

GFN-SSR Activities

Network Facilitation

GFN-SSR aims to facilitate networking within and between regions, and to promote the sharing of experiences and best practice.

SSR Training Courses

GFN-SSR runs a number of SSR training courses designed primarily for UK Government officials with some places available to representatives of other organisations. These include "An Introduction to SSR", which is a beginners course, and the "SSR Practitioners' course", aimed at those with some existing experience and knowledge of SSR. Both courses comprise workshops, panel discussions, case studies and Q&A sessions. We are currently developing other flexible course formats that can be tailored to specific regional or thematic needs.

Publishing

GFN-SSR has published "A Beginner's Guide to SSR" and Laurie Nathan's book, "No Ownership, No Commitment: A Guide to Local Ownership of Security Sector Reform". Both can be downloaded from www.ssrnetwork.net. We are also planning to publish a series of working papers on new topics and perspectives on SSR with the aim of developing thinking, challenging existing ideas and broadening the debate around wider issues of security and development.

Rapid research for policymakers and practitioners

GFN-SSR runs a research helpdesk for UK Government officials in DFID, FCO and MOD. This is a rapid response desk-based service that conducts research assignments of up to two days providing information to policymakers. The response outlines the main issues of the subject, identifying the most relevant literature and, where appropriate, gathering comments from expert academics and practitioners. Enquirers use the responses for a variety of purposes, from feeding into their own reports to preparatory planning work for in-country activities.

UK Government officials can access previous helpdesk reports or submit new queries at a password protected section of www.ssrnetwork.net. Please contact Ben Kelly at ben.kelly@ssrnetwork.net or call +44 121 414 3492 for further details.

A selection of rapid research queries:

"What are the various measures taken by the security forces in promoting public safety in Nepal?"

"What lessons have been learned from a security perspective in holding elections in post conflict environments? I am particularly interested in the dynamics involved in addressing public security during election periods. Examples and case studies from South Asia would be especially useful."

"SSR and Access to Justice in the Democratic Republic of the Congo Literature Review."

Contact Us

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for security sector reform

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About us

Security is a core aspect of the vulnerability of the poor. Security sector reform (SSR) aims to build a secure environment based on development, rule of law, good governance and local ownership of security actors. GFN-SSR promotes these principles by working with local actors through networks, capacity building and information sharing.

GFN-SSR believes in the following principles:

- Local ownership: International actors and donors should support priorities, policies and programmes led by local actors;
- Setting trends: Investigating new avenues of enquiry and innovative approaches;
- Plugging information-gaps: Providing knowledge and information in a manner useful to policymakers, practitioners and those affected by SSR;
- The value of new voices: Broadening the debate around the issues of security and governance to those who are not currently part of the existing establishment, including those who are marginal and most vulnerable to insecurity;
- Reflective and critical thinking: Challenging current practices, beliefs and discourse where necessary;

GFN-SSR aims to:

- Develop and facilitate networks of policymakers, practitioners and civil society organisations involved in the broad issues of SSR at national, international and regional levels;
- Share and disseminate information on the latest thinking on SSR;
- Provide information to assist policymakers, practitioners and other actors to help them cope with challenges on the ground;
- Encourage debate around pertinent issues related to SSR and the broader fields of security and governance;
- Develop and deliver training programmes to promote good practice.

We interpret 'facilitation' as:

- Activating, consolidating and supporting networks;
- Acting as a two-way conduit and channel of communication between locally-based network members and the UK Government;
- Enabling grass-root realities and perspectives to influence policy;
- Allowing the UK Government to promote best practice and lessons learned to regional networks and the wider international community.



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