

MOWIP Methodology Explainer 7 for completing EIF Letter of Interest (LOI)

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In this Explainer, we provide additional guidance on how to complete a Letter of Interest (LOI) for submission to the Elsie Initiative Fund (EIF) for funding to support the implementation of a Measuring Opportunities for Women in Peace Operations (MOWIP) assessment. We recommended that prior to the application your security organisation reads the MOWIP methodology and is familiar with all of the requirements to plan and implement the assessment.

What you will need

Your application to the EIF includes many of the standard templates used in applying the MOWIP methodology. You will need:

- EIF (download EIF forms here: <https://elsiefund.org/resources/elsie-initiative-fund-documents/>)
 - Letter of Interest (LOI) Template
 - LOI Explainer
- MOWIP (Download from the MOWIP Toolbox: dcaf.ch/mowip)
 - [MOWIP Methodology](#)
 - [Explainer 1 - Implementation Options](#)
 - [Explainer 4 - Assessment Plan Timeline](#)

1. EIF Letter of Interest (LOI) Form

More information on completing the LOI template is provided in the EIF LOI Explainer, available on the EIF website.

Part One - Applicant Details

Fund recipient

Note that a separate MOWIP assessment is needed for each type of institution, so please submit multiple applications if you are applying for both the military and the police for example.

It is possible for one assessment team to implement multiple MOWIP assessments in more than one institution simultaneously or sequentially. Conducting the assessments sequentially may take longer overall, but if the same team is used, fewer people will need to be trained and they will have more expertise when it comes to implementing the methodology for the second time. DCAF and the EIF strongly recommend conducting MOWIP assessments sequentially. If the methodology is implemented simultaneously, a larger team will be needed which will require very strong leadership and coordination, so please consider whether the implementing partners have the necessary capacity.

In addition, T/PCCs who wish to use the Cornell Gender and Security Sector (GSS) Lab should seek preliminary approval of the project timeline from Cornell University when drafting the LOI and again

before submitting the full proposal. This is to ensure that the GSS Lab has the necessary capacity to support the MOWIP assessment process during the desired timeframe.

Implementing Partners:

Prior to choosing an assessment partner, the T/PCC should first decide whether it plans to work with the Cornell GSS Lab in undertaking the MOWIP assessment. Please refer to MOWIP Explainer 1 - Options for Implementation Modalities in the [MOWIP Toolbox](#) for more details. Once a tentative plan has been established, the T/PCC and project coordinator will know which skills and competencies its assessment partner will need to have.

Project Management for the MOWIP assessment (see MOWIP methodology, p. 59)

A MOWIP assessment is a comprehensive project which requires a significant amount of project management capacity to manage aspects such as budgeting, planning, coordination, logistics, meetings and travel. If the fund recipient is the T/PCC directly, and not an intermediate UN agency, when considering implementing partners, it is important to determine where this project management capacity will come from. A good practice is to hire a project coordinator for the duration of the assessment who is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the assessment is completed on time. An experienced project coordinator could be:

- *An employee or consultant of a UN agency, such as UN Women or UNDP.*
- *An employee of the assessment partner* in which case the T/PCC would need to establish if the assessment partner has the requisite capacities and competencies.
- *An experienced, well-respected employee of the security institution or another governmental agency working on peace operations, in which case arrangements must be made for this person to work full-time on the project and kindly note that the EIF does not support security institution personnel salary.*
- *An independent consultant* contracted through the security institution.

Once this has been decided, the necessary financial resources need to be allocated under the appropriate line in the budget for project management. In addition, arrangements need to be made to ensure that the project coordinator has access to senior personnel within the security institution who have the authority to grant access to the assessment team to conduct the assessment and to allocate human resources (such as the time of the survey respondents) where necessary.

Participating United Nations Organization (PUNO) partners can play a coordination and technical support role or could provide the MOWIP project coordinator for the project if desired. (See box above)

Civil Society Organization (CSO) partners in this case would refer to the assessment partner. The MOWIP assessment should be conducted by an independent research entity that is not part of the security institution or the government, such as a CSO, a university, or a consortium of consultants and institutions. Section 3.3 of the MOWIP methodology provides details on how to choose an appropriate assessment team. Note that if no single research institution has all of the relevant competencies, a research institution can work with one or several externally contracted consultants.

A national research institution that has experience collaborating with the security institution would usually be best placed to serve as an assessment partner given their knowledge of the national and institutional context, as long as its independence from the security institution and relevant ministry is guaranteed for the integrity of the research. The T/PCC can choose a research institution based in another country, however, if this is acceptable under national legislation. One reason for doing this could be that the T/PCC wishes to use an assessment partner that has experience in implementing the MOWIP methodology with other security institutions in the region.

The following institutions have expertise in completing a MOWIP:

[Centre Autonome d'Etudes et de Renforcement des capacités pour le Développement au Togo - CADERT](#)

[le Centre des Hautes Etudes de Défense et de Sécurité - CHEDS](#)

[Latin American Security and Defence Network \(RESDAL\)](#)

[Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre \(KAIPTC\)](#)

The **T/PCC Organization** referred to in the application would normally be the security institution undergoing the MOWIP assessment. In some cases, however, the T/PCC may choose to use a government agency responsible for deployment to peace operations as the implementing partner, however it is highly recommended for the implementing partner to be independent of the security institution itself.

Part Two: Project Summary

Title of the project

If they wish, T/PCCs can choose to use the following model text to complete this section:

Measuring Opportunities for Women in Peace Operations (MOWIP) Assessment for the [insert name of security institution]

Project Summary - description and objectives

If they wish, T/PCCs can choose to use the following model text to complete this section:

“This project involves conducting a comprehensive barrier assessment in the [insert name of security institution] using the MOWIP methodology. The ultimate goal of the project is to increase the meaningful deployment by [insert name of security institution] of uniformed women to United Nations peace operations. By implementing a MOWIP assessment, the project will achieve the following objectives:

1. Identify the main barriers to women’s meaningful participation within the ten issue areas outlined in the MOWIP methodology that could be addressed to increase women’s meaningful participation in UN peace operations;
2. Identify existing good practices within the security institution that can be leveraged, scaled up, and/or disseminated more broadly;
3. Formulate a set of evidence-based recommendations for future activities that aim to increase the meaningful participation of women in the [insert name of security institution] in UN peace operations;

4. Provide a baseline to measure the progress of future activities in overcoming barriers to women's meaningful participation in peace operations. “

T/PCCs may choose to reference other objectives related to diversity characteristics (for example, national minorities), human rights or gender-related legislation and national action plans on women, peace and security, or other strategies pertaining to the institution undergoing the assessment.

Parts Three and Five: Please complete as indicated for a barrier assessment application.

Part Four: Project Details

When describing the organisation's supporting rationale including motivational factors, applicants may want to reference the following benefits of undergoing a MOWIP methodology:

- The establishment a robust evidence base, which:
 - Allows targeted, effective interventions.
 - Creates a solid baseline to measure progress.
- The ability to use the assessment as a tool to enhance force generation more broadly, as it highlights specific challenges based on gender (for both men and women), deployment history, age, rank, location, ethnicity, race or religion.
- The opportunity to highlight good practices to the international community, thus facilitating international cooperation and showcasing advances already made by the T/PCC.

In addition, when discussing why the MOWIP methodology was selected as the chosen approach, and highlighting high-level organisational support and commitment to address key recommendations, a T/PCC may wish to reference the fact that the MOWIP methodology:

- Aims to move beyond simply counting how many women serve in the security institution undergoing the assessment, and how many of them deploy. Rather, it seeks to measure the *meaningful participation* of women in peace operations, as well as in the institution more broadly.
- Measures not just institutional barriers and opportunities, but also those related to the values, norms, perceptions, behaviours, and practices of individuals within the security institutions. It also assesses the effects of the institutional cultures and group dynamics this brings about.

Finally, in addressing why it is important to have female peacekeepers, it can be useful to refer to the UN Peacekeeping website on the topic: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/women-peacekeeping>

Annex A : Current % of Women in Security Institutions and Annex B: Deployment Planning for United Nations peace operations

Accessibility of baseline data is fundamental; it provides a reference point against which progress, or achievements can be measured. While obtaining this data may require considerable effort in terms of planning and coordination, the MOWIP methodology will involve many requests for this kind of data. Requesting access to this data may therefore serve as an opportunity to inform stakeholders within the security institution about the plan to implement the MOWIP methodology. Those departments that hold this data would normally have a representative on the MOWIP working group or committee within the security institution (see MOWIP methodology, Section 3.2). Once this information is obtained, any original sources and details on how the information was obtained should be shared with the assessment team, as they will need it to complete the Fact-Finding Form.