

FRAMEWORKS FOR ASSESSING RESILIENCE

REPORT OF THE FIRST GLOBAL METHODOLOGY WORKSHOP

New York City, 14 – 17 April 2015



About the Frameworks for Assessing Resilience Programme

The Frameworks for Assessing Resilience (FAR) programme is a two-year programme that is designed to better understand, address and assess the key sources of fragility and resilience within conflict- or violence-prone countries. Interpeace believes that in order to transform conflict, it is necessary not only to identify its causes and triggers, but also to better understand, strengthen and harness existing sources of resilience for peacebuilding in societies.

FAR is exploring the following questions: What makes people, communities and societies fragile and prone to violent conflict? What makes them resilient and able to respond creatively and non-violently to conflict and crisis? What constitutes progress on the path to greater resilience for both states and societies, in ways that build lasting peace? And how do people themselves in these conflict-affected societies, understand, define and build resilience?

The FAR programme was launched in 2014 in Timor-Leste, Guatemala and Liberia. Its activities at the national and international levels build upon and inform one another. Through multi-stakeholder participatory research in the three countries, FAR analyses and compares how local actors understand resilience and assess its relevance in measuring progress towards greater peace. The programme links the country-based exploration of resilience to conflict with the international discourse on resilience and fragility. It encourages dialogue between national practitioners and international scholars, expert-practitioners and policy specialists. The programme seeks to foster exchanges in which the field-based practitioner experience is informed by state of the art scholarship, and where local practice and experience in turn shape the thinking and entry points in global policy debates on resilience, and on its relevance in assessing progress in the peacebuilding field. FAR compares the resilience factors identified in the three pilot countries in order to explore where they are unique to particular country contexts, and where they may also offer more generic experiences and analyses.

The programme is being implemented by Interpeace's Regional Office for Latin America in Guatemala, and by Interpeace's partner organizations in Liberia - the Platform for Dialogue and Peace (P4DP), and in Timor-Leste - the Centre of Studies for Peace and Development (CEPAD). Interpeace has also partnered with the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) for the implementation of two nation-wide surveys in Guatemala and Timor-leste.

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Introduction

As part of our three country program on “Frameworks for Assessing Resilience” (FAR), Interpeace organized and hosted a workshop in New York City on April 14-17 examining ‘resilience for peacebuilding’ in conflict-affected countries. The workshop was divided into two sections: the first half was designed to provide a space for a horizontal practitioner dialogue - an opportunity for sharing and comparison of findings and methodologies between the researchers from the three country teams. To this end, Interpeace country teams and partners from Liberia, Guatemala and Timor-Leste presented, discussed, and compared their initial findings from local-level consultations and focus group research in each country, on the nature, sources, and capacities of resilience for peacebuilding. The country teams shared not only their data and findings, but also debated their methodologies, conceptual frameworks and reflected on which findings were generic in nature and which were context- and conflict-specific.

Based on these discussions, the subsequent two days then provided a unique opportunity for exchange between the three country research teams, Interpeace staff, and a select group of global experts, practitioner-scholars and policy specialists, familiar with - or working on - resilience. The goal of this latter exchange was to facilitate reciprocal learning between practitioners, policy-makers and scholars on resilience for peacebuilding: subjecting scholarly and policy perspectives to the challenging articulation of the country-level experience on one hand, whilst on the other, seeking guidance and advice on how to develop the conceptual thinking and policy engagements of the country-level researchers and practitioners. In this spirit of reciprocal learning, Interpeace teams sought to deepen and enrich the conceptual understanding of, and potential applications for, resilience as it relates to peacebuilding.

Interpeace had previously undertaken a global desk review reflecting how resilience, as an analytical concept, has been used and has evolved in various disciplines and fields of practice, and which is gaining increasing traction in the sphere of peacebuilding programming and policy. Amongst other things, this desk review noted that the resilience lens has the potential to significantly shift and enrich the prevailing policy discourse centered on state fragility, by focusing not only on the fault-lines and risks of (re)emerging conflict, but instead on communities’ and societies’ positive and endogenous capacities for peace. The FAR program is thus revealing new perspectives on strategies to prevent violent conflict and to consolidate peace. In addition, the promising new approach being used in the FAR program, has the potential to significantly enhance the audibility of authentic voices of local actors in national and international policymaking discourses.

This report does not aspire to provide a comprehensive or detailed minute of the four days of rich discussion, nor could it do full justice to the deep analytical reflection that transpired. The annexes to the report do however provide the broad agenda for the four days, a list of external participants, and an outline of the approach and thematic organization of the two day interactive practitioner-policy-maker-scholar dialogue. This document is organized into four sections as follows:

- Part 1 presents some of the main points discussed in relation to the specific country case studies and the consultation phase of the FAR process.
- Part 2 presents a selective overview of the discussions and debates on the concept of resilience in relation to peacebuilding. This section is purposely structured around key concepts and “tools” that will be useful to research teams in conceptualizing and defining patterns of resilience.
- Part 3 lists the options discussed for the dissemination of FAR at different policy levels.
- Part 4 offers a short conclusion and outstanding questions for further reflection
- Finally, an Annex comprising of the list of participants and the annotated agenda is included.

PART I: REFLECTIONS ON CASE STUDIES AND THE CONSULTATION PHASE

A primary objective of the workshop was to allow the research teams to share the findings and insights from their respective FAR processes with each other. This provided an opportunity for the other two teams, the Interpeace FAR Steering Committee members, and the ‘external’ experts present, to reflect upon and provide commentary, critique and observations on each country teams’ specific findings. The presentations provided by each team are included in the appendices to this document. The brief description that follows is selective and cannot do full justice to the detailed conversation or quality observations that were shared in the room.

Timor-Leste

It was noted that “resilience” does not translate easily into local languages in Timor-Leste. CEPAD developed a working definition of resilience as the elements that hold Timorese communities tightly together to deal with past conflict and its legacies, and to anticipate and overcome evolving conflicts that the society might face in the future. This definition reflects Timor’s strong collective culture as well as a sense of shared resistance to occupation. Following consultations, the team identified the following core elements of resilience: culture, leadership, religion, and law/security. The team made the seminal observation that these elements of resilience might either contribute to peace, or could in fact operate to undermine it (for example, if individuals and groups use these elements of resilience to cohere in a manner that discriminates against or excludes other groups, or advances narrow personal or communal interests at the expense of others or the wider society).

It was also noted that previous developmental and peacebuilding programming in Timor-Leste, focused almost exclusively on conflict-drivers and obstacles to durable peace. CEPAD also noted that there is a proliferation of international actors who are active in Timor-Leste, and that many Timorese express growing apathy toward these actors, their goals and their narrow focus on the risks and drivers of conflict and state fragility. The positive language of the resilience platform and approach within FAR, was seen to stimulate new energy and encouraged the population to share information and become more engaged with the Interpeace consultations. It was noted that in the long term, FAR may encourage more critical reflection and participation in international interventions.

The team reflected on the enthusiastic participation in FAR at the community-level, despite risks of ‘dialogue fatigue’ in some of these areas. However, they also reflected that the organization of community-level consultations did produce some anomalies in participation. For example, they were mindful that private sector participation was limited in the consultations, and the team noted that it was less easy to engage this segment of society in a targeted way. In some districts of Timor-Leste, youth and women were more active than in others and the team speculated that this was to some extent dependent on the uneven engagement of these stakeholders by international actors and NGOs.

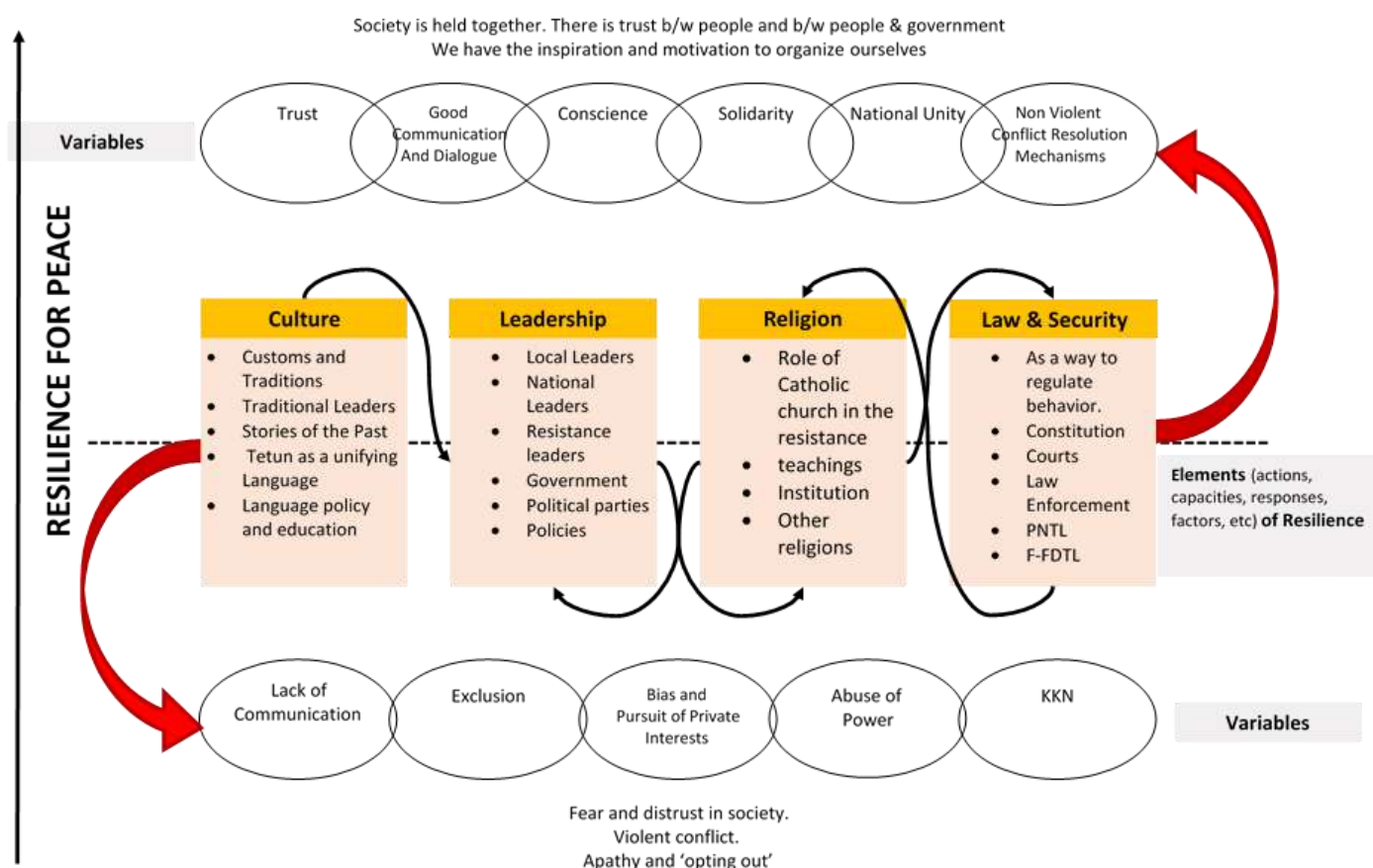


Figure 1: Schema of resilience elements in Timor-Leste

Liberia

The Platform for Dialogue and Peace (P4DP) developed the following working definition of resilience applied in its consultations processes: “the capacities of individuals, households or communities to anticipate risk, resolve challenges collaboratively and non-violently across societal divisions, respond creatively to conflict and crisis, and steer social change in ways that foster shared benefits of peace and development.” When translated in the various local languages, they chose terms that reflected the local concepts of collective and individual strategies used to “hold one's heart” and resist external pressure to join in the violence. It also reflected a group's feeling of “togetherness” that will help its members survive and overcome hardships.

The P4DP team noted that the Ebola outbreak had a dramatic effect on the implementation of FAR and played an important role in the reshaping and adaptation of both the focus and method of research for FAR in Liberia. The government's declaration of a state of emergency and curfews limited movement and contributed initially to significantly increased tensions. The impact of the Ebola crisis also made populations less willing and capable of discussing issues other than Ebola. These factors influenced significantly both the logistical implementation of the consultation process and its content strategy. The consultations therefore necessarily focused on the ways in which the Ebola crisis interfaced with pre-existing drivers and historical of conflict, and the strategies that served to keep violence in check during this crises. It was noted that despite the difficulties this presented, it also offered a unique ‘real time’ observation of the relationship between resilience to conflict in the context of an ongoing health disaster.

The team observed that distrust in the government increased following the highly militarized initial response to the Ebola outbreak and lack of proper information dissemination. Communities increasingly relied on their local leaders and resorted to traditional practices to cope and survive. Rituals such as the “stranger/father” system - a stranger visiting a community needs to be matched with a “father” in the community, who will keep track of the former’s movements - used during the civil war period as a mechanism for building trust and protecting communities from outsiders, was revived during the Ebola crisis. The government’s inadequate responses to the Ebola epidemic also powerfully unveiled the reality of state fragility, the failure of state service delivery capacity (dramatically illustrated in the health sphere) and the deficiencies of statebuilding processes implemented since the end of the war. Indeed, the observation was made that in many respects the Ebola crisis in fact imitated many of the effects of conflict in the decimation of trust and the potential destruction of places of belonging and social cohesion.

At the beginning of the consultation phase, Liberians were contemplating the celebration of the 10-year anniversary of the end of the conflict. It was noted that within Liberia, as elsewhere, proximity to conflict and retrospective reflections on it, may influence the way the population thinks about and articulates its resilience strategies. In this instance, due to the positivity associated with the anniversary of the end of the conflict, coupled with the current trauma associated with Ebola, experts speculated on the potential tendency among Liberians to describe the distant past with a degree of selective or ‘rosy’ retrospection.

P4DP also noted that they are anticipating a potential power vacuum in Liberia following the draw-down of the UN Mission in Liberia. With this context in mind, they noted that FAR may be an especially timely and important tool to promote inclusion and political participation for traditionally marginalized groups, such as women, youth, etc. and for drawing more generally on sources and systems of resilience to prevent an escalation of conflict and potential violence.

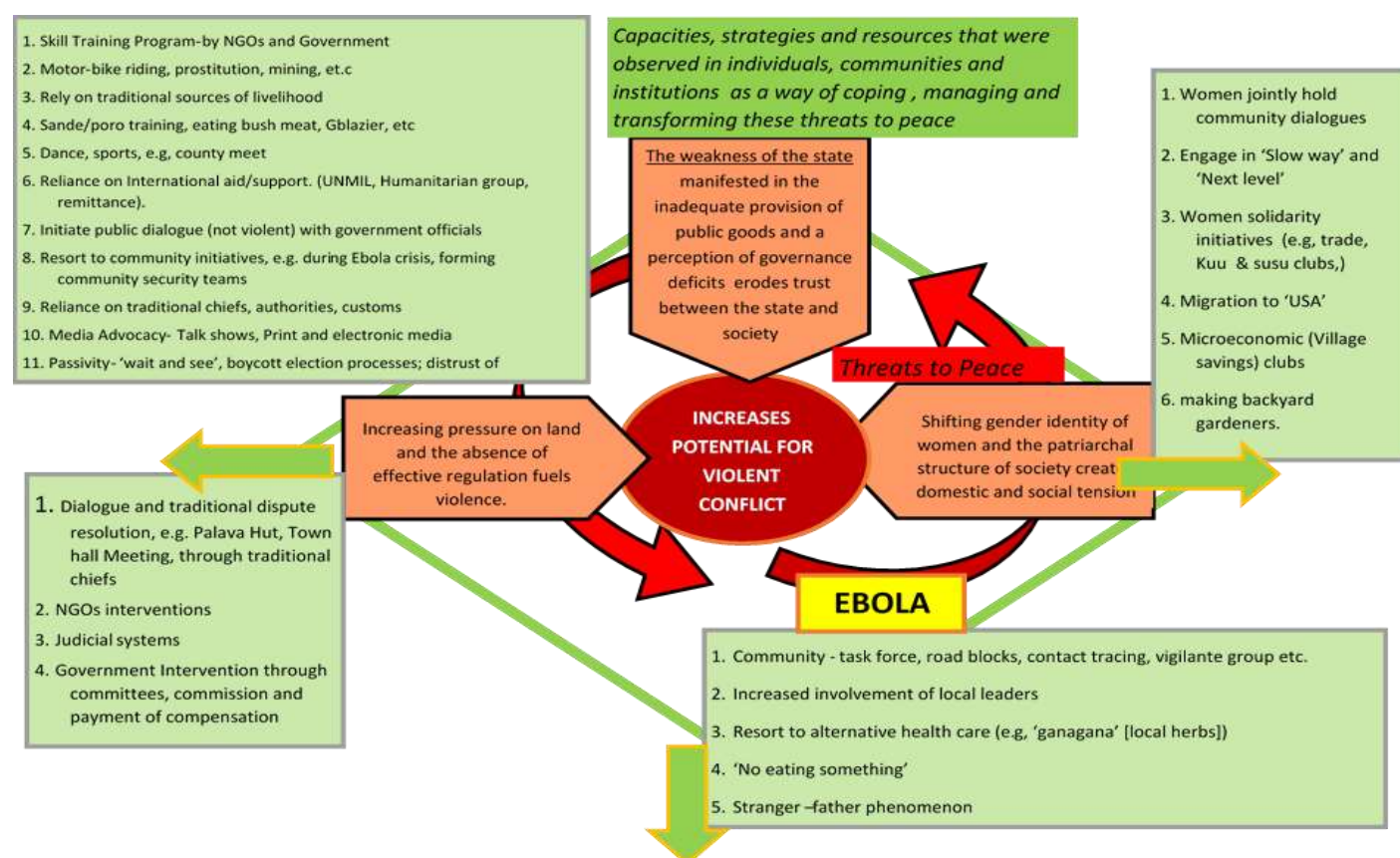


Figure 2: Summary of coping Mechanisms in Liberia

Guatemala

The consultations highlighted the importance that Guatemalans place on organized political action as a manifestation of resilience. In this respect, resilience is conceived as a set of capacities mobilized in response to particular obstacles or sources of conflict in order to achieve a specific outcome or goal. In the Guatemalan context, it is important to distinguish between specific manifestations of violence and more structural factors that contribute to entrenched violence and poverty. The FAR research in Guatemala therefore sought to identify the resilient actions and capacities of individuals, communities and groups in relation to these varied sources of conflict, as well as the meanings attributed to these actions and capacities. Participants consulted gave a wide range of examples of actions they take to address these legacies and face these challenges and stressors.

These resilient forms of ‘resistance’ may cohere in the relationship of one social group to other societal constituencies, or it might be in response to the actions and presence of the state and particular state institutions. Moreover, resilience may manifest in either positive or negative ways in response to state fragility or the limited reach of the state. For example, failure on the part of the state to deliver basic goods and services, may result in a particular group responding by engaging in the illicit economy, smuggling and trading on the black market to access alternative goods and services. Many communities participate in or passively accept the presence of drug trafficking and organized criminal activity as a resilience strategy. Similarly negative resilience may produce more rather than less conflict and violence. Violence itself, for example, can reflect and reinforce expressions of social cohesion, especially in gangs where violence itself is a functional tool in shaping social relationships. Many individuals also reported that their resilient responses were a matter of survival. They were focused on the micro-level of the family and community group, rather than on wider potential opportunities for political transformation.

However, given the state of flux in the Guatemalan political system, the Interpeace team emphasized the importance of gravitating from often highly localized manifestations and description of resilience, to an engagement in the wider societal processes, national politics and public policy debates, with tangible and achievable goals in mind. They noted that there is a need to demonstrate to local communities and to national stakeholders, that the FAR process can offer concrete interventions with tangible outcomes so that the consultations about resilience are not seen to be merely intellectual pursuits about resilience as a concept, or dialogue for its own sake. Resilience therefore is a highly political topic in Guatemala due to its focus on inclusive government as an alternative to state fragility, and its implications for societal transformation at various levels, rather than purely adaptive responses at the local level.

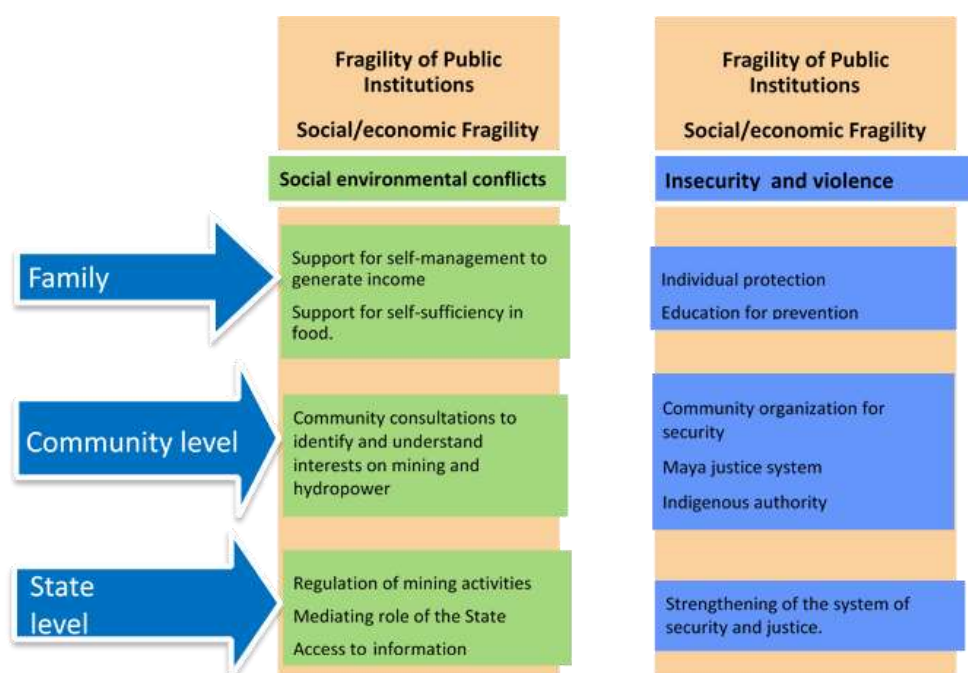


Figure 3: Analytical framework for documenting resilience in Guatemala

Reflection on Methodology:

Added Value of using a Resilience lens for dialogue-based consultations on peacebuilding

The language of “resilience”, in as much as it prompted research teams to engage in discussions on the strengths and assets in societies, was seen a welcome departure from more traditional peacebuilding conflict analyses and consultation processes that prioritized the examination of obstacles to peace or drivers of conflict. It has already been noted in the Timor-Leste context, that **the positive language of FAR gives local people more of a sense of ownership and leadership, as well as agency to advocate for the type of programming they wish to see. The platform of resilience may also encourage more critical reflection on existing engagements.**

In Guatemala, the FAR consultation process was seen to provide an opportunity for different constituencies in society to initiate a much appreciated dialogue with each other. It was argued that the resilience focus provides a potential consensus-building vehicle, by contrast with the focus on fragility which is frequently more divisive. The most illustrative example of this that was offered was in the context of socio-environmental conflicts where, despite their frequently competing interests, mining corporations and indigenous groups have a common need for dialogue, information sharing and trust building. The Guatemalan team reported that FAR has provided an opportunity for these opposing groups to come together and discuss and potentially begin to dispel many false perceptions. This is illustrative of **the potential value of the convening power of resilience as a concept and an approach.**

A key methodological challenge that presented itself in Liberia was how to sustain and conduct consultations under the circumstances of an Ebola outbreak associated with prohibition on meetings, limits on mobility and a high level of stress, anxiety and mistrust within the affected communities. Innovations in overcoming these obstacles were seen methodologically innovative in themselves. However, the challenges were outweighed by the unique opportunity this afforded to study in real time **the interaction and the symbiotic relationship between natural disaster in the form of this health crisis on one hand, and resilience to the provocation of old and new patterns of conflict, on the other.** Whereas resilience to natural disasters and external shocks such as the Ebola crisis is

frequently about the capacity to ‘recover’, in the peacebuilding field conflict is often a result of contradictions, dissatisfaction or flaws that exist within a society’s social, political or economic fabric. Ebola in Liberia turned out to be illustrative of underlying and enduring governance deficiencies, state fragility and lack of capacity to serve the population, rather than just an external shock in the form of a health crisis. In such a case, resilience needs to be understood as the capacity of individuals, communities and society as a whole to *address and change* these conditions and structures, that underpin fragility and potentially (the risk of) violent conflict.

All three teams articulated that resilience has the potential to provide a more politically constructive way to study conflict. Studying peacebuilding and conflict can be controversial and sometimes elicits resistance on the part of governments who do not wish to be labelled as fragile, post-conflict or conflict-affected. The focus on resilience is attractive because it relegates such characterisations to the background whilst giving center stage to the strengths, assets and capabilities in society. This is much more appealing to politicians and government officials, who are keen to protect the reputation of their countries, or willing to engage with sources of societal fragility through recourse to the endogenous capacities within the society. For the individuals being consulted, whether ordinary citizens, members of parliament, or religious leaders, reflecting on resilience, rather than conflict, was seen as much more enthusiastic endeavor. More importantly, members of the country teams reflected on the fact that this process can in itself serve to nurture these capacities in practice, by enabling individuals and communities to become more self-conscious of their “resilience” – which is often implicit or latent, rather than always manifest. This is especially true at the group or community level where the recognition and affirmation of existing systems of resilience promotes collective efficacy (a group’s shared belief in its conjoint capabilities to organize and execute courses of action). This feeling may be a powerful driver of change within communities. **Systems can change most easily when they change themselves, and FAR may serve as a catalyst for change.**

It was noted that in each country the FAR process and resilience-centered consultations did also present some risks. Different segments of society have varying capacities for ownership of and influence in the national policymaking process, and because of its focus on inclusive government and policymaking, resilience is an inherently political and therefore potentially contested topic. Furthermore, **as the resilience language gain prominence within global development policy communities, its meaning and implications are more likely to be a contested at both national and international levels.**

Finally, it is worth noting the **high value that all three teams placed on the commitment of FAR to “in-built” horizontal learning and sharing of information and approaches**, as manifested in the Global Methodology Workshop itself. Methodologically, all three teams noted the value and importance of sharing results, approaches and concepts in a comparative fashion. They also noted that this was enriching their own processing of which resilience factors were generic or cross-cutting, and which appeared to be unique to their own societies or particular communities consulted.

PART II: DEFINING AND CONCEPTUALIZING RESILIENCE FOR PEACEBUILDING

Beyond the rich presentations and discussion of the three country cases, the reflections and debates in the FAR Global Methodology Workshop between practitioners, scholars and policy specialists, was broadly organized around facilitated discussion of six broad themes – each with its own set of open ended questions. This report is not organized as a minute and so draws selectively on the various discussions. The six thematic discussions engaged the following topics:

- Levels of analysis, social ‘constituencies’ and the implications for a more systems-based understanding of resilience for peacebuilding;
- Ownership, legitimacy and the implications of endogenous sources of resilience for the roles of local and international actors;
- The challenges, opportunities and methods for measuring and assessing resilience for peacebuilding;
- Debates about generic versus context- and conflict-specific resilience ‘factors’;
- The implications and opportunities that FAR (and the discussions at the Global Methodology Workshop) might have for national and international policy contributions; and
- Questions of what resilience studies might offer to notions of positive peacebuilding and conflict transformation, and vice versa, including debates on how distinctive resilience is in relation to the field of peacebuilding?

The annotated agenda for the first FAR Global Methodology Workshop, attached in the annex, provides a description of each of these sessions.

Resilience to violent conflict, or (more positively described) resilience for peacebuilding, refers to a spectrum of capacities, assets and strategies ranging from those manifest in formal institutions or organic, informal collective efforts by communities, to individual fortitude and resourcefulness. In lay terms, resilience is also evoked as an adjective or aspirational quality to describe individuals, groups, institutions and societies that are able to overcome and transform adversity to pursue their goals and destiny. There is sometimes confusion and contestation as to whether resilience is best conceived as a set of attributes and capacities (to have resilience) – or as a state or end goal (to be resilient).

The absence of a universally accepted definition, the lack of direct translations in some languages (such as Tetun and Spanish) and its specific meanings in different disciplines makes research and programming around resilience challenging, as there may be a tendency to focus only on defining the term and thus detracting from the value of the concept in practice. Interpeace and its country partners dedicated the first months of the FAR program needed to construct definitions that were relevant to, and resonated with their respective contexts. The variations and nuances in the definitions is not problematic but rather an affirmation that resilience, is to some degree, always going to be context-specific – and this is indeed a cornerstone and premise of the FAR project.

Rather than focusing on having a single and rigid definition or debating whether resilience is a capacity or a goal, participants at the Global Methodology Workshop agreed that it is more useful to identify cross-cutting characteristics and features of resilience, observable in all three countries and affirmed in the literature and by emerging communities of practice working on resilience. Some key observations on resilience, particularly as it relates to peacebuilding that were observed in the case studies and discussed at the workshop are captured below.

Rather than being competing or mutually exclusive notions, the following can be thought of as a “toolbox” of concepts and approaches that can be deployed by FAR research teams in order to advance their discussions with

the in-country working groups,¹ and that can also help to shape the wider FAR policy strategy and the cross-cutting development of guidance for assessing resilience.

Assets of a Systems Approach to Resilience

Resilience is identifiable across all levels of society, including at the individual level; family level; community level; institutional level; the national level; and even at the regional level. Different levels of a given society may offer distinct manifestations or illustrate unique capacities for resilience. Similarly, different constituencies of society experience conflict in diverse ways, and therefore develop unique capacities for resilience. For example, men and women of the same social group may have different strategies for dealing with the presence of armed gangs. For all groups, resilience strategies vary depending on the specific stressor or risk factor that they face.

However, for resilience to contribute to ‘peace writ large’, it requires connections between the different levels to ensure that highly localized resilient responses or capacities do not merely lead to the autonomy or exclusion of these very cohesive communities from the State and their insulation from the wider society, but rather contributes to resilience of the wider society and/or of the State. Therefore, identifying appropriate intermediaries and interlocutors - whether in the form of leaders or institutions - that can connect individuals, communities and governments so that these endogenous initiatives contribute to resilience of society as a whole, is fundamental to transformative peacebuilding. From a peacebuilding and conflict perspective, this potentially transformative dimension of resilience is key.

Conflict is part of the system. A part of the interwoven web of social relations at different levels in an integrated ‘ecosystem’. But conflict is distinctive in that it is an internal shock or stressor, as opposed to a natural disaster, which is an external shock. Conflict is a dynamic, nonlinear change mechanism for a system. Violence is also often an inherent and functional component part of the system. Violence can reveal expressions of social cohesion. For example, in gangs, violence is important to interpersonal relationships and bonding. This has an impact on the distinctive ways in which resilience is conceived and applied in peacebuilding, as opposed to in the field of humanitarian emergency and disaster recovery.

Some Important Characteristics of Resilient Systems for Peacebuilding

- **Actors have interdependent linkages to each other;** the voices of local actors are heard by elites. If this inter-connectedness is essential for effective peacebuilding, then we need to think about how to restore broken links, and improve collaboration and communication among different groups. In order to achieve this, we may need to develop strategies to establish platforms for dialogue between actors at different levels.
- **Decision-making is decentralized;** and is based on a diversity of thought processes and perspectives. A system or network that relies on a range of decision making processes will adapt more easily to shocks and change than one which has a single and rigid decision making process. The most resilient systems are therefore those that are self-organized.
- **High levels of social, political, cultural and economic inclusivity** correlate with higher levels of stability and resilience at every level.

¹ National Working Groups have been set up in each country to lead the Participatory Action Research (PAR) phase of the research. Their role will be to develop programmatic and policy-based strategies to strengthen resilience in each of the countries.

Downstream and upstream effects of programming to strengthen resilience

From a tactical and programmatic point of view, different societal levels and the different manifestations of resilience for peacebuilding at each of these levels, may offer diverse operational “points of entry”. However, in irrespective of whatever entry point level of engagement is selected, there are some important considerations to take into account in broadening and deepening the impact of building or strengthening resilience. Firstly, it is important to consider the linkages to other levels and presumably to the “nearest adjacent levels” to the level of tactical engagement, because these have the strongest mutual impact. For example, linkages between community-level resilience work should potentially be linked to the possibility of engagements at the family or sub-community level, as well as at the institutional level. In other words, we need to look for both **upstream and downstream events and patterns that are enabling resilience**. This may include identifying the “demonstration effect” of resilience capacities or actions and, for example, whether a particular archetype is present that offers guidance or illustrates how resilience is harnessed and enhanced in particular contexts. Rather than contemplating how to “scale up” resilience to the societal or national level, the suggestion is qualitative analysis and illustration of successful processes work and who is influencing the process most significantly? Whilst this complicates the processes of measurement and assessment of resilience and its impact, it does offer a vehicle on how we can develop an indicative list of metrics or gauges of resilience factors that cut across different context or conflict experiences. This suggests that from a practitioners’ perspective, we need to look for **pathways rather than specific routes, when assessing how to evolve from a community-level projects to a national or regional level engagement**. “Scalability” should therefore not be a distraction which simply seeks to quantify results and measure impact, but rather should be qualitatively assessed in terms of the presence and complementarity of resilience at different levels within a social systems.

Resilience is a political concept which draws particular attention to inclusivity governance

All three of the FAR country cases presented pictures of a **strong disconnect between the local and national levels** in terms of political power and representation. For example, in Timor-Leste power is highly concentrated in the capital, Dili, and local people are mostly marginalized in that their interests are not being reflected or adequately taken into account in laws or policy. There is also a decentralized system of corruption, which was described as highly entrenched and resilient within state infrastructure, which makes corruption present everywhere. Any attempts to build, support or enhance resilience at a national or societal level, will need to circumnavigate these patterns of exclusion and marginalization, whether conceived as premise on urban/rural divides or based on the divisive dynamic between the center and the periphery or between local and national political elites.

In this context the point was strongly made that there is a crucial role for leaders in facilitating resilience. **Leaders can promote a sense of unity and collective efficacy by serving as symbolic sources of resilience**. However, leadership can exhibit and encourage both positive and negative resilience. It was noted that some leaders encourage positive changes that advance peacebuilding, while others engage in corruption and/or political exclusion. A leader's capacities for positive and negative resilience are not necessarily mutually exclusive. Peacebuilding processes should identify and leverage the capacity of **Translational leaders** (formal or informal leaders who have authority and respect across different groups and levels of society) so as to help communication flow and connections between groups; this is especially important when networks begin to break down in conflict.

Information protocol and Networks can help us to understand and foster resilience

As part of a systems analysis, external experts participating in the workshop drew attention to the means and patterns of communication and information flow, as a critical factor in tracking resilience. This begged questions about how information flows and exchanges are organized in any society? The example was given of, the North American power grid, which is augmented by a series of micro-grids that allow some areas to keep functioning even if large sections of the grid lose power. The point was made that human communication also operates through similar “micro-grids” or networks. In this context it was noted that conflict can break the functionality of the overall grid by creating distrust and separation among groups that usually share information. This was also seen as indicating the critical role of “translational leaders” with cross-sectional appeal, and who can sustain the communication and the trust by sharing information between different groups of people to improve overall communication.

It was noted that networks can be formal or informal. It can be challenging to work with informal networks because they are highly dynamic in nature. Some informal networks, such as those organized by women, are not easily seen by the donor and policymaking communities, but may be critical contributors to resilience in particular contexts.

Proximity to conflict can influence the collective narrative that groups tell regarding resilience

It was noted and discussed that communities may emphasize or de-emphasize certain aspects of resilience depending on the proximity to their historical conflicts. If a group is recalling a past conflict, there may be a tendency for nostalgia or rosy retrospection on the elements of resilience that helped the community overcome the conflict. If a group is proactively discussing resilience in the context of a current conflict, they may be more likely to discuss both positive and negative coping strategies.

Resilience is often implicit and not easily observable: what we see are “key resilience moments”

An important conclusion that was drawn out of the workshop, particularly by the international experts and scholars in the room, was the importance of conceptualizing resilience as manifest in particular ways at particular times as “**Key resilience moments**” – often presenting in times of crisis, when these capacities are more patent and exposed – rather than treating resilience as a set of attributes or capacities that are always manifest. This raised the question about whether there is a detectable and predictable key moment where a community may act to express their otherwise latent resilience in ways that deal with a particular crisis.

This view treats resilience as a set of assets that are always present but which is tested in times of crisis, and so it is rarely evoked unless there is a particular shock or prolonged stress. That said, the incentive is of course to be able to identify the sources and manifestations of resilience before a crisis situation arises. The **capacity for organization amongst groups** and the solidarity between individuals was noted as an important source of resilience in all three countries. This capacity does not appear overnight in the face of a crisis, such as when there was an Ebola outbreak in Liberia and community networks displayed extraordinary solidarity and sophistication in exchanging information in order to prevent the further spread of the disease. Rather it was cultivated and nurtured over time through everyday interactions, socialization and shared values and customs. Understanding this capacity better and monitoring how it evolves over time can help to develop strategies to effectively leverage this quality to contribute to peace or confront crises.

Resilience exists on a continuum: communities as a whole usually exhibit both positive and negative resilience strategies

There was extensive discussion in the workshop about notions of positive and negative resilience. External participants noted the important innovation in eliciting and describing the duality of resilience which is often treated in policy communities and inherently a positive attribute of societies dealing with the legacies of shocks and stressors. There was also a strong affirmation and acknowledgement of this “duality” of resilience that presented in each of the country case studies and was strongly articulated in the schemas presented for each country note. This presented some obvious questions and challenges, including what factors determine whether individuals, communities, groups, etc., express positive resilience more strongly than negative resilience? What are the impact of leaders, for example, in determining whether a group will express more positive or negative characteristics? This answers to this were highly context-specific.

- Positive resilience includes behaviors that contribute to more peaceful communities and reduce the overall level of violence in the long term. Negative resilience includes behaviors that contribute to state fragility and may increase the risk of violence conflict. Many systems exhibit both positive and negative resilience, as well as forms of social cohesion, simultaneously.
- When a polity or group experiences an internal shock, or incremental stressors such as characterize protracted conflicts, its response will probably reflect both positive and negative resilience. The varying responses will contribute to both peace as well as the risk of violence to varying degrees. The external participants in the workshop expressed some wonder at what might be the capacities or determining features that influence the degree to which responses are positive or negative? This question merits additional exploration and research.

Some Examples of ‘positive’ and ‘negative’ resilience.

- In Timor-Leste, communities frequently cited their leaders as a source of unity and resilience. These leaders rose to prominence during the Indonesian occupation, and many retain their status as symbolic heroes of the independence movement. Despite this symbolic role, many leaders are engaged in corruption, and exclude the voices of local people from national decision-making processes.
- In Liberia, land disputes increased following the Ebola outbreak. People relied on traditional resolution mechanisms and the authority of local chiefs to help resolve these disputes. However, traditional justice systems can also exacerbate existing systems of inequality. Traditional justice will often fail to appropriately deal with cases of domestic violence and sexual assault because they tend to focus on the restoration of harmony in the community, rather than patterns of exclusion, inequality and the absence of fair and equal application of the law.
- In Liberia, the use of bush meat exhibits aspects of positive and negative resilience. People rely on community networks and revive old skills to be able to successfully hunt and trap animals, and supplement their family's income and diet. The practice contributes to negative resilience because the trade in bushmeat and the illicit trade in animal parts are often linked to wider circles of criminal activity. These underground criminal networks also contribute to state fragility.
- In Guatemala, there is a large system of negative resilience in the form of delinquency and organized crime. Youth engage in these activities in response to insecurity and violence. The systems of organized crime and gang activity are highly resilient because they continue to be reinforced by state corruption.

PART III: POTENTIAL POLICY ENTRY POINTS

Workshop participants emphasized the importance of translating the FAR work on resilience for peacebuilding into a coherent strategy for policy engagement both nationally and internationally. At the national level it was argued that unless the FAR process and resilience as a lens can be linked to tangible policy outcomes, there is also a risk that the process will lose legitimacy among local populations who are calling for action.

It was strongly affirmed by both country research teams and external specialists attending the meeting that FAR can play a key role in elevating the voices of local actors in the national and international policymaking space. Resilience for peacebuilding demands a multi-sector approach, and therefore to optimize ownership it is important to include and profile a plurality of voices in the policy interventions. By promoting expanded participation and shared risk and responsibility in developing policy solutions, the FAR process also gives local actors more agency in peacebuilding programs. Workshop participants were unanimous about the currency and importance of work on resilience to current policy debates, and agreed that it was important to identify the optimal opportunities for policy interventions based on the findings of FAR. What follows reflects the participants' suggestions about some of these policy spaces and opportunities:

International Level

- The United Nations and other multilateral agencies often struggles to work with or include local NGOs and civil society organizations, because it questions their representativeness, their potential bias and their legitimacy and accountability. There are often higher criteria and tougher barriers for entry for local-level actors to participate in UN-led processes. Yet it was noted by participants, that the understanding FAR offers of endogenous resilience capacities and resources, provides a unique perspective on the fundamental boundaries of the roles of international actors. This positions local actors with a strong grasp of resilience for peacebuilding to shape and define the policy perspectives based on their peacebuilding capacities and the legitimacy of their intermediary roles as interlocutors and service providers between communities and the State – especially when the formal links between state and society are broken. The debate on ownership/inclusivity/sustainability of peace may be a good place for endogenous resilience to inform the discussion.
- Many international donors are aware they need to work more at the community level, but often there are few administrative resources and even less tactical and technical know-how to support a structured, ongoing dialogue with local-level partners. The FAR process and methodology has the potential to provide methodological examples and innovation to supplement this.
- The post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer an important opportunity for policy engagements based on FAR research and methodology. Substantively, the perspective on of resilience offered by FAR, particularly based on the country-level research, is of direct relevance. Although resilience is referred to extensively in the SDGs, this is almost exclusively in relation to natural disasters and external shocks. Resilience is not referred to in relation to SDG No. 16 which deals specifically with peace and conflict, and although it was assessed to be too late in the process to alter the language of the Goal itself, this arguably nonetheless provides an important opportunity for a “resilience for peacebuilding” approach. In addition, resilience offers an important potential integrative lens to address the interaction and connections between disasters and conflict across the Post-2015 SDGs. In addition, the value added by FAR

to the Post-2015 SDG debates on targets, indicators, and measurement of progress – particularly in relation to Goal 16 – was thought to be potentially highly significant.

- The articulation of peacebuilding and statebuilding goals in the New Deal and the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) – and particularly the concern with fragility assessments and resilience as an alternative to fragility – continues to offer a clear space for policy contributions by FAR. There is also a growing thirst for developing alternative understandings of resilience within G7+ countries. The IDPS also offers some tactical space in particular for civil society engagement in development aid debates, and Interpeace is well positioned to engage in these spaces. In addition to the policy opportunities in this sphere based on our resilience work per se, there are also opportunities to intervene in the policy debates associated with measurement and assessment of progress in peacebuilding.

Interpeace's research on resilience for peacebuilding may also offer opportunities to help shape the policy agenda, rather than simply reacting to it. Potential opportunities to define the policy agenda might include:

- Redefining the symbiotic relationship between conflict and disaster through the resilience lens, illuminating the political nature of disaster recovery and the distinctive notions of resilience across these interconnected fields.
- In many conflict affected societies, there is a significant disconnect between restorative and traditional justice systems on one hand, and formal justice systems on the other. Yet FAR has illustrated how at various times these systems - and access to them - is a source of important resilience in the face of potential conflict. Conflict-affected communities have often proven to be highly innovative in using a mixture of traditional and state justice systems to address some of these conflicts. Yet at the policy level there are real gaps in the integration of justice systems across these institutional divides. The resilience lens therefore offers a potentially unique contribution to the policy of integrating diverse systems of justice. This is an unresolved area of policy development and research.
- FAR and the study of resilience can advance our understanding of the changes in patterns of violence that occur during conflict and in the “post-conflict” context. Conflict is dynamic and nonlinear, and the study of resilience as an endogenous and creative response of affected communities, can help to detect these subtle shifts in the patterns and orientation of violence and conflict. Both the FAR methods of expanded consultation and mixed methods research, as well as the substantive meanings attributed to resilience, can help to elucidate the continuities and changes in patterns of conflict and risks of violence in fragile and conflict-affected societies.

Peacebuilding, especially in the wake of the post 9/11 “war on terror”, is frequently approached through a dominant and frequently militarized security lens. Yet by focusing on endogenous sources of resilience for peacebuilding, we may contribute to reshaping some of these policy conversations. Participants discussed the example of engaging the current policy debates on “countering violent extremism” with the potential to add a level of sophistication to the discussion of why young people join violent groups or participate in violence, or why – on the other hand – they might be resilient in the face of this. The relationship of resilience and individuals' or communities' sense level inclusion or marginalization may offer alternative ways of understanding and developing strategies to counteract violent extremism.

- The resilience for peacebuilding lens offers a host of possible policy interventions at the intersection of various fields because of the diverse sources, manifestations and capacities for resilience. As such, some of the creative opportunities in the policy sphere are where resilience intersects with inclusive governance

and democratization, gender or youth policy debates, at the interface between development and conflict, alternative approaches to violence prevention, etc. In this respect participants warned that resilience could lose its distinctiveness if it “bled” into all these distinct fields, but on the other hand, offers a unique lens through which to address policy debates in many of these connected fields of endeavor.

National Level

There was a strong incentive and articulation from the country teams that FAR could not stop at the participatory research process as an extractive exercise for the sake of engaging in international policy making, nor could it remain credible if it was just a conceptual debate or dialogue vehicle for its own sake. So, there was a clear sense of the importance of public policy opportunities and forums that could be utilized and occupied at the national level in each country. However, there was an organizational approach to this in each of the country cases where one of the key goals of the working groups established in each country, was to define the policy agenda for FAR at the country level. It was also noted that as circumstances shift on the ground, so the policy priorities and opportunities may shift – in Liberia as the Ebola epidemic wound down, or as the exit of UNMIL became a real prospect; in Guatemala as the dramatic shifts started to manifest through anti-corruption measures and the activation of a new social movement; or in Timor-Leste as corruption took root, or as leadership shifts took place as an old liberation movement navigated the politics of making the transition to a government in power. As a result, there was not much substantive discussion at the workshop about specific policy opportunities at the national level. There were some general observations made, however, for example about the relevance of the New Deal and IDPS debates at the country level in Liberia and Timor-Leste in particular, both of which are G7+ member states. In addition, it was also noted that debates on peace vs. stability and the militarization of security, especially in the wake of the “war on terror”, are very present at the national policymaking level, as are debates over the relationship between traditional and more state-centered systems of justice, etc.

Risks

Some of the guidance offered by participants at the workshop, signaled that there are some hurdles to overcome in seeking to translate FAR into effective policy interventions at national and international levels. This guidance from external specialists and reflection by country teams and the Interpeace FAR team made mention of the following:

- Policymakers may not be able to operationalize Interpeace's in-depth research, and there is a corresponding risk that policymakers may oversimplify the resilience perspective. There was a strong incentive to develop a messaging strategy that specifically targets the policy community and makes this research easily accessible for them.
- When making recommendations, it was suggested that we may need to target individual silos with specific policy recommendations, rather than seeking to create or use a general platform.
- It can be difficult for the UN and other large intergovernmental actors to accept new ideas because there is competition over the responsibility for the implementation of these new ideas. Territoriality is common in these large institutions and can plague effective policy strategies.

- We need to remember that the UN does not always represent the locus of social change. National civil society, which often relies on funding from other bilateral governmental partners, however often faces different significant constraints as the UN.
- Policy end-goals may not be a satisfactory goal for the local people who participated in the FAR process; it may be too far removed from their daily life.
- Peace and resilience mean something different to different constituencies in society. Strengthening resilience may inadvertently exacerbate existing inequalities.

PART IV: CONCLUSION AND OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

In order to utilize FAR to its full potential, it was noted that it is important to reflect on and document lessons learned as much as possible. The country teams should also be documenting the extent to which the FAR process is flexible; teams should note where general FAR processes are being applied and where national goal setting is occurring. Whenever possible, country teams should identify which groups are participating in FAR, and what specific stressor/s they are discussing. External experts and scholars participating in the workshop noted that the systematic documentation of processes, findings and reflections will facilitate comparative analysis between the three pilot countries and this will help to identify which aspects of resilience are generic, and which are context specific. It was clearly indicated that this will be of enormous value to policy-makers, academics and expert practitioners alike.

A second global methodology workshop is planned to take place once country teams would have concluded the national working group process in their respective countries, as well as undertaking national surveys in two of the three country cases (Guatemala and Timor-Leste). The space afforded by the first workshop, as should be the case for the second, was welcomed by all participants in the Global Methodology Workshop as an important methodological component of the FAR project. These workshops are intended to stimulate reflection and advance a better understanding of resilience and equip the FAR research teams with additional tools and concepts to advance the FAR process at the local level. At the same time, this was acknowledged as a unique opportunity for international experts to gain insights into the opportunities and challenges of the practical application of the resilience lens in conflict-affected countries. Feedback strongly indicated that this dialectic between practice, policy and scholarship should be optimized in order to advance better peacebuilding policy reflective of authentic voices from the affected communities, as well as to enhance resilience-based peacebuilding processes. The evolving interdisciplinary scholarship around resilience can both feed into and be enriched by the reflections from peacebuilding practice and policy. It was frequently noted in the course of the workshop, however, that the challenges of “translation” and quest for a common language that spans the realms of scholarship, policy and practice, ought not to be underestimated. Despite this, it was also noted that the FAR Global Methodology Workshop itself offered an illustration of innovative process and practice through which this can be achieved.

In conclusion, the following were identified among several outstanding questions to stimulate further reflection and ongoing discussion:

- Is the study of resilience merely “old wine in new bottles?” It was suggested that the best way to engage this debate may be to think about the study of resilience as “mature wine” in new bottles. It was posited that resilience may potentially capture the best parts of peacebuilding. At the same time, it was cautioned that as we proceed, it should be with some caution about how resilience has become the new buzz word and is in danger – and the poorly defined notion of peacebuilding once was – of becoming about absolutely everything so generalized that it is in fact at risk of being focused on nothing in particular.
- An outstanding question that was posed was about what precisely might be the impact of civil society organizations in general - and NGOs in particular - on resilience? Weak states sometimes rely on external actors to provide basic goods and services as a coping mechanism. Does the activity of external actors erode trust in the state and state institutions, or can it contribute critically to resilience at the community level in the absence of state service delivery?
- The question was raised about whether there are mechanisms through which Interpeace could contribute to the UN’s work through its resilience approach, and where UN actors could potentially support Interpeace? What does Interpeace seek from international actors?

- Finally, the question was posed about how we sustain the practitioner/ expert relationships and interactions, and maintain the spirit of reciprocal learning and partnership so creatively enabled by the FAR Global Methodology Workshop?

ANNEXES:

List of Participants

1. PHUONG PHAM, director of evaluation research at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI)
2. PATRICK VINCK, director of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative's Peace and Human Rights Data Program
3. ALEXANDROS LORDOS, Research Director of the Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD), Cyprus
4. ROB RICIGLIANO, systems and complexity coach at The Omidyar Group, chair of the board of directors for the Alliance for Peacebuilding.
5. AMI CARPENTER, Associate Professor at the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies at University of San Diego
6. ERIN MCCANDLESS, Chief Editor of the Journal of Peacebuilding and Development, and tenured part-time Professor at the New School's Graduate Program in International Affairs
7. RACHEL LOCKE, Senior Conflict and Peacebuilding Advisor with USAID's Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation and the team lead for Policy
8. PETER WOODROW, is Executive Director of CDA (formally, CDA Collaborative Learning Projects) in Cambridge, Massachusetts
9. JOHN LEWIS, peacebuilding specialist with UNICEF
10. JORDAN RYAN, Vice President, Peace Program for The Carter Center, Atlanta, Georgia
11. HUGH MACLEMAN, **Policy Advisor – Risk and Resilience, OECD Development Cooperation Division**
12. ANDREA Ó SÚILLEABHÁIN, Senior Policy Analyst at the International Peace Institute and an Adjunct Professor of Conflict Analysis at Pace University
13. ÅSA WALLTON, Senior Policy Specialist, Human Security at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
14. ANA GLENDA TAGER ROSADO, Latin American Regional Director of Interpeace
15. GRAEME SIMPSON, Director of Interpeace USA and Senior Advisor to the Interpeace Director General
16. MAUD ROURE, Head of Learning and Policy, Interpeace
17. RENÉE LARIVIÈRE, Deputy Director General for Development and Learning at Interpeace
18. ANNE MOLTES, Regional Director of the Interpeace Office for West Africa
19. JAMES S SHILUE, Executive Director for Platform for Dialogue and Peace (P4DP)
20. GODFREY ELOHO, Manager for Operations and Research at the Platform for Dialogue and Peace (P4DP)
21. OTTO ARGUETA, learning and policy officer for the Interpeace Regional Office in Latin America
22. JOANA VIEGAS, the FAR lead Researcher at the Centre of Studies for Peace and Development (CEPAD) in Timor Leste
23. CAITLIN LEAHY, Resilience Project Coordinator with the Centre of Studies for Peace and Development (CEPAD) in Timor-Leste
24. Anupah Makoond, FAR Programme Officer, Interpeace

Agenda

GLOBAL METHODOLOGY WORKSHOP

FRAMEWORKS FOR ASSESSING RESILIENCE

April 14th to April 17th

New York, USA

The Framework for Assessing Resilience (FAR) is a two year programme created by Interpeace and funded by the Swedish Cooperation - SIDA. By way of a mixed methods approach that includes dialogue, surveys and participatory action research implemented at the country level, supplemented by a literature and practice review moderated by an International steering committee, this project aims to develop nationally owned and context specific tools (frameworks, indicators, methodologies) that can be used to assess resilience in conflict-affected societies. It focuses on the positive capacities that contribute to resilience rather than sources of fragility of a country. In its first phase that ran from March 2014 to February 2015, local populations in the three pilot countries – Liberia, Guatemala and Timor-Leste - were engaged in a nationwide consultative process to identify sources and manifestations of resilience in relation to conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

The Global Methodology Workshop aims to be a critical moment of exchange and reflection between the three country teams, with a view to planning the second phase of the project. It is structured as a two-part workshop with the first two days dedicated to the horizontal exchange between the country teams implementing the project nationally and the last two days constituting a reflective practitioner dialogue that will include peacebuilding scholars and practitioners with expertise in the development of assessment frameworks and/or resilience. The goal of this workshop is both to provide intellectual stimulus and strategic orientation to the implementation of the FAR project and also to serve as a forum for sharing and testing the emerging reflections from the FAR project with scholars and practitioners working on resilience in the peacebuilding field.

Workshop Objectives

- Provide a space for FAR country teams and the FAR steering committee to reflect and compare the processes and findings from three pilot countries.
- Serve as a forum for sharing and testing the emerging reflections from the FAR project with scholars and practitioners working on resilience in the peacebuilding field.

- Allow Interpeace and its partners to review and if needed, fine-tune the global objectives of the FAR project, particularly as it relates to policy influencing, and to propose a strategy for meeting these objectives.

Agenda

	Tuesday 14 th April	Wednesday 15 th April	Thursday 16 th April	Friday 17 th April
9.00 – 9.15	Introduction, Workshop Objectives and Agenda	Review of what are the day’s objectives based on previous day’s progress + any announcements/housekeeping matters		
9.15 – 10.15		Reflection on Methodology: <i>Presentation by Each teams (see notes on <u>Presentation 2</u>)</i>	FAR research teams’ presentation to experts	Interactive Session - What can the peacebuilding field learn from this experiment and vice versa <i>(see suggested themes below)</i>
10.15 – 11.15	What have we learnt about Resilience so far in Liberia, Timor-Leste and Guatemala <i>Presentation by each teams (see notes on <u>Presentation 1</u>)</i>	BREAK		
11.15 – 11.30				
11.30– 12. 15		Introducing Quantitative Research alongside participatory, qualitative research	Plenary Discussion: Reaction and reflections on presentations	
12.15 – 13.00				
13.00 – 14.00	LUNCH			
14.00 – 14. 45	What do these three countries/cases tell us about Resilience for peacebuilding	Policy Impact of FAR	Interactive Dialogue with guest scholars and practitioners: Reflective inputs from guests followed by discussion in group and plenary <i>(see suggested themes below)</i>	Concluding Plenary Discussion: Way Forward
14.45 – 15.30				
15.30 – 15.45	BREAK			
15.45 – 16.30	Resilience as a (new) lens for orienting our work in peacebuilding?	Presentation to Experts - <i>Preparation</i>		Methodology/process planning - next Steps for FAR
16.30 – 17. 15				
17.15 – 17.30:	RECAP of DAY: What have we achieved; Need to review Agenda?			Closing remarks

Presentations

In order to share information, we would like to invite each country team to make two presentations. In order to help you prepare, here are some guidelines on each presentation

Presentation 1

Each country should present in about 15-20 minutes if possible. The presentations should be analytical and optimally with Powerpoint slides. The aim of this presentation is to provide the other teams with information on what information and insights the FAR programme has generated to date in your country. The following guiding questions may help to orient your presentation

- 1) How did you approach the concept of resilience when seeking the perspectives of those you consulted?
 - a. What was your working definition?
 - b. What were some of the key ways in which those consulted expressed the concept of resilience?
- 2) Findings from the field. Summarize the key findings, use examples to illustrate where appropriate.

Presentation 2

The intent of this session is for each participant to gain a better understanding of the FAR country processes and its lessons from the methodological standpoint. A few important components of the methodology to be used in FAR (PAR, mixed-methods approach, Global Desk review as the analytical framework for the consultations) were agreed upon at the FAR kick-off workshop in March 2014. However, the application of these methodological components is likely to be different from one country to the other due to context specificities and team's adaptations and creativities. What this session could help elicit is how each country team fine-tuned and adapted the methodology, while trying to ensuring local ownership and legitimacy of the process and findings.

You will have 10 minutes to present to the rest of the group the following:

- 1) What are the key methodological approaches that you have used and the challenges you confronted (*As a guide, it may be useful to follow the FAR process laid out below and which was developed at the outset of the project with representatives of all country teams – see below*)
- 2) What were some of the unexpected outcomes of the process (not only in terms of reactions/responses but in terms of process/expectations/opportunities/risks?)
 - *What were some of the ways in which you had to adapt the process and methodology in order to respond to the context or the nature of the research?*
 - *In what ways did you innovate?*

3) Relation between methodology and principles of local ownership and legitimacy:

- *For the initial consultative phase, how did you ensure that the output, i.e. the country note will be a legitimate basis from which to engage a national working group in a nationally owned process?*
- *How did you design and/or implement the National Group/Forum to ensure national ownership of the consultation findings?*
- *How are you planning the working group phase so as to ensure that it is a nationally owned and legitimate process which orients the development of a contextually relevant framework for assessing resilience?*

		Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5
NATIONAL PROCESS	Activity	Consultation Process Design	Consultation Process	National Group/ Forum to validate consultation output and finalize country note	National Working Groups	National Group/ Forum to validate the National Frameworks for Assessing Resilience
	Outputs	Consultation Design	Post Consultation reflection Workshop Notes	Country Note	National Frameworks for Assessing Resilience	
SURVEY		Survey Design			Survey Implementation	
GLOBAL PROCESSES	Activity	Global Desk Review		1 st Global Methodology Workshop	Production and dissemination of Policy Briefs	2 nd Global Methodology Workshop
	Output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Desk Review Document • Policy Briefs • Document on Assessing Resilience for Peacebuilding 				

Interactive discussion

International ‘experts’ in the role of advisors and respondents

It is proposed that we organize the interactive conversation around several ‘thematic’ prompts. It is clear that there are some overlaps between these topics and our scholars and “practitioner-experts” are not expected to only talk to specific topics or questions – we don’t want to pigeon-hole any of them, as they all boast rich and diverse experiences and backgrounds. But we may ask particular people to act as primary respondents on particular topics.

The following themes also relate to key issues that were engaged in the global desk review, and which also surfaced in the various country studies/consultation processes. Each is framed via some key questions (but these are also not exhaustive).

1. *Levels of analysis/social constituencies and the potential of a systems approach to resilience for peacebuilding.*

To a greater or lesser extent, the country studies grapple with ‘where resilience is found’ by reference to various levels: individual, familial, community, institutional and national, etc. Furthermore, resilience takes different forms, meanings and manifestations if viewed through the lens of different societal groups or social constituencies, such as youth, women, victims, ex-combatants, etc. What can we learn from these different levels of analysis? What does this imply for resilience at the societal level or state level? How might resilience translate to scale? How does a systems approach help in our understanding and strategic approach to resilience for peacebuilding?

2. *Ownership and legitimacy*

FAR deliberately seeks to elicit endogenous sources of resilience, through inclusive and participatory mixed methods research, and the recognition of local agency. From both a methodological and a substantive standpoint, does this have particular implications for the role of international actors? What are the implications for the role of resilience in peacebuilding practice? How does this approach impact the legitimacy of the politics of resilience?

3. *The assessment lens.*

A key challenge of the FAR program is to develop guidance and methodological frameworks for how we might better assess resilience and its contribution to peacebuilding, based on the perspectives of the people themselves in conflict affected societies. What do the findings from the three country consultations suggest about the ways in which we assess and measure resilience (both a methodological and content question)?

4. *Context-specific and generic resilience “factors”?*

From the inputs and findings of the three country cases, is it possible to talk in generic terms about cross-cutting resilience factors, or are these so context- and conflict-specific that it is not possible to speak in general terms about indicators of resilience?

5. *Policy implications*

How could the findings from FAR and from the three country studies feed into and shape current national or international policy debates in a fashion that matters to peacebuilding on the ground?

6. *Resilience – old wine in new bottles?*

How do the emerging notions of resilience relate to ‘positive’ peacebuilding? Are we seeing new value and opportunities from a practitioner’s rather than merely a conceptual perspective? How distinctive is resilience for peacebuilding and how does it relate to notions of social cohesion and social capital?