

Annual Review - Summary Sheet

PROGRAMME TITLE: Iraq Reconciliation and Reform Programmes*		
Country/Region:	Iraq	
HMG Partners (LEAD in bold)	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)	
Total Budget:	ODA: £4.25m	Non-ODA: £1.06m
Start Date: April 2016		End Date: March 2017
Outputs		Score
Reconciliation		
Decentralised governance support mechanisms developed		A
Tools developed to support transitional justice and reconciliation		A
Mechanisms and tools developed to promote gender equity and reduce the impact of gender-based violence		A
Reform		
Knowledge products developed to inform reform support		A
Support the development of mechanisms and tools to enhance Iraq's security sector institutions' capability		A
Outcome Score: N/A		Risk: High-Medium

Summary of Programme Performance

Year	15/16	16/17					
Programme Score	A	A					
Risk Rating	High	High/Medium					

What support is the UK providing?

The £4.1m Iraq Reconciliation Programme aimed to support Iraqi government delivery of reconciliation, including in liberated areas, as part of broader efforts to rebuild public trust and unite all Iraqis against extremism. The programme took a multi-pronged approach: strengthening provincial capacity so local governorates are empowered to deliver real change for their men and women; understanding and enhancing specific local justice systems which will support reconciliation so they can help re-form the fabric of society; encouraging a new generation of inclusive, committed politicians so Iraq's political future is strengthened; and focusing on women's rights as a core part of reconciliation activities.

The Iraq Reform Programme was originally budgeted with £3m Official Development Assistance (ODA), of which it spent £150,000. The programme also received a £1m in-year non-ODA uplift for NATO project activity. The programme included work to scope and deploy a UK Special Defence Adviser (SDA) to support reform of the Ministry of Peshmerga Affairs; and support to NATO to deliver Training and Capacity Building in Iraq.

The annual reviews for these two programmes were amalgamated as the 15/16 annual review was at portfolio level. Having two separate reviews would have resulted in repetitive content across the sections on response to the previous annual review, as well as the cross cutting and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) sections.

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

The team have been monitoring progress against the past annual review recommendations with a tracking tool; most recommendations have been applied since the last review. One of the key areas here is conflict sensitivity, where work to truly integrate conflict analysis has put the Iraq team ahead of the curve. The review team found expected results were realistic, there was evidence of appropriate monitoring of all projects and regular scrutiny and oversight by the Country Board. There was also evidence of learning and adaptation across the projects. In addition, the team managed the allocation proactively in year, moving money from areas judged to offer poor value for money and which were unlikely to deliver priority outcomes.

Significant effort was committed to improving the resourcing and strategic direction of M&E and there were also efforts to strengthen gender analysis. These achievements are especially impressive given that the Post has struggled to attract applications to fill core specialist positions.

Summary of recommendations for the next year

Recommendations fall under three areas: M&E; conflict and gender sensitivity; and value for money (VFM). These areas should be followed up on in year and at the next annual review.

- Evidence, Monitoring and Evaluation - Existing programme documentation demonstrates good use of evidence to determine where the UK should invest and expected results. There is, however, always room for improvement. Therefore, the review team welcomes the CSSF Iraq team's plans to examine programme Theories of Change (ToC) across the Iraq portfolio. There were no examples of evaluation in the reporting period across the two programmes. An evaluation of the sub-national governance project is being incorporated into the second phase of the project. In the Reconciliation Programme, the Iraq team should push United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to evaluate the functioning of peace committees. As for Reform, it is difficult to measure the impact of technical assistance. Independent evaluation should include case studies and lessons learned.
- Conflict and gender sensitivity - The team should continue to monitor and mitigate against potential conflict risks, particularly around decentralisation (Reconciliation Programme) and capacity building of the Iraqi Government, Ministry of Peshmerga Affairs and the wider Peshmerga forces (Reform Programme). Transitional justice could, if handled poorly, exacerbate trauma and potentially become a conflict driver in of itself. Therefore, preliminary assessments, a thorough conflict and gender analysis, and desk research of best practice should be undertaken. The team should continue work on gender analysis and programming. Gender should continue to be mainstreamed throughout all projects in the programmes.
- Value For Money – Building on existing work on VFM across the programme, the team have developed a bespoke Value for Money Framework to be applied across the whole Iraq portfolio and have committed to pilot this in 2017/18. This is a positive development and should be assessed at the next annual review.

Recommendations from this programme are now being taken forward through the Iraq Security and Justice programme that has succeeded it. Details of that programme have been published [here](#).