

Training Course in Land, Property and Conflict, Washington DC, USA

Land and property issues, including their access to, control over, and use of all related resources, are commonly among the drivers of conflict and violence.

During the conflict, land is not only part of the physical battleground but its control and conquer is symbolic of power and gain. It is used as a tool to score political points, fund war efforts, mobilize popular support and build alliances; while its spoilage or occupation strategically undermines opponents.

Land, property and related resources are also used as highly political pawns in peace negotiations and post-conflict recovery. Land and property grievances, whether new or old, and their mismanagement, can threaten or unravel a hard-won peace.

Since 2010, IOM, in partnership with the United States Institute for Peace (USIP), the World Bank "Justice for the Poor" Programme and the US Agency for International Development (USAID), offers a bi-annual training course entitled "Land, Property and Conflict".

Drawing on case studies and interactive practical exercises, the course provides participants with analytical tools for assessing and addressing an array of complex land and property disputes. It applies an operational approach

to identifying the key issues, entry points and dispute resolution options from a wide range of perspectives: humanitarian, human rights, peacebuilding, state-building, and development among others.

The course is tailored to professionals who work on conflict management and peace building from a range of legal, development, military, government, NGO, international organization, private sector or academic backgrounds.

The 4-day course is delivered through a variety of methodologies that seek to maximize the learning experience. It has received excellent feedback from its more than 160 alumni.

The training takes place in Washington DC and the next session will be offered in 2015.

For more information, kindly contact lpr@iom.int