

### **Effect of peace support/keeping operations on feelings of trust and acceptance of diversity**

Peacekeeping operations influence feelings of trust and acceptance of diversity, showing small effect with low confidence in study findings as its based on only two studies. .

Geographical region: Middle East & North Africa, Europe & Central Asia

Effect: Small effect ( $g = 0.043$ )

Confidence in study findings: Low as based on only two studies

### **Short Summary**

The two studies in this cell suggest that the intervention peace support/keeping operations, particularly, peacekeeping operations and the presence of peacekeepers have a small positive effect on the feelings of trust in the rule of law and acceptance of diversity. The presence of peacekeepers increased reliance on state authorities over non-state mechanisms for resolving crime and violence and increased cooperative decision-making and equitable resource allocation among ethnic groups.

### **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.

There are no studies of DDR in this cell.

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

The deployment or aspects of Peace Support Operations and Peacekeeping Operations may affect the feelings of trust and acceptance of diversity by increasing individual's reliance on state authorities over non-state mechanisms for resolving crime and violence and by influencing cooperative decision-making among ethnic groups.

### *The evidence base*

There are two studies in this cell, both of which are quantitative studies. Blair (2019) uses an original survey and list experiment in Liberia to measure the effects of exposure to UNMIL. Multiple identification strategies are employed, including an instrumental variables approach using plausibly exogenous variation in UNMIL personnel distribution caused by the killing of seven peacekeepers in neighboring Côte d'Ivoire. These methods support a causal interpretation of the findings. Page (2018) employed a multi-stage stratified random sampling design. Individuals aged 18 and over were selected from households using a random route technique. The initial study in 2003 included 681 participants, while a follow-up replication in 2013 involved 449 participants.

### *Evidence findings*

The intervention, UNMIL's presence in Liberia, influenced feelings of trust and acceptance of diversity by increasing reliance on state authorities over non-state mechanisms for resolving crime and violence. It also encouraged non-state authorities to use legal mechanisms for dispute resolution. However, in the short term, exposure to UNMIL may have exacerbated perceptions of state corruption and bias, though these adverse effects diminished over time (Blair, 2019). Page (2018) found that areas with peacekeepers' presence showed a significant increase in cooperative decision-making among ethnic groups. Specifically, participants in peacekeeping regions allocated resources more equitably, with a notable increase in positive interactions reported (30% more cooperation in resource-sharing tasks). The data suggests that peacekeepers can effectively reduce ethnic divisions in post-conflict settings.

### *Included studies*

Page (2018) investigates the impact of international peacekeepers on ethnic divisions in post-conflict societies, specifically focusing on Bosnia and aims to understand whether the presence of peacekeepers can help mitigate ethnic tensions and foster cooperation. The study employed a multi-stage stratified random sampling design. The sample consisted of individuals aged 18 and over, selected from households using a random route technique, initial study in 2003 included 681 participants, while a follow-up replication in 2013 involved 449 participants.

The study found that areas with peacekeeper presence showed a significant increase in cooperative decision-making among ethnic groups in post-conflict Bosnia. Participants in peacekeeping regions allocated resources more equitably, with a notable increase in positive interactions reported, specifically 30% more cooperation in resource-sharing tasks. The study is rated as a high and medium-confidence quantitative study.

The findings suggest that peacekeepers can effectively reduce ethnic divisions in post-conflict settings.

Blair (2019) investigates the effects of a peacekeeping mission on the rule of law in a post-conflict setting. The study relied on an original survey and list experiment in Liberia to assess the effects of UNMIL. Causal interpretation was supported by multiple identification strategies, including an instrumental variables approach that exploited exogenous variation in UNMIL personnel distribution triggered by the killing of peacekeepers in neighboring Côte d'Ivoire. These effects

were analyzed for their persistence over time, even in areas with no continued exposure to peacekeepers. Exposure to the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) increased citizens' reliance on state authorities over non-state authorities to resolve serious incidents of crime and violence. It also encouraged non-state authorities to rely on legal rather than illegal mechanisms for dispute resolution. However, exposure to UNMIL did not mitigate, and may have exacerbated, citizens' perceptions of state corruption and bias in the short term, though these adverse effects dissipated over time. The study is rated as a low-confidence quantitative study.

Overall, the mission's presence (PKO) had complex but largely positive impacts on fostering trust and reliance on state systems.

#### *Confidence assessment*

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

#### **Other outcomes in this cell/study**

- Violence and atrocity prevention/Diplomatic relations & peaceful dispute resolution