



Concept Note
Creating Space for Peace:
Tenth Anniversary of Community Violence Reduction
Programmes in UN Peacekeeping



Overview: A one-day event on **16 November 2016** will mark the tenth anniversary of community violence reduction (CVR) programmes in peacekeeping. In 2006, the first CVR programme was established in Haiti in an unprecedented move, when the Security Council requested MINUSTAH in resolution 1702 (2006) to

“reorient its disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts...towards a comprehensive community violence reduction programme adapted to local conditions, including assistance for initiatives to strengthen local governance and the rule of law and to provide employment opportunities to former gang members, and at-risk youth.”

This was the first time the Council requested a grassroots programme targeting armed gangs operating in urban neighbourhoods. Since then, the CVR approach has gone global, with CVR programming in six peacekeeping missions: MINUSCA, MINUSMA, MINUSTAH, MONUSCO, UNAMID and UNOCI. These community-driven programmes aim to combat insecurity and include mediation and the development of alternative livelihoods for youth involved in armed violence. In Haiti, CVR projects have improved security in some of the most marginalized and violence-prone areas.

CVR is at the forefront of second generation disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), a concept which evolved from traditional, sequenced and combatant-focused processes to more community-focused approaches. CVR programmes leverage assessed programmatic funding to further stabilization, a core mandated objective of many peacekeeping missions. They are also one of few non-military means in the peacekeeping toolbox to address armed groups.

The programmes touch upon rule of law, security, gender, political and human rights issues, calling for a more fluid and cross-cutting approach within the Mission and with external partners. In 2015, the report of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO) recognized this success. The Panel acknowledged the “early and important experiences of reinsertion funding for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration,” and further recommended that “where appropriate, the Secretary-General should request programmatic funding from the assessed budget to support the delivery of mandate tasks.”

Purpose: The event aims to further ongoing discussions about the strategic direction of peacekeeping, early peacebuilding and peace sustainment by showcasing community-level activities to address armed violence.

Hosts: The Permanent Mission of Brazil and the DDR Section in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions.

Programme and Format: The event is composed of four sessions, the first of which will consist of a high-level panel discussion engaging senior United Nations peacekeeping officials. This discussion will be followed by presentations on CVR programmes across peacekeeping missions by MINUSCA, MINUSMA, MINUSTAH and UNAMID. The afternoon programme will begin with a presentation on a recent lessons learned exercise which looked at the impact of MINUSTAH CVR programmes from 2011 to 2015. The day concludes with an informal recruitment outreach session aimed at United Nations staff interested in working in CVR and DDR components.

Venue: All four sessions will take place in Conference Room 4 in the United Nations Headquarters.

Participants: The event will engage a wide-range of representatives from the United Nations, Member States, civil society and academia.