THE LOCAL POPULATION
Topics Last Week

- Military (we have to finish today)
  - Review of earlier discussion of military intervention
  - Tasks
  - Implementation
  - Alternatives
  - Conclusions

- Guest Speaker: Tanya Domi
Topics

- Readings & exercises next week
- Paper
  - Prepare
  - No late dates; it will be reflected in your grade
  - Thursday, 8 Nov 2001, 5:00 PM
  - Also do your BB assignment (incl. Tom Weiss, no new BB assignments till we have delivered)
- Readings today (what did you think of it?)
  - Mu Sochua
  - Harrel-Bond
  - WSP
- No former refugees in our class: no speeches
- Local population, unfortunately, mainly from an outsider’s perspective
Peace Operations

- Humanitarian Assistance
- Preventive Diplomacy
- Peace Making
- Peace Enforcement
- Peacekeeping
- Peace Building
Question

- How helpful is humanitarian aid/relief?
  - It can be degrading
  - It can be ineffective
  - It can worsen conflict
  - It can create dependency
Question

Should we then stop aid?

- Logical fallacy: that giving aid can cause serious problems does not mean that all aid is bad
- Moral fallacy: are we really doing all we can? Can we do it differently?
THE LOCAL POPULATION

- THEY ARE THE FIRST AND FOREMOST DETERMINANT OF THEIR OWN LIVES

- LOCAL ACTORS CAN BE:
  - HIGHLY DIVERSE
    - REFUGEES
    - LOCAL COMMUNITIES
    - WARRING FACTIONS, ETC.
  - JUST HUMAN BEINGS: DON’T CONFORM TO STEREOTYPES AND INTERVENTION POLICIES
THE LOCAL POPULATION

- THEIR PARTICIPATION IS CRUCIAL BUT RECEIVES INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION
- THEIR EXPERIENCE SHOULD RECEIVE MORE ATTENTION. ATTENTION IS GROWING, BUT IT IS NOT ENOUGH YET
- IN ANY CASE, THEY WILL TAKE THEIR OWN INITIATIVES
THE LOCAL POPULATION

TRY TO UNDERSTAND:
- Power relations/Exclusion
- Decision-making bodies & procedures
- Coping Mechanisms/Capacities
- Vulnerabilities
- Language??
- What are the entry points/points of leverage?
- Etc.
Typical Donor Org Mistakes

- **Set norms:**
  - What constitutes a refugee
  - Policies, manuals, guidelines, etc
- **Language:** beneficiaries, recipient, victims, empowerment: Is it differentiated enough? Just needy subjects?
- **Expatriate professionals:**
  - Income and other status differences
  - Local Knowledge & participation
  - Does it validate local approaches
- **Programming:** procedure in three stages
- **Positioning:** Capital/Compounds/Discussion partners (e.g., war lords)
- **Budgets**
- **Bad management & bad service delivery**
WAR-TORN SOCIETIES PROJECT

- PAPER IS POSITIVE
- GREAT METHODOLOGY
- IN REALITY....
WAR-TORN SOCIETIES PROJECT

METHODOLOGY

- TRADITIONAL PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH

THREE STEPS

- LOCAL RESEARCH TEAM
- PROJECT TEAM (WHO WANTS TO PARTICIPATE?)
- ENTRY POINTS

- RESEARCHERS BECAME FACILITATORS & TRIED TO FOSTER INFO EXCHANGE AND CONSENSUS
RESULTS

- Great new toolbox,
  - methodology
  - neutral space
- Often with local follow-up, but
- Management did not live up to its own ideals: Distinguish the rhetoric and reality of participation.
- The Macro methodology is one example out of the toolbox, there are more!!
Conclusions

- More attention to actual experiences of the local population & typical donor mistakes
- Caution: We did not differentiate between refugees and local communities. Their relationship can be tense.
- Concepts such as empowerment, participation, etc. are often used but very hard to implement
- Aid can undermine local coping mechanisms and create dependency
- We need to understand better the coping mechanisms & capacities, local decision making structures, and cultural sensitivities
- Next week more
TOPICS

- Readings & exercises next week
- Paper
- Donors?
- UNHCR & Ruud Lubbers
- Readings today
  - Mu Sochua
  - Harrel-Bond
  - WSP
- Nebiat & Connie