

SYRIA RESILIENCE CSSF PROGRAMME SUMMARY

PROGRAMME TITLE: Syria Resilience			
HMG Partners (LEAD in bold)	Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development, Ministry of Defence, National Crime Agency & Home Office		
COUNTRY/REGION:	Syria		
PROGRAMME DURATION: 1 April 2017 - March 2020			
TOTAL BUDGET:	ODA: £24 million	Non-ODA £0	
PROJECT/COMPONENT	LEAD DEPT	IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATIONS	BUDGET
Strengthening Governance Structures inside Syria, working with local and provincial councils to improve service delivery and strengthen capacity	DFID	IRD Blumont & SREO	£5.1 million
Supporting the delivery of education inside Syria	DFID	Chemonics, ASI & TBC	£6 million
Supporting Rural and Urban Livelihoods inside Syria	DFID	GIZ & Ciheam Bari	£3.9 million
Syria Civil Defence	FCO	May Day Rescue Foundation	£9 million
WHAT SUPPORT IS THE UK PROVIDING?			
<p>Summary: This programme supports the moderate opposition to provide services for their communities and to contest new space. Preserving and sustaining economic activity as well as empowering legitimate local governance structures to deliver services gives credibility to the moderate opposition, helping them to challenge extremists to space within Syria. HMG aims to support local communities through strengthened Provincial and Local Councils, technical Directorates and the ‘Syrian Interim Government’ Ministries where these are effective.</p> <p>Governance. This programme will work directly with local councils, ensuring they are able to respond to demands from communities as well as with Provincial Councils to ensure they are coordinating and overseeing service delivery by local councils.</p> <p>Education. This project will allow stipend support in Western Aleppo countryside and Idlib to continue. Access to formal education is severely constrained inside Syria: the conflict has fundamentally destabilised the education system, and in some areas there is no access to formal education at all. The international response is insufficient at current levels to respond to the 6.1 million children and education personnel in need of assistance. Through the education programme we have reached over 7,000 teachers across nearly 800 schools reaching over 275,000 children (49% female). In addition to CSSF funding, the UK will also be managing contributions from other donors.</p> <p>Livelihoods. This project will involve running existing and new agriculture centres where farmers can access key inputs and services at reduced prices to enable agriculture and livestock production. We will also support the Livelihoods Intervention Fund (LIF). The LIF works through a range of implementers (including local civil society organisations, local councils, provincial directorates and community groups). Activities to date have included supporting agricultural production, food processing, small scale service provision, manufacturing and vocational training</p>			

Syria Civil Defence (SCD). SCD has increased the resilience of the civilian population by providing emergency search and rescue and medical support to communities. We will continue to provide stipends, training and equipment for SCD as well as supporting them to build their overall capability and further strengthen their relationships with governance actors and other service providers. In addition to service delivery, SCD provide an invaluable reporting and advocacy role, being nominated again this year for the Nobel Peace Prize. Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have stated that SCD are their most routinely reliable source for reporting. Throughout the bombardment by Russia since September 2015, SCD has provided essential corroboration that strikes were not targeting Da'esh but moderate opposition entities. This has provided confidence to statements made by UK and other international leaders made in condemnation of Russian actions.

WHY IS UK SUPPORT NEEDED?

The UK has built up knowledge and expertise about how institutions work and our large humanitarian programme also helps to provide information about conditions within Syria, which supports programme design. Building up Syrian institutions and designing programmes that are looking to the future (including the eventual transition and reconstruction of Syria) will be important for the future of Syria. The UK approach is relatively unique in that we are directly supporting and empowering Syrian institutions and individuals – rather than providing basic goods, cash for work schemes or other short-term, humanitarian approaches. This means our interventions have a (local) political impact beyond just basic service delivery. In addition, we have been able to establish strong coordination mechanisms. We plan to build on and expand this coordination next year, developing comprehensive strategies for our approach to governance, livelihoods, education and SCD within Syria and encourage all donors, and the UK humanitarian effort to work within these frameworks. We have also identified areas of complementarity with DFID humanitarian programming and are working closely with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Early Recovery Cluster to ensure a strong link up between humanitarian and non-humanitarian programming.

WHAT RESULTS DOES THE UK EXPECT TO ACHIEVE?

Success will look like strong collaboration among Syrian governance structures, service providers, implementing partners and the major donors supporting opposition-held territory. Within the Syria CSSF, this strand will also be closely connected to the security and political strands – ensuring that all local service providers (including those within the resilience and security strands) are working closely together, and that they're also engaged in the civil society and track III work that we are funding via the political strand. The more we can support the opposition to work together collectively and coherently, the more we can help to demonstrate that they are a viable alternative to both Assad and extremist groups.