

## Early Warning/Early Response

# The experience of FAST International

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## Structure of presentation

### 1. FAST International Early Warning Programme

- Set-up
- Methodology
- «Products»

### 2. Evaluation of FAST in 2006

### 3. Lessons learned

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## 1. FAST International Early Warning Program

- 1998-2008, 25 countries/regions
- Early recognition of
  - a) escalating crisis situations, and
  - b) “windows of opportunity” for early peacebuilding action
- Decision support tool for development actors
- Systematic approach (quantitative & qualitative)



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## Set-up: FAST Team

- Headquarters in Bern
  - Coordination
  - Desk officers
- International Experts (one per country)
- Local Information Networks



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## Set-up: Local Information Networks

- Information independent of Western newswires
- Local Teams: Country Coordinator and Field Monitors



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## Set-up: Database

- Systematic coding criteria
- Over 200'000 events stored for 25 countries/regions
- 200 different event types and event issues (e.g. protest, armed battle, natural hazards, travel to meet)
- Constant information flow: Information available in near real-time



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## Methodology: Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis

- Quantitative event data approach: Relies on statistics, based on assumption that conflict is the cumulative outcome of past actions or events
- Qualitative joint analysis to understand trends and outlook in conflict and cooperation
- Combination of in-house, local and international expertise



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## FAST «Products»

- Country Risk Profiles
- FAST updates
- Analytical frameworks
- Online Reporter
- Briefings tailored to customers' needs
- ...



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## 2. Evaluation of FAST in 2006

- Generally positive feedback by users (donors and academics)
- Selected recommendations:
  - More frequent, shorter updates, different visual tools
  - Provide customized briefings and other new products
  - Organize EW application trainings for donor staff and briefings in covered regions
  - ...

(→ Closure of FAST in 2008)



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## 3. Lessons learned

- Donor driven
- Importance and availability of local information
- «Early response» vs. planning cycles of development actors
- Inherent difficulty: Investigation into accuracy of risk assessment and forecasting difficult



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