

Strengthening DDR Support to Special Political Missions and Non-Mission Settings

(a) Brief description of the project

Under this project, DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section provides substantive support on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) as well as Community Violence Reduction (CVR) to Member States, SPMs, UN Regional Offices, Special Envoys, and Resident Coordinators for the period between 1 March 2021 until 28 February 2023.

(i) Objective of the project:

The project will continue to facilitate i) DDR support to SPMs and non-mission settings, as institutionalized through the Secretary-General's reform of the UN Peace and Security Architecture and the A4P agenda, and ii) to contribute to the operationalization of the Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS).

(ii) Why the project is necessary and how it relates to the implementation of the A4P commitments.

In line with its new role as system-wide service provider which has been formalized in the context of the UN Peace and Security Architecture reform, the DDR section currently provides DDR/CVR backstopping support to 15 SPMs and non-mission settings¹. Support provided in this context is in line with the A4P agenda, specifically its people-centred approach and focus on politics, partnerships, peacebuilding and sustaining peace (including sub-commitments 1 on advancing political solutions; and sub-commitments 37 on enhancing collaboration and planning between the UN and relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations and arrangements) . However, despite this fact and in line with the ongoing reform process which calls for “zero growth” at present, no additional resources have been provided to the DDR Section by the Peacekeeping Support Account or Regular Budget for this new pillar of work. Thus, the project is necessary to ensure coherence of the UN approach to DDR and compliance with the IDDRS. Furthermore, it will function as a catalyser for field components, improving UN performance on DDR/CVR and support peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

(iii) What is the expected impact of the project?

If DPO could profit from the requested funding, then it could sustain and expand its support to SPMs operational back-stopping support to DDR components/focal points. The provision of technical support and guidance will increase the capacity of SPMs and RCOs to support DDR processes and contribute to stability, conflict prevention and post-conflict recovery (early peacebuilding), including confidence-building measures in the target areas. Particularly with the COVID-19 related restrictions, remote technical assistance and advise on DDR guidance has become more important, to continue critical activities, maintain contacts and front load policy focused initiatives that can be advanced under the current circumstances.

¹IDDRS currently provides support to the following SPMs: BINUH, OSESG-Great Lakes, OSESG Syria, OSESG Yemen, UNAMI, UNOAU, UNSMIL, UNSOM, UNVMC as well as in these non-mission Settings: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone.

(b) Expected Outcomes, Outputs and Proposed Activities

| Outcomes | Outputs | Proposed Activities |
|---|--|---|
| DDR/CVR support to SPMs and non-mission settings sustained and enhanced | DDR/CVR strategies and project documents | DDR/CVR remote technical assistance and facilitation of training opportunities for UN staff and national counterparts |
| DDR/CVR activities in SPMs and non-mission settings improved | DDR/CVR PBF project proposals | DDR/CVR technical assessment missions with findings reports and recommendations |

(c) Implementation Timeline

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 linked to the work of the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on DDR, co-chaired by DPO and UNDP. The IAWG represents a distinct and functional application of the “UN Delivering as One” concept, in that 25 UN entities have come together to developed and maintain common DDR guidance in form of the IDDRS. Furthermore, the project entails exchanges and coordination with regional and sub-regional organization such as the European Union and the African Union.

(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?

Gender responsiveness and inclusivity is a guiding principle of the IDDRS. Women are increasingly involved in combat or are associated with armed groups and forces in other roles, work as community peace-builders, and play essential roles in DDR processes. Technical assistance under the project framework is thus implemented under the framework of UNSCR 1325 (2000).

(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.

A successful implementation of the project may be constrained – but certainly not entirely hindered – in case of a serious deterioration of the security situation in one of the beneficiary countries. IDDRS in close cooperation with DPPA-DPO will constantly monitor the situation on the ground to identify potential threats and adapt/adjust activities on the ground accordingly. Furthermore, COVID-19 has disrupted DDR-related activities in DDR field operations as well as at UNHQ. The impact of the pandemic can be mitigated by adjusting project timelines, and re-prioritizing activities which can be conducted remotely.

(g) Proposed Budget

| Item² | Brief Description | Total Amount |
|--|---|---------------------|
| P4 Post | Project staff for 1 year | 236,960 |
| Travel costs | DDR/CVR field visits to SPMs and non-mission settings | 27,500 |
| Programme Support Costs (13%) ³ | | 34,380 |
| Total | | \$298,840 |

² 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 ODCSS or the EO.

³ Mandatory Programme Support costs to be calculated against the subtotal of the programme support costs.