**TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)**

**Inclusive economic development in Nepal**

1. **Purpose of the Consultancy**

To carry out field research inside Nepaland support the production of high-quality analysis on the role of private sector and local economic development in promoting peace in Nepal, **and how can this relate with women inclusion in the economy in general and programming on women economic empowerment (WEE) in particular.**

The field work and analysis will go towards building an evidence base on peacebuilding-related issues to inform the programmatic and policy planning and practices of the UK Department for International Development (DfID) and other international donors and practitioners to strengthen conflict-sensitivity and support long-term peacebuilding goals.

The consultancy period will be for seven months (November 2017-May 2018) with possibility of further extension.

1. **Background**

International Alert, Conciliation Resources and Saferworld are working together on a three-year programme, funded by DFID, to provide evidence-informed policy and programming lessons and recommendations to international donors and other peace, security and development actors. The programme started on 1 May 2017 and will run till March 2020.

1. **Study Description**

Alert’s work within this project will be focused on Nepal and will examine **how economic recovery in post-conflict settings could contribute to stability and peace outcomes.**

Alert will seek to gather and analyse evidence to support or challenge some of the existing assumptions surrounding this issue as well as test assumptions from international donors’ and practitioners’ economic development programming, particularly around areas like jobs and stability and women’s economic empowerment, in conflict settings. The research will also shed light on some of the main economic discussions happening today as well as helping international donors and practitioners better understand the trade-offs when developing economic interventions in conflict settings, and the degree to which inclusion in the economy can deliver stability.

Key themes include the relationship between jobs and stability, the role of the private sector in economic recovery, challenges for creating livelihoods in conflict settings, particularly for youth, and the political economy of interventions, particularly those related to private sector development.

The study will include a qualitative/quantitative field data collection inside Nepal to gain better understanding of **how can inclusive economic development foster opportunities for peacebuilding, with a particular focus on gender and WEE programming.**

Data will be gathered on local socioeconomic and private sector conditions inside Nepal, to research and analyse how these conditions have been affected by or have affected the conflict, specifically looking into the gendered dimensions of the local economy. The research will help identify gaps in aid, as well as identify opportunities for effective peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery, including on men’s and women’s inclusive economic participation.

1. **Research methods**

The detailed methodology and the research questions will be designed and finalized in partnership with International Alert. At a minimum it is envisaged that research methods will include accessing open source/ online materials, as well as engaging with communities and organisations working in the field on issues relevant to the research questions.

The study will involve some combination of desk/open source research, key informant/in-depth interviews, a limited and targeted number of focus group discussions, and expert consultations.

1. **Locations**

The study will require a combination of field/grassroot-based research in Nepal, inside and outside Kathmandu. The applicant is encouraged to indicate potential regions/areas where he/she has former experience and existing networks, or can otherwise indicate a likelihood of access. The final locations will be agreed at a later stage with Alert.

1. **Target groups**

Businesses in-country (international, national, and local/regional private sector), diasporagroups, development organisations, donors, formal and informal workers, youth, refugees, researchers and practitioners working on issues of economic recovery, peacebuilding and gender in the region, and others as agreed.

1. **Deliverables**

The researcher is expected to produce a series of briefings and reports (to include Word documents, PowerPoint presentations and interactive products as appropriate) containing the findings of the research. This will be done in close collaboration with Alert experts.

1. **Ethical issues**

The research is expected to adhere to the highest professional and ethical standards, as outlined in the [Social Research Association ethical guidelines](http://the-sra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/ethics03.pdf) for social research. This includes ensuring informed written consent, respecting respondent confidentiality and anonymity, and ensuring rigorous data management and protection.

1. **Supervision of the work**

International Alert’s Nepal Country Representative and Deputy Country Representative will act as primary points of contact and supervise the delivery of the work.

1. **Requirements**

Essential skills, technical background and experience required:

* Experience of carrying out qualitative and/or quantitative research in Nepal and the neighbouring countries
* Excellent analytical skills
* Excellent knowledge of the Nepali context
* Excellent Nepali language skills (written and oral), as well as excellent English language skills of at least one member of the applicant team (written and oral). Other languages spoken in the region are an asset.
* Ability to synthesise vast amounts of information and convey key messages and analysis succinctly and clearly
* Knowledge of the donor environment related to Nepal
* Ability to turn strong research and analysis into workable programming ideas and recommendations.
* Experience in researching/programming on economic development and/or recovery, private sector development, political economy analysis, livelihoods and/or development programmes, and women’s economic empowerment
* Sufficient understanding of the national and local economy in Nepal and its neighbours
* Strong network of experts, business representatives, chambers of commerce, and/or development actors inside Nepal
* Prior experience in working on gender issues