

## **Theory – overview**

The theory of change is based on the fundamental logic that a road can provide access to markets as well as allow for the provision of security, which in turn can lead to improved incomes and security for the population of North and South Kivu. Roads can also provide physical access to basic services, and as such are a necessary but not sufficient condition for improved health and education outcomes. The key assumptions in the theory of change are the provision of security by MONUSCO and/or the Government of DRC security forces, and the ability of the national roads fund to implement, with our support, the maintenance system we put in place.

This logic model is nested within two macro theories of change – those underpinning the International Security and Stabilisation Support Strategy (ISSSS) and DFID DRC's overall portfolio.

The ISSSS posits that road access is the first step in achieving stabilisation outcomes, with security and then restoration of state authority following in sequence. This tallies with the World Development Report 2011 framework of repeated cycles of action to bolster institutional resilience and build people's confidence (as shown in Figure 1 below). Roads provide an initial confidence boost to the population. A number of other conditions will then need to be put in place to ensure that this confidence is built upon, with sequenced investment in building institutional resilience through providing security and restoring state authority. It is then essential that the roads are maintained at a high standard, in order to maintain people's confidence that they have lasting physical access and to ensure the virtuous circle continues.

### **Figure 1: World Development Report 2011 framework**