

## METHODOLOGY

(Taken from the PREFACE. Additional information available in the original text in the INTRODUCTION and the Case Studies)

### Preface

This study has been commissioned by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the five main donors supporting the work of International Alert (IA): Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Novib.

Data collection for the study commenced in May 1997 and has been carried by Gunnar M. Sorbo (team leader, Chr. Michelsen Institute, Bergen), Joanna Macrae (Overseas Development Institute, London) and Lennart Wohlgemuth (Nordiska Afrikainstitutet, Uppsala). The evaluators have been assisted by Mark Duffield (University of Birmingham), Siri Lange (Chr. Michelsen Institute), Philippa Atkinson (London) and Bente Bingen (Colombo) who have all worked on assigned topics (see annexes). While none of these individuals is responsible for any of the views expressed in the main report, we have benefitted much from their contributions.

During the assignment, we also received much assistance from the staff of International Alert, both at London headquarters and in the field (related to programmes in Burundi, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka). In the process, we tried to share our findings as much as possible with IA staff and received important feedback which, in various ways, affected the final product. The comments made by IA on the draft final report (submitted in August 1997), were shared with donors. We are grateful to IA for the generous assistance provided to the evaluators. IA's response to (a) the recommendations of this report as well as (b) the Sierra Leone Case Study has been annexed to this report (Annex 6).

We would like to thank the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the donor consortium for a difficult and inspiring assignment and the support extended throughout the study period. Two meetings have been held with the donor in Copenhagen during the early stages of the review process, and one in Bergen discussing the draft final report. The study has depended on the contributions of numerous persons who gave of their valuable time, taken from already burdened schedules, to provide information, analysis, interpretations explanations, and patiently subjected themselves to being questioned. Without their assistance this report could not have been completed. Finally, our thanks go Chr. Michelsen Institute for providing institutional support, particularly to A. Nygaard and Marianne Serck-Hanssen for their secretarial efforts.

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