

## Impact case study (REF3)

<b>Institution:</b> University of Essex		
<b>Unit of Assessment:</b> 19		
<b>Title of case study:</b> Improving peacekeeping at the local level		
<b>Period when the underpinning research was undertaken:</b> 2005-2020		
<b>Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:</b>		
<b>Name(s):</b>	<b>Role(s) (e.g. job title):</b>	<b>Period(s) employed by submitting HEI:</b>
Han Dorussen	Professor	2001- present
Ismene Gizelis	Professor	2010 - present
<b>Period when the claimed impact occurred:</b> 2014-2020		
<b>Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014?</b> N		
<b>1. Summary of the impact</b>		
<p>Dorussen and Gizelis' research on peacekeeping has improved the effectiveness of training of civilians and police personnel [Impact 1] and supported increased female participation in UN police forces via enhanced understanding of peacekeeping impact on women's lives [Impact 2]. Through analysing the deployment and actions of UN peacekeepers sub-nationally, they have demonstrated the relevance of peacekeeping for controlling violence and positively impacting maternal health and educational outcomes. Findings informed practitioners and stakeholders in peacekeeping including government officials, NGOs and the UN Police in e.g., Liberia, Myanmar and Timor-Leste. Collaboration with Folke Bernadotte Academy, UN Standing Police Capacity and UN Women facilitated the uptake of our research, embedding it in training modules, advocating increased female UN police recruitment, and leading to innovative UN data-driven evaluation of peacekeeping deployment.</p>		
<b>2. Underpinning research</b>		
<p>Researchers at Essex have conducted research on local peacekeeping and outcomes since 2005, demonstrating the impact of UN peacekeeping and how recognizing the diversity of local conditions and multiple local actors with diverse interests can improve effectiveness. They have collected detailed event data identifying <i>where</i> peacekeepers are deployed, <i>what</i> they do, <i>whom</i> they interact with, and the <i>quality</i> of interactions [R1, R4, R5, R7, G1, G2]. Dorussen and Gizelis [R1] and Ruggeri, Gizelis, Dorussen [R2] show that UN peacekeeping tends to cooperate better and more frequently with governments than rebels, and these perceived biases often undermine peacekeeping. Peacekeeping is effective in protecting civilians and containing violence when it is deployed in the areas where conflict occurs [R4, R5]. However, peacekeeping missions often fail too, or are too slow to respond to violence, due to organizational problems [R5]. Still, even a modest deployment of peacekeepers can limit conflict episodes, making peacekeeping clearly distinct from counter-insurgency operations [R4].</p> <p>Using British Academy funds, Dorussen examined the legacy of UN peacekeeping and security perception by local populations in Timor-Leste. His research shows that personal security and trust in national police and military have continued to improve even after the departure of the UN peacekeepers. Respondents are generally positive about the role of the UN in Timor-Leste, but they are also happy with the end of the UN mission. More vulnerable respondents, i.e., persons who feel more insecure or recently involved in a dispute, and women more so than men, are more worried about the departure of peacekeepers [G3].</p> <p>Since 2010 Gizelis has developed a research agenda on improving peacekeeping performance using data-driven empirical research [R1]. Dorussen and Gizelis [R1] is the first study</p>		

to systematically collect event data to study the interaction between UN peacekeepers and local actors. Ruggeri and Dorussen [R3] introduce subnational data distinguishing between the place and space of local peacekeeping data, analysed in [R4, R5]. Olsson and Gizelis [R6] highlight how inclusion of women is important to improve the quality of peacekeeping, since female participation brings in different skills and networks and help improve effectiveness. Gizelis [R7] demonstrates that further integration of women in the peacekeeping process positively impacts maternal health outcomes and access.

### 3. References to the research [available from HEI on request]

[R1] Dorussen, H. and T-I. Gizelis (2013). 'Into the Lion's Den: Local Responses to UN Peacekeeping', *Journal of Peace Research*, 50 (6), 693 – 708, <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0022343313484953>

[R2] Ruggeri, A., T-I. Gizelis and H. Dorussen (2013). 'Managing Mistrust: an Analysis of Cooperation with UN Peacekeeping in Africa', *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 57 (3), 387 - 409, <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0022002712448906>

[R3] Dorussen, H. and A. Ruggeri (2017). 'Peacekeeping Event Data: Determining the Place and Space of Peacekeeping', *International Peacekeeping*, 24 (1), 32 – 38, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13533312.2016.1226768>

[R4] Ruggeri, A., H. Dorussen and T-I. Gizelis (2017). 'Winning the Peace Locally: UN Peacekeeping and Local Conflict', *International Organization*, 71 (1), 163-185, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818316000333>

[R5] Ruggeri, A., H. Dorussen and T-I. Gizelis (2018). 'On the Frontline Every Day? Subnational Deployment of United Nations Peacekeepers', *British Journal of Political Science*, 48 (4), 1005 – 1025, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S000712341600017X>

[R6] Olsson, L. and T-I. Gizelis (2014). 'Advancing Gender and Peacekeeping Research. Symposium on *Future Directions for Peacekeeping Research*', *International Peacekeeping*, 21 (4), 520-528, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13533312.2014.946742>

[R7] Gizelis, T-I. and X. Cao (2020). 'A security dividend: Peacekeeping and maternal health outcomes and access', *Journal of Peace Research*, 58(2), 2021 <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022343320917198>

#### **Related funding**

[G1] Dorussen, Research Grant for 'PKOLED—a Peacekeeping Operations Location and Event Dataset', Folke Bernadotte Academy, Sweden, 2005-2008, €34.000 (£29,256).

[G2] Dorussen, Research Grant for 'UN Peacekeeping and Local Governance', Folke Bernadotte Institute, Sweden, 2005-2008, €59.000 (£50,769).

[G3] Dorussen, Research Grant for 'UN Peace-building and Human Security in Post-Conflict Timor Leste', British Academy / Leverhulme Small Research Grant, 2013-2014, £4,861.

### 4. Details of the impact

Dorussen and Gizelis' sustained engagement with the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), the UN Standing Police Capacity, one of the four sections of the UN Police division (UNPOL) and UN Women have provided key pathways to impact affecting training of civilian personnel in peacekeeping operations and increasing female participation in UN police forces.

#### **Training of civilians and police personnel**

Long-standing engagement with FBA [since 2005] has been essential in shaping the training of civilian personnel in peace operations. The agency trains and recruits civilian personnel and provides expertise for peace operations and election observation missions led by the EU, UN and OSCE. The core finding of Dorussen and Gizelis' research that relatively small peacekeeping deployment can be effective at the local level, has been recognized as of practical value for FBA in its engagement with its partners:

*Professor Han Dorussen's research on locally deployed peacekeepers [...] has been of particular relevance to FBA's work thematically as well as practically as part of the agency's efforts to increase the evidence-based approach in its work. One area of work where this research is especially valuable is when we engage with partners as it informs and strengthens our technical advice that we give to key partners and national stakeholders [S1].*

FBA acknowledges the contribution of our research to its educational activities, where it hosts on average 81 courses per year with a total number of 2,900 participants: *"In all courses, important aspects to peacebuilding, such as peacekeeping, are covered" [S1].*

In 2018 Dorussen presented on the legacy of peacekeeping for local security [R1, R2] applied in his research in Timor-Leste to representatives of the Liberian Armed Forces, Ministry of Justice, Independent National Human Rights Commission, Liberia Institute for Public Administrations, Search for Common Ground as well as a number of UN Agencies such as UN Women, UNDP and the office of the UN Resident Coordination amongst others [S2]. The organisers, FBA, acknowledge the value of the contribution:

*By engaging in the Research-Policy dialogue in Monrovia, Professor Han Dorussen contributed to FBA's work of making research findings accessible amongst practitioners that works directly with the issues at hand as well as contributed to the work that FBA does as part of the Swedish government's bilateral cooperation in Liberia [S1].*

Their research has also contributed to challenging prevailing negative perceptions about UN peacekeeping effectiveness among many practitioners, especially by NGOs active in peacebuilding [S3]. A workshop on 'NGO perceptions and expectations of UN peacekeeping', was held at the British Academy, London in 2017, to discuss these issues with representations from several NGOs, UNPOL and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). To quote a Department of Peace Keeping Operations (DPKO) Standing Police Capacity: *"learning from your work will enable me to be more aware of NGOs concerns and objectives" [S4].* FBA Policy Brief 01/2018: 'Putting Civilians First' (co-authored by Dorussen) builds on [R1, R2] and outlines changes in peacekeeping practices to improve perceptions of NGOs and local civil society. FBA published it on-line as part of their *"effort to make research findings available to practitioners in an accessible way" [S1, S5]*, and it was presented at the FBA policy dialogue with NGO, African Union and UN representatives at the African Union [S2a].

### **Supporting increasing female participation in UN police and peacekeeping forces**

Gizelis' research has provided the evidence base [R1] highlighting women's role in sustainable peace during and following peacekeeping missions [R6, R7]. It contributed to various policy debates on peacekeeping missions and gender equality. The Action Plan of the Norwegian Government particularly notes its value [S6]. Also, in 2016, the then Chief of United Nations Standing Police Capacity, invited Gizelis to participate at the International Association Women Police (IAWP) meeting as part of the UN Police panels and to provide a training session informing police officers how peacekeeping presence leads to improvements in maternal health [S7]. IAWP was attended by 490 police officers from 91 countries. At the same event the Chief of UNPOL facilitated Gizelis to conduct a survey of female officers attending IAWP, on reasons of low levels of female police officers joining UNPOL. The recommendations of the report were subsequently part of the evidence base used by UN headquarters. To further inform UN headquarters about the importance of mentorship to recruit more female officer, a follow up briefing was set up with the Police Division, Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) and the Department of

Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) on 7 February 2017 [S7].

In 2018 Gizelis was invited as a global expert to participate at a workshop aiming at breaking down barriers to women's participation in peace operations organized jointly by the Canadian and Dutch governments [S8]. The workshop directly contributed to the prioritisation of key research questions and areas of inquiry targeted by the Elsie Initiative Contact Group, and mentoring was identified as a priority for future research and activities [S9]. Gizelis research [R7] is referenced in the report of the UN Secretary General on the role of women for peace and security [S10]. UN Women recognises the important input of research [R7] into the UN policy agenda [S11]:

*We look forward to continued collaboration to strengthen implementation of this important policy agenda and the promotion of women's rights and women's leadership in international peace and security [S11].*

##### 5. Sources to corroborate the impact (indicative maximum of 10 references)

[S1] Testimonial letter by Head of Research, Swedish government agency for peace, security and development, the Folke Bernadotte Academy. Acknowledging value of research and impact on training civilians and police personnel.

[S2] Invitation (Dorussen) and programme from Folke Bernadotte Academy to present at FBA Research-Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Peace in Monrovia, Liberia, 17 – 19 November 2018, Dialogue with and training of practitioners [S2a]; Invitation (Dorussen) to FBA Policy Dialogue to present on local peacekeeping at the African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 9 October 2017. Dialogue with practitioners.

[S3] 2020. World Bank Group. [Violence without Borders: The Internationalization of Crime and Conflict](#). Policy Research Report. Reference to [R5] on page 101.

[S4] Programme and testimonials, workshop on NGO perceptions and expectation of UN peacekeeping, held at the British Academy Carlton House September 26, 2017. Testimonials from Cecilia Dunster and Ruairi Nolan, among others; posting policy brief '[Putting Civilians First](#)'. Engagement with NGO and policymakers in the UK.

[S5] Policy Brief: Enrica, P., and T. Vircoulou (2017), "[The Humanitarian System in the Central African Republic: A Time of Challenges](#)". Comité de coordination des ONGI en RCA and Mercy Corps. (page 53) and Evidence of wider engagement with '[Putting Civilians First](#)' policy brief in the NGO community.

[S6] The Norwegian Government's Action Plan. [Women Peace and Security](#) (2019-2022). Norwegian Ministries. Evidence of research informing Government of Norway's Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (page 54).

[S7] Testimonial letter by former Chief of UNPOL Standing Police Capacity outlines the significance of the work during IAWP2016 in highlighting the importance of mentoring for female police officers. Includes: invitation (Gizelis) as part of UNPOL panels to provide training to police officers at the International Association Women Police (IAWP) Training Conference in Barcelona, Spain from 9 to 13 October 2016; certification of the provision of training.

[S8] Invitation (Gizelis) by Global Affairs Canada and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) to act as facilitator at the Elsie (Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations) Research to Action Workshop at the Hague, 13-14 November 2018 with direct references to Gizelis' research.

[S9] 2018. Elsie [Research to Action Workshop Report](#). References to mentoring as possible future activity or research need (pages 5, 6, 7, 10, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 48).

[S10] 2020. UN Secretary General [Report on Women and Peace and Security](#). S/2020/946, 25 September 2020. Reference to [R7] on page 11.

[S11] Testimonial letter by Policy Specialist, Peace and Security, UN Women, Pablo Castillo Diaz. Acknowledges input to UN report S/2020/946 and UN Peacekeeping Operations and Peacekeeping Dividends (November 2020) joint briefs series.