

## Effect of peace support operations and peacekeeping operations on civic participation

The two studies in this cell assess UN peacekeeping's effectiveness and impact on local security and socio-economic revitalisation and non-violent protests. The studies suggest that UN peacekeeping operations' deployment positively affects civic participation in terms of collective action like non-violent protests and community projects.

Geographical region: Global, Sub Saharan Africa

Effect: Small effect ( $g = 0.024$ )

Confidence in study findings: Low confidence as there are only two studies

### Short summary

Peacekeeping operations could have an impact on civic participation in the host country. The studies in this cell suggest that peacekeeping missions have only a small positive effect on the civic participation of individuals in the form of non-violent protests, a boost in community projects like wells and schools and participation in community organizations and politics.

### 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 found in this cell.)

#### *How is the intervention expected to work?*

The deployment and presence of Peacekeeping Operations like UNMIL and peacekeepers like UN police personnel may have an effect on civic participation, including collective action, in the host country. The presence of peacekeepers, especially from strong civil societies, can provide safe spaces for protests and stability for the undertaking of community projects.

#### *The evidence base*

This cell contains two quantitative studies. Belgioioso (2020) uses a new cross-country dataset on nonviolent protests in post-civil war countries and peacekeeping missions' presence and size to examine the role of peacekeepers, especially UNPOL, who train local police forces and interact directly with protesters. Mvukiyeh (2021) employs coarsened exact matching to compare communities hosting UNMIL deployments (treatment) with those at least 15 kilometers away (control) to assess the micro-level impacts of peacekeeping operations (PKOs) in Liberia.

### *Evidence findings*

Mvukiyeh (2021) finds that PKOs boost community projects like wells and schools and improve participation in community organizations and politics. Belgioioso (2020) finds that peacekeeping missions' presence significantly increases nonviolent protests, which is part of civic participation, in post-civil war settings which is largely explained by the presence of UNPOL from countries which themselves have strong civil societies. However, the effects are small.

### *Included studies*

**Mvukiyeh (2021)** evaluates the micro-level effectiveness of peacekeeping operations (PKOs), focusing on Liberia's civil war and the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The study examines the impact of UNMIL deployments on local security and socio-economic revitalization.

Using coarsened exact matching, the analysis compares communities hosting UNMIL deployments (treatment) with those at least 15 kilometers away (control), controlling for infrastructure, population, geography, ethnicity, and conflict exposure. Security outcomes include fear of victimization, victimization by crime, and in-migration of conflict victims. Socio-economic revitalization measures include infrastructure, income, food and higher-order consumption, and participation in community activities. The non-experimental design leads to a medium confidence rating.

The findings suggest that PKOs have a positive impact on community projects like wells and schools and participation in community organizations and politics.

**Belgioioso (2020)** uses a newly crafted dataset on nonviolent protests in post-civil war countries, along with information on peacekeeping missions' presence, size, and home-country composition. The analysis examines the impact of peacekeepers on nonviolent political contention, particularly nonviolent public protest. The study focuses on the role of UN police personnel (UNPOL) from countries with robust civil societies, who train local police forces and interact directly with protesters.

The findings show that peacekeeping missions significantly increase nonviolent protests in post-civil war country-years. This effect is largely attributed to the presence of UNPOL from countries with strong civil societies. The results suggest that peacekeepers contribute to establishing a secure environment for nonviolent political contention, with important implications for post-civil war political revitalization and the composition of peacekeeping missions. The study is rated as medium confidence.

Overall, the presence of peacekeeping missions has a positive effect on civic participation, specifically, non-violent protest.

### *Confidence assessment*

Overall, the cell is rated low confidence as there are only two studies.

### **Other outcomes**

- Human security/Physical security
- Community and state governance/Access to justice, rights and public services
- Human security/Economic security
- Violence and atrocity prevention/Nature and scale of violence