The Research Council of Norway

NORGLOBAL Research Programme on Poverty and Peace (POVPEACE)

Action Plan 2010 - 2011

June 2010

Preface

In 2005 the Research Council of Norway, in cooperation with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), initiated a broad-based, long-term research programme aimed at promoting international poverty reduction and peace-building. The Research Programme on Poverty and Peace (POVPEACE) was launched to build expertise, inform the public debate and provide input into development policies as well as foreign and aid policies.

The basis for the initiative is the POVPEACE work programme¹, which was approved by the Research Council's Research Board of the Division for Strategic Priorities on 4 May 2005. Four calls for proposals have been issued since the first call in October 2005.

In January 2009 the Povpeace programme was included as an activity under the programme Norway – Global Partner (Norglobal), and the projects were transferred into the Norglobal programme portfolio and will be followed up by the Norglobal programme board. Up to 1 January 2010, 30 projects have received funding from the Povpeace activity.

This action plan is based on the original Povpeace work programme, previous action plans (2006 -2007 and 2008-2009), and the experiences of the projects funded so far. This action plan is a part of Norglobals action plan.

We hope that the POVPEACE activity also in this last phase will continue to attract the interest of Norwegian and international researchers, and thereby ensuring the success of the Povpeace activity within the Norglobal programme.

The Research Council of Norway, June 2010.

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¹ http://www.forskningsradet.no/CSStorage/Flex_attachment/Povertyandpeace.pdf

1. Background and summary

Poverty and peace have become key themes in the foreign policies of most national governments in the past few years. Some 1.2 billion people live on less than a dollar a day. Six million children under the age of five starved to death in 2004. At the current rate it will take 130 years to eradicate hunger. Progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals is slow and irregular, with much of Sub-Saharan Africa continuously falling behind the rest of the world. At the same time, violent conflicts are riveting the world, and resulted in the deaths of six million people in the 1990s. Forty million people currently live as refugees or internally displaced persons, and 300,000 children have been conscripted as soldiers. While official development assistance amounts to USD 60 billion (2002), SIPRI statistics indicate that the world's total military spending amounts to more than USD 1.2 trillion. To meet these challenges, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has given increased priority to international poverty eradication in Norwegian development assistance, as well as in several policy papers and strategy documents that set the focus and strategies for development policies and other aspects of foreign affairs policies. At the same time, Norway has long played an active role in peacemaking and peacekeeping operations. In the government white paper on Norwegian national research policy (Report no. 20 (2004-2005) to the Storting: Commitment to Research) the strength of Norwegian peace and conflict research is highlighted. In the succeding Government white paper (Report no. 30 (2008-2009) to the Storting Climate for Research) the increasing global challenges and internationalisaton of research are considered important priorities within Norwegian Research Policy. Poverty, climatic changes, energy needs, biological diversity, migration and the increasing food crisis is especially highlighted.

2. Strategic aims and objectives

The overall *aim* of the activity is to improve the understanding of how to achieve poverty reduction and promote peace-building.

The principal *objective* of the activity is to strengthen Norwegian research on poverty and peace issues and thus achieve the highest international research standards.

The secondary objectives are to increase collaboration between relevant Norwegian researchers and their institutions and to expand networking and cooperation with leading development and peace research institutes in both the North and South as well as with international organisations.

The programme seeks to support the potentially best research initiatives that address the key areas of poverty reduction, conflict prevention and peace-building. The research initiatives must strive to generate high-quality research findings that are publishable in the best international journals and that will secure funding for PhD and postdoctoral candidates in fields of research relevant for these programmes. Applicants are encouraged to contribute to capacity-building at their respective institutions by strengthening the theoretical and methodological aspects of these fields.

3. Focus and priority research areas

The selection of thematic areas and strategies is based on an assessment of the status of international knowledge, areas in which Norwegian researchers have expertise and comparative advantages, and fields in particular need of policy interventions. The largest portion of the activities funding is reserved for poverty research, and the funding available for peace and conflict research has already been allotted.

The activity has two main areas of research: "poverty and welfare" and "violent conflict, peace and development". Although distinctly separate from each other, these areas may also overlap. Both areas are relevant for the activity, as is the interface between them. The thematic areas are relevant for both "traditional" development research as well as for researchers in the fields of welfare and poverty, labour markets, research on institutional conditions and human rights, access and control over natural resources,

environmental management, etc. The activity is open to both theoretical and applied research. Gender issues will be given particular emphasis in the calls for proposals. Strong interdisciplinary and comparative research proposals will also be viewed in a favourable light.

Poverty and welfare

The activity seeks to improve understanding of the policies, processes and mechanisms that *lead* to poverty. It will particularly focus on research that generates knowledge relevant for poverty *reduction* strategies, especially for those trapped in the worst forms of poverty in poor countries. This fundamental focus of the activity cannot be overemphasised, and is outlined in more detail in the original Povpeace work programme. Within the thematic areas, poverty may be studied at different levels and in local, national and international settings. It may also include issues such as class, ethnicity, gender relations, human rights, environmental and climatic changes that adversely affect the poor..

In the last and upcoming Povpeace call, the Norglobal programme will particularly welcome proposals that address the following topics within poverty research:

Poverty, unemployment, labour markets, job creation, migration and unrecorded economic activities, as well as a focus on those typically excluded from statistical or policy view;

The effect of development aid on wealth distribution and poverty;

Mechanisms of inclusion of deprived people in growth and development through either welfare and social policies or trade, investment and growth, including their relation to income inequality.

Although some of these topics are also part of more general development research, it should be emphasised that for the purposes of this activity, project proposals should be focused specifically on poverty.

Violent conflict, peace and development

The relationship between violence, peace and development has long been central to the social sciences. The questions have been framed on different levels: individuals and groups; state and economy; and global and world systems. As there is currently no funding left addressing violent conflict, peace and development research, there will be no further call for proposals within these thematics under the Povpeace activity. In 2010 and 2011 the Norglobal programme board and secretariat will follow up the wide range of projects already funded.

4. Strategic initiatives and international co-operation

The Norglobal programme will fund and follow up research projects on poverty and peace based on project proposals submitted by the research community. The Povpeace activity also intends to support other means of strengthening research in the field, such as network-building, organising conferences and training workshops, disseminating research results and facilitating dialogue between the researchers involved in the programme and stakeholders, including policy makers in Norway's development administration. Scholars with experience from sectors not directly involved in development and peace research are also welcome to participate.

The programme seeks to assist the Norwegian research sector with expanding its research activity on an international basis, particularly with communities, institutions and researchers in the South.

5. Organisation and funding of the research projects

In addition to thematic content, applicants should take the following considerations into account:

- Projects must be relevant to the aims and objectives of the Povpeace activity in particular and the Norglobal programme in general.
- The development of networks, cooperation mechanisms and clusters of projects involving collaboration between several researchers and institutions, particularly from the South, are welcome.
- Projects may include doctoral and/or postdoctoral components, as well as established networks and international collaborative partners.
- Cooperation between institutes and across the institute sector and the university "divide" will also be particularly welcome.
- Larger projects should focus on capacity-building (doctoral and/or post-doctoral researchers), enhancing quality and standards, and inducing synergy effects in other research areas.

6. Financial framework

The programme is expected to run until 2013 and have an overall financial framework tentatively set at about NOK 140 million from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through Norad, with approximately NOK 100 million allocated to poverty research and approximately NOK 40 million for research on violent conflict, peace and development. In addition the Ministry of Education and Research has contributed with additional NOK 1.1 million per year since 2008.

All funding is dependent on annual allocations from the relevant ministries and to approval each year by the Norwegian Storting. The total amount of funding for the remaining calls for proposals will also depend on the quality and thematic distribution of the proposals received. The following table must therefore be seen as indicative only.

Allocation of remaining funds	2010	2011
	Approximately	none
Poverty related projects	NOK 23 million	
Peace- and conflict related projects	none	none

7. Selection process

All applications must follow the standard guidelines for electronic applications to the Research Council of Norway and be submitted by the established deadlines. No individual extensions of these deadlines will be granted.

Applications that meet the basic requirements will be evaluated by international experts organized in evaluation panels..The Norglobal programme board will make the final decicion, based partly, but not exclusively, on the comments and assessments made by the expert panels, the relevance of the applications for the programme, and how the various projects as a whole support the objectives of the programme. A list with the approved projects will be published on the Research Council's website immediately after the programme board reaches its final decision.

8. Performance indicators

All projects are required to report to the Research Council through periodic progress reports that will be monitored by the Norglobal programme board as well as by the Research Council administration. A set of key performance indicators are included in the standard progress report form. These progress reports are particularly important for the Research Councils annual report to the Ministries. The Norglobal programme board particularly emphasize the importance of the popular science summaries. In addition, projects are expected to present their achievements during the Norglobal programme's dissemination seminars and meetings and to make their results easily available according to the guidelines set forth in the Povpeace communication plan.

9. Time frame

The following milestones are envisioned for the period 2010 – 2011:

Date	Activity / target	
March 2010	Povpeace dissemination seminar;	
June 2010	Finalisation of action plan 2010-2011;	
June 2010	Norglobal programme board meeting, approval and publication of new call for	
	proposal, follow up/approval of final reports from finished projects;	
September 2010	Deadline for applications – 5 th call for proposals;	
September 2010	Deadline for submission of progress reports;	
October 2010	Evaluation panels for the 5 th call for proposals on poverty research;	
October 2010	Norglobal programme board meeting; possible allocation of grants to poverty	
	research, follow up/approval of final reports from finished Povpeace projects;	
February 2011	Norglobal programme board meeting, follow up/approval of final reports from	
	finished projects;	
May-June 2011	Norglobal programme board meeting, follow up/approval of final reports from	
	finished Povpeace projects. Povpeace dissemination seminar;	
September 2011	Deadline for submission of progress reports;	
November 2011	Norglobal programme board meeting, follow up/approval of final reports from	
	finished projects.	

10. Dissemination and communication

In order to achieve the programme's objectives, the dissemination of the achievements and results of the projects funded under the programme must be ensured. A separate communication plan has been prepared in this connection. The project managers and researchers will bear the main responsibility for adhering to this plan.