

**Georgetown University
Department of Government
Food Security, Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict Resolution: An Operational
Perspective
Govt # 583**

ICC 214

Professor Elisabeth Kvitashvili

**Spring 2015
(11/14/14)**

Thursdays 18:30-21:00

Food Security, Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict Resolution: An Operational Perspective

Course Objective: This course will provide students with an operational perspective on the nature of food (in)security, defined broadly, and how food (in)security may enhance or detract from conflict mitigation/resolution. This course will attempt to answer the question can food insecurity be a driver of instability and if yes, how best to address the insecurity. This course will combine elements of theory and a more hands-on "how to" perspective of humanitarian assistance and food security analysis and programming in support of conflict mitigation/resolution. The course analyzes the international communities' use of humanitarian and food assistance, its effectiveness and new more innovative types of assistance tools that address food insecurity which, if left unaddressed, can be an underlying risk factor leading to instability.

We will also bring a new dimension into the course and look at the role of humanitarian assistance in general during a conflict. We will explore whether such assistance, including food assistance, has become a political tool and the implications for humanitarian and development practitioners alike.

The course will introduce students to relevant terms and concepts used by practitioners in the field of humanitarian assistance with a particular focus on food security. We will explore new innovative programming tools as well as assessment methodologies used by the international community. Specific country case studies will also be reviewed and discussed.

Teaching Method: The course will be interactive between the professor and students with the discussions led primarily by the students and focused on the readings and students analysis of the readings and their implications for practitioners. Each class will consist of a brief but detailed presentation by the professor followed by in some cases student presentations lasting between 60-90 minutes. The student presenter(s) will share his/her thoughts and perspectives on the readings, and fellow students will provide further critique of the readings and "challenge" the discussion offered by their fellow student presenter(s). The idea is to have a lively and challenging discussion in which students offer honest and perhaps diverging opinions, possibly based on their own experiences or other readings. There are no right or wrong answers. Some discussions will be paired with presentations by guest speakers who will bring real-life, operational expertise and experience to the class.

Course Requirements: Students are required to read the assignments and to lead discussions on an individual and collective basis. Students will be graded on their active participation in class discussions (as both presenters and as discussion participants). Students will write one short critical review paper (6-8 pages) on an approved topic (a list will be provided at the 4th class) for their mid-term (due class 9). The final exam will consist of a formal case study undertaken as part of a small group. The case study will be presented in class and consist of a 30

minute presentation by the group followed by 15-20 minutes of Q&A from the class to the presenters. The case study paper will be due the last day of class. The group case study presentations will occur during the final two class sessions. The course grade will be based on the following:

Class Participation	30%
Mid-Term Exam	20% (this is a 6-8 analytical paper; details provided class 4)
Final (a paper and group class presentation)	50%

Grading Methodology: Each assignment will receive a numerical grade out of the total points possible. At the end of the semester, the numbers will be tabulated and converted to a letter grade using the following scale:

A: 95-100 points	A-: 90-94	B+: 85-89	B: 80-84
C+: 75-79	C: 70-74		

Below C equals a failing grade. Incompletes will only be given in rare circumstances due to health and/or family emergencies.

Class Size: 12-15 students with participation capped at 15. Auditors welcome to join in class and participate with no requirements expected.

Readings: Reading assignments are required and must be completed by the date under which they are listed. All reading will be on e-reserve or blackboard. Handouts will often supplement the readings. Reading length will vary but will rarely total more than 120 pages per class.

Contact:

Professor Elisabeth Kvitashvili can be contacted at ekvitashvili@yahoo.com or ekvitashvili@usaid.gov or (703) 237-4859 (evening).

Food Security, Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict Resolution: An Operational Perspective

Class 1 January 8 “ Overview and Expectations, Concepts and Terminology”

This session will introduce the course and go over requirements. We will review who are the players in the food security arena, what they do and why they do it. We will review terminology—what IS food security, food aid vs food assistance? We will discuss 3 short articles which set the stage for the class. The articles will be handed out in class. (Smart Development, Why US foreign aid demands major reform” Toward Smart Development. pp. 16-19, Oxfam America, 2008 ; Tuttle J. and Wedding K. CSIS Global Forecast. “Will Food Prices Drive Instability?” 2012 and; Fan, Shenggen, Torero, Maximo and Headley, Derrick. “Urgent Actions Needed to Prevent Recurring Food Crises”, IFPRI Policy Brief 16, March 2011. We will also review other handouts:

- Cogill email to Kvitashvili; “Food and nutrition jargon buster from IRIN News”, 9/12/11
- USAID Eastern Horn Crisis “The definition of famine”, 7/15/11
- IRIN Analysis “What is a famine?” 5/13/10
- FEWS Special Report 3 “Key Terms” box, 12/29/99
- Food Security Understanding and meeting the challenge of poverty, EU paper, 10/09, pp.7-12
- OCHA world Human Data and Trends, 2014 (skim all, review pp 18-19),
- <http://reliefweb.int/report/world/world-humanitarian-data-and-trends-2014>
- OFDA Fact Sheet, OFDA Annual Report 2013, Terms and Acronyms, pp 10-11, 166-18, 64-68
- <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis>
- <http://www.usaid.gov/who-we-are/organization/bureaus/bureau-democracy-conflict-and-humanitarian-assistance/office-us> (check out the video)

Class 2 January 15 “Assessment and Analysis”

This class will focus on food security and humanitarian assessment methodologies. We will be joined by guest speakers who will provide an overview of the U.S.A.I.D. Famine Early Warning Network (FEWS NET) and its role in food security assessment and analysis as well as the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance’s approach to humanitarian assessment.

Required Reading:

- ALNAP Report: “The Role of Needs Assessments in the Tsunami Response”, de Ville de Goyet, C. and Moriniere, L. 7/06, pp. 1-23 <http://www.alnap.org/resource/12406>
- Young, Jaspars, Brown, Frize, Khogali. Humanitarian Practice Network Paper, “Food security assessments in emergencies: a livelihood approach”, 6/01 <http://www.odihpn.org/documents/networkpaper036.pdf>
- Ververs, M. “The East African Food Crisis: Did Regional Early Warning Systems Function?” in the American Society for Nutrition, 2012. <http://jn.nutrition.org/content/142/1/131.full.pdf>
- Bailey, Rob “Managing Famine Risk Linking early warning to early Action, A Chatham House Report, 2013 (google the report)

http://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/files/chathamhouse/public/Research/Energy,%20Environment%20and%20Development/0413r_earlywarnings.pdf

- Rapid Food Security Assessment, Report on the Impact of the conflict on Gaza livelihoods, FAO, 12/12
http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/emergencies/docs/Final%20Food%20Security%20Assessment%20Full%20Report.pdf
- Dur, Agnes. “Rapid Emergency Food Security Assessment in Osh and Jalalabad-Kyrgyz Republic”, WFP, 7/10
<http://home.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp223595.pdf>
- FEWSNET Brochure, Evidence-based Analysis for a food-secure world
- FEWSNET Yemen Remote Monitoring Update, 10/13
- Household Economy Analysis (HEA) Framework

Class 3 Jan 20 “Reforming Food Aid and the Use of New Innovative Tools”

******* (note this is a TUESDAY class) *******

This class will review the latest thinking on food aid reform and the application of new, innovative food and humanitarian assistance tools

Required Reading:

- “Reforming Food Aid: Time to Grasp the Nettle”, ODI Briefing Paper, 1/2000
<http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/2612.pdf>
- USAID “The Future of Food Assistance: U.S. Food Aid Reform”, 2013;
www.usaid.gov/foodaidreform
- WFP/IFPRI, “Redefining the Role of Food Aid”, 2004
- Wang, Kristie (Ashoka blog). “The Right to Nutrients: World Food Programme’s New Approach to Food Assistance”, 8/7/13
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/ashoka/2013/08/07/the-right-to-nutrients-world-food-programmes-new-approach-to-food-assistance/>
- Torres, Christian. “Starvation threat in Africa tests changes in assisting victims of famine”. *Washington Post*, 9/12/11
- Jeffreys, Anna. IRIN Humanitarian News and Analysis “NGOs look to new humanitarian funding model”, 11/6/13
- IRIN Humanitarian News and Analysis “Foreign aid workers and local NGOs-mending the relationship”, 11/13/13
- <http://www.oxfamamerica.org> poverty of politics-food aid blog (1/9/14, 2/10/14)
- Aker, Boumnijel, McClelland and Tierney. “Zap it to Me: the short-term Impacts of Mobile Cash”, Center for Global Development Working paper 268, 9/11
- Lamade, N., Borgel, H. and Harvey P. “Cash for Work: lessons from Northern Afghanistan” in *Humanitarian Exchange Magazine* Issue 46, 3/10
- DFID supported Focus Note “Banking the Poor via G2P Payments”, 12/09, pp. 1-19
- “WFP’s 2012 Response to the Sahel Crisis: Food Assistance through Cash and Vouchers”, 3/12, pp. 1-4
- “Using Mobile Technology to Expand Financial Inclusion”, World Council of Credit Unions Technical Guide. <http://www.microfinancegateway.org/sites/default/files/mfg->

[en-toolkit-using-mobile-technology-to-expand-financial-inclusion-the-credit-union-experience-2012.pdf](#)

- World Food Program Description of Purchase for Progress and Cash and Voucher programs (Guatemala; Malawi, Bolivia, Syria)
- Purchase for Progress “Reducing Malnutrition by working with local millers”. WFP, 10/11/13
- World Disasters Report 2011 Focus on hunger and malnutrition. “Innovation, insurance and risk finance”. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- Maxwell, D. and Stobaugh, H. “Response Analysis: What Drives Program Choice?”, Feinstein International Center, 8/12
- <http://fic.tufts.edu/assets/RA-CIDA-Report-FINAL-10-01-12.pdf>

Class 4 January 22 Political and Humanitarian Assessment: Is HA Used for Political Purposes and So What??

USAID’S Mission Director for West Bank/Gaza will discuss the nature of the recent Gaza crises and the political and development challenges of undertaking a balanced humanitarian response.

Required Reading:

- www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/1.609307
- www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/month-long-war-in-gaza-has-left-a-humanitarian-and-environmental-crises
- www.ochaopt.org/ (Reports and Publications, Humanitarian Bulletins for September October)
- www.commentarymagazine.com/.../how-hamas-deliberately
- <http://goo.gl/8CT22I>

Class 5 February 10 “Land Tenure and Property Rights as a Conflict Mitigator” ******* (note this is a TUESDAY class) *******

Guest Lecturer: Dr. Gregory Myers, International Land Tenure Expert. This class will focus on how the international community deals with conflict over land and property rights and tools available to prevent or mitigate against conflict. Dr. Myers will lead a discussion on the nexus between land (conflict), climate change and food security.

Required Reading:

- TOOLKIT AND GUIDANCE FOR PREVENTING AND MANAGING LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONFLICT, at http://www.un.org/en/land-natural-resources-conflict/pdfs/GN_Land%20and%20Conflict.pdf
- The overview for the USIP/USAID course on land and conflict, and specifically the case study on Iraq, found at <http://www.usip.org/events/land-property-and-conflict>.
- USAID land and conflict paper, http://www.usaidlandtenure.net/sites/default/files/USAID_Land_Tenure_Land_and_Conflict_Issue_Brief-061214.pdf.

- <http://www.usaidlandtenure.net/video>

Class 6 February 12 “Food and Humanitarian Aid, Insecurity and Conflict-What’s the Link?”

Required Reading:

- Bryer, David and Cairns, Edmund. “For Better? For Worse? Humanitarian aid in conflict”. *Development in Practice*, Vol. 7, No. 4 November, 1997
- Anderson, Mary, B., Wallace, Marshall. “Challenges for Food Aid in Conflict Situations” in *World Hunger Notes*, 5 pp.
<http://www.worldhunger.org/articles/global/armedconflict/anderson.htm>
- Nunn, N. and Qian, N. “Aiding Conflict: the Impact of US Food Aid on Civil War “, 1/24/12, pp. 1-29 <http://www.nber.org/papers/w17794>
- USAID Technical Brief “(Re)Assessing the Relationship Between Food Aid and Conflict”, October 2014 http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00K5P8.pdf
- Lahart, Justin. “Food Aid to Developing Nations May Increase Armed Conflict”, *The Wall Street Journal*. 1/30/12 <http://blogs.wsj.com/economics/2012/01/30/food-aid-to-to-developing-nations-may-increase-armed-conflict/>
- Persichino, Roger. “Local famines, global food insecurity” in *Humanitarian Exchange*, No. 27, 7/04 commissioned and published by the Humanitarian Practice Network at ODI
- <http://www.odihpn.org/humanitarian-exchange-magazine/issue-27/local-famines-global-food-insecurity>
- Brinkman, Henk-Jan, Hendrix, Cullen. “Food Insecurity and Violent Conflict: causes, Consequences and Addressing the Challenges”, in WFP Occasional Paper no. 24. 7/11
- <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp238358.pdf>
- Keating, Joshua. “Please, Don’t Send Food” in *Foreign Policy*, July/August, 2012
- Messer, Ellen, Cohen, Marc. “Breaking the Links between Conflict and Hunger in Africa”, 2020 Africa Conference Brief 10. International Food Policy Research Institute, 2004 <http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ib26.pdf>
- Fisher, Ian. “Can International Relief do more good than harm?” in the *New York Times*, 2/11/01.
- Nielsen, Richard et al. “Foreign Aid Shocks as a Cause of Violent Armed Conflict”. *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol 55, No. 2, April 2011 pp. 219-232
- Crost, Benjamin et al. “Aid under Fire: Development Projects and Civil Conflict”. *American Economic Review*, 2014 pp. 1833-56
http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/files/Aid_Under_Fire.pdf

Class 7 February 19: Assistance in Conflict Settings: What Works and Doesn’t—An Analysts and Practitioners Perspective

This class will bring together a group of analysts and practitioners who bring hands on experience to the review and application of assistance implemented during a conflict. Come prepared to ask tough questions and be challenged by what the speaker’s offer.

Class 8 February 26 Food Security and Protracted Crisis

Required Reading:

- “Food Security in Protracted Crisis-An Overview”, Background Brief for High Level Expert Forum held in Rome, Italy under auspices of Community on World Food Security, 9/12
- “Addressing Food Insecurity in Countries in Protracted Crisis: What Has Been Learned”, Background Brief for High Level Expert Forum held in Rome, Italy under auspices of Community on World Food Security, 9/12
- Maxwell, Jaspars, S and Maxwell, D. Humanitarian Practice Network “Food Security and livelihoods programming in conflict: a review”. No 65, 3/09, pp. 1-21
<http://www.odihpn.org/hpn-resources/network-papers/food-security-and-livelihoods-programming-in-conflict-a-review>
- Russo and Alinovi. “Constraints to addressing food insecurity in protracted crisis”,
- Harvey, Proudlock et al., Humanitarian Policy Group Synthesis paper. “Food Aid and Food Assistance in emergency and transitional contexts; A review of current thinking”. 6/10
- Food Security in Protracted Crisis: what can be done? FAO Policy Brief, 12/08
- The State of Food Insecurity in the World: Addressing food insecurity in protracted crisis. SOFI, 2010, pp. 12-21, 32-35
- <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1683e/i1683e.pdf>

MidTerm Due Class 9

Class 9: March 5 “Resilience as a Conflict Mitigator”

The assistance community is now focused on programming for resilience. What is this concept and how does it support food security and reduce conflict? Or does it?

Required Reading:

- “Resilience of Individuals, Households, Communities and Institutions in Protracted Crisis”, Background Brief for High Level Expert Forum held in Rome, Italy under auspices of Community on World Food Security, 9/12
- Defining Disaster Resilience A DFID Approach Paper, November 2011, pp. 5-17
- FAO, Resilient Livelihoods Disaster Risk Reduction for Food and Nutrition Security, reprinted 2012, Pillar 4 "Build Resilience" pp. 56-61
- “Building Resilience in Areas of Recurrent Crisis”, USAID Brief, 2012
- EU Approach to Resilience: Learning from Food Crisis, ECHO/Europe Aid Factsheet 10/12
- Wahlstrom, Margaret. “What can modern society learn from Indigenous Resiliency?” in More with Less, Kevin Cahill, ed.
- World Disasters Report 2011 Focus on Hunger and Malnutrition, The overlooked resilience of pastoralists, pp. 99-101

- Draft Discussion Paper. “Resilience Based Development Response to address the Impact of the Syria Crisis.” United Nations, 11/13.

Spring Break March 7-15

Class 10 March 12 Humanitarian and Conflict Assessment: What Role for Humanitarian and Food Assistance??

We will walk through the steps and do an assessment in this desk top game. We will have a guest moderator helping us to do this assessment. No advance reading.

Class 11 March 19 “Country Case Studies Somalia”

Required reading:

- International Center, Tufts University Report on Global Food Security: Somalia Case Study, 2012. Series of studies by Maxwell, Fitzpatrick, Hillbruner, Moloney, Menkhaus, Majid, McDowell Lautze, Bell, Alinovi, Russo, Hobbs, Gordon, Bogart, Ali, Gelsdorf, Haan, Deveruex, Maxwell—pp. 1-79
- “Another Humanitarian Crisis in Somalia? Learning from the 2011 Famine”. Daniel Maxwell and Nisar Majid <http://fic.tufts.edu/assets/Another-HC-in-Somalia.pdf>
- Beyond Relief, Food Security in Protracted Crisis, Alinovi, Henreich and Russo ed., Chapter 5 “Crisis and food security profile: Somalia by Peter Little
- FAO Brief Better Policies, Stronger Communities, 2012
- Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU)-Somalia. Special Brief- Post Gu 010 Analysis, 9/6/2010
- UNICEF, FAO, WFP Joint Strategy on Resilience for Somalia, “A Strategy for Enhancing Resilience in Somalia “, Brief, 7/12
http://resilienceinsomalia.org/index.php?option=com_mtree&task=att_download&link_id=181&cf_id=24
- Anglade, Michel. “Somalia: A Country Without a State, a Conflict without End”, in The Geopolitics of Hunger, 2000-01 Hunger and Power. Action Against Hunger. Lynne Rienner Publishers. 2001

Class 12 March 26 Food Crises and the Middle East-Link to Arab Spring??

Required Reading:

- Improving Food Security in Arab Countries. IFAD, January, 2009.
<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTMENA/Resources/FoodSecfinal.pdf>
- Harrigan, Jane. “Did Food Prices Plant the Seeds of the Arab Spring?” Watch her SOAS lecture on Youtube. Abstract on blackboard.

- Breisinger, Clemens; Eecker, Olivier and Al-Riffai, Perrihan. “Economics of the Arab Awakening: From Revolution to Transformation and Food Security. IFPRI Policy Brief 18, May, 2011. <http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/bp018.pdf>
- “Tackling Egypt’s Rising Food Insecurity in a Time of Transition”. Joint IFPRI-WFP Country Profile Note, May, 2013
http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpriwfpnn_egypt.pdf
- Maystadt, Jean-Francois; Tan Jean-Francois Trinh; Breisinger, Clemens. “Does Food Security Matter for Transition in Arab Countries? IFPRI Discussion Paper 01196, July 2012 <http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01196.pdf>

EASTER BREAK April 2-6

Class 13 April 9 “Country Case Studies: Afghanistan

Required Reading:

- Wilder, Andrew and Fishbein, Paul. Winning Hearts and Minds? Examining the Relationship between Aid and Security in Afghanistan. Feinstein International Center, January, 2012. <http://fic.tufts.edu/publication-item/winning-hearts-and-minds-examing-the-relationship-between-aid-and-security-in-afghanistan/>
- Goodhand, Jonathan. “Aiding violence or building peace? The role of international aid in Afghanistan”. Third World Quarterly, Vol. 23 No. 5 2002
<http://home.ku.edu.tr/~dyukseker/afghanistan-aid.pdf>
- Prisca Benelli, Antonio Donini, Norah Niland. Afghanistan: Humanitarianism in Uncertain Times November 2012 <http://fic.tufts.edu/publication-item/afghanistan-humanitarianism-in-uncertain-times/>
- Gordon, Stuart. Winning Hearts and Minds Examining the Relationship between Aid and Security in Afghanistan's Helmand Province <http://fic.tufts.edu/publication-item/winning-hearts-and-minds/>

Class 14 April 16 “Country Case Study: Sudan”

Required Reading:

- Young, H. and Maxwell, D. “Targeting in Complex Emergencies: Darfur Case Study. Feinstein International Center, 4/09. <http://fic.tufts.edu/assets/targeting-in-comp-emerg-2009.pdf>
- Burr, J. and Collins, R. Requiem for the Sudan. Chapters 1-2, pp. 7-72
- WFP Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations South Sudan, 200572, 10/9/13
- Deng, Francis and Minnear, Larry. The Challenges of Famine Relief, Emergency Operations in the Sudan. The Brookings Institutions, Washington, D.C., 1992, pp.83-119
- deWaal, Alex. Famine Crimes. Chapter 5 “Privatizing Famine”. African Rights and the International African Institute. , 1997. Pp 86-105

Class 15 April 23 FINAL Group Presentations

Class 16 April 30 FINAL Group Presentations ALL PAPERS DUE THIS CLASS

