

# TCC/UNWVG 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

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Informed by.... Published analysis and reporting.

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

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

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DSTWG strategic retreat takeaways.

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Consultations with Peace Paradigms & IOM social cohesion teams.

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Iraq's evolving context in relation to social cohesion programming



Transition to development, ABCs and government leadership

Iraq's irregular security sector and informal actors

Iraq's internal disputed territories

Centralized decision making

Climate change induced dynamics

Shifting international donor priorities

Stalled returns of IDPs and refugees

Informal settlements

Changing ways of communication

Overwhelmed tribal conflict resolution mechanisms



International perspectives on social cohesion support

A large steel truss bridge spans across a wide river. The bridge's structure is composed of dark metal beams and girders, supported by several concrete piers. In the background, a cityscape is visible under a clear sky. The overall scene is captured in a wide-angle shot, emphasizing the scale of the bridge.

# Contemporary Themes

International perspectives on social cohesion support



Relationship between conflict sensitivity and social cohesion

International perspectives on social cohesion support



A large steel truss bridge spans a wide river. The bridge's structure is composed of numerous interconnected steel beams forming a complex truss pattern. The bridge is supported by several concrete piers. In the background, a cityscape is visible, including buildings and trees. The sky is clear and blue.

Evidence that programming can work – or not

International perspectives on social cohesion support



The difficulty in measuring levels of social cohesion

International perspectives on social cohesion support



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 success 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.

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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.

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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

