Evaluation in conflict: What can we hope for?

A discussion with authors of the Book:
Evaluation Methodologies for Aid in Conflict

at 09:15-12:30 on 08 April 2013, swisspeace, Sonnenbergstrasse 17, Bern

with the participation of

Megan Kennedy-Chouane Editor, policy analyst at the OECD, France
Bart Klem Author, researcher at University of Zurich, Switzerland
Martin Stürzinger Discussant, Division of Human Security, FDFA, Switzerland
Stefan Bächtold Discussant, swisspeace / University of Basel

In many parts of the world, violent contestation, instability and unruliness tend to be the norm rather than the exception. Also, delivering aid in these contexts has become normality. Evaluating aid in these contexts, however, is not straightforward. On what premises do we assess aid in contested environments? What does it mean for effectiveness, relevance and efficiency when poverty alleviation is not the only (or even main) objective? And what methodologies work in countries where access if constrained, systematic data are lacking, and claims on aid are deeply politicized?

But how is this done in the highly-dynamic environment of a conflict? The book Evaluation Methodologies for Aid in Conflict explores answers based on a range of experiences by evaluation experts. In a series of case studies (including Afghanistan, South Sudan, the DR Congo and Sri Lanka), the book provides valuable practical information by examining how and why different choices were made in the context of each evaluation.

Two of the authors of the book will discuss insights and their practical implications for working in fragile contexts in this event. Both draw on rich experience in evaluating aid in conflict. Their contributions will be discussed both from a practitioner’s and from an academic perspective.

So, how can the effects of aid in conflict-affected states be evaluated? What are promising practices? What standards can realistically be expected from organizations working in these difficult contexts? And what does it mean to acknowledge that aid evaluation is itself a political intervention?

You are kindly invited to find out in the discussion with the authors and with practitioners from different backgrounds at the event.

Please confirm your participation to jeanne.luethy@swisspeace.ch before April 1st.

Best wishes,

KOFF Centre for Peacebuilding
Sidonia Gabriel
Program

09:15 Welcoming remarks & introduction round
09:30 Inputs by Megan Kennedy-Chouane and Bart Klem
10:30 Break
11:00 Comments of discussants Martin Stürzinger and Stefan Bächtold; open discussion
12:15 End of event

Moderation

Sidonia Gabriel Director of the Centre for Peacebuilding (KOFF) of swisspeace