

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants and peace support/keeping operations

Peacekeeping is most effective in establishing stability which allows delivery of services, including a functioning justice system, which usually not possible during conflict. Access to justice, rights and public services is the only outcome with a large positive effect.

Peacekeeping also supports a achieving a peaceful dispute resolution – though this depends on providing mediation together with peacekeeping. Diplomatic relations & peaceful dispute resolution and transitions of power both have moderate positive effects.

Table 4 - Effect sizes from Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR)

Outcome Category	Effect size	No. of studies	No. of effect sizes
Access to justice, rights and public services	0.351	1	4
Diplomatic relations & peaceful dispute resolution	0.160	8	32
Transitions of power	0.138	2	6
Sense of Belonging	0.094	1	8
Social norms regarding violence and atrocities	0.094	3	7
Educational security	0.078	2	11
Food security and nutrition	0.070	1	6
Economic security	0.061	7	33
Intermediate social cohesion outcomes	0.060	1	3
Social cohesion	0.060	1	6
Nature and scale of violence or atrocities	0.058	9	54

Feelings of trust and acceptance of diversity	0.041	2	17
Physical security	0.034	2	6
Civic participation	0.024	2	5
Government performance	-0.066	3	12
Sexual and gender- based violence	-0.295	1	2

Note: A positive sign indicates an improvement, e.g. less violence, and a negative sign an adverse effect.

Whilst there are positive effects from DDR and PKOs/PSOs in reducing violence, the effects are small and there are several moderators. The success of interventions depends on mission size, mandate, and coordination with mediation efforts.

Overall, a UN peacekeeping presence shortens conflicts especially in fragmented settings (i.e. with a large number of combatant groups) and decreases battle deaths, while UN police lower post war violence. But average effects are small partly as peacekeeping reduces violence but does not end it. After a ceasefire or peace agreement violence often transforms into other forms of instability. Police officers rather than military are more effective in post-conflict settings. But there is a very small effect on physical security. And, there is a large adverse impact on sexual and gender-based violence, which is mainly - though not solely - perpetrated by rebel forces.

Peacekeeping reduces electoral violence and atrocities, but its long-term impact on sustaining peace remains uncertain, particularly in complex conflicts with persistent security challenges, e.g. Sudan and Somalia.

Peace support/keeping operations, particularly, peacekeeping operations and the presence of peacekeepers have a 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. And DDR can achieve a short run effects on cohesion but less on feelings of belonging but these do not last. These interventions work better with women, and less with more educated rebels, especially leaders.

There is low confidence in most findings in this row, both because of the low number of studies most cells and because of low confidence in the included studies.