

CSSF PROGRAMME SUMMARY

PROGRAMME TITLE: CSSF Great Lakes Programme			
HMG Partners (LEAD in bold)	Foreign & Commonwealth Office , Department for International Development		
COUNTRY/REGION:	Great Lakes		
PROGRAMME DURATION: April 2015 - March 2020			
FY17-18 BUDGET:	ODA: £1,100,000	Non-ODA: £200,000	
PROJECT/COMPONENT	LEAD DEPT	IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION*	FY 17/18 BUDGET
Strengthening peace and reconciliation in eastern DRC	FCO	various	£801,000
DRC defence reform	FCO	Sovereign Global Services, Mines Advisory Group	£1,000,000
Human rights in DRC elections	FCO	various	£876,000
Monitoring and responding to conflict risks in Burundi	FCO	various	£1,224,000
*INFORMATION HAS BEEN WITHHELD FROM PUBLICATION ON SECURITY GROUNDS			
WHAT SUPPORT IS THE UK PROVIDING?			
<p>Interventions have been selected for their potential to have a significant impact, whilst being flexible enough to respond to a highly dynamic political context and a potentially deteriorating security environment. The programme has four policy strands:</p> <p>Strand 1: Strengthening peace and reconciliation in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through the continuation of conflict resolution interventions that will promote a greater understanding of conflict dynamics and enable political dialogue between key stakeholders as a viable alternative to violence.</p> <p>Strand 2: Support to defence reform within DRC, including weapons marking, storage and destruction with the Congolese armed forces.</p> <p>Strand 3: Support to human rights in the context of elections in DRC, including by increasing dialogue between communities and security forces, and by supporting the capacity of human rights defenders.</p> <p>Strand 4: Monitoring and responding to conflict risks and supporting the conditions needed to allow for peaceful and fair elections in Burundi by 2020.</p>			
WHY IS UK SUPPORT NEEDED?			
<p>The Great Lakes is a fragile region still recovering from the effects of civil and cross-border proxy wars from 1994-2002. Conflicts continue in the east of the DRC with the ongoing threat of interference from its close neighbours; the population is subject to abuses by armed groups; and the government in DRC is struggling to build a functioning state and provide security across the country. Burundi's economy is spiralling downwards and the political conflict that was ignited in 2015 remains unresolved.</p> <p>Preventing, managing and reducing conflict in the Great Lakes region matters to the UK because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An unstable DRC and Burundi have the potential to destabilise their neighbours and the wider region. A return to regional conflict would hinder UK conflict reduction objectives across Central, Eastern and Southern Africa and cause a severe humanitarian crisis • By 2030 the Great Lakes region will be home to around 12% of the world's absolute poor unless it is transformed 			

- The scale of poverty, human rights violations, and use of child soldiers makes DRC a priority for UK development intervention
- UK firms can provide opportunities for economic development and employment in the region
- The region is key to UK objectives to reduce global trade in conflict minerals and the illegal wildlife trade
- As a permanent UN Security Council member, the UK has an interest in ensuring UN success and reputation for effectiveness.

WHAT RESULTS DOES THE UK EXPECT TO ACHIEVE?

By 2020 the headline outcomes we aim to contribute to through these four strands are:

Strand 1: A nuanced international community understanding of - and influence over - drivers of conflict and violence and opportunities for reconciliation in eastern DRC, leading to their political resolution.

Deeper UK and UN understanding of key armed groups.

Strand 2: The UK is better able to understand and influence the Congolese military to the benefit of civil rights and political stability during elections.

Strand 3: Greater dialogue between local communities and police in urban centres, and awareness of the importance of human rights, decreases the likelihood of violence during elections.

Strand 4: Improved monitoring of violence and incitement informs international policy response to conflict risks in Burundi. Successful regional dialogue process, and increasing democratic space, allows for peaceful and fair elections to take place.

Participation of women and girls has been considered throughout the programme and included in programming for individual strands where possible, in recognition of the positive role women can play in helping resolve conflict.