

Consultancy: Towards a more inclusive security sector in Myanmar

Background

Saferworld is an independent international organisation working to prevent violent conflict and build safer lives. We have programmes in around 20 countries and territories across Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Europe. We work with local people affected by conflict to improve their safety and sense of security, and conduct wider research and analysis. We use this evidence and learning to improve local, national and international policies and practices that can help build lasting peace.

Saferworld has been engaging in Myanmar since 2012 and has undertaken a range of projects related to security and justice provision and to conflict sensitivity. The main focus of our work currently is to strengthen the security of communities in southeast Myanmar, while contributing to the development of a security sector that is more responsive to the needs of communities in the country as a whole. Saferworld's approach to security provision is based on the evidence that for the security sector to be responsive it must be both inclusive and accountable.

Rationale

In light of recent developments in Myanmar's peace process and changes in the political landscape, questions about the future structure and governance of the security sector have become central to the country's long-term stability and development. Such questions have arisen in the context of the peace process, particularly the political dialogue, which began in 2016, and includes security as one of its five key themes.

Under the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement of October 2015, the former Myanmar government, the Tatmadaw and some ethnic armed organisations (EAOs) made an unprecedented commitment "to establish a Union based on the principles of democracy and federalism". In addition, it was agreed that there should be a dual process of security sector reform (SSR) and disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) - referred to in the NCA as 'security re-integration'. This raises important questions about what a transition from a *de facto* unitary structure to a more federal security structure in Myanmar would look like, and how EAOs might be incorporated into it.

Based on consultations with a range of stakeholders in Myanmar, Saferworld identified a pressing need for more information about past experiences of DDR/SSR in Myanmar and what are the current views of the major stakeholders; as well as about comparative models of federal security structures and post-conflict security integration. To help address the first information gap, in the Spring of 2017, Saferworld will publish a report (in Burmese and English) on 'Security integration in Myanmar: past experiences and future visions'. This report was written to inform all stakeholders involved in the peace process about previous experiences of SSR in Myanmar, and about the views of the major stakeholders - the National League for Democracy (NLD), the Tatmadaw, and Myanmar's multiple EAOs - as to the future process. It examines previous attempts at security integration, considers the current state of play in relation to the political context and peace process, and reflects on the positions and perspectives of key stakeholders regarding the future structure and governance of the security sector.

Saferworld now plans to publish a companion report to help address the information gap regarding relevant models of security structures and post-conflict integration, drawing on case-studies of comparative experiences. This will provide information and analysis regarding: a) security structures consistent with federal systems of government, and b) experiences of post-conflict integration of state

and non-state security forces. Saferworld has prepared a preliminary desk-based study of two examples of federal security structures and two experiences of post-conflict security integration, including implications for security sector transformation in Myanmar drawn from the case-studies.

Saferworld will now commission an SSR expert to strengthen and deepen the initial study, and to produce a high quality report for publication (which will be translated into Burmese). The purpose is to inform a range of Myanmar stakeholders, including state and non-state actors, about different models of SSR; as well as to catalyse dialogue about how to develop more inclusive and accountable security sector governance in Myanmar.

Specific tasks and objectives

To provide Saferworld with an expert paper that addresses the following objectives:

1. To review the preliminary study, to assess if the selected examples provide useful comparative examples for Myanmar, and if not to propose alternatives;
2. To provide a comparative analysis of the processes and key features of the four selected case-studies, including strengths and weaknesses;
3. To extrapolate from the case-studies key lessons and implications for the process of security integration within a federal structure in Myanmar.

Output:

1 paper of maximum 30 pages, including relevant case-studies, comparative analysis and lessons/implications for security sector transformation in Myanmar.

A draft version of the paper should be submitted to Saferworld for review and feedback; the consultant will then be responsible for revising the paper in response to Saferworld's comments.

Methodology

The paper will be based on desk-research of open-source materials, but informed by the consultant's own demonstrable SSR experience and expertise, including in relation to some or all of the case-study countries selected. Knowledge of the Myanmar political and security context is also essential.

Time-frame

The consultant is expected to spend a total of 10 days researching and drafting the paper, including a further 4 days revising the paper in light of Saferworld's feedback.

The draft paper must be submitted to Saferworld by May 31, 2017.

The final paper must be submitted to Saferworld by June 16, 2017.

Remuneration:

The consultant will receive a single payment in arrears upon satisfactory completion of the required task and presentation of an invoice to Saferworld. Payment will be made on the basis of a satisfactory output delivered rather than on the basis of the number of days worked.

Confidentiality and authorship

Saferworld will have exclusive ownership of the paper submitted by the consultant. Saferworld reserves the right to use this material in external publications. Saferworld will acknowledge the consultant's input in any published document that includes material submitted by the consultant, unless the consultant expressly wishes not to be acknowledged in such document(s).

Person specification

- Availability to complete the assignment within the designated timeframe;
- Familiarity with Myanmar, and understanding of the current political, security and peace processes.
- Demonstrable knowledge of SSR and related processes in a variety of conflict-affected states;
- Strong track record of analytical publications on SSR and related topics;
- Understanding of the international policy discourse on peacebuilding, security and justice;
- Ability to write succinct, high-quality analysis in excellent English;

Application procedure

Interested candidates should submit the following to maziz@saferworld.org.uk:

1. An Expression of Interest in the form of a letter outlining their relevant experience and suitability for the consultancy;
2. An example of their published written work on a related topic;
3. Curriculum Vitae;
4. Expected fee (expressed as a daily rate);
5. Names and contact details of two references.

The closing date for applications is April 28, 2017.