

## **Effect of peace support operations and peacekeeping operations on educational security**

UN peacekeeping operations have a positive effect on female's access and attainment of education, while there is little impact on male education. Overall the effect on education outcomes is small.

Geographical region: Global, Sub Saharan Africa

Small effect size ( $g = 0.078$ )

Confidence in the study findings: Low confidence as based on two studies

### **Short summary**

Peacekeeping operations are expected to have an effect on educational security in the area of deployment. The two studies in this cell find a small positive effect of peacekeepers' deployment on the educational security of women. Both studies find that peacekeepers increase female education access and attainment. There is not the same effect for males.

### **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 not found in this cell).

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

Peacekeeping Operations and the presence of peacekeepers may have an effect on educational security by providing the stability necessary for schools to operate.

#### *Evidence base*

There are two quantitative studies in this cell: Gizelis (2021), collected data from 45 African countries between 1990 and 2013 and used cases from the Democratic Republic of Congo,

Cote d'Ivoire, and Liberia, which had comprehensive PKOs. Data were taken from Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), which include indicators of maternal health and women's education. The study is rated low confidence. Reeder (2021) utilizes geo-referenced data on local-level educational attainment (Graetz et al. 2018) and UN peacekeeping deployments (Cil et al. 2020), combined with conflict data from the UCDP and is rated as medium as it is non-experimental due to its partial description of the intervention.

The cell also includes one qualitative paper Adedokun (2019), Mozambique.

### *Evidence findings*

Gizelis (2021) reports that the presence of peacekeepers shows positive effects on women's access to education. Reeder (2021) also finds that UN peacekeeping deployments are associated with significant improvements in female educational attainment, with a one standard deviation increase in deployment linked to a 4.89% rise in attainment. Prolonged deployments yield even greater gains, particularly for women. However, no statistically significant effects were found for male educational attainment.

### *Included studies*

Gizelis (2021) explores UN's peacekeeping operations' (PKO) implications on women's access to health, particularly health outcomes, and education in post-conflict settings. The study suggests that PKO create a "peacekeeping dividend" by encouraging the development of public services.

The study uses the difference-in-difference technique, alongside geo-referenced data to evaluate maternal mortality rates (MMRs) and other outcomes at both the national and sub-national level. At the national level, data were collected from 45 African countries between 1990 and 2013, comparing changes in MMRs between countries with and without PKOs. At the subnational level, the study used cases from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, and Liberia, which had comprehensive PKOs. Dataset were sourced from Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), which include indicators of maternal health and women's education.

While the study is rated low confidence, it finds that peacekeepers have a positive effect on women's access to education.

Reeder (2021) investigates how UN peacekeeping missions affect educational attainment in conflict-affected zones across Africa between 2000 and 2014.

The study utilizes georeferenced data on local-level educational attainment (Graetz et al. 2018) and UN peacekeeping deployments (Cil et al. 2020), combined with conflict data from the UCDP. Fixed-effects regression models and Coarsened Exact Matching (CEM) are applied to account for non-random deployment of UN forces. Key variables include male and female educational attainment and gender disparity, measured against conflict intensity, socioeconomic factors, and the duration of UN deployments. The study is rated as medium confidence.

Overall, the study finds that peacekeeping has a positive effect on the attainment of education for women.

*Confidence assessment*

The study/cell is rated low confidence as there are only two studies

**Other outcomes in this cell/study**

- Human security/Food security and nutrition & Health security