

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE – RESEARCH ASSISTANT**

### **CONTEXT**

In light of the experience of AAWAZ and as follow up to the two day conference on women community leaders, DAI intends to publish a comprehensive South Asia wide report. The main objective is to enhance awareness and create a more informed understanding on the opportunities, challenges and approaches of women's leadership, especially at the community level, amongst SAARC governments, and to strengthen advocacy for their recognitions as stakeholders in the peace building process.

Often, women are not included in formal efforts to resolve conflicts and build peace. Most of participants' peace building activities occurred outside of the aegis of national governmental institutions and their peace building priorities focused less upon structural rebuilding and more on processes, people, and relationships. However, the participation of women represents a potential opportunity to bridge seemingly insurmountable divides and also to incorporate actors from civil society and the family, rather than the battlefield, for the purposes of creating sustainable peace. Women are often key players popular protests and other grassroots movements, empowering them in civil society and allowing them to inspire societal change and support sustainable peace. Therefore, it is worthwhile to examine the ways in which women are incorporated into, or excluded from, the process of building peace and whether the level of female involvement can impact the success and longevity of that peace.

Thus, women should be viewed as a diverse group of social actors with differentiated backgrounds and capacities that inform their own agendas, which often articulate the needs of society as a whole in addition to the specific interests of the female population. In this way, women are capable of substantive contributions to lasting peace in post- conflict societies, and should not be relegated to the mere victims or simply the targets of interventions.

### **BACKGROUND**

DAI intends to engage in advocacy for implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, and in the case of this project, specifically on SDG 16.

Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals is dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels. Through lobbying at the SAARC level, it hopes to mainstream gender perspectives and establish the role to be played by the South Asia Community Women Leaders Alliance.

**SCOPE OF WORK - 10 days assignment**

**Remuneration - \$1000 USD**

The research assistant is expected to undertake data collection and collation of studying women community leaders, their experiences and leadership enabling factors and the limitations they face in engaging with peace building work. The fieldwork will be guided by a research protocol document to be shared with the research assistant, and if required, explained by the lead researcher.

1. The research assistant will, in consultation with country-specific mentor, identify which conflict and which community within the conflict will be studied. The parameters for identification are:

A conflict that emerged between 2005 to 2015. The conflict may have ended or receded, but cannot be an active flashpoint of violent conflict since the researchers will not be given any conflict zone deployment safety training, insurance or security arrangements.

2. The researcher will ensure the ethics of interviewing for research, including communicating the purpose, informing respondents of no direct benefit or payment and other things included in the research protocol document.

3. The researcher will be responsible for acquiring access to the community, including any permission that may be required from authorities, identifying relevant respondents and for coordinating FGD meetings and interviews

4. The researcher will be responsible for the research fieldwork within the decided-upon community site, which will include:

A. Two focus group discussions per site

One with women and one with men. Guidelines will be shared in protocol document.

B. Eight semi-structured interviews per site

6 interviews with community women engaged in peace building

2 with analysts or officials, movement leaders or catalyst groups like NGOs

Interview questionnaire and format will be shared in protocol document.

C. Two detailed life histories of women per site (Both with women)

Instructional note will be shared in protocol document.

5. The researcher will be responsible for interpreting, transcribing and writing the responses in a comprehensive report in good quality English, according to format included in the protocol document.

6. The researcher will be required to work independently, remotely and responsibly, coordinating with the lead researcher in Pakistan and with guidance from the country-specific mentor in the research assistant's country.

7. The researcher will make her/him self available for a follow up telephonic or Skype discussion if further details or clarity is required.