



PROGRESS SO FAR

2019 Environment Strategy for Field Missions



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Peacekeeping Missions are reporting their overall score on the **Environmental Management Scorecard** to Member States for the second time for 2018/19. The scorecard is derived from the data collected and reported by each mission in their MEAP.

Environmental action completion rates reported in the Mission-wide Environmental Action Plan (MEAP) have climbed from 62% to 74%. Ongoing efforts to strengthen the processes for data collection and verification will support the establishment of a **robust baseline in 2020**, before entering phase 2 of strategy implementation.

All Environment Management System (EMS) process indicators (e.g. training, senior management review, emergency preparedness) demonstrate cumulative improvement, with an average 10% increase between the 2017/18 and 2018/19 periods. A few highlights include the high rate of **military and police focal points** identified across more than 90% of sites, which is integral to collaboration and mainstreaming, **awareness campaign materials** produced and used by missions at 90% of sites, which encourage individual actions around water, energy, and waste, and the increase in coverage of **environmental site inspections** from below 50% of sites per annum to 72%, noting that challenges with security and accessibility need to be overcome to reach 100%.



WATER AND WASTEWATER

Strengthened management of the risk associated with wastewater treatment and final disposal has continued to be the key priority over the past year. Among the three missions (UNMISS, UNISFA and MONUSCO) with significant risk levels identified due to system capacity issues or inability to inspect the sites and adequately assess the risk(s), UNISFA has completed its Risk Mitigation Plan, and with the deployment of a contractor for daily operations and maintenance, reported 100% of mission sites are now at minimum risk levels. In UNMISS, mitigation actions are under implementation and, noting the scale of efforts being made, it is anticipated that risk levels will be reduced to moderate over the coming period.

Water conservation plans and **SOPs for Water and Sanitation** are in place in the majority of missions. The **measurement of water use** to facilitate efforts to reduce demand is now effective in 100% of the sites for 8 Missions and in more than 80% of the sites for 5 missions. Water demand is managed through equipment such as dual-flush, low flow and dry toilets, push taps and aerated showers. **Treated wastewater reuse** is implemented in 10 Missions, not only for irrigation and dust control but also for toilet flushing and car washing.

A capacity building exercise was conducted in UNIFIL, Lebanon, in March 2019 to discuss **centralized wastewater treatment plants** as an alternative approach to modularized wastewater treatment plants, with all participants committing to

ON-GROUND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (Completed since 2017)



further improve wastewater management planning in the field.



SOLID WASTE

With the promulgation of the global **SOP on Development of Waste Management Plans** (WMPs), all missions are making concerted efforts to develop and use these plans. As of 2018/19, a total of seven missions have developed their own waste management plans including a strategy, actions and targets for improved environmental performance, with the remainder expected to be completed over the coming year. Outlined actions in the template WMP include updated waste generation assessments, more efficient waste segregation and recycling, and improved storage and handling of hazardous materials. **Dedicated waste management capacity**, specifically responsible for facilitating and monitoring the management of solid and hazardous waste, is planned by some missions.

The **site-level risk assessment methodology has continued to be applied at landfills and incinerators**. The proportion of mission sites using landfills and incinerators operating at minimum risk levels was 17% in 2018/19. Most sites across missions are at the moderate risk level in their use of final disposal sites.

Despite effective storage of **hazardous materials** in many cases, such materials are usually stockpiled in the absence of local treatment options. Improved supply, inventory, waste retention triggers for continued disposal of accumulated wastes and takeback schemes for specific goods are being developed and competent formal processors for e-waste have now been identified.

Overall, one third of waste is disposed of through preferred methods: composting, recycling, or best practice landfill/incineration. There is an opportunity to substantially increase composting rates to reduce landfill volumes, and associated scavenging. MONUSCO has significantly reduced waste to landfill at some of their sites through composting and the provision of food wastes to pig farmers, recycling for handicrafts and incineration of the remainder. With a lack of effective municipal options, and limited access to local landfills across missions generally, MINUSMA and UNSOS achieve waste disposal through incineration at centralized waste management yards, an example now being followed by other missions. Initiatives to reduce single use plastics through replacement with reusable and or compostable solutions are also now being introduced, supported by a global awareness campaign.



ENERGY

The systematic **collection of site-level data on power demand and generation** is improving across all missions resulting from progress in the installation of energy meters (an increase from 5 to 9 missions in total). The roll-out of Field Remote Infrastructure Monitoring (FRIM) in various missions in the coming year will further strengthen this indicator.

Improvements in power generation **efficiency from synchronization of generators** is increasing with 60% of the energy now supplied by

generators that are synchronised to better match seasonal and daily fluctuations in electricity demand.

With the promulgation of the global **SOP on Development of Energy Infrastructure Management Plans** (EIMPs), missions have guidance and templates, including a detailed energy assessment of all mission sites to improve the environmental performance of missions. To date, 4 EIMPs have been finalized and are ongoing in 14 missions, with integration of relevant actions into the MEAP and budget proposals.

Awareness campaigns to reduce energy consumption were carried out in most missions during the year. The implementation of energy efficiency activities, including more performant cooling strategies and installation of **LED lighting** is progressing, with three missions already achieving 100% LED penetration. The average proportion of **power generated from renewable resources** across missions has progressed from 1% to approximately 3%, attributable to the connection to renewable hydro-powered grids in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, as well as increased production from solar installations in some missions.

Transportation energy efficiency measures include maximizing aircraft passenger and cargo loads, and a vehicle-idling prevention policy implemented in some missions. The construction of **fuel-containment platforms** to avoid soil contamination in sites housing generators, fuel tanks and vehicle maintenance bays remains on-going. **Power production optimization** is also being pursued with regard to uniformed components, through collaboration between colleagues in environment, engineering, COE, and, of course, military and police, facilitated through amendments of MOUs where agreed.



WIDER IMPACT

With the promulgation of the global **SOP on Environmental Impact Assessment** (EIA), it is now compulsory for all new projects (including new sites) to conduct a screening and, where determined necessary, to complete an EIA. To date, the SOP methodology has been implemented for a new site in MONUSCO, the rehabilitation of the Kidal airstrip in MINUSMA, and is being applied to the United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement.

Most missions have established a process for **potential handover of assets with a positive environmental impact upon closure**. Impact assessments, cultural and historical training, and local fauna/flora protection measures are in place across missions, or planned, for the coming year.

Socioeconomic activities, including community outreach and mechanisms to air grievances and environmental concerns, are implemented through Quick-Impact Projects in many missions. UNMISS has put in place a regular cleanliness campaign together with the Juba City Council, other missions have implemented tree-planting projects to offset emissions, and provide work opportunities, as well as nutrition, through the planting of cashew trees. Missions are also required to report on the incorporation of environmental considerations into their conflict analysis and/or their Mission Opinion Survey.