

Tools to Analyse Armed Group Typology for DDR

Brief description of the project

Most ongoing conflict are characterized by high levels of fragmentation of non-state armed actors. This is a relatively new phenomenon but one that has important ramifications for all aspects of conflict management and post-conflict recovery and is disproportionately impacting DDR processes. DDR practitioners are used to perceiving armed groups through the lens of peace negotiations or accords resulting in a national DDR programme. Complementary interventions, such as Community Violence Reduction have been developed to address “other armed groups” or armed actors non-eligible for DDR and some research has been done on the interface between DDR and armed groups qualified as “terrorist” but the level of understanding of subtle differences among armed groups present in a given context is still not commensurate to the scale of the problem. Yet, DDR practitioners are often the first point of contact between armed groups and the mission and as such they should be equipped with analytical tools that will allow them to understand the map of armed actors in the country and, a step further, to be able to identify interventions appropriate to addressing various types of those actors.

This project builds directly on an earlier research project, submitted in 2021 and funded thanks to a generous support of a donor, entitled *Viability Study on Armed Groups Typology Tool for DDR*, the objective of which was to conduct a desk review of existing typology tools and assess their adaptability for DDR purposes. The research demonstrated that while a plethora of typology tools exist, analysis is done for a variety of purposes (such as scientific classification; humanitarian access etc.) that are not compatible with DDR objective of management of, and finding the best way to eventually disband, armed groups. Yet such a tool, specifically in the context of the operationalization of the newly revised Integrated DDR Standards (namely its module 3.20 on the Politics of DDR) is urgently needed to ensure that the DDR processes adopt the most feasible way of reintegrating armed elements into the mainstream of the society.

The current phase will consist of the development of a tool (including potentially coding into a simple application) to comparatively analyse and group types of armed actors present in a given environment. It will consist of two expert webinars (a inception and a validation ones), tool development (and optionally: coding) and a test in a single operating environment TBD. The tool is expected to become the critical decision-making support for the Senior DDR operatives in the field aiming to adapt the best tools to the management and disbandment of armed groups in a given context.

Expected Outcomes, Outputs and Proposed Activities

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
Increased understanding of DDR dynamics in areas characterized by large fragmentation of non-state armed actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An inception workshop seeking expert advice on elements needed to determine armed group typologies for DDR purposes;• Requisite tool;• <i>Electronic version of the tool to facilitate usage in the field (an app) -if feasible/required</i> Validation workshop.	Consultancy; Desk study and analysis; a workshop.
Improved adaptability of DDR tools and resources based on the typologies of armed groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field testing of the tool developed;• Validation and dissemination	Consultancy (part of the above); a workshop; field travel.

- **Implementation Timeline**

Implementation of this project is planned for 2022. It is designed as a six-to-nine-month project but is not continuous (with periods of document consultations and readjustments) so the consultancy may take longer within the funding period.

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

The project has a very high criticality as the fragmentation of armed groups is currently a dominant characteristic in the field of conflict management and a key precondition for response readjustment. DDR as such fits directly into the A4P priority six on strengthening the impact of peacekeeping on sustaining peace (specifically, sub-commitment 31 on integrated analysis; but also sub-commitment 1 on advancing political solutions), but the project itself touches upon the priority one on politics (through increasing the nuanced understanding on the scope of political engagement with armed groups) and priority five on performance and accountability through trying to adjust programming to each identified sub-category of armed groups.

- **How 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?**

By policy and design, gender element is included in all DDR Section projects and initiatives. In the context of ongoing revision of the Integrated DDR Standards, this aspect of DDR processes will be further streamlined as, per a unanimous decision of the IAWG members, gender will now cut across all the modules in addition to a specific module on DDR and Gender developed by UN WOMEN. Adjusting DDR to new environments has resulted in tools, such as Community Violence Reduction, that ensure increased balance among combatant and non-combatant men, women, boys and girls benefiting from DDR processes.

- **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 phased approach to this study is an element of risk management. The research area is an emergent one and lack of evidence may prohibit the full implementation of typology-based tools.

- **Proposed Budget**

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
Consultants	One lead consultant for the project project.	\$90,000
	One developer/assistant/IT expert as feasible	\$25,000
Travel	Field-testing travel to one country	\$15,000
Two workshops	Incl. travel and hosting costs	\$75,000
Programme Support Costs (13%)		\$26,650
	Total:	\$231,650