

Annex H: The Joint Analysis of Conflict and Security

The JACS is an integrated cross-HMG approach to understanding conflict and stability in fragile countries. Its purpose is to provide a basis to support integrated planning, policy and resource allocation, creating synergy between the UK's diplomatic, development and defence analytical processes.

The JACS aims to build a shared, cross-government understanding of the context and basic drivers of the conflict and instability in a country drawing together defence, diplomacy and development analytical tools. A JACS is commissioned in various ways but in every case it is commissioned from a high level and represents a cross-departmentally agreed analysis that aims to support policy and resourcing decisions.

It aims to provide agreed cross-government analysis to inform future decision-making on resourcing and policy issues. The process is light touch or in-depth, depending on available timescales and needs, and is focused at the strategic level. In both cases the analysis provides a shared systematic understanding of conflict and instability, including causes and manifestations of conflict, key actors. It seeks to identify areas that offer prospects for promoting peace and stability. The approach is based on three phases:

Phase 1 – Initiation: Reviewing what is already known, establishing objectives and agreeing the timing and the scope of the study. Focus is on drawing in all relevant parts of HMG to agree on key questions and map out existing UK interests and priorities.

Phase 2 – Analysis: Detailed analysis responding to the objectives set out in Phase 1. An HMG team carries out desk and field studies, examining drivers, actors and dynamics of conflict, and sources of institutional resilience and other opportunities for peace. It will provide a set of detailed conclusions and recommendations for further consideration by HMG.

Phase 3 – Deployment or Utilisation: Focuses on the utilisation of analyses. It aims to ensure that the findings of analysis inform subsequent UK government policy and action. This is reportedly the most challenging aspect of the JACS process.

The JACs may be supported by external facilitators. However it is an internal HMG process. Nineteen JACS have been carried out since 2012. A review in early 2014 found them to be consistently effective in promoting a shared understanding of a conflict.

Source: <http://www.stabilisationunit.gov.uk/> and Joint Analysis of Conflict and Stability Guidance Notes 2012.