The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) – a specialized training agency of the United Nations – supports the (re-)establishment of peaceful, just and inclusive societies (SDG 16) by enabling individuals and organizations to contribute meaningfully to sustainable peace.

With over 60 years of experience in capacity building, we provide customised, creative and results-based learning solutions, carefully crafted for countries and communities emerging from conflict and facing specific development needs. At the core of our success is our specific methodology that allows for the creation of powerful and inspiring spaces, products and services (online and face-to-face) for high-quality learning and collaboration.

Our training programmes have mentoring and coaching as their key ingredients and promote participation, dialogue, local ownership and multiplication of knowledge for sustainable impact and behavioural change.

To build and enhance capacities in conflict and post-conflict contexts to create and (re)construct a society for all, UNITAR supports stakeholders in addressing the root causes of conflicts and builds mechanisms meant to accommodate the different social actors and to ensure equal opportunities so every individual can achieve their full potential in life. Our approach focuses on:

- South-South and triangular cooperation
- Gender mainstreaming
- Human rights mainstreaming
- Focus on impact on the ground
Since 2018, UNITAR has been supporting the UN Department of Peace Operations and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs in building capacities of Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) practitioners to increase effectiveness of arms control in DDR contexts, in the framework of the new UN Approach to DDR and the new challenges faced in current conflict contexts. In addition to the development and delivery of the annual blended training course, UNITAR also launched the Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) & DDR Hub, an online Community of Practice with about 200 members that connects WAM and DDR practitioners with specialists and experts for the exchange of resources, best practices and lessons learned.

Since 2020, UNITAR, together with the World Bank, has been supporting the African Union (AU) in intersecting fields of conflict prevention and response, more specifically early warning systems and DDR related activities in priority contexts. Since 2023 UNITAR has been focusing its support to strengthening operational linkages between early warning and conflict response through the application of human rights-based approach. To do this UNITAR is working in close collaboration with the project partners, namely the World Bank Group, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the AU Commission.

This project, implemented thanks to the generous support of the Government of Japan, aimed to support five Civil Society Organizations to build their capacity through dedicated methodological tools that supported youth in the recognition of their own potential to become peacebuilding actors (agency) and to use their energy for implementing peacebuilding and reconciliation measures in their direct environments (empowerment).

As part of International Organization for Migration (IOM) and DPO’s support framework for the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Committee (NDDRC) in Cameroon, UNITAR designed and implemented a practical training course aimed at strengthening the knowledge and understanding of Community Violence Reduction (CVR) and enhancing the capacities of the NDDRC to plan, design and implement CVR approaches within the national DDR process. Moreover, UNITAR designed a High-Level Executive Training aimed at strengthening the knowledge and understanding of the senior leadership of the NDDRC and of other relevant key national stakeholders engaged in the DDR process in Cameroon. The ultimate goal is to strengthen support and coordination between the NDDRC and the other key actors.

"This project is a new opportunity to learn from UNITAR. Initiatives such as this are important because they help to put the spotlight on those who need it and give them a voice. There is a need to create a network in civil society to improve cooperation between organizations, especially in Libya. Our work allows us to interact with people from all over the country and creates a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our national identity and cohesion." - Eiman, Project Officer, Solidarity