

Crisis Management Centre Finland

HUMAN SECURITY RESEARCH PROGRAMME

CMCFinland

Kriisinhallintakeskus
Crisis Management Centre

Introduction

The Crisis Management Centre (CMC) Finland is an international centre of expertise in civilian crisis management and peacebuilding activities, responsible for recruiting and training Finnish experts for civilian crisis management, peacebuilding and international civil protection missions. The core functions of CMC Finland also include research and development for which the Research and Development Sector is responsible. CMC Finland operates under the Ministry of the Interior and its activities are guided by the National Strategy for Civilian Crisis Management as approved in 2008.

The research activities of CMC Finland commenced, along with the founding of the Centre, in 2007. The Research Programme 2008–2012 was prepared the following year, focusing on research on various elements of crisis management; this includes civilian crisis management missions and methods, the training for civilian crisis management tasks, civil-military coordination, and on technological applications for civilian crisis management.

Civilian crisis management evolves along with the context and the emerging security threats. The success and effectiveness of civilian crisis management operations, as well as promoting sustainable and long-lasting peace, demands a wider understanding of the country or area in question. Human security forms a framework within which security, various threats as well as local and international initiatives, can be comprehensively analysed. The foundation for the new research programme of CMC Finland is also based on the concept of human security.

Ethical premise

Problems and challenges in international crisis management, peacekeeping and peacebuilding have brought forward the need to examine the activities of the international community from a humanistic perspective that focuses on protecting and empowering individuals and communities in addition to reconstructing and strengthening the states emerging from conflicts. Armed conflicts are becoming increasingly complex, for this reason prevention and follow-up of conflicts demand profound understanding of the context, conflict dynamism, actors and features that can cause threats both to people and the state. In addition to military threats, threats can be associated with economy, health or environment, thus being primarily directed at people.

A people-centric and broad understanding of various threats is the fundamental basis of human security. The concept of human security that first emerged as a political term has later been theoretically defined, and has been introduced as a framework for research on international crisis management, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

The concept of human security has two definitions: narrow and broad. The framework of CMC Finland's research programme is based on the broad definition of human security, as defined by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Commission on Human Security. According to the UNDP and the Commission on Human Security, human security means protecting the fundamental human values from severe and wide-spread threats in a manner that promotes the freedom of people and the fulfilment of human life. The UNDP defined the different security threats into seven categories: economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security and political security. The CMC Finland research programme applies this categorisation.

Strategic premise

First and foremost, the Human Security Research Programme has three fundamentals: 1) the core values of CMC Finland: human security, equality and comprehensive approach to crisis management; 2) the Finnish National Strategy for Civilian Crisis Management (2008); and 3) the Finland's Comprehensive Crisis Management Strategy (2009) together with Development and Security in Finland's Development Policy document (2009). Furthermore, the Ministry of the Interior's research strategy attaches the research of CMC Finland to a vision that research conducted under the Ministry, or other research that is scientifically acknowledged and helps promoting security, equality and justness, is utilised in decision-making.

Objectives

The Human Security Research Programme has two objectives:

1. The program integrates the different responsibilities of CMC Finland. The primary role of CMC is to recruit and train Finnish civilian experts for international crisis management and peacebuilding missions. Training and recruiting experts for civil protection operations is also the task of CMC Finland.

Thus, research on crisis management and peacebuilding directly supports training and recruitment. The Research and Development Sector of CMC Finland is responsible for research and development and supports the development of training and recruitment from the point of view of increasing human security. The Research and Development Sector also conducts independent, transparent and scientifically acknowledged research.

Strict categorisation between different activities related to conflict and crisis management (for instance, between security sector reform vs. development vs. humanitarian assistance) can be misleading as these activities are mutually dependent and in part supportive of each other. By centring the focus of the research programme towards human security, CMC Finland can sensibly combine its ongoing activities under the same framework. This will greatly unify the activities and create better synergy between the different functions of the centre.

2. The research programme helps in analysing research on crisis management and peacebuilding under a single framework. It also lays a theoretic-methodological foundation for the independent and applied research conducted in CMC Finland. The research is positioned on two levels:
 - It provides political and strategic recommendations for the development of both national and international civilian crisis management capabilities, especially on evaluating the impact of operations and on identifying best practises.
 - It provides operational recommendations for the development of Finnish civilian crisis management capacities in particular from the point of view of expertise and know-how.

Research themes

Peacebuilding

In general, peacebuilding refers to activities that support a country or area emerging from armed conflict to transform or resolve the political, socio-economic or other causes behind the conflict and gain a sustainable positive state of peace. The peacebuilding functions can be divided into five categories: guaranteeing (physical) security, securing immediate humanitarian needs, reconstruction, developing public administration and reconciliation¹.

¹ Commission on Human Security (2003): *Human Security Now*, p. 60.

For instance, in the reconstruction phase some of the central activities relate to increasing economic opportunities of the people, developing health services and controlling environmental problems that are often supported through humanitarian aid. Combining these elements that are crucial for human security with crisis management that supports – in the short-term – the strengthening of basic functions of governmental administration (e.g. police, rule of law, border and customs management) is a challenge for peacebuilding. Incorporating activities that increase the socio-economic well-being of human beings with strengthening the security sector and other activities that aim at developing public administration can create a foundation for transformation from short-term crisis management to long-term development assistance. This also gives basis for promoting gender equality and human rights.

Identifying hindrances and challenges threatening the process of building of sustainable peace calls for broad understanding of the society in question and diverse expertise from various areas of the society. It is the task of the research to discover these problematic areas and identify best practises for developing the transformation from crisis management to development assistance. Utilising this research, the different functions of peacebuilding can be developed, local ownership strengthened and the know-how of experts working in areas emerging from armed conflict will be improved.

Preparedness and prevention

Conflict prevention

Peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of armed conflicts and various crises is critical in order to obtain sustainable peace and for the promotion of human security. However, post-conflict peacebuilding is not adequate without necessary preventive measures that aim at preventing the loss of human lives caused by new or renewed conflicts. The significance of development aid as part of conflict prevention calls for scrutinising the security-development nexus. Peace mediation, from high diplomacy to grass-root level mediation, is part of conflict prevention. The expertise on civilian crisis management in support of peace mediation must be examined as part of a comprehensive approach that attempts to identify means for conflict resolution and peacebuilding before the outbreak of armed conflicts.

Preparedness for disasters

Preparedness for possible catastrophes or natural disasters (such as earthquakes or floods) and civil protection tasks in demanding environments requires broad understanding of the nature of conflicts and crises. Furthermore, there is a need to obtain verifiable data and study best practises on how to integrate, for instance, issues of environmental consequences caused by conflicts and natural disasters, climate change and health matters into the continuum of humanitarian assistance, crisis management and development aid.

Comprehensive approach

A comprehensive approach in crisis management refers to better coordination between different activities and actors engaged in crisis management, and a comprehensive vision of which functions should be utilised in various stages of a conflict or crisis. The comprehensive approach aims at improving the impact of crisis management, peacebuilding and international civil protection activities.

Security sector reform (SSR) is an example of a function that requires a comprehensive approach. Within the context of SSR, the military can contribute to reforming the armed forces of a state in question; civilian crisis management experts aim at developing the police and rule of law systems, and development aid actors aim at creating necessary basic services in different sectors. The concept of security sector reform was initiated in the development sector and was based on creating the linkage between security and development. As a concept, SSR emphasises the integration of national defence, police, intelligence and reform of rule of law, but also commitment to democratisation, human rights and good governance. Each situation requires a comprehensive and case-specific analysis of the best possible way to implement the support functions. Ultimately, comprehensiveness aims at improving human security among the population of a crisis-affected country.

In addition to the research conducted at CMC Finland, research on comprehensive approach is also strengthened as part of the activities of the Finnish Centre of Expertise in Comprehensive Crisis Management².

² CMC Finland and FINCENT (Finnish Defence Forces International Centre) founded the Finnish Centre of Expertise in Comprehensive Crisis Management in November 2008.

Equality and gender

Considering equality and gender in crisis management and peacebuilding enables the implementation and evaluation of different functions from the point of view of various groups and people. Fulfilment of equality is a core indicator of promoting human security in conflict areas. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 'Women, Peace and Security', adopted in 2000, requires that crisis management actors actively observe equality and gender. This is also emphasised in Finland's National Action Plan for Implementing UN Resolution 1325 which was adopted in 2009.

By examining conflict areas from the point of view of equality and gender, actors engaged in crisis management and peacebuilding can better identify the various opinions and mindsets in areas emerging from conflicts. Including different attitudes and mentalities into the activities during the planning phase better secures a broad and credible role of local actors in peacebuilding as well as eliminates the risk of only incorporating certain groups, such as the elite, in the peacebuilding process.

The notion of different gender roles in conflict areas, varying according to the socio-economic, political and cultural status of the individual, and also submissive to the individuals' age, social status and ethnicity, enables separation from sexual stereotypes that often guide the activities. It is equally important to distinguish the different models that various organisations have adopted relating to gender and masculinity, which is reflected through the prioritisation of activities of the organisations in crisis and conflict areas with respect to, inter alia, ways to deal with special needs of the female, children, youth and sexual minorities.

Expertise and know-how

Working in international and multicultural civilian crisis management missions and under volatile security situation requires expertise. Civilian experts, deployed to international organisations through secondment often have extensive professional experience from their own field; however, gaining expertise in civilian crisis management, peacebuilding and international civil protection tasks requires training and suitable mentality to allow their work in different and challenging environment.

Mapping of training needs and examining the impact of training are part of developing expertise and know-how. In relation to this, the utilisation of personal expertise in various operational environments is an important topic.

Maintaining expertise and know-how requires constant research and evaluation on the operational situation of civilian experts. Situational awareness and creating communication processes demand verifiable research results that can provide tools for developing managing of human resources.

After the repatriation of the civilian experts, research facilitates the gathering of best practises and lessons identified. Examining the experts' terms of employment includes analysing the significance of family vis-à-vis working motivation and endurance, as well as the development of the experts' careers after repatriation. This wider approach strengthens the knowledge of the comprehensive nature of serving in civilian crisis management missions, and thus serves also those considering applying for such assignments.