

# **DSA Ireland's Humanitarian Action Study Group**

**Dr Walt Kilroy**

**Institute for International Conflict Resolution and Reconstruction**

**Dublin City University, Ireland**

**walt.kilroy@dcu.ie**

# Seminars

## **Forgotten Crisis? Emergency in Southern Sudan - 24th April**

Rob Kevlihan, Kimmage Development Studies Centre

## **Ebola in West Africa - 22nd May**

Rob Kevlihan, Executive Director, Kimmage Development Studies Centre

Sam McConkey, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Jane Anne McKenna, MSF Ireland

## **Crisis in the Central African Republic - 26th June**

Synzi Dadie, General System Manager, Concern

Dualta Roughneen, Disaster Management Coordinator, Plan Ireland

Walt Kilroy, Dublin City University

## **International Law and Disasters - 24th September**

Dug Cubie, Queen's University, Belfast

Karen Da Costa, Faculty of Law, University College, London

Ronan McDermott, Centre for Humanitarian Action, UCD

## **Disaster Response in Asia - 13th October**

Aaron Clark Ginsberg, Concern

Sulagna Maitra, UCD

Nita Mishra, UCD

## **Logistical Challenges in responding to humanitarian needs in Iraq and Syria - 23 October 2014**

*Jointly with Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Ireland (CILT)*

Paola Rivetti, Lecturer, Dublin City University

Rob Kevlihan, Kimmage Development Studies Centre

Will Holden, Emergency Logistics Team

Ryan Lane, Shelter for Life International

# Key themes (a personal view)

- Early warning and early response
- Conflict
- State fragility and resilience
- Coordination



# Early warning and early response

- Prediction previously: Fall of the Berlin Wall, global financial crisis, Arab Spring?
- Prediction this year: Gaza conflict, Ukraine, ISIL, Boko Haram, South Sudan, Ebola, Central African Republic?
- From early warning to early response

# Conflict

- Development-security nexus
- Speed with which underlying identity-based conflict becomes a driving force (especially in S Sudan and CAR)

# State fragility and resilience

- Much activity done by people from the countries involved
- Note that Nigeria and Senegal both handled Ebola early on and were declared free of the disease
- State of health systems and speed of response within the worst-affected countries has been criticised within Sierra Leone and Liberia
- Low levels of trust in government
- Worry currently is Mali, with previously undeclared cases emerging
- Real impact on people when state is weak, fragile, ineffective, or is effective but not focussed on the welfare of people
- That brings us back to the politics of inclusion, voice, and accountability (in case anyone was getting tired of hearing those terms, this is what it is actually about)
- Importance of participation, ownership, and buy in by a full range of actors – and what we mean by “local”.
- Not a reason to by pass or undermine a state



# Coordination

# To sum up

- Useful learning opportunity
- Ideal mix of researchers and practitioners
- Videos and presentations online
- Many topics suggested by own members
- Interested in topics for future meetings
- Suggestions for future topics to coordinator:
  - Rob Kevlihan
  - [rob.kevlihan@kimmagedsc.ie](mailto:rob.kevlihan@kimmagedsc.ie)