

Terms of Reference

Call for research collaborators: Catalyzing 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 research outputs including policy briefs, a practitioner toolkit and dissemination activities. These outputs will be informed by ongoing work in fragile and conflict-affected countries (Somalia, Mozambique, and Papua New Guinea), to 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 May 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

Support is needed in the following areas:

- A practitioner toolkit on conflict sensitive, climate risk management good practices for humanitarian actors in FCV settings, particularly those working at the HDP nexus.
- Roadmap for sustained learning and engagement for actors working in humanitarian, development, peacebuilding, climate and security spaces.
- Knowledge sharing workshop(s).
- Input into two short policy briefs synthesizing regional deep dives/case studies:
 - One with a focus on the role of the security actors in addressing current and future climate risks.
 - A second one with a focus on the synergies between the humanitarian and resilience actors in FCV settings.

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 of to any 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 21st of April 2024.

Role start date: ASAP