TCC/UNWG Social Cohesion in Iraq – Open Discussion

22 Jan 23

Social Cohesion programming in Iraq

Agenda – discussion points

- 1 Iraq's evolving context in relation to social cohesion
- 2 International perspectives on social cohesion
- 3 Considerations for community based social cohesion programming

Informed by....

Published analysis and reporting.

Interviews with ABC representatives – conflict analysis and social cohesion reporting for Plan of Action reviews.

Inter agency meeting (GIZ, UNDP, IOM, USAID stability programmes).

DSTWG strategic retreat takeaways.

Consultations with Peace Paradigms & IOM social cohesion teams.



Iraq's evolving context in relation to social cohesion programming





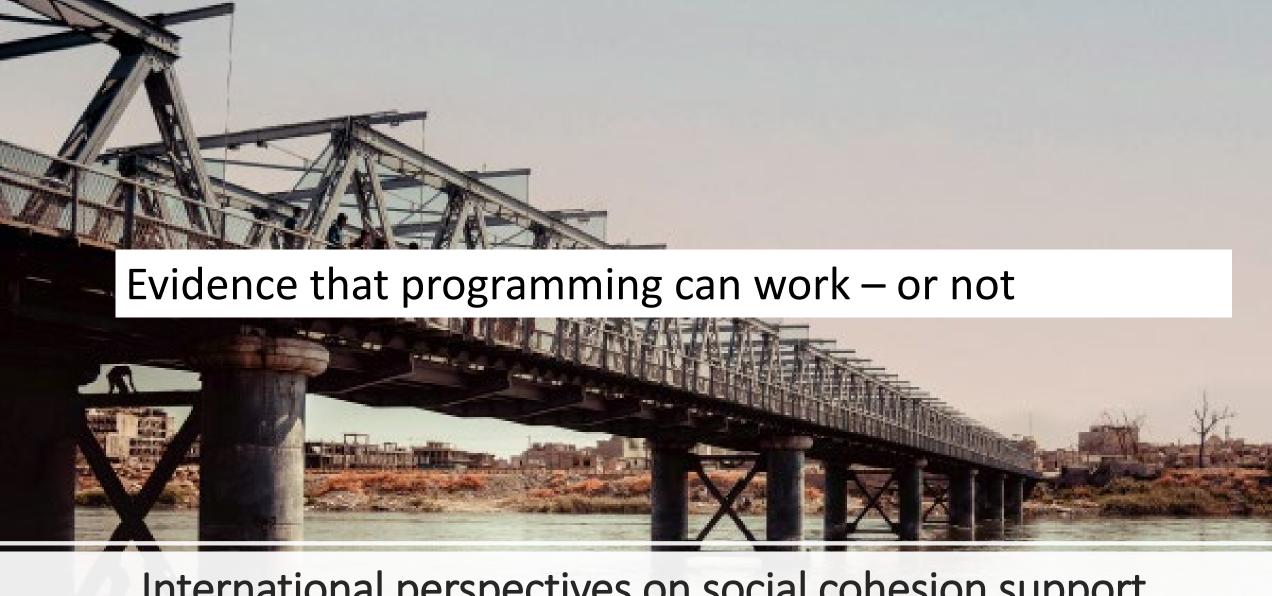
International perspectives on social cohesion support



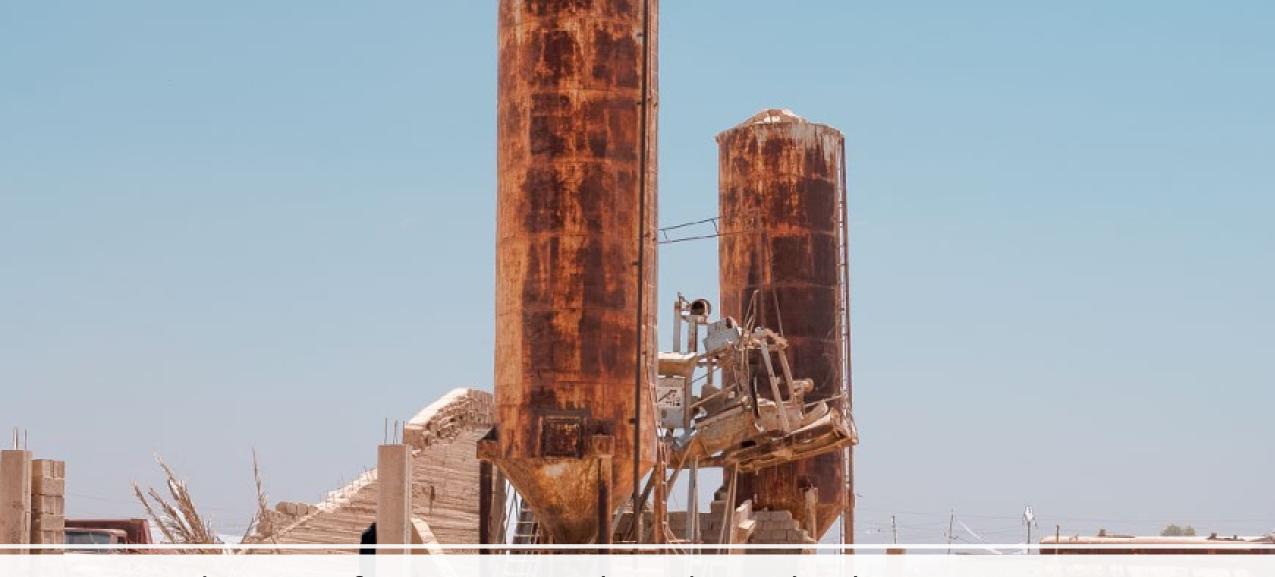


Relationship between conflict sensitivity and social cohesion









Considerations for community based Social Cohesion programming

So, what are some of the pressing programming challenges at present?

- Systematic and inter agency methods for identifying root causes of conflict.
- Demonstrating long term commitment to building trust in communities.
- Linking social cohesion activities to livelihoods programming, private sector and local government.
- Integrating Iraqi culture into conflict sensitive planning.
- Active engagement with civil society.
- Communicating and amplifying succuss and positive narratives.

Recommendations for interagency social cohesion programming

Systematic and inter agency methods for identifying root causes of conflict.

Demonstrating long term commitment to building trust in communities.

Linking social cohesion activities to livelihoods programming, private sector and local government.

Integrating Iraqi cultural norms into conflict sensitive planning.

Active engagement with civil society.

Communicating and amplifying success and positive narratives.

- Systematic and inter agency methods for identifying root causes of conflict.

- Mechanism for sharing of conflict analysis.
- Interventions based on issues and conflict drivers.
- Consideration of conflict root causes and proximate causes.
- Renewing analytical focus on areas that are difficult to access.

Demonstrating long term commitment to building trust in communities.

- Being realistic about ambitions with social cohesion interventions.
- Establishing routine dialogue with community leaders on progress.
- Multi agency MoUs, for complex interventions.
- Donor engagement for support multi year initiatives.

- Linking social cohesion activities to livelihoods programming, private sector and local government.

- Consideration of evidence-based conflict drivers in programming assumptions.
- Connecting community engagement activities with economic and livelihoods.
- Provision of training and mentoring to local government in local peace agreements.
- Efforts to engage with programmes designed to support private sector

- Integrating Iraqi cultural norms into conflict sensitive planning.

- Avoiding taking an approach to conflict sensitivity based only on Do No Harm.
- Recognition of traditional Iraqi reconciliation process and tribal norms.
- Centrality of community and tribal mechanisms in programming.
- Inclusive programming, community led, INGO/UN supported.

- Active engagement with civil society.

- Taking proactive measures to map civil society actors.
- Convening of sessions to engage with civil society as part of community consultations.
- Joint assessment of issues alongside community leaders.
- Avoidance of making assumptions about perceptions towards FWPA.

Communicating and amplifying success and positive narratives.

- Incorporating a communications strategy into all social cohesion planning.
- Mapping of local media landscape together with actor mapping.
- Encouraging existing high profile community members to share positive posts.
- Engaging with local media through targeted platforms to amplify successes.

Questions

Next Steps.

Social Cohesion assessments & ABC Plans of Action

January workshop in Erbil on Social Cohesion & Conflict Sensitivity

Resources.

TCC Social Cohesion Thematic Paper

TCC Social Cohesion Concept Note

Promotion of Private Sector in Pursuit of Durable Solutions

ABC Social Cohesion reports & conflict analysis

