



Uganda receives funding from the Elsie Initiative Fund to identify barriers to the deployment of women police officers to UN peace operations.

13 January 2022

The Elsie Initiative Fund (EIF) today announced Uganda as its tenth funding recipient. Uganda is ranked as the 25th highest police contributing country to the United Nations (UN) and is committed to promoting gender equality in the Uganda Police Force (UPF) and in their deployments to peace operations. The EIF funds will support Uganda to undertake a study to identify the barriers and opportunities to women's participation in international deployments to UN peace operations.

Uganda is also fully committed to the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda as enshrined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) and subsequent WPS resolutions. Uganda has demonstrated their commitment to the WPS agenda through the development and implementation of their first, second and now their third National Action Plan (NAP III) 2021-2025 on WPS. Implementation of Uganda's NAP III aims to ensure that women lead and benefit from sustainable and inclusive peace and security, including humanitarian action, in Uganda. One key priority of Uganda's NAP III will be to increase women's participation in decision making within the security sector with a deliberate focus on recruitment, training and retention of women.

Marking a major step forward towards realizing Uganda's commitment in creating an inclusive and gender-responsive institution, this project will contribute to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and Uganda's NAP III.

While Uganda has a legal framework that guides their contributions to peacekeeping missions and advocates for 30% inclusion of women in peacekeeping, the UPF has been unable to achieve the desired policy objectives and targets with only 19% of police being women. *"The barrier assessment is therefore a timely intervention as it will enable the UPF to understand the barriers to increasing women's participation in the security sector and in peace operations and enable the UPF to formulate strategies to address the identified impediments."* said Uganda's Inspector General of Police, John Martin Okoth-Ochola (esq).

"UPF has partnered with UN Women Uganda since 2011 with a focus on creating a more gender responsive institution. This culminated in the development of the first institutional UPF Gender Policy and Strategy (GP&S 2019-2023). Given the huge potential provided by the EIF, we are pleased that the UPF has been selected for funding by the Fund. This support will go a long way in enabling the UPF to adequately identify and address the imbalances and impediments on women's participation in the security sector." noted Ms. Adekemi Ndieli UN Women Country Representative, a.i.

Through the barrier assessment study, the UPF aims to expand country-specific knowledge on impediments to women's participation in the national police and deployment to UN peace operations. Findings and recommendations from this study will allow the UPF to validate and disseminate findings to relevant policy makers and strengthen or create new institutional implementation mechanisms. The study will also form the basis for reviewing and updating existing criteria and standard operating procedures for recruitment, selection, training, deployment and promotion of uniformed women, and advocating for implementation of the recommendations among relevant actors. To support these



outcomes, the Government of Uganda has committed to ensuring sustainable gender-responsive budget allocations that enable uniformed women's participation in UN peace operations.

Makerere University Rotary Peace Centre has been selected as the research partner to conduct the barrier assessment utilising the Measuring Opportunities for Women in Peace Operations (MOWIP) methodology developed by DCAF - the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance. The Centre will work in partnership with the UPF to collect and analyse data, in coordination with Cornell University's Gender and Security Sector (GSS) Lab in the United States.

About the Elsie Initiative Fund

Established by the UN and Canada in 2019, the EIF is an innovative, multilateral fund that aims to accelerate progress towards the UN's gender targets in line with Security Council resolutions and the UN [Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy](#) 2018-2028. Funded by contributions from Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom, the EIF supports the sustainable deployment and meaningful participation of uniformed women peacekeepers by offering financial assistance and incentives. For more information on the EIF, please visit <https://elsiefund.org/> and follow [@ElsieFund](#) on Twitter.

About the UN Women Uganda

UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls. In Uganda UN Women programming focuses on the following programming areas:

- Women lead and participate in decision making at all levels
- Women, especially the poorest and most excluded, are economically empowered and benefit from development
- Women and girls lead a life free from violence
- Peace, security and humanitarian action are shaped by women's leadership and participation
- Governance and national planning fully reflect accountability for gender equality commitments and priorities
- Gender and HIV/AIDS
- Gender Statistics

For more information on UN Women's work in Uganda please visit <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/where-we-are/eastern-and-southern-africa/uganda> and follow us [@unwomenuganda](#) on twitter.