

Lesson 2.2 Part 2



Implementing Peacebuilding Activities

Part 2 - Lesson at a Glance



Minimum lesson duration: Part 2, 45 minutes (including *Learning Activity 2.2.4*).

The Lesson - Part 2	Pages	Slides
Rule of Law (ROL) and Related Activities	2-9	1-4
Electoral Assistance	10-15	5-7
Support to the Restoration and Extension of State Authority	15-17	8-9
Civil Affairs	17-18	10
Supporting Political Processes for Peace	18-25	11-12
Required Learning Activity 2.2.4: Interpreting Mandates	25	13
Lesson Closing	26	14
Handout - Summary of Key Messages Part 2	27-30	-

Optional Learning Activity	
Optional Learning Activity 2.2.2: The Trial that Brought Down a Warlord in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	<i>See 2.2 Learning Support</i>

The Lesson

Rule of Law (ROL) and Related Activities



Trainer Tips: To introduce this part of the lesson, ask participants what they recall about the rule of law (ROL) and related activities from the film shown in Learning Activity 2.2.1. Emphasize the film’s key point that all aspects of effective ROL need to be supported to function so the national system can be re-established – legal frameworks, the judiciary, police and corrections, security and human rights. Transitional justice is particularly important to bridge a period of violent conflict when these systems breakdown and a new era with full re-establishment of both the systems and citizens’ trust in them.

Slide 1



2.2 Part 2 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities

What is the Rule of Law (ROL)

Rule of Law (ROL): legal and political framework in which all are accountable – persons and institutions, including the State

Laws need to be:

- Publicly announced and communicated (promulgated)
- Equally enforced, meaning they are applied to everyone
- Tried by independent judges when they are broken
- Consistent with international human rights norms and standards.

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Key Message 1: The rule of law (ROL) is fundamental to lasting peace and security, providing the foundation for conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, sustaining peace and peacebuilding. It is essential for addressing injustices and inequalities that fuel conflict and for protecting civilians in crisis and post-conflict situations.

What is the Rule of Law (ROL)?

The **rule of law (ROL)** is the legal and political framework that holds all people and institutions accountable, including the State. Laws need to be:

- Publicly announced and communicated (promulgated)
- Equally enforced, meaning they are applied to everyone
- Tried by independent judges when they are broken
- Consistent with international human rights norms and standards.

To strengthen ROL after conflict, a country needs:

- A constitution or equivalent – the highest law of the land
- A clear, consistent legal framework and guidance for its implementation
- Strong institutions of justice, governance, security and human rights that are well structured, financed, trained, equipped and accountable
- Transitional justice processes and mechanisms that allow countries emerging from conflict to address large-scale or systematic human rights violations
- A public and civil society that contributes to ROL and holds officials and institutions accountable.

Strengthening the rule of law is a long-term task, although short-term interventions are often necessary to advance accountability, protect civilians and establish a safe and secure environment. Rule of law support enables the development of fair and equal societies with strong institutions that protect populations both in conflict and in peacetime.



Reference

- United Nations, *New Vision of the Secretary-General for the Rule of Law* (2023).

Why is ROL Important?

- Strong ROL institutions are essential to achieving other core mandated tasks such as:
 - Implementing peace agreements and political accords
 - The extension of State authority
 - Addressing crimes that fuel conflict and crimes against peacekeepers
 - The protection of civilians
 - Combating conflict drivers.

- Justice and corrections support can resolve disagreements that have political effects. An example of this would be election results that are not accepted by everyone.
- Initiatives also promote inclusivity in justice sector institutions and make them more independent.
- The justice sector and strong ROL institutions enable individuals to take part in governance systems, resolve disagreements between different communities, move processes of change in justice forward and peacefully resolve complaints.

The Department of Peace Operations supports ROL with the deployment of its own **police, judicial and corrections officers** to UN peacekeeping operations.



Example - Justice and Corrections Work in a Mandate in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO, 2023)

Peacekeeping aid in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in justice and corrections began in 2004 as part of MONUC. With the establishment of MONUSCO in 2010, support focused on two priorities: the protection of civilians and stabilization, and the strengthening of State institutions. From 2014, justice and corrections work was directed towards the areas affected by armed conflict, namely eastern DRC and the Kasai. The political and technical engagement of MONUSCO, working with partners, has been vital in:

- Bringing perpetrators of war crimes and other serious crimes to justice
- Strengthening the national strategic and legislative framework
- Extending civilian justice services
- Reducing arbitrary and prolonged detention in conflict-affected areas
- Improving prison management and strengthening prison security.

Slide 2



2.2 Part 2 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Why is the Rule of Law (ROL) Important?

Strong ROL institutions are essential for other core mandated tasks:

- Implementing peace agreements
- Extending State authority
- Addressing conflict drivers and crimes that fuel conflict
- Protecting civilians
- Resolving political disagreements
- Promoting inclusivity
- Enabling individuals to take part in governance and justice

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How UN Peacekeeping Operations Contribute to ROL

The Security Council mandates multidimensional UN peacekeeping operations to carry out ROL-related activities. ROL mandates are intended to move forward the political solutions the host country has already identified and to contribute to the political, security and stabilization priorities of peace operations. Mandates are often broad and ROL is a long-term task; peace operations must identify gaps in ROL that fuel the conflict. They should prioritize actions that create a forum where the government listens to the public. It is also important that mandates put their power to act and to influence people and decisions first.



Example - ROL related activities undertaken by UN peacekeeping operations

- United Nations Prosecution Support Cells in the Democratic Republic of the Congo support national authorities to investigate and prosecute cases of serious crimes against civilians.
- In the Central African Republic, MINUSCA is helping to establish a Special Criminal Court to address critical law and order and impunity issues.
- In South Sudan, UNMISS corrections officers help manage holding facilities within the protection of civilian sites established to increase security for thousands displaced by the conflict.



Key Message 2: Effective, resilient and accountable justice and corrections institutions are essential for peace. They hold government officials and security forces accountable, peacefully resolve disputes and host political dialogue. They protect civilians by combating impunity and help to restore inclusive and accountable State institutions.

Slide 3



2.2 Part 2 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Role of Mission Components in Rule of Law

UN Police

- Supports the reform, restructuring and training of national police services
- Helps build comprehensive national policing capacity



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The Role of Each Mission Component in ROL

UN Police (UNPOL) have a central role in strengthening ROL:

- UNPOL reforms, restructures and trains national police services to help them be respected, sustainable and well-structured law enforcement institutions
- UNPOL builds a comprehensive national policing capacity with a community-oriented approach that supports strong governance, oversight and accountability within functional systems of justice and corrections.

Slide 4



2.2 Part 2 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

The Role of Each Mission Components in Rule of Law

Justice Components/Sections

- Support the functioning of justice institutions and the judiciary
- Support the investigation and prosecution of crimes that fuel conflict

Corrections Components/Sections

- Support the establishment and basic functioning of safe, secure and humane corrections systems

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Justice components have a primary responsibility for carrying out a mission’s mandate to help national authorities strengthen justice and corrections systems. They work to:

- Support the investigation and prosecution of crimes that fuel conflict
- Support the functioning of justice institutions and the judiciary
- Extend the delivery of justice institutions and services.

Corrections components focus on enhancing public safety and on setting up safe, secure and humane corrections systems and making them work to ensure the effectiveness of the criminal justice system. These components:

- Help national prison authorities define their strategic goals
- Build and make work a basic correctional administration and its prison facilities
- Train correctional services and enhance prison security, including the national capacity to manage high-risk prisoners, to detect and resolve prison incidents and prevent escapes
- Address prison challenges that add to insecurity, e.g. overcrowding.

The mission’s **human rights** component is a key partner in building effective ROL structures and procedures. For example, it can provide:

- Information on human rights conditions in the host country
- Historical information on the human rights record of State institutions
- Valuable content on human rights principles and standards in training curricula for law enforcement officers.

The mission's **military** component may have a limited support role in ROL-related activities.

The Mission's Partners in ROL

The **host country** is responsible for the national ROL framework.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play an essential role in national ROL reform. NGOs are active locally, nationally, regionally and internationally. Their contributions include:

- Research and analysis in ROL
- Producing reports with policy recommendations
- Advocacy
- Early warning
- Monitoring and implementing international agreements
- Exchange of knowledge and good practices
- Support to ROL assistance
- Direct ROL assistance – for example, advice on lawmaking, technical assistance, funding and management of ROL projects.

Many different parts of the **UN system, including departments, agencies, funds and programmes**, undertake ROL-related activities of some kind at the national and/or international level.

Examples include:

- Judicial mechanisms, such as the International Criminal Court and ad hoc criminal tribunals
- Non-judicial mechanisms, such as cross-border commissions and commissions of inquiry.

The Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP) is a UN coordination mechanism. It is co-chaired by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and DPO. It was set up in 2012 by the UN Secretary-General to enhance predictability, coherence, accountability and effectiveness in how the UN helped with the ROL at country and international levels.

Member States give development aid directly to other countries as bilateral donors. This help includes:

- Legal and judicial development
- Security system management and reform

- Human rights
- Post-conflict peacebuilding.

The UN cooperates with a wide range of **international and regional organizations** on ROL issues.

These organizations have diverse ROL functions, such as the development of:

- Norms
- Standards
- Good practices
- Knowledge.

Many contribute to strengthening ROL, nationally and regionally, as multilateral assistance providers.



Trainer Tips: Step back from presenting the lesson content and ask participants to reflect on what they are learning. Depending on the group size, do this in plenary or in pairs or small groups, asking them to discuss the following questions.

- *What highlights stand out from the content already covered?*
- *What key points seem particularly relevant to the work they expect or know they will be doing when deployed?*
- *Although the different mandated tasks are presented separately, is the group clear on how all parts work together and contribute to achievement of the mission mandate? Do they understand the centrality of national partners, particularly the host State and national authorities, and the UN's supporting role in these national efforts?*
- *Invite learners with peacekeeping experience to share their perspectives on the mandated tasks covered so far.*
- *Collect their comments in plenary.*

Electoral Assistance

Slide 5



2.2 Part 2 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Electoral Assistance

- Legal, technical, logistical support to electoral laws, processes and institutions
- Critical peacebuilding activity



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Key Message 3: Elections are a tool for democracy and for conflict prevention and conflict resolution. In a democracy, people can hold decision makers accountable, based on inclusive and fair rules, institutions and practices that govern social relationships. Many multidimensional UN peacekeeping operations are mandated to play a role in **electoral assistance** as a critical peacebuilding activity.

Democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people. Democracy, or democratic governance, allows people to live with their dignity and human rights and have their fundamental freedoms respected, promoted and fulfilled.

Elections are the means through which people have a say in decisions that affect their lives. Through elections people voice their preferences and choose their representatives in government.

Electoral processes include:

- **National elections:** periodic national elections that are credible, inclusive and transparent, forming the heart of democracy.
- **Subnational elections:** regional, province, city or rural council elections. These electoral processes are important for interactions between citizens and their government. Local governments in many countries manage the delivery of most services to people.

- The General Assembly and the Secretary-General have repeatedly highlighted the importance of system-wide coherence and consistency on electoral assistance matters. They have made the Under-Secretary-General (USG) of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) the UN Focal Point for electoral assistance.

Prerequisites for UN Electoral Assistance: Before the UN provides any type of electoral assistance, two preconditions must be met:

- All UN electoral assistance must be based on a Security Council or General Assembly mandate or on an official request from a Member State or territory.
- A needs assessment must be carried out by the Focal Point (USG DPPA) in consultation with relevant UN entities.

Electoral assistance is the legal, technical and logistical support to electoral laws, processes and institutions. The majority of UN electoral assistance is technical, providing short- and long-term expertise to the national authorities who administer elections.

Areas of technical assistance include:

- Electoral administration and planning
- Review of electoral laws and regulations
- Electoral dispute resolution
- Boundary delimitation
- Voter registration
- Election budgeting
- Electoral logistics and operations
- Electoral reforms
- Procurement of election materials
- Use of technologies
- Training of election officials
- Voter and civic education
- Public outreach
- Voting and counting operations
- Election security
- Coordination of international donor assistance
- Candidate registration.

Other forms of UN assistance are UN observation and the organization and conduct of elections by the UN. These forms of support are quite rare and require a mandate from the General Assembly or the Security Council.

The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)

Slide 6



2.2 Part 2 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Electoral Assistance

The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) supports with:

- Electoral needs assessments
- Policy and guidance
- Deployment of specialized personnel



UN CPTM 2025 Slide 6

The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) is the UN lead in electoral assistance and ensures UN system coordination. DPPA has an Electoral Assistance Division (EAD). EAD collaborates with UN peacekeeping operations mandated to provide electoral assistance, supporting them with:

- Electoral needs assessments
- Policy and guidance on electoral issues
- Deployment of specialized personnel using the UN Electoral Roster.

Slide 7



2.2 Part 2 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Electoral Assistance: Peacekeeping Technical Assistance

- Security support – by UN uniformed personnel
- Technical advice – on reform of electoral laws and procedures to safeguard votes
- Logistical support – such as distribution of ballot materials
- Public information and voter education – through various UN communication channels, including radio



UN CPTM 2025 Slide 7

UN Peacekeeping Operations

The Security Council can mandate multidimensional peacekeeping operations to provide electoral assistance. Technical assistance provided by peacekeeping operations includes:

- Security provided by UN uniformed personnel from the police and military components
- Technical advice on reform of electoral laws and procedures to safeguard votes
- Logistical support, for example, distribution of ballot materials
- Public information and voter education through the various UN communication channels available to the mission, including by radio.

Most UN electoral mandates provide technical assistance to the national electoral authority. The UN does not observe elections if it is providing technical assistance, but may assist national and international observers, for example, by providing coordination, background information and logistics.

Unless mandated, the UN does not comment on the quality or validity of an electoral process, or on the legitimacy of its outcome.

Electoral assistance unit: the mission's electoral assistance unit coordinates with other mission components to ensure coherence in tasks that support elections. Mission components and units that work closely with the electoral assistance unit include:

- Mission support, in particular, administration (recruitment, finance, payroll, procurement, logistics, transport and budget)
- Political affairs
- Civil affairs

- Public information
- Military
- Police.

Usually, the Chief Electoral Adviser (CEA) has the responsibility for an electoral mandate. The CEA reports to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) / head of mission (HOM) or to his or her deputy, with an indirect line to DPPA/EAD. The Electoral Assistance Unit's mandate is different for every mission. The Security Council sets the mandate. DPPA/EAD find out what is needed and then create detailed plans to put the mandate into practice.

Military and Police

Depending on the mandate, the military and police components may provide security during each phase of the elections. They may carry out patrols to ensure voters can exercise their democratic right without fear of violence. They may protect voters and candidates from intimidation, harassment, abduction and retribution. This ensures that basic human rights, such as freedom of expression and association and the right to peaceful assembly, are protected.

The mission's police component has a special responsibility to protect voters and candidates. UNPKO may train local police and advise on election security. The police component can be important in all phases of an election:

- **Before the election:** security for voter registration and campaigning, and identification of secure polling sites.
- **Election day:** addressing security challenges such as:
 - Potential abduction of candidates
 - Intimidation of voters when casting ballots
 - Sabotage at polling stations.
- **After the election:** security of ballot papers, and general security after the election.

Partners

The **host country** works to build its national institutional capacity to hold credible, inclusive and transparent elections.

The **national electoral administration body** of the country plays a key role.

National institutions such as parliaments, electoral commissions and legal systems are the basis of every democracy.

National and international observers help monitor elections and assess whether they follow national legislation and meet international standards for elections.

UN departments, agencies, funds and programmes may also give electoral assistance:

- UN Development Programme (UNDP)
- UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

All electoral assistance in peacekeeping, peacebuilding and special political mission settings should be fully integrated, whether or not the mission is structurally integrated. This means that, irrespective of the contracting UN entity, all UN electoral assistance personnel are accountable to the CEA.

International and National Governmental and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)

National partners also receive technical assistance in elections management from a range of expert external partners.

UN and non-UN agencies try to coordinate the international electoral assistance they provide to national partners.

Regional organizations such as the EU have supported the electoral cycle in post-conflict countries.

Support to the Restoration and Extension of State Authority

Slide 8



2.2 Part 2 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Support to the Restoration and Extension of State Authority

- Rebuilding legitimacy and people's confidence in State institutions



UN CPTM 2025 Slide 8



Key Message 4: Stabilizing weak states is critical to keeping and building peace. **Support to the restoration and extension of state authority** is a **core** peacebuilding activity. The Security Council mandates it for many multidimensional peacekeeping operations.

A **sovereign State** is completely and independently controlled by its own government. The State must control its national territory and provide basic services to its population.

A key part of **restoring State authority** involves rebuilding its legitimacy and people's confidence in its institutions. People need to believe the government makes decisions that meet their needs and interests, within the wider needs and interests of the whole population.

Good governance and inclusive political processes give legitimacy to the State's institutions and help them earn the confidence of citizens. One result of this is that both the State and its people are more resilient to conflict.

Slide 9



2.2 Part 2 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities

Support to the Restoration and Extension of State Authority

UN Peacekeeping Operations support by:

- Creating an enabling security environment
- Providing logistic support to redeploy officials and civil servants
- Providing financial support to small-scale public infrastructure projects
- Supporting capacity development for civil administration
- Supporting the functioning of justice and correction
- Supporting decentralization efforts
- Supporting state-civil society relations
- Coordinating with host government and UNCT

UN CPTM 2025 Slide 9



Key Message 5: Peacekeeping operations are often called to **support the restoration and extension of state authority**.

UN Peacekeeping Operations and the Restoration and Extension of State Authority

UN peacekeeping operations support the restoration and extension of State authority (RESA) by:

- Creating a security environment that makes people safe enough to complete their work
- Providing logistic support to redeploy officials and civil servants
- Providing financial support to small-scale public infrastructure reconstruction
- Supporting capacity development for civil administration functions
- Supporting the functioning of justice and corrections
- Supporting decentralization efforts where relevant
- Supporting State–society relations through large gatherings and public forums
- Coordinating with host government and the UN Country Team (UNCT) on support to RESA.

These activities involve the military, police and civilian components. The military and police components create an enabling security environment and support capacity-building activities. Specific support by UN peacekeeping operations may include:

- Operational support to the immediate activities of State institutions, including transport for officials to remote areas using UN assets
- Small-scale capacity-building, including through training and mentoring programmes for civil servants
- Assistance to rewriting the constitution or restructuring institutions.

In exceptional circumstances, the Security Council has authorized missions to provide a transitional administration that temporarily took on State functions. This was the case in 1999 in Kosovo for UNMIK and East Timor for UNTAET.

Civil Affairs

Slide 10



2.2 Part 2 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Civil Affairs

- Civil affairs officers are often the primary contact between the mission and local actors
- Civil affairs units coordinate with other mission units and components
- Civil affairs units and officers contribute to supporting political processes, protecting civilians and sustaining peace.



UN CPTM 2025 Slide 10

Civil affairs officers are often the primary contact between the mission and local actors. Support to RESA is an important part of their work.

Typical activities undertaken by civil affairs officers include:

- Finding out what capacity and support State institutions need to start with
- Giving logistical and administrative support to help local governments maintain a presence in their districts
- Financial support, mostly given through quick impact projects (QIPs) for small-scale public infrastructure rehabilitation
- Monitoring the delivery of public services and how this affects the conflict
- Small-scale capacity-building support for civil servants on key functions and service delivery
- Support engagement between local officials and civil society actors.

The civil affairs unit coordinates with other mission units and components, which also support the restoration of the State's presence and administrative functions. Examples are the ROL and justice section/unit and UNPOL.

Civil Affairs units and officers contribute in significant ways to supporting political processes, protecting civilians and sustaining peace. Specific contributions to the protection of civilians are covered in Lesson 2.4. The following reinforces topics of emerging importance for UN peacekeeping in relation to support for political processes for peace.

Partners in Civil Affairs Work

National partners in the **host country** include central government, local government, civil service, civil society and communities.

Civil Affairs officers work with **other mission components, UNCT partners and the World Bank**. Specialized technical experts in public administration or democratic governance can be found in other UN entities such as the UNDP and in other organizations such as the World Bank.

Bilateral donors and international NGOs may also promote good governance and support State institutions. Specialized technical experts are provided within the governance programmes of bilateral donors.



Example - Good Governance in Mali

In 2023, the Civil Affairs component of MINUSMA, in partnership with Mopti's Regional Civil Society Council, initiated a series of capacity-building workshops for civil society members in various regions to enhance public oversight, support the peace process and strengthen local governance. This initiative aimed to give civil society organizations (CSOs) more input into and influence over the decision-making process, making the discussion between the State and its society more effective. The workshops also focused on understanding the role of civil society, including in promoting good governance. A broad spectrum of community members participated in these workshops, leading to recommendations for community-led initiatives, enhanced civil society involvement and infrastructure developments in areas such as healthcare and education.

Supporting Political Processes for Peace

Slide 11



2.2 Part 2 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Engaging Civil Society

- Engaging civil society enhances the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping operations
- Political solutions are only viable when developed with a full range of societal actors
- Civil society understands local dynamics and needs: its engagement enhances the credibility and legitimacy of peacekeeping efforts



UN CPTM 2025 Slide 11



Key Message 6: Engaging civil society makes UN peacekeeping operations more effective. Political solutions can only work if all different types of people from the society take part. Civil society understands how local people live and what they need: its engagement gives peacekeeping efforts credibility and legitimacy.

Working with Civil Society

Engaging civil society enhances the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. Most conflicts in peacekeeping settings are conflicts within a country (intra-State) that have torn its society apart. As such, political solutions can only work when they are developed with societal actors to heal wounds and address root causes of conflict. Moreover, civil society understands how local people live and what they need: its engagement gives peacekeeping efforts credibility and legitimacy.

Role of Peacekeeping Operations

Peacekeepers create an environment where civil society can actively participate and effectively contribute. This helps foster more inclusive and representative political and peace processes.

Civil Society

In 2017, the DPKO/DFS produced guidelines on engagement with civil society. These guidelines define civil society as set apart from State actors and the private sector. It does not only include local NGOs and CSOs; the following are also included:

- Individuals
- Human rights defenders
- Independent media and journalists
- Community leaders, including religious, indigenous and traditional authorities (if these are not already part of the government in some way)
- Trade unions
- Women's groups and youth groups
- Social movements and social media communities
- Any other societal actors protecting or changing the sociopolitical, economic, moral and cultural parameters of society.

CSOs play a vital role in bridging gaps between governments and people. The UN system in all its pillars needs to advocate with some Member States to protect space for and reinforce legitimacy of civil society as well as its critical importance in recovering from violent conflict.

The Role of Civil Society in Peacebuilding

Civil society plays a vital role in peacekeeping operations by building relationships with local populations, engaging in conflict resolution, promoting sustainable peace and addressing humanitarian needs. Civil society can help address risks and threats of misinformation and disinformation and keep communication channels open between different societal groups and other actors, including a UN peacekeeping mission.

Involvement with civil society helps peacekeepers understand the local context, facilitate dialogue with local communities and work on issues that are crucial for long-term peace and stability.

Key Principle – Do No Harm

When engaging civil society in UN peacekeeping, peacekeepers must adopt a do-no-harm approach. This principle emphasizes avoiding harm to local communities and CSOs, and ensures that community engagement is collaborative. This approach can prevent exposure and retaliation against civilians and avoid inadvertently fuelling processes that lead to conflict.

Local Dialogue and Mediation

Peacekeepers work closely with local authorities, CSOs and communities and community leaders to promote dialogues that include everyone and make the diverse interests and voices within the community heard.

This approach helps to address immediate conflicts and contributes to the foundation for long-term peace. It helps local people to trust one another and work together.

Through these efforts, UN peacekeepers play a big role in reducing tensions and preventing future conflicts. This is a critical role in the peacebuilding process in areas affected by conflict.



Key Message 7: UN peacekeepers play an important role in supporting local peace initiatives. They help parties who do not agree talk to one another, provide safe and neutral spaces for them to do so and offer technical and logistical support for mediation processes. Positive effects include:

- Reducing violence against civilians

- Transforming conflicts
- Fostering political solutions at the community level that can boost sustainable peace.

Confidence-building

Building confidence and trust with local populations and key stakeholders is a continuous task that UN peacekeeping operations must undertake in daily work. Communication with these stakeholders needs to be established and maintained to:

- Clarify the mission's mandate
- Manage expectations
- Demonstrate responsiveness and accountability.

Understanding the priorities of local actors and addressing them as part of implementing a mission mandate is critical to maintain the trust essential for peacekeepers to be seen as credible and legitimate partners in supporting peace.

Community engagement and working with civil society actors lies at the centre of all confidence-building efforts.

One tool designed to help strengthen confidence in a mission, its mandate and the peace process are quick impact projects (QIPs), introduced above and expanded here.

QIPs provide early peace supports and address some priority needs of a population in full coordination with humanitarian and development partners. Strategic communications and capacity-building are important confidence-building measures.

Quick Impact Projects (QIPs)

Quick impact projects (QIPs) are:

- Small-scale, low-cost projects funded by UN missions
- Intended to build confidence in the mission, mandate and peace process by:
 - Addressing urgent needs expressed by local communities, such as infrastructure development, access to essential services and livelihood support. By meeting these needs, QIPs demonstrate the mission's commitment to improving the well-being of the local population.
 - Contributing to local engagement and empowerment. QIPs are mainly implemented through local actors, including local authorities and non-governmental and grassroots organizations. Local engagement ensures projects are tailored to communities' specific needs and help build capacities of local actors, empowering them to take ownership of the projects and the peacebuilding process.

Capacity-building

UN peacekeeping missions also contribute to strengthening the capacity of national and local stakeholders by:

- Supporting training on local mediation and conflict management for local officials
- Strengthening capacities of civil society actors to promote initiatives that make groups in society feel more connected to one another (i.e. that promote social cohesion)
- Strengthening technical competences of civil servants in the judicial, correction and security sectors.
- Providing support for infrastructure, development and other activities that contribute to community stability and development.

Slide 12



2.2 Part 2 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Successful Implementation of Peacekeeping Mandates

Depends on the mission's ability to:

- Build confidence with local actors and communities
- Promote effective communication between stakeholders
- Improve the mission's understanding of the conflict dynamics



UN CPTM 2025 Slide 12



Key Message 8: A mission can only successfully implement peacekeeping mandates if it can build confidence with local actors and communities, promote effective communication between stakeholders and improve the mission's understanding of the conflict dynamics.

UN Peacekeeping Operation Measures to Sustain Peace

All these priority tasks and activities contribute to mission implementation and increase the likelihood of sustainable peace. UN peace and security measures, including peacekeeping missions, also emphasize other measures aimed at sustaining peace.



Key Message 9: Peace and security cannot be achieved without active contributions from young people. UN peacekeeping operations have for decades recognized the importance of involving young people in the implementation of mandated tasks, which range from supporting inclusive political processes, protecting civilians, preventing conflicts and reinforcing effective, responsive and accountable institutions. This commitment recognizes how important young people are to sustainable peace and stability.

Youth, Peace and Security

Youth-related priorities had already been mainstreamed in many peacekeeping operations' mandated tasks, such as community engagement, political processes, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), community violence reduction (CVR), human rights and social cohesion and reconciliation. However, engaging youth was elevated to a strategic priority following the establishment of the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda through Security Council resolution 2250 (2015). The Security Council defined youth as persons between the ages of 18 and 29 and identified five pillars for action: prevention, protection, participation, partnerships and disengagement and reintegration.

Two subsequent YPS resolutions were adopted by the Security Council: S/RES/2419 (2018) and S/RES/2535 (2020). These resolutions place a strong emphasis on the role of youth in peacekeeping and peacebuilding. They require UN peacekeeping to actively involve young people in all aspects of peace processes by integrating youth perspectives into their operations more comprehensively. This could involve consulting with youth groups, including young people in planning and implementing mission activities and ensuring that the needs and views of youth are considered in peacebuilding strategies.



Reference

- UN Security Council Resolutions 2250 (2015); 2419 (2018); and 2535 (2020), Maintenance of International Peace and Security.



Key Message 10: UN peacekeepers engage with local authorities, civil society and communities. They facilitate local dialogue and support local mediation efforts, contributing to conflict prevention, reconciliation and social cohesion as key **components** of sustainable peace and stability at the local level.

Local Peacebuilding with a Focus on Reconciliation and Social Cohesion

- Local conflict prevention refers to proactive measures taken to identify and address the underlying causes of potential conflicts at the community or local level before they escalate.
- It includes early warning systems, community engagement, dispute mediation and strengthening local governance and social cohesion.

Local Peacebuilding Efforts

- Local peacebuilding efforts target the subnational level, engaging civil society and communities.
- They are normally made in close coordination with national and local authorities as well as UNCT agencies, international NGOs and bilateral and international donors including, where relevant, the Peacebuilding Fund.
- The aim is to strengthen community engagement and partnerships, improve conflict prevention and encourage sustainable peace and stability.
- Peacekeepers play a vital role in engaging with communities, facilitating dialogue and supporting mediation efforts, which helps build resilience, foster dialogue and promote social and economic development.

Local Reconciliation

- Local reconciliation involves facilitating the process of healing and restoring relationships within communities affected by conflict.
- It focuses on addressing past complaints, promoting understanding and forgiveness and building trust.
- Peacekeeping operations support transitional justice mechanisms and foster inclusive community participation as the foundation for sustainable peace.

Social Cohesion

- UN peacekeepers strive to foster unity, solidarity and a sense of belonging among diverse groups in conflict-affected communities.
- This includes bridging societal divisions, encouraging people to respect one another and building inclusive relationships.
- Enhancing social cohesion strengthens community ties, reduces tensions and builds a resilient foundation for lasting peace and stability.

Required Learning Activity 2.2.4

Slide 13



2.2 Part 2 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Required Learning Activity 2.2.4: Interpreting Mandates

Purpose: To reinforce participant competence in interpreting mandates for UN peacekeeping operations, focusing on mandated tasks

Time: 25 minutes

UN CPTM 2025Slide 13

Interpreting Mandates	
Method	Review mandates and identification of mandated tasks
Purpose	To reinforce participant competence in interpreting mandates for UN peacekeeping operations, focusing on mandated tasks
Time	25 minutes
See 2.2 <i>Learning Support</i> for instructions.	

Lesson Closing

Slide 14



2.2 Part 2 Implementing Peacebuilding Activities 

Thank you

UN CPTM 2025 Slide 14



Trainer Tips: *If you have time, summarize the lesson (both Parts 1 and 2), recalling the aim and learning objectives. Mention that the key messages support the learning objectives. Ask participants if they have questions. Ensure you distribute the Handout – Summary of Key Messages to all participants.*

Handout - Summary of Key Messages Part 2

Key Message 1: The rule of law (ROL) is fundamental to lasting peace and security, providing the foundation for conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, sustaining peace and peacebuilding. It is essential for addressing injustices and inequalities that fuel conflict and for protecting civilians in crisis and post-conflict situations.

Key Message 2: Effective, resilient and accountable justice and corrections institutions are essential for peace. They hold government officials and security forces accountable, peacefully resolve disputes and host political dialogue. They protect civilians by combating impunity and help to restore inclusive and accountable State institutions.

Key Message 3: Elections are a tool for democracy and for conflict prevention and conflict resolution. In a democracy, people can hold decision makers accountable, based on inclusive and fair rules, institutions and practices that govern social relationships. Many multidimensional UN peacekeeping operations are mandated to play a role in **electoral assistance** as a critical peacebuilding activity.

Key Message 4: Stabilizing weak states is critical to keeping and building peace. **Support to the restoration and extension of state authority** is a **core** peacebuilding activity. The Security Council mandates it for many multidimensional peacekeeping operations.

Key Message 5: UN peacekeeping operations are often called to **support the restoration and extension of state authority**.

Key Message 6: Engaging civil society makes UN peacekeeping operations more effective. Political solutions can only work if all different types of people from the society take part. Civil society understands how local people live and what they need: its engagement gives peacekeeping efforts credibility and legitimacy.

Key Message 7: UN peacekeepers play an important role in supporting local peace initiatives. They help parties who do not agree to talk to one another, provide safe and neutral spaces for them to do so and offer technical and logistical support for mediation processes. Positive effects include:

- reducing violence against civilians
- transforming conflicts
- Fostering political solutions at the community level that can boost sustainable peace.

Key Message 8: A mission can only successfully implement peacekeeping mandates if it can build confidence with local actors and communities, promote effective communication between stakeholders and improve the mission's understanding of the conflict dynamics.

Key Message 9: Peace and security cannot be achieved without active contributions from young people. UN peacekeeping operations have for decades recognized the importance of involving young people in the implementation of mandated tasks, which range from supporting inclusive political processes, protecting civilians, preventing conflicts and reinforcing effective, responsive and accountable institutions. This commitment recognizes how important young people are to sustainable peace and stability.

Key Message 10: UN peacekeepers engage with local authorities, civil society and communities. They facilitate local dialogue and support local mediation efforts, contributing to conflict prevention, reconciliation and social cohesion as key **components** of sustainable peace and stability at the local level.

Summary of Key Messages Part 1 (Reference)

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.