

Box 3.7.1 Challenges of Building National Police Structures: The UN's Portfolio of Law Enforcement Projects

The critical role of police personnel in UN peacekeeping operations was on display during the year in review, from Haitian National Police conducting a series of successful raids on gangs in the slums of Port-au-Prince alongside UN police, to the positive impacts of the deployment of an all-female Indian formed police contingent in the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The presence of the all-female police contingent is reported to have had a positive impact on public perceptions, as the number of female applicants who sought to join the Liberian National Police increased significantly following the deployment of the unit. In addition to their support in maintaining law and order, UN police personnel are playing a prominent role in developing the organic police capacity in postconflict societies. Since the 2000 report of the Panel on UN Peace Operations, commonly known as the Brahimi Report, which emphasized the crucial role of police personnel, the stated emphasis on the UN's Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) critical undertaking has not been

matched by the provision of adequate resources. It is against this backdrop that the Police Division of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations published *The Portfolio of Police and Law Enforcement Projects 2007*, to highlight both achievements and deficiencies of the current UN police programs.

The *Portfolio* details the administration, current funding, objectives, and challenges of seventy-three UN police projects across ten different peace operations. Most projects are given a timeline of one year for completion, including achievable benchmarks, but some projects may take up to three years to be completed. In 2007, UN police consisted of more than 9,000 officers, with an approximately \$215 million funding requirement for in-mission projects. Slightly more than half of this amount was earmarked for equipment, and nearly a third for construction and rehabilitation projects, with the remaining for capacity building and service delivery projects. MINUSTAH had the highest estimated cost, at

\$44.5 million for nine projects, with a large portion, over \$18 million, going toward equipping the Haitian National Police. The highest individual estimated figure was \$21.1 million in Burundi, for a project to develop the newly created Department of Civil Protection.

Based on ten UN-led peace operations, the *Portfolio* points to a chronic lack of human, material, and financial resources as impediments to police reform efforts in postconflict countries. Meanwhile, the challenges posed by increasing needs for larger numbers of UN police personnel, and proper training, have yet to be properly addressed. Currently, the responsibility to coordinate potential donor resources toward mission project goals falls to small in-mission committees tasked with coordinating all rebuilding projects. It is hoped that the *Portfolio* will serve as a reference tool for donors wanting to strengthen UN police efforts and support new and ongoing projects in several missions.

Source: United Nations, *The Portfolio of Police and Law Enforcement Projects 2007* (New York: Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Police Division, December 2006), <http://www.un.org/depts/dpko/dpko/unpolprojects.html>.