

I. Global trends in peace operations

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A total of 52 peace operations were conducted in 2011, the same number as in 2010 and the second lowest in the period 2002–11, confirming a downward trend that started in 2009 (see figure 3.1).¹ However, the number of personnel deployed on peace operations in 2011 was the second highest of the period, at 262 129, just 700 fewer than in 2010 (see figure 3.2).²

The slight increases in the personnel numbers of some operations were due in part to temporary reinforcements to allow them to assist their host countries—the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Haiti—to hold elections. These increases were balanced by decreases due to personnel withdrawals related to the actual or upcoming closure of United Nations missions in Nepal and Timor-Leste.³ Similarly, deployments related to the launch of four new operations in 2011—the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS), the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the Arab League Observer Mission to Syria—did not result in a net increase in personnel numbers. UNSMIL and the Arab League mission were small political or civilian operations, while most of the personnel for UNISFA and UNMISS were drawn from the UN Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), which closed in July 2011.

The United Nations, which was responsible for 20 of the 52 peace operations in 2011 (38 per cent), remained the main conducting organization. However, just over half of the personnel deployed to peace operations worldwide—137 463 personnel (52 per cent)—were deployed to operations conducted by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), mainly the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, making NATO the largest conducting organization in terms of personnel deployed for the third consecutive year.⁴

¹ The quantitative analysis presented here draws on data collected in the SIPRI Multilateral Peace Operations Database, <<http://www.sipri.org/databases/pko/>>, to examine trends in peace operations in the 10-year period 2002–11. It is limited to operations that meet the SIPRI definition of peace operation. The data presented provides a snapshot of ongoing peace operations in 2011 and is meant to serve as a reference point to enable comparative analysis between 2011 and previous years.

² The figures for personnel deployments given in this chapter are generally estimates as of 31 Dec. 2011 or the date on which an operation terminated. They do not represent maximum numbers deployed or the total number of personnel deployed during the year.

³ The UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) closed in Jan. 2011 and the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) is expected to close in Dec. 2012.

⁴ UN figures include peace operations led by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the UN Department of Political Affairs and the African Union/UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

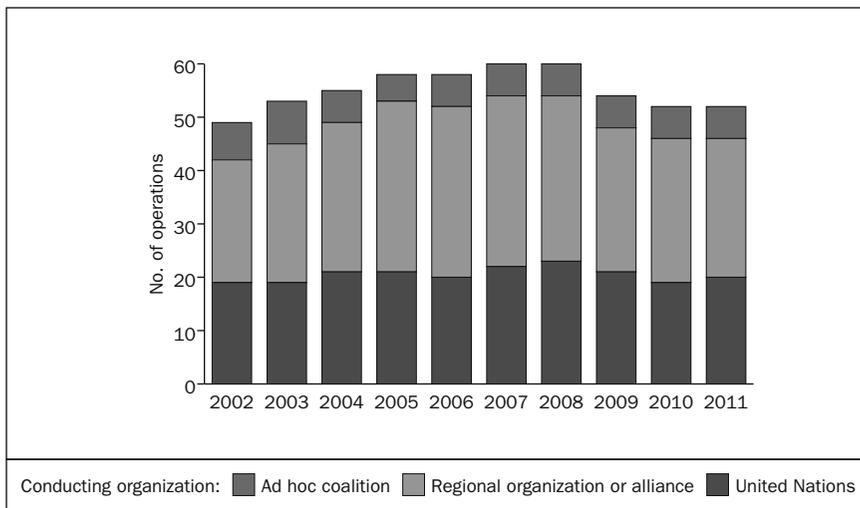


Figure 3.1. Number of multilateral peace operations, by type of conducting organization, 2002–11

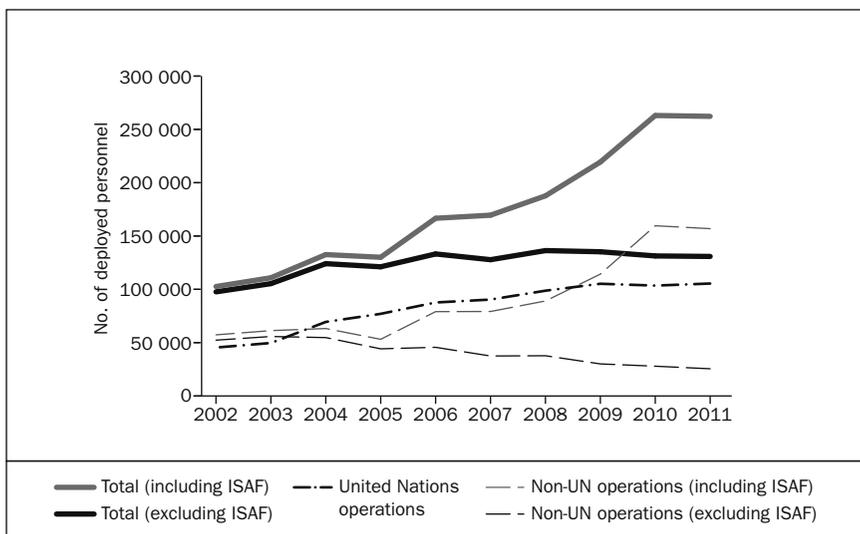


Figure 3.2. Number of personnel deployed to multilateral peace operations, 2002–11

ISAF = International Security Assistance Force

ISAF itself was the largest operation in 2011, for the third year running, with 131 386 troops deployed. The second and third largest were the African Union/UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

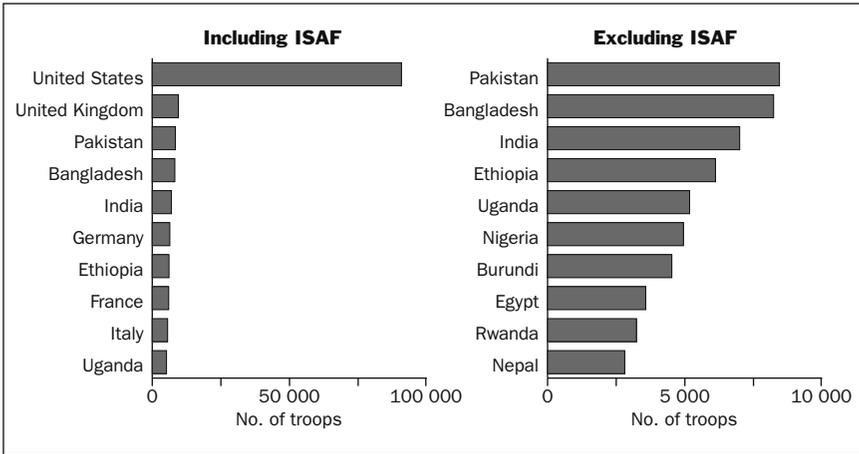


Figure 3.3. The top 10 contributors of troops to multilateral peace operations, including and excluding the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, 2011

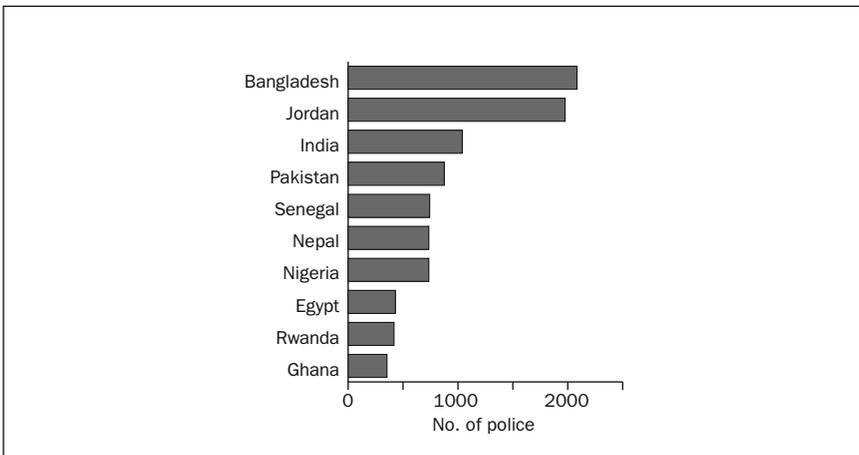


Figure 3.4. The top 10 contributors of civilian police to multilateral peace operations, 2011

(MONUSCO). Ten operations had more than 5000 personnel: seven under UN command, two under NATO command and one under African Union command.

Including ISAF, the largest contributor of troops to multilateral peace operations in 2011 was the United States, and the top 10 contributors included other, European contributors to ISAF such as the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Italy (see figure 3.3). Excluding ISAF, the picture changes: Pakistan was the largest contributor, followed closely by

Bangladesh, and the top 10 contributors were exclusively from South Asia, Africa and the Middle East. States in these regions also formed the top 10 contributors of civilian police in 2011 (see figure 3.4).

The total known cost of peace operations in 2011 was \$9.8 billion.⁵ The UN accounted for the largest proportion of this known cost—\$7.8 billion or 80 per cent. However, due to budgetary constraints, the UN expects to have \$1 billion less to spend on peacekeeping in 2012.⁶ These budgetary constraints have put significant pressure on the UN Secretariat to do more with fewer resources. They have also influenced the composition of new operations and are likely to have an impact on the scale and timing of operation closures.

⁵ The cost of most non-UN (e.g. European Union or NATO) operations does not include the cost of personnel contribution; therefore, the total known cost is a conservative estimate of the global cost of peace operations.

⁶ Ladsous, H., UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Press conference, Transcript, 8 Feb. 2012, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/articles/USG_Ladsous.Transcript.PC.08022012>.