CONFLICT RELATED DISPLACEMENT FOSTERS URBANIZATION;
LESSONS LEARNED FROM FIVE POST-CONFLICT CASES

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INTRODUCTION

- The biggest concern from conflicts nowadays are:
  - Death and injury,
  - Destruction of houses and infrastructures, and
  - Displacement of population

- Land and its administration are always negatively affected by conflict (this is shown both in literature and practice)
  - specifically at the end of the conflict: massive return of displaced
  - If neglected, or not properly addressed, this can be a cause of renewed conflicts and obstacle for post-conflict state building
FIVE POST-CONFLICT CASE STUDIES

- Main Case Studies - with fieldwork:
  - Case Kosovo, Survey Review ISI Journal Paper
  - Case Rwanda, Book Chapter (in AiRLA Book)

- Supportive Cases (Literature) – Conference papers on:
  - Case Mozambique, FIG Working Week 2013
  - Case Cambodia, FIG Congress 2014
  - Case Timor-Leste, FIG Working Week 2015 (peer review conference paper)
CASE KOSOVO

- Displaced persons **First wave** – before NATO Intervention 260,000 people were Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and an additional 100,000 refugees

- **Second wave** – NATO Intervention announced (24 March)
  - 800,000 Refugees and 500,000 IDPs mainly Kosovo Albanians

- Destroyed infrastructure and Housing – 103,000 housing units destroyed or left abandoned properties (one third of all housing units)

- End of the conflict 9 June 2015 700,000 refugees came back in 40 days

- **Third wave** of refugees 245,000 mainly Serbs and non-Albanian – followed with violence
Before the war not a lot of new buildings and no adequate urban planning
War caused widespread physical and social destruction of urban environments throughout the region.
The return of refugees, and post-conflict rural to urban migration result in formation of informal neighborhoods in urban fringe in Kosovo
Urbanization in the first years of post-conflict Kosovo - rapid and anarchistic; horizontal (urban sprawl) and not in the vertical dimension
Pristina before the war 200.000 / 550.000 after the war
CASE RWANDA

- **First wave of displacement** during the conflict 1959-63 half million persons cross the borders and many IDPs
- After this conflict - land a political tool, redistributing the abandoned properties to political followers and military staff => secondary occupants
- Genocide – 800,000 people in period of three months

- During the second conflict which ended 1994 **second wave of displacement**; many IDPs and two and a half million refugees
CASE RWANDA

- After the conflict in Rwanda, **2.5 million refugees returned in the country**
- First wave return of refugees (in one year) from the first war app. **1 million**
- By the end of 1996 the rest **1.5 million refugees returned**
- Land issue rise on a horizon as a hot issue
- Measures:
  - The *ad hoc* land sharing policy
  - Allocation of state land – national parks for settlements and
  - Village settlement programme ‘Imidugudu’
CASE MOZAMBIQUE

- Mozambique case: 16 year civil war and droughts
- Almost 6 six million displaced people (around 1.8 million refugees and the rest were IDPs)
- The return of 1.8 million refugees and several million IDP’s in Mozambique has been touted as one of most successful return projects ever
- 1.3 million coming back from Malawi

- most of displaced settled in the cities, near the markets and transport network
CASE CAMBODIA

- Displaced persons – all which disagree with Khmer Rouge (several million IDPs)
- People from the rural areas were constantly displaced
- Bigger cities and Phnom Pen – ‘Ghost cities’
- Destruction of all state infrastructure and state archives, including land register
- After the war people from cities partly return back – but many stayed
- New phenomenon occur - land grabbing in urban areas
- 1992 new Land Law even worse, legitimize the land grabs - endemic corruption
During the conflict in Timor-Leste several waves of displacement.

After 1999 Referendum 250,000 people driven over the border in Indonesia.

300,000 fled their homes from rural to urban.

Many abandoned houses illegally occupied by secondary and tertiary occupants.

But also legal allocation of public and abandoned properties.

2006 Crises: 150,000 displaced / 1650 houses destroyed.

‘Cash for return’ programme – increased urban areas.
CONCLUSIONS

- In all five cases: **conflict related displacement and return fostered urbanisation**
- **land grabbing/violence in urban areas** (Kosovo and Cambodia)
- Illegal occupations - secondary and tertiary occupants (Timor-Leste)
- Rapid urbanisation: sharing policy, state land and village settlement programme ‘Imidugudu’ – Rwanda
- ‘Ghost cities’ – Cambodia
- Most displaced **settled in the cities, near the markets and roads (M)**
- In three cases **new forced evictions and violence followed the return**
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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