March 2019

UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) Fact Sheet

Accessible Version

Key Facts About DRC

Population: Approximately 83.3 million people live in DRC. About 60 percent of the population is under the age of 25, and about 40 percent is under the age of 15. There are over 200 ethnic groups; the majority is Bantu.

Government: DRC is a semi-presidential republic. The last presidential election was held on December 30, 2018.

Economy: DRC's estimated gross domestic product for 2017 was $40.4 billion. Conflict and corruption have contributed to the poor economic performance of DRC, despite its vast natural resource wealth.

Timeline of Key Events

1960: The Republic of the Congo is granted independence from Belgium.

1960-1964: The UN deploys the United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC) to ensure the withdrawal of Belgian forces from the Republic of the Congo, among other things.

1998: "Africa's World War" begins, with seven countries fighting in DRC.

1999: The Lusaka Ceasefire is signed, ending the war. The UN establishes a peacekeeping operation in DRC—United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC).

July 2010: The UN renames MONUC MONUSCO and updates the peacekeeping operation's mandate.

Map of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Legend: MONUSCO = UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
Sources: UN (data), Map Resources (map). | GAO-19-224

Current Status and Challenges

According to U.S. and United Nations (UN) officials, MONUSCO's most important mandated tasks are the protection of civilians and support to the government of DRC's elections. According to the Secretary-General, the impact of intercommunal violence and attacks by armed groups continue to persist in eastern and southern DRC and have led to the displacement of thousands of people. Held after several delays, the results of the December 30, 2018 national and provincial elections are expected to result in the first democratic transition of power in the nation's history. Despite varied disputes over preliminary results and reports of sporadic violence, the UN reports that the elections were relatively peaceful. However, according to the UN, pending the announcement of the final results by the DRC Constitutional Court, the coming days will be critical.

According to U.S. and UN officials, the biggest challenges MONUSCO faces in carrying out its mandated tasks are the vast size of DRC and the fact that the government of DRC will accept limited help from MONUSCO in carrying out its elections. According to UN officials, MONUSCO is having some success in addressing instability in eastern DRC. For example, MONUSCO said it receives 300 to 400 calls per month alerting it to attacks and that either MONUSCO or DRC forces respond to 90 percent of these calls. In addition, UN officials told us that the Security Council provided MONUSCO with a budget to use for logistical support for elections assistance, so MONUSCO can readily help the DRC government if and when it asks for assistance.

March 2019

UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) Fact Sheet

Key Facts about Haiti

Population: Approximately 10.6 million people live in Haiti. More than 50 percent of the population is under the age of 24.

Government: Haiti is a semi-presidential republic.

Economy: Haiti's estimated gross domestic product for 2017 was $8.36 billion. Haiti continues to rely on international economic assistance for fiscal sustainability, with over 20 percent of its budget coming from foreign aid. In 2010, Haiti's unemployment rate was estimated to be 40.6 percent, and in 2012, 58.5 percent of its population was estimated to be living below the poverty line.

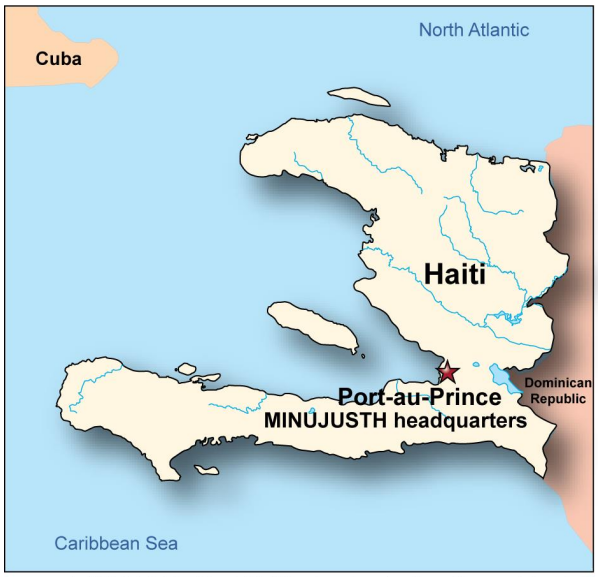
Timeline of Key Events

1993: Following a military coup, the UN establishes the first of a series of three peacekeeping operations. The last of these operations leaves in 2000.

2004: The UN establishes the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to help restore and maintain order after the collapse of the government.

2017: The UN establishes MINUJUSTH as a successor to MINUSTAH, composed of police and civilian personnel and focused on institutional strengthening and development.

Map of Haiti



Legend: MINUJUSTH = UN Mission for Justice Support in Haiti.

Sources: UN (data), Map Resources (map). | GAO-19-224

Current Status and Challenges

The United Nations (UN) established MINUJUSTH in 2017 to assist the government of Haiti in strengthening rule-of-law institutions, further support and develop the Haitian National Police, and engage in human rights monitoring, reporting, and analysis. In the resolution establishing MINUJUSTH, the Security Council called on the Secretary-General to develop a 2-year exit strategy with clear benchmarks. The Secretary-General regularly reports on MINUJUSTH's progress toward reaching its benchmarks. The Security Council resolution extending the MINUJUSTH mandate to April 2019 calls on the Secretary-General to conduct a strategic assessment of the operation by early 2019 and present recommendations on the UN's future role in Haiti. To facilitate the transition, the UN has created a joint UN Development Program and MINUJUSTH rule-of-law program to continue its work in this area after the peacekeeping operation ends.

According to U.S. and UN officials, Haiti continues to struggle with weak institutions and high levels of government corruption. Moreover, according to MINUJUSTH officials, the process of transitioning from the previous peacekeeping operation in Haiti to MINUJUSTH was challenging because of the level of effort involved in liquidating assets, among other things. These officials told us that similar issues will make the MINUJUSTH transition to a non-peacekeeping UN presence equally challenging.

March 2019

UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) Fact Sheet

Key Facts about Kosovo

Population: Approximately 1.9 million people live in Kosovo. About 42 percent of the population is under the age of 25. The primary ethnic group is the Albanian Kosovars, making up approximately 93 percent of the population. Other ethnic minorities include Serbs and Bosnians.

Government: Kosovo is a parliamentary republic.

Economy: Kosovo's estimated gross domestic product in 2017 was an estimated $19.6 billion. Kosovo's economy has achieved some stability, but it is still highly dependent on the international community for financial and technical assistance. Kosovo's unemployment rate is 33 percent, with a youth (under 26) unemployment rate near 60 percent.

Timeline of Key Events

1991: Kosovo's Albanians declare independence from Serbia.

1998: Multi-year conflict results in large numbers of casualties, refugees, and displaced persons.

1999: A 3-month NATO military operation against Serbia results in the Serbs withdrawing their military and police forces from Kosovo.

1999: UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) places Kosovo under a transitional administration pending a determination of Kosovo's future status.

2008: The Kosovo Assembly declares Kosovo's independence.

Map of Kosovo

Legend: UNMIK = UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo.

Sources: UN (data), Map Resources (map). | GAO-19-224

Current Status and Challenges

The Security Council established UNMIK to provide an interim administration for Kosovo, under which UNMIK had authority over the territory and people of Kosovo, including all legislative and executive powers and administration of the judiciary. Following the declaration of independence by the Kosovo Assembly in June 2008, the tasks of the operation have changed to focus primarily on the promotion of security, stability, and respect for human rights in Kosovo, as well as reducing tensions between Serbia and Kosovo.

According to U.S. and United Nations (UN) officials, the greatest challenge UNMIK faces in carrying out its mandate is that the Kosovo government will not engage directly with UNMIK. According to U.S., UN, and Kosovo government officials, the Kosovar government will not engage with UNMIK because it views UNMIK's mandate as obsolete, given Kosovo's independence. U.S. officials believe that UNMIK has achieved its mandate and should be closed. However, these officials also noted that Russia, as a permanent member of the Security Council with a veto, prevents the affirmative decision necessary to close UNMIK.

U.S. and UN officials told us that UNMIK has found ways to indirectly assist the Kosovo government, such as by providing funding for government efforts in Kosovo through other UN agencies with which the Kosovo government will engage. For instance, one UN official told us that UNMIK had provided a ground-penetrating radar to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to assist in efforts to locate missing persons, which will help clarify the fate and whereabouts of people unaccounted for after the conflict with Serbia.

March 2019

UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) Fact Sheet

Key Facts about Lebanon

Population: Approximately 6.2 million people live in Lebanon. The country is about 27 percent Sunni, 27 percent Shia, and 41 percent Christian. Officially, there are almost 1 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

Government: Lebanon is a parliamentary republic, with a unicameral legislature that elects the president. Currently, 35 of 128 legislative seats are held by the Shia Amal-Hezbollah coalition. Lebanon's borders with Syria and Israel remain unresolved.

Economy: Lebanon's estimated gross domestic product for 2017 was $52.7 billion, with a real growth rate of 1.5 percent. The growth rate is down from about 7 percent in 2010.

Timeline of Key Events

1975-1990: Sectarian violence leads to the Lebanese civil war.

1978: Israel sends troops into Lebanon.

March 1978: UNIFIL is established to supervise the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon. Israeli forces withdraw in 2000.

Early 1980s: Israeli forces in southern Lebanon start facing opposition from a militant group that would become Hezbollah, backed by Iran.

July-August 2006: Hezbollah captures two Israeli soldiers, sparking a 34-day war with Israel. UN Security Council Resolution 1701 calls for a cease-fire between the two sides and supplements UNIFIL's mandate.

Map of Lebanon

Legend: UNIFIL = UN Interim Force in Lebanon.

Sources: UN (data), Map Resources (map). | GAO-19-224

Current Status and Challenges

UNIFIL was created by the Security Council in March 1978 to supervise the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, restore international peace and security, and assist the government of Lebanon in restoring its authority. In late 2006, following renewed conflict between Israel and Lebanon, the Security Council enhanced UNIFIL's forces and added additional tasks to its mandate to include monitoring the cessation of hostilities and extending UNIFIL's assistance to help ensure humanitarian access to civilian populations and the voluntary and safe return of displaced persons. The United Nations (UN) reported in March 2018 that the situation in UNIFIL's area of operations has remained generally calm, but there has been no progress toward implementing a permanent ceasefire.

According to U.S. and UN officials, one challenge UNIFIL faces in carrying out its mandate is that Israel and Lebanon have not agreed on a peaceful solution to their conflict. Officials noted that there is no articulated exit strategy for the operation and that the Lebanese Armed Forces lack the capacity to secure the southern border with Israel—a necessary condition for the successful exit of UNIFIL. However, U.S. and UN officials agreed that UNIFIL plays a vital role by deterring further hostilities in southern Lebanon and providing a neutral forum for meetings between Israel and Lebanon.