

Decentralized Governance and Peacebuilding: online semi-tutored course

- Module 1-



Welcome to
Decentralized Governance
Key Concepts

Content:

Key concepts such as deconcentration, delegation and devolution will be defined and clarified and the main arguments in favour of and the main arguments against decentralization will be presented and explained.

Learning Objectives:

- To recognize the key concepts relating to sub-national governance;
- To recognize what is meant by decentralization;
- To identify the different pressures in favour of decentralization;
- To identify the arguments for and against decentralization.

-Module - 2



Welcome to
Effective Decentralization
for Peacebuilding

Content:

In this module, we will first discuss the key contextual elements for effective decentralized governance. Next, we will look at the types of decentralization, both symmetric and asymmetric and examine the kind of contribution that asymmetric decentralization can make to peace-building. Finally, we will discuss the contributions that local governments can make towards effective decentralization in a post-conflict situation.

Learning Objectives:

- To identify the key elements that can make a decentralization process effective;
- To recognize the contribution that asymmetric decentralization can make to peace-building;
- To identify key elements of local governance that are especially relevant in a post-conflict or peace-building context.

- Module 3 -



Content:

In this module we will examine three aspects relating to the politics of decentralization. Firstly we will look at sequencing, next we will discuss power sharing, and finally we will examine citizen participation. Let us begin by looking at sequencing as a key aspect in decentralization.

Learning Objectives:

- To identify the strategic and tactical questions that need to be addressed in sequencing a decentralization process;
- To analyze the way in which devolution alters the power balance at the local governance level;
- To recognize the advantages and limitations of citizen participation as a mechanism for fostering downward accountability and improved local democratic governance.

- Module 4 -



Content:

In this module, we will examine various aspects relating to the fiscal aspects of decentralization. First, we will look at the concept of fiscal federalism, next we look at the two main sources of local government finance, namely own revenue and inter-governmental transfers, and finally we examine participatory budgeting.

Learning Objectives:

- To recognize the concept of fiscal federalism;
- To identify the main sources of local government finance;
- To identify two indicators to measure local tax effort;
- To recognize the different kinds of Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer systems; and
- To identify the advantages of Participatory Budgeting.

- Module 5 -



Welcome to
Security, Crime and the Rule of Law
in a Decentralized Framework



Content:

In this module, we address a simple but complex question: what can local government do to address the problem of security and the rule of law, especially in a post-conflict situation? First, we examine the changing nature of violence in post-conflict situations, next we consider the advantages and limitations of local government involvement in promoting citizen security, then we look at the role of local government in crime prevention, and finally we examine a municipal case study of citizen security through citizen participation in a post-conflict situation.

Learning Objectives:

- To recognize the changing nature of violence in post-conflict situations;
- To identify the advantages and limitations of local government in promoting citizen security in post-conflict situations;
- To identify the characteristics of local safety audit;
- To recognize the relationship between democratic local governance and the effectiveness of local government in crime prevention;
- To identify the reasons why the Municipality of Santa Tecla, El Salvador was a successful example of local government involvement in improving citizen security in a post-conflict situation.

- Module 6 -



Welcome to
Role of Decentralization
in Improving **Local Economies** and
the **Delivery of Basic Services**



Content:

In this module, we first examine the nature of local economic recovery programmes, then we look at the current role of local government in service delivery, and finally examine contribution that decentralization can make to public sector performance, taking the example of the health sector.

Learning Objectives:

- To identify the actions capable of promoting local Economic recovery
- To identify the United Nations guiding principles for post-conflict employment creation, income generation and reintegration

- To recognize the advantages that decentralization can bring to performance of basic public services; and
- To assess the contribution that decentralization can have on the health system at the local level.

- Module 7 -



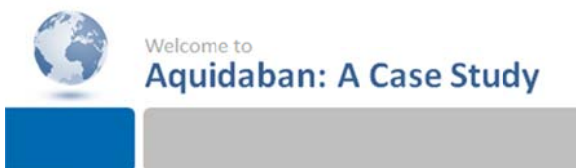
Content:

In this module, we will look at three case studies. We will begin by looking at Bolivia where radical decentralization served as a mechanism for conflict prevention. Then, we will look at the case of Sierra Leone, which is considered a positive example where the decentralization process was successfully implemented. Finally, we will take a look at Nepal where decentralization plans froze in the post conflict situation.

Learning Objectives:

- To recognize how decentralization can be used as a conflict prevention mechanism;
- To recognize the implications of successful decentralization in a post-conflict situation;
- To recognize the consequences of the lack of political consensus on the decentralization process.

- Module 8 -



Content:

The decentralization programme in “Aquidaban” has been hailed as one of the most far-reaching local government reform programmes in the developing world. This case study details the evolution and development of “Aquidaban’s” decentralization policy, as the country emerged from a long period of civil war and economic collapse. The key drivers of the programme are discussed, its key features, and some of the outstanding issues are outlined in this module.

Learning Objectives:

- To identify measures capable to address the issues that still prevent the decentralization process from being fully functional in “Aquidaban”.
By applying the concepts and analytical tools learned in the previous modules, participants will have to write a final assignment to be submitted to the tutor, who will assess it and provide feedback.