2021: Snapshot of Women, peace and security in peace operations

As of June 2021, most active peace operations with a field presence are mandated or tasked with women, peace and security (WPS)-related activities:

100% (9 out of 9)
SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS

66% (8 out of 12)
PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

Some selected new WPS inclusions in mandates over the course of 2020 and 2021:

- Strong language calling on support for **women's human rights** in the context of constitutional reform and peace processes in the mandate for the newly established mission in Sudan.

- Inclusion of references to **diverse groups of affected people, such as minorities, peacebuilders, and survivors**, as important to include in peace processes, conflict prevention, and protection efforts in the mandates of the peace operations in Afghanistan, CAR, D-RC, and Mali.

- Strengthened language on **women's participation** across the mandates of peace operations in CAR, Iraq, Lebanon and Libya.

- Language calling for **survivor-centered approaches to sexual violence** in the mandates of peace operations in CAR and South Sudan, as well as stronger language focused on accountability, provision of services and assistance to survivors.

- Reference to the **role of women's civil society**, including associations, in early warning efforts in the mandate of the peace operation in South Sudan.

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AS A CROSS-CUTTING MANDATE PROVISION

The inclusion of this mandate provision has increased considerably in recent years, particularly for missions that have historically had the weakest WPS-related mandates.

Year	Special Political Missions	Peacekeeping Missions
2013		Mali (MINUSMA)
2014	Somalia (UNSOM)	CAR (MINUSCA) DRC (MONUSCO)
2015		South Sudan (UNMISS)
2016	West Africa (UNOWAS)	
2017	Libya (UNSMIL)	
2018	Central Africa (UNOCA) Iraq (UNAMI)	Lebanon (UNIFIL)
2019	Haiti (BINUH)	Abyei (UNISFA)
2020	Sudan (UNITAMS)	Cyprus (UNFICYP)

WPS activities carried out by UN Peace Operations

The range of activities carried out by peace operations varies depending on the context of the mission, as well as the inclusion of specific provisions in mandates adopted by the Security Council.

In some instances, mandates have not been updated to include WPS-related provisions, and thus WPS-related goals and activities are laid out via budgetary and strategic planning processes. This can be a precursor to the adoption of new language in a resolution of the Security Council.

Importantly, the strength of the language in a peace operation mandate is only one aspect of a mission's ability to address WPS; political will amongst mission leadership, resources, capacity, and training at the field-level are critical in ensuring peace operations are meeting their WPS-related obligations.

Key

The peace operation undertakes these activities pursuant to explicit language in its mandate as laid out in Security Council resolutions.

The peace operation undertakes these activities pursuant to mission-specific strategies, directives, and/or internal work plans.

The peace operation does not any activities in this area.

The peace operation undertakes the following WPS-related activities:

- WPS / Gender as a cross-cutting issue
- Engagement with women's civil society organizations
- Support for women's participation in peace, security, and/or political processes
- Support for gender-responsive peace, security, and/or political processes
- Support the promotion of women's human rights
- Ensure women's protection, including from sexual violence
- Support implementation of National Action Plan on WPS
- Inclusion of WPS in periodic reports of the Secretary-General

SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS

Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Central Africa (UNOCA)

Colombia (Verification Mission)

Haiti (BINUH)

Iraq (UNAMI)

Libya (UNSMIL)

Somalia (UNSOM)

Sudan (UNITAMS)

West Africa (UNOWAS)

PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

CAR (MINUSCA)

Lebanon (UNIFIL)

DRC (MONUSCO)

Golan Heights (UNDOF)

South Sudan (UNMISS)

Kosovo (UNMIK)

Cyprus (UNFICYP)

Mali (MINUSMA)

Middle East (UNTSO)

India / Pakistan (UNMOGIP)

Sudan / South Sudan (UNISFA)

Western Sahara (MINURSO)

NGO WORKING GROUP ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

20 YEARS OF ADVOCACY