

Rapid Assistance to Support National Investigations and Prosecutions of Crimes that Fuel Conflict in Peacekeeping and Prevention Settings

(a) Brief description of the project

- (i) **Objective:** Strengthen national accountability mechanisms for crimes that fuel conflict in peacekeeping and prevention settings through rapidly deployable expertise and enhanced South-South cooperation.
- (ii) **Why the project is necessary and how it relates to the implementation of the A4P commitments:** The effective investigation and prosecution of crimes that fuel conflict require dedicated and specialized national capacity, including on prosecutorial strategies, preservation of evidence and victim and witness protection. The absence of such capacity entails major risks, including intimidation of victims and witnesses, delayed proceedings, disappearance of evidence, unlawful detention, and ultimately a loss of trust and legitimacy of the state and the peace process. Many crimes that fuel conflict involve transnational criminal networks or violent extremist groups. Without effective international/regional judicial cooperation to share information and enable extraditions, there is a serious risk of impunity for transnational crimes. The project contributes to (i) the protection area of the A4P agenda by deterring the recurrence of atrocity crimes and other crimes that fuel conflict, (ii) the safety and security of peacekeepers by promoting accountability for crimes against peacekeepers, and (iii) the sustaining peace agenda by supporting the establishment of effective national rule of law institutions.
- (iii) **What is the expected impact of the project?** More effective investigations and prosecutions of crimes that fuel conflict contribute to (i) building citizens' trust in the justice system and the state; (ii) enabling more comprehensive and victim-centered transitional justice processes and advancing lasting political solutions, key priorities of the A4P agenda; (iii) deterring the recurrence of serious crimes, including conflict-related sexual violence, thereby helping to protect civilians; (iv) weakening transnational criminal networks and violent extremist groups.

(b) Expected Outcomes, Outputs and Proposed Activities

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
National prosecution services in at least three peacekeeping and prevention settings in West Africa, the Great Lakes region and the Middle East, have increased capacity to effectively prosecute serious crimes that fuel conflict	Needs for support identified and assessment reports produced	In response to requests for rapid assistance, conduct assessments in two non-mission prevention settings, likely in West Africa, to identify specific needs and areas of support regarding the investigation and prosecution of crimes that fuel conflict
	Key strategic documents and plans, including on the prioritization of cases, how to build complex cases and prosecutorial strategies, developed	In response to specific requests for rapid assistance, provide technical, logistical and advocacy support to national judicial authorities in two priority settings in West Africa and the Great Lakes region, on the development of prosecutorial strategies and related plans
Prioritization of cases and exchange of information in relation to transnational crimes agreed upon by at least one regional	At least one regional judicial cooperation network has strengthened capacity to identify and implement priority	Organize two international workshops with 25 participants each, including prosecutors, investigators and legal experts, for a South-South exchange of good practices on (i) the prioritization of cases and development of prosecutorial strategies, (ii) collection and preservation of evidence, and (iii) witness and

judicial cooperation network	areas for judicial cooperation	victim protection in cooperation with the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network and other regional cooperation frameworks
------------------------------	--------------------------------	--

(c) Implementation Timeline

January 2021 – December 2021. This project is designed to be implemented over a period of two years, but this proposal is budgeted for one year, with the option of extending to a second year if funding is made available.

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

The project will be jointly implemented by the Justice and Corrections Service (JCS) and Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity (JCSC), OROLSI, DPO, in cooperation with partners of the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law, such as UNDP, UNODC, OHCHR and UNWomen. The JCSC is a field-oriented and demand-driven capacity that provides rapidly deployable expertise in the areas of justice and corrections upon request from UN system partners. In recent months alone, the JCSC received requests for support to criminal accountability in Burkina Faso and Mali, which it is unable to serve due to a lack of specialized expertise and capacity.

(e) 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?

The project will contribute to the four pillars of the WPS Agenda as follows: **(i) Participation:** Adequate participation of women from judicial national institutions beneficiaries of the capacity-building activities will be ensured to enhance their specialized skills on the investigation and prosecution of international crimes and promote their contribution to peace and security efforts. Assessments carried out will take a gender perspective when identifying needs and areas of support; **(ii) Protection:** The project will contribute to enhancing the protection of women, by applying a gender-sensitive approach to the protection of victims and witnesses and protection mechanisms; **(iii) Prevention:** A significant proportion of serious crimes committed during conflict are crimes of conflict-related sexual violence against women and girls. This project will support the development of prosecutorial strategies that prioritize crimes of conflict-related violence, thereby promoting accountability for these crimes; **(iv) Reparation (relief and recovery):** By strengthening capacities for the prosecution of international crimes, the project will take into account the issue of reparations for victims and survivors, from a gender perspective.

(f) 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.

In the event that travel restrictions persist into 2021, the JCSC Senior Investigation and Prosecution Advisor will provide remote support to UN partners and national authorities. Regional workshops/meetings of prosecutors would be held virtually. The project budget would be adjusted accordingly. There would also be an additional focus on assistance to remote court hearings and investigations in accordance with international standards.

(g) Proposed Budget

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
Accommodation	Accommodation for a total of 25 participants in two 2-week workshops on judicial cooperation	50,000
Travel	Travel of a total of 25 workshop participants in two workshops	50,000
Workshop location	Renting of facilities for two 2-week workshops	3,000
Services	A total of 3 working months of a local/regional service provider/NGO to organize, implement and facilitate two international workshops	30,000
Personnel Costs	Senior Investigation and Prosecution Advisor for 12 work months at the P5 level	321,000
Travel	Travel and DSA of the Senior Prosecution Advisor to two non-mission prevention settings to conduct assessments	13,000
Travel	Travel and DSA of the Senior Prosecution Advisor to 2 priority settings for 3 months each	50,000
Programme Support Costs (13%)		67,210
Total		584,210