

The Stabilization Support Unit Plays a Vital Role in the Liberated Areas



The Stabilization Support Unit is a Non-Governmental, Non Profit, executive - technical Organization.

Since 2016, the Stabilization Support Unit (the Unit) has been serving as the focal point and coordination mechanism to allow key stakeholders (governmental representatives, donors, and implementers) to better plan and implement humanitarian and civilian governance assistance in the North of Syria. The Unit has always been flexible in reshaping and revising its scope of work (SOW) to meet the needs of the constantly changing dynamics in these areas. To conduct its activities, the

Unit relies on many specialized sections (studies and research - engineering and projects - administrative and legal issues - media - empowerment of women - capacity building – training, etc).

The Stabilization Support Unit's activities included the following:

1. Various service projects involving more than 20 activities, these activities included: provision of equipment - vehicles, covering the operational costs of 5 bakeries, supporting 104 schools, waste management, removing ISIS slogans in 38 areas. Providing water in 41 regions and the removal of rubble and debris in 15 regions. Implementation of these activities created 1758 job opportunities alongside to creation of commercial opportunities for good and service providers. The number of indirect beneficiaries is estimated by 850,000 individuals in the region, including IDPs.
2. Studies and needs assessments were conducted for more than 568 villages, towns and cities throughout the northern and eastern countryside of Aleppo, which were occupied by ISIS. These studies and needs assessments were conducted through local advisers from those areas.
3. Coordinating between local councils, local communities and donors in terms of identification of needs, priorities and potential challenges.
4. Conducting Rapid response programs in the newly liberated areas through service projects which include (Removing rubble, removing ISIS slogans, education, water pumping, bakeries, waste management, road repair, and health projects.). Management and implementation of these projects with various donors.
5. Assist in the creation of identification and evaluation models for all local councils in the area, and oversee the procedures for monitoring and evaluating the local councils' performance to contribute to the transition from stability to management programming.
6. Monitoring the general situation on the ground and following up the movements of the population (Especially movements of the IDPs), alongside to following up on the political and economic situation.

7. In the context of the agreements and negotiations, the Unit has previously concluded a humanitarian transit agreement between Azaz, Afrin and Dara 'Azza (when the western and northern countryside of Aleppo are separated by the advance of the regime forces in 2016), the Unit has also held several meetings and workshops with the participation of different parties to try to find solutions for Manbij and Tel Rif'at problems.
8. Conducting capacity building programs to support the LCs and other governmental entities by providing trainings on on-the-job training, mentoring & Evaluation, facilitation of the communication with donors and implementers, project development - management, and setting internal regulations & policies, and documentation (procurement, finance, hiring process). The capacity building trainings were followed by consultation sessions. The Unit has also consolidated the form of official documents and visual identity of local institutions and councils in the region.
9. Enhancing the role of the women by providing social, political and economic empowerment training workshops for them in 12 regions to enable women to take their leading role in the society. Hence the Unit has supported the establishment of Women Empowerment Unite in the Northern and Eastern Countryside of Aleppo.
10. Conduct more in-depth studies and research focusing on infrastructure (water, electricity, bread, waste management, roads, and education), LC profiles, risk assessments, and detailed work plans.
11. Prepare studies and plan for the reconstruction of the Newly Liberated Areas.
12. Holding Capacity building trainings for Media people and Media & communication officers of the local councils and institutions.
13. To ensure the sustainability of the services provided in the region, the Unit has helped and supported (technically and financially) the local councils to set fee collection systems. (Setting fee collection systems, training the Local Councils and raising the awareness of the local communities regarding the importance of fee collection)
14. In order to combat terrorism and extremism in the areas that have been under the rule of ISIS for a long time, it was necessary to activate the role of society in decision-making and local authorities and increasing the level of transparency. That's why the Unit has held 36 workshops targeting local councils, communities and institutions in the region.
15. To improve the security and commercial situation, the Unit has provided 12 regions and 5 camps with more than 1,200 Solar-powered street lighting units.
16. The Unit has provided support to local communities in areas liberated from ISIS by implementing projects that bolster stabilization activities, countering violent extremism, developing and enabling civil administration and essential service provision to be more effective and legitimate, and forming strong alternatives to fundamentalist and extremist belief systems. The Unit has proven to be a key player in early recovery efforts in these areas and will continue to play an important role by maintaining the balance of moderate opposition in these areas and improving the conditions for the return of the displaced to their areas.
17. Stabilization Support Unit through its path "Voice of the Local Community in the Constitution", holds workshops to which the local community and members of the Constitutional Committee are participating, to convey the views and aspirations of the

local community to the constitutional committee and involve the local community in the political process, in addition to explaining and clarifying the political solution paths (Geneva – Astana – Sochi) of Syria and the Security Council Resolution /2254/ to the participants.

18. The coexistence project is another path that the Unit is working on. The Coexistence path aims to enhance coexistence, reduce tension between the different religious and national/ethnic components, establish cooperative relations among them, encourage dialogue between those components, integrate marginalized groups through a series of dialogue workshops and allow the leaders to develop realistic proposals and recommendations to enhance political freedoms, human rights, security and economic recovery within a pluralistic Syrian society.
19. Another important issue that the Stabilization Support Unit is working on is the “Security Sector Reform Researches in the Liberated Areas” path. The Unit holds focused discussion workshops with the authorities involved in the security issues such as the police and public security, representatives of military factions in the Syrian National Army, local councils, representatives of judiciary, representatives of civil society organizations, and participation of experts in the analysis and evaluation of the security situation. Through this path the Unit aims to reach effective tools and clear understanding to reform the security sector that would achieve a safe environment in the region.