

Supporting Rule of Law and Security Institutions in Non-UN Mission Settings

(a) Brief description of the project

The Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) within the Department of Peace Operations provides policy guidance, technical expertise and backstopping support to peace operations with rule of law and security institutions mandates. In this context, OROLSI assists conflict-affected countries to re-establish institutions necessary to build and sustain peace. In his report, “Restructuring of the United Nations Peace and Security Pillar” (A/72/525), the Secretary-General expanded the role of OROLSI effective 1 January 2019 to serve as the United Nations system-wide service provider in the areas of rule of law and security institutions in both UN peace operations as well as to Member States and UN system entities in non-UN mission settings.

Security and justice are fundamental parts of the conflict prevention spectrum. Supporting rule of law and security institutions serves short-term goals of prevention and long-term goals of sustainable peace. Preventive measures – training, analysis, mapping, and capacity-building – ensure national and local authorities gain the requisite credibility and skills to mitigate triggers for societal unrest. Furthermore, strong rule of law and security institutions are a sine qua non for sustainable economic and political development. These issues remain critical in a number of contexts where there is not an ongoing UN peace operation.

Despite the expanded mandate, OROLSI has not received any additional resources. It has over the past year within its limited existing resources, been called on by national Governments and/or the UNCT to provide expertise and support in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gambia, Liberia, and the Republic of Congo. It has also extended its expertise through the Global Focal Point for Rule of Law in non-UN Mission settings.

As the UN system-wide service provider, the implementation of this project ensures that OROLSI technical expertise, advisory support, and perspectives are generated in a timely and coherent manner in response to requests from Member States and across the UN system. It will enable OROLSI to develop a normative framework, policy and guidance for extending support in non-mission settings, in accordance with its mandate and based on its comparative advantage. This includes developing tailored preventative action at the request of Member States to strengthen rule of law and security institutions, conduct DDR and mine action activities before the outbreak of a conflict. It would also develop OROLSI’s strategic partnerships with relevant UN, bilateral, and multilateral stakeholders. Most critically, the project will provide the operational support for the planning and temporary and surge deployments of expertise in non-mission settings.

The project also supports the implementation of the A4P initiative in contributing to strengthening the impact of peacekeeping in sustaining peace and preventing conflict.

(b) Expected Outcomes, Outputs and Proposed Activities

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
National institutions are more effective, resilient and accountable	Technical advice on policies, laws, practices, and procedures are targeted and implementation is carried out in accordance with international standards	Establish a mechanism with dedicated capacity to develop policy and guidance, training, analysis, mapping, assessments and plans
All-of-UN-Approach to the provision of technical support in the areas of rule of law and security institution is undertaken and compliance with relevant UN polices and international human rights law is ensured.	Department maintains its relevancy as a technical, expert-level service-provider capable of meeting the demands of Member States and the Organization writ large on a rapid and effective basis	OROLSI technical expertise, advisory support is formulated holistically, including by operationalizing existing strategic partnerships and/or by creating new arrangements

(c) Implementation Timeline

This project will be implemented over the course of one calendar year (twelve months).

(d) How does this project relate to internal and external United Nations partners?

As the UN system-wide service provider, the implementation of this project ensures that OROLSI technical expertise, advisory support, and perspectives are generated in a timely and coherent manner in response to requests from across the UN system. By incorporating an “all-of-UN” approach, the Team will operationalize existing strategic partnerships with UN entities and facilitate the development of new formal arrangements with other entities relevant to the work of OROLSI.

Strengthened national institutions are crucial for the long-term success of any peace and security initiatives. Additionally, the establishment of the dedicated capacities to support OROLSI’s work in non-UN Mission settings is aligned with OROLSI’s priorities as well as with the Department of Peace Operations’ and the Secretary-General’s vision on conflict prevention and the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) principles.

(e) 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?

UN policies pertaining to gender parity and equality will be adhered to in the recruitment process, in the day-to-day management of the team, and the design of all activities. OROLSI deploys approximately 15,000 personnel globally. Our far-reaching presence enables field staff to engage closely with communities; an operational advantage that provides opportunities to identify the specific needs and perspectives of women, men, girls and boys. Gender analysis informs our operational support and policy development.

(f) Brief explanation of any risks that the implementation of the project may face and how to mitigate them.

Challenges related to rule of law and security institutions – as well as armed groups operating outside of these institutions – are most often part of the problem in fragile settings; responding 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 as targeted as possible.

(g) Proposed Budget

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
Staff	Team Leader, P5	\$281,595
	Political Affairs Officer, P4	\$242,995
	Programme Officer, P3	\$204,795
	Administrative Assistant	\$126,095
Consultancies	Technical experts for rapid deployments	\$300,000
Travel	Field visits to non-UN peace operation settings	\$200,000
Programme Support Costs (13%)		\$176,212
		Total: \$1,531,692