

The ODA Coefficient for UN Peacekeeping Operations Explained

The ODA coefficient for UN peacekeeping operations shall increase to 15%

..... ODA COEFFICIENT FOR UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS: **15%**



To improve the coherence and consistency of reporting of Official Development Assistance (ODA), the February 2016 DAC High Level Meeting launched a technical review of the ODA coefficient for UN peacekeeping operations, in collaboration with the United Nations.

The ODA coefficient applied to contributions to UN peacekeeping operations – the share that may be reported as ODA – was previously set at 7%. This only reflected ODA-eligible activities conducted by *civilian* personnel; all activities and associated costs relating to *uniformed* personnel, both police and military, were excluded. New, detailed figures now make it possible to assess the development component of the latter, which results in an increase of the coefficient to 15%; this more adequately reflects all ODA-eligible activity conducted across the entirety of UN peacekeeping: by civilians *and* UN uniformed personnel.

This short note outlines the rationale for the review, its outcomes and the subsequent impact on ODA.

What has not changed?

The rules and safeguards which govern the ODA-eligibility of peace and security-related expenditure remain intact and were strictly adhered to throughout the review. To avoid misunderstanding and to protect the integrity of the ODA concept, it should be reaffirmed that:

- Financing of military equipment or services is generally excluded from ODA reporting.
- However, if certain safeguards are met, costs incurred for the use of military to deliver aid/humanitarian aid, are eligible.

What has changed?

The technical review provides an unprecedented level of details: the data it produced allow to track the share of police and military staff in UN Peacekeeping missions that are genuinely assigned to development activities, as opposed to purely security purposes. The coefficient has thus been updated to adequately reflect the ODA-eligible share of *all* activities within UN Peacekeeping Operations- by civilian, police and military personnel.

Previously the coefficient only covered ODA-eligible activity conducted by civilian staff. As for police and military staff costs, a single aggregated figure was available: their activities were entirely accounted for as security spending and excluded from ODA. The new data reveal that a fraction of those police and military costs is actually aimed at development purposes. As a result, the share of contributions to UN peacekeeping missions that can be attributed to development purposes and counted as ODA, which used to be evaluated at some 7% (when only the development component of *civilian* staff costs was assessed) is now re-evaluated at 15%, once the police (4%) and military (4%) components are included. Results of the technical review show that the largest contributions to ODA by the police relate to capacity building (e.g. electoral security, criminal investigations) and by the military to humanitarian assistance, infrastructure engineering and medical support (e.g. disaster relief, drilling of water wells or medical outreach programmes).

METHODOLOGY

The standard methodology used to determine the ODA coefficient for peacekeeping was used throughout the review. Whereas the detail for the civilian component can be based on UN budgetary documentation – the same information is not available for uniformed personnel and so a manual data capture was required via two Surveys (police and military).

The UN selected seven peacekeeping operations representing 83% of the applicable UN peacekeeping budget for the 2016/17 budget period. These missions have the largest budgets for all missions that employ police and military contingents. Furthermore, they are representative of the full range of UN peacekeeping activity in terms of both the scope of work and mandates, including missions with more developmental mandates and those in the later phase of their lifecycle where activity is more likely to be dedicated to developmental assistance. The missions chosen were MINUSCA, MINUSMA, MINUSTAH, MONUSCO, UNAMID, UNMISS and UNMIL.

What data were used?

Due to the timing of the reviews, the police component review used financial data based on fiscal year 2014/2015 while the remainder of the review used financial data based on fiscal year 2016/2017. It was agreed with the UN to complete the review on this basis noting that this will be an ongoing process and that future police and military surveys will occur concurrently.

What are the implications?

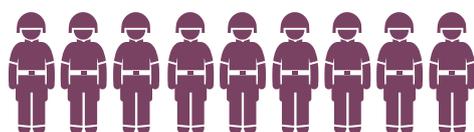
So far, DAC Members could report 7% of their contribution to UN peacekeeping budget as ODA, which in total represented USD 481 million in 2015. The increase in the ODA coefficient means members will now be able to report 15% of their contributions as ODA, which would have amounted to USD 1031 million in 2015, representing an increase in ODA of USD 550 million (less than 0.5% of ODA).

What next?

The updated ratio will be used for reporting over 2016-18, and will be reconsidered in 2019 at the earliest.

In order to maintain the coefficient up-to-date, a regular review is required every three to five years. The Secretariat recommends that future police and military surveys occur concurrently; separate surveys will be retained for each force but issued under a single harmonised review, taking into account the lessons learned from the previous surveys in order to evolve the survey process as necessary.

UN Peacekeeping Operations Personnel



MILITARY: 85,000



CIVILIAN: 15,000



POLICE: 12,000

Deployed as mandated delivery agents, the military accounts for 74% of UN peacekeeping personnel. This substantial contribution to UN peacekeeping operations means that even a modest contribution to ODA-eligible development activity will have a proportionate impact on the overall coefficient due to the representational size of the military component. Aside from establishing the coefficient, this review allows the development community to better understand the ODA-eligible activity being conducted by the military within peacekeeping operations.

Figures as of June 2017