

Global Peace and Security Program- Burma

The Conflict Prevention through Parliaments Project is a capacity building project for the promotion of intercultural understanding in Burmese Parliament and Secretariat to support conflict prevention and management. These capacities include fostering an increased understanding of the cultural dimension of conflict in the region, developing skills and training handbooks that include cross-cultural issues, analysis, and approaches as a key facet of conflict prevention; and creating long-term plan for raising the institutional capacities of cultural sensitive conflict prevention role for Burmese Parliament. The Project works to build on and deepen existing Burmese mechanisms, individual and organizational capacities and institutional relationships for a long-term conflict prevention and management role that suits the needs and realities of Southeast Asia.

Implementing Agency: DFAIT with START

This is a global peace and security program drawing from the Global Peace and Security Fund to provide financial and operational resources to facilitate timely effective, and accountable conflict prevention, conflict response, peace operations, civilian protection, stabilization intervention in fragile states.

Increases Canadian Leadership by engaging and or deploying Canadian experts on issues pertaining to fragile states including peacekeeping building conflict prevention, humanitarian affairs, with the purpose of enhancing programming capability.

Project Area out project falls under: Promotion of conflict resolution by prompting dialogue and reconciliation with communities vulnerable groups and conflicting parties.

What: Capacity development of parliamentarians by strengthening their legislative and oversight roles; improvement of parliamentary - executive relations; increased openness of Parliament vis-à-vis the citizens; and achieving more effective management and functioning of the Legislative and Executive Branches.

How: Cross-cultural experts from Canada deliver presentations and facilitate dialogue on topics such as inclusive legislation, media training, and managing official languages

Panel discussions, workshops with the politicians, academics, and researchers

Who: For policy makers, local leaders, religious authorities, NGOs, and other influential community leaders.

How long: 4 years with consultations every 9 months

Spoilers: Dissidence with in the ranks, lack of competency throughout out the hierarchy, corruption, hardliners, Canadian population (not another war), other Strategic partners (ie: China, Thailand Russia, India)

Benefits to Recipients: increased knowledge of cross-cultural dimensions, decreased political tension

Benefits to Canadians:

Short-term: Canadian leverage in Burma, enhance Canada's image as an exporter of cross cultural understanding and tolerance

Long-term: regional stability, reduced drug trafficking

How will the performance of your project be assessed?

The causal model implicit in the project is increasing dialogue on key issues will create a multicultural tolerant society.

A time series one-group design evaluation will be used. For the evaluation, the indicators will be measured in the year preceding the beginning of the program, during the program and the years following the program.

The evaluation will measure perspectives on issue such of culture, gender, and good governance.

In addition, measure stakeholders wanting to join discussions will give an indication of perceived benefits.

Canadian participating in the project will write reports detailing their experience and lessons learn with the goal of building Canadian capacity.

Monitoring Activities

Due to the nature of the project, ongoing monitoring will be limited to participations levels of different parties, and continues attendance to conferences

In addition, the advancement of dialogue from conference to conference as perceived by Canadian facilitators and NGOs

Follow-up activities as part of wide-scale preventive action in the region

More stakeholder incorporation, continued dialogue

Policy initiatives initiated through this process will give an indication of potential initiatives to be supported by Canada in the future.

Long-term monitoring through CFIP fragile state assessments

Potential to export to other states in the region, utilizing the Burmese as facilitators in their neighboring states.