



Assessing conflict sensitivity and community resilience in humanitarian programming

August 2017

Christian Aid's goal in our resilience programming is to empower people to live with dignity and to be able to respond successfully to shocks like natural disasters or heightened violence as well as seize opportunities to reduce their risk. We see resilience both as a process (steps taken to achieve an end) and an outcome (an end result). We define resilience as a capacity-building process to enhance the ability of individuals and communities to 'anticipate, organise for and adapt to change'. Our [Resilience Framework](#) outlines our understanding of resilience and illustrates how our country programmes support communities to understand and manage risk and move beyond survival towards proactive adaptation to change. Christian Aid Ireland is responsible for the global coordination of the organisation's work on Tackling Violence and Building Peace (TVBP). Our [TVBP strategy](#) complements our approach to resilience. It promotes conflict sensitive programming in order to manage risks of harm and ideally identify ways to build peace. This focus aims to achieve peaceful transformation of conflicts and reduction of violence through increasing the resilience of those living with the risk of violent shocks, challenging violent norms and supporting peace building initiatives to ensure the voices of the most marginalised (particularly women) are heard. We consider this a necessary step to ensure lasting peace.

Christian Aid Ireland invites tenders from academic institutions for a learning research project on enhancing conflict sensitivity and community resilience in humanitarian contexts. The research will capture learning from the integration of conflict sensitivity in four countries; Myanmar, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan and Burundi. It will focus on how conflict sensitivity that enables work 'on' violent conflict (rather than 'in' or 'around' it) affects community resilience and violence risks.

Background

Christian Aid is a registered charity that works in 40 countries across the globe, primarily working with and through local civil society organisations (of all faiths and none), NGOs, faith based organisations and social movements. We work globally for profound change that eradicates the causes of poverty, striving to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of faith or nationality. Our aim, as outlined in Christian Aid's global strategic plan, [Partnership for Change](#), is to expose the scandal of poverty, to help in practical ways to root it out and to challenge and change the systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised. Christian Aid Ireland's [Programme Strategy](#)¹ sets out priority areas and our contribution to the global movement. We work where the need is greatest regardless of ethnicity, nationality or religion, to meet

¹ http://www.christianaid.ie/Images/Christian-Aid-Ireland-Programme-Strategy_tcm19-88227.pdf

suffering and seek to challenge poverty whether through providing emergency relief or long-term development. Gender inequality constrains people's choices and agency, and negatively impacts upon people's ability to participate in, contribute to and benefit from development.²

Christian Aid Ireland is funded by Irish Aid for the Humanitarian Programme Plan (HPP) for two years (2017-2018), across five countries: DRC, Burundi, South Sudan, Lebanon and Myanmar.³ The overall programme goal is: To save and protect lives and maintain the dignity of people living in conflict-affected areas, and to reduce violence, including Gender Based Violence (GBV), in target communities so that they become safer, more peaceful and more resilient to shocks. The relevant programme objectives for this research are:

1. To meet the acute humanitarian needs of people affected by protracted conflict, with a focus on the most vulnerable, in a way that builds resilience.
2. To build the capacity of communities to analyse and respond to risks, including the risk of violence, so that vulnerable men and women living in violent/ conflict-affected contexts feel safer, more secure and protected and are more resilient.

The HPP focus on resilience is building upon Christian Aid's work globally on strengthening community resilience. Christian Aid is currently implementing the [Linking Preparedness Response and Resilience \(LPRR\)](#) project, funded by the UK Department for International Development (DfID) under the [Disasters and Emergencies Preparedness Programme \(DEPP\)](#), with a focus on seven countries; Kenya, Pakistan, Bangladesh, DRC, Colombia, Indonesia and the Philippines. Under the LPRR, Christian Aid leads the consortium made up of eight organisations; Action Aid, Concern Worldwide, Help Age, Kings College London, Muslim Aid, Oxfam, Saferworld, and World Vision.

The LPRR project aims to develop and test new ways of (1) building community resilience in fragile settings; and (2) designing humanitarian response interventions in ways which strengthen long-term community resilience. It has three strands associated with new ways of strengthening community resilience:

- **First strand** - conflict prevention, brings together participating humanitarian and security agencies to combine their best existing methodologies for security and resilience to develop new methodologies for resilience programming in fragile contexts threatened by insecurity and natural disaster. The new methodology, developed by LPRR consortium member Saferworld, is the Integrated Conflict Prevention and Resilience (ICPR)⁴. It has been piloted in Pakistan, Kenya, Myanmar and Honduras and revised to take account of lessons.
- **Second strand** - the project has studied a range of recent humanitarian responses by the eight participating agencies in Bangladesh, DRC, Kenya, Pakistan, Colombia, Indonesia and Philippines, and is in the process of developing a methodology for designing humanitarian responses that maximises the long-term resilience of beneficiary communities to future emergencies. The project will go on (in mid-2017) to test this new methodology in a future humanitarian response, and refine the methodology in the light of lessons.

² Christian Aid, 2014 'Gender Justice for All: achieving just and equitable power relations between men and women', page 7

³ The HPP is combined with Christian Aid Ireland's Programme Grant II funded by Irish Aid as a coherent programme for both development and humanitarian work. The geographic and thematic focus is different but both programmes are underpinned by Christian Aid Ireland's Programme Strategy that seeks to affect a change in society that enables communities to realise their rights, tackle violence and build peace, achieve gender equality, and build resilience and respond to humanitarian needs.

⁴ Available from Christian Aid, or SaferWorld.

- **Third strand** - led by King's College London, will ensure that the experiences identified in the project are captured thoroughly and disseminated effectively, to maximise awareness and take-up of the ideas.

This research tender will focus specifically on the first strand of conflict prevention and the learning emerging from the implementation of the ICPR methodology. The ICPR will be implemented across the four countries in late 2017/early 2018 with the support of in-country consultants (currently being recruited in each country). These consultants will be on retainer over a set period to work closely with Christian Aid country programme staff and mentor partners to: conduct a local conflict analysis and sensitivity workshop, accompany field implementation of the central tool of the resilience programme ([participatory, vulnerability capacity assessments](#), or PVCAs) to ensure integration of conflict sensitivity, and post-PVCA reflections on identified conflict dynamics guide partner action plans and programming. Levels of mentoring will differ among countries depending on experience and capacity but all share the common goal of effectively integrating conflict sensitivity into the PVCA process.

This research will accompany the in-country PVCA process and consultant support with the view of capturing learning and enhance our thinking for TVBP programming in applying a holistic approach that works *on* the conflict and contributes to reducing violence and building lasting peace.

Outputs from this research may also complement strand three and build on the [learnings](#) captured by Kings College London; this will be managed by Christian Aid Ireland.

Purpose

The purpose of this research is to gather evidence and learning across four countries on integrating a conflict sensitive approach into resilience work to guide programming interventions in protracted crises with the aim of enhancing humanitarian programming to link better to conflict prevention and longer-term development and lasting peace. The research is expected to:

- Design a learning framework to support the effective accompaniment of the PVCA process (including conflict sensitivity measures and the resilience actions based on the assessment) in country. This framework should lay out:
 - how information will be incorporated from existing learning and context analyses before implementation;
 - how information will be collected alongside PVCAs during implementation of the resilience activities, and in monitoring and follow-up;
 - how country programmes and the country consultant supporting the process, as well as partners will be guided to capture quality evidence during the process;
 - an analysis plan for interpretation of the findings;
 - steps to ensure that reflection and incorporation of the findings are supported throughout to ensure relevant learning is integrated back into programme design and implementation.

This learning framework will draw on the evidence and learning from the existing King's College London humanitarian response research (as well as learn from others) on how to better design and implement humanitarian interventions that work directly on conflict.

Specific activities that are expected as part of this research include:

- A pilot the learning framework in Myanmar to ensure its applicability, relevance and use. In includes a visit to CA and partners in Myanmar by the end of 2017.

- The application of the learning framework to capture learnings from the implementation of a conflict sensitive approach in Myanmar, DRC, South Sudan and Burundi in 2018. This will include at least one visit to each country to sync with any reflection sessions on the PVCA process and implementation.
- Conducting a comparative analysis of research findings and good practice analysis across all countries, with context specific recommendations on how to strengthen community resilience in protracted crises through enhanced conflict sensitivity in humanitarian response programming.

In addition to the above, this research should produce recommendations on how to enhance conflict sensitivity approaches that help reduce violence, manage violence risks, but also enable programmes to safely work directly ‘on’ violence and conflict drivers in order to transform them. The ultimate aim is to strengthen community resilience in protracted crises through this enhanced conflict sensitivity in humanitarian response programming. This research will feed into organisational thinking and practice on designing and integrating a conflict sensitivity approach in protracted crises and enhancing knowledge and experience in building resilience of communities to shocks and how they can contribute to positive change for peace.

Research Questions and Brief

The research is expected to answer the following main question: What can we learn about strengthening community resilience to violence from the design and integration of a conflict sensitive approach to resilience work in protracted crises?

In order to answer this, the research will look at more specific elements within the integration of conflict sensitive programming into resilience work in each country such as:

- How have communities managed risks and improved wellbeing in contexts of conflict and crises? What power and gender dynamics affect this?
- What are the factors of empowerment, cohesion, and other possible factors of resilience common across all contexts? How are the factors different for men and for women and marginalised groups within individual communities?
- Are communities living in protracted conflict able to contribute to a more transformative agenda of change?
- Has the integration of conflict sensitivity approaches (with reference to the ICPR tool where applied) and resilience supported peace building and transformative change, and how? Are there gaps that need to be considered in order to improve conflict sensitivity and to link humanitarian programming to longer lasting peace? This could include looking at the influence of certain elements on building or weakening community resilience such as: narratives on the history of conflict, the way communities have dealt with violence in the past, how violence affects different genders and marginalised groups, what structural violence, discrimination and inequalities communities face, and what cultural responses have been adopted to respond, cope with violence and can contribute to transformative peace that the HPP can build on?

This research will contain three main components:

Part One: Design a learning framework to support the effective accompaniment of the PVCA process in country drawing on the findings and conclusions from the King’s College London humanitarian response research and Saferworld’s implementation of ICPR combined with analysis from relevant literature, context analysis, tools, current debates and internal reports and other relevant sources. This will need to be designed in consultation with the four country specific consultants.

Part Two: Assess and analyse primary data from the process and results of integrating conflict sensitivity into programming, which will mostly happen through research in each country in collaboration with the in-country consultant, after the implementation of a series of training sessions, participatory conflict analysis workshops, implementation of PVCAs, review/reflection workshops and mentoring. This component will also look at the micro, meso and macro level of integrating conflict sensitivity through questions such as:

- How was an awareness of broad conflict dynamics/elements documented? (macro)
- How did this awareness shape the choice of, design and execution of PVCAs? (macro, meso)
- How were action plans implemented? (meso, micro)
- How was the context analysis or conflict dynamics revisited and action plans changed as a result? (meso, micro)
- What were the changes in behaviour and attitudes (micro), approaches and strategies (meso), and programme management (macro) as a result of a focus on conflict dynamics?

Part three: publish and share research findings, good practice and recommendations from comparative analysis across all countries on how to strengthen community resilience in protracted crises through enhanced conflict sensitivity in humanitarian response programming. Attention should be paid to our strategic focus on [tackling violence building peace](#) as well as gender and power dynamics through our [inclusive programming guidance](#).

This research needs to be highly accessible and practical and designed primarily for programme staff and local partners as the key audience. It will also be aimed at national, regional, Irish, and international audiences across the academic, practitioner, and donor community.

Methodology and Ethics

This research will be carried out in four countries; Myanmar, DRC, South Sudan and Burundi.

- In year one (2017) research will focus on developing the learning framework with a pilot opportunity in Myanmar. Therefore, successful applicants need to be able to travel in 2017.
- In year two (2018) the research will focus on assessing the process of integrating conflict sensitivity into the PVCA process through the application of the learning framework, conducting a comparative analysis across all four countries, and informing programme recommendations on how to; continue reflection, adaptation where necessary and enhance our approach to ensure a more sustainable humanitarian response that reduces violence and builds peace.

Research Method	Reason for choosing the method	Research component responds to
Design a learning framework and draw on King’s College London’s findings, Saferworld ICPR and other relevant literature.	Ground the design of the learning framework in the broader context of resilience programming, drawing on lessons learned and good practice on relevant learning methodology and case studies.	Part One

<p>In-country and desk based interviews with external stakeholders, select Christian Aid and Christian Aid Ireland staff, select Christian Aid programme staff, a selection of partners, key informant interviews with individuals involved or benefiting from the programme, household interviews, focus groups discussions with communities, in-country partners.</p>	<p>Capture a comprehensive understanding of the lessons, challenges and best practice in designing and integrating a conflict sensitive approach in the PVCA process for resilience programming in protracted crises</p>	<p>Parts Two, Three</p>
<p>Accompany stakeholder's reflection workshops on the PVCA implementation.</p>	<p>Capture immediate reflections from communities as well as partners and Christian Aid country programme teams to analyse and compare perceptions, opinions and expressed needs/gaps across the four countries to ultimately inform programme recommendations.</p>	<p>Part Two and Three</p>

Christian Aid recognises that any systematic collection of information to gain a better understanding of something is research and therefore, as part of our values and ways of working, we endeavour to conduct research that: will do no harm; is honest, fair, correct, professional, legal; respects people's dignity, diversity and rights; is gender sensitive and shows due care for the well-being of others and does not expose them to unnecessary risks. Although research contexts differ there are eight essential principles that should be upheld in order for it to be ethical and conflict sensitive:

1. We will respect the anonymity and confidentiality of the information we have access to.
2. We will respect the rights and wellbeing of all individuals.
3. We will take care that our research causes no harm to those who take part, and that it is truly necessary to advance our understanding.
4. We will ensure that only those people who give voluntary informed consent take part in our research (i.e. they agree to do so willingly, with a full understanding of what they are agreeing to); we will never put pressure on people to take part.
5. We will balance needs of individuals, colleagues, and our professional standards. We will only invite people to take part in research for which there is a genuine business need.
6. We will make independent professional judgements when designing, conducting and reporting research.
7. We will ensure that research is conducted by people with appropriate training, qualifications and experience.
8. We will, at all times and without exception, work within legal, ethical and moral boundaries.

In addition to these principles, it is important to consider the added difficulties when interviewing people experiencing ongoing crisis such as hunger, potential psychological trauma related to conflict, stress etc.

Lastly, Christian Aid Ireland will own all the data collected, which will be stored in a legal way, and all permissions required for publication will be secured.

Expected Output

This research seeks to produce the following:

Year One

- Design a learning framework to support the effective accompaniment of the PVCA process in country that will support and improve ongoing integration of lessons learned.
- Pilot the learning framework in Myanmar and adapt the framework based on feedback.

Year Two

- Support in-country consultants to produce a learning paper evaluating the effectiveness of the approach in each country including documenting robust evidence that interventions are/are not successfully integrating conflict sensitivity and building resilience of communities in protracted crisis and why. Each learning paper should include context specific recommendations for DRC, South Sudan, Burundi and Myanmar on how to improve conflict sensitivity within humanitarian programmes for local stakeholders, including partner and country programme staff, and local and national actors.
- Comparative learning paper across all four countries evaluating best practice and including recommendations for ensuring the most effective conflict sensitive practical and policy approach in building resilience in protracted crises that contributes to lasting peace. (This learning paper will also inform the design and implementation of year two research in South Sudan, Burundi, and DRC).

Christian Aid Ireland intends to publish the comparative learning paper and disseminate among international, national and local stakeholders.

Timeframe

The HPP programme duration is 1st June 2017 until 31st December 2018, with probable extension for a further three years; 2019 – 2021.

It is envisaged that the work will be commissioned by the start of October 2017 until the end of December 2018. The contract will be governed by the laws of Ireland. Under the terms of the contract, subcontracting of the services will not be permitted.

It is expected that this will be both desk based and field based research project. As the methodology depends on the engagement and input of many different people across Christian Aid, there may be a need to be flexible to accommodate people's capacity to do so. The academic institution/ independent consultant is invited to suggest how much time is needed to dedicate to the elements of the methodology described above.

A. Format of tenders

In responding to this invitation, tenders should provide the following information, striving for no more than 3,000 words:

- Name, address, telephone number and email address of tenderer, and website if any.
- The name and contact details of the person who will be responsible for the contract and for liaising with Christian Aid Ireland.
- Brief curriculum vitae for the individuals to be engaged by the tenderer in the delivery and management of the research project.

- A brief description and history of the tendering academic institution/ independent consultant including previous projects undertaken, specifically on conflict sensitivity approaches and building resilience in humanitarian contexts as well as others that are relevant to the proposal.
- A brief outline of the proposed approach to the project, including methodology and a brief work plan.
- Proposed timeframe for the project and measures in place to ensure project is completed within the agreed timeframe.
- Proposed fee for the project (indicating VAT), inclusive of expenses, costs, taxes or duties that may be incurred.
- Any other issues or information considered relevant.
- Details of two relevant referees for contracts undertaken within the last three years in areas related to the subject matter of this research project, or a brief description of research in comparable areas with peer reviewed publications.
- Confirmation of acceptance by the tenderer of the conditions of tender set out below.
- Confirmation that tenderer is in possession of a valid tax clearance certificate.

Budget

Tenders must include an estimate budget.

Deadline

Tenders can be sent either via email or in hard copy to Christian Aid Ireland no later than **Friday 29 September 2017**. Tenders should be addressed to Mandeep Mudhar: mmudhar@christian-aid.org

Partner Profile

It is expected that the partner would be an academic institution/consultant with a high level of expertise in gathering and analysis qualitative evidence in conflict sensitivity approaches and in the field of building resilience in humanitarian response programmes. They must have a strong understanding of locally led and partnership based approaches towards reducing violence and building peace.

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