

Strengthening the UN SSR Field Components Support to the Implementation of Women, Peace and Security Agenda

(a) Brief description of the project

(i) Objective

- Ensure that SSR components in the field, with support from the OROLSI SSR Unit at Headquarters, have enhanced capacity and policy tools to implement Women, Peace and Security (WPS) priorities;
- Promote increased diversity in the national security and defence sectors by supporting their institutions to identify and address barriers to women's participation and enhance their responsiveness to women's security needs.

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

The project will enhance peace operations' performance in implementing the WPS commitments, as called by the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping Initiative, as well as by Member States and the UN system with urgency in different forums:

- It builds on the recommendations arising from the consultations with Member States through the High-level Roundtable on Gender Parity and SSR (March, 2019) and DPO consultations with women leaders, ex-combatants and SSR officers in peace operations (October 2019)¹, which called on the UN to enhance SSR field components' capacity to assist conflict-affected countries to advance the WPS agenda.
- It is aligned with Security Council Resolution 2151 (2014) on Security Sector Reform which underscores "the importance of women's equal and effective participation and full involvement in all stages of the security sector reform process."
- It will operationalize at the field level the SSR elements of the UNSC WPS resolutions 1820, 1888, 2106, 2122, and 2464, as well as the DPO-DFS policy Gender-responsive United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (2018) and the UN Integrated Technical Guidance Note on Gender-Responsive SSR (2012). It will also support gender aspects of country-specific SSR mandates in Mali, CAR, South Sudan, Somalia, DRC, Yemen and Libya.

(iii) How the project contributes to COVID-19 response

The project will ensure that the UN is adequately prepared to support national security sectors in designing and implementing measures that respond to the security needs of women during the COVID-19 pandemic.

(iv) What is the expected impact of the project? The project will enable missions to deliver gender-responsive support to the reform of national security and defence institutions, including by assisting them to identify and address barriers to women's participation in the national security sector and enhance their responsiveness to women's security needs in the context of COVID-19. The indicators, assessments and training sessions will build the capacity and tailor the gender work of SSR field components of peace operations

- (1) to design and implement strategic measures to identify and address barriers to women's meaningful participation in the security sector, such as increase the proportion of women at all levels of the security sector and promote non-discriminatory work-place culture;
- (2) to provide gender-responsive security services by assessing specific security threats that women, men, girls, and boys face in particular during COVID-19; designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating gender-responsive security strategies and plans, with focus on the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence in conflict, post-conflict and development settings;

¹ See report cleared by USG "Strengthening gender-responsive DDR and SSR in UN peacekeeping Operations" (October 2019).

(3) establish partnerships and mobilize support from regional organizations, bilateral partners, civil society and expert organizations to the SSR initiatives on WPS.

(b) Expected outcomes, outputs and proposed activities

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed activities
1. The United Nations provides coherent SSR assistance to Member States on the implementation of the WPS agenda	<p>a. Develop indicators to guide and measure progress and challenges on UN SSR assistance to the WPS agenda</p> <p>b. Fact sheet including checklist on how to advance WPS priorities in the reform of national security sectors</p>	Facilitate meetings and policy dialogues within the UN SSR Inter-Agency SSR Task-Force, UN SSR Group of Friends, regional partners, academia and senior women from security sectors of conflict-affected countries to discuss, develop and launch the indicators and fact sheet.
2. National security sectors receive adequate UN support to increase the numbers of women at all levels and respond more effectively to women's security needs including in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic.	<p>a. WPS priorities are mainstreamed into the work of SSR components in the field, in particular in their support to the COVID-19 response.</p> <p>b. Report with country-specific data on the barriers to women's meaningful participation in the security sector with recommendations</p> <p>c. Senior women in the security sector of conflict affected countries received advanced training on leadership and the WPS agenda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment visits to at least three peace operations and/or virtual workshops to inform the development of baselines and indicators on WPS for SSR teams and prepare a report with data on the barriers to women's participation in the security sector of conflict affected countries with recommendations. - Regular VTC advisory sessions with SSR units to mainstream WPS priorities and indicators in work plan and mission priorities, including in the prevention and response to COVID-19. - Organize an advanced virtual training and workshop for senior women in the national security sector of conflict affected countries and gender focal points of SSR Teams and national security actors on the WPS agenda

(c) Implementation timeline

The project will be implemented over twelve months. The first month will focus on planning the project activities, with the next eleven dedicated to implementation, including an assessment and provision of technical advice.

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

This project will be implemented in coordination with the DPO and DDPA Gender Offices, UN Women, as well as in partnership with UN Member States, regional organizations, academia and civil society.

(e) How will gender aspects be included in the design and implementation of the project? How does it help the Department to implement its Women, Peace and Security and Gender Parity commitments?

Project is entirely focused on gender.

(f) Brief explanation of any risks that the implementation of the project may face and how to mitigate these, including with regard to the impact of COVID-19.

SSR field components are often challenged by having limited resources and capacity. This may also be the case during COVID-19. This project aims at effectively addressing such challenges, as OROLSI SSR Unit will have a dedicated staff to provide substantive and technical support to field missions in implementation of gender-related activities, including on drafting documents and organizing the training and advisory sessions. Assessments will also be developed through virtual workshops in case in-person engagement is not possible.

(g) Proposed budget

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
Publication of documents	Design, editing, printing and distributing WPS fact sheet	\$6,000
HQ Field assessments	2 economy-class return flight tickets of \$1,500 = \$3,000 DSA for 2 travels of 7 days x \$ 224 per day = \$3,136	\$6,136
Contract services	Policy dialogues in field and headquarters	\$2,000
	1 Advanced virtual course on WPS for 10 Gender Focal Points of SSR Teams on WPS agenda	\$8,000
	1 Advanced virtual course on leadership skills for 15 senior women in the security sector of conflict affected countries	\$10,000
	1 research report prepared by an expert organization with data on the barriers to women's participation in the security sector of three conflict affected countries where UN has SSR mandate	\$35,000
Travel support to national authorities from conflict-affected countries	Round-trip flight tickets to NY for senior women in the security sector of conflict affected countries to participate in a High-Level Discussion with Member-States on the barriers assessment report 3 economy-class flight tickets of \$1,500 = \$4,500 DSA for 3 travels of 3 days x \$ 433 per day = \$3,897	\$8,397
Staff-personnel	1 P-3 Programme Manager (12 months)	\$198,295
Program Support Costs (13%)		\$35,598
Total		\$309,426