



Regional Workshop
Mitigating the Ramifications of
Conflict on Development:
Operationalizing *Pathways for Peace* in Arab States
Amman, 3 & 4 October 2018



Provisional Work Programme

Background

Building on a number of recent high-level policy and reform processes, including the UN Sustaining Peace Agenda, a joint UN-World Bank global study on conflict prevention, *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict (P4P)* reaffirms the importance of informed prevention. According to P4P, it is estimated that effective prevention would save anywhere from \$5 billion to \$70 billion per year for each affected country and the international community combined. Given the importance of prevention approach, there is increasing interest in understanding what it means to the Arab region and applying the findings from the global study in region specific context, so that the study can be practically used for advancing conflict prevention.

In a joint effort to regionalize the findings of this global study, UNDP and ESCWA seek to articulate a research agenda that will explore questions that are particularly relevant to Arab states. The research agenda, which will draw on the consultations of the workshop, will form the basis of a series of research papers to cumulate in an Arab region-specific study that will contribute to a more nuanced understanding of prevention in the Arab context and will inform the design and implementation of future prevention work. The envisioned workshop will highlight what has worked in the Arab region in supporting *a pathway to peace* and what can be improved.

Taken within the current Arab context and existing evidence about current realities, the ensuing research from the workshop's deliberations will benefit both work of the United Nations, civil society and academia.

Objective of the workshop

The workshop provides a platform for participants to examine the concept and key messages of the UN-WB Global Study *Pathways for Peace (P4P)*. Participants will look closely into multiple thematic areas covered in the Study and discuss its application to the Arab States given the specific regional contexts. Deliberations will exchange challenges and lessons learned from the field across countries in the region. The workshop ultimately aims to draw up a research agenda for priority issues and provide guidance for the experts in translating the priority issues into policy papers that would culminate in a publication *Operationalizing Pathways for Peace in Arab States*. Operationalizing Pathways for Peace in Arab states will contribute towards national and regional deliberations for peace and development on the Arab region, in addition to mitigating the ramifications of current conflict on development.

Work Programme

DAY ONE, 3 OCTOBER 2018

9:00 – 09:30 Registration

9.30 – 10.00 **Welcoming Address**

- Mr. Mounir Tabet, Deputy Executive Secretary, UN-ESCWA
- Mr. Khaled Abdelshafi, Director, UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States

Introduction and Framing Session: Overview of the Workshop

10.00 – 11.30 **An Overview of the Global Study: What are the major takeaways?**

Chair Mr. Mounir Tabet, Deputy Executive Secretary for Program, UN-ESCWA

Presenters of P4P Global Study:

- *Mr. Djordje Djordjevic, UNDP*
- *Mr. Ayham Al Maleh, PBSO*

Operationalization of P4P in the Arab region: Setting the Scene

- *Rationale for the contextualization for the Arab region*
- *What are the priorities for a pathway to peace for the Arab region?*

Discussants:

- *Prof. Sari Hanafi, American University of Beirut*
- *Ms. Laure Foucher, International Crisis Group*
- *Prof. Ibrahim Fraihat, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies*

General Discussion

The purpose of the Session is for the general discussion to articulate a set of development priorities or focus areas that would facilitate a pathway for peace in the Arab region.

The development priorities highlighted in the plenary session will be listed and categorized to be taken up by four focus groups. The themes of the groups (below) are suggested below but are open for revision following the plenary discussion.

11. 30 – 11.45 **Coffee Break**

11.45 – 13.00 **Plenary Session 1** (Continued)

13.00 – 14.00 **Lunch**

14.00 – 15.30 **Breakout Sessions**

Focus Group 1

Facilitated by Mr. Nabil Hassan, Independent Consultant

Social contracts and social cohesion. The *Pathways for Peace* study highlights that the Middle East and North Africa have seen the most rapid expansion and escalation of conflict in recent years, in large part because of a breakdown of social contracts between governments and peoples. It would be useful to know more about how social contracts are understood—for example, who is owed what, and by whom? — and also to know more about the relationships between inequality, provision of services, cross-sector coherence and prevention in the Arab region. How addressing exclusions and collective grievances can contribute to prevention? In addition to relating prevention to various topical issues, the *Pathways for Peace* study examines prevention in various phases of conflict. How does prevention-work manifest in situations of emerging risks, situations of high risks, after violence has started, after violence has ended? Is it possible to work on prevention during an active war? What would prevention work look like in ongoing conflicts in places like Libya, Syria, Yemen, Algeria, and Iraq?

Focus Group 2

Facilitated by Dr. Elie Abouaoun, United States Institute of Peace

Partnership Platforms and Coalitions for Prevention. The *Pathways for Peace* study references increased connectivity and the interdependence in the world today. In some ways, as with international terrorist groups, interconnectivity has amplified conflict, but in other ways, interconnectivity has created opportunities to address conflicts. What are these opportunities in the Arab region? Though national governments are understood to have the primary responsibility for conflict prevention, there are a multitude of actors working on prevention, although there are many parts of the world a shrinking space for civil society organization and NGOs. To what degree do various actors feel ownership of the prevention agenda? How can cooperation and ownership be simultaneously strengthened? Could civil society actors come together in building broad coalitions for prevention at the country level? How can the UN, academia and others support broad partnership platforms for prevention?

Focus Group 3

Multidimensional crisis management including risk monitoring and the financial aid architecture

Facilitated by Ms. Aurelie Boukobza, UNDP Crisis Bureau, NY

Fragility and crisis are the biggest obstacles to achieving the SDGs, affecting both low and middle-income countries. The *Pathways for Peace* study advocates for a risk-informed approach to prevention and stresses the importance of informed prevention. What are some of the diverse and growing risks in the region, how are these monitored and what are the threats they pose if not addressed? Further, the P4P reminds that financial instruments are an essential element of prevention strategies and notes heavy dependence on aid funding, as opposed to government funding, particularly for certain areas of spending. How will new ways of working (NWOW) and increased integration between humanitarian, development, and security actors impact the financial architecture for prevention? For the Arab region this remains a key issue, not only for countries that are in conflict but their neighbors which have been carrying the burden of refugees (such as Jordan and Lebanon).

Focus Group 4

Internationalization of conflict

Facilitated by Dr. Alma Jadallah, Kommon Denominator

The *Pathways for Peace* study references a trend in which intra-state conflicts become “internationalized” when outside states get involved. Intra-state conflicts can also spill over into neighboring states. Even in cases when the conflict does not reach a state’s neighbors, neighbors often feel spillover effects from the nearby conflict, such as an influx of refugees. Peoples in Arab states have a unique shared identity and a history of aiding each other. The Arab region has also experienced several instances of outside states getting involved in intra-state conflicts. Are there regional patterns for how internationalization of conflict occurs? How does internationalization affect prevention efforts? What can be done at the regional and national levels to mitigate internationalization or proxy wars and strengthen prevention efforts?

15.30-15.45 **Coffee Break**

15.45-17.00 **Plenary 2**

Presentation and general discussion of the findings/recommendations of the Focus Groups

DAY TWO, 4 OCTOBER 2018

9.00 – 9.30 **Next Steps for A Prevention Research Agenda**

- *Ms. Josie Kaye, Independent Consultant, University of Oxford*
- *Mr. Omar Abdul Aziz Hallaj, Common Space Initiative*

9.30-10.45

Breakout Session with specific follow-up questions

Based on the outcomes of the discussions, refine the proposed agenda for policy papers on Prevention (recognizing existing research)

10.45 – 11.00

Coffee Break

11.00 – 13.00

Plenary 3

Presentations and general discussions of the findings/recommendations

13.00-13.30

Closing Remarks and Way Forward

13:30–14:30 **Lunch**