

Redoubling Efforts to Achieve the WPS Agenda through Activities to Build Rule of Law and Security Institutions in Conflict-Affected Countries

Brief description of the project

Over twenty years ago, the United Nations Security Council adopted a landmark resolution on Women, Peace and Security (WPS)¹ acknowledging for the first time the disproportionate and unique impacts of armed conflict on women and girls. It recognized the under-valued and under-utilized contributions women make to conflict prevention and resolution. Nine subsequent resolutions were adopted to strengthen the implementation of WPS mandates². In 2018, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations established its Policy on Gender Responsive United Nations Peacekeeping Operations to guide its work in accordance with the four pillars of the WPS mandates: women's participation at all levels of decision making; prevention of conflict and all forms of violence against women; protection of women and girls and their rights; and gender responsive relief and recovery. The implementation of WPS priorities is a political commitment in the Action for Peacekeeping initiative reaffirming that women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace processes and political solutions is essential for effective peacekeeping.

Through the work of its five components, OROLSI expertise stands poised to significantly contribute to the full implementation of the WPS agenda. Given the highly technical nature of OROLSI coupled with the range of community and institutional barriers its work strives to transcend, greater collaboration across components would lend to more sustainable impacts. With improved coordination within OROLSI and the peace and security pillar, issues of intersectionality – which are critical for understanding gender inequalities – could be better integrated into policy and operational support.

Furthermore, with adequate resources the Police Division could better ensure that gender equality and WPS responsive strategies are integrated within all phases of assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of UNPOL initiatives including the prevention, detection and investigation of crime, protection of persons and property, and the maintenance of public order and safety. Working with national counterparts, justice and corrections components could support accountability for serious crimes, advise on reforming discriminatory laws, advocate for the appointment of women in justice and prison institutions and conduct training to build their professional capacities on a larger scale. The Security Sector Unit strives to increase women's participation in security policy-making and service delivery by sharing good practices and developing guidance. With more women in the sector, effectiveness and accountability is improved as is public confidence, thus, reinforcing efforts undertaken by police, justice and corrections counterparts. However, demand for support exceeds current capacities. In terms of disarmament and weapons management, the DDR Section and UNMAS prioritize women's perspectives in the design and implementation of programmes. Through their innovative skills building initiatives, if working jointly, DDR and UNMAS could strengthen their efforts to generate livelihoods for women in a variety of fields thus reinforcing their social and economic resilience.

¹ S/RES/1325 (2000)

² S/RES/1820 (2008) recognizes sexual violence as a matter of peace and security; S/RES/1888 (2009) strengthens efforts to end sexual violence in conflict; S/RES/1889 (2009) establishes indicators for monitoring resolution 1325; S/RES/1960 (2010) establishes a monitoring and reporting mechanism on sexual violence in conflict; S/RES/2106 (2013) stresses accountability for perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict; S/RES/2122 (2013) positions gender equality and women's empowerment as critical to international peace and security; S/RES/2242 (2015) establishes the Informal Experts Group and focuses on greater integration of the agendas on WPS and counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism; S/RES/2467 (2019) positions conflict-related sexual violence as firmly rooted in the broader WPS agenda; S/RES/2493 (2019) requests the UN to develop approaches for women's participation in all UN-supported peace processes.

More must be done to heed the Secretary-General’s call to action for accelerated implementation of the WPS agenda in peacekeeping contexts. In addition to being a core imperative, its transformative impact must be fully appreciated to resolve conflict, strengthen people-centered approaches, and drive sustainable, inclusive and long-lasting peace. Beginning in 2022, the Department of Peace Operations will commence its two-year A4P+ initiative. In order to ensure OROLSI delivers, greater coordination and leadership of its WPS work is required. An assessment of WPS-related guidance, policies, practices and approaches would offer an in-depth understanding what works well, what needs to improve, and what more is needed to achieve our commitments. Through a dedicated capacity, OROLSI would also be able to strengthen its partnerships across the UN system and within the peace and security pillar. It is expected that the newly established gender equality and WPS community of practice will provide an excellent platform from which OROLSI could share information, gain new insights, find resources, facilitate dialogues with stakeholders in the field and learn more, in real-time, where needs are the greatest.

Expected Outcomes, Outputs and Proposed Activities

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
OROLSI gains insight into proven good practices and is provided with recommendations for accelerating its WPS implementation	Assessment of OROLSI components’ WPS-related guidance, policies, practices and approaches	Research is carried out with support from the project lead
WPS agenda implementation is improved as are the lives of women participants and beneficiaries of OROLSI projects OROLSI delivers on the A4P+ commitment to mainstream WPS throughout all priority areas	WPS projects and initiatives are developed with improved understanding of contexts, gender intersectionality and WPS objectives Greater coherence and improved prioritization of WPS-related activities Strengthened partnerships across the UN system and within the peace and security pillar	Participate in the gender equality and WPS community of practice OROLSI WPS Focal Points network established and interactions routine Monitor compliance with A4P+ commitments

Implementation Timeline

The project is for an initial period of 12 months.

Explain how the project will further the implementation of the A4P commitment and the A4P+ priorities.

The WPS agenda is a core imperative of UN peacekeeping and its implementation underpins conflict resolution and peace sustainment. The project supports the implementation of A4P and A4P+ priorities.

Have gender aspects been included in the design and implementation of the project? How does it help the Department to implement their WPS and Gender Parity commitments?

UN policies pertaining to gender parity and equality will be adhered to in the 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.

Brief explanation of any risks that the implementation of the project may face and how to mitigate them, including with regards to the impact of COVID-19 (if relevant).

The COVID-19 pandemic places additional strain on rule of law and security institutions faced with additional tasks including to implement social distancing and respond to rising criminality and public unrest. There is also a risk that some governments utilize states of emergency to consolidate executive power at the expense of the rule of law, suppress dissent, and undermine democratic institutions. If not dealt with adequately, these challenges can fuel underlying causes of conflict all of which may spark violence. Adequate capacity is therefore essential to ensure real-time and in-depth risk analysis.

Proposed Budget

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
Research	Assessment of WPS-related guidance, policies, practices and approaches to ascertain good practices and areas to improve	\$40,000
Coordination Officer (P4)	Project lead to oversee the assessment, coordinate WPS focal points, both at HQ and in the field, monitor A4P+ WPS implementation and forge new partnerships.	\$255,295
UN Volunteer	Prepares a mapping of component's WPS initiatives, creates digital content for public information campaigns and	\$75,000
Travel	Mission visits for field analysis, stakeholder consultations and project planning.	\$25,000
PSC (13%)	Mandatory costs calculated against the subtotal of the programme support costs	\$51,388
Total:		\$466,683