

Searching for Peace in Iraq

Searching for Peace in Iraq is a major Iraqi and international research project which aims to produce a practical tool for Iraqis and international organisations and agencies working in peacebuilding and conflict transformation in Iraq.

The project will be implemented throughout 2009 and 2010, and will develop three major research outputs which will be compiled together into a final report.

The Final Report will be divided into 3 main parts:

1. Strategic Conflict Assessment:

The purpose of the Strategic Conflict Analysis is *to provide a comprehensive, high-quality analysis of the Iraqi conflict as input to policy development and operational planning*. The SCA will provide action and policy-oriented evaluation and analysis of the Iraq conflict for policy and decisionmakers, as well as operational agencies on the ground. It will include analysis of the root causes, stakeholders, dynamics, proximate environment, goals and impacts of the conflict.

Drawing upon methodologies developed by the Department of Peace Operations, the Department for International Development, the Clingendael Institute, The Conflict Prevention and Post-Conflict Recovery Network, and the United States Agency for International Development Conflict Vulnerability Index, the use of an integrated and coherent SCA will address:

- Current Conflict Dynamics and Situation Assessment
- Root Causes Analysis
- Fault Line Analysis
- Sources and Pillars
- Strategy & Policy Analysis of Key Stakeholders
- Trends and Future Scenarios.

2. Cumulative Impact and Needs Assessment:

A pioneering tool in peacebuilding research and operations, the Cumulative Impact and Needs Assessment will assess lessons learned and cumulative impact of state and non-state engagements for peacebuilding in Iraq.

An early version of this methodology has been proven to be highly valuable and effective (used by the Collaborative for Development Action in its work in Northern Ireland and Cyprus) to understand the cumulative impact of projects carried out by a wide-range of actors including NGOs, community-based organisations, international NGOs, government, local authorities and others, to realistically and appropriately assess achievements and shortcomings, and to identify key areas for further work while learning lessons from what has been done.

3. Strategic Peace-building Proposals:

Buiding upon the first two sections, Strategic Peacebuilding Proposals will evaluate proposals by key actors involved in dealing with the conflicts in the three focal areas to identify what can be done by civil society actors, donors, and national and international agencies involved in peace-building, violence prevention and nonviolent work in the region to improve the quality and impact of their programs and their strategic direction.

The research team is composed Iraqi researchers from South, Central and North Iraq and research teams in Romania and Spain under the auspices of the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) of PATRIR and in cooperation with NOVA-Center for Social Innovation in Spain.

During the implementation of the project, the research team will conduct extensive on-the ground interviews and a series of stakeholder meetings and participatory research consultations with key actors within their regions.

These consultations will ensure a diversity of perspectives and direct input to the research from key sectors and agencies. This will be complimented by 3 field visits of the international members of the research team.

Additionally, the Research Team will contact major local, national and international organisations, agencies and institutions involved in analysis and assessment of the conflict as well as key actors and agencies involved in peacebuilding and conflict-related projects in Iraq to include their findings and experiences in the project.

The implementation period of the project will be between November 2009 and January 2011, when the research will be presented and disseminated to NGO's representatives, political institutions and activists.

Languages: The Final Report will be published in English, Arabic and Kurdish.

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