From Policy to Practice: Accelerator Project for the Operationalization of the Revised Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards

- **Brief description of the project**

The rapidly changing nature of armed groups and armed conflict challenged and pushed the boundaries of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) practice beyond the scope of the guidance found in the original Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS). These include 1) fewer meaningful political settlements and solutions to conflicts; 2) increase in violence by non-state actors and in conflicts at local and subnational levels; 3) often conflicting designations of armed groups as terrorist organizations; 4) continued fragmentation and multiplication of armed groups; 5) regionalization of conflict and insecurity, including through the impacts of climate change; and 6) epidemics and pandemics in conflict settings. These key phenomena and "frontier issues" have pushed Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) practice to evolve in lockstep.

Recognizing these changes and the need to capture field-based innovations, a comprehensive review of the IDDRS began in 2017. It sought to take into account over 35 years of constantly evolving DDR practice, as it conformed to meet the demands of these emerging trends and allow for context-specific and conflict-sensitive interventions. Similar accumulated experience had already led to the first publication in 2006 of the IDDRS, which forms a comprehensive and detailed set of policies, guidelines and procedures for undertaking integrated DDR processes. 16 years after the first publication, another major milestone has been reached with the first comprehensive review of the IDDRS concluding in December 2022.

- o Objective of the project

Against this backdrop, and now equipped with the latest policy and guidance in DDR, this project seeks to support the DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section (DDRS) in accelerating DDR practitioners' uptake, dissemination, comprehension and, most importantly, implementation of these new standards. Indeed, across the 25 settings which the DDRS supports there is a clear need for dedicated resources to ensure that DDR practitioners can rapidly draw on additional capacities with the view of operationalizing specific technical and thematic issues contained in the IDDRS, as well as in line with other system-wide policy approaches such as A4P+ and the Secretary General's Common Agenda and New Agenda for Peace.

- o Why is the project required

There are several current examples of why this project is not only required but also urgent:

- In DRC, MONUSCO's efforts toward finding DDR and Community Violence Reduction (CVR) opportunities in the artisanal mining sector will require new programmatic approaches contained in the new *IDDRS 2.30 on Community Violence Reduction* and revised *IDDRS 6.20 on DDR and natural resources* on issues such as natural resources management at community level and climate-proofing of reintegration solutions.

- Within the changed conflict and post-conflict landscape and often diffused relationship between armed groups and regional, national and local politics, the *IDDRS 2.20 The Politics of DDR* will continue to need operationalization throughout the spectrum of DDR Processes. This is true for PKOs supporting mediation or political transformation activities, such as MINUSCA or UNMISS.

- Across contexts, but true for PKOs with DDR/CVR mandates, such as MINUSCA, MONUSCO or UNMISS, the effective implementation of DDR efforts depends on promoting

gender-responsive and age-sensitive processes, building on *IDDRS 5.10 on Women, Gender and DDR* as well as *IDDRS 5.20 on children* and *IDDRS 5.30 on youth*.

- In Haiti, emerging issues related to the recruitment of youth and the use of misinformation and disinformation, as well as the growing expertise by gangs in using social media to erode trust in ongoing peace processes could benefit from additional capacities to implement the guidance contained in module *4.60 on Public Information and Strategic Communication.*

- In Cameroon, as the PBF project on using health as a neutral entry-point for community violence reduction (CVR) seeks to expand geographically, it will need to be informed by new and specific guidance in *IDDRS 5.60 health and DDR* which covers health standards and the use of mental health and psychosocial support in DDR contexts contained*.*

- Finally, as countries in the Great Lakes Region, the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin, and the Horn of Africa – contending with i) regionalized conflicts; ii) illicit flows of weapons across borders; iii) and transnational organized crime and terrorism – seek to establish regional DDR mechanisms, they will require immediate support in operationalizing the new guidance contained in *IDDRS 5.40 on cross border dynamics of DDR, IDDRS 6.40 on Organized Crime* and emerging guidance on *Armed Groups Designated as Terrorist Organizations*.

While these examples are in no way exhaustive, they already point to the need for additional support modalities that would allow the DDR Section to predictably deploy and/or identify appropriate short-to-medium term support to field practitioners as they grapple with the operationalization of the new guidance contained in the IDDRS. In most of these settings, the DDRS has had to support political strategies, facilitate technical support, deliver capacity building, and mobilize resources to various degrees of success. Thus far, it has done so in an ad hoc manner, piecing together where possible various extrabudgetary resources such as the joint UNDP-DPPA seed funding (for RoC); the peacebuilding fund (for Cameroon); bilateral support from a joint BICC-DPO project (for Chad and Niger). This project is therefore a means to provide predictability in DDRS response to the growing demand for its expertise and technical assistance by establishing a centralized funding mechanism, in line with its function as system-wide service provider.

It is also an opportunity for the DDRS – including through its strategic partnership such as with the Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (BICC), the Folke Bernadotte academy (FBA), or the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA) – to promote cross-setting and south-south cooperation between practitioners who may have advanced in the implementation of new approaches contained in the IDDRS and could instruct other DDR practitioners in need of rapid support. In the past, in 2021 for example, DDRS facilitated the deployment of a national CVR expert from Haiti (BINUH) in support of the development of an inter-agency CVR strategy to be implemented by the UNCT members in Republic of Congo. Likewise, DDRS deployed a DDR expert to Chad (Dec 2021 – April 2022) and supported capacity building workshops. Most recently, DDRS also deployed a senior DDR expert to Niger. This project would serve to accelerate and amplify these efforts.

Lastly, this project will also be in support of the DDRS mandate as co-chair (alongside UNDP) of the Interagency Working Group (IAWG) on DDR. The Interagency Working Group mechanism, which brings together over 27 UN agencies funds and programmes including the World Bank, had been tasked with the development and revision of the IDDRS and will henceforth have a mandate to maintain it as a "living", constantly adapting, document. Through this project, the DDRS will be able to facilitate a whole-of-system response where needed, leveraging the comparative advantage of various UN entities with expertise in health, food security, and other relevant areas by providing catalytic funding in support of the implementation of the IAWG's common objective of country

support and timely advice, training, and support to programmes in the field at strategic and technical levels.

- o What is the expected impact of the project?

Through the pillars described below, the expected impact of the project is as follows: Improve the quality and effectiveness of DDR field operations grappling with new issues requiring dedicated support and capacity building, by facilitating their access to short term and time bound rapid support from the DDRS and its partners to overcome capacity and technical expertise gaps that have emerged in light of the new UN approach to DDR as outlined in the revised IDDRS modules.

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

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
Pillar I: rapid deployment and technical assistance:	Short- to medium-term travel and deployment by DDR section staff, including with strategic partners and other relevant members of the IAWG, in order to deliver rapid and time-bound technical advice and support to field practitioners.	-travel for DDRS staff and consultants -travel for IAWG members as part of coherent and coordinated support - travel for members of NDDRCs to visit other DDR processes in similar settings (south-south cooperation)
Pillar II: catalytic seed funding for programmatic activities:	Rapid financing of short-term programmatic activities in the field. This will allow DDR practitioners to quickly start-up and implement small-scale pilot projects at community-level, in settings where core funding is absent, or where specific short-term DDR-related interventions fall outside of existing planning and programmatic frameworks.	-global call for proposals from IDDRS practitioners - consultants for project development - mapping of innovative pilot projects in country-settings requiring rapid scale-up and support
Pillar III: capacity building and training:	Training and other forms of capacity building workshop to enhance the understanding and subsequent implementation of the new IDDRS modules. At the same time, in line with the IAWG workplan, the DDRS can also ensure an iterative processes where ongoing implementation of DDR processes can feed into **developing, maintaining and disseminating cutting-edge policies and** a dynamic review mechanism of the IDDRS modules.	- support to the revision of IDDRS modules through the review mechanism - development and delivery of specialized training for modules in context-specific manner

o **Implementation timeline**

The project will be implemented over 12 months

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

The project is also explicitly designed in line with both OROLSI and DDRS commitments to the implementation the A4P+ priorities as outlined in the DPO OROLSI A4P+ Workplan: 2022-2023.

In this workplan, as endorsed by DPO/OROLSI OASG, DDRS will focus on developing new and updating existing policy and guidance; providing technical support on integrated local, national and regional DDR processes in peacekeeping operations, special political missions and non-mission settings; strengthening partnerships with UN entities, Member States, regional organizations and academia and widening the global pool of DDR practitioners. DDRS will accelerate its work to address areas DDR practitioners continue to grapple with including fewer meaningful political solutions to conflict, an increase in violence by non-state actors, the designation of armed groups as terrorist organizations, the increasing fragmentation and multiplication of armed groups, regionalization of conflict and the impact of epidemics and pandemics in conflict settings.

Against this backdrop, this project is specifically designed to advance the following commitments:

- As part of its implementation related to *collective coherence behind political strategies through quality analyses and reporting (specifically 1.1.2).*

- As part of its implementation related to *identifying and strengthening new capacities needed by missions (specifically 1.1.3).*

- As part of advancing *strategic communications as an enabler and multiplier effect across all mandated areas (specifically 6.1.3).*

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

By policy and design, gender mainstreaming is an integral part of DDR, included in all DDR Section projects and initiatives. Adjusting DDR to new environments has resulted in tools, such as CVR, that ensure increased balance among combatant and non-combatant men, women, boys and girls benefiting from DDR processes. The proposed activities in this project will take into consideration the needs and interests of women and girls, who play a central role in peacebuilding at the community level. Female ex-combatants and other WAAFAG must be informed about their eligibility for DDR and any special programmes for them, which may require specific strategies and approaches. For Pillar II specifically, the project will ensure that key messages, communications material and information campaigns, as well as the design of pilot-accelerator projects are gender responsive, taking into account the need for tailored messaging that addresses the specific needs of women, men, boys and girls. It will also be important to ensure that the tools and guidance produced through this project (through pillar III) captures specific misinformation that targets women and girls.

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

There is a risk that national stakeholders are reluctant to engage in discussions related to DDR and DDR projects, especially in the absence of political will or well-functioning DDR entities. Through consultations and communications with UN field colleagues, the project team will ensure that

analyses, activities and products stemming from the project are sensitive to the national context and expectations, and address the concerns of stakeholders. There is also a risk of delays in the delivery of training initiatives which can me mitigated by early planning and the frontloading of administrative tasks.

o **Proposed budget**

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
Personnel	Programme Management Officer P2 (UNHQ) to coordinate, plan and support efforts related to project and well as support on the technical implementation of the three project pillars	$175,825.00
Travel	Rapid deployment and technical assistance, including two- to three-week short-term missions in support of field counterparts	$150,000.00
Consultant	Two consultants at $650/day for one month to conduct short-term research and programme design based on needs	$50,000.00
Pilot project	Catalytic seed funding for one pilot project in relation to identified needs (CVR project)	$200,000.00
Training	Two trainings and/or workshops and/or strategic consultations to advance a common understanding of key issues at field and global level	$50,000.00
Programme Support Costs (13%)		$81,357.25
	Total:	**$707,182.25**