

## **Workshop 1**

### **Towards Deeper-rooted Justice: Addressing Land Issues in Post-Conflict Societies**

#### **Organised by:**

Church Development Service (EED)

Misereor/Catholic Central Agency for Development Aid

#### **Abstract**

Access to land, land rights and land use play a life-sustaining role for the large majority of the population, especially the poor farmers, in many regions of the world. At the same time, inequality in landholdings, illegal or unjust dispossession are not only 'symptoms' of underlying patterns of discrimination, but very often key causes of violent conflicts.

Moreover, land tenure systems can be profoundly affected during conflicts: Changes may range from forced eviction and reduced access to land, land grabbing to the alteration of local land tenure systems and the takeover of land by refugees or IDPs. These changes can become consolidated after conflict and cause further injustice.

Hence, addressing land issues in conflict and post-conflict situations is a highly complex endeavour. Even though a broad range of action have been developed and implemented by national and international actors - ranging from the protection of land and property rights and support to land tenure reforms, to property restitution and dispute resolution – linkages between development cooperation programmes and transitional justice interventions are rarely articulated.

The workshop aims at exchanging experiences on integrating land issues into transitional justice processes as well as exploring preconditions and entry points to do so.

Discussions will focus on the interconnectedness and mutual influences of transitional justice processes and human rights oriented development cooperation with regard to land issues.

#### **Guiding Questions**

- When working on land issues in conflict situations, in how far is this work perceived, planned and implemented as part of transitional justice processes, complementarily to it, or independently from it?
- In how far is the empowerment of the marginalised, the poor and the victims' part of the planning and implementation of work related to land issues in transitional justice processes?
- How are issues of (the absence of) legal security and/or equal access to an existing legal system tackled when dealing with land issues?
- What effects do transitional justice interventions have on development processes in which land issues play a role?

The workshop will start with two case studies focusing on practice and project experiences in different country contexts followed by a structured reaction by a third speaker. Participants will then be given space for questions and an exploration of own experiences.

#### **Resource Persons**

- Chhit Sam Ath, NGO Forum on Cambodia, Cambodia
- Charlito "Kaloy" Manlupig, Balay Mindanaw Foundation, Philippines
- George Wachira, Nairobi Peace Initiative, Kenya

#### **Facilitation**

- Michelle Parlevliet