

Independent Evaluation – Management Response
 (Note: This form is to be included in the final report.)

Name of programme/office/unit:	Division for Peace, Peacekeeping Training Programme Unit		
Name of programme manager	Evariste Karambizi		
Name of project undertaking	Strengthening the Capacity of the Judicial System and Promoting the Rule of Law in Mali Phase II	ID	C2021.TARPT082.DEUMFA
Name of evaluation	Independent Evaluation of the “Strengthening the Capacity of the Judicial System and Promoting the Rule of Law in Mali Phase II” project		
Report issuance:	May 2024		

SECTION I – Comments on Findings/ Conclusions
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After some statements made by the independent evaluators in the first draft of the evaluation report have been adjusted and/or clarified, the conclusions and findings are considered accepted by the Programme Management.

The majority of the conclusions and findings described by the independent evaluators in the report confirm the project team’s own (internal) evaluation of the implementation of project activities and the cooperation with the project partners.

SECTION II - RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation		Management Response and Planned Action					
		Accepted Partially Accepted Rejected	Planned action	Budget allocated (if necessary)	Status (planned, under implementation, implemented)	Status 6 months (planned, under implementation, implemented)	Status one year (planned, under implementation, implemented)
1.	When undertaking a needs, capacity or other initial assessment, and in the formulation of justice sector projects, conduct a comprehensive and inclusive context analysis, providing stakeholder mapping and the identification of gaps in existing and desired levels of performance, challenges, priorities, risks and barriers to inform project design and ensure alignment with national priorities and sector needs.	Accepted.	<p>1. Programme usually pays attention to adequate quality and thoroughness of assessments. This will be monitored and ensured in future projects.</p> <p>2. A thorough assessment, which covers all necessary aspects, requires an appropriate budget. The Project Team prepares concept papers and project documents for submission to potential donors.</p>	There is currently no budget available for the conduct of a thorough assessment in targeted countries. Before being able to allocate a specific budget, financial support from donors willing to engage in the area of rule-of-law and justice is required.	<p>Planned: Adequate quality and thoroughness of the assessment will be monitored and ensured by the project team in future projects.</p> <p>Under Implementation: Concept notes to request funding for thorough assessments are in preparation.</p>		
		<p>Comments: The evaluation report underlines the importance of a thorough needs assessment, stakeholder mapping as well as the importance of a high-quality report as output of the assessment. The Project Teams generally seek to include such assessment as a first phase in complex projects.</p>					


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2.	Envisage to strengthen collaboration and coordination between justice sector stakeholders, including UNITAR, Implementing Partner, Ministries of Justice and government agencies, civil society organisations, and development partners to enhance coherence and synergy between different initiatives and programmes.	Accepted.	Programme staff generally seeks to ensure coherence and synergy between different initiatives and programmes to avoid overlapping and duplication.	No specific budget is allocated for this action.	Under Implementation: Programme staff will continue to enhance coherence and synergy between different initiatives and programmes.		
		Comments: No comments.					

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		<p>Comments: The Programme will consider the inclusion of formal or structured mechanisms for cooperation and knowledge sharing during the project development process as well as during project implementation. However, the inclusion of these mechanisms ultimately depends on the approval of the beneficiary government. The inclusion of such mechanism would also require the willingness and engagement of the beneficiary government to ensure and to take appropriate measures that the formal mechanism will continue and be maintained after the end of the project.</p>					

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4.	Strengthen results frameworks and monitoring and evaluation approaches and activities (including assessment of learning), in order to more effectively track progress and assess project outcomes and impacts.	Accepted.	1) Project Teams generally develop adequate results frameworks. The Programme Management will emphasize the importance of adequate results frameworks. 2) The Programme is working on a mechanism to enhance internal capacities to monitor and evaluate project implementation.	1) No specific budget necessary. 2) Specific budget is allocated for this programme-wide activity.	Under Implementation: 1) Results framework are being improved in project development process. 2) An Internal Monitoring and Compliance function is currently being developed in the Programme.		
		Comments: No comments.					

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5.	Strengthen the development of qualitative training content to ensure a clear division of responsibilities between project parties, and the allocation of subject-matter expertise.	Accepted.	Project Teams will consider this aspect when developing new projects that include training activities in the field of rule of law and justice.	No specific budget is allocated for this action.	Under Implementation: This aspect is already considered in the context of the development of a new rule-of-law project.		
		Comments: No comments.					

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		<p>Comments: The main implementation responsibility of this recommendation lies with the Implementing Partner. The Programme will support their efforts to strengthen institutional organizational and financial stability and ongoing capacity-building to ensure the sustainability of project results.</p>					

Name of Director/Programme Manager	Date	Signature
Evariste Karambizi	24.05.2024	 Frank Borchers, Head UNITAR Bonn Office, Chief Division for Peace Office in Bonn, OIC PTPU