

# HMUN 2020

Haarlem Model United Nations

**Student Officer:**  
Fenna Sigmond

**Issue:**  
Restoring the economic- and social stability in  
post-conflict countries

**Forum:**  
Economic and Social Council  
(ECOSOC)





# HMUN 2020

<b>Issue:</b>	Restoring the economic- and social stability in post-conflict countries
<b>Forum:</b>	Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
<b>Name:</b>	Fenna Sigmond
<b>Position:</b>	Deputy President

## Introduction

A most unaddressed issue is what happens after a conflict. What happens to the countries after the conflict, especially when they are economically unstable because of the expenses of the war and without a stable or well-weathered and experienced government? Restoring the economic- and social stability in post-conflict countries refers to addressing and drawing attention to what comes after the conflict is settled. The United Nations has addressed the issue by trying to avoid conflicts before they happen and the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (UNPBC) has created a commission for advocating change and development in countries in need of it called the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

In a post-conflict situation, the government has most likely been replaced or has been reformed to enable the government to change and get out of the situation. Most often because rebuilding after a conflict cannot be done with the same mindset that brought on the conflict. An issue that plays a large role in conflicts and therefore post-conflict is the restoration of social order/laws which most likely have been disregarded in the time of conflict. By restoring the social- and economic stability of countries post-conflict, they get a chance to grow out of the conflict and their past and be part of the international community again. This stabilization can be done multiple ways such as eradicating or decreasing poverty levels or severe poverty, reconstruction of devastated zones, boosting security through advice and support

## Definition of Key Terms

### **Post-conflict Country**

A country that has achieved a peaceful end to a prolonged civil war by way of a resolution and different organizations and institutions combine their efforts to assist in stabilizing the political, economic, military, and social structures through reconstruction projects (Smith 2015).

### **Social Stability**

"Social stability is about the condition of freedom from social disorder generally manifested in the form of inter-group conflict or violence." (Sengupta 2004) It is also the "condition of sustainable development and well-being." (Sengupta 2004) Based on this, the social stability of a country is a way to measure the well-being of the

people and the situation of the country itself. This means that countries in which people generally feel safe with rules/laws that are being followed as well as a stable government in a peaceful situation would have relatively high social stability.

## **Economic Stability**

When a country's economy shows no great fluctuations when measured for economic performance such as gross domestic product (GDP), inflation or unemployment. Countries with stable economies show moderate growth in employment, GDP, and keep inflation to a minimum (Hall 2019).

## **Post-conflict reconstruction**

It aims to strengthen the peace and security in a post-conflict and help attain a sustainable socio-economic situation that can prosper without further intervention or excessive help.

## **Civil war**

Internal conflict in a country or region fought between groups of citizens of that region or country.

## **Foreign development aid**

Aid that is given to a country by another country or organization in the form of monetary/financial, military, voluntary, or project aid to help the country develop through ways they could not have done by themselves.

## **Project aid**

Foreign financial aid given through funds to a particular project. (Agarwal 2019)

## General Overview

Throughout history, conflicts have always been a part of shaping humanity. Since the Cold War, around 100 violent conflicts have ended (Ohiorhenuan 2008). Through this they have also been always around and so there have always been post-conflict situations that have led to more poverty, a less-than-wanted economic situation or a government that leads a country into another conflict. These situations are what need to be addressed, as not paying attention to them could lead to a further decrease in the country's efficiency, economy, and stability overall.

## **History of the Issue**

In the past, there have always been conflicts and ways to solve these conflicts, and with that, different ways to rebuild the countries of the conflicts. A very much known

## HMUN 2020

multilateral reconstruction effort came after WWII when the allies banded together to reconstruct Germany. This happened after they had already divided Germany and then reunified it as they decided that the country should be able to grow, not be exploited anymore. Additionally, reconstruction efforts all across Europe were made not only by the newly formed United Nations (UN) but also by individual countries such as the United States of America, who passed The Marshall Plan, a way to distribute a large sum of money as monetary aid to multiple countries affected by the war as a way to help build their economies back up (Tzifakis). Even though this is a memorable effort that is worth mentioning, it is not a reconstruction effort for a post-conflict country, as the war that happened was international and intercontinental, not a civil war.

A reconstruction effort of a post-conflict country that is also notable is the reconstruction of Croatia after its four-year war of independence against Yugoslavia. Five years after the end of hostilities, areas where the war had raged were still suffering from the repercussions and minimal reconstruction due to lack of funds. The issue became even more imminent as more and more refugees who had fled during the war were returning to find nothing left for them. Due to this, the Croatia Social and Economic Recovery Project (CSERP) was created, which helped Croatia recover from its war with the use of EU funds and international cooperation. (World Bank 2011)

### **Poverty**

After a brutal conflict, there are always battle scars to mark it. In most cases, it is the destruction of infrastructure and buildings through fires, revolts, and more destructive methods such as bombings or artillery fire in what were conflict zones. The demolition of buildings causes the inhabitants to lose their homes and more often than not, most of their belongings. With the economy being at a very low place after the war, the people cannot be compensated for their losses and when they have nowhere to go, they lose themselves to poverty that can become extreme (World Bank 2011). One of the most imminent reasons for resolving poverty after a conflict in a country is to exit the vicious circle of conflicts. Most civil wars are due to dissatisfaction of the people or a group of citizens with the way the country is run and how the country is run. A reason for dissatisfaction could be the increasing rates of poverty and unemployment and the disregard for the citizens' welfare. If this happens after a conflict has ended and no funds are used to reconstruct the country and the homes and buildings that have been ruined, then the citizens become dissatisfied with the government and seek out a group that promises that they will rebuild. This is a vicious cycle that will continue to go on unless something is done. In most cases, the government does not have that much money, as the economy is also in shatters after the conflict and therefore it may not be their fault. However, they will still be blamed (Evans 2016). To end the vicious cycle, or step outside of it for the moment, the citizen's concerns must be taken into consideration, especially considering poverty and unemployment rates. This can be done through foreign aid or project aid towards different sub-issues of the looming problem (Marks 2016).

## **Unemployment**

As mentioned before, unemployment is also a large factor that needs to be considered in the reconstruction of a post-conflict country. Most unemployment leads to the issue of poverty, explained above, and so to prevent unemployment is to prevent the majority of poverty. Similar to the issue with poverty, the ravaging of areas due to the war causes people to lose their jobs. The problem is that everyone else is also looking for jobs, for money, or for shelter. There is chaos in the desperation of people looking to maintain stability socially and economically. Another reason for unemployment is the inability to use farmland previously used for agriculture due to bombings and fear of anti-personnel mines. An example of this is Cambodia, where 35% of the farming land could not be used because of landmines (Panić 2008). Additionally, the unemployment rates affect the country's economy and its chances of recovering from the conflict it went through.

An important part to mention when addressing unemployment is youth unemployment and its repercussions. Often, the younger generations in a post-conflict country are frustrated with not being recognized by the larger community due to their lack of educational and work opportunities that are open to them. This leaves them feeling estranged from society and are therefore vulnerable to be roped into opposition parties or illegal dealing if only to make a living. It is important to secure the youth of a post-conflict country, as they are the next generation of jobs and workers, however, when they are given the opportunity, most want to be able to leave the country and start somewhere new that allows them freer movement and the ability to expand (Ohiorhenuan 2008). Additionally, employing the youth keeps the majority from turning to violence and crime for a livelihood and can, therefore, keep crime rates low.

## **Major Parties Involved**

### **USA**

After WWII, the US spearheaded one of the biggest post-conflict recovery efforts known throughout history to support western Europe after the destruction that the war had caused. Additionally, the US is a major economic player in the world and therefore an option when considering loans or grants. Additionally, the US has overcome its own Civil War through which racism and general inequalities have been addressed.

### **European Union**

The EU is a political and economic union that formed in 1993. The union allows free movement between participating countries and also the support of the participating countries to one should anything happen. Due to this, EU countries have continued support and give support to each other which has helped in the past with post-conflict recovery

## **Croatia**

From 1991 to 1995, Croatia had a violent civil war for independence from Yugoslavia. The scars of the war were brutal and five years after the war there was still a lot to be done. After five years, a recovery plan was made to which multiple countries pledged their support in order to reorganized Croatia into what it once was and could have been if not for the war.

## **Bolivia**

Bolivia had a civil war from 1898 to 1899. Even though it was short, the war caused the government to change, as the opposing side won. This caused a large political change which sets it apart from a lot of countries and makes it able to offer experience with how to deal with political change in post-conflict recovery

## **UNDP**

The United Nations Development Programme plays a big role in post-conflict recovery as it helps countries around the world overcome their obstacles by helping them develop their socioeconomic relations and system. It is responsible for enabling better welfare of citizens and connects countries to resources to do so. Additionally, it advocates for change.

## Timeline of Key Events

1943 – 1946 United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration towards Europe and China

1948 – 195 Marshall Plan (Foreign Assistance Act of 1948)

November  
22<sup>nd</sup> 1965 Founding date of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)22<sup>nd</sup> 1965

December  
20<sup>th</sup> 2005 Founding date of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (UNPBC) and its organizational committee

## Previous attempts to resolve the issue

UN previous attempts include the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration towards Europe and China, carried out after World War II to help reconstruction of the countries affected by bombings and attacks. This was effective as it helped the European economy back onto its feet and was able to help them continue to reconstruct themselves. Also for the reconstruction after World War II, the

# HMUN 2020

USA made an initiative passed in 1948 called the Marshall Plan with which they gave a large amount of money to aid the rebuilding of western European economies.

## Possible Solutions

There are multiple ways to solve the issue, with different approaches. An approach that could be taken is one similar to the Marshall plan, where help in the form of monetary funds is given for the development of economies as well as governmental funds for general costs and reconstruction. Another solution would be an approach often taken is the introduction of UN peacekeepers into a post-conflict country. This would strengthen the security and allow a safe environment for the further development of the country and the society in it. A constant threat to post-conflict countries in recovery is conflict recurrence, or the relapsing of the country into another conflict due to the conditions left by the last conflict. This is why direct and swift action is highly valued to prevent the country from going under even more.

Something to think about when writing your resolution is that you are not resolving the conflict, but the stability after the conflict has ended. This means that there can be no drastic measures taken and the measures that are taken have to be for the good of the people and the economy.

## Appendix/Appendices

- UNDP, *Post-conflict economic recovery*.  
<https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/crisis%20prevention/undp-cpr-post-conflict-economic-recovery-enable-local-ingenuity-report-2008.pdf>
- United Nations, *Reconstruction, development and sustainable peace: a unified programme for post-conflict countries*.  
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/CDP-bp-2005-8.pdf>
- Addison, Tony, CRPD, et al., *Needs vs. Expediency: Poverty Reduction and Social Development in Post-Conflict Countries*.  
<https://soc.kuleuven.be/crpd/files/working-papers/working-paper-addison-et-al.pdf>

## Bibliography

Addison, Tony, et al. "Needs vs. Expediency: Poverty Reduction and Social Development in Post-Conflict Countries." *Centre for Research on Peace and*

## HMUN 2020

*Development (CRPD)*, Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs, 2015, [soc.kuleuven.be/crpd/files/working-papers/working-paper-addison-et-al.pdf](http://soc.kuleuven.be/crpd/files/working-papers/working-paper-addison-et-al.pdf).

Agarwal, Prateek. "Foreign Aid." *Intelligent Economist*, Intelligent Economist, 9 Aug. 2019, [www.intelligenteconomist.com/foreign-aid/](http://www.intelligenteconomist.com/foreign-aid/).

Ake, Claude. "A Definition of Political Stability." *Comparative Politics*, vol. 7, no. 2, 1975, pp. 271–283. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/421552](http://www.jstor.org/stable/421552).

Devarajan, Shanta, and Lili Mottaghi. *The Economics of Post-Conflict Reconstruction in MENA*. The World Bank Group, 2017.

Evans, Gareth. "Conflict and Poverty." *Crisis Group*, International Crisis Group, 28 Dec. 2016, [www.crisisgroup.org/global/conflict-and-poverty](http://www.crisisgroup.org/global/conflict-and-poverty).

Hall, Shane. "How Is Economic Stability Measured?" *Bizfluent*, Leaf Group Ltd., 13 Jan. 2019, [bizfluent.com/info-10049313-economic-stability-measured.html](http://bizfluent.com/info-10049313-economic-stability-measured.html).

Marks, Zoe. "Poverty and Conflict." GSDRC *Applied Knowledge Services*, United Kingdom Government's Department for International Development (DFID), Oct. 2016, [assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5980670a40f0b61e4b00003e/Poverty-and-conflict\\_RP.pdf](http://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5980670a40f0b61e4b00003e/Poverty-and-conflict_RP.pdf).

Ministerie van Algemene Zaken. "Post-Conflict Reconstruction." *International Peace and Security | Government.nl*, Ministerie Van Algemene Zaken, 30 Sept. 2014, [www.government.nl/topics/international-peace-and-security/post-conflict-reconstruction](http://www.government.nl/topics/international-peace-and-security/post-conflict-reconstruction).

Ohiorhenuan, John F.E., and Frances Stewart. *Post-Conflict Economic Recovery: Enabling Local Ingenuity: Crisis Prevention and Recovery Report 2008*. United Nations Development Programme, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, 2008. <https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/crisis%20prevention/undp-cpr-post-conflict-economic-recovery-enable-local-ingenuity-report-2008.pdf>

Panić, M. "Post-Conflict Countries: Aid Effectiveness and Permanent Peace ." *United Nations*, University of Cambridge, 2008, [www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/wess\\_bg\\_papers/bp\\_wess2008\\_panic.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/wess_bg_papers/bp_wess2008_panic.pdf).

Sengupta, Chandan. "Political and Social Stability: Ideas, Paradoxes and Prospects." *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 39, no. 48, 2004, pp. 5101–5105. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/4415833](http://www.jstor.org/stable/4415833).



Smith, Patriann. *Handbook of Research on Cross-Cultural Approaches to Language and Literacy Development*. Information Science Reference, 2015.

Tzifakis, Nikolaos. "Post-Conflict Economic Reconstruction." *Encyclopedia Princetoniensis*, The Trustees of Princeton University, [pesd.princeton.edu/?q=node%2F260](https://pesd.princeton.edu/?q=node%2F260).

World Bank. "Post Conflict Reconstruction - Croatia." *ReliefWeb*, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), 15 Apr. 2011, [reliefweb.int/report/croatia/post-conflict-reconstruction](https://reliefweb.int/report/croatia/post-conflict-reconstruction).