

Box 3.7.2 From Host Nation to Troop Contributor

As United Nations peacekeeping struggles with debates on troop reimbursement and divides between troop contributors and financial contributors, a growing number of troops and police are deploying from familiar places: countries that have previously hosted or currently host peace operations.

Former hosts to peacekeeping missions including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, and El Salvador now provide troops and police to multilateral peace operations. Rwanda, former host to the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UN-AMIR), is currently ranked among the top ten UN military contributors globally, with Rwandan troops and police stationed in UN missions in Haiti, Liberia, Sudan, and South Sudan. With the support of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), Rwanda also runs one of the main peacekeeping training centers in Africa, helping to prepare current and future troop-contributing countries using lessons learned from both the UN and its own experiences.

Burundi also plays a critical role in peacekeeping in Africa. A former host to African Union and United Nations peacekeeping missions, Burundi is now one of the two main troop contributors to the

AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and has deployed five battalions to the mission since 2007. Sierra Leone, previously host to a six-year UN peace operation, responded to the AU's September 2011 call for more AMISOM troops by signaling its intention to send a troop battalion to join Sierra Leonean police officers already serving with the mission.

Countries with current peacekeeping missions are also readying themselves for future contributions through training and capacity building exercises. The UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) has trained the national army for potential deployment as military observers in peacekeeping operations. In July 2011, Timor-Leste Defense Force engineers also began training ahead of their integration with a Portuguese contingent serving the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which will mark the first international military contribution by Timor-Leste. In Liberia, security forces received training for potential peacekeeping duties in 2011 from both the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the US African Command (AFRICOM), which assisted in a regional communications exercise.

Meanwhile, some countries have already begun participating in global operations even as missions continue within their national borders. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), current host to the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), has a small number of police deployed to the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), while Côte d'Ivoire has contributed over a hundred police to MONUSCO and UN missions in Haiti and Darfur.

Through proactive training, countries are increasingly emerging from robust peacekeeping missions with the ability and desire to contribute to global multilateral operations. Their own recent experiences of transition may also provide valuable lessons for peace operations and peace consolidation. Supporting these new and emerging troop and police contributors is especially important as many peace operations, including AMISOM, face chronic troop and police shortages. Further diversifying the group of contributing countries in peacekeeping missions also helps bolster the flexibility of these operations and strengthen their ability to deploy to crises around the world.