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Gender Needs Assessment in Conflict-Affected Areas in Thailand's Southernmost Provinces

Background

The century-long struggle in Thailand's southernmost provinces of Yala, Narathiwat and Pattani broke into open violence in January 2004, and has since escalated, involving over 9,000 individuals in violence, widowing nearly 1,000 women and orphaning over 1,200 children.¹ The conflict historically centered on the relationship between Malayu-speaking Muslims majority in the three provinces, and the largely Buddhist nation. Earlier factions of the twentieth century fought for separation from Thailand; evidence reported in this study indicates that the concerns are with participation, justice, equality and according legitimacy to the distinctive regional identity and cultural practices, rather than on separating from Thailand.

In 2007, the World Bank through the Post-Conflict Fund (PCF) window provided technical assistance to the Thai Government to help understand the conflict and suggest ways to facilitate conflict resolution in the three Southern provinces. The PCF grant fund had two components: 1) a conflict study to understand and help inform the design of pilot activities, and 2) capacity building to promote peace-building and conflict resolution. Results and recommendations of the conflict study would help identify community activities aimed at economic empowerment and conflict resolution. The plan for the second phase of the project was to focus on piloting these community activities in the conflict-ridden three southernmost provinces in Thailand.

With a focus mainly on community-based problems and on development challenges arising thereof within the conflict areas, the conflict study could not systematically capture and address gender issues. Additional funds were obtained from the Gender Action Plan Project to focus on gender needs. The aim of the Gender Needs Assessment is to deepen the understanding of the conflict situation experienced by men and women in the southern conflict areas; and to help identify appropriate interventions aimed at improving the lives of men and women in conflict situations.

Rationale for Study

Sanam Anderlini critiques conflict analysis frameworks for focusing too much on the causes of conflict and not enough on the existing or possible sources of peace or resilience to conflict.² This study had been undertaken with the explicit purpose of developing a gendered understanding of dimensions of the conflict and the existing or possible sources of peace and resilience to conflict.

Because women and men experience conflict differently and cope in different ways, gender roles need to be understood throughout the phases of conflict to respond adequately through programming and policy. While conflict analysis frameworks tend to provide a macro-level strategic assessment of a situation, the inclusion of gendered perspectives enhances 'people-centered' analysis. Understanding gender would ensure better understanding of conflict dynamics, but also highlight linkages with development and

poverty issues, by *identifying the gender dimensions of: 1) conflict situations; 2) possible areas for intervention in any follow up development activities; and 3) peace building potentials.*

Key Objectives of the Gender Needs Assessment

The objectives of the gender needs assessment study are as follows:

- To add value to and complement the PCF-supported conflict study by:
 - a better understanding of the way men and women are affected by the conflict in southern Thailand; and
 - determining the needs of men and women directly affected by the conflict.
- To add to the body of knowledge regarding women, men and their families affected by the conflict as well as the government's policies in addressing this conflict.

Approach

The gender needs assessment was conducted during August 2008 - June 2009, by a team headed by Ms. Penpuck Thongthae, a social science lecturer at Prince of Songkhla University, Pattani Campus in Southern Thailand. A panel of gender experts, representing academia, multilateral development agencies and civil society organizations, was established to provide guidance and help map out a plan, direction and questionnaires, and to review research findings.

A gender experts' panel discussion was held on May 4, 2008 to review the objectives and timeframe of the Gender Needs Assessment Project. It was understood that due to the violence in the areas, it would be very difficult for the research team to get access to the conflict-affected families and communities as well as gather accurate information from respondents affected by the conflict. The research team, however, was confident that their network of people and organizations working in the conflict-affected communities would be able to help them reach out to the potential respondents and information. A male facilitator was recruited to manage the focus groups discussion with Buddhist and Muslim male respondents. The gender expert team suggested that the project be more focused

on the most vulnerable groups, i.e., individuals and families affected directly and indirectly by the violence and conflict. One of the key reasons for selecting such groups was that there has been no systematic research conducted to review the situation and the needs of these vulnerable groups.

The gender expert group also suggested that the research team develop a list of key questions to be used during the interviews and focus group discussions on the following four key areas of needs, namely security, social, economic and physical needs. These are the areas that the gender specialists felt are vital to provide a better understanding of people who live in the conflict zone while reflecting on the inter-linkages of security and development issues. Therefore, the key task for the research team was to review the situation, including impact and security, physical, social, and economic needs of these vulnerable groups. Recommendations for interventions were provided.

The study reviewed relevant literature and reported on results of group discussions and individual in-depth interviews conducted under the previous Post Conflict Fund study.

Target Groups and Research Sites

The needs assessment, therefore, focused on the most vulnerable groups as a result of the violence and conflict in the southernmost provinces, and selected the following respondents from the three conflict-affected southern provinces: 25 individuals in each of four groups—Muslim women, Buddhist women, Muslim men and Buddhist men—all directly or indirectly impacted by the conflict.

Selection criteria of respondents included:

- 1) Conflict-affected persons who have received support from the government compensation project (due to the death of a family member or injury sustained during violent confrontation).
- 2) Affected persons from the areas of violent incidents and classified by the government as red and yellow areas. These areas included:

- a. Pattani province: Porming, Ban Na, Kounoree, Tha Rue, Nam Dam sub-districts
 - b. Yala province: Ban Rae, Bannangsata, Huay Krathing sub-districts
 - c. Narathiwat province: Kok Kiean, Kuruwornue, Ko Sathorn, Jahae, Suknaipatee sub-districts
- 3) Key characteristics of target individuals were:

Male	Female
1. Persons classified by the government and security apparatus under the “risk” group including those invited to join several months of training camp or investigated but not charged.	1. Husbands or children are classified in the risk groups.
2. Persons who are under investigation and have been released from custody on bail or without bail.	2. Husbands or children who are under investigation and have been released from custody on bail or without bail.
3. Persons who have lost family members or relatives.	3. Persons who have lost family members or relatives.
4. Persons directly impacted by conflict, either injured or handicapped.	4. Persons directly impacted by conflict, either injured or handicapped.
5. Persons indirectly impacted by conflict.	5. Persons indirectly impacted by conflict.

Respondent Profile

Respondents showed great diversity, ranging in age from 14 to 79 (average age 43). Of the 100 respondents, 60 lost a close family member to violence; 28 reported that a family member had been injured, including 2 cases who were permanently disabled. The majority (53%) were currently married; 27% widowed (no widowers were included in the respondents, although women account for some 17 percent of deaths since 2004³), 14% unmarried; and 3% each divorced or separated. The largest share (39%) had two children. Nearly all had completed primary education or greater (51%, primary; 36%, secondary or equivalent technical schooling; 4%

upper technical degrees; and 7% bachelor’s degree or greater); 2% reported having no education. A large number (38%) reported that they work in plantations (suggesting that they were owner/operators); 28%, day laborers; 7%, trade or business and 8%, homemakers. A subsequent section in the report indicates that Muslim occupations have changed dramatically in post-conflict situation. Reported annual income averaged 46,876 baht (less than US\$1,500), ranging from 4,800 (<\$150) to over 280,000 (\$8,000); most respondents earn 10,001 to 35,000 baht annually (\$303-\$1,060).⁴ The diversity of the group reinforced the need for sensitivity to individual differences.

Limitations of the Study

Because the respondents were among those most affected by the conflict and many still are categorized by national security agencies as “risk” groups or remain under investigation, respondents were cautious, fearful and wary of the interviewers and of the information they provided. The research team had long-standing links with civil society leaders who work in the selected areas and have gained trust and thus access within these communities. Despite trust and long term relationships, organizing focus groups was complicated and time-consuming. Conduct of open discussions with the affected respondents posed additional difficulties, especially among male participants suffering from and coping with trauma and suppressing their sense of anger and revenge. It took the research team several rounds of contacts and pre-meeting discussions before the men would feel more comfortable to participate in the focus group discussions.

The research was delayed for almost two months as the research team avoided interviewing Muslim respondents during the Ramadan (fasting) period and faced difficulty in accessing remote communities during the rainy season.

General Situation in Southern Thailand

The information for this section was obtained from the research under the PCF-supported conflict study and from other sources.

Social Context: While the majority of the Thai population are ethnic Thai and observe the Buddhist religion, some 80 per cent of the population in the southernmost provinces of Pattani, Narathiwat and Yala are of Malayu descent, speak the local Yawi dialect, are followers of Islam, and feel a closer affinity with Malaysia in the south than with the rest of Thailand. They lag behind rest of Thailand on many human and development indicators.

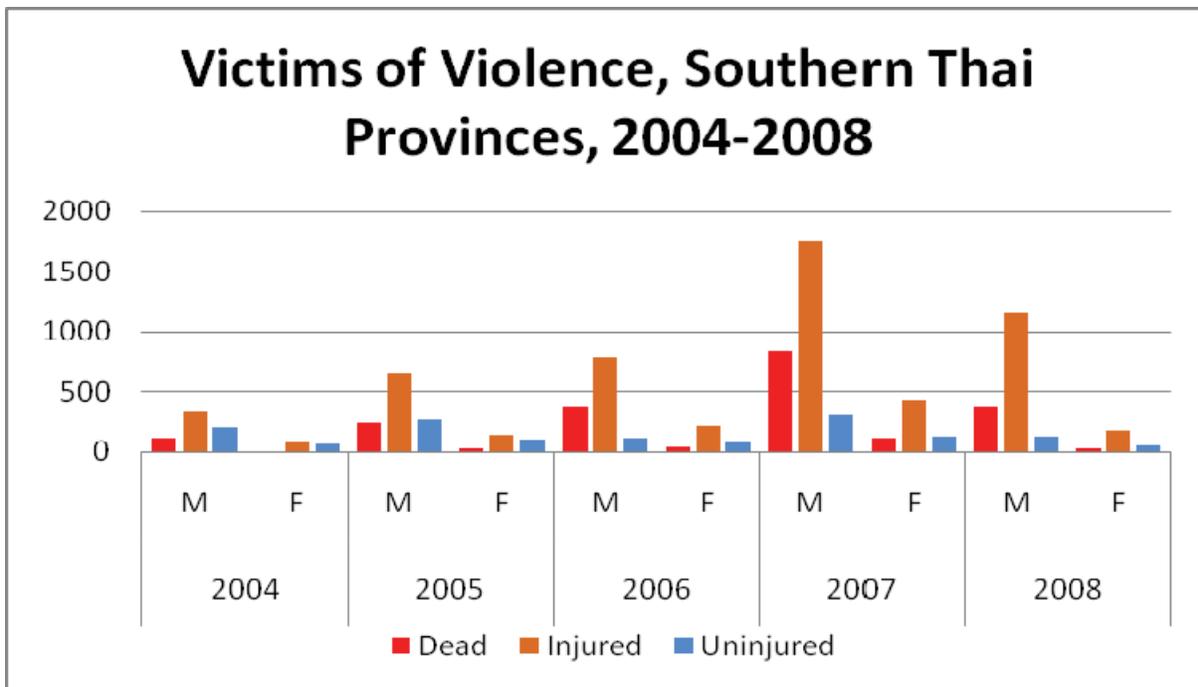
Violence: Since 2004, violence had affected increasing numbers of persons through 2007, as the accompanying graphic (based on government information) demonstrates.⁵ In 2007, casualties peaked at 952 deaths and 2,175 injured, then dropped in 2008, but remained above pre-2007 levels. Although more males died or were injured, women also suffered casualties: 218 died; 1,043 were injured and 857 were widowed.. Over 1,200 children lost at least one parent during the 2004-2008 period.⁶

The victims of violence in Pattani, Narathiwat and Yala Provinces numbered in the thousands (2,530, 3,938 and 2,829, respectively, and a total of 9,297 from 2004-2008). In the Muslim-dominated districts of Songkhla province bordering Pattani, 121 individuals were victims of violence, according to government reports.⁷

Poverty: Violence in the Southern provinces occurred in a context of persistent poverty, resulting in high un- and under-employment, impacting the potential for further violence. Persistent poverty is concentrated in fifteen districts in Narathiwat and Pattani and well below the 2004 Government goal of 70% of households above per capita annual income of Baht 20,000.⁸ These fifteen districts account for some 13% of households living in extreme poverty in the five southern provinces—suggesting that poverty, while less concentrated in other districts, is widespread in the region.

Development Status: The Southern provinces fall well below Thai national levels on many Millenium Development Goals,⁹ including malnourished children and school attendance and performance. Low male primary school attendance contributes to nearly half of rural boys aged 15 to 19 joining the work force rather than attending school. Public health status is below the national standard: fewer young children are fully immunized than in other Thai regions, and access to affordable clean water is limited by the lack of local water treatment systems.¹⁰

Public Investment: Nationwide in 2003, pre-primary through secondary school expenditures amounted to Baht 13,200 for each of some 12.7 million students. Equivalent expenditures in



Pattani, Narathiwat, and Yala Provinces amounted to less than a quarter of the national level—Baht 3,119 for each of the 329,390 students attending government schools, or Baht 1,868 for the 550,000 students between the ages of 5 and 19.¹¹ (Bangkok and central government expenditures account for a large share of expenditures.)

Villages are caught in a cycle of poor health, poverty and violence; violence in turn reduces the ability of government to address development needs. Violence also reduces the likelihood that parents will take infants to distant health centers. Low primary school attendance brings up a generation of children without the skills needed to move out of the cycle of poverty.

Impact from the Government Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations: Since the beginning of 2004, the Government has declared three important law, decree and regulation governing the southernmost provinces, namely, Martial Law, the Emergency Decree of 2005, and the Regulation of Internal Security Operations Command Region 4 Concerning Guidelines of Practice for Competent Official as per Section 11 of the Emergency Decree on Government Administration in States of Emergency B.E. 2548 (2005).

The enforcement of these law, decree and regulation has given the military the authority and power over the civil servants. The Martial Law, for example, grants the right for military to search, prohibit, seize, reside, destroy or change a place, destroy or expel. It allows the military to detain a suspect for interrogation or any actions necessary for the army purposes for up to 7 days.

The Government is perceived as reluctant to investigate the perpetrators of violence, refusing to allow a prominent forensic pathologist to exhume bodies to search for evidence of torture. The Government-appointed National Reconciliation Commission (NCR), established through the Emergency Decree discussed below, found itself sidelined by the Government. The NRC in a letter to the Thai Cabinet (published by the media) criticized defective justice mechanisms throughout the country as a factor contributing to unrest in the South.¹²

The decree took effect on 19 July 2005 in Narathiwat, Pattani and Yala and continues to be in effect. Although intended to be less rigid than the 1952 decree which it replaced, the decree has further eroded trust between Malay Muslims and the Government.

The head of the government-appointed NRC said the decree gave security forces a "license to kill". Two provisions, one granting law enforcement officers immunity from prosecution and the other suspending the jurisdiction of administrative courts to prosecute officials for human rights violations, left citizens with no redress for abuses. Despite some legal safeguards, the decree was left with loopholes that heightened the risk of arbitrary detention and mistreatment of detainees. The government's powers are the same as they were under martial law, but allegedly with less accountability.¹³ The perceived culture of impunity among government security forces heightened distrust and tension.

Note that all of the interviewees were directly or indirectly impacted by the enforcement of these regulations.

Key Findings of the Study

The needs assessment included two sections: a review of gender-relevant literature specific to the region and a report of focus group discussions.

Literature Review

The study team reviewed 17 documents written on women's issues in the South over the past 30 years. Topics include culture, religious beliefs, economics, development, participation, conflict and violence, and needs.

Literature indicates that Malayu-speaking women in southern Thailand work to preserve their cultural identity through marriage, language, dress and rearing children, while many continue a long Malayu tradition of participating in economic activities, including small businesses, market trade, rubber tapping, and in recent decades, factory work. Outside work provides space for Malay speaking women to interact with Buddhist women.

Research on the role of Muslim women in Pattani Province found that women in both urban and rural areas follow Islamic rules and practices in their roles and duties toward husbands and families. Because of the economic need for some women to work outside the home, they relax religious practices during working hours while still preserving Islamic traditions and practices.

The dual roles of homemaker and worker outside the home limit the opportunity for further education, and low education results in low and variable earnings. A 1961 study in Rusamilae village, Pattani Province, found that only 42.7% of working age women had elementary education. While not directly comparable, recent surveys suggest women's education has improved with time, although conflict itself has negatively impacted schooling.¹⁴ The 2000 national census showed an unemployment rate of 20.5% of people between 25-29 year of age in Pattani. The testing on the quality of education of grade 12 students in 175 areas in 2005 showed that the three southern provinces had the lowest quality of education when compared to the 175 educational areas around the country. Pattani ranked 174 out of 175.¹⁵

Women who participate in development projects are likely to have previously participated in various community groups such as savings, cooperatives or weaving groups. Several studies found Buddhist women more likely to participate in community development activities than Muslim women, while Muslim women pay more attention to local and national elections. In rural areas in Southern Thailand, both Muslim and Buddhist women give priority to their roles in child rearing, elderly care and income generating—but spend most of their time working.

A study of five local communities in Pattani Province in 1995 found that Muslim beliefs and practices pose some limitations on Muslim women's public participation. These include constraints on talking with men other than their own husbands and the lack of opportunity to participate in community meetings. Muslim community meetings have often been held after the Friday *ramat* at the mosque, attended only by

men, leaving women out of community planning and decision making.

Recent research reports increasing numbers of women affected both directly and indirectly by violence and indicates that women bear great burden. Sustaining family economic well being falls on the woman after the death or injury of her husband. Some women whose family members are involved in legal cases struggle to earn an income and provide safety for other family members, while fighting to clear the family name.

A recent research on "Peace in the Healing Work: Views from Women Working in the Three Southern Provinces" stated that characteristics of women in general are suitable to help with the healing process. Women are seen to work well in providing support to affected persons and families. In general, women do not agree to violent acts nor do they support violence. There is a need to provide more support and capacity building for women in the conflict areas to strengthen their confidence and to help them participate more in peace and development processes. Another research also recommended that the assistance to affected women would need to be tailored according to different needs of each individual with the understanding of the cultural sensitivity and without discrimination. Government should have guidelines on how to treat conflict affected women.

The study on the "Real Needs of People in the Three Southern Provinces" in 2005 stated that there were four major needs including 1) need to be able to participate in the decision making; 2) need for the general public to accept cultural diversity; 3) need to have justice and equality in the areas; and 4) need for the general public to accept special identity of the local people. This 2005 study was conducted as input for the government to formulate their policy and plans for the conflict areas.

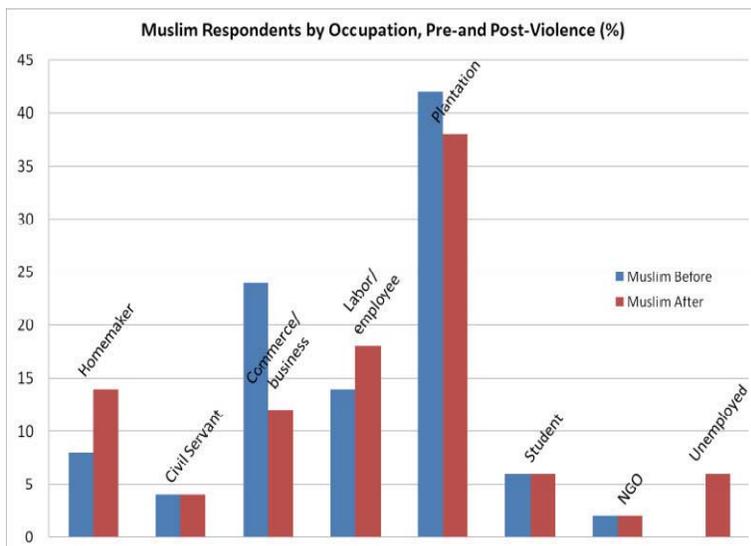
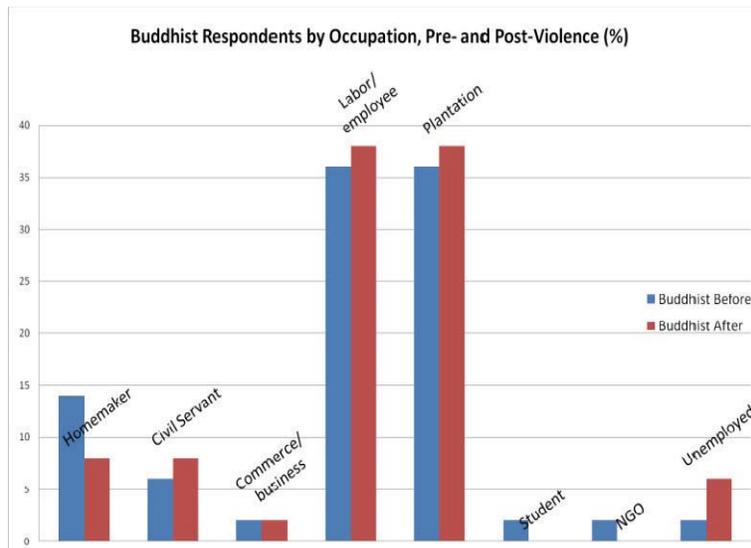
Note that although conflict and violence affected both men and women, there is no research that focuses on the impact on men and the changing roles of men in the affected areas. The focus group discussions and interviews conducted in conjunction with this study partially filled this gap.

Focus Group Discussions and Interviews

Changing roles of affected men and women. Muslim men in the southernmost provinces are expected to take the lead in all key issues for the family as well as participate in community activities. In the conflict areas, security agencies tend to focus on men of all ages. Men who are under investigation or involved with security related cases are usually under close watch by security personnel. These men cannot get together and form support groups like the widows’ groups. Without support groups, they often face stress and insecurity outside the home. As a result, they do not participate in community activities and many affected men are unable to continue their

breadwinner role. They often try to find work near home. Those severely injured are unable to work as hard as before, drastically reducing self esteem and roles within the family and community.

The impact of violence on occupations is demonstrated graphically in the following charts, showing pre- and post-violence occupations among the 100 respondents. While occupational status among Buddhists is relatively stable, the percentage of Muslims engaged in commerce or business is half the pre-violence level. While the percentage of Muslims running plantations has dropped to a lesser extent, the total impact is a 16% shift from higher status and higher income



occupations to those of low status and low income—or to unemployment, which has gone from zero to over 6 per cent. Unemployment, women reporting their occupation as housewives, and day labor all increased among Muslims.

Widows have to take on new roles to earn more income for the household. Many of these affected women (the majority have little education), whose former roles were limited to the household and family, have to seek support from outside organizations. With the support of the government and non-governmental organizations working on reconciliation and compensation, many affected women were able to organize support groups.

In some cases where husbands, sons or other close family members are accused of involvement in insurgent activities or are jailed, some women have learned to access the judicial system and legal support. They have begun to take active role to voice their concerns and extend their support to other women who are facing the same experience with the justice system. Since the conflict started in 2004, an increasing number of women, especially widows, have taken leadership roles in the communities and at the national level.

This research assesses four aspects of major needs - security needs, social needs, economic needs and physical needs.

Security needs. All participants in the Focus Group Discussions indicated that the first priority need is safety and would like to see the conflict end as soon as possible. Because every targeted participant was selected on the basis of being directly or indirectly involved with conflict, all expressed the perception that they and their families were not secure either in public or within their own homes. They tended to stay at home, and traveled only when necessary, such as going to work or to the hospital. The majority of participants worked in rubber plantations, and felt the need to frequently alter their routes to work. Some chose to take one route to work and returned by another. Some tried to avoid travel except during daylight hours. Participants felt that the stress resulting from the violence and conflict has led to more health issues. Some did not have enough money for transport to the

hospital, and some who owned motorcycles were afraid to use them as most deadly incidents happened while victims were driving their motorcycles. Some of the Buddhist male and female respondents had left their villages to live with their children or relatives in towns. These people have asked the government to send in the military to protect their communities. Conflict-affected participants also felt that they have been deprived of rights, freedom of speech, and access to the justice system. Muslim male and female participants told the researchers that government staff in the judicial process treated their accused family members unjustly without a fair trial. They felt that the government staff often did not have enough evidence. In addition, the security officers, when dealing with the accused, were perceived to follow neither Islamic principles nor legal practices. Respondents argued that the improper conduct was seen as part of the emergency law, which was perceived as providing authorities with total power. The perception of government officials' misconduct has created disbelief and mistrust in the justice system.

Male and female Muslim respondents would like to have community complaint systems established within communities. In addition, they have asked that the government set up the Committee to Promote and Facilitate Justice System within the Three Provinces in order to ensure that law enforcement is effective, just and transparent. They have suggested that all government officials and security staff receive training with regard to local cultural and traditional beliefs and practices prior to their deployment to the areas.

Discussion among the male and female Buddhist respondents, on the other hand, focused on different aspect of justice. They felt that they did not receive equal treatment and compensation as their Muslim counterparts. During the recuperation from the injury, respondents said that no one went to visit them at their houses.

Social Needs. Respondents mentioned that Buddhists and Muslims have been living together in harmony with mutual respect for each other's cultural and religious practices for decades in the Muslim-dominated southern provinces. The most

important social need expressed by the participants was for the government and the general public to accept and respect these diversities. This confirms the finding of the 2005 study on the “Real Needs of People in the Three Southern Provinces” which mentioned the following needs: 1) be able to participate in the decision making; 2) for the general public to accept cultural diversity; 3) have justice and equality in the areas; and 4) for the general public to accept special identity of the local people.

Since 2004, when the current conflict began, there was social isolation and discrimination among people within the community and the affected persons and families. All male and female participants perceived themselves and their families as isolated from or excluded by others within their communities. People, including relatives, did not want to associate with them or help them as they were afraid that it would draw the attention of the security agencies or bring harm to their families. Neighbors within their communities also perceived victims of violence negatively, as receiving money, other compensation and support from outside organizations; these were not available to other poor community members.

Economic Needs. All participants perceived income earned since 2004 as insufficient. The majority are daily wage earners or work in rubber plantations. Due to security and safety issues, they had to reduce their working hours. Before the current violence, workers left home very early, between 3:00 to 4:00 am, to start tapping rubber, but now they leave when the sun is up and have to return home before dark. Shorter work hours have reduced family income. In addition, many participants were shot at while traveling to rubber plantations. Recuperation imposed a further, drastic reduction in income. Women, especially widowed heads of household, who chose to work in rubber plantations had to ask male relatives (e.g., father-in-law or son) to accompany them to work. They earned only 100-200 baht per day, barely enough to put food on the table for a family of four. Debts were also reported to be increasing as these people had to borrow to pay for food and education for their children. Both Muslim and Buddhist widows perceived themselves as struggling to earn a

living due to limited skills to start other types of income generating activities.

In the case of some educated women who were directly linked to the legal system through a male relative charged with a crime or under suspicion, social discrimination had also spread into work place. These educated women said that they found seeking employment almost impossible as their applications were frequently rejected. Some people in the community and in the government viewed Islamic schools as places where insurgents are educated. When an Islamic school was closed down in Narathiwat province, religious teachers from that school found it difficult to find new jobs. Furthermore, for some respondents whose relatives were jailed, had to borrow money to pay for visits and legal expenses of their jailed relatives. Their debts, as a result, have increased.

Majority of the respondents both men and women said they would like to have more training in occupational skills and marketing. The women said that it is important for them to have occupations that would provide them with financial security and to enter into business activities where there is a market to support their products. Some of the occupations suggested by the women include making desserts, creating artificial flowers, captive fish cultivation, or Thai massage. However, for Muslim women, they preferred to have occupational training that would help them earn income and support food security within their households, such as gardening, raising catfish or bakery. As the majority of the Muslim respondents have extended families, having activities related to food making would also help them take care of their extended family members and sell the products in the local market. Male Muslim and Buddhist participants, again for security and safety reasons, wished to earn more but also work at or closer to home. They have asked for small loans with low interest and training in starting small businesses at home, such as, animal husbandry (raising pigs for Buddhist males, and raising cows for Muslim males), carpentry, and bio-fertilizer production.

Physical Needs. All participants reported facing very stressful lifestyles and perceived the need for

support of government or other agencies. The Buddhist male groups requested for small community medical clinics and small water purifying machines be set up nearby as it would help reduce travel risks. While the majority of participants did not report food shortages, all focus group discussions ranked the importance of having sufficient food as high as security needs. A small number of Muslim widows experienced inadequate food to feed all family members. A Yala Muslim woman said that some days the family did not have enough money to buy food so they only bought one small bag of rice to feed the children, and nothing for the adults. A Muslim woman from Pattani reported that her family often skipped some meals to cope with food shortages and she often collected leftover food from workshops she attended to feed her children at home. Participants felt that because of the lack of security, lower income and stress, people tended not to pay much attention to the quality of food. They said that they and the children lacked food with good nutritional value.

All focus groups indicated that they experienced more and more stress and would like the government to provide additional support to help with stress reduction.

In terms of education for their children, participants of all focus groups experienced difficulties in sending children to school, mainly due to the schooling costs. In addition, they said that the violence had resulted in teachers not being able to concentrate on teaching. School time has been reduced to only three to four hours per day. Respondents said that their children cannot read or write properly even after they graduate; thus resulting in difficulties to find jobs. Parents would like the government to review the curriculum of both secular school and Tadeka schools, and provide scholarships for their children.

Recommendations

Even though resolution of the current conflict is not yet at hand, the groundwork for peace and reconciliation can begin. Emerging from the literature review, focus group discussions and interviews, the following initiatives are worth considering.

- Strengthen measures which build trust and confidence in public security and justice among local communities (e.g., through dialogue between government and community people, fair trial, a minimum number of paid visits to incarcerated family members).
- Build on the perceived potential of women as peacemakers, capable of bridging cultural and religious gaps (e.g., by expanding women's multi-cultural support groups and extending their roles to include and undertake local initiatives to renew understanding within multicultural communities; include women in cross-cultural community dialogues).
- Expand the opportunity and public space to ensure the inclusion of women in community decision-making through simple adjustments in time and place arrangements for civic meetings (including day care services when needed).
- Develop support mechanisms for male victims of violence (e.g., by ensuring that their families left behind are able to have food and shelter, access to legal assistance for a fair trial, setting up support groups and/or opportunities to interact with others through sports and/or dialogue).
- Establish a help post (in a village administration building) where women can seek advice and information on how to implement tasks traditionally undertaken by their men (who may not be with them anymore or may be gone for some time).
- Address the needs of impacted families of all religious and ethnic backgrounds for improved physical and mental health through more locally available health and counseling services and provided by qualified staff/volunteers who speak the local dialects.
- Provide occupational training tailored to needs and market demands, including appropriate marketing skills.
- Link conflict-affected women and men to organizations that provide small loans and business training.

- Link and/or establish scholarship funds for primary and secondary school students from families who have lost a breadwinner or are from low income households.
- Provide all government officials and security staff with training on cultural and traditional beliefs and practices of the Malayu-speaking people prior to deployment in the south.

With regard to specific recommendations for the second phase of the World Bank (State and Peace-building Fund) supported pilot project in the conflict affected areas, the gender needs assessment study suggests the following:

Prior to the Implementation of the Project:

- Conduct gender-sensitive community development training for facilitators, provincial coordinators and the project management staff using the findings from the research. This is to create awareness and understanding of gender needs and concerns in the conflict affected areas.
- Ensure that gender sensitive aspects are mainstreamed in the Operations Manual.

During the Implementation:

- Ensure the inclusion of men and women, especially the ones that are affected by the conflict in the project area.
- Under the Block Grant Component that support local communities through community driven development approach, ensure that the community situation analysis includes the database of men and women, especially female-headed households that are affected by the conflict. These people should be included in the community forum to provide information and decision on the sub-projects needed for the communities. If they are unable to participate directly, other mechanisms should be included to ensure that the project includes their voices and needs.
- In addition, the project management team should inform the concerned government agencies of some specific recommendations from the findings such as setting up the complaint mechanism within the community and provide livelihood training especially

for conflict-affected men who are afraid of leaving their communities.

- Under the Small Grants Component which provides support to civil society organizations and network, the project management team should make sure that it reaches out to civil society organizations or networks that are working to support groups of conflict-affected persons and their families, especially affected men who usually isolate themselves from society after their violent experience. Unlike the widows, affected men have not organized themselves into support groups to reach out for additional assistance.

Project Monitoring:

- The project should develop a set of monitoring indicators that will capture gender disaggregated data and other intended outcomes of the development project.
- The project should monitor how men and women, especially the ones that are directly affected by the conflict, participate and the types of assistance prioritized and received from the project.
- Document the impact and lessons from the Project and share them at annual project workshops and national forum.

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¹ The Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre,2009

² Sanam Anderlini, *Mainstreaming Gender in Conflict Analysis: Issues and Recommendations*, Social Development Paper, Paper No. 33/February 2006. http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2006/02/13/000090341_20060213143713/Rendered/PDF/351500Mainstreaming0gender0WP3301Public1.pdf

³ The Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre,2009

⁴ Average 2008 Thai agricultural sector per capita income was slightly over 50,000 baht; average income for all sectors, over 106,000 baht. http://web.nso.go.th/eng/en/stat/lfs_e/table7_q408.xls

⁵ The Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre,2009

⁶ National Statistical Office data indicates that in 2006 the percentage of orphans in the South was 50% above that in other regions. NSO, Multiple Indicator Cluster Study.

⁷ The Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre, 2009.

⁸ Community Development Department database; also see NESDB, *Rai ngan ditdam polgarpatana nairaya krungpan patina chabab ti9 radab paak*, Office of the National Social and Economic Development Board, June 2004.

⁹ Thailand National Statistical Office, 2006. Thailand Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey December 2005-February 2006, Final Report. Bangkok, Thailand: National Statistical Office.

¹⁰ Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey December 2005-February 2006, Table 17: Percent distribution of household population according to main source of drinking water and percentage of household population using improved drinking water sources. Many households, including poor households, buy bottled water, at considerable expense.

¹¹ Expenditures: unpublished government reports; students, NSO Population Structure, various provinces, table 9.

¹² http://www.nationmultimedia.com/2005/07/25/national/index.php?news=national_18133292.html

¹³ **Thailand's Emergency Decree: No Solution.** Asia Report N°105 – 18 November 2005, International Crisis Group. Brussels. Pg. i.

¹⁴ National Statistical Office, Multiple Indicator Cluster Study 2005; some 78% of girls and young women aged 15-24 years had secondary education, or were currently in school in Pattani. The Population and Housing Census 2002 indicates an average of about 6 years of schooling for all populations over the age of 15 in the southernmost provinces. NSO, Population and Housing Census 2000. Reports for all provinces are available through the National Statistical Office, Larn Luang Road, Bangkok 10100 Thailand.

¹⁵ Demographic Trends Affecting Education Completion and Employment *dc.oas.psu.ac.th/dcms/files/04684/Chapter1.pdf*, pp 7 and 8.