## Drugs and (dis)order: Building sustainable peacetime economies in the aftermath of war



#### **Project Aims**

#### Key research Question:

How can war economies be transformed into peace economies in regions experiencing, or recovering, from armed conflict?

#### Key aims:

- (1)Generate a **robust evidence base** on drug and illicit economies and their effects on armed conflict, state-society relations, public health and livelihoods.
- (2)Generate **new practical approaches and policy reforms**, that are based on improved understandings of the relationship between drugs, conflict and development and a knowledge of 'what works' in particular drugs affected contexts.
- (3)Build a **global network of researchers and research institutions** from the UK, Afghanistan, Colombia and Myanmar. This project will focus on drugs, but will widen the field of study to incorporate other illicit economies.

### **Research Areas**



# **RESEARCH PARTNERS**

## **UK PARTNERS**

### Universities

- SOAS [School of Oriental and African Studies]
- LSHTM [London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine]
- LSE [London School of Economics]

#### **Non-academic partners**

- Christianaid
- ALCIS
- PositiveNegatives

## **COUNTRY PARTNERS**

### Afghanistan

- Afghan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU)
- Organisation for Sustainable Development and Research (OSDR)

### Colombia

- National University of Colombia
- University de los Andes

#### Myanmar

- Shan Herald Agency for News
- Kachinland Research Centre

#### PROJECT COMPONENTS

#### RESEARCH

- History of drug economies and the social impacts of drugs
- 2. Contemporary political economy of drugs
- 3. Health and livelihoods
- Analysis of drug & development organisations and interventions

Sustained empirical research, Mixed methods, methodological innovation and sequencing

#### CAPACITY BUILDING

- Suite of customized trainings
- Horizontal and bottom up learning within and across countries
- New generation of researchers from drug producing countries
- Research organisations as hubs for methodological experimentation, capacity building and policy innovation on drugs and illicit economies within their regions

#### POLICY ENGAGEMENT

- Engaging with drugs and development audiences
- Targeting key local and national bodies Engagement with civil society actors & societal groups nationally and in borderland regions
- · Policy labs with targeted policy makers
- Targeting key international actors and forums
- Ensuring partner organisations are actively involved in policy engagement

# The story so far.....

- The challenges (and opportunities) that come with size and complexity
- Scope to scale up ambitions (data, methods, theory building) and impacts (capacity building, policy engagement/research uptake)
- But significant front loading of time and resources in the project set up phase – recruitment, administration, reporting, contracts, payment processes, workplans

# **Reporting on Project Outcomes**

- Capacity strengthening in relevant DAC listed countries at individual, organisational and institutional level
- Capacity strengthening in the UK at individual, organisational and institutional level
- Equitable partnerships
- Addressing relevant challenge areas
- Interdisciplinarity
- Global networks