

## **Evaluating Peacebuilding and Promoting Learning**

**A Special Session of the  
Conflict Prevention and Resolution Forum**

*Followed By:*

### **Learning for Peacebuilding Workshop**

Organized by Catholic Relief Services and  
Search for Common Ground  
With the Conflict Management Program Johns Hopkins SAIS

**Friday September 17th from 9:15am to 5:00pm**

The peacebuilding community often struggles with measuring program effectiveness and how to promote learning from our work. How can we best capture and document the results of peacebuilding programs? How do we balance external reporting requirements with internal learning needs? How can we best promote learning within our organizations and across the wider peacebuilding community? How do we strengthen our capacities to undertake more effective Design, Monitoring and Evaluation and promote consistent, reflective practice?

In this special session of the Conflict Prevention and Resolution Forum, we will take stock of efforts to undertake more effective evaluation and promote more systematic learning. We will reflect on growing donor demands for quantifiable results, often within short periods of time. We will also reflect on the feasibility and relevance of certain methodologies such as impact evaluations that use randomized control groups and utilization-focused or developmental evaluations.

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#### **Schedule of Events:**

9:15 - 9:30	Welcome and Introductions
9:30 - 11:30	Conflict Prevention and Resolution Forum: Learning for Peacebuilding
11:45 - 1:15	Peacebuilding Indicators and Learning Initiatives
1:15 - 1:45	Lunch (Lunch will be Provided)
1:45 - 2:30	Discussion and Small Group Organizing
2:30 - 4:30	Group Break-out Sessions
4:30 - 5:00	Group Presentations and Closing Remarks

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#### **Conflict Prevention and Resolution Forum Session:**

##### **Tom Bamat**

Senior Technical Advisor, Justice and Peacebuilding, Catholic Relief Services

##### **Andrew Blum**

Senior Program Officer, United States Institute of Peace

##### **Sharon Morris**

Director, Conflict Management Group, Mercy Corps

##### **Cheyenne Scharbatke-Church**

Principal, Besa: Catalyzing Strategic Change

##### **Tjip Walker**

Warning and Analysis Team, Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation, USAID

#### **Moderator:**

##### **Nick Oatley**

Director, Institutional Learning, Search for Common Ground

## Learning For Peacebuilding

The Forum is followed by a workshop where issues raised in the Forum together with other related topics will be discussed in more depth. In a further panel, CRS and SFCG will share the results of their projects on indicators and ICAR GWU will share progress on a project they are working on with CMM indicators linked to the families of theories of change. SFCG and CRS will also share the approaches they are using to learn from their work through evaluations and other studies.

Participating organizations will also have the ability to share their own practices. In small group discussions later in the afternoon, participants will have the opportunity to select topics of particular interest to them for more exchange, sharing and learning with their peers.

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### Peacebuilding Indicators and Learning Initiatives Panel and Group Facilitators:

**Tom Bamat**

Senior Technical Advisor, Justice and Peacebuilding, Catholic Relief Services

**Carolyn Ashton**

Senior Research Associate, Search for Common Ground

**Clara Hagens**

Regional Technical Advisor, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, Catholic Relief Services

**Jerome Helfft**

Design, Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist, Search for Common Ground

**Susan Allen Nan**

Assistant Professor, Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University

**Moderator:****Nick Oatley**

Director, Institutional Learning, Search for Common Ground

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### Presenter Bios

**Carolyn Ashton**

Dr. Ashton is Senior Research Associate at Search for Common Ground. Her doctorate is from George Mason University's Institute for Conflict Analysis. Dr. Ashton's graduate work was focused on the use of theories of change in peace education programs. She has extensive background in teacher training, development, and evaluation of peace education programs around the world. At Search for Common Ground, Dr. Ashton is working on identifying and developing peacebuilding indicators to be used across Search's country programs and supports the development of knowledge management across the organization. Dr. Ashton has worked in Armenia, Aceh (Indonesia), Albania, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Solomon Islands. She has been a guest professor in research methods at GMU's Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, and the University of Peace in Ethiopia and Costa Rica.

**Tom Bamat**

Tom Bamat is the Senior Technical Advisor on Justice and Peacebuilding for Catholic Relief Services. A sociologist with a Ph.D. from Rutgers, he has lived and worked with Mary Knoll and CRS, in Brazil and the Andes. Tom serves on the Board of Directors of the Life and Peace Institute and the Steering Committee of the Catholic Peacebuilding Network. Among his writings are works on human rights, religious movements, and grassroots responses to violent conflict; including the co-edited volumes of case studies *Artisans of Peace* (Orbis, 2003) and *Pursuing Just Peace* (CRS, 2008).

**Andrew Blum**

Andrew Blum is a Senior Program Officer in the USIP Grant Program. There he oversees the Sudan Priority Grant Program and the Communication for Peacebuilding grant program. In collaboration with the Alliance for Peacebuilding, he initiated the Peacebuilding Evaluation Project: A Forum for Donors and Implementers. Prior to joining USIP, Andrew was assistant director of the University of Maryland's Center for International Development and Conflict Management, where he was the director of the ICONS Project and oversaw the undergraduate minor in that field. Prior to that, he served as academic director for the Institute for International Mediation and Conflict Resolution and field representative for the Carter Center in Georgetown, Guyana. Dr. Blum has authored several publications including: "The Impact of Fragile Environments on NGO Networks in West Africa," "Track II Interventions and the Kurdish Question in Turkey: An Analysis Using a Theories of Change Approach," "Future Uncertain: Using Scenarios to Understand Turkey's Geopolitical Environment and its Impact on the Kurdish Question," "The Futures of Conflict: Exploring the Use of Comparative Scenarios in Track II Peacebuilding".

**Clara Hagens**

Clara Hagens is the Regional Technical Advisor for Monitoring and Evaluation in CRS's Asia region. Her work with monitoring system design focuses on building capacity in M&E skills and effective use of data. Clara holds a Masters in Public Health from Emory University and she has accrued experience in conducting evaluations in multiple contexts and with a variety of organizations. She also leads CRS's Globally-Accepted Indicator Initiative, which develops sectoral indicator resources to improve the quality of indicator practice at the project level.

**Jerome Helfft**

Jerome Helfft is Search for Common Ground's DM&E Specialist. He has a research background in business economics, 10 years of professional experience including several years in Design, Monitoring and Evaluation in South East Asia working with the American Red Cross and World Vision. Previously, he worked in the Democratic Republic of Congo in a health programme, Afghanistan for a media development NGO and in Peru for the French Embassy. Jerome has extensive know-how in leading the development of DM&E plans with implementing organizations and has trained more than 150 project staff. At Search for Common Ground, he provides technical assistance in DM&E to country programmes from monitoring tools development to evaluation frameworks, using both qualitative and quantitative approaches.

**Sharon Morris**

Sharon L. Morris is Director of Mercy Corps' Conflict Management Group, which is responsible for helping field teams design and implement conflict management and peacebuilding programs world wide. The office currently provides support to over 35 programs in 16 countries. Previously, she worked at the State Department as Senior Advisor for Darfur to the President's Special Envoy for Sudan. In 2006, she served as the Director of the Provincial Reconstruction Team Program in USAID/Afghanistan and as the Development Advisor to the Commanding General of Combined Joint Task Force-76, the headquarters for U.S. military operations in Afghanistan. From 2002-2005, she was Senior Advisor in the Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation at USAID where she headed the team that was responsible for the design and implementation of conflict programs in USAID Missions world-wide. Prior to joining USAID, she worked in the Program on Global Security and Sustainability at the John D. and Catherine MacArthur Foundation. Her assignments on conflict management and post-conflict reconstruction have taken her to over 25 conflict and post-conflict countries, including Sudan, Yemen, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Central Asian Republics, Haiti, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. She holds a Ph.D. and Masters from the University of Chicago and is a native of Corvallis, Oregon.

**Susan Allen Nan**

Susan Allen Nan is an assistant professor of conflict analysis and resolution at the George Mason University. Her main focus as a scholar-practitioner is on reflective practice and research that emerges from practice contexts. She has substantial expertise in intermediary roles and coordination amongst intermediaries, evaluation of conflict resolution initiatives, and theories of change and indicators of change in conflict resolution practice. She has engaged long-term in conflict resolution in the Caucasus, as well as contributing to a variety of conflict resolution initiatives in Eastern Europe, Eurasia, the Caribbean, South America, and Africa. Susan Allen Nan joined the ICAR core faculty in 2005 after two years teaching International Peace and Conflict Resolution as Assistant Professor at the School of International Service at American University. She is a co-founder and past director of the Alliance for Conflict Transformation (ACT) and has served as Senior Program Associate for the Conflict Resolution Program at the Carter Center in Atlanta, GA.

**Nick Oatley**

Nick Oatley joined Search in July 2008. He is responsible for providing leadership on Design, Monitoring and Evaluation and Learning across Search's 22 country programs and 7 HQ based programs. Prior to joining Search he worked with the UK Government. At the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office he led a team on governance and environmental security issues. He was team leader at the Strategy and Innovation Unit in the UK Department for Education and Employment developing and piloting new initiatives. He was also Head of Organisational Development and Strategy for a regional arm of government. Prior to that he was an academic for 12 years where he was Director of a government funded Distance Learning Program on Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation. At Search he is committed to creating a culture of learning, innovation and effective delivery. Nick is married, lives in Washington DC and has one daughter.

**Cheyenne Scharbatke-Church**

Cheyenne Scharbatke-Church is the founder of Besa: Catalysing Strategic Change, a boutique consulting group dedicated to implementing quality change processes. As a practitioner-scholar, Cheyenne's work revolves primarily around issues of accountability and power. She has conducted evaluations 'in' and 'on' conflict issues as well as advising agencies on policies and systems to support quality design, monitoring and evaluation systems. Cheyenne teaches classes on evaluation and learning in peacebuilding and the nexus of conflict and corruption at the Fletcher School, Tufts University and has specific geographic expertise in West Africa, the Balkans and Northern Ireland. She has held positions with the Reflecting on Peace Practice (RPP), Search for Common Ground and INCORE and consulted for organizations such as IDRC, ICTJ, ICRC, UNPBF, and CARE. Her recent publications include *Designing for Results*, a practitioner focused manual on design, monitoring and evaluation for peacebuilding co-authored with Mark M Rogers; *NGOS at the Table: Strategies for Influencing Policy in Areas of Conflict* which she co-edited with Professor Mari Fitzduff and *Mind the Gap - Policy Development and Research on Conflict Issues*.

**Tjip Walker**

Dr. S. Tjip Walker leads the Warning and Analysis Team in the Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) at USAID. In this capacity he coordinates CMM's analytical leadership on range of conflict related issues, including fragile states and local approaches to peace-building. Dr. Walker also leads a multi-year, multi-donor collaboration sponsored by the OECD's Fragile States Group to improve the efficacy of service delivery in fragile states. In his 25-year career as a development professional, Dr. Walker has been an active participant in efforts ranging from developing a methodology for assessing democratic governance to reviewing the effectiveness of USAID's support to disarmament/demobilization/reintegration (DDR) programs to articulating the agency's first policy statement on conflict management. His overseas assignments have included managing a privatization and market reform program also in Cameroon and directing the Office of Transition Initiative's (OTI) program supporting the democratic transition in Nigeria. Dr. Walker holds an MPA from the John F. Kennedy School at Harvard University and a Ph.D. in political science from Indiana University.

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