

Good governance requires a long-term investment in building up the capacity of governments to govern in a way that is participatory, responsive and efficient to addressing the concerns and demands of its citizenry. This in turn requires longer-term commitment from donor governments to support the development and maintenance of legitimate and accountable governments. Good governance can offer a more substantial voice to people marginalized and excluded from mainstream mechanisms of participation, thereby creating more inclusive societies that efficiently and effectively support and respond to citizens. Good governance and participation is also a legitimate and first-order prevention mechanism for potential conflict because of its emphasis on participation, inclusion, partnership building, and strong and accountable institutions

Development of local councils or other forms local civic involvement mandated to discuss and plan municipal policies and programs are need. One example of how these can be used both to give voice to community members and build relationships among diverse groups are the Panchayat Raj in India. For example, in 1983 in the southern state of Karnataka (India) a law was passed which included a clause that 25% of the seats in local councils would be reserved for women. The success of this initiative among other things resulted in the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment (1995) calling for a reservation of seats for women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in local councils. This has resulted in a new face of politics, whereby some of the most marginalized peoples are brought into the forefront to both participate and shape local politics.¹³

From A Canadian Foreign Policy perspective this means for example:

- Canadian good governance investments and support at the country level should include training in the area of citizen participation; equality and inclusion;
- Mechanisms for sharing Canadian knowledge about inclusive governance in specialized areas are required (judicial reform, electoral reform, civil society capacity and participation).

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

It is widely acknowledged that the real sources of conflict arise from inequality and economic disadvantage (*Breaking the Conflict Trap: Civil War and Development Policy* (World Bank, 2004)). For people with disabilities the experience of exclusion and deprivation are a reality of daily living. For families who have a family member with disability exclusion from the labour market and access to services define their existence. The experiences and knowledge of people with disabilities and their families has led to progress models of inclusion and social policy. The lessons learned by organizations of people with disabilities provide valuable input into strategies for conflict resolution, prevention and rebuilding.

The impact of conflict on people with disabilities is also of particular concern;

- Displaced people with disabilities face challenges in finding safety, in activities of daily life, in discrimination on several fronts including education, access to services and rehabilitation; and are in some cases more vulnerable to physical attack

¹³ Panchayat Raj: Women Changing Governance.
<http://www.sdnpu.org/gender/resources/mono5.html#Introduction>