

REVISITING POST-CONFLICT STABILISATION AND EARLY RECOVERY: INSIGHTS FROM FIELD OPERATIONS

INSTITUTIONAL LEAD

European Union Institute for Security Studies

MODERATOR

Giovanni Faleg

Senior Analyst, European Union Institute for Security Studies

OVERVIEW

Mali and Somalia are confronted by the threat of terrorism and violent extremism. They are at the heart of the international community's efforts to support stability. In this session, practitioners from the security, development and humanitarian communities discussed the lessons from and prospects for post-conflict stabilization in these two countries. Practical aspects include the sustainability of a military presence to maintain security, the shift in development aid from business as usual to a new way of working in post-conflict settings, tensions and trade-offs between different approaches to promoting recovery and resilience, and the potential role of the private sector in stabilization efforts.

FOCUS AND OBJECTIVES

The session focused on the challenges of coordination on the ground, such as the sequencing of interventions and the intersection of mandates between actors, as well as the strategy to ensure a transition from stabilization to long-term peacebuilding goals. The objective of the session was to give participants a deeper understanding of the operational challenges of stabilization in Mali and Somalia and to explore new policy options and solutions for more effective international support.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Stabilization should be redefined in terms especially of partnerships, the regional dimension, the intersection of mandates and the soft aspect of stabilization.

In Mali, this involves overall engagement by the United Nations, stabilization actions by the European Union (EU) in Segou and Mopti, and the World Bank project for the reconstruction of the port of Konna. Stabilization requires inclusion. Whatever happens in Mali spills over into the region. There has been a rapid escalation of the conflict from the north to the south—there has not been a quick response. Cooperation between different actors operating in Mali is difficult.

In Somalia, there are criticalities and challenges in UN stabilization assistance and the relationship with state authorities. A key element for stabilization is the relationship between the government and the host country. The international actors are becoming more and more disconnected from the field. The outcome of the withdrawal of the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) should be clarified, especially since the Somali National Army (SNA) is not ready to guarantee security and stability in the country.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Focus on quick wins for stabilization that can bring immediate, visible results.
- Look at the political dimension of stabilization and dialogue for reconciliation in Mali and Somalia.
- Make sure that the stabilization operation is flexible and adaptive to the context.
- Link short-term action with long-term objectives.
- Make sure that leadership accepts the risks of stabilization operations and that people who are deployed are well trained and knowledgeable about the crisis situation—the human factor.



EU Institute for Security Studies

@EU_ISS



The EUISS is pleased to be the Institutional Lead in the post-[#conflict](#) stabilisation panel of [#SthlmForum](#).

Here Director Gustav Lindstrom opens discussions on operational perspectives.

♥ 5 1:09 PM - May 15, 2019

[See EU Institute for Security Studies's other Tweets](#)



Screen capture taken by [screenshot.guru](#) on Wed, 15 May 2019 13:37:41 GMT.

Permalink: twitter.com/EU_ISS/status/1128648525481377792



This session report was produced onsite at the 2019 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development hosted by SIPRI and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The report aims to reflect the session discussion. The views, information or opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of SIPRI, the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs or other institutes associated with the session.