

Somaliland, but not in Guinea Bissau or Guatemala) can begin to address this issue. Still, the rehabilitation of public infrastructure and services in the city may take a long time, and additional private or community initiatives may be required.

> Recreating an effective and trustworthy local police force can be difficult. Under-resourced and poorly supervised police forces are vulnerable to corruption (as is reported in Bissau and Guatemala City). A large and powerful police force, on the other

hand, may also abuse its power or be manipulated for political purposes.

> It would be a mistake to automatically associate male youth with violence. Many young men, such as those in Mogadishu, are themselves vulnerable to armed groups while providing for their families and engaging in active peacebuilding.

> Finally, while cities may contribute to national stability and improved security in the long run, it is important to note that “conflict entrepreneurs”

(the politico-military elite involved in initiating and sustaining violent conflict) are often based in urban areas. Urbanism may stimulate moderation and toleration for diversity, but it can also feed ambitions for political control. ●

A boy walks by a group of soldiers in Guatemala City during the first day of a joint army and national police operation to patrol the most dangerous neighbourhoods of the city. (July 2004)

