unitar
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Our Work in Peace & Security

United Nations Institute for Training and Research
First Quarter Report 2026

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WHO WE ARE

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is the training and capacity-development arm of the United Nations. Headquartered in Geneva, it supports Member States and stakeholders worldwide to strengthen knowledge, skills and institutional capacities to address global challenges.

Working with governments, academia, civil society, the private sector and partners across the United Nations system, UNITAR delivers training and learning solutions that support capacity development and the implementation of international and national priorities, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

WHAT WE DO

UNITAR strengthens capacities across the full spectrum of peace and security—from conflict prevention and peacemaking to peacekeeping, stabilisation, and recovery—while addressing cross-cutting priorities such as disarmament, maritime governance, and inclusive approaches to peace, including women and youth.

The Institute translates global commitments into practical knowledge, skills, institutional capacities and strategic partnerships that deliver measurable, scalable, and sustainable peace and security outcomes in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

This work strengthens individual competencies, institutional capacities, and national systems, while enhancing the coherence and effectiveness of UN peace and security efforts through evidence-based approaches and shared learning.



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Acronyms & **Abbreviations**

AI	*Artificial Intelligence*
ARC	*African Risk Capacity*
AU	*African Union*
CPST	*Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training*
DDR	*Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*
ITI	*International Tracing Instrument*
KMKM	*Zanzibar Coast Guard*
MGA	*Military Gender Advisors*
MMEA	*Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency*
MTCP	*Military Training and Cooperation Programme*
PoA	*Programme of Action*
SALW	*Small Arms and Light Weapons*
SDC	*Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation*
UN	*United Nations*
UNDCO	*United Nations Development Coordination Office*
UNODA	*United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs*
WPS	*Women, Peace and Security*

A Message From the Division Director

The first quarter of 2026 reaffirmed an enduring lesson: sustainable peace is built through continuous investment in people, institutions and partnerships. As global peace and security challenges become increasingly interconnected, the ability to anticipate risks, strengthen national capacities and foster collaboration across sectors remains essential to delivering lasting impact.

This quarter, the Division for Peace continued to translate these priorities into practical action across multiple regions and thematic areas. We supported the integration of gender perspectives into military institutions through Military Gender Advisor training, strengthened dialogue among senior United Nations leadership, and empowered women working at the intersection of climate, peace and security. We also enhanced operational capacities through specialized initiatives in maritime security, police technical training, leadership development and disarmament, helping practitioners and institutions respond more effectively to evolving security challenges.

Our commitment to learning and innovation remained equally strong. From expanding inclusive digital learning opportunities to delivering practice-oriented Master's programmes in peace and security and electoral management, we continued to invest in education that bridges theory and practice. By combining flexible learning, practical application and academic partnerships, we equipped professionals around the world with the knowledge and skills needed to drive meaningful change within their institutions and communities.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the trust and collaboration of our partners. Throughout the quarter, governments, United Nations entities, regional organizations, academic institutions and donors worked alongside us to deliver solutions tailored to local contexts while advancing shared international priorities. These partnerships continue to demonstrate that collective action remains one of our greatest strengths in addressing today's complex peace and security challenges.

As we move into the remainder of 2026, we remain committed to expanding the reach, quality and impact of our work. By continuing to invest in people, knowledge and partnerships, we will help strengthen the capacities needed to build more peaceful, resilient and inclusive societies.



Sustainable peace is built through continuous investment in people, institutions and partnerships.

Evariste Karambizi
Director, Division for Peace
UNITAR

Reach & Results

These learning initiatives reached thousands of participants worldwide, strengthening capacities and supporting impactful knowledge sharing across diverse sectors.

3,972
Participants

PARTICIPANTS BY REGION



- **66%** Africa
- **19%** Asia & Pacific
- **6%** Europe
- **4%** Latin American & Caribbean
- **3%** Middle East
- **2%** North America

Participants were primarily based in Africa, followed by Asia-Pacific reflecting a strong engagement in regions where capacity development needs are most significant.

EVENT MODE OF DELIVERY

24
Total number of events

09
Face-to-face events

14
Online events

01
Hybrid event

PARTICIPANTS BY GENDER



35%
Women

22%
Men

A significant share (41.89%) preferred not to disclose their gender, while 0.28% identified as non-binary and 0.69% were unreported.

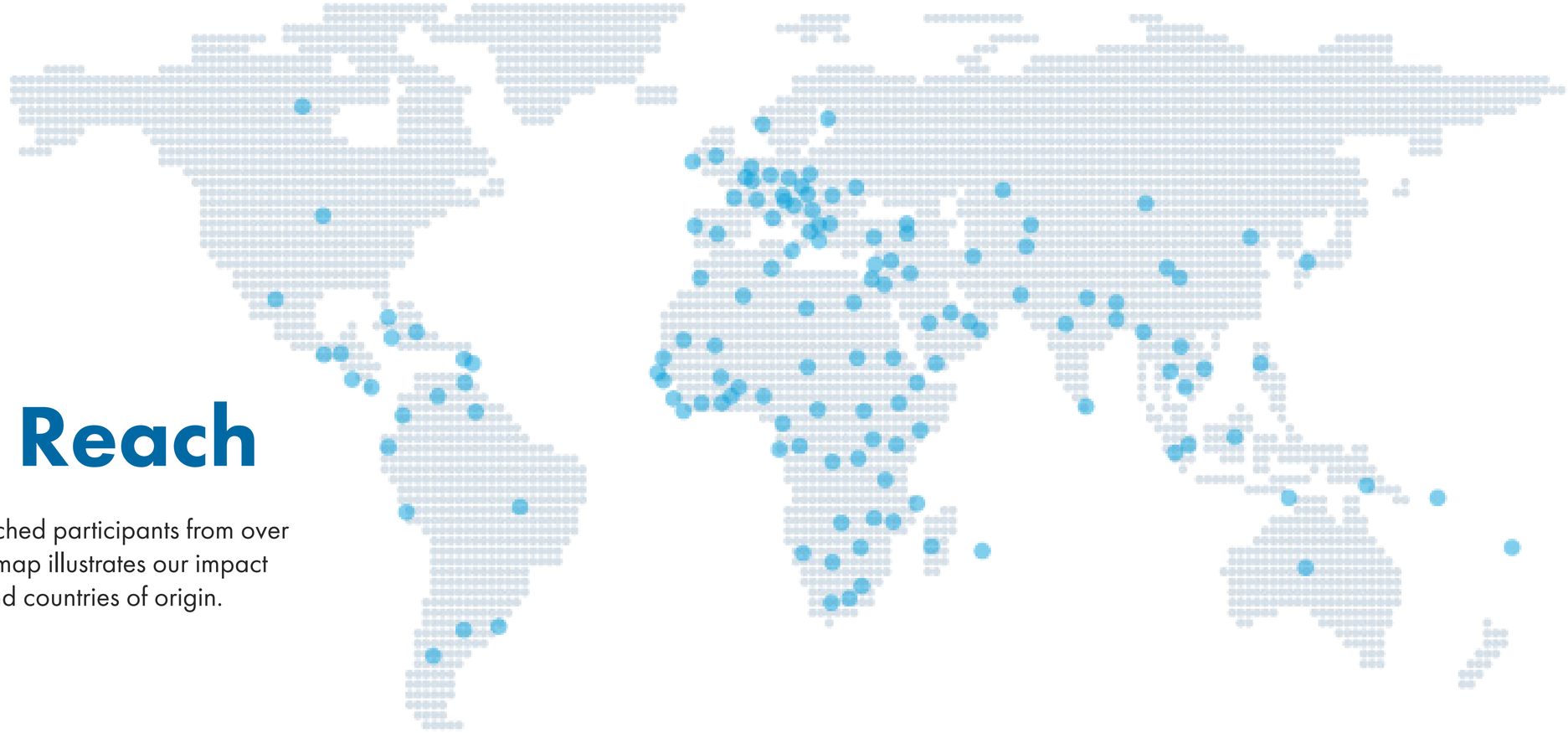
PARTICIPANTS BY AFFILIATION



Government	16.06%
Academia	11.53%
NGO	9.81%
Private Sector	5.13%
International Organization	2.72%
UN System	2.29%
Regional organization	0.46%
Others	51.65%

Across
126 Countries

Spanning
06 Continents



Participant Reach

During the first quarter of 2026, we reached participants from over 126 countries across six continents; this map illustrates our impact by showing participants' nationalities and countries of origin.

- Afghanistan
- Algeria
- Angola
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bangladesh
- Belgium
- Benin
- Bhutan
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Congo
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Czech Republic
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Djibouti
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- France
- Gambia (Republic of The)
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Hungary
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Kyrgyzstan
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Mongolia
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Namibia
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- Niger
- Nigeria
- North Macedonia
- Oman
- Other
- Pakistan
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Romania
- Rwanda
- Saint Lucia
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Sierra Leone
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- State of Palestine
- Sudan
- Switzerland
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- Togo
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia
- Türkiye
- Uganda
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United Republic of Tanzania
- United States of America
- Unreported
- Uruguay
- Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of
- Viet Nam
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Our **Impact**

01

Strengthening Capacities for Peace and Security

02

Supporting Institutions and Practitioners

03

Advancing Learning, Innovation, and Knowledge

04

Working in Partnership

KEY OUTPUTS

Strengthening Capacities for **Peace and Security**

UNITAR aims to strengthen individual capacities to support more effective and inclusive peace and security efforts. During the first quarter of 2026, the Institute delivered a range of dialogue initiatives, advisory support, and training designed to enhance operational readiness, leadership skills and institutional performance across peace operations and security sectors. These activities focused on equipping participants with practical competencies, strengthening coordination among stakeholders and supporting the application of international standards for gender-responsive approaches. These efforts contributed to more effective peace operations, stronger conflict prevention mechanisms and increased women's participation, supporting sustainable and system-wide impact.

Facilitating Strategic Dialogue Among UN Leadership

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Australian Government

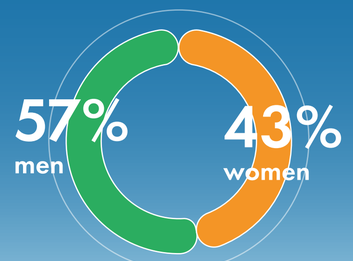
- Effective multilateral engagement is **essential to address complex global challenges.** The Seminar for Special and Personal Representatives and Envoys offers a unique **platform for the Secretary-General to share priorities and engage** with heads of peace missions, special envoys and senior UN leadership across peace, human rights, security and development.

It enables dialogue on emerging trends, strategies and opportunities to strengthen UN practice. As the only forum convening heads of peace missions and senior officials, it supports peer exchange and the sharing of lessons learned. UNITAR acknowledge's the support of **Switzerland** and **Australia,** whose contributions enhanced the Seminar's impact.

Activity conducted in Switzerland



56
PARTICIPANTS



Advancing Gender Integration in Military Operations and Defence Institutions

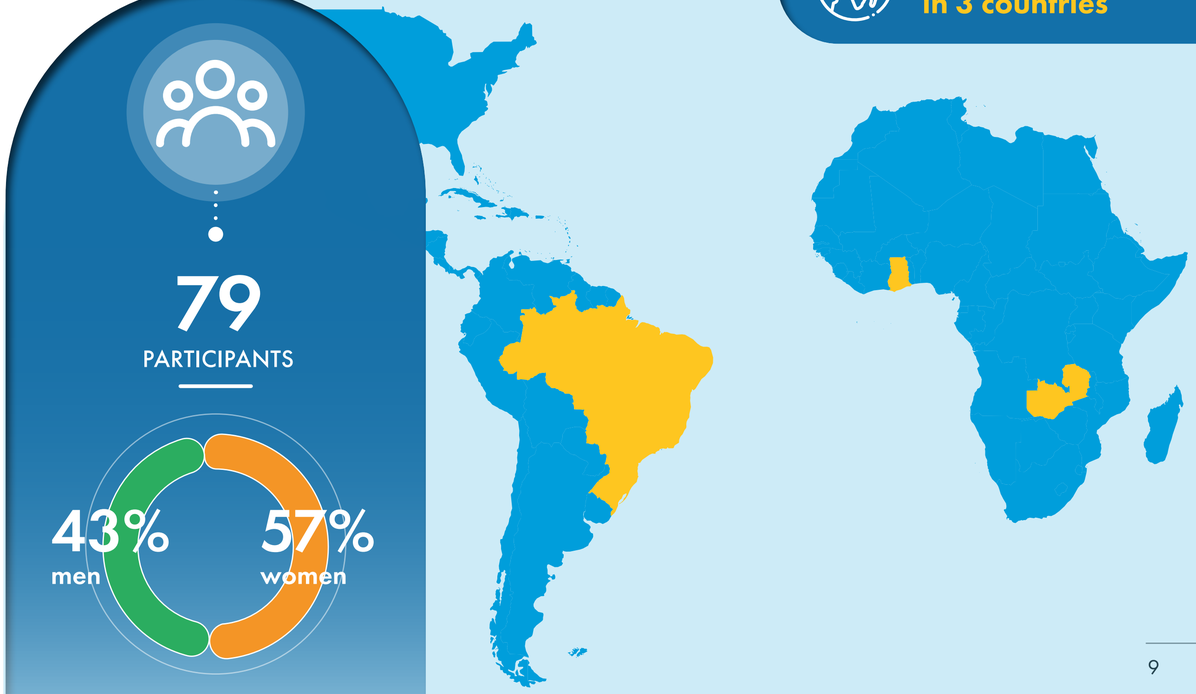
Canada

- Sustainable peace requires defence institutions that effectively integrate gender perspectives into military planning, operations, and decision-making.

The National-Level Training for MGA strengthens the capacity of military personnel to apply **Women, Peace and Security** commitments in operational and institutional contexts. Through practical exercises and nationally adapted learning, **participants develop the knowledge and skills required to integrate gender perspectives across military functions and support mission effectiveness.**

Delivered by **nationally certified RTP-MGA trainers** and supported by the **Canadian Department of National Defence through MTCP**, the training contributes to the implementation of national WPS commitments while fostering long-term institutional capacity and sustainable gender integration within defence establishments.

Activity conducted in 3 countries



79
PARTICIPANTS

Empowering Women in **Climate, Peace and Security Leadership**

Online

- Women remain underrepresented in decision-making at the intersection of climate action and peacebuilding, limiting inclusive and context-responsive approaches.

  UNITAR launched a training series to **strengthen leadership, knowledge and coordination** by equipping women and gender allies from around the world with practical **skills to engage in the gender–climate–peace nexus**.

Co-delivered with the **ARC**, the Institute enhanced capacities through targeted learning and exchange, fostering more inclusive, locally grounded policy and practice across the Global South.

> *I am grateful to be continuing my learning journey with United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) through the Strengthening Women's Leadership in the Gender-Climate-Peace Nexus programme.*
>
> Programme Participant



Workshop participants exchanging on climate resilience and disaster risk reduction as part of the UNITAR and African Risk Capacity partnership

Visual promoting a global learning initiative advancing women's leadership through dialogue and shared knowledge across Africa and the Global South



64 nationalites represented

638 Participants



Gender and Development Management Specialist and Consultant

Naome Chimbete

Where women can overcome structural barriers to their participation, they are uniquely positioned to contribute to sustainable natural resource management, climate-resilient communities, and enhanced peace and stability.

02 Supporting **Institutions and Practitioners**

Supporting institutions and practitioners is critical to building resilient and effective peace and security systems. During the first quarter, UNITAR strengthened institutional capacities, enhanced training delivery and supported nationally owned reforms across peacemaking, maritime security, disarmament and social cohesion contexts. These initiatives improved organizational performance, professional competencies and coordination among training institutions, security actors and community-based partners. Institutions applied evidence-based approaches, strengthened alignment with UN standards and advanced inclusive practices. These efforts contributed to more effective service delivery, enhanced regional cooperation and greater participation of women and youth, supporting sustainable and locally drive

Strengthening System-Wide Leadership Coordination

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION OFFICE

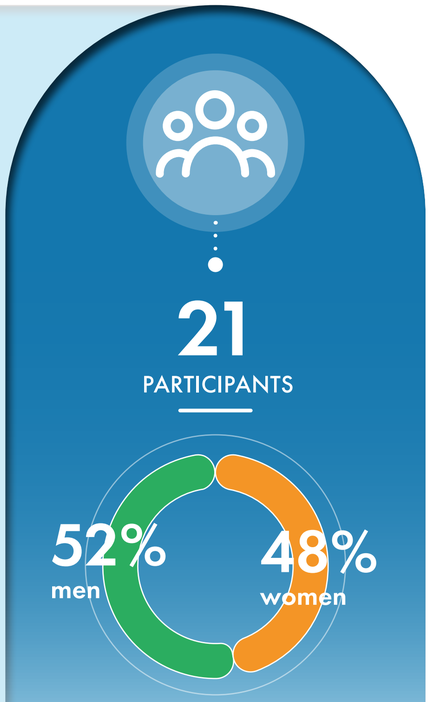
Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

- Gaps in coordinated strategic dialogue among senior United Nations leadership can limit coherence across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Upon request from **UNDCO**, UNITAR provided administrative and logistical support for a multi-year Strategic Leadership Retreat (2026–2028), convening 16 Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, Humanitarian Coordinators and Resident Coordinators along with five senior headquarters officials under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General.

Supported by **the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation,** the retreat enabled confidential discussions on shared priorities, challenges and system-wide coordination.

Activity conducted in Switzerland





Amplifying Local Voices for Peace & Social Cohesion in Ituri and North Kivu

NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL

international alert

JUSTICE–PLUS

Search for Common Ground

- Ituri and North Kivu are two of the most conflict-affected provinces within the East of **the Democratic Republic of the Congo**. While news of atrocities and continued conflicts make global headlines, **peacebuilding work and successes often go unnoticed.** UNITAR **supports the Social Cohesion Consortium to amplify local voices**, share success stories of peace and document results via the publication of three newsletters.

This initiative enhances inclusive monitoring, evaluation and learning, ensuring community perspectives inform peace efforts while promoting locally driven narratives of successful social cohesion and resilience.

Activity conducted in the Democratic Republic of the Congo





A Nashiriki Newsletter highlighting local voices for peace and social cohesion in Ituri and North Kivu

Auswärtiges Amt

Building Leadership Capacity of **Female Officers in Maritime Security**

- Women officers in security institutions often face barriers to developing leadership skills in male-dominated environments. UNITAR's Leadership Course strengthens operational effectiveness by **equipping female officers of MMEA** with practical leadership, decision-making and confidence skills.

With support from **the Federal Foreign Office of Germany**, the Institute enhances ethical leadership and resilience, contributing to both individual performance and broader institutional capacity.



Scan to watch the video or **click here**

Group photo from the "Leadership Training for Female Officers" course organized by UNITAR and MMEA in Kuantan, Malaysia.

Activity conducted in Kuantan, Malaysia



100% Women

30 PARTICIPANTS

African Union

ACE IMPACT

Supporting African Union Capacity Building Efforts on **Disarmament in Africa**

Hybrid Event

- By fostering shared ownership, strengthening alignment with regional priorities, and laying a strong foundation for effective and sustainable capacity-building in disarmament and non-proliferation across Africa, the African Union Disarmament Fellowship Training Manual Development Workshop marked an **important step toward enhancing continental disarmament capacity building.**

UNITAR supported the workshop as a long-standing partner of the African Union, contributing its specialized expertise and though the design of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration training module.

The workshop was instrumental in **improving curriculum coherence and advancing the development** of a standardized and sustainable training manual.



Group photo from the official launch of the African Union Fellowship Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Source: African Union website

Activity conducted in Addis-Ababa and online



Enhancing Technical Capacity for Police Vehicle Maintenance

Sustaining police mobility requires strong technical capacity in vehicle maintenance and diagnostics. In March, UNITAR delivered a **training to enhance operational efficiency by equipping National Police workshop personnel in Djibouti** with practical skills in vehicle diagnostics, electrical systems and tire maintenance.

Through hands-on training, **the Institute strengthens technical capacity and improve maintenance performance**, with support from the **Government of Japan.**

JAPANGOV
THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN



Police workshop personnel receiving hands-on vehicle maintenance training in Djibouti



Practical vehicle diagnostics session conducted with Djibouti National Police workshop staff

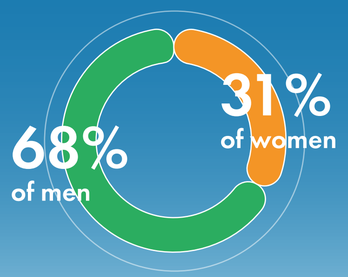


Participants carrying out tire maintenance and technical inspection exercises during the training in Djibouti

Activity conducted in Djibouti



546
PARTICIPANTS



Advancing **Learning, Innovation, and Knowledge**

Advancing learning, innovation and knowledge is central to strengthening global peace and security capacities. UNITAR expanded accessible learning, fostered collaborative knowledge exchange and promoted innovation across training, research and partnerships. These initiatives enhanced skills, connectivity and knowledge-sharing through communities of practice, academic programmes, digital learning and global dialogue. UNITAR supported evidence-based approaches, inclusive learning design and the integration of emerging technologies. These efforts contributed to stronger professional networks, increased access to quality education and more effective, inclusive approaches to peacebuilding, reinforcing long-term impact across institutions and practitioners worldwide

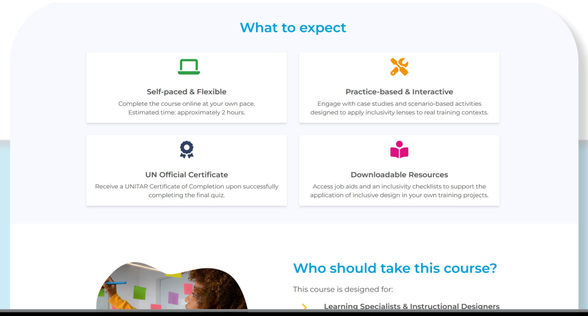
Promoting Inclusive Approaches to Learning Design

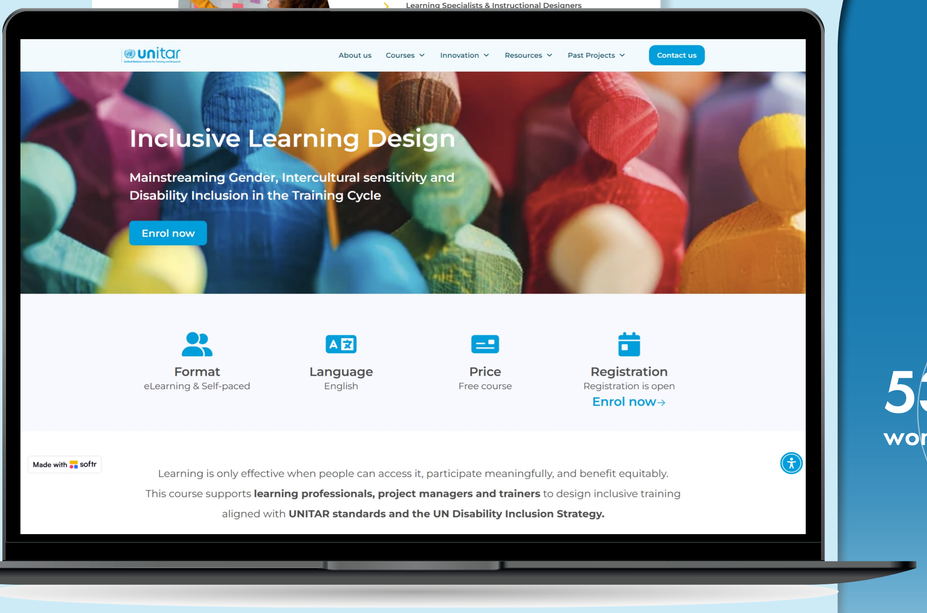
Online

- Learning professionals need practical tools to design training that is fully inclusive and aligned with UN standards. Our Inclusive Learning Design Course **enhances training quality by equipping practitioners** with skills to integrate gender equality, intercultural sensitivity and disability inclusion across the training cycle.

Through practical guidance and tools, we support more accessible and equitable learning design, enabling diverse participation among **over 1,300 learning and programme professionals.**

Enrol now







Strengthening Institutional Training and Facilitation Skills

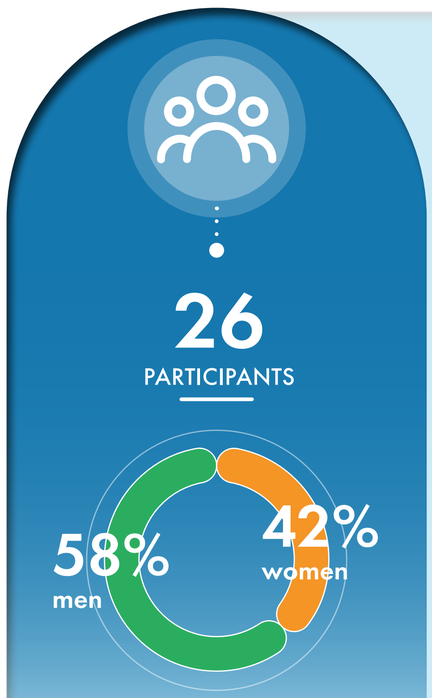
- Advanced, practice-oriented approaches to learning design and facilitation are essential components of effective institutional training systems. **A Training of Trainers Masterclass was delivered in Mombasa, Kenya**, to enhance capacity of 26 learning professionals from **CPST** with skills in behavioural science, facilitation and AI integration.

Through applied exercises, we strengthened their ability to design effective interventions and translate learning into institutional practice, supporting more strategic and impactful training delivery.

Learn more abour the Masterclass



Participants during the Training of Trainers Masterclass in Mombasa, Kenya



Activity conducted in Mombasa, Kenya



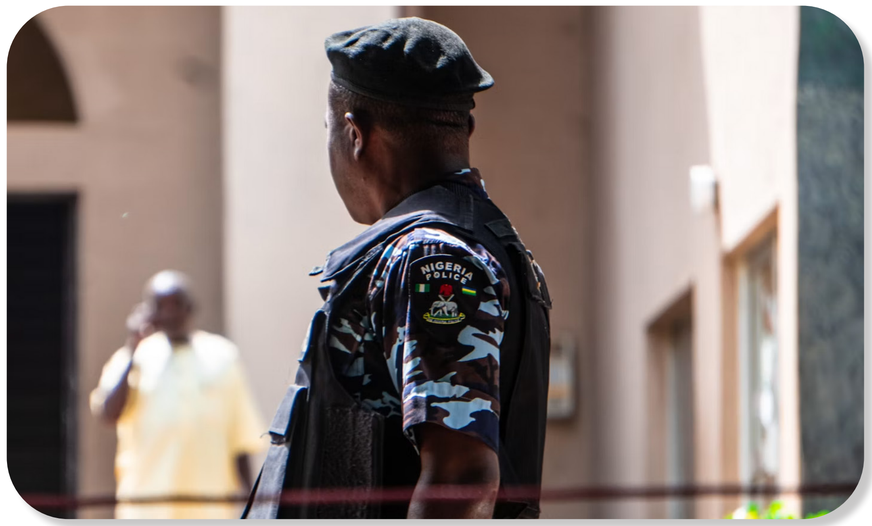
Advancing Education in Peace and Security

Online

- UNITAR's practice-oriented academic programmes are **tailored for professionals operating in complex and evolving environments.** The Institute's master's degree in Conflict, Peace and Security and its complementary qualifications, including Specialization and Expert Diplomas, **enhances professional effectiveness by equipping learners** with advanced skills in conflict analysis, mediation and peacebuilding through a multidisciplinary, online learning approach.

It supports diverse participants through multiple entry pathways, strengthening their capacity for strategic planning and non-violent intervention.

Delivered in partnership with **the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya**, the Institute expands access for global participants, including those from the Global South, **supporting inclusive and high-quality learning opportunities.**



Illustrative image of a peace and security environment

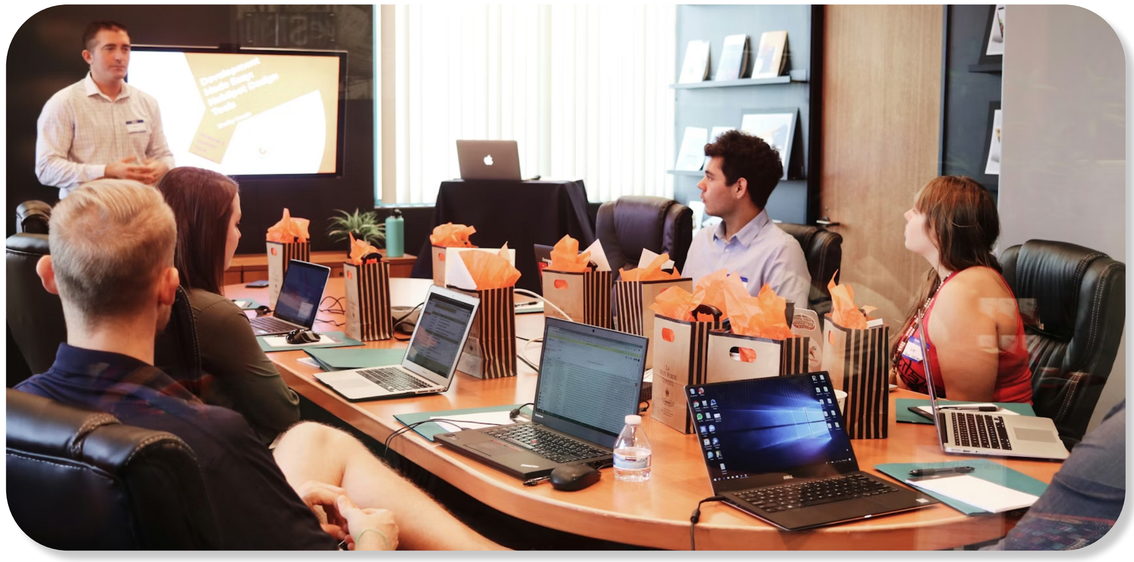
91
STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED

Strengthening Professional Capacity in Electoral Management

Online

- Ensuring credible and inclusive electoral processes requires sustained investment in the professional development of electoral practitioners. Through UNITAR's master's degree in Electoral Policy and Administration, **the Institite delivers a flexible, multilingual learning** offer that builds practical competencies in electoral policy and administration for a diverse global audience.

Implemented in partnership with **the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies**, the degree was recently complemented by **a webinar on donor–Electoral Management** Bodies engagement and the introduction of a module on disabilities and elections to strengthen the capacity of professionals to manage complex electoral processes effectively.



Participants attending a professional training session in electoral management and governance. Photo used for illustrative purposes only

95
STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED

04

Working in **Partnership**

Partnerships are central to delivering effective and sustainable peace and security outcomes. During the first quarter, UNITAR strengthened collaboration with UN entities, regional organizations, governments and non-traditional partners to deliver joint programmes and expand impact across regions and sectors. These partnerships enhanced capacity-building, enabled knowledge exchange and aligned efforts with international standards and national priorities. Through coordinated action, the Institute supported conflict prevention, disarmament, maritime security and inclusive leadership initiatives. These efforts contributed to strengthened regional cooperation, improved operational effectiveness and scalable solutions, demonstrating the added value of collective action in addressing complex peace and security challenges.

Developing Maritime Intelligence Capabilities in Zanzibar

- Most maritime security institutions lack structured intelligence analysis capacities for effective decision-making. **The Foundation Training in Maritime Intelligence** supports operational readiness by equipping members of **KMKM** with practical skills in intelligence analysis, reporting and briefing.

Through targeted training delivered to **23 personnel,** UNITAR establishes a foundation for developing an institutional intelligence capability within KMKM, enhancing analytical standards and supporting more informed and coordinated maritime operations.



Small patrol boat conducting a maritime training exercise off the coast of Zanzibar during a practical session with KMKM personnel.

Activity conducted in Zanzibar, Tanzania



23
PARTICIPANTS

Enhancing Capacity to **Combat Illicit Arms Flows**

- Limited technical and operational capacities constrain the ability of institutions to effectively control small arms and light weapons, undermining efforts to curb illicit flows.

The Fellowship Training Programme on SALW Control in Asia-Pacific advanced national and regional implementation of the UN Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument **by strengthening capacities to implement SALW control policies,** equipping officials with technical expertise and promoting cooperation and gendersensitive approaches.

In collaboration with **the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs,** UNITAR enhanced capacity of participants from **12 Member States,** supporting more effective and coordinated arms control efforts.

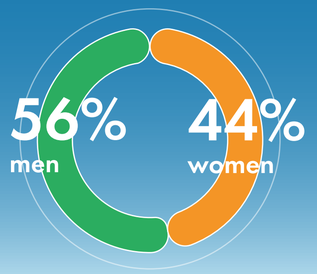


Participants engage in a practical outdoor learning session with experienced trainers.

Activity conducted in Jabalpur, India



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PARTICIPANTS



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