



FACT SHEET

United Nations Peacekeeping



VITAL

A central element of international conflict response

- UN peacekeeping provides essential security and support to millions of people as well as fragile institutions emerging from conflict. Peacekeepers deploy to war-torn regions where no one else is willing or able to go and prevent conflict from returning or escalating.
- The international character of UN Security Council authorized peacekeeping missions provides unparalleled legitimacy to any UN peace operation.
- UN peacekeeping is an impartial and widely accepted vehicle for both burden-sharing and effective action.
- UN peacekeeping provides a vital stabilizing element of security in post-conflict situation that enables peace efforts to proceed, but it may not be the only tool needed to address every crisis situation.
- Peacekeeping supports a peace process, it cannot substitute for one.

ROBUST

A massive enterprise

- The UN is the largest multilateral contributor to post-conflict stabilization worldwide. Only the United States deploys more military personnel to the field than the United Nations.
- There are almost 110,000 personnel serving on 20 peace operations led by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) on four continents in 12 time zones, directly impacting the lives of hundreds of millions of people. This represents a seven fold increase in UN peacekeepers since 1999.
- In addition, the newly established Department of Field Support (DFS) supports another 12 special political and/or peacebuilding field missions managed by the Department of Political Affairs, as well as a number of other UN peace offices requiring administrative and logistical assistance from UN Headquarters.
- The UN does not have its own military force; it depends on contributions from Member States. As of 31 March 2008, 118 countries contributed military and police personnel to UN peacekeeping.
- More than 77,000 of those serving were troops and military observers and about 11,000 were police personnel. In addition, there were more than 5,000 international civilian personnel, 12,000 local civilian staff and some 2,000 UN Volunteers from over 160 nations.
- Women are increasingly performing key leadership functions in peacekeeping: between February 2007 and January 2008, there was an increase of over 40% of women serving in peacekeeping. Currently, one woman leads a peace operation as a Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and three women as Deputy SRSGs. The Officer-in-Charge of DFS and the Chief of Staff of DPKO are also both women. In addition, the first all-women contingent to serve in a peacekeeping mission, a Formed Police Unit from India, was deployed in 2007 to the UN operation in Liberia.

EFFECTIVE

A high success rate

- Since 1945, UN peacekeepers have undertaken 63 field missions, which, among many other things, enabled people in more than 45 countries to participate in free and fair elections; and helped disarm more than 400,000 ex-combatants in the past decade alone.
- The UN is an efficient and cost-effective force provider. Its specialists, particularly in integrated missions, possess a wide range of civil and military capabilities needed to stabilize and help develop post-conflict situations.¹
- In 2007, the UN General Assembly authorized a comprehensive programme of internal restructuring, including the reorganization of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the establishment of a separate Department of Field Support. The restructuring also included a major augmentation of resources and the addition of new capacities and integrated structures to match the growing complexity of mandated activities and to ensure unity of command and integration of effort.
- In the new structure, DPKO focuses on providing strategic direction, management and guidance to peacekeeping operations, while DFS provides operational support and expertise in the areas of personnel, finance and budget, communications, information technology and logistics. Added to DPKO portfolio are a new Rule of Law and Security Reform Office and an enhanced Office of Military Affairs.



LESS EXPENSIVE

UN peacekeeping is cost effective

- UN peace operations are far less expensive than other forms of international intervention and their costs are shared more equitably among UN Member States.
- The approved peacekeeping budget for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 is approximately US \$6.8 billion. This represents about 0.5% of global military spending (estimated at US \$1,232 billion in 2006).
- When costs to the UN per peacekeeper are compared to the costs of troops deployed by the United States, other developed states, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or regional organizations, the United Nations is the least expensive option by far.ⁱⁱ
- A recent survey by Oxford University economists found that international military intervention under Chapter VII of the UN Charter is the most cost-effective means of preventing a return to war in post-conflict societies.ⁱⁱⁱ
- A study by the US Government Accountability Office estimated that it would cost the United States approximately twice as much as the UN to conduct a peacekeeping operation similar to the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) – \$876 million compared to the UN budgeted \$428 million for the first 14 months of the mission.^{iv}



RELEVANT

UN peacekeeping makes a difference where it matters most

- The security environments into which recent peacekeeping operations have deployed are among the most difficult and least governed of any that international operations have ever encountered.^v Peacekeeping missions deploy where others cannot or will not and play a vital role in providing a bridge to stability and eventual long-term peace and development.



FLEXIBLE

Adaptable to different environments and needs

- The UN has demonstrated an increased flexibility in the structures and types of its field deployments. This flexibility has allowed it to respond to unique challenges and the risk of overstretch.^{vi}
- The UN increasingly works in peacekeeping partnerships with other international and regional organizations, such as the African Union (AU) or the European Union (EU), for maximum effect.
- From law enforcement operations in the slums of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to the joint AU-UNmission in Darfur, UN peacekeeping continues to evolve and adapt to today's global peace and security challenges.
- From protecting civilians in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to supporting elections in Timor-Leste or Liberia, UN peacekeeping matches the tools provided by the UN system to the task of keeping and building sustainable peace.

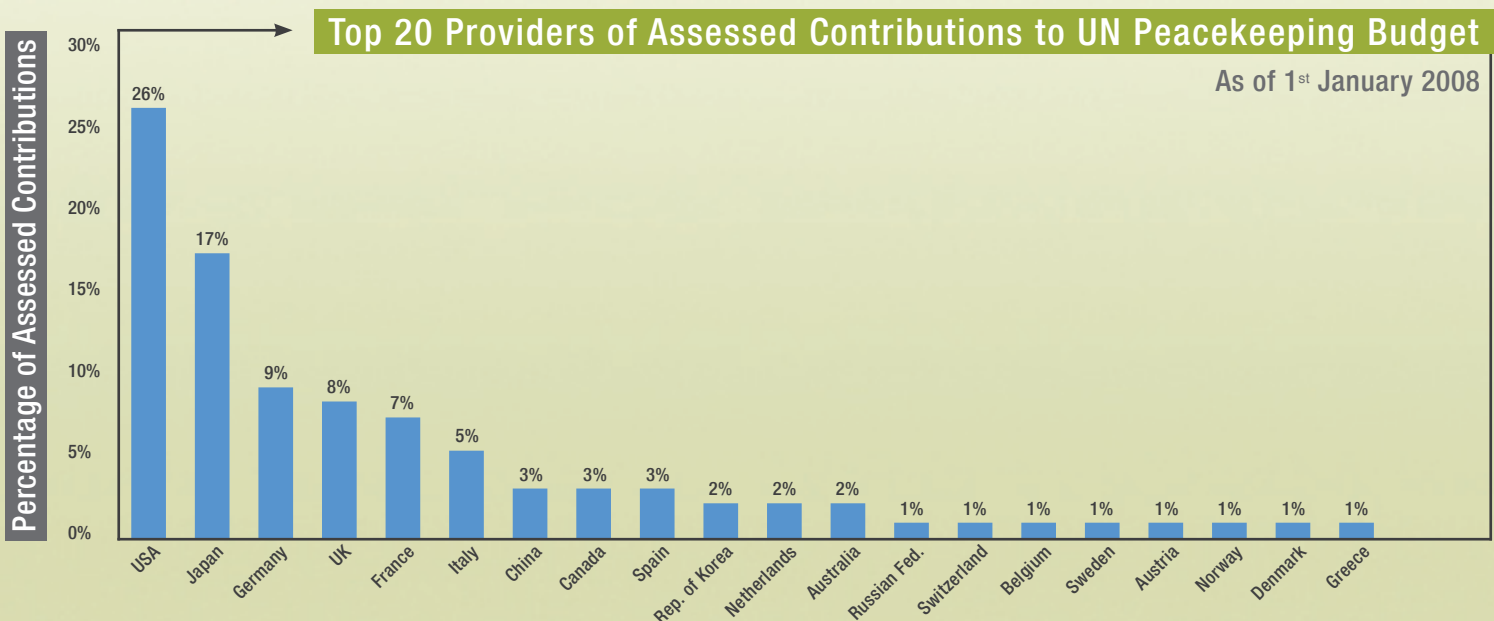
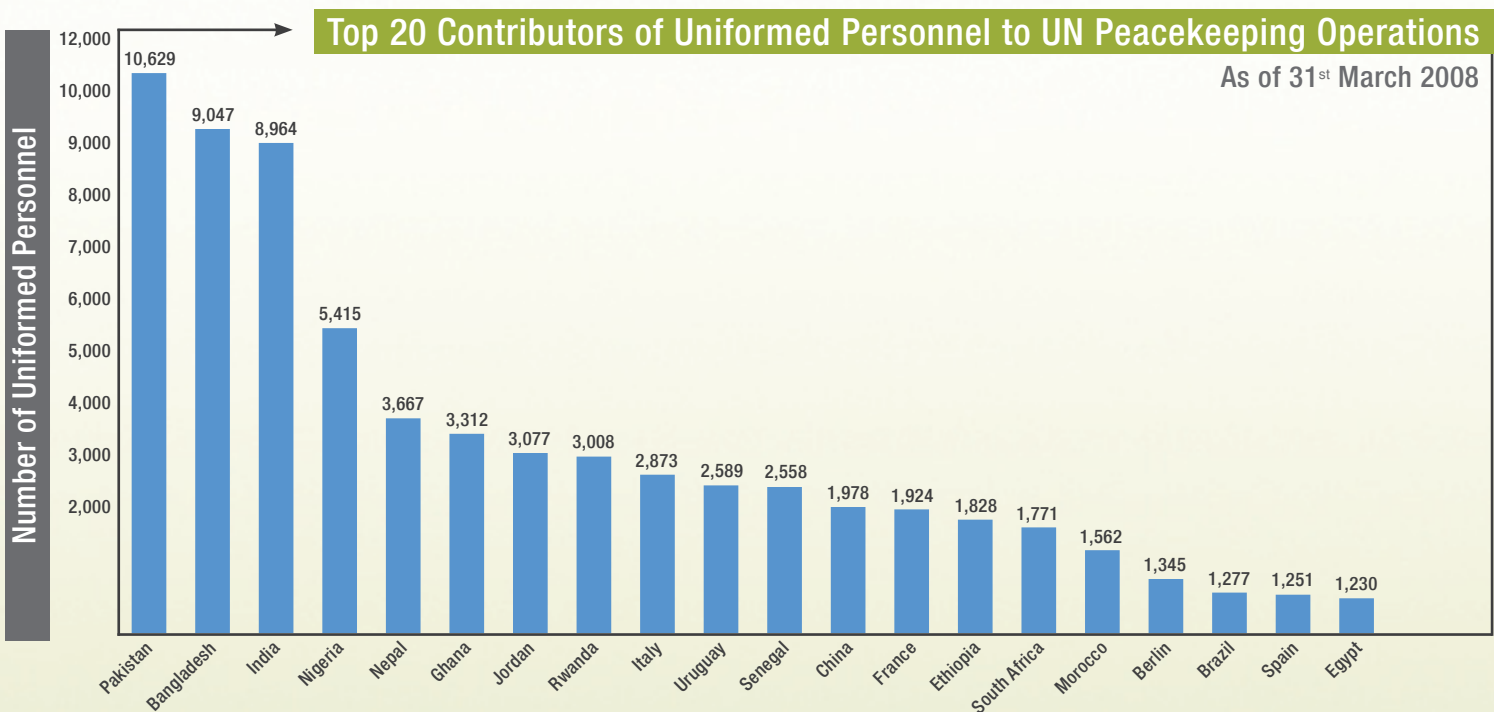


DYNAMIC

UN peacekeeping continues to evolve

- In addition to maintaining peace and security, peacekeepers are increasingly charged with assisting in political processes, reforming judicial systems, training law enforcement and police forces, disarming and reintegrating former combatants, and supporting the return of internally displaced persons and refugees.
- UN electoral assistance has become an increasingly essential feature in UN peace operations. Recently, UN peace missions have supported elections in seven post-conflict countries –Afghanistan, Burundi, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, the DRC and Timor-Leste – with populations totaling over 120 million people, givingmore than 57 million registered voters the chance to exercise their democratic rights.
- Holding its personnel accountable to the highest standards of behavior is a major priority for UN peacekeeping. For example, UN peacekeeping has adopted a comprehensive three-pronged strategy (prevention, enforcement and remediation) to address the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN personnel. UN peacekeeping has established conduct and discipline units at Headquarters and in the field, and is working with its troop-contributing countries to ensure effective follow-up and full implementation of the recommendations contained in the March 2005 report of Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al Hussein, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

- In 2007 alone, UN peacekeeping operated:
 - 20 military hospitals and over 230 medical clinics;
 - More than 18,000 vehicles and 210 aircraft;
 - 450 satellite earth stations, 40,000 desktop computers and 2,800 servers, with approximately 3.5 million emails and 2.5 million phone calls routed every month (approximately 1 per second) and an average of 200 video conferences held per month.
- As part of UN peacekeeping, mine clearance operations managed by the UN Mine Action Service are supporting deployment of peacekeepers and the fulfillment of mandates in Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea/Ethiopia, Lebanon, Sudan and Western Sahara.
 - Mine action teams have so far cleared 50 percent of the main roads in southern Sudan, allowing peacekeeping and relief convoys to move through the area.
 - The UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan has cleared landmines and explosive remnants of war from more than 1 billion square meters of land.
 - The Mine Action Coordination Centre of South Lebanon, attached to UNIFIL, has already cleared 32.6 million square meters of the 38.7 million square meters of land that had been contaminated by cluster munitions during the conflict in the area in 2006.



Current DPKO-led Peace Missions

Year Launched	Location	Name of Mission
1948	MIDDLE EAST	UNTSO — UN Truce Supervision Organization
1949	INDIA/PAKISTAN	UNMOGIP — UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
1964	CYPRUS	UNFICYP — UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
1974	SYRIA	UNDOF — UN Disengagement Observer Force
1978	LEBANON	UNIFIL— UN Interim Force in Lebanon
1991	WESTERN SAHARA	MINURSO — UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
1993	GEORGIA	UNOMIG — UN Observer Mission in Georgia
1999	KOSOVO	UNMIK — UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
1999	DEMOCRATIC REP. OF CONGO	MONUC— UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
2000	ETHIOPIA/ERITREA	UNMEE — UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea
2002	AFGHANISTAN	UNAMA— UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
2003	LIBERIA	UNMIL— UN Mission in Liberia
2004	CÔTE D'IVOIRE	UNOCI — UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire
2004	HAITI	MINUSTAH — UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti
2005	SUDAN	UNMIS — UN Mission in the Sudan
2006	SIERRA LEONE	UNIOSIL— UN Integrated Office in Sierra Leone
2006	TIMOR-LESTE	UNMIT — UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste
2007	BURUNDI	BINUB — UN Integrated Office in Burundi
2007	DARFUR (Sudan)	UNAMID — AU-UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur
2007	CENTRAL AFRICAN REP./CHAD	MINURCAT— UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad

Endnotes

- i. James Dobbins et al., “The Beginner’s Guide to Nation-Building”, RAND Corporation, 2007.
- ii. William J. Durch et al., “The Brahimi Report and the Future of UN Peace Operations”, The Henry L. Stimson Center, 2003.
- iii. Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler, “The Challenge of Reducing the Global Incidence of Civil War”, Centre for the Study of African Economies, Department of Economics, Oxford University, 26 March 2004.
- iv. “Peacekeeping: Cost Comparison of Actual UN and Hypothetical U.S. Operations in Haiti”, United States Government Accountability Office, Report to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee on International Relations, House of Representatives, GAO-06-331, February 2006, p. 7.
- v. The Challenges Project, “Meeting the Challenges of Peace Operations: Cooperation and Coordination”, Phase II Concluding Report 2003-2006, Elanders Gotab, Stockholm, 2005.
- vi. See “Annual Review of Global Peace Operations 2007”, Center on International Cooperation, New York, 2007, pp. 2-