

Effect of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants & Peace support/keeping operations on government performance

The disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of ex-combatants, along with Peace Support and Peacekeeping Operations has small effect on government performance. The studies suggest that while PKOs positively affect government institutions and public perception, DDR shows no effect or a negative impact on the functioning of government institutions and perceptions of government performance.

Geographical region: Middle East & North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa

Effect: Harmful effect (g = -0.066)

Confidence in study findings: Low confidence as only three studies

Short summary

PKOs and DDR are expected to have a positive effect on government institutions and the perception of government performance. The studies in the cell find that PKOs have a positive effect on government performance, while DDR shows no effect or a negative effect on perceptions regarding government performance. Overall, there is a small adverse effect.

Long summary

The Intervention

Disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration is a programme for ex-combatants that brings together reconciliation, security and socio-economic dimensions. The process typically involves removing weapons from combatants' hands, taking Individuals out of militarised structures, and providing them with training for new livelihoods as well as psychosocial support.

Peace Support Operations (PSOs) and Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs), where

1) PSOs encompass all multi-functional operations, conducted impartially, normally by States or by international or regional organizations, such as the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), the African Union (AU), or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), involving military forces and diplomatic and humanitarian agencies, and are designed to achieve a long-term political settlement or other specified objective, and

2), the deployment of UN peacekeepers into countries in a post-conflict setting. This involves the deployment of international troops and police, who work with local civilian peacekeepers to provide security to an area (UN Peacekeeping n.d.). Operations with primary or secondary objectives to prevent, halt or reduce the risk of atrocities are also considered within this category.

How is the intervention expected to work?

The disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants and the deployment or aspects of Peace Support Operations and Peacekeeping Operations may have an effect on the

government's performance as measured by people's perception of the government, trust in government institutions, and their functioning. This effect may occur if people believe that government has helped restore stability or this stability allows better provision of government services including in dispute resolution.

Evidence base

This cell contains 3 studies: All 3 are quantitative studies.

Blair (2019) focuses on Liberia, Gilligan (2012) on Burundi, and Humphreys (2007) on Sierra Leone.

There is one quantitative study in this cell: Richmond (2011), with regional focus on Middle East & North Africa, Europe & Central Asia, and East Asia & Pacific.

Evidence findings

Overall there is a small adverse effect, with most reported outcomes being negative or insignificant.

Exposure to UNMIL led to increased reliance on state authorities by citizens for resolving crimes and disputes, while non-state authorities demonstrated greater reliance on legal rather than illegal mechanisms for dispute resolution. Although these behavioural improvements were evident, citizens' perceptions of state corruption and bias worsened in the short term, possibly due to the increased visibility of systemic issues. Nevertheless, the positive effects on citizens' trust in state institutions and non-state authorities' use of legal mechanisms persisted for two years, even in areas without continued peacekeeper presence. Overall, the impact of UNMIL was beneficial but underscored the complexities of addressing perceptions of state legitimacy and corruption (Blair, 2019). No significant effects were observed regarding satisfaction with current government institutions (Gilligan, Mvukiyeye, and Samii, 2012). DDR programs were found to negatively affect views of the government, with high-ranking combatants demonstrating significant resistance to democratic norms (Humphreys and Weinstein, 2007).

Included studies

Blair (2019) study examines the effects of international intervention on the rule of law after civil war, with a focus on Liberia. Rule of law is defined as state authorities adhering to legal limits on their power and citizens relying on state laws and institutions for dispute resolution. The research explores the role of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) in influencing citizens' and nonstate authorities' reliance on state mechanisms for addressing crime and violence.

The study used an original survey and list experiment to gather data on reliance on state versus nonstate authorities. To ensure causal interpretation, an instrumental variables strategy was employed, leveraging plausibly exogenous variation in the distribution of UNMIL personnel caused by the killing of seven peacekeepers in Côte d'Ivoire. This methodological approach allowed for robust analysis of the impact of international intervention on the rule of law in Liberia. The study is rated low confidence.

The study finds that PKOs have a positive effect on government performance.

Gilligan (2012) assesses the effect of the demobilization and reintegration (DDR) program in Burundi, following its 1993-2004 civil war, particularly on the ex-combatants' economic well-being. The DDR program in Burundi is under the broader Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP). The paper focuses on the program's "socioeconomic reintegration package" and analyses if the enhancement of economic well-being would entail political integration of these individuals.

The analysis employs a matched comparison of treated and untreated individuals, using regression adjustments and inverse propensity weighting to control for selection bias and exposure heterogeneity. The study sample includes adult (aged 18 years old and above) male former rebel combatants. Respondents were drawn from those who received benefits from three different nongovernmental organizations, namely Twitezimbere (northern provinces), Planning and Development Collaborative (PADCO, southwest provinces), and Africare (center provinces). The study is rated low confidence.

The study found no effect of DDR on government performance.

Humphreys (2007) evaluates the factors that affect the outcomes of Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) programs at a micro-level or individual level, using data from post-war Sierra Leone.

The study surveyed 1,043 ex-combatants from five major factions in Sierra Leone's civil war, including both male and female participants as well as those who did and did not participate in DDR programs. The analysis employed a quantitative approach, using probit regression models to assess reintegration outcomes across four dimensions: breaking factional ties, employment, community acceptance, and confidence in democratic processes. The study is rated low confidence as attrition rates are not reported.

The study found that DDR has a negative effect on government performance.

Confidence assessment

Overall, the cell is rated low confidence as there are only three studies.

Other outcomes in the study/cell:

- Violence and atrocity prevention/Diplomatic relations & Peaceful dispute resolution
- Social cohesion/Feelings of trust and acceptance of diversity
- Human security/Economic security
- Violence and atrocity prevention/Social norms regarding violence and atrocities