

Hindsights from unarmed civilian protection experiences



Credits : Nonviolent Peaceforce – South Sudan

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L'esprit grand ouvert sur le monde

Unarmed Civilian Protection/Peacekeeping (UCP)

Upon local request, sending teams in conflict zones; **unarmed and trained** in conflict analysis, observation, accompaniment, local mediation, rumour control, early warning, etc.

NEITHER HUMANITARIAN



Contrary to humanitarian workers, UCP teams do not bring material resources in their intervention zones.

NOR MILITARY

Contrary to military personnel, UCP team do not carry weapons, not even to defend themselves..



The only resource brought by the teams is relational: Presence. Powerful, complexe, like any resource, presence can be manipulated. It must be worked out with caution.

The security of the teams and of their partners depends on their **analysis of situations and threats, on the reliability of their information networks, on the perception** that armed actors have of them, on their caution.

WHO PRACTICES UCP ?

ICP competencies are used by:

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

NGOs

NGOs work closer to local communities.
They build peace 'bottom up'.

Proactive presence : observation, early warning, rumour control, etc.

- Cease-fire or checkpoints
- Monitoring.
- Visiting communities,
- especially during expulsions or displacement
- Patrolling, night patrols in camps



Photo Charlotte Secco EAPPI ; Check Point Kalandia ; 2018



Photo Non violent Peaceforce ; Iraq 2019

Key words :
witnessing, deterring

Shuttle diplomacy, accompaniment, local mediation,

- Accompaniment :
- community leaders,
- demonstrations, trials
-
- Fostering contact between
- communities and security
- actors
-
- Encouraging local
- capacity building

Key words :
Encouraging
Influencing,



Photos
NP South Sudan
PBI Guatemala



UCP hindsights on IDPs' security/safety

Limits of the approach:

- When violence is not instrumental
- In case of extreme impunity

Hindsights:

- Security, a matter of ties : endogenous, co-woven, stretchy
- Fears and risks are accepted, negotiated with, tamed, overcome
- It takes time to co-build respect and trust
- Circulation is key to developing safer spaces



Photo *Dawn* ; Aleppo 2015



What UCP reveals: The texture of security

**A challenge to see protection as strengthening
a web of connections**

- ... encouraging initiatives
- ... enabling movements
- ... creating safer spaces

*The mystery of peace lies in the nature
and the depth of the relations
established with those most feared*
John Paul Lederach

