Linking Preparedness, Response and Resilience in Emergency Contexts

Lead Agency: Christian Aid **Consortium Members**: Action Aid, CAFOD, Concern, Help Age, King's College London, Muslim Aid, Oxfam, Safer World, World Vision **Budget:** £949,987 **Countries of operation:** Bangladesh, Kenya, DRC, Pakistan, Philippines **Timeframe:** 3 years

Where and how did this project originate?
Christian Aid, Action Aid, CAFOD, Concern, Help Age, Muslim Aid, OXFAM and World Vision have a wealth of experience strengthening community-based resilience to natural disasters. They have identified that building resilience in settings prone to the twin threats of conflict and natural disaster is more challenging and less well-researched. This programme will combine the Start Network agency expertise with SaferWorld's community security experience, to develop new methodologies for community resilience to twin threats in insecure environments. The Start Network agencies have also identified a lack of evidence of how to design humanitarian interventions in ways that maximise the longer term resilience of beneficiary communities. They aim to address this issue, an objective that has been welcomed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Preparedness and Resilience Task Team, who are working to identify "the main obstacles to bridging relief and development actions through a review of efforts over the past several years with a view to identifying good practices."

Brief Description
The project has two strands, both associated with new ways of strengthening community resilience. The first strand will bring together participating humanitarian and security agencies to combine their best practice and develop new methodologies for resilience programming in fragile contexts threatened by insecurity and natural disaster. These will be piloted in Bangladesh and Kenya, and revised to take account of lessons.

Secondly, the project will review recent humanitarian responses undertaken by the 8 participating agencies in Bangladesh, DRC, Kenya, Pakistan and Philippines. This review will be used to develop a methodology for designing humanitarian responses that maximises the long-term resilience of beneficiary communities to future emergencies. The project will test this new methodology in a future humanitarian response, and refine the methodology in the light of lessons.

A third learning strand will be led by King's College London, and will ensure that the experiences identified in the project are captured and disseminated effectively, to maximise awareness and take-up of the ideas.

Why is collaboration fundamental to the success of this project?
The combination of security experts and resilience experts will determine the best methodologies for programming to build community resilience in fragile contexts. The more agencies that contribute to the development of the new methodologies, (i) the more experience we can bring to bear on the new approaches developed, resulting in richer approaches; (ii) the more ownership there will be of the outcomes, maximising uptake; (iii) the more credibility the results will carry, facilitating advocacy for wider implementation.

What change does this project envision to achieve?
To develop and test new ways of (1) building community resilience in fragile settings; and (2) designing humanitarian response interventions in ways which strengthen long-term community resilience. Both strands will inform and improve consortium agency practice; resulting in more resilient communities.

What are the key activities associated with this project?
<u>Conflict strand</u>: Literature review; design workshop to create methodology; pilot implementation in Bangladesh and Kenya; conflict-sensitive participatory vulnerability and capacity assessments; document experience and lessons.
<u>Response strand</u>: Literature review; analysis of range of recent consortium agency responses to identify what helps and hinders resilience; write up best practice and guidance; implement approach in a pilot; extract lessons; revisit guidance.
<u>Learning strand</u>: Needs assessment to identify partner and agency staff capacity needs; training and mentoring in new approaches for local and national partner and country-based agency staff; learning forum in each pilot country; on-line depository for sharing evidence; participatory action research, monitoring and learning.

How will this project make a difference to people affected by crisis?
The project will design and roll out programming approaches which strengthen the resilience of (i) people living in fragile states and (ii) beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance. The conflict strand will be carried out in 5 communities in Bangladesh and 5 communities in Kenya, with a total reach estimated to be 37,500 beneficiaries.