



Society for International Development
Washington Chapter



FY 2020

ANNUAL REPORT

Peace & Security Workgroup

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PEACE & SECURITY WORKGROUP

The SID-W Peace & Security Workgroup is comprised of a group of individuals who are actively engaged in understanding what drives conflict and fragility and how to successfully mitigate it, support stabilization and promote peacebuilding through implementing development programs. This workgroup aims to inform and educate members on the challenges faced in countries and regions impacted by violent conflict and the importance of promoting inclusion, reducing vulnerability and promoting peace and security globally.



Dear Members of the Peace & Security Workgroup,

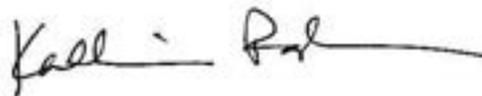
Our Fiscal Year 2020 was an unusual one for us, as it was for so many, ending during a global pandemic. This certainly affected our ability to deliver programming, but despite this hurdle, the Workgroup was able to hold one excellent event: [Healing and Resilience: Taking a trauma-informed approach to delivering assistance](#).

Now that we have mastered the art of virtual programming, we look forward to offering more events accessible to a wider audience and providing an even more dynamic community for interaction. We hope to see you at some of our upcoming events. You can see all of our programs on our [website](#) – and please check back often as we add new ones regularly.

Thank you for your interest in and support of our Workgroups. If you have questions, comments or ideas, please send email to events@sidw.org.

We look forward to seeing you at a future SID-Washington event!

Best regards,



Katherine Raphaelson



Paul A. Sherman





Elisabeth Dallas

Vice President,
Stabilization and
Transition Practice,
DT Global

Currently the Vice President of the Stabilization and Transition Practice at DT Global, Elisabeth Dallas is a conflict prevention and resolution expert with over 15 years of experience designing and implementing programs that successfully mitigate conflict and support state-of-the-art peacebuilding. Prior to her role at Chemonics, Ms. Dallas served as a senior conflict and peacebuilding advisor in USAID's Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation. In this role, she provided technical support to USAID missions, conducting conflict assessments, and designing programs to mitigate conflict. She has also served as a chief of party for the Public International Law & Policy Group (PILPG). Ms. Dallas has worked in more than 15 countries throughout South Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe. Her expertise is applying conflict sensitive approaches to development, violence prevention, mediation, and negotiation. Ms. Dallas holds a M.A. in public international law and conflict resolution and a M.A. certificate in human security from Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. She also holds a B.A. in anthropology from Haverford College.



Allison Poyac-Clarkin

Peace and Stability
Practice Area Leader,
Management Systems
International (MSI), A Tetra
Tech Company

Allison Poyac-Clarkin leads MSI's Peace and Stability Practice Area, serves as Technical Director on the Programming Effectively Against Conflict and Extremism IQC (PEACE IQC), and provides support to a range of analytical and business development efforts as a Senior Conflict Specialist. With more than fifteen years of experience, she brings substantial knowledge of conflict theory and assessment methodologies, and robust technical expertise related to countering violent extremism and promoting peace in divided conflict and post-conflict contexts. She has provided technical direction on several large-scale USAID-funded conflict mitigation and peacebuilding programs such as USAID's largest CVE program in the Sahel, Peace through Development (PDEV I and PDEV II), and served as Chief of Party for the USAID-funded Support to Peace and Stability Project (SPSK) in Kosovo. She is trained in advanced conflict assessment methodologies and is currently working with the Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation to publish a series of technical briefs and guidance outlining USAID's approach to mainstreaming conflict sensitive approaches and practices. She holds a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from the New School for Social Science Research, and is fluent in French.

Tuesday, February 4, 2020
2:00PM - 3:30 PM ET | SID-Washington

Healing and Resilience: Taking a trauma-informed approach to delivering assistance



Healing and Resilience: Taking a trauma-informed approach to delivering assistance

Moderator: **Allison Poyac-Clarkin**, Peace and Stability Practice Area Leader, Management Systems International (MSI), A Tetra Tech Company

Speakers: **Katie Mansfield**, Lead Trainer, STAR, Eastern Mennonite University
Anita Shankar, MPH, Senior Director, Global Trauma Project
Lucy Y. Steinitz, Ph.D., Senior Technical Advisor for Protection, Catholic Relief Services

Event Description: Decades of devastating war, inter-communal violence, natural disasters, and humanitarian catastrophes are the unfortunate conditions that plague many of the countries where international development actors engage. Experiencing these traumatic events – especially if they occur simultaneously – can have lasting adverse effects on an individual and community’s mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being. In fragile and conflict affected states, such trauma can be further exacerbated by unstable living conditions, minimal available clinical psychiatric resources, and the absence of mental health care. Through the delivery of humanitarian or development assistance that is directed at mitigating instability, it is essential to address the impacts of this violence and the resulting legacy of unhealed trauma as a prerequisite to attaining sustainable peace. Development practitioners and donors have come to recognize this imperative and the clear link between mental wellness and sustainable humanitarian and development outcomes. Among these stakeholders, there is a collective awareness that programmatic interventions need to be trauma-aware and sensitive to achieve their respective humanitarian and development purposes. The discussion at this event included an exploration of current approaches, resources, and gaps for better understanding and addressing trauma at the individual and community levels in conflict contexts.

Key Takeaways

1) Building Resilience

Katie Mansfield (Eastern Mennonite University) spoke about the creation and development of the Strategies for Trauma, Awareness, and Resilience (STAR) Program, and how it emerged through the Center for Justice & Peacebuilding in the wake of events that occurred on September 11, 2001. The five-day program was created to provide training in trauma healing, resilience, and strength, and has since grown exponentially with trainings being offered in 20 countries, translated into 10 languages, and have been completed by individuals from over 60 countries. Mansfield stressed that the overarching goal of the training is to de-stigmatize trauma, and that the symptoms of trauma are normal bodily responses. STAR works to deal with these symptoms and to provide solutions and pathways to building and re-building resilience after traumatic events occur. Mansfield highlighted how STAR’s programs can be applied within communities that face conflict, through self-care, organizational support, structural efforts towards justice, and by addressing historical harms perpetrated within these communities.

2) Overcoming Adversity

Anita Shankar, MPH (Global Trauma Project) discussed her work with the Global Trauma Project, whose main focus is to prevent and reduce the detrimental impacts of adversity so that children, families, and communities can continue to thrive. Shankar highlighted the ways in which the Global Trauma Project works with community coalitions to support local leadership efforts, and to better address the needs of

individuals. To reduce the effects of trauma, Shankar believes that it is important to emphasize positive feelings and to provide re-building opportunities to individuals and communities involved. Trauma Informed Change Making (TICM) is an approach used by the Global Trauma Project that promotes the acknowledgement of safety, regulations, and empowerment when making decisions surrounding trauma impact. Shankar used the work that the Global Trauma Project completed in South Sudan as an example, stating that participation in community engagement and events increased significantly after trauma training was given, and when TICM was applied in the decision-making process.

3) Ways to Support Resilience

Lucy Y. Steinitz, PhD (Catholic Relief Services) discussed an approach she uses frequently in her work, called the “Binding, Bonding, Bridging” approach. To address trauma and work to overcome its effects, Steinitz believes that those impacted must complete three crucial steps. First, individuals must bind themselves together and focus on addressing internal issues related to trauma. The next step is working towards creating a bond with others impacted by trauma. Finally, the most important part of this approach, is a combination of the first two; to work on bridging relationships between the individuals experiencing conflict, and to show empathy and support towards those with similar experiences. Steinitz stated that this approach has been successful in creating positive relationships during and after situations involving trauma. Steinitz concluded by emphasizing the importance of involving individuals on every level when creating programs focused on resilience and healing.



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Elisabeth Dallas - DT Global

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Photo Credit

Paul A. Sherman - Director of Programs

Please note that all photos are from FY19 (July 2018 - June 2019).

Acknowledgement

We would like to thank Program Associates: Megan Dixon, Mikaila Harper, Lydia Henning, Shabnam Kabir, Fadima Konate, Devang Laddha, Seth Reinhard, Melina Reynoso, and Vivian Zhang for their hard work to create this report.