

Conflict Management in Africa: Post-conflict Risk in Fragile States

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Africa has always been mined by all kinds of conflicts (ethnic, religious, political, frontier...). Thus, in fifty years, the continent has seen approximately forty violent conflicts which have claimed several million lives. This situation constitutes one of the main obstacles to its economic and social development because conflicts are synonymous with high mortality, people displacement, food insecurity, diseases and aggravation of poverty. Moreover, the social costs of conflicts often persist beyond their end, what poses the problematic of postconflict rehabilitation.

Indeed, countries emerging from conflict generally face two major challenges: seek human, physical and financial resources to rebuild the country and find strategies in order to avoid relapse into another cycle of violence. Studies show that post-conflict countries have a high probability of relapsing into a new conflict during the first decade following the end of the last hostilities. Thus, these countries live in a spiral of vulnerability leading to an extreme fragility of their political and economic institutions. They often fail to devote the necessary resources to their economic development, in particular because of the need to prevent themselves from the risk of resumption of hostilities by the increase in military spending over social spending.

If the strategies engaged are sometime problematic and not very efficient, it is imperative to consider the post-conflict risk in the management of the development of countries emerging from conflicts. Therefore, reducing this post-conflict risk begins by an analysis of the fundamental causes of the emergence of the conflict, its nature and duration, its resolution's methods, as well as involved actors.