

## **Effect of Peace support/keeping operations on food security and nutrition & Health security**

Peacekeeping operations enhance food security and well-being by stabilizing conflict-affected areas, which shows small effect on food consumption, reduces food scarcity, and increases optimism about future living conditions and life satisfaction.

Geographical region: Sub Saharan Africa

Effect: Small effect ( $g = 0.07$ )

Confidence in study findings: Low confidence

### **Short summary**

Peacekeeping Operations aim to enhance security and stability in post-conflict settings, potentially improving food security, nutrition, and health security, including psychological well-being. A study on UNMISS in South Sudan finds that peacekeeper presence increases per capita food consumption, reduces food scarcity, and boosts household optimism about future living conditions. Additionally, life satisfaction levels rise in these areas, highlighting the positive impact of peacekeeping on both material well-being and psychological health. However, these effects are small.

### **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 are expected to improve food security, nutrition, and health security by providing stability and reducing conflict-related disruptions. By securing conflict-affected areas, peacekeepers may help with improved safety, reduced violence, and enhanced economic opportunities, contributing to better food availability and overall well-being.

### *Evidence base*

This cell contains one quantitative study: Bove (2022) combines high-frequency household survey data and information on subnational deployment of UN peacekeepers in South Sudan. The cell includes one qualitative paper Adedokun (2019 on, Mozambique).

### *Evidence findings*

Households in UNMISS deployment areas show higher per capita food consumption (24 units per capita increase) while the probability of households reporting food scarcity is reduced by 10 percentage points. Households also purchase 23 more units of food per capita in these areas. Households in peacekeeper-deployed areas had a 14 percentage point higher optimism about future living conditions and life satisfaction levels were 5 percentage points higher in these areas.

### *Included studies*

**Bove (2022)** evaluates the impact of UN peacekeeping on mitigating the adverse effects of civil wars on households' economic well-being. Civil wars disrupt economic transactions and harm psychological health, creating significant challenges for local economic recovery. The study examines whether UN peacekeeping can serve as a tool to counter these effects by (i) encouraging labor provision and economic exchanges, and (ii) instilling confidence by reducing the psychological impact of daily stressors.

This study uses high-frequency household survey data and geospatial information on UN peacekeeper deployments in South Sudan. Statistical models evaluate the impact of peacekeepers on consumption patterns, security, and psychological well-being. Mediation analysis explores indirect effects through improved safety, reduced violence, and enhanced economic opportunities. Robustness checks address endogeneity and confirm validity, leveraging granular subnational data for accurate measurement and stronger causal inferences. The study is rated as a low-confidence quantitative study.

The study finds that peacekeeping operations have a positive effect on food security of households and their psychological wellbeing.

### *Confidence assessment*

Overall, the study/cell is rated low confidence.

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

- Human security/Physical security
- Human security/Economic security