

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Surge Capacity in Brindisi (Extension)

○ **Brief description of the project**

The objective of this project is to provide surge capacity to strengthen DDR-related support to the UN Peace Operations, including Special Political Missions, Regional Offices, and non-mission settings. The growing recognition of the ability of the DDR Section in the Department of Peace Operations to significantly contribute to sustaining-peace initiatives has led to a rise in requests from UN Resident Coordinators and Members States for support in outlining options to address risks posed by armed groups. While the DDR Section was trying to accommodate all requests, its capacity was limited both in terms of staffing and funding for travel. Shrinking budgets and cuts in staffing have reduced the possibility of seeking PKO support in deploying field-based experts.

The Standing Capacity was established in September 2019 thanks to a donor's contribution. The surge capacity proved to be instrumental, among other contexts, in transitioning DDR/CVR operations in Haiti and Sudan, as a temporary bridge for a senior staff under recruitment (Somalia) and in developing plans and contributing to DDR forward thinking in Libya, South Sudan, Yemen, etc. The interest by various entities, as gauged by the DDR Section, lets anticipate almost continuous deployment of the staff outside the home base for the duration of the current appointment and beyond.

The DDR Section is a system-wide service provider on issues related to the management of the threats posed by, and disbandment of, armed groups, repository of non-military approaches related to non-state armed actors and the only civilian unit in the UN system dedicated to those issues. The impact of this project, through more nimble, rapid and flexible provision of urgently required support, is strengthening and streamlining of the UN system response to the phenomenon of armed groups and other non-state armed actors. The DDR Section is therefore seeking the extension of the surge capacity in Brindisi for 2023 and an endowment for travel covering the same period.

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

| Outcomes | Outputs | Proposed Activities |
|--|---|---|
| DDR expert capacity to support issues of supra-state relevance | Assistance in the formulation of regional strategies on DDR processes and DDR related tools, concepts of operations and other plans for further development | To maintain surge capacity to support DDR-related issues; |
| Sustaining peace through reducing threats posed by armed groups in settings where no UN mission is present | Support to national framework development and options for the United Nations backstopping in non-mission contexts | To act as a rapidly deployable surge capacity |
| Rapidly deployable surge capacity to missions that experience staff shortages in peak periods | The provision of guidance and development of complex programmes and projects, as well as thorough review and evaluation of said programmes and projects | To deploy on a short notice where support is most needed |

○ **Implementation timeline**

The project is proposed for the duration of one year.

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

DDR as such supports the A4P priority six on strengthening the impact of peacekeeping on sustaining peace but the versatile nature of tasks that the Standing Capacity may perform means that the project itself straddles all the key priorities of the A4P. Under the current situation, the Standing Capacity will also play a critical role in readjusting DDR and CVR interventions to the post-COVID-19 World.

- **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?**

DDR engagements are designed in a gender-responsive manner where specific needs of men, women, boys and girls are separately analyzed and addressed. While members of armed groups tend to be predominantly male, the DDR doctrine has expanded the definition of its target caseload to include children and adults of both sexes acting in various support roles to the armed groups thus increasing gender range of such caseloads. Increasingly, community-based interventions provide support in the reintegration of ex-combatants through projects involving a percentage of community members thus further improving the gender balance of DDR.

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

Potential funding disruption is a major risk. The DDR Section would ultimately like to provide the surge capacity as a systemic service, in order to better address the increased and unpredictable security threats globally. In the long-term, the DDR Section hopes to establish this post permanently through regular United Nations budgeting. In the meantime, any gaps in funding will limit the efficacy of such support and negatively impact the perception of the DDR Section as a reliable service provider.

Existence of operational risks is inherent to work targeting armed groups. The DDR Section is one of the few Secretariat entities that have developed and their own risk-management methodology. This methodology is evolving and being strengthened to ensure that DDR practitioners are well-equipped to manage such risks.

- **Proposed budget**

| Item | Brief Description | Total Amount |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Personnel | 1 P4 for 12 months surge capacity to provide support to regional offices and issues | \$256,425.00 |
| Travel | Flexible destination allowed for in order to reflect the necessity of the P4's employment | \$90,000.00 |
| Programme Support Costs (13%) | | \$45,035.25 |
| Total: | | \$391,460.25 |