

ECCP: Navigating Complexity

20 January, 16-17h CET

Purpose: The purpose of today's meeting is to explore two draft chapters of a forthcoming guidebook on adaptive peacebuilding (written by Cedric de Coning and coauthors), both using them as a learning tool and providing feedback on them.

Agenda:

1. Welcome and brief recap
2. Context from Cedric on guidebook on adaptive peacebuilding
3. Discussion in breakout rooms
4. Plenary
5. Closing

[In case you missed them, find a folder with notes, PPTs, and recordings of our first three meetings in this folder here.](#)

Notes from Cedric de Coning's introductory notes on context about the guidebook:

- [Guidebook chapters for discussion](#)
- This guidebook builds on Cedric's previous collaborations with the Japanese International Development Coordination
 - In the past, they've reviewed case studies, and articulated how adaptive peacebuilding works (or doesn't)
- So now they've decided to draft a guidebook on adaptive peacebuilding for practitioners, especially with regard to planning, MEL, etc.
 - These first two chapters (that we'll cover today) introduce the concept
 - There are four more chapters that each cover one step of the adaptive peacebuilding process, each with an attached case study demonstrating the concept
 - The case studies come from UNPBF, CR, FBA, UNEP, etc.
 - They are aiming to finish the guidebook in March 2026
- This guidebook is not explicitly about ECCP issues, so we're invited to explore the relevance to our ECCP ecosystem.

Breakout group 1 - Chapter 1:

- [A volunteer from your group should read out the highlighted segment \(on pages 4-5\).](#)
- Discuss:
 - What makes sense?
 - What doesn't make sense?

- What resonates with your own experiences? Why?
- Do you have any recommendations or advice for the authors?

Breakout group 2 - Chapter 2:

- [A volunteer from your group should read out the highlighted segment \(on pages 1-3\).](#)
- Discuss:
 - What makes sense?
 - What doesn't make sense?
 - What resonates with your own experiences? Why?
 - Do you have any recommendations or advice for the authors?

Plenary discussion:

- Does anyone here want to ask a question or share feedback?
 -
- Talk through chapter 2, six steps

Question bank:

(Please use this space to add your questions, even during the session.)

-

Notes and key takeaways:

(Please use this space to add any notes or key takeaways, even during the session.)

-

Where do we go from here?

- We can host further sessions on the next four chapters of the guidebook we covered today.
- Annika and Bhav can introduce a tool for complexity: NarraFirma.
- Annika to explore with Harvest Moon Consultants if they could join us.
 - How can we think about the intersection of complexity & decolonization? How can we think about different levels of power in the system?
- Talk about patterns, probes, and other practical applications of this framework:
 - More guided practice or (overlapping with others) group brainstorming on a specific example that someone has that we can support with (x2)
 - More guided practice — especially in relation to environmental peacebuilding
 - more discussion on practice, more guided practice, share sources
 - more examples, examples in education contexts
 - Continue to situate this more into ECCP-related topics

- Everyone could bring an example of a challenge to the group, and the group can reflect & give ideas for how to approach from an adaptive lens
- How can we measure?

Recommended reading:

- Managing complexity (and chaos) in times of crisis - A field guide for decision makers inspired by the Cynefin framework:
<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/712438d0-8c55-11eb-b85c-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>
- Blog on complexity as a theory of change:
<https://www.chriscorrigan.com/parkinglot/towards-the-idea-that-complexity-is-a-theory-of-change/>
- Complexity thinking:
<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/complexity-theories-systems-thinking-parallels-marco-valente/>
- 7 differences between complex and complicated systems:
<https://www.morebeyond.co.za/7-differences-between-complex-and-complicated-systems/>
- A blog on Adaptive Peace: Insights from complexity for preventing violence and sustaining peace :
<https://peacenews.com/adaptive-peace-insights-from-complexity-for-preventing-violence-and-sustaining-peace/>
- Podcast on adaptive peacebuilding:
<https://www.nupi.no/en/media-appearances/podcasts/adaptive-peace-a-new-way-of-thinking-about-peacebuilding>
- Academic article on Adaptive Peacebuilding:
<https://academic.oup.com/ia/article/94/2/301/4851911>
- Book with case studies of Adaptive Peacebuilding:
<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-18219-8>