Research-Based Foundations of Innovation in DDR

(a) Brief description of the project

The project aims at producing in-depth analysis regarding the design, implementation and support to DDR processes and programming conducted in complex contexts. For this purpose, DDRS will promote collaboration with external entities – academic and research institutions – through the development of a series of articles on key thematic areas. Research proposals should cover emerging challenges, innovative approaches and new areas of interventions associated with the implementation of DDR processes and programmes. The research could also serve to analyze the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on DDR/CVR operations and to highlgit innovative approaches adopted to address challenges. The goal is to invest on research and analysis in order to produce a more comprehensive, integrated, and detailed body of knowledge

Today's conflicts are increasingly complex and DDR practitioners are faced with emerging challenges that require the development of new policies and practices. The most common elements of this evolution are represented by the protracted nature of conflicts, fragmentation of armed groups and lack of clear political agendas. In line with the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P), addressing these challeges requires improving UN's ability to deliver on its mandates, particularly by promoting political solutions to the conflict, promoting gender-responsive processes and strengthiening partnerhsips. All these aspects could be further analyzed through the research.

Overall, there is a need to enhance the coherence of efforts, foster cross-cutting approaches and address operational gaps. Most importantly, current practices should be reviewed and analyzed to assess their effectiveness and results. The aim of this project is precisely to draw the attention to modern challenges and provide insights for the development of innovative, evidence-based solutions.

(b) Expected Outcomes, Outputs and Proposed Activities

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
Expanded knowledge on innovative approaches and best practices, as well as political, operational and programmatic challenges associated with the implementation of DDR processes.	Academic publication developed, validated and disseminated, including 7 in-depth articles produced by academic/research institutions.	- Establish reference group for the implementation of the project; - Define thematic/priority areas to be covered, clear eligibility criteria and procedures. - Disseminate call for proposals - Review submissions and select 7 research projects - Revise research design/methodology. - Support article development by (i) allocating funds (ii) facilitating scoping interviews, (ii) assisting field research to mission and non-mission settings, as required, (iii) reviewing draft articles. - Revise and propose adjustments to draft.

		- Validate article for publication. - Publish academic article - Organize launch event and subsequent discussions.

(c) Implementation Timeline

1 August 2020 – 31 July 2021

(d) How does this project relate to internal and external United Nations partners?
The project will engage UN entities associated with the implementation of DDR processes. These will be invited to be part of the reference group responsible for revising research projects. In addition, the initiative will promote collaboration with external organizations – academic and research institutions – which will develop in-depth analysis on emerging practices, operational challenges and new areas of interventions.

(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?

The design and implementation of gender-responsive DDR processes and programmes will constitute a priority area of research. Therefore, external entities will be encouraged to submit research proposal on this subject, highlighting women's diverse roles within armed groups as well as clear recommendations on programmatic interventions to address their needs.

(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 development of research articles might be delayed due to deterioration of security conditions and prolonged restrictions due to COVID-19, hich will impede field research. This issue will be addressed through remote data collection. To ensure commitment of the experts in drafting articles and compliance with the timeline, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be developed between DPO/OROLSI/DDRS and their respective institutions.

(g) Proposed Budget

Item	Description	Amount
Research funds	Funds to be allocated across 5 article proposals, based on research design (around 15,000 per project to cover expenses)	$75,000
Publication	Compilation, copy editing and printing	$15,000
Launch event + dissemination	Organization of launch of event in New York and subsequent discussions on specific articles	$15,000
Programme Support costs (13%)		13,650
Total		**$118,650**