



**Workshop on Local Government in Post-Conflict Situations :
Challenges for Improving Local Decision Making and
Service Delivery Capacities**

**ANNEX 5: Presentation by Mr. Paul Jackson,
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U What do we know about local government in post-conflict? B

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Aims of the session

- Introductions
- The nature of the review – a literature review not a survey of all knowledge
- The idea of trying to identify gaps in knowledge to inform and develop policy
- Conscious of drawing broad conclusions from case studies

The broad picture

- There is an overall lack of research in this area.
- Most of the literature mirrors more general governance literature – it is not particularly innovative and concentrates on case studies.
- Challenge is how to move on from a very patchy picture to a more comprehensive knowledge.

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Policy attitudes

- The international community tends to concentrate on central government, partly as a result of programming, also ease of access and an assumption of 'trickle down'
- This is surprising on many levels since one of the keys to political stability in many states is the integration of regions and minorities as well as establishing political representation.
- Critical elements for donors include: sequencing, local ownership, early concentration on democracy, external performance measurement, harmonisation (or lack of it!)

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Links between LG and conflict-prevention

- **Non-violent political platform**
- **Representation**
- **Service delivery**
- **Conflict resolution mechanisms**
- **State outreach**
- **Wider spread of political power**

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Links between LG and conflict-exacerbate

- **Elite capture**
- **Non-transparent allocation of resources**
- **Local elections entrenching divisions**
- **Poor political participation**
- **Poor performance and service delivery**
- **Regional resource allocations**
- **Corruption**

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Key issues for LG in PC

- Patronage, elite capture and participation
- Central local relations & finance
- Reform or rebuild?
- Legitimacy & institutional design
- Sequencing & entry points (democracy)
- Service delivery
- Security and crime

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Gaps in the literature

- Gender
- Security
- Accountability
- Local councillors
- Civic education
- Donors

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A future research agenda

- How do we address gaps?
- How do we link field practice with academic literature?
- How do we prioritise elements of the research agenda?

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