



Who we are

Peacebuild is a network of 69 Canadian-based non-governmental and civil society organizations, researchers, and individuals who are committed to promoting a vibrant and robust Canadian peacebuilding constituency. Peacebuild is a proven vehicle for expanding and improving Canadian understanding of and responses to threats to international peace and security through information sharing, dialogue and collaborative action. It bridges and enriches non-governmental and governmental dialogue and interaction to strengthen Canadian policy options and practice.

Peacebuild's overarching objective is to support greater and more effective Canadian participation in peacebuilding activities internationally by:

- Enabling peacebuilding and human security policy dialogue and policy development involving Canadian non-governmental and governmental agencies and individuals and others;
- Enabling active collaboration and knowledge exchange between Canadian peacebuilding organizations and their international counterparts;
- Undertaking and facilitating systematic learning and dissemination and application of learning related to peacebuilding objectives, practices and outcomes.

What we do

Peacebuild acts as a facilitator of dialogue and consultation among its members and between its members and a wide range of governmental and non-governmental actors working in or on conflict. It helps distill and synthesize knowledge and its programming and policy implications. It serves as a catalyst for collaboration and new directions.

Activities in five thematic issue areas are led by Peacebuild Working Groups – the Children and Armed Conflict Forum, Conflict Prevention, Gender and Peacebuilding, Peace Operations and Small Arms. Network Working Groups, the Secretariat and individual members also play leading roles in both the Sudan InterAgency Reference Group and the Afghanistan Reference Group, key mechanisms for NGO-governmental interaction on these priority conflict situations. The network Secretariat focuses on administrative and programmatic planning and coordination, network communications, and research and dialogue on Emerging Issues.

Where we are going

In 2007, **Peacebuild** undertook an assessment of its strengths and weaknesses, consulting in-depth with its membership and other stakeholders to identify its priorities for the future. The resulting Strategic Direction document provides a clear and coherent vision for the network for the coming five years. A two-year Business Plan operationalizes that vision and lists the network's immediate priorities:



- To broaden, deepen and renew Canada's peacebuilding network by engaging a wide range of practitioners, researchers, and other interested parties, with a particular emphasis on involving young people;
- To explore a range of emerging issue, including the changing nature of armed conflict and types of governance and democratization processes, and identify innovative, timely and effective normative and operational peacebuilding responses;
- To demonstrate and communicate what does and does not work in conflict prevention and peacebuilding programming;
- To further develop consistent and effective organizational practices regarding staff, policy and procedures, administrative and programmatic support;
- To secure continuity and predictability of funding adequate to support and substantially advance the network's objectives.

Projected Working Group activities 2008-2010

Children and Armed Conflict Forum

- Children and Armed Conflict Forum NGO-Government of Canada dialogue, ongoing
- Child-friendly version of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Children in Armed Conflict
- Collaboration with the Government of Canada on training material and awareness-raising on the various norms and standards applicable to the protection and promotion of children affected by armed conflict.
- Dialogue with CIDA to improve funding mechanisms related to children in armed conflict to take into account normative developments.

Conflict Prevention

- Conflict Prevention in the Americas: Action research to foster civil society, governmental collaboration in preventing conflict in Haiti and Bolivia
- Civil society dimensions of an Afghanistan peace process.
- Coordinating Canadian participation in the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) network

Gender and Peacebuilding

- Gender-based violence in Central Africa: coordinating and communicating Canadian civil society involvement
- Gender training for organizations working in fragile states and post-conflict settings
- Women's World Congress: Ottawa 2011
- Lessons learned in increasing women's leadership in peacebuilding: Case study series
- Gender, education, and peacebuilding: A case study series
- Participation as an NGO representative on the Canadian Delegation to the 52nd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

Peace Operations

- Peace Operations Monitor Website
- Afghanistan Reference Group - Government of Canada Afghanistan Task Force, other stakeholders, dialogues, ongoing
- NGO-Government dialogues (2 thematic, 2 geographic with respect to specific peace operations)
- Collaboration with civil society networks related to operationalizing Responsibility to Protect norms

Small Arms

- Participation in the UN Program of Action Biennial Meeting of States (BMS 2008)
- BMS debriefing meetings in Ottawa with government officials and parliamentarians.
- Development NGO meeting on Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development.
- Participation in anticipated UN Program of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons “Intersessional” meeting.
- “Intersessional” debriefing meetings in Ottawa with government officials and with parliamentarians.
- Meeting in region outside Ontario and Quebec on small arms issues to advance engagement (for example, of new NGOs and youth).
- Commission three policy research papers on issues arising from the BMS and the UN Program of Action process
- Commission three policy research papers related to the UN Program of Action, including issues arising from the “Intersessional” meeting and the Geneva Declaration process.
- Participation in International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) meetings and side-events at the BMS

Collaborative Activities

- Afghanistan Reference Group
- Sudan InterAgency Reference Group
- Peace Operations Monitor
- Islam and UNSCR 1325 in Afghanistan
- Islam and UNSCR 1325: research and tool-kit
- Women and Children in Post-Conflict Reintegration: Community-University Research Alliance project with Low and Middle Income country-partners

Secretariat activities 2008-2010

- Emerging Issues Initiative
- Annual Peacebuilding Dialogue
- Peacebuild website and electronic newsletter
- Peacebuilding and New Media research
- Membership management and membership annual survey
- Program planning, fund-raising, monitoring and reporting

Emerging Issues Initiative

Through Peacebuild’s strategic review process members identified four emerging and overlapping priority themes that will inform network programming choices into the future:

Trends in Organized Armed Violence

- The changing nature of armed conflict, including the increasing prevalence of counter-insurgency/counter-terrorism operations as central components of peace operations; the securitization of humanitarian aid and development assistance and the shrinking humanitarian space; possible interventions under the “Responsibility to Protect;” the political economy of armed conflict and the role of non-state actors (e.g. ‘violence entrepreneurs,’ private contractors and the broader private sector).

- The prevention of armed violence in cases that fall outside of traditional definitions of armed conflict, including organized armed violence in cities, the privatization of security outside of formal armed conflicts, and inter-communal violence with an emphasis on potential drivers.
- State-centric approaches to security and their limitations in addressing the contemporary realities of human/personal and transnational security issues; the future of human security and the responsibility to protect; the security discourse of a “war on terror”; the policy debate framed around “failed and fragile” states; disenfranchisement and unequal citizenship, i.e. whose security is prioritized?

State and Civil Society Capacities to Prevent and Resolve Conflict

- To explore and identify in theory and in practice the linkages between weak governance practice and structures, and the prevalence of conflict at both national and international levels. Key themes include democratization and disenfranchised populations, weak institutions and state-building, reform of the security sectors and entrenched corruption among economic and political elites.

Identity, Communities and Conflict

- To map the intersections of conflict and identity (gender, age, class, race, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, etc.). Key themes may include the link between increased militarism and destructive constructions of gender or the disproportionate effects of conflict on children, youth and the poor;
- To explore emerging ‘spaces’ of conflict, which challenge traditional approaches to conflict management and resolution, including those that are ideologically-based (e.g. religious identities and fundamentalisms of all kinds) and move across borders, propelled by communications and information technologies.

Peacebuilding Policies and Mechanisms

- Tracking national and international compliance with and implementation of international standards and agreements (e.g. commitments on war-affected children, the UN Program of Action on Small Arms, Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development), and analyzing broad Canadian and international policy directions and institutional capacity as they relate to peacebuilding (e.g. CIDA, DFAIT, DND, UN Peacebuilding Commission, UNDPKO, UNDP, international financial organizations, regional organizations etc.).

Budget Estimate

Funding totaling approximately \$1.7 million to support Peacebuild network activities for the period from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2010 is being sought from CIDA, DFAIT and IDRC. In-kind contributions by member organizations and individuals are expected to amount to approximately \$392,000 for the two-year period.