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In today's volatile world, the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) seeks to help the United Nations to manage security risks so that humanitarian workers can serve those in need, even in the most dangerous places. The proliferation of crises and rapid advancement of technology in recent years means that UN demand now outstrips what the Department can deliver within existing resources and technological capacity. UNDSS is seeking support to modernize security management and accountability tools in order to support timely data-based critical decision-making, situational awareness and information-sharing and, thus, better enable UN organizations and implementing partners to reach beneficiaries.

In 2021, the United Nations delivered life-saving humanitarian aid to 174 million people, responding to natural disasters and helping people fleeing war. Security is a pre-requisite to delivering those programmes and reaching those most in need. Security is not an isolated activity. It is an essential component to implementing programmes, achieving results and making a meaningful impact in people's lives. As agencies, funds and programmes continue to expand operations to better serve affected communities in oftentimes deeply complex situations, security threats against the UN and its partners are evolving while the humanitarian space is shrinking. The UN roles and mandates mean that the Organization must deliver in spite of and sometimes because of insecurity.

In most contexts, the UN can do little to influence threat levels, at least in the short term. It focuses instead on risk, which it can manage, accept, or avoid. The approach begins by identifying which objectives warrant acceptance of risk, with security practitioners focusing on how UN agencies and missions can stay in place or even expand operations during crises, within acceptable levels of risk.

Under this approach, an over-reliance on guns, guards, and gates often poses obstacles to UN objectives including the need to engage closely with at-risk communities. Security approaches have to be calibrated to the context but also to the constituents that UN security serves: their principles, their ways of working, and the results they need to achieve. This shift is one of skills and tools. If UNDSS fails to evolve, adapt, and innovate, the UN and its partners will struggle to intervene where it matters most – with dire impact on people and communities around the world.

Digital technology is a fundamental force for change, reshaping economies, governments and civil society, impacting every aspect of daily life. New technologies are also changing the character and nature of conflict, shaping conflict environment and influencing the behaviours and actions of conflict actors, with a substantive impact on the safety and security of UN personnel and programmes. The profound consequences and exponential pace of digital transformation gives rise to new risks but also presents new opportunities. It demands both action and leadership from UNDSS to reimagine security in a digital age.

At its core UNDSS is an information-based organization. The Department provides support and coordinates security risk management across the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) comprising of more than 50 UN and non-UN entities and covering security of more than 180,000 UN personnel deployed across the globe, to enable the planning and safe conduct of mandates, missions, activities and programmes of the United Nations.

To most effectively provide safety and security services and enable UNSMS operations globally, the Department needs to master information and analysis to improve situational awareness, identify any security risks to UNSMS personnel or premises, and inform tactical, operational and strategic decisions in a timely manner. Information management therefore supports UNDSS' organizational objectives, which impact all aspects of the Department's work. This approach is also in line with the Secretary-General's Strategies on New Technologies and on Data.

Recognizing the need for a deliberate and systematic approach to achieve digital transformation in UNDSS, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security initiated the review of the Department's information management system in 2021 to set the stage for the development of the Digital Transformation Strategy.

The external review of the Department's information management ecosystem concluded that the existing organization culture around information management is mainly ad hoc and not well-defined with data and information management not treated as part of core operations. Governance of information management is largely non-existent at the enterprise level and the Department has limited information management capacity

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To address the complexity of the problem outlined above and to respond to the urgent need to change and modernize, in the first year of the project, UNDSS will:

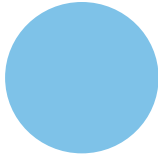
Develop a digital

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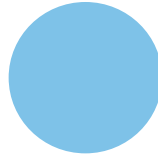


Better approaches to information management will deliver better outcomes: stronger decision-making and policy advice, greater data access and sharing, improved governance and collaboration, enhanced efficiency across UN operations, greater transparency and accountability, and better services and support to the UN programmes and SLT partner organizations.

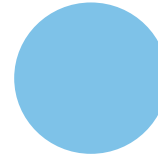
An implementation of a people-centered approach to security risk management means that UN's security policies, approaches, assessments, training and decision-making must be designed with sensitivity to diversity and inclusivity. It means recognizing that staff of different functions, gender, religion, sexual orientation, etc. are exposed to different risk levels and require different support and responses. This, in turn, requires a forward-looking threat and risk analysis and data-based security management. The foundation of this are appropriate information management processes that allow for data to be properly collected, analyzed and actioned.



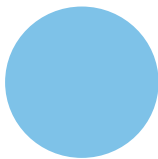
Provide guidance to build and refine required skills to appropriately collect, assess and report data and information



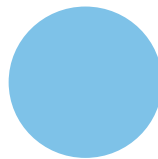
Promote systematic and effective use of information management tools



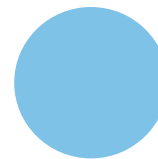
Increase data literacy and technological awareness among the workforce



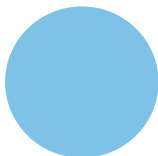
Strengthen UNDSS capacities for data-driven analysis and reporting, including on the evolving role of digital technologies in conflict environments and their impact on UNSMS operations



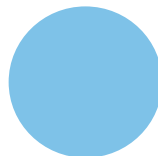
Train personnel to develop high-value reports through data and information visualization and improved assessment capabilities



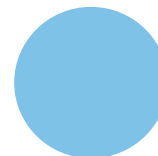
Foster Department-wide situational awareness of security and safety risks*



Improve accessibility to information through standardization of data processes and systems well as bridge information gaps between UNHQ and the field



Maximize the potential of current and new technologies to drive innovation

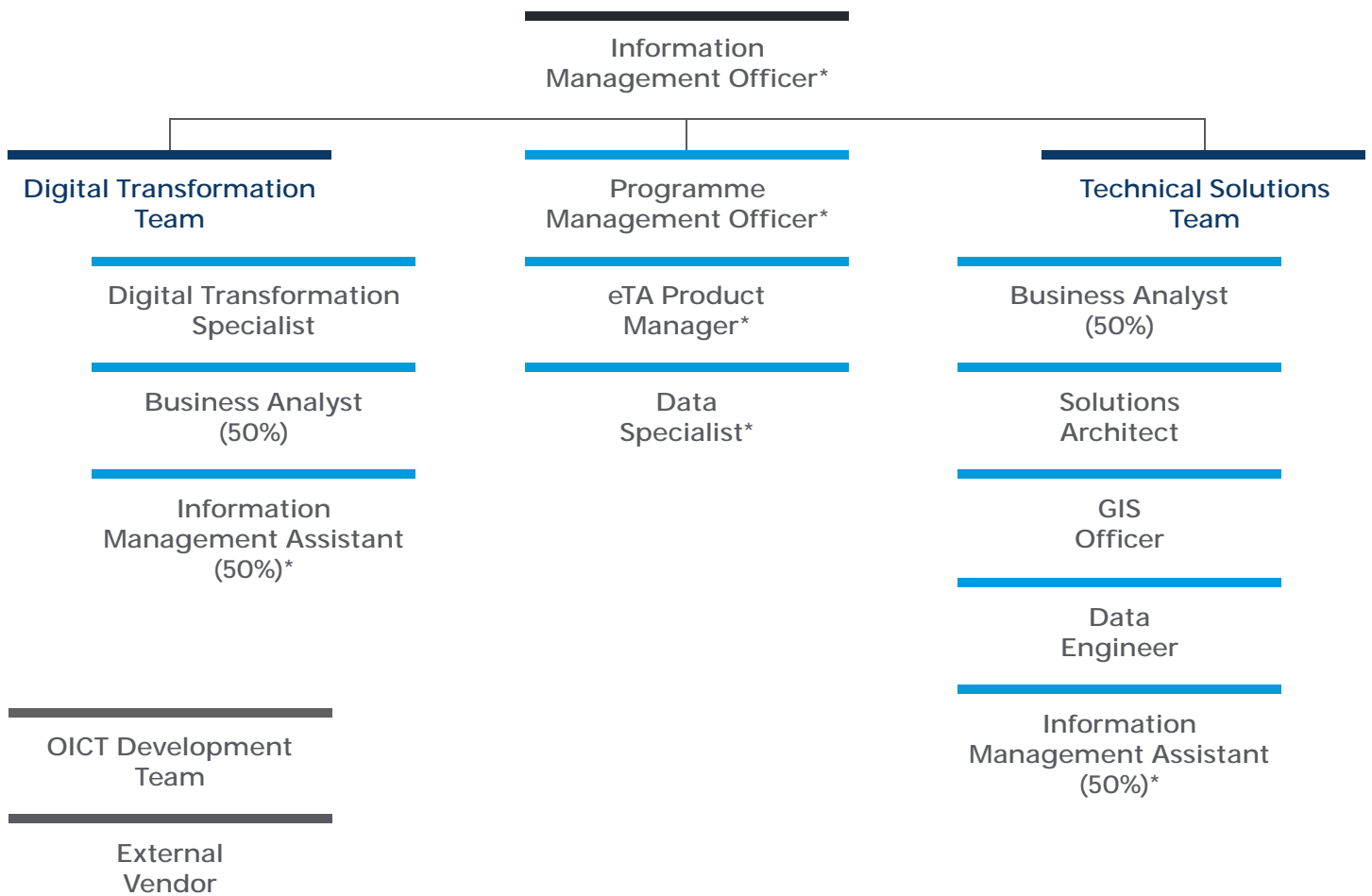


Through the use of technological solutions, seek to address mandate implementation challenges, as well as bridge information gaps between UNHQ and the field



UNDSS has established an Information Management Unit in the Division of Partnerships and Specialized Support. However, it lacks capacities, capabilities and expertise required to take on extensive work related to the development of a digital transformation strategy and a design, development and implementation of the UNDSS Technical Solutions Platform.

Over the coming two years, the Department will require additional 5 posts funded through extra-budgetary contributions to supplement the in-house capacity.



*Already existing posts for which extra-budgetary funding is not required.

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Breakdown and details of total project costs, including programme support costs:






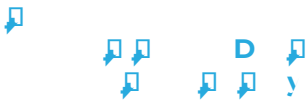


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		2023 	2024 
	Digital Transformation Strategy in place	100%	
	Review of UNSMIN and other UNDSS systems undertaken	100%	
	New cloud-based Technical Solutions Platform replaces existing UNSMIN		100%



For more information on UNDSS visit our website at www.un.org/en/safety-and-security or write to us at undss.info@un.org