

Annual report into the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund published



The Cabinet Office has today published the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund's (CSSF) [Annual Report](#) for the Financial Year (FY) 2020/21.

The CSSF is a unique cross-government fund that tackles conflicts and challenges to UK interests arising from instability overseas. Operating in 87 countries and territories, the Fund had a budget of £1.26bn in FY 2020/21.

The CSSF faced difficult delivery challenges during 2020/21 due to the global Covid-19 pandemic. However, its ability to provide innovative and integrated solutions to complex global issues allowed it to make a valuable contribution to the UK's international COVID-19 response. For instance the Fund was able to quickly realign existing programmes to enable a vaccination programme that reached 80% of the total population in the UK's Overseas Territories.

The speed and scale of the CSSF's response highlighted the value the Fund brings as an agile and flexible cross-government fund.

The Government's Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, [published in March 2021](#), identifies a number of emerging National Security challenges. These include the growth of state-based threats, instability and strategic competition, and climate change. While the Fund already works on many of these issues, moving forward there will be continued alignment to ensure its work is delivering on the objectives of the Integrated Review as closely as possible.

In 2020/21 the Fund centred activity around four key areas: conflict and stability; state threats; transnational threats; and women, peace and security. The Annual Report details the work being undertaken worldwide under these headings; from community reconciliation work in Somalia; combating disinformation in Ukraine; to tackling the narcotics trade in the British Virgin Islands and helping Syrian women's rights organisations to survive.

Moving forward the CSSF will focus on how it improves monitoring, evaluating and learning from its ongoing programming, to ensure that we improve the high quality of our work around the world.

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1. 15 December 2021

New summary.

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[Yemen: call for project bids supporting women's participation in peacebuilding](#)

The Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) is a cross-government fund that supports and delivers activity to tackle instability and to prevent conflicts that threaten UK interests. It has been a catalyst for a more integrated UK government response to fragility and conflict, including delivering the [UK National Action Plan on Women, Peace & Security \(WPS\) 2018-2022](#).

In line with the Yemen Gender Strategy and the MENA Gender Strategy, Yemen CSSF funds projects, which aim to increase women's meaningful and representative participation in peacebuilding and peace processes. It supports the implementation of the UK National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security and the UK's goals as set out in the [Integrated Review](#): to be a force for good, support open societies, protect human rights, and prevent and tackle conflict and instability.

Project content and requirements

Yemen remains one of the worst places in the world to be a woman and was placed at third from the bottom of the recent global WPS index(1). Entrenched and patriarchal gender roles mean that women and girls are particularly affected by negative gender stereotypes, limited political participation in peace and decision-making processes, restricted access to services, a discriminatory legal system, economic vulnerability and higher likelihood of gender-based violence (GBV).

The conflict has exacerbated gender inequalities and has contributed to

worsening conditions for women and girls. These inequalities are now further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Women, men, girls and boys have hugely varied lived experiences which depend not only on their gender, but also on other aspects such as class, disability, ethnicity, migrant status, geographic location and other factors. This requires continual context and gender analysis and consultation with diverse Yemeni voices to understand complex and nuanced needs and capacities, so that the needs of different groups of women are met.

This is highly relevant to women's participation and influence in political processes across Yemen. While women's political participation remains low around the world(2), the figures for Yemen are particularly shocking, where women constitute less than 1% of members of parliament and local councils. There are still very few women in public decision-making roles, despite this being one of the objectives of the National Dialogue Conference of 2014.

In the 2018 Peace Talks in Stockholm the percentage of women negotiators was 4%(3) showing that women's participation in peace processes remains low with little improvement.

Therefore, it is evident that while women peacebuilders are active at the informal levels in Yemen, they are often side-lined in the more formal elements of peace processes at multiple levels.

Peace processes are intrinsically political, and women's exclusion from peace processes is likely to be linked to their wider exclusion from political, social, economic and public life.

Similarly, women's exclusion from peace processes can have a wider impact on their future political participation, as peace processes are often responsible for establishing a political settlement, constitution building and defining the structures which will determine who holds power through the transition and into the future. Women's political participation and their inclusion in all levels of a peace process are therefore intertwined.

Women's participation in peace processes has also been linked to better peace outcomes(4).

Increasing women's political participation as a first step to their wider inclusion in peace processes is therefore likely to be key in seeking a lasting resolution to the crisis in Yemen.

Yemen Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) aims to directly support the meaningful inclusion of women in the political process at all levels; including increasing women's representative participation in peace processes.

Objectives

In support of this, the CSSF is looking to fund a project to effectively influence formal and informal political structures in Yemen to help create an enabling environment for women's meaningful political participation and

inclusion. The project will mainly target a diverse range of partisan and non-partisan political actors (of all genders) across Yemen and in the diaspora to:

- address the knowledge gap on women's meaningful participation and influence within Yemen's political formal and informal structures, by carrying out contextualised and localised mapping and gender analysis of these structures. The project will seek to understand the experiences of women, including the barriers they face to political participation, and will look at the impact of women's political participation and its linkages with peacebuilding and peace processes. This will also provide practical recommendations for female and male actors on how to advance women's participation, not only quantitatively but also qualitatively, and influence within these structures. Analysis should include measures to promote women's safety when participating in political or public life and, where possible, consider less-explored areas including the role of digital/social media and women's political participation
- through consultations with a diverse pool of political actors and decision-makers (of all genders), partisan and non-partisan, identify and provide support in areas where support is needed, in order for women not only to be present but also to be active participants in political or public life. In addition, support women actors and civil society to develop key policy priorities, and advocate, with key political parties for their inclusion in any future national-level peace agreement
- better understand existing linkages, and support and build new linkages between female and male political actors and civil society organisations to lobby and advocate for women's meaningful political participation at all levels of peace processes in Yemen

The CSSF invites bidders to design a Theory of Change (ToC) and Results Framework, highlighting relevant assumptions, based on the above objectives, as part of the bidding process.

Proposals should clearly outline timeframes, costs, risks and sustainability. Activities should take an inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach, working with local organisations and partners wherever possible.

Bids for the project should address:

- how your organisation is well-equipped with the expertise and resources for this project
- your organisation's proposed approach to delivering, measuring progress and monitoring the impact of each phase. Bids should include a particular focus on how they shall measure the value for money impact of their proposed approach. Strong proposals will be high-impact interventions, defined by clear evidence of the potential to deliver solutions that are sustainable and/or scalable

- how your organisation will identify and mitigate any risks, given the sensitivity of this piece of work and issues around women's safety when participating in public life and the importance of generating the buy-in of all relevant political actors
- how your organisation will deliver its activities and outcomes under different COVID-19 scenarios, including full or partial lock-downs and restrictions on local/international travel
- how your organisation will reach out to women and men at a sub-national level across different parts of the country, as well as in the diaspora

Scope and scale

The project will be implemented over two years from April 2022 to March 2024. It will take a phased approach, starting with research and analysis, which have to be completed by July 2022. Detailed work plans for subsequent activities will be developed based on the analysis findings and recommendations.

The project can range in value from £800,000 up to £1 million. Allocations will be approved on annual basis.

Official Development Assistance (ODA) is a term created by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to measure aid. ODA should be undertaken to promote of economic development and welfare as the main objective in ODA-eligible (ie. low- and middle- income as defined by the OECD's DAC list) countries.

Bidders should not craft proposals in such a way to reach the budget ceiling. Bidders should instead construct their Tender to specifically meet the objectives in pursuit of demonstrable impact and value for money.

Essential skills and competencies of the implementer

The implementer will have:

- strong operational experience of working in Yemen or in similar highly conflicted environments in the MENA region
- strong working knowledge on the women peace and security agenda, specifically women's meaningful participation in peace and decision-making processes
- strong gender and conflict analysis skills
- strong knowledge of Yemen's informal and formal political structures and local and national-level conflict dynamics, and the ability to work closely with Yemeni counterparts in all regions of the country
- the ability to source appropriate expertise to support the mapping, capacity building and advocacy components, both in-country and if necessary, from outside
- experience and familiarity of gender programming
- project and budget management skills, experience, capabilities and capacity

- experience of MEL processes, including but not limited to outcome harvesting
- robust approaches to risk management, conflict sensitivity, disability inclusion, safeguarding

Eligibility criteria

The project will be managed under an Accountable Grant Agreement (or MoU for inter-governmental organisations only). Projects in this framework are not allowed to generate a profit for the delivery partner. Proposals from for-profit organisations can only be considered if an officially registered non-profit making arm or division of the for-profit organisation will deliver the project.

Bidding process

1. Potential implementers are invited to submit a completed [project proposal form \(PPF\)](#) (ODT, 52.9 KB) and [Activity Based Budget template](#) (ODS, 10.2 KB) to britishembassy.sanaa2@fcdo.gov.uk by 23:59pm (GMT) on 10 February 2022. The title of the email should include “Yemen CSSF – Supporting Women’s Meaningful Participation in Political Processes in Yemen”.
2. We will not consider proposals that are delivered after the submission deadline.
3. Yemen CSSF Team will evaluate all submissions using the Selection Criteria (see below) and decide which proposals should be funded. Feedback will be provided for incorporation in any successful proposals. Unfortunately, as we expect a large amount of interest, we are unable to provide feedback on unsuccessful bids.
4. The project approved for funding will start in April 2022.

All bid submissions must be in English. The Budget must be presented in pounds (GBP).

Selection criteria

Bids will be assessed against the following criteria:

- alignment with the essential skills and competencies (listed above)
- project design, including a clear Theory of Change, Results Framework, work plan and MERL plan
- project viability, including capacity and capability of implementing organisation(s)
- value for money – criteria for economy, efficiency, effectiveness, equity, and cost-effectiveness

(1) Yemen Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) aims to directly support the meaningful inclusion of women in the political process at all levels; including increasing women’s representative participation in peace processes.

(2) Only 25 per cent of all national parliamentarians are women, as of October 2021. Inter-Parliamentary Union
<https://data.ipu.org/women-ranking?month=10&year=2021>.

(3) Relief Web,
<https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/feminist-peace-process-yemen-s-future-women-s-hands>.

(4) Evidence shows that women's formal participation in peace processes, including as mediators, results in a 35% increase in the likelihood of peace lasting at least 15 years. There are also correlations between the strength of women's influence in peace processes, with agreements being reached and implemented. Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice Security (2015)
[https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/UNW-GLOBAL-STUDY-1325-2015%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/UNW-GLOBAL-STUDY-1325-2015%20(1).pdf); Inclusive Peace and Transition Initiative, and UN Women (2016)
<https://www.inclusivepeace.org/sites/default/files/IPTI-UN-Women-Report-Making-Women-Count-60-Pages.pdf>.

[Acid attacker's sentence increased following referral by the Solicitor General](#)

News story

Milad Rouf has had his sentence increased after it was referred to the Court of Appeal by the Solicitor General, Alex Chalk QC MP.



A Cardiff man who hurled acid in the face of a doctor has had his sentence increased after it was referred to the Court of Appeal by the Solicitor General, Alex Chalk QC MP.

Milad Rouf, 26, had been involved in a relationship with the victim, a junior doctor. On 20 May 2021, after the relationship ended, Rouf travelled to her

home in Brighton and threw sulphuric acid at her face. His attack inflicted life changing injuries which necessitated several operations and resulted in blindness in one eye.

Rouf had carefully planned his attack and wore an intricate disguise in order to conceal his appearance, including padded clothing and makeup that gave him the appearance of a large woman. Escaping the scene, he discarded his disguise and changed his clothes, ensuring that he looked nothing like the attacker.

On 7 October 2021, Rouf was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment, comprising a custodial term of 11 years and a licence extension of 4 years, at Lewes Crown Court.

Following the sentence, the Solicitor General referred Rouf's sentence to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence (ULS) scheme.

On 15 December the Court of Appeal found his original sentence to be unduly lenient and increased it to 15 years' imprisonment with a 4-year extended licence.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General, Alex Chalk QC MP said:

Rouf's crime was shocking and has severely impacted the future of a young doctor – who lives to heal others – by robbing her of her sight in one eye. I hope the Court's decision to increase his sentence acts as a warning to those who think of acting in such a cruel and barbaric way.

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[Forestry Commission introduces new controls on bark beetle tree pest](#)

New Plant Health requirements are being introduced by the Forestry Commission to further control the spread of the larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) in Kent and East Sussex.

Woodland managers, landowners, the forestry industry and tree nurseries will need to provide written notification to the Forestry Commission if they intend to fell susceptible spruce material, or kill any trees of the genus *Picea* A. Dietr over three metres in height, within the demarcated area.

In addition, prohibitions on susceptible material being left in situ in the

demarcated area following felling, without written authorisation from an inspector, will be implemented. A new Notice enforcing these measures will come into force on Wednesday 22nd December 2021, building on existing restrictions on the movement of susceptible materials out of or within the demarcated area.

Nicola Spence, the UK Chief Plant Health Officer, said:

The eight-toothed spruce bark beetle poses no threat to human health, but can have a serious impact on spruce trees species and the forestry industry.

We are taking swift and robust action to limit the spread of the outbreaks as part of our well-established biosecurity protocol used for tree pests and diseases. These new restrictions in the demarcated area will further strengthen this strategy, as part of our ongoing eradication efforts.

Any sightings should be reported to the Forestry Commission via its [TreeAlert online portal](#).

The UK Chief Plant Health Officer confirmed breeding populations in two woodlands in Kent on 25 June and 1 July 2021 following routine Forestry Commission plant health surveillance activities. Following extensive surveillance, a total of 13 outbreak sites were identified in Kent and East Sussex. Swift and robust action was taken in response to the outbreaks, with active eradication efforts now ongoing across all sites.

Following a finding of the beetle in woodland in Kent in 2018, a demarcated area was introduced covering parts of the South East of England. A Notice further extending the boundary of the demarcated area to prevent the accidental spread of the pest was implemented on 29th October 2021.

Further [information on tree pests and diseases, and how to identify them, is available here](#).

Landowners are asked to report any suspect trees via [TreeAlert](#).

A new Notice, set to come into force on Wednesday 22nd December, will include the below clauses relating to the felling, killing and movement of susceptible material within the demarcated area:

- Restriction on felling susceptible material without prior notification. A person must notify the Forestry Commission in advance in writing of their intention to fell any relevant susceptible material within the demarcated area.
- Restriction on killing any trees of the genus *Picea* A. Dietr, over three metres in height, without prior notification. A person must notify the Forestry Commission in advance in writing of their intention to kill (e.g. by ring-barking or chemical killing) any trees of the genus *Picea* A. Dietr, over three metres in height, within the demarcated area.

- Prohibition on susceptible material being left in situ. No person may leave any relevant susceptible material arising from any felling in situ in the demarcated area unless authorised in writing by an inspector.
 - Prohibition on the movement of susceptible material. No person may move any relevant susceptible material out of or within the demarcated area, unless authorised in writing by an inspector.
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Minister Cleverly intervention at Global Compact on Refugees High Level Officials Meeting

High Commissioner, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Two years on from the Global Refugee Forum, the picture remains sobering.

Since then, we have faced challenges that none of us had seen before.

The nightmare combination of conflict, COVID-19 and the climate crisis means the number of people forced from their homes is set to pass 100 million next year.

In a world in crisis, it is vital that we come together to help those in greatest need.

So I pay tribute to the generosity of host nations and communities who welcome those driven from their homes.

I recognise how difficult this can be, particularly in the face of lengthy crises, heightened by the pandemic.

I also commend the UNHCR staff who have worked tirelessly to stay and deliver, supporting refugees during this very challenging period.

I am proud that the UK has a strong track record of helping those who need our protection.

Our commitment to supporting refugees remains strong.

Our focus is on a holistic approach, restoring dignity and offering refugees a viable future.

We continue to play our part in delivering on the Global Compact.

This includes significant support to the world's largest refugee crises.

We have provided £732 million since 2011 to support Syrian refugees and host

communities.

In Jordan, our £216 million programme has helped to create small business opportunities and jobs for Syrians and Jordanians.

In Bangladesh, our £320 million response to the Rohingya crisis has provided lifesaving food assistance, health support and sanitation for refugees since 2017.

And in Uganda, we have a six-year, £210 million, programme supporting refugees and host communities.

To ensure refugee children have opportunities for a brighter future, we are helping 300,000 of them to continue their educations in ten countries.

Since 2015, we have resettled more than 25,000 men, women and children seeking refuge from persecution across the world.

We have issued more than 39,000 visas under the Refugee Family Reunion Rules – around half to children.

Meanwhile, the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme will give up to 20,000 at-risk people a new life in the UK.

We stand firm in our commitment to the world's most vulnerable people.

And I am encouraged by the wider commitment, at senior levels, demonstrated at our meeting today.

As COP presidents, the UK particularly welcomes the focus on climate change.

We are encouraged, too, that refugees are increasingly participating in the decisions that concern them.

This, of course, is vital.

We will continue to work with you – the UNHCR and our fellow member states – and with those at the very heart of our work.

Together, we will continue to drive progress and momentum towards achieving the goals of the Global Compact.

Thank you.