

Lesson 2.2 Part 1



Implementing Peacebuilding Activities

Aim, Relevance and Learning Outcomes

Aim

To provide details on mandated peacebuilding tasks and activities that peacekeepers will encounter when deployed to a multidimensional UN peacekeeping operation.

Relevance

Module One showed that peacekeeping is one activity among several undertaken by the UN to maintain international peace and security. Other activities include conflict prevention and mediation, peacemaking and peace enforcement. The **distinctions** and **boundaries** between these **different activities** have become increasingly **blurred**, and **peace operations are rarely limited** to one type of activity.

Certain tasks must be carried out immediately after a violent conflict. UN peacekeeping missions are meant to be temporary measures, but a mission's mandated peacebuilding activities contribute to the long-term goal of lasting peace. **Peacekeepers are peacebuilders.**

This lesson explains the range of mandated peacebuilding tasks that are critical to sustaining peace in a host country. In all these areas, national partners lead and the UN and other partners support in an integrated, coordinated approach.

As a deploying UN peacekeeper, you need to be familiar with the full range of mandated tasks that support an integrated, whole-of-mission approach in which all components contribute to implementing the mission mandate and supporting the national partners.

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2.2 Part 1 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Aim

- Provide details on mandated peacebuilding tasks and activities that peacekeepers encounter when deployed to a multidimensional UN peacekeeping operation

Relevance

- Peacekeeping is one activity among several undertaken by the UN to maintain international peace and security. Others include conflict prevention and mediation, peacemaking and peace enforcement. Certain tasks must be carried out immediately after a violent conflict.
- UN peacekeeping missions are meant to be temporary measures, but a mission's mandated peacebuilding activities contribute to the long-term goal of lasting peace.

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Learning Outcomes

Learners will be able to:

- Identify the primary tasks mandated by the Security Council that contribute to peacebuilding.
- Describe each of the main peacebuilding activities and be able to recognize related work when deployed.
- Identify different roles of mission components and partners in implementing peacebuilding tasks and how they mutually support each other.
- Find key information on mandated task areas related to peacebuilding as needed once deployed and with reference to a specific mission mandate.

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2.2 Part 1 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the primary tasks mandated by the UN Security Council that contribute to peacebuilding.
2. Describe each of the main peacebuilding activities and be able to recognize related work when deployed.
3. Identify different roles of mission components and partners in implementing peacebuilding tasks and how they mutually support each other.
4. Find key information on mandated task areas related to peacebuilding as needed once deployed and with reference to a specific mission mandate.

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Lesson at a Glance



Minimum lesson duration:

- **Part 1 45 minutes** (including learning activity 2.2.1)
- **Part 2 45 minutes** (including learning activity 2.2.4)

The Lesson - Part 1	Pages	Slides
Expanded Overview of Mandated Tasks in Multidimensional UN Peacekeeping Operations	4-6	3
Required Learning Activity 2.2.1: Film: Rule of Law, Peace and Security	6-7	4-5
Mine Action – Explosive Hazards	7-15	6-11
Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)	15-22	12-14
Security Sector Reform & Governance (SSR&G)	22-27	15-18
Handout - Summary of Key Messages Part 1	28-29	-

Optional Learning Activity	
Optional Learning Activity 2.2.3: Importance of Peacebuilding Activities (Sustaining Peace)	<i>See 2.2 Learning Support</i>



Trainer Tips: *See 2.2 Learning Support for tips on starting the lesson, learning activity instructions, optional learning activities, learning evaluation and references.*

The Lesson



Trainer Tips: Introduce the Lesson topic, aim, relevance and learning outcomes. Remind learners about UN peacebuilding efforts introduced in Lesson 1.2 Peace and Security Activities.

UN peacekeeping is part of a broader political strategy to resolve conflict that also involves the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and the UN Country Team (UNCT). Many partners work together on these political strategies because the international community understand the many connections between UN peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

UN peacekeeping operations support countries emerging from conflict to build a sustainable, durable peace in the longer term. In all contexts, national partners lead and the UN and other partners support them.

The mandated tasks described in this lesson help peacebuilding and prevent a relapse into conflict. Security Council resolution 2086 (2013) on the importance of multidimensional peacekeeping for peacebuilding is a good reference.

Introduce the Lesson topic, aim, relevance and learning outcomes. Remind learners about the UN peacebuilding efforts introduced in Lesson 1.2 Peace and Security Activities.

Expanded Overview of Mandated Tasks in Multidimensional UN Peacekeeping Operations

Quick Review

Module 2 covers all mandated priority tasks for multidimensional peacekeeping operations. This part of the lesson introduces three peacebuilding-related mandated tasks:

- Mine action
- Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration
- Security sector reform and governance.

Part 2 of this lesson will introduce a further three mandated tasks:

- Rule of law – including justice and corrections work
- Electoral assistance
- Support to restoration and extension of State authority.

Lessons 2.3 to 2.9 cover the following:

- Protection mandates:
 - Human rights (Lesson 2.3)
 - Protection of civilians (Lesson 2.4)
 - Conflict-related sexual violence (Lesson 2.5)
 - Child protection (Lesson 2.6)
- Cross-cutting priorities:
 - Women, peace and security (Lesson 2.7)
 - Climate, peace and security (Lesson 2.8)
 - Strategic communication and Information Integrity (Lesson 2.9)

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2.2 Part 1 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Peacebuilding Activities

Peacebuilding activities mandated by the Security Council to multidimensional UN peacekeeping operations include:

- Mine action
- Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration
- Security sector reform and governance
- Rule of law – including judicial, corrections, prisons work
- Electoral assistance
- Support to restoration and extension of State authority

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Key Message 1: Peacebuilding activities mandated by the Security Council to multidimensional UN peacekeeping operations include:

- Mine action
- Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration
- Security sector reform and governance
- Rule of law – including judicial, corrections, prisons work
- Electoral assistance
- Support to restoration and extension of State authority.

Peacebuilding activities mandated by the Security Council to multidimensional peacekeeping operations include:

- Mine action – demining and removal of unexploded ordnance, including improvised explosive devices
- Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of combatants
- Security sector reform and governance (SSR&G)
- Rule of law related activities – including judicial and corrections or prisons work
- Electoral assistance
- Support to restoration and extension of State authority.

Specific mission units and components lead on specific mandated tasks. All mission components – military, police and civilians – contribute to and work together on mandated tasks.



Key Message 2: The Security Council often directs multidimensional peacekeeping operations to be **catalytic** in critical tasked activities. This means that they should make changes happen more quickly and boost the work of others. Working with national partners is key to this. It is possible to build a lasting peace when the catalytic work initiated through a mission is carried on by national partners supported by the UNCT and other actors.

Required Learning Activity 2.2.1

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2.2 Part 1 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Required Learning Activity 2.2.1: UN Video – Rule of Law, Peace and Security

Purpose: To consider the importance of support to the state for safety, security and lasting peace in contexts of violent conflict.

Time: 15 minutes

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UN Video – <i>Rule of Law, Peace and Security</i>	
Method	UN Video (Slide 5), guiding questions, group discussion
Purpose	To consider the importance of support to the State for safety, security and lasting peace in contexts of violent conflict, providing an introductory framing to training coverage of mandated tasks that occur in typical complex situations by focusing on how UN peacekeeping missions support host States.
Time	12–15 minutes
See 2.2 <i>Learning Support</i> for instructions.	

Mine Action – Explosive Hazards



Trainer Tips: Military and police may already be trained in and familiar with the content in this part of the lesson. A quick review of the slides to reinforce key messages may be enough for those learners. Civilians may need more time. Conduct a learning needs assessment and a baseline assessment to determine what learners already know. Use selected questions from the Learning Evaluation question banks in the Learning Support file for this purpose. Inform learners that practical information about personal security awareness as it relates to mine action – landmines and explosives – is covered in **Lesson 3.6 Personal Security Awareness**.

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2.2 Part 1 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities

Mine Action – Explosive Hazards

Reduce threat and impact of landmines, explosive remnants of war and other explosive hazards.

The five pillars:

- Clearance
- Risk education
- Victim assistance
- Stockpile destruction
- Advocacy



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The mandated area of mine action covers explosive hazards – landmines, explosive remnants of war (ERW) and improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Landmines are explosives placed under, on or near the ground or other surface areas. They are designed to be detonated or exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person or vehicle.

Explosive ordnance (EO) means all munitions containing explosives, nuclear fission or fusion materials, or biological and chemical agents. This includes

- Bombs and warheads
- Guided and ballistic missiles that are propelled through the air
- Artillery, mortars and rockets
- Small arms ammunition
- All mines, torpedoes and depth charges (explosives dropped into water to explode)
- Pyrotechnics (use of chemical reactions)
- Clusters and dispensers (one munition that releases many others)
- Cartridge and propellant actuated devices
- Electro-explosive devices (that use electrical energy to start exploding)
- Clandestine and IEDs
- All similar or related items or components explosive in nature.



Reference

- United Nations, *United Nations Peacekeeping Missions Military Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Unit Manual*, Second Edition (2021).

The goal of mine action is to reduce and eliminate the impact of landmines, ERW and other explosive hazards. Mine action also deals with abandoned and poorly secured State-owned weapons and ammunition stockpiles and facilities. Related threats are risks of accidental explosions and looting of weapons or explosive material.

The five pillars of mine action are:

- Clearance
- Risk education
- Victim assistance
- Stockpile destruction
- Advocacy.

Landmine and ERW clearance are key peacekeeping activities that enable:

- The local community to start farming all fields again, benefiting them and the economy
- Infrastructure to be brought back into us, benefiting the local community and the economy
- People, including peacekeepers, to move and travel freely
- Peacekeepers to carry out mission-mandated tasks and priorities, including the protection of civilians and support to political processes.

Clearance work includes:

- Surveys
- Mapping and marking (or fencing off) areas contaminated with landmines and ERW
- Removal of landmines and ERW from the ground
- ERW destruction.

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2.2 Part 1 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Explosive Hazards - Landmines

- Operate instantly – no warning
- Different types to target personnel or vehicles
- Many different styles



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Key Message 3: Landmines and other explosive hazards are designed to destroy or damage people and vehicles. Mine action is necessary to make the environment safe again, which enables and encourages normal life and development. The Security Council often mandates multidimensional peacekeeping operations to play a role in mine action. It is a critical peacebuilding activity and an early confidence-building measure.

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2.2 Part 1. Implementing Peacebuilding Activities



Explosive Hazards – Explosive Remnants of War

- Often dangerous – unstable
- Many sizes from explosive bullets to rockets
- Cluster bomblets often look like toys



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ERW are explosive devices left after a conflict that have not detonated. ERW includes cluster munitions, mortars, hand grenades, shells and bullets.

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2.2 Part 1. Implementing Peacebuilding Activities



Explosive Hazards – Improvised Explosive Devices

- Made by user rather than factories
- Often designed to attack EOD personnel
- Often boobytrapped
- Extremely unpredictable
- Can be made using ERW



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IEDs are explosive devices put together by the user from whatever materials are available. Because they are not made in a commercial factory like other explosives, they are extremely unpredictable. IEDs include time bombs, booby traps and explosive devices carried by a suicide bomber.



Trainer Tips: *At this point, pause the lesson to invite learners to reflect on and share their perspectives on the effects of mines and other explosive hazards. Make note of key points that arise in their responses.*

To prompt discussion, ask if learners have any experience with landmines, unexploded ordnance or IEDs.

Emphasize that the range of negative impacts caused by these hazards will undermine the achievement of a mission mandate and efforts for peace at individual, community and State levels.

Also note that such impacts can continue for many years after a violent conflict formally ends.

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2.2 Part 1 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Effects of Mines and other Explosive Hazards

Landmines and other explosive hazards have wide-ranging negative impact:

- Kill or injure people – including civilians
- Destroy or damage vehicles and other property and close roads
- Block safe deployment of peacekeeping personnel
- Interfere with safe delivery of humanitarian assistance
- Prevent civilians from returning home and back to normal life
- Stop people from earning money to live
- Make reconstruction after war and economic and social development much more difficult

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Landmines and other explosive hazards have a wide-ranging negative impact.

They:

- Kill or injure people – including civilians
- Destroy or damage vehicles and other property
- Block roads
- Block the safe deployment of peacekeeping personnel
- Interfere with the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance
- Prevent civilians from returning home and back to normal life in ways such as children going to school or farmers working the land
- Rob people of their livelihoods
- Make reconstruction after war much harder
- Make economic and social development much harder.



Key Message 4: The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is the UN focal point for mine action. It ensures an effective, proactive and coordinated UN response. The Department of Peace Operations (DPO) integrates mine action into peacekeeping operations while UNMAS provides direct support and assistance.

UN Mine Action Service: UNMAS is a service of DPO, responsible for UN mine action in peacekeeping operations and special political missions (SPMs). UNMAS leads, coordinates and carries out efforts to reduce threats from many different explosive hazards. UNMAS may be mandated by the Security Council, requested by the Secretary-General or requested by an affected country.

Peacekeeping operations and mine action tasks undertaken by UNMAS: the Security Council mandates UN peacekeeping missions with mine action tasks to:

- Remove and destroy landmines and ERW, which are a threat to civilians and stop people, including internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees, from moving and travelling safely
- Give technical advice to national authorities and trains them on mine action, IED mitigation, weapons and ammunition management
- Provide for rapid response in mine action
- Support efforts to stabilize the country and protect civilians.

UNMAS is an integrated part of peacekeeping missions. It supports mandate implementation by:

- Educating local people and mission staff on how to reduce the risk from landmines
- Conducting surveys and clearing routes so that peacekeepers and local people can move around freely
- Advising national authorities as part of capacity development
- Training relevant peacekeeping personnel in technical response.

On request, UNMAS deploys experts and specialized equipment to:

- Reduce the threat posed by explosive hazards to civilians and mission personnel
- Coordinate emergency humanitarian responses.

Military role in relation to mine action tasks: Operational demining, military demining and breaching are terms for mine and explosives **clearance for operational needs.**

Mine clearance for operational needs allows the mission to:

- Move and deploy troops and other personnel
- Maintain supply lines to all the places where the mission personnel are based
- Increase access to all parts of a mission area.

Humanitarian mine clearance is different. **Humanitarian mine clearance clears land so civilians can return to their homes and routines.** Sometimes specialized military contingents in a peacekeeping mission work in humanitarian mine action operations, supported by UNMAS. Specialized military contingents conduct mine action operations according to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).

The UNPKO's role in relation to mine action tasks: Peacekeeping operations help implement projects on weapons and ammunition management. They cooperate with UNMAS and comply with the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATGs).



Key Message 5: Mine clearing can be carried out so that the mission can do its work (operational demining) or so that civilians can return to their homes and routines (humanitarian mine clearance).

Partners in Relation to Mine Action Tasks:

Host State: UN mine action support is undertaken in cooperation with the national authorities of the Host State. The UN also provides national authorities with technical advice, training and other capacity development support on request.

UN departments, agencies, funds and programmes: UN departments, agencies, programmes and funds support mine action. Examples are the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Food Programme (WFP). The Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) holds monthly meetings at UN Headquarters. UNMAS is the focal point and coordinator of the Group.

International and regional organizations: International and regional organizations are becoming more active in mine action efforts. One example is the African Union (AU), which has adopted the AU Mine Action and ERW Strategic Framework 2014–2017. UNMAS works closely with the AU on strategies, training and capacity development.

Member States and individuals: Member States and individuals contribute funds to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, a fund managed by UNMAS for life-saving mine action programming around the world.



Reference

- African Union, The African Union Mine Action and Explosive Remnants of War Strategic Framework, April 2014 – December 2017 (2014).

UNMAS Advice to Peacekeepers about Explosive Hazards

It is important to be aware of how to minimize risks from explosive hazards. Personnel should plan all activities to avoid mined areas. Nobody should touch, pick up or keep any suspected explosive ordnance. If you suspect something may be an explosive hazard, call for specialized help. You should keep the number to call with you at all times.

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2.2 Part 1 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities

Advice to Peacekeepers about Explosive Hazards

If you or someone else stray into a minefield or EO contaminated area:

- **Stop** all movement immediately
- **Warn** all personnel in the area
- **Call** for specialist assistance or advice
- Evaluate the situation and do not move from your position

Mines explode the moment they are disturbed

- They are designed to kill and to cause devastating injuries

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Key Message 6: If you or someone else strays into a minefield or an area contaminated by unexploded ordnance:

- **Stop** all movement immediately
- **Warn** all personnel in the area
- **Call** for specialist assistance or advice
- Evaluate the situation and do not move from your position.



Key Message 7: Be aware of how to minimize risks from explosive hazards:

- Plan all activities to avoid mined areas.
- **Do not** touch, pick up or keep any suspected explosive ordnance.
- If you suspect an explosive hazard, call for specialized help – keep the number to call with you at all times.

Keeping yourself safe during mine action tasks is discussed in more detail in *Lesson 3.6 Personal Security Awareness*.

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration

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2.2 Part 1 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)

- Voluntary process through which members of armed groups are supported to:
 - Lay down weapons
 - Return to civilian life
- Part of a multidimensional approach, contributing to conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacebuilding and development
- Helps create a secure and stable environment in which recovery can begin

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Key Message 8: Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) is a voluntary process that supports members of armed groups to lay down their weapons and return to civilian life. DDR is highly political and includes security, social, economic and humanitarian dimensions.

The objective of DDR is to support security and stability in fragile, conflict and post-conflict environments. DDR processes deal directly with members of non-State armed groups, encouraging them to lay down their weapons, leave the groups and become part of society again.

Transitioning from combatant to civilian life can be daunting and potentially unappealing, especially where a civilian lifestyle leaves them with less money. To address this, DDR provides socioeconomic support to assist ex-combatants, including education and opportunities for employment through the reintegration process.

DDR of combatants is a critical peacebuilding activity in most multidimensional peacekeeping operations. It helps create a secure and stable environment in which recovery can begin. All DDR processes are voluntary, people-centred, gender-responsive and inclusive, conflict sensitive, context specific, flexible, accountable and transparent, nationally and locally owned, regionally supported, integrated and well planned.



Trainer Tips: *Resources on DDR for self-directed learning are available on the UN Department of Peace Operations website, under the DDR page. Provide the links to training participants during this part of the lesson. Invite learners or available subject matter experts with experience with DDR in UN peacekeeping mission contexts to share their experiences and highlight key contributions and challenges in this crucial area of work.*



Key Message 9: Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of combatants is a critical peacebuilding activity in most multidimensional peacekeeping operations. The objective of DDR is to **positively impact security and stability** in fragile conflict and post-conflict environments.

Some key definitions and terms help us understand this critical area of peacekeeping. Each of the following terms describes an important aspect of this integrated work. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration are the core concepts. Repatriation, resettlement and rehabilitation expand on these. Peacekeepers are encouraged to learn the meaning of these terms in the context of UN peacekeeping.

Disarmament is when combatants give up their weapons. These are collected, documented, controlled and disposed of. The weapons can include small arms, ammunition, explosives and light and heavy weapons. Often the civilian population also give up weapons they may have at this stage. Disarmament also includes the development of responsible arms management programmes.

Demobilization is when active combatants leave the armed forces or groups they are members of. This is a formal and controlled discharge process. The first stage of demobilization may start with the processing of individual combatants in temporary centres and may be followed by the massing of troops in camps designated for this purpose (cantonment sites, encampments, assembly areas or barracks).

The second stage of demobilization is called **reinsertion**. This includes a support package provided to the demobilized people. Reinsertion is a form of transitional and temporary help with the basic needs of ex-combatants and their families and can include transitional safety allowances, food, clothes, shelter, medical services, short-term education, training, employment and tools. Reinsertion is short-term and can be material, financial or both. It is to meet immediate needs and can last up to one year.

Reintegration is the longer-term process by which ex-combatants acquire civilian status and find a regular job and stable income. Reintegration is about work and money, and an open time frame. It mostly takes place in communities at the local level. It is part of the general development of a country and is a national responsibility. It often necessitates long-term external assistance.

Repatriation refers to the return of foreign ex-combatants and their families to their country of birth or origin.

Resettlement refers to the settling of ex-combatants and their families to the areas they came from or to new places. The communities have to welcome and integrate the ex-combatants and their families. The country as a whole has to do the same thing. Resettlement gives people land or employment, and supports integration into the local community.

Rehabilitation of ex-combatants includes psychological counselling and trauma healing support. Many ex-combatants suffer from mental health issues. These can make reintegration to civilian life difficult, and complicate reconciliation and peacebuilding.



Key Message 10: DDR provides socioeconomic support to assist ex-combatants, including education and opportunities for employment through the reintegration process.

DDR provides socioeconomic support to assist ex-combatants. This support includes education and job opportunities. Transitioning from combatant to civilian life can be hard and make people feel that their lives were better when they were fighting, especially if they have less money as civilians.

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2.2 Part 1 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Integrated DDR Processes

DDR Programme

- Can be implemented when the pre-conditions are in place
Pre-conditions: ceasefire or peace agreement, minimum security, willingness of the parties, trust in the process

DDR-Related Tools

- Can be used when the preconditions for a DDR programme are present but also when they are absent

Reintegration Support

- Can be provided when the preconditions for a full DDR programme do not exist

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Key Message 11: DDR practitioners choose the best DDR measures for the conflict context. An integrated DDR process includes a mix of:

- DDR programme
- DDR-related tools
- Reintegration support.

Pre-conditions for viable DDR programmes

A traditional DDR programme, where each step is carried out in order needs the following pre-conditions in place:

- A ceasefire or comprehensive peace agreement with provisions for DDR
- A minimum level of security
- Willingness of the parties to participate in a DDR programme
- Trust in the process.

Armed conflicts have become more complex, involving many non-State actors, regional and international actors. The proliferation of weapons, the fragmentation of armed groups, surge of violent extremism and organized crime have further challenged DDR initiatives. In many current conflict settings, there is no ceasefire or comprehensive peace agreement in place, there is no security and the parties to the conflict lack the trust and willingness to commit to DDR. Where those pre-conditions are not in place, a traditional DDR programme is not viable. In such cases, DDR-related tools and reintegration support are used.

DDR-related tools

Peacekeeping must engage with armed groups even when pre-conditions for a DDR programme are not in place. DDR-related tools are flexible, immediate and targeted responses that can be implemented before, during, after or instead of a DDR programme, and include:

- Community violence reduction (CVR)
- Pre-DDR
- Transitional weapons and ammunition management, transitional security arrangements
- Mediation support
- Support to those leaving armed groups designated as terrorist organizations (AGDTO).

DDR-related tools can also prevent people from being recruited to the same or different armed groups or AGDTOs at a later date.

Reintegration support

Support to reintegration should always be provided to ex-combatants. Even where there is no DDR programme, and/or where combatants have self-demobilized, DDR practitioners should support the reintegration of ex-combatants into civilian life.

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2.2 Part 1 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

UN Peacekeeping Operations Support to DDR Processes

- Mandate to support national DDR processes
- Technical expertise of DDR practitioners
- Logistical support
- Provision of security
- Collection and disposal of weapons
- Financial support



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Key Message 12: Based on the principles of sovereignty and national ownership, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) processes are led by the host government. Where mandated by the Security Council, peacekeeping operations support national authorities in planning, implementing and evaluating DDR.

Tasks in supporting national authorities in planning, implementing and evaluating DDR include:

- Enabling national governments to develop, implement and evaluate DDR processes
- Providing technical advice and expertise
- Providing logistical support
- Securing disarmament and cantonment sites – these are temporary camps where troops assemble for demobilization
- Collecting and disposing of weapons, ammunition and other material surrendered by former combatants
- Providing financial support.

UN Peacekeeping Components and Units that Support DDR

Module 1 covered how UN peacekeeping works through partnerships. The summary below explains how key partnerships with national actors and across mission components contribute to the implementation of UN Security Council resolution mandates on DDR.

DDR Unit: DDR officers in the mission are civilian personnel. They work closely with the host country's DDR commission or similar entity to carry out disarmament and demobilization. Reintegration is a civilian role, normally carried out by national authorities with help from the international community, including the mission.

Military: Military personnel possess a wide range of skills and capacities that contribute to DDR processes in mission settings. When DDR is implemented in mission settings with a **United Nations peacekeeping operation**, the primary role of the military component is to:

- Provide a secure environment
- Observe, monitor and report on security-related issues.

This role may include provision of:

- Security to DDR programmes and to DDR-related tools
- Technical support to disarmament, transitional weapons and ammunition management
- Establishment and maintenance of transitional security arrangements.

Police: Police expertise and skills can support DDR processes in mission settings in many ways. Police personnel may conduct several general tasks, including:

- Provision of advice
- Support to coordination
- Monitoring and building public confidence.

Police personnel may also conduct more specific tasks related to the particular type of DDR process that is under way, for example, by facilitating weapons tracing and the dynamic surveillance of weapons and ammunition storage sites.

Public Information: the public information office (PIO) plays a crucial role. Affected communities and participants in DDR processes need accurate information on the procedures and benefits. The PIO handles public information, awareness-raising and community sensitization (the process of making community members aware of the effects and changes DDR creates within the community). These help to build broad public support and national ownership.

Child Protection: Child protection staff help address the specific needs of children in DDR processes. They facilitate the separation of children from armed forces and armed groups and the handover of children to child protection actors, and support children's family reunification and community reintegration.

Non-mission partners that support DDR

Host country: The primary responsibility for DDR rests with the host country and with national and local actors. They are responsible for planning, coordinating and implementing DDR. National capacity is developed through national implementing agencies (the organizations that do the work) and their partners who carry out programmes and deliver services. Civil society is a key national partner in DDR and local communities are important to successful reintegration.

Key international and regional actors, Member States and bilateral partners: these partners provide political and financial support. International implementing agencies also support national authorities.

UN departments, agencies, funds and programmes: The DDR Unit is not the only part of the UN that deals with DDR. An integrated approach needs to be adopted for DDR to be successful. It should include different agencies, funds and programmes, such as UNDP or WFP. They work closely with the peacekeeping mission and support critical aspects of DDR.

Security Sector Reform and Governance (SSR&G)

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2.2 Part 1 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Security Sector Reform and Governance (SSR&G)

- **The Security Sector:** institutions and personnel responsible for management, oversight and delivery of security services.
- **SSR&G Process:** SSR&G is led by national authorities. The goal of SSR&G is a professional, accountable and inclusive security sector for the State and its peoples without discrimination and with full respect for human rights and the rule of law.
- **SSR&G** is one of the cornerstones of peacebuilding.

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Key Message 13: A professional, accountable and inclusive security sector is key to ensuring lasting peace and sustainable development. Security sector reform and governance (SSR&G) is one of the cornerstones of peacebuilding.

Terminology

SSR&G is a process of assessment, review and implementation, monitoring and evaluation that is led by national authorities. Its goal is to improve the level of security in the State and for the people who live there and to make the State effective and accountable. It should be done without discrimination and with full respect for human rights and the rule of law.

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2.2 Part 1 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Security Sector Reform and Governance (SSR&G)

The Security Sector comprises institutions and personnel responsible for the management, oversight and delivery of security services. It includes:

- Ministries (e.g. defence, interior/internal security, justice, finance/economy)
- Civilian and uniformed security providers (e.g. armed forces, police, gendarmerie, intelligence, coast guard, law enforcement, prisons guards, forest guards, customs, national guard, reserve)
- Non-state actors (e.g. private security contractors, volunteers, customary security groups)
- Management and oversight institutions (e.g. security council/advisory body, good governance organs).

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The security sector comprises institutions and personnel responsible for the management, oversight and delivery of security services, including:

- Ministries (e.g. defence, interior/internal security, justice, finance/economy)
- Civilian and uniformed security providers (e.g. armed forces, police, gendarmerie, intelligence, coastguard, law enforcement, prison guards, forest guards, customs, national guard, reserves)
- Non-State actors (e.g. private security contractors, volunteers, customary security groups)
- Management and oversight institutions (e.g. Security Council, advisory bodies, good governance organs).

SSR&G involves many other actors beyond the security sector who play a part in change or offer advice, including:

- Legislative and judiciary organs (e.g. parliament, congress, courts)
- Civil society organizations (e.g. women, youth, minority organizations)
- Human rights actors (e.g. national human rights commission, activists)
- Think tanks and expert organizations (e.g. academia, research)
- Media, including social media platforms
- International, regional and non-government organizations (NGOs).

Objectives of UN SSR&G

- The main objective of UN SSR&G is to support the development of a security sector that is more effective, accountable, inclusive, affordable and respectful of human rights and the rule of law.

Foundations of UN SSR&G

- Security Council: resolutions, presidential statements on security sector reform (SSR)
- Secretary-General reports
- Mission mandates.

Principles of UN support to SSR&G

SSR&G is an inherently political process. The following principles apply to UN support:

- Consent: The host country needs to agree or there needs to be a UN mandate.
- Neutrality: UN support must be given with neutrality, meaning that all sides or groups are given the same treatment.
- National ownership: The country and its people should drive the SSR&G processes while the UN support them.
- Inclusivity: All people should have equal access to opportunities and resources.
- Context-driven: because there is no one-size-fits-all solution, each situation requires its own SSR&G plan.
- Human-centred: it should put people first.

UN activities in support of SSR&G

National authorities of the host State lead the SSR&G processes. The UN support SSR&G through actions that:

- Provide strategic and technical advice
- Support the peace process, including mediation, negotiation and implementation of peace agreements
- Contribute to the assessment, review and evaluation of the security sector
- Support the development of national legal and regulatory frameworks and the establishment of relevant organs
- Assist in the capacity-building of security institutions
- Reinforce civilian oversight over security institutions
- Coordinate the support to SSR&G provided by international, regional and bilateral actors.

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2.2 Part 1. Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

UN Peacekeeping Operations support to SSR&G

- Facilitates national SSR dialogues
- Develops national security policies, strategies and plans
- Strengthens oversight, management and coordination
- Prepares legislation
- Mobilizes resources and harmonizes support
- Delivers education, training and institution building
- Monitors and evaluates
- Carries out defence sector reform

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Key Message 14: Peacekeeping operations indirectly support security sector reform and governance (SSR&G) through maintaining a peaceful environment that makes national SSR&G processes possible. UN mission components also support national SSR&G in two key ways:

- Participating in the capacity-building of national security institutions (e.g. armed forces, police)
- Reinforcing respect for human rights.

Peacekeeping operations support to national SSR&G

Additionally, to the support given by the UN, the Security Council mandates multidimensional peacekeeping operations to support national SSR&G processes through:

- Strategic and technical advice
- Support to the development of national security strategies and legal frameworks
- Coordination of international support to SSR&G.

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2.2 Part 1 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

The SSR Unit

- The **SSR Unit** supports a host country's SSR&G efforts in coordination with other mission actors and key partners, helping national authorities to strengthen good governance and civilian oversight of security institutions



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Key Message 15: The **security sector reform (SSR) unit** supports a host country's security sector reform and governance (SSR&G) efforts in coordination with other mission actors and key partners, helping national authorities to strengthen good governance and civilian oversight of security institutions.

Actors and partners in SSR&G

UN support to national SSR&G is coordinated and collaborated with key actors.

Host country: the national government of a host country has the primary responsibility for developing and implementing national SSR&G. The UN supports national initiatives as mandated by the UN or requested by the host country.

Security Sector Reform Unit in DPO: the UN focal point on SSR&G.

UN mission SSR component: the mission's SSR capacity is part of the mission's civilian component. It serves the UN, national and international partners in the host country, supporting national authorities to:

- Strengthen the good governance and civilian oversight of the security institutions
- Develop laws, regulations, policies, strategies and plans on national security
- Facilitate national dialogues on SSR to foster inclusivity
- Plan and mobilize resources to implement SSR projects
- Coordinate international support to SSR
- Support the education, training and capacity building of national security providers or actors engaged in SSR&G (parliament, security organs/institutions, civil society, etc.)
- Monitor and evaluate programmes/projects.

UN mission military and police components: maintain peace and security. This allows national authorities to focus on other tasks, including SSR&G. The UN mission force and police can contribute to the transfer of skills and expertise to host country military and police and to their training and capacity building. They may also provide operational and technical support, e.g. logistical support, such as joint operations to assist local security forces.

UN entities: many UN entities contribute directly or indirectly to SSR&G, including:

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- UN Women
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

Member States: can support the host nation’s SSR&G efforts at the political, strategic and technical levels as donors and as decision makers, within the UN system or at regional or bilateral levels.

International and regional organizations: the UN works closely with international and regional organizations that also have an interest in ending violent conflict in a particular context. These include:

- African Union (AU)
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
- European Union (EU)
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

Expert groups: two key expert groups are important to the work of SSR&G:

- Inter-Agency SSR Task Force (IASSRTF) chaired by DPO and UNDP. This task force coordinates effective UN support to national governments on SSR.
- Group of friends on SSR, a group of Member States co-chaired by South Africa and Slovakia.

Please see Lesson 2.2 Part 2 for the second half of this lesson’s content.

Handout – Part 1 Summary of Key Messages

Key Message 1: Peacebuilding activities mandated by the Security Council to multidimensional UN peacekeeping operations include:

- Mine action
- Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration
- Security sector reform and governance
- Rule of law – including judicial, corrections, prisons work
- Electoral assistance
- Support to restoration and extension of State authority

Key Message 2: The Security Council often directs multidimensional peacekeeping operations to be catalytic in critical tasked activities. This means that they should make changes happen more quickly and boost the work of others. Working with national partners is key to this. It is possible to build a lasting peace when the catalytic work initiated through a mission is carried on by national partners supported by the UNCT and other actors.

Key Message 3: Landmines and other explosive hazards are designed to destroy or damage people and vehicles. Mine action is necessary to make the environment safe again, which enables and encourages normal life and development. The Security Council often mandates multidimensional peacekeeping operations to play a role in mine action. It is a critical peacebuilding activity and an early confidence-building measure.

Key Message 4: The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is the UN focal point for mine action. It ensures an effective, proactive and coordinated UN response. The Department of Peace Operations (DPO) integrates mine action into peacekeeping operations while UNMAS provides direct support and assistance.

Key Message 5: Mine clearing can be carried out so that the mission can do its work (operational demining) or so that civilians can return to their homes and routines (humanitarian mine clearance).

Key Message 6: If you or someone else strays into a minefield or an area contaminated by unexploded ordnance:

- **Stop** all movement immediately
- **Warn** all personnel in the area
- **Call** for specialist assistance or advice
- Evaluate the situation and do not move from your position

Key Message 7: Be aware of how to minimize risks from explosive hazards:

- Plan all activities to avoid mined areas.
- **Do not** touch, pick up or keep any suspected explosive ordnance.
- If you suspect an explosive hazard, call for specialized help – keep the number to call with you at all times.

Key Message 8: Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) is a voluntary process that supports members of armed groups to lay down their weapons and return to civilian life. DDR is highly political and includes security, social, economic and humanitarian dimensions.

Key Message 9: Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of combatants is a critical peacebuilding activity in most multidimensional peacekeeping operations. The objective of DDR is to **positively impact security and stability** in fragile conflict and post-conflict environments.

Key Message 10: Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) provides socioeconomic support to assist ex-combatants, including education and opportunities for employment through the reintegration process.

Key Message 11: Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) practitioners choose the best DDR measures for the conflict. An integrated DDR process includes a mix of:

- DDR programme
- DDR-related tools
- Reintegration support.

Key Message 12: Based on the principles of sovereignty and national ownership, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) processes are led by the host government. Where mandated by the Security Council, peacekeeping operations support national authorities in planning, implementing and evaluating DDR.

Key Message 13: A professional, accountable and inclusive security sector is key to ensuring lasting peace and sustainable development. Security sector reform & governance (SSR&G) is one of the cornerstones of peacebuilding.

Key Message 14: Peacekeeping operations indirectly support Security sector reform & governance (SSR&G) through maintaining a peaceful environment that makes national SSR&G processes possible. UN mission components also support national SSR&G in two key ways:

- Participating in capacity-building of national security institutions (e.g. armed forces, police)
- Reinforcing respect for human rights.

Key Message 15: The **Security Sector Reform (SSR) unit** supports a host country's security sector reform & governance (SSR&G) efforts in coordination with other mission actors and key partners, helping national authorities to strengthen good governance and civilian oversight of security institutions.