The Seven Components of Strategic Peacebuilding

1. Recognize the Burdens of Long-Term Violence

"It is difficult to imagine how a three-month plan created at the highest diplomatic level can solve all of the dilemmas of establishing peace and eradicating violence when violence has been going on for three decades."

-George Lopez (VP, USIP Academy for International Conflict Management and Peacebuilding)

2. Elicit Plans from Locals

"Peacebuilding initiatives are much more successful, for instance, when interveners value local expertise on par with thematic knowledge [and] develop personal and social relationships with their local counterparts..."

-Severine Autesserre (Author, PeaceLand: Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of International Intervention)

3. Conflict Transformation

"The lenses of conflict transformation focus on the potential for constructive change emergent from and catalyzed by the rise of social conflict... A transformational approach inquires about both the specifics, immediately apparent in the episode of conflict, as well as the potential for broader constructive and desired change."

-John Paul Lederach (Author, Little Book of Conflict Transformation)

4. Insider-Outside Links

"The thousands of peacebuilding practitioners across the world are among the best and the brightest. Peacebuilders need the tools to create synergy among their programs in order to make their collective impact much greater than the sum of their individual projects."

-Robert Riggiano (Author, Making Peace Last: A Toolbox for Sustainable Peacebuilding)

5. Dealing with Spoilers

"In some ways spoiling is part of peace processes, as much as conflict is a function of social and political change. Whilst social and economic factors are fundamentally important for peacebuilding, we must also keep in mind that in many conflicts groups of people are actively opposed to peace and will use a variety of methods to spoil progress."

-Edward Newman and Oliver Richmond

6. Identifying Obstacles to Strategic Peacebuilding

"...they [obstacles to peacebuilding] may have been latent amidst the violence that was experienced over the last two decades [but] the opening for peace also opens the opportunity for them to bubble up, to now be dealt with lest they create new sources of potential violence or that the peace is neither just nor stable nor sustainable."

-George Lopez (VP, USIP Academy for International Conflict Management and Peacebuilding)

7. Elicit, Evaluate, Elicit, Evaluate...

"Well executed evaluations can lead to stronger relationships with local stakeholders, more effective programs and the various consequential benefits of both of these outcomes."

-Melanie Kawano-Chiu (Director of Learning & Evaluation, Alliance for Peacebuilding)