







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

Research Strategy –

The aim of the present strategy is to offer guidance for the team undertaking the research part of the above mentioned project towards developing and implementing a research process that: i) abides by international norms and best practices in research implementation, and ii) takes into consideration the particularities of the Afghanistan context in what interview conduct is concerned.

Content

Aim of the needs assessment process (research)
Thematic areas to be covered during the research
Methodology steps agreed upon to be used during the research
Focus during the desk review process
Research Team & TORs

1. Aim of the needs assessment process (research)

The aim of the needs assessment process (NAP) is to identify, map and analyze peacebuilding and peacemaking capacity building gaps, challenges, achievement, lessons learned and recommendations in Afghanistan on the eve of the 2014 transition process and the 2015 MDG mark. The NAP seeks to generate evidence-based policy recommendations for the quality enhancement of the above mentioned capacity building processes and content in order to:

- Enhance Afghan ownership over peacebuilding and peacemaking capacities required by a peaceful transition process
- Highlight the link between the need for nationally and locally owned peacebuilding and peacemaking capacities, and the successful engagement with MDG targets
- Boost 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
- Offer a central role to traditional/ indigenous peacebuilding/ peacemaking practices in overall capacity building processes in Afghanistan
- Strengthen the role of the Afghan civil society in the provision of such capacity building programmes for national and local actors.









Outputs:

- 1 research strategy developed
- 1 comprehensive actor map/ database that shows the all the actors to be interviewed/ surveyed as part
 of the research process;
- 1 full interview script;
- aprox. 100 of Afghan, international and Romania stakeholders interviewed/ surveyed;
- aprox. 100 of interviews recorded in writing and/ or through AV avenues;
- 1 list of research materials developed to serve the desk research process;
- Edited and final versions (online and hard-copy versions) of Needs Assessment Country Report (NACR) ready in English, Romanian and Pashto.

Indicators of achievement:

- The quantitative indicators are represented by the physical existence of the outputs mentioned above.
- Qualitative indicators include: 70% more project staff and experts have updated knowledge on the current Afghan actor map working for peace consolidation and MGD attainment; 25% of the mapped organisations are contacted for needs assessment interview, based on the principles of systemic engagement with conflict actors (cross-sectoral, cross-track, cross-conflict, cross-geographical the research process employs all appropriate methodology to gather accurate information on peace consolidation and MDG achievement capacity needs, achievement, requirements of interviewed organisations; 100% of the needs assessment interviews are recorded for optimal information retention; 20% of interviewed actors and examined resource materials for the needs assessment process originate from Romania; 25% of the previously mapped organisations' input is fully recorded in the NACR; the final NACR contains 30% quotations from the interviews conducted, merged with the outcomes of the desk research and the result interpretation of the involved researcher; a minimum of 80% of the NACRs reach Afghan, Romanian and international actors engaged in policy, capacity building and decision making for peace consolidation and MDG attainment; 70% of the actors receiving the NACRs report at the efficiency evaluation survey a heightened awareness on the reported issues, and 30% out of these 70% are able to give examples of policy/strategy/content changes in their planning and programming in line with the findings of the NACR; 20% of the information and direct quoting featured in the NACR originate from Romanian experts, government officials and civil society representatives with experience in Afghanistan; a minimum of 80% of the NACRs reach Afghan, Romanian and international actors engaged in policy, capacity building and decision making for peace consolidation and MDG attainment.

2. Thematic areas to be covered during the research

As per the discussions had yesterday and the reframed aim of the research, the proposed thematic areas to focus on are:

- · Training and capacity building gaps, challenges, achievements, lessons learned and recommendations
- Peacebuilding and peacemaking
- Transition









- Strengthening civil society state cooperation
- MDGs achievement

3. Methodology steps agreed upon to be used during the research

The methodology should be customized to the context of Afghanistan, to make sure that respondents are trusting the interview process in order to offer the necessary information.

- Identifying key informants and other relevant individuals/ organisations to be part of the interview/ survey process. This was started through the actor mapping process and will be finalized through the input of all project partners. The identification process will make use of a) online information sources (internet), and b) informal discussions and information gathering from local networks of the Afghan project partner, in order to ensure that the information provided for the research is as representative as possible.
- Desk review identifying and analyzing the latest reports and publications on the mentioned thematic
 areas generally and in the Afghan context. The review process will make use of primary, secondary and
 tertiary information sources published in English, Pashto and Romanian available online and/ or in hard
 copies.
- Interviews with selected actors from the map/ database developed focusing on the thematic areas
 identified and aiming to gather information that would contribute to achieving the aim and impact
 mentioned above. The interview process will be conducted through face to- face meetings, phone,
 Skype and other communication avenues, their use being dependent on the security situation existent in
 the area of Afghanistan where the identified actors have their headquarters or implement their
 activities.
- Survey (electronic) with selected actors from the map/ database developed focusing on the thematic
 areas identified and aiming to gather information that would contribute to achieving the aim and impact
 mentioned above.
- Potentially the use of ½ day experience sharing workshops in case the local context allows for it.

4. Focus during the desk review process

For a more efficient desk review process the following aspects are proposed to be focused upon:

- Needs and challenges of the agreed thematic areas in close relation with capacity building processes;
- Capacity building achievements and on-going efforts in the agreed thematic areas
- The link between peacebuilding/ peacemaking and the agreed thematic areas
- Lessons learned and existing policy recommendations related to capacity building, peacebuilding/ peacemaking and other thematic areas
- Existing national international capacity building objectives/ opportunities for the transition and posttransition period
- Existing national and local peacebuilding and peacemaking capacities to date









5. Research Team & TORs

The research will be implemented by a team of 4 lead researchers and 4 assistant researchers, as per the table below. The work of each researcher is guided by a TOR developed after a series of consultations, in line with the necessities of the project and the experience of each researcher. These are available upon request.

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Dr. Conley is the President of Conley-International Education Consultants. Dr. Conley has administered and run projects in 19 African countries, 8 Latin American/South American countries, 12 European countries, as well as in India and Japan, together with a variety of contract works for the Canadian Government, various UN organizations, the African Union, the Council of Europe, and GTZ. He has conducted training programs in Africa, Europe, Asia and North America on the topics of Rebuilding Rar-Torn Societies, Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration, Early Warning, Democratic Development and Governance, Pre-deployment Training, Training of Trainers, Citizenship Development, Human Rights Reporting and Teaching, etc. conley@conley-international.org

Sami Sabawoon



Sami Sabawoon is the acting research manager at CPAU; he is a graduate of Economics and Statistic from the Faculty of Economics, Kabul University. he has a certificate of Research and Policy, Project management, Project Analysis, Business administration and advanced expertise in software for statistics and analysis (SPSS). Sami has worked as a data Analyst and Research officer with Wise Strategic Communication from 2009 until 2011, and from 2011 he has been working with CPAU as data analyst and Senior researcher in different projects including access to justice, human security and conflict analysis. Samiullah specializes in qualitative and quantitative research, data analysis and team leadership, he has also developed as a field researcher and trainer and has conducted focus-group discussions, in-depth interviews, written training manuals, trained facilitators, and debriefed field operators, developed research and survey questions and designed sampling protocols for many surveys. Sami has recently attended a course on peace and conflict research methodologies in Cambodia. samiullah.sabawoon@cpau.org.af









Tamim Sharifzai



Tamim Sharifzai is the Senior Research Officer at CPAU. After graduating from Kabul University, Mr Sharifzai began his career with BBC Afghanistan, followed by several international practical research trainings in both qualitative and quantitative research methods in Uganda and India. He joined the Afghanistan Research Evaluation Unit in 2009, where he held a senior research position. His particular areas of research interest are local governance, urban governance, access to justice and transitional justice. He joined CPAU' research department in October 2011 where he seeks to support our work in-order to achieve the high standards set-up by CPAU's research department. He is passionate about working in a dynamic and highly creative work environment and as the research manager he seeks to improve and build the capacity of his Afghan colleagues. Tamim has recently attended a course on peace and conflict research methodologies in Cambodia.

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Dr. Zsuzsanna Kacsó



Ms. Zsuzsanna Kacsó is Director of the International Peace and Development Training Center (IPDTC) of PATRIR and former member of the Council of Directors PATRIR. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in European Studies & International Relations, a Master of Arts degree in Foreign Trade and another Master of Arts degree in Management of International Relations and European Union Affairs, all from Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania. At present she is a PhD candidate at European Studies & International Relations at the History Faculty of Babes-Bolyai University with focus on Early Warning & Prevention, Scenario Building and Risk Management.

Areas of expertise: Early Warning; Structural Violence Prevention Future Scenarios Planning; Mediation & Peace Processes; Preventing Electoral Violence; Design of Executive Leadership & Professional Development Programmes; Organisational Development. Geographic Experience: Moldova-Transdniestria, Romania, Ukraine, Singapore, UK, Northern Ireland, Liberia, Cambodia, Italy, Finland.

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Adelina Decean

Ms. Adelina Decean is the Coordinator of the International Peace and Development Training Center (IPDTC) of PATRIR. She started her work with PATRIR as the Assistant to the Director of DPO and became a full time staff member in May 2012. Adelina is currently a double MA student in "International Development" and "European Strategy for Sustainable Development" at the Babes-Boliay University in Cluj Napoca, Romania. adelina.decean@patrir.ro

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Aslıhan BAŞER



Aslıhan BAŞER is an intern in PATRİR as a researcher. She is graduated from Akdeniz University from İnternational Relationship depertmant. She studied one year french. After her study she took a gap year and she came to Romania. Than she started her master degree in Cluj Napoca at Babes Bolyai University in 2012 in the program of Crisis and Conflict Management. Focus studies on;conflict, mediation tecniques, peace and capacity building. Since 2010 also work with TUİÇ(Turkey International Relations Studies) as a writer.

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Roman-Gabriel Olar is a Researcher and Analyst at PATRIR. He graduated from a MSc in International Public Policy at University College London. His research interest fall at the intersection of contentious politics, conflict resolution, post-war recovery, human rights violations and research methodology. He has participated at various international conference and summer academies on topics related to his interests. Additionally, he has over 3 years of experience in the local NGO sector. On his free time, he enjoys swimming, basketball, good books and movies.

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Virginia holds an MA in International Relations and Security Studies at Westminster University, London. In the last 7 years she has been active involved in the civil society field, working, recently, as an intern for Amnesty International, UK, Red Cross and other NGOs from Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Currently, she has joined PATRIR as an intern, her main function being as an assistant to the DPO (Department of Peace Operations) director, researcher and analyst.

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