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## 100 Ideas

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At the start of the Post Conflict People conference, we challenged the speakers and panellists to produce at least one hundred ideas to address the challenges of stabilisation and reconstruction.

Below is a list of some of the ideas and suggestions raised by the panellists and speakers at the conference. The ideas are wide in scope and are therefore not aimed at a particular sub-set of the post-conflict community. Some of the ideas and suggestions directly contradict each other and not all are endorsed by Post Conflict People but they are certainly all worth discussing. The intention is for the best ideas to be realised in 2009, with the assistance of the Post Conflict People community.

1. Create a School of Governance in Afghanistan – the international community imposed a form of government but then did not provide the training to implement it.
2. Few Western police are deployed abroad. There needs to be an internationally available police force or government commitment to deploy them.
3. Pay judges in theatre properly to ensure justice reform.
4. Develop wiki guide to 'best practice' stabilisation activities, which can be updated by practitioners.
5. Provide Third Country training for interveners.
6. Formalise training and networking of practitioners.
7. Create universal qualifications in stabilisation.
8. Set up an International Insurance Fund (to split costs from commitment burden).
9. Create an International Cadastre Repository.
10. Develop a library of national constitutions (like blueprints for firemen).
11. Carry out preventative constitution altering.
12. Prioritise email systems that work, talk to each other and are safe.
13. Support Reporters Sans Frontiers (who are truly independent).
14. Set up Opinion Polling Sans Frontiers (rather than relying on military surveys).
15. Set up Auditors Sans Frontiers.
16. Develop degradable bullets (and other munitions).
17. Develop Babel Boxes (translators).
18. Develop wind-up video camera phone-TV gadgets.
19. Set up governance in a box (a phone, list of numbers, and a delineation of powers).
20. Ensure agreed legal strands at a micro level.
21. Create an off-the-shelf legal code.
22. Shift to broad-spectrum interaction with the community (not the standard diplomatic model).
23. Set up a temporary education board for teenagers.



24. Emphasise development of healthy political parties rather than election-monitoring.
25. Create an Independent International Commitment Watchdog.
26. Create Political Leader Awards and Political Leader Visas.
27. Create an Institutional Knowledge repository on post-conflict reconstruction and stabilisation.
28. Develop a handbook on stabilisation and reconstruction skills.
29. Develop a regularly updated toolkit on stabilisation and reconstruction skills.
30. Publish a set of accepted post-conflict terminology to ease communication between international partners in the field.
31. Maintain some caution of post-conflict labels.
32. Set up training schools for civilians conducting work in post-conflict theatres.
33. Create an over-arching body in each government with authority on post-conflict stabilisation and reconstruction, centrally managed – a 'gearbox' for post-conflict work.
34. Initiate strategic communications programmes aimed at the host population. Ensure timely and accurate public information.
35. Treat media / information space like terrain – it must be occupied and not given over; filled with substance rather than spin.
36. Set up strategic communications programmes to facilitate dialogue between the various departments and agencies contributing to stabilisation and reconstruction.
37. Prioritise coordinated regional strategies rather than overarching national strategies.
38. Priorities an over-arching national strategy that informs regional strategy.
39. Telephones. They encourage communication and national awareness.
40. The public sector should be more risk-taking and success-driven.
41. Prepare post-conflict planning at the start of conflict.
42. Start reconstruction mid-conflict.
43. Initiate a free media at the earliest possible moment.
44. Provide exchanges between Western journalists and those in conflict-afflicted countries.
45. Bring back exiles and diasporas to help with the reconstruction process.
46. Set up a Zimbabwean exiles forum; a database of skilled Zimbabweans worldwide. Offer them jobs when Mugabe's rule is over.
47. Develop a training toolkit to depoliticise police forces in order to avoid disbanding police forces altogether.
48. Do not underestimate the power of psychological control and warfare.
49. Where civilians cannot deliver aid, enlist Private Security Companies and military to do it.
50. At a grassroots level, treat employment and food supply as security issues.
51. Focus on restoring essential services first.
52. Do not focus on building more schools if the security situation is too poor for anyone to attend.
53. Question constantly the validity and necessity of international presence. Where it is not warranted, do not intervene.



54. Do not over-rely on formats; because an agency is set up to address poverty does not mean that it is a pressing problem in every theatre.
55. Set up a dialogue for practitioners to tell technical innovators what they need in-theatre.
56. Remember that no post-conflict theatre is safe, and technology can be used to mitigate risk.
57. Liaise with technological innovators to design communications interoperability.
58. Kabul: organise an 'out and about' day, where the military prioritise keeping the city secure for one day so that civilians go about the city and rediscover 'normality'.
59. Expand the Territorial Army, creating a post-conflict division to carry out reconstruction work to avoid civilian duty-of-care challenges.
60. Invite people affected by post-conflict crises to conferences and roundtables.
61. Encourage public institutions to admit mistakes and learn from them, rapidly.
62. Transfer the 'thorough training' mentality from the military to civilian ministries.
63. Survey, survey, survey! And thoroughly research the region.
64. Create a picture of defeat in the mind of the enemy commander.
65. Implement the Rule of Law as an immediate priority.
66. The international community must appoint a powerful leader to work with the local government.
67. Military Headquarters in Afghanistan should become the base of a combined civil-military operation.
68. Treat a post-conflict operation like a counter-insurgency operation.
69. Do not ignore neighbouring countries. Bring Pakistan in to the Afghanistan plan by forming a joint Afghanistan / Pakistan action group.
70. Generally remember the regional, rather than country-specific picture.
71. Treat the entire operation as one information gathering exercise.
72. Be realistic about aims and do not try to turn Afghanistan in to Switzerland.
73. Reassess military received wisdom for the long operation.
74. As NGO staff, do not pay local educated people more to be a driver than they would receive as a lawyer in-country.
75. Encrypt information when working in-theatre, but do it simply.
76. Cut down on paper work in the field by harnessing technology.
77. Adopt a comprehensive approach across all of government.
78. Zimbabwe: accept that an educated population will want to live in urban centres and will be likely to reject farming careers.
79. Create a National Security Council in Britain to coordinate post-conflict response.
80. Encourage optimism and forward thinking in the international approach to stabilisation and reconstruction.
81. Ensure that interventions are as civilian as possible and as military as necessary.
82. Create a standardised international stabilisation skills course.
83. Incentivise peace through public-private finance initiatives.



84. Utilise expertise through cross-pollination of staff.
85. Manage the gap between expectations and capabilities.
86. Avoid addressing short-term problems at the expense of solving long-term problems.
87. Stimulate the local economy as quickly as possible and ensure capital is available.
88. Increase accountability of the public sector for specific stabilisation and reconstruction challenges.
89. Carry out more research pre-intervention.
90. Ensure that tactics are accompanied by strategy.
91. Encourage the civilian component to accept that the military's role is essential in many theatres.
92. Overhaul military capabilities to diversify away from short, conventional operations.
93. Do not introduce a system to a host nation without training anyone how to implement it.
94. Integrate civilian and military intelligence.
95. There is always a window of goodwill – this needs to be held on to.
96. Increase the number of counter-terrorism operations happening in-theatre.
97. Differentiate between insurgents and criminals, and strategise accordingly.
98. Have staff multitask; for example security personnel are capable of carrying out monitoring.
99. Increased communication between the international post-conflict community.
- 100.** Organise more multidisciplinary conferences.