

Viability Study on Armed Groups Typology Tools for DDR

This project has been updated to look at potential behavioral change of armed groups due to the COVID-19 pandemic and possible programmatic responses/adjustments required (both challenges and opportunities)

(a) Brief description of the project

Most ongoing conflict are characterized by high levels of fragmentation of non-state armed actors. This is a relatively new phenomenon but one that has important ramifications for all aspects of conflict management and post-conflict recovery and is disproportionately impacting DDR processes. DDR practitioners are used to perceiving armed groups through the lens of peace negotiations or accords resulting in a national DDR programme. Complementary interventions, such as Community Violence Reduction have been developed to address “other armed groups” or armed actors non-eligible for DDR and some research has been done on the interface between DDR and armed groups qualified as “terrorist” but the level of understanding of subtle differences among armed groups present in a given context is still not commensurate to the scale of the problem. Yet, DDR practitioners are often the first point of contact between armed groups and the mission and as such they should be equipped with analytical tools that will allow them to understand the map of armed actors in the country and, a step further, to be able to identify interventions appropriate to addressing various types of those actors.

The project has a very high criticality as the fragmentation of armed groups is currently a dominant characteristic of in the field of conflict management and a key precondition for response readjustment. DDR as such fits directly into the A4P priority six on strengthening the impact of peacekeeping on sustaining peace (specifically, sub-commitment 31 on integrated analysis; but also sub-commitment 1 on advancing political solutions), but the project itself touches upon the priority one on politics (through increasing the nuanced understanding on the scope of political engagement with armed groups) and priority five on performance and accountability through trying to adjust programming to each identified sub-category of armed groups.

With this project proposal, the DDR Section seeks to initiate a research on how the fragmentation of armed groups can be addressed by identifying and jointly addressing by adapted programmatic interventions various types of armed groups present in one single conflict environment (national or regional). The phase one of the project, described below, will be a viability study scoping the problem, identifying typology tools already present in the area of conflict management, analysing them from the perspective of DDR and providing a decision point on whether developing typology tools has a potential to positively impact post-conflict armed-group management.

The project will include the scoping of two elements: (a) existing typology tools and templates that the UN could use as are, with a detailed assessment of usability by field practitioners; and (b) two or three environments with a diverse armed group landscape to assess to the extent possible whether the different typologies could possibly be useful for programming, including opportunity and risk analysis. Travel to one context is budgeted for but must be justified by operational reasons and may not be possible if analysing high-risk contexts; a desk study / literature review is a primary tool. **This is a viability study so the principal recommendation by the researcher will be on whether or not the DDR Community (and UN at large) should further pursue this line of inquiry.**

The result of the viability study will be presented at a peer review workshop that will be used as a sounding board for the recommendations and proposed way forward.

(b) Expected Outcomes, Outputs and Proposed Activities

Outcomes	Outputs	Sample Activities
Increased understanding of DDR dynamics in areas characterized by large fragmentation of non-state armed actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping and analysis of existing typology tools; • Desk study on contexts with typologically diverse armed groups (travel if necessary to obtain first-hand evidence) • Viability study on the development of DDR-specific tools aiming at adapting programming according to the nature of “types” of armed actors present in a conflict area. 	Consultancy; Desk study and analysis; <i>Travel to one context, if required and possible;</i> Developing a set of recommendations for a larger project.
Better understanding of the influence of the COVID-19 pandemics on behavioral patterns of armed groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of the armed groups’ reactions to the COVID-19 pandemics in existing DDR contexts from the perspective of adjusting the programming 	Consultancy (part of the above)

(c) Implementation Timeline

Implementation of this cluster of projects is planned for 2021. It is designed as a six-to-nine-month project but is not continuous (with periods of document consultations and readjustments) so the consultancy may take longer within the funding period.

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

The Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on DDR currently comprising 26 members has been the main platform to ensure consistency of DDR-related concepts and approaches in mission and non-mission settings. The IAWG formed further partnerships among academia, training institutions (Integrated DDR Training Group). IAWG entities in the lead of developing the Integrated DDR Standards on the Politics of DDR, including the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, would be a natural partner in the implementation of this proposal.

(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?

By policy and design, gender element is included in all DDR Section projects and initiatives. In the context of ongoing revision of the Integrated DDR Standards, this aspect of DDR processes will be further streamlined as, per a unanimous decision of the IAWG members, gender will now cut across all the modules in addition to a specific module on DDR and Gender developed by UN WOMEN. Adjusting DDR to new environments has resulted in tools, such as Community Violence Reduction,

that ensure increased balance among combatant and non-combatant men, women, boys and girls benefiting from DDR processes.

(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.

The phased approach to this study is an element of risk management. The research area is emergent one and lack of evidence may prohibit the full implementation of typology-based tools. However, a viability study could provide recommendations related to the future direction of the project and projections about best implementation time lines.

(g) Proposed Budget

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
Consultants	One consultant to develop mapping, analysis and recommendations and to put together the viability study including the outline of a broader project.	63,000
Travel	Research travel to one country	10,000
Workshop	Incl. travel and hosting costs	35,000
Programme Support Costs (13%)		14,040
Total		\$122,040