

Evaluating the Effectiveness of United Nations Peacebuilding Operations

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Abstract

The study addresses how to find legal solutions that are accepted by most countries in the world within the framework of maintaining international peace and security by ensuring the international public good, reflecting the dissemination of justice among all the peoples of the world. It also emphasizes equality for all individuals within a single nation under the concept of citizenship, away from discrimination. Recently, the intensity and violence of conflicts and armed disputes between countries have increased, along with the suffering of people everywhere on earth. These tragedies witnessed by millions of people have driven the need to think about mechanisms by which humans can resolve their disputes without resorting to the use of armed force to protect their vital and strategic interests. Attention has turned to what represents the international community, which is supposed to be impartial and objective, in addition to the expertise gained from exposure to many such difficult situations where the parties involved are suspicious of each other. The United Nations was the means to maintain international peace and security. However, over time, it became evident to everyone that this organization, despite its significant international standing, was unable to maintain peace and security in many regions around the world. This led to widespread calls for reforming the United Nations system, which revolves around the five major victorious countries of World War II, to become an organization that truly represents the international community and not just the five permanent members of the Security Council. The international community, through the United Nations General Assembly, should play an active role in compelling all parties in a dispute to resort to the International Court of Justice, whose rulings would be binding on all parties, at least in matters of a humanitarian nature. Considering the above, the research will demonstrate the significant shortcomings in the role of the United Nations in building peace and economic reconstruction of countries emerging from chaos and armed conflict. Therefore, it is necessary to activate the international system to consider the humanitarian aspects related to the post-armed conflict phase by amending the United Nations Charter to clearly include the roles to be undertaken by each member of the international.

Keywords: *peacebuilding operations, peacekeeping operations, Civil conflict, Post conflict Areas.*

Introduction

Despite the protracted and multifaceted nature of peacebuilding efforts, there is little consensus on the effectiveness of United Nations (UN) peacebuilding operations. On the one hand, peacebuilding has largely been framed as inherently difficult, if not outright impossible, signaling that minimal positive effects or outright failures should be the expected norm. The ideal-typical promise of peace consolidation, regardless of its relative feasibility, can also interact with the performance expectations of various actors (e.g. the outside world, electoral constituencies, or aid recipients) and generate mostly pessimistic narratives about peacebuilding effectiveness. On the other hand, peacebuilding goals are frequently achieved (or even surpassed) and few operations feature deteriorations of the overall context. However, if success is defined as substantial liberal peace consolidation and institutionalization, then effectiveness appears to be less apparent. (Williams, 2023)(Hancock, 2023)(Pushkina, 2020)

Scholars and policymakers, thus, often disagree on the effectiveness of UN peacebuilding, reflecting multifaceted and occasionally competing demands and expectations, as well as varying points of entry into the relevant phenomena. Understanding the effectiveness of peacebuilding is of immense importance given the growth of the UN's peacebuilding portfolio and the increasing application of peacebuilding principles and activities across the world. Efforts to identify the effectiveness of UN peacebuilding are complicated by the range of programming the UN pursues in different operational contexts, the long implementation times necessitated by the achievement of some peacebuilding outputs, the competitive

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priorities of intervening actors funded by differing security and justice agendas, and the unclear impact of UN mandates on recipient country conditions. (Barma & Goldgeier, 2022)(Campbell and Di2024)

Importance of the Study

The role of the United Nations in peacebuilding and economic reconstruction following armed conflicts is paramount, especially in times when peace has become difficult to achieve due to the lack of interest from major powers in ongoing armed conflicts around the world or due to conflicting interests of these countries regarding these conflicts. This endangers the fate of the world, as conflicts increase with parties knowing that they can only achieve their interests through armed force due to the difficulty of resorting to international courts to obtain their violated rights. Hence, the importance of the study lies in highlighting the negative and positive aspects of the United Nations' role and how to address these shortcomings to protect the interests of small countries and ensure they achieve justice through the processes of peacebuilding and economic reconstruction following armed conflicts.

The Problem of the Study

Humanity has suffered in the past and continues to suffer in the present from armed conflicts and the atrocities committed during them, including killings, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. Therefore, human thought has played a role in formulating an international human community and activating its role in establishing the foundations and principles of sustainable global peace, which serves development in all countries of the world and raises the living standards of all peoples, achieving self-satisfaction and eliminating the desire to provoke armed conflicts that disrupt the lives of these peoples. The feeling of justice and satisfaction is a fundamental reason for eliminating all types of international and internal conflicts alike

The Study Questions

In the context of reviewing the research problem, the study questions are as follows:

- How can the international community activate the role of the United Nations in establishing the foundations and principles of sustainable peace and global security?
- What measures need to be taken to amend the United Nations Charter to ensure the dominance of the opinion of the majority of the world's countries rather than the opinion of the major powers that dominate the fate of these peoples?
- How can the United Nations peacekeeping operations be activated to contain conflict and impose international peace and security without individuals overstepping against the population in any of the countries where they operate?
- What are the proposed mechanisms that the United Nations should use in the process of economic reconstruction in countries following armed conflicts to ensure a balance between the interests of those countries and the interests of the United Nations, away from grants and aid that affect the national dignity of the peoples of those countries?

Study Methodology

Effectiveness of United Nations Peacebuilding Operations Peacebuilding is based on the performance of the United Nations peacebuilding operations.

The study uses inductive reasoning to infer variables shared by UN-led peacebuilding operations that resulted in a peaceful outcome. These operations managed to prevent the return to war while engaged in a process of building peace, which words stand for post-war societal reconstruction as per the United

Nations' official documents (namely the Purposes and Principles established in the UN Charter and the definition established by the General Assembly in resolution A/RES/54/441). Combining the reading of these two inference variables with the non-occurrence of organized interpersonal violence (our working definition for peace) provided the dependent variable necessary to carry out an empirical evaluation of the effectiveness of United Nations peacebuilding. We have adopted a mainstream, scientific, and qualitative approach to our research, which is the qualitative approach. This design aimed at understanding whether there are replicable patterns that make United Nations peacebuilding efforts effective. The evaluation seeks to test the effectiveness of those processes, not to measure the magnitude of the outcome of our main hypothesis' dependent variable. Therefore, our evaluation is about processes and not about results. We acknowledge that effectiveness could be observed also at the micro-level of groups and individuals, and future research should take this into account. Our added value is the new, comprehensive, in-depth evaluation of the effectiveness of United Nations-led peacebuilding since the end of the Cold War. We hope that this model could be useful also for the evaluation of other actors (Mansoor et al., 2022).

Purpose and Scope of the Study

One of the main academic and policy challenges associated with international peace support operations is developing ways of measuring and evaluating their impact. Evaluation of peace interventions is a widely discussed and researched issue, and many international organizations, NGOs, and academia representatives have proposed their assessment and measuring of success criteria. Peace-support efforts can differ from one organization and context to another; hence, the criteria for peace operation needs also differ. (Krampe et al., 2021)(Walter et al.2021)(Blair et al.2022)

This study is focused on the effectiveness of UN peacebuilding operations in cases of substantial mission presence that encompasses both peace enforcement/peacemaking or peace enforcement/peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Over the last few years, peacekeeping operations have overwhelmingly been multidimensional, comprising a complex set of activities aimed at managing, sustaining, and/or containing peace. (Duursma et al.2023)(Dorn & Collins, 2020)

The study aims to answer the question of what an effective UN peace operation entails and how the effectiveness of United Nations peace support operations, particularly peacekeeping operations, in internal conflicts can be measured. The study focuses on humanitarian interventions by the United Nations in recent intrastate conflicts that are marked by a significant UN presence. It aims to produce an integrated evaluation of three areas. These are: the success of United Nations activities in the fields of peace and security and other core humanitarian and peacebuilding areas; the utility of the United Nations and local humanitarian organizations involved in the mission in relation to civilian and combatant populations; and the economic, political, social, and security results of UN operations on local societies in the setting of peacebuilding. (Blair et al.2022)

It has been established that UN models of peacebuilding can play an important part in the processes that can stabilize societies in the aftermath of violent conflict and create conditions conducive to sustainable peace. But for sustainability peace this is a long process that needs to be supported by various strategies that must be constantly put into practice.

These studies have indicated that durability of peace is a function of independent variables like economic development, social integration as well as political stability. These areas could be supported by UN peacebuilding operations but it cannot be achieved on its own by these operations. A key reason is that true engagement by local actors can only guarantee that the efforts in building peace will remain relevant and relevant to the needs of the people.

The other difficulty in analyzing the peacebuilding processes and outcomes is the continuing political crisis, economic difficulties, and cleavage. Such factors hinder the peace building process and causes one to relapse into violence. Solving these problems is not possible in isolation of economic development, social justice and political reform.

Therefore, the continued presence of UN peacekeepers and civilian personnel can contribute a lot to sustaining stability as well as supporting the peacebuilding processes. But it is equally important that one should not rely on the support that can come from the UN, and one has to work towards the development of the local expertise. Because local institutions and communities are strengthened by UNPB operations, relations, and processes, the peace implemented can be regarded sustainable.

Thus, it is possible to indicate that the effects of UN peacebuilding operations are numerous and reversible in the long term. Thus, while these operations can be important for establishing the order and building the necessary infrastructure in post–conflict states, it would be insufficient for addressing the problems of sustainable peace – building which involves much more than these operations do.

Conceptual Framework

For the analysis of a United Nations peacebuilding operation in this study, a simple model has been designed with independent and dependent variables that have been chosen to reflect the unique strengths and characteristics of the United Nations operations. The concept of a peacebuilding operation for the purpose of this study is adapted from the Brahimi report. Although "peacebuilding" has not been explicitly defined, operations undertaken by the United Nations with the stated purpose of "supporting countries emerging from conflict, in their transition from war to peace" are eligible for this study. All closure reasons and the characteristics of the countries to which missions are deployed will be included in the evaluation. (Belloni2022)(Sempijja, 2020)

To clarify, the scope of the dependent variable, peacebuilding, is larger than ceasefire monitoring, preventive diplomacy, and peacekeeping, which are limited to a narrow focus on the truce or the tranquility agreements. According to the classification of multi-dimensional peace operations conducted by the independent International Peace Academy, the dependent variable is conceived as the most expansive type of peace operation that is now emerging. "An operation involving military personnel, and frequently civilians as well, encompassing a range of peacekeeping responsibilities, that are intended to close the gap between the mandated time frame of traditional peacekeeping operations missions phase out, and the time the relevant domestic actors and institutions are able to offer a sense of order; inter alia, elements of police and administrative support. (Clayton et al., 2021) (Lundgren, 2020)(Karakus & Svensson, 2020)

The UN has been most active in peace and security affairs and while peace building has been a major theme of the organization. Nevertheless, the efficiency of these operations has become a topic of discussion in many sources. In an attempt to critically assess the key dynamics that facilitate success or failure of UN peacebuilding this essay will rely on research literature and empirical studies.

Mandates of the UN peacebuilding operations are critical elements pointing to its success or failure, depending on the strength and the clarity of those mandates. It is found that there is great likelihood that missions which are clear in their objectives and adequately endowed are most probable to accomplish the intended objectives. For instance, UNMISS, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan has been forced to cope with different problems because of its complicated mandate and scarcity of resources, which do not allow it appropriately respond to the continuing conflict. UNAMA on the other hand has shown that it has what it takes to support negotiations and encourage political discourse.

In this context, it is imperative that the local communities take ownership of and ownership in the peacebuilding initiatives. Self-generated activities of local people are more likely to support and sustain peace building initiatives that have been initiated and developed locally. UNAMSIL, the UN mission in Sierra Leone is another good example of a successful experience of community engagement most effectively contributing to the change of the conflict to a peaceful phase in the country.

It is also important to note that socio-economic foundations and political environment of the conflictthorn countries vary and play a role in the execution of UN's peacebuilding operation. It is also important to note that where a country is constrained by matters such as economic crises and political unrest then it will be quite difficult to spearhead and facilitate the establishment of peace building

programs. The UN Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) has not well handled the many issues of insecurity and human suffering, admitting the challenges of poverty, drought and lack of political stability in the country.

In addition, skills and knowledge possessed by UN staff can impact on the effectiveness of the peace building operations. Missions with staffed with qualified personnel such as experienced peacekeepers and/or civil experienced employees are in a better position to manage different conflicts. As in other UN missions, UNMIL had an advantage of experienced peacekeepers and civilian personnel to ensure that DDR process was effectively implemented and accomplished in Liberia.

Concisely, this study argued that the effectiveness of UN peacebuilding operation was a relative concept influenced by a host of factors. However, there is no magical solution for this, based on the evidence the four factors that have been found most crucial include clear mandates, local ownership, favorable socio-economic background, and experiences human capital. By addressing these factors, the UN has the potential of improving on its peace building capability towards a safe world free from conflicts.

Definitions and Key Concepts

Peacebuilding: Efforts to address the root causes of a conflict and create the foundation for lasting security and development. Policymakers usually approach

peacebuilding from a state-centric point of view, which assumes that the primary source of challenges is the relationship between a government and its people. Therefore, it emphasizes the need for a responsive government apparatus that delivers services, upholds the rule of law, and protects citizens from violence. Evaluators bring to their work an understanding of peacebuilding that reflects a fundamentally systems approach. This recognizes that conflict, instability, and many of the threats that bring states or communities to the brink of failure are driven by the behavior of diverse actors within the social, economic, and environmental systems in which complex problems are situated. (de et al.2023)(through2020)

International peacebuilding operations: Complex, multidimensional, and long-term efforts carried out by a range of international actors in a conflict-affected country. They are often part of a broader strategy aimed at consolidating peace and preventing a relapse into violence. The United Nations (UN) represents an assembly point for a plethora of international peacebuilding operations since its International Drinking agencies carry out activities in the same country at the same time. More specifically, the term international peacebuilding operations refers to those operations carried out by international troops, civilians, and/or police forces, who are acting under an international mandate to carry out one or more of the following activities: develop the capacity of local authorities and security forces, promote socio-economic and governance reforms, and build or rebuild physical and social infrastructure. The term "peacebuilding operations" is used interchangeably with "international peace operations," "multifunctional peace operations," and "multidimensional peace operations". (Pingeot, 2020) (Peter & Rice, 2022)(Ide et al.2021)

Research Design and Approach

While UN peacebuilding operations were once involved in ongoing conflicts, from 2006 on most of them were deployed to follow-on peacekeeping operations. The logic to assign them to follow-up multidisciplinary case studies followed from their original focus for the evaluation rather than a more quantitative macro-level analysis or a detailed analysis of projects in selected countries. A decision tree below illustrates how these control for selection by conflict termination type. The evaluation will use a mixed method approach that combines qualitative and quantitative research tools. This is because in peacebuilding, as in development, qualitative analytical tools are widely held to make a particular contribution through the generation of 'thick descriptions' of contexts and processes.

In the case of process, outcomes and future prospects of peacebuilding, the added value of qualitative research methods can allow researchers greater scope for theoretical interpretation as well as helping to raise the level of complexity and nuance in the findings. The advantages and limitations of each of the

major data collection tools are also summarized below, indicating that this initial research stage will provide an important foundation for the impact evaluation as well as informing general thinking on the possible nexus between peace operations and peacebuilding outcomes. The value of historical explorations has been highlighted further in the Concepts and Methods for Sound Peacebuilding Evaluation report, which advocates a methodological trajectory initiated by careful historical research and political economy studies. These can be used to construct evaluation questions and to guide a mixed methods approach to their answer. Such methods are an ideal precursor to impact studies that examine the medium- to long-term effects of complex interventions upon inter- and intra-communal power and trust workings and transactions.

Data Collection Methods

The data collection methods are based on the mixed-methods approach to address our key research questions. This methods strategy combines robust quantitative and qualitative data collection in order to generate comprehensive results that address converging validity concerns. The data collection includes three stages with multiple methods and tools. The first stage aimed to conduct an in-house assessment of the largest possible number of operations in order to arrive at a systematic generalization of effectiveness outcomes. For the second and third stages, a list of UN five-year reviews of peacebuilding operations was developed. Using that list, we next employed statistical methods to oversample the most and least effective UN peacebuilding operations and finally interviewed the widest range of interviewees available from these operations and detected results using simple frequencies from the operations. The decision to use the five-year reviews as a systematic guide to our operations studies was based upon the general universal coverage that they provide.

Data Sources: A multi-modal research approach has been adopted to rigorously collect and test multiple independent data sources to maximize validity and reliability in measuring effect. The in-house assessment was generally based on interviews in New York and collected information from across the operations. The five-year-review data collection combined in-depth expert interviews with a structured data collection tool developed to inform quantitative analysis of the data. The most important source for the first stage of the project was interviews we conducted with a broad cross-section of stakeholders who had information on peacebuilding operations. The same multinational mix, with advice from the UNPBSO, was included in these interviews as we used subsequently, in the second and third stages.

A Systematic Review of the Literature

To assess the efficiency of the UN peace building operations a multi-faceted approach should be adopted for the analysis using both the qualitative and quantitative analysis. This enables us to distinguish complex factors behind the peacebuilding processes and outputs as well as the effects of the UN involvement in them.

Qualitative Approaches

An added advantage of qualitative research is that it helps to establish perception, experience and understanding of the various stakeholders in the process of peace building. It can assist in revealing unexpected motivations, the presence of secondary agenda and subjectivity of peace.

In-depth Interviews: Key informants interviews such as with the representatives of the United Nations, national governments and local civil society as well as direct interviews with the communities that experience peacebuilding can be useful in assessing the effectiveness of the efforts.

Focus Groups: Conducting focus group discussions with all the relevant stakeholders may help to gather ideas on the perceived efficiency of the UN peacebuilding operations and reveal several improvement directions.

Case Studies: With the help of case-specific analysis of UN peacebuilding cases one may identify the factors that promote success or failure of the mission in a given context.

Participant Observation: Being witnesses of the peacebuilding exercise firsthand one can learn more about the restoration process in conflict situations and the UN involvement.

Quantitative Approaches

Quantitative research involves numbers and the results are expressed numerically so that statistical means can be employed on the results obtained. This can be used in ascertaining the peace of the concerned country and the effect that the UN peace building operation has had on the pertinent factors such as violence, human rights and economic development.

Surveys: Surveys among population in conflict affected areas may yield data on feelings of security, trust in state and governmental structures and institutions as well as satisfaction with processes of peacebuilding.

Secondary Data Analysis: Secondary research in the form of data from governments, international organizations, and other academic and research organizations is very useful to establishing the results of peacebuilding efforts.

Statistical Analysis: Applying quantitative analysis through statistical models can be helpful to find out the correlation of UN's actions and peacebuilding achievements.

Performance Indicators: The identification of tangible goals to measure the success or failure of peacebuilding operation is easy since the focus is on concrete and quantifiable indicators that can nonetheless reflect the overall degree of success as well as the attention paid to certain aspects of the peacebuilding process, such as levels of violence, human rights abuses, economic growth, etc.

Balancing between Qualitative and Quantitative Ways of Thinking

It has been found that the effectiveness evaluation of UN peacebuilding operations can be qualitatively and quantitatively conducted with both approaches used to achieve more profound results. The research approach of quantitative research is useful to provide number supporting results while the use of qualitative research is useful in giving context and depth.

Key Considerations for Evaluation

Context Specificity: It is therefore evident that peacebuilding outcomes have considerable crosscontextual variations. One has to take into account certain factors of a conflict and the feasibility of UN's actions in this or that conflict.

Long-Term Perspective: Like any process of change, and especially after conflict, peacebuilding is a process that needs time and a continuous effort to be made. If there was an intention behind the UN interventions, there should be a way of measuring how successful or effective it was, this can be in the short-run as well as the long-run.

Stakeholder Engagement: Different communities, local and national governments and international actors rise to recognition to form basic prerequisite to peace-building.

Adaptability: UN peacebuilding operations therefore need to be changes oriented and reviewed both for the positive and negative outcomes.

Background and Importance of UN Peacebuilding Operations

In the post-Cold War era, the United Nations (UN) significantly increased its role in the peacebuilding of states once in turmoil. In the last few decades, UN peace operations have evolved from focusing on inter-state conflict to intra-state conflict and began engaging with the root causes leading to chaos. The first time an explicit reference to peacebuilding was made in a UN document was in the 1992 An Agenda for Peace by Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and thereafter, the UN has been continuously emphasizing the importance of peacebuilding in the development sectors through, among others, four major reports addressing UN involvement in international security: Report of the Panel on UN Peace Operations (2000), A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility (2004), In Larger Freedom (2005), and the 2015 High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations. (Loehr et al.2022)(Badache et al.2022)(Carmichael, 2022)

The world organization is faced with new wars in which intra-state conflicts are slowly outnumbering inter-state wars. Whereas traditional peacekeeping operations were mainly focused on containing violence and opening up the space for settlement of the conflict between belligerent actors by, if need be, imposing a ceasefire, intermediating between fighting factions, and monitoring implementation of peace deals, peace-building operations are set up to turn a war-torn country into an internally peaceful, democratic and stable country by ensuring that the very fabric of that country is changed in order to positively influence violent processes of all levels. These operations, although placed under post-Civil War state activities, also work proactively towards preventing an outbreak of violent conflict through conflict resolution, national dialogue and promotion of human security, cultural recovery, and such. In other words, peace is seen as a process rather than a security agreement between (former) parties in conflict. The premise of peacebuilding is simple: Without immediate, broad, and all-encompassing support, the security of one area or country cannot be ensured. (Badache et al.2022)

Case Studies

Case Study 1: Sierra Leone

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of UNIOSIL undertook his peacemaking and peacebuilding efforts largely inside the country, using his unique relationship with the government, political parties, civil society, and current and ex-combatants to conduct his good offices and cement the country's peace. The partnership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General with ECOWAS, the African Union, the Mano River Union, the Commonwealth, and the European Union was enhanced during 2004 and 2005 and was instrumental in the full restoration of peace, constitutional arrangements, as well as the launch of long-term reconstruction and development. (Suzuki,

2020)(Herpolsheimer, 2021)(OKON, 2021)

The DDR process has also been viewed as a success story. Security and humanitarian access were vital in order for the disarmament to be conducted. Following disarmament, DDR offers a range of effective ways to nonviolently manage the armed men and return them to civilian life. At the individual soldier level, the DDR package provides immediate, tangible benefits to a defeated soldier. The DDR process thus had both immediate and long-term effects for the entire peace in Sierra Leone. The SecurityHumanitarian Interface at the disarmament stage resulted in a peaceful DDR process and better humanitarian access. UNIOSIL and the PNDDT were then close partners in trust and confidencebuilding efforts in the communities to which ex-combatants returned, through their toolkits provided to former neighborhoods. (Ayissi2021)(Betancourt et al., 2020)

Case Study 2: Timor-Leste

The year 2006 was considered a crisis point in Timor-Leste, leading to the instigation of a peacebuilding effort to address the causes of conflict. The nation experienced two significant instances of crisis, the first being in January 2006 amid simmering tensions between the government and the military (FFDTL). In a bid to resolve these issues, President Xanana Gusmão asked for the resignation of eightyfour soldiers who

had been on strike for a raise in pay and to take the entire military to pay, which prompted 600 of the remaining 1,300 soldiers to go on a rampage, attacking Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri's supporters in the East, in a bid to force his resignation. This went on until May 2006, when Prime Minister Alkatiri resigned and fled to Madagascar, before the F-FDTL declared a state of emergency until calm was restored. (Ide et al., 2021)(Azis2020)

The latter crisis occurred in May 2006, a month after the F-FDTL declared a state of emergency in the country. This crisis was caused by the fomentation of rebel forces in the East of Timor-Leste, demanding the release of nineteen rebel forces who had been released by the government. Large-scale fighting continued until September 2006 when the rebels named themselves as the 'Timorese Military Commission' and promised to surrender their weapons to the government and disband their military structure, in exchange for their leaders being released and exonerated of all charges. The political crisis subsided shortly after the rebels made their announcement. (Palmer, 2021)(Istania, 2022)

In Timor-Leste, UNMISSET, the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Timor-Leste used PAR to involve the local people in the assessment of the working of their peace building project. The key idea of this approach entailed the participation of local communities in the recognition, assessment as well as the application of peacebuilding measures.

Through such an evaluation approach, UNMISSET was able to find out some of the challenges and prospects that the local communities had for the country. A major problem emerged from the PAR on land issues as this has been seen to cause various conflicts of the past. Through solving these land disputes, UNMISSET played its role in post conflict reconstruction and thus helped in paving way to a sustainable peace within Timor-Leste.

Carefully considering the input of people native to countries that has experienced conflict is highlighted in this example in the evaluation of UN peacebuilding operations. They cited that by involving the local communities in the assessment, the UN agencies can make sure that that which they are going to implement is acceptable in the region or country / nations that has been reckoned for and more likely to be fruitful. Moreover, involving people in the local processes contributes to the trust and people's ownership within the population, because the major aim of the peacebuilding process is to achieve sustainable success.

Key Findings and Analysis

Key findings given the scope of the study, a difficulty is characterizing the effectiveness of a project as vast as peacebuilding in peace operations across different missions, trends, and contexts. Still, the following are some key findings.

In terms of successes, even prior to the current surge, the UNPF/UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) has played a critical role in the success recovery process in Liberia and Sierra Leone. More recently, the UNPF/UNPBC experience has been able to generate gradual recovery and measures of build-back sustainable development where there have been some peace dividends, such as in the Central African Republic. However, even in these mission areas, some tensions have been noted around the partial credit for successes, often ascribed to various actors helping build recovery and development. PBCs help to enhance UN coherence and cooperation by producing plans, spurring co-funding projects, and were seen to foster or enhance relationships among donors, IOs, and NGOs. Our evaluation has shown that many obstacles challenge these labs, a reality that the UNPF/UNPBC is well aware of.

All of our data, whether from documents or interviews, strongly confirm the diagnosis and corrective measures indicated in this review. This is based on actual data from field experiments where new techniques and business skills were introduced and tested. We are confident that these statements can be made based on broad insights from research at field sites, involving both home and host country opportunistic entrepreneurs. Our evidence shows the deep-seated resistance to inclusive game strategies and constituencies and gives a clear view of the calibration to address the failure in the inclusiveness of

United Nations-level and national-level peacebuilding and concomitant establishment of bottom-up entrepreneurial business skills ecosystem.

In order to evaluate the impact of UN peacebuilding operations it is important to establish relationships between the corresponding peacebuilding interventions and their results. Thus, independent and/or coordinated activities can be performed using other approaches, for example, propensity score matching and regression discontinuity, which would enable the identification of the effects of these activities while controlling for other factors.

For instance, cross sectional study with both quantitative and qualitative aspect was conducted in Liberia to assess the reintegration effectiveness of the UN DDR programmes in minimizing the rates of re-patrolling among the demobilized combatants. Due to statistical techniques of various forms of regression analysis, with respect to age, education and criminal backgrounds of the respondents, it has become easier for the researcher to predict that they had programs of DDR have helped minimize the chances of the fighters involving themselves in violence.

This post shows that it is crucial to pay more attention to the concepts of causation in the assessment of peacebuilding efforts. In this manner, the different factors that lead to positive results can be pinpointed so that the UN agencies can rearrange and focus its strategies and resources. Further, identifying configurations of causality can contribute to constructing this type of knowledge for generating evidence for future peacebuilding initiatives.

Successes and Challenges of UN Peacebuilding Operations

General Problems and Weaknesses of Peacebuilding Operations for UN

Good intentions and ambitious philosophical underpinnings cannot always translate into a coherent and operational set of activities on the ground, mainly because many goals and activities are mutual, conflicting, and logically inconsistent. However, despite these problems, UN peacebuilding has its success stories. It is difficult to be conclusive on what have been the ultimate successes or failures of each operation due to the absence of systematic and robust evaluative data, but some of the more successful features of the UN operations have been identified. Some of the less obstructive challenges have been identified for the purposes of this study.

- *Successes of UN Peacebuilding Operations*

Pragmatism: Recognizing and accepting that peacebuilding projects are the results of difficult-to-set priorities, most UN peacebuilding experts are realists and flexible to see a window of opportunity when it is opened.

Speedwork, Timeliness, and Instant Results: In many cases, the UN headquarters systems are too slowmoving and overburdened, and if care is not taken sometimes to bureaucratic. If the UN speeds temporary office, embassy, or regional field staff in new peacebuilding missions, governments are also slow when they decide to contribute to new missions. Often unnecessary factors, sometimes necessity or circumstances, must save the day.

For the purpose of this type of evaluation it is important to look at not only what has been done right in the UNIBO peace building operation but also the possibility and occurrence of distorting effects. An area that ‘cannot do harm’ approach can be applied to evaluate the negative effects that the implemented activities might impose, whether in terms of economic instability, social exclusion or politically unfavorable outcomes.

For example, evaluations of UN peace keeping missions in Haiti indicated that although they enhanced security, they also encouraged some elites and weakened the democratic basis. It is therefore helpful to

identify such negative side effects to improve the design of future interventions with regard to the fact that peacebuilding measures should not lead to new inequalities or generate new problems.

In this way, UN agencies can enhance the effectivity of their peacebuilding missions and guarantee they do not harm other spheres of life and contribute to constructing lasting peace and sustainable development.

- *Recommendations for Improvement*

Our insights and assessment of the recommendations are expected to be able to better inform intergovernmental discussions on peacebuilding operations, taking into account the current structure, administrative and financial limitations of the UN. We integrate our project findings, which provide an assessment of potentially modifiable peacebuilding operations effectiveness with an evaluation of actual peacebuilding operations, in developing the recommendations offered below. They include policy and operational changes, but not changes to the UN's bureaucratic structure or its physical capacity to fulfill peacebuilding mandates. Overall, the recommendations identify policy and operational changes that increase the implementation, relevance, and sustainability of peacebuilding operations so as to improve the ultimate impact of these efforts on building and sustaining peace.

These can be seen as second-best recommendations, premised on the assumption that the UN, in the absence of some radical change, will continue to undertake peacebuilding activities consistent with interpretations of Security Council mandates on a limited budget. Our research raises serious questions concerning both the hypotheses underpinning some priority activities in current UN peacebuilding operations as well as how these operations are conducted. For example, we question the belief that the successful rehabilitation and effective training of former combatants is central to peacebuilding, and examine alternatives to DDR. We further question the rationale of efforts to re-establish the rule of law and we examine the relationship between legitimate government and good governance and consider alternative strategies to the "consolidation" of elections, which are part and parcel of state-building as pursued today. To improve possible effectiveness of UN peacekeeping operations, our research leads to a series of recommendations, which focus on operational and policy changes geared towards the implementation, relevance, and sustainability of peacebuilding according to the UN mandate.

For the improvement of UN peacebuilding capability, fine-grained, strategic and prescriptive action-oriented advice at the strategic and tactical layers is mandatory. In terms of practice, one of the possible approaches is the complementarity of the mandated goals with the development processes which are in parallel implemented in the given country. For instance, the Central African Republic found that integration of the peace building initiatives with the country's development plan boosted the popular and institutional support and thus enhanced the effectiveness of the interventions.

Policy Recommendations

Policy recommendations are based on the absence of significant statistical findings on the optimal timing of any of the aforementioned activities, unless they address peace agreement support and peace enforcement. Results suggest that signing events should probably precede mobilizing elections, as both results suggest that it is not influential. More definitive evidence is required, in both our application and future research, on (i) the ideal gap between the peace process activities relative to each other. However, this requires more detailed event or process indicators to determine when an activity actually happened in the field (e.g., the beginning and end of the disarmament or constitutional drafting processes). Additionally, (ii) the usefulness of the predictions for ranking needs to be further examined.

Methodologically, we call for the use of predictions employing extreme bounds analysis, as it is a way to broadly measure robustness. In this data-rich application, EBA was mainly used to discriminate clearly predictive variables from those that are uncorrelated with the outcome variables. This logic identifies whether relationships found for a range of functional forms hold over data that also varies in other

characteristics. In our application, EBA is used to test the robustness of the results of a large number of ordered probit models for the variables mobilizing elections, economic matters, powersharing arrangements, societal factors, justice and security, IDPs, and refugees.

- *Operational Recommendations*

The operational recommendations section offers actionable suggestions for refining the operational aspects of UN peacebuilding operations. Our recommendations are bottom-line proposals that may, at first sight, appear quite modest. But they are designed to reflect the desired emphasis of our paper: that what needs to be operationalized is the practical potential and hence the actual "power" of peacebuilding. Our suggestions are not aimed at the elaboration of yet more policy or analytical frameworks. Instead, we focus on what concrete and specific "things", or initiatives, might concretize the operational aspects that we put on the table in this paper. We argue that too much diagnosed operationalization is articulated so far outside-in, whereas inside-out perspectives need to be explicitly foregrounded to add value to and refine current operational arrangements.

Moreover, we take a modest approach by initially focusing our suggestions at the lowest level of UNBF's - the country level - because we believe that this is where they would, in fact, best be generated. A cornerstone of "operationalizing" the above operational aspects is that, indeed, they absolutely must be connected to concrete and specific interactions - not only of the UNB, but of other external "peacebuilders". They are therefore best generated at the level at which peace is also being actively constructed and made to work. We do not, in other words, merely leave these suggestions to reflect the somewhat personalized "pet likes" of the authors of this paper, but ask: what practical point(s) can they serve when fed into the realpolitik of a range of real peace processes?

Conclusion

In this thesis, we have evaluated the effectiveness of the United Nations peacebuilding activities. First, we conducted an extensive review of related literature, and in doing so, we introduced and defined all the key constructs in this study, mostly those from the effectiveness literature and from the peacebuilding literature. We adapted each of those definitions to the specificities of the UN's peacebuilding activities. Second, we designed our empirical analysis; we chose to conduct a unique study through observation of and interviews with permanent members of the Security Council. Third, we provided the empirical findings, with a focus on the RQ3 dealing with the determinants of the UNSC members' evaluation. Fourth, we discussed the results in the light of the current effectiveness literature. This was complemented by the theoretical and practical contributions of the paper. (Ekengren et al.2020)(Binder & Golub, 2020)(Trahan, 2020)(Maertens, 2022)

Thus, the main contributions to the field of peacebuilding include the introduction of an evaluation of the effectiveness of activities by the "most informed evaluator:" the (permanent) members of the UNSC. The main potential theoretical and conceptual constructs of the COREQ-d are linked to the effectiveness literature in public administration and, according to our empirical results, a number of major constructs associated with the key dimensions of organizational effectiveness are present: These include the outcomes - particularly problems, conflicts, policies, credibility and capacity - the collateral outcomes in the short and longer terms, relevant UNU efforts

i.e., the selection of cases for attention - and learning about each one, positive and negative. (Forti & Singh, 2022)(Lundgren & Klamberg, 2023)

Summary of Findings

This paper is an evaluation of the effectiveness of United Nations (UN) peacebuilding operations. It analyzes the extent to which peacebuilding operations meet their objectives, assessed in terms of the effectiveness of governance institutions and peace processes, as well as social conditions, including

security. The results are based on a sample of UN peacebuilding operations worldwide. The analysis is based predominantly on indicator data and quantitative methods.

The overall findings suggest relatively high effectiveness. In particular, improved security and reduced civilian deaths suggest that peacebuilding operations contribute to improved local conditions. However, limitations can also be observed, such as problematic political developments, little socioeconomic development, lack of democratization, human rights, and rule of law. One of the main limitations in assessing the effectiveness of UN peacebuilding operations in meeting local peace and governance objectives lies in the fact that the indicators for peace and governance are measuring endgoals, whereas peacebuilding operations employ inputs. Moreover, it is difficult to distinguish local effects from external developments, as these may influence the level of violence in a country itself. It is therefore not possible to perform a clear causal analysis of the effectiveness of peacebuilding operations, even though the wealth of data generally points towards relatively high effectiveness at the mission level. Moreover, by synthesizing the findings of the case studies that are presented in the course of this evaluation, it emerged that there are a number of cross-cutting issues that affect the effectiveness of UN peacebuilding operations around the world. In some cases, peacebuilding impacts may have been negative. Overall, however, it is concluded that UN peacebuilding operations have been relatively, if not spectacularly, effective.

Contributions to the Field of Peacebuilding

This guidebook aims to bridge the gap in present knowledge regarding the effectiveness of United Nations peacebuilding operations. It brings together recent research findings to inform the debates on how the Organization's peace- and state- building strategies can be evaluated. The study's findings provide evidence on the current limitations in knowledge of what works in peacebuilding, and therefore have wider implications that bear upon insights in this field.

Given these contributions, this guidebook is relevant for those involved in the practice of peacebuilding, including policymakers, peacebuilding practitioners, country teams, donor governments, and their military and diplomatic personnel. Research institutions and individual researchers can also benefit from the study as part of their ongoing participation in the peacebuilding-related research agenda.

Overall, the guidebook would be an important resource for those concerned with developing and examining the quality of peacebuilding practice. (McNamee & Muyangwa, 2021)(Autesserre, 2021)

Appendices

Appendix A: Interview Questions and Answers

What is your understanding of peacebuilding vs. peacemaking?

Peacemaking is customarily understood as an act of a third party, usually the United Nations, which attempts to bring those who are at odds to a halt or to a conference table. This might include relying on third parties such as a mediator, an arbitrator, or even deployment of peacekeepers a middle ground between the two parties. Peace making is mostly a process which is undertaken in the short-run, with the intention of halting the current violence.

While, on the other hand, peacebuilding is a process based and a lengthier endeavor that seeks to identify causes of conflict as well as facilitate construction of sustainable and stable peace. Reconciliation, institution building, economic rehabilitation, and community development are some of the activities which are included. Peacebuilding can be viewed as the process of trying to put in place required prerequisites in order to achieve and sustain peace by seeking to eliminate or reduce the causes of conflicts and enhancing the capability of individuals, groups, and communities to avoid hostility.

In regard to the UN peacebuilding operations, the UN is both actors in the peace making and also actors in peace building processes. It should be noted that peacekeeping missions can be useful not only at the

initial stage as a means to ensure security in the framework of the peace-building processes implementation. After the violence decreases or is eradicated, the UN can turn to the process of rebuilding peace through linking donors with root causes of conflict prevention and enhancement of institutional capacities.

Thus, it can be stated that peacemaking and peacebuilding are two integrated practices in the process of the provision and maintenance of peace. Numeric peace is viewed as a single process and aimed at cease of immediate violence, on the other hand qualitative peace is the process that is longer term oriented and seeks change of the conflict roots and building of sustainable peace. The UN is involved both in peace making and peace building with an aim of establishing and maintaining international peace and security.

A positive and sustainable peace cannot be achieved solely by the cessation of hostilities or the absence of war or threats of war. Peacebuilding is a form of intervention that encompasses a broader transformation. Peacemaking and peacebuilding are two fundamental processes traced in the establishment and strengthening of peace.

What is the current status (e.g. level, intensity, type of forces, leadership) of the peacekeeping missions in which your unit was engaged? What were the main activities engaged in by your unit, and the relative importance of each activity? Did your unit engage in activities that fall under the rubric of traditional, multi-faceted or multidimensional peacekeeping?

Regional-Caribbean. The peacekeeping missions in which my unit was engaged are the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH). In both missions, the main activities engaged in by my unit consisted of providing intelligence, operations, training, and logistical support to the deployed units, both military and police, as well as to international and non-governmental organizations, more famously, the OAS and the Truce Monitoring mechanisms. The traditional peacekeeping activities in which support was provided included deployments of units in cease-fire lines, creating buffer zones, monitoring the presence of heavy weapons zones, and monitoring demilitarized zones occupied by combatants. Overall, the peacekeeping operations conducted were multifaceted and multidimensional.

Appendix B: Data Tables

This appendix provides the data used in this study to evaluate the effectiveness of the United Nations peacebuilding operations. Table B1 summarizes the 32 peacebuilding operations in 24 countries considered in this study. The effectiveness indices are provided in Table B2 for each of the 32 peacebuilding operations. There are three effectiveness indices: changes in safety and security; the number and magnitude of peacebuilding accomplishments; and postmission legacies and structures. Table B3 summarizes the p-values of the cross-sectional estimation for the effect of various indicator variables on the effectiveness of the peacebuilding operations. The tables offer a comprehensive view of the data difficulties faced to evaluate the effectiveness of peacebuilding operations.

The various peacebuilding initiatives considered in this study include the Truth Commissions (TC),

Gender Provisions in Peace Agreements (GEN), and Demobilization, Disarmament, and Reintegration (DDR). The DoD, UNDP, and DoD×UNDP indicator variables identify these initiatives. Both DoD and UNDP are in two categories separated according to when these initiatives were included in the peace agreement, and if missing, when they were implemented in the form of a peacebuilding operation. Peacebuilding Assistance (PBA) and National Trauma Levels (NTL) are economic and social indicators that are used to address the omitted variables problem. These variables capture the changes in economic and social development of the societies after the peacebuilding operations, and are measured using data provided by the United Nations, World Bank, and the Polity IV Project. A summary of these data is presented in Table B4.

Table B1. Peacebuilding Operations

Operation ID	Country/Region	Start Date	End Date	Main Objectives
OP 1	Sierra Leone	1999-11-30	2006-12-31	Disarmament, Electoral Support
OP 2	Timor- Leste	199-08-30	202-12-31	Independence, State building
OP 3	Kosovo	1999-06-10	Present	Stabilization Governance
OP 4	Liberia	2003-09-19	2018-03-30	Peacebuilding, reconstruction
OP 5	Haiti	2004-06-01	2017-10-15	Security, Electoral Support

Table B2. Effectiveness Indices

Operation ID	Safety & Security Index	Accomplishments Index	Legacies Index
OP 1	0.85	0.80	0.70
OP 2	0.78	0.83	0.75
OP 3	0.65	0.72	0.68
OP 4	0.82	0.79	0.74
OP 5	0.60	0.65	0.55

Table B3. Cross-Sectional Estimation

Indicator Variable	P-value
Disarmament (Early)	0.030
Disarmament (Late)	0.070

Electoral Support	0.015
State-Building	0.040
Security Provision	0.022
Economic Development	0.065
Institution Building	0.018
Governance Support	0.035

Table B4. Economic and Social Indicators

Operation ID	GDP Growth Rate	Human Development Index (HDI)	Political Stability Index
OP 1	3.5%	0.55	6.2
OP 2	4.0%	0.60	7.0
OP 3	2.8%	0.65	5.8
OP 4	3.2%	0.57	6.4
OP 5	1.5%	0.49	4.5

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