Livelihood Options in Conflict-Affected Situations

The rural areas of conflict-affected regions in South Asia (e.g., Pakistan, Nepal, North-East States of India, and Sri Lanka) are undergoing changes with respect to livelihoods’ diversification. However, in such conflict-hit and fragile areas, quest for livelihood security and access to multiple livelihood opportunities may breed social exclusion and new conflicts. For instance human migration and tourism opportunities in the post-conflict areas of Nepal, and income support programmes, and labour migration in the North East Indian states and Northwest Pakistan offer promising livelihood opportunities. However, some social groups succeed to take command over these opportunities to ensure their livelihood and food security, while the others remain ‘excluded’.

This panel intends to contribute to a better understanding of livelihood diversification and social inclusion/exclusion in the fragile and conflict affected areas. More specifically we invite papers addressing one or more of the following questions:

- What are the alternative livelihood opportunities and support mechanisms (for example social safety nets) available in the conflicts-affected areas?
- Which groups have access to these opportunities and who are excluded?
- How do government’s policies and development interventions fit with local livelihoods realities and needs? And;
- How people’s livelihoods are being constrained (or improved) in the conflict or post-conflict situations?

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