

SYRIA POLITICAL CSSF PROGRAMME SUMMARY

PROGRAMME TITLE: Syria Political					
HMG Partners (LEAD in bold)		FCO, DFID, MOD, NCA & Home Office			
COUNTRY/REGION:		Syria			
TOTAL BUDGET:		ODA: £5,000,000		Non-ODA £0	
START DATE: 1 April 2017			END DATE: 31 March 2018		
PROJECT/COMPONENT	LEAD DEPT	IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION	BUDGET	START	END
Track I	FCO	TBC	£1,600,000	April 2017	March 2018
Track II	FCO	TBC	£1,400,000	April 2017	March 2018
Track III	FCO	TBC	£2,000,000	April 2017	March 2018
WHAT SUPPORT IS THE UK PROVIDING?					
<p>Summary: All activity will continue to be carried out in support of Track I (official negotiations), Track II (non-official but generally elite) and Track III (grassroots) processes. For simplicity, the programme has been structured into these three parts, reflecting the three lines of effort.</p> <p>Track I: Opposition able to set out political vision and participate effectively in negotiations. The UK seeks opportunities to encourage Opposition outreach to Syrians who don't already support them (e.g. middle Syria, Kurds). The High Negotiations Committee Vision statement is a logical vehicle for this. This includes through diplomatic activity, but also existing and future Track I programmes could play a supportive and facilitative role, and in particular could help make links to Track II processes.</p> <p>Track II: Informal high-level dialogues broaden the political process and improve inter- and intra- communal understanding. These projects will contribute to the effective engagement by representative Opposition figures in a credible peace process, which is vital to achieving a political settlement. Track II dialogues will help to ensure that the views of a diverse range of Syrians are fed into the process, making it more inclusive and thereby increasing the sustainability of any resulting peace agreement.</p> <p>Track III: Community-level dialogue reduces communal and sectarian tensions, and lays the groundwork for a sustainable political settlement. This will be focused on support to Syrian individuals and Civil Society Organisations to build capacity and channels for inter and intra communal dialogue to promote inclusive approach and reconciliation.</p>					
WHY IS UK SUPPORT NEEDED?					
<p>Political processes are required to address the Syrian conflict and the UK has strong relationships with prominent Syrian individuals, organisations and networks both inside and outside Syria, our position as an ISSG, P5 Security Council and EU member, and the active role we have taken in the political process. Our Special Representative and political teams in London, Istanbul, Beirut and</p>					

Amman are better connected than most others to a broad range of actors, including those who remain based in Syria as well as those in exile. Thanks to our previous CSSF funded work, we also have strong relationships with peacebuilding networks across Syria and we also have experience from other contexts in the region.

WHAT RESULTS DOES THE UK EXPECT TO ACHIEVE?

Track I. This project aims to: be an effective vehicle for Track I negotiations between the Regime and the Opposition [this is not something a project can deliver, but a political aim]; support the Opposition negotiating team (HNC) to be able to develop policy positions, communicate them publically and to other Syrian groups, and negotiate effectively; support the Opposition constituency by moving Syrian opinion away from the Regime and towards the HNC, and by deliberate HNC outreach; enable women to participate meaningfully in discussions at all levels; and support the flow of information between grassroots reconciliation and high-level political dialogue - allows positions to be gathered and ground-tested.

Track II. This project aims to: develop Track II processes that can a) coordinate with Track I and provide a way to tackle tricky issues outside of the official negotiations and b) can sustain regime-opposition contact and discussion in the absence of a Track I process; support channels for elite-level dialogue and reconciliation both intra-community (e.g. Internally Displaced People (IDP)/host) and inter-community, that enable meaningful participation by women; enable 'Middle Syria' communities (i.e. neither Regime nor official opposition) to articulate their own identities, separate from the Regime, and potentially to move towards better understanding of Opposition; and to support a wider set of civil society, 'middle Syria' voices and women's groups able to feed in to political process (as consultative groups, not formal negotiators).

Track III. This project aims to: develop reconciliation and mediation skills and capacity built at community/civil society level; support channels for grassroots dialogue and reconciliation both intra-community (e.g. IDP/host) and inter-community, that enable meaningful participation by women; foster more inclusive identities, and better understanding of democracy and politics (e.g. through educational curricula); increase the flow of information between grassroots reconciliation and high-level political dialogue - allows positions to be gathered and ground-tested; enable the wider population have reduced levels of distrust and fear of others, and are ready to accept peaceful settlement; and for a wider set of civil society, 'middle Syria' voices and women's groups better networked and able to feed in to political process (as consultative groups, not formal negotiators).