

# *Challenges and trends in monitoring peace interventions*

# Presentation focus

- Provide an overview of typical problems/challenges related to M&E of peace interventions
  - Methodological, conceptual, and political challenges
  - Also relevant for other interventions aimed at societal change, e.g. Sustainable Development
- Present some recently developed tools/guidelines facing some of the challenges
- Present some alternative approaches to M&E that could solve some of the challenges
- Based on a review of UN practice in the field, and on experiences from involvement in a number of initiatives to develop indicators and monitoring tools related to peacebuilding and development

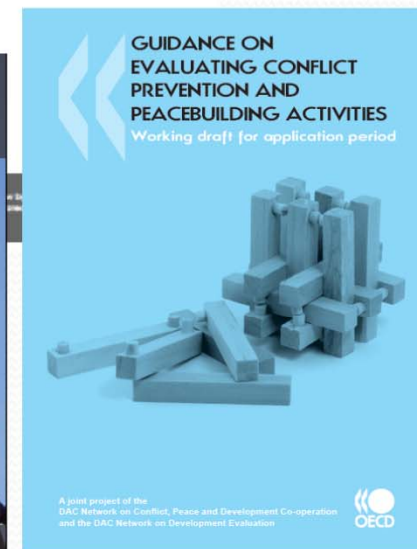
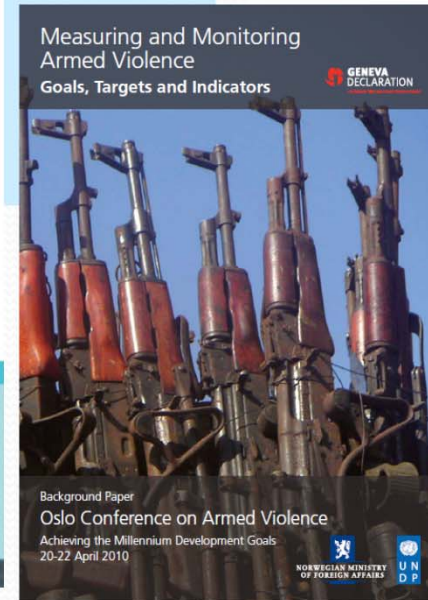
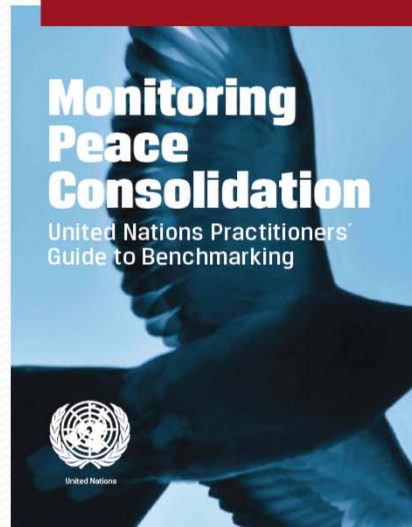
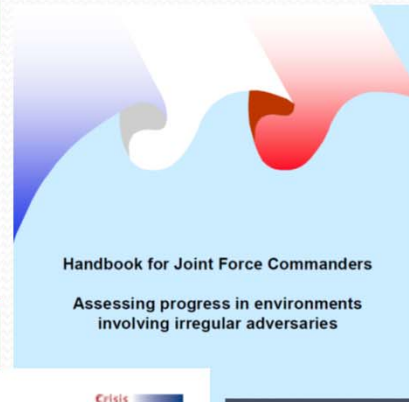
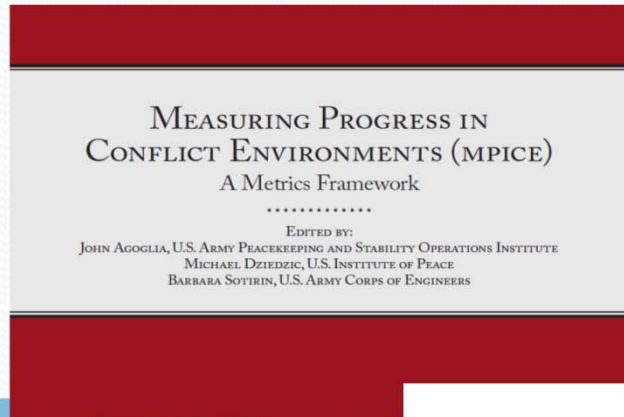
# Fafo's competence and perspective

- Renowned for large scale surveys (quantitative and qualitative) in challenging environments
- Focus on living conditions (“people’s perspective”)
- Research based on collection of primary data on ground
- Competence from other but conceptually related fields, e.g. SDI
- An “outsider’s” view on the M&E process – not only methodological/technical aspects

# Recognition of challenges

- No match between results and experienced reality
- Tools based on theory (of change) and assumptions
- Measuring progress, not set-back and unsustainable trends (biases)
- Too mechanistic and top-down (little focus on process)
- Measuring outcomes, not effects
- Lack of relevant data
- Quality of data
- Need for including qualitative measures
- Lack of competence
- Limitations of universal measures / Need of contextual focus
- Based on single narratives (often “a dream”)
- Used as a justification tool
- Political buy-in process of indicators (unclear focus and visions)
- Is contextual (system-wide) effect the sum of each intervention’s contribution?
- “Precisely wrong” or “approximately right”?

# Recent development of tools and guidelines



# Recent development of tools and guidelines

- International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding and the World Bank
- UNDP and the Secretariat of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development
- United States Institute of Peace (MPICE)
- OECD Guidance on evaluating conflict preventions and peacebuilding activities
- Multi National Experiment /Nato
- USAID / Military actors
- Crisis States Research Centre, LSE
- Phoenix Network for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation for Conflict & Peace Interventions

# Clarifying the purpose of the tools

- Strategy inputs
  - Impact assessments
  - Assessing contextual change (CDW)
- Controlling use of funds
- Comparison/ranking purposes
- Overall trends

# New tools and alternative approaches

- District Stability Framework (DSF) / TCAPF
- MPICE (Measuring Progress In Conflict Environments)
- Case Study Approach
- Contribution Analysis
- Multi-Narrative Frameworks
- Guidelines and principles
- Technical improvements (aggregation)
- Contextual monitoring systems (no attribution)

# Summary of present status and trends

- Still in the phase of recognizing challenges, but increasing consensus
- Still a gap between guidelines/principles (politically founded/qualitative) and practical M&E/Benchmarking tools (technically founded/quantitative)
- Emerging consensus on the need for the following types of indicators/data:
  - Core conflict indicators
  - Perceptual indicators
  - Qualitative indicators
  - Indicators on youth
  - Contextual indicators
- Triangle of indicators/data: perceptual indicators – MDG/Social Development indicators (attention to qualitative/effect indicators) – Core conflict data (“symptoms”)
- Contribution by recent initiatives
  - Geneva Declaration:
    - Based on core conflict (armed violence) indicators
    - Conceptually linked to MDGs
  - Others:
    - Conceptual improvements (MPICE)
    - Promotion of context importance; perceptual data; conflict data; data linked to MDGs; and youth (World Bank/IDPS)
    - Promotion of local perspectives/bottom-up approaches (USAID)
- Research need: Evaluation of the evaluations/evaluation processes

# References

- Measuring peacebuilding: challenges, tools, actions

[http://www.humansecuritygateway.com/documents/NOREF\\_MeasuringPeacebuilding\\_ChallengesToolsActions.pdf](http://www.humansecuritygateway.com/documents/NOREF_MeasuringPeacebuilding_ChallengesToolsActions.pdf)

- Monitoring Peace Consolidation; United Nations Practitioners' Guide to Benchmarking

[http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/pdf/Monitoring\\_Peace\\_Consolidation.pdf](http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/pdf/Monitoring_Peace_Consolidation.pdf)