



KPSRL Webinar Concept Note

Topic: Adaptive community security programming

Speakers:

Introduction and framing - Charlotte Watson, Conflict and Security Adviser

Khirad Kargasov – Tajikistan Country Manager

Mauro Tadiwe – South Sudan Country Manager

Time: Tues Nov 10th, 16.00-17.15 CET

Background: Across the countries SW works in there have been varying security responses to COVID-19 with differing degrees of state provision/penetration. In these contexts the response to the pandemic can offer both state and non-state actors the opportunity to exert control at the expense of the health and security of the wider population. On a more positive note it can also result in different security actors having to co-ordinate with each other, sometimes across a conflict divide.

Saferworld has been working on community policing and community security for many years and the trust and relationships we have built as a result have meant that we and our partners have been in a position to fill some of the gaps and develop initiatives to address the needs created by COVID-19 while continuing our work. Pandemics are unpredictable but inevitable and our experience has shown how important it is to invest in long term peacebuilding and community security and safeguard the space for this work in order to ensure better responses when needed. It is also vital though that other needs and conflict impacts are not neglected as a result of the short term responses to, and funding for, CV-19.

Research has shown that responses to COVID-19, and pandemics more generally, are typically male led and therefore solutions are male orientated leaving vulnerable groups even more vulnerable. For example women in South Sudan have been quoted as saying “it is like another war” because of the degree of gender based violence they are facing, exacerbated by the closure of businesses women rely on to make their living, leaving many forced into sexually exploitative work and open to harassment and rape. These experiences emphasise the need for existing work to continue alongside shorter term responses ensuring the latter are connected up and, where possible, mitigate the risk of making people more vulnerable.

Focus: This webinar will build on previous sessions under KPSRL’s COVID response series and give participants an insight in to two diverse contexts. Saferworld colleagues from Tajikistan and South Sudan will discuss how they have adapted their community policing and community security programming in the context of Covid-19. They will talk about how they have been able to pivot and respond to Covid-19 and secondary conflict impacts due to long standing and trusted relationships with partners and will outline the role and additional agency partners have taken on during the pandemic. They will look at how they and their partners have been able to come up with creative solutions to fill some of the gaps and develop initiatives to address the needs created by COVID-19 while continuing their ‘regular’ work and will encourage participants to share their experiences and together explore how the pandemic has created a situation situation in which local offices are more often and more robustly leading initiatives.