

## AID FOR PEACE APPROACH – INFORMATION FOR PROJECTS

### 1 Why are we using it?

- 1.1 The PEACE III Operational Programme recognised that monitoring and evaluating the previous EU Programmes for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and Ireland had not been straightforward. The Peace Programmes are unique amongst EU Structural Fund Programmes in their aims and objectives, and as a result do not easily lend themselves to the type of measurement and quantification that can be applied to more conventional economic and social development programmes. This is particularly true when it comes to assessing the impacts of the interventions.
- 1.2 In an effort to inform this issue, the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group of the Peace II Monitoring Committee commissioned consultants PWC to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for peace building. The key recommendation from their report<sup>1</sup> was for the use of the Aid for Peace Approach.

### 2 What is it?

- 2.1 The Aid for Peace Approach<sup>2</sup> is an evaluation methodology for examining peace building interventions. It builds on Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment<sup>3</sup> (PCIA) and focuses on assessing the needs for peace building in a given country or area and then tailoring the intervention's objectives and activities to these needs by identifying their peace building relevance and developing appropriate indicators. The Approach can be broken down into four

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<sup>1</sup> PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP (2007) *A monitoring and evaluation framework for peace building, Final Report*, June 2007

<sup>2</sup> Paffenholz, T. (2005) *Third Generation PCIA: Introducing the Aid for Peace Approach*, <http://www.berghot-handbook.net>

<sup>3</sup> Bush, K. (2003) *Hands-on PCIA, Part 1, A Handbook for Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA)*, October 2003

key stages.

- 2.2 *Peace building needs analysis* analyses the conflict dynamics and peace building process of a country or area by examining the parties to the conflict, the root causes of the conflict, the factors escalating the conflict and what peace building potential exists. This involves a detailed analysis of the peace context by outlining the needs of a country or area.
- 2.3 *Peace building relevance assessment* assesses if the overall direction of an intervention (policy, programme or project) is relevant to a country or area's peace building needs.
- 2.4 *Conflict risk assessment* assesses the effects of the conflict on an existing or planned intervention. The objective of this stage is to identify problems and risks with which the projects and interventions will be confronted in areas of conflict.
- 2.5 *Peace and conflict effects assessment* examines the effects of an intervention on the conflict and peace situation and assesses what changes have occurred, or may occur, as a result of the intervention. Input, output, result and impact indicators can be used here. During the planning stage these indicators should be developed which are closely linked to the previously defined needs.

### **3 How will it be used?**

- 3.1 The Aid for Peace Approach shaped the development of Peace III at the programme level. It will also be applied at operation level. Prior to the issue of a letter of offer, each lead partner will be taken through the four key stages of Aid for Peace by a facilitator.

### 3.2 *Peace building needs analysis*

The lead partner will be asked to identify their current understanding of the conflict in their area and the peace building needs the project is seeking to address. This will include

- Conducting a socio-economic review of key indicators related to the conflict within their local area/region which the operation aims to target;
- Assessing, within their local area/region, what peace building potential exists; and
- Determining what problem or opportunity the operation is aiming to address.

### 3.3 *Peace building relevance assessment*

The lead partner will be asked to outline how their operation is relevant to the needs identified and how it aims to promote change within their local area/region. Operations will be required to detail which of the two Theories of Change their operation will contribute towards:

- The individual change theory: how will the operation promote change within the local area/region and achieve the operation goals by focusing on attitudes, behaviours and skills of individuals?
- Healthy relationships and connections theory: how will the operation promote change within the local area/region and achieve the operation goals by breaking down isolation, polarization, division and prejudice between/among groups?

### 3.4 *Conflict risk assessment*

Each lead partner will be asked to identify how risks related to the conflict could impact on their operation, and outline potential actions or contingency plans to alleviate those risks.

3.5 *Peace and conflict effects assessment*

Each lead partner will be required to propose indicators which would be used to monitor and evaluate the operation. These indicators will be drawn from the Programme/Priority indicators, alongside others more specific to the operation. These indicators should emerge from the needs analysis and the relevance assessment.

3.6 To supplement these indicators, each Operation Leader will be responsible for undertaking three concise evaluative reports. The first report would be produced at the outset of the operation, detailing the results of the Aid for Peace Approach stages, to provide baseline information. These stages would be reviewed mid-term and following completion of the operation.

3.7 The operation level reports will be used extensively by the Managing Authority in the production of Programme level information for progress reports, AIRs and evaluations. This bottom-up approach should provide a fuller indication of the overall impact of the PEACE III Programme.

**4 What are the benefits to the Lead Partner?**

4.1 The use of the Aid for Peace Approach is not expected to be an onerous task for Lead Partners since much of the thinking required for the initial report will have been done in the development of the application. The Approach provides a structure through which the anticipated and actual impacts of an operation on peace and reconciliation can be defined. It also assists with the development of operation-specific monitoring indicators which can be used throughout the operation to assess progress.