

## **Call for Research Proposals:** **Role of Women in Peacebuilding – focus on the local level**

ActionAid International and Womankind Worldwide are requesting proposals for research organisations and/or individuals to lead a piece of research on the role of women in local peacebuilding in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

**Deadline for proposals: 21<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

### **Background**

The role of women in peacebuilding has received much attention in recent years, particularly with the 10 year anniversary of UNSCR 1325 last year, and the development of 1325 National Action Plans. However, while much attention has been focused at the national and international level, leading to a proliferation of research, policy and advocacy literature and reports, less attention has been paid to the local level. This paper is therefore aimed at a 'gap' in the current overcrowded literature, and will focus on what women are doing at the local level in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction.

### **Aim of the research**

To develop a research paper documenting the role of women in local peacebuilding, as well as conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction at the local level, drawing on examples and experiences from the five countries, and providing recommendations on how women's role can be supported and strengthened. This should draw on case studies of women's collective involvement in peacebuilding at the local level and the impact it has had, and bring to the attention of donors the local level grassroots work that is going on and needs more support.

Specifically, the research should:

- Explore how women are involved in peacebuilding at the local level, with a focus on:
  - What women's involvement in local peacebuilding looks like – what motivates women, what support women peacebuilders currently have – e.g. from women's local CSOs and/or decision makers, what specific activities women are undertaking to build peace.
  - Why women's involvement in local peacebuilding makes a difference to peace – including positive, concrete examples of what has worked. Why women's involvement in local level peacebuilding should be supported by donors/UN/others
- Recommendations for what support the international community needs to provide
- Draw on case studies and interviews with INGOs and ActionAid/Womankind partners (see 'output') for more details.

The paper should recognise that peace is only just and sustainable when the needs and views of the whole community – including women – are incorporated. Women, whilst being disproportionately affected by conflict – have traditionally been marginalised from peace negotiations. Their full and equal participation is both a question of justice and of peace. 'Peace' and conflict happens locally as well as nationally, so peacebuilding needs to happen simultaneously at all levels in order for peace to be sustainable. This research should focus at the local level but make the links to what is happening at national level

### ***Focus Countries***

- **Afghanistan and Pakistan:** will provide a perspective on an ongoing conflict
- **Nepal, Sierra Leone and Liberia:** will provide a view of women's role, including conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction

## **Output/deliverables**

A research paper of approximately 25 pages:

- 1) With a short literature review
- 2) With *at least* 2 strong case studies from each country demonstrating the role of local women in peacebuilding at the local level (with the detailed case studies appended).
- 3) With the voices of local women peacebuilders and activists highlighted throughout the report
- 4) Which makes a clear case for why the international community should better support the role of women in local peacebuilding with key recommendations as to how this can be achieved

NB: The paper should be developed with a clear structure with specific recommendations for action, which would more easily enable a shorter advocacy paper and other products to be developed as required.

The exact report structure can be discussed and agreed on commencement of the project.

**Target:** For example, DFID (conflict section), FCO and MOD, and the UN conflict and peace keeping mechanisms as the main advocacy targets, as well as the national governments.

### ***Key research questions:***

***These can be discussed in further detail during development of the research but broad questions include:***

- 1) Exactly what kind of roles do women play (as individuals, groups and within networks) at the local level in peacebuilding/ conflict prevention/ post-conflict reconstruction? What does their involvement look like in the different country contexts? What is their experience at the local level in their own words? (This will aim to shed light on the aspects of peacebuilding that sometimes happen 'behind the scenes').
- 2) What is the impact of women's role in local peacebuilding on national peacebuilding processes?
- 3) Apart from the impact on national peacebuilding processes, what other impact has women's role and engagement in peacebuilding had at the local level, if any? (I.e. its value regardless of whether it translates immediately and obviously into national-level peace, for example in terms of women's participation and empowerment).
- 4) What are the barriers to women's participation in local peacebuilding, both social (in family/community) and structural (service providers, legislations, formal and non formal law)? How does violence against women act as a barrier? And how can those barriers be overcome?
- 5) Are there any examples of international support which have recognised and promoted women's role in local peacebuilding? What has been the impact of these?
- 6) Based on the above, why should the international community support women's role in peacebuilding, and how should they support this? What concrete steps can/should be taken?

### **Timeframe (tentative)**

<b>November</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>
21 Nov: deadline for receiving proposals	5 Dec: Initial meeting with ActionAid/ Womankind	Research cont	All research to be completed by 10 Feb	Mid-March: 1st complete draft sent to Steering Committee & those involved in research	Mid-April: Final report
23 Nov: short-listed applicants notified	research steering committee to further develop research and TOR	Mid-Jan: Meeting with steering committee to discuss	17 Feb: Preliminary report of findings	Comments from steering group received	
28 Nov:	Research		21 Feb: Presentation of preliminary findings to steering		

Interviews	commenced	progress	committee	end March	
30 Nov: Selected applicant notified					

The research needs to be completed by mid-April 2012

**Budget:**

There is a maximum budget of GBP 30,000 for this research and proposals will be considered on a competitive basis.

**Management of the project**

- The lead researcher will report to ActionAid International Emergencies and Conflict Team Policy Coordinator
- There will be a small steering group to support the project. The TOR of the Steering Committee will be developed in conjunction with the selected consultant.

**What ActionAid and Womankind will provide:**

In order to support and facilitate this research, ActionAid and Womankind will provide:

- Contacts in the relevant country programmes and coordinate communication as necessary
- Staff members who can actively engage and assist with the conduct of the research in focus countries, accompanying local researchers etc

**Proposal requirements**

The proposal will cover the research design, process for implementation and finalisation of the research report, and will need to:

- Match the requirements set out above along with a detailed budget in keeping with the available budget
- Detail the proposed methodology for the research
- Describe the proposed process for carrying out the research – including suggestions for working with local researchers/consultants and any existing links with local researchers/consultants in the 5 countries
- Include expectations of ActionAid and Womankind’s involvement
- Set out a more detailed timeframe for the research
- Provide a profile for the research organisation and/or CVs for all staff who will be involved in the research

**Please direct any questions you have about this research, as well as completed proposals to [rachel.fox@actionaid.org](mailto:rachel.fox@actionaid.org)**