Terms of Reference (TOR)

Research on Key Drivers of Conflict and Violence along with Capacities and Existing Initiatives for Peace in Faryab Province

Proposed by Afghan Development Association (ADA)

1. Introduction

Afghan Development Association (ADA) is a non-profit and non-political and non-governmental organization, established in 1990, registered with Ministry of Economy (MoEc), GIRoA (Registration No. 105), and has membership of ACBAR and ANCB. ADA endeavors to reach out to the most disadvantaged groups in Afghan society often under very difficult circumstances to contribute to its vision (A prosperous and peaceful Afghanistan where citizens enjoy equal opportunities and receive the just benefits of development). ADA seeks to work with the most disadvantaged rural communities to determine their own development priorities and enhance their livelihood resilience by delivering projects which strengthen participation, self-reliance and resilience.

ADA has increasingly focused its interventions on contributing to more productive and sustainable livelihoods, particularly within the agricultural sector, and on strengthening basic education. Understanding that resolving conflicts at all levels of society is a prerequisite to successful development in Afghanistan, ADA, in recent years, has come to include community peace building as its working sector. In order to promote long-term sustainable development at the community level, ADA employs a holistic and strongly people-centered approach in delivering projects. This means working across sectors with all community stakeholders, while prioritizing the rights and needs of the poor. It also means strengthening the participation of the target groups in the planning, implementation and monitoring of ADA's projects and promoting local ownership of both the development process and results. Since 2002 ADA has implemented 295 different projects in various provinces in the country.

Recent Past/Current Footprint/Geographical Coverage: ADA has been implementing projects in various aspects of livelihoods strengthening, non-formal education, and community peace building in the provinces of: Kabul, Takhar, Kunduz, Jawzjan, Faryab, Daikundi, Zabul, Kandahar, Herat, Kunar, Uruzgan, and Laghman Province

2. Background

Afghanistan has long been used as a battleground for strategic wars by larger external powers. In addition, the fragmented and polarized nature of Afghan society, which is made up of many different ethnic groups, has led to its multiple internal struggles, which have gained support from the different external powers. As a result, the Afghan nation continues to suffer from a complex mix of destructive conflicts, insecurity, weak governance and poverty. Its people are attempting to deal with the legacy of more than three decades of war while increasingly large areas of the country are affected by violent insurgency, high levels of insecurity and local conflicts which have the potential to turn violent and escalate, and negatively disturb relationships that exist among people. These factors come together to create an extremely challenging environment for the vast majority of the Afghan people, specifically for women all over the country. The status

and rights of women and girls are particularly at risk due to lack of their representation in society (especially in traditional dispute resolution systems) and the dominance of patriarchal norms and deeply rooted harmful traditional practices. Similarly, domestic violence against women is a nation-wide phenomenon.

Many interventions have been implemented by civil society and government in order to work towards a peaceful and stable Afghan society free from conflict and violence. ADA itself has implemented several community peace building projects. Making durable gains is very difficult, and ADA is conscious that it's easy to make mistakes through a partial understanding of the context. Therefore, ADA, plans to conduct comprehensive research in Faryab province, to reveal the key drivers of conflict and violence, identify capacities for peace, capture deep narratives and practices on peace, and understand gaps in ongoing peace interventions created by government and civil society.

3. Purpose of research:

The purpose of the research is to identify recommendations for improving local peace efforts in Faryab, and, if relevant, in other areas of Afghanistan. The research should give an up-to-date picture of the shifting conflict in Faryab, and identify what local capacities exist for mobilising local communities and authorities to have a lasting impact on peace. In addition to this, it should also specifically investigate the deep narratives and practices of peace work done through local *shuras* or comparable mechanisms. The purpose of a specific look at *shura* practice is to go beyond a standard conflict analysis and deepen ADA peace building approaches so they engage with influential, but often implicit, belief systems about the use of violence and the benefits of peace. This deep understanding should yield recommendations that can address the key issues of sustainability, inclusivity across gender and age dimensions, and that demonstrate how to strengthen the linkages between community, local, and national peace practitioners and institutions, and make a substantial contribution to improved effectiveness of future ADA peace efforts in Faryab. Throughout the research, a nuanced view of gender roles must inform both methodology and formulation of all recommendations, so that future peace efforts are sensitive to the effects of masculinity and femininity on their implementation and success. The research should, as far as possible, also make recommendations relevant for other areas and organisations to support wider uptake.

4. Key research areas

a) Identify key drivers of conflict and existing forms of violence in communities of Faryab province.
b) Identify local capacities for peace in Faryab province (at local and provincial level).
c) Capture the really deep cultural narratives/practices in and around peace mechanisms/*shuras* in order to come out with specific explanations on how these cultural narratives/practices either promote peace and justice or generate the escalation of destructive conflict.
d) Assess existing peace initiatives in Faryab province/Kabul (national) to find the gaps and highlight the best practices.

6. Research Questions

The research questions will be developed through close consultation between ADA staff and the researcher. The final research questions must be designed to address the research areas listed above.

7-Location and scope of research

The research will be mainly conducted in Faryab province in 9 communities in 3 districts; some of the research will be done in Kabul (mainly with national level actors). The following people are expected to participate in the research:

- 15 Male and 15 female members of local shuras (especially peace shuras if existed)
- 15 Community elders (religious and traditional), including *haqooq* (rights managers)
- 15 male and 15 female members of communities, with special efforts made to reach people from marginalized sections of society, including women and youth
- 3 managers of rights from 3 districts of Faryab province
- 12 Key informant people from 3 districts
- 3 District judges from 3 districts of Faryab province
- 2 key staff from PPC and DoWA of Faryab province
- 2 key staff from HPC (Kabul)
- 3 managers of peace projects from 3 different NGOS (Kabul)

8- Use of research findings

The findings and lessons of the research will be used directly by ADA to inform programming, and shared with ADA's partner agencies, donors, and other interested parties, particularly CAID who is ADA's partner for this research. The findings will help in programing through developing a context-specific approach that can engage with deep-seated local drivers of violent conflict and capacities for peace; identifying the role of both men and women in conflict in Faryab; and identifying what is needed for a meaningful contribution to reducing specific forms of violence in Faryab. The national element of the research especially should help both ADA and others to enhance the linkages between community peace *shuras* and formal provincial, and even national, peace and justice bodies. Moreover, depending on the research findings, they could be used in advocacy initiatives at local and national level, or for sector-wide learning by donors and national agencies.

In brief, the research findings will be used

- To map out an improved ADA intervention that supports community peace building in Faryab.

- To collect updated information on context and conflict analysis and develop other proposals for peace initiatives in Faryab.
- To share the updated information with donors and national agencies in order to help them in development of strategies and designing of peace initiatives.
- Potentially for advocacy initiatives at local and national level.

10 -Approach and research methodology

The approach and methodology of the research will be discussed once the Research Questions are finalised and agreed. Some interviews are foreseen, e.g. with PPC and HPC members. Methods will have to be suited to identifying the deep cultural narratives on peace, so in-depth qualitative methods are anticipated. And, special efforts to reach marginalised people, including marginalised women and youth, are expected.

11: Deliverables

The researcher will submit ADA/CAID the following deliverables:

1. **Detailed methodological plan (**indicating the approach, methodology and tools of research along with his action plan). September 2018
2. **Research report which will include:** the updated picture of causes of local conflict and violence. Identification of capacities for peace, including actors/agents of peace, and probing the dividing and connecting factors in the research area. Capacity assessment of local peace actors, identification of the gaps in existing local peace efforts. Provision of suitable feasible recommendations for improvement of local peace efforts in terms of sustainability, inclusivity, and strengthening the linkages between community peace *shuras* and local and national peace and justice bodies, including advocacy-focused recommendations e.g. exploring the feasibility of joint work of local peace actors and the HPC. October 2018

12- Research Management:

The ADA peace program manager will be the focal point for the research activities, and he will be in contact with the researcher. ADA will provide the resources needed for the research team in order to conduct the research e.g. local transport. The research will be undertaken in consultation with ADA provincial manager and under the direct supervision of ADA peace program manager at ADA main office.

13-Timeline and budget:

The researcher should provide tentative work plan and budget as an annex of his proposal.

Annex 1- Proposed Profile of researcher

ADA seeks an experienced Senior Research Specialist to lead the research activities of a three-month research project of ADA/CAID. The research specialist will accomplish his research activities in close coordination with peace program manager of ADA and the CAID focal point. The researcher will be mainly responsible to conduct a research in three districts of Faryab province and will develop a comprehensive research report based on his/her findings with relevant and feasible recommendations.

Main responsibilities:

1. Preparation of a comprehensive research action plan.
2. Suggestion of methodology and approach, and finalization based on consultation with ADA.
3. Development/customization of relevant tools for research.
4. Conducting comprehensive research to illuminate drivers of conflict and violence, existing capacities for peace, gaps in existing peace efforts, and the deep narratives and practices around peace *shuras* in Faryab.
5. Incorporation of a nuanced gender lens in the research, to provide insight on the challenges that hinder real participation of women and youth in conflict resolution and peace bodies and other decision making process in social and political arenas.
6. Formulation of relevant and feasible recommendations for programming, with particular attention to sustainability and inclusion; and for advocacy if possible.
7. Identify the options for establishing/strengthening links between *shuras* or comparable local informal peace bodies, formal local bodies, and provincial and national platforms (e.g. the Provincial and High Peace Councils).
8. Study the feasibility integration of peace and development intervention.
9. Study the feasibility of work to contribute to /implementation of UNSCR 1325.
10. Adapt to changes that could be happen in research themes and areas based on access, logistics, or security issues.

Qualification and experiences:

Master degree in conflict resolution and peace building from a valid university, with minimum 3 years of experience in research with sound knowledge and experience of research methodologies, tools and techniques. Requires excellent management, communication, analytical, numerical, interpretation, presentation, management and relevant IT skills & techniques. Wide-ranging knowledge of Afghanistan, cognizance of different Afghan cultures, and awareness about formal and informal peace building structures and bodies, able to adapt him/herself to emerging changes during the project and able to willingly work in remote areas.