

# PEACE & DEVELOPMENT REPORT

## Discussions and Observations 2009 EXCERPT

### 2. REFLECTIONS AND ASSESSMENT

General Information about conflict, its origins, expressions, and its implications in the current and emerging context.

It is not only war, border disputes, and ideological/political reorganization that causes collective trauma in societies. Natural disasters, crumbling infrastructure, a distrust of authority figures due to suspicions of corruption, insufficient energy access, ongoing risk of food scarcity and unreliable water supplies, limited natural resources, high poverty rates, a perceived lack of government control over the actions of neighboring groups, limited access to/delivery of basic services (such as healthcare, sanitation, etc.), and inaccessible or inadequate independent media resources lead to a heightened state of social anxiety, and deep-seated individual fears. Fear and anxiety are an adaptive response to very real threats.

The resulting emotions cause groups of people to be motivated to take action that is intended to resolve the cause of the angst and restore a sense of safety and equilibrium to the community. Yet, threats to social safety often come in a series of events compounding the risk and complicating the options for resolution....The psychosocial effects of the recent upheavals, multiple social anxiety inducing conditions, and the pressure of the on-going stress of day-to-day living leaves communities and their families emotionally exhausted, psychologically apprehensive, and especially vulnerable to internal and external conflict triggers (See indicators of impending instability/conflict in Section 1.)