



# Global Peace Index 2023 Briefing

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# 2023 GLOBAL PEACE INDEX BRIEFING

## Measuring peace in a complex world

The 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual Global Peace Index (GPI), the world's leading measure of peacefulness, reveals the average level of global peacefulness deteriorated for the ninth consecutive year, with 84 countries recording an improvement and 79 a deterioration. This demonstrates that the deteriorations were larger than the improvements, as the post-COVID rises of civil unrest and political instability remain high while regional and global conflicts accelerate.

## 2023 Key Findings

- Deaths from global conflict increased by 96% to 238,000.
- New data shows higher number of conflict deaths in Ethiopia than Ukraine, eclipsing the previous global peak during the Syrian war.
- 79 countries witnessed increased levels of conflict including Ethiopia, Myanmar, Ukraine, Israel, and South Africa.
- The global economic impact of violence increased by 17% or \$1 trillion, to \$17.5 trillion in 2022, equivalent to 13% of global GDP.
- A Chinese blockade of Taiwan would cause a drop in global economic output of \$2.7 trillion, almost double the loss that occurred due to the 2008 global financial crisis.
- Despite the conflict in Ukraine, 92 countries improved on military expenditure and 110 decreased their military personnel.
- Conflicts are becoming more internationalised with 91 countries now involved in some form of external conflict, up from 58 in 2008.

**1** FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE 2023 REPORT, SECTION 1: RESULTS

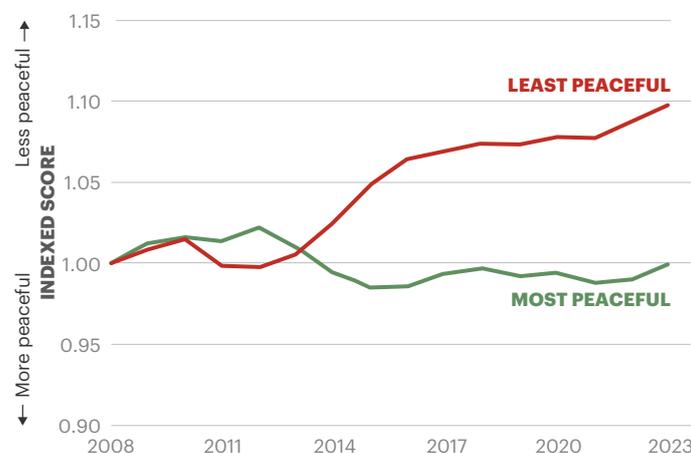
## Five largest improvements & deteriorations in peace

Rank	Country	2023 Score	Rank Change
137	Libya	2.605	↑ 14
128	Burundi	2.393	↑ 6
48	Oman	1.794	↑ 18
90	Côte d'Ivoire	2.053	↑ 18
163	Afghanistan	3.448	↔

Rank	Country	2023 Score	Rank Change
157	Ukraine	3.043	↓ 14
129	Haiti	2.395	↓ 17
153	Mali	2.963	↓ 4
143	Israel	2.706	↓ 8
158	Russia	3.142	↓ 3

## Trend in peace, 25 most and 25 least peaceful countries, 2008–2023

The 25 least peaceful countries deteriorated in peacefulness by an average of 9.8 per cent, while the most peaceful improved by 0.1 per cent.



Source: IEP

**2** FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE 2023 REPORT, SECTION 2: TRENDS

## KEY FINDINGS

### MILITARISATION



Although 92 countries improved on the military expenditure indicator in 2022 total military expenditure increased, mainly driven by countries involved in the Ukraine war.

### CONFLICT

**96%** ↑

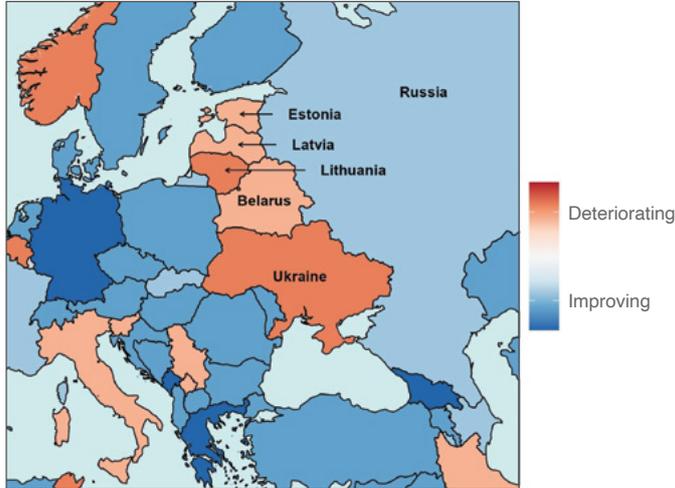
The total number of conflict related deaths increased by 96 per cent. Both the deaths from internal conflict and external conflicts fought indicators would have deteriorated even if Ukraine and Russia were excluded from the analysis.



Several countries that had experienced serious conflict in the past two decades recorded the largest improvements in peacefulness. Libya, Côte d'Ivoire, and Afghanistan were all ranked amongst the five biggest improvers in peace.

## Militarisation in Eastern Europe, 2008–2023

Eastern European countries bordering Russia have deteriorated on the *Militarisation* domain by an average of seven per cent since 2008.

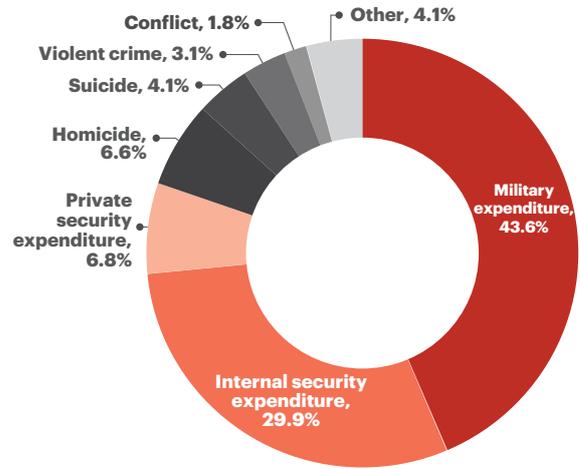


Source: IEP

**2** FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE 2023 REPORT, SECTION 2: TRENDS

## Composition of the global economic impact of violence, 2022

Military and internal security expenditure accounts for over 73 per cent of the global economic impact of violence.

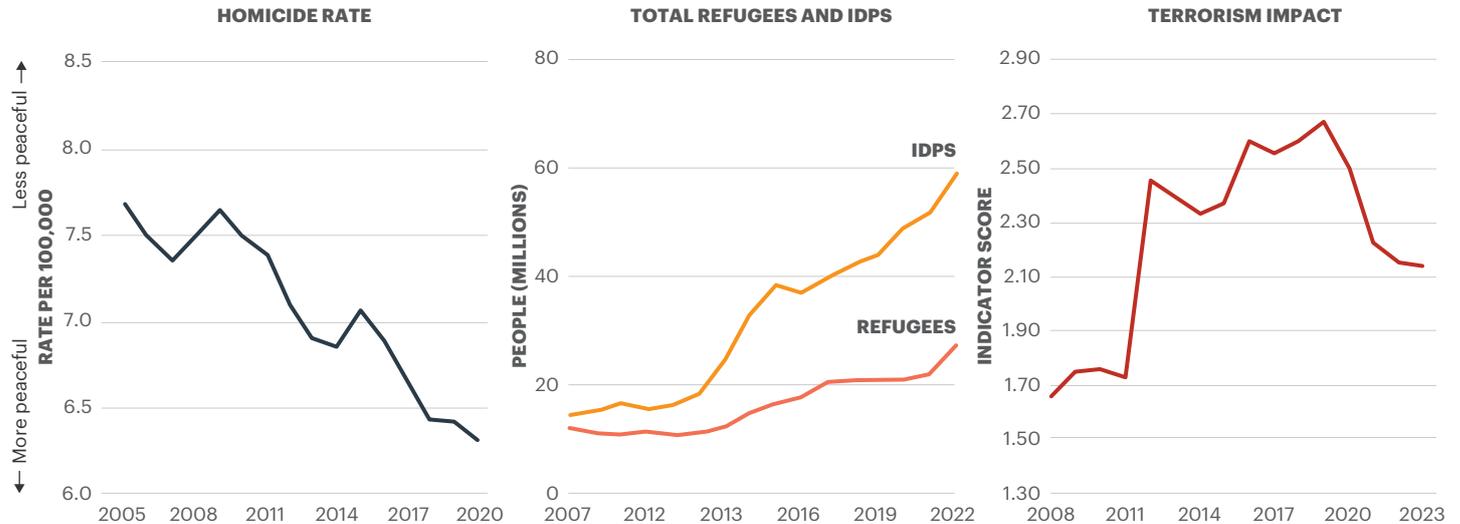


Source: IEP

**3** FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE 2023 REPORT, SECTION 3: THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF VIOLENCE

## Trends in key safety and security indicators

Over 80 million people globally have been forcibly displaced.



Source: Terrorism Tracker, GTD, UNHCR, UNODC, IEP Calculations

**2** FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE 2023 REPORT, SECTION 2: TRENDS

## RESULTS & TRENDS

### CONFLICT HOTSPOTS

Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its consequences were the main drivers of the deterioration in peacefulness globally. Both Russia and Ukraine are now ranked amongst the ten least peaceful countries, and Ukraine had the largest deterioration of any country in the 2023 GPI.



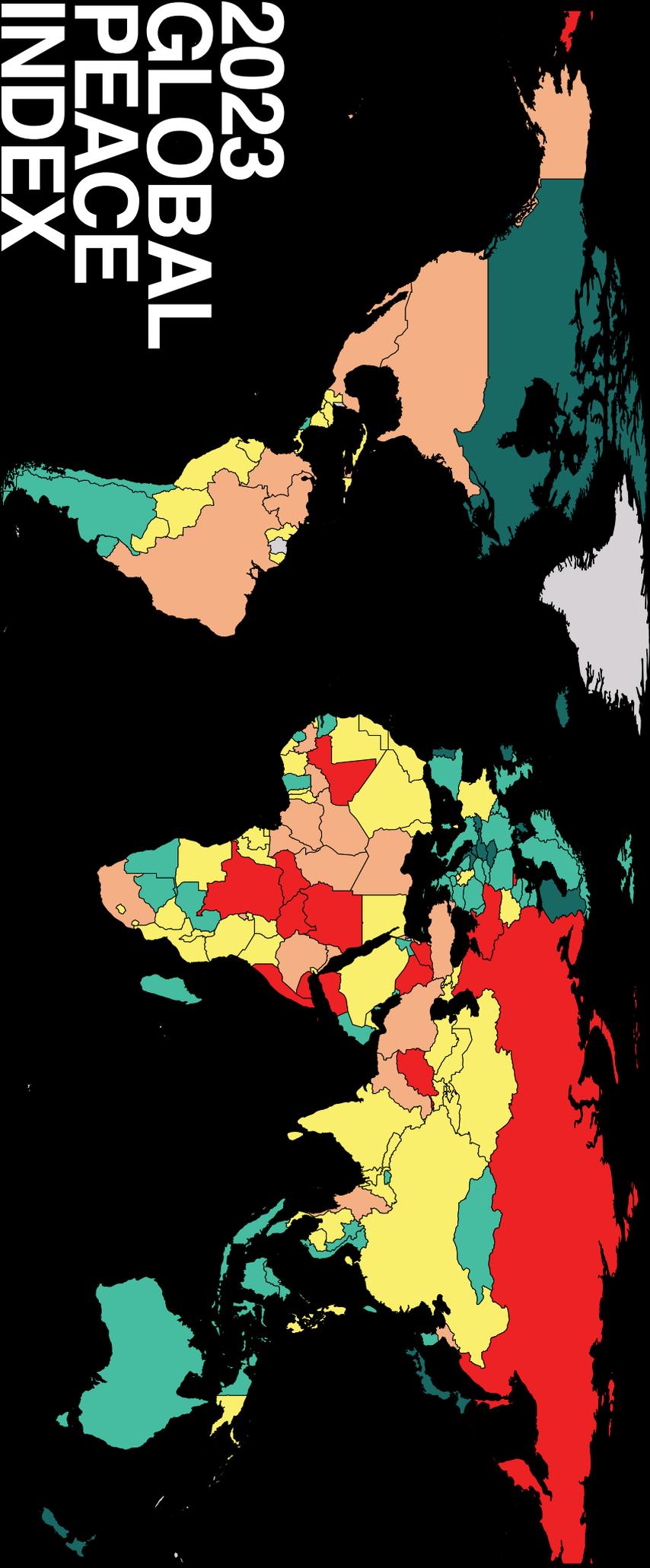
### REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Europe remains the most peaceful region in the world and is home to seven of the ten most peaceful countries. However, it deteriorated on all three GPI domains over the past year, as tensions between European countries and Russia continued to grow. Europe is less peaceful now than it was 15 years ago.

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region recorded the second largest improvement in peacefulness after North America, however it remained the world's least peaceful region. It is home to four of the ten least peaceful countries in the world.

# 2023 GLOBAL PEACE INDEX

A SNAPSHOT OF THE  
GLOBAL STATE OF PEACE



**IMPROVEMENTS**  
84

countries recorded improvements in peacefulness

**DETERIORATIONS**  
79

countries recorded deteriorations in peacefulness

**OVERALL AVERAGE CHANGE (%)**  
**+0.42**

The average level of global peacefulness deteriorated by 0.42 per cent in the 2023 Global Peace Index

## ABOUT

The GPI is developed by the Institute for Economics & Peace, an independent, non-partisan, non-profit think tank dedicated to shifting the world's focus to peace as a positive, achievable and tangible measure of human wellbeing and progress.

IEP is headquartered in Sydney, with offices in New York, Brussels, The Hague, Mexico City and Harare. It works with a wide range of partners internationally and collaborates with intergovernmental organisations on measuring and communicating the economic value of peace.



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