

DDR Surge Capacity in Brindisi (Extension)

(a) Brief description of the project

The objective of this project is to provide surge capacity to strengthen DDR-related support to the United Nations Peace Operations, including Special Political Missions, Regional Offices, and non-mission settings. The growing recognition of the ability of the DDR Section in the Department of Peace Operations to significantly contribute to sustaining-peace initiatives has led to a rise in requests from UN Resident Coordinators and Members States for support in outlining options to address risks posed by armed groups. Currently, the DDR Section is trying to accommodate requests, but is at the limits of its capacity both in terms of staffing and funding for travel. Shrinking budgets and cuts in staffing have reduced the possibility of seeking PKO support in deploying field-based experts.

DDR as such supports the A4P priority six on strengthening the impact of peacekeeping on sustaining peace but the versatile nature of tasks that the Standing Capacity may perform means that the project itself straddles all the key priorities of the A4P. Under the current situation, the Standing Capacity will also play a critical role in readjusting DDR and CVR interventions to the post-COVID-19 World.

The DDR Section has received an initial contribution from a donor to cover the creation of the surge capacity in Brindisi through the mid-2020, subsequently extended. The surge capacity proved to be instrumental, among other contexts in transitioning DDR/CVR operations in Haiti and Sudan, in developing plans and contributing to DDR forward thinking in Libya, South Sudan or Yemen etc. The interest by various entities, as gauged by the DDR Section, lets anticipate almost continuous deployment of the staff outside the home base for the duration of the current appointment and beyond. The DDR Section is therefore seeking the extension of the surge capacity in Brindisi for 2021 and an endowment for travel covering the same period.

(b) Expected Outcomes, Outputs and Proposed Activities

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
DDR expert capacity to support issues of supra-state relevance	Assistance in the formulation of regional strategies on DDR processes and DDR related tools, concepts of operations and other plans for further development	To maintain surge capacity to support DDR-related issues;
Sustaining peace through reducing threats posed by armed groups in settings where no UN mission is present	Support to national framework development and options for the United Nations backstopping in non-mission contexts	To act as a rapidly deployable surge capacity
Rapidly deployable surge capacity to missions that experience staff shortages in peak periods	The provision of guidance and development of complex programmes and projects, as well as thorough review and evaluation of said programmes and projects	To deploy on a short notice where support is most needed

(c) Implementation Timeline

The project is proposed for the duration of one year.

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

DDR processes are implemented through various partnerships with both United Nations and non-United Nations entities. At the United Nations level, the inter-Agency Working Group on DDR coordinates activities of all UN entities active in DDR and brings them together with select external partners. While this is true for both mission and non-mission settings, broad-based partnerships are especially vital for settings where UN presence is limited as both political engagement on the issue of armed groups and programmatic activities require increased focus in areas where resources for such activities are scarce.

(e) How have gender aspects been included in the design and implementation of the project?

DDR engagements are designed in a gender-responsive manner where specific needs of men, women, boys and girls are separately analysed and addressed. While members of armed groups tend to be predominantly male, the DDR doctrine has expanded the definition of its target caseload to include children and adults of both sexes acting in various support roles to the armed groups thus increasing gender range of such caseloads. Increasingly, community-based interventions provide support in the reintegration of ex-combatants through projects involving a percentage of community members thus further improving the gender balance of DDR.

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

Potential funding disruption is a major risk. The DDR Section would ultimately like to provide the surge capacity as a systemic service, in order to better address the increased and unpredictable security threats globally. In the long-term, the DDR Section hopes to establish this post permanently through regular United Nations budgeting. In the meantime, any gaps in funding will limit the efficacy of such support and negatively impact the perception of the DDR Section as a reliable service provider.

Existence of operational risks is inherent to work targeting armed groups. The DDR Section is one of the few Secretariat entities that have developed their own risk-management methodology. This methodology is evolving and being strengthened to ensure that DDR practitioners are well-equipped to manage such risks.

(g) Proposed budget

Item¹	Brief Description	Total Amount
1 P4 for 12 months	Surge capacity to provide support to regional offices / issues	228,900
Travel	Flexible destination allowed for in order to reflect the necessity of the P4's employment	60,000
Programme Support Costs (13%) ²		37,557
Total		\$326,457

¹ Post estimates need to include salary for the period together with standard costs, which include the following costs: (i) Rental Premises; (ii) Office Supplies; (iii) Telephone and Fax; and (iv) Computing Services. For the most recent scale of salaries and standard costs, please consult with the Executive Office. If you need a salary list, please contact OCOS or the EO.

² Mandatory Programme Support costs to be calculated against the subtotal of the programme support costs.