



Society for International Development  
Washington Chapter



# FY 2019

## ANNUAL REPORT

Peace & Security Workgroup

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## PEACE & SECURITY WORKGROUP

The SID-Washington (SID-W) Peace & Security Workgroup is a group of individuals who are actively engaged in addressing ongoing conflicts and the role security plays in international development. This workgroup aims to inform and educate members on the challenges faced in regions mired in conflict and crisis and the continued importance of security and rule of law in international development.

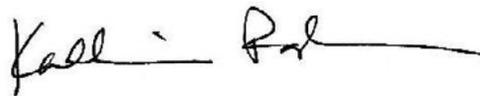


## Dear Members of the Peace & Security Workgroup,

We are happy to report that we had another exciting year! As we reflect on last year, our workgroups produced several great events including [Forging a Path to Realistic, Responsive, and Agile Stabilization](#). We are planning events for another exciting year, so stay tuned on our website about upcoming event announcements! We look forward to providing SID-Washington's spin on challenges faced in regions mired in conflict and crisis as well as the continued importance of security and rule of law in international development.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the workgroups. We hope to see you at future SID-Washington events! If you have any questions, please feel free to send an email to [events@sidw.org](mailto:events@sidw.org).

Best regards,



Katherine Raphaelson



Paul A. Sherman





### **Elisabeth Dallas**

Director, Peace, Stability,  
and Transition Practice,  
Chemonics International

Currently the Director of the Peace, Stability, and Transition Practice, 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 joining 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 an M.A. in public international law and conflict resolution and an 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**

Technical Director,  
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.

## EVENT CALENDAR

**Thursday, November 1, 2018**

1:00PM - 2:30PM | SID-Washington

Peace & Security Workgroup Planning Meeting

**Thursday, February 28, 2019**

1:30PM - 3:00PM | SID-Washington

Forging a Path to Realistic, Responsive, and Agile Stabilization



# Peace & Security Workgroup Planning Meeting

**Event Description:** The Peace & Security Workgroup hosted a planning meeting to generate ideas and plan events for the upcoming year. Over the past year, the group organized events on topics such as Linguistic Tolerance as a Tool for Resiliency in Multi-lingual Societies Against Violence and Radicalization.

## Meeting Agenda:

- I. Welcome & Introductions
- II. Meeting Goals
- III. Brainstorming Activity
- IV. Next Steps

## Discussion

### I. Welcome and Introductions

#### II. Meeting Goals

Discuss and establish expectations for the Workgroup

- Engage in idea generation, and a free-flowing conversation about what we feel as a community to deliver a collaborative agenda for the upcoming year
- Learn more about how different stakeholders can play different roles in peace and security
- Sometimes depth comes at the expense of breadth; what countries are other SID-network practitioners working in?

#### III. Brainstorming Activity

List of ideas suggested for event topics

1. How do we measure success in peace building - lessons learned
2. Measuring Success - CAMEL, MEL, Anecdotes
3. Methodology - DM&E
4. What is the appropriate level for measuring or observing "success" in terms of peace & security? National level? Regional? Village? Individual?
5. Cross-regional lessons learned in violence prevention, intervention, rehabilitation; e.g. from Latin America and south Asia
6. Indicators of transition emergency/ early recovery/reconstruction/ development
7. Protection
8. Humanitarian/ development/ peace nexus
9. Effective delivery of humanitarian assistance in active conflict environments
10. DDR: how do we get past the restrictions?
11. Youth & peace integration
12. Youth: why they get forgotten so easily?
13. Trauma healing in conflict environments
14. Psycho-social support/well-being
15. Measuring stabilization programs; what works in fluid environments

16. New USG policies in Central America for citizen security
17. Election violence
18. What are emerging best practices for promoting governance in closing civic spaces
19. What are successes and failures of engaging minorities, marginalized communities, or genderdiverse individuals in peace building?
20. Social cohesion: do cohesive societies mean peaceful societies?
21. Countering violent extremism (CVE)
22. CVE messaging - unintended consequences
23. Managing programming in conflict zones remotely
24. Focus on prevention
25. Telling our story -- how can we make the case for prevention (proving the negative)?
26. Prevention vs. reaction programming
27. Artificial Intelligence
28. Programmatic constraints -- dialogues with donors
29. Regional stability in Balkans -- Macedonia, Kosovo, etc.
30. Gender dynamics
31. Truth and credibility
32. Resiliency -- how do we know it when we see it? How do you build it and measure it?
33. Scale - in fragile states - magic bullets
34. Collaborative approaches
35. Media and disinformation - positive vs. negative
36. Finger in the dyke vs. long-term development
37. Community-driven development -- does it really work?
38. Identity politics and how media literacy can help social cohesion
39. Cross-sector approaches to peacebuilding
40. Cross-regional approaches to violence prevention programming
41. Networking and job opportunities
42. CSR
43. Inclusivity and intersectionality

## EVENT SUMMARIES

### IV. Consensus: Topics with highest interest

#### A) Monitoring & Evaluation in peace and security

- Who do we want to hear from on this topic? A focus on methodology and how to do M&E
- What are we trying to measure?
- Do we want the topic to be broad or very specific?
- Related ideas: Pitch competition to make the program more participatory
- The military and M&E

#### B) Trauma Healing in Conflict Zones

- Intended for beneficiaries as well as development practitioners
- How to provide psycho-social support
- How to design trauma sensitive programming
- More on veteran trauma, migration and gender based violence

#### C) Stabilization

- Post-conflict reconstruction
- Community, government, donor, and military: what is your definition of stabilization?

- Safe spaces for honest conversations about collaboration: what is your role in stabilization?
- Identify and discuss gaps in STAR
- New reforms at USAID
- Bottom-up and top-down in stabilization

#### D) Humanitarian, Peace, and Development Nexus

- What are the indicators of transition from one phase to the next?
- Emergency response
- How to ensure stakeholder communication
- Moving from emergency to development: not a linear trend; contexts are different
- Human trafficking

#### V. Next Steps

Based on the discussion, the Workgroup Co-Chairs will compile feedback from the meeting and coordinate with SID-Washington staff to roll out exciting events over the course of the next year.



# Forging a Path to Realistic, Responsive and Agile Stabilization

Moderator: **Elisabeth Dallas**, Director, Peace, Stability, and Transition Practice, Chemonics International

Speakers: **Emma Arcodia**, MENA Senior Program Coordinator, Search for Common Ground  
**Melissa Dalton**, Senior Fellow and Deputy Director, International Security Program, CSIS  
**Pia Wanek**, Vice President, Humanitarian Assistance, Global Communities  
**Elizabeth Winger Shevock**, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Transition Initiatives, USAID

**Event Description:** Weak political and social institutions, persistent poverty, high population growth rates and even recurrent climate shocks can drive vulnerable countries into chronic instability. Preventing vulnerable countries from backsliding into conflict requires a strategic, multi-layered, and flexible response which includes the delivery of humanitarian assistance, but also programming that can immediately stabilize countries and build resilience to future conflict. Last summer, the USG released its Stabilization Assistance Review (SAR), which challenges the USG and its implementing partners to think differently about stabilization and underscores the importance of shedding traditional operating norms in favor of efficiencies and innovation. This move towards a common understanding of stabilization underpins the fact that it is not something that one agency nor its partners can tackle alone. The SAR rightly elevates the critical questions of “what” and “why” as core to determining the “how” of implementation. Panelists discussed and shared lessons learned as they work together to forge a path to realistic, responsive and agile stabilization.

## Key Takeaways

### 1) Importance of Local Actors

Identifying legitimate leaders in the community is vital to a program’s success. To have the approval of a local leader, whether they are a formal or informal actor, makes a program more credible in the eyes of the community. It is also easier for an individual to represent the needs of the community and come forward with the issues versus field workers trying to speak with everyone to decide on the root issues. **However, Melissa Dalton (CSIS)** discussed the downfalls of local actors. What may be legitimate in a local community may not be legitimate at the regional or national level. A second problem is a local actor may have ties to a financial system that undermines the US policy perspective or that of its allies. Thus, stabilization programs need to find methods to balance these concerns with the importance of local actors as a tool for success.

### 2) Community-Driven Programming

What makes a program sustainable is including the community in the work that is being done. Field workers have learned that allowing a community to identify the issues they want to address and working with them to find a solution is more effective. The Community Dialogue Approach explained by **Emma Arcodia (Search for Common Ground)** promotes sustainable peace and provides space for the community. These approaches allow people to come together, discuss their differences, and create an action plan. The findings show when communities come together, they can have tangible results and create a bubble of stability in a conflict area. Communities should practice this method until it is conditionalized as a solution to local conflict.

### 3) Design and Evolution

Communities need to be put at the center of all implementation and design. Each community is different, and a program cannot copy and paste a design from one place to use in another. It is important to start with small short-term assistance, then cautiously scale up to larger projects as capacity and skills are gained. Data and evaluation are important to determine where there are successes and failures in a design. **Pia Wanek (Global Communities)** mentioned that challenges identified in humanitarian response and stabilization are not duplicating mistakes. Organizations working on stabilization should take their time when working with communities and different political levels. It is important to be clear about project objectives and to not try to replace or duplicate state infrastructure.

### 4) Future of Stabilization

The SAR gives development workers the framework to better align the United States government’s efforts to stabilize conflict-affected areas. One-third of U.S. foreign aid goes to conflict-prone places and violent conflicts are increasing in complexity. The SAR specifically asks “how” stabilization is being done in the field. It consolidates a definition of stabilization and makes it a political endeavor to create the conditions for local legitimate authorities to manage conflict. **Elizabeth Winger Shevock (USAID)** said that the SAR is a catalyst to bring many different agencies to the table and find common ground. It is an opportunity to re-configure stabilization strategy around politics while teaching workers how to do more with less. The next steps for development programs should be to have a clear political end goal for the country in mind, to align resources, and to have government exercises driven by the field teams.



For more information, contact us at [events@sidw.org](mailto:events@sidw.org).

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