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CONTRIBUTING TO PEACE CONSOLIDATION IN  
**AFGHANISTAN**



*The project is implemented with the financial assistance of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from the Official Development Assistance budget, in partnership with UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre.*

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(source: [kabulwazir.files.wordpress.com](http://kabulwazir.files.wordpress.com))  
Jalalabad and beyond - A historical perspective from Kabul





# CONTRIBUTING TO PEACE CONSOLIDATION IN AFGHANISTAN (CPCA) DESCRIPTION

The project entitled Achieving the MDGs through Peacebuilding: Capacity building in transition to democracy, community based-dialogue and peacekeeping operations for international, national and local actors in Afghanistan aims to map, evaluate and strengthen mandated local / national state, civil society and UN peace consolidation expertise & capacity in Afghanistan, to support creation of a conducive context for achievement of MDGs in the aftermath of violent conflicts. Using a multi-stakeholder approach, the project will strengthen the target group's capacity for peace consolidation, transition management from peacekeeping/peace enforcement to peacemaking/peacebuilding, and support the improvement of targeted programming for violence prevention. The project will: identify and assess capacity, human and institutional needs, achievements and lessons learned in Afghanistan's peacebuilding, peace consolidation and violence prevention capacity building programmes and practice; design a capacity building module addressing identified needs and integrating achievements/ lessons learned; and engage in visibility and advocacy activities supporting the long term sustainability of the project results. Project outputs and results will then be shared and effectively distributed to key Afghan and international actors



## PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND FORESEEN IMPACT

The project aims to create the following long-term impacts:

i) enhanced Afghan ownership over peacebuilding and peacemaking capacities required by a peaceful transition process; ii) highlighted link between the need for nationally and locally owned peacebuilding and peacemaking capacities, and the successful engagement with MDG targets; iii) boosted national, local and community based capacities to achieve MDG targets in the post-2014 transition period through the use of peacebuilding/ peacemaking skills and knowledge; iv) central role placed on the traditional/ indigenous peacebuilding/ peacemaking practices in overall capacity building processes in Afghanistan; and v) strengthened role of the Afghan civil society in the provision of such capacity building programmes for national and local actors.

In order to achieve these foreseen changes, the main objectives of the project include: i) the planning and implementation of a comprehensive 3 months needs assessment/ research process looking at the capacity building needs, challenges, achievements, lessons learned and recommendation in peacebuilding and peacemaking in Afghanistan; ii) the development and dissemination of a 20 page needs assessment/ research report that raises awareness on the issues mentioned under the 1st objective, offering policy recommendations in line with the overall aim of the project; iii) the facilitation of a 3-day workshop aimed at 20 national, local and international capacity building actors engaged in Afghan peacebuilding and peacemaking strategy development for the transition and post-transition period; and iv) enrich the pool of materials developed for capacity building organisations working in the context of Afghanistan with 1 handbook, that outlines processual and content steps for the development of nationally and locally owned, evidence and demand based capacity building programmes.



(source: www.bbc.co.uk)

The Taliban are forced out of Afghanistan



## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Needs Assessment and Country Report Development on the institutional, capacity building, competency and human resources strengths, gaps, requirements and achievements towards sustained peace consolidation in the frame of MDG achievement;
2. Capacity building programme development and implementation customized to the exact needs and context in Afghanistan and building upon Afghan and international expertise, lessons and needs-identified by participant stakeholders<sup>1</sup> in the first phase of the project;
3. Publications/Resource development: i) Country Needs Assessment Report; ii) "Lessons identified in peace consolidation capacity building in Afghanistan: Strengthening International Support for National Infrastructure and Capabilities through Peacebuilding." (working title)
4. Coordination and Advocacy: meetings with relevant Afghan and international experts to make the project purpose, outcomes and outputs known and materials and resources available (in Brussels and Bucharest)

## PROJECT OUTPUTS

The project's main outputs will consist of: a comprehensive mapping of the institutions and people in Afghanistan working in capacity building for peacebuilding, peace consolidation and violence prevention, interviews with Afghan stakeholders that will be documented in the Needs Assessment Country Report, replicable training curricula developed based on the Needs Assessments, capacity building programme, Handbook on "Lessons identified in peace consolidation training programmes in Afghanistan. Boosting MDG achieving capacity through peacebuilding" (working title).

Afghanistan (source: [www.globeimages.net](http://www.globeimages.net))





(source: [www.currents.gmu.edu](http://www.currents.gmu.edu))  
Reconstruction and transition in Afghanistan



## TARGET GROUP

The target group will include key Afghan government/state actors, policy and decision makers, civil society/non-state actors dealing with development, transition, peace consolidation in Afghanistan, staff of UN agencies and peacekeeping missions and UN Country Teams in Afghanistan, other intergovernmental and international actors active in Afghanistan. Representatives of these groups will be included both in the project planning phase, and its implementation.

On the one hand the project development phase included extensive consultations with representatives of these groups during the various capacity building programmes and consultancies implemented by PATRIR over the years. The consultations focused on the Afghan and international points of view over the challenges and achievements of the peace consolidation process, the upcoming security transition period, the state of MDG achievement, and possible project ideas that would contribute to the creation of a strengthened national and local ownership for the enhancement of these processes. On the other hand, the successful implementation of the project requires the active involvement of the target group in all project activities, first as primary information providers for the research process, and second as test group and feedback source of the capacity building materials and processes developed.



(source: [www.helptheafghanchildren.org](http://www.helptheafghanchildren.org))

## NEEDS THE PROJECT ANSWERS TO:

The current situation in Afghanistan mirrors a lack of institutional capacity and capability of Afghan organisations, government agencies and people working in the field of peacebuilding and peacemaking to have and offer a rigorous capacity building experience in peace consolidation, conflict transformation and violence prevention that would allow the peaceful sustainment of the up-coming transitional process. At the same time, the reality on the ground calls for a systemic approach with the underlying conflict issues and with the conflict stakeholders. The single approach does not allow for a wider understanding of the problems and a greater impact on the situation. Coordination and collaboration in both knowledge and action are thus absolutely vital in order to have a positive impact on the Afghan society. This, however, cannot be done without an authentic ownership of each and every process, which to date is still lagging behind in Afghanistan. The Afghan people need to be encouraged to take over decisions regarding their peacebuilding strategy, to gain the knowledge and tools that would be customized for their precise context and needs. This in turn would allow tackling the current situation of supply-driven training and capacity building programmes instead of creating and offering programmes that come as a reply to demands of Afghan society.

There are three major needs identified to be addressed by the project: i) the lack of cooperation and coordination between Afghan and Afghanistan-based organisations working in peacebuilding, peacemaking and violence prevention, which constitutes a blocker in assuming Afghan ownership over needed peace capacities and capacity formation processes, their impact on MDG achievement, and reaching a peaceful transition process; ii) the lack of systemic engagement with all conflict actors and root causes within and around the targeted conflict context, which hinders planning, strategizing and programming of an integrated peacebuilding, peace consolidation and MDG achievement approach nationwide; iii) the overall reliance on supply-driven training and capacity-building programmes for UN staff, government and NGO practitioners engaged in peacebuilding, peace consolidation and violence prevention, which do not take into account the



(source: equilibriumglobal.com)



(source: news.bbc.co.uk)



(source: www.wikimedia.org)  
Children with carrots in Afghanistan



institutional, competency, capacity building and human resource realities and needs on the ground.

The larger context giving rise to the identified needs has been depicted by numerous actors engaged on the topic of the Afghanistan context. According to the 2012 Human Rights Watch report on Afghanistan<sup>1</sup>, UNAMA's count of civilian deaths reached its peak by May 2011: 368 civilians, with an annual increase of 8% compared to 2010<sup>2</sup>. With the continuous reduction of international presence in Afghanistan, the foreseen number of raids and attacks on civilian Afghans will become higher, the number of casualties and deaths growing proportionally as the Afghan institutions are not yet prepared to take over the capacity building programmes in the field. Without proper knowledge, tools and mechanisms put in place to prevent and to offer early warning and early response to violence, there is a high probability of stagnation / regression of country development and of steps taken for transition towards democracy. The World Bank and United Nations have recognized armed violence as a primary cause of poverty and obstacle to achieving the MDGs.<sup>3</sup> The UN Secretary General has identified the need to strengthen stabilization and peace consolidation in the aftermath of violent conflict to enable development of stable state institutions and functioning civil society to contribute to peace consolidation and achieving the MDGs.<sup>4</sup> The 2009 NUPI report<sup>5</sup> has evaluated the negative impact that the lack of adequately trained experts has had on the peace consolidation work of mandated national and international agencies and the overall conflict contexts analyzed. At the same time, the report has actively advocated for more integrated, demand-based and contextualized/ customized capacity building programmes as a means to enhance the efficiency of peace consolidation work and the human resource implementing such programmes.



## NOTES

1. Human Rights Watch, World Report Chapter: Afghanistan 2012, 2012

<http://www.hrw.org/world-report-2012/world-report-2012-afghanistan>

2. UNSG, The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, UN, New York, 5 March 2012.

See, [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/2013/721](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2013/721), para 24 for an updated figure. It can be cited as A/68/645-S/2013/721

3. The World Bank, World Development Report 2011

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDRS/Resources/WDR2011\\_Chapter1.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDRS/Resources/WDR2011_Chapter1.pdf)

4. UNSG, Report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict, UN, New York, 11 June 2009

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4a4c6c3b2.html>

5. Audun Solli, Benjamin de Carvalho, Cedric de Coning and Mikkel Frøsig Pedersen, Bottlenecks to Deployment? The Challenges of Deploying Civilian Personnel to Peace Operations, NUPI, Oslo, 2009







# IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATIONS:

## PATRIR

### Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR)

PATRIR has been active since 2001 in the field of peacebuilding, peaceful conflict transformation and violence prevention worldwide. Through the combination of training/capacity building, peacebuilding and violence prevention activities, consultancies with major international organisations, awareness raising and policy formation, the Institute has contributed to the enhancement of peacebuilding and violence prevention practice from a process and content point of view. PATRIR has developed similar multi-year projects in Moldova-Transdnistria, Crimea, and has engaged in multi-year consultation processes for capacity building with the Commonwealth Secretariat, various UN agencies (e.g. Liberia, Nepal, Lebanon), multi-stakeholder groups in Northern Ireland, Nepal, Mexico and several other countries. Through its International Peace and Development Training Center (IPDTC), PATRIR has developed an alumni group of over 3000 practitioners internationally.

[www.patrir.ro](http://www.patrir.ro)

## CPAU

### Cooperation for Peace and Unity (CPAU)

CPAU is an Afghan-led non-profit organisation with almost two decades of experience in promoting peace and social justice in Afghanistan. CPAU was founded in 1996. CPAU is the first Afghan-led, research and peace-building organisation in Afghanistan. Over the last decade, CPAU has implemented more than 400 projects in more than 26 provinces across Afghanistan, where it has conducted research, peace and conflict management, innovative education and peace-building programming and media projects. This has included providing peace education classes to more than 30,000 male and female students across Afghanistan as well as organizing workshops and training seminars for members of the Afghan government, civil society, and foreign organizations on topics such as conflict mediation and cultural sensitivity. CPAU also created or worked with almost 10,000 shuras/Councils across the country. In addition, CPAU has been a significant pioneer in the informal justice sector, using innovative programming to establish long term relations between formal and informal justice sectors.

[www.cpau.org.af](http://www.cpau.org.af)





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