

Part three

Mechanisms of Poverty - Health and Peace
– Experiences from Caucasus

Peace through health activities

- PAHO-programme in 80-ties
- WHO/EURO-programme:
 - Health As a Bridge to Peace
- Successful Health Armistices during NIDs

Reasons for conflicts

- Poverty
- Territorial
- Resources
 - Water
 - Oil
- Ethnic
- Religious
- Terror threats?
- Revenge

The vicious spiral



Investment in Health

“Investments in health and health research rank among the most productive investments for both individuals and the economy as a whole”

Global Forum for Health Research. The 10/90 report on health research 2003-2004.
<http://www.globalforumhealth.org>

Investment in Health

- The take-off in economic growth in Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece just after the war, was a result of eradicating malaria and other severe diseases
- Smallpox eradication programme: - for every US\$ invested gave 10US\$ in return

Health spending per capita

Least Developed Countries	11\$
Low-income countries	25\$
Upper middle-income countries	93\$
High-income countries	1907\$

Health service investments

- Low income countries spend 1% of BNP for health service
- High income countries spend 6% of BNP for health service

Why this reluctance in investment in Health?

- Health is traditionally regarded an expenditure
- Poor governance in health service
- Concentration on the urgent and the visible at the expense of the efficient and effective
- Public health service tend to serve the richer section of the population

Caucasus



Crossroad between East and West and South and North

- The borders between
 - North / Soviet and South / Middle East
 - Christianity and the Muslim world
- To day's geopolitical situation
 - EU and NATO are moving east and close up with Caucasus
 - Russia is loosing the grip of North Caucasus
 - USA wants control of the oil in The Caspian Sea



Armenia

- Old cultural and religious history
- Old empire between Black Sea – Caspian Sea – Mediterranean Sea
- First Christian state in the world
- Occupied most of their history
- Genocide in 1915-16 by Turkey (1,5-2 million)
 - » Never recognised by the international community
 - » Fridjof Nansen's effort to save the refugees
- Earth quake 1989 (Spitak)
- The war of Nagorno-Karabakh

Armenian woman 106 years old protecting her home



Azerbaijan

- Turkish ethnic area
- Family clans – loose state
 - Never independent state until now
- Rich in oil
- Economic relationship with UAS and Norway
- Same power structure as in the Soviet time (Aliev family)
- Lost Nagorno – Karabakh, occupied by Armenia

Georgia

- Old culture occupied most of their history
- Many ethnic and linguistic groups in a loose federation of regions
 - Separatist wars and movements: Abkhazia, Adjara, South Ossetia
- Wants to join the European world (EU and NATO)
- Russia's internal problems in the North-Caucasian "republics" is destabilizing the whole region
- Russia is accusing Georgia to protect guerrillas from Chechnya
- Russia wanted to bomb Georgia according to the same logic as US bombed Afghanistan

Conflicts causes

- Geopolitical strategic areas
- OIL
- Revenge for historical loss
- Religious
- Territorial mix from Soviet time

Peace and Health in Caucasus

- Two situations of personal experience
 - UN and WHO facilitated a meeting of the three Ministers of Health in Yerevan, Armenia
 - » For the first time in history an Azerbaijani minister touched Armenian soil
 - » Polite and friendly atmosphere (The Armenian President and the Azerbaijani Minister of Health were old personal friends from the Soviet period)
 - WHO conference of health reforms in Tblisi, Georgia (as a neutral area)
 - » Big group from both Azerbaijan and Armenia discussed health reforms without any political difficulty
 - » Closing party with toasts and dance

What were the lessons learnt?

- Utilise the positive elements available for peace building
 - The ministers common education and previous relationship
- Health is well functioning as a neutral “area” for discussions and networking processes
- Don't brush the problems under the carpet, bring them up in the open in a positive atmosphere of humour and celebration

Lessons learnt by WHO in the 1990-ies

- Health can play a catalyst role in the peace process
- Health assistance should be delivered neutrally according to needs
- Humanitarian assistance and health sector cannot ignore the situation of human rights
- Development and emergency assistance must not be separated
- Lack of comprehensive and locally-owned strategy can generate inconsistent, short-lived and even counterproductive outcomes
- It is essential to shift from vertical to horizontal technical programming in order to involve people in reconciliation process
- Different Partnerships – public/non-profit, central/peripheral, and international/national – are crucial elements for effective peacebuilding
- Coordination facilitates a common understanding of respective roles/responsibilities
- Complex emergencies call for new expertise from humanitarian workers
- Decentralized cooperation/twinning/social partnerships among local communities is a tool to promote human development and peace
- Training and other activities focusing on common needs and interest can involve professionals from different conflict groups

Investment in health



Healing the Patient



Thank you!