As a specialized capacity, OROLSI deploys peacekeepers and technical experts who, as early peacebuilders, assist conflict-affected countries in re-establishing the rule of law and security institutions necessary to build and sustain peace.

As of January 2019, Secretary-General António Guterres mandated OROLSI to function as a UN system-wide provider, stating that, “The Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, led by an Assistant Secretary-General, will provide operational and advisory support to rule of law and security sector institutions, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration, and mine action. It will ensure systematic collaboration with all relevant United Nations and non-United Nations actors as is currently done through the Global Focal Point . . . and inter-agency working groups on security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.” (Report of the Secretary-General on the Restructuring of the United Nations Peace and Security Pillar (A/72/525)).

From operations to strategy, the Office oversees a wide spectrum of cross-cutting activities, including supporting peacekeeping operations and special political missions; recruiting thousands of professionals for international deployment; mobilizing resources for vital programmes; developing doctrine, guidance and training; and partnering with United Nations entities, Member States, regional organizations and academia.

Through its five components — UN Police Division; Justice and Corrections Service; Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section; Security Sector Reform Unit; and UN Mine Action Service — OROLSI field personnel comprises over 15,000 rule of law and security professionals. As an operational imperative, OROLSI prioritizes increasing the number of women personnel and has set targets to achieve its goals in line with the United Nations Strategy on Gender Parity.
OROLSI is comprised of five components:

1. **United Nations Police Division (PD)**

   Where requested and mandated, United Nations Police (UNPOL) supports Member States to realize effective, efficient, representative, responsive and accountable police services that serve and protect the population. UNPOL build and support police capacity to prevent and detect crime, protect life and property and maintain public order and safety in adherence to the rule of law and international human rights norms. The United Nations Police Division supports UNPOL by selecting, recruiting, deploying and rotating personnel in UN peace operations; develops policy and guidance; provides strategic and operational support, including through the Standing Police Capacity; and facilitates assessments and evaluations.

2. **Justice and Corrections Service (JCS)**

   The Justice and Corrections Service serves as a center of expertise on justice and corrections areas and supports the work of justice and corrections components in United Nations peace operations and other UN entities. JCS assists nationally-led efforts to reform the rule of law, deliver essential justice and prison services, and strengthen criminal justice systems. Aimed at sustaining peace and preventing conflict, this assistance seeks to enable durable political solutions by addressing crimes that fuel conflict and extend rule of law institutions in conflict-affected areas. The Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity is the rapid response team of JCS that deploys specialized expertise to support mission start-up, surge, and transition.

3. **Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section (DDRS)**

   By removing weapons from armed groups and taking individuals out of these groups, DDRS supports ex-combatants and those associated with armed groups to reintegrate into society as civilians, and actively participate in peace processes. In complex environments, Community Violence Reduction is a key DDR approach used to reduce grassroots-level tensions, creating social cohesion and conflict resolution opportunities — opening space for political processes and DDR. The DDRS Standing Capacity, deployable to UN field operations and non-UN Mission settings, provides DDR-related support, including planning and transition processes. DDRS develops policy and guidance through the DDR Inter-Agency Working Group co-chaired with the United Nations Development Programme.

4. **Security Sector Reform Unit (SSRU)**

   SSRU provides advice to Member States, field operations, Resident Coordinators, UNCTs and partners on the political and technical aspects of security sector reform and relevant support and implementation strategies. SSRU, in coordination with partners, conducts security sector assessments, and advises on national SSR strategies, planning frameworks and (inter)national SSR coordination mechanisms, including on defence sector reform. SSRU manages a roster and a standing capacity of SSR experts for rapid deployment. The Unit fosters policy dialogue with Member States, including through the Group of Friends of SSR, and develops guidance in coordination with the Inter-Agency SSR Task Force. It forges partnerships with regional organizations to foster coherence.

5. **United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)**

   Established in 1997, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) leads, coordinates, and implements projects and programmes to mitigate the threats posed by explosive ordnance to the benefit of millions of people worldwide. UNMAS provides Member States, the United Nations system and its leadership, as well as the mine sector at large, with authoritative, impartial expertise and experience acquired through its humanitarian, development, peace operations and peacebuilding assistance to affected countries, as well as through its participation in, and contributions to, treaty-related and diplomatic processes.
OROLSI is, first and foremost, field-oriented:

**DEPLOYED IN**

**10 PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS**

**ALSO PROVIDING SUPPORT TO**

**12 SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS**

OROLSI Deployments to UN Peacekeeping Operations and UN Special Political Missions in 2019

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

*Established as of 16 October 2019; MINUJUSTH completed its mandate on 15 October 2019.*
More than 12,000 authorized United Nations Police (UNPOL) officers from 129 countries (since 1990) are currently deployed in 16 United Nations peace operations, as well as other contexts to, where mandated, support the reform, restructuring and development of host State police services and other law enforcement institutions; provide operational support to their counterparts; and, in exceptional cases, conduct interim policing and law enforcement.


FIGURES AS OF JUNE 2019
CAPACITIES AND CAPABILITIES

Through formed police units, individual police officers, specialized teams and civilian experts, UNPOL pursue community-oriented and intelligence-led policing approaches to contribute to: the protection of civilians; prevent and address, among other things, sexual and gender-based violence and serious and organized crime; as well as conduct investigations, special operations and electoral security (Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations policing, S/2016/952).

United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and successive resolutions recognize the importance of women’s participation in peace and security, while resolution 2242 (2015) calls for the doubling of the number of uniformed women personnel by 2020. Building on the Secretary-General’s System-Wide Strategy on Gender Parity, DPO developed a Uniformed Personnel Gender Parity Strategy with targets for UNPOL. The Police Division is implementing a gender action plan to achieve these targets, which will require the sustained commitment of Member States.

To further increase performance and realize its obligations under the Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping, the Police Division is working closely with host States and Police Contributing Countries to meet the increasing demand for specialized policing expertise, such as investigations and forensics, transnational organized crime, addressing violent extremism or robust police units to manage volatile public security situations, while at the same time implementing the Action Plan to Improve the Security of Police Peacekeepers.

ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY

United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and successive resolutions recognize the importance of women’s participation in peace and security, while resolution 2242 (2015) calls for the doubling of the number of uniformed women personnel by 2020. Building on the Secretary-General’s System-Wide Strategy on Gender Parity, DPO developed a Uniformed Personnel Gender Parity Strategy with targets for UNPOL. The Police Division is implementing a gender action plan to achieve these targets, which will require the sustained commitment of Member States.
Justice and Corrections Service supports the work of justice and corrections components in United Nations peace operations and other UN entities, including through its rapidly deployable Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity, which is based in Brindisi, Italy. It assists host countries to deliver essential justice and prison services, strengthen criminal justice systems, and facilitate rule of law reforms. It does so by promoting accountability for serious crimes that fuel conflict, by extending justice and corrections institutions in conflict-affected areas, and by enhancing prison security and management. Justice and corrections interventions encourage the peaceful resolution as well as prevention of disputes, strengthen the protection of civilians, improve national security, extend the authority of the State, restore trust and social cohesion, and contribute to the implementation of peace agreements.

Justice and corrections components work closely with national authorities to prioritize prevention of conflict, contribute to durable political solutions and advance SDG 16. JCS initiatives enable the empowerment of women and girls and their equal participation in the criminal justice system. To help advance the realization of the Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Action (A4P Declaration), JCS actively seeks and maintains partnerships with United Nations and external actors (notably through the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law), supports integrated multi-disciplinary interventions, provides planning, analytical and policy expertise in transition settings, and enables host countries and other stakeholders to take appropriate measures to bring to justice perpetrators of criminal acts against UN peacekeepers.

IN THE FIELD

162 JUDICIAL AFFAIRS OFFICERS + 358 CORRECTIONS OFFICERS

help to protect civilians, combat impunity, extend state authority and advance stabilization in 12 peace operations: MINUSCA, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, UNAMID, UNMIK, BINUH (formerly MINUJUSTH), UNSMIL, UNISFA, UNMISS, UNSOM, UNAMA, and UNIOGBIS.

Justice and corrections components of peace operations focus on three priority areas:

1. Strengthening national mechanisms to investigate and prosecute serious crimes fueling conflict, such as in CAR, Darfur, DRC, Mali and South Sudan.

2. Restoring and extending accountable rule of law institutions and justice and corrections services in conflict-affected areas.

3. Enhancing prison security and management (including of high-risk detainees) to mitigate the destabilizing effects of prison breakouts, disturbances and risks of radicalization.
JCS at Headquarters serves as a centre of expertise on justice, corrections and related rule of law areas within the Secretariat, comprising a team of 23 justice, corrections and programme management specialists. We provide strategic and operational support on mandate delivery to justice, corrections and rule of law components of peace operations. The work and support provided by the rapidly deployable Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity in Brindisi, Italy, is an integral element of JCS support to UN peace operations and field presences. This includes support on strategic and operational planning, rule of law programming, technical assessments, outreach, as well as the generation of government-provided personnel and other resources. JCS manages knowledge and develops policies, guidance tools and lessons learned related to the strengthening of justice, corrections and rule of law to ensure that support and advice is based on policy and best practices.

1. The Special Criminal Court in the Central African Republic (CAR) was operationalized in 2018, mandated to investigate and prosecute international crimes committed in CAR since 2003.

2. A national strategy on the demilitarization of the penitentiary system was adopted by the Government of CAR in January 2019.

3. 49 persons have been tried by the Pôle Judiciaire Spécialisé in Mali, with jurisdiction over atrocity crimes, terrorism and transnational crimes, with 458 cases currently before it.

4. 11 courts reopened in northern Mali by the national authorities, including through the deployment of a significant number of justice actors.

5. 107 tribunals rehabilitated and 18 out of 19 prisons operationalized in Haiti.

6. 820 conflict-related prosecutions, involving more than 1,320 accused persons, have been supported by the Prosecution Support Cells in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

7. Ebola prevention in the Democratic Republic of the Congo prisons enhanced through targeted measures with special focus on prisons in the East and Kinshasa.

8. Strong anti-corruption architecture and institutions established in Afghanistan, including the Anti-Corruption Justice Centre.

9. 360 rural court judges trained in mediation and dispute resolution in Darfur, with 2,000 cases resolved in 2018, including land-related disputes.

10. 5,500 individuals transiting through the UNMISS holding facilities (South Sudan) have been held in safe, secure, and humane detention.

**Women serving as justice and corrections government-provided personnel**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022*</td>
<td>≈30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>≈25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>≈20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Uniformed personnel gender parity strategy 2018-2028

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**Did you know?**

**Security Council resolution 2447 (2018) on police, justice and corrections**

The unanimous adoption on 13 December 2018 of Security Council Resolution 2447 (2018) on police, justice and corrections was of major importance to United Nations entities working in the area of rule of law.

The Resolution recognizes the importance of enhancing police, justice, and corrections services in host countries and emphasizes that rule of law at the national level is one of the key elements of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

**Port-au-Prince, Haiti: Female judicial officials at the Court of First Instance hold dedicated sessions to advance the cases of women in pre-trial detention and to reduce the backlog of files. MINUJUSTH worked in close partnership with the justice system to improve access to justice for all Haitians, reduce pre-trial detention, and promote the presence of women judges and magistrates.**

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**Photo: MINUJUSTH / Leonora Baumann**
Standing Police Capacity

SPC PRESENCE IN THE FIELD

The United Nations Standing Police Capacity (SPC) is the rapidly deployable operational wing of the United Nations Police Division. Established in 2007 and based in Brindisi, Italy, since 2008, the SPC is tasked with:

- Providing the start-up capability for the police components of new United Nations peace operations established by the Security Council; and
- Responding to requests for advice, expertise and assistance in multiple areas, including but not limited to police reform or preventing and addressing transnational organized crime.


The second task has evolved due to changing operating environments and the demands of host States and the Organization’s prioritization of preventative measures. Member States endorsed the Secretary-General’s vision for OROLSI as a system-wide service provider (A/RES/72/262.C). The Security Council, in its resolution 2382 (2017), also highlighted the SPC’s capacity to support other contexts through the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP). Where extra-budgetary resources are available, the SPC therefore further reinforces the Police Division’s role as the focal point for policing and other law enforcement matters within the Organization and with key partners. For example, the SPC, in close collaboration with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNOSOM), helped implement the Gaalkacyo ceasefire agreement by supporting the Ceasefire Team Advisory Group through developing and facilitating joint training for police services in Puntland and Galmudug, which then patrolled the buffer zone.

ORGANIZATIONAL LEARNING

Through its deployments, the SPC offers a wealth of experience and insights, as evidenced by its recent participation in lessons learned studies undertaken in transitioning missions in Liberia and Haiti. This knowledge has proven invaluable for the further development and implementation of the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Policing and the conceptualization of the United Nations Police Training Architecture Program, two seminal initiatives that advance the further professionalism of United Nations policing.
The Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity (JCSC) is the rapid response team of the Justice and Corrections Service which was established in 2010 to assist UN peace operations and field presences by means of three core functions:

- Starting up Justice and Corrections components;
- Reinforcing existing peace operations and presences in the areas of justice and corrections by providing time-limited and targeted support; and
- Conducting needs assessments and reviews in the areas of justice and corrections.

In recent years, assistance from JCSC was in particular demand to advance rule of law transition planning, implementation and lessons learned studies in Darfur, Haiti and Liberia. JCSC also provided specific expertise in substantive areas, such as the investigation and prosecution of destabilizing crimes in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Mali; anti-corruption in Afghanistan; and prison security, with a specific focus on prison intelligence and information in the DRC.

JCSC was also requested to strengthen planning capacities for the successful implementation of projects funded with assessed funds (programmatic funding) in the area of justice and corrections, including in CAR and Mali. Beyond its work for peace operations, JCSC has also recently deployed to UN Women in Haiti, and to UNDP in CAR.

JCSC supports operations administered by the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations and, through OROLSI’s new role as system-wide service provider, is increasingly engaged under the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP) umbrella with United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes, especially to strengthen their capacities to ensure successful transitions of United Nations peace operations in the rule of law area. Furthermore, and in line with the Secretary-General’s vision and focus on conflict prevention, JCSC, along with the Standing Police Capacity and GFP partners, offers its expertise where it has comparative advantages and where rapid deployment is essential to the prevention of conflict or violence. Currently, it has a staffing strength of seven posts: one Team Leader, two Corrections Officers, two Judicial Affairs Officers, one Rule of Law Officer and one Administrative Assistant.

**EXPERTISE AND SUPPORT PROVIDED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluations and Assessments</th>
<th>Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, DRC, Kosovo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission Start-up</td>
<td>CAR, Haiti, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigation/Prosecution/Accountability</td>
<td>Afghanistan, CAR, DRC, Mali, South Sudan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prison Security</td>
<td>DRC, Guinea Bissau, Mali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-corruption/Access to justice/Gender</td>
<td>Afghanistan, Haiti, Mali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition Planning</td>
<td>Darfur (Sudan), DRC, Haiti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Management</td>
<td>CAR, Kosovo, Mali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lessons Learned</td>
<td>DRC, Liberia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Gaps</td>
<td>CAR, DRC, Haiti, South Sudan</td>
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</tbody>
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**MULTIPLE AREAS OF EXPERTISE**

- Prosecution of Serious Crime
- Transitional Justice
- Strategic & Operational Planning
- Transition Planning
- Programmatic Funding
- Project Management
- Anti-Corruption
- Access to Justice
- Prison Security
- Demilitarization of Prisons
- Mentoring
- Capacity Development

Photo: OROLSI/JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer, Alice Mauske, along with UNAMA Judicial Affairs Officer, Bilal Waqad, meet with Abdul Raziq, the General Director of Social Protection and Social Security from the Government of Afghanistan’s Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled. UNAMA
CORE FUNCTIONS OF SSR TEAMS

Advancing political solutions to conflict through mediation, advisory and technical support to the signatory parties of peace agreements on the implementation of SSR provisions.

Strengthening national ownership and capacity to design and implement national security policies and strategies to enhance the effectiveness, inclusivity and accountability of security institutions contributing to the restoration and extension of state authority.

Promoting the coherence and effectiveness of international assistance to the security sector through coordination of partners, mobilization of resources, and advisory support on the development of national development and peacebuilding plans.

Security Council resolution 2151 (2014) on SSR

The first stand-alone Security Council resolution on SSR affirmed the role of SSR in the consolidation of peace and stability, promoting poverty reduction, rule of law and good governance as well as laying the foundations for peace and sustainable development.

United Nations support to national SSR initiatives are anchored in the principles reflected in this resolution, which emphasizes the centrality of national ownership and encourages States to define “an inclusive national vision” for the security sector that responds to the needs of their populations. The resolution calls for the integration of SSR into broader national political processes and encourages senior United Nations officials to advance SSR through their good offices.
SSR AT UN HEADQUARTERS

The SSR Unit serves as the United Nations system-wide focal point on SSR and works to advance the following priorities:

**Strategic advice to United Nations senior leadership and Member States** to ensure that the United Nations SSR support is aligned with the principles outlined in the Security Council resolution 2151 (2014) and international best practices.

**Backstopping SSR field teams** in support of Security Council SSR mandates in peace operations or in response to national requests of support.

**United Nations policy and guidance development** to design coherent system-wide guidance on SSR, including defence sector reform, in coordination with the United Nations Inter-Agency SSR Task Force.

**Partnerships** with the African Union, the European Union, the World Bank, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and sub-regional organizations ensuring harmonization of approaches and improves joint delivery of SSR assistance.

**Policy dialogue with Member States** including through the support of the Group of Friends of SSR, co-chaired by Slovakia and South Africa, are focused on strengthening the normative basis for United Nations SSR support and articulating lessons learned and best practices.

**Coordinating** of UN SSR assistance as the secretariat for the Inter-Agency SSR Task Force, established by the Secretary-General to promote an integrated, holistic UN approach to SSR. The Task Force is co-chaired by the DPO and UNDP and consists of 14 UN entities.

**Surge capacity**: The SSR Unit manages the United Nations roster of SSR experts, which provides surge capacity in countries where national SSR processes are underway. The Unit is also mobilizing resources to embed SSR experts within the standing capacities based at the United Nations Global Service Centre in Italy.

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**SSR PRIORITIES IN THE FIELD**

- **MINUSMA** supports the Government and the signatory armed movements to implement the defence and security provisions of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali.
- **MINUSCA** provides strategic advice to the Central African Republic authorities on the design and implementation of a comprehensive and gender-responsive SSR process that reinforces the peace process.
- **UNMISS** supports the signatory parties to broke consensus on the implementation of the defence and security provisions of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan.
- **OSESG-Yemen** supports the UN mediation efforts to advance the ceasefire agreement in Hudaydah and to build consensus among the parties on options for transitional and long-term security arrangements.
- **UNSMIL** supports the mediation of cease fire and security arrangements as well as the integration of armed groups into the nationally-owned security sector.
- **UNSOM** supports the Federal Government of Somalia and Federal Member States to implement the Somali Security Transition Plan and the National Security Architecture.
- **MONUSCO** coordinates the international assistance provided to the security sector by bilateral and multilateral partners.

Graduation ceremony for Libyan National Police Officers. UN Photo / Iason Founten
The objective of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section (DDRS), working through teams and individual experts in field locations, is to positively impact the security and stability in conflict and post-conflict environments. DDR processes deal directly with members of armed groups, encouraging them to lay down their weapons, leave the group and reintegrate into society. Transitioning from combatant to civilian can be daunting and potentially unappealing, especially where a civilian lifestyle may be less economically beneficial. In order to address this, DDR provides socio-economic support to assist ex-combatants, including education and opportunities for employment through the reintegration process. DDR views each individual as a stakeholder in the peace process and a potential agent of change.

DDR supports the organic development of peace through the collective will of the people to pursue peaceful co-existence and reconciliation. DDR programmes should occur under certain pre-conditions, such as the signing of a peace agreement or minimum security on the ground. However, the United Nations is often called upon to assist in tackling violence in a variety of situations, where these prerequisites are not present.

In such cases, the DDR community utilizes alternative approaches, including “Community Violence Reduction” (CVR), implemented in support of DDR in localities vulnerable to instability, in order to emphasize community engagement as a means to prevent the escalation of violence, and more broadly, to create the necessary conditions for a DDR programme. CVR aims to impact not only members of armed groups, but also youth at risk of recruitment, former combatants who participate in DDR, and members of communities likely to receive former combatants. The programmes encompass a range of initiatives, designed to train individuals to become productive, self-sustaining members of society, as well as reducing potential triggers of violence.

Another approach in the DDR toolbox is Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM), which focuses on arms management within communities and is predominantly used to stem the influx of weapons and their accessibility. DDR, CVR and WAM are components of a larger process to manage armed groups and ultimately lead to their peaceful and orderly dissolution.
On 1 May 2019, the AU–UN Peacekeeping Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) concluded the demobilization of 729 ex-combatants, including 123 women, from a variety of armed groups. Based on the Darfur Peace Agreement and Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, UNAMID has supported national authorities since 2007, resulting in the demobilization of over 10,000 combatants. Mission support includes the provision of reinsertion support packages, camp construction, basic services and security. UNDP also contributes to this exercise and is responsible for providing reintegration assistance following the demobilization phase. Some of the ex-combatants interviewed during demobilization emphasized the importance of promoting peace and urged non-signatory movements to put down their arms and join the peace process. Islika Borbor Sisay, UNAMID DDR officer, believes that the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process contributes to a more stable environment for the implementation of other development and early recovery initiatives.

“It is important for DDR in every country that witnesses war to set the ground work for other recovery activities to take place,” he said.

“This is done through sensitizing the ex-combatants on the importance of peace and encouraging them as civilians to resolve their differences by dialogue and peaceful means.”

The DDRS’s efforts to contribute to stability and security are supported by the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on DDR. The Group was established in 2005 to improve the UN’s performance in the area of DDR. It aims to optimize DDR contributions to peace-building and recovery as the foremost global networking source for the development of DDR policy and practice. It serves as a dynamic force, offering adaptable and innovative options to the DDR community in current and future peace-building efforts. Since its founding, it has grown to be comprised of 25 UN entities and is chaired by DPO and UNDP. The IAWG serves as a custodian of the global Integrated DDR Standards which are currently undergoing a major revision.
UNMAS operates under United Nations legislative mandates of both the General Assembly and the Security Council and responds to specific requests from affected Member States, and/or the United Nations Secretary-General or designated officials. UNMAS is a specialized, agile organization, which delivers concrete results in dynamic operating environments across the world. UNMAS implements a needs-driven and people-centred approach and is guided by humanitarian principles.

In recent years, UNMAS has supported and continues to provide assistance in Abyei, Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Cyprus, Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, the State of Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and the Territory of Western Sahara. UNMAS deployments are implemented through the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

From its headquarters in New York and its humanitarian hub in Geneva, UNMAS coordinates the global mine action response. As chair of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)\(^1\), UNMAS ensures an effective, proactive and coordinated United Nations response to the threat posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) through the implementation of the United Nations Strategy on Mine Action 2019 – 2023. Led by UNMAS, the IACG-MA develops policies and strategies, sets mine action priorities, monitors developments in affected countries, advocates for the universalization and implementation of international humanitarian and human rights law, highlights the needs and rights of survivors, and advocates for sustained financial support for mine action.

UNMAS activities are primarily financed through two funding mechanisms:

- **APPROPRIATIONS** by the United Nations General Assembly for mine action components within peace operations.
- **EXTRA-BUDGETARY** contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action.

UNMAS also receives financing from United Nations Multi-Donor Trust Funds and other mechanisms used by the United Nations system and from individuals and the private sector, through tax-deductible contributions made through the United Nations Foundation.

\(^1\)Members of the IACG-MA include: UN Department of Peace Operations/UNMAS (Chair), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO).
At the country level, UNMAS coordinates activities in partnership with a range of national and local actors to strengthen mine action capacity and ensure proper prioritization of resources to areas of need. UNMAS is also the coordinator for the Mine Action Area of Responsibility and is “the provider of last resort” for mine action within the Global Protection Cluster. UNMAS engages with United Nations partners and non-governmental organizations to ensure that mine action is at the centre of humanitarian planning and responses.

Each year, landmines, ERWs and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) kill or maim thousands of people worldwide. These deadly hazards block roads and prevent farmers from working the land, hampering socio-economic development. They stop children from going to school and people from returning to their homes. They render water points and roads inaccessible and block the safe deployment of peacekeepers and humanitarian relief in the places where it is needed most.

The human impact is truly devastating: a staggering death toll, life-altering injuries and communities ripped apart by war, enduring its aftermath.

Critically, most landmines and IEDs are victim-activated and indiscriminate. Whoever triggers the weapon, whether soldier or civilian, can become a casualty. IEDs are particularly dangerous. Their triggers can be hidden anywhere: in a food bag, in a light switch or in a toy.

Reflecting the principles laid out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reiterated by the Secretary-General in his vision for the Organization, UNMAS promotes national ownership of mine action functions by strengthening government capacity and by encouraging adherence to international standards while implementing best practices. Ensuring an affected country’s ability to manage its own mine action programme is vital to guaranteeing a long-term sustainable response, and remains an important commitment of UNMAS.

In 2019, the Secretary-General of the United Nations launched the five-year Safe Ground campaign to turn minefields into playing fields. Safe Ground is a global advocacy and fundraising campaign supported by an informal, voluntary group of Champions, comprised of governments (United Nations Member States), United Nations entities, civil society organizations, sport federations, private sector companies, and individual athletes. The campaign tackles two essential and linked challenges: clearing explosive hazards to make the ground safe for people to return and rebuild their communities without fear of injury or death; and raising awareness and mobilizing resources to support those who suffered a disability because of explosive hazards.

SAFE GROUND

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The Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP) is a United Nations platform co-chaired by DPO and UNDP that is designed to strengthen the provision of rule of law assistance to address and prevent violent conflict, to protect human rights and to restore justice and security for conflict-affected people. The GFP is a field-focused arrangement that enables United Nations entities, including UNODC, UNHCR, OHCHR, EOSG, UNOPS, UN Women and others, to jointly pursue shared objectives, in accordance with their mandates and capacities. GFP partners promote United Nations norms and standards, including gender mainstreaming and human rights-based approaches.

GFP coordinating platforms and working group arrangements are established both at Headquarters and in the field to increase United Nations coherence, align strategies and programs with national development plans, serve as a single entry point for host governments, and to achieve better results drawing on the expertise of the contributing agencies.

Through joint assessments, planning, and programming, the GFP arrangement has been supporting a coordinated UN approach to rule of law assistance, relying primarily on voluntary funding and striving to increase impact and results by:

- Reducing competition
- Leveraging expertise
- Encouraging innovation

GFP partners

UN entities working on the rule of law including DPO, UNDP, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNODC, UNOPS, UN Women and the EOSG.

Coverage

The GFP operates in the following settings: Prevention and/or Sustaining Peace; Conflict and Post-Conflict; and Transitions.
DEPLOYMENTS OF EXPERTISE
including UNPOL officers and experts in corrections, gender and programming to 14 countries (January 2016 to July 2019).

WORKSHOPS
organized by GFP for country-level staff and contributed to trainings on transitions and corrections

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC:
GFP partners jointly support the restoration of criminal justice and security institutions, including the operationalization of the national Special Criminal Court. These efforts support the extension of state authority, the fight against impunity and the effectiveness of the criminal justice system. At Headquarters, GFP partners provide support to the Reference Group on the rule of law and the fight against impunity in CAR, chaired by Morocco, to garner political and financial support for the Special Court and other rule of law initiatives.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO:
With the assistance of GFP partners the Prosecution Support Cells (PSC) have supported military justice authorities in over 820 conflict-related cases. The assistance of the PSC has resulted in the conviction of over 1000 perpetrators. Around one half of those held accountable have been officials of national security forces and one half members of armed groups and civilians.

HAITI:
The GFP joint rule of law programme aims to:
• Enhance public security via support to the police
• Promote a more effective and transparent justice system
• Improve access to justice and enhance the prison administration. During transition periods, GFP partners have provided integrated support to ensure that the vital gains in the areas of police, justice and corrections are sustained and that development priorities are advanced jointly.

LIBERIA:
GFP partners successfully supported the transition process from UNMIL to UN Country Team partners that are now implementing a well-resourced joint rule of law programme. As UNMIL was closing, the GFP arrangement was instrumental in developing the joint rule of law programme which ensured that the UN effectively sustained capacity development support. The programme moves Liberia towards development through access to justice initiatives and community security services for the Liberian People (2016-2019).

THE GAMBIA:
The UN, through the GFP and SSR Task Force, supported the country to complete a government-led and inclusive SSR assessment. The assessment successfully laid the foundation for developing a national Security Sector Reform Policy, and subsequently a security strategy to address existing gaps. The UN support is designed to connect and sequence implementation of SSR reforms with transitional justice, access to justice, human rights and conflict prevention efforts.

ANNUAL ENTEBBE WORKSHOP:
In December 2018, a GFP workshop was held in Entebbe with rule of law practitioners from the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kosovo, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan (Darfur) to further discuss the review recommendations and identify opportunities to enhance rule of law strategies. As a result of this workshop, a community of practice platform was successfully implemented for GFP colleagues to share lessons learned and best practices in joint working.
UN policy and guidance for OROLSI areas of work:

**United Nations Police Division**
- Policy on UN Police in Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions
- Policy on Formed Police Units
- Guidelines on Police Command, Police Administration, Police Operations, Police Capacity-Building and Development and Protection of Civilians

**Justice and Corrections Service**
- Policy on Justice Support in United Nations Peace Operations
- Policy on Functions and Organization of the United Nations Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity

**Security Sector Reform Unit**
- Policy on Defence Sector Reform
- United Nations Security Sector Reform Integrated Technical Guidance Notes
- Integrated Technical Guidance Note on Transnational Organized Crime and Security Sector Reform

**Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section**
- Policy on Reinsertion Programmes
- Guidelines on Reinsertion Programmes

**United Nations Mine Action Service**
- The United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023
- The United Nations Improvised Explosive Device Disposal Standards
- United Nations Mine Action Service Improvised Explosive Device Lexicon
- The United Nations Policy on Victim Assistance in Mine Action
- Landmines, Explosive Remnants of War and IED Safety Handbook
- The United Nations Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes
Security and justice are fundamental parts of the conflict prevention spectrum. The breakdown and instrumentalization of rule of law and security institutions — as well as armed groups operating outside of these institutions — are most often a driver of conflict in fragile settings; early identification and response to related challenges must therefore be part of the solution. However, there is often no capacity specialized in supporting rule of law and security institutions involved in early warning mechanisms to precisely identify related crisis factors and ensure that conflict prevention engagement is designed to be as targeted as possible. Working together, OROLSI’s five components provide holistic support to United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, providing a full cycle of related activities, from reducing violence by addressing the threats of armed groups, mines and IEDs, to creating the necessary space for national and local political dialogue, to building the capacity of institutions and staff to deliver essential rule of law and security services, to empowering women and youth and creating a generation of peacemakers that can sustain peace beyond their borders.

**Action for Peacekeeping (A4P)**

**Support** for rule of law and security institutions advances lasting political solutions while programmatic approaches to reducing violence help address the threats posed by armed groups, creating space for peace.

**Strengthening** rule of law and security institutions directly protects civilians in a range of ways and helps to improve the safety and security of peacekeepers, including by supporting investigations and prosecutions of serious crimes committed against them.

“UN Peacekeeping deploys to some of the most complex and difficult places, protecting some of the world’s most vulnerable. We are working in partnership with Member States to implement the Secretary-General’s Action for Peacekeeping initiative to strengthen peacekeeping, including to improve how we protect civilians, which is at the heart of our work. For hundreds of millions, peacekeeping is the last best hope and it needs all our support.”

Jean-Pierre Lacroix
Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations

**OROLSI colleagues** are at the forefront of efforts to enhance the performance and accountability of peacekeepers, including by conducting trainings and assessments of Formed Police Units and by training peacekeepers in IED threat mitigation.

**All OROLSI components** have prioritized implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, by promoting the meaningful participation of women in rule of law and security institutions and seeking to increase their representation in traditionally male-dominated areas such as police, corrections, mine action and security sectors.

**OROLSI** plays a lead role in system-wide efforts to prevent violent conflict and sustain peace, particularly in transition settings, aided by rapid deployments of its police, justice/corrections and DDR standing capacities, lead role in the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP) and other strong partnerships (including with the AU, EU and World Bank).

**Sustaining Peace & Preventing Conflict Through Rule of Law and Security Institutions**

Security and justice are fundamental parts of the conflict prevention spectrum. The breakdown and instrumentalization of rule of law and security institutions — as well as armed groups operating outside of these institutions — are most often a driver of conflict in fragile settings; early identification and response to related challenges must therefore be part of the solution. However, there is often no capacity specialized in supporting rule of law and security institutions involved in early warning mechanisms to precisely identify related crisis factors and ensure that conflict prevention engagement is designed to be as targeted as possible. Working together, OROLSI’s five components provide holistic support to United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, providing a full cycle of related activities, from reducing violence by addressing the threats of armed groups, mines and IEDs, to creating the necessary space for national and local political dialogue, to building the capacity of institutions and staff to deliver essential rule of law and security services, to empowering women and youth and creating a generation of peacemakers that can sustain peace beyond their borders.

Working side-by-side with national authorities, a focus on the rule of law and security institutions can guide countries on the difficult road from conflict to sustainable peace.

**Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16**

Sustainable Development Goal 16 calls to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;” and includes targets on security, access to justice, combating illicit flows and organized crime, fighting corruption, developing accountable and effective institutions, and ensuring representative participation in decision-making at all levels. It also serves as an enabler for the entire 2030 Agenda with its linkages between peace, justice and strong institutions and other SDGs on education, gender equality, partnerships, sustainable cities and communities.

In the increasingly complex environments where the UN is deployed, OROLSI has witnessed the fruits of its labour extend beyond the delivery of its peace and security mandated tasks by catalyzing institutional and community-level changes to stabilize countries and create conditions for sustainable development.