

Annual Review - Summary Sheet

PROGRAMME TITLE: CSSF Syria Cross-Cutting Strand		
Country/Region:	Syria	
HMG Partners (LEAD in bold)	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Ministry Of Defence (MOD) and Department For International Development (DFID)	
Total Budget (FY 2016/17 only):	ODA: £3.27m	Non-ODA: £0
Start Date: 1 April 2016	End Date: 31 March 2017	
Outputs		Score
Cross cutting communications support priority communications objectives identified across portfolio		A+
Research and monitoring (including of context and beneficiary feedback) feeds into programming and supports ability to adapt and seize opportunities		A
Outcome: Supporting achievement of outcomes around resilience, political and security		
Outcome Score: N/A	Risk: High	

Summary of Programme Performance

Year	2015/16	2016/17						
Programme Score	B	A						
Risk Rating	High	High						

What support is the UK providing?

The programme supports results being delivered by the three *main* strands of the Syria CSSF. The projects in the cross-cutting strand are managed by the FCO, MOD, and DFID. Over the period, the programme comprised six projects which, overall, aimed to: improve the documentation of evidence of human rights and International Humanitarian Law violations and preparation of cases which can eventually be brought to trial post conflict; use strategic communications to enhance moderate voices and provide alternative, moderate narratives that counter and undermine those of the regime and violent extremist (VE) groups; support the collection of data and production of information products focused on needs on the ground, contextual understanding, and the effectiveness of HMG programmes.

Summary of progress and lessons learnt/actions taken since last review

Key recommendations made in last year's reviews of the projects in the cross-cutting strand have been successfully implemented. The Joint Programme Team commissioned a Strategic Communications (strat comms) Advisor to conduct a review of all UK government strat comms projects in Syria and make recommendations for how the projects can be more coherent and better integrated with our broader programming in Syria. A Target Audience Analysis was conducted to help identify and map potential target audiences for strat comms products. The Syria CSSF allocated funding for a cross-cutting third party monitoring project and developed plans to launch a research hub, which will collate and analyse data centrally from all CSSF programmes to help ensure better coherence across the strands.

Summary of recommendations for the next year

- The team should revise the strand-level results framework both to include output statements and indicators which measure how the projects directly support the other CSSF Strands, and capture the added-value of that support at the outcome level.
- To ensure all projects are properly captured in the results framework, this may require selecting a few indicators which capture the aggregate effect of all projects, or ensuring there is at least one indicator per project at each level.
- Consider developing a results framework which captures in one place all the specific human rights results from across the Syria CSSF programme. This will not only enable the programme to monitor aggregate progress towards meeting the Human Rights Strategy Syria objectives, but will help set clear targets and strengthen the ambition of relevant projects' human rights-specific activities.
- The team should proceed with the plan to integrate the strat comms projects into a single programme, and ensure that the balance between supporting moderate narratives that aim for longer-term attitudinal and behavioural change and providing tactical cross-cutting

communications support to other CSSF Strands is based on evidence of what works and Value-for-Money considerations.