

**Monitoring and Evaluation Platform for Disarmament,  
Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) and Machine Learning Tool for  
Typology of Armed Groups for the Purposes of DDR**

○ **Brief description of the project**

The project is comprised of 2 components which will improve the collection and storage of data on DDR activities, and promote in-depth analysis on non-state armed groups.

**Component 1:** The project's first component aims to develop an online M&E platform which will systematically compile data on DDR/CVR/WAM operations across mission and non-mission settings. The system will allow DDR teams to effectively monitor the implementation of mandated tasks, outputs and outcomes, and to assess new approaches to respond to challenges. It will also allow Heads of Components in peace operations to review current interventions and adjust the allocation of resources.

In line with the Action for Peacekeeping+ (A4P), the online will promote a culture of performance and accountability and will be used to guide planning, evaluation, and develop gender-responsive initiatives, while informing Member States on operational requirements and mobilizing resources. The system will enhance partnerships and collaboration between Missions and UN Country Teams by identifying synergies, it will permit the development of innovative approaches.

**Component 2:** The second component of the proposed project focuses on developing software (a database) to host historical (and emergent) profiling data on various types of armed groups. This tool will contribute to armed-groups related activities, including early warning, engagement, mediation, political transformation and DDR. The software will be based on an assessment tool that was developed by the DDR Section and Folke Bernadotte Academy between 2020-22 with the funding by the Government of Sweden.

The proposal forms part of a larger project which aims to respond to the A4P call on the development of pragmatic political solutions based on nuanced contextual analysis of conflict situations. The goal is to move away from one-size-fits-all remedies and develop tools that enable a nuanced grasp of the nature of armed conglomerates. The project is labelled as typologies for DDR purposes to avoid political labelling of armed groups.

The ideal outcome would be a software (database) pre-populated by historical data of armed groups and continuously populated by emergent data, which would output reports on potential similarities of the pre-existing contexts to the context under analysis in terms of armed groups structure, behaviours and response to political and programmatic solutions. DDRS staff will be trained on the use of the tool to ensure its sustainability.

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

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
Component 1		
Improved M&E capacity across peace operations.	M&E platform on DDR developed and fully operational - UNHQ DDR personnel trained and capable of managing IMS System	- Re-establish M&E working group, including mission focal points. - Review existing guidance on M&E for DDR/CVR operations. - Interview DDR officers (HQ and field) and relevant experts to

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DDR field components trained on M&amp;E concepts and tools.</li> <li>- Online platform adopted by DDR components.</li> <li>- Improved M&amp;E frameworks on DDR.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify information gaps and critical indicators.</li> <li>- Develop online platform based on consultations with relevant experts. The system should use Microsoft tools to minimize maintenance costs, ensure compatibility and permit the inclusion of new applications.</li> <li>- Present and improve IMS based on feedback received.</li> <li>- Conduct 4 field missions to sensitive local experts and obtain their buy in.</li> <li>- Train relevant staff on M&amp;E concepts and tools.</li> <li>- Train DDR officers on the use of the IMS system.</li> <li>- Provide technical support, as required (1 year).</li> <li>- Assist in the revision of IMS system.</li> </ul>
<b>Component 2</b>		
(1) More informed decision-making by DDR practitioners and other actors on engagement with non-state armed groups at all stages of the conflict cycle	(A) A database (software) corresponding to the typology assessment tool developed by the DDR Section and Folke Bernadotte Academy in 2020-22.	Software development
(2) Structured change from “anecdotal/individual” to “consistent-historical” evidence underpinning UN decision-making regarding armed groups	(B) One set (context-specific) of historical or current armed-group data researched and included in the database as a seed towards the intended machine-learning function of the database.	Software testing through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) context-specific data collection;</li> <li>(b) input of the collected data into the software;</li> <li>(c) analysis of reports yielded by the database;</li> <li>(d) simulation exercise (outside of the funding, conducted by the DDR Section) assessing the functionality/utility of the software based on the above.</li> </ul>

- **Implementation timeline**

**Component 1** is designed for the duration of one year, and **Component 2** is designed for the duration of one year and not longer than 18 months, including the procurement requirements.

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

**Component 1:** Effective management of in-depth information on DDR enables coherent and coordinated interventions across UN actors, national counterparts and external entities. It also lays the foundation for communication strategies and dissemination of results, lessons learned and best practices.

**Component 2:** This proposal is submitted as a direct implementation of the DDR Section’s targeted result linked to the Deliverable 1.1.2. Mission develop or update political strategies based on coordinated guidance, best practices, and implementation support from HQ.

- **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?**

**Component 1:** The development of the M&E platform for DDR is critical for the regular collection of disaggregated data by gender. The information will serve as a basis for assessing women’s participation in the DDR process as well as the development of gender-based initiatives aimed at mobilizing and empowering women. The inclusion of qualitative and quantitative data will also allow identifying protection issues and adopt preventive measures.

**Component 2:** A better understanding of armed groups typologies serves the purpose of a more nuanced implementation of DDR processes. This includes a better understanding of individual roles of men, women, boys and girls not only in combat but also in support functions. Importantly, DDR processes include nowadays community-level interventions (e.g. through CVR reduction or TWAM programmes at sub-national level). Roles of men, women, boys and girls both as a conflict carriers and actors for peace – and a potential of their transformation from the former to the latter – could, through this project, be better reflected in DDR processes.

- **Brief explanation of any risks that the implementation of the project may face and how to mitigate them, including with regards to the impact of COVID-19.**

**Component 1:** Due to limited M&E capacity and/or concerns regarding information sharing, DDR field component might oppose to the development of the IMS or resist to its adoption.

**Component 2:** The IT project is subject to financial risk due to the volatile IT market. The budgeting prices included below are mid-2023 estimates based on the best knowledge of the DDR Section but will be subject to both procurement rules and supply/demand curve. To a certain extent, the project is scalable but in an unlikely case of extreme valuation variance at the time of implementation this may trigger a need of additional resources or abandonment of the project.

- **Proposed budget**

Item	Brief Description	Total amount
<b>COMPONENT 1</b>		
Consultants (2)	IMS expert and M&E expert	\$160,000.00
Licensing	Microsoft applications	\$20,000.00
Travel	Four field visits to peace operations	\$50,000.00
<b>COMPONENT 2</b>		
Software developer fee	Software design and development (based on a detailed project description and specifications)	\$100,000.00
Consultant	One consultant to research and input data to test the software utility	\$13,200.00
Travel	Related to the research above: historical or developing context characterized by a presence of multiple armed groups	\$20,000.00
Programme Support Costs (13%)		\$47,216.00
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$410,416.00</b>