



IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE ELSIE INITIATIVE FOR FIELD MISSIONS' FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Secretariat Issue Paper #23

Issue Paper Theme: **Cross-cutting**

BACKGROUND

In line with the Secretary General's Gender Parity Strategy (2017) as well as the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy 2018-2028, a main area to focus on is to "improve the working and living conditions in field operations with a focus on, inter alia, improved minimum standards for camp living and working environments...". In 2019, the project team visited four missions and gathered feedback from hundreds of uniformed personnel. The analysis of missions' feedback showed that 54% of the feedback was focused on four categories: living accommodations, ablutions, recreational spaces, and issues related to the camp layout.

The recommendations of DOS' The Elsie Initiative for Field Missions' Facilities and Infrastructure (DOS Elsie Initiative project) included scalable 200-person conceptual camp design layouts for military and police, improvements to accommodation, ablutions, and recreational facilities to enhance female participation and retention in field missions. The DOS Elsie project is available to support the T/PCCs' field implementation of such improvements.

Hence, incorporation of gender-related design improvements by way of implementation of the DOS Elsie project team design recommendations into the COE Manual should be given due consideration. Mission to improve coordination between Force Generation cell / Construction Planning Units and mission acquisition unit to synchronize the arrival of troops/ police on the ground and supply chain lead times for the construction of camps related to the four categories identified by the DOS Elsie project team.

PROPOSED MANUAL TEXT

See highlighted changes below:

1. Add new paragraph XX, Chapter 3, annex A, Accommodation (page 32-33/271):

"Improvements to the working, living, and security conditions in field operations with a focus on, inter alia, improved minimum standards for camp living and working environments," as stated in the Secretary General's system-wide Gender Parity Strategy and Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy are to be considered



in addition to the aforementioned accommodation standards. These improvements shall focus on the improved well-being (mental and physical) for personnel. Such improvements include but are not limited to some of the following:

- (a) designs for camps that allow for improved privacy and social interaction;**
- (b) camp layout, as applicable;**
- (c) indoor and outdoor recreational spaces, as applicable.**

2. Amend paragraph 31, Chapter 3, annex B, Laundry (page 54/271) as follows:

31. To receive the self-sustainment reimbursement rate for laundry, the unit must:

- (a) Provide laundry services for all military/police and personal clothing services, including dry cleaning of operationally required specialist clothing (if any);
- (b) Ensure that all laundry facilities have hygienic equipment that allows a clean and healthy environment to be maintained;
- (c) Ensure that laundry facilities including location and layout allow for sufficient privacy;**
- (d) Provide all related equipment, maintenance and supplies.

When a unit is geographically dispersed and the United Nations is able to provide laundry to only a portion of the unit, the troop/police contributor will receive the self-sustainment rate for laundry for those personnel not serviced by the United Nations.

3. Amend paragraph 52, Chapter 3, annex B, (page 59/271) Miscellaneous general stores as follows:

52. To receive the self-sustainment reimbursement rate for each of the three subcategories of miscellaneous general stores, a unit must provide:

- (a) Bedding: Bed linen, blankets, mattress covers, pillows and towels. Sleeping bags may be an acceptable substitute for bed linen and blankets. Sufficient quantities must be provided to allow for rotation and cleaning;
- (b) Furniture: Bed, mattress, nightstand, table light and locker for each person, or other appropriate furniture to provide an adequate living space;
- (c) Welfare: Appropriate levels of equipment and amenities across the welfare spectrum for both men and women, to include entertainment, fitness, sports, games and communications, must be provided in quantities appropriate to the number of personnel at their respective locations in the mission area **and equal access to amenities to both men and women is to be provided.** Verification as to whether appropriate standards have been provided will be based on the welfare arrangements agreed between the troop/police contributors and the United Nations, detailed in annex C, appendix 2, of the memorandum of understanding.

4. Amend table 3, Chapter 3, annex B, appendix 3, (page 69/271) Accommodation, under Construction as follows:



Table 3

Responsibilities related to minor engineering when the United Nations provides accommodation

<i>Accommodation</i>	<i>Field mission</i>	<i>Minor engineering by formed unit</i>
Construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Foundation work and erection and assembly of accommodation units, office and workspace, and ablution facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Construction/reconstruction/refurbishment to United Nations standard of living space and office/workspace, including kitchen laundry facilities, <input type="checkbox"/> Installation of floor/wall/roof panels, doors, windows, footings, netting, heating/cooling <input type="checkbox"/> Installation of building utilities (electrical wiring and fixtures, water supply and wastewater removal) <input type="checkbox"/> Internal and external painting of United Nations-provided accommodation and workspace, as well as United Nations markings, as necessary	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide an accommodation plan which allows for effective use of United Nations-provided accommodation while ensuring satisfactory living conditions of formed unit personnel

5. Amend appendix, Chapter 9, Memorandum of understanding for military contingents

DOS-MOU (page 207/271) as follows:

Soldier's kit: mission-specific recommended requirement

Soldier's kit

In order to meet the minimum operational requirements, the following is a list of recommended items. Gender-specific needs are to be given special consideration. The actual mission-specific requirements will be discussed and agreed upon during negotiations of the memorandum of understanding.

Example of requirements for infantry contingent

Change/Include under Equipment items:

- **Basic flak jacket (fragmentation vest) in different sizes suitable for male and female**



6. Amend appendix, Chapter 9, Memorandum of understanding for formed police units

DOS-MOU, Appendix (page 247/271) as follows:

Individual kit for members of formed police units: mission-specific requirement.

In order to meet the minimum operational requirements, the following is a list of items to be included in the individual kit. Gender-specific needs are to be given special consideration.

Change/Include under Personal equipment:

- **Bulletproof vest (level IV) in different sizes suitable for male and female**

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant financial implications associated with this proposal.

PREVIOUS HISTORY

This proposal has not been previously submitted to the COE Working Group for consideration.