



DOCUMENTING NATIONAL CAPACITIES TO UNDERSTAND AND ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF ARMED VIOLENCE

**Training Workshop,
Bogotá, 22 to 24 of March 2011**

Context and Purpose

AOAV, along with SEHLAC, Sou da Paz (Brazil) and the Violence Prevention Alliance (Jamaica), and in cooperation with the Conflict Analysis Resource Centre (CERAC), is engaged in a regional research project since September 2010. The project aims to explore and document national capacities of twelve countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to:

- a. Measure, monitor and analyze the phenomenon of armed violence.
- b. Develop and implement legal frameworks and programmes to protect and guarantee the rights of the victims, and to support their needs.
- c. Include armed violence prevention and reduction in broader policy agendas.

As part of the project, AOVV, in collaboration with CERAC and the Colombian Campaign against Landmines, invited their partners in Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in a methodological workshop. The workshop took place in Bogotá from the 22nd to the 24th of March 2011 and became an opportunity to discuss the methodology proposed by AOVV and CERAC, and to discuss the expected outcomes of the research exercise. The workshop was also intended to be a space to equip regional partners in the use of certain methodological tools. These tools were thought to be relevant for the purposes of the exercise and pertinent to help researchers to gather information at national level.

Achievements

During the workshop, it was agreed that the general purpose of the exercise was to explore and document state responses to the problem of armed violence in Latin America and the Caribbean. The research exercise is thus expected to provide AOVV and its regional partners with a base knowledge. This baseline should be the cornerstone for further interventions in the region such as research on armed violence-related issues, interventions on violence prevention and reduction, and public campaigns. It was established that the project should not be an assessment of the national capacities to address the problem of armed violence as there is not enough information on the number, nature and characteristics of the initiatives in place.

During the workshop, national research teams were very active in discussing the methodology proposed by AOVV and CERAC. They studied the theoretical framework and instruments proposed and made comments

and suggestions based on their experience working in specific contexts in Latin America and the Caribbean. The recommendations made by civil society partners were fully incorporated in the methodology, making this framework stronger and more coherent with the features of the phenomenon of armed violence in the region.

Regarding the scope of the exercise, it was agreed that it will focus on those initiatives owned or promoted by state institutions at the central or federal level; even though those interventions may be implemented at the sub-national or local levels. The exercise will include initiatives promoted or executed by Non-state institutions when they respond to a state mandate or are implemented in cooperation with the state. This agreement is justified by the idea of documenting states' capacities to understand and address the problem of armed violence.

Regarding the timeframe used by the project, it was agreed that the mapping exercise will include all actions or initiatives –in the three streams of work proposed- implemented in the last 10 years (2001 - 2011) by the twelve states studied. National researchers agreed to include those interventions that may not be in place today but that were promoted or implemented within this period of time.

In addition to their contributions to the methodological frame, research teams had a chance to know the roles and responsibilities of each of the parties involved and to propose mechanisms to maintain a fluid communication between the parties. It was established that the group will use a project manager software to keep the parties informed about the tasks and deadlines of the project, and to discuss relevant matters. The group also agreed to use Google Docs as a mechanism to share working documents, and Skype as a method for having group conferences.

Finally, focal points and national researchers had the chance to think of possible ideas for further work. The members of the SEHLAC regional working group reviewed the international agenda and priorities on the armed violence issue, and identified interests and opportunities for action.

For further information on the research project and on the workshop in Bogotá, please contact Juliana Chavez, AOAV Research coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, ichavez@aoav.org.uk

ANNEX 1: Concept note

ANNEX 2: Agenda for the workshop

ANNEX 3: List of attendees

ANNEX 2: PROGRAM AND AGENDA WORKSHOP

Program

Bogotá, 22-25 March 2011

Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 of March from 9.00-18.00

Workshop on methodology

“National Capacities to Address the Problem of Armed Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean”

“Salon de Eventos”, Hotel Cosmos 116

Thursday 24 of March from 9.00-13.00

Closing of the workshop on methodology

“National Capacities to Address the Problem of Armed Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean”

“Salon de Eventos”, Hotel Cosmos 116

Thursday 24 of March from 14.00-16.30

SEHLAC strategy meeting

“Activities and strategy in 2011”

“Salon de Eventos”, Hotel Cosmos 116

Thursday 24 of March from 18.00-21.00

Launch and signing of the Colombian civil society declaration

“Civil society declaration on armed violence and development”

Conferencia Episcopal de Colombia, Auditorio Jesucristo Evangelizador, Carrera 58 No. 80-87

Friday 25 of March from 09.00-18.00

International Forum

“More development less weapons”

Universidad del Rosario, Aula Mutis, Calle 14 No. 6-25 Claustro

Tuesday 22 March: Introduction to the methodology and key concepts

During the first day, there will be a general presentation on armed violence and development followed by in –depth discussions on the objectives and scope of the research. This first day will also be a chance to introduce each national team and to highlight roles and responsibilities of each team. In the afternoon, discussions on the methodology of the project will start by introducing the conceptual framework, in particular the key concepts and definitions that will be used during the research.

Each session will be introduced by a presentation followed by open discussions amongst participants.

9.00-9.30am: Welcome and presentation of the international agenda on armed violence and development

Álvaro Jiménez (CCCM) and Jorge Restrepo (CERAC)

9.30-10.30am: Introduction of the objectives of the research and its scope for future work

Serena Olgjati (AOAV) and CERAC Team

What are the objectives of the research?

- What do we want to achieve through this research?
- How does this fit into the international agenda on this topic?
- What are we NOT doing through this research?

What is the scope on the long term of this research?

- When and how will it be presented?
- How can this research support the work of organizations on the ground?
- How can it facilitate interactions with government representatives?

10.30 - 11.00 am: Coffee break

11.00am-1.00pm: Introduction of the national teams

Juliana Chávez (AOAV)

Who are the national teams? (Each team will introduce itself)

- What are the expertises and strengths of each team?
- What are the expectations of each team?
- What are the views of the team in terms of strengths and challenges with the research?

What are the roles and responsibilities of each team?

- How will the work between AOAV, CERAC and each national team be organized?
- How will the work be organized inside each national team?
- What are the specific tasks of each researcher and focal point?
- What are the tasks and responsibilities of AOAV and CERAC?

Calendar

- What are the key dates during the research project?
- What is the specific timeline of each organization, of CERAC and of AOAV?

1.00 - 2.00 pm: Lunch

2.00-4.00pm: Introduction to the methodology

Alonso Tobón (CERAC Team)

Conceptual framework and key definitions

- Introduction to the methodology
- What are the methodological challenges of the research?
- What are the conceptual limitations of the research?
- Solution: Methodological focuses

4.00 - 4.20 pm: Coffee break

4.20-6.00pm: Introduction to the methodology (follows from part 1)

Conceptual framework and key definitions

- What is it understood by Armed violence?
- What are the key 'armed violence' concepts and its components?
- What are the main 'armed violence' typologies?
- What are the main typologies of government plans, policies and programming to prevent and reduce armed violence?
- Who are the 'victims' of armed violence?
- How does victim assistance fit into the armed violence concept?

Wednesday 23 march: Mapping and instruments to be applied

During the second day, participants will discuss in-depth the instruments that will be used to carry forward the research. This day will also provide an opportunity to look at the type of information that will be collected, as well as the ways to analyze and classify the information collected.

Each session will be introduced by a presentation followed by open discussions amongst participants.

09.00 – 11.00am: Methodological instruments for the collection of information

Pamela Góngora (CERAC Team)

What are the main mapping areas and how will they be documented?

- How to get familiar with key concepts through introductory readings?
- What are the key areas of the mapping exercise?
- 1st Mapping area:
 - Objective of the mapping area
 - Methodology to be implemented
 - Methodological instruments
- 2nd Mapping area:
 - Objective of the mapping area
 - Methodology to be implemented
 - Methodological instruments

11.00 am - 11.15 am: Coffee break

11.15 - 1.00pm: Methodological instruments for the collection of information (follows from part 1)

Jorge Restrepo, Adriana Rocha, Pamela Góngora, Alonso Tobón (CERAC Team)

What are the main mapping areas and how will they be documented?

- 3rd mapping area:
 - Objective of the mapping area
 - Methodology to be implemented
 - Methodological instruments

1.00 - 2.00 pm: Lunch

2.00 - 3.00 pm: Analysis of the information collected

Jorge Restrepo, Pamela Góngora, Alonso Tobón (CERAC Team)

What to do with the information collected?

- How to analyse the information?
- How to classify the information?
- What are the key challenges with this work?
- How to ensure that important information does not get dismissed?

3.00 - 3.15 pm: Coffee break

3.15 - 6.00 pm: Pilot exercise

Jorge Restrepo, Adriana Rocha, Pamela Góngora, Alonso Tobón (Equipo CERAC)

During this session, participants will engage in a pilot exercise that will aim at reviewing the efficiency of the methodological instruments and to solve any remaining doubts concerning the methodology. In the exercise, half of the participants will be interviewers whilst the other half will be interviewed.

Role game

- Examples of types of information collected by documenting the armed violence measurement, monitoring and analysis systems
- Examples of types of information collected by documenting armed violence reduction programming
- Examples of types of information collected by documenting the victim assistance programs

Thursday 24: Feedback session

During this last session participants will offer their comments on the methodology that was presented; this session is aiming at offering a chance to feedback on the experience during the pilot exercise, the methodological instruments and the conceptual framework to ensure that all remaining doubts can be clarified.

09.00 – 11.15am: Feedback and clarifications of remaining doubts

Jorge Restrepo, Adriana Rocha, Pamela Góngora, Alonso Tobón (Grupos CERAC)

Facilitated by: Serena Olgiati (AOAV)

Discussion

- Discussion on methodological challenges
- Discussion on the solutions: methodological focuses
- Discussion on the conceptual framework
- Discussion on the mapping areas
- Discussion on the methodological instruments
- Discussion on the format of the reports

11.15-11.30pm: Coffee break

11.30 – 1.00: Feedback and clarifications of remaining doubts (follows from part 1)

Jorge Restrepo, Adriana Rocha, Pamela Góngora, Alonso Tobón (Grupos CERAC)

Facilitated by: Serena Olgiati (AOAV)

1.00 – 2.00pm: Lunch