

# Annex I: Development of a Comprehensive Assessment Exercise in The Netherlands

For many years, the comprehensive approach (or 3D approach – Defence, Diplomacy and Development) has been at the core of Dutch engagement in the field of Security and Rule of Law. To further strengthen this approach, the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defence introduced the new Budget International Security in July 2013. The budget (EUR 250 million, or about US \$320 million, annually) is managed by the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, but is to be used to finance efforts in support of international security undertaken by Defence, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Security and Justice, and Foreign Affairs. Decision making on the budget's expenditure and actual implementation is required to be based on solid context analyses and assessments.

In response to this requirement, the Ministries involved are developing a comprehensive assessment exercise in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law (formed by the Conflict Research Unit of the Clingendael Institute, and The Hague Institute for Global Justice). The focus of the exercise is first and foremost on producing concise, innovative context and conflict analyses based on a multidisciplinary approach. The implications of the analytical outcome for both short- and long-term strategies for engagement will be at the forefront of the exercise. In general, the aim is to design the exercise as such that it helps to find entry points for a more comprehensive approach among the diplomatic, humanitarian, security, development and private actors. More specifically, the exercise will be geared towards developing a comprehensive approach between the MFA and the MoD in terms of their engagement with fragile and conflict affected states (FCAS).

Roughly, the exercise is expected to consist of a number of sequential steps:

- **Analytical preparation:** First, the Secretariat will identify a suitable researcher and will commission this person to pull together a political economy analysis building on existing information (which is expected to be available in most cases). If such information is not available – or if the existing information is not solid enough to use as a basis for a focused political economy analysis – a full political economy analysis will be commissioned.
- **Preparatory workshop:** Then, a preparatory informal workshop will take place among policy makers of all relevant departments from the MFA and the MoD to further specify the knowledge demands. A presentation of the political economy analysis can serve as a baseline for identifying potential areas for engagement that fit overall policy priorities with regard to FCAS, account for limiting political realities and policy frameworks, and in which both ministries can be mutually reinforcing. After this informal workshop, the researcher who has conducted the political economy analysis will draft a 4-6 page summary of the analysis, focusing specifically on those areas for engagement and knowledge demands that have been identified by the participants in the workshop. This summary will then serve as a background document for an expert workshop.
- **Expert workshop:** A 1.5 day workshop will be organized, bringing together a small group of experts from the policy, academic and practitioner field. Guided by an external facilitator, the expert workshop focuses on a selection of conflict dynamics that are relevant to the potential areas of engagement identified by the MFA and the MoD during the informal preparatory workshop. This focus will enable the experts to develop in-depth theories of change and identify (alternative) ways of influencing these conflict dynamics. Taking into account the outcomes of the preparatory analytical work, concrete options for policy implementation can be explored and identified. In order to enable a focused discussion, a maximum of three concrete policy questions will be discussed. The Secretariat will put together a package of background

information that will be shared with all participants to the expert workshop. This package will consist of – at least – the full version of the political economy analysis that has been conducted, as well as the 4-6 pages specific summary of that analysis; and relevant policy documents that clarify the policy and political boundaries that have to be taken into account by the MFA and the MoD.

- **Reporting:** In order to enable concrete follow-up to the findings of the expert workshop, a concise, high-quality report of the workshop in relation to the baseline political economy analysis is essential. Hence, the researcher who has conducted the analytical preparation work will be tasked with producing such a report. The report is to enable further discussions and decision-making within the relevant ministries, as well as enrich broader policy debate about engagement with FCAS. The key findings of the exercise will be presented to a wider audience in the MFA and MoD if so required (that is, Directorate level).

Source: Authors' interviews, June 2014.