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2012 Events

15-17 February 2012

QIPs Management for Peacekeepers training, Brindisi

24 April 2012

Launch of the Civil Affairs Handbook

24-27 April 2012

Heads of Civil Affairs Workshop, NY

25- 29 June 2012 (tbc)

Civil Affairs training of trainers, Turin

Civil Affairs: Supporting Local Actors in Consolidating Peace

Civil affairs is one of the fastest growing civilian components in peacekeeping, today numbering over 1,000 officers in 17 field missions. Often the main interlocutor with local stakeholders, Civil Affairs Officers are in a privileged position to feed local voices into national dialogue and decision-making processes.

This means they help to put into practice a broader concept of national ownership in which different elements of societies are able to shape national and international interventions.

The role of civil affairs is central to DPKO/DFS strategy: contributing to early peacebuilding by supporting political processes; contributing to basic security by supporting strategies to protect civilians; and working towards the restoration and extension of state authority.

This newsletter presents samples of the wide range of activities that Civil Affairs Officers are engaged in, in implementing missions' mandates and in setting the foundations for sustainable peace processes.

Supporting Conflict Resolution and Providing Early Warning in Jonglei State

During 2011, civil affairs played a key role in supporting local stakeholders addressing the local conflict between the Lou Nuer and the Murle communities in Jonglei State, South Sudan. Closely working with the local Peace Commissioner and elected officials, civil affairs facilitated a consultative meeting in July 2011 that highlighted the roots of the conflict, which was based on cattle rustling. This led to a sustained sensitization campaign - also facilitated by civil affairs - by members of parliament among their respective constituencies. By engaging the communities and all those seeking a peaceful solution, civil affairs developed a widespread network of local contacts volunteering information on developments linked to the conflict.

Despite efforts to diffuse tensions the conflict between the two communities further escalated and, following yet one more attack in August 2011, civil affairs deployed with UNMISS Integrated Teams (composed of both military and civilian components) to Lou Nuer and Murle areas to monitor developments and deter further attacks. Civil affairs supported joint efforts to negotiate a peaceful solution. This included talks with the influential



local leader known as the "prophet", who was rallying the youth and preparing for a counteroffensive, and alerting the (Sudanese People's Liberation Army) SPLA commander to minimize the risk of confrontation between the youth and the SPLA. Additionally, UNMISS fostered the peace initiative led by the Sudan Council of Churches to bring peace back to Jonglei State.

Nevertheless, provocations between the two communities continued and civil affairs learnt – through its network of local partners within both communities – that a renewed mobilization was taking place.

They therefore gathered details on the numbers involved, their route and possible targets and promptly informed UNMISS senior management allowing the mission to make informed decisions on deployment of forces to areas under threat in Pibor County. This also allowed authorities to warn the population about the impending threat. The effectiveness of the civil affairs early warning function was critical to saving numerous lives.

Community Alert Networks in the DRC

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), civil affairs played an instrumental role in launching the pilot Community Alert Network (CAN) project. This was aimed at enabling local communities in remote areas of Eastern DRC to contact the relevant authorities and/or MONUSCO forces about unfolding incidents and to request an intervention in their community.

Over 80% of civil affairs resources in Eastern DRC are directed towards supporting the joint coordination mechanisms and the development of innovative protection tools. Twenty-five pilot CANs were established in 2011 covering over 400 communities and approximately 1 million people in North and South Kivu, Province Orientale, Equateur

and Katanga.

A second phase of 20 additional CANs is under development. Civil Affairs Community Liaison Assistants are deployed in remote areas where MONUSCO Temporary or Company Operational Bases are located. They play a critical role in liaising with the CANs and in the identification of protection risks and the development of locally tailored protection responses.

Synergies are being developed with other partners to further expand the CAN project, notably by advocating with private telecommunication firms to expand their networks to remote areas, and by working with NGOs to use HF radio networks to receive community alerts.



Working with the Peace-building Fund in Côte d'Ivoire

The post-election crisis in Côte d'Ivoire spurred intercommunity tensions, particularly in the volatile Western region and resulted in widespread looting of government and police premises. As a consequence, the government capacity to ensure security, deliver services and build confidence among the population was seriously undermined, further fuelling instability.

Thanks to the widespread presence of UNOCI Civil Affairs Officers across the country, with a mandate to support the restoration of state authority, it was

possible to rapidly perform a needs assessment of key public administration institutions in order to help them resume full operations.

Civil affairs coordinated the needs assessment, with the Ministry of Interior and UNDP. They also worked with the UN Police to prioritize security institutions and with UNOCI Engineering to define technical and financial requirements.

On the basis of the assessment, a \$3 million project proposal was approved by the Peacebuilding Fund, entailing the

basic rehabilitation and refurbishment of 23 government offices and eight police or gendarmerie buildings. The project also included a capacity building component for 140 government officials and 400 police and gendarmerie officers, as well as a component related to the promotion of social cohesion.

Civil affairs and UNDP are co-chairing the technical committee responsible for the implementation of the Peacebuilding Fund project.

Civil Society Voice in the Darfur Peace Process

Following the expert level Darfur workshop held in Doha (12-14 October 2009), it was decided that a civil society track of the Darfur peace process should be launched. Building on their presence in all states in Darfur and Khartoum, civil affairs and other UNAMID components held a series of consultations with civil society groups to facilitate the democratic selection of representatives that could raise civil society concerns in the peace process. In order to prepare civil society representatives for the Doha Conferences, civil affairs facilitated a number of workshops throughout Darfur on the role of civil society in the peace process.

As a consequence, civil society representatives came to realize their unique role and responsibility to influence the mediation process and were able to articulate clear recommendations for a

comprehensive and sustainable peace agreement. These included security arrangements and disarmament, wealth sharing, economic and social development, power sharing, justice, reconciliation and return, the issue of land and nomadic routes, among others. The conferences were also a good working mechanism that brought together diverse Darfur components and ethnic groups to focus on complex issues.

As a result of the progress in the Doha Conferences, the Sudanese Government and the Liberation and Justice Movement, one of the rebel factions, signed the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) in July 2011. If effectively implemented, the DDPD is seen by many stakeholders in Darfur as a good basis for a final agreement in bringing sustainable peace to Darfur.



Civil affairs continues to engage with civil society and other parties to support the DDPD throughout Darfur and see that stakeholders are aware of the provisions of the DDPD.

Supporting Local Haitian Institutions in Managing Public Finances



To support the Haitian Ministry of the Interior and Local Government (MICT) in its effort to improve municipal administration's performances, civil affairs in MINUSTAH designed a performance assessment methodology to facilitate the monitoring of municipalities' administrative and financial management, service delivery and local development activities. This allows MINUSTAH to better focus its support to the MICT in defining capacity-building needs.

In particular, the evaluation of municipal performances has focused on strengthening the management of local

finances. Civil affairs worked in close collaboration with MICT to develop budgetary guidelines that municipal officials can easily use and refer to in the preparation of municipal budgets. Furthermore, civil affairs and other partners engaged in the reinforcement of governance have supported MICT in organizing the second training for 140 municipal accountants. Improved accountability and transparency in the management of local finances is largely an output of these joint efforts.

Peace Committees play a growing role in Liberia



Civil affairs efforts to address issues of reconciliation, peacebuilding and conflict resolution through the County Consultative Fora in 2009 led to the progressive establishment of County and District Peace Committees (PCs) nationwide. Initially expected to address a range of issues and conflicts, PCs have evolved into a key element in land dispute resolution mechanisms.

This was also as a result of the Norwegian Refugee Council support that made the PCs able to address land disputes effectively and efficiently within the framework of the National Land Dispute Resolution System. Moreover, through the continuous support of civil affairs, the Early Warning and Early Response Program – which is paramount to peace and

security in Liberia – will focus on strengthening the technical and logistical capacity of selected members of PCs, as well as training and mentoring them in early warning and conflict prevention techniques and strategies.

This support is additional to the training in peacebuilding, conflict prevention management and reconciliation issues that Civil Affairs Officers themselves have provided to the members of the PCs.

Additional support is being now sought to strengthen the technical and institutional capacities of the PCs and ensure their sustainability and durability in a future Liberia without UNMIL.

Empowering Civil Society in the DRC

Following the 2008 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) provincial workshops and the 2009 Civil Society National Symposium, both facilitated by MONUSCO civil affairs, the importance of establishing a credible and organized civil society platform to participate in national policy-making processes clearly emerged.

A road map was developed to establish a consultative framework for civil society structures to initiate a strategic dialogue with national institutions and international partners. To implement

such a road map, CSOs decided to organize themselves into 20 thematic groups, which mirror the government structure and national Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) socioeconomic priorities.

From March to December 2011, civil affairs, in close coordination with the government, donors, international NGOs and other relevant stakeholders, facilitated eight workshops for the establishment of such thematic groups. This resulted in the establishment of

"consultation frameworks" where CSOs and government discuss the prioritization of actions aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals through the implementation of the PRSP II, the Provincial Action Plans and the strategic national and provincial planning document.

Helping to Promote Accountable Governance in Afghanistan

At the subnational level, UNAMA civil affairs made use of quick-impact project funds to promote confidence in the peace and stabilization process. It also worked with elected and non-elected institutions and civil society organizations across Afghanistan to promote accountable governance. For example, in Mazar-i-Sharif province a conference was held to promote civil society awareness of the

Subnational Governance Policy and to exemplify how civil society organizations could work more effectively with the Provincial Council.

Similarly, in Farah, Badghis and Ghor provinces, civil affairs – in cooperation with the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCS) – successfully implemented a

four-day Public Administrative Reform (PAR) awareness training workshop attended by 160 civil servants from across the province. The workshop helped participants to develop their working knowledge of civil service law in accordance with the PAR policies set forth by the IARCS.

Citizens Discuss Democratic Governance in Timor-Leste

In 2011, UNMIT civil affairs – in collaboration with national stakeholders – organized 3 governance fora at the national level, 4 at district level, 65 at sub district level and 13 at village level. Over 6,000 people participated in these discussions about national policy issues and local priority concerns. Each Democratic Governance Forum (DGF) fostered dialogue and debate on issues of democratic governance in Timor-Leste.

At the national level, DGF participants were able to dialogue with the President of National Parliament and Ministers on issues ranging from checks and balance in democratic governance to security around the forthcoming 2012 national elections. Similar debates at the district level focused instead on the role of the members of National Parliament and about how they were addressing challenges to establish a petroleum supply base linked to the country's



off-shore oil wealth in Timor Sea. Sub district and village level DGF were related to the local priority concerns of the population on community disputes, the security situation and public service delivery by the local authorities.

The local community radios covered the events and broadcasted the key messages to the wider audiences at the subnational level. The support that civil affairs is providing to the enhancement of democratic governance in Timor-Leste is critical to setting a solid basis for the ongoing transition process.

Supporting Civil Affairs work in the Field

The civil affairs team in the Policy and Best Practice Service (PBPS) within the Division of Policy, Evaluation and Training (DPET) advises the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and missions on civil affairs related issues. It also supports civil affairs components across peacekeeping operations by contributing to the development of relevant policy, guidance and training materials. The team also supports the Field Personnel Division with recruitment processes, participates in inter-agency processes and helps to ensure knowledge sharing between Civil Affairs Officers through an online network.

A comprehensive Civil Affairs Handbook, realized through the generous support of the Australian government and Norway's Partnership for Peace programme, will be launched in April 2012. The Handbook provides comprehensive guidance and specific practical tools for Civil Affairs Officers in the field.

The rollout of a new training methodology, based on in-mission skills training and tailored to the specific needs of each civil affairs component, has also been completed in 2011. Civil affairs components in UNOCI, UNMIL, MINUSTAH, MONUSCO and UNIFIL have already carried out these training events.

Finally, the DPKO/DFS quick-impact project (QIP) policy has been revised on the basis of the recommendations that emerged in the 2011 lessons learned on the management of QIPs. Formal promulgation of the new policy is expected very soon.

Looking ahead, the team aims to research and develop operational guidance on key aspects of civil affairs support to protection of civilians and to early peacebuilding – looking in particular at how civil affairs can support national capacities in this work.