



Services, State-building and surveys: Conceptual and methodological issues

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Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium

About us



7 core countries – DRC, Uganda, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal



7 Partners



Feinstein
International Center

cepa
centre for poverty analysis



SDPI
Sustainable Development Policy Institute

WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY
WAGENINGEN UR

6 years – currently in year two



8 million from DFID



Deductive logic versus empirics?



- Compelling deductive logic that pervades the securitisation agenda, stabilisation agenda and 'hearts and minds' strategies
- But what evidence is there? SLRC's evidence paper suggests:
 - i) Very little
 - ii) Geographically / sectorally patchy
 - iii) Quality often weak
 - iv) Instrument or process? (context is critical)
- Implications:
 - i) What do sectoral experiences 'add up' to?
 - ii) How to replicate?
 - iii) Risk that aid in conflict-affected situations is a 'house built on sand'
 - iv) Distortion of measures of success

(How) Can we get better evidence?



Challenges include:

- Logistics of research in fragile / conflict-affected situations
- How achieve meta-analysis or synthesis of evidence?
- What indicators and measurements? (What proxies make sense in different sectors and contexts?)
- Practical application of concepts / indicators in the field

How is SLRC trying to get better evidence?



3 research questions:

- Does support to services, social protection and livelihoods = state building?
- How to build state capacities to deliver services and social protection and support livelihoods?
- How to effectively support people to build more resilient livelihoods as they recover from conflict?

How SLRC is trying to get better evidence: Panel surveys as part of the evidence



In relation to today's workshop, three big issues:

- Experiences and perceptions of the state
 - Units of analysis
 - Panel attrition
 - Concepts – perceptions of what?
- Link between perceptions and legitimacy
 - Is a +ve change in perceptions = legitimacy?
 - What proxies can we use (that work across sectors)?
 - What about illegitimacy?
- Expectations of the state
 - Patent / latent or want / expect
 - 'curiosity questions' / identifying bias