

Livelihood options in fragile and conflict affected situations

Volatility in the rural areas of conflict-affected regions in South Asia (e.g. Pakistan, Nepal, North-East States of India, and Sri Lanka) is most visible through the diversification depicted in livelihoods approaches. Quest for sustainable livelihoods has the potential to rearrange the social fabric which may also include social exclusion and further conflicts. Human migration and tourism opportunities in the post-conflict areas of Nepal, income support programmes, and labour migration in the North East Indian states and Northwest Pakistan offer promising livelihood opportunities but it is observed that certain social groups succeed in controlling these opportunities which has bred a new type of social exclusion.

This panel seeks to harmonize the current knowledge about securing livelihoods in fragile and post-conflict areas in South Asia. SDPI has recently concluded a study exploring livelihood approaches in the North West Pakistan which aims to map a strategy to further explore how post conflict livelihood approaches change over time and also what mitigation measures are adopted by the community during the conflict and how effective these turn out to be?

More specifically, we seek papers addressing one or more of the following questions:

Mapping the livelihood trajectories in fragile and conflict affected situations:

What are the dynamics of livelihood patterns and livelihood trajectories (including coping strategies) in South Asia? And how have these livelihood activities of people in conflict-affected areas changed?

The focus of the discussion has to be how the people have perceived these changes since little is known about why certain adaptation mechanisms are favoured over others?

Re-building resilient livelihoods:

What livelihood opportunities and support structures are available for displaced persons in conflict-affected areas that influence them to return to their places of origin? And who has access to livelihood opportunities and who is excluded?

What is the institutional framework that supports or restricts people's access to livelihood opportunities?

What is the role of the private sector in supporting (or constraining) the livelihoods of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees? How do the dynamics of supply chains influence livelihood outcomes?

The role of foreign aid in processes of livelihood recovery:

In what ways do aid interventions attempt to support livelihoods and service delivery? Are they having much of an impact?

Attention must be paid to how significant these interventions are to people's lives while

exploring ways in which these interventions aim to include the marginally and socially excluded groups.

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