

# RtoP WEEKLY

INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

## **This week in focus:**

### ***UN Community Engagement Guidelines Survey***

In his last report on [Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace](#), UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for increased engagement with civil society and local communities. In this vein, the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) developed system-wide Community-Engagement Guidelines (CEG) this past September in consultation with civil society partners in peacebuilding, particularly at the country-level. As a first step to create comprehensive guidance on multilateral collaboration in building and sustaining peace, the PBSO has launched an online survey to provide feedback. The ICRtoP invites and encourages all its interested civil society partners to complete the survey, which should take approximately 10-15 minutes of your time. Your voices will impact the development of comprehensive practical and useful suggestions for UN engagement within local communities.

To complete the survey, please [click here](#). We encourage you to share it widely within your networks. The deadline for submission is Friday, 15 February.

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## **What to Watch:**

**Central African Republic (CAR):** [Q&A: Why new peace talks on CAR really matter](#) (IRIN)

News)

Najat Rochdi, head of UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) operation in CAR gave an interview with IRIN news on the importance of inclusive dialogue as the country seeks to end its six-year internal conflict. She sees dialogue and transparency as key elements in the peace process, remaining optimistic that there is a political will behind these negotiations that will keep parties motivated and accountable to its realization. In spite of this, Rochdi warned that CAR continues to remain in a fragile humanitarian state, with nearly two-thirds of the population in need of some sort of assistance, and that a return to sectarian violence would continue pushing the country towards a state of famine.

**Mali:** [Strengthening resilience in Mali](#) (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

The ongoing crisis in Mali has caused tension between communities over scarce resources as food insecurity continues. To prevent a further decline of the situation, the FAO and its partners have teamed up with the Malian government to support a community resilience initiative. The program aims to teach technical, financial, and social skills necessary for communities to become self-sufficient. Some examples include providing families with animals to restore households' access to income and a nutrition education program to assist in diversifying diets. Additionally, the project supports the Village Savings and Loan Associations to allow women to access income and improve financial literacy. By implementing these development measures, among others, the initiative to strengthen social cohesion and community resilience follow broader UN-system work to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

**MENA:** [ISIS regrouping in Iraq, Pentagon report says](#) (NBCNews)

Pentagon report concluded the Islamic State is quickly regrouping in Iraq. In the wake of American withdrawal from Syria, the Pentagon warns that ISIL could regain territory in six to twelve months in absence of, "sustained military pressure." The report also found that such a resurgence would occur if socioeconomic, political, sectarian grievances were not addressed properly by national and local governments in areas where the group previously operated.

**But Also Don't Miss:**

**Cote d'Ivoire:** [Ivory Coast's ex-president Laurent Gbagbo released to Belgium](#)

After being acquitted by the International Criminal Court, former Cote d'Ivoire president Laurent Gbagbo was released to Belgium on the condition that he will return in the event of an appeal by the prosecution.

**Iraq:** [Kurdistan Region of Iraq: Detained Children Tortured](#)

Human Rights Watch reports that the Kurdish Regional Government in northern Iraq is torturing children to confess their alleged involvement with ISIS.

**Nigeria:** [North-east Nigeria displacement crisis continues amid 'increased sophistication' of attackers, warns UN](#)

The UN reports Boko Haram attacks have destroyed humanitarian hubs, causing further internal displacement.

**Yemen:** [UAE recklessly supplying militias with windfall of Western arms](#)

An Amnesty International investigation has concluded that the United Arab Emirates is supplying Western arms to militia groups in Yemen who operate with little oversight and may have committed war crimes



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