

Among the objectives developed when planning the meeting, the following were research-focused:

1. To develop a research agenda which would facilitate the development of effective partnerships between country personnel, research groups, NGOs and donor organizations.
2. To identify key partners (country personnel, academics, donors) willing to participate in and support this initiative.
3. To widen the participation in post-conflict health policy research beyond those currently engaged in these activities; in particular to encourage and facilitate Canadian involvement in this initiative.
4. To work towards the development of a set of policy and planning tools which are well suited to application in post-conflict settings.

A range of ambitious meeting outputs had been identified prior to the meeting; a number of these were discussed at the workshop.

1. To develop an agreed framework for the research and related activities.
2. To define key questions to be answered through each of the main elements of the research.
3. To establish at least two research partnerships between two or more committed academic, southern partners, NGOs and donors established.
4. To suggest a timetable and objectives for research activity including finalising partners and mobilising additional research teams and funds.
5. To stimulate increased interest and attention to post-conflict health policy issues.

Objectives 2 and 5 were achieved to an extent, while objectives 1, 3 and 4 are currently being followed up the LSHTM with interested partners.

Research framework

A number of guiding principles were identified as underlying the research activities:

1. Southern voices and experience should be clearly heard.
2. Efforts must be made to support the capacity of southern institutions, including local and national government, to participate in and to actively influence these processes.
3. The development of assessment tools, guidelines, policy advice and other usable materials should be key outputs of the research activity.
4. Learning lessons and identifying good practice is central to avoiding the same mistakes being made time and again.

A research framework was suggested which builds upon earlier work undertaken through the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, but extends beyond this. The LSHTM team were particularly keen to share ideas around an action research agenda, and to identify partnerships which together could take this agenda forward. In particular, the initiative proposed to place country concerns at the centre and to examine the mechanisms for supporting the development of local capacity to manage the complex period of transition after major conflicts. A key objective was seen as not only drawing together experiences from affected countries, but refining our understanding of how these periods of complexity are