

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS Policy Brief

Promoting dialogue and a culture of peace in Guinea-Bissau: good practices and lessons learned from Kumpuduris di Paz Groups

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Application Deadline and Instructions: Applications must be received by 6th January, 2025. All applications must be submitted electronically to recapsecretariat@wanep.org with, in the subject line "PB-VE Natural resources".

1. Introduction

The Research and Action for Peace (RECAP) project, funded by the European Union, is implemented by the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in 18 countries of West Africa and the Lake Chad Basin¹. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the role of civil society, including regional, national, and community practitioners and researchers, in the promotion of effective peacebuilding, crisis management, and prevention of conflict and violent extremism in West Africa and the Lake Chad Basin to enable more informed decision making by policymakers. The present call is administrated jointly by WANEP, SIPRI, and DRC.

2. Rationale

The policy briefs aim to improve practices and policies to prevent conflict, violent extremism, and peacebuilding in West Africa and the Lake Chad Basin. Selected researcher(s) are expected to produce high-quality policy briefs based on desk research to identify and address, among others, the policy gaps and challenges on the chosen theme/topic with actionable recommendations to international, regional, and national policymakers.

WANEP, DRC and SIPRI are soliciting proposals for research from RECAP network members for the development of a policy brief in Portuguese or English on **the good practice and lessons learned from the Kumpuduris di Paz groups in the promotion of dialogue and culture of peace in Guinea-Bissau.**

2.1 Background

Research indicates that armed conflict erodes significantly the social fabric of societies and communities. Therefore, community-based initiatives play a crucial role in promoting peace and dialogue, as they empower local populations to actively engage in managing and resolving conflicts, in fragile, conflict affected and post-conflict settings. By leveraging local knowledge and resources, these initiatives create sustainable, conflict-sensitive solutions that resonate with the communities involved, thereby enhancing social cohesion and resilience in areas affected by conflict.

¹ ECOWAS countries and Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Cameroon, Chad and Mauritania.

Prolonged political instability and social conflict have severely hindered social cohesion in Guinea-Bissau. In response to this challenge, actors such as the *Kumpuduris di Paz Groups* have emerged, aiming to foster dialogue and promote a culture of peace.

The *Kumpuduris di Paz Groups* are established as private law associations and are best described as “peacemakers.” Their name derives from the verb “Kumpu” which means “to build,” as well as “to heal” and “to repair.”

Members belong to one of the eleven peace groups spread across the country and are responsible for their respective regions where they organize participatory local peace education activities, such as “legislative theatre”. During this activity, members develop a play centered on a specific conflict topic and involve the audience in identifying tailored solutions to the root causes of conflict. There is a growing support from international and national actors for these kind peacebuilding efforts.

2.2 Objective of the consultancy

The overall aim of this study is to produce an evidence-based policy brief that identifies and analyzes lessons learned and good practice from the *Kumpuduris di Paz Groups* in fostering peace and dialogue in Guinea Bissau.

By documenting and analyzing the experiences and successes of these groups, this research paper seeks to identify valuable lessons learned that can inform future community-driven peace-building efforts in Guinea-Bissau and similar contexts across Africa.

More specifically, the objectives of this policy brief are as follows:

- A context analysis to understand the specific context of Guinea Bissau and the selected region;
- A stakeholder analysis, including a focus on the internal structure and methodologies of the *Kumpuduris di Paz Groups*
- An assessment of the remaining challenges to peace in Guinea Bissau at various levels of analysis;
- Identification of the achievements and best practices of the selected *Kumpuduris di Paz Groups*

The findings will contribute to a deeper understanding of grassroots approaches to peace promotion and offer insights for policymakers, practitioners, and scholars engaged in conflict resolution and community development in Guinea Bissau, West Africa and in broader contexts.

The study will provide actionable recommendations for the stakeholders concerned.

3. Scope of work and methodology

The researcher(s) will be responsible for the implementation of all stages of the study, from the design of the methodology to the drafting of the final report, including document review and data collection in the field. The researcher(s) will apply the highest standards of rigour, quality and professionalism.

The researcher(s) will carry out the following tasks:

- Carry out a literature review based on existing documentation (scientific and academic literature, NGO reports) to provide a summary of current knowledge on the subject
- Conduct key informant interviews with the main stakeholders, especially leaders and broader members of the *Kumpuduris di Paz Groups*, involved local community members (beneficiaries of these activities), local authorities, representatives of international and national organisations supporting local peace initiatives in Guinea-Bissau, representatives of other local peace initiatives, etc.
- Drawing up a preliminary preparatory report highlighting: the definition of the subject of the

study; the research and data collection methodology to be used in the field; the methodological approach to data processing and analysis adopted; the findings and conclusions of the literature review.

- Write the Policy brief based on the analysis of the desk review, including comments received from the REcAP Scientific Committee and EU FPI.
- Produce a high-quality policy brief as a resource or tool for advocacy and policy discourse.
- Produce a PPT presentation of the conclusions, which will be presented to the REcAP Network, the EU and interested stakeholders and partners.

4. Expected deliverables & timeline

The researcher(s) will be expected to deliver to the Project Secretariat:

- A policy brief on the selected topic in Portuguese or English.
- The policy brief should not exceed three thousand words (3,000), excluding the cover page, the executive summary, the table of content, and references (single spacing using Calibri 12).
- The researcher(s) will provide the deliverables by e-mail to the Project Secretariat (recapsecretariat@wanep.org).
- The researcher(s) might be invited to a virtual meeting with REcAP’s Scientific Committee to discuss the contents, including policy claims and positions, intellectual arguments, and any other issues.

Expected deliverables	Indicative description	Maximum expected timeframe
Draft Policy Brief	Desk research, work meetings and analysis. The draft Policy Brief embedded with in-depth situation analysis, key findings and action-oriented recommendations is presented to the REcAP Scientific Committee. The researcher might be invited to a virtual meeting with REcAP’s Scientific Committee and the EU FPI to discuss the findings.	15 working days
<i>Comments</i>	<i>Comments & feedback from the Scientific Committee and/or the EU FPI</i>	7 working days
Final Policy Brief	Final version taking into consideration comments & feedbacks from the Scientific Committee and/or the EU FPI	7 working days

5. Duration of Assignment and payment schedule

- The assignment is expected to last one month (20 working days) from the contract signature date.
- The payment will be made in one instalment upon approval by the Scientific Committee of the final version of the deliverable.
- The maximum budget available for a policy brief is two thousand euros (2,000 EUR).

6. Qualifications

Interested researcher(s) are expected to have the following qualifications:

- Be a member or an aspirant member of the REcAP Network. Members of the REcAP’s Scientific Committee cannot apply. However, other researchers from their respective organisations can

apply.

- Have a Master's degree or PhD in a relevant field.
- Have research experience in the selected themes/topics.
- Excellent command of Portuguese (spoken, read, and written) or English (spoken, read, and written). Working knowledge of the other one and knowledge of French are considered advantages.

7. Application

Interested researcher(s) should submit the following documents to the REcAP Project Secretariat (recapsecretariat@wanep.org) before **23:59 GMT on 6th January, 2025**.

- One page statement of Interest presenting an interesting and innovative angle to approach the theme.
- A CV with an updated list of publications.
- Two examples of policy briefs or similar documents published.

Only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

8. Evaluation criteria for research proposals

The following criteria will be used by the Scientific committee to evaluate research proposals:

No.	Criteria	Max. Score
1	Education: Master's degree or PhD in a relevant field;	10
2	Languages: Excellent command of French (spoken, read, and written) or English (spoken, read, and written). Working knowledge of the other one. Knowledge of Portuguese is considered as an advantage.	10
3	Research Experience: At least 3 years of research. Familiarity and knowledge of the selected topic/theme as well as evidence of previous research experience in the selected theme/topic	20
4	Relevance technical narrative proposal: Does the research proposal address the objective of the research? Are the research objectives and research questions well-constructed and easily understood? Do they align with the research problem?	25
5	Methodology: Technical soundness and quality of the proposed methodology including understanding of the assignment and innovativeness of the approach to undertake it.	25
6	Overall quality of proposal: the degree to which the proposal complies with the application guidelines and is of high quality (table of contents, organization, pagination, margin and font size, ideas effectively presented, referencing, well prepared vitae etc.)	10