**Call for Proposals**

Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, is seeking proposals from **All** Departments, faculty members, and Students [Post Doctorate, Phd. and MS] at University of Peshawar for its UNDP funded project “Virtual Platform for Peace and Development Observation and Analysis in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa”. The proposals (soft and hard copy) along with the required documents must reach to this office by or before close of business on Friday 12th of August-2016. The proposals should be addressed to the Director, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Peshawar. The “Technical Proposal” and “Financial Proposal” should be in separate sealed envelopes clearly marked as “Technical Proposal” and “Financial Proposal”. Only short listed proposals will be contacted. Please also submit your proposals on following email addresses;

ipcs@upesh.edu.pk

analysis@sdgpulse.org

**Mandatory Documents**: Following documents are mandatory to be attached with submission of research proposal:

* Turnitin report of the proposal will be acquired from Quality Enhancement Cell, University of Peshawar.
* Ethical consideration statement. .
* A brief of the impact of research.
* In case of consortium; a letter of consent from collaborating partner/agency expressing willingness to collaborate.
* One page summary of each project if applicant already executed/ ongoing/ submitted for consideration to any funding agency.
* Detailed tentative schedule program of all local visits under project [if study involves field survey/field work] with rates, calculations, total and justification [budget notes].
* Activities Plan. [maximum for two months period]
* An affidavit that this concept, project or theme is not worked upon or under consideration at any other forum or applied anywhere else for funding. Originality of work to be ensured.

**Proposed Research Themes**

Conflict, violence, social cohesion, and peace building are research rich and intensive domains. When combined with a focus on youth and their vulnerabilities to violence and conflict, several interesting research projects can be designed. The Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, VPPD Project (the Virtual Platform for Peace and Development Observation and Analysis in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) is planning on disbursing small grants to fund short-duration and small-to-medium scoped research projects undertaken and managed by competent researchers at the University of Peshawar. The process would be open to all disciplines and departments at the University. This is particularly useful as an interdisciplinary approach to research on conflict and violence is best-suited to high-quality and insightful knowledge generation.

In this context, the following research projects and themes are suggested as a preliminary working list for UNDP’s VPPD and IPCS staff at the University of Peshawar. These themes can be further unpacked and modified.

Grants for the below themes should be for projects clearly relevant to the VPPD and should either: 1) make use of the VPPD data (apply it in research, test it, use it to engage policy), or 2) contribute to the VPPD data (original data collection, or processing of raw data that does not exist in VPPD at the time research begins).

1. **Development Work Profiling for data:**

This research project can undertake a comprehensive assessment of development projects being undertaken by development stakeholders in all Districts Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as of December 2016. National and international NGOs, as well as international and donor agencies’ work would be included in the exercise. The project can add highly useful working information that can be illustrated on VPPD’s platform, and used by interested parties in identifying relevant partners and projects across the province.

1. **Justice and conflict trends and data (two possible sub-topics):**
2. **Mapping DRC cases in DI Khan**: This research project is rooted in VPPD’s ongoing collaboration with the District Resolution Committee and the District Administration in DI Khan. The DRC ds available with VPPD Project office that can be catalogued and then mapped across all Union Councils in DI Khan to understand the spread and frequency of different types of recurring conflicts. This project can then become the foundation for a secondary and related research project:
* **Understanding the dispersion of conflicts in DI Khan**: This secondary research project would be contingent on the findings of the project outlined above. For example, if it emerges that certain UCs or Tehsils in DI Khan are more prone to conflict, this research project can then investigate into the causes and context for this differential outcome. This would require careful planning for an in-depth qualitative investigation into the nature of conflicts across different UCs and Tehsils in DI Khan.
1. **Peace building and Alternative Dispute Resolution:** Much is said and written about KP’s tribal customs and the ubiquitous presence of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms e.g. jirgas, as institutions that dispense justice and maintain peace and stability. This research project could look closely at the functioning of ADRs to develop a dataset on the ADRs frequency and outcomes, which can be mapped on the VPPD and address the lacuna of data on these important but under-documented phenomena. This project can then be linked to formal justice institutions, state laws and regulations to reveal similarities and differences between these alternative routes for achieving justice.

**3. Socio-economic peace drivers and data:**

**Collection socioeconomic data for KP Districts:** This research project would entail connecting with the relevant Provincial and District Statistical offices to collect socioeconomic and demographic data for all Districts of KP. This data could then be fed into VPPD’s data bank to update information across Districts, as well as find and map granular details about different areas.

**4. Special data themes—Youth, Gender, and Environment:**

1. **Compare Youth Educational Profiles and Experiences:** Pakistan’s youth is offered three disparate educational choices: mainstream public education system; the extensive and rival private education system; and a burgeoning madrassah system. These routes offer qualitatively different socialization experiences, and play a crucial role in shaping youth identities, and by extension, state-citizen relationship. This research project can choose two key Districts in KP (purposive sampling would work) to understand why and how parents choose to send their children to these different educational streams; and crucially, the psychometric, aspirational and capacity assessments of youth in these different streams. The project can add potentially interesting assessments of the context (through administrator/teacher interviews, curriculum review etc.) and capacities to predict career trajectories, choices, and critically, conflict vulnerabilities of youth emerging from these different systems.
2. **Identifying at-risk youth:** Several well-established and developed psychological measures and tools are available to identify at-risk youth in local communities. This research project can develop an indigenous tool and conduct a brief survey exercise in a selected community/District to identify the extent and depth of vulnerabilities to violence, crime, and extremism amongst youth. The project would create a pathway for testing a measurement tool that fits well within KP’s context, and can be scaled-up and applied extensively across the province. This implies that the development of an effective vulnerability measurement tool would be a critical output for the project.
3. **Gender, Violence and Peacebuilding:** A key emerging domain of interest for researchers and donors around the world is the role that women can play in ushering in peace, and contributing to long-term stability in their societies. This research project can look at the lived experiences of women across one or two Districts (particularly prone to conflict and violence) and identify the ways in which women have, are or can potentially play an active role as peacebuilders in their communities. Like other research projects, the research should utilize VPPD data or produce data that can be inputted into the VPPD.
4. **Environment and Conflict:** Long-term conflict prognosis for Pakistan frequently highlights an emerging crisis that can exacerbate conflict and instability in the country: water. Pakistan’s water resources for agriculture, livelihoods, and survival, as well as access to water are coming under increasing pressure. In this context, water shortages and crises can complicate ongoing conflicts across the country. This research project can look selected Districts of KP to understand the current water availability and access, identify and predict potential water-related conflict trajectories, define mitigation and management strategies, and look at how local communities are and will cope with these impending crises before they transform into entrenched conflicts. Like other research projects, the research should utilize VPPD data or produce data that can be inputted into the VPPD.
5. **Statistical and computational methods to advance data analysis**

The VPPD works with myriad datasets to enhance evidence-based decision-making among policy makers and programme managers on development and conflict. One aim is to develop within the VPPD a combination of “predictive” modeling techniques can be deployed to discern the real and relative intensity of data points across time and space on selected topics. Research themes that can leverage methods and tools such as statistics and computational techniques to fulfill this aim are eligible for research grants.

Finally, research projects can also be considered for funding if propose ***applied*** uses ofopen data to improve lives and policies, in alignment with one or several of the above themes (youth, development, conflict, computational methods, etc). Such proposal should leverage data like the VPPD in innovative ways to actually engage real world challenges and communities in KP, with measurable results.

For further information please explore the following links;

1. <http://www.pk.undp.org/content/pakistan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2016/06/15/data-for-peace-khyber-pakhtunkhwa-experts-and-policymakers-explore-open-data-in-governance-through-the-virtual-platform/>
2. <http://www.pk.undp.org/content/pakistan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2016/02/25/undp-pakistan-integrated-approach-to-peacebuilding-and-disaster-/>

For inquires please contact VPPD Staff during 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., VPPD Office, 4th Floor, Sheikh Taimore Academic Block, University of Peshawar.