

PROGRAMME TITLE: National and Local Level Conflict Reduction in Sudan *			
Country/Region:	Sudan		
HMG Partners	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Department for International Development (DFID)		
Total Budget:	ODA: £1.74m	Non-ODA: £0	
Start Date: April 2016	End Date: March 2017		
Outputs			Score
1. Better administrative, technical and reporting capacity of the AU High Level Implementation Panel for Sudan and South Sudan (AUHIP), and sustainable mechanism for it to be supported			A
2. Technical support and spaces for dialogue is given to internal opposition and/or tribal leaders currently fighting in Darfur and/or Two areas			B
3. Community level mechanisms for peaceful resolution of conflicts that feed into wider peace dialogues and to regional mechanism, resulting in increased pressure for a comprehensive national dialogue and peace agreements. (Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund [DCPSF], Peace Direct and Community Security and Stabilisation Programme).			A
Outcome Assessment:			
This year there has been good progress at the outcome level in terms of the Government of Sudan, rebel groups and others involved in armed conflict engaging in credible and internationally supported political processes that prioritise stopping fighting and ensuring humanitarian access. There has also been good progress in terms of reduced conflict at the local level through conflict prevention and mitigation, peace building and reconciliation. Current NSC Strategy sub-objectives require that approaches to tackle Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) are built into local conflict reduction efforts. This has not yet been a major focus although some progress has been made.			
FINAL OUTPUT Score: A		Risk: Medium	

Summary of Programme Performance

Year	2015/16	2016/7						
Programme Score	A + B	A						
Risk Rating	Medium/High	Medium						

For 2015/16, a “B” score was given as a combined score for the country-level Annual Review. For the specific strands which were brought into the National and Local Level Conflict Reduction programme, a score of B was given to Outcome 1 on *National political dialogue and peace processes*, and a Score of A for Outcome 3 on *Grassroots conflict prevention*.

What support is the UK providing?

The UK is providing £1,735,000 through the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) for the financial year 2016-17 (FY16-17) in the area of *National and Local Level Conflict Reduction*. The programme has a two-fold focus on conflict reduction, focusing both on the national level peace process between government and the different armed rebel factions fighting in Darfur and the Two Areas (which are South Kordofan and Blue Nile) and related attempts at a national political dialogue, and also on subnational level conflict reduction efforts in Darfur and the Two Areas which are critical to underpin and support an eventual peace agreement.

Summary of progress

Work on the national level peace process through the AU High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) has been consolidated with solid achievement of progress towards the desired outcome in terms of an inclusive political settlement for the Sudan, as evidenced by the agreement of most of the political and armed opposition factions to sign up to the Roadmap Agreement (as previously signed by the Government of Sudan in March 2016) in August 2016. A combination of detailed work by the two CSSF-funded Technical Advisors to the Panel and accompanying lobbying and political influencing efforts by the UK and other key internationals has helped achieve this. Further progress towards an agreement related to humanitarian access for the Two Areas of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile is also expected. The work of the AUHIP has also contributed to a degree of further progress in the normalisation of Sudan-South Sudan relations, including getting the issue of the disputed area of Abyei back onto the agenda.

The expansion of programming in support of local level conflict reduction in Darfur and the Two Areas (Southern Kordofan and the Blue Nile) during the programme year has combined with a range of other enabling factors including some increase in political will on the part of the Government of Sudan (GoS) to end conflict in Darfur, to contribute to a moderate reduction in the number of incidents of local level conflict in Darfur (which has been declining since 2014), but with more violence occurring in the states of Kordofan and Blue Nile. In both areas, the architecture of local peace committees has been consolidated together with some progress towards stronger conflict early warning systems, accompanied by a range of other measures to build community resilience.

Lessons learnt/actions taken since last review

Coherence and alignment across the UK government and within CSSF strands has been strengthened, as well as with other donors in respect of national and local level peacebuilding. A move to multi-donor programming has strengthened programme coherence and enhanced the potential for impact through the relatively limited levels of CSSF funding.

The recommendation that conflict analysis be updated has been met through a Joint Assessment of Conflict and Stability (JACS), as well as through access to UNDP's updated conflict assessments in Darfur and the Two Areas and aligned DCPSF and C2SP efforts to improve conflict sensitivity.

The Theory of Change (ToC) and Results Framework (RF) were not revised in time to be used for this programme year. The updated ToC and RF approved for FY17-18 (now the amalgamated Conflict Resilience and Stabilisation programme) will need to be further reviewed and updated as part of the mid-year "programme refresh" exercise for all CSSF Eastern Africa programmes (planned for around September).

Efforts on gender mainstreaming have been taken, for example by DCPSF, but further work is required across all programme components, including on the integration of robust approaches to SGBV.

Summary of recommendations for the next year

Build on the stronger working relationship which has been achieved with the AUHIP Secretariat, continuing solid political engagement in coordination with others (e.g. US), together with a solid influencing strategy, to encourage GoS to open a further, more inclusive phase of National Dialogue.

Use the good relationships in place across both the national and subnational level components to ensure that all components (have a robust approach to integrating gender and conflict sensitivity, and in the case of both DCPSF and C2SP have solid approaches to SGBV (which is supposed to be a key dimension of local level conflict reduction efforts as per the NSC Strategy, but is not currently robustly mainstreamed).

Consider adopting the term "subnational level" as opposed to "local level" conflict reduction (as has been done for the South Sudan programme) so as to embrace the need for the building of supportive structures for peace not only at the very local, community level, but also at the state level.

Develop a stronger theory of change and related programme strategy to provide the "missing middle" in terms of the linkage between national and subnational level conflict reduction – i.e. linking the two NSC sub-objectives on which the programme focused:

Consider adopting the concept of working at the "subnational" level which will help in linking the national and local level. Take advantage of entry points through C2SP to make appropriate linkages between the subnational level conflict reduction work in the Two Areas and efforts towards a political and humanitarian agreements between the SPLM-N and the GoS at the national level.

An exchange of lesson learning with the DFID Local Partnerships and Dialogue Programme (LPDP) which has equally sought to promote dynamic linkages between national and subnational level approaches will also be beneficial.

Take advantage of entry points through C2SP to make appropriate linkages between the subnational level conflict reduction work in the Two Areas and efforts towards political and humanitarian agreements between the SPLM-N and the GoS at the national level.

Consider maintaining a small element of flexible funding to support incremental political dialogue processes at the subnational level (in respect of Darfur and the Two Areas) alongside the CSSF programming to the multi-donor conflict reduction funds (DCPSF and C2SP). There can be a useful learning exchange between CSSF Sudan and South Sudan on approaches to local level conflict reduction.

* This programme ended in March 2017. Any activity that continued moved to the Sudan: Conflict resilience and stabilisation programme.