

What has worked in foreign aid to service delivery in fragile situations?

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GSDRC researcher Claire McLoughlin has taken part in a high-profile debate about the challenges and trade-offs development agencies encounter when trying to support service delivery in fragile and conflict-affected states.

The event was organized by Recom - a 5-year programme funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and SIDA, implemented by Danish Institute of International Studies (DIIS) and UNU-WIDER. It aims to identify 'lessons learned' and 'what works' in aid to these environments, and has already produced a large number of meta-evaluations of aid in the areas of security, governance, rule of law and social services.

The debate re-confirmed what is already widely-known about the practical dilemmas donors have to confront, covering problems of scaling up, working with the local but not romanticizing or overburdening it, addressing head-on why donors are not set up to work politically, and overcoming the twin-track dilemma of transitioning from humanitarian to development aid.

The full event can be watched online at: <http://recom.wider.unu.edu/article/challenges-fragility-and-governance-webcasts> (<http://recom.wider.unu.edu/article/challenges-fragility-and-governance-webcasts>).