

NHDR Write-Up: VDA Practitioner Course on Human Development

Colombia: The 2003 NHDR

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I used the National Human Development Report of Colombia-2003 titled **Solutions to Escape the Conflict's Impasse**. The topic of the NHDR is the conflict and its possible solutions.

The report highlighted that solution to conflict can be found in human development.

I agree because human development is about opportunities and conflict truncates opportunities. For instance, conflict affects mortality, education, income and growth, democracy and environment. When such a conflict is given, people do not have choices.

The main challenges faced by people I find in the report are:

1. Reduce the effects of conflict on human development and its variables:
2. Avoid expansion of conflict to new communities and places: generation of employment access to basic opportunities and social policy,
3. Achieve respect for IHL
4. Reduce number of victims and improve victim's treatment and reconciliation too.
5. Punishment of criminal actions: justice
6. Improve local and national Democracy: participation
7. Information

Peace building is the focus of the challenges. With out peace, goals like socio economic equity, gender equity and cultural identity could no be reached.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

NHDR 2003 is a tool for making policies. In fact, Colombian government has taken it into account.

HDR 2003 suggests policy actions in terms of: efficiency (productive projects and programs and so on), equity (equitable and sustainable) and freedom (participatory).

More over, report talk about opportunities versus war recruitment and identify that policies, strategies, plans and actions, should have elements of ccomplementation with ongoing efforts.

MEASURES SUGGESTED

I will suggest coordination between different actors and International Cooperation. There are a lot of individual actions but there is no synergy. To date, international cooperation has guided his work from the perspective of victims, exclusively; and there are other variables which can be faced. Harmonization of cooperation is a measure that will help to improve the human development situation.

Additionally, I think there are traditionally excluded groups like women, indigenous, children, Afro-Colombian communities and displaced people, which should be taken into account so that the processes also help in reducing exclusion and raising inclusive actions and strategies.

There are some key groups which should be taken in mind, while making policies, in order to guaranty non repetition, in case of conflict and victims treatment, like children and youth. Development Plans should be participatory and agglomerate these groups too.

Media have a big role in human development achievement and work with media, in topics like education about conflict, opportunities and alternatives and sensitizing, could help in improving HD situation.