

Effect of peace support operations and peacekeeping operations on access to justice, rights and public services

UN peacebuilding missions nearly double likelihood of democratisation. It is associated with improved access to justice, rights, and services through democratisation.

Geographical region: Global

Effect size: Large effect ($g = 0.351$)

Confidence in study findings: Low confidence (1 study with 4 effect size)

Short summary

UN Peacekeeping Operations are intended to achieve a long-term political settlement or other specified objectives. The one study in this cell suggests a positive impact of UN Peacebuilding operations in supporting democratization. It finds that democratization is significantly more likely if a UN peacebuilding mission is deployed, with a 68% probability of an increase in democracy in host countries compared to 34% in non-host countries. Greater democracy is associated with improved access to justice, rights, and services through democratisation.

Long summary

The Intervention

Peace Support Operations (PSOs) and Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs), where

1) PSOs encompass all multi-functional operations, conducted impartially, normally by States or by international or regional organizations, such as the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), the African Union (AU), or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), involving military forces and diplomatic and humanitarian agencies, and are designed to achieve a long-term political settlement or other specified objective, and

2), the deployment of UN peacekeepers into countries in a post-conflict setting. This involves the deployment of international troops and police, who work with local civilian peacekeepers to provide security to an area (UN Peacekeeping n.d.). Operations with primary or secondary objectives to prevent, halt or reduce the risk of atrocities are also considered within this category. (DDR is not mentioned in this cell).

How is the intervention expected to work?

UN Peacebuilding Operations that specifically include democracy in their mandate may have an effect on access to justice, rights, and public services. Access to justice, rights, and public services includes all indicators of access to justice and rights, including the intent, capability and capacity to protect human rights in civilian and military settings (including access to

documentation), and equitable access to public services (e.g. health, education), which are all possible consequences of greater democratization.

The evidence base

This cell has one quantitative study: Steinert (2014) employs a multinomial logistic regression analysis to assess the impact of UN peacebuilding missions on democratization trends in 103 post-civil war countries, of which 31 experienced a UN peacebuilding mission. The study is rated low confidence as it is a non-experimental study and lacks a clear description of the intervention.

Evidence findings

The study finds that democratization (which includes access to justice, rights, and public services) is significantly more likely if a UN peacebuilding mission is deployed, with a 68% probability of increased democracy in host countries compared to 34% in non-host countries. Descriptive statistics suggest that greater mission capacity, such as longer duration and more resources, may enhance democratization outcomes, although this relationship is not statistically significant.

Included studies

Steinert (2014) examines the effectiveness of United Nations (UN) peacebuilding missions in democratizing war-torn states, with a focus on missions that include democracy promotion components in their mandates. The context involves post-civil war countries where the UN has deployed peacebuilding missions to foster democratic transitions.

The research employs a multinomial logistic regression analysis to assess the impact of UN peacebuilding missions on democratization trends in 103 post-civil war countries, of which 31 experienced a UN peacebuilding mission. The study uses Freedom House data to measure democratization, comparing rankings from the first mission year to those five years later. The analysis controls for various factors, including battle deaths, peace agreements, and oil wealth, to account for selection bias in mission deployment.

The study finds that democratization is significantly more likely if a UN peacebuilding mission is deployed, with a 68% probability of increased democracy in host countries compared to 34% in non-host countries.

The presence of oil wealth negatively impacts democratization prospects, while a clear victory by one conflict party can lead to regime transitions in both directions.

Descriptive statistics suggest that greater mission capacity, such as longer duration and more resources, may enhance democratization outcomes, although this relationship is not statistically significant.

The study is rated as low confidence as it is a non-experimental study and lacks clear description of the intervention as it does not provide detailed information on the specific components or implementation of the UN peacebuilding missions, making it difficult to replicate or fully understand the intervention's scope and impact.

Confidence assessment

Overall low: The cell/study is rated low confidence as it is based on just one study.

Other outcomes in the study/cell

- Community and state governance/Transitions of Power