

ASCI Progress Report

Introduction

This progress report provides an overview of progress made by the AIDS, Security and Conflict Initiative (ASCI) since its inaugural Advisory Committee meeting, which was held in New York on 30 November 2006. It has been shared with and approved by the Co-Chairs of ASCI.

Over the past six months, between December – June 2007, ASCI has both participated in and convened numerous meetings and consultations with key stakeholders to refine and deepen its research agenda, to establish new partnerships, and to continually reflect on the policy and intellectual challenges which continue to stymie concrete and effective responses to the pandemic. ASCI has (or is in the process of) commissioning twenty research proposals with 19 institutions in 15 countries in support of its thematic priorities (an overview and description of commissioned research projects can be found in Annex A).

Research

Immediately following ASCI's first Advisory Committee meeting, ASCI's research and project management team took the opportunity to refine and sharpen the research agenda on the basis of the input provided by participants as well as a wider group of experts, scholars and practitioners. This greatly strengthened, revised agenda was used for overall guidance in shaping proposals and research collaborations. Alongside this process of identifying and finalising relevant research and policy questions, considerable time was given to selecting countries best suited for case-studies, to locating knowledgeable and well placed research partners, and to identifying new opportunities to build on existing research initiatives. .

These activities culminated in a targeted call for Expressions of Interest, which was issued by the end of December 2006. In the following months, ASCI's research team (consisting of the Secretariat, Principal Investigators and Co-Chairs) engaged in an intensive process of outreach and mobilization to identify appropriate research partners across disciplines, continents and communities of practice. Given the relative underdevelopment of the field, consultations were also convened on geographic and thematic bases, in order to identify knowledge gaps and research priorities.

At the request of the Australian Agency for International Development and together with LaTrobe University, ASCI convened a meeting in Melbourne to engage with the agenda of fragile states in the Asia-Pacific region. The meeting brought together senior scholars, policy makers and practitioners in an effort to identify the factors linking governance and HIV/AIDS, and ways of specifying factors for research and analysis. To advance its agenda on HIV/AIDS and security issues in South Africa and the region, ASCI participated in an Rockefeller Brothers' Fund sponsored meeting on governance, security and HIV and met with southern African partners to consolidate research priorities. ASCI also convened a meeting hosted by the International Centre for Migration and Health in Geneva, which had as an objective to develop a more detailed and comprehensive agenda for the research on post-conflict transition in relation to HIV (see annexes B, C and D for reports of these meetings). In addition, ASCI's Research Director met with research partners in the Horn of Africa.

ASCI's research team and management is pleased that its intensive involvement in the commissioning of research, has made it possible to develop a strong selection of projects of which most will be completed by December 2007, as was originally envisioned.

Outreach and Mobilisation

The Secretariat, together with the Co-Chairs and Principal Investigators, has furthermore used the last six months to engage with a range of stakeholders, and in various policy fora to both inform and be informed by ASCI's research agenda. These include the Joint Learning Initiative on HIV/AIDS (Dubai, April 2007), the International Centre for Transitional Justice (Caux, February 2007), and in relation to ODI's Security Sector Reform Working Group.

ASCI Principal Investigators also participated in the UNAIDS Global Task Force Meeting on HIV and AIDS and the Uniformed Services (March 2007). As a result, useful contacts have been established with the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) in the United States. Contact has also been established with the Peace and Security Commissioner of the African Union. In addition, ASCI was represented at a meeting on AIDS and security, which was hosted by the Dutch Mission in New York.

As for the period ahead, ASCI's secretariat has been invited to brief the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Force on HIV and humanitarian emergencies in a meeting organised by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Furthermore, the Greentree Foundation, host of the International

Peace and Security Conference Centre in New York, has accepted to host an expert meeting during which preliminary research findings will be shared with and discussed by a wider audience, including Members of the Advisory Committee (see Annex E for details of the meeting).

ASCI is collaborating with the UNAIDS Security and Humanitarian Response Unit on two projects dealing with the uniformed services. In September 2007, ASCI will organise a global expert meeting on HIV and the police with the support from UNAIDS and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (see annex F for more information on the meeting). Moreover, UNAIDS and ASCI will co-fund an extensive review of the national military AIDS programmes and policies in the 16 major troop contributing countries. Additionally, ASCI will be briefing the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting in Geneva.

Finally, the ASCI website plays a central role in outreach activities. During the period under review, an on-line research hub and information portal has been launched (<http://asci.researchhub.ssrc.org>). This globally accessible electronic platform offers a word-searchable database of academic and policy research, organizations and key actors across the field of AIDS, conflict and security (see Annex G for further details). In addition to a quarterly newsletter, ASCI issues monthly advisories containing information on recent publications, events, web resources and relevant partners have been sent to the various institutions and researchers that are involved in this network.

Finances

From its inception in September 2006, ASCI received financial support from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Australian Agency for International Development and the the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In order to reach its budget goal of Euro1,320,000.- additional resource mobilization activities were undertaken by the ASCI secretariat and resulted in the development of four new partnerships. The Peacebuilding Fund of the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade generously contributed to ASCI, principally in support of its work on the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS and security. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund is providing two years of support for ASCI's South Africa based research and mobilization activities. The United Nations Population Fund has also contributed generously toward a number of ASCI research projects. And Justice Africa will contribute funding towards two gender-related research projects on policing in Liberia and Sudan. In order to meet its funding goals as stated in the originally submitted budget, an additional Euro 75,000.- is needed.

Annex A

Overview of ASCI Research Projects

This document contains an overview of the various research projects that are being carried out under the auspices of the AIDS, Security and Conflict Initiative (ASCI). The research projects are divided into four thematic research clusters:

- 1) HIV/AIDS in the military, police and peacekeeping operations;
- 2) HIV/AIDS, humanitarian crises and post-conflict transitions;
- 3) HIV/AIDS and fragile states;
- 4) Gender and cross-cutting issues.

1. Thematic cluster: HIV/AIDS and the Uniformed Services

The principal research activity for this cluster is to catalogue how armies are responding to the challenge of HIV/AIDS. The overall research approach is to compile information on programmes and policies with respect to HIV/AIDS across a large number of armies, principally in Africa but also in Central America and South-East Asia. The research in this thematic cluster is framed by an analysis of the drivers of HIV/AIDS prevalence and the determinants of effective prevention and testing policy. It builds upon the existing evidence base for patterns and levels of HIV prevalence in national armed forces. Relevant research on HIV/AIDS and the military in Russia will also be conducted by Thematic cluster 3. The overall objective of this cluster is to demonstrate that many armies have succeeded in responding effectively to the threat posed by HIV/AIDS but substantial improvements are possible.

A. HIV/AIDS in the Uniformed Services in Central America

The major objective of this research project is to determine how the uniformed services in five Central American countries are responding to the problem of HIV. The research will primarily focus on the armed forces in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. It seeks to address the question of how the armed forces in these countries have responded to the disease by investigating testing, prevention and treatment policies as well as rotation, deployment and demobilisation practices. Attention will also be given to the specific institutional medical services and the relation between the uniformed services and the civilian population. Alongside the research on armed forces, a comparable but less intensive study will be carried out on the police forces in the above mentioned countries, including Costa Rica.

- **Research partner:** Utrecht University, The Netherlands (Dr. D. Kruijt)
- **Budget:** €21,770.-

- **Timeframe:** July - October 2007
- **Final product:** The research activities mentioned above will culminate into a research report that will offer an informed and detailed analysis of HIV policies and practices in the uniformed services of the selected countries.

B. Exploring the Impact of HIV/AIDS on the Operational Effectiveness of Military Forces

The aim of this research is to determine the impact of HIV/AIDS on the operational effectiveness of military forces in the Global South, especially Sub Saharan Africa. The research will set out the key components of operational capability and the factors that influence the effectiveness of a military force. It will then identify how HIV/AIDS affects the various functional and specialist areas across the military community. Based on this analysis, the strategic and operational approaches for dealing with HIV/AIDS in the military will be assessed.

- **Research partner:** Cranfield University Centre for Security Sector Management, United Kingdom (Dr. A.M. Fitzgerald)
- **Budget:** €24,640.-
- **Timeframe:** May - November 2007
- **Final product:** A report that aims to fill important gaps in the existing empirical evidence on linkages between HIV/AIDS and security sector issues, including recommendations and an AIDS Operational Effectiveness Impact Framework.

C. HIV/AIDS, the Military, UN Peacekeeping Forces and Sex Workers in Sri Lanka

This research project focuses on three vulnerable groups in Sri Lanka and will assess the level of knowledge of HIV/AIDS, availability of and access to prevention methods, and actual use of these methods among members of vulnerable groups. The vulnerable groups under study include UN peacekeeping forces from Sri Lanka that have been deployed in Haiti, military personnel and sex workers. An important aspect of this project is to review current policies and programmes on HIV/AIDS and to offer recommendations in order to improve HIV/AIDS programmes that target these vulnerable groups.

- **Research partner:** International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES), Sri Lanka (Dr. S.W. Samarasinghe)
- **Budget:** € 15,960.-, with additional funding from ICES and UN Population Fund
- **Timeframe:** May - December 2007
- **Final product:** A final report with research findings and suggested measures to improve knowledge, accessibility and use of prevention methods. In addition, dissemination of findings and recommendations through local

workshops, public outreach, a special website and the distribution of CD-ROMs.

D. Comparing Security Sector Responses to HIV in Africa

This project will carry out desktop research on HIV and the security sector in Africa, with the objective to map how uniformed services in Africa are responding to the disease. Seven African countries have been identified to be included in this research; Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Namibia. The study will look at how national, regional and international policies are being translated into practical projects and programs within the countries under review. In addition, there will be a comparative analysis of the intervention policies/packages of the different countries in order to identify major gaps and good practices.

- **Research partner:** Center for Policy research and Dialogue (CPRD), Ethiopia (Dr. Kidane)
- **Budget:** € 10,000.-
- **Timeframe:** July – August 2007
- **Final product:** A report that analyses and discusses the effectiveness of existing intervention HIV policies in the countries under review. In addition, the report will offer practical recommendations that can be incorporated into the Common Defence and Security Policy (CDSP) of the African Union.

E. Assessing and Analysing National Military HIV Policies in 16 UN Troop Contributing Countries

This research project will receive funding from the Security and Humanitarian Response Unit at UNAIDS. The research will consist of national case studies in 16 troop contributing countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East¹, carried out collaboratively with local based researchers. The primary objective is to review military HIV policies and their implementation into concrete programmes in these countries. Furthermore, additional research will be undertaken to assess whether there are additional HIV prevention policies and programs specifically geared for those to be deployed in peace-keeping operations. Methodological details of this research project are being finalized between ASCI and UNAIDS.

- **Research partner:** Cranfield University Centre for Security Sector Management, United Kingdom (Dr. G. Hughes)
- **Budget:** € 20,000.- with additional funding from UNAIDS
- **Timeframe:** To be completed in December 2007

¹ Countries under review are Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Jordan, Ethiopia, Uruguay, Brazil, USA, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Namibia, Kenya, France and Ukraine.

- **Final product:** A report based on 16 case-studies, that will provide an assessment of different testing and counselling policies within militaries as well as policies relating to HIV prevention, treatment and care.

2. Thematic Cluster: HIV/AIDS, Humanitarian Crises and Post-Conflict Transitions

The overall aim of the research in the second thematic cluster is to extract clear evidence-based policy and programme recommendations for how HIV/AIDS initiatives should be designed for humanitarian crisis and post-conflict transitions. To date, post-conflict and reconstruction programmes have not taken HIV/AIDS sufficiently into account. A careful specification of the drivers of the epidemic in specific situations will allow these interventions to be better designed, sequenced and implemented, and will lead to a new perspective and set of actionable recommendations on the design and implementation of post-conflict transition and reconstruction efforts. Similarly, the framework for examining effective HIV/AIDS policies should enable interventions to be assessed and improved.

A. Comparative Research on HIV/AIDS in the Context of Post-Conflict Transitions

This is a proposal for a coordinated research project on HIV/AIDS in the context of humanitarian crisis and post-conflict transition in six countries. The research will take place in Bosnia, Cambodia, DRC, Liberia, East Timor and Haiti. The principal objective of the project is to quickly generate a body of data on HIV/AIDS in the context of post-conflict transition in the above mentioned countries that are emerging from conflict or that have done so in the past twenty years in different regions in the world. The project will assess evidence for the nature and extent of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in these countries and the extent to which HIV/AIDS considerations are incorporated into national recovery or reconstruction policies and programs. Moreover, the project will identify the most vulnerable groups in settings of post-conflict transition and what role the process of transition plays in placing people at new or increased risk of HIV/AIDS. In addition the research will assess how HIV/AIDS may affect the process of transition, future security and recovery.

- **Research partner:** International Centre of Migration and Health (ICMH), Switzerland (Dr. M. Carballo)
- **Budget:** € 81.250.-
- **Timeframe:** June - December 2007
- **Final product:** The findings of the research will be reviewed by a small group of experts and country investigators and a report and recommendations will be developed.

3. Thematic cluster: HIV/AIDS and Fragile States

The general objectives for the research in this thematic cluster include empirically testing the hypothesis that HIV/AIDS contributes to state fragility at different levels and investigating the implementation of HIV/AIDS programmes and policies in countries that are classified as fragile states. Given that there are now sufficient indicators for state effectiveness and fragility, it is possible to draw very general lessons about the possible, and demonstrated, relationship between HIV/AIDS and state fragility. It is likely that such a relationship exists only under certain specific conditions, and research activities within this cluster will allow for at least a preliminary specification of those conditions, while also exploring why it is that states have shown greater-than-expected resilience. In addition, the impact of high-prevalence HIV/AIDS epidemics on small states, which already have very limited human resources and capabilities, will receive special attention through targeted research. The second main exercise of cluster three is to examine how best to design and implement HIV/AIDS policies and programmes in fragile states.²

A. Statistical Analysis on HIV/AIDS and Fragile States

This research project aims to provide a better understanding of the link between the HIV/AIDS epidemic and fragile states. The study will look for epidemiological and demographic evidence to empirically test what the causal links are, if any, between HIV/AIDS epidemic and state fragility for a set of countries. The key question guiding this research is whether the (high) prevalence of HIV/AIDS in a country pushes it towards fragility. The research will mainly concentrate on Sub Sahara Africa, but will take the developments in Asia and the former Soviet Union also into account. By carrying out statistical analysis the study will try to explore if there is a causal link between the HIV/AIDS prevalence and (government) institutions inability to perform their duties and fulfil their mandates.

- **Research partner:** LSEAIDS, London School of Economics, United Kingdom
- **Budget:** €4,300.-
- **Timeframe:** February - July 2007
- **Final product:** The research findings, presented in the final report, will provide important data on the correlation between HIV/AIDS and state fragility.

B. The Challenge of Increased AIDS Deaths in the Local Governance Sector in South Africa

The main objective of this research project is to assess the impact of HIV/AIDS on South African local government, as this level of government has been inadequately

² These states fall broadly into two categories: those in which the government has collapsed or is ineffective, and those in which the government is dictatorial and repressive.

studied to date. The study uses the prism of electoral democracy to investigate the extent to which HIV/AIDS may contribute to state fragility and its potential consequences for state sustainability in South Africa. This research project is expected to provide valuable insights into the extent of attrition to AIDS amongst political elites, the underlying causes and levels of stigma amongst the elected representatives and the new challenges faced by their constituencies in participating in the democratic process. It seeks to determine the operational impacts of the illness and mortality on the council and municipal functioning and conclusions will be drawn about the extent to which these deaths are influencing the quality of democracy and thus the stability of the state.

- **Research partner:** Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA), South Africa (Dr. K. Chirambo)
- **Budget:** €31.430.-
- **Timeframe:** June - February 2007
- **Final product:** A research report presenting research findings and explaining in what ways the HIV/AIDS pandemic will impact on the functioning of the local authorities in South Africa.

C. The Impact of HIV/AIDS on the Russian Federation.

This research project attempts to provide new information on the potential impact of HIV/AIDS in Russia. By reviewing recent evidence, the study will consider whether and in what ways HIV/AIDS might or might not contribute to fragility in the Russian state including the armed forces. One of the factors in this causal relationship to be explored is the reduction in the number of eligible fit youths for military services due to HIV/AIDS

- **Research partner:** Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States (Dr. M. Feshbach)
- **Budget:** €2,500.-
- **Timeframe:** May-June 2007
- **Final product:** A briefing report on the impact of HIV/AIDS on the Russian state.

D. Exploring the Links between Local Government and Electoral Reform and Increasing HIV/AIDS Rates in West Papua, Indonesia.

The HIV incidence rate in the West Papua region of Eastern Indonesia is increasing since 2000. This research will focus on one of the potential causes for this increase, namely the ways in which local government and electoral reform have impacted on local economic and social development patterns. This local government reform in the form of decentralisation has been implemented across Indonesia since 2001. The decentralisation process has impacted on employment and migration patterns, which

can give an explanation for the increased HIV incidence rate. Furthermore the electoral reform has led to a reallocation of funds for electoral purposes at the cost of local health and education budgets which also increases the risk of HIV infection. This study aims to explore this link between the government reforms and the increased HIV incidence in West Papua. The outcome of this study can have important consequences for current development policies, including governance and health programmes.

- **Research partner:** Development Studies Institute at the London School of Economics, United Kingdom (C.Q. Smith)
- **Budget:** €5,250.-
- **Timeframe:** Completed December 2007
- **Final Product:** A research paper that has as its central objective to explore the rationale behind the argument that government and electoral reform is related to increased HIV rates in West Papua.

E. How the States of South East Asia Respond to HIV/AIDS

This project will examine the responses of south east Asian states to HIV/AIDS, with particular reference to Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia. In particular, given the distinct and very different political histories and social structures of these three countries, their different cultural orientations and differing epidemiologies, the research will examine the questions listed as influencing policy formulation and outcome developed at the LaTrobe workshop held in April 2007. Among the conclusions of that workshop was the view that good policymaking (and by inference, good policy outcomes) is determined not by the broad political characteristics of the state (democratic or authoritarian, stable or fragile), but rather by the specificities of the policymaking process, and in particular by the way in which key national and international policymakers have been engaged in the various stages and levels of the policymaking process. The study will primarily draw upon a review of existing literature and a number of in-depth interviews with key informants, in South East Asia but also in the region, notably with Professor D. Tarantola of the University of New South Wales.

- **Research Partner:** LaTrobe University, Australia (Dr. D. Altman)
- **Budget:** €3,500.-
- **Timeframe:** July - December 2007
- **Final product:** A research paper that presents research findings.

F. ART Expansion and Fragilities in Mozambique

This study benefits from access to extensive data collected by the researcher who is undertaking the first ethnographic study of ARV roll out in a state that by many criteria meets the definition of “fragility”. The main objectives of this particular study in

the context of Mozambique are to qualify and analyze ARV treatment expansion in relation to state fragility as well as to identify other forms of fragility in relation to ARV treatment expansion. The health sector occupies a very particular position in relation to the politics of the Mozambican state. It represents the success of the incumbent political party in the struggle for independence. ARV roll out presents a challenge to this ideological position and therefore a particular test of state capability and autonomy in its relation with bilateral and multilateral donor partners.

- **Research Partner:** LSEAIDS, London School of Economics, UK (E. Høg)
- **Budget:** €3,000,-
- **Timeframe:** Completed July 2007
- **Final product:** A research paper that presents research findings in order to improve our understanding of fragility and ARV treatment expansion in Mozambique.

G. AIDS and State Fragility in the South Pacific

The aim of this research project is to investigate the relationship between AIDS and state fragility in the South Pacific, with a focus on Papua New Guinea. Perspectives from Africa will be reviewed to see if they are applicable to the South Pacific. The conditions that make states fragile in Africa, according to analysts, will be synthesised and compared with the situation in the South Pacific. Existing evidence that links HIV to state fragility in Africa will be compared with the situation in the South Pacific. The study will primarily draw upon a review of existing literature and a number of in-depth interviews with key informants.

- **Research Partner:** LaTrobe University, Australia (Dr. M. O'Keefe)
- **Budget:** €3,500.-
- **Timeframe:** July - December 2007
- **Final product:** A research paper that presents research findings.

H. Impact of HIV/AIDS on Local Government Effectiveness in India's Northeast Region

The proposed study seeks to address the question whether HIV/AIDS has had any effect on local government effectiveness in India's north-eastern Region. The reason for this focus on India's two north-eastern states (Manipur and Nagaland) stems from the fact that these are two of the six high prevalent or generalized epidemic states in the country. In addition, both states are plagued by insurgency and an already fragile state apparatus that potentially may be affected by high prevalence rates. In order to assess the impact of the disease on the effectiveness of local government, the study attempts to measure and quantify wherever possible its impact on local elected bodies, military and police, health care services and the education system.

- **Research Partner** University of Jammu, India (Dr. H. Jacob)
- **Budget:** € 13.500,-
- **Timeframe:** July - December 2007
- **Final product:** A research paper that presents research findings.

4. Gender and Cross-Cutting Issues

ASCI's research team has identified a number of important cross-cutting issues, whereby gender has been prioritised as an important cross-cutting theme when considering the relation between HIV/AIDS, conflict and security. Although gender is an important theme in each of the research clusters, additional gender-focused research is being carried out. Research on gender in relation to HIV/AIDS will contribute to a better understanding of the extent and impact of sexual violence in situations associated with the military, conflict and crisis. In addition, research aims to identify the socio-cultural traits of masculinity that are linked to the military and the drivers of HIV prevalence. Apart from gender, other cross-cutting themes to be studied are HIV/AIDS in relation to security sector reform (SSR) programmes and policies, the impact of HIV/AIDS on the police and global media coverage of HIV/AIDS as a security issue.

A. HIV/AIDS, Sexual Violence and Exploitation during Post-Conflict Transitions: The Case of Sierra Leone.

This study focuses on the key drivers and risk factors of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in post-conflict Sierra Leone. It will explore the ways in which these risk factors are driven by sexual violence and exploitation (SVE). In addition, the research will examine the social norms and pressures that shape roles, rights, responsibilities, and sexual relationships in post-conflict situations and how these processes impact on SVE and HIV/AIDS. The main objectives of the research are to examine the nature and extent of SVE and its impact on women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, to identify the key drivers of HIV/AIDS and to examine the perceptions about the causes and consequences of SVE. Moreover, this research will elaborate on the rights and responsibilities of different actors in dealing with sexual violence and exploitation, and examine how gender inequalities and norms including masculinities are socially constructed and how these processes impact on SVE and HIV/AIDS.

- **Research partner:** Children's Institute, University of Cape Town, South Africa (Dr. J. John-Langba)
- **Budget:** € 24,900.-
- **Timeframe:** June 2007 - April 2007
- **Final product:** A research report that examines the nature and extent of SVE and its impact on women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. The report will include

clear and immediate policy and programme recommendations for HIV/AIDS prevention, based on the empirical evidence of the key drivers and risk factors of the epidemic in Sierra Leone.

B. Modelling Increases in HIV Risk Following Rape

With the increasing body of evidence about the prevalence of sexual violence in conflict and non-conflict setting, there is growing debate about the potential role of sexual violence in helping to facilitate HIV transmission. This project aims to summarise the potential factors associated with the transmission of HIV in different circumstances of coerced sex. For specific assumptions about the degree to which these different factors may be associated with increased risk of HIV transmission, mathematical modelling will be used to estimate the impact of sexual violence on the victim's risk of HIV acquisition.

- **Research partner:** London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom (Dr. C. Watts)
- **Budget:** € 19,800.-
- **Timeframe:** June – December 2007
- **Final product:** A briefing paper summarising the potential factors associated with the transmission of HIV in different circumstances of coerced sex and highlighting the implications of violence for women's risk of HIV transmission.

C. Factoring Power and Gender into Core Group HIV Models

The traditional models of HIV transmission have envisioned sex workers as a primary 'core group' and their male clients as the 'bridging population' to female members of the public (e.g. wives, girlfriends). This project aims to reconsider these traditional HIV transmission models and assumptions in order to develop a more sophisticated model that better reflects the complexity of how the infection spreads within different populations. The limitations of traditional concepts like 'core groups' and 'bridging population' will be revealed and a new conceptual model for core groups will be designed. This renewed conceptualisation takes more explicitly into account the levels of mobility, autonomy and power of different sub-groups of sex workers.

- **Research partner:** London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom (Dr. C. Zimmerman)
- **Budget:** € 38,600.-
- **Timeframe:** June – December 2007
- **Final product:** The conceptual model that forms the final product of the research will help to better represent the complexity of subgroups within traditional HIV/AIDS transmission theory.

D. The Visual Economy of HIV/AIDS as a Security Issue

This project will analyze the visualization of HIV/AIDS as a security issue in the period subsequent to 2000. In this period HIV/AIDS has shifted from a public health matter to a regional and global security issue. The major objective of this study is to determine whether the visual representation of HIV/AIDS from 2000 onwards reflects this change in focus and, if not, what visual strategies might be implemented in order to manifest the linkages between HIV/AIDS and security. The major component of the project is the analysis of how HIV/AIDS has been pictured as a security issue. The study will elaborate on the gap between the security problematic of HIV/AIDS and its current visualization and how this gap could be addressed.

- **Research partner:** Durham University, United Kingdom (Dr. D. Campbell)
- **Budget:** €21,000.-
- **Timeframe:** September - January 2008
- **Final product:** The final product of this research is a web portal and a research paper on the visualization of HIV/AIDS as a security issue.

E. The Impact of HIV/AIDS on the Police: Implications for Strategic Policy and Operations

HIV/AIDS and the police is an important issue. Not only are police forces institutions that are impacted by the epidemic, but they are also in the front line of dealing with many of the groups most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. However, the police remain much-neglected in research and programming on HIV/AIDS. The purpose of this research project is to assess and deepen the understanding of the linkages between and impact of HIV/AIDS on police forces. Based on a review of existing literature and interviews with key informants, this study attempts to establish how HIV/AIDS impacts upon police forces. In addition, it seeks to identify and map the current range of programmatic responses to the disease by national police forces.

- **Research partner:** Libra Advisory Group, United Kingdom (P. Biesheuvel)
- **Budget:** €16,000.-
- **Timeframe:** June-August 2007
- **Final product:** The output of this research consists of a paper which can be used by police policymakers, practitioners and researchers to promote constructive dialogue and best practice concerning HIV/AIDS policy across the global policing community.

F. Assessing the Mainstreaming of HIV Policies and Programming into DDR and SSR Activities in Post-Conflict Settings

The general objective of this research project is to arrive at a comprehensive assessment of HIV interventions in relation to broader DDR and security sector reform initiatives that are currently being undertaken in South Sudan and the

Democratic Republic of Congo. The study will discuss, analyse and recommend HIV intervention programmes in the context of ongoing post-conflict DDR and SSR initiatives.

- **Research partner:** Final selection to be made
- **Budget:** €20,000.-
- **Timeframe:** July – November 2007
- **Final product:** A report that will present major findings as well as concrete recommendations on the base of these assessments that can be shared with all relevant stakeholders involved in security sector reform in post-conflict settings.

5. Research Proposals Still Under Development

A. Liberia: Women CIVPOL in UNMIL: A Real-Time Study

- **Research partner:** University of Liberia (Dr. B. Harris)

B. Sudan: The AU Firewood Brigades: The Perils and Promise of New Approaches to Intervention

C. Gender, HIV/AIDS and DDR in Burundi

- **Research partner:** London School of Economics, UK (Dr. Seckinelgin)

D. HIV/AIDS and Sexual Violence: Implications for Data Collection and Measurement

- **Research partner:** London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom

E. HIV as a Weapon of War in Rwanda: the Aftermath

- **Research partner:** Payson Centre for International Development and Technology Transfer, United States of America (Dr. Omar)

F. HIV/AIDS, Gender and Armed Conflict in India

- **Research partner:** Jawaharlal Nehru University, India (Dr. Nepram)

Annex B

Meeting Report: Pretoria, March 2007

This meeting had three purposes relevant to ASCI:

1. The formal conference was organized by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund to bring together all its grant recipient organizations in South Africa working on issues of HIV/AIDS, security, governance and food security. It was therefore an opportunity to present ASCI to an audience of South African scholars and civil society activists, and to learn about their activities. During the meetings it became clear that there is no comparable initiative to ASCI in existence and that our work can provide an important platform for others who are seeking to become engaged in the field.
2. To discuss collaboration with ISS, specifically Martin Rupiya and Len LeRoux. ISS has an ambitious research programme on HIV/AIDS and the military in Africa which they had hoped we could co-finance. However it does not fit our budget or timeframe. We agreed that we would try to collaborate on a more modest proposal in which ISS would draw on its experience in the region and contribute a synthesis that would be of use both to ASCI and to the African Union chiefs of staff.
3. To explore the possibilities of a research activity focusing on the police and HIV/AIDS with Themba Masuku of the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation. The RBF meeting included a presentation by Masuku which was severely constrained by the fact that the South African Police Service had not yet authorized him to go public with his research findings. He was in the process of obtaining that permission—which has since been delayed several times, much to his frustration. The outcome of the meeting was an agreement that Masuku and CSVR would participate in the ASCI research workshop on the police and would prepare a proposal for research with the police forces of the Southern Africa subregion.

Annex C

Workshop Report, Melbourne, April 2007

This workshop was organized by Dennis Altman of LaTrobe University in Melbourne. The motivation for it was that it was necessary for ASCI to engage with the agenda of fragile states in the Asia-Pacific region, both because this is a significant issue of international concern, and also because of a specific request by the Australian government. Tony Barnett and Dennis Altman agreed that the best procedure would therefore be to organize a workshop in Australia at which researchers and policymakers from Australia and the region could attend and present their analyses. The workshop was held in Melbourne and was attended by individuals from Australia, Papua New Guinea, East Timor, and the Solomon Islands. In addition, individuals present had experience of Thailand, Burma, Vietnam, Indonesia and other countries.

The workshop had the following outcomes:

1. The case studies and general insights presented in the workshop proved invaluable in showing the different perspectives on the issue in the Asia-Pacific region. Of particular importance were the general reluctance of academics and policymakers to adopt the framework of state fragility and to ascribe aspects of state fragility to HIV/AIDS; the importance of looking at community level fragility and resilience; and the diverse pathways of policymaking. These perspectives were particularly important in challenging the dominance of African-centered approaches to framing issues of HIV/AIDS.
2. One research project that arose from the workshop is the proposal of Dennis Altman to document the different ways in which states in Southeast Asia have adopted and implemented HIV/AIDS policies. States with very different political institutions and traditions, have adopted HIV/AIDS policies that in important respects are remarkably progressive.
3. A second research project involves the documentation of the causes of state fragility in the region. This project, undertaken by Michael O'Keefe, will compare the different factors that contribute to state and community crisis, and assess the relative importance of HIV/AIDS compared to other factors.

Annex D

Meeting Report: Geneva, May 2007

The International Centre for Migration and Health (ICMH) and its executive director Dr. Carballo, who is one of ASCI's principal investigators, will coordinate a research project on post-conflict transitions and HIV/AIDS. In earlier discussions with the Clingendael Institute and SSRC, it was agreed that such a project would involve six countries (Bosnia, Cambodia, DRC, East Timor, Haiti, Liberia), which had been selected because of their different experiences with HIV/AIDS, conflict and post-conflict transition.

It was also agreed with the ASCI Secretariat that this research project would be constituted by a common research protocol in order to enhance opportunities for comparisons between the selected six countries. On 3 and 4 May, ICMH, in its capacity as coordinating body, hosted a meeting in Geneva, during which the researchers responsible for the research in the selected countries met with the ASCI Secretariat and Dr. Carballo. The aim of the meeting was to set the research agenda and methodology to be used and familiarize as many partners as possible with the scope of the project and each other.

During this two-day meeting, the participants identified priority issues for research, discussed research methods and formulated key questions. On the base of these discussions, an organisational system for the project was developed together with a timetable and research strategy. In broad terms, the aim of this research project is to enhance the understanding of the dynamics of HIV/AIDS in settings of post-conflict transition to recovery, by taking into account the vulnerabilities that can emerge for different categories of people and characterizing the associations between these factors.

More specifically, participants to the meeting agreed that the project will consider five key questions:

- (a) what factors associated with the post-conflict transition process may increase vulnerability to HIV/AIDS?
- (b) what role does gender play in the process?
- (c) how does the return of displaced people affect HIV/AIDS patterns and risks?
- (d) what role does disarmament, demobilization, reinsertion, and rehabilitation (DDRR) play in the overall dynamic of HIV/AIDS spread?
- (e) what role does peacekeeping play in the overall dynamic of HIV/AIDS spread?

Annex E

Planned ASCI Expert Meeting: New York, October 2007

Given that ASCI is now firmly on its way in terms of research and related activities, it is anticipated that there will be a need to start sharing important findings with a broader audience before the formal closure of the research phase by the end of December 2007. The ASCI Secretariat plans to organize a two-day international meeting and has formally requested the approval of the Greentree Foundation to host this important meeting at their location in New York. Alongside this request, and in view of the current budget limitations, the Secretariat has inquired into the possibility for ASCI to get financial support from the Greentree Foundation in order to organize this meeting.

In order to get the most out of this expert meeting, participation will be limited to a total of 40 participants, which will be a mix of researchers, policy makers and experienced program people, as well as representatives of international organizations and affected communities. In addition, the Members of the ASCI Advisory Committee will be invited to attend this meeting.

The major objective of the meeting is to present ASCI's preliminary findings to this wider audience. The proposed meeting would provide the various collaborating research institutions and researchers with a chance to exchange the preliminary results of their research. Furthermore, such an international meeting would represent a valuable opportunity for researchers to discuss their research with policymakers and suggest the inclusion of their research findings into policy-making processes. Finally, a meeting report will be drafted, which in turn, will inform the final report of ASCI.

Annex F

Planned Expert Meeting on HIV and the Police: The Hague, September 2007

The AIDS, Security and Conflict Initiative (ASCI) is convening, together with UNAIDS and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), an international expert meeting on HIV and the police, to be held on 3 and 4 September at the Clingendael Institute in The Hague, the Netherlands. This two-day meeting will bring together researchers and policymakers in the field of HIV and police forces from across the world.

The police remain much-neglected in research and programming on HIV. Research, policies and programmes focusing on HIV and the police are scattered and fragmentary. This expert meeting represents a key opportunity to bring together experience and research from a wide range of locations, share information and thereby ascertain the state of the science in this field. The major objectives of the international expert meeting on HIV and the police include:

- Providing an opportunity for researchers from diverse countries to present their methods and findings;
- Sharing information about policies and programmes relevant to HIV and the police across the globe;
- Identifying next steps for building an evidence base for policy and programming, including opportunities for enhanced research and institutional collaboration.

Specific attention will be given to the following issues:

- The impact of HIV on the police, including their human resource management and planning, health care policies and budgets;
- Police work with vulnerable groups, such as trafficked women, rape survivors, illegal immigrants, commercial sex workers, intravenous drug users and street children, and how police personnel are trained to deal with these groups;
- Gender issues within police forces and in police relations with the community;
- The HIV/AIDS policies and practices of civilian police in international peacekeeping operations and post-conflict situations.

The expert meeting will make specific recommendations toward international policies on the issue. In addition, the expert meeting aims to set an agenda for research and collaboration between police forces and research institutes. Finally, this meeting is expected to facilitate the establishment of a network of researchers, policymakers and activists involved in this field.

Annex G

ASCI Research Hub

The ASCI Research Hub (<http://asci.researchhub.ssrc.org>) consists of a powerful set of online tools enabling a community of researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to discover and stay informed of relevant research, share knowledge and collaborate across the Initiative's four thematic areas. The main portal provides the visitor with general information about ASCI, including an overview of its thematic priorities and working papers. In addition, this user-friendly on-line information portal contains the following modules:

- *A Resource Database*
- *A News Section*
- *An Events Calendar*

The Resource Database

The resource database is designed to be a richly inter-linked repository of knowledge about AIDS, security and conflict. It offers a word-searchable database of academic and policy research, organizations and key actors across the field of AIDS, conflict and security. An important goal of the resource database is to provide more insight into the often hidden relationships and connections between the various actors working in this field. The resource database also helps to make visible which researchers are routinely collaborating together and what institutions are sponsoring research in a given subject.

Important functionalities of the Resource Database are:

- *Researcher Profiles:*
- *Social Tagging:*
- *Public and Personal Lists:*
- *Powerful Search Features:*

News

By checking the news section of the research hub, researchers, practitioners and policymakers can keep track of important developments in the field of AIDS, security and conflict.

Calendar

By consulting the calendar section of the research hub, interested individuals can stay abreast of relevant upcoming events and conferences.