

Enhance SSR Unit's Capacity to Support National SSR Processes

(a) Brief description of the project

This project improves the capacity of the Security Sector Reform (SSR) Unit to advance political objectives in mission settings and enable local and national actors to sustain peace in non-mission or post-conflict settings, by responding to demands for particular types of SSR expertise in a timely, flexible manner via three modalities: (i) SSR/DSR standing capacity based in Brindisi; (ii) SSR experts available for discrete assignments; (iii) gender expert to be embedded within the SSR Unit.

Four peacekeeping operations (MONUSCO, MINUSCA, MINUSMA, UNMISS) and six special political missions (UNSOM, UNSMIL, OESG-Yemen, OESG-Burundi, UNOAU, UNOWAS) are supporting SSR provisions in peace agreements or encouraging the parties to conflict to mediate security sector-related agreements essential to stability. Progress is critical for the drawdown of these operations, particularly as responsibility for protecting civilians and preventing relapse into violence will rest with the reconstituted, reformed national security services.

SSR Advisers in The Gambia and Burkina Faso are supporting national efforts to right-size and redeploy law enforcement and defence forces to address various security threats. UN presences in non-mission settings demand SSR guidance and expertise in many areas.

The Inter-Agency SSR Task Force and the Global Focal Point for Rule of Law often seek SSR expertise to support mission start-up or draw-down, transition planning and capacity assessments that underpin national plans to implement SDG 16. With seven professional staff and limited travel funding, the SSR Unit is challenged to respond to requests for surge or specialist expertise.

The SSR Unit partners with regional organizations and expert entities to increase its potential to inform sensitive political processes in which regional actors often play a leading role. The SSR Unit also forges partnerships with Member States through the Group of Friends of SSR. However, maintaining SSR high on the UN's policy, peace and security and development agendas requires commensurate resources.

Access to specialized SSR skill sets will ensure that the development and delivery of security sector reform initiatives is holistic and makes best use of the UN's comparative advantage. Additional SSR expertise will strengthen SSR cooperation with regional entities, in particular the AU, RECs/RMs and the EU, including through joint or complementary deployments.

(b) Expected Outcomes, Outputs and Proposed Activities

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Peacekeeping, special political missions and host governments obtain rapid, high-quality SSR expertise on-site, on demand ·National authorities in "sustaining peace" contexts avail of SSR support to strategic planning and assessment exercises and discrete specialist tasks ·The security sectors in mission and non-mission settings include higher numbers of women and respond more effectively to the distinct security concerns of both women and men 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · SSR experts respond to requests for time-bound, specialist area or surge support from peace operations and host governments in non-mission settings, produce plans, provide expertise, draft legislation and contribute to guidance development with Inter-agency SSR Task Force and Global Focal Point partners · Gender considerations inform the work of SSR components and advisors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Recruitment, training and management of standing capacity experts ·Identification and deployment of specialist experts for discrete assignments and advisory missions ·Regular reporting to legislative bodies, SSR Group of Friends, interested member states on the impact of UN SSR support to improve responsive, representative SSR that protects civilians and ensures that SSR is reflected in peace agreements and supported throughout peace agreement implementation

(c) Implementation Timeline

Two years from the date of deployment of the SSR standing capacity experts.

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

The SSR experts would respond to requests from DPO and DPPA-led missions and from the Resident Coordinator in non-mission countries. The experts would be a resource for the Global Focal Point on Rule of Law and would liaise with PBSO as appropriate to combine specialist expertise with programmatic funding available from the PBF.

(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?

SSRU will conduct outreach to identify qualified female candidates and will ensure the experts are trained and accountable for providing gender-sensitive advice and support.

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

The success of this initiative will be a function of the quality of the recruited experts and the SSR Unit's ability to retain these experts long enough to reap the benefit of their exposure to multiple contexts and their accumulation of institutional knowledge. Travel funds to cover the cost of deployments are often unavailable or scarce. SSR Unit will continue to approach donors, including through the Group of Friends of SSR, to mobilize the necessary funds. SSR Unit would also rely on UNDP to provide logistic support to SSR experts in non-mission settings.

Instability and lack of national political will stall SSR processes or the implementation of SSR-related provisions of peace agreements, and often hinder the integration of gender perspectives into SSR programming. SSRU will work with partners and support the use of the UN's good offices to assist field missions and UN country teams to support sustainable, gender-responsive SSR.

(g) Proposed Budget

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
Staff	1 P5 SSR and 1 P5 DSR experts in Brindisi for 24 months	\$540,000
	1 P-3 SSR officer (gender) for 12 months	\$198,295
	1 GS-5 staff part-time for 2 months	\$62,500
Consultants	Senior SSR advisors for punctual assignments in South Sudan, Somalia and Libya	\$120,000
Travel	Deployment of staff and consultants in response to request for support in specialty areas	\$150,465
Contract services	Four workshops on gender and SSR in the field	\$3,000
Publications	Printing and distribution of guidance notes, fact sheets, posters	\$17,000
Programme Support Costs (13%)		\$141,863.8
		Total: \$1,233,123.8