Achieving SDG 16: Building community resilience and strong indigenous peoples’ institutions

UNPFII20 Side Event

EXPERIENCE FROM CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS, BANGLADESH

Presented by
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BACKGROUND OF CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS (CHT)
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS
Colorful Mro Dance

Celebration of New year

Kherebai Dance of Tripura People
DISCRIMINATION, INJUSTICE & MARGINALIZATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF CHT

Kaptai Dam constructed in 1960s
ARMED STRUGGLE FOR THE RIGHTS TO SELF-DETERMINATION
DIALOGUES & SIGNING OF THE CHT ACCORD BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PARBATYA CHATTAGRAM JANA SAMHATI SAMITI (PCJSS)

Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord signed on the 2nd of December in 1997 after 26 dialogues!
MALEYA FOUNDATION’S WORKING APPROACH

2003 to now

IP’s Sustainable and Self-Determined Development (IPSSDD)

2005 to now

Conflict Sensitive Development/Do No Harm Approach

2008 to now

Conflict Transformation Approach
• Peace Accord 1997 opened up potential opportunities for the CHT IPs.
• However, effective participation, recognition & respect of IP’s knowledge, sensitivity toward indigenous culture and recognition of IP rights remain the main challenges.
• Maleya began in 2003 working for the Indigenous Peoples’ Sustainable and Self-Determined Development (IPSSDD).
MAINSTREAMING CONFLICT SENSITIVITY WITHIN MALEYA & PARTNERS BY

- Developing Maleya’s capacities & mainstreaming Local Capacities for Peace (LCP) within organizational systems (i.e. in PME);
- Learning from experienced organizations and networks through exposure visits;
- Orientation/training of youth, women, civil society activists & partners on conflict sensitivity;
CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION APPROACH

• Building organizational capacities on conflict analysis & using Systemic Conflict Analysis, Reflecting on Peace Practice tools;
• Developing programmes/ intervention strategies to change conflict dynamics;
• Working with different stakeholders including youth, women and civil society groups at local to global level;
• Formation/strengthening of IP institutions
CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION APPROACH ENABLES

• the perception of the wider picture of conflict;
• the identification of the positions, interests and needs of the conflicting parties and
• the identification of the key driving factors/the leverage and entry points for effective interventions.
KEY LEARNING

• IPSSDD is more effective and sustainable if conflict sensitivity and the conflict transformation approach is integrated;

• It is important to understand conflict dynamics to make effective interventions;

• Multi-faceted and multi-stakeholder strategies are important to transform the culture of violence;

• Inter-generational dialogue processes are essential to change perceptions and attitudes;

• Gender based violence is a powerful entry-point to work across the social divide;
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS to achieve SDG16 TARGETS

• IP organizations, state and development actors should integrate conflict sensitivity and the conflict transformation approach for the development and wellbeing of society;

• Government should provide necessary support and be inclusive of IPs organizations for mainstreaming and developing necessary knowledge and skills about the conflict transformation approach;

• Governments should provide space and a favorable environment and increased safe democratic and civil societies for IPs to build strong institutions for sustainable development.
“Dialogue and collaboration can prevent violent conflict and promote peaceful solutions.”

John Paul Lederach and Michelle Maiese

THANK YOU