

Terms of Reference

Invitation to Tender: Christian Aid Policy Paper on Drugs and (Dis)Order in Colombia

April 2021

Introduction

The drugs and (dis)order project is a four-year project (2017-2021) which seeks to find policy solutions for the transformation of war economies into peace economies. It is funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), with the University of London SOAS as the lead partner. This research project looks at illegal drug economies in three different countries: Myanmar, Afghanistan and Colombia.

Christian Aid's role in the Drugs and Disorder project is two-fold: 1) to engage development and peacebuilding actors at the global level, and 2) to support partners and communities in Colombia to engage in policy and advocacy in this issue. Christian Aid's global peacebuilding team 'From Violence to Peace' manages the Christian Aid contribution to this consortium.

In this final year of the project, we wish to draw on the work which has been carried out by Christian Aid Colombia on this project, to develop a paper for policy audiences in Colombia, but also the peacebuilding sector globally.

Background to the paper

Christian Aid Colombia has been engaged with this project over the past four years. We have worked primarily with two community collectives in coca-producing areas- COCCAM from 2018 to 2020, and ASCAMCAT from 2020 to date.

Activities:

Institutional strengthening of partners' capacities: implemented a women and youth strategy to engage local authorities in Catatumbo on war to peace transitions; workshops on the war to peace transition in relation to alternative livelihoods and value chain of the strategy.

Workshop to be led by Universidad Nacional about changing narratives around small producers of coca leaves.

A survey of people registered in the 'Programa Nacional de Sustitución de Cultivos Ilícitos (PNIS), carried out in 2019 and again in 2021 by Universidad Nacional. Communications campaign: "Rostros que siembran". Campaign done with COCCAM in social media and news media to contribute to change the perception of the public of coca growers and stop stigmatization.

Protection workshop with partner Cajar and COCCAM.

The intention, therefore, is that the researcher should draw on this work and produce a policy paper which outlines the key findings of the project, highlights significant case studies, and produces recommendations for policy and practice on that basis. This will require a comprehensive review of the project literature, as well as interviews and discussions with staff of Christian Aid Colombia and local partners.

There are also two main academic consortium partners for the Drugs and (dis)order project in Colombia: the Universidad Nacional de Colombia and the Centro de Estudios sobre Seguridad y Drogas

(CESED), Universidad de los Andes, who both report directly to SOAS. While their work will not be the main focus of this policy paper, the researcher will need to familiarise themselves with their published work on this topic, including blogs and articles published on the [Drugs and Disorder](#) website, and articles published in academic journals, including the [March 2021](#) Special Issue of the International Journal of Drug Policy. Some of the academic work has been carried out in collaboration with Christian Aid Colombia, notably the [survey mentioned above](#) on the implementation of PNIS, the national crop substitution programme.

Proposed outline of the paper

Based on the format below, the successful researcher should provide a detailed outline of the paper for discussion with Christian Aid at an early point in the project.

The paper should not exceed 15-20 pages in length, including the abstract and overview.

- A very brief abstract for time-constrained policy makers (half a page)
- A 2-3 page executive summary which will draw selectively on cases and examples from the research to support its points.
- Introduction.
- The Peace Agreement and drugs – what are the key issues about drugs in Colombia that relate to violence and peace, a section explaining the background to the inclusion of the crop substitution programme (PNIS) as Point 4 of the Colombia Peace Agreement, and a critique of its implementation to date. This would also include a brief global comparator drawing on the wider drugs and (dis)order research. Key resources: [PNIS survey](#); [Colombia stakeholder analysis](#); internal Christian Aid study by Susana Arango; forthcoming Christian Aid global policy paper on drugs and (dis) order.
- Key issues arising from the research. The objective is to briefly outline the key activities and approaches undertaken by Christian Aid and partners under the Drugs and Disorder project and to draw out key findings, learnings and themes. Key resources: project documents provided by Christian Aid; interviews with Christian Aid staff and with local partners.
- Conclusions and recommendations. The researcher will be responsible for producing draft recommendations; but final recommendations will be the responsibility of Christian Aid. Recommendations will be aimed at the Colombian government, bilateral governments and other institutions and NGOs supporting peace in Colombia.

Qualifications and experience required

- Expertise and experience in the fields of illicit economies and/or peacebuilding.
- A strong understanding of locally led and partnership-based approaches to development, and proven expertise in linking academic and research findings to policy and practice.
- A clear, concise and persuasive writing style, and experience in writing for advocacy
- A very high level of fluency in both English and Spanish. It is expected that the final paper should be produced in Spanish, with an executive summary provided in both English and Spanish.

- Proven ability to produce quality outputs on time, with minimal supervision
- Patience and skill in incorporating edits and suggestions from a number of reviewers

Paper dissemination how are we going to use it? Will policy briefs be taken out of it? What are the targets? Could an advocacy strategy be built?

Timetable

A detailed outline of the paper should be produced by late October. A first draft of the full paper should be submitted by mid-November, with a final draft due by mid-December 2021. The objective is to launch the paper close to the five year anniversary of the Colombia Peace Agreement.

Budget

The maximum budget for this work is €5,000.

Project management

The Christian Aid Colombia team will be responsible for providing the researcher with access to interviews and documents, and will invite and moderate editorial comments from the academic partners in Colombia. Christian Aid's global peacebuilding team, based in Ireland, will invite and moderate editorial comment from the SOAS central consortium team, and will have final editorial sign off on the paper.

Format of tender

In responding to this invitation, tenders should provide the following information, striving for no more than 2,000 words:

- Name, address, telephone number and email address of tenderer, and website if any.
- The name and contact details of the person who will be responsible for the contract and for liaising with Christian Aid Ireland.
- A brief statement of eligibility, including previous projects undertaken on illicit economies, development and peace specifically that are relevant to the proposal.
- A brief statement of the proposed approach to the project, including a breakdown of days assigned to each element and measures to ensure that the project will be completed within the agreed timeframe.
- Proposed fee for the project (indicating VAT), inclusive of expenses, costs, taxes or duties that may be incurred.
- Details of two relevant client referees for contracts undertaken within the last three years in areas related to the subject matter of this research project, or a brief description of research in comparable areas with peer reviewed publications.

- Confirmation of acceptance by the tenderer of the conditions of tender set out below.
- Confirmation that tenderer is in possession of a valid tax clearance certificate.
- A brief curriculum vitae in annex.

General conditions of tender

- The proposal submitted, and any subsequent clarification discussions and written communications between the parties, will form the basis of a contract for services to be agreed between Christian Aid Ireland and the successful consultant.
- The successful consultant shall be responsible for the delivery of all services provided within the terms of the contract on the basis of the agreed fees set at the beginning of the contract.
- Christian Aid Ireland retains the right to withhold payment of fees where a consultant has failed to meet its contractual obligations in relation to the delivery of services to an acceptable level of quality.
- Any conflicts of interest must be fully disclosed by the tenderer to Christian Aid Ireland upon submission of tender.
- Christian Aid Ireland is not bound to accept the lowest tender or any tender offered.
- Christian Aid Ireland will not be liable for any costs incurred by tenderers in formulating or presenting proposals.
- Christian Aid Ireland and the tenderer undertake to ensure the confidentiality of information provided by either party in relation to this invitation to tender, subject to the parties' obligations under the law.

Deadline

Tenders can be sent either via email to Christian Aid Ireland no later than Friday, 24th September. Tenders should be addressed to: Paul Quinn, pquinn@christian-aid.org .