

Contents

Introduction.....	1
Event Agenda.....	2
Overview of event.....	5
List of Attendees	7

Introduction

The MICROCON consortium came together on the 14th and 15th June 2010 at the University of Ghent to continue the synthesis of the programme's findings and to discuss how to increase the programme's policy impact over the final phase. This report briefly summarises the proceedings and gives a list of attendees.

Event Agenda

Day 1 Monday 14th June 2010

9.00	Introduction		Patricia Justino and Koen Vlassenroot
9.20	MICROCON EC Review Year 3		Angela Liberatore
9.40	WP Presentations		
	Chair: Koen Vlassenroot		
	WP1 Overview		Michalis Lianos
10.10	WP2		
	- Overview of WP	15 minutes	Morten Boas/ Anne Hatløy
	- World Bank Module Presentation	15 minutes	Alexandra Avdeenko
	- Discussant	5 minutes	Jeremy Seekings
	- Discussion	15 minutes	
11.10	<i>Break</i>		
11.40	WP7		
	- Overview of WP	15 minutes	Philip Verwimp
	- Entrepreneurship, Expectations and Conflict	15 minutes	Carlos Bozzoli
	- Discussant	5 minutes	Julie Litchfield
	- Discussion	15 minutes	
12.30	WP3 and 4		
	- Overview of WPs	25 minutes	Michael Emerson
	- Microanalysis of violence in urban Maharashtra - a description of methods	25 minutes	Jaideep Gupte
	- Discussant	5 minutes	Anne Hatløy
	- Discussion	15 minutes	
13.20	<i>Lunch</i>		
14.20	Chair: Julie Litchfield		
	WP5		
	- Overview of WP	15 minutes	Colette Harris
	- Challenges of Women's Land rights in the	15 minutes	Fred Kindi

	Return Process, Northern Uganda Post-Conflict. Reconstruction: What Solution is there in the PRDP?		
	- Discussant	5 minutes	Els Lecoutere
	- Discussion	15 minutes	
15.10	WP6		
	- Overview of WP	15 minutes	Susan Zimmerman
	- Somalia's ongoing conflict and how it affects refugees' integrations and lives: a qualitative study in London and the Netherlands	15 minutes	Susan Zimmerman
	- Discussant	5 minutes	Tim Raeymaekers
	- Discussion	15 minutes	
16.00	<i>Break</i>		
16.30	Communications Presentation		John Spall
	- Final year communications strategy		
	- Discussion		
17.00	Close		
17.30 – 19.00	<i>Space Available for Work Package Meetings</i>		

Day 2 Tuesday 15th June 2010

8-9am	Work Package Leader Breakfast Meeting – Ghent River Hotel		All WPL
9.30	Welcome		Patricia and Koen
9.45	Chair: Carlos Bozzoli		
	WP8		
	- Overview of WP	15 minutes	Julie Litchfield
	- Incentives and Self-Selection in Violent Conflicts	15 minutes	Moshik Lavie
	- Discussant	5 minutes	Morten Boas
	- Discussion	15 minutes	
10.35	<i>Break</i>		
11.00	WP9		
	- Overview of WP	15 minutes	Debby Sapir

	- Final results of mortality study in Darfur	15 minutes	Olivier Degomme
	- Discussant	5 minutes	TBC
	- Discussion	15 minutes	
11.50	- WP10		
	- Overview of WP	15 minutes	Koen Vlassenroot
	- Who starts water scarcity conflicts? A field experiment with irrigators in semi-arid Africa	15 minutes	Els Lecoutere
	- From making a living to making a life. Post-conflict and youth displacement in north-east DR Congo		Tim Raeymaekers
	- Discussant	5 minutes	Christophe Muller
	- Discussion	15 minutes	
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12.40	<i>Lunch</i>		
	Chair: Patricia Justino		
13.40	WP11		
	- Overview of WP	15 minutes	Nona Mikhelidze
	- The EU, Civil Society and Conflict: A Comparative Analysis of Five Conflict Cases	15 minutes	Nona Mikhelidze
	- Discussant	5 minutes	Eddy Boutmans
	- Discussion	15 minutes	
14.30	WP12		
	- Overview of WP	15 minutes	Carlos Bozzoli
	- Evaluating Interventions in Conflict Areas: The case of Uganda, Colombia and Northern Ireland	15 minutes	Carlos Bozzoli
	- Discussant	5 minutes	Koen Vlassenroot
	- Discussion	15 minutes	
15.20	<i>Break</i>		
15.50	Exploring Norms Around the Use of Violence in Everyday Settings		Jeremy Seekings
16.20	Final Group Discussion		Patricia Justino/Koen Vlassenroot
17.30	Depart		
17.30 – 19.00	<i>Space Available for Work Package Meetings</i>		

Overview of event

The Workshop was hosted by Koen Vlassenroot at the University of Gent. It was attended by thirty five MICROCON consortium members (full list below) and two policy makers from the federal public service for foreign affairs in Belgium. Many others were invited but sent apologies. Angela Liberatore, the EC Project Officer for MICROCON attended both days of the workshop. The workshop had three objectives:

- 1) Share progress from each Work Package
- 2) Discussing our dissemination strategy
- 3) Discuss cross-cutting themes and messages

As an introduction, and to focus discussion Patricia Justino (MICROCON Director) introduced the areas that the coordination board had identified as cross cutting:

- 1) The idea that individual household and group behaviour matters significantly in conflict affected countries/areas.
- 2) What people do matters, identity building etc.
- 3) Challenging the idea that conflict is a ‘shock’ – it’s a legacy. Challenging the idea that you can’t do research in conflict affected areas.
- 4) Multi-disciplinarity is possible – and done well within MICROCON.

Patricia Justino) thanked the University of Gent for organising the conference, and welcomes everyone to the 4th Annual MICROCON conference. She reminded the MICROCON researchers that we are entering the crucial last phase, the final 18 months, of the programme, and states that we will now begin the process of synergising final results, and policy messages.

Each work package presented their most recent results, or paper, to the group. Each presentation had a chair person and a discussant. The presentations were as follows:

Work Package 1: Conceptual Framework – Michalis Lianos

Work Package 2: Data Collection and Methods – Morten Boas, Anne Hatloy and Alexandra Avdeekno

Work Package 3: Group Formation, Identities and Mobilisation

Work Package 4: Contemporary Conflict and Ethnic Religious Tensions – Michael Emerson and Jaideep Gupte

Work Package 5: Gender Aspects of Violent Conflict – Colette Harris and Fredrik Immanuel Kindi

Work Package 6: Migration, Displacement and Refugees – Susan Zimmerman

Work Package 7: Risk, Security and Coping Mechanisms – Philip Verwimp and Carlos Bozzoli

Work Package 8: Poverty, Inequality and Social Exclusion – Julie Litchfield and Christophe Muller

Work Package 9: Violent Conflict and Health Outcomes – Olivier Degomme

Work Package 10: Governance and Institutions – Koen Vlassenroot

Work Package 11: Conflict in the European Neighbourhood – Nona Mikhelidze

Work Package 12: Evaluating Conflict Interventions – Carlos Bozzoli

There was useful critique and analysis of each presentation, and therefore of MICROCON work carried out so far. There was also a good discussion, in small groups, followed by a wider discussion, of cross cutting themes, policy implications and dissemination pathways. This is summarised below:

Cross cutting themes:

- Critique of greed and grievance
- Corruption and it's relation to violence (this should interest policy makers as well)
- Research methods
- Tipping points (into or out of conflict)

Policy implications/relevance/topics for briefings:

- Recovery from the consequences of conflict
- The process that brings about polarisation that prepares the possibility of conflict
- Rephrase the questions we have from a policy point of view – so that it is not just methodology that is in our papers.
- Look at the ways we engage already, particularly at the micro-level – raising awareness, lobbying and direct collaboration.
- We need to communicate our themes and consolidate our existing views so we have key messages

Dissemination pathways:

- One page policy briefs that contain the most relevant things for specific policy makers – with links to longer working papers.
- 'hot topic' section on website – aimed at policy makers
- 'advertising' with think tanks
- Create the needs and not only serve ideas
- We could translate our policy briefs for key audiences

Dissemination plans for the final phase of MICROCON were presented by John Spall, including plans to increase policy impact through more targeted Policy Briefings and other outputs, and a strong policy focus in the last two MICROCON consortium events: the workshop and the congress in year 5. Also discussed were the new MICROCON blog to be launched at the beginning of year 5, press releases and the content of the project books.

List of Attendees

Becky Mitchell	IDS
Carlos Bozzoli	DIW
Christophe Muller	Aix-Marseille
Elodie Douarin	Sussex
Els Lecoutere	Gent
Fredrick Immanuel Kindi	MU
Jeremy Seekings	UCT
John Spall	IDS
Koen Vlassenroot	Ghent
Patricia Justino	IDS
Philip Verwimp	UAntwerp
Roman Mogilevsky	CASE
Tilman Brück	DIW
Nona Mikhelidze	IAI
Ingunn Bjorkhaug	FAFO
Anne Hatloy	FAFO
Michalis Lianos	UR
Colette Harris	ODG
Moshe Lavie	Aix-Marseille
Jean-Pierre Tranchant	IDS
Olivier Degomme	UCL
Christian Geiselmann	IZZ/DVV
Jaideep Gupte	IDS
Michael Emerson	CEPS
Adeline Delavande	Nova
Angela Libertarone	European Commission
Teodora Karamelska	IZZ/DVV
Vanya Ivanova	IZZ/DVV
Juan Vargas	IDS