

Approach to Inclusive Research and Analysis

The Network
for Religious
& Traditional
Peacemakers



*Developed by the Inclusivity
Community of Practice*

Research

Research is a process of systematic inquiry that entails collection of data; documentation of critical information; and analysis and interpretation of that data and information. Research and analysis are critical to forming an evidence base for informed interventions. Members of the [Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers](#) have identified research and analysis as one of the four approaches for effective collaboration. Members of the Network utilize research and analysis to explore the role of religious and traditional actors in peacebuilding processes and approaches to address conflicts with religious dimensions. Strengthening our joint evidence-base through distributing contextually and locally relevant and driven information, knowledge, and research is an additional method to advance the Network's evidence-informed advocacy efforts.

What is Inclusive Research and Analysis?

Research and analysis generates, analyses, and compiles a wide range of economic, social, and environmental data and statistics to inform on a given issue or topic. Evidence-based research can be utilized to inform capacity-building needs and advocacy messaging in terms of policy changes or options that might solve a societal problem. One common problem in research is the issue that researchers can hold many unconscious biases unknowingly, including gender bias, ageism, confirmation bias, or affinity bias. For example, the Gender Social Norms Index found that almost 90% of men and women hold some sort of bias against females.¹ With this in mind, these types of discriminatory perceptions impact research design and results.

¹ UNDP. "2020 Human Development Perspectives Tackling Social Norms: A Game Changer for Gender Inequalities." 2020. https://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/frequently_asked_questions_gsn.pdf.

Why is Inclusive Research and Analysis Important?

Inclusive research and analysis encompasses a range of approaches and methods, including participatory and emancipatory research, and who the researcher or research team considers: participates in the research; what constitutes active participation; and quality of the participation and research. Most importantly, inclusive research avoids hierarchical power structures between researchers and research subjects and instead ensures the active participation of the communities and individuals the research seeks to examine. Concern is mostly placed on grounding research in the experiences and views of participants, including in the design process of the project itself. Inclusive research and analysis are essential to ensure those most impacted by policy decisions, shape the analysis and thus decision-making based on this process. Collecting gender-based disaggregated data for example, will better inform policy decisions, outcomes, and impacts on women, men, and LGBTQ++.

Additional Resources

Conciliation Resources. "Doing research in conflict settings." <https://www.c-r.org/resource/doing-research-conflict-settings>.

Nind, Melanie. "What is Inclusive Research?" 2014. <https://www.bloomsburycollections.com/book/what-is-inclusive-research/ch1-inclusive-research-defined>.

Hume, Elizabeth and Jessica Baumgardner-Zuzik. 2022. 'Why the Peacebuilding Field Needs Clear and Accessible Standards of Research Ethics.' Wicked Problems: The Ethics of Action for Peace, Rights and Justice.

Alliance for Peacebuilding, Search for Common Ground, and CDA Collaborative. <http://www.dmeforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/SEPT-26-JF-EIAP-GUIDE-FINAL-UPDATED.pdf>.

Checklist To Do's – Recommendations For Practicing Inclusive Research



- Form research teams with an equal balance of genders and are diverse** in terms of ethnicity, age, caste, and other 'identity markers'. The leadership and formation of research teams is paramount. Bring in local research teams at the earliest stage of the process to ensure their buy-in and understanding of the approaches and potential sensitivities of the research.
- Be clear about the purpose of the research and how it affects local people.** Does the research only take information without benefiting or giving back to the communities? The research should minimize 'research fatigue,' in other words, utilizing the same research populations on a given topic. Carefully consider research methods, accountability, and ethical frameworks to ensure you are getting the most out of opportunities to build trust and support peacebuilding efforts.
- Minimize distress or risks for participants. Avoid re-traumatization, and offer referrals and support mechanisms, such as counseling services.** The well-being of both research participants and researchers should be prioritized, resourced, and supported by clear ethical and accountability standards.
- Use flexible and tailored tools and approaches to the specific context of the research.** In patriarchal and socially conservative societies, research methods may need to be adapted to **ensure women, ethnic or religious minorities, or LGBTQ++** participation are safe, such as organizing focus groups only for these specific individuals, to ensure they feel they **can talk openly and honestly**. Be clear within your methodology section on potential limitations resulting from whose voices and perspectives you are including in the analysis (and who you are not).
- Consider the logistics of your consultations, including the time and locations.** Women and young women may be more at risk to travel at certain points of the day or night, may have childcare needs, or may have a digital divide which prevents them from equally participating. Individuals with disabilities may need special accommodations to travel. Offer travel stipends and support to ensure equal participation for those traveling from rural communities or long distances or provide funds for participants to use at local internet cafes.
- Examine the dynamics of the facilitator and the makeup of the broader consultation group.** Women may only feel comfortable speaking amongst each other and with a female facilitator. Integrate marginalized communities, such as people with disabilities, within the broader consultation groups, to ensure you are not reinforcing perceptions of inferiority.
- Provide an inclusivity lens to your analysis** through collecting intersectional points of disaggregated data. Be intentional about collecting data based on gender, age, ethnicity, ability, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, and other relevant identity points. Ask questions such as: How are all genders impacted differently? What is the societal role of youth concerning this problem? How has this conflict been shaped by cultural norms?
- Host validation workshops with local communities** to increase confidence in the process and final outputs of the research.

