

Fostering peace and security

Maintenance of international peace and security



A United Nations peacekeeper engages with children in Tong, South Sudan.

(Tong; July 2023) © UNMISS/Gregório Cunha

What we do

- Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts
- Women and peace and security
- Peacebuilding support
- Policy, evaluation and training
- Electoral assistance
- Rule of law and security institutions
- Protection of civilians

Our team

- Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
- Department of Peace Operations
- Peacekeeping missions, political missions and offices



UNIFIL peacekeepers conduct a foot patrol with members of the Armed Forces along the Blue Line.

(South Lebanon; February 2023) © UNIFIL/Pasqual Gorriz



“We must learn to navigate the present turmoil. Not only to safeguard gains in collective security and universal normative frameworks, but to set the stage for lasting peace.”

Rosemary A. DiCarlo,
Under-Secretary-General for
Political and Peacebuilding
Affairs

Context

Global peace and security faced significant challenges in 2023. Conflicts raged in Gaza, the Sudan and Ukraine, among many other locations, destroying lives and livelihoods, displacing millions and **straining our and our partners’ peacemaking and humanitarian capacities**. Other global challenges persist, from protracted civil wars, the deepening climate crisis, soaring inequalities and a rising threat of terrorism, to **global pushback against human rights and gender equality**, as well as the underregulated development of technologies.

Our goals

At the heart of our work lies **diplomacy for peace**, guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the mandates of the General Assembly and the Security Council. Through our political affairs, peacebuilding and peacekeeping endeavours, we **assist Governments** in conflict prevention, management and resolution, with a focus on **advancing the participation of women and young people in political processes**. Central to our work is the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence, of grave violations against children in armed conflict situations and of atrocity crimes. In all our activities, we are **committed to the full implementation of the United Nations zero-tolerance policy** on sexual exploitation and abuse.

Our achievements

Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts

In response to escalating challenges, the Secretary-General proposed his **New Agenda for Peace**, outlining concrete proposals to move from the current logic of global competition towards **multilateral action for peace in a world in transition**. It calls on Member States to recommit to the Charter and the principles of trust, solidarity and universality to address the interlocking threats to our **shared future**.



“The goal of peacekeeping is to help parties end conflict by securing and implementing peace agreements and related political processes. In a world that is more divided than ever, the united and active engagement of Member States in this process is critical.”

Jean-Pierre Lacroix,
Under-Secretary-General for
Peace Operations

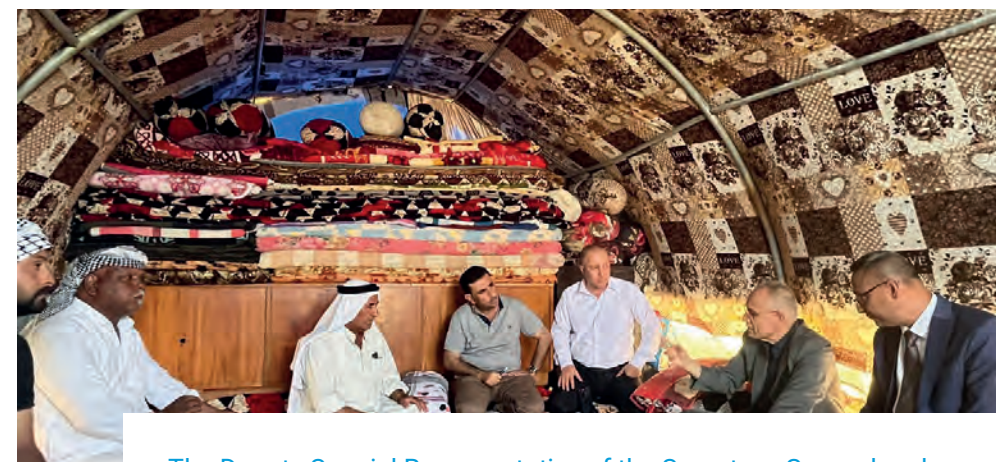
Our peacekeeping work

76,000
total peacekeepers

6,000
women peacekeepers

120
troop- and police-contributing
countries

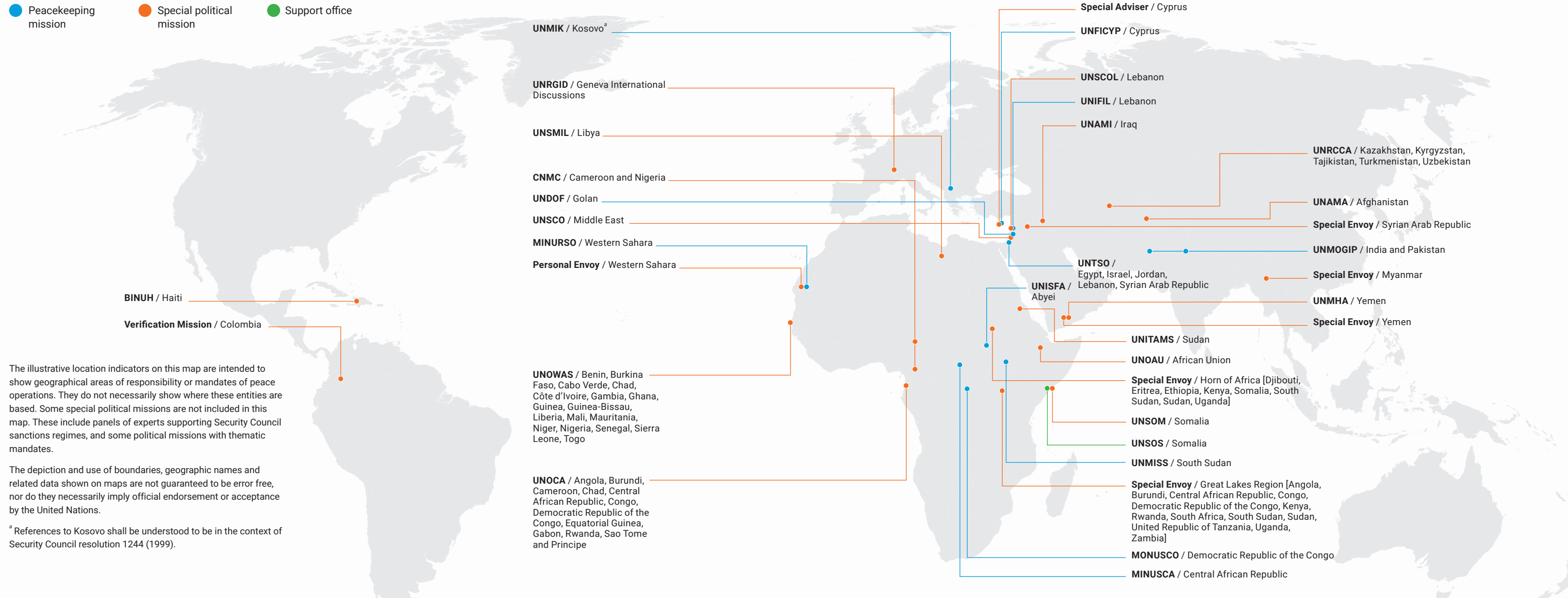
11
peace operations



The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, Ghulam M. Isaczai, meets with a group of newly returned internally displaced families in Salah al-Din Governorate of Iraq.

(Yathrib; May 2024) © UNAMI

Peacekeeping operations, special political missions and support offices



The illustrative location indicators on this map are intended to show geographical areas of responsibility or mandates of peace operations. They do not necessarily show where these entities are based. Some special political missions are not included in this map. These include panels of experts supporting Security Council sanctions regimes, and some political missions with thematic mandates.

The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown on maps are not guaranteed to be error free, nor do they necessarily imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

^a References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Acronyms

BINUH	United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti	UNDOF	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force	UNMOGIP	United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan	UNSMIL	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
CNMC	United Nations support team to the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	UNFICYP	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus	UNOAU	United Nations Office to the African Union	UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
MINURSO	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara	UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon	UNOCA	United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa	UNSOS	United Nations Support Office in Somalia
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic	UNISFA	United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei	UNOWAS	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel	UNTSO	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	UNITAMS	United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan	UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia		
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan	UNMHA	United Nations Mission to Support the Hedaydah Agreement	UNRGID	United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions		In addition to the missions listed here, a Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General is supporting peacemaking efforts in Mozambique. Note: This office closed in October 2023.
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq	UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo ^a	UNSCO	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process		
		UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan	UNSCOL	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon		



An aerial view of the ruins of the UNRWA health centre in Shaykh Radwan shows the extent of widespread destruction in the Gaza Strip since October 2023.

(Gaza City; February 2024) © UNRWA/Abdallah Alhaj

Supporting mediation efforts

152

mediation support assignments on constitution-making, security arrangements, gender and inclusion, and natural resources

28

country settings across 5 regions

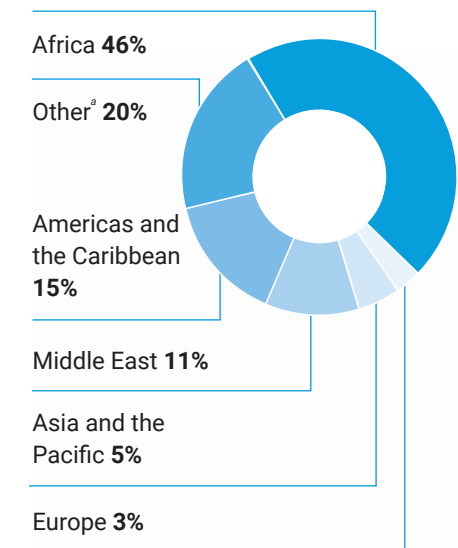
For the first time in 34 years, the Secretary-General invoked Article 99 of the Charter to bring the hostilities in Gaza and Israel to the attention of the Security Council, because of the **appalling** human suffering, physical destruction and broader threats to international peace and security generated by those hostilities. He remained steadfast in advocating an **immediate humanitarian ceasefire** and the **release of all hostages**. We continued to engage countries in the region to prevent regional escalation, including across the Blue Line between Lebanon and Israel. Through the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, we continued to advance peace efforts aimed at **ending the occupation** and achieving a two-State solution in line with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, so as to establish a **fully independent, sovereign Palestinian State, with Gaza as an integral part thereof**.

The Secretary-General and senior leaders also continued to advocate for affected people in the context of other major conflicts. In the Sudan, we contributed to peacebuilding initiatives amid ongoing violence and are **supporting mediation efforts** between all relevant stakeholders to help to restore peace. The Initiative on the Safe Transportation of Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian Ports, which continued throughout most of 2023, **helped to stabilize global food prices**, despite the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

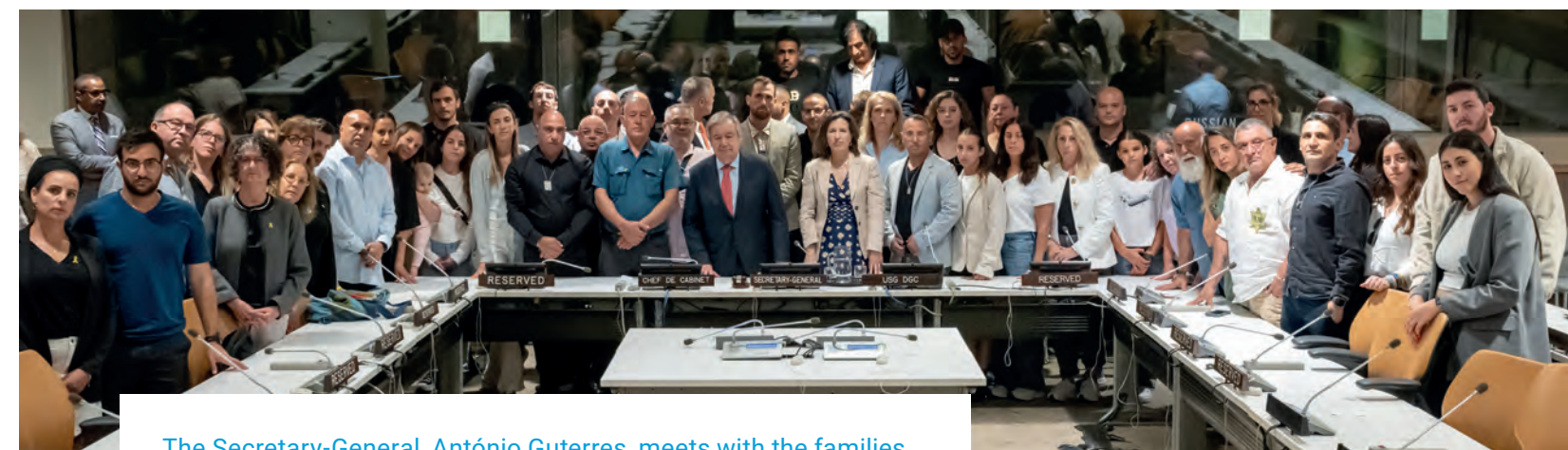
In total, the United Nations engaged with members of the Security Council to support over 400 Council meetings, more than 50 resolutions and statements by the President, over 100 meetings of sanctions committees and other groups and two field missions to fragile and crisis settings.

Under strenuous circumstances, we also intensified our conflict prevention, management and resolution and peacebuilding efforts across all special political missions, offices and peacekeeping operations. **Over 76,000 peacekeepers helped to protect civilians every day**, including in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon and South Sudan and Abyei. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, peacekeepers intervened to thwart growing attacks against civilians. In Mali, we managed the orderly withdrawal of over 13,000 personnel from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and handed over its bases under rapidly deteriorating security conditions. Through the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, we continued to invest in improving peacekeeping performance, capabilities and safety amid new challenges, such as targeted mis- and disinformation campaigns.

Capacity-building and mediation support was provided in regional contexts, as follows:



^a "Other" refers to non-region-specific assignments, related mostly to capacity-building.



The Secretary-General, António Guterres, meets with the families of Israeli hostages.

(New York; June 2024) © UN Photo/Mark Garten

Peace and development advisers

133

international advisers in 74 countries

46

national advisers, a 40 per cent increase since 2020

Our special political missions worked with parties to conflict to facilitate ceasefires and foster inclusive peace and political processes. For example, **our diplomatic engagement in Yemen contributed to a nationwide ceasefire** and a renewed commitment to an inclusive political process. In Colombia, the Security Council expanded our mandate to monitor the ceasefire agreement between the Government and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional. We also supported State-building and reconciliation in Somalia by encouraging dialogue and broad-based consensus on key national priorities.

Our partnerships with regional organizations are becoming more essential for conflict prevention and peace. We worked with the Economic Community of West African States to ease tensions after the unconstitutional change of Government in the Niger. We also **supported the Economic Community of Central African States in its efforts to tackle hate speech and promote political engagement** among young people and women. Marking a major milestone, the unanimously adopted Security Council resolution 2719 (2023) will help to provide African Union-led peace support operations with access to United Nations assessed contributions, strengthening our partnership with the African Union.

We also support Member States in non-mission settings. For example, we assisted the Government of Chile in designing the Presidential Commission for Peace and Understanding, which is mandated to address long-standing land disputes with Indigenous communities through dialogue.



Peacekeepers work at Mission headquarters in Juba, South Sudan.

(Juba; May 2023)
© UNMISS/Gregório Cunha



Former combatants and victims of conflict in the forests of the Montes de María region created two beekeeping associations that work together on economic and community reintegration projects after signing a peace agreement.

(Sucre, Colombia; November 2023) © United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia/ Esteban Vanegas

Women, peace and security

Across the globe, we helped to advance the **full, equal and meaningful representation and engagement of women** in peace and political processes. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we empowered women to participate in the December 2023 elections, through training on political campaigning and through voter registration, and we helped to establish a new women's electoral observers network. In Colombia, we led consultations and high-level advocacy to increase the inclusion of women leaders and former combatants in the peace process. In the Central African Republic, we established 12 circles of peace, comprising 300 women **working to promote peace in their communities**. In Afghanistan, we continued to advocate firmly and publicly with the de facto authorities for women and girls, whose basic rights and role and space in society must be respected.

Gender parity in peace operations

43%

women among staff in mediation teams

36%

women among heads and deputy heads of missions

31%

women among individual police officers

24%

women among military observers and staff officers

Peacebuilding Fund portfolio, donor base and reach

\$203M
in approved budget

\$132M
in donor commitments from 36 countries

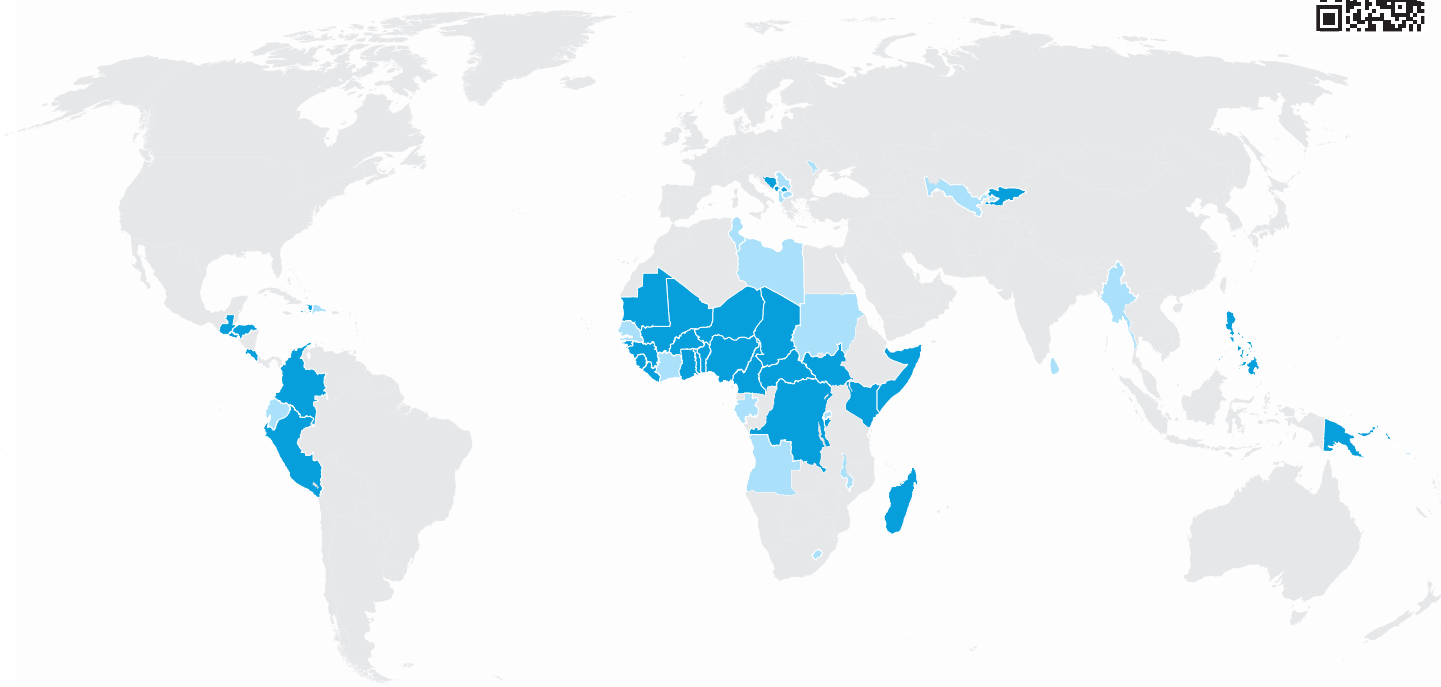
Peacebuilding support

In 2023, we helped the Peacebuilding Commission to consider 14 countries and regions through its country-specific, regional and thematic engagements. We supported the Commission in 20 engagements with the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The Peacebuilding Fund **allocated over \$200 million across 36 countries and territories** to boost national prevention and peacebuilding plans. For the seventh consecutive year, the Fund surpassed its goal of allocating 30 per cent of funds to gender equality and women’s empowerment. The Partnership Facility of the Peacebuilding Support Office also strengthened strategic and operational alignment with the World Bank and other international financial institutions.

We deployed **over 130 peace and development advisers** to assist national stakeholders in developing their own capacities for conflict prevention and sustaining peace. United Nations peace operations have also continued to assist host countries in navigating the path from conflict to peace by providing peacebuilding support where they are deployed.

Peacebuilding Fund: new projects approved in 36 countries and territories, and 23 countries received ongoing support

● 2023 approvals ● Other countries with ongoing Peacebuilding Fund programming



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A United Nations delegation meets with female journalists in Afghanistan for World Press Freedom Day.

(Logar; May 2024) © UNAMA/Tahmina Osta

Electoral assistance

We supported Member States in conducting **credible, inclusive elections with peacefully accepted outcomes**. This included providing technical assistance, strengthening the capacities of national electoral authorities, strengthening political engagement and facilitating consensus on critical electoral issues and electoral codes of conduct.

Through joint capacity development initiatives, we strengthened partnerships with the Pacific Islands Forum, the League of Arab States and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. We collaborated with the League to establish the first Arab Women Leadership Academy and promoted youth participation in elections through the Arab Network for Youth in Elections.

Our support by the numbers

50
Member States and territories assisted

21
elections and referendums supported

13
needs assessments conducted



Participants read a brochure during the launch of the United Nations report entitled “Tackling sexual violence in Somalia: prevention and protection”.

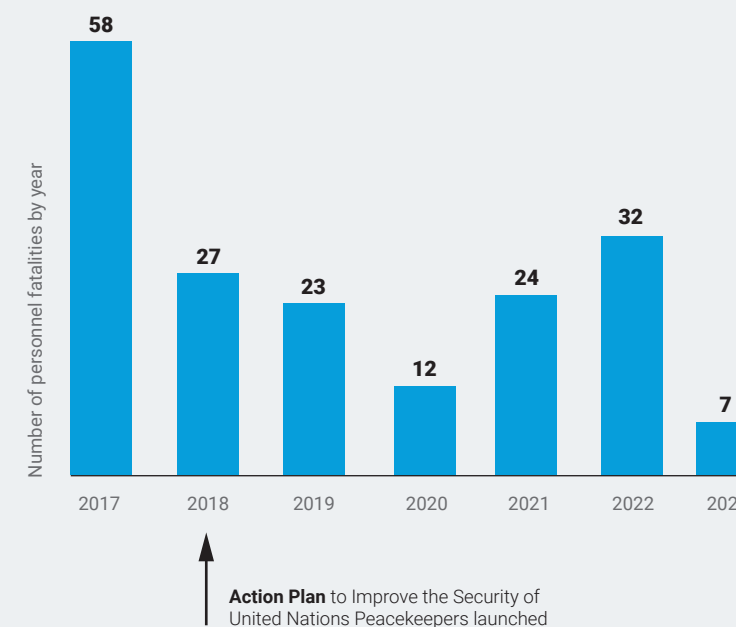
(Mogadishu; June 2024)
© UN Photo/Mukhtar Nuur

Rule of law and security institutions

Our support for the rule of law, justice and security institutions remained central to peace efforts. Over **8,200 United Nations police officers across 15 missions** strengthened national policing capacities for community-oriented engagement and gender equality. In the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti and Mali, for example, we supported disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, including through community violence-reduction programmes benefiting around 45,000 individuals, as well as through arms management initiatives.

Annual peacekeeping fatalities

In 2022, malicious acts were the highest cause of uniformed personnel fatalities, 50 per cent of which were due to explosive ordnance incidents. They also accounted for 53 per cent of fatalities overall that year. In 2023, over 70 per cent of fatalities were due to explosive ordnance.



Our Mine Action Service raised awareness of explosive ordnance risks for over 4.9 million people. In South Sudan, we **cleared and verified roughly 5.7 million m² of land** as free from explosive ordnance threats.

With our support, stronger national criminal accountability mechanisms in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and South Sudan have led to 4,600 prosecutions and over **3,400 convictions for serious crimes by the end of 2023**. We also helped to improve security sector governance, prison security and supported the rehabilitation of high-risk detainees.

Our support for the rule of law and security institutions

257,800+ explosive items removed or destroyed by United Nations mine action programmes

901 km² of land and 121 km of road confirmed safe through mine action programmes

21,000 people participated in community violence reduction projects

8,200 United Nations police officers building national capabilities



“The continuum of violence faced by children worldwide must be changed into a continuum of protection. Investment in child protection and well-being is needed more than ever.”

Najat Maalla M'jid,
Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children



“Protecting children from armed conflict and preventing grave violations is not only a legal and moral obligation, it also paves the way for lasting peace for all.”

Virginia Gamba,
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

Violence against children, children in armed conflict, conflict-related sexual violence and the prevention of genocide

In 2023, violence against children continued expanding at levels never seen before, due to the effects of multifaceted and overlapping crises worldwide. To prevent and protect children effectively from violence, the continuum of violence before, after and during conflict must be addressed comprehensively. To better understand prevention actions, we facilitated **intergenerational dialogues between displaced, refugee and migrant children and policymakers**. These dialogues complemented the public advocacy campaign mobilized by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children on the urgency to protect children on the move in times of crisis, given the increasing numbers of displaced children across all regions. **Of the 117.3 million people displaced globally, 40 per cent are estimated to be children.**

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, alongside partners on the ground, helped to initiate new action plans to cease violations against children. These engagements have aided in the release of over 200,000 children from parties to conflict since 2000, with over 10,600 children receiving reintegration support in 2023. We monitored and reported over 33,000 grave violations against children in 26 country and regional conflict settings.

Sexual violence persists as a tactic of war, torture and terrorism, amid deepening political and security crises. Women and girls are especially targeted with rape and abduction by State and non-State actors, curtailing their own livelihoods and education while generating profits for armed groups. Despite the framework established by the Security Council in 2008, our annual report on conflict-related sexual violence (S/2024/292) revealed that compliance with international norms remains low. There are 11 State actors and 47 non-State actors that are credibly suspected to have committed systematic violations. Our work to address these issues included the provision of capacity-building and support to national law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities, enhancing accountability in over a dozen countries to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence. We also helped to enable hundreds of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, including in Mali and with regard to the artisanal mining sector in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to gain access to medical, psychosocial, legal and socioeconomic integration support.

We advocated the prevention of genocide and related crimes – war crimes and crimes against humanity – and monitored the risk of such crimes. The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide voiced concerns over potentially genocidal situations in the Middle East and other regions. **We engaged directly with vulnerable groups and bolstered national prevention capacities**, supporting five United Nations country teams in developing action plans on addressing and countering hate speech.



“It is through consistent and effective prosecution that perpetrators will be deterred from committing crimes of conflict-related sexual violence. It can no longer be cost-free to rape.”

Pramila Patten,
Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict



“Prevention remains critical. With hate speech and incitement all too present, past genocides being denied and civilians being targeted because of their identity, we must act and must act now.”

Alice Nderitu, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide



A United Nations joint assessment mission enters Bukavu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, to assess reports of threats against civilians.

(Bukavu; April 2023) © MONUSCO/ Michael Ali