



# POLICE DIVISION

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE - LASTING IMPACT

Conflict and post-conflict countries are often characterized by a collapse of public law and order and major security and human rights deficits, leading to the erosion of public confidence in the security sector. The presence of United Nations Police contributes to restoring popular confidence in the host State police and in rule of law structures.

The United Nations has deployed police since 1960. Today, more than 12,000 United Nations Police are deployed in 19 United Nations missions: 12 peace-keeping operations led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and seven special political missions led by the Department of Political Affairs.

Over the last fifty years UN Police mandates have changed from providing auxiliary police assistance to national police authorities to addressing core development of national police services.

## SUPPORT FOR THE REFORM, RESTRUCTURING AND REBUILDING HOST-STATE POLICE

United Nations Police help to reform, restructure and rebuild national services. Typically, missions start with an assessment, which may include a census of police personnel, security sector mapping and other efforts to evaluate the capacity of the national police service. Reform efforts can include working with national police authorities on vetting, training and certifying police and other law enforcement officials. UN Police advise their national counterparts on restructuring including changes that can be made to the policy and legal framework, administrative procedures and personnel management systems in order to help build security institutions that are more accountable, fair and effective. In some cases, UN Police rebuild services from the ground up, following years of conflict.

## KEY FUNCTIONS OF UNITED NATIONS POLICE

- Police Capacity and Institution Building
- Training, Mentoring and Advising
- Operational Support
- Public Order Management
- Reform, Restructuring and Rebuilding
- Monitoring
- Protection for humanitarian assistance
- Security Sector Reform
- Interim Law Enforcement



## OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

UN Police provide operational support to national police services. Specialized officers and Formed Police Units mentor and help train national police officers in all aspects of policing including investigations and election security and provide operational support and public order management. Often newly trained police cadets work in teams with UN Police in order to provide on-the-job training. UN Police help to restore trust and confidence between police officers and the population they serve.

## ORGANIZED CRIME

Organized crime, including trafficking, terrorism and financial fraud, is a major spoiler of peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. UN Police are increasingly involved in enhancing national capacities to counter organized crime and corruption. Activities undertaken include the establishment of transnational crime units in national police services, training national specialists in strategic planning, financial investigations, forensics and other vital skills. As a rule, UN Police address ways to combat organized crime as soon as they are deployed.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

Under exceptional circumstances, where there is no functioning national police service, UN Police are called upon to assume full responsibility for policing and law enforcement activities in a country or a territory. While national police structures are restored and officers are trained UN Police maintain law and order.

## POLICE DIVISION

The Police Division is part of the DPKO Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions. In addition to its Standing Capacity, it is made up of three Sections, the Selection & Recruitment Section, which is responsible for the recruitment and rotation of the thousands of UN Police deployed; the Mission Management & Support Section, which backstops all UN Police field components; and the Strategic Policy & Development Section, which develops concepts of operations and technical guidance, undertakes strategic planning, and monitors and evaluates mission mandate implementation.

## STANDING POLICE CAPACITY

The Police Division was mandated in 2007 to establish a Standing Police Capacity (SPC), as its rapidly deployable arm with an approved operational capacity of 40 staff members and a unique blend of leadership and specialized knowledge. Its areas of expertise include police reform and restructuring, training, investigations, analysis, planning, legal affairs, public order, community policing, budget and funds management, gender affairs, transnational crime, information and communication technology, human resources, detentions and logistics. Standing Capacity officers can be deployed where needed within 72 hours.

## PARTNERSHIPS

No single actor has the capacity to implement complex international policing support initiatives alone, and partnerships are essential to utilizing scarce global resources in the most efficient manner. Within the United Nations system, the Police Division has strengthened and in some instances formalized its strategic-level coordination with other departments of the UN Secretariat and agencies, funds and programmes involved in the rule of law sector, including through the Global Focal Point for the police, justice and corrections areas in the rule of law in post-conflict and other crisis situations (GFP). A joint plan of action has been signed between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The Police Division is collaborating increasingly with the African Union and two United Nations Police officers are currently deployed to the United Nations Office to the African Union to assist in police planning and reform. UN Police work closely with Member States, regional organizations, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Peacebuilding Support Office.

## FEMALE POLICE

The Police Division launched a “Global Effort” in 2009 to increase the number of female police officers to at least 20 percent by the end of 2014. When the effort was launched fewer than eight per cent were female, and today female officers make up approximately 10 per cent of the services.

