

# Development and Humanitarian Crisis

The experience of the Inter-religious  
Council of Liberia (IRCL) from  
1990-2017

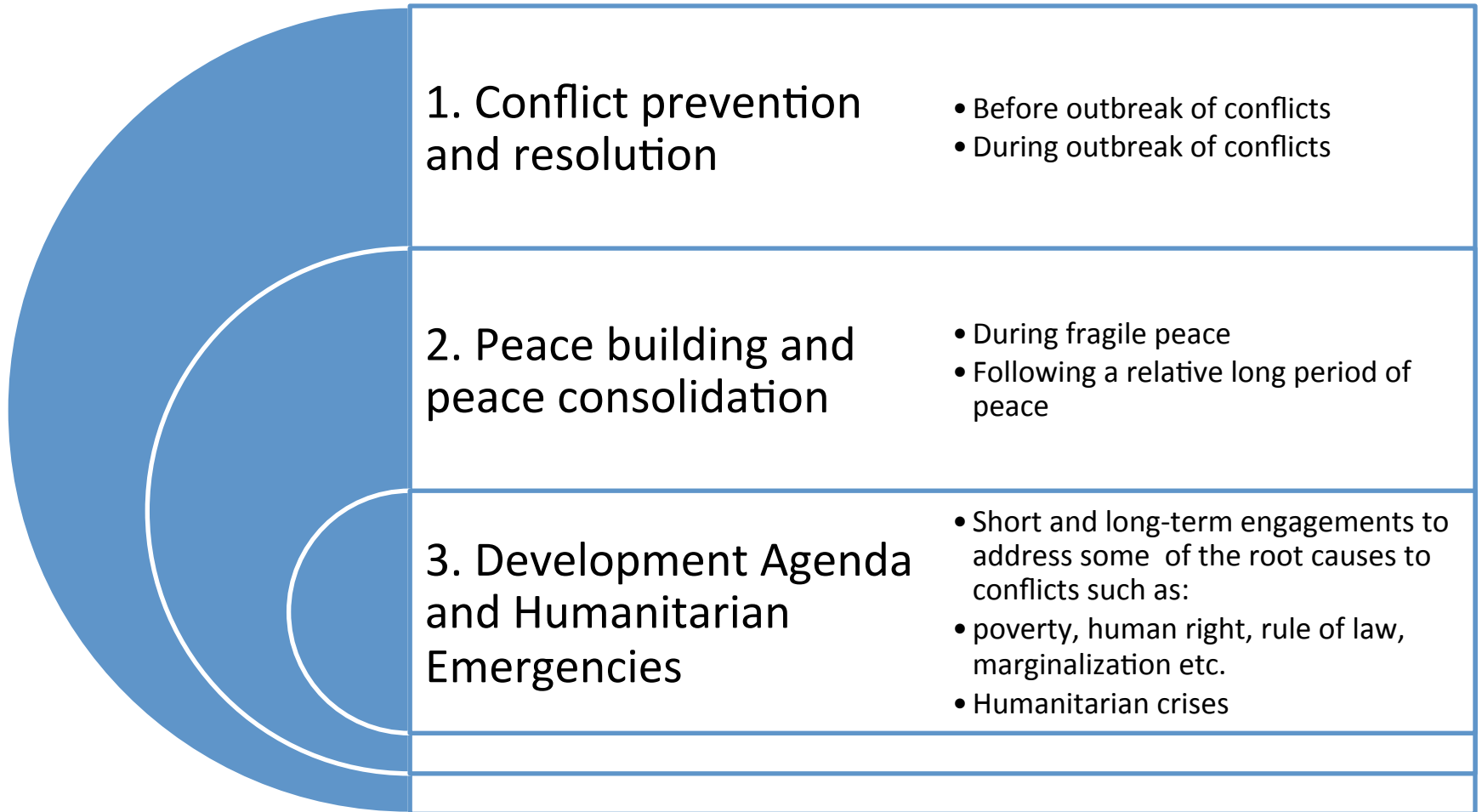
# Table of Content

- Brief History
- Platform of engagement
- Strategies
- Challenges
- Achievements
- Lessons
- Recommendations

# Brief History

- Founded in 1990 as a direct response to humanitarian crisis prompted by the civil war
- Constituting of two national umbrella institutions of Christians and Muslims
- Initiated direct dialogues with the warring parties
- Mobilized regional and international support for cease fire and round table negotiations
- Finally, succeeded in 2003 to bring about a comprehensive peace accord after 14 years of struggle.
- Intervened in over ½ dozens of situations that threatened the peace
- Now serves as the government and the UN mission's #1 partner in conflict resolutions in Liberia

# Platform of Engagement



# Strategies

Internal harmony  
ensuring all sides  
are on board

Institution  
strengthening in  
terms of human  
and logistics  
capacities

Saving the gains  
and building on the  
successes: moving  
forward and  
avoiding setbacks

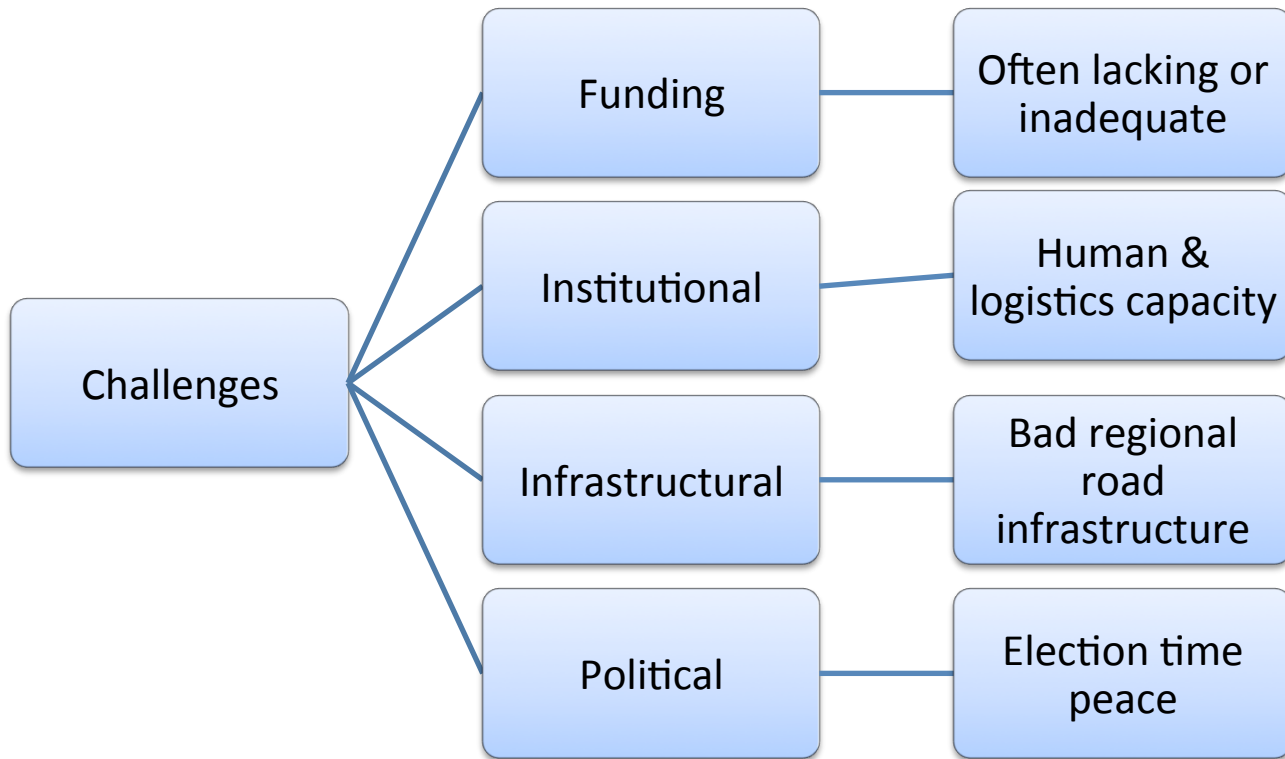
Picking the comfort  
zones in matters  
that are culturally  
and religiously  
sensitive

Developing  
Partnership with  
relevant government  
agencies

Networking and  
coordinating with  
local government  
structures

Revisiting  
constituencies

Developing  
Partnership with  
donor agencies



# Summary of Achievements

## IRCL made meaningful contributions to the followings

- CPA
- Child Right Law
- Rule of Law Awareness
- The fight against the EVD
- Successful Stand against the Campaign for declaring Liberia a Christian Nation
- The signing of Farmington Declaration by all Political Parties
- Successful intervention in constitutional crisis between the lower house of Liberian Parliament and the Supreme Court of Liberia
- Signing of Communiqué to support demographic dividend
- Signing of anti corruption communiqué

# Lessons Learned

- Mutual respect, trust building and internal harmony are key for successful interfaith initiatives
- Religion and State collaboration can achieve a lot on sensitive development issues
- Interfaith collaboration during humanitarian crisis can serve as an eye opener and bridge that brings followers of different faith much more closer
- Avoiding sensitive doctrinal issues that might undermine the mutual trust



# Recommendations

- For interfaith collaboration to succeed you must have common interest (humanity), promote shared values
- Working with the State is very essential but neutrality must not be compromised as it is a key pillar of your authority
- Attract youth's participation through capacity building, scholarships, conferences as they will be the ones to take over after you.
- Involvement of women's participation in decision making at all level.

# The end

- Thank you very much for your attention!!!

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