New York, New York, December 5, 2012—The African Peacebuilding Network (APN) has awarded grants to twenty-three African scholars and practitioners for seven months of research. By joining a network of African academics, practitioners and policy-analysts, the grantees are responding to the critical need for high-quality, policy-relevant research on peacebuilding in Africa that reflects the knowledge of African researchers working in areas affected by conflict. For a complete list of the grantees, including their institutional affiliations and projects titles, click here.

The Social Science Research Council (SSRC) launched the APN in March 2012 with a two-year, $1.6 million grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY). The APN program exemplifies Carnegie Corporation’s dedication to promote African expertise in the areas of peacebuilding and statebuilding. “With this opening effort, the APN program is deepening the proficiency of colleagues in Africa to grapple with some of the most vexing challenges of our time,” remarked SSRC President Ira Katznelson. “The Council is proud to be working with a range of partner institutions and scholars to advance this profoundly important initiative.”

A distinguished selection committee comprised of APN board members—leading scholars and practitioners in the fields of peace and security—selected twenty-three grantees: eleven individual projects and six team projects. Based in African universities and research institutions in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, the grantees hold diverse post-graduate degrees and have histories of long-term commitments to peacebuilding on the continent. The grantees will conduct research on a broad array of topics, including The Privatization of Mediation and the Political Economy of Conflict Management, Enhancing the Capacity of Female Peacekeepers and Local Women in Building Peace in Africa, and Educational Systems as Agents of Conflict Prevention in Africa.

Cyril Obi, Program Director of the African Peacebuilding Network, explains the significance of the research grants further, “The enthusiastic response to the call for grant applications and the numerous high-quality proposals submitted underscore the high level of demand for programs of this nature in Africa. The APN research grants will contribute towards building a critical mass of expertise within the continent as well as strengthen the connections between researchers, practitioners and policymakers engaged in African peacebuilding.”

About the African Peacebuilding Network (APN)

The APN supports independent African research on peacebuilding, and the integration of African knowledge into global policy discussions. The network develops the quality of policy-relevant research on peacebuilding in Africa and increases the visibility of African researchers in global academic and policy institutions, as well as the United Nations and the African Union. Additionally, the APN hosts Kujenga Amani (Swahili for “building peace”), an online forum for the exchange of ideas and information on peacebuilding in Africa.

More information about the African Peacebuilding Network is available here: http://www.ssrc.org/programs/apn/