

Consultancy: Assessing donor support to INGO-CSO peacebuilding partnerships

Terms of Reference

1. Background

UK-based peacebuilding organisations Conciliation Resources, International Alert and Saferworld are working together on a three-year programme, funded by the UK Department for International Development's (DfID) Global Security Rapid Assessment (GSRA) mechanism, to provide evidence-informed policy and programming lessons and recommendations to DfID to inform its Building Stability Framework, as well as to other parts of UK Government and peace, security and development actors. The programme, called the [Peace Research Partnership](#) (PRP), started on 1 May 2017 and will run until March 2020.

Under the PRP, Conciliation Resources is focussing on developing research and evidence on how best to support transformative and inclusive peace processes. It asks what kinds of external support and engagement can help the shift from short-term power-sharing to longer-term political inclusion. One sub-theme examines how to support peace and transition processes to deliver inclusive outcomes. Included in this is an analysis of the way in which partnerships between international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) and local civil society organisations (CSOs) and networks support inclusive outcomes.

A first phase of this research was conducted from March 2017- April 18. This analysed Conciliation Resources' own practice of partnership as a case study of one type of partnering approach. The main findings were published in a report: [Partnerships in peacebuilding](#)

For the second phase, Conciliation Resources is seeking a consultant to conduct a series of structured conversations with policy actors from selected governments and multilateral organisations on their conception of, and support to, peacebuilding partnerships between INGOs and civil society actors in conflict contexts. The consultant will then draw key conclusions from these consultations to feed into a policy workshop and a subsequent practice paper on effective support to peacebuilding partnerships.

The consultant should have a strong knowledge of the peacebuilding and conflict prevention fields, and have a track record of employment by, or engagement with INGOs and government/multilateral institutions with a focus on addressing conflict and insecurity in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

2. Conciliation Resources' approach to partnership

Partnership lies at the heart of Conciliation Resources approach to peacebuilding. We understand partnership to mean investment in long-term relationships of trust with individuals and local, national and regional organisations, formal and informal. These relationships are fundamental to what we are able to achieve together.

Conciliation Resources operates without field offices, so as to enable partners to take a leading role in the context, assume responsibility and enhance local ownership. Our approach also allows a degree of flexibility in programming, since by not having a permanent presence (and the need to sustain an office infrastructure), we are able to calibrate the level of our presence and operational engagement with partners in response to changing dynamics on the ground, and to our own and our partners' strategic priorities.

3. Scope: research on support for partnership approaches

This research aims to draw practical lessons on how, and under what conditions, partnerships between INGOs and local CSOs support inclusive and transformative peace processes, based on critical analysis of partnership approaches by INGOs, including that of Conciliation Resources, and donor institutions.

In Phase 1 (March 2017 – March 2018), we asked how partnerships between INGOs such as Conciliation Resources and CSOs and networks in conflict contexts can best support inclusive and transformative peace processes and peacebuilding.

Building on an analysis of the relative strengths of Conciliation Resources' partnership approach and practice, we investigated our added value in supporting local ownership and initiative in peacebuilding, and the challenges of our approach in terms of resources, flexibility and diversity. Our practice paper, *Partnership in Peacebuilding*, draws lessons and insights from this phase of the research: <http://www.c-r.org/resources/partnerships-peacebuilding>

In Phase 2 (March 2018 – March 2019), we are using the insights generated in Phase 1 to focus on partnerships in two contexts where we work to ask how and why partnership between Conciliation Resources and CSOs and/or networks have contributed towards specific inclusive and transformative peace outcomes.

We will also consider:

- how external donor governments and institutions, such as DfID, perceive and support peacebuilding partnerships between INGOs and local CSOs and networks, so that they contribute towards inclusive peace outcomes; and what kind of partnership support helps and hinders the work of CSOs and networks in conflict settings in generating inclusive and transformative peace outcomes.

4. Consultancy Support

We are seeking an external consultant to conduct a series of interviews and draw conclusions in response to the following question:

How do external donor governments and institutions, such as DfID, perceive peacebuilding partnerships between INGOs and CSOs and networks in conflict settings, and how do they seek to support these so that they contribute towards inclusive peace outcomes?

The consultant will deliver the following outputs:

- **Consultations with policy actors:**

- in discussion with Conciliation Resources staff, identify relevant individuals for consultation and develop a schedule of interviews - anticipated minimum 7 interviews across for example, EU Member State and Swiss Governments, EU and UN;
 - develop with Conciliation Resources a set of questions to guide consultations;
 - liaise with selected policy actors to set up meetings/calls;
 - consult relevant donor policies and documentation;
 - undertake consultations (Skype/phone or in person to be decided with Conciliation Resources dependent on location and availability);
 - produce concise and accurate notes from each consultation.
- **A summary findings document** (no more than 2000 words in length) offering structured insights on areas of consensus and difference in policy actors' understanding of, and support to, peacebuilding partnerships between INGOs and CSOs and networks. Reference should be made, as far as possible, to policies guiding support to civil society undertaking peacebuilding or conflict prevention efforts.
 - **Participation in a policy workshop** in late 2018, at which the consultant will be asked to present the findings summary document and offer insights on best practice for donor/multilateral support to INGO-CSO peacebuilding partnerships (as part of a broader discussion bringing together Conciliation Resources staff and partner representatives and policy/donor representatives, and peacebuilding practitioners). Participation in this policy workshop may involve facilitation of certain sessions.
 - **Input and comment on a Practice Paper**, drafted by Conciliation Resources, which will draw together learning from workshops with partners, the consultant's consultations and the subsequent policy workshop.

The consultant will report to Conciliation Resources' Policy, Accord and Learning Officer and work in collaboration with them and the Director of Policy and Learning.

5. Tentative Work Plan

Timeframe	Activity
September 2018	Inception meeting with Conciliation Resources to identify policy actors for consultation, and to agree guiding questions
October-November 2018	Undertake consultations with selected policy actors and produce summary findings paper
December 2018	Policy workshop with Conciliation Resources' staff and partners in London (present summary findings paper, facilitate element of workshop)
January-March 2019	Input and comment on Phase 2 practice paper

6. Person specification

- Sound knowledge of the peacebuilding and conflict prevention fields (essential)
- Experience of conducting semi-structured interviews and facilitating group discussions (essential)
- Ability to produce high-quality, concise and clear written outputs in English (essential)
- Experience of employment by and/or engagement with INGOs and government/multilateral departments with a focus on supporting peaceful outcomes in conflict-affected contexts (desirable)
- Sound knowledge and understanding of different partnership approaches among INGOs (desirable)
- Strong network of contacts with donor actors (such as EU and EU Member State, UN, Swiss Government) (desirable)

7. Instructions for applications

To apply for this consultancy, please submit a proposal, including:

- (i) short narrative (2-page maximum) detailing your suitability for and approach to delivering the consultancy requirements;
- (ii) an estimated budget, including estimated number of days to fulfil the consultancy, a proposed day rate (inclusive of VAT) and any other anticipated reasonable expenses*
- (iii) your CV (2 A4 pages maximum).

All proposals should be emailed to CR's recruitment email address at recruitment@c-r.org with the title 'PRP - partnership consultant application'

The deadline for receipt of proposals is 17.00 BST (London) on Monday 27th August.

* As a guide, we anticipate that this consultancy may require between 8 to 10 work days. Consultants who have recently undertaken work on behalf of Conciliation Resources have been paid a day rate of between £300-£500, inclusive of all taxes.

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