


PROJECT CLOSURE NARRATIVE REPORT - FLEXIBLE PROJECT FUNDING

The information collected in this form will be used for the sole purpose of the EIF Secretariat monitoring and reporting requirements.

PART 1: PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name	CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER-SENSITIVE ACCOMMODATION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MILITARY WOMEN IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED DEPLOYMENT OF WOMEN PEACEKEEPERS WITHIN GHANA BATTALION (GHANBATT)
Fund Recipient	UNIFIL
Country / Mission	Lebanon
Project Manager Name	Nicoleta Verestiuc
Email address	verestiuc@un.org
Project Timeframe	Jan 2022 – October 2022
Project Closure Report Submission Date	December 2022

T/PCC FUND RECIPIENT	PUNO FUND RECIPIENT
Where the fund recipient is a T/PCC, the following signatory is required:	Where the fund recipient is a PUNO, the following signatory is required:
Name of the National Entity (NE)¹:	Name of the United Nations Organisation²: United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon
Signatory Name:	Signatory Name: Melva Crouch
Position:	Position: Director of Mission Support
Signature:	
Date:	
Telephone Number:	Telephone Number: 162-6900
Email:	Email: melva.crouch@un.org

PART 2: RESULTS FRAMEWORK

EIF Results Framework Select the Primary Outcome that this Project has contributed to: (Select only one)	Improved working and/or living conditions for uniformed women peacekeepers in United Nations peace operations
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Improved working conditions for uniformed women peacekeepers in United Nations peace operations

Activities	Outputs	Indicators	Baseline data	Targets	Key results	Comments
Objective: Construct gender-sensitive accommodation, ablutions and common areas						
Construction of gender-sensitive accommodation, ablutions and common areas	Gender-sensitive facilities are constructed	Number and type of gender-sensitive facilities	3 x 3 module prefabs Female ablutions (ratio of minimum 1 ablution per 10 women) NB Each module of a prefab can accommodate up to 4 people. Steel Roof Shade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qty 5 x 3 module prefab accom - 3x UNP 5-66 (accom) - 1x UNP 5-42 (accom) - 1 x UNP 1-0A (accom) Qty 2 x 1 module prefab accom - 1 x UNP 5-66 (common room) - 1 x UNP 5-20 (accom) Qty 2x 3 ablutions - 1x UNP 5-42 - 1 x UNP 1-21 (revision req) Qty 1 UNP 5-66 	Increased living condition benefits, supporting increased work output and private comfort	Target was met successfully within the allocated funds and time.
		Number of women peacekeepers using these facilities	137 as 29 July 2022	173 by 30 Sep 2022	Increasing the number of women performing all functions in the battalion resulted in harmonious working environment for the battalion and better results in interaction with the local population	Target was met.
		Number of Ghanaian women peacekeepers deploying to UNIFIL compared to the deployment plan	137/15.9% women deployed in September 2021	173/20% women to deploy by 30 Sep 2022	The deployment plan of the last two rotations has been respected, resulting in 19% deployment as opposed to previous years when the female deployment was less than 15%	UNIFIL target was not met due to lack of female participation on the side of the Ghana Armed Forces. However, completion of the project has received increased positive feedback from Ghana and provides accommodation for increased female deployment by the GAF in future deployments.
		Number of Ghanaian mission personnel reporting improved living and working conditions for women peacekeepers		Follow up interviews to be conducted with current GHANBATT personnel during August, before rotation, to enable comparison with data obtained from previous interviews conducted before the project commenced (please provide details in Annex B).	97.5%	Target was met.

Deployment of women peacekeepers at project commencement and completion, by position:

GhanBatt	Deployment at project start: 31 Dec 2021				Deployment at project completion: 31 Dec 2022			
	M	W	%W	T	M	W	%W	T
5-66	253	67	20	320	248	77	24	325
1-0A	194	31	14	225	180	46	20	226
5-42	82	17	17	99	83	15	15	98
5-20	76	22	22	98	83	16	16	99
1-21	57	0	0	57	51	8	14	59
5-22	60	0	0	60	52	3	5	55
Total	722	137	16	859	697	165	19	862

PART 3: DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS AND LESSONS

1. Summary of Results

Please provide a summary of the accomplishments, results and outcomes of the project. The summary should also highlight potential impact and any relevant achievement related to the project's implementation, including unexpected results, both positive and negative. This section should be no longer than one page.

The construction of the new facilities at GhanBatt positions provided better living conditions for the Ghana Armed Forces females deployed in UNIFIL. This resulted in more comfort for the duration of living outside their country, which in turn provides an incentive for the deployed women to encourage other female soldiers from Ghana to enlist for peacekeeping deployments. The better living and relaxation facilities provided for an increase in motivation, which resulted in better work performance and efficiency. Moreover, the increase in the morale of female soldiers supported a general increase in the welfare of GhanBatt troops.

Moreover, the deployment of the extra female troops by GhanBatt provided great publicity for other TCCs to follow. GhanBatt is leading by example the deployment of female peacekeepers in UNIFIL and is a great motivator for other Units to follow.

2. Good practices, lessons, and recommendations

- a. *What has worked well during project implementation? Describe any good practices implemented during project implementation that can be replicated in future programming.*

There was a great team effort from all the teams involved. During the construction, what worked best was the great support of the GhanBatt troops who offered to provide the manpower, which greatly alleviated the efforts of the Engineering Section and shortened the implementation timeline.

- b. *Looking back, is there anything that you would do differently about the project's design and implementation? If so, please provide a detailed description.*

It was noticed that the Commanding Officer who rotated in with the new Battalion in September 2022 had different deployment ideas than the one who has provided input in the planning phase. These new ideas were part of the parallel GAF deployment project supported by EIF. Should these ideas have been provided to the on-ground CO at an earlier stage, later project revisions may have been avoided.

- c. *What recommendations and lessons have you identified regarding project design, implementation, and results? Please provide a detailed description including recommendations.*

The ratio of 8:1 per toilet from the Elsie standard was not utilized, as it is not a requirement by DOS (rather a suggestion), and the lower ratio gave the Commanders concerns over equity between males and females. It is suggested that DOS and EIF consider again the impact this ratio may have on the overall deployment of troops in peace operations.

3. Challenges/Problems

Please elaborate on the key challenges/problems faced by the project, both in terms of the project's design (e.g. type of activities, expected accomplishments, objectives, etc.) and implementation (e.g. change in country situation, administrative processes, collaboration with partners, etc.). Please also list actions taken to address them:

Description of key challenges	Key action(s) taken to solve the issue, if any
Identification of new requirements linked with deployment of females to forward positions	Request for project revision was submitted and approved by EIF for one position, while for the other position UNIFIL provided the required funding.

4. Advocacy and Knowledge Generation

Please describe any events, consultations, reports, research papers, blog posts that you led, or contributed to, in order to promote the project and contribute to the global conversation about uniformed women's representation in United Nations peace operations. Please indicate your role(s) in these knowledge production activities. Please also include the link or URL to each of these products, activities, or events.

UNIFIL has prepared an opening ceremony for the project, to which all UNIFIL TCCs and Embassy representatives were invited, along with all the EIF donor countries and Ghana high level representatives. The EIF Manager was also invited, and this provided an opportunity for her to interview the contingent and meet with key representatives in the mission.

It was a great knowledge sharing event in which all participants learnt about the UN gender parity goals and the EIF goals and support toward Member States aiming at increasing female participation in peacekeeping.

Throughout the project implementation, the Public Information Office at UNHQ and at UNIFIL had many opportunities for advertisement and PR for the project. The project appeared in the annual report of the EIF. There were videos filmed throughout the implementation of the project, as well as a video that follows the life of one of the ladies deployed in the 2022-2023 rotation, from her appointment as member of the GhanBatt battalion to her return home to Ghana.

Some of the media produced by the Public Information Office came in the form of one video, two articles at the launch and at the inauguration and several posts. Below are links to these media products.

- <https://youtu.be/SWL0kcmK2s8>
- <https://unifil.unmissions.org/united-nations-interim-force-lebanon-unifil-receives-funding-elsie-initiative-fund-enable-inclusive>
- <https://unifil.unmissions.org/first-un-peacekeeping>
- https://twitter.com/UNIFIL_/status/1570758720489160704?s=20&t=Nes0w9RdglOGFWVnblAsKQ
- https://twitter.com/UNIFIL_/status/1488188411383058438?s=20&t=Nes0w9RdglOGFWVnblAsKQ
- <https://www.facebook.com/UNIFIL/posts/pfbid0341NEd4kvzX1dGWJQCBP6ZLmuFyuSrewL8W5yhxUcqNT8qAB4jwZ7ccLQ2VXMBatAl>

5. **Sustainability**

How does the security institution plan to sustain the project's outputs and results to advance women's meaningful participation in UN peacekeeping? This section should elaborate on the extent to which the achievements of the project are likely to be sustained beyond its completion, leading to enduring, self-sustained results. It should also include information on any follow-up activity to the project that was implemented or initiated by the fund recipient or implementing partners following the completion of the project.

UNIFIL is committed to supporting the deployment of female peacekeepers in accordance the United Nation's gender targets in line with Security Council resolutions and the United Nations Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy 2018-2028. Therefore, the mission will continue to support within its own resources, other TCCs willing to increase their female participation. Currently, UNIFIL is looking at the living conditions of NepBatt and assessing the possibility of supporting the improvement of living conditions of its next deployment, which is forecasted to contain a higher percentage of female troops.

6. **Additional Information**

This section should include any additional information about the project's activities, such as press clippings, media coverage, meeting reports, publications, websites, etc. If the information is available online, please include the link or URL.

- <https://youtu.be/SWL0kcmK2s8>
- <https://unifil.unmissions.org/united-nations-interim-force-lebanon-unifil-receives-funding-elsie-initiative-fund-enable-inclusive>
- <https://unifil.unmissions.org/first-un-peacekeeping>
- https://twitter.com/UNIFIL_/status/1570758720489160704?s=20&t=Nes0w9RdglOGFWVnblAsKQ
- https://twitter.com/UNIFIL_/status/1488188411383058438?s=20&t=Nes0w9RdglOGFWVnblAsKQ
- <https://www.facebook.com/UNIFIL/posts/pfbid0341NEd4kvzX1dGWJQCBP6ZLmuFyuSrewL8W5yhxUcqNT8qAB4jwZ7ccLQ2VXMBatAl>

Annex A: Please provide below a detailed analysis of survey responses conducted before and at the end of the project and attach the survey data in a separate excel spreadsheet.

The Elsie Fund Initiative has achieved its goal according to the female personnel of GhanBatt. This can be seen from the increased deployment number from approximately 16% before the project to approximately 20% after the project. The project that was funded was executed as planned and its impact is already being felt on the ground by the troops.

With different cultural practices on a global scale such as UNIFIL, the Elsie Fund was able to segregate male soldiers from the female soldiers in a way that positively impacted the ability of women peacekeepers to work efficiently while being offered a sense of security and safety.

Further, as this was a military setting, the sharing of room space between senior officers and their juniors was troublesome. This is because juniors have a harder time relaxing in rooms where their seniors occupy. By providing different accommodation for the commissioned and noncommissioned officers, the significance of rank was maintained while also allowing the juniors to feel at ease to unwind after a long day at work.

The female personnel were appreciative of their own common area where they could watch their own tv shows in the evening and over the weekend as previously they would share the common area with the male soldiers whose interest varied from theirs. These spaces have also been used for their own recreational use.

The project has moved to indicate its importance in the success of the mission. Indeed, there are increased levels of morale, and the output has seen growth as well. The project has also enabled more female peacekeepers to be posted in positions of significance.

The new facilities will be used to further improve the number of female peacekeepers deployed to UNIFIL. Such spaces infer a sense of safety to female peacekeepers. Funding to create such projects are important in achieving equality in missions.

ELSIE FUND REPORT ON SURVEY OF GHANBATT PERSONNEL

The Elsie Initiative Fund for uniformed personnel in peace operations has been able to create accommodation and ablutions for female peacekeepers from Ghana Battalion. This report seeks to find out how the responses of the personnel who benefited from it. To that effect, a questionnaire was issued to sample of the female peacekeepers and the following is a summarization of the results.

It should be noted that the female peacekeepers who transitioned into the facilities rotated in September 2021 were very satisfied with the new facilities and the feedback is from the peacekeepers that deployed to the mission in September 2022

1. Could you describe the first impression once you arrive in your previous accommodation in the mission area?

Sample size = 40, 60% were disappointed with the accommodation with many disappointed at the facilities provided by the UN. Some expressed disbelief at the lack of privacy and sharing of bedspace as there wasn't enough space.

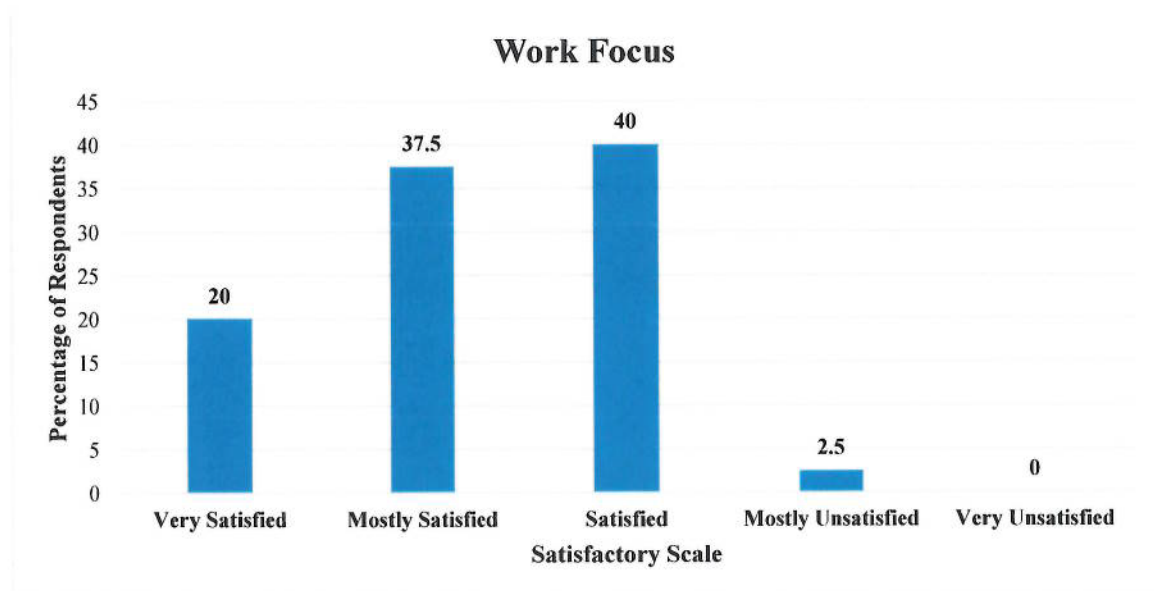
The remaining 40% were pleased with the new accommodation and they expressed a sense of comfort particularly with the partitioning in accommodation units and the common area received.

2. How do you feel with the new development accommodation and the facilities?

The female personnel were pleased with the new developments. This is because it afforded them with a sense of safety and privacy. The new accommodation has made their stay in the mission area much more comfortable.

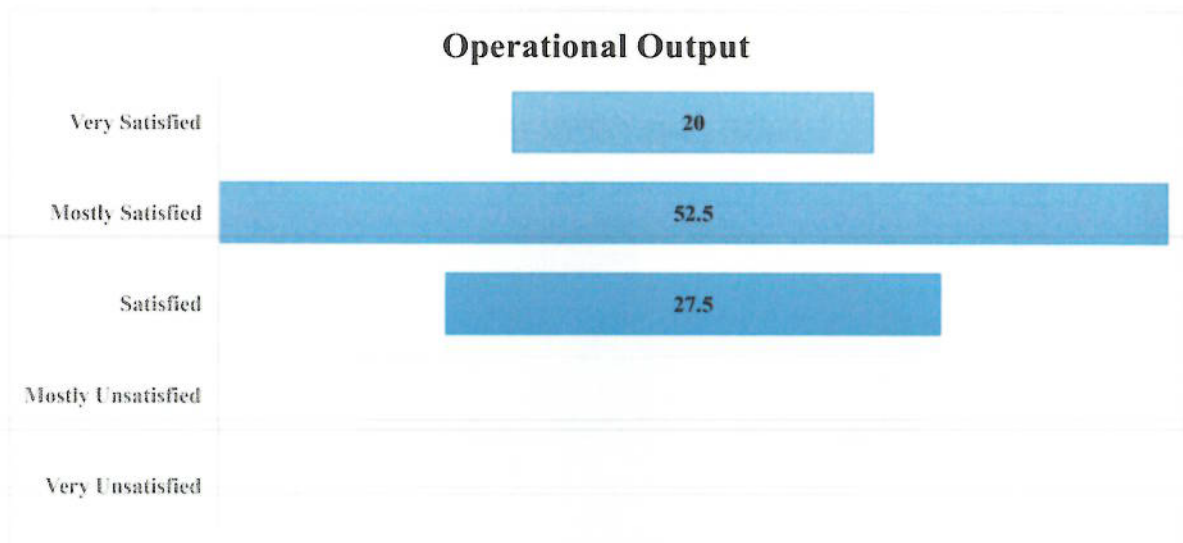
However, a few of the respondents requested for the allocation per room to be two personnel instead of the current four, others requested for more accommodation so that all the female personnel can appreciate the facilities. It should however be noted that the UN Engineering manual dictates the area allocated to the personnel based on their rank and availability of accommodation space.

3. On a scale from 1 to 5, with being 5 very satisfied and 1 being very unsatisfied, how much do you estimate the improved facilities help you on focusing better on your work?



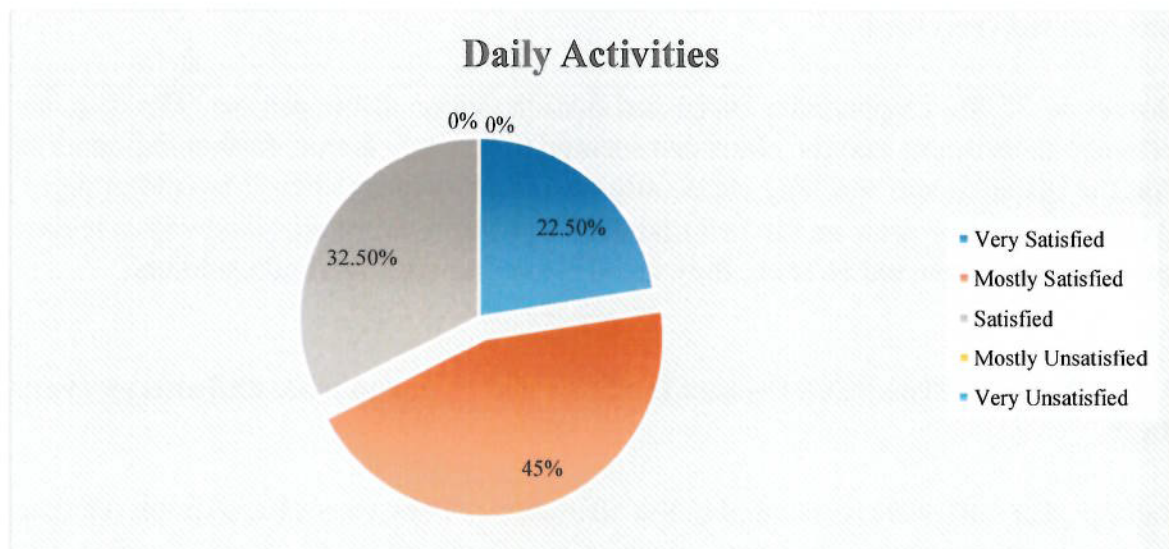
Sample size = 40, 40% are satisfied that their new accommodations have enabled them to focus more on their work thus providing an increased level of effectiveness. 37.5% are mostly satisfied, 20% are very satisfied, 2.5% are mostly unsatisfied with none of the respondents being very unsatisfied.

4. On a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being very satisfied and 1 being very unsatisfied, how much do you estimate your operational output having increased due to the provision of better facilities?



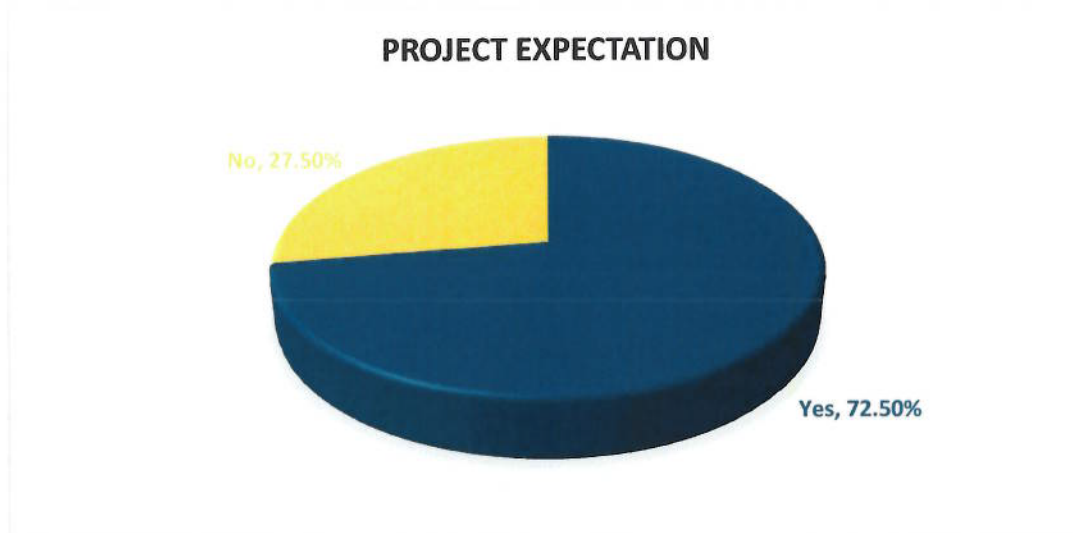
Sample size = 40, 52.5% are mostly satisfied that their improved facilities have increased their work rate and output at their duty stations. 27.5% are satisfied and 20% are very satisfied, with none of the respondents being unsatisfied in any way.

5. On a scale of 1 to 5, how much do you estimate this change helps you in terms of your daily activities?



Sample size = 40, 45% are mostly satisfied that their facilities have improved their daily activities. 32.5% are satisfied and 22.5% are very satisfied.

6. Did this project meet your expectations?



72.5% of the respondents reported as being satisfied with the results of the project. Particularly the ability to dress in private, having somewhere safe to relax after a long day and the ability of the project to further help increase the number of female peacekeepers. The respondents were pleased at the size of the rooms, regarding them as spacious and well furnished. The landscaping and beautification of the project was also well received.

However, 27.5% respondents expressed dissatisfaction at the project. The distance between their rooms and the ablutions seemed to be a key factor, further expounding that the distance was too long especially during the winter when it is cold at night. Other respondents drew on the fact that not all positions were provided with a female only common area and as such, they are still sharing with the male soldiers.

7. Do these Elsie Fund Project facilities boost your morale and energy every day?

Sample size =40, 90% responded in the affirmative. They were able to point out that, waking up and returning to a new, clean room after work was a morale booster. The project enabled ranking privileges to be maintained as juniors and seniors no longer mix in the accommodation. The common area for the females has also improved their energy levels as they get to unwind at a place of their own without the interference of the male soldiers.

8. Do you have any suggestions for the improvement for the facilities?

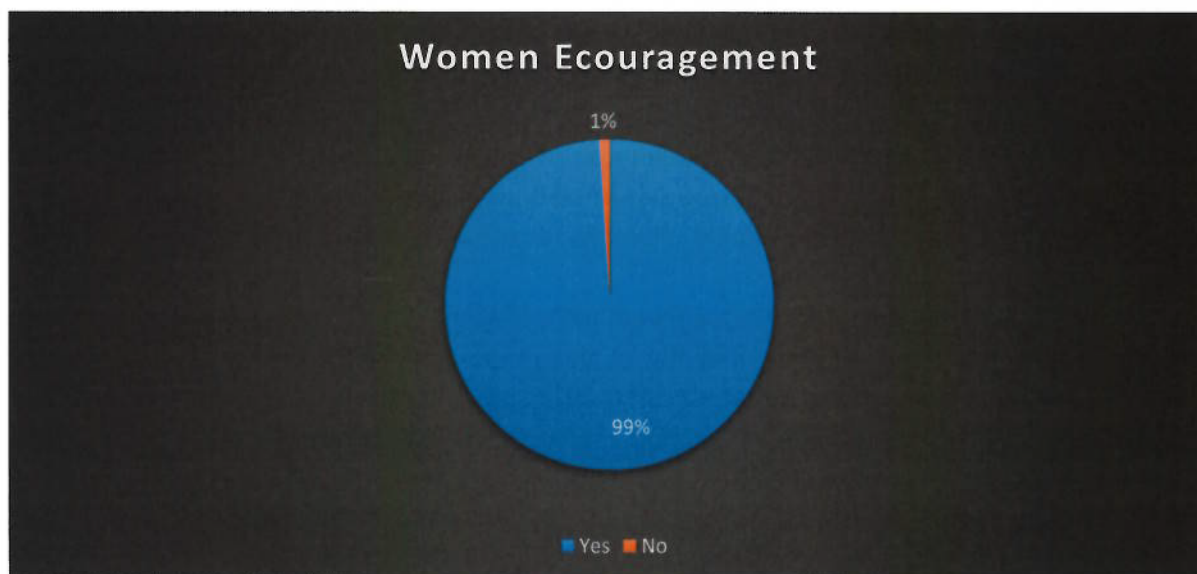
The respondents were pleased with the facilities, however, they requested for additional washrooms to be added to the existing ones. This; they claimed was due to the increase in female deployments. They further requested that wooden hangers be constructed to enable them to hang their uniforms after they had ironed them.

A few requested for extra accommodation. This is because there still exists female personnel in the old accommodation who have not benefited from the facilities that have been provided by the Elsie Fund Initiative. The respondents also requested for a common room in all positions such as the one at the headquarters and they also encouraged the area to be visited regularly to be able to maintain the stature of the program.

Further, the respondents requested for the UNIFIL washrooms to be renovated and to have en-washrooms in the accommodations at future projects. There were requests for extra drylines because of the increased number of deployed female personnel.

The female ablution for the officers at the battalion headquarters is 50m away and the officers requested to have an ablution closer to avoid having to walk long distances and walk past the male officers' accommodation.

9. Do you believe that these improved living conditions can encourage more women peacekeepers to deploy in peacekeeping?



Sample size = 40, 99% of respondents resoundingly reported yes, it would encourage many more female peacekeepers to be a part of peacekeeping missions. The 1% while appreciating the efforts made, believed that yet more can be done to protect women in mission areas.

10. Would you consider these facilities an incentive for you to encourage more women to be a part of UNIFIL peacekeepers?

Sample size = 40, 100% reported in the affirmative that the facilities were an incentive for many female peacekeepers to be a part of UNIFIL peacekeepers.

Summary

1. The Elsie Fund Initiative has achieved its goal according to the female personnel of GhanBatt. This can be seen from the increased deployment number from approximately 16% before the project to approximately 20% after the project. The project that was funded was executed as planned and its impact is already being felt on the ground by the troops.
2. With different cultural practices on a global scale such as UNIFIL, the Elsie Fund was able to segregate male soldiers from the female soldiers in a way that positively impacted the ability of women peacekeepers to work efficiently while being offered a sense of security and safety.
3. Further, as this was a military setting, the sharing of room space between senior officers and their juniors was troublesome. This is because juniors have a harder time relaxing in rooms where their seniors occupy. By providing different accommodation for the commissioned and noncommissioned officers, the significance of rank was maintained while also allowing the juniors to feel at ease to unwind after a long day at work.
4. The female personnel were appreciative of their own common area where they could watch their own tv shows in the evening and over the weekend as previously they would share the common area with the male soldiers whose interest varied from theirs. These spaces have also been used for their own recreational use.
5. The project has moved to indicate its importance in the success of the mission. Indeed, there are increased levels of morale, and the output has seen growth as well.

The project has also enabled more female peacekeepers to be posted in positions of significance.

6. The new facilities will be used to further improve the number of female peacekeepers deployed to UNIFIL. Such spaces infer a sense of safety to female peacekeepers. Funding to create such projects are important in achieving equality in missions.

