Terms of Reference

Call for research collaborators: Catalysing cohesive action on climate and security: advancing climate action in fragile and conflict-affected countries

ODI is procuring collaborators to support the ODI team in developing policy positions, strategies and Case Studies in fragile and conflict-affected countries (including Mozambique and Papua New Guinea) that will explore the different programmatic implications of adapting a holistic disaster risk management in fragile settings to anticipate trends, challenges and emerging risks at different geographic and time horizons. These roles will initially work with the Global Risks and Resilience team at ODI from January 2024 to December 2024 on demand, based on existing and prospective funding opportunities. Experts are sought with extensive experience in disaster risk governance; climate change; peace, conflict, violence, and security; natural resources and political ecology; and migration and displacement.

Background

ODI is an independent, global think tank, working for a sustainable and peaceful world in which every person thrives. We harness the power of evidence and ideas through research and partnership to confront challenges, develop solutions, and create change.

- We undertake cutting-edge research and analysis to generate evidence, ideas and solutions.
- We act as trusted, expert advisers to those making change around the world.
- We bring people together to turn ideas into action.
- We communicate our work around the world to increase its reach and impact.

ODI’s mission is to inspire and inform policy and practice which lead to the reduction of poverty, the alleviation of suffering and the achievement of sustainable livelihoods in developing countries. We achieve this by locking together high-quality applied research, practical policy advice, and policy-focused dissemination and debate.

Theme overview

To date, individual attempts - by one discipline at a time - have been put forward to address the current and projected challenges posed by a changing climate on human mobility and conflict trends. We propose to take a novel approach to exploring this intersection, bringing together a multi-disciplinary team to adopt an approach which is grounded in the recognition that threats, hazards, exposures to them and vulnerabilities create intersecting conflict and climate risks, and need to be studied as such. We will propose a more holistic way to address the risks intersection, which draws heavily on ideas of risk-informed development and risk governance, and presents bespoke recommendations for action targeting different policy audiences.

Framing

Efforts to understand and address the convergence between climate change, environmental degradation and conflict have redoubled in recent years, and we have seen a variety of initiatives and commitments across the board. Momentum around this topic is tangible, but the complexity of these issues demands deliberate and focused efforts to better understand the interactions between climate and insecurity and, most importantly, to systematically address them.
Climate change is often described as a threat multiplier, but is this the correct framing? There is a consensus that climate change alone does not directly cause conflict. But this consensus co-exists with narratives securitising climate change, such as a prevalent narrative that people join armed groups because of climate-induced livelihood insecurity despite the existence of a number of other reasons why individuals join armed groups that are not linked to unemployment (for example, attacks by security services). We need to understand and acknowledge the underlying structural issues related to political and socioeconomic inequality and governance, and how histories of conflict create fragility.

Yet, climate change indirectly undermines peace and stability by exacerbating factors that can ultimately lead to violence and a deterioration of national and international peace and security. At the same time, the outbreak and persistence of conflict significantly affects the adaptive capacity of individuals and communities. This is something that we at ODI, together with the ICRC, have shed light on through a global series of roundtables. ODI and ICRC have highlighted the presence of ‘double vulnerability’ – where populations are impacted by both conflict and climate-related hazards – and are working to increase understanding of how this compounds to undermine people’s coping and adaptive capacities.

The link between climate change and conflict is complex, yet very much a reality in many places around the globe. We need multi-layered action to effectively address the host of inter-related issues in regions vulnerable to security and climate risks. It’s important that our policies and programmes are grounded in comprehensive, multi-disciplinary analysis to generate context-specific responses.

**Prospective activities**

We are seeking individuals with a comprehensive skill set to conduct interviews and focus groups with diverse stakeholders in the fields of humanitarian aid, development, peacebuilding, disaster risk management (DRM), and climate change adaptation (CCA), including government ministries, agencies, and church networks. The goal is to explore and analyse their narratives regarding climate and security risks, organizational capacities and mandates for risk management, and the levels of communication, cooperation, and potential redundancies.

Support is needed in the following areas:

- Positioning humanitarian interventions to address climate and disaster risks in FCV contexts as a foundation for climate adaptation and community resilience
  
  o External ecosystem mapping: review of how the humanitarian sector at large is engaging around management of current climate variability and future climate risks, and climate security and diplomacy narratives and implications of these for protection.
    
    ▪ Desktop review of humanitarian, peacebuilding and development delivery partners and funders’ narratives, program priorities and trends.
    
    ▪ Select KIs with humanitarian delivery partners and funders.

- Case Studies, consisting of:
  o Gaps and trade off analysis
  o Knowledge sharing workshops
  o Outreach and dissemination
  o Current focus countries are Mozambique and Papua New Guinea.
Key Competencies:

1. **Detailed Understanding of Institutional Landscape:**
   - In-depth knowledge of local and national institutional players in humanitarian, climate, security, and development sectors.
   - Ability to navigate and comprehend complex relationships among various stakeholders and organizations.

2. **Excellent Interpersonal Skills:**
   - Strong interpersonal and communication skills to establish rapport with diverse interviewees.
   - Capacity to foster open dialogue and extract valuable insights from participants.

3. **Synthesis Skills:**
   - Proficient in synthesizing information gathered from interviews and focus groups.
   - Capability to distill complex narratives into clear, concise, and actionable findings.

4. **Interview and Focus Group Facilitation:**
   - Expertise in conducting effective interviews and focus groups with a diverse range of actors.
   - Ability to ask probing questions to delve into narratives, capacities, and cooperation levels.

5. **Analytical Insight:**
   - Capability to analyze interventions on the ground, specifically assessing their incorporation of climate risk and conflict risk considerations.
   - Proficient in identifying successful strategies across different regions.

6. **Identifying Trade-Offs and Gaps:**
   - Skill in uncovering and understanding trade-offs inherent in interventions.
   - Ability to identify and highlight gaps that may be acknowledged or overlooked by stakeholders.

7. **Thematic Expertise:**
   - Knowledge and familiarity with the intersections of climate, security, and development.
   - Capability to contextualize interventions within the broader frameworks of climate resilience and conflict sensitivity.

8. **Attention to Detail:**
   - Thoroughness in examining the nuances of narratives, capacities, and cooperation levels.
   - Commitment to capturing subtle yet crucial information during interviews and focus groups.

9. **Reporting and Communication:**
   - Proficient in preparing clear and insightful reports based on collected data.
   - Effective communication skills to convey findings, trade-offs, and gaps to diverse audiences.

10. **Language**
    - Proficiency in Portuguese is highly desirable for those seeking to work with us on Mozambique.
Responding to this Terms of Reference

To be considered an eligible applicant, the applicant should not:

- Not be suspended, debarred, or otherwise identified as ineligible by the government of the United Kingdom, any UN Organization or the World Bank Group or any other international Organization;
- Not be subject to any sanction or temporary suspension of any kind;
- Not be government-owned;
- Not be declared bankrupt, not involved in bankruptcy or receivership proceedings, and there is no judgment or pending legal action against the vendor that could impair its operations in the foreseeable future;
- Should have the necessary similar experience, technical expertise, production capacity where applicable, quality certifications, quality assurance procedures and other resources applicable to the provision of the services required;
- Should have a record of timely and satisfactory performance with their clients; and
- Should have a good financial standing and have access to adequate financial resources to perform the contract and all existing commercial commitments.

General

- **Status.** For the avoidance of doubt, the relationship between the successful applicant(s) and ODI will be that of a *contractor*, the applicant(s) will be delivering works considered “work for hire”.

- **Fraud, Corruption and Conflict of Interest.** ODI strictly enforces a policy of zero tolerance on proscribed practices, including fraud, corruption, collusion, unethical or unprofessional practices, and obstruction of ODI vendors and requires all applicants/vendors observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement process and contract implementation. Applicants must strictly avoid conflicts with other assignments or their own interests, and act without consideration for future work. Applicants found to have a conflict of interest shall be disqualified. In the event of any uncertainty in the interpretation of a potential conflict of interest, applicants must disclose to ODI, and seek ODI’s confirmation on whether or not such a conflict exists.

- **Confidentiality.** All information of a commercial nature including information relating to ODI services, technical documentation and pricing provided to you in connection with this Terms of Reference remain the exclusive property of ODI and shall be treated by you as strictly confidential. Information relating to the examination, evaluation, and comparison of bids, and the recommendation of contract award, shall not be disclosed to applicants or any other persons not officially concerned with such process, even after publication of the contract award without the prior written consent of ODI. No publicity regarding the services or the award of any contract will be permitted unless and until ODI has given prior express written consent to the relevant communication.

- **Terms and Conditions.** ODI is under no obligation to award a contract to any of the applicants. In the event contract is awarded, any services offered to ODI shall be subject to the standard ODI terms and conditions, including any requirements of USAID.

- **Governing Law.** This terms of reference and any subsequent contract award by ODI shall be governed by the laws of England and Wales.
Application process:

To apply, please email a CV, your proposed fee rate, your availability (days per month and total days) and a covering letter (one page maximum) outlining how your expertise could contribute to the task to k.chawda@odi.org.uk. The deadline for applications is 11:59 GMT on Sunday the 21 January 2024. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Role start date: ASAP