Strengthening DDR Practitioners Analysis of and Response to the Links between Climate Change and Armed Groups' Recruitment Patterns

Brief description of the project

DDR practitioners engage in community violence reduction (CVR) programming aimed at reducing violence and recruitment. These interventions contribute to sustaining peace efforts and are most effective when driven by analysis and rooted in data. A clear understanding of the drivers of conflict is a key component for successful CVR interventions. DDR practitioners implementing CVR programmes, have increasingly identified the link between competition over resources and armed group behaviours. Competition over natural resources is a clear driver of violence and conflict, and in many settings, these dynamics have been exacerbated by climate change. Conflict over water, pasture, and arable land has been heightened in places such as the Sahel where climate variation and change continues to negatively impact livelihoods and local economies. Climate change has resulted in erratic rainfall, floods, droughts, infectious disease outbreaks and much more, robbing communities of their ability to sustain their livelihoods and engage in various long-held occupations including sedentary farming, fishing and herding. Dynamics in these environments influence the behaviors of armed groups including their recruitment patterns and targets. At the same time, communities are increasingly turning to armed groups to sustain their livelihoods. The consequences of climate change not only include economic hardship, but they also include communal conflicts and tension over natural resources. Armed groups capitalize on these consequences. Boko Haram, in particular, has recruited individuals who are receptive to joining the armed group because of economic hardship precipitated by climate change. In the Liptako-Gourma region, programming by UN agencies has shed light on the level of violence in the region that is communal in nature and that is linked to climate change. Capitalizing on the tensions between communities, armed groups recruit, interact with and manipulate herders, and they use them for intelligence gathering on the activities of security forces.

This project aims to increase understanding on the link between climate change and recruitment patterns of armed groups with a focus on the Sahel. The objective of the project is to approach climate change from a DDR perspective and focus on the ways in which grievances, vulnerabilities and tensions driven by climate change, influence recruitment patterns by armed groups and affect communities with a focus on the ways in which they affect men and women differently. This project will not only lead to a study that aims to elucidate this dynamic, but it will also result in the development of a Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) diagnostic and predictive analytical tool containing specific indicators that can be measured over time to reveal progress and impact of CVR efforts to reduce and prevent recruitment. The SCORE methodology, through its predictive nature, has the potential to serve as an early warning tool and thus can be used to contribute to prevention efforts. The analysis and tool that will stem from this project will include the critical role of women and youth in preventing and reducing violence and recruitment in climate change affected areas.

This project is required because of a lack of understanding of how armed groups' behaviours including their recruitment patterns have been reinforced due to intermediate triggers produced by climate change. The intended impact of this project is to strengthen DDR and peacebuilding practitioners' understanding of the patterns of armed groups recruitment in the face of climate change and how climate change, a risk multiplier, has far reaching consequences. This project will also include the design of a pilot project that will include a SCORE methodology for evaluation in order to measure impact and ensure interventions are evidence-based. The first phase will: 1) provide an analysis of the correlation between climate change and recruitment into armed groups using the SCORE methodology focused on dimensions and indicators that can enhance analysis, diagnosis, early warning and prediction; 2) lead to a training module based on the study to expand the knowledge of DDR and peacebuilding practitioners; and, 3) lead to the development of a project proposal prototype with a SCORE methodology embedded within it that can be tailored to context and that can demonstrate proof of concept.

Expected Outcomes, Outputs and Proposed Activities

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
DDR practitioners better understand the link between climate change and armed groups recruitment patterns	Research Study One-hour training module	Conduct research on climate change and recruitment patterns of armed groups; Develop as well as deliver a one-hour training module for a course on climate change and recruitment
DDR practitioners are better equipped with clear indicators to enable diagnosis, predictability and measurement of impact of programming. .	List of indicators related to climate change and recruitment	Desk review of indicators related to climate change and conflict drawing from humanitarian and development actors. Adapt SCORE methodology to the new UN approach to DDR, for DDR contexts where climate change contributes to conflict dynamics
DDR practitioners are equipped with a model skeleton CVR project proposal that can be, **adapted to**, and piloted in, different contexts where climate change and recruitment converge	Model CVR project proposal	Develop a model CVR project proposal with SCORE methodology embedded in it to be implemented at a later point as proof of concept

- **Implementation Timeline**

The project will be implemented over a six-months period and will result in the completion of the study, indicators, survey questionnaires for the SCORE methodology, design of the project prototype. A follow up to this project is planned and will consist of an 18-months project during which the CVR project model will be implemented. The project will contain a SCORE methodology that will include a predictive and early warning component as well as iterative evaluation throughout the lifespan of the project to course-correct, determine scalability and whether the project can be replicated.

- **Explain how the project will further the implementation of the A4P commitment and the A4P+ priorities**.

This project is aligned with A4P commitments, namely commitment two on implementing the women, peace and security agenda. This project aims to ensure that an analysis of the link between climate change and recruitment includes a look at how this link affects men and women differently and will specifically explore the role that women can play to reduce and prevent recruitment. Another commitment is five on supporting effective performance and accountability by all peacekeeping components. This project aims to develop indicators that can be used to diagnose the link between climate change and recruitment in a given context, enable early warning and predictability to inform DDR and CVR planning and programming. This project promotes a data-driven and evidence-based approach to programming and interventions. Finally, this project aligns with commitment six on

strengthening the impact of peacekeeping on sustaining peace by focusing on dynamics at the local level and analysis of various actors who can contribute to sustaining peace including local communities, civil society, women and youth. This project will promote a CVR approach and the importance of community engagement to prevent and reduce violence and recruitment.

- **How gender aspects been included in the design and implementation of the project? How does it help the Department to implement their Women, Peace and Security and Gender Parity commitments?**

One of the key aspects of this project will be to include an analysis of the gendered nature of the link between climate change and recruitment by armed groups. It will focus on how dynamics affect men and women differently. It will also focus on the role women play in these contexts not only as victims and survivors of recruitment patterns but also as agents of change and peacebuilding. The analysis will delve into women's critical role in preventing recruitment and will aim to identify practices that can be reinforced to prevent and reduce violence and recruitment.

- **Brief explanation of any risks that the implementation of the project may face and how to mitigate them, including with regards to the impact of COVID-19 (if relevant).**

Data for this study may be difficult to gather given the current COVID-19 pandemic. In order to identify the indicators that can enable a diagnosis and predictability of recruitment and violence, engaging with local communities will be necessary. This challenge will be mitigated through remote research and working through networks and civil society on the ground.

- **Proposed Budget**

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
1 Consultants for 6 months (132 days) at $600/day	Study, Indicators, Pilot Project Proposal	$79,200.00
1 Consultant for 44 days at $555/day	Training module development and delivery	$24,420.00
Travel	Travel to one country in the Sahel to triangulate data	$10,000.00
Programme Support Costs (13%)		$14,770.60
	Total:	**$128,390.60**