

Supporting the Development of Anti-Corruption Strategies in Mission Settings: Implementation of the 2022 Joint DPO-UNODC Initiative on “Achieving Peace Through Integrity: Anti-Corruption Efforts in Post-Conflict Environments”

- **Brief description of the project**

- Objective of the project

Pursuant to the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly in June 2021 at its first special session against corruption¹, DPO’s Justice and Corrections Service (JCS) and UNODC’s Corruption and Economic Crime Branch are jointly developing a knowledge product in 2022 entitled “Achieving Peace Through Integrity: Anti-corruption Efforts in Post-conflict Environments”. It aims to provide guidance, in the form of a practitioner’s guide, to UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions in their efforts to address corruption in conflict settings.

This follow-on project proposal aims in 2023 to provide expertise and support the implementation of key anti-corruption tools to be provided by the practitioner’s guide, based on priority areas identified by UN missions, in view of enhancing the rule of law engagement on the core objectives of integrity, transparency and accountability.

- Why is the project required?

Peace operation settings are characterized by high levels of corruption that constitute a significant conflict driver. Corruption undermines the rule of law and efforts to ensure both state effectiveness (the ability to govern) and state legitimacy (the recognition of the right to govern). Curbing corruption is thus vital in post-conflict environments, in order to strengthen the rule of law, restore trust in public institutions and build and sustain peace.

Once finalized, the practitioner’s guide will provide useful guidance to United Nations mission leadership and components based on existing and innovative policies with adapted technical tools available, to operationalize and implement these recommendations. However, it is expected that missions would require additional support, at the onset, towards the implementation of the core anti-corruption tools and to the development of mission-specific anti-corruption strategies.

- What is the expected impact of the project?

It aims to ensure that peacekeeping missions are properly equipped to develop and implement anti-corruption strategies, foster integrity and accountability and, where feasible, adopt an anti-corruption lens as part of their efforts to build and sustain peace. Where a host country requests assistance, Missions and partner UN entities should be able to respond jointly and positively by providing adapted support.

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

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
Rule of law and security institution components of concerned UN field missions are better	Responsible mission components are aware and sensitized to anti-	Preparation of public communication materials to support implementation of the practitioner’s guide

¹ OP65, UNGA, “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”, res. A/RES/S-32/1, Annex.

equipped to provide tailored anti-corruption assistance to national authorities in strengthening their capacities to prevent and fight corruption	corruption tools and approaches Mission-specific anti-corruption strategies are in place to strengthen national anti-corruption capacities	In-person and virtual meetings to raise awareness of UN mission components on the guide's tools In-person and virtual support for implementation of priority anti-corruption strategies or initiatives (police, justice, prisons, others as requested)
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- **Implementation timeline**

Following the finalization of the practitioner’s guide in 2022, JCS will work with UNODC and other partners to roll out the tool, including through the organization of a series of in person and virtual expert meetings and workshops throughout 2023, as well as the provision of joint in-person support to concerned missions to assist in the development of mission specific anti-corruption strategies in the second half of 2023.

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

The project furthers the implementation of A4P+ **Priority 1** on “Collective coherence behind a political strategy”, and more specifically **Result 1.1** “Clear political strategies articulated, bringing on board Member States, regional partners and other actors”, whereby under **Deliverable 1.1.3** “HQ intensifies specific relevant actions to strengthen political support to missions”.

In this regard, JCS will focus upon ensuring further coherence of political strategies encompassing the rule of law element, namely through the provision of support, jointly with UNODC, towards achieving peace through integrity and reinforcing anti-corruption efforts in post-conflict environments.

- **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 practitioner’s guide draws on the conclusions of UNODC’s Guides *The Time is Now: Addressing the Gender Dimensions of Corruption* (2021) and the forthcoming *Gender-related judicial integrity issues* to ensure gender considerations are fully incorporated into the initiatives aimed at implementing anti-corruption tools and in the development of mission-specific anti-corruption strategies.

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

Corruption-related work involves political sensitivities and complex institutional dynamics, even more so in post-conflict settings. The project will mitigate political risks associated with its implementation by ensuring a continuous and open dialogue with national counterparts, and by strengthening in-mission capacities to undertake regular monitoring and analysis of the political situation and dynamics in target countries.

- **Proposed budget**

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
Public communication	Development of communication tools based on the Practitioner's Guide (printed materials, digital content) to be used by mission settings	\$30,000
Substantive support to the development of mission-specific anti-corruption strategies	In-person deployment of four (4) UN anti-corruption experts to three (3) mission settings to support implementation of priority anti-corruption initiatives and strategies (police, justice, prisons, others as requested)	\$120,000
Programme Support Costs (13%)		\$19,500
	Total:	\$169,500