

From Prevention to Sustainable Peace: Supporting Rule of Law and Security Institutions in Conflict-Affected Countries

- **Brief description of the project**

- Objective of the project

The Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) provides policy guidance, technical expertise and backstopping support to assist conflict-affected countries re-establish institutions necessary to build and sustain peace. In 2019, the Secretary-General expanded the role of OROLSI to serve as the United Nations system-wide service provider in the areas of rule of law and security institutions in both UN peace operations as well as to Member States and UN system entities in non-UN mission settings¹. Despite the expanded mandate, OROLSI has not received additional resources.

- Why is the project required?

Supporting rule of law and security institutions serves short-term goals of prevention and long-term goals of sustainable peace. Preventive measures – training, analysis, mapping, and capacity-building – ensure national and local authorities gain the requisite credibility and skills to mitigate triggers for societal unrest. Furthermore, strong rule of law and security institutions are a sine qua non for sustainable peace.

- What is the expected impact of the project?

The implementation of this project ensures that OROLSI technical expertise, advisory support, and perspectives are generated in an expeditious manner in response to requests from Member States and the UN system. Overall, given that accountable rule of law and security institutions are essential components of the prevention spectrum, the expected impact of the project is to help implement the Secretary-General's vision for preventing violent conflict and sustaining peace. By establishing a small field-focused team with a modest operational budget, OROLSI seeks to complement the UN political horizon scanning and early-warning system and to provide policy advice on risk factors related to weak, non-inclusive or unaccountable rule of law and security institutions with potential to trigger or exacerbate conflict.

- **Expected outcomes, outputs and proposed activities**

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
UN prevention capacities, political horizon scanning and early-warning systems are enhanced through systematic analysis and policy advice	Analysis of risk factors emanating from rule of law and security institutions and preparation of policy advice on preventive action	Monitor settings susceptible to state fragility, analyze, and report on risk factors related to weak non-inclusive or unaccountable institutions
UN peace operation leadership, Resident Coordinators, and key stakeholders are provided strategic advice and programmatic support	Multi-dimensional preventive strategies and joint UN programmes are complemented and strengthened through OROLSI advice and expertise that is otherwise not available in-house	Support assessments, including with the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law and deploy surge capacities with specialized skills

¹ Restructuring of the United Nations Peace and Security Pillar (A/72/525).

OROLSI receives constructive feedback on the impact of this project and recommendations to enhance	Evaluative report on the effectiveness of the capacity and frameworks set out in this proposal	External consultant to review the activities, outputs and outcomes of this project through consultations with OROLSI and field colleagues
UN practitioners have access to an online toolkit to guide their work to prevent conflict and sustain peace through rule of law and security capacities	OROLSI creates an online toolkit that guides UN practitioners to assess risks and design collaborative, UN assistance responses	Based on consultations with beneficiaries, stakeholders and the evaluation consultant, good practices and innovative enhancements are identified
All-of-UN-Approach is undertaken and compliance with human rights laws and related UN policies is ensured	Department maintains its relevancy as a technical, expert-level service-provider capable of meeting the demands of Member States and the Organization writ large on a rapid and effective basis	OROLSI technical expertise, advisory support is formulated holistically, including by operationalizing existing strategic partnerships and/or by creating new arrangements

- **Implementation timeline**

The project is outlined for an initial period of 12 months. If proven beneficial, OROLSI will submit a proposal to sustain the prevention capacity for an additional one or two years.

- **Explain how the project will further the implementation of the A4P+ priorities.**

The project will ensure that United Nations assistance in the areas of police, justice, corrections, SSR, DDR and mine action helps to prevent conflict and sustain peace while contributing to lasting political solutions and the promotion gender equality.

- **How have gender aspects been included in the design and implementation of the project? How does it help the Department implement its women, peace and security and gender parity commitments?**

UN policies pertaining to gender parity and equality will be adhered to in the in the day-to-day management of the team and the design of all activities. OROLSI deploys approximately 15,000 personnel globally. Our far-reaching presence enables field staff to engage closely with communities, an operational advantage that provides opportunities to identify the specific needs and perspectives of women, men, girls and boys. Gender analysis informs our operational support and policy development.

- **Brief explanation of any risks that the implementation of the project may face and how to mitigate them.**

The COVID-19 pandemic places additional strain on rule of law and security institutions faced with additional tasks including to implement social distancing and respond to rising criminality and public unrest. There is also a risk that some governments utilize states of emergency to consolidate executive power at the expense of the rule of law, suppress dissent, and undermine democratic institutions. If not dealt with adequately, these challenges can fuel underlying causes of conflict all of which may spark violence. Adequate capacity is therefore essential to ensure real-time and in-depth risk analysis.

- **Proposed budget**

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
Senior Officer (P5)	Oversees activities, facilitates high-level stakeholder consultations, leads field assessments and provides policy advice, options and recommendations to UN senior management on preventive action	\$295,995
Political Affairs Officer (P4)	Coordinates requests with OROLSI, GFP and other UN entities; monitors and analyses risk factors; contributes to horizon scanning and early warning; and participates in assessments and workshops	\$255,295
Staff travel	Conduct of in-country and regional visits for in-depth field analysis and stakeholder consultations; participation in prevention assessments with partner organizations	\$100,000
Workshops	Organization and facilitation of workshops at HQ and field level	\$150,000
Evaluation	Project deliverables will be evaluated by an external consultant	\$45,000
Training & communications	UN Volunteer to develop an online toolkit and format guidance for publication	\$75,000
Programme Support Costs (13%)		\$119,768
Total:		\$1,041,058