

Description of the Research Working Groups

1. Afghanistan

Within the Afghanistan strategy, FBA works to "improve conditions for the participation and influence of actors in processes for peace and empower the capacity to manage and prevent conflicts". FBA's work supports inclusive dialogues between various Afghan actors and between Afghanistan and the outside world in various ways. The effort includes support for dialogues promoting civic space and human rights and aims to create a sustainable and inclusive political solution in Afghanistan. FBA also supports Afghan civil society (especially the survival of women's rights and human rights groups). Afghanistan research working group members should have experience in non-state actors, history, human rights, and civil society in Afghanistan.

2. Africa (Regional Focus)

Within Sweden's strategy for development cooperation with Africa 2022–2026, FBA is tasked with strengthening regional capacity for sustainable peace. Activities should support the institutional framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the actors, initiatives and processes that complement it. Regarding FBA's thematic areas, FBA focuses on the Women, Peace, and Security agenda (WPS) and dialogue and peace processes. FBA also supports thematic areas such as disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration of combatants (DDR) and leadership. Members of the regional Africa research working group should have experience and have researched women's participation, DDR, democratic leadership, and conflict resolution.

3. Colombia

FBA contributes to strengthening the conditions for the democratic implementation of a negotiated peace, strengthening conditions for peacebuilding, developing the state's institutional capacity, and increasing gender equality, including opportunities for equal participation in conflict prevention work. FBA has carried out strategic work in Colombia since 2017. Currently, FBA runs four initiatives: support for an inclusive peace process: equality integration and knowledge management within reintegration; democratic governance, cooperation, and civilian control of the security sector; and equality integration within peacebuilding institutions. Members of the Colombia research working group should have experience and a research agenda focusing on Colombia's history, democratization in Colombia, environmental security, security sector reform and non-state actors/ military-civilian relations.

4. Democratic Republic of Congo

FBA has been active in DRC since 2015. Current efforts and activities are focused on gender equality, Youth, Peace, and Security, climate security, and the rule of law, with a geographic focus on the Kivu provinces and Kinshasa. FBA supports a network of approximately 75 actors from different governmental and non-governmental in an inclusive peacebuilder network (RCPI) with a focus on gender mainstreaming. Moreover, FBA collaborates with the Ministry of Youth to support the development of the national action plan for the UN 2250 agenda. In 2023 FBA will also launch a new workstream linked to climate security in eastern DRC, starting with a knowledge exchange workshop to map connections between conflict, climate, and rights in eastern DRC, with expert actors active in the area. FBA is looking for researchers with experience in the DRC, focusing on trust building, institutional trust, Youth, Peace and Security, peacebuilding, and climate security.

5. Iraq

FBA's activities in Iraq contribute to improving conditions for sustainable peace, social cohesion, and inclusive governance. The contribution aims to strengthen trust between local governments and civil society and improve conditions for inclusive governance in Iraq. FBA supports an inclusive and participatory process for implementing the Youth, Peace, and Security agenda. Additionally, with its Iraqi partner IRFAD, FBA supports improved transparency and participation in local governance. Members of the Iraq research working group should have research experience in social cohesion, democratic governance, and institutional trust building.

6. Liberia

In accordance with the Swedish strategy for development cooperation with Liberia 2021-2025, FBA is to contribute to strengthened conditions for human rights, democracy and the rule of law and strengthened conditions for sustainable peace and social cohesion. FBA's work in Liberia focuses on security sector reform, dialogue and peace mediation, and the rule of law. The Liberia research working group will focus on democratic governance, peacebuilding, trust-building, security sector reform, and military-civilian relations. Members should have deep knowledge of Liberia's political and social affairs.

7. Mali

FBA works in Mali to promote effective and inclusive implementation of the peace agreement and national reform processes, strengthening cooperation between national and subnational levels. FBA's strategy in Mali includes supporting women's participation in peace and reconciliation processes and implementing UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. Support is also given to implementing the reconciliation strategy focusing on regional conflict resolution and reconciliation mechanisms. FBA seeks researchers with in-depth knowledge of Mali's social, political, and economic affairs, focusing on democratic governance, women empowerment, peacebuilding, and reconciliation.

8. Myanmar

In Myanmar, FBA aims to support formal institutions at the national level, focusing on the MoFUA (NUG), TCWG (NUCC) and CSOs engaging in the constitutional process. FBA supports information exchange at the regional level to enrich the national dialogue and enables cooperation between these different levels. In addition, FBA contributes to the capacity-building efforts of the Karenni State Consultative Council (KSCC) and the Karenni State Progressive Party (KNPP) in democratic rights-based governance and the rule of law principles. In so doing, FBA contributes to establishing a democratic and rights-based administrative structure in large parts of the Karenni state, in line with recently adopted 'interim administrative arrangements', which can be compared to an interim state constitution. Members of the Myanmar research working group should have experience researching democratic governance, the rule of law, peace dialogue and democratic leadership with a focus on Myanmar.

9. Palestine

In the Swedish government's strategy for bilateral development cooperation with Palestine 2020–2024, FBA is instructed to promote inclusive peacebuilding processes, focusing on women's participation and young people in these processes. In partnership with strategic local and international actors, FBA works to strengthen negotiation skills and include youth and equality perspectives in negotiations. FBA seeks researchers for the Palestine research working group, focusing on Youth, Peace and Security, civil society organizations, women empowerment, and peacebuilding/conflict resolution in Palestine.

10. Somalia

Somalia has been lacking a unified security sector for decades. Public trust in security actors is low, and militias and public security providers have been accused of abusing civilians. FBA strives to enable inclusive and sustainable security sector reform in Somalia, to construct a well-functioning security sector capable of exercising control of the entire state territory and guaranteeing the safety of all citizens. FBA strives to improve the conditions for women and youth's participation in peacebuilding and state-building processes. To this end, FBA is particularly interested in research that evinces deep contextual knowledge of Somalia's history and political ethnography in the national and regional context.

11. Ukraine

Through its long-term presence in Ukraine, FBA established itself as a vital local, regional, and national development force in response to the Russia invasion crisis in February 2022 and to contribute to the long-term needs. Since 2014, FBA has been responsible for implementing the project Local Self-Government and the Rule of Law in Ukraine, enabled by financial support from Sweden. The overall purpose of the project is to strengthen the rule of law principles in administrative service delivery at the local level and to increase the capacity of local and national actors to address issues related to the conflict in eastern Ukraine. As a result of the full-scale war and its consequences, FBA has, along with local partners in Ukraine, developed several additional activities. The overall aim of these activities is to strengthen the resilience of public

institutions to handle the consequences of the war without undermining respect for the principles of the rule of law and democracy. This involves ensuring that the war-affected population has continued access to essential social services, justice, and human rights. The activities will also contribute to preparing the society for reconstruction when the conflict is over. Members of this research working group should be Ukrainian researchers active in researching resilience, social cohesion, the rule of law, democratization, and social justice. They should have proven experience and research in Ukraine.

12. Western Balkans

Within the Strategy for Sweden's reform cooperation with the Western Balkans 2021-2027, FBA focuses on conflict resolution, prevention, and confidence-building efforts by creating better conditions for reconciliation and a less polarized society. FBA's activities seek to contribute to peaceful and inclusive societies, and the overall objective is better conditions for inclusive reconciliation processes and conflict and violence prevention efforts. Most of FBA's work in the region is conducted in Bosnia and Herzegovina and is currently in the start-up phase. Two primary interventions have been identified:

1) Dialogue spaces for reconciliation. This intervention seeks to counteract several conflict-driving factors, such as ethnic polarization and mistrust, by supporting new or strengthened spaces for dialogue and cooperation between relevant actors, including between rightsholders and duty bearers.

2) Conflict prevention and vertical reconciliation through rights-based governance support. This intervention will mainly contribute to preconditions for the vertical aspect of reconciliation in the form of strengthened relations between public institutions and citizens through rights-based local governance based on the rule of law, human security, and gender equality. To this end, FBA is particularly interested in researchers who have deep knowledge of the Western Balkan region and its countries, focusing on trust-building, social cohesion, democratic governance, conflict prevention and dialogue.

13. Eastern Europe

Following the war in Ukraine, defence and security issues in the neighbouring countries in Eastern Europe are high on the agenda for the Swedish government. For just over a year, FBA has been part of the implementation of the government's Strategy for Sweden's reform cooperation with Eastern Europe for 2021–2027, where Moldova is a priority country alongside Ukraine. Within the framework of this strategy, FBA seeks to extend support to the regions affected by the war in Ukraine. FBA recognizes that the reform processes in Moldova are significant and seeks to examine what type of support the country needs to build resilience against conflict and strengthen the country's EU candidate status. FBA is establishing operations and networks in the country, including initial discussions with the Ministry of Interior in Moldova. For the Eastern Europe Research Working Group, FBA is particularly interested in researchers with in-depth knowledge of the region, focusing on security sector reform, democratic governance, and conflict prevention.

14. Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration of Ex-Combatants and Security Transitions

The Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS) were revised as a response to changes in the global landscape of armed conflict to enhance the outcomes in new settings in DDR operations. IDDRS develop new tools and various strategies, depending on the conflict settings, to respond to the dynamics of DDR. The DDR unit envisages a few research areas that could contribute to the development of DDR. This includes psychosocial support, military reintegration (lack of guidelines and how it differentiates from civilian reintegration at the individual and group level), climate change (recruitment patterns, NSAG conduct, how significant climate change is in relation to other motivations to join NSAG), evaluating approach on CVR and preventative success as well as general DDR processes targeting youth, or CBR regarding more traditional reintegration. The DDR research working group should consist of researchers active in DDR, recruitment patterns, informal methods of reintegration, climate change and NSAG.

15. Dialog and Peace Mediation

The Dialogue and Peace Mediation Unit offers dialogue and/or mediation-related facilitation and process support to global and bilateral/regional partners. This contribution may focus on capacity-building, advisory services, policy development and/or other process support. This includes tailor-made support to bilateral partners, currently in Iraq, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Somalia, and the regions of Eastern Europe (Ukraine and Moldova) and the Western Balkans (focus on BiH). The unit also has a long-standing (15-year+) partnership with the UN, contributing to their conflict prevention, dialogue, and peace mediation capacity. FBA is interested in researchers with experience in conflict prevention, dialogue, and peace mediation.

16. Peacekeeping Operations

FBA works in many conflicts affected countries where international organizations have a mandate for peace operations. FBA contributes to peace operations by supporting capacity building on leadership and coordination, SSR and DDR. FBA also seconded personnel to peace operations. FBA also cooperates with UN peace operations and EU CSDP operations within the framework of a comprehensive approach. A working group on peace operations aims to help FBA develop and understand in-depth contextualized and localized strategies for crisis management and civil capabilities. Members of the peacekeeping operations research working group should consist of researchers actively researching civil crisis management in conflict time, peacekeeping operations relevant to SSR and DDR, and localized strategies for civil crisis management focusing on regions where FBA works.

17. Peace Process Unit

FBA's Peace Process Unit contributes with direct measures for positive progress in peace and political negotiations as part of Sweden's foreign policy priorities and agenda. The Unit provides (1) support to conflict parties, third parties, and other national or global actors through technical and thematic advice, process design, and capacity building; (2) support for inclusion and effective participation with a focus on gender equality; and (3) facilitation of dialogues and politically sensitive conversations. It creates platforms for peace by developing relationships

and trusts to build and strengthen consensus. The Unit's activities improve the opportunities for conflict parties to implement processes to reach negotiated, equal and inclusive solutions to violent conflicts. The PPS research working group should consist of researchers with research agendas on peace mediation, negotiation, women in the peace process, trust building and conflict prevention.

18. Women, Peace, and Security (WPS)

FBA works to support national, regional, and international organizations in institutionalizing work relevant to gender equality, both in the workplace and in daily operations. This is done through institutional mapping/assessments and various forms of support for managers (gender responsive leadership) and experts, such as equality advisors and gender focal points. FBA's starting point is that work with gender equality requires both gender mainstreaming and special gender equality efforts. FBA works long-term with partners in a process where, over time, small concrete efforts are intended to lead to increased institutionalization. Therefore, FBA is looking for researchers focusing on gender equality, Women, Peace and Security, and women in peacebuilding to be members of the Women, Peace, and Security Research Working Group. The research working group on equality and WPS should help FBA achieve the organizational development that leads to the institutionalization of work with equality in organizations and political processes.

19. Leadership and cooperation

FBA contributes to the effectiveness of peace operations through investment in sound leadership and practical cooperation. FBA aims to strengthen the ability of institutions, leaders, and leadership teams to implement their mandates effectively and, thereby, make a tangible difference in the success of peace operations. Furthermore, FBA actively contributes to policy making, policy implementation and the emergence of good practice in terms of leadership and cooperation in peace operations. FBA's approach is grounded in the rationale that such a holistic investment in policies, systems/institutions, teams, and individuals is necessary to address critical barriers to sound leadership and cooperation, which have, in turn, proven to be essential factors of success for effective peace operations. It is a priority for FBA to ensure that the approaches, methods, and tools employed for leadership development and cooperation are based on good practice, as evidenced by previous and/or ongoing research. FBA is equally keen to contribute to knowledge and a community of good practice by harvesting learning and evidence from our work. FBA aims to strengthen the quality, and thus the impact, of our support to leadership and cooperation by applying and contributing to evidence-based research. To this end, the research group would constitute valuable support to our work by focusing on examining critical success factors for effective mandate implementation in integrated settings and peace operations, examining the EU's civilian crisis management, and the model of system leadership and its field of application in the context of UN peace operations and EU civilian crisis management.

20. Rights-Based Governance

The unit promotes rights-based governance by applying the principles of the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict countries, focusing on participation, non-discrimination, transparency, and accountability. The principles are implemented in processes that strengthen the trust between the state and the individual and ultimately lead to democratic governance. The unit works to improve the capacity of responsible actors in government institutions and processes and create platforms for dialogue and cooperation with rights holders. This includes, for example, support for the development and professionalization of civil servants and support for civil society to strengthen their ability to engage in dialogue and demand responsibility from those responsible. The unit works in seven bilateral and regional strategies (DRC, Liberia, Iraq, Somalia, Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, and Myanmar). Several of these strategies focus on strengthening democratic governance and the practical application of the rights-based governance at the local level, for example: in constitutional processes (Myanmar), in the strengthening of local resilience (Ukraine and Moldova), in support of civil servants (Liberia), through the participation of women in electoral processes (Somalia), participation and collaboration between institutions and civil society (Iraq), and the link between governance and climate security (DRC) and reconciliation (Bosnia). The rights-based governance research working group should consist of researchers who have proven records in examining constitutional reform and process, electoral process, empowering women in politics, CSOs empowerment, transparency and trust building in formal institutions.

21. Security Sector Reform (SSR)

In most countries, a wide range of actors are engaged in the provision, management, and oversight of security services, all of whom should be involved in a reform process. An SSR process should make the security sector more effective, transparent, accountable, and affordable. These objectives are closely interlinked and mutually reinforce one another. A whole-of-state approach that involves the different elements in the security and justice chain will improve the overall effectiveness of a reform process. It is also important to consider relevant non-state actors, such as civil society, community leaders and customary security providers. SSR involves renegotiating the social contract between individuals and groups in society on the one hand and the state on the other. Strong political commitment and leadership are, therefore, essential for successful reform, as they will determine the objectives placed on the national agenda and can wield influence to create consensus around those objectives. The SSR research working group should consist of researchers working on the SSR process, SSR in post-conflict time, SSR and judicial system, security provision and leadership, and political determinants of SSR.

22. Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS)

In its Youth, Peace and Security work, FBA focuses on developing tools such as manuals, training, learning forums, counselling, mentoring, and method work for the continued development of the YPS agenda. The activity is primarily aimed at the UN globally and regionally but also explores opportunities with the OSCE, the EU and NATO to create better conditions for implementing the agenda. Within the bilateral and regional activities in Iraq, Palestine, Mali, Somalia, and DRC, the YPS activities complement and strive to achieve synergy effects with other initiatives, FBA's own as well as those of other actors. The work has solid

local anchoring and is based on local needs to contribute to increased ownership and sustainability. The YPS research working group should include researchers active in the YPS and UN youth agenda field, with an in-depth localized context in conflict regions/areas.

23. Climate Security

The Climate Security Research Working Group should advise and inform FBA on how climate change and environmental degradation affects conflict prevention, peace, and state-building processes on the local, national, regional, and international level. It will focus on questions related to the effects of climate change on political, social, economic, and environmental pressures in society. In addition, it will look closer at opportunities, challenges, and limitations that international and national conflict prevention and peacebuilding organizations meet as they engage in strengthening social cohesion within and between groups, as well as developing inclusive and effective governance that makes it possible for a society to manage shocks, created by climate-related security risks, peacefully. The Climate Security Research Working Group should consist of researchers active in the field of climate security and conflict prevention, climate security and security risks, DDR and climate security, and community resilience to climate change.

24. Methods development and evaluation in complex environments

This research working group will focus on research-based method development to follow up on results and within evaluation to locate short-term and long-term results/effects in complex environments, focusing on conflict contexts. The research working group should consist of researchers actively applying methods for capturing and evaluating the impact of interventions and operations on peace and security. The methods must be appropriate for the complex, changing and intertwined environments/context/systems in which FBA operates.