

Accelerating the Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security Agendas through Activities Building Rule of Law and Security Institutions and Sustaining Peace

- **Brief description of the project**

- Objective of the project

Accelerating the WPS agenda¹ is an Action for Peacekeeping commitment reaffirming that women's participation is essential for effective peacekeeping. A4P+ takes this commitment a step further by distinguishing WPS as a cross-cutting priority to ensure the "systemic integration of gender and WPS in all aspects of peacekeeping" to enhance operational effectiveness and sustain peace. Youth is also a prioritized demographic in A4P+ and the intersections of gender equality and youth are recognized in two priority areas calling for the implementation of both WPS and Youth, Peace and Security² agendas: *collective coherence behind a political strategy (best practices)* and *capabilities and mindsets (political dialogue and early warning)*. Furthermore, young women in conflict-affected countries confront challenges which, when ignored or misunderstood, sustain marginalization, insecurity and injustice for generations.

- Why is the project required?

Given OROLSI's mandate to build effective, responsive and accountable rule of law and security institutions together with its innovative community violence reduction, DDR and mine action programmes, it is at the forefront of narrowing gaps which hamper women's empowerment in conflict-affected countries. With greater appreciation for the intersectionality between gender and youth – which is critical when operating in countries where youth represent three-quarters or more of the population – OROLSI's contributions to UN peacekeeping would be reinforced.

For example, the Police Division could integrate youth dynamics into its gender responsive strategies which address all phases of assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of UNPOL initiatives including the prevention, detection and investigation of crime, protection of persons and property, and the maintenance of public order and safety. Working with national counterparts, justice and corrections components could enhance its work in juvenile justice and incarceration, advise on reforming discriminatory laws, advocate for the appointment of women in justice and prison institutions and conduct training to build their professional capacities. With more women's voices heard in security sector reform processes, effectiveness and accountability could be improved as could public confidence, reinforcing the work of police, justice and corrections counterparts. In terms of disarmament and weapons management, the DDR Section and the UN Mine Action Service prioritize women's perspectives in the design and implementation of programmes. Through their innovative skills building initiatives, DDR and UNMAS could strengthen their efforts to generate livelihoods for young women in a variety of fields to reinforce their social and economic resilience.

- What is the expected impact of the project?

Given the relatively new YPS agenda compared to that of WPS, more examination is needed to ascertain where legislative, policy and operational gaps remain and what practical steps could be

¹ With the adoption of resolution 1325, the Security Council acknowledged for the first time the disproportionate and unique impacts of armed conflict on women and girls. Nine subsequent resolutions were adopted to strengthen the implementation of WPS mandates.

² UN Security Council resolutions on Youth, Peace and Security: 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020) and five pillars for action: prevention, protection, participation, partnerships, and disengagement and reintegration.

taken by stakeholders and practitioners to improve the integration of WPS and YPS. In doing so, a more effective and responsive UN peacekeeping approach to women’s empowerment with a specific analysis on future generations of women would emerge. The intersections are multi-fold and provide opportunities for UN peacekeeping to make profound impacts by not only drawing upon decades of experience but also by delivering on newly mandated mission-specific YPS mandates³. OROLSI seeks to enhance both its knowledge base and coordination functions in this regard. An assessment of the gaps and opportunities both agendas present along with a review of internal WPS and YPS-related guidance, policies and practices would enable components to learn what works well, what needs to improve, and what more is needed to achieve our commitments. An independent study to this effect would also benefit OROLSI by focusing on three overlapping pillars of both the WPS and YPS agendas: Participation, Prevention and Protection. In order to ensure this work proceeds efficiently and comprehensively, a coordination capacity with technical expertise at Headquarters is required.

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

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
Knowledge base on the intersections of gender and youth is enhanced; good practices are collected and recommendations to strengthen legislation, policy and practices prove constructive	Report produced by an independent research consultant comprehensively examines the WPS and YPS agendas alongside the work of OROLSI components to identify good practices and inspire new approaches and collaborations	Research is carried out with support from the project lead and focal points at HQ and in the field for WPS and YPS
Women in host-countries are better served by UN peacekeeping and national authorities through the provision of better services, increased access, and reforms	New and improved approaches to the design and implementation of WPS and YPS initiatives in both policy and operational contexts	Increased coordination at HQ and in the field to develop context-specific initiatives based on good practices and in accordance with mission-specific mandates
UNHQ and UN peacekeeping public information campaigns are impactful and inspiring	Increased visibility of OROLSI good practices to advance gender equality and youth engagement	Build partnerships with relevant strategic communication teams to design innovative outreach which appeal to women and younger generations

- **Implementation timeline**

The project is for an initial period of 12 months.

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

The project will accelerate A4P and A4P+ by its nature to advance the WPS and YPS agendas. Examining the intersections of the two while ascertaining good practices and ways to narrow legislative, policy and operational gaps will offer profound new insights to our work.

³ UN peacekeeping operations with YPS mandates: MINURSO, MINUSCA, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, UNFICYP, UNISFA and UNMISS.

- **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?**

Gender aspects were included in the design of this project and will be central to its implementation. By examining the intersections of gender and youth, and by identifying ways OROLSI can more effectively achieve gender equality through its work, this project will undoubtedly deliver on WPS mandates and underscore the imperative for increasing women’s participation in all levels and sectors of peace and security.

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

To mitigate risks, business continuity plans will be in place including remote working arrangements if necessary.

- **Proposed budget**

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
Consultancy	Independent research consultant to produce a report on the intersections of the WPS and YPS agendas, identify good practices undertaken by OROLSI components, and make recommendations for greater impact.	\$40,000
UN Volunteer	Support strategic communications and public dissemination of the report’s findings, create digital content for UN campaigns and maintain a content and photo library.	\$85,000
Coordination Officer (P4)	Project lead to coordinate WPS and YPS focal points within OROLSI and across the peace and security pillar; represent the Department of Peace Operations in relevant WPS and YPS fora; conceptualize new initiatives based on context-specific needs and reinforce partnerships with UN partners including UN Women and the Youth Envoy.	\$255,295
Travel	Mission visits for consultations and project planning.	\$15,000
Programme Support Costs (13%)		\$51,388
Total:		\$446,683