

Terms of Reference

08.02.2021

Iraq Conflict Dynamics and Actor Mapping

The Robert Bosch Stiftung is seeking (a) consultant(s) to undertake an analysis of societal, political and conflict dynamics as well as a mapping of peacebuilding efforts and opportunities in Iraq. Submission date for expressions of interest (Eols) is 1st March 2021.

Background

The Robert Bosch Stiftung is one of Europe's largest foundations associated with a private company. It is a non-partisan, operational and grant-making institution. Based on the legacy of its founder, the Robert Bosch Stiftung is active in the areas of health, education and global issues. The latter comprises the topics "Peace", "Climate Change", "Migration" and "Inequality" as well as "Democracy" and "Immigration Society". For more information, please visit our [website](#).

The Peace strategy focuses on supporting locally-led approaches as a means to contributing to sustainable peace. In doing so, the Robert Bosch Stiftung cooperates closely with local actors who in turn identify local demands as well as potential partners and projects for future funding.

In the Middle East, we are currently working to understand in more detail the dynamics of certain conflicts in the region and map actors who are part of the peacebuilding ecosystems within those contexts. As part of this process, we are looking for an expert on Iraq who can carry out a research assignment on societal, political and conflict dynamics as well the peacebuilding ecosystem and potential in Iraq.

Purpose & Scope of Conflict Dynamics and Actor Mapping

The Conflict Dynamics Report and Actor Mapping will inform the Robert Bosch Stiftung's decision on potential future engagement in Iraq within the Foundation's Peace strategy. The consultant(s)/ researcher(s) will support the Foundation by providing:

- 1. Outline of the social, political and conflict dynamics in Iraq with a particular focus on the following thematic areas:**
 - Description of the different conflict hotspots, conflict dynamics and actors / groups impacted by or influencing the conflict in Iraq
 - The current situation in Iraq, including the role of and perspectives for Kurds in Iraq, sectarianism, civil society, demographic developments, social structures and norms as well as climate change and environmental degradation
- 2. Mapping of peacebuilding actors and ecosystem in Iraq, with a focus on the following topics:**
 - Locally led peacebuilding activities, actors and organizations, including neighboring fields such as governance, education, inequalities, migration, human rights etc. where appropriate
 - Assessment of the (political) space and capacity for peacebuilding and related activities in Iraq
 - Assessment of the security situation on the ground, and resulting opportunities and challenges for locally led peacebuilding activities
- 3. Recommendations for future activities or entry points for the Robert Bosch Stiftung, based on a locally led approach**

The report serves for internal purposes of the Foundation only. It will be treated confidentially and will not be quoted or shared with third parties who are not involved in the development of the Foundation's locally led activities in Iraq.

Assignment & Deliverables

The methodology will be finalized with input from the consultant upon the agreement of cooperation. However, the methodology should include a combination of desk research using existing reports, analyses etc. and

interviews with local, regional and international experts. The consultant(s) and RBSG will agree regular update calls as well as a possible interim presentation with a written executive summary.

The results of the study will be submitted as a comprehensive document in English or German, including

- Executive summary (max. 2 pages),
- Analysis of the social, political and conflict dynamics in Iraq, the above mentioned thematic focus areas as well as the implications thereof for locally-led peacebuilding efforts
- Mapping of peacebuilding and related actors in the format of a table including the name of the entity, type of entity (e.g. think tank, donor, CSO, etc.), brief summary of their objectives and activities, contact details
- Recommendations for thematic and geographic entry points for RBSG to begin supporting locally-led peacebuilding activities,
- Bibliography incl. a list of interviewees.

The (interim) results of the study will be presented to the Foundation (virtually or in person) soon after completion. If necessary, the study can be revised after the presentation.

Timeframe

The assignment should begin no later than 1st April and end by 30th June 2021. We estimate the research and write-up to take approximately 30-40 working days. The interim presentation incl. executive summary should take place by 25th May 2021, the deadline for the draft report is 1st June 2021. The contract will end with the acceptance of the final report by the Foundation.

Qualification

The expert(s) will possess the following minimum qualification and skills:

- In-depth knowledge of current developments in Iraq, sound understanding of the central societal, political and conflict dynamics in Iraq, as well as strong expertise on peacebuilding in Iraq and the wider region

- At least 5 years of relevant experience in undertaking research and conducting contextual and/or conflict analyses
- Strong network of resources and contacts in Iraq
- Excellent analytical and report writing skills
- Excellent English skills (spoken and written)
- Minimum MA degree or equivalent

Application Process

Experts that meet the expected qualification and skills as well as requirements mentioned above are invited to submit an expression of interest (Eoi). Individual applicants or organizations can submit an Eoi which should include the following:

- A brief outline of the proposed methodology including a timetable and the estimated number of days required to carry out the tasks
- Short cover letter detailing the suitability for the assignment and current contact information
- CV(s) demonstrating relevant research experience and regional expertise including current contact information
- Financial offer (incl. fees, communication costs, etc.)
- Written sample of previous work

Please send your Eoi or any questions you may have to Ms Irene Weinz at Irene.Weinz@bosch-stiftung.de. Deadline for submission of your Eoi is 1st March 2021.