

## CSSF PROGRAMME SUMMARY

<b>PROGRAMME TITLE: Syria Cross Cutting</b>			
HMG Partners (LEAD in bold)	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Department for International Development (DFID), Ministry of Defence (MOD)		
COUNTRY/REGION:	Syria		
PROGRAMME DURATION:	1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018		
TOTAL BUDGET:	ODA: £6.5m	Non-ODA £0	
<b>PROJECT/COMPONENT</b>	<b>LEAD DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
Human Rights	FCO	Commission for Justice and Accountability	£500,000
Human Rights and SGBV	FCO	Synergy	£800,000
Strategic Communications	FCO	TBC	£4,000,000
Assistance Coordination Unit	FCO	TBC	£700,000
Independent Monitoring Programme	FCO	IMPACT	£300,000
<b>WHAT SUPPORT IS THE UK PROVIDING?</b>			
<p><b>Summary:</b> The cross-cutting programme strengthens and supports the delivery of the other three strands of our programme. It ensures that we are prepared for future transitional justice processes and that the needs of some of the most vulnerable are met, particularly women and girls. The regime and extremist organisations are adept at using strategic communications to support their actions inside Syria and to push a particular narrative to communities. We need to support and empower the moderate opposition to counter this narrative and show that there is an alternative to the regime and extremist organisations. Well designed and implemented strategic communications, which work in support of our wider programme, can be highly effective in amplifying its effects through the encouragement and empowerment of credible and moderate Syrian voices.</p> <p><b>Human Rights.</b> To effectively bring about transitional justice and reconciliation post-conflict, perpetrators will need to be brought to justice using evidence which can stand up in a court of law. Absent access for international investigators, there is a clear need for an independent, professional evidence gathering process that helps to build cases against perpetrators. Cases collected by CIJA are passed to the UN Commission of Inquiry and are being held securely until such time as a justice mechanism can take forward the cases. Lawyers and Doctors for Human Rights trains Syrian doctors and lawyers to produce high quality expert medical reports on torture and sexual violence committed in the Syrian conflict and is the only known organisation producing this type of reporting. These reports are ready for criminal courts (cases are passed to the UN Commission of Inquiry) and could potentially lead to a conviction for torture or sexual violence. These cases also create a solid foundation for transitional justice and accountability for Syria. The project is helping to build a culture of human rights and accountability by training Syrian partners in international values and standards and by using documentation which draws on international protocols (including PSVI).</p>			

**Strategic Communications.** This project supports the moderate opposition in being active in the information environment to ensure this space is not ceded to other actors such as the regime, its backers and extremists. These actors are currently perceived to outmatch the moderate opposition in terms of the quantity and quality of the media products by which they communicate with the Syrian people and internationally. Therefore the project ensures that moderate voices are empowered and can be heard in order to sustain hope for the future Syria and prepare for transition.

**Assistance Co-ordination Unit.** As a consequence of the deteriorating security situation and shrinking space held by the moderate opposition, the capacity of humanitarian and other actors to collect up-to-date information on the needs of Syrian people in affected areas has decreased. The ACU is a Syrian institution with a wide network and extensive access inside Syria. Strategic support to the ACU will help the Information Management Unit (IMU) find its niche and possibly become a national resource of information on needs, populations etc. The ACU could become a coordinating body, which would lead to a better targeted response based on proper strategic planning.

**Independent Monitoring Programme.** HMG staff are unable to undertake direct project monitoring inside Syria and therefore an independent third party monitoring programme is in place. The project's objective is to provide a comprehensive third party monitoring function for HMG, presenting information that will assess the effectiveness of CSSF-funded projects, contribute to improved project design, inform evaluations and support the evidence base of what works and what doesn't work in the Syria context.

**Research hub** we are looking at how we can improve coordination and information sharing across our programme and may develop a research hub that would pull together all of our atmospheric and other reporting to give a holistic picture of the situation on the ground and how our projects are working together.

#### **WHY IS UK SUPPORT NEEDED?**

UK support is needed in these areas to strengthen the work we are doing across the rest of our portfolio. Human rights and the prevention of sexual and gender based violence are key priorities for the UK and these projects ensure that we are also putting them at the forefront of our response to the Syria crisis, and ensuring that all of our projects comply with the International Development Act amendment to be gender sensitive. We recognise that much of Syria's war is being fought in the information space and supporting the moderate civilian and armed opposition to compete in this space is essential. Finally, gathering information about the conflict on the ground and understanding how our programme is delivering against its objectives allows us to adjust and adapt our programming accordingly.

#### **WHAT RESULTS DOES THE UK EXPECT TO ACHIEVE?**

**Human Rights.** The CIJA project aims to: expand its work to cover the Regime's backers; support the establishment of the UN IIIM, transferring cases and responsibility where appropriate; and cooperate more closely with national authorities, leading to arrests and, ultimately, convictions in the courts of donor countries. The LDHR project aims to document cases of human rights abuses and sexual violence; provide training for first responders inside Syria in dealing with cases of SGBV and human rights abuses; and work with moderate local councils to provide information on referral

pathways and services for victims of SGBV and human rights abuses

**Strategic Communications.** This project aims to: build awareness of effective individual, independent and institutional efforts to build a free Syria, thereby better equipping Syrian citizens to reject violent extremism; expose Syrian citizens to media products that bolster the values and reputation of the Syrian moderate opposition; and expose Syrian citizens to materials affirming moderate Syrian values, thereby highlighting alternatives to violent extremist organisations and ways in which they are misaligned with Syrian values.

**Research Hub.** This project aims to: support decisions by programme managers to build links between programmes; provide input into policy discussions at Post and in London; and provide targeted information in support of cross-programme campaigns of action to, for example, displace extremist groups from specific communities where they are vulnerable.

**Assistance Coordination Unit.** This project aims to: enable to ACU to develop a strategic plan and reviews its business model with a view to improving its financial stability and sustainability; strengthen and consolidate the knowledge and skills of the IMU; and improve the ACU data collection, analysis and reporting.

**Independent Monitoring Programme.** This project aims to: identify and verify services and activities funded by HMG and implemented by partners are being effectively delivered and received as initially planned by implementing partners; and the outcomes of selected programmes are monitored, based on research questions agreed by the HMG programme team and the implementing partners.