PROGRESS SO FAR

DFS Environment Strategy

Strong management systems to drive implementation have now been put in place. Directors / Chiefs of Mission Support in each peacekeeping mission have signed off on new Mission-wide Environmental Action Plans for the current budgetary cycle. These follow a consistent template across missions that is intended to support planning and oversight as well as increase accountability within missions in terms of environment being a cross-cutting issue, closely linked in this phase to engineering. Rosters have been strengthened, and a performance and risk management framework has been developed that will allow missions to begin, at the end of the 2017-2018 performance cycle, to formally report their 'scores' to Member States: measuring environmental management performance against a combination of impact, improvement and process indicators. During the first phase of the strategy these scores will likely be indicative, as data collection and verification methods improve.

Progress in each of the pillars is being driven by working groups, that have been established to bring together mission staff at the technical level under the chair of a volunteer Director or Chief of Mission Support. These working groups have been meeting monthly via VTC, with an average participation of 11 missions at meetings, and have helped to consolidate understanding and consensus on priorities. A workshop, held in Brindisi in May and bringing engineering and environment staff together, was an extremely effective way of refining approaches and joint understanding.

On water and wastewater, over 80 new wastewater treatment plants have been installed since July 2016 in response to risk assessment and mitigation measures. Several missions have increased their focus on laboratory analysis to enhance risk management (including installation of lab equipment and better analysis and reporting on trends). The Water and Wastewater Working Group has issued draft guidance on water management, concluded a stabilization pond feasibility study and issued water meter specifications. Centralized training on laboratory analysis is planned for the first quarter of 2018. Capacity building has been provided to more than 35 wastewater treatment plant operators through the REACT partnership with UN Environment.

The liquidation process in three missions over the past year has been a focus in relation to waste management. For example, this year ONUCI remediated 1055 tonnes of soil that was contaminated by oil spills, and MINUSTAH disposed of almost 20,000 litres of dilluted hazardous waste: each with technical support from the GSC in Brindisi or the REACT partnership. More focus is being put by missions on monitoring waste, with several more missions completing a voluntary UN-wide waste inventory than the previous year. The Waste Working Group has assisted several missions with the development of waste management plans and is also supporting analysis of potential sourcing solutions, to address the fact that there is currently only one system contract in place to support waste management (medical incinerators). Ten advice notes to address specific waste management and disposal issues for solid/hazardous wastes have been issued and made available to all missions on the online environment community site. An environmental annex has also been developed for the upcoming revised Liquidation Manual.

In relation to energy, while there are several larger scale solar projects underway to double the installed renewable energy capacity from 1.2 MW to 2.4 MW (UNAMI, UNIFIL, UNFICYP, UNMIK and UNMISS), it is also notable that over 94% of peacekeeping missions are now using solar energy in some form, with wide deployment of solar water heaters, solar lighting and small systems to power ICT. 14 missions also now have some synchronized generators, which will be a major focus going forward in order to improve efficiency. At the headquarters level work is well underway to develop new system contracts to support missions in designing and implementing improved energy plans (e.g. Solar Panels, Inverters, HVAC, Engineering Service Contract, Energy Smart Meters, Energy Storage Systems and Energy Management Systems). Meanwhile, the Energy Working group has provided detailed advice to missions on low-cost energy efficiency measures that can be rapidly implemented in missions. In relation to contingent-owned equipment, Member States agreed in January to optional new reimbursement arrangements that incentivize efficient power generation, including renewable energy.

On wider impact, most missions are implementing small scale projects aimed at environmental improvement, ranging from tree planting to awareness raising to clean-up events involving staff. At the headquarters level, a project has now started to develop a methodology for field operations in environmental impact assessment, tailored to the complexities of the contexts into which they deploy. This will not only assist with ensuring that missions do no harm, but also with configuring missions to leave a positive long-term legacy, where possible.

Technical assistance from GSC / REACT to missions provided in 2017:

	MINURSO	MINUSCA	MINUSMA	MINUSTAH	MONUSCO	ONUCI	UNAMA	UNDOF	UNISFA	UNIFIL	UNMIL	UNMISS	UNSOS	UNTSO
Energy	X		X							X			X	
Water and Wastewater			X				X					X		
Solid Waste		X	X	X	X	X					X			X
Wider Impact														
Envmt. Mgmt.								X	X	X				X