

unlawful objectives, it often becomes a target for destruction. In other instances, the criminal justice system was party to the injustices which led to the violent confrontation. In any event, the criminal justice system by its very nature is unlikely to function properly in a conflict situation characterized by an emergency situation.

What are the elements of an intervention strategy to rebuild a criminal justice system after a violent conflict?

#### A Review of the local situation

A thorough review of the situation prevailing in a country after a conflict is crucial to the understanding of what demands are likely to be placed upon the legal institutions and, in particular, on the criminal justice system. At this preliminary stage, efforts should center on obtaining a comprehensive knowledge of the political process, balance of power and background to the particular conflict.

#### Needs assessment

The purpose of this phase should be to examine the situation of a country's criminal justice by evaluating the demands placed upon it and determining the action required to render it capable of meeting them. The needs assessment should build on the information and conclusions of the review of the local situation and examine each component of the criminal justice system. The needs assessment should pay particular attention to the legal framework, and the human and other resources required.

The review of a country's legislative framework should aim to determine the needs for new legislation, legislative amendments or reforms, in accordance with the post-conflict situation, the provisions of peace-agreements, and the demands placed on the criminal justice system. Particular attention must be given to obtaining a thorough knowledge and understanding of the country's legal system and legal tradition. There is also a need to determine the level of professional knowledge and expertise available locally (including in neighboring countries). The needs assessment should determine the manner and time frame for addressing issues related to human resources development as part of the broader issue of the management and restructuring of the public service. The efficient functioning of a criminal justice system also depends on the material resources placed at its disposal to support operations. There is a need for a basic infrastructure that includes among other things, facilities and equipment. Financial resources are needed to ensure that the criminal justice personnel can operate in an adequate fashion. This is particularly relevant to establishing and safeguarding the independence of members of the judiciary and ensuring that the criminal justice system has personnel of unquestionable integrity and high professional standards.