

Strengthening the Capabilities of Police- and Troop-Contributing Countries on Explosive Ordnance through the United Nations Mine Action Service Improvised Explosive Device Threat Mitigation Advisory Team and Mobile Training Team

- **Brief description of the project**

- Objective of the project

The objective of the project is to enable the UNMAS IED Threat Mitigation Advisory Team (IED TMAT) to provide strategic and policy-level advisory expertise that prepares TCCs/PCCs deploying to IED threat environments to arrive better prepared for a safe deployment and better able to protect civilians.

This project will enable UNMAS to fulfil functions assigned by the General Assembly and outlined in the Secretary-General's Disarmament Agenda as the mine action focal point for the UN. The UNMAS IED TMAT leads a whole-of-system approach to addressing IED threats and works to support the Office of Military Affairs (OMA) with related technical aspects for peacekeeping operations and the DPO/DOS working group on the implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Strategic Review on the explosive ordnance (EO) threat to peacekeeping.

Working closely with the Integrated Training Service (ITS), OMA, and bilateral and regional partners, TMAT enhances TCC preparedness and performance across peacekeeping missions. TMAT includes a Mobile Training Team (MTT) based in Entebbe, Uganda, which provides capability development support to TCC units deploying to missions at risk from EO to ensure that bilateral support is provided in line with UN standards (adapted for various deployments), reduces the requirement for external support by strengthening the TCC training capability and minimizes the time taken to reach full operational capability once in mission.

- Why is the project required?

The project is necessary to assist in the reduction of the risk that peacekeepers arrive in a IED high threat mission area unprepared for safe deployment. Since 2017 there have been 453¹ peacekeepers or UN staff injured or killed by EO. In 2022 alone, there were 163 explosive incidents in Mali of which 46 were directly targeted at MINUSMA. In the Democratic Republic of Congo there were 44 incidents recorded, but peacekeepers were not directly targeted. And in the Central African Republic 21 EO incidents occurred of which just one involved UN peacekeeping personnel. In total, EO incidents, which include IED attacks, killed 16 peacekeepers and injured 72 in 2022. This constitutes 50 per cent of all peacekeepers killed in 2022 and 47 per cent of those injured in hostile acts. Many of the devices involved, including the one that killed three peacekeepers in CAR, were victim activated and therefore indiscriminate, which can not only threaten our peacekeepers and civilians but also undermine the efforts of the mission at large.

- What is the expected impact of the project?

The project will improve the safety, security and operational confidence of peacekeepers through improved preparedness. By clearly defining the needs at HQ and by then supporting “upstream” training efforts at national level, the standard of personnel deploying as peacekeepers will be higher, requiring less in-mission support to become fully operational. Improved regional analysis of the EO threat will also better inform missions of the requirements for operating safely in spite of the EO threat they face.

¹ Figure taken from the OMA Dashboard of Hostile Acts against Troop-Contributing Countries.

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

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
Coherent guidance in the relevant UN normative framework ² related to EO and training conducted in a standardized manner which supports the interoperability of UN peacekeeping troops.	Advocacy within UN and partners for adoption of the relevant UN standards and training based on best international practice.	Support the development and review of normative framework related to peacekeeping operations. Support operational assessments of P/TCC in AAV, PDV, and MPET processes.
P/TCC deploying on peacekeeping missions are better prepared to face EO threats. The burden of in mission training is reduced allowing for P/TCC to be operational more quickly when deployed.	Members States national EO curriculums in line with UN expectations. Key training centres acting as centres of excellence providing train-the-trainer support regionally. Training centres receive training recognition for delivering courses in line with the UN EOD Specialized Training Material.	Mentoring of national and regional centres of excellence in EO capacity building programmes. Provision of technical guidance to Member States on EO mitigation measures required for peacekeeping operations. Support to bilateral training partners to ensure their training is reflective of the mission specific threats and aligned to mission practices. Conducting of train-the-trainer support to Member States building capacity to support peacekeeping.
Greater understanding of the EO threat facing UN missions is achieved to support programme planning at both strategic and operational levels.	Regional EO threat pictures which support situational awareness of missions. Detailed analysis of EO events targeting UN personnel is available.	Detailed EO analysis is conducted in mission areas and the regions. Deployable capability is available to support EO investigations.
Senior leadership is supported by a flexible IED response mechanism which can deploy globally.	Enhanced UN capability to respond rapidly to EO threats and trends through analysis, technical advice and training support.	Develop a standing capacity which can respond as required to support EO related activities for the UN.

○ **Implementation timeline**

This is an ongoing project funded initially through the 2020 DPO appeal and supported by other donors through to the end of 2023. This proposal seeks to provide the necessary support for the capacity to be sustained through 2024.

² OMA Manuals, Guidelines & Standards, Evaluation criteria for MPET, Statement of Unit Requirements.

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

This project directly supports Priorities 2 and 3 of A4P+. Expanding the training support provided by Member States already engaged with peacekeeping in high EO threat missions and creating a strengthened IED analysis capability will provide a greater understanding of the EO threat both in missions and regionally, thus enabling strategic and operational integration. The training effort will directly increase the capabilities of P/TCCs and give them increased confidence to plan and conduct operations in hostile environments, and thus enhance mandate delivery. In addition, this project will support the A4P+ efforts to achieve a geographic balance of peacekeeping contributors.

- **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?**

The upstream nature of this project allows UNMAS to integrate gender considerations within Member States EO capacity development projects. From the start through to the successful deployment on peacekeeping operations, UNMAS advocates for gender mainstreaming and gender parity.

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

The TMAT is reliant on the continued contribution of subject matter experts through gratis contributions from Member States as well as through their financial contributions. A shortfall in either critical resource will result in a reduction in outputs. UNMAS works with Member States to foster support and thereby to minimize the impact of unfavorable decisions.

- **Proposed budget**

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
Operating expenses	Office, accommodation and security costs	\$189,974.00
Staff and personnel	Personnel costs for six personnel: three at UNHQ (Team Leader, Programme Officer and one administrative staff) plus three in Entebbe (two Programme Officers and one administrative staff)	\$958,464.00
Travel	Engagements, field missions and conferences	\$102,461.27
Programme Support Costs (13%)		\$162,616.91
Total:		\$1,413,516.18