



## CDA's Expertise in Peacebuilding Effectiveness

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### CDA COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECTS

CDA Collaborative Learning Projects (CDA, [cdacollaborative.org](http://cdacollaborative.org)) is a non-profit organization committed to improving the effectiveness of those who work to provide humanitarian assistance, engage in peace practice, support sustainable development, and conduct corporate operations in a socially responsible manner. Through our collaborative learning process, we combine rigorous analysis with pragmatic field-level work and deliver practical tools to field staff and policymakers alike, based on the findings from the collaborative learning processes. CDA is based in Cambridge, MA, United States, and has an office in Myanmar, which was established to support local application of conflict-sensitivity practices of national and international actors. CDA's activities are structured around two pillars: Collaborative Learning (including applied research) and Advisory Services (including coaching, mentoring, and longer-term accompaniment), tailored to our diverse range of partner and clients. CDA neither implements country-level projects, nor directly engages in advocacy. Our partners and clients value our independence and experience as a convener and facilitator of multi-stakeholder engagements.

### GLOBAL LEARNING IN PEACEBUILDING EFFECTIVENESS

CDA is known as a leader in peacebuilding effectiveness work. We help policy makers, practitioners, and organizations improve the relevance and accountability of programming through better tools for conflict analysis, program strategy design, and assessment. CDA has also contributed to influential policy guidance, such as the [OECD/DAC Guidance on Evaluating Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Activities](#). CDA is a thought leader in applying systems thinking to conflict analysis, program design and evaluation. Current collaborative learning efforts are exploring the [cumulative effects of peacebuilding efforts](#) and further enhancing monitoring and evaluation tools, in collaboration with the [Peacebuilding Evaluation Consortium](#).

CDA's work on peacebuilding effectiveness began in 1999 with the launch of the Reflecting on Peace Practice Program (RPP). RPP posed a simple, albeit complex question: *What works- and what doesn't work – in peacebuilding?* RPP worked with hundreds of agencies and individuals, and conducted 26 peacebuilding case studies throughout the world to glean lessons applicable across conflict contexts and develop user-friendly toolkits. The resulting lessons are presented in [Confronting War: Critical Lessons for Peace Practitioners](#) (2003). Between 2007 and 2009, CDA undertook 16 case studies that investigated the cumulative impacts of peacebuilding programs in Europe, Africa, Middle East, Asia and Latin America. Findings from these have been published in issue papers, and [select publications](#).

CDA is currently developing a new collaborative learning initiative on effective approaches to prevent violent extremism, and has recently published a briefing paper on applying established design, monitoring and evaluation approaches from the peacebuilding and development fields to the emerging field of [preventing and countering violent extremism](#).

## SELECTION OF RECENT APPLIED RESEARCH ENGAGEMENTS

Clients or Partners	Collaborators	Substance	Region	Period
Peacebuilding Evaluation Consortium	Alliance for Peacebuilding, Search for Common Ground, Mercy corps	Developing new DM&E tools for peacebuilding and advancing the field overall. One engagement focused on inter-religious aspects in peacebuilding.	Global/Various countries	2014 - ongoing
US State Department/INL	BESA Consulting; RCN Justice et Démocratie	Support more effective anti-corruption programmes based on systems approaches and improved M&E.	DRC	2013-ongoing
Humanity United		Development and testing of a model for collective impact in peacebuilding	Global and pilot countries tbd	2016- ongoing

## SELECTION OF RECENT ADVISORY SERVICE ENGAGEMENTS

Clients or Partners	Substance	Region	Period
SIDA CDA in consortium with Saferworld, swisspeace, Stockholm Policy Group, Global Emergency Group	Human security and humanitarian assistance helpdesk	Global/Various countries	2016- ongoing
International Alert	Strategic program support and DM&E	South Caucasus	2016- ongoing
Search for Common Ground	Support cumulative impacts with youth programming in Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	2017/ongoing
UK Stabilization Unit	M&E capacity development in conflict affected contexts – facilitation of training sessions	Global	2017/2018
AFSC – American Friends Service Committee	Ongoing collaboration and various areas of support, including program strategy development, systems support and M&E	Global and select country specific work	2015 - ongoing
One Earth Future Foundation (OEF)	Facilitation of systems Analysis and Do No Harm training	Global	2017
BMZ – German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	Facilitation of participatory systems analysis Iraq, conflict-sensitive country strategy review and planning	Iraq	2016

Clients or Partners	Substance	Region	Period
Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation	Facilitation of participatory systems analysis Western Sahara and strategic program planning	Western Sahara	2017
MSI – Management Systems International	Facilitation of participatory systems analysis of Eastern DRC and initial DNH assessment of program design	DRC	2017
OAS + CARICOM Collaboration with EU funded GCRSP – Global Crisis Response Support Programme	Facilitation of conflict analysis, RPP and DNH training workshops	Washington DC and Barbados	2016
Kvinna till Kvinna	Facilitation of participatory systems analysis and conflict-sensitive program design	Afghanistan	2015
Omidyar Group	Develop tools for assessing effectiveness in complex environments	Global	2016
ARK Group	Facilitation of participatory systems analysis and strategic portfolio review	Syria	2015, 2016
UN Global Compact	Support to Business and Peace Impact Assessment Advisory Group and development of resource on M&E of business and peace.	Global	2016
Essential Partners	M&E support to assess effectiveness of dialogue facilitation	Global	2016, 2017
Saferworld	Facilitation of participatory conflict systems analysis and program strategy review	Western Balkans	2015
Interpeace	Facilitation of participatory RPP infused program quality assessment of Interpeace's Dialogue program	Mali	2013
Norwegian Church Aid	Facilitation of participatory conflict systems analysis (Pakistan) and various RPP and DNH trainings	Global, South East Asia, Pakistan	2014, 2015
DFID CCVRI – Conflict, Crime, and Violence Results Initiative	Helpdesk for DFID on measuring program results in fragile in conflict-affected contexts. Consortium with CARE, Saferworld, SFCG, small arms survey, VERA Institute of Justice	Global and select country focus, e.g. South Sudan and Afghanistan	2012-2014

## SELECT KEY PUBLICATIONS

- Anderson, Mary B. and Lara Olson, with Kristin Doughty. *Confronting War: Critical Lessons for Peace Practitioners*. Cambridge, MA: CDA Collaborative Learning Projects, 2003.
- Reflecting on Peace Practice (RPP) Basics. A Resource Manual*. Cambridge, MA: CDA Collaborative Learning Projects, 2016.
- Designing Strategic Initiatives to Impact Conflict Systems: Systems Approaches to Peacebuilding. A Resource Manual*. Cambridge, MA: CDA Collaborative Learning Projects, 2016.
- ARK Group DMCC. *The Syrian conflict: A systems conflict analysis*. ARK, 2016.
- Ernstorfer, Anita, Isabella Jean, and Peter Woodrow, with Diana Chigas. *Thinking Evaluatively in Peacebuilding Design, Implementation and Monitoring: Three Reflecting on Peace Practice (RPP) and Do No Harm (DNH)-infused options to strengthen the effectiveness of peacebuilding strategies and programs*. Peacebuilding Evaluation Consortium, 2016.
- Ris, Lillie, and Anita Ernstorfer. "Borrowing a Wheel: Applying Existing Design, Monitoring, and Evaluation Strategies to Emerging Programming Approaches to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism. Briefing Paper." Peacebuilding Evaluation Consortium, 2017.
- Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) in collaboration with CDA Collaborative Learning Projects and Norwegian Church Aid. *Conflict Analysis Framework: Field Guidelines and Procedure*. The Hague: GPPAC, 2015.
- Ernstorfer, Anita, Diana Chigas, and Hannah Vaughan-Lee. 2015. "From Little to Large: When does Peacebuilding Add up." *Journal for Peacebuilding and Development* 10 (1): 72-77.
- Woodrow, Peter, and Diana Chigas. "A Distinction with a Difference: Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding." Cambridge, MA: CDA Collaborative Learning Projects, 2009.

## OUR TEAM

The contact information for, and profiles of key staff with relevant expertise in CDA's Peacebuilding Effectiveness can be found at:

[cdacollaborative.org/what-we-do/peacebuilding-effectiveness](https://cdacollaborative.org/what-we-do/peacebuilding-effectiveness)