

## **Trauma, development and peacebuilding: Towards an integrated psychosocial approach**

The Trauma, Development and Peacebuilding Project, funded by the International Development Research Centre, seeks to bring together a group of global experts working on trauma and development issues, as well as psychosocial projects. At an experts roundtable taking place in India in September 2008, and through the commissioning of research, the project will analyse, critique and disaggregate different approaches to trauma globally considering its impact on peacebuilding and development processes in societies coming out of conflict. Building on best practice the roundtable and supporting research will also consider whether dealing effectively with mass atrocity and the resultant trauma can complement peacebuilding and development processes.

A series of eight papers on the subject will be commissioned that will reflect the spread of international debates. This will include papers focused on South Asia, Africa, Latin America, Middle East, Europe and North America. A literature review on the subject will be drafted. Further, a database of organisations working in the area (environmental scan) of psychosocial work and working directly with what could be termed collective interventions to deal with trauma will also be produced and made available online.

The roundtable event in New Delhi in September 2008 will be used to present the material developed as outlined above. But more specifically it will outline theoretical and practical approaches, and explore examples from around the globe where mass and collective trauma has been effectively dealt with in a way that complements and enhances peacebuilding and development. The roundtable will specifically seek to consolidate and document examples of best practice that have addressed trauma from a psychosocial and collective perspective.

In addition, the roundtable will seek to develop a collaborative proposal by drawing on the experience of the different practitioners represented. This proposal will outline a series of projects (potentially a handbook for practitioners and at least one new collaborative project) aimed at deepening and broadening approaches to trauma that enhance peacebuilding and development efforts with the aim of having a lasting impact on the theory, policy and practice.

The project will run from November 2007 to November 2008.

### **Project Contact**

Dr Brandon Hamber  
Research Co-ordinator INCORE  
University of Ulster