convictions and acting on motives that go beyond mere self-interest are attitudes and behaviours that can prevent war. Compared to the situation in post-war Germany, in Kosovo it is more difficult to think and act self-reliantly, said Ms. Maier-Witt, because traditionally it is old men who are in control. Young people lack economic prospects too. What would be important would be to stimulate the self-reliance and creativity of the Kosovars (both female and male), and help enable groups and individuals to pursue change in their country peacefully and self-reliantly. In Germany it was easy for the post-war generation to develop a sense of resistance against their parents' generation, who had lost both a war and their moral credibility. At the same time, however, that generation also had to learn to solve conflicts peacefully.

Trauma Healing Activities

In the town of Brcko in Bosnia and Herzegovina, GTZ is providing support through the "Trauma and Reconciliation" programme to NGOs that seek to promote young people's self-confidence, self-responsibility, self-initiative and communicative skills. Project expert Tanja Junuzagic identified a number of corresponding approaches: multiethnic dialogue, youth encounters, youth promoter training, one-on-one and group therapies for traumatised children and youth, further training for psychologists, and the networking of experts from the fields of youth and mental health. Through these measures, an attempt is being made gradually to reintegrate traumatised children and youth into everyday life.

For Usche Merk (of medico international), helping children and youth means not just developing their personalities, but also facilitating the holistic rehabilitation of a community based on respectful relationships into which children and youth can integrate. Groups are safe places from which processes of personal development can unfold, where social relationships can be learned, and in which children and youth can help foster peace.

Conclusion

Although wars cannot be prevented by peace education, peace and reconciliation work can nevertheless make a highly significant contribution to crisis prevention and civil conflict transformation. The workshop speakers and participants also agreed that development cooperation/TC has key contributions to make, both in peace education and in post-conflict reconciliation.

Children and youth are the driving force behind the future development of a society. They are the source of hope for peaceful conflict transformation, reconciliation and understanding, because they are capable of actively influencing social change processes. Although they do so only on a small scale, it remains true that "mighty oaks from little acorns grow".

Andrea Kolb
Crisis Prevention Programme

► Crisis Prevention and Conflict Transformation

Conflict Monitoring Guidelines

These guidelines were produced by the Crisis Prevention and Conflict Transformation project to meet certain needs of development projects. In situations of war, crisis or conflict, those projects need to capture changes in the conflict setting on a regular and systematic basis, so that they can respond in a timely and targeted manner. The conflict monitoring guidelines include a number of key questions designed to facilitate the design and development of an appropriate conflict monitoring system tailored to the respective user's specific setting. A German version of these guidelines can be downloaded as a PDF file at www.gtz.de/crisisprevention/deutsch/instrumente.htm.

In order to collect experiences with conflict monitoring systems we are looking for pilot users who might already have developed their own system, and who might share their experiences with us so that we can improve our guidelines!

Please contact: nina.scherg@gtz.de

Nina Scherg
Crisis Prevention Programme

"Conflict-sensitive Approaches to Vocational Training"

This was the title of a workshop for head-office and field staff organised by the vocational training competence area. The workshop aimed to analyse experiences gained in vocational training projects, including those implemented under the anti-terror package (ATP), as well as those implemented as public-benefit business.

Overall, participants concluded that vocational training plays a key role both in preventing violent conflicts, and in post-war situations: Vocational training represents an alternative and constructive option for young people tempted or threatened by violence. It is also a key instrument in the demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants, and especially child soldiers. To be able to meet these objectives, however, the vocational training offering must go beyond conventional technical training, and incorporate the concrete world in which trainees live by including elements of life skills training and reconciliation work.

For work in ongoing, unresolved conflict situations, non-formal approaches to vocational training, such as those being developed in Palestine, have proved appropriate. This is evident from the positive response obtained from young people in the occupied territories: In this highly politicised situation characterised by an extreme lack of prospects, it must be considered a success when young people are able to reclaim a "piece of normality" in the course of a training measure. In Kosovo and Lebanon, top-priority issues include the establishment of organisational structures for vocational training that enable *all* ethno-religious groups to participate fully in the economic reconstruction process.

Full workshop documentation plus information on further reading on "conflict-sensitive approaches to vocational training" are available from Edda Grunwald - edda.grunwald@gtz.de.

► Links

Centre for Peacebuilding Infomarket

The Centre for Peacebuilding (KOFF) has developed a comprehensive infomarket on civil peacebuilding in Switzerland. There you will find valuable information on relevant organisations, events, training, literature and interesting links:

www.swisspeace.org/koff/infomarket.htm

► Jobs

Project Staff Member for Security-Sector Reform

The GTZ Security-Sector Reform Project is looking for an expert (m/f) to deliver strategic advisory services to BMZ and GTZ, as well as to prepare, implement and evaluate pilot measures and other project activities. More information is available online at:

www4.gtz.de/personal/jAutoriX/HTML-GUI/pool.jsp?idoc=QLWOMSMKMM

Special-task Officer in the "Development-oriented Drug Control" Programme

Applications are invited from experts (m/f) with professional experience in international drug control and/or in development cooperation, preferably in the context of crisis prevention and poverty reduction, and with in-country experience, preferably from Latin America. Key

areas of work will include the ongoing development of strategies for development-oriented drug control in the context of crisis prevention and poverty reduction. Further information is available at:

<http://www4.gtz.de/personal/jAutoriX/HTML-GUI/pool.jsp?idoc=NMQKLQTTQP>

► Training

Vivo: Training in Dealing with Psychotrauma

From 28 September to 04 October 2003 the Vivo Foundation will be holding a training workshop in Cupramontana, Italy, on: "Psychological Consequences of Organised Violence and Terror: Psychotrauma – from latest scientific knowledge to practical field work". Further information is available at: www.vivo.org.

ASPR: OSCE Preparation Course

From 02-15 November the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR) will be holding a preparatory course in crisis prevention and conflict transformation to OSCE standard in Stadtschlaining. A course on press and public relations work, and media development, will take place from 16-29 November. Further details are available at: www.aspr.ac.at

Training Overview

An overview of training opportunities in crisis prevention and conflict transformation, prepared by the GTZ Crisis Prevention Project, can be downloaded in German only at: www.gtz.de/crisisprevention/deutsch/weiterbildungskonzepte.htm

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