

UN Call to Action: Exploring the Responsibilities & Roles of Peacekeepers—A Case Study of Pakistan's Peacekeeping Training Department

NUST Journal of International Peace & Stability
2024, Vol. 7(1) Pages 64-79



njips.nust.edu.pk

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.37540/njips.v7i1.164>

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Abstract

Maintaining peace is intricate, with Blue Helmets symbolizing hope for millions. They play a pivotal role in peacekeeping, raising questions about its ease. Effective partnerships with international and local actors require dedication and preparedness. UN Peacekeepers must execute their mandate professionally, protecting themselves and upholding UN rules. This study explores the significance of deploying peacekeepers and the establishment process of the UN Peacekeeping Training Department. Analyzing peacekeeping policies like the Brahimi Report 2000, Capstone Doctrine 2008, and others delves into the complexity of deployment. Case studies of Pakistan's Centre for International Peace and Stability and Peacekeeping Training Department provide insights, supplemented by UN reports and discussions with peacekeeping staff.

Keywords

Peacekeepers, Brahimi, Capstone, UN training, policy.

Introduction

The Charter of the United Nations was created primarily to deal with disputes and conflicts between sovereign states (*United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines*, 2008). In this regard, there are about 140 UN Peacekeeping Agencies worldwide. So far, millions of military personnel, including UN police officers and civilians from more than 120 countries, have participated in UN peacekeeping operations worldwide. The UN has deployed more than 70 peacekeeping missions in various parts of the world, and more than 3,000 UN peacekeepers from some 120 countries have died while on duty under the UN flag (*Our History*, n.d.).

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Received 18 June 2023; **Revised** 24 August 2023; **Accepted** 17 November 2023; **Published online** 31 January 2024

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While UN Peacekeeping Operations aim to provide peacekeeping efforts, they often become targets in conflicts, presenting numerous challenges for their mission.

The history of the UN Peacekeeping Operations journey goes back to 1948 when conflict broke out between the Arabs and Israel. The Security Council authorized the deployment of UN military observers to monitor and maintain a ceasefire to control the war; however, the operation was designated as the United Nations Truce Observer Organization (UNTSO). Since then, the UN has deployed 57 missions worldwide, 14 still ongoing. In the early stages, UN missions consisted of unarmed military observers and somewhat lightly armed forces—their responsibility revolved around monitoring, reporting, and confidence-building duties in the conflict zones (*Our History*, n.d.). In 1956, the first United Nations Emergency Response Force (UNEF) was deployed to resolve the Suez Crisis (United Nations, n.d.-b). It was the first Armed Peacekeeping Operation of its kind. After that, the UN launched a long-term operation in Cyprus, the Middle East, and Lebanon (*United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines*, 2008). Conflicts during the post-Cold War were handled with peace support operations, but with the changing global politics, sustaining peacekeeping became a serious issue. The new trends in conflict demanded changes in the peace operational mechanisms that changed the strategic landscape of the UN Peacekeeping Operations (*Our History*, n.d.). The UN shifted its peacekeeping approach from traditional to multi-dimensional to address evolving conflicting issues. This approach enabled the UN to implement comprehensive peace agreements with lasting outcomes.

With that transition, there was a rapid rise in Peacekeeping Operations worldwide. The UN took it as a sense of purpose to eradicate state conflict peacefully. Between 1989 and 1994, the Security Council approved around 20 new operations and deployed 75,000 peacekeepers, a considerable jump from 11,000 (*United Nations Report of the Special Committee*, 2005). The new missions included UN Angola Verification Mission I (UNAVEM I) and UN Angola Verification Mission II (UNAVEM II), UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Peacekeeping Operations in countries such as the UN Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), UN Mozambique Operation (ONUMOZ) and UN Transition Assistance Group (TAG) (*Our History*, n.d.). All these missions were deployed to implement complex peace agreements in the conflict states and helped the mission zone stabilize its security environment and reorganize its military and police services. Along with such measures, the UN missions aimed to set new democratic governments/institutions in the conflicting states through proper elections.

The UN missions were successful overall, significantly elevating the standards of UN Peacekeeping Operations. However, in the 1990s, the UN faced setbacks in fulfilling its mandate, as evidenced by unsuccessful missions such as the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), and the United Nations Operation in Somalia II (UNOSOM II) (Role of the Security Council, n.d.). The UN failed to establish peace in these three states. Consequently, UN Peacekeeping Operations encountered substantial criticism, leading to insufficient allocation of resources and political backing for the peacekeepers. Also, the civilian casualties eroded the overall reputation of the UN Peacekeeping Operations. With this, the UN Security Council began to reflect on its existing peacekeeping policies and analyzed what went wrong to prevent future failed missions.

In the 20th century, after reviewing its failures, the UN tried to introduce reforms to overcome the challenges peacekeeping faced in the 1990s (*Reforming*

peacekeeping, n.d.). The larger objective behind reforms was to enhance efficiency and enable the peacekeepers to manage the challenges more effectively and maintain vital field operations. In 1999, the UN became custodian of two more complex conflicts - the UN Interim Administration in Kosovo (*UNMIK*, n.d.) and the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (*UNTAET*, n.d.) After that, the Security Council took more complex and large-scale UN Peacekeeping Operations in African countries that included the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (Blanchfield et al., 2019), Burundi (*ONUB*, n.d.), Côte d'Ivoire (*ONUCI Fact Sheet*, n.d.), Democratic Republic of the Congo (*MONUC*, n.d.) (*MONUSCO Fact Sheet*, n.d.), Eritrea/Ethiopia (*UNMEE*, n.d.), Liberia (*UNMIL*, n.d.), Sierra Leone, Sudan (*UNIMIS*, n.d.), Darfur (*UNAMID Fact Sheet*, n.d.), (*UNISFA*, n.d.), South Sudan, Syria (*UNMISS*, n.d.), etc. UN Peacekeepers restored the reputation of UN Security Council Peacekeeping and established its mandate of peacebuilding operations in Haiti (*MINUSTAH*, n.d.) and Timor-Leste (*UNMIT*, n.d.).

However, both in Haiti and Timor-Leste, the peace situation was considered fragile. Despite challenges, over 110,000 personnel currently serve in 14 peacekeeping missions, indicating a shift towards peaceful transition (*Our History*, n.d.). These operations continue to advance political processes, protect civilians (*Protecting Civilians*, n.d.), support disarmament efforts (*Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, n.d.), and contribute to rebuilding functional states by organizing elections, promoting human rights, and reinstating the rule of law (*Building Rule of Law and Security Institutions*, n.d.).

There are four types of peacekeeping missions: conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peace enforcement, and peacebuilding (*Terminology*, n.d.). Conflict prevention involves diplomatic solutions to keep intra-state or inter-state tensions and disputes from escalating into conflict. The Peacekeepers consider measures to resolve conflict in progress and incorporate diplomatic action to negotiate an agreement between the parties concerned. Peace enforcement applies a range of coercive measures, including military force. In this regard, the role of the UN peacekeepers becomes crucial. They facilitate the political process to protect civilians, disarm, demobilize, and reintegrate the combatants. They also stand for human rights and restoring the rule of law. In some instances, the UN Peacekeepers can use force to defend themselves, civilians, and their UN mandate where the state fails, but they require special permission from the UN. All these measures will be discussed at length in this study.

Research Methodology

This study employs conceptual research methodology to observe and analyze existing information on the historical foundations of UN peacekeeping operations. Practical experiments were not conducted; however, informal discussions were held with the Government of Pakistan and the Foreign Office of Pakistan to enhance understanding of various concepts related to peacekeeping operations and the peacekeepers' mode of operation. The names and timeframe of the officers consulted for this study remain confidential to maintain privacy.

Abstract concepts and ideas are considered in analyzing the UN call for action measures and various restrictions. This paper uses Pakistan as a case study to gain insight into the UN Peacekeeping Operation. The analysis examines various UN reports/policies to understand the reasons and impacts of changes made to UN peacekeeping operations. Furthermore, the study investigates the conditions set by

these reports for peacekeepers and how states implement them by establishing Peacekeeping Training Departments. The paper also discusses Pakistan's efforts to establish its Peacekeeping Training Department and draws conclusions based on the findings.

Brahimi Report 2000:

In 1999, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan established a panel to address the challenges UN Peacekeepers face and offer policy input to overcome these barriers. Led by Algerian Chancellor Mr. Lakdar Brahimi, the panel's report, edited in 2000, became a guiding document for UN Peacekeepers, offering a crucial and realistic approach to enhance and improve their role as peacekeepers. The Brahimi Report presented various recommendations aimed at preventing genocides, as witnessed in Rwanda in 1994 and Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1995.

Key recommendations included prioritizing prevention over dealing with the consequences of war, addressing poverty in conflict zones, and bridging the gap between discourse, financial resources, and political support. The report also advocated for reforming civilian police for improved law and order, implementing demobilization and reintegration programs, ensuring the Secretary-General is well-informed about mission expectations and outcomes, maintaining adequate employment capacity, systematizing the recruitment of mission leaders, encouraging local police through states to participate in UN missions, recruiting civilian staff to achieve mission goals, providing enhanced logistic support, and sustaining an integrated approach, among other suggestions (Brahimi Report, 2000).

The Brahimi Report marked a revolutionary approach to Peacekeeping Operations, offering a comprehensive analysis of how to enhance UN Peace Missions and attain greater success. It transformed Peacekeeping Operations from traditional to multinational missions in the field, acknowledging the necessity to employ force beyond self-defense (William et al., 2003). The protection of civilians emerged as a crucial benchmark for evaluating the success or failure of UN Peacekeeping Operations.

Nevertheless, the Brahimi report identified the need for proactive measures to address the evolving nature of peace operations. It called for a robust peacebuilding strategy, emphasizing the importance of a clear, credible, and achievable mandate. The report advocated for the authority to intervene against violence targeting civilians as an essential element for effective peacebuilding in complex Peacekeeping Operations, posing a challenge for transitional civilian administration.

Despite these challenges, the report offered explicit definitions of various deployment benchmarks, recruitment strategies, logistics support requirements, and the effective formation of public opinion in field missions (William et al., 2003).

Capstone Doctrine (2008)

The Capstone doctrine marked a significant shift following the Brahimi Report, aiming to operationalize the recommendations outlined by transforming them into a practical field manual. This doctrine is considered a crucial tool for peacekeepers, elucidating distinctions between traditional and multidimensional Peacekeeping Operations and identifying robust Peacekeeping Missions. However, later revisions of the Capstone doctrine focused on International Humanitarian Law (IHL), emphasizing that Human Rights primarily apply in times of peace. At the same time, International Humanitarian

Law becomes essential when the jurisdictional order is disrupted, especially in cases of conflict.

The primary instruments of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) are prioritized, with a focus on critical conventions such as Geneva Convention I (1949)—safeguarding the wounded and sick from armed forces during campaigns; Geneva Convention II (1949)—protecting the wounded, sick, and shipwrecked from armed forces at sea; and Geneva Convention III (1949) (Martin, 2020)—safeguards civilians. Additionally, the Capstone doctrine underscores the importance of Geneva Convention (1977) Additional Protocol I, reinforcing the protection of victims in international armed conflicts, as well as Protocol II, protecting victims in non-international armed conflicts, and Protocol III, adopting another distinctive emblem, the Red Crystal (*United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines*, 2008).

The Capstone doctrine emphasizes the actions peacekeepers should take, including noting the facts, promptly reporting violations, and acting in accordance with the mandate based on conflict situations. Furthermore, it stresses the importance of coordination with the human rights component and calls for peacekeepers to memorize the sequence of these actions.

The principles of IHL encompass humanity, military necessity, proportionality, the distinction between civilians and combatants, and the prohibition of causing unnecessary suffering (Razza & Sherman, 2020). These principles hold significance for peacekeepers when undertaking any operation. By adhering to IHL principles, peacekeepers can align their Peacekeeping Operational decisions with Human Rights, establishing a connection that becomes a cornerstone in the rules of engagement on the field. This linkage forms a comprehensive framework integrating IHL, Human Rights, and the rules guiding peacekeepers, underscoring their critical role within the Capstone doctrine (Razza & Sherman, 2020).

The mission's mandate is derived from the Security Council (SC) Resolution, tailored to the specific conflict situation and existing peace agreement. It incorporates other SC resolutions addressing the protection of women, children, and civilians in armed conflicts. The primary focus of the UNSC's activities lies in observation, monitoring, and reporting, employing methods such as static posts, patrols, overflights, or other technical means, all with the agreement of the involved parties. The mission oversees the implementation of ceasefires, provides support for verification mechanisms, and engages in interposition as a buffer and confidence-building measure.

The contemporary landscape of peace and security activities encompasses a range of interventions, including conflict prevention, peace enforcement, peace-making, and peacebuilding. In today's context, threats take diverse forms, such as failed states, ethnic conflicts, transnational armed groups, drug trafficking, and terrorism. The doctrine underscores the authority of UN peacekeepers to employ limited force to mitigate these threats (*United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines*, 2008).

High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (2015)

The Brahimi Report provided a detailed plan for implementing the UN Peacekeeping Operations. However, after fourteen years, the UN Secretary-General announced a review of the peacekeeping operations for better outcomes. He established the High-Level Independent Panel in 2014, commonly known as HIPPO (*Report*, 2015). The panel was established to assess the UN Peace Operations and special political missions. The panel also examined the challenges faced by addressing the emerging needs of

populations. It was a strong move to improve the quality of peacekeeping operations and achieve the UN mandate.

HIPPO identified bifurcation in planning, management, and funding mechanisms between Peacekeeping Operations and the spectrum of peace operations. Such measures enabled the UN to adopt flexible and tailored missions and avoid bureaucratic constraints. Hippo's recommendations were reflected in Secretary-General Guterres' Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative in 2018 (Martin, 2020).

Improving Security of United Nations Peacekeepers (2017)

This report centers on protecting UN peacekeepers, encompassing uniformed and non-uniformed personnel, including international and national staff and volunteers within the UN Security Management System. The primary objective of this report is to minimize peacekeeping fatalities. Examining the period from 1948 to 2017, an average of 13.7 fatalities per year occurred. Since 2011, however, fatalities have reached a plateau, attributed to increased acts of violence in MINUSMA, MINUSCA, and MONUSCO (*Improving Security of United Nations Peacekeepers*, 2017). The predominant threat types identified were vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs), improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and indirect fire attacks. Troops stationed in Africa faced heightened risks, particularly from VBIEDs and IEDs, and continue to be under severe threat today (*IED attacks continue*, 2023).

Between 2013 and 2017, there were a total of 176 military personnel, nine police officers, eight national civilians, and 2 UN volunteers who lost their lives. In 2017 alone, 56 fatalities occurred, with approximately 199 individuals sustaining injuries (*Improving Security*, 2017). These alarming statistics prompted the United Nations to reassess its existing strategies and policies for Peacekeeping Operations, leading to the heightened emphasis on protecting peacekeepers as a pivotal aspect of the new policy plan.

Action for Peacekeeping Initiative (2018)

Due to numerous casualties, the UN Security Council was eager to formulate a revised plan to prevent the rise of fatalities. In this regard, in 2018, the UN Secretary-General launched the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P), intending to establish mutual political commitment between the UN Peacekeepers and the local setup to enable them to keep the peace and sustain it in the future in a conflict zone. In 2018, the Secretary-General also hosted the GA73 meeting (*GA73 High-Level Meeting on Action for Peacekeeping*, n.d.) to bring the international community on the same page to pursue UN goals (*Action for Peacekeeping*, n.d.). Almost all concerned member states agreed to the cause that they will work with the UN Peacekeepers on eight priority areas that included politics; women, peace, and security; protection; safety and security; performance and accountability; peacebuilding and sustaining peace; partnerships; and conduct of peacekeepers and peacekeeping operations (*Achieving Our Common Humanity*, n.d.).

This initiative was a positive step toward involving local arrangements in achieving peace in conflict-ridden environments. It reflected the realization that sustaining peace necessitates the active involvement of local communities. However, some critics argue that A4P indicated a return to an exclusive focus on peacekeeping, neglecting the broader spectrum of peace operations (Martin, 2020). Consequently, the UN developed a more comprehensive plan to engage local communities alongside peacekeepers, aiming to accomplish the UN mandate and create a conducive

environment for Peacekeeping Operations with reduced costs and increased safety and security for peacekeepers.

Operations of the UN Peacekeeping Department

Until the late 1980s, UN Peacekeeping Operations were managed through the UN Office of Special Political Affairs. The formal establishment of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) occurred in 1992 under the leadership of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In 2002, the UN Secretary-General, the Peace Operation Department (responsible for operational mechanics), and the Peace Operation Support Department (responsible for logistics) facilitated a transition from traditional peacekeeping to robust peacekeeping and Multi-Dimensional Peacekeeping. This shift aimed to identify and address weaknesses in Peacekeeping Operations. Additionally, the Secretary-General advocated for the training of peacekeepers by their respective countries.

Since then, it has become mandatory for Troops Contributing Countries (TCC) and Police Contributing Countries (PCC) to undergo training at designated UN Peacekeeping Departments. The United Nations Integrated Training Service (UNITS) within the Department of Peace Operations has played a central role since 2007. UNITS conducts UN Regional Training in Entebbe for officials involved in current missions, certifying them to serve as peacekeepers in conflict zones. UNITS directs and coordinates peacekeeping training under the Policy, Evaluation, and Training Division of DPKO. Under the overall supervision of the Chief of UNITS, the incumbent is tasked with planning, coordinating, conducting, and evaluating the program, among other responsibilities.

With time, the UN Security Council and the UN Peacekeeping Department again identified a grey area and required a dedicated integrated training department. Several vital objectives drove the establishment of UNITS:

1. Analyse various peace missions.
2. Analyse the peacekeeper's performance.
3. Analyse peacekeepers' respect towards other key UN Peace Operational Departments in the mission area.
4. Identify specific subjects that are essential for training.

In this context, developing Core Pre-Deployment Training Material (CPTM) and subject modules related to women has become indispensable for all peacekeepers. The inclusion of CPTM, along with Specialised Training Materials (STMs) such as those for Military Observers (MO) and Staff Officers (SO), has emerged as a crucial component in the training regimen for peacekeepers. Furthermore, ensuring that all peacekeepers possess a comprehensive understanding of UN actors across various multi-dimensional levels is imperative.

Specifically, the role of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) becomes pivotal in this context. UNOCHA is critical in coordinating all UN departments and facilitating effective communication and collaboration. By incorporating CPTM and STMs and emphasizing knowledge of UN actors, the training framework aims to equip peacekeepers with the necessary skills and insights to navigate complex multi-dimensional peacekeeping environments.

In the hierarchy of a UN Mission, three crucial portfolios stand out: the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and two Deputy SRSGs. One

of the Deputies holds the UNOCHA Deputy position. The UN Headquarters manages recruitment for all three portfolios. UNOCHA exhibits a degree of flexibility in its roles, guided by four main principles: Humanitarianism, neutrality, impartiality, and independence of action. On the other hand, the UN Peacekeepers adhere to three primary principles:

1. *Consent*: Before deploying peacekeepers, the UN ensures the consent of the belligerent parties involved in the conflict. As Chapter 7 of the UN Charter outlines, the UN can enforce its will on the belligerent partners and deploy peacekeepers.
2. *Impartiality*: Peacekeepers are required to remain impartial in the mission zone. This means accountability should be assigned according to UN rules, regardless of the party at fault.
3. *Self-Defense*: The principle of self-defense is crucial for UN Peacekeepers. In certain circumstances, the UN allows peacekeepers to use force if their lives or the lives of civilians are under threat.

The distinctive principles of UNOCHA and UN Peacekeepers reflect their specific roles and responsibilities within the broader framework of UN missions, emphasizing humanitarian action, impartiality, and using force only when necessary for self-defense.

Becoming a UN Peacekeeper mandates completing UN training, and no peacekeeper is deployed to a mission without undergoing this mandatory training. In this regard, UN modules have been adopted and integrated into the training process. While the local army historically conducted deployment in the UN Mission area, comprehensive training gained prominence with the establishment of UNITS. Subsequently, task-specific training became a standard practice.

Over time, recognizing the importance of having well-qualified peacekeeping departments, the UN Security Council encouraged states actively engaged in UN Peacekeeping Missions to establish their Peacekeeping Training Departments. While the opportunity is open, the question arises: Is it easy to establish a Peacekeeping Department?

To qualify for establishing a designated Peacekeeping Department, any state that is a TCC, PCC, or partner country can express its desire through its permanent representative in the UN Security Council and the UN Office of Military Affairs (UNOMA). The state must set up the Peacekeeping Department's organizational structure upon approval.

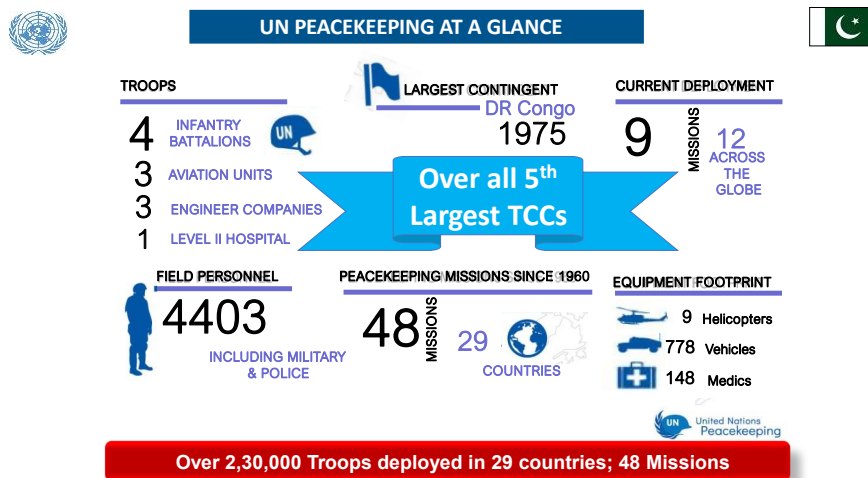
The subsequent steps involve obtaining Masters Training (MT) programs from other states and gradually preparing their MTs to train their forces. Importantly, once approved, all peacekeeping expenditures are covered by the UN dedicated fund, with the specific ratio determined by that state's GDP. Notably, states with higher GDPs receive more considerable funds than states with lower GDPs. Additionally, non-TCC or PCC states that are significant financial supporters will also have a greater say in the decision-making and policy formulation processes of UN Peacekeeping Missions, allowing for equitable resource and responsibility sharing in mission zones.

For example, let us consider the Peacekeeping Department of Pakistan in the following section to understand how a state qualifies to have its designated Peacekeeping Department.

Peacekeeping Training Department: A Case Study of Pakistan

Pakistan has a long-standing and significant involvement in UN Peacekeeping Missions, dating back to 1960 when it contributed its first batch of peacekeepers to Congo. Over the years, Pakistan has remained engaged as a TCC and PCC. Currently, Pakistan ranks as the 5th largest TCC, participating in 9 out of 12 UN Peacekeeping Missions, deploying 4,403 personnel (see Figure 1). As of May 2023, Pakistan’s total contribution to peacekeeping missions is approximately 229,000 peacekeepers spread across 48 missions on four continents.

Figure 1. Pakistan’s Contribution to UN Peacekeeping



Source: Department of Peacekeeping Training, Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST)

Pakistan’s contribution encompasses various roles, including contingents and observers. This includes 149 infantry battalions, four artillery regiments, four artillery battalions, two Armor regiments, 73 engineer companies, 33 hospitals, 18 logistics companies, three signals companies, and 33 aviation units. Notable deployments include 287 peacekeepers in South Sudan, 218 in Mali, 11,313 in the Central African Republic (CAR), 581 in Abyei, and 1,968 in Congo.

Furthermore, Pakistan is the second-highest contributor to UN peacekeepers who have sacrificed to uphold international peace and security. To date, 171 Pakistani Peacekeepers have valiantly laid down their lives while serving in various UN Missions.

Regarding gender representation, Pakistan is meeting the Gender Parity Strategy (UGPS) targets, with 20% representation of women in Senior Officers/Military Observers (SO/Mos). Since 2017, over 450 Pakistani women peacekeepers have served under the UN Flag, contributing to various roles such as joint/independent patrolling, community engagement, addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), health/hygiene, stress counseling (psychiatrists), gender advising, legal advising, and Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) activities focusing on vocational and medical aspects.

Additionally, Pakistan has actively contributed to the revision of 17 UN Manuals. It holds the distinction of being the author of the UN Manual on Aviation,

showcasing the country's commitment to enhancing and refining peacekeeping practices.

As one of the largest TCCs, Pakistan recognized the importance of establishing a dedicated Peacekeeping Training Department to meet the evolving training requirements set by the United Nations. Initially, the School of Infantry and Tactics (SINTS) in Quetta oversaw all peacekeeping training courses in Pakistan. However, ad-hoc training was conducted by the respective sectors of the specialized battalion forces.

Identifying the diverse needs of peacekeeping contributing countries and the necessity for special pre-deployment training and practical learning, Pakistan took the initiative to apply for its designated Peacekeeping Training Department. The objective was to train its forces and extend them to allied forces from friendly TCC states in the region and beyond.

As the UN-mandated subject-specific training for peacekeepers, Pakistan expressed its desire at the UN through its special representative at the United Nations Headquarters. The proposal highlighted Pakistan's intention to establish a Centre of Excellence for peacekeeping training. This step demonstrated Pakistan's commitment to enhancing and customizing training programs to meet the specific needs of peacekeepers, fostering cooperation and collaboration in the region.

In 2013, Pakistan took a significant step by establishing the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), with the foundation laid by the UN Secretary-General. The primary objective of CIPS is aligned with the broader goals of the UN Peacekeeping Department, aiming to provide training to peacekeepers in accordance with UN mandates and fostering intellectual pursuits in the field.

CIPS envisions contributing to International Peace and Stability, emphasizing peace and conflict studies, conflict resolution, strategic vision, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding. The Center operates within the framework of the existing international and regional environment, addressing the complexities and challenges inherent in maintaining peace and stability on a global scale. By focusing on these critical areas, CIPS aims to enhance the capabilities of peacekeepers and contribute to the broader objectives of international peace and stability set by the UN Peacekeeping Department (*Centre for International Peace & Stability*, 2021).² It is organized on a hybrid model consisting of peacekeeping training integrated with intellectual pursuits in international peace and conflict regimes to achieve interconnectivity and promote civil-military diplomacy among UN and international agencies, UN country teams, and other associated organizations.

CIPS stands under the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (NIPCONS). Under CIPS, three departments operate the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, the Research and Analysis Cell, and the Department of Peacekeeping Training. The CIPS has a dedicated peacekeeping department that provides on-ground, field, and active peace mission knowledge to its peacekeepers. This way, real-time information from the active mission zone is provided to the peacekeepers for better preparation for the mission zone and for excelling in knowledge-based research in peace and conflict studies.






The CIPS aligns with the UN-mandated and recommended requirements prepared by the United Nations Integrated Training Service (UNITTS). Per UNITTS-approved guidelines, the training modules include a 1-week mandatory Core Pre-

² For more information on CIPS, please visit: <https://cips.nust.edu.pk/>

Deployment Training Module (CPTM) in every course. Additionally, 1 to 2 weeks are allocated for Appointment training, categorized as Specialized Training Material (STM), which covers Military, Staff Officers, Military Observer, or formed contingent training as per UNITS-approved modules. In-mission training is provided through Reinforcement Training Packages (RTP).

As of May 2023, CIPS offers a range of courses, including the UN Senior Mission Leadership Course (UNSMMLC), UN Contingent Commanders Course (UNCCCC), UN Military Observers Course (UNMOC), UN Staff Officers Course (UNSOC), UN Comprehensive Protection of Civilians Course (UNCPOC), UN Logistics Officers Course (UNLOC), UN Pre-deployment Training (UNPDT), UN Police Officers Training Course (UNPOTC), UN Gender Advisor Course (UNGAC), and UN Female Engagement Team Course (UNFETC). The detailed list of courses offered by CIPS are enlisted in the table below:

Table 1. Peacekeeping Training courses offered by CIPS.

	Courses	Year	UN Accreditation
1	*UN Senior Mission Leadership Course (UNSMMLC)	2013	
2	UN Contingent Commander Course (UNCCCC)	2013	
3	UN Military Observer Course (UNMOC)	2013	2014 
4	UN Staff Officer Course (UNSOC)	2013	2015 
6	UN Contingent Pre-Deployment Training Course (UNPDTC)	2013	2021 
7	UN Logistic Officer Course (UNLOC)	2013	
5	UN Comprehensive Protection of Civilian Course (UNCPOC)	2016	2017 
8	*UN Police Officers Training Course (UNPOTC)	2017	
9	*UN Gender Advisor Course (UNGAC)	2019	
10	*UN Female Engagement Team Course (UNFETC)	2019	
11	UN Engagement Platoon Course (UNEPC)	2023	2023 
12	UN Explosive Ordnance Disposal Course (UNEODC)	-	2023 (Under Review)

Source: Department of Peacekeeping Training, Centre for International Peace (CIPS), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST)

The total number of courses offered by CIPS, as of May 2023, is around 184, with allied participants totaling approximately 599 and the overall participants reaching 3,226. Notably, around 409 Pakistani females and 32 allied females from friendly countries have received Peacekeeping Training at CIPS as of May 2023. All courses are provided on a gratis basis. The detailed number of participants that have been trained as peacekeepers by CIPS (national as well as allied) are shown in the table below:

Table 2. Comprehensive Overview of Peacekeeping Training Participants in CIPS (2013-2023)

	Year	No of Courses	Allied Offrs	Countries	Pak Army Offrs	Total
1	2013	10	0	0	115	115
2	2014	18	10	10	244	254
3	2015	17	11	06	267	278
4	2016	17	38	12	250	288
5	2017	18	30	09	313	343
6	2018	19	57	17	229	286
7	2019	22	52	13	359	411
8	2020	14	45	14	188	233
9	2021	21	81	15	326	407
10	2022	20	40	12	201	241
11	2023	20	149	11	273	422
	Total	196	513	41 [total]	2765	3278

Source: Department of Peacekeeping Training, Centre for International Peace (CIPS), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST)

In addition to training accomplishments, Pakistani Peacekeeper Mr. Faisal Shahkar has been appointed as a police advisor in the UN Department of Peace Operations (UNDPO) since November 2022. Furthermore, Helena Iqbal Saeed made history as the first Pakistani woman appointed as UN Police Commissioner in Khartoum, Sudan, in 2021, holding the position to date. These appointments reflect Pakistan's commitment to contributing to and leading in various capacities within UN Peacekeeping efforts.

Androulla Kaminara, Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, said, "Did you know that Pakistan has one of the highest percentages of female peacekeepers in the world? Moreover, as one of the top troop-contributing countries, Pakistan deeply values the vital role played by 'blue helmets' in maintaining security and stability in many conflict-ridden areas around the world" (*Pakistanis among World's Highest Percentage of Women*, 2021).

The female officers trained at the CIPS play diverse and crucial roles within the region. They contribute to the region by serving in various capacities and providing various resources and expertise. Some of the roles undertaken by female officers include:

1. *Psychologists*: Offering mental health support and counseling services to address the psychological well-being of individuals within the region.
2. *Stress Counsellors*: Providing assistance and counseling to individuals experiencing stress or trauma, helping them cope with the challenges they may face.
3. *Vocational Training Officers*: Facilitating vocational training programs to enhance the skills and employability of individuals in the region.
4. *Gender Advisors*: Offering guidance and expertise on gender-related issues, promoting gender equality, and ensuring the integration of a gender perspective in various initiatives.

5. *Medical Professionals (Doctors, Nurses)*: Providing healthcare services, medical assistance, and nursing care to address the local population's health needs.
6. *Operations Officers*: Managing and overseeing various operational aspects, ensuring the effective implementation of peacekeeping initiatives.
7. *Information Officers*: Disseminating information, maintaining communication channels, and contributing to public awareness about peacekeeping efforts and related activities.
8. *Logistics Officers*: Managing logistical operations to support the efficient functioning of peacekeeping missions, including supply chain management and infrastructure support.

The diverse roles performed by female officers highlight their multifaceted contributions to the region's development, stability, and peacekeeping efforts. By engaging in various capacities, they bring a holistic and inclusive approach to peace and stability initiatives in the region. (*Pakistani Peacekeepers Continue*, 2022).

The first-ever Pakistani Female Engagement team in the UN Mission around the world received UN medals (the UN medal is awarded for participation in military and police operations, including peacekeeping, humanitarian efforts, and disaster relief) for serving in the Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO). A team of 15 Pakistani women officers, on 31 January 2020, received significant recognition for being the first all-female group from Pakistan to serve in a UN peacekeeping mission (*The First-Ever Female Pakistani UN Peacekeeping*, 2020). FET's interactions with the local female population during patrols improve information-gathering, especially concerning women and children. It allows them to assess security and identify a genuine need for quick-impact projects. They are enhancing local women's engagement at grassroots levels and allowing the contingent commanders to develop an all-encompassing understanding and resultant strategy to benefit this neglected but needy population segment.

According to the Government of Pakistan, the role of female peacekeepers revolves around providing psychological support to local women as they grapple with conflict-related violence, including sexual abuse and the resultant depression and stress; delivering awareness sessions for women regarding health, female empowerment, self-protection against violence, child abuse, among other issues; actively provide vocational training such as sewing, embroidery, first aid, computer skills, which enable women to become effective contributing members of the community (Government of Pakistan, 2023). They frequently establish medical camps in/or near villages to offer free health care, especially to children and women, in times of emergency, and provide training to female staff of the National Police and Army to enhance their professional capacity (Government of Pakistan, 2023).

CIPS plays a pivotal role in transforming soldiers into peacekeepers. Soldiers under blue training modules take multidimensional tasks to be qualified as UN Peacekeepers. Ever since its inception, the CIPS Peacekeeping Department has never looked back and has offered 4 UN-certified courses to the peacekeepers, namely, the UN Staff Officers Course (UNSOC), the UN Military Observers Course (UNMOC), the UN Protection of Civilians Course (UNPOCC) and UN Pre Deployment Training Course (UNPDTC). Two more courses, Female Engagement Teams (FETs) and Gender Advisor Course (GAC), are on the UNITS desk review. The certified courses are attended by Pakistani forces and allied forces from friendly states. Officers from Pakistan and overseas actively participate in and get certified as UN Peacekeepers for

their respective missions. After establishing the Peacekeeping Department, UNITS analyses all content used in the training programs and identifies if all material used in the sessions aligns with the UN policy guidelines. They also inspect the concerned peacekeeping departments to understand their operational mechanisms.

Conclusion

Indeed, a call to action in a conflict situation is the job of the UN Peacekeeper. However, the UN Peacekeepers face surmountable challenges that undermine their potential and capabilities to carry out their mission. Sustaining successful Peacekeeping Operations is an ongoing process that necessitates continuous policy reviews and revisions. The evolving nature of conflict and security dynamics in UN Mission Zones underscores the need for adaptable and dynamic peacekeeping training modules. A static approach may not serve the purpose of achieving the desired results.

The journey from the Brahimi Report to the Capstone Doctrine to the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO) reflects a persistent effort to enhance UN Peacekeeping Operations and ensure the safety and security of the blue helmets. Armed Forces often play a central role in the success of Peacekeeping Operations, acting as a backbone. Today's peacekeeping extends beyond maintaining peace alone; it involves effective administration. Peacekeepers assume diverse roles as administrators, economists, police officers, legal experts, mine clearers, election observers, human rights observers, civil and governance specialists, and more. Specialized training from dedicated UN-qualified peacekeeping departments is essential for peacekeepers to acquire the qualifications needed for these multifaceted roles.

In the realm of UN Peacekeeping Operations, the adage 'means justify ends' holds significance, emphasizing the dedication, commitment, and preparedness required to fulfill the mission's objectives. The complex and challenging nature of peacekeeping underscores the ongoing need for innovation, adaptability, and a holistic approach to training and policy development.

Conflict of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Funding: This research received no external funding.

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