

Panel Executive Brief: Multilateral and Bilateral Approaches to Stabilization

In order to have an effective stabilization implementation process, multilateral and bilateral approaches are absolutely essential. There is not a single actor that can carry out the goals of the SAR without external assistance. Thus, burden sharing among all relevant actors is necessary for success. The SAR, if implemented correctly, will be capable of linking prior knowledge and fundamental work on core concepts to create best practices and lessons learned – something that organizations are unable to do on their own.

Speakers

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Moderator: Kristen Cordell - Senior Advisor, (USAID/PPL) SAR Lead

Key Issues/Problems discussed:

- What can the international community do in regards to bargains with local elites? Support with international protection pacts, safe spaces.
- Collaboration, unity, and cohesion among relevant actors has always proven to be a major challenge.
- There is a need to engage and configure legitimate political approaches.
- International interventions have repeatedly contributed to the production of violence.
- Operational challenges: 1) defining long-term stabilization, 2) varied spectrum of activities, and 3) deciding the level to focus upon – local or national.

Key Recommendations:

- Local elites play the most vital role in supporting bargains and reducing violence.
- Prior analysis and shared vision about how to view a country long-term, and an understanding of what form of stabilization makes the most sense.
- International consensus is needed regarding the future trajectory of relevant countries; this analysis is crucial to setting appropriate short to medium-term goals.
- Key UN member states should provide both political and financial support.
- Donors should play to their strengths, leverage their individual capabilities.

Significance of SAR:

The SAR is an evolving concept and approach – not just in regards to bargaining with elites, but also opening to, and engaging with, local level populations for peace agreements; thereby overriding political elements. Stabilization is not for initiatives that will address the root problem, but rather, stabilization lays the framework for deeper policies and strategies.