

UN SIGNALS ACADEMY

CONTEXT

With over 160,000 authorized personnel deployed in often **remote and high-risk locations**, UN-supported peacekeeping operations **require strong communication and technological capabilities** to guarantee the flow of information between leadership, military, police and civilians. The UN Signals Academy (UNSA) was established to help train and equip uniformed personnel with key ICT technologies. **Signals are military and police information and communication technology specialists**. They link Force and Police Headquarters to military and police units deployed in peacekeeping missions.

OBJECTIVES

UNSA was launched in fall 2015 in Entebbe, Uganda, as triangular partnership project between troop- and police contributing countries, other UN Member States and the UN Department of Field Support (DFS). The goal of the project is to **strengthen the capacity** of signals personnel through **specialized training on technology**, the provision of **key equipment** and the familiarization of personnel with **UN procedures and operating environments** across peacekeeping missions. The UN Signal Academy is one of the outcomes of the **Partnership for Technology in Peacekeeping**. Managed by the Information and Communications Technology Division (ICTD) at UN Headquarters, the project is implemented by the Regional Service Center Entebbe (RSCE).

APPROACH

The project offers flexible opportunities to foster partnerships between troop and police contributors (TCCs/PCCs) and financial supporters of UN peacekeeping around **two key objectives**:



TRAIN

Provide **standardized and mission-specific training** on ICT field technologies to UN military and police signals personnel.

- **In-house training:** provides courses in RSCE training facilities in Entebbe
- **Mobile training:** provides trainings in missions and TCCs/PCCs
- **Train-the-trainers:** generates a pool of highly skilled signals professionals, acting as national multipliers



EQUIP

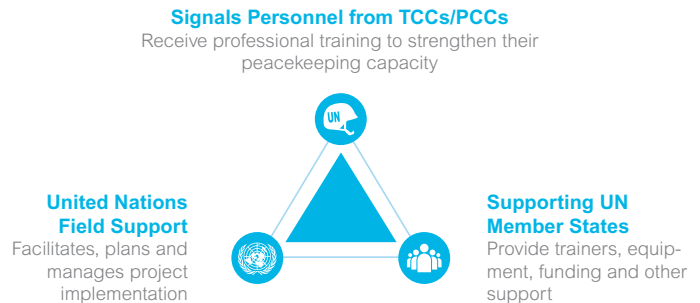
Procure **UN-owned equipment** and deploy to support operations in ongoing peacekeeping missions.

MORE INFORMATION | HOW TO GET INVOLVED

For more information or to become a partner, please contact:

Samuel Leal (leal1@un.org) | Jade Mali Mizutani (jade.mizutani@un.org)

TRIANGULAR MODEL



BENEFITS



TROOP CONTRIBUTORS

Better **coordination & interoperability** between contingents from different countries operating in the field.



FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Opportunity to flexibly **support enabling capacity** in peacekeeping missions.



UNITED NATIONS

Enlarged pool of **signals personnel** with strengthened communication and technological capacities.



CROSS-CUTTING BENEFITS

- Enhanced **performance and efficiency** of signals staff, in line with UN standard operational requirements
- Improved **gender equality** among signals personnel
- **Reduced transaction costs** for missions' operations

ACHIEVEMENTS

By the end of December 2016, the Academy already **trained more than 1,200 UN signals personnel and peacekeepers**, contributing to enhanced interoperability and C2 capabilities. The programme also facilitated two **Women's Outreach Courses**, to develop the technical capacity of women signals to operate effectively in a UN environment. These courses were delivered in November 2016 and March 2017, training a total of 75 women from 30 countries.

WHAT'S NEXT

UNSA aims to further strengthen its operational capacity by:

- **Expanding its course offer** for in-house and mobile trainings
- **Initiating the train-the-trainer** programme component
- Maintaining **3 women outreach courses** every year
- Offering training in other **UN official languages**, e.g. French
- Providing **UN-owned equipment** to support training as needed