

Dashboard Peace Operations 2025/2026

Current developments

Compared to the previous year, the total number of peacekeeping personnel has remained roughly constant at 118,000. There were hardly any changes for the different deploying organisations. The number of military personnel fell (104,000 to 103,000), while the number of police (8,500 to 9,700) and civilian personnel (5,750 to 5,850) rose slightly.

This picture is somewhat deceptive. On the one hand, some missions, such as the significantly increased effort to combat criminal gangs in Haiti, only exist on paper so far. On the other hand, some UN and EU missions are set to close in the coming months. Finally, the UN has announced that due to financial constraints, it will soon reduce personnel in its peacekeeping operations by around 25 %. A significant reduction in the capabilities of multilateral operations is thus imminent.

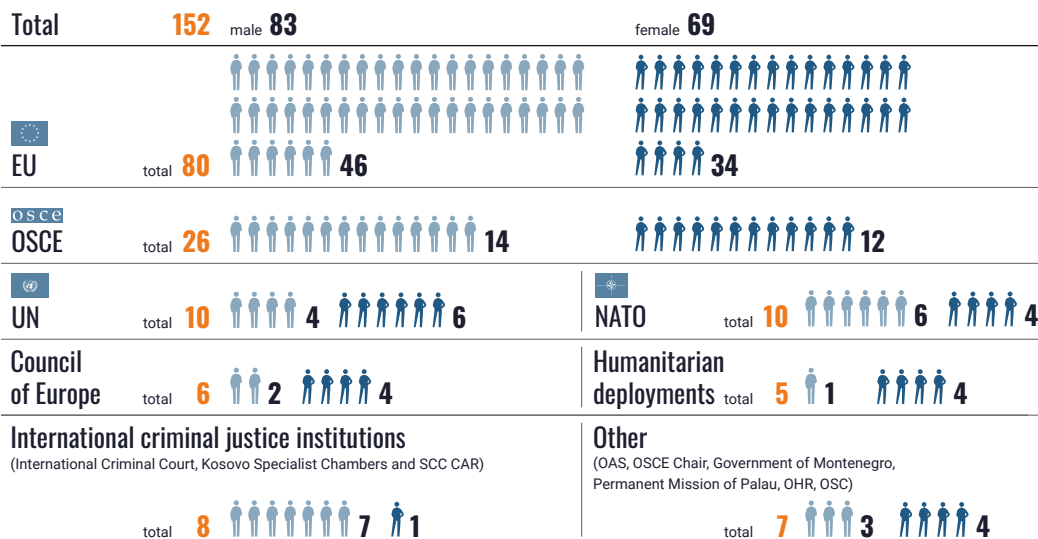
By contrast, German contributions overall have risen.

While police deployments slightly decreased, the number of civilian and military personnel in UN and EU missions increased. Currently, 152 German civilian experts are deployed to peace operations, to international organisations at headquarters and in the field, and to humanitarian missions (as of November 2025). Seconded personnel is spread across 39 countries.

Three other facts remain unchanged: (i) the UN is still the largest actor by far, (ii) the majority of personnel continues to be concentrated in a small number of large missions, and (iii) sub-Saharan Africa remains the region with the most extensive operations. Of the six peace operations with more than 10,000 personnel, five are active in this region (AUSSOM/AU/Somalia; MINUSCA/UN/Central African Republic; MNJTF/Lake Chad; MONUSCO/UN/Democratic Republic of the Congo; UNMISS/UN/South Sudan). The sixth is the UN mission in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

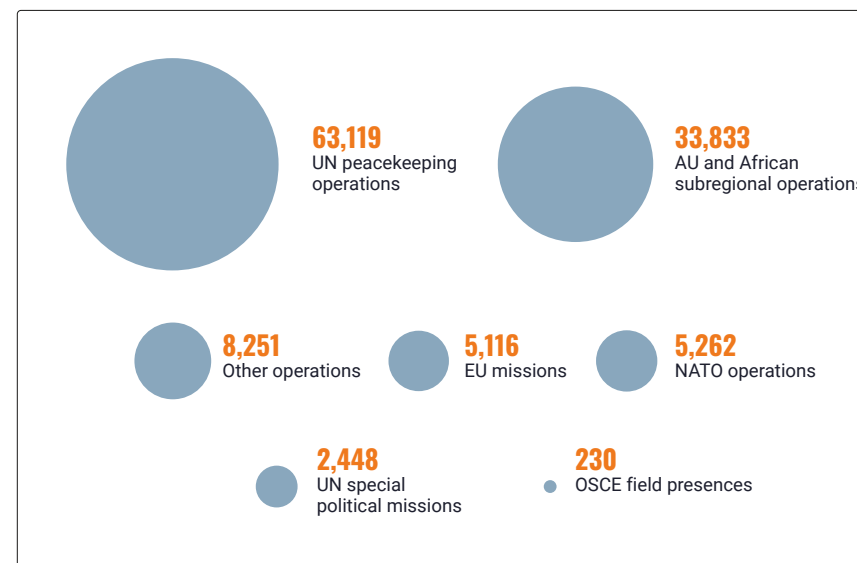


German civilian seconded personnel in missions, HQs and institutions

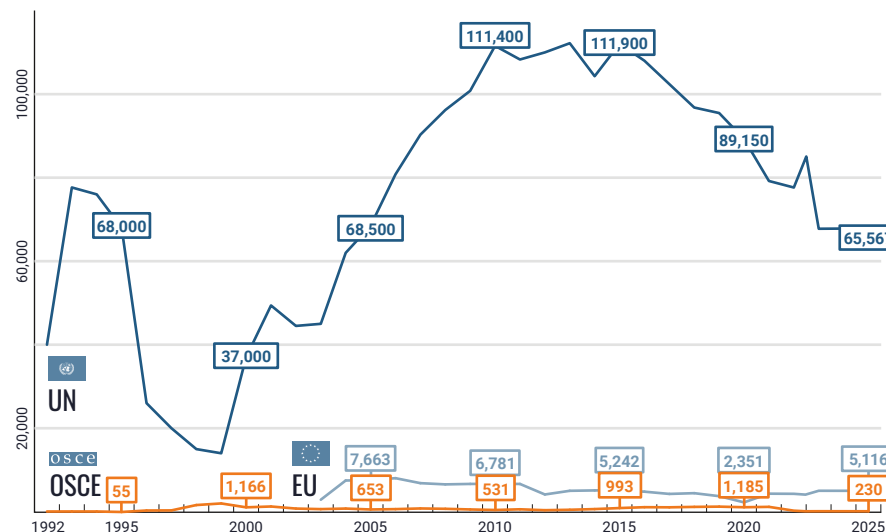


As of 04 November 2025

Personnel strength by organisation



Development of personnel numbers in peace operations



Humanitarian system under severe pressure

In 2025, the global humanitarian aid system continues to face enormous challenges. Armed conflicts – the number of which has reached a historic high – drive the emergence and escalation of humanitarian crises. Many of these conflicts are also closely intertwined with the consequences of climate change or economic instability. Together, these factors lead to displacement, food insecurity, famine, and the spread of diseases.

While the need for humanitarian assistance continues to rise, funding from major donors has declined significantly in 2025. In times of increasing geopolitical tensions, many countries are shifting their focus toward deterrence, defence and military security. The dissolution of USAID had a particularly severe impact: While the US accounted for around 38 % of global humanitarian aid contributions in 2024, its share dropped to approximately 13 % in 2025. Many European countries have also cut or withheld funds for humanitarian assistance, further widening the global financing gap in the humanitarian sector.

Reform processes within the UN

These developments are also putting pressure on multilateral structures. With the UN80 reform initiative launched in 2025, the UN system is responding to a deepening financial, geopolitical and institutional crisis. Its immediate impacts are evident in staff cuts and organisational restructuring. At the same time, a "humanitarian reset" has been initiated, with the aim of increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance. And yet, there is a risk that even after successful reforms, the available resources will still fall significantly short of what is needed to meet humanitarian needs.

Humanitarian assistance at a turning point

Humanitarian assistance is more than just a response to crises – it is an integral part of international security. Its absence increases the risks of instability and conflict worldwide. The humanitarian system now faces a turning point. In the coming years, it will be crucial that donor governments provide sufficient funding and political support for ongoing reform processes. Since 2019, ZIF has been supporting UN humanitarian partner organisations in carrying out their tasks by providing qualified standby personnel for humanitarian deployments, funded by the Federal Foreign Office.

Top 3 forced displacement situations in 2025

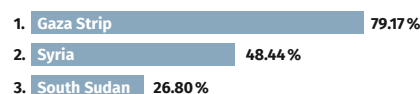
absolute figures

Forcibly displaced persons



relative figures

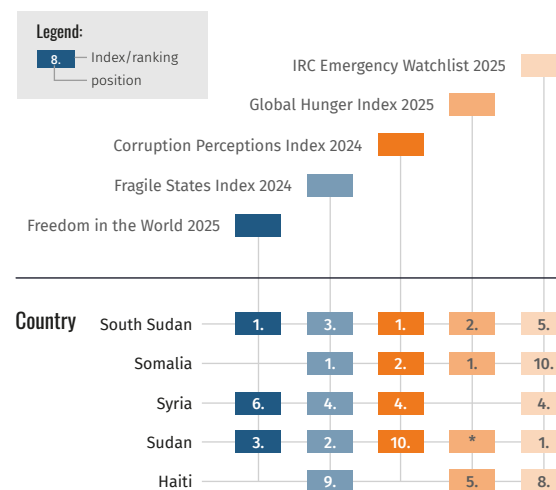
... in relation to the population



Sources: Forcibly Displaced People [Refugee Data Finder - Data Finder](#) (refugees and IDPs as of June 2025), with exception of the Gaza Strip [UNRWA](#) (as of February 2025); Inhabitants [World Bank Open Data](#) (as of 2024), with exception of the Gaza Strip [UNRWA](#) (as of 2023).

Risk factors in select countries

Index/ranking

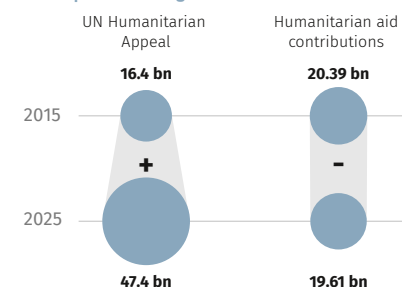


* For Sudan, individual scores and ranks could not be calculated due to the lack of data. Provisionally, the situation in Sudan as "serious".

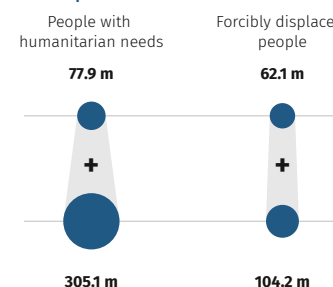
Sources: [Freedom in the World 2025](#); [Fragile States Index 2024](#); [Corruption Perceptions Index 2024](#); [Global Hunger Index 2025](#); [IRC Emergency Watchlist 2025](#).

Shrinking budgets, rising needs

Development of budgets



Development of needs



Sources: Humanitarian needs and UN Humanitarian Appeal 2015 (as of December 2014) and 2025 (as of December 2024); Humanitarian aid contributions 2015 and 2025 (as of November 2025); Forcibly displaced people: Refugees 2015 and 2025 and IDPs 2015 and 2025 (as of June 2025).

ZIF humanitarian deployments

UN partners with whom ZIF has Agreements for Secondment of Personnel

