

THE ROLE OF THE GARUDA CONTINGENT IN THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MISSION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON (2020-2024): ANALYSIS OF SUPPORTING FACTORS AND CONSTRAINTS OF TNI PERSONNEL

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Abstract. This study examines the role and capabilities of the Indonesian Garuda Contingent in the peacekeeping mission in Southern Lebanon under the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) during the 2020-2024 period. This study highlights the implementation of the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI)'s primary tasks in supporting regional stability and analyzes the factors influencing the success and challenges faced by personnel during the mission. The method used is a descriptive qualitative approach, with data collection techniques including literature studies, official institutional reports, and in-depth interviews with relevant personnel. This study not only explains the role of the Garuda Contingent but also outlines the operational dynamics in the field. This study uses a Neorealist perspective and the concept of peacekeeping success as an analytical framework. The results indicate that professionalism, operational readiness, and pre-deployment training support are key factors driving mission effectiveness. Conversely, several identified obstacles include language barriers, cultural adaptation, psychological stress due to armed conflict, logistical limitations, and coordination challenges within the multinational command structure under the UN. This study recommends increasing personnel capacity and optimizing operational support systems as strategic steps to strengthen Indonesia's contribution to global peacekeeping missions.

Keywords: TNI, UNIFIL, Garuda Contingent, Personnel Constraints

Introduction

The fighting between Hezbollah and Israeli forces caused a massive humanitarian impact, with over 1.4 million Lebanese civilians displaced and nearly 100,000 Israelis forced from their homes due to rocket attacks and cross-border fighting (Visual Journalism, 2024). This conflict officially ended with a ceasefire agreement on November 27, 2024, which mandated the withdrawal of Hezbollah to north of the Litani River and the deployment of approximately 5,000 Lebanese Army soldiers to monitor the border, under the supervision of an international panel including the United States. Despite the ceasefire, the region remains volatile, with Israel maintaining the right to respond to direct threats and Lebanon facing political instability and a humanitarian crisis exacerbated by the weakening of Hezbollah and the fall of the Assad regime in Syria, Hezbollah's main regional ally.

The conflict between Hezbollah and Israel in 2023-2024 must be understood with a deep perspective, namely the long-standing Hezbollah-Israel rivalry, which is rooted in Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Hezbollah was founded in the early 1980s as an Iranian-backed Shia resistance movement to

oppose the Israeli occupation and Western influence in Lebanon. Over several decades, Hezbollah evolved from a guerrilla militia into a powerful political and military actor, controlling most of southern Lebanon and a significant portion of Beirut (Sahidin & Ridwan). This group's involvement in battles with Israel, such as the 2006 Lebanon War, has resulted in a cycle of violence that shapes the geopolitical dynamics of the Levant region. The recent clashes mark the largest confrontation since 2006, involving not only conventional military operations but also cyber warfare using advanced technology, targeted assassinations, and asymmetric tactics such as using explosives to destroy communication facilities like the pagers used by Hezbollah in Lebanon and Syria (Maulana & Hamdy, 2018).

In the development of world peacekeeping missions, the role of gender inclusivity has gained significant attention as one of the aspects that can significantly enhance the effectiveness of the missions. Historically, women have been underrepresented in military and peacekeeping roles worldwide, and are often placed in support functions rather than frontline or leadership positions. This lack of representation has limited the ability of peacekeeping missions to engage directly with local communities, especially women and vulnerable groups who are disproportionately affected by conflict and displacement. Research and operational experience have shown that including women in peacekeeping forces improves communication, fosters trust-building, and enhances the ability to address gender-based violence and community-specific issues. Female peacekeepers often serve as an important link between military forces and local populations, facilitating dialog and cooperation that may be difficult for male-dominated units to achieve (Odanović & Gorana, 2010). As a result, gender-balanced forces contribute to better security and peacebuilding outcomes (Segal & Wechsler, 1995). Comprehensive, this is very important in complex conflict environments like Lebanon and northern Israel.

The Indonesian National Army (TNI) has a long history of participating in UN peacekeeping missions in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, demonstrating Indonesia's commitment to global peace and security. Indonesian military culture is heavily influenced by the national philosophy of Pancasila, which emphasizes unity, social harmony, and respect for diversity, including gender diversity. Although the Indonesian military has traditionally been dominated by men, the past few decades have seen progressive efforts to integrate women into various military roles, including combat support and peacekeeping forces. Indonesian female peacekeepers have been deployed in important roles such as community liaison officers, medical personnel, and gender-based consultants, thus their presence has increased the engagement of local women and helped address issues such as gender-based violence and sexual violence in conflict zones (Istiana et al., 2020). This approach demonstrates that Indonesia understands that effective peacekeeping requires forces that not only possess military capabilities but also have social awareness and an inclusive attitude.

Indonesia's contribution to UN peacekeeping is quite significant at both the regional and global levels. As the world's largest Muslim-majority country and a significant power in Southeast Asia, Indonesia's active participation in peacekeeping missions enhances its diplomatic influence and strengthens its role as a bridge between countries in the Global South and the international security framework. Indonesia demonstrates how a middle power with a diverse society and an evolving military can contribute to international peace efforts. (Capie & David, 2016) Despite Indonesia's long-standing and consistent contributions to United Nations peacekeeping missions, there is still a significant research gap regarding the specific roles, experiences, and challenges of Indonesian female soldiers in these operations. Although Indonesia continues to increase the number of women deployed in peacekeeping roles, currently Indonesia has approximately 177 female TNI soldiers out of a total of 2,738 personnel as of August 2024 (Sari, 2025). Scientific research and policy-focused studies that deeply analyze the contributions of Indonesian female soldiers are relatively scarce. Most existing literature tends to broadly focus on Indonesia's overall involvement in peacekeeping or general discussions about gender in peacekeeping operations, without deeply exploring the diverse experiences of Indonesian female soldiers in the field. Further research is crucial to understanding the various efforts made by Indonesian women in facing military conditions, operational demands, and gender-specific challenges. This is essential for optimizing their deployment and enhancing mission effectiveness.

Methods

This type of research is qualitative. Qualitative research is a method of studying and understanding the meaning that some individuals or groups of people believe originates from human or social issues. Anyone involved in this type of research must adopt the perspective of inductive research methods, analyzing data inductively from specific to general issues, with a focus on individual significance and complexity (Creswell, 2016).

Result and Discussion

A. Phenomenon Development

1. Israel - Hizbullah Historical Conflict

The conflict between Hezbollah and Israel began in the early 1980s amidst the Lebanese civil war and Israeli military intervention. Hezbollah, a Lebanese Shia Islamist political and militant group, was founded in 1982 after Israel's invasion of Lebanon, which aimed to expel the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) from southern Lebanon. This group was formed under the direction and funding of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, and emerged as a resistance movement against the Israeli occupation and the dominance of Western influence in Lebanon.

In the 1980s conflict, the main geographical focus was southern Lebanon, a region bordering northern Israel and home to a significant Shia Muslim population that later formed the Hezbollah group. Hezbollah's leadership grew stronger with the rise of Hassan Nasrallah in 1992 after the assassination of the previous secretary-general, Abbas al-Musawi, by Israeli forces. Under Nasrallah, Hezbollah successfully became the dominant force opposing the Israeli presence in southern Lebanon, and refused to surrender after the Lebanese civil war ended in 1990. In the 1990s, there were constant clashes, including Israel's "Operation Accountability" in 1993 and "Operation Grapes of Wrath" in 1996, which aimed to stop Hezbollah's rocket attacks on northern Israel. These Israeli operations caused many civilian casualties and displacement in Lebanon, leading to international condemnation and a ceasefire agreement (Husseini & Rola, 2010).

In May 2000, Israel withdrew its forces from southern Lebanon after occupying the area for 18 years and killing approximately 1,000 Israeli soldiers. This withdrawal was largely due to persistent military pressure from Hezbollah and a shift in political will in Israel. However, the border situation remained unstable, with ongoing low-level conflicts (Ronen & Yaël, 2006). The conflict escalated dramatically in 2006 when Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers in a border attack, triggering a 34-day war. The 2006 Lebanon War resulted in numerous casualties - approximately 1,200 Lebanese (mostly civilians) and 160 Israelis (mostly military).

This conflict remained relatively contained until October 2023, when Hezbollah entered the battlefield following Hamas's large-scale attack on Israel. Hezbollah launched rocket and artillery attacks from southern Lebanon into northern Israel as a show of solidarity with Hamas, significantly escalating the regional situation. Israel responded to the attack with extensive airstrikes and artillery fire targeting Hezbollah infrastructure and leadership in Lebanon and Syria (Sauliuc & Adriana, 2024). For nearly a year, cross-border hostilities escalated, culminating in Israel's assassination of most senior Hezbollah leaders, including Nasrallah, in an air strike in September 2024.

Israel launched a ground invasion of southern Lebanon in October 2024 to cripple Hezbollah's military capabilities and secure its northern border. Throughout 2024, the conflict escalated with rocket attacks, airstrikes, and targeted assassinations. Israeli operations are becoming increasingly intensive, including cyberattacks against Hezbollah communications and the assassination of top Hezbollah commanders such as Hassan Nasrallah, who was Hezbollah's secretary-general in September 2024 (Ahubamah et al., 2025). This event was followed by a ground invasion of southern Lebanon by Israeli forces on October 1, 2024, aimed at crippling Hezbollah's military capabilities and securing Israel's northern border so that displaced residents could return to their homes. The battle caused a mass displacement, with over 1.4 million Lebanese and approximately 96,000 Israelis forced from their homes, resulting in thousands of casualties, including civilians (Rahmatulummah et al., 2025).

2. Keberadaan UNIFIL dan Misi Penjagaan Kedamaian

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was established in March 1978, following an escalation of violence in southern Lebanon due to the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestinian armed groups. The Lebanese government has requested UN assistance to restore peace and

security in the region, which is increasingly disrupted by cross-border attacks and counterattacks. The UN Security Council responded to this request by adopting Resolution 425, which called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. This resolution led to the deployment of UNIFIL, which initially consisted of approximately 4,500 soldiers from various countries, including France, Italy, and Ireland (United Nations, 2025).

The main mandate of UNIFIL can be described as having several objectives: to ensure the withdrawal of Israeli forces, restore international peace and security, and assist the Lebanese government in regaining control over its territory. The force was tasked with monitoring the ceasefire, facilitating humanitarian aid, and ensuring local residents received the necessary support during the conflict. In its early days, UNIFIL faced various operational difficulties. Peacekeeping forces are often caught in the crossfire between Israeli troops and various militant groups, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). This creates an unsafe situation for UNIFIL personnel, thus hindering their ability to effectively carry out their mandate. The complex political situation in Lebanon, marked by civil conflict and the involvement of various factions, has made it difficult for UNIFIL to achieve its goals of maintaining peace and security.

Another significant challenge is UNIFIL's ambiguous mandate, which often leaves peacekeepers vulnerable and unclear about their operational boundaries. Although they are tasked with monitoring the situation, the lack of strong law enforcement capabilities means UNIFIL cannot act decisively in the conflicts that erupt in the region (Saad & Hassan, 2021).

Despite facing these challenges, UNIFIL continues to operate according to its mandate, conducting regular patrols and maintaining a presence in southern Lebanon. The mission's engagement with the local community, although limited, aims to provide humanitarian assistance and foster a sense of stability. Ongoing violence and instability have sparked discussions at the UN regarding the effectiveness of UNIFIL and the need to re-evaluate its mandate and operational strategy. This became the foundation for significant changes in the mission's approach in the years to come (Elrone).

After the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon in May 2000. This withdrawal is a significant development, as it ends Israel's military presence in the area for nearly 22 years. The UN Security Council responded by adopting Resolution 425, which reaffirmed the need for UNIFIL to verify Israel's withdrawal and assist the Lebanese government in enforcing its authority over its territory. (United Nations, 2025). This period was initially considered a potential turning point for peace and stability in Lebanon.

However, the expected peace did not last long. Tensions between Israel and Hezbollah escalated rapidly, culminating in the outbreak of fighting in July 2006. This conflict, often referred to as the Second Lebanon War, occurred after Hezbollah launched a cross-border attack into Israel, killing Israeli soldiers and kidnapping two others. In response, Israel launched a large-scale military campaign against Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon, causing severe damage and a humanitarian crisis.

UNIFIL faced significant challenges during this conflict, as violence erupted around its positions and the safety of the peacekeeping forces became a major concern. The mission is considered caught in the middle of the conflict, with calls for UNIFIL to take a more proactive stance to protect civilians and maintain order. However, the limitations of its mandate restrict its ability to effectively intervene in the escalating violence.

The 2006 war prompted the UN Security Council to adopt Resolution 1701, which aimed to establish a ceasefire and strengthen UNIFIL's mandate. This resolution allowed for a significant increase in troop numbers, enabling UNIFIL to expand from approximately 2,000 to over 15,000 peacekeepers. The mission's new mandate not only includes monitoring the cessation of hostilities, but also assisting the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in deploying troops throughout southern Lebanon and preventing Hezbollah's rearmament. This mandate enhancement marks a transformative phase for UNIFIL, as the mission seeks to build a stronger presence and enhance its operational capabilities. The addition of troops from various countries makes it possible

Despite these efforts, the situation in southern Lebanon remains fragile. Tensions between Hezbollah and Israel continue, and the risk of a new conflict threatens the region. The continued presence of UNIFIL is considered essential for maintaining stability, but its ability to enforce peace is often

questioned. This mission has faced criticism from various stakeholders regarding its effectiveness and the challenges posed by the continued military presence and Hezbollah activity in southern Lebanon. Ten years after the 2006 conflict, UNIFIL continues to operate with a broader mandate, focusing on maintaining peace and stability in Southern Lebanon while adapting to a complex and evolving security situation. Increasing the number of mission troops and focusing on engaging with the local community are crucial for building relationships with the local population and strengthening the authority of the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF). However, despite these efforts, UNIFIL continues to face various challenges that complicate its peacekeeping efforts.

UNIFIL has faced criticism regarding its effectiveness and its perceived inability to prevent clashes along the Blue Line. Cross-border firing incidents between Hezbollah and Israeli forces continue to occur, fueling rising tensions and concerns about a potential escalation into a wider conflict. UNIFIL's role as a buffer between the two sides is crucial, but its limitations in enforcing peace raise questions about the effectiveness of traditional peacekeeping approaches in unstable situations. In response to these challenges, UNIFIL is increasingly emphasizing the importance of dialog and cooperation. The mission is working to strengthen its relationship with the LAF, encouraging joint operations and coordination to improve security in southern Lebanon. Additionally, UNIFIL interacts with local community leaders to facilitate dialog and build trust, with the aim of creating an environment conducive to peace. (United Nations, 2025) In recent years, the international community has recognized the importance of supporting UNIFIL in its mission. Various countries have committed resources and expertise to enhance the operational capabilities of the force, recognizing its critical role in maintaining stability in a challenging region. Commitment to peacekeeping efforts in Lebanon reflects a broader understanding of the need for sustained international engagement to address the complexities of modern conflict.

Currently, UNIFIL continues to operate in southern Lebanon, navigating the complex dynamics of a region marked by historical disputes, ongoing tensions, and challenges posed by external influences. Its mission's adaptability and commitment to facilitating dialog and cooperation remain essential components of its efforts to promote peace and stability in Lebanon.

3. Indonesia Intervention in Peace Keeping Mission

Indonesia's involvement in peacekeeping operations reflects its transition from a country affected by internal conflict to a significant contributor to global peace and security. Originating from a historical background of colonial occupation and political instability, Indonesia began participating in international peacekeeping efforts in the early 1990s. Indonesia has carried out various peacekeeping missions worldwide, employing a multifaceted approach that combines humanitarian aid with security operations.

Indonesia's first significant effort in international peacekeeping missions occurred in 1993 with its deployment to Cambodia as part of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). This mission marks a significant moment in Indonesia's foreign policy, demonstrating a shift from a country focused on domestic affairs to one actively involved in global peacekeeping efforts (Esti & Manoppo, 1994).

UNTAC's mission involved not only military supervision but also humanitarian assistance, electoral support, and the promotion of human rights. Indonesian forces played a crucial role in maintaining peace and facilitating the return of displaced populations, reflecting the country's commitment to stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia (Anwar & Fortuna).

In the late 1990s, Indonesia faced significant internal challenges, including the emergence of separatist movements in regions like Aceh and Papua. These conflicts highlight the importance of national unity and stability, further motivating Indonesia's commitment to international peace. The late 1990s were marked by the interaction between domestic challenges and Indonesia's desire to improve its international standing (Syifa & Nuria). Indonesia also participated in peacekeeping missions in East Timor, a territory that had been occupied by Indonesia in 1975. The situation in East Timor significantly worsened, leading to a humanitarian crisis and international condemnation. In 1999, after a UN-sponsored referendum that resulted in East Timor's independence, Indonesia faced a critical moment in its history. As a result of the referendum, widespread violence occurred, triggering the need for international intervention (Wijayatmi & Dyah, 2004).

Additionally, in the late 1990s, Indonesia faced internal identity challenges shaped by the democratic reforms that began after Suharto's resignation. As the transition to democracy progresses, there is a strong desire to project a positive image internationally. Participating in peacekeeping missions became a way for Indonesia to demonstrate its commitment to global peace and stability while addressing its historical challenges (Clark & Roger, 2000).

The period from 2007 to 2015 marked significant consolidation in Indonesia's peacekeeping efforts, characterized by increased international engagement and growing recognition of the importance of peacebuilding initiatives. In this era, Indonesia not only increased its troop contributions to UN missions but also emphasized the integration of humanitarian aid and community development into its peacekeeping strategies.

In 2007, Indonesia sent a contingent to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), a mission tasked with monitoring the cessation of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah. This placement is highly significant, as it reflects Indonesia's commitment to promoting stability in the Middle East and addressing regional security challenges. Indonesian peacekeepers in Lebanon are involved in community outreach activities, providing medical assistance, and facilitating dialog between local communities and various stakeholders. This approach highlights Indonesia's belief in the importance of building trust and fostering cooperation in post-conflict environments (Rachmad & Nurdin, 2016). During this period, Indonesia also participated in several other key missions, including the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).

A notable development during this period was Indonesia's emphasis on the "humanitarian peacekeeping mission" model. This model integrates humanitarian assistance into peacekeeping operations, recognizing that sustainable peace cannot be achieved without addressing the underlying socio-economic issues that contribute to conflict. In 2010, Indonesia hosted the first Asian Peacekeeping Leaders Conference, bringing together military leaders and peacekeeping experts from across the region. This conference serves as a platform to share best practices, discuss challenges, and strengthen collaboration.

In 2015, Indonesia solidified its reputation as a major contributor to international peacekeeping missions. The experience gained during this period not only enhanced Indonesia's capabilities but also shaped its identity as a responsible global actor committed to promoting peace and security.

The period from 2016 to the present has seen Indonesia increasingly strengthen its role in global peacekeeping missions while navigating a complex and evolving security landscape. As Indonesia's peacekeeping contributions expand, the country is also facing demands to address contemporary threats such as terrorism, cyber warfare, and climate change, which are increasingly intertwined with traditional peacekeeping efforts.

In 2016, Indonesia strengthened its commitment to peacekeeping missions by participating in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). This mission aims to support the stabilization of Mali after the coup and rebellion that occurred (Darwan et al., 2018). Indonesia's participation in peacekeeping missions during this period was also marked by a focus on training and capacity building. The Indonesian government recognizes that effective peacekeeping requires well-trained personnel who can adapt to a dynamic environment. For this purpose, Indonesia established the Indonesian Peacekeeping Center (IPKC) in 2015, which serves as a training center for peacekeeping forces and a research center for best practices in peacekeeping.

Additionally, Indonesia actively participates in regional peacekeeping initiatives thru ASEAN. The establishment of the ASEAN Peacekeeping Centers Network in 2017 facilitates collaboration among member states in peacekeeping training and experience sharing. Indonesia is taking a leadership role in this network, emphasizing the importance of regional cooperation in addressing security challenges and promoting stability in Southeast Asia.

In the face of evolving security threats, Indonesia is also striving to integrate new approaches into its peacekeeping efforts. The country recognizes the need to address the root causes of conflict, including socio-economic inequality, displacement, and human rights issues.

The emergence of terrorism, especially in Southeast Asia, has also influenced Indonesia's peacekeeping strategies. The Indonesian government has prioritized counter-terrorism efforts both domestically and internationally, recognizing that stability in the region is essential for effective peace maintenance. Indonesia has participated in various international forums aimed at addressing terrorism, sharing its experiences in combating violent extremism, and promoting community resilience. (Julianto & Farhan, 2022).

As Indonesia continues to face these modern challenges, the country is faced with the ongoing task of balancing its national interests with its commitment to maintaining international peace. Public perception of domestic peacekeeping operations remains a crucial consideration, as the Indonesian government strives to ensure that its contributions are understood and supported by its citizens.

In 2023, Indonesia has strengthened its position as a key player in global peace, demonstrating its commitment to multilateralism, humanitarian aid, and regional cooperation. The experience gained over the years has not only enhanced Indonesia's capabilities but has also contributed to its identity as a responsible global actor in promoting peace and security. As Indonesia looks to the future, its continued engagement in peace will be vital in addressing the complex and dynamic challenges facing the international community.

B. Women in the Indonesian National Army and Peacekeeping Force

1. The Role of Women in the Indonesian National Army in the UNIFIL Peacekeeping Mission After the 2024 Hezbollah - Israeli Conflict

The Indonesian National Women's Army (TNI Wanita) has become an important element in Indonesia's military strategy and peacekeeping efforts, especially after the Israel-Hezbollah conflict. This conflict, which erupted in 2006, underscores the urgent need for effective peacekeeping mechanisms capable of addressing the complexities of post-conflict recovery.

After the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict, a traditional military approach alone is not enough to achieve lasting peace. Indonesia's participation in peacekeeping missions, particularly under the auspices of the United Nations (UN), has evolved by prioritizing a more inclusive strategy that emphasizes the role of women. Female peacekeepers bring different perspectives and experiences that are crucial in interacting with local populations, especially in cultures where gender dynamics play a significant role in community interactions.

a. The Role of Women in the Indonesian National Army as Peace Facilitators

The deployment of female peacekeepers has been a strategic decision aimed at improving the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. In regions like Lebanon, where cultural norms can limit interaction between men and women, female TNI personnel are able to engage with local women and children in ways that male soldiers cannot. This proved crucial for gathering intelligence, understanding community needs, and fostering trust between peacekeeping forces and the population they serve.

For example, female peacekeepers often conduct community outreach programs where they can provide healthcare, psychological support, and educational initiatives. These programs not only meet urgent humanitarian needs but also empower local women by providing them with the skills and resources to contribute to their communities. The presence of female soldiers can help improve the status of women in this society, demonstrating that women can play an important role in maintaining peace and rebuilding society.

The involvement of female TNI personnel in peacekeeping missions aligns with the broader goals of the United Nations, particularly the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325, which addresses the impact of war on women and the importance of women's participation in all peace and security actions or efforts. This resolution emphasizes the importance of women's involvement in order to become peace facilitators.

b. The Role of Women in the Indonesian National Armed Forces as Peace Mediators

To ensure the effectiveness of female personnel in peacekeeping roles, the Indonesian government has invested significantly in training and capacity building. The Indonesian National Army (TNI) has developed a special training program designed to equip female soldiers with the necessary skills to operate in complex and multicultural environments. This training covers a variety of areas, including conflict resolution, cultural sensitivity, psychological first aid, and humanitarian assistance.

One key aspect of this training is the focus on community engagement techniques that enable female peacekeepers to communicate effectively with local populations. By understanding cultural dynamics and social norms, female soldiers can build trust more easily, which is crucial in conflict-affected areas where skepticism toward the foreign military presence may exist. This capability is not only beneficial for peacekeeping missions but also serves to enhance the professional development of the female soldiers themselves, empowering them for future leadership roles.

Additionally, the Indonesian National Army (TNI) has attempted to incorporate lessons learned from previous peacekeeping missions into its training protocols. Regular assessments and feedback help refine strategies and ensure that training remains relevant to the evolving nature of conflict and peacekeeping needs. This iterative process highlights Indonesia's commitment to enhancing its peacekeeping capabilities and promoting gender equality within its military ranks. The emphasis on training is not only on operational skills, but also includes fostering a supportive environment for women in the military. Initiatives aimed at increasing the recruitment and retention of female soldiers are crucial, as they ensure that the Indonesian National Armed Forces can maintain a diverse and inclusive force.

c. The Role of Women in the Indonesian Armed Forces as Peace Accelerators

The ability of Indonesian female peacekeepers to build trust within the community directly contributes to fostering resilience in post-conflict environments. Trust is an essential element in the peacebuilding process, as it enables more effective collaboration between peacekeeping forces and local communities. Female TNI personnel often serve as cultural bridges, facilitating dialog and understanding between various factions in society.

Their presence is very beneficial in creating a safe space for women and children to express their concerns and needs. In many cultures, women may feel more comfortable discussing sensitive issues with other women, making female peacekeeping forces crucial for gathering accurate information about community needs and grievances. This good relationship building is not only important for immediate humanitarian efforts but also for laying the foundation for long-term peace and stability.

Additionally, the trust built by female peacekeepers can help reduce tensions that may arise between different community groups. By engaging in dialog and promoting inclusive practices, female TNI personnel contribute to conflict resolution efforts that prioritize understanding and cooperation. Their approach often emphasizes collaboration over confrontation, which is crucial in environments where historical grievances may be deeply rooted.

The resilience fostered thru this interaction is reflected in the community's ability to mobilize and recover from the challenges posed by conflict. When women and children gain confidence and empowerment thru programs facilitated by female peacekeepers, they become more active participants in their communities. This shift not only enhances social cohesion but also creates a more sustainable foundation for peace.

Additionally, the long-term impact of this initiative could lead to changes in societal norms regarding the role of women in public and private spaces. When female peacekeepers engage with local women, they challenge traditional gender roles and promote the idea that women can be leaders and decision-makers in their communities. This cultural shift is crucial to ensuring that peace is maintained and that future generations are equipped with the necessary tools for constructive dialog and conflict resolution.

2. Views Emphasive on the Role of Expectations of Female TNI Personnel

This study revealed significant differences in perceptions of role expectations for Indonesian Army women among various stakeholders, particularly between military leaders and the local community. Military leaders tend to view these women as vital assets, encouraging their participation in roles that extend beyond traditional boundaries. This perspective is often supported by policies advocating for gender inclusion within the military ranks, emphasizing the importance of diverse representation in peacekeeping efforts. Military recognition of female personnel as essential contributors reflects a progressive shift within the organization, aiming to align with global trends promoting gender equality in peace and security.

However, this positive view of the military leadership contrasts with the perception held by the local community. Many local residents often hold traditional views regarding the role of women, which can significantly limit the effectiveness of female peacekeeping forces. In these communities, cultural norms and social expectations often dictate specific roles for women, primarily focusing on caregiving or supportive functions, such as nursing or community service. This traditional mindset can create a mismatch between the goals set by the military leadership and the expectations of the local community, thus creating an environment where female peacekeepers must face conflicting demands and expectations.

For example, if female soldiers on the ground feel less appreciated by the local community, this directly affects their engagement and morale. The perception that they are being sidelined can create barriers to effective collaboration, ultimately hindering mission goals. When female peacekeepers are not fully recognized for their abilities, it can lead to feelings of frustration and disappointment, impacting their motivation and commitment to their roles. The internal conflict these women experience between trying to meet military expectations and adhering to local norms can lead to a reduced sense of self-control, making it difficult for them to assert their position as effective peacekeepers.

Additionally, differences in perception can lead to misunderstandings and missed opportunities for collaboration. Female peacekeepers seeking to engage in security operations may face resistance or skepticism from local communities, which can hinder their ability to gather vital information or build trust. This situation can lead to underutilization, where the skills and perspectives brought by female soldiers are overlooked. As a result, the overall effectiveness of the peacekeeping mission can be compromised, as the potential for community participation is not realized.

3. Challenges and Obstacles for Women in the Indonesian National Armed Forces in Peacekeeping Operations

The effectiveness of Indonesia's humanitarian initiatives is heavily influenced by the current state of bilateral relations with the host country. When diplomatic relations between Indonesia and those countries are unstable, direct aid delivery to affected communities is often hampered. This instability can pose logistical challenges, including restrictions on the movement of personnel and resources, making it difficult to provide critical support in a timely manner to meet the urgent needs of the local population. For example, political tensions can lead to border closures or increased security checks, which can delay humanitarian aid shipments and hinder access to those in need. Additionally, the ongoing ceasefire could exacerbate these challenges, particularly in regions where access to clean drinking water is severely limited. The ceasefire could disrupt regular supply chains, leaving many communities without adequate resources due to damage to the infrastructure that typically supports water and sanitation services.

To enhance the effectiveness of these efforts, it is crucial to deploy personnel from the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) who possess specialized expertise in psychology and health. These personnel play a crucial role in providing comprehensive support to communities facing psychological and health impacts due to conflict or disasters. Personnel trained in psychological first aid can facilitate the healing process by addressing trauma and building resilience, while those with health expertise can provide essential medical care, conduct health screenings, and deliver health education. This skills integration is crucial for a holistic humanitarian approach, ensuring that both short-term and long-term needs are effectively met. For example, psychological support is crucial in contexts where communities face not only physical health challenges but also mental health crises due to trauma as victims of war. However, the effectiveness of these efforts is often hampered by technical constraints, such as a lack of

communication due to internet disruptions. When connectivity is disrupted, coordination between aid agencies and local authorities becomes difficult, delaying the mobilization of resources and services. Efficient communication is crucial for assessing needs, coordinating logistics, and disseminating information to the communities served. Additionally, damaged infrastructure, including roads and bridges, is further worsening the situation, significantly hindering the delivery of aid and supplies. In areas where infrastructure is damaged, delivering essential goods becomes a logistical nightmare, often leading to delays and greater suffering for the affected population. The inability to navigate damaged roads or use heavy vehicles for transportation can lead to aid pile-ups, exacerbating the challenges faced by vulnerable communities.

The ongoing ceasefire agreements in several conflict zones could further limit the Indonesian Armed Forces' ability to provide timely assistance. Although the ceasefire is intended to create a conducive environment for peace, it can limit the operational freedom of humanitarian actors. The limitations imposed by the ceasefire can lead to uncertainty about which areas are safe for aid delivery, complicating planning efforts. As a result, communities may remain in a state of high need for longer than necessary, thus exacerbating their vulnerability.

The ability to communicate in the local language is a critical asset that supports the successful implementation of humanitarian missions. Proficient language skills strengthen interpersonal interactions between peacekeepers and local communities, facilitating the accurate dissemination of information regarding available services and resources. Effective communication builds trust and good relationships, enabling a more responsive approach to aid delivery. Misunderstandings due to language barriers can lead to disinformation, distrust, and ultimately, the failure of humanitarian efforts. Therefore, ensuring personnel are equipped with competent language skills is crucial for the success of humanitarian initiatives and building cooperative working relationships with local residents. This linguistic ability not only aids in logistical operations but also allows for the integration of local cultural nuances into the aid process, making efforts more effective.

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