

The Royal Danish Ministry for Foreign Affairs



Regional Stabilisation Programme for Syria and Iraq, 2016-2018

The Regional Stabilisation Programme for Syria and Iraq is aimed at countering ISIL and other extremist groups in Syria and Iraq and to promote an inclusive political resolution to the conflict in Syria and support a more stable and inclusive Iraq. Activities include support to the stabilisation needs in both countries and support to civil society and moderate actors that provide an alternative to extremism and contribute to building more stable, democratic and inclusive societies.

The Programme has three thematic focus areas:

Focus Area 1: Political Dialogue and Peacebuilding is aimed at reinforcing peace initiatives in Syria and reconciliation efforts in Iraq, thereby countering ISIL and other extremist groups and promoting the role of moderate actors.

A key priority is the support to the political process led by the UN to promote a peaceful solution to the conflict in Syria and the support to civil society organisations that play a key role in anchoring a future political agreement and can serve as an important building stone for a democratic Syria.

- **The UN Special Envoy for Syria (UNDPA)**. Since the beginning of the Syrian conflict, Denmark has supported the promotion of a peaceful political solution to the conflict through contributions to the UN Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, channelled through the UN Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA).
- **Syrian Civil Society Centre, Baytna** works to strengthen civil society to act as a force for democratic change through capacity building and by providing small grants to moderate civil society actors and by acting as a coordination hub for civil society actors. Capacity building is solely provided in opposition-held areas in Idlib, Aleppo, Daraa and Quneitra, while 2 sub-grants have also been provided to minor conflict-mitigation projects to opposition-leaning communities in regime-dominated areas in Hama and Damascus provinces. The beneficiaries are non-regime actors.
- **The Day After (TDA)** works with civil society actors in opposition-held areas in Idlib, Aleppo, Northern Homs, Daraa and Quneitra as well as Syrian actors outside Syria on activities including community mobilisation on rule of law, accountability and transitional justice.

- **The International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)** was established by the United Nations General Assembly on 21 December 2016 and is placed in Geneva, Switzerland. The objective of IIIM is to assist in the investigation and prosecution of persons responsible for the most serious crimes under international law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011.
- **Commission for International Justice and Accountability (CIJA)** is aimed at strengthening and enhancing international and domestic accountability for atrocity crimes (genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes) committed by the belligerent parties in all accessible areas of Syria and former ISIL-dominated areas of Iraq. Efforts are focused on building case files for prosecution, making analyses and storing evidence of serious violations in accordance with the necessary international criminal law standard for prosecution at the International Criminal Court. CIJA works with partners on the ground throughout Syria.
- **UNDP; support for Integrated Reconciliation in Iraq.** The objective is to initiate a comprehensive plan for a government- and Iraqi-led reconciliation process, executed in a consistent and inclusive manner and implemented through decentralized and local mechanisms. UNDP has signed a MoU with the Government of Iraq concerning capacity building of the National Reconciliation Commission, mandated to lead a national process for reconciliation. Moreover, seven local Peace Councils in Anbar, Ninewah, Salah al-Din, Diyala and Kirkuk have been established.

Focus Area 2: Resilience and Rapid Response is aimed at enhancing community resilience and return of IDPs through mine clearance, improved access and provision of priority services in former ISIL-held areas of Iraq and areas under opposition control in Syria.

- **The Syria Recovery Trust Fund (SRTF)** assists Syrian communities in opposition-controlled areas - Idlib, Aleppo, Daraa through recovery and rehabilitation efforts undertaken in partnership with local councils, local community organisations and the Syrian Interim Government. Activities include restoration of basic services in provision of water, electricity, sanitation, food security, health, education and waste removal.
- **The UN Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS).** Together with the Government of Iraq, the FFS contributes to a range of immediate and extended stabilisation needs in the liberated areas. The implementation of projects is anchored within the UN Country Team and the Iraqi authorities at national and governorate levels. FFS has more than 2000 projects completed or underway in 31 locations in Anbar, Ninewah, Salah al-Din, Diyala and Kirkuk.
- **United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)** addresses a critical precondition for effective stabilisation and the return of IDPs in the form of removal of large quantities of unexploded ordnance left behind by retreating ISIL, as well as providing mine risk

education (MRE) to tens of thousands of Iraqis. UNMAS has clearance and MRE activities in Anbar, Ninewah, Salah al-Din, Diyala and Kirkuk.

- **Sterling/Janus; Conventional weapons destruction in Anbar province.** Denmark has provided a contribution to Sterling/Janus to meet the immediate mine clearance needs in Ramadi in Iraq to enhance community safety and promote the return of IDPs.
- **Tetra Tech; Mine clearance in Raqqa province.** The objective of the project is to survey, mark, and clear explosive hazards from critical infrastructure in the Raqqa Province in northeast Syria, which has been liberated from the control of ISIL, while simultaneously developing and strengthening the local Syrian national capacity on mine clearance.

Focus Area 3: Community Security and Governance aims at providing a framework to strengthen community security and the promotion of inclusive governance by moderate actors in Syria and the Government in Iraq.

- **The Access to Justice and Community Security Programme (AJACS)** supports moderate civilian actors, notably the Free Syrian Police, who provides security and serve communities in opposition-held areas in Idlib, Aleppo and Daraa as viable alternatives to the regime, ISIL and other extremist groups.
- **Syria Civil Defence/"White Helmets".** Denmark supports the Syria Civil Defence via the NGO Mayday. Syria Civil Defence was formed as a grassroots reaction to the aerial and ground bombardment of civilian communities in Syria in 2013 and delivers essential services such as rescue, fire-fighting, utility restoration and ambulance services in all areas of Syria where the access of the civil defenders is granted, which is currently the case in Aleppo, Idlib, Lattakia, Hama, Homs, Rif Damascus, Quneitra and Daraa
- **UNDP; support to Security Sector Reform in Iraq.** The purpose of the programme is to support the Government of Iraq to enhance state security and justice provision for improved security and stronger public trust in state capacity to maintain security from day-to-day public safety to combating serious crime in Iraq. While special attention has been given to Anbar, the program work with a whole of Iraq approach, delivered in cooperation with the Office of the National Security Advisor and line-ministries.
- **Border security, Lebanon.** Denmark supports relevant Lebanese authorities in managing the border with Syria. The objective is to enhance capacities of Lebanese agencies and personnel involved in land border management at all levels to ensure stability in the border region between Lebanon and Syria.