

United Nations Peace Keeping Force

United Nations Peacekeeping helps countries torn by conflict create the conditions for lasting peace. It comprises of civilian, police and military personnel. United Nations Peacekeeping is a joint effort between the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support.

It operates in some of the toughest and most dangerous places in the world, going where others cannot or will not. It tailors each deployment to suit the specific needs on the ground and adapts to new threats and challenges protecting more people than ever before. Its peacekeepers are actively engaged in protecting civilian populations, helping prevent conflict, reducing violence and strengthening security in the field where it matters most.

Peacekeepers monitor and observe peace processes in post-conflict areas and assist ex-combatants in implementing the peace agreements they may have signed. Such assistance comes in many forms, including confidence-building measures, power-sharing arrangements, electoral support, strengthening the rule of law, and economic and social development. Accordingly, UN peacekeepers (often referred to as Blue Berets or Blue Helmets because of their light blue berets or helmets) can include soldiers, police officers, and civilian personnel.

The United Nations Charter gives the United Nations Security Council the power and responsibility to take collective action to maintain international peace and security. For this reason, the international community usually looks to the Security Council to authorize peacekeeping operations through Chapter VII authorizations.

Most of these operations are established and implemented by the United Nations itself, with troops serving under UN operational control. In these cases, peacekeepers remain members of their respective armed forces, and do not constitute an independent "UN army," as the UN does not have such a force. In cases where direct UN involvement is not considered appropriate or feasible, the Council authorizes regional organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) the Economic Community of West African States, or coalitions of willing countries to undertake peacekeeping or peace-enforcement tasks.

Functions

1. PROTECTING CIVILIANS

-Modern peacekeeping has a number of tools to support the protection of civilians.

-Political leaders engage with governments and other actors to mitigate and prevent conflict.

-civilian experts, including Child Protection Advisers, Women's Protection Adviser's and Protection of Civilians Advisers, engage in a range of activities, including demobilizing child soldiers, persuading armed groups to stop sexual violence and coordinating military operations to protect civilians.

-Its military and police personnel bring unique skills to provide security and stability.

-It experts in strengthening the rule of law and human rights further ensure the establishment of a protective environment.

2. BUILDING RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY INSTITUTIONS

Through systematic and targeted measures, UN Peacekeeping addresses the situation of those individuals and communities most affected by conflict, with the overarching goal of assisting national political processes, conflict resolution and stabilization.

UN Peacekeeping assists countries to strengthen the rule of law by restoring and maintaining security, protecting civilians, paving the way to peace building, reconstructing communities and creating the enabling conditions for sustainable peace.

Rule of law activities in peacekeeping are people-centred initiatives. They are tailored to local realities and assist communities to produce concrete peace dividends, such as access to basic services through mine/explosive hazard removal.

UN Peacekeeping also supports the rule of law by providing interim stability or security measures, such as mixed patrols in Mali, local ceasefires in Darfur, informal and community-led security arrangements in Abyei, local peace agreements in the Central African Republic and targeted community violence reduction programmes in Haiti.

In countries emerging from violent conflict, the threads that hold society together, along with a sense of trust and justice, can be badly damaged. For example, armed combatants may roam free, while local police may be feared and old grievances continue to simmer.

3. PREVENTING CONFLICTS

UN peacekeepers frequently operate in highly volatile areas with conflict. While its military and police peacekeepers work to protect civilians, stabilize conflict zones and strengthen rule of law, many other peacekeepers work to strengthen social and civic conditions necessary for peace. Peacekeepers help strengthen national and sub-national institution to address the root causes of conflict such as discrimination, inequalities and marginalization.

Its civil affairs officers are a key civilian component that helps facilitate interactions between peacekeeping missions, partners and local communities to prevent conflict. Civil affairs work depends on a mission's mandate and the evolving situation on the ground. Three constant key activities that civil affairs officers undertake are engaging local stakeholders, participating in local conflict management and supporting the extension of state authority. **As of January 2017, there are about 732 Civil Affairs Officers in 12 UN Field Missions worldwide.**

4. PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

Most multi-dimensional UN peace operations have a human rights team. The teams implement the human rights-related mandates given to missions and they help to mainstream human rights across all mission activities.

The goals of human rights teams' are-

- To contribute to the protection and promotion of human rights through both immediate and long-term action;
- To empower the population to assert and claim their human rights;
- To enable State and other national institutions to implement their human rights obligations and uphold the rule of law.⁵

5. PROMOTING WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

UN Peacekeeping operations are mandated by the Security Council to implement the Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security across all peace functions. Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) was the first resolution that recognized the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women and girls, acknowledged the contributions women and girls make to conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peace building and highlighted the importance of their equal and full participation, as active agents in peace and security. The nine subsequent resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122, 2242, 2467, 2493) have since been adopted, stressing the importance of women's leadership and meaningful participation in the prevention and resolution of conflicts; addressing the impact of sexual violence; promoting the development and use of measures and standards for monitoring the implementation of women, peace and security mandates; training and capacity building on gender equality and women, peace and security for peacekeeping personnel; engaging with civil society more comprehensively and enabling an improved understanding of gender dynamics of conflict. The implementation of Women Peace and Security (WPS) priorities is a political commitment in the Secretary General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative reaffirms that women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace processes and political solutions is essential for effective peacekeeping.⁶

6. OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

The Department of Operational Support (DOS) helps peace operations succeed by providing support solutions that are rapid, effective, efficient and responsible. It works together with UN and non-UN partners to plan, mobilize and sustain 35 peacekeeping, special political and other field missions in the world's most complex environments.

Today, DOS helps administer a combined annual budget of over \$7 billion, 131,000 authorized uniformed personnel and 24,000 authorized civilian staff in over 270 duty stations across more than 30 countries. The services it provides range from budget, finance, human resources and technology to the management of supply chains, facilities and assets. It also supports UN efforts in response to all forms of misconduct by mission personnel.

Source- United Nations website.

