

UNMAS Independent Analysis by a Group of Experts

Brief description of the project

The Report of the Board of Auditors on United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/75/5(Vol. II) para. 175) recommended that the SG conduct an: “independent analysis by a group of experts of whether UNMAS’ current exclusive partnership with UNOPS is cost-effective and delivering on the missions’ mandates and evaluate the benefits of UNMAS implementing a certain share of mine action activities itself, for example, by directly administering third-party agreements through UNMAS programme managers in the field.”

The SG accepted the recommendation in his report on the Implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2020 (A/75/793):

The Administration intends to undertake the recommended independent evaluation: (a) after the memorandum of understanding between the Secretariat and UNOPS has been revised and is under implementation, to establish a new baseline for comparing the delivery model of the Mine Action Service and UNOPS partnership with other such models; (b) when the evaluators can undertake field visits and meet with stakeholders; and (c) after several initiatives currently under way to strengthen the delivery model of the Mine Action Service have had a chance to show their effectiveness.

This project seeks to ensure that UNMAS can engage independent, external experts to conduct a thorough review that ensures that all relevant organizational options are explored with a view to optimizing the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of mine action activities on the ground. UNMAS anticipates the General Assembly requesting the SG to present the conclusions of the review together with follow-up actions and decisions.

Expected Outcomes, Outputs and Proposed Activities

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
UNMAS delivers mine action mandates in the most effective and efficient manner possible.	An independent analysis by a group of experts on the organizational options for effectively and efficiently delivering mine action mandates.	Desk review of the information
		Interviews of relevant stakeholders
		Field visits (2) to field programmes
		Consolidation of the report conclusions

- **Implementation Timeline**

The timeline for this analysis is estimated at 6 months to be completed during the second quarter of 2022.

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

UNMAS contributes directly to the safety and security of peacekeepers, to the protection of civilians, to sustaining peace and to political solutions to conflict. It is imperative that these programmes be delivered in the most effective and efficient manner possible. The analysis will review the extent to which the Force, other UN entities or external implementing partners are capable of delivering the various components of a mine action programme and will compare the cost and efficiency of alternatives to the current delivery model.

- **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 independent analysis will consider, inter alia, the ability of the full range of possible implementing partners, and direct delivery by the secretariat, to deliver gender-sensitive mine action programmes.

- **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 SG indicated he wants to conduct this analysis after the MOU between the UN and UNOPS is amended and once the reviewers could travel to the field. These two pre-requisite conditions for an optimal review may cause delays. However, the review will proceed regardless to meet the Q2 2022 deadline, or earlier deadlines if imposed by the general Assembly.

- **Proposed Budget**

The project would require the engagement of a professional consulting firm and two field trips would also be conducted within the framework of the project.

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
Personnel	Consultant experts	\$90,000
Travel	Two field trips for the experts	\$30,000
Programme Support Costs (13%)		\$15,600
	Total:	\$135,600