

## IDD Policy Brief: The Risks of Security-led Statebuilding

Posted on Friday 3rd February 2012

Are there trade-offs between short-term security objectives and longer-term development and statebuilding objectives in conflict-affected states? How can Security Sector Reform interventions contribute to statebuilding more effectively? This IDD Policy Brief by [Professor Paul Jackson \(/staff/profiles/government-society/jackson-paul.aspx\)](#) draws on research that examined UK government experience, particularly in Sierra Leone and Afghanistan.

### Key messages

- External interventions in conflict-affected states have increasingly merged security and development objectives. However, short-term security has been prioritised, with implications for longer-term statebuilding and development processes.
- Security Sector Reform has tended to focus on 'hard' security at the expense of developing a framework of governance and local ownership as a basis for statebuilding.
- Security-led statebuilding risks fostering state institutions that are not locally grounded or legitimate, and that are more effective at protecting a regime than protecting citizens.
- Politics, context, governance and ownership are often neglected in pursuit of technical-administrative solutions. Policymakers need to examine their underlying assumptions about the kind of state that is being constructed, and by whom.

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Read the [IDD Policy Brief: The Risks of Security-led Statebuilding \(/Documents/college-social-sciences/government-society/idd/policy-brief/01-2012-paul-jackson.pdf\)](#)