

ADAPTING PEACE AND SECURITY FOR URBANIZATION

Peacebuilding



- Area-based approaches: address social, economic, and infrastructural deficits in high-need areas.
- Counter predatory criminal actors concentrated in certain areas (slums, peripheries, “no-go areas”).
- Strengthen data and analysis of urbanization in conflict and postconflict settings.

Peace Operations



- Prioritize operations, social support, and human rights training in neighborhoods that are highly affected by violence to efficiently use troops.
- Simultaneously improve urban governance alongside any security presence: service provision, infrastructure, and law enforcement training.

Conflict Prevention



- Broaden focus from “national” threats such as terrorism and insurgency to local militias, paramilitaries, vigilantes, and gangs exerting power over local communities.
- Identify areas of intense competition over urban resources or neighbourhood-level territorial control as important areas for prevention.
- Adapt disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) to realities of community livelihoods, local job markets, and different identities of urban areas.

Gender, Women, Peace, and Security in Cities



- Address the differentiated impact of displaced women and gender minorities living in cities (a growing share of displaced populations worldwide).
- Better track the forms of women and girls’ vulnerability to criminal actors controlling urban spaces, such as extortion, sexual exploitation, and other forms of intimidation that might not be immediately visible.
- Address “hot spots” of insecurity for women and gender minorities within cities by improving lighting, security cameras, and law enforcement.

Urban Political Settlements



- Establish urban political settlements as a high-importance policy area focused on stabilizing and creating trust within cities or towns in conflict-affected regions.
- Improve coordination between local, regional (province-level), and national security and political actors.
- Improve local capacities to counter crime and illicit economies in small and medium urban areas.

Urban Security Sector Management



- Improve data and analysis of subnational security sector issues, for example those arising among forces answerable to civilian leadership like governors or mayors.
- Tailor urban security forces in conflict-affected areas to prioritize local issues such as community-oriented policing in informal settlements, land, and real-estate crimes, and water mafias.
- Adapt local and national security forces’ approaches to violent urban spaces from repressive raids to long-term, community-oriented policing.
- Address and gradually demobilize vigilante and other community-based paramilitary forces filling the gap left by the state in marginalized urban areas.