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*negotiation, cessation of hostilities, transition, and consolidation.* There is a particular need for political/diplomatic actors to be involved for longer periods of time, as the development agencies are. One to two years is not a sufficient period of time for complex political restructuring to take root. The bulk of external assistance should take place during the transition phase (diplomatic, military, financial, legal, and technical), but planning and coordination must be initiated earlier, while *negotiations* are in progress. At this stage it is also important for donors to develop a cooperative relationship with the conflict actors so as to facilitate meaningful planning. Some initial activities can also be implemented during the *cessation of hostilities*, such as refugee repatriation (where possible), demining, and demobilisation of combatants. During the *transition phase*, important reconstruction activities (adjusted as the specific context requires) could include the following:

- provision of internal civilian security: disarm combatants, end impunity, and restructure police/security forces for civilian control
- strengthen civil society so that it can participate in and contribute to an effective, inclusive political process
- strengthen government's capacity to function at key levels: legislature, public administration, judiciary, and regional governments
- ensure access to basic survival needs: food, water, health care, shelter
- support community-based reconciliation and confidence building: functional cooperation on projects to rebuild social and economic infrastructure
- institutionalise protection and promotion of human rights, and develop mechanisms for punishing those guilty of past atrocities
- assist the return of refugees and internally-displaced persons, including ex-combatants
- promote rural and urban economic revitalisation: focus on job-creation and support for the rejuvenation of household economies and the smallholder agricultural sector

For these peace-building activities to meet their objectives, another important consideration is the *interaction of local and international actors*. Local actors must be