



AfP Program Update: May-June 2013

Peacebuilding Evaluation Project (PEP)

In the past two months, AfP continued to move the ground-breaking Peacebuilding Evaluation Consortium (PEC) forward, worked to develop contextualizing annexes for the *Guiding Principles for Peacebuilding Funders: Fostering Better Evaluation Practice*, a meaningful set of peacebuilding evaluation principles for funders, and began the final stages of the Women's Empowerment Demonstration Project (WEDP).

The Alliance for Peacebuilding and PEC partners—3P Human Security; the Center for Peacebuilding and Development at American University (CPD); Mercy Corps; Search for Common Ground (SFCG); and the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP)—are in the early stages of activities and engagement with academics, donors and practitioners. This past month, the PEC partners began to develop the Peacebuilding Evaluation Network (PEN), a network that links together academics and analysts with practitioners to explore, apply and support cutting-edge research methodologies in peacebuilding contexts. AfP will keep members updated during its development and as opportunities for involvement arise.

As we shared last month, AfP continues to develop detailed annexes to the forthcoming *Guiding Principles for Peacebuilding Funders: Fostering Better Evaluation Practice*, a whole-of-community effort to articulate a set of good practices for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in fragile or conflict-affected contexts. These annexes will include a guide to best practices and an overview of feedback sessions with representatives from government and bi-lateral agencies, private donors, evaluation experts and peacebuilding practitioners and implementers that were organized by AfP and USIP between September-November 2012.

AfP has begun initial review of the data, reports, and evaluations from our WEDP partners CARE, SFCG, and Partners for Democratic Change in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Yemen and Sierra Leone. In addition to analysis of project documents, AfP is conducting interviews with project staff that will feed into a meta-evaluation on projects that focus on women's empowerment through political participation.

In staffing news, PEC Junior Fellow, Michael Zanchelli, moved to the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) where he continues supporting the PEC activities while working with Andy Blum, Vice President of Program Management and Evaluation at USIP.

Through the end of September please contact Jolynn Shoemaker at jolynns@allianceforpeacebuilding.org for more information or to learn how you can be involved, while Melanie Kawano-Chiu is out on maternity leave.



Peacebuilding Mapping Project (PMP)

It has been nearly two years since the AfP [Peacebuilding Mapping Project](#) was initiated to document, classify and describe the peacebuilding work of AfP members and partner institutions in order to identify trends, challenges and emerging opportunities for the field. As the peacebuilding field expands across borders and silos, it is critical that we keep our data fresh so that you – our members – can utilize this information in designing effective programming, to take to funders or lobbyists, or for a variety of other functions in your own work. We anticipate circulating a member's poll in the next few weeks, so please stay tuned for more details. We strongly encourage all of you to participate!

For more information on AfP's mapping work or questions about membership, please contact Emily Mallozzi, Membership Manager, at emily@allianceforpeacebuilding.org.

Peacebuilding Systems Project (PSP)

During the 2013 AfP Annual Conference, AfP Board Chair Rob Ricigliano led an exploratory meeting to discuss the formation of an AfP Affinity Group on systems approaches to peacebuilding. The AfP Affinity Group Program is designed to provide a platform for members to engage with colleagues to increase collaboration, joint learning and collective action within particular areas of the field. In this initial meeting, approximately 15 members mapped their work on education, tools, projects and learning. Based on the interest and energy that came out that meeting, AfP is pleased to announce that it will establish a Systems Approaches to Peacebuilding Affinity Group. Keep an eye out for an email with more information about this group in the next month.

In early May, AfP worked with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) on a proposal to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for the Grand Challenges Exploration. The grant application seeks seed funding for a proof of concept on how data can be used to assess and promote cooperation among development and peacebuilding interventions in complex, conflict-affected and fragile zones. The aim of the proposed project is to incentivize data sharing, build trust among actors in the same complex environment, and encourage collaboration and complementarity.

For more information on AfP's systems work, or to learn how you can be involved, please contact Jolynn Shoemaker, Interim Program Director, at jolynns@allianceforpeacebuilding.org.



Policy-Maker Education

On Tuesday May 28th, Melanie Greenberg moderated a panel at the NAFSA (Association of International Educators) Annual Conference, titled: “The Vital Link: Cultural Exchange and Peacebuilding.” The panel explored different dimensions of cross-cultural learning and peacebuilding, from understanding the neurobiology of cross cultural understanding to analyzing policy environment for peacebuilding and cultural exchange. Lucas Welch, founder and CIO of Soliya, and Colonel John Agoglia, Vice President of Government Services for IDS International, sat on the panel. Their event was widely received and highlights were discussed for the remainder of the conference.

On May 22nd, Melanie Greenberg spoke to a class at the Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute in Carlisle, PA, on issues of civil society organizations and military sharing “humanitarian space” in conflict and post-conflict environments.

A special session of Mali Watch met at the Malian Ambassador’s residence on May 22nd for a panel including the speaker of the National Assembly of Mali, the Honorable Younoussi Touré, and the State Department Mali desk.

On May 30th AfP convened together with USAID’s Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) a meeting of InterAction’s Conflict and Fragility Working Group, co-chaired by Melanie Greenberg and Dayna Brown of CDA Collaborative Learning Projects. CMM requested the meeting in order to connect representatives from the UK, Danish, and Swedish Embassies with Working Group members in order to hear civil society’s perspectives on the progress of the implementation of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States. Along with the US, these governments are donors partnered with various host “fragile” nations in pilot projects seeking to operationalize New Deal principles. The Embassy officials were appreciative to hear the perspectives of civil society representatives and expressed interested in maintaining an open channel of communication in the future.

On June 4th the State Department’s Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) hosted a brownbag meeting for AfP in order for officials to learn more about AfP’s unique role as a representative of the peacebuilding field and the particular projects and functions it provides. AfP has been working with the CSO Bureau in an advisory role on technical issues in the peacebuilding field such as conflict assessment, evaluation, and engagement with local civil society stakeholders. Through the Prevention and Protection Working Group (PPWG), AfP is preparing a reference guide for US Foreign Service Officers outlining recommendations for how US personnel in the field can interact with local civil society in a way that protects the safety and empowers the agendas of local stakeholders. Through its ongoing relationship with the CSO Bureau, it is AfP’s goal to open opportunities for AfP members and local partners who want to offer their input into the Bureau’s objectives and modes of operating on the ground.

On May 30th the UN Secretary General’s High Level Panel of Eminent Persons published its long-awaited report setting out the initial framework for the Post-2015 global development



agenda that will replace the Millennium Development Goals. The report is a starting point for the political negotiations process among UN Member States that will ultimately decide the global agenda in 2015. AfP, as part of a Southern-Northern civil society coalition called the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS), has been advocating for nearly a year for the panel's report to include goals and targets that address some of the structural drivers of conflicts that erase development gains in conflict-affected countries, such as governance, state institutions, access to justice and human security. AfP and other advocates were pleased that the report did address some of these themes.

Moving forward, the High Level Panel Report will be a useful advocacy tool during the political negotiation process. But goals related to peace and good governance are harder for sovereign Member States to swallow than goals such as economic development, and they are the most vulnerable to being omitted from the final Post-2015 agenda. AfP, the CSPPS, and other advocates will continue lobbying efforts over the next two years to help secure the best Post-2015 agenda possible. AfP is an active participant in a special Post-2015 Task Force organized by InterAction, and will help the group in its outreach and advocacy to encourage the US government to play an effective role in the political negotiations to come. On June 3rd, Melanie Greenberg attended a briefing convened by the White House to discuss the United Nations High Level Panel Report on the post-2015 development agenda.

On June 6th Melanie Greenberg moderated a panel at the Society for International Development Annual Conference. The panel was titled: "Fragile States: Why We Should Care" and included panelists from USAID, World Vision, International Medical Corps, and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency.

On June 11th Melanie Greenberg served on a panel at the release of the 2013 Global Peace Index, held by the Institute for Economics and Peace. She shared with the audience perspectives on how the Global Peace Index categorizes fragile states, and how the Positive Peace Index might shape our discussion on resilience and fragility.

Also on June 11th, John Filson participated in a strategic planning retreat of InterAction's Post-2015 Task Force – a special working group of InterAction members and strategic partners set up to articulate a progressive and viable vision for the new global development framework that will replace the Millennium Development Goals when they expire in 2015 which will help inform the US government position on the Post-2015 framework as the process moves into political negotiations among UN Member States over the next two years. As a representative of the peacebuilding community, AfP's added value to the Task Force is drawing upon the expertise of the field to inform the new Goals where they seek to address issues of peace, security, and governance that are crucial elements of sustainable development.

On June 13th, John Filson attended the convening of the North American regional network of GPPAC (the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict) in Cleveland, Ohio. GPPAC – North America works to strengthen peacebuilding collaboration between Mexico, the US, and Canada in response to issues of conflict unique to this region. The steering group



meeting helped plan collaborative actions the network will support in the remainder of 2013 and in 2014.

In June AfP opened a new conversation about the links between Conflict Prevention and Atrocities Prevention at the Second Convening to End Mass Atrocities, held in Istanbul, Turkey. The Convening brought together over one hundred of the world's leading Human Rights defenders and Atrocities Prevention experts to discuss current issues and strengthen collaborative action. AfP organized a special session during the first day of the conference entitled: "Linking Atrocities Prevention and Conflict Prevention." Program Manager John Filson offered remarks on the panel pinpointing some of the ways Atrocities Prevention and Conflict Prevention approaches overlap and where they diverge, and how careful planning can ensure efforts to stop episodes mass violence do not harm the long-term prospects for peace between groups in conflict. Two other panelists spoke about how these two frameworks interact in US government prevention structures, and about how victims of atrocities in Uganda view the interplay between the frameworks' unique goals. The session led to thought-provoking conversations throughout the Convening. It was the latest in a series of engagements between Conflict Prevention and Atrocities Prevention practitioners through AfP's Prevention Initiative.

On June 27th John Filson spoke to a group of High School educators from around the country at the Washington chapter of the World Affairs Council. Every year educators gather to learn more about salient issues in international affairs to bring back to their classrooms. John spoke to the group about the field of civil society-based peacebuilding, the ways it diverges from traditional political/International Relations paradigms, and the work AfP does to bring the best of the peacebuilding field's perspective and expertise into policymaking processes in Washington.

Prevention Initiative

3P Human Security released a new policy brief by Lisa Schirch, "Comparing Conflict Prevention and Atrocities Prevention" which can be accessed [here](#). This brief examines the conceptual differences between conflict prevention and atrocity prevention and suggests ways in which the two fit together in practice for the most effective results.

In May, AfP completed an extensive conflict prevention reference list. This list was compiled as part of a broader effort to link conflict prevention theories and practices to the emerging discussions on genocide and mass atrocities prevention. AfP intends to circulate this resource to members in the latter half of the summer for their input.

In mid-June, AfP led a very well-attended breakout panel at Nexus Fund's 2013 Global Convening to End Mass Atrocities. The panel, entitled *Linking Atrocities Prevention and Conflict Prevention*, was part of AfP's broader Prevention Initiative, intended to promote collaboration between the conflict prevention and atrocity prevention communities. During the discussion, AfP linked conflict prevention theories and practices to the emerging effort to prevent and respond to genocide and mass atrocities. Key points that were well-received



included: the need to focus on changing behaviors rather than demonizing people and the importance of ensuring atrocities prevention activities do not undermine long-term prospects for peace between warring groups. Later in the conference attendees recommended further work to align atrocities prevention with broader conflict prevention goals and tactics. AfP is planning to follow-up with the Prevention and Protection Working Group to further clarify the distinction between conflict and atrocity prevention for the U.S. Government.

AfP is finalizing the second issue of *Building Peace: A Forum for Peace and Security in the 21st Century* (see Strategic Communications Campaign section below for more information), which focuses on prevention, from the perspectives of peacebuilding, the responsibility to protect, and atrocities prevention.

For more information on AfP's prevention work, or to learn how you can be involved, please contact John Filson, 3P Human Security Program Manager, at john@3phumansecurity.org.

Strategic Communications Campaign (SCC)

Throughout May and June, AfP continued to work with its partners on the Strategic Communications Campaign (SCC) – NAFSA: Association of International Educators, The Peace Alliance, and 3P Human Security -- on planning a public event in the Fall that will engage key stakeholders to shift the U.S. narrative on peace and security. President Obama's May 23rd [remarks](#) at the National Defense University on counterterrorism and national security have created a timely opportunity to have the conversation about the importance of peacebuilding as a central foreign policy objective. The SCC Core Group met in early June to discuss how best to take advantage of this opportunity.

The next issue of the Alliance for Peacebuilding online publication *Building Peace: A Forum for Peace and Security in the 21st Century* is scheduled for release in September 2013. The issue will focus on conflict prevention and will feature an interview with Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations. Between bi-annual issues of *Building Peace*, timely new articles will be posted periodically to the site, so please be sure to check back before September. **We encourage AfP Members and interested individuals to subscribe, encourage others to visit the site, and post discussions to articles of particular interest at [http://buildingpeaceforum.com/!](http://buildingpeaceforum.com/)**

On May 17th, the ad hoc working group on War Termination and Conflict Transformation met at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and decided to formalize. The group has now met three times with a total of 60 participants from NGOs, the U.S. government, and academia. A steering committee composed of representatives from AfP, James Madison University, and USIP is drafting a mission statement, strategic plan, and funding schedule for a range of activities including problem definition, analytical papers, and advocacy work. For more information and progress reports, contact hauss@allianceforpeacebuilding.org.



In May, AfP Consultant Chris Holshek published several blog posts on civil-military relations and military strategies that support stable peace and security rather than perpetual war. These include:

- [“From Containment to ‘Restraint,’”](#) Huffington Post
- [“The Whole of National Sacrifice,”](#) Huffington Post

For more information on AfP’s Strategic Communications Campaign, or to learn how you can be involved, please contact Jolynn Shoemaker, Interim Program Director, at jolynns@allianceforpeacebuilding.org.