

Conflict and atrocity prevention strategies for violence reduction and sustainable peace: evidence and gap map

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Executive summary

Background

Following a relatively peaceful period from the mid-1990s at a global level, there has been a sharp increase in numbers of armed conflicts since 2011. Atrocities, including genocide and crimes against humanity, war crimes, and ethnic cleansing, occur during and outside of armed conflicts. Violent events and atrocities are not limited to killing but also incorporate widespread torture, forced removal or expulsion, and sexual violence (UN, 1998). There are increasing calls for effective strategies for conflict prevention (CP) and atrocity prevention (AP), and to address the effects on societies experiencing such forms of violence. This evidence and gap map (EGM) aims to help the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the international community in accessing to the best available evidence to inform its work planning in conflict and atrocity prevention (CAP) strategies. The CAP EGM provides a global public resource to support decision makers in accessing, understanding the limitations of, and utilising evidence about what works for conflict and atrocity prevention.

Methods

The EGM includes ongoing and completed primary studies and evidence syntheses of the effectiveness of CP and AP interventions in low- and middle-income countries (L&MICs). We developed a framework of CAP interventions and outcomes, which determined which studies would be relevant for the map. We included studies that were able to establish the causal relationships between CAP interventions and conflict, atrocities, violence prevention and social cohesion. We included existing and ongoing primary studies that used quantitative statistical methods (called large-n designs, which address attribution), and those using qualitative theory-based methods to make causal claims (called small-n designs, which usually address contribution). Since this is one of the first EGMs to incorporate qualitative causal evidence, and we were aware that the extent of engagement in AP evaluation was nascent, we explored whether the inclusion criteria on study design mattered for the numbers of studies located on AP topics, by lowering the bar on inclusion of qualitative methods to incorporate studies without explicit theory-based causal approaches. Finally, we also included existing and forthcoming evidence syntheses (systematic reviews, rapid evidence assessments, meta-analyses).

We searched for both academic and grey literature from organisational websites, bibliographic searches, Google Scholar, trial registries and hand searches of relevant sector journals. We collated CAP evidence using an intervention-outcome framework which was developed based on existing related literature and stakeholder consultation. The EGM is presented as a matrix in which rows are intervention categories (e.g., safe environment, conflict management) and

subcategories (e.g., policing, early warning signs, intergroup dialogue), while the columns capture outcome domains (e.g., violence and atrocity prevention) and subcategories as (e.g., justice). We assessed confidence in the included studies, and developed and piloted a new tool for qualitative theory-based causal studies.

Results

Evidence base: We identified 573 eligible studies of interventions with explicit conflict prevention aims (n=446; 78%), explicit atrocity prevention aims (n=26; 5%) and studies with implicit mixes of both conflict and atrocity aims (n=101; 18%); these were included in the evidence and gap map. When we piloted lowering the bar on study design as a consistency check, we identified an additional 222 records that did not meet the EGM eligibility criteria, but were thematically relevant studies of CAP interventions. The proportions of evaluations by intervention type and of conflict prevention and atrocity prevention amongst the additional studies were very similar to that of the EGM, for example, only six (3%) of which evaluated interventions with explicit atrocity prevention aims. We concluded that most literature on AP intervention strategies has not engaged with questions about casual interference.

Population groups: The largest numbers of studies of the effectiveness of interventions to prevent violent conflict and atrocity were in sub-Saharan Africa region (n=204; 36%), in particular Liberia (n=37; 6%). The largest numbers of studies of violent conflict in any single country were in Palestine (n=49; 9%), Afghanistan (n=32; 6%) and Colombia (n=29; 5%), and of atrocity prevention in Rwanda (n=19; 3%). Most studies were conducted with the general population as study participants. A significant minority (n=52; 9%) were conducted among vulnerable groups (n=13 (2%) for females, n=25 (4%) for children, 9 (n=2%) for displaced persons) and 35 studies (6%) collected data from combatants or ex-combatants.

Interventions: Just over half of the evaluations were of direct interventions, which explicitly addressed an existing conflict (n=376; 66%), while others were indirect interventions addressing the underlying drivers of conflict or atrocity (n=227; 40%). The most common intervention groups evaluated were conflict management and mediation (n=165; 29%), followed by diplomacy, law, and accountability (n=146; 25%), socio-economic foundations (n=114; 20%), , and safe environments (n=96; 17%). The most common individual interventions evaluated was intergroup contact (n=70; 42% of conflict management and mediation group). This was followed by peace support and peacekeeping operations (n=47; 49% of safe environments group intervention group). Under socio-economic foundations, we also found 18 studies that examined the effectiveness of employment creation programmes (16% of this intervention group). The most common intervention with explicit AP aims evaluated was sanctions (n=13; 50% of the 26 studies with AP aims).

Outcomes: Studies evaluated both core (n=629; 110%) and secondary outcomes (n=499; 87%). The most common outcome group evaluated was violence and atrocity prevention (n=335; 58%), followed by human security (n=233; 41%), social cohesion (n=191; 33%), and community and

state governance (n=133; 23%). This finding was largely driven by evaluations of programmes with explicit CP aims. Studies evaluating AP programming largely considered human security outcomes. The largest number of core outcomes reported were on the nature and scale of violence and atrocities (n=216; 64% of violence and atrocity prevention group). The most common secondary outcomes evaluated by studies were economic security (n=104; 45% of human security group) and government performance (n=92; 69% of community and state governance group). Self-reported data was the most common outcome measurement among the included studies (n=306 53%), whereas official data was used in 260 studies (45%) and observational data in 61 studies (11%).

Study design: The majority of primary studies included in the EGM employed large-n quantitative designs (n=459; 80%), including randomised controlled trials (n=127; 22%) and quasi-experiments (n=333; 58%). Most primary studies evaluated effects at the micro level (n=320; 56%). In our critical appraisal of included studies, we appraised under half of the large-n quantitative primary studies (n=221; 49% of the large-n quantitative studies) at high or medium confidence, and 51 percent (n=226) at low confidence. The main reason for this was attrition (losses to follow-up) and limited reporting to calculate attrition rates. We identified 90 (16%) small-n theory-based qualitative designs. The majority of small-n qualitative studies were rated as at low confidence (n=86; 97% of the small-n qualitative studies), often due to limited discussion of triangulation or the measures taken to address important sources of bias. We identified 25 evidence synthesis studies (4%), in the majority of which (n=14; 56% of the synthesis studies) we had low confidence following critical appraisal. The main drivers of low confidence were inappropriate or untransparent methods to evaluate the risk of bias in the studies included in the reviews.

Implications for research

The evidence base linking CAP interventions to violence and social cohesion outcomes increased in size considerably between 2000-2023. Several well-researched areas were identified as well as gaps in the primary evidence and evidence synthesis bases. This EGM suggests the following implications for primary research and evidence syntheses.

Primary research

- **We identified several absolute gaps that could be addressed with new impact evaluations (primary studies).** These related to (a) indirect interventions addressing the underlying causes of conflict and atrocity; (b) direct interventions relating to (i) diplomacy, law and accountability; and (ii) research, monitoring, and assessments; (c) interventions with explicit AP aims; (d) CAP interventions delivered in latent conflict settings; and (e) evaluations of CAP intervention effects on key core outcomes relating to diplomatic relations and diplomacy.

- **A broader set of circumstances are rigorously evaluable than might have previously been thought possible.** These include studies that use qualitative small-n approaches to assess the relative contribution of strategies in particular intervention contexts, including where the purpose is to change beliefs and practices in a particular organisation or group. However, more work is needed by evaluators and commissioners to build consensus on how to design, conduct, and report these studies appropriately.
- **The evidence base largely concerns the effects of interventions to prevent further escalation of a violent conflict or atrocity, with few studies seeking to evaluate effectiveness in emerging (latent or dormant) conflict settings.** This potentially limits our understanding of interventions that seek to prevent violent conflict or atrocities entirely. However, this risk is mitigated where conflict and atrocity risk and related outcomes like social cohesion are also measured.
- **Better reporting of study design and conduct would improve confidence in primary studies.** Evidence producers and commissioners can place requirements on study teams to report designs, conduct and results appropriately, such as CONSORT.

Evidence synthesis

- **Evidence and gap maps, and other evidence synthesis approaches, can draw on a broader range of causal evidence than is usually done.** This includes evidence from qualitative small-n evaluations, which provide relevant evidence on the contribution of intervention strategies to outcomes, from which decision makers can draw. Ensuring that maps and reviews draw on a broader range of evidence, as done here, will likely necessitate consensus on what types of qualitative impact evaluations should be included and how they should be assessed.
- **We identified potential gaps in the evidence synthesis base, where primary studies exist that have not been rigorously synthesised using systematic review methods.** Promising areas for evidence synthesis include rigorous, theory-based systematic reviews examining the effectiveness of particular intervention strategies that are designed and conducted using theory-based mixed methods approaches, including:
 - Conflict management and mediation, especially interventions providing peace education and promoting inter-group contact.
 - The effectiveness of sanctions for preventing violent conflict and atrocities.
 - The effectiveness of support to ceasefire agreements.
 - The relative effectiveness of different types of peace support and peace-keeping operations.
 - The effectiveness of employment programmes in promoting peace.

- **A theory-building review that examines the effectiveness of interventions in active conflict settings for combatting atrocity and violence** could help articulate and evidence the mechanisms underpinning possibly contrasting effects of CP and AP interventions on violent conflict and atrocities, and help to draw lessons from an established field for a more emergent one.
- The confidence assessments suggested that study authors can more proactively consider all facets of study design, conduct and reporting at the outset to improve confidence in evaluation findings for evidence syntheses, including by registering study protocols.

Introduction

The problems of violent conflict and atrocities

Following a relatively peaceful period from the mid-1990s at a global level, there has been a sharp increase in numbers of armed conflicts since 2011. According to the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP), in 2020 there were 56 armed conflicts and an estimated 50,000 battle related deaths (BRDs) (Strand and Hegre, 2021). This is the highest number of active conflicts since 1945, a number which has increased further following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Examples of conflicts classed as wars in 2020 – that is, reporting in excess of 1,000 BRDs – included Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia, Yemen and in Syria, where there was simultaneously a civil war and a war with Islamic State (IS). The recent wars in Syria have caused 600,000 deaths and displaced 13 million people, the civil war in Yemen has led to 400,000 deaths (2.5 million displaced people), and, in the war in Tigray, Ethiopia, 600,000 people died (3 million people displaced). According to the United Nations (UN), in CAR between 2013-15, an estimated 3,000-6,000 people were killed, 825,000 internally displaced and 423,000 forced to flee the country whilst the United Nations acknowledges that these numbers are a “radical under-estimate” (UN, S/2014/928, 25-26, 92). It is likely we will never know the true numbers of civilian casualties in war (Seybolt et al., 2013).

What is important to understand, however, is that mass killing and other atrocities frequently happen outside of war. Notably, the death toll in North Korea, a country which is not classified as being in a state at war, far exceeds 1,000 and may be the ‘worst’ case on earth. Most latter-day conflicts and atrocities occur within national boundaries (Dyer, 2022). Around half of the active conflicts in 2020 involved IS (Strand and Hegre, 2021). There are also a number of latent or dormant conflicts in multi-ethnic countries that had experienced war in the 1990s and where core political conflicts remain unresolved, for example in Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cameroon, and Indonesia.

The scale of the impact of violent conflict on health and mortality among civilian populations, especially women and children, are thought to vastly exceed the impacts on those involved in the fighting. For example, Bendavid et al. (2021) estimated that, between 1995 and 2015, there were over 10 million deaths in children younger than 5 years due to conflict. Masset (2022) found significant excess deaths among children aged under 5 due to the conflict in northern Mali, representing one-quarter of all-cause mortality in that age group. Sexual violence is widely used in violent conflict and is associated with physical ill-health and post-traumatic stress among survivors of rape, increased HIV/AIDS transmission among women, adolescent girls and children, increased levels of intimate partner violence (IPV), breakdown of family structures, and associated mental ill-health among children (Bendavid et al., 2021).

Of particular concern are atrocities, including war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing (although the latter is not recognised as a crime under international law). Atrocities might occur during wartime but frequently happen outside of it; for example, the detainment of an estimated 1 million Uyghur people in Xinjiang, China. Atrocities are not limited to killing but also incorporate torture, forced removal or expulsion, and sexual violence (UN, 1998). According to Gallagher (2022), 37 countries experienced mass atrocities or serious concern of them between 2000 and 2020. Examples of events classifiable as mass atrocities since 1991 include the Rwandan genocide (1 million deaths, 2 million displaced persons), war and genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina (100,000 deaths, 2 million people displaced), war and genocide in Darfur, Sudan (300,000 deaths, 1 million displaced people), IS atrocities against Yazidi people in northern Iraq (5,000 killed, 10,000 kidnapped), atrocities against the Rohingya people in Myanmar (24,000 deaths, 140,000 displaced), and the forced transfer of Ukrainian children for re-education or adoption in Russia, as claimed by the International Criminal Court.

The origins of violent conflict and atrocity are multifaceted. The United Nations Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes identifies 14 risk factors and 143 indicators (UN, 2014). They include geographic factors such as presence of natural resources like oil, macroeconomic factors like economic decline, history, especially whether there has been conflict in the past, or relate to ethnic and religious composition (Collier, 2006; Blattman, 2022). Strategies to prevent conflict and atrocity therefore necessarily operate in a wide range of areas, which we broadly classify into direct targeted approaches to resolve ongoing crises, and indirect approaches that address underlying causes of violent conflict and atrocity.

There are increasing calls for effective strategies for violent conflict and atrocity prevention (CAP), and to address the effects on societies experiencing violence. The United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal 16 aims to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”. In 2005, the United Nations adopted the Responsibility to Protect (R2P).¹ The Responsibility to Protect is commonly understood to embody three pillars. The first refers to the domestic responsibility of States to protect their population from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing. Pillar two refers to the international responsibility to encourage and assist States so that they can fulfil their domestic responsibility. Pillar three sets out to capture the international responsibility that arises when a State is ‘manifestly failing’ to protect its population. When this occurs, United Nations member States can use all measures available under chapters VI, VII, and VIII of the United Nations Charter to protect populations directly.

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/about-responsibility-to-protect.shtml#:~:text=138.,through%20appropriate%20and%20necessary%20means> (accessed 7 February 2023).

In the UK, the Foreign Secretary called for “backing words with actions” through increased use of sanctions against perpetrators of violent conflict.² However, a wide range of tools is potentially available to incentivise, disincentivise, prevent, resolve, punish and protect against atrocity and violent conflict at national and community levels.³ The International Development Strategy (Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, FCDO, 2022, p.16) includes the specific objectives to “help countries escape cycles of conflict and violence... to target long-lasting political settlements, tackle new threats including disinformation and cyber-attacks, as well as enduring ones like landmines... and establish a new conflict and atrocity prevention hub [the Office for Conflict, Stabilisation and Mediation (OCSM)] that brings together all UK Government capabilities.” It also incorporates the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict (PSVI) strategy. A review on peacebuilding by the Independent Commission on Aid Impact (ICAI, 2022) has recommended the UK Government strengthen processes to improve learning from research in policy and practice among stakeholders, and greater accountability to communities affected by conflict.

It would be useful to have a public resource devoted to evidence on the effectiveness of these different approaches in preventing atrocities and violent conflicts, and fostering social cohesion and peace. In response, this evidence and gap map (EGM) aims to: 1) ensure FCDO has access to the best available evidence to inform its work planning in CAP in the coming years; and 2) provide a global public resource to support the international community in accessing, understanding the limitations of, and using evidence about what works for conflict and atrocity prevention, and where are the key gaps in the evidence base.

Scope of the evidence map

This mapping of the evidence base was guided by the methodologies of Global Evidence Mapping (Bragge, 2011) and Campbell Evidence and Gap Maps (White et al., 2020). We took the following steps in developing the study protocol: stakeholder engagement, scoping and piloting of methods, protocol development and registration, including EGM eligibility criteria, information sources, search design, selection of sources of evidence, piloting of assessments of individual sources of evidence and matrix for presentation of results.

The EGM framework is a narrative description of the types of evaluative evidence that was included or excluded during the search and screening process. We collated CAP evidence using the intervention-outcome (IO) framework commonly employed by EGMs - a matrix that summarises an evidence base by showing its distribution by interventions (rows in the matrix) and reported effects on outcomes (columns in the matrix). These frameworks are developed

² <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/dec/09/britain-oligarchs-dictators-fear-us-britain> (accessed 7 February 2023).

³ See, for example, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: <https://preventiontools.ushmm.org/> (accessed 30 May 2023).

based on existing related theories of change and literature, and stakeholder consultation. We seek to minimise the amount of double coding across interventions and permit multiple coding across outcomes (see below for more detail on our approach to coding).

Conceptual frameworks for conflict prevention (CP) or atrocity prevention (AP) exist, but, to our knowledge, no unifying theory or framework exists that addresses the overarching theory of how CAP interventions are expected to work. As such, our IO framework is underpinned by the argument set out in Sonnenfeld (2020) that sustained and sufficient human security is the ultimate objective of all CAP activity, not just peacebuilding efforts. We grouped CAP interventions primarily by the extent to which they adopted direct or indirect approaches to peacebuilding as defined above. Within each category, we specified three broad intervention groups (Table 1) to organise AP and CP activities. This permitted the EGM to collate evidence that tested a wide range of theories about the effectiveness of CAP activities. This was important as the FCDO seeks to broaden its understanding of the effectiveness of all work across all its capabilities, covering development, but also diplomacy, trade and economic partnerships, defence, and intelligence (FCDO, 2022).

We defined outcomes across four domains and 23 subdomains (Table 2). These domains aim to articulate all outcomes relevant for conflict and atrocity prevention. They broadly reflect the theorised steps expected to achieve sufficient levels of human security in a society, where changes in violence and atrocity prevention, social cohesion, and state and community governance are expected to yield additional improvements in human security. Table 2 also provides examples of the types of indicators used to measure these outcomes. We consider resilience as a cross-cutting concept that features across all outcome areas. This is because resilience to change or a specific event can arise across multiple outcome areas. For example, resilience type indicators could relate to notions of political security, but also to issues of social cohesion.

Table 1: Intervention categories

<i>Approach</i>	<i>Intervention categories</i>	<i>Examples of sub-categories</i>
Direct	Safe environments	Policing and public security Peace support/keeping operations Military operations

<i>Approach</i>	<i>Intervention categories</i>	<i>Examples of sub-categories</i>
	Diplomacy, law, and accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diplomatic recognition Human security law Political processes and diplomacy Other diplomatic efforts Sanctions Aid assistance and aid conditionalities Transitional or restorative justice
	Conflict and atrocity management and mediation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research, monitoring, and assessments Dispute resolution Media and communication (e.g., countering misinformation)
Indirect	Civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil society capacity building Civic engagement and empowerment initiatives
	Governance and justice institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public sector provision, governance, and institutionalisation, and law Justice system support and reform
	Economic foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training

<i>Approach</i>	<i>Intervention categories</i>	<i>Examples of sub-categories</i>
		Job creation (including public works)

While the framework presents a logical model that is broadly linear, interventions are not assumed to be underpinned by linear theories of change. For example, direct interventions conducted in crisis settings to reduce atrocities, such as arming civilian groups to protect them from State-supported militias, may not contribute to decreasing incidence of between-group violence (or may actually increase it). Importantly, as with our interventions, we assumed all outcome groups were relevant to both CP and AP interventions, and developed outcome categories and definitions accordingly. This means evaluated outcomes from evaluations of AP and CP interventions can be considered separately but also compared.

Finally, for the purposes of scope, we defined violence and atrocity prevention and social cohesion outcomes as core (or primary) outcomes, which are reported separately in the map, while the remaining outcomes relating to good governance and human security, were defined as secondary (or non-core) outcomes.

Table 2: Outcome domains

<i>Type</i>	<i>Outcome domain</i>	<i>Examples of subdomains</i>	<i>Examples of outcome indicators</i>
Core	Violence and atrocity prevention	Diplomatic relations Justice Peaceful dispute resolution Violence and atrocities Sexual and gender-based violence	Count and nature of meetings between states and/or groups Counts of battles, skirmishes, instances of violence

<i>Type</i>	<i>Outcome domain</i>	<i>Examples of subdomains</i>	<i>Examples of outcome indicators</i>
		Social norms about violence/atrocitiy	
	Social cohesion	Feeling of trust Sense of belonging Willingness to participate or help Acceptance of diversity	Self-reported level of trust of a particular group e.g., using Likert scales
Secondary (non-core)	State and community governance	Access to justice, rights, services Civil participation Government performance Social safety nets Transitions of power	Public service quality ratings % citizens able to access justice services
	Human security	Economic Education Food and nutrition Health	Measures of poverty Education test scores Iron status, anthropometry Mortality

<i>Type</i>	<i>Outcome domain</i>	<i>Examples of subdomains</i>	<i>Examples of outcome indicators</i>
		Physical security (personal and community)	Self-reported personal safety
		Political security	Enjoyment of civic rights
		Environment	Water access
		Social	Knowledge about another group, social and emotional skills, self-efficacy

Why it was important to develop this evidence map

The creation of this EGM with FCDO OCSM represents an important opportunity to ensure the new HMG team has access to the best available evidence to inform its work planning in CAP in the coming years. As described above, the incidence and adverse impacts of violent conflict and atrocities has increased in recent decades. The international community is increasingly recognising its responsibility to address this problem. In response, the UK and the international community has increased its focus on attempting to prevent conflicts and atrocities before they emerge or escalate. It is expected that the approaches used are broad in nature, covering a range of sectors and disciplines, and involve direct and indirect drivers of conflict and atrocity. For example, the structural drivers of civil conflict include physical geography, which determines perceived threats and opportunities from conflict (Marshall, 2015), governance of primary commodities (the ‘natural resource curse’), economic opportunities available to populations (which relate to employment and education, among others), the pre-existence of conflict, and a country’s ethnic and religious composition (Collier, 2006). Hence there is a need for coverage of a broad range of approaches for conflict and atrocity prevention, including targeted approaches addressing ongoing crises, and those that address the underlying structural drivers of conflict and atrocity.

In some cases, the approaches adopted to prevent violent conflict and atrocity in a situation are similar; these are thought more likely to be indirect approaches that aim to tackle the root causes of violence, such as inequality, marginalisation, justice and poor governance. In others, particularly in the case of direct approaches, different strategies may be required to prevent violent conflict and atrocity. Hence, pursuing conflict and atrocity prevention simultaneously in the same situation, using the same policy levers, may not be possible. For example, efforts to

arm vulnerable populations at risk of atrocities may not always reduce (and could increase) the risk of violent conflict; conversely, peace processes that aim to resolve violent conflict may not necessarily result in the end of atrocity risk.

It is typically accepted that evidence-informed policy making improves development outcomes (e.g., Broegaard et al. 2013). For evidence to be used in this way, it must be discoverable and appropriately summarised and assessed. While evidence mapping is typically the first step in this process we are not aware of any existing or planned EGMs of interventions to prevent violent conflict or atrocities. Table 3 lists existing maps and evidence syntheses relating to this study which we identified at the protocol stage, and some of the limitations in those studies that we aimed to address in the CAP EGM.

Potentially relevant evidence syntheses include rapid evidence assessments (REAs) of interventions to counter armed violence (Cramer et al., 2016) and community driven development or reconstruction (CDD/R) (White et al., 2017), and systematic reviews (SRs) on social cohesion (Sonnenfeld et al., 2021) and women’s empowerment (Lwamba et al., 2022). One EGM on peacebuilding interventions, that limited its search to quantitative impact evaluations was updated in 2020 (Sonnenfeld et al., 2020). We were therefore able to draw on studies on peace building from Sonnenfeld et al. (2020) and update searches to incorporate studies published since 2019, and undertake further searches for relevant studies in violence conflict and atrocity prevention. An important methodological contribution of this evidence map is to incorporate relevant theory-based qualitative impact evaluations, and assess the confidence in the evidence in all included studies.

Table 3: Overview of existing EGM and synthesis products

<i>Publication</i>	<i>Type of study</i>	<i>Limitations addressed by this EGM</i>
Cameron et al. (2015); Sonnenfeld et al. (2020)	EGM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outdated searches ● Focus on quantitative studies ● Explicit focus on fragile states ● Key CAP interventions excluded
Cramer et al. (2016)	REA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outdated search ● Publications before 2010 excluded
White et al. (2018)	REA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outdated search ● Focus on community-driven development and reconstruction

<i>Publication</i>	<i>Type of study</i>	<i>Limitations addressed by this EGM</i>
Sonnenfeld et al. (2021)	SR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explicit focus on fragile states• Focus on social cohesion
Lwamba et al. (2022)	SR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explicit focus on fragile states• Focus on women's empowerment

Objectives

The overall aims of this map were to catalogue the available evidence, and gaps in the evidence, on the effectiveness of interventions for conflict and atrocity prevention in L&MICs, and to improve discoverability of evidence by decision makers and researchers, so as to promote evidence-based decision making in policy and programming on CAP. There are four evidence questions (EQs), which we list under research coverage, confidence, and gaps.

Coverage of research

EQ1. What is the extent of evidence on the effectiveness of conflict and atrocity prevention interventions in improving core outcomes and secondary outcomes?

EQ2. How does the coverage of evidence vary by geography and other contextual factors (e.g., relating to intervention target groups, type of prevention, or level of impact)?

Confidence in research

EQ3. To what extent are the studies designed, conducted, and reported appropriately to answer questions about the effectiveness of CAP interventions?

Research gaps

EQ4. Where are the key gaps and what opportunities are there for conducting future primary studies and evidence syntheses to fill them?

Methods

To address the evidence questions, we produced a map of effectiveness evidence – a systematic search of the academic and grey literature, a confidence assessment of that evidence, and a policy-relevant presentation using an intervention-outcome framework. Rather than synthesising the research findings (what the evidence says), EGMs usually categorise evidence using an organising framework. This approach permits a strategic assessment of the density of evidence (where evidence exists), and the paucity of evidence, in the form of primary gaps, presenting opportunities for future impact evaluations, and synthesis gaps, which present opportunities for future systematic reviews.

This section presents the approach and scope of the EGM, detailing the systematic searches, screening, data extraction and reporting processes used. Scoping was done to refine the evidence questions, framework and overall approach to the EGM, with reference to relevant documentation and portals, and in consultation with OCSM and other relevant partners and research analysts within FCDO and an external Review Advisory Group. In addition to agreeing substantive and technical decisions relating to production of the EGM, the scoping stage was used to assess the feasibility of the proposed approach, the work plan and report structure.

Criteria for including and excluding studies

This section presents the criteria that we used to determine whether a study was included in the EGM. We present eligibility criteria using the population, intervention, comparator, outcome and study design (PICOS) framework. The framework defines eligibility criteria for the populations targeted by an intervention or strategy, the interventions and strategies being delivered, the comparators used to make effectiveness claims, which may be explicit in the case of quantitative designs or implicit in the case of qualitative designs, the outcomes being evaluated, and the types of studies employed by researchers.

Types of settings

We included studies evaluating intervention effectiveness in settings where there was ongoing violence (active); where the violence had abated but was seen as at risk of restarting (dormant); and where there were risks that violence on a larger scale would break out (latent). We have defined the types of studies that we will include in part based on the conflicts being responded to by policies and programmes under evaluation, using some of the dimensions of conflict we set out above:

- **Presence of violence:** conflict is an inevitable process that features in peaceful societies while violence, as we define explicitly above, is not. Because of this, we only included

studies of policies and programmes that sought to prevent violent conflicts or atrocities. If a study evaluated a prevention intervention for a conflict that had not happened but was anticipated to be violent, we included it. Any study where evaluation subjects were responding to violent conflict that had taken place in cyberspace or space were also eligible. Studies of violent extremism or counter terrorism prevention or response programmes were included when they had an explicit aim to prevent violence.

- **Conflict structure:** we only included studies that considered violent conflict and atrocities that arose within or between groups (above the household level), where a group refers to at least two people unified by a set of political, cultural, religious, or other socio-economic rules, values or ideologies. In other words, any study where programmes under evaluation primarily seek to address intrapersonal, interpersonal, or within household violent conflict were excluded. Thus we excluded conflicts within or between single individuals, violent crime and intimate partner violence (IPV), which is covered in existing evidence synthesis.⁴ Studies evaluating interventions that sought to prevent inter-household violence if some salient social group was hosted in the households, i.e. inter-group violence present within households, were included.
- **Other conflict dimensions:** we did not use any other general criteria to exclude studies based on the type of conflict or atrocity being responded to. For example, we did not exclude studies using the quantitative assessments of battle related deaths prescribed by the Uppsala Conflict Data Programme.

Studies evaluating interventions that primarily sought to prevent or reduce gang-crime were excluded for two reasons. While there are lessons to be drawn from this literature for CAP more broadly, the underlying causes and dynamics of violence, and groups involved are typically quite different. Secondly, several syntheses of this literature already exist and we wanted to bound the focus of this map to avoid duplication of effort. While no commonly accepted definition of a gang exists, we built on Thrasher's (1927) definition that a gang is a distinctive form of social group with varying degrees of organisation by further suggesting that gang members are united by primary objectives related to illicit or exploitative ownership of physical and/or economic assets (typically human, arms, or drug trafficking, but also illicit financing and cybercrime), engagement in broader criminal activity, physical individual or group branding or insignia, and finally, a public perception that the gang exists for criminal purposes at least in the proximate physical locations that the gang is physically active in (adapted from Higginson et al. 2015). In our case, interpersonal gang-related crime was already excluded, using the conflict structure eligibility criterion presented above, including incidence of individual assault or homicides. That said, some gang-related violence can be classified as inter-group violence. We excluded studies of interventions that targeted this type of violence if the violence could be defined as either gang-related or gang-motivated:

⁴ For example, see <https://gapmaps.3ieimpact.org/evidence-maps/intimate-partner-violence-ipv-prevention>.

- **Gang-related violence:** where at least one gang member is involved in the violent incident documented. We defined gang involvement here as any form of self-reporting by individuals, covering gang involvement at one point in their life, through to active involvement in an organised gang structure undertaking criminal activities (adapted from Winfree et al., 1992; Esbensen et al., 2001).
- **Gang-motivated violence:** where the cause of the violent incident is related to the specific aims of a gang - for example, to expand control of economic or physical assets or territory, exact revenge on another person or group, or to enforce gang-related rules and social norms (adapted from Decker & Pyrooz, 2010).

Study eligibility was also determined by time of conflict or publication. We included all studies that were published on or after 2000. While Cramer et al. (2016) searched for studies published after 2010 only, our study design inclusion criteria were broader; incorporating evidence from 2000 onwards reduces the risk of omitting evidence adopting different designs while managing the risk of the need to screen older research that was less likely to employ an included study design. We also included studies that evaluated the effects of a policy or programme that started in or after the year 1990. This reflects that the majority of decolonisation conflicts had concluded by 1991 (Black, 2021). The only exception to this criterion were studies that evaluated interventions during or immediately following the 2001 and 2003 invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, as the motives, scale and nature of these conflicts were substantively different from other intergroup violent conflicts studied.

Types of populations targeted

We considered eligibility criteria for the study population across conflict type, actor type and geography. Eligible populations were all those living in L&MICs, primarily because this research is being undertaken for FCDO. This means that we excluded studies of programmes and policies that predominantly affected or only reported effects for populations in high income countries (HICs). In the particular case of Occupied Territories, we incorporated studies that targeted interventions in Israel if the outcomes measured included those living in Palestine. We used the World Bank income classification and the starting year of the policy or programme being evaluated to define L&MIC status for each study. Multi-coding of countries to studies was permitted as long as a reported effect was linked to each country reported. We included studies set in both fragile and non-fragile contexts, acknowledging that violent conflict and atrocities can have arisen in stable contexts.

Populations may have been actively engaged in violent conflict and atrocity or victims of violent conflict and atrocity. We did not exclude any study based on the type of actor engaging with or receiving support from an intervention. This meant that perpetrators or victims of violent conflict could be targeted by interventions, but also other actors that were linked to a conflict in some capacity - for example, political actors mediating a conflict, or aspects of the media sector tasked with reporting on a violent conflict.

Types of intervention strategies

Eligible intervention categories and subcategories are presented in Table 1 and overviewed in Figure 2. We adapted the approach taken in Cramer et al. (2016) and Sonnenfeld et al. (2020) to group interventions as either direct or indirect. “Direct” interventions are prevention efforts that directly respond to an escalating conflict or atrocity by strengthening social well-being, empathy and conflict resolution, supporting State diplomacy, law and accountability processes, oversight and post-conflict justice, and ending violence to build a safe and secure environment. “Indirect” interventions provide the supportive environment for peace, including building a strong and inclusive civil society, inclusive and accountable governance and justice institutions at national, subnational, and local levels, and sustainable economic foundations to support capabilities. Indirect interventions are therefore “upstream” prevention efforts that address aspects such as socio-economic factors that may or may not lead to conflict or atrocities. We included all studies of policies or programmes that had explicit CAP aims. Where CAP aims were not explicit in reports, we still included some studies based on the combination of interventions and outcomes evaluated as set out in Table 4.

Interventions were grouped into six categories (sub-categories) (Table 1): safe environments (e.g., policing, early warning systems); international diplomacy, law and accountability (e.g., support for peace processes & negotiation, sanctions, aid conditionalities); conflict management and mediation at community level (e.g., intergroup dialogue); support to civil society (e.g., civil-society organisation (CSO) capacity building, countering disinformation in communication, digital and media); support to governance and justice institutions (e.g., support for elections); and economic foundations (e.g., job creation, in-kind and cash transfers).

Ineligible interventions were those targeting intra- or interpersonal violent conflict, such as those to address intra-household violence, or those targeting criminal or gang inter-group violence, as defined above.

Types of comparators

Eligible comparators were other CAP intervention(s) or other intervention(s) (comparative effectiveness studies) or no intervention(s) (effectiveness studies). Comparators could be measured contemporaneously (e.g., controlled studies), historically (e.g., using before versus after approaches) or implicitly (as in the case of many small-n qualitative impact evaluation designs).⁵

⁵ For example, many ‘small n’ studies seek to understand issues of contribution and are either not explicit about comparators employed or purposefully do not consider a counterfactual by design. See HMG (2020). Magenta Book Supplementary Guide: Handling Complexity in Policy Evaluation for more information on these approaches (Date accessed (20 November 2023)).

Types of outcome measures

We defined 23 outcome sub-domains that articulate all anticipated effects that may arise from CAP interventions. We grouped these into core (violence conflict and atrocities; social cohesion) or secondary (state and community governance; human security) outcomes (Table 2). In most cases, studies were only eligible for inclusion where they reported core outcomes, although there are some exceptions relating to specific boundary cases where interventions had explicit CAP aims (Table 4).

Table 4: Summary of inclusion criteria by CAP aims and outcomes

#	CAP explicit aims?	Intervention type	Core outcome reported?	Inclusion decision	Example
1	Y	Indirect only	Y	Include	Job creation scheme designed to prevent conflict by increasing economic opportunities. Study evaluates effects of scheme on social norms regarding violent conflict.
2	Y	Indirect only	N	Include if at least one secondary outcome reported (Table 2), otherwise exclude	Security sector reform programme designed to prevent conflict through improving state ability to monitor and manage citizen unrest. Study evaluates effect of programme on public performance of police in managing unrest
3	Y	At least one direct	Y	Include	Study that evaluates the effect of a no-fly zone designed to prevent a possible conflict from escalating on nature and scale of violent conflict
4	Y	At least one direct	N	Include if at least one secondary outcome reported (Table 2), otherwise exclude	Study that evaluates the effects of a peacekeeping operation designed to address a specific conflict on food security and nutrition outcomes
5	N	Indirect only	Y	Include	Study that evaluates the effect of a general cash transfer programme on levels of community trust
6	N	Indirect only	N	Exclude	Study that evaluates the effect of a general civil society capacity building initiative of the incidence of IPV

#	<i>CAP explicit aims?</i>	<i>Intervention type</i>	<i>Core outcome reported?</i>	<i>Inclusion decision</i>	<i>Example</i>
7	N	At least one direct	Y	Include	Study that evaluates the effect of general mental health and psychosocial support on social norms towards violent conflict
8	N	At least one direct	N	Include	Study that evaluates the effects of formally recognising a political entity on citizen access to justice, rights and public services

Source: Authors.

Types of study designs

The map includes completed and ongoing primary studies and evidence syntheses pertaining to the effectiveness of CP and AP interventions in L&MICs. We therefore incorporated studies that were able to establish the causal relationship between CAP interventions and primary and secondary outcomes, whether done using methods of attribution or contribution. Eligible primary studies used large-n quantitative, and small-n qualitative designs, appropriate to the interventions being evaluated, to assess the effectiveness of the intervention(s). large-n impact evaluation designs use methods like randomised assignment of individuals or groups to intervention (randomised controlled trials, RCTs) or quasi-experimental designs (QEDs) – that is, studies which did not randomise the assignment of intervention strategies – to attribute changes in outcomes to the intervention(s). QEDs could be designed prospectively or retrospectively using methods like encouragement design, discontinuity design, difference-in-differences, statistical matching, synthetic control and reflexive control (outcomes data collection among participants before versus after intervention only).

We also included qualitative research with a study design that was able to identify causal relationships between interventions and outcomes. Impact evaluations using small-n design, that is, qualitative studies making causal claims, needed to use a study method that was able to evaluate the causal relationships between interventions and outcomes. Studies using established theory-based qualitative methodologies to evaluate effectiveness were included, but we also incorporated case studies with theory-based designs. As defined by White and Phillips (2012), established qualitative methodologies to evaluate effectiveness can be divided into two groups: Group I approaches “explicitly set out to discover the causes of observed effects with the goal of establishing beyond reasonable doubt how an outcome or set of outcomes occurred (p.7)”, including Realist Evaluation, General Elimination Methodology (GEM), Process Tracing and Contribution Analysis. Group II approaches use participatory data collection methods, such as Most Significant Change (MSC), Success Case Method (SCM), Outcome Harvesting (OH) and Method for Impact Assessment of Programs and Projects (MAPP), which were included where

they explicitly sought to identify a causal relationship between the intervention(s) and outcome(s) of interest. Studies that did not explicitly use these methodologies were also included if they reported procedural steps for data collection and analysis that were linked to an explicit theory or causal pathway linking the intervention with the outcome. Thus, in order to be included in the review, case studies and other qualitative studies needed to present a theory of change and/or information along a causal pathway from which the potential contribution of the intervention to the outcome could be established.

Qualitative studies or components of studies that were used purely to complement (triangulate) findings from quantitative analysis in mixed-methods impact evaluations were excluded. Since this is one of the first EGMs to incorporate and assess the confidence in qualitative causal evidence, and we were aware that the extent of engagement in AP evaluation was more nascent, we explored whether the inclusion criteria on study design mattered for the number and proportion of studies located on AP topics and intervention categories more generally. The exercise involved collating and analysing qualitative studies that were not based on explicit theory, without description of the analytical strategy, but which would be otherwise relevant for a map on conflict and atrocity prevention interventions, which we called the ‘evidence bucket’.

Systematic evidence syntheses, including systematic reviews and meta-analyses, systematic scoping reviews and rigorous literature reviews (Hagen-Zanker and Mallett, 2013) and rapid evidence assessments (GSRU, 2007) were eligible for inclusion, provided they met the criteria of: (i) explicit inclusion and exclusion criteria; (ii) clearly specified search strategy; (iii) systematic coding and reporting of findings in included studies.

Sources of literature

Electronic databases searched were multidisciplinary (e.g., Web of Science (SCI and SSCI), Google and Google Scholar), discipline specific (e.g., RePEC and World Bank e-Library (via Ebsco Discovery, searched as one), Econlit (OVID), Africa-Wide (Ebsco), ERIC, Medline) and specialist databases (e.g., 3ie’s Impact Evaluation Repository, ALNAP evaluative reports, EGAP Evidence in Governance and Politics). We also searched for eligible evaluations from donor evaluation repositories such as USAID Development Experience Clearinghouse, UDP Evaluation Resource Centre, ILO i-eval Discovery and OECD DAC’s DERE. An example electronic search strategy is presented in Appendix A.

We searched organisational repositories (e.g., DFID Research 4 Development, Design, Monitoring and Evaluation for Peace, International Growth Centre (IGC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), IPA, J-PAL, Mercy Corps, Overseas Development Institute, Oxfam International, Protection Approaches, RTI International, Transparency International (TI), U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, United Nations Evaluation Group, UN OCHCR, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and Regional Development Bank repositories including ADB, AfDB and IADB.

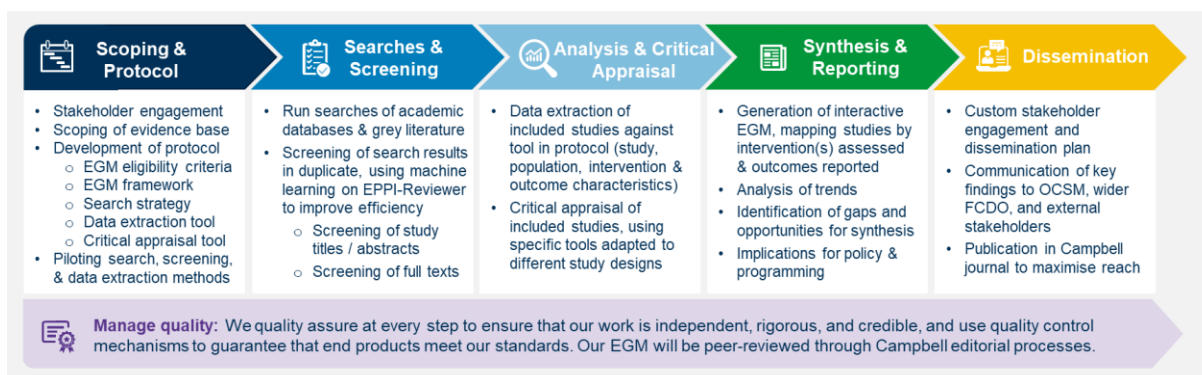
We searched registries of trials and evidence syntheses (e.g., 3ie’s Registry for International Development Impact Evaluations (RIDIE), AEA Trials Registry, Cochrane Library, Campbell Systematic Reviews, PROSPERO). We also searched online repositories of books, book chapters, theses and dissertations (e.g., Google Books, Open Grey) and hand search relevant journals (e.g., Peacebuilding and journals listed by the War Prevention Initiative⁶) so that poorly indexed studies are not omitted. We reviewed an annotated bibliography on the R2P (Gallagher et al., 2023). We contacted experts in the field of peacebuilding, conflict and atrocity prevention through the external advisory group to identify potentially includable studies not found in our searching.

Search strategies were developed using ‘pearl harvesting’ (identifying keywords from included papers) to develop electronic search terms to maintain sensitivity (comprehensiveness) of the searches while maximising specificity (relevance). Preliminary searches suggested a large number of studies were likely to be eligible for inclusion. In order to pilot and refine the search strategy, we prepared a list of benchmark studies that we would expect well-designed searches to find (Appendix B). If these studies were not found we checked whether (i) they were not in the database being searched, or (ii) they were there but not located in which case we needed to revise the searches to incorporate different keywords or filters.

Process of study design, conduct and reporting

We followed international best practices with respect to systematic searching and screening, data extraction and analysis and reporting (White et al., 2000). The review was undertaken in five phases (Figure 1): study scoping and protocol development, searches and screening, analysis and confidence assessments, synthesis and reporting, and dissemination.

Figure 1: Study process



⁶ <https://warpreventioninitiative.org/resources/peace-and-conflict-studies-journals/>.

We undertook several desk-based and participatory activities to determine and validate the intervention-outcome framework and definitions:

- Review of existing guidance and documents - to align intervention and outcome groups and definitions with existing tools and frameworks.
- Consideration of explicit Atrocity Prevention issues - to ensure the map sufficiently considers the breadth of AP interventions and related outcomes identified by key frameworks and guidance.⁷
- FCDO review and discussion of a draft framework - to align the framing of the map to key audiences and users.
- Advisory group engagement and review - to elicit expert views on the IO framework, covering its underlying rationale, and its useability.
- Pilot screening of 60 studies using the draft framework - to improve the consistency of our study team when using the framework to categorise studies.

These processes were implemented in parallel, and the IO Framework was updated iteratively to reflect issues that we identified. Key issue areas related to unclear definitions and boundaries of interventions and outcomes, insufficient reflection of atrocity prevention measures in interventions and outcomes, challenges in the organisation and grouping of interventions and outcomes, and balancing the tension between sufficiently covering all interventions and outcomes while keeping the IO-framework simple and easy to engage with.

A standardised screening tool was developed that incorporated the inclusion and exclusion criteria (Appendix C). The tool was piloted against 60 studies. To help prioritise the screening procedure and reduce resource requirements we employed EPPI-reviewer priority screening machine learning algorithms at title and abstract stage. Potentially relevant articles were included in the full text review. The full texts of manuscripts were obtained for potentially eligible studies for further examination, where records were available. For all manuscripts, information regarding the primary reason for exclusion were recorded and documented. The remaining eligible studies were included in the review. Discrepancies between reviewers regarding study eligibility were resolved by consensus, or by a third team member. We report the search transparently according to Preferred Reporting Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses (PRISMA) standards, including both a PRISMA flow diagram summarising the flow of publications through the phases of the search and a PRISMA checklist (Annex G) presenting the core characteristics of the search strategy, data extraction and methods used to summarise findings (Page et al., 2021).

We used EPPI-reviewer to screen and code studies. Titles, abstracts and full texts were screened for inclusion by two authors working independently, with conflicts resolved through consensus or by a third author. As we screened studies, we periodically updated the priority screening

⁷ For example, Reike et al. (2015), UN (2014), USHMM (n.d) and Bellamy & Šimonović (2021) .

algorithm. We stopped screening manually when we found there were no eligible studies for 100 consecutive records.

We registered the study protocol with PROSPERO under record number 405153 (Kapoor Malhotra et al., 2023).

Data collection, analysis and engagement

Data collection

A coding tool was designed and rigorously tested during a piloting stage which involved four rounds of pilot coding of 50 studies. All coding was done in duplicate with a third person as arbitrator in the event of disagreement. The piloting involved a process of revision, refining and defining. In the first rounds of piloting the coding form was revised in the light of pilot studies identifying unanticipated intervention categories and study settings. In subsequent rounds, codes were refined, tweaking the definitions to be clear what was included and how it was coded. This process helped improve the definitions which went in the code book in which all items in the framework were defined.

Information extracted from included studies was recorded using the codebook which defined data extraction codes (Appendix D), based on the EGM framework. Two reviewers independently extracted information from included studies to ensure consistency and quality of data extraction. Discrepancies between reviewers regarding data extraction were resolved by consensus, or if necessary, by a third reviewer.

Data extracted from each study included: author information, year of publication, country and region, intervention category, intervention sub-category, outcome domain(s), outcome sub-domain(s), participant characteristics (e.g., gender, displacement status), unit of analysis (micro-, meso-, macro-level), outcome sub-group(s), study design, study assessment, and whether the study is completed or on-going. We aimed to extract information to characterise whether the studies were concerned with atrocity prevention, conflict prevention, or both. These categories were also incorporated into the map as searchable filters.

Tools for assessing confidence in included reviews

Decision support is best informed through assessment of the rigour and relevance of the evidence (Gough, 2021). We assessed the confidence in the evidence, using appropriate assessment tools to evaluate primary studies – including both large-n (RCTs and QEDs) and small-n designs using relevant approaches (e.g., theory-based case studies and contribution analyses) – and existing systematic reviews and other evidence synthesis studies. The confidence in evidence syntheses was assessed using A Measurement Tool to Assess Systematic Reviews (AMSTAR2) (Shea et al., 2017). We adapted the overall confidence rating in AMSTAR2 to incorporate non-critical scoring items (protocol publication, publication bias assessment, reporting of excluded studies). In addition, while AMSTAR rating is a useful assessment tool, its

focus is more on statistical meta-analysis and may not always be appropriate to assess studies in some areas, like CAP. We therefore also provided an assessment of engagement with theory-based approaches and mixed-methods, drawing on Jimenez et al. (2018) (Appendix E).

Large-n quantitative studies were assessed using an approach developed by the Campbell Secretariat for use with EGMs incorporating elements of conduct and reporting including the type of study design, the description of the intervention(s) and outcome(s), the sample size, attrition, quality of measurement, and the clarity of evaluation question (Appendix E). Studies that were assessed as being of 'high confidence' incorporated a baseline outcome measure or use a method which ensured groups were reliably comparable at pre-intervention. In addition, given the known biases in recalled outcomes measurement, studies that were assessed as being of 'high confidence' also used observation to measure the outcome near to the time the event occurred, with the exception of reporting of salient events, like a death or violent attack, where outcomes recalled by participants, including for baseline after a number of years, were admissible in studies assessed as being of 'high confidence'.

Small-n qualitative studies were assessed using an approach developed by Sharma Waddington et al. (2023) incorporating the type of study design, reference to theory of change, clear description of data collection and analysis, sample selection, triangulation and methods to guard against bias (Appendix E).

Study dependency

We grouped the evidence sources by study, which may have comprised multiple published reports on a specific dataset using specific methods. Where a report covered multiple interventions, these were coded separately. Where there were multiple separate studies on the same intervention, these were also coded separately.

Analyses

We carried out descriptive analyses to understand the distribution of studies by a range of factors in order to answer our research questions. This included an analysis of the overall evidence base by population, intervention and outcome categories. We also examined the distribution of evidence by region, publication year, and whether the aim of the intervention was to prevent violent conflict (CP); to prevent atrocities (AP) or an implicit mix of preventing both (AP/CP).

Presentation

We generated the evidence and gap map, for which the primary version of the map contains intervention categories and subcategories for the rows, and outcome domains and subdomains for the columns. Filters are available for country, design and other coded variables. The map was generated using EPPI-Mapper, a specialised EGM app commissioned by the Campbell Collaboration which uses the data exported from EPPI-Reviewer. One strength of EPPI-Mapper is that the row and column headings can be any variables which have been coded. So, whilst the

interventions and outcomes are the most common form for the map, it is also possible to generate maps which present studies that focus on violent conflict or atrocities or that highlight regional gaps in intervention coverage. The EGM available as a supplementary file (Appendix H) is based on the matrix of CAP intervention categories and outcome domains defined above, together with relevant filters (e.g., geography, study design).

This resulting EGM framework (as summarised Figure 2) presents evidence across six intervention categories and 37 related sub-categories, and across four overall outcome domains and 23 outcome sub-domains. This is a relatively high number of categories, as compared to other EGM frameworks, which in and of itself is informative of the complexity of the CAP field that should not be overlooked or downplayed. The full list of intervention and outcome categories and definitions is presented in the online map⁸ and Appendix F. In addition to visual representation of the map, we discuss the results of the review, and present a narrative summary of the findings by key characteristics. This report, incorporating the search results, assessments, maps, findings with regard to the evidence questions 1-4 and implications of the findings for policy and programmes and research, were presented to OCSM and the Review Advisory Group. The report follows the Campbell template for EGMs.

Figure 2: Summarised EGM framework

Type	Intervention / outcome	Core outcomes		Secondary outcomes	
		Violence & atrocity prevention	Social cohesion	Community & state governance	Human security
Direct	Safe environments				
	Diplomacy, law, & accountability				
	Conflict management & mediation				
Indirect	Civil society				
	Governance & justice institutions				
	Economic foundations				

⁸ Available at: https://campbellsouthasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/CAP_FCDO_EGM.html

Note: *The full list of intervention and outcome categories and definitions is presented in the online map and Appendix F.*

Stakeholder engagement

We established a Review Advisory Group comprising external researchers and practitioners which assisted in ensuring the EGM was designed with appropriate interventions and outcomes, to be of optimal discoverability within FCDO and the broader development and security communities. The advisory group members included Tom Aston (Independent Consultant, small-n methods and governance expert), Jessica Baumgardner-Zuzik (Alliance for Peacebuilding, content expert), Aprille Knox (J-PAL, large-n methods and peacebuilding/governance expert), Lawrence Wocher and Daniel Solomon (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, content and synthesis experts). The advisory group met twice during the study, once during the protocol and scoping period, and a second time to discuss the findings presented in this report. The study protocol was also presented to sector and evaluation specialists at FCDO. We also disseminated the findings in various national and international conferences and workshops, including PeaceCon 2023, the UK Evaluation Society 2023, and the What Works Global Summit 2023.

Evidence synthesis prioritisation

A meaningful synthesis gap typically exists when the following conditions are true:

- **Policy relevance:** the issue of interest (such as a population, intervention or outcome) is highly relevant to a policy issue.
- **Sufficiency of primary evidence:** multiple primary effectiveness studies exist that employ sufficiently similar methods to be comparable and therefore synthesised.
- **Limited availability of existing high-confidence evidence synthesis:** published evidence syntheses do not already exist, or are not recent (within the last five years), that draw on mixed-methods evidence, covering implementation and delivery (process), effectiveness (magnitude of any effects), and mechanisms (how and why effects may arise)

Based on these principles, we developed a decision framework (Appendix I), which we used to analyse the extent of synthesis gaps by all 37 intervention categories. The decision framework included aspects such as whether the relevant intervention areas or outcomes were mentioned in the FCDO White Paper (2023).

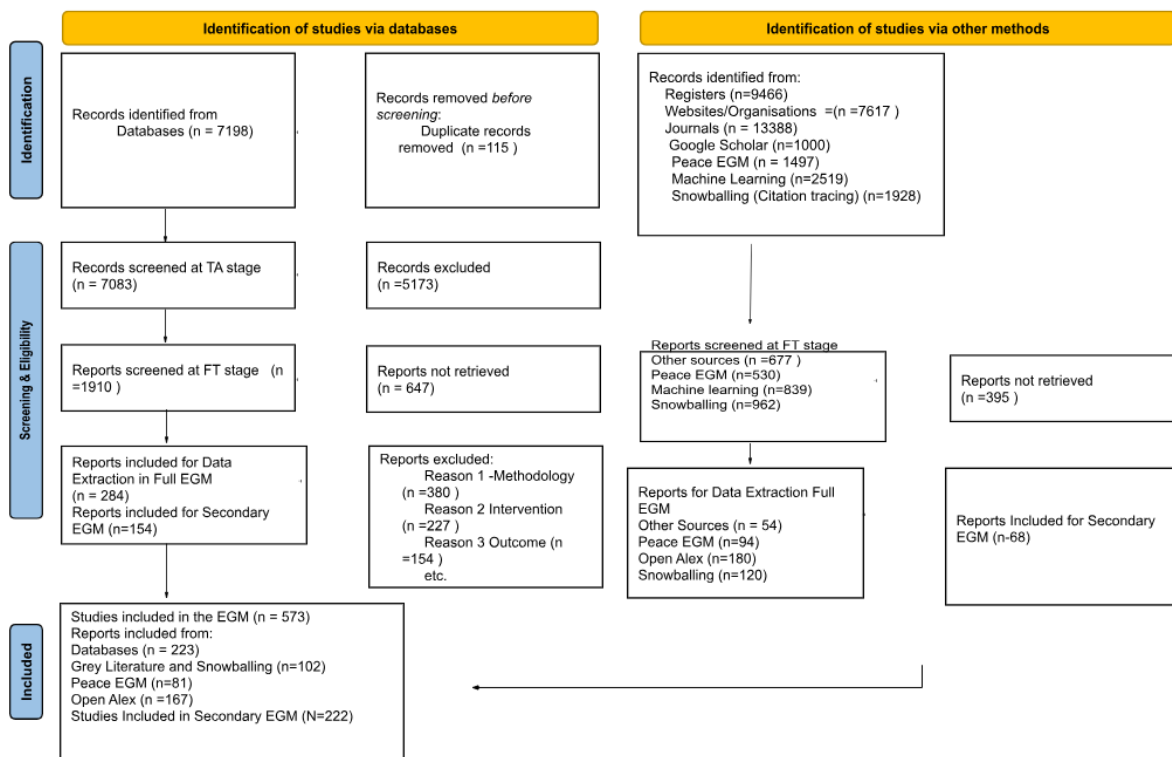
Results

This section presents the results of the systematic searches together with descriptive analysis of the interventions and outcomes evaluated in included studies. We also present subgroup analyses by the different levels of interventions and outcomes defined, and the types of outcome data evaluated by researchers.

Search results

The study search flow is presented in Figure 3. We initially identified around 44,000 records, 7,198 from the electronic database searches and 37,415 from other sources including registries, organisational websites, Google scholar and the existing Peacebuilding EGM (Sonnenfeld et al., 2000). Systematic searches typically cast the net widely, identifying 10,000s of records, most of which will not be relevant due to poor indexing of studies. Only around 10 percent (4,918) of the records were assessed as being of relevant interventions and downloaded for full text screening, of which 573 were identified as being of relevant populations, intervention strategies, outcomes and study designs and therefore included in the EGM. The number of included studies is comparable to maps from more mature literatures like water, sanitation, and hygiene (Chirgwin et al., 2021) but is about twice the number of studies we expected to identify in an emerging literature. This is partly because the scope of the map includes both CP and AP literatures, and partly because the study inclusion criteria are broader than many maps, since we incorporated quantitative and qualitative studies of effectiveness. Fewer than half (39%) of the included studies (n=223) were from electronic database searches, while 61 percent (n=350) were from the other sources. This attests to the importance of searching both academic and grey literature in systematic searches that are relevant for policy and practice. Most studies were completed (n=561; 98%) although we also identified 12 study protocols (2%).

Figure 3: PRISMA study search flow diagram



Reasons for exclusion: Studies were not included in the evidence map for a number of reasons, including:

- They did not relate to conflict or atrocity prevention, or report any core outcomes (e.g., Hodges, 2016; Waddington et al., 2019; Sonnenfeld et al., 2022);
- They related to interpersonal rather than intra- or inter-group conflict (e.g., Turk, 2017);
- They focused on gang violence (e.g., Berk-Seligson et al., 2014) or gang-related crime (e.g., Harrison, 2015); or
- They used an evaluation method that was not assessed as measuring the causal relationship between intervention strategy and outcome credibly (e.g., Urpeti et al., 2018).

Researchers in conflict and atrocity prevention used a wide range of approaches like case study methods, some of which explicitly aimed to measure a causal relationship but did not meet the study design eligibility criteria for this map. These study designs, totalling 222 records, called the ‘evidence bucket’, were also evaluated.

Percentages reported hereafter refer to numbers of relevant studies divided by the total number of included studies (n=573 for the primary EGM and n=222 for the secondary EGM), unless

otherwise stated. Therefore, for the sections where multiple coding was allowed, summation of percentages may exceed 100%.

Presentation of primary evidence and gap map

We generated evidence and gap maps to present the density and paucity of studies by interventions, outcomes and conflict and/or atrocity prevention aims. Figure 4 shows the primary evidence map for studies of conflict and atrocity prevention as a bubble plot, according to the main intervention categories, core outcome subdomains and secondary outcome domains, and types of studies. This suggests, albeit at this very high level of evidence aggregation, that there is sufficient density of evidence, and therefore few absolute gaps in the evidence base, by main intervention category (the rows in the map). The presentation also suggests there are absolute gaps for core outcomes relating to improved diplomatic relations, access to justice, and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), although not all of these outcomes will be relevant for each intervention. Regarding SGBV, the absolute gaps also arise due to the types of intervention strategies included in this study, which were limited to those aiming to prevent SGBV in the context of wider conflicts; we excluded intervention strategies addressing its consequences and also interventions to prevent intimate partner violence.

Figure 5 presents the primary evidence map as a mosaic plot, which additionally shows the numbers of studies categorised according to confidence in the findings.

When we turned to examining the in-depth evidence map by intervention sub-categories, more evidence gaps became apparent. Looking at the direct interventions, we found a relatively large number of primary studies under the safe environments intervention group that evaluated the effectiveness of peace-support, peacekeeping, and military support operations, but few studies of support to civilians and non-State armed groups, or of disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration (DDR) programmes for ex-combatants. There were also relatively few evaluations of policing and public security, although we are aware of a large literature on this topic; this is likely again because our review was limited to violent intra- and inter-group conflict and atrocity prevention and excluded other types of violence prevention (e.g., where policing interventions are primarily to address individual-level conflicts and, particularly, gangs and gang violence).

Turning to direct interventions in the area of diplomacy, law and accountability, we found relatively large numbers of primary studies addressing peace processes, diplomacy and sanctions (and no systematic reviews examining the effectiveness of sanctions). But there were few primary or synthesis studies examining the effectiveness of diplomacy, law, or the international and regional criminal courts. There were very few studies examining the effectiveness of aid assistance or aid conditionalities in preventing violent conflict and atrocities, presumably because these modalities are rarely used in practice for this purpose (e.g., due to the difficulties in establishing effective aid programmes and working relationships with recipient governments, donors are not incentivised to switch off or enact conditions in response to crises). Regarding conflict management and mediation interventions, there was a relative density of

studies on intergroup contact, peace education and, to a lesser extent, media and communication, but fewer primary or synthesis studies on research monitoring assessments (e.g., fact-finding missions) or dispute resolution.

Regarding indirect interventions supporting civil society, the largest number of primary studies, and six synthesis studies (Cramer et al., 2016; King et al., 2010; Lwamba et al., 2022; White et al., 2018; Wong, 2012; Zürcher, 2017), were on the effectiveness of social funds, community-driven development and reconstruction (CDD/R). We found fewer studies of the effectiveness of civil engagement and empowerment initiatives on preventing violence or atrocity, and studies examining civil society capacity building.

For indirect interventions targeting good governance and justice election support, we found some studies of public sector provision, foundational government institutional strengthening, and governance and domestic laws, and transitional or restorative justice, but few studies on security sector reform. In addition, while some studies evaluated the effectiveness of election support, there were very few studies examining the effectiveness of power sharing or transitional political processes.

Regarding interventions supporting the socioeconomic foundations to promote cohesion and reduce violent conflict and atrocities, we identified a relative density of studies on employment creation and training, cash and in-kind transfers, market development, and land reform support intervention strategies, but fewer studies examining the effectiveness of infrastructure investment and no primary studies that examined the effectiveness of financial products and services. Since there is a large literature of studies examining the effectiveness of infrastructure investments and financial products, these evidence gaps partly reflect the lack of such studies that collected evidence on the core outcomes of violence and atrocity prevention or social cohesion (and were therefore not included in the map).

In the next section, we discuss these densities and paucities of evidence in greater detail.

Figure 4: Presentation of the primary evidence and gap map by intervention categories and core outcome subdomains

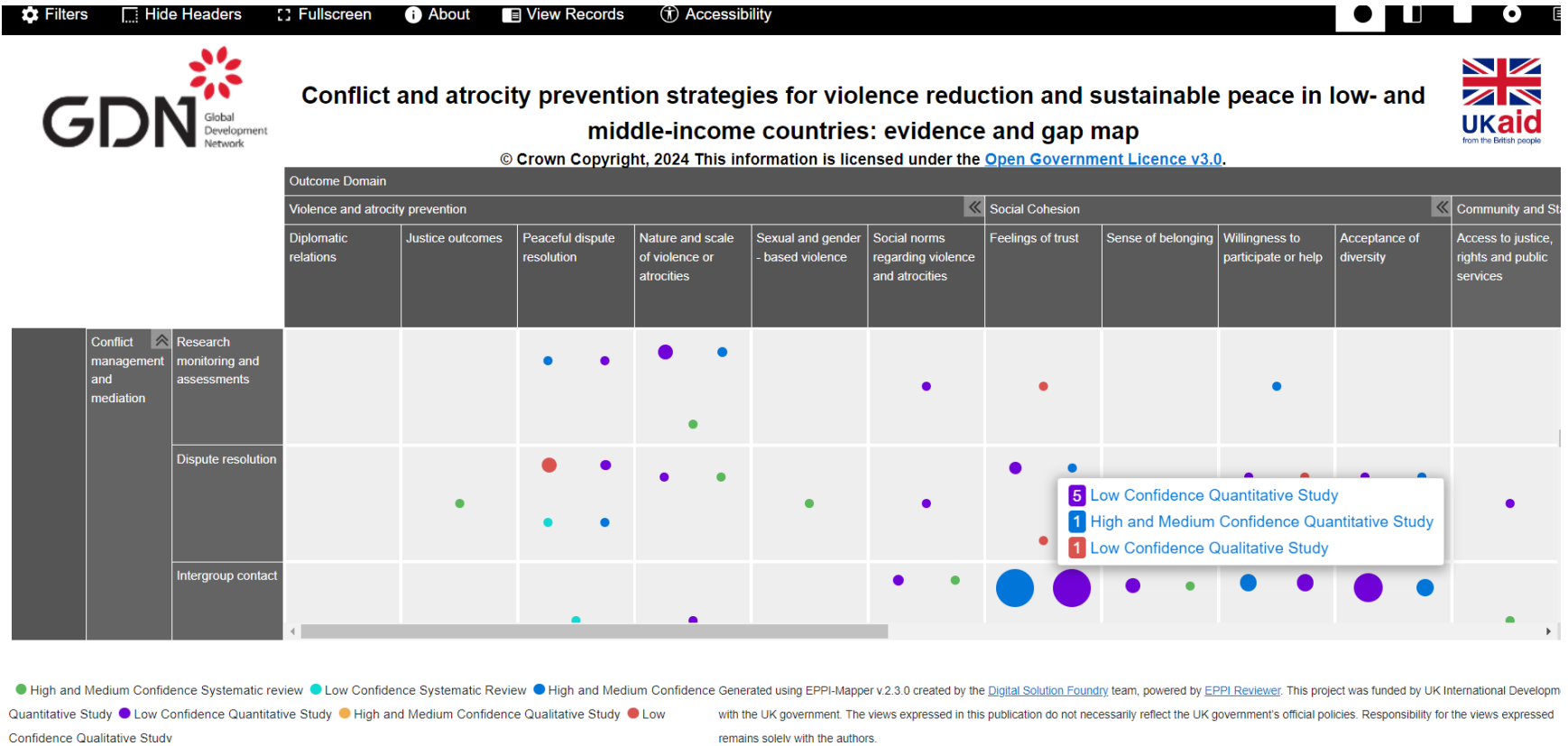
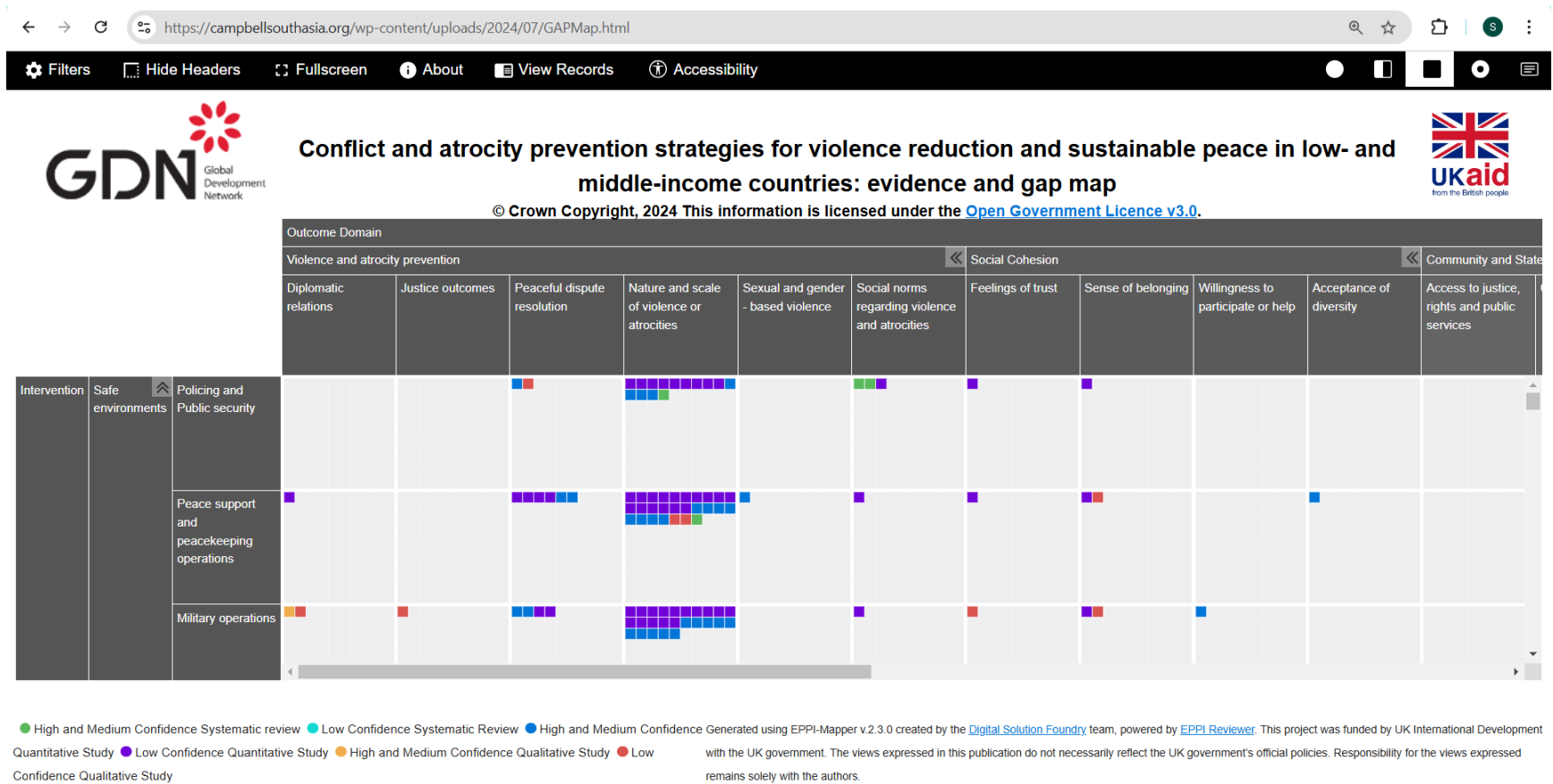


Figure 5: Presentation of the primary evidence and gap map with confidence assessments

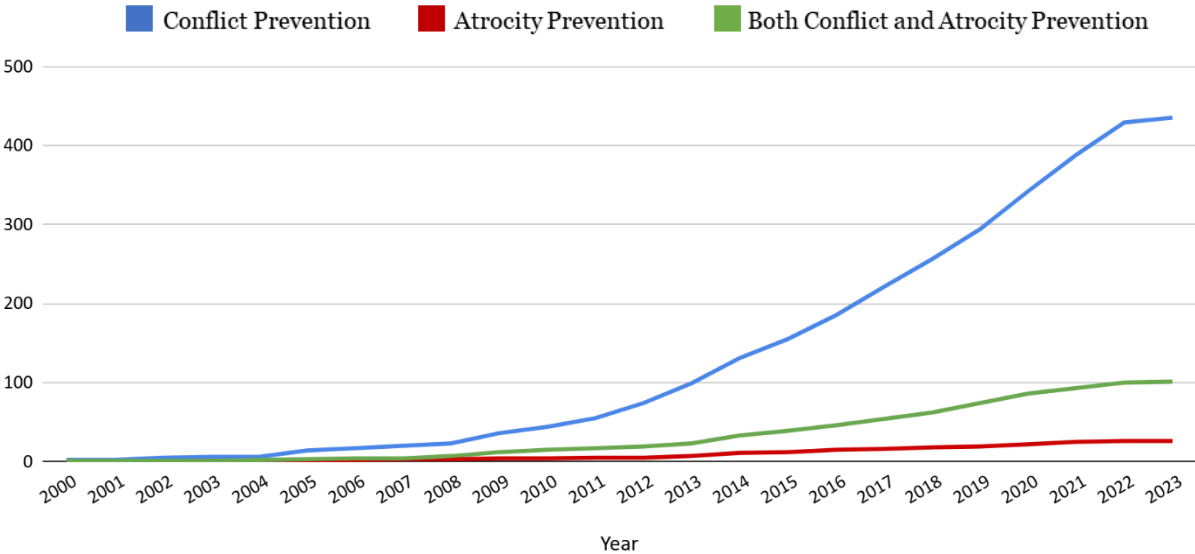


Characteristics of evidence

Size of the evidence base

Figure 6 shows the evolution of studies over time, from the cut-off date for inclusion by publication year in 2000, until mid-2023 when the searches were completed. There were very few impact evaluations of interventions to prevent violent conflict or atrocities prior to 2005, and the numbers of studies evaluating conflict prevention using qualitative and quantitative impact evaluation methods only really started increasing after 2011, suggesting this was the point at which the field coalesced to there being sufficient researchers producing impact evaluations. The figure also demonstrates how the “take-off” that occurred in the evaluation of intervention effectiveness on conflict prevention was not matched in the field of atrocity prevention, where few studies aimed to demonstrate or were able to address contribution or attribution of AP interventions, despite there being, for example, 11 special issue journals dedicated to R2P in 2015 alone.

Figure 6: Cumulative distributions of studies



Populations and settings

CAP aims and stage of conflict: Most of the studies (n=446; 78%) were of interventions that had explicit conflict prevention (CP) aims (Figure 7) at a variety of stages of conflict (Figure 8). A substantial minority of studies were conducted of interventions that implicitly aimed to prevent both violent conflict and atrocities (CP/AP) (n=101; 18%). Only 26 studies (5%) were of interventions with solely atrocity prevention (AP) aims. To take two examples, Caparos et al. (2020) evaluated social cohesion in a post-genocide Rwanda, while Amodio et al. (2021) evaluated sanctions in the West Bank.

We identified two possible explanations for the limited number of AP studies identified, relating to the comprehensiveness of our searches and the focus of the AP evidence base. It is possible that our search strategy did not identify all relevant studies, although our numbers did align with the expectations of our external Review Advisory Group. For example, we reviewed an annotated bibliography of 700 studies of R2P (Gallagher et al., 2024), the majority of which did not aim to establish the effectiveness of specific AP intervention strategies (that is, the causal relationships between interventions and outcomes, using either attribution or contribution methods, on our core outcomes), and were therefore not eligible for inclusion in the map.

A second possible explanation is that the AP evidence base has been less focused on issues of effectiveness to date; our search results provide some support for this. We identified multiple AP studies that sought to understand or diagnose problems or context, but fewer that aimed to assess the contribution of specific intervention strategies. Studies that were focused on specific interventions largely evaluated implementation processes rather than effects on core outcomes included in our review. In other words, few AP studies posed causal questions, and when they did, fewer still met the criteria for measuring effectiveness in reducing violent conflict and atrocity or improving social cohesion. Even in the 'evidence bucket' of studies that did not meet the study design criteria to be included in the EGM, we only identified a further six AP studies (plus 39 joint AP/CP studies), as discussed further below.

Figure 7: Distribution of studies by conflict and atrocity aims

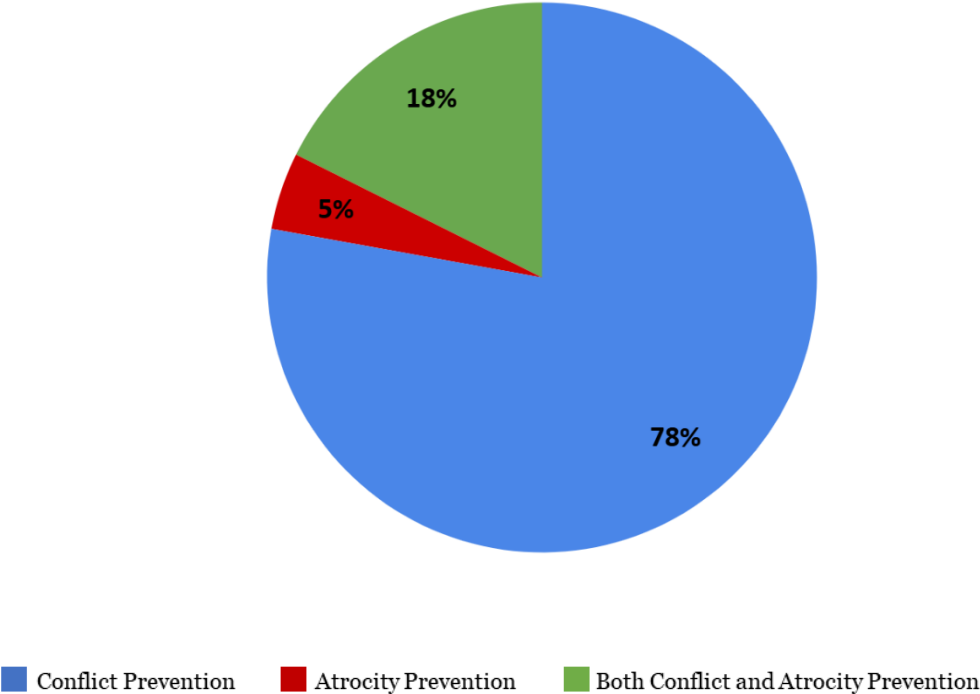
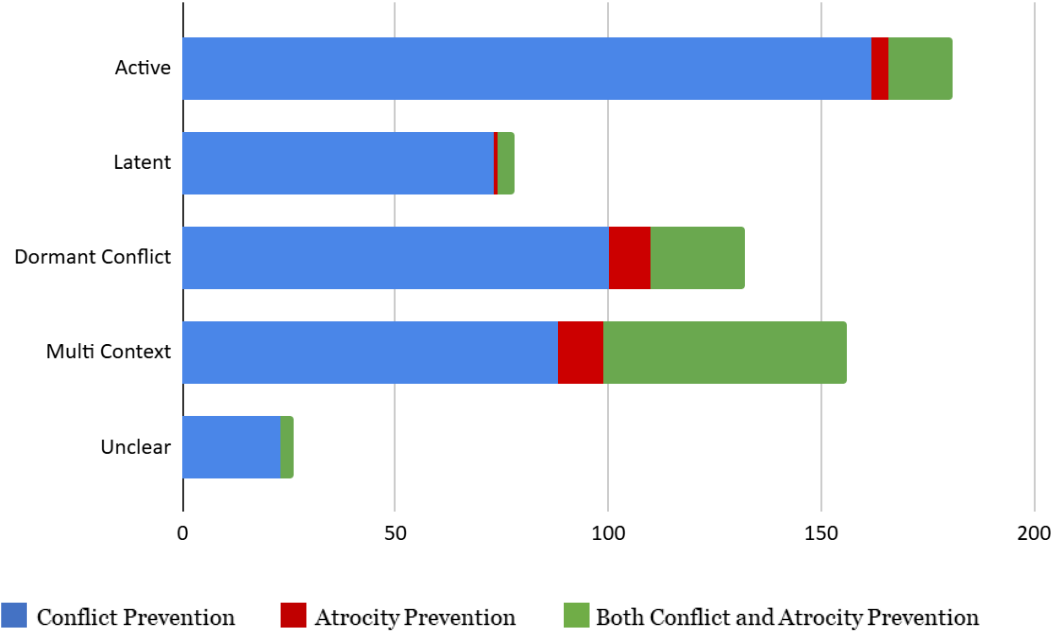
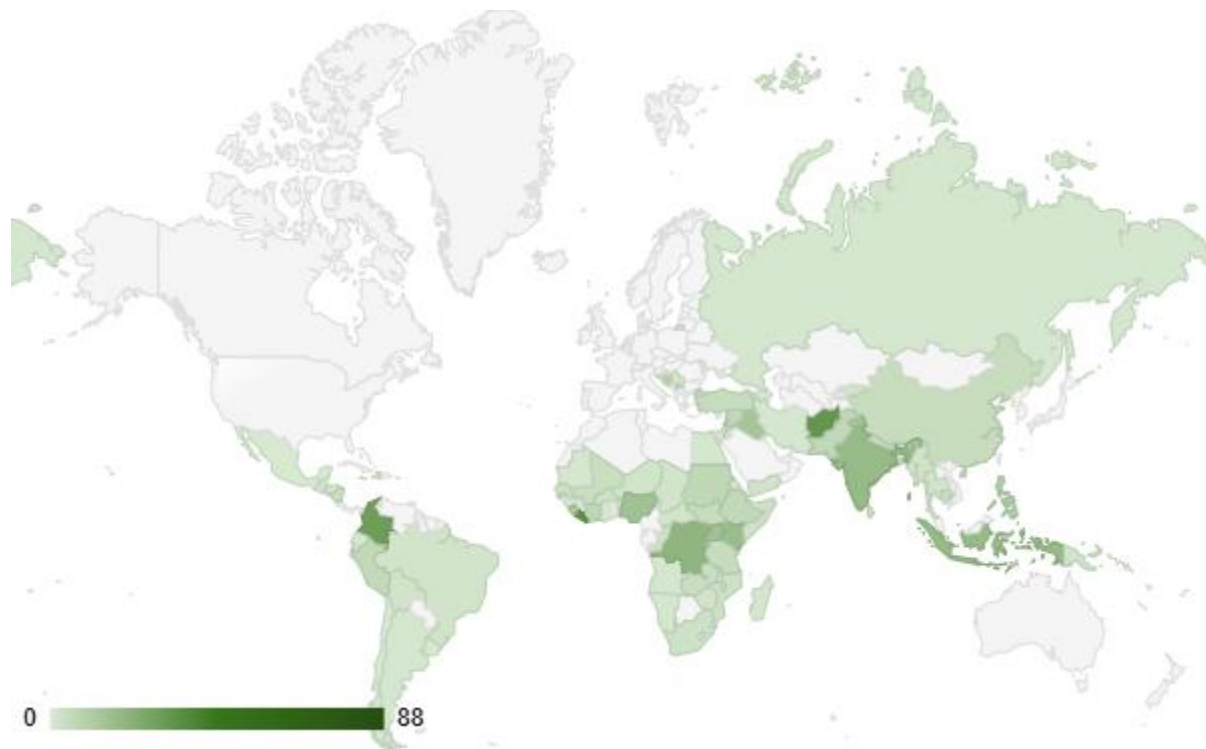


Figure 8: Distribution of studies by stage of conflict



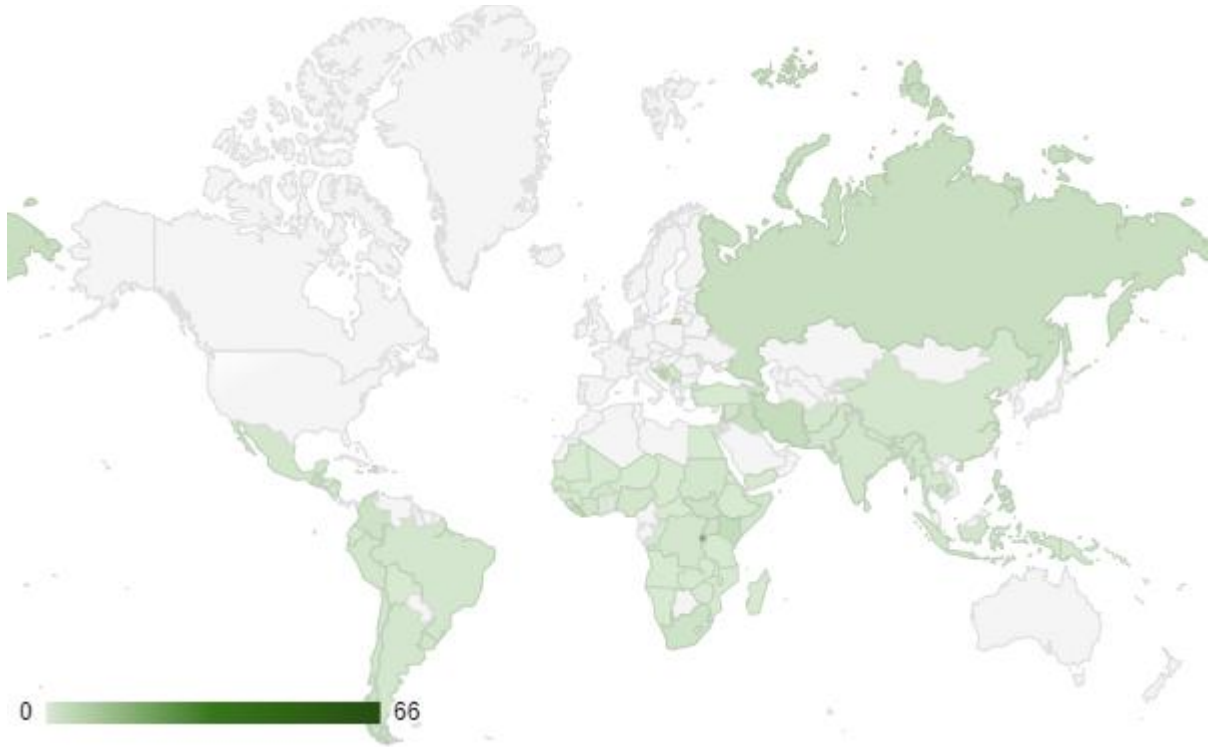
Geography: By far the largest number of studies in any single global region were of interventions in sub-Saharan Africa (n=204; 36%), the greatest being in Liberia (n=37; 6%), reflecting the relatively greater number of active and dormant violent conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa than elsewhere.⁹ However, when examining studies by country, we found relatively large numbers of studies of interventions with explicit conflict prevention aims in other parts of the world including Palestine (n=49; 9%), Afghanistan (n=32; 6%), and Colombia (n=29; 5%) (Figure 9). A further 88 studies (15%) were conducted using global or regional data. Of the studies conducted with atrocity prevention aims, either explicitly or implicitly, 66 (12%) were done using global or regional data, while the largest number of studies in a single country was in Rwanda (n=19; 3%) (Figure 10).

Figure 9: Global distribution of studies: conflict prevention aims



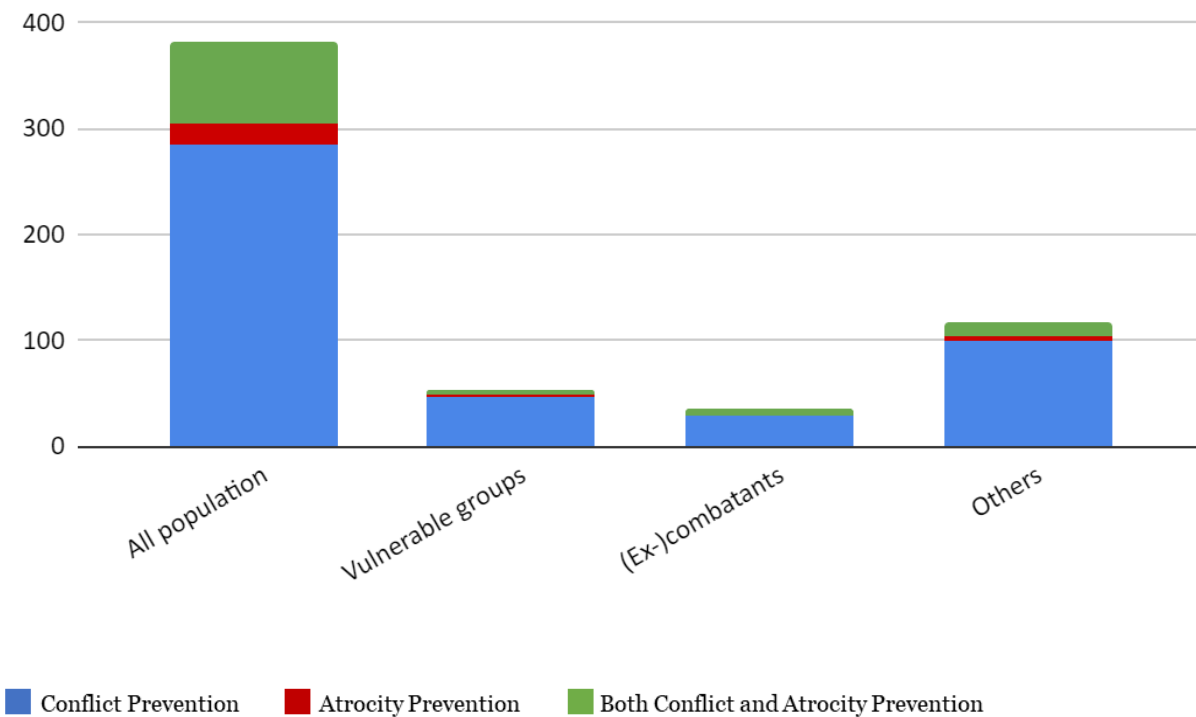
⁹ The Fund for Peace heat map of fragile and conflict-affected states shows a greater concentration of 'high alert' situations in Africa compared to other regions: <https://fragilestatesindex.org/analytics/fsi-heat-map/>

Figure 10: Global distribution of studies: atrocity prevention aims



Targeted populations: Most studies were conducted among the general population, targeting and collecting data from civilians. Although a significant minority (n=52; 9%) were conducted among vulnerable groups (13 studies (2%) of women, 25 (4%) of children, 9 (2%) of displaced persons) and 35 studies (6%) collected data from combatants or ex-combatants (Figure 11).

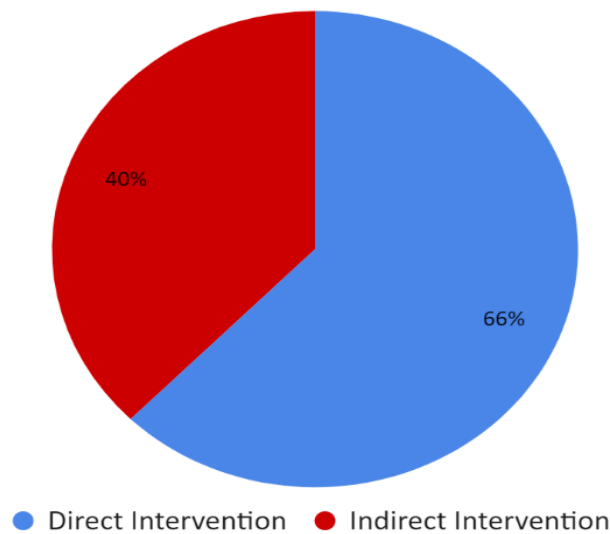
Figure 11: Distribution of studies by study target group



Interventions

Intervention type: The majority of interventions evaluated were direct in nature (n=376; 66%), that is, most evaluated interventions that sought to respond to a specific violent conflict or atrocity directly (Figure 12). For example, Aladysheva et al. (2017) evaluated a Kyrgyzstan school peace education programme in response to interethnic violent conflict between Kyrgyz and Uzbek communities. In total, 227 studies (40%) evaluated the effects of indirect interventions that sought to address wider drivers of violent conflict and atrocity; in Fetzer (2019), the author found that an Indian public employment programme had a positive effect on levels of violent conflict by providing more income stability for participants.

Figure 12: Distribution of studies by type of intervention



Note: N=603 because some studies evaluated the effects of multiple-component interventions, which could be coded as both direct and indirect.

Intervention groups: Across the six intervention groups specified in the framework, the most common intervention group evaluated was conflict management and mediation (n=165; 29%), followed by diplomacy, law, and accountability (n=146; 25%), socio-economic foundations (n=114; 20%), and safe environments (n=96; 17%) (Figure 13). Notably, we found the fewest studies within the civil society intervention group (n=48; 8%). This group included studies like Mvukiyehe et al. (2017), which evaluated the effectiveness of a Liberian civic education intervention on election procedures and a forum for monthly discussion of governance issues. When we considered the CAP aims of studies being evaluated, the majority of interventions with explicit AP aims, and both AP and CP aims, were classified as diplomacy, law and accountability intervention strategies (n=90; 70% of the 127 studies evaluating interventions with AP or mixed CP/AP aim). Interventions with explicit CP aims were more evenly classified across all six intervention groups, with the most common interventions largely following the overall trend identified above.

Intervention strategies: The most common interventions evaluated were intergroup contact (n=70; 42% of the conflict management and mediation group). For example, Alan et al. (2020) evaluated the impact of an educational intervention to build inter-ethnic cohesion in Turkish school. This was followed by peacekeeping operations (n=47; 49% of the safe environments intervention group). For example, Fjelde & Smidt (2022) evaluated the effects of a peacekeeping operation on the risk of electoral violence globally. These were largely interventions with CP aims. Sanctions (n=57; 39% of the diplomacy, law and accountability group) was the third most

intervention, which was also the most common approach with explicit AP aims (n=13; 50% of the all 26 AP studies). This was followed by peace processes and diplomacy (n=40; 27% of the diplomacy, law and accountability group), and peace education (n=47; 28% of the conflict management and mediation group). An example of peace process and diplomacy includes a study by Candelaria (2020), which compared the third-party mediation of the conflicts in Indonesia and Philippines. Peace education intervention considered a range of delivery modalities. For example, Blattman et al. (2011), Pilar CAF (Corporación Andino de Fomento) et al. (2018), and Kampf and Stoleró (2014) all evaluated peace education initiatives, but they deployed a community education campaign, specialized classes, and video games as modalities respectively to realize outcome change. Under socio-economic foundations, the largest numbers of studies were in the areas of cash transfers (n=28; 25% of this intervention group), land reform (n=23; 20%), market development and macro-economic policy (n=19; 17%), training (n=17; 15%) and employment creation (n=18; 16%).

Each intervention in the intervention-outcome framework was evaluated by at least one study, but several interventions were only associated with a few studies such as financial products or services or providing support to civilians and non-state armed groups. Finally, although interventions in the area of cyberspace were eligible for inclusion, no studies were found on these topics.

Figure 13: Distribution of studies according to intervention groups

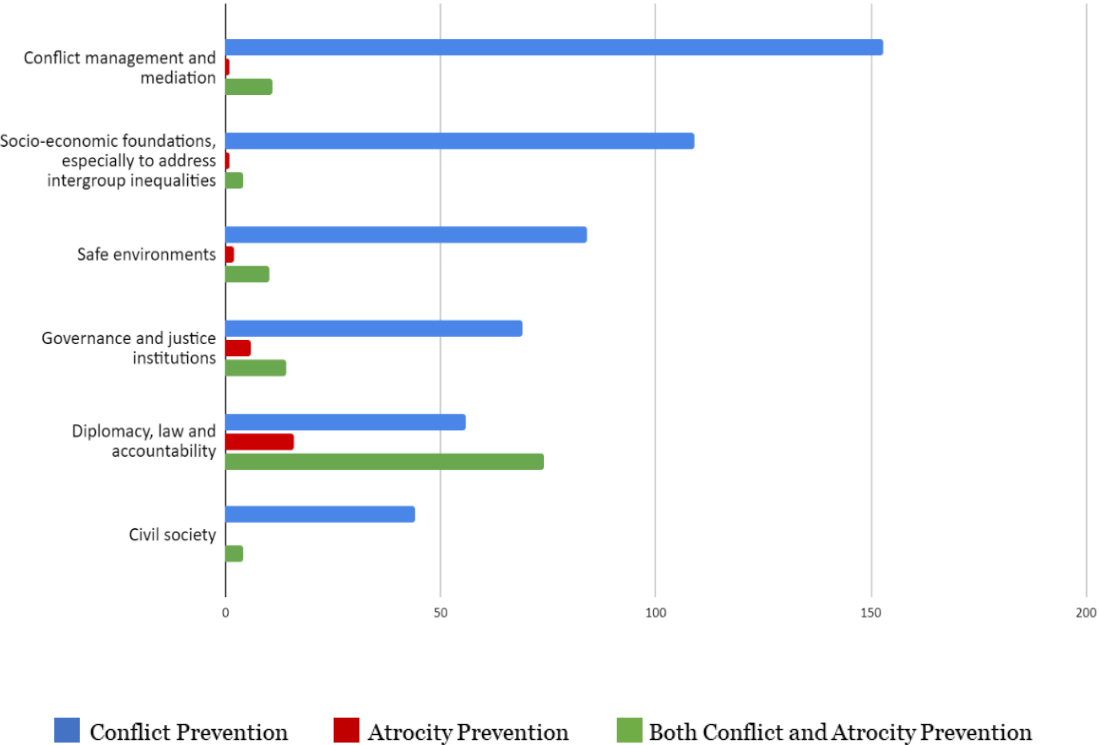
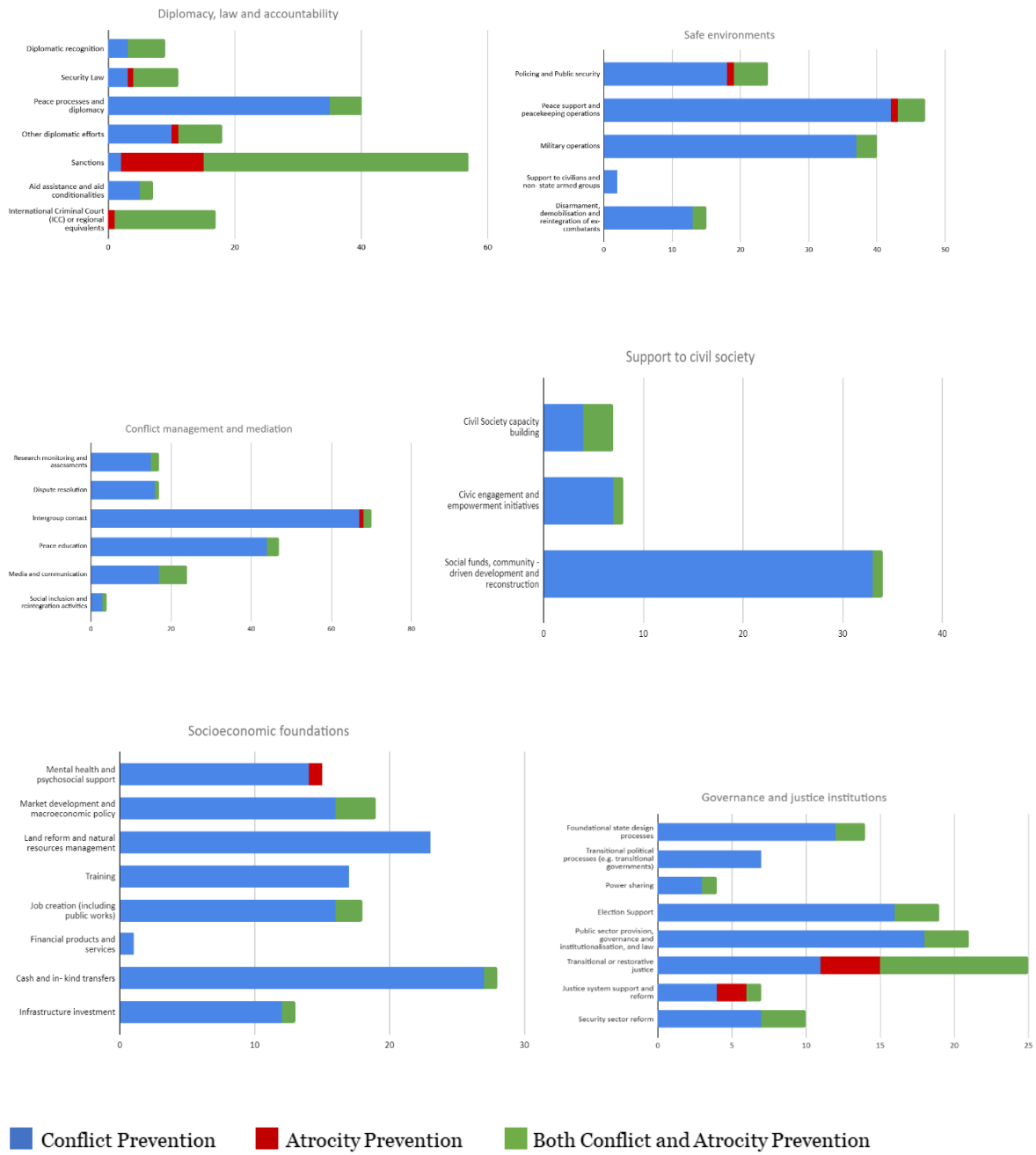


Figure 14: Distribution of studies by intervention subcategories



Outcomes

Types of outcomes: The eligible studies evaluated a total of 1,128 outcomes from across all four outcome groups in our intervention-outcome framework (Figure 15).¹⁰ Studies evaluated both core (n=629; 110%) and secondary outcomes (n=499; 87%), which suggests some interest in analysis of causal pathways. Given the focus on the EGM, it is intuitive that the most common outcome group reported on was violence and atrocity prevention (n=335; 58%). This was followed by human security (n=233; 41%), social cohesion (n=191; 33%), and community and state governance (n=133; 23%)¹¹. This trend was largely due to evaluations of programmes with explicit CP aims. Studies evaluating AP programming largely considered human security outcomes (n=14; 54% of all the AP studies).

Core outcomes: The largest number of core outcomes reported were on the nature and scale of violence and atrocities (n=206; 64% of the violence and atrocity prevention outcome group); 164 (48%) were for CP aims and (15%) were for AP or mixed AP/CP aims. For example, Corboz et al. (2019) focused on violence against children in war-affected Afghanistan reporting two measures: ‘nature and scale of violence or atrocities’ and ‘sexual and gender-based violence’, under the outcome domain violence and atrocity prevention. Relatedly, 74 studies (22% of the violence and atrocity prevention outcome group) reported on social norms around violence. Changes in social cohesion outcomes were also reported in many studies, especially feelings of trust (n=132; 69% of the outcome group) and willingness to participate or help others (n=56; 29%).

The least common core outcomes evaluated by studies were changes in the nature and level of diplomatic relations (one of the exceptions being Ruggeri et al. (2013), which evaluated the effect of UN peacekeeping missions in Africa on levels of cooperation at different levels), and sexual and gender-based violence, each which were evaluated by only three studies (1% of the violence and atrocity prevention outcome group). In the case of AP-interventions, several core outcome gaps were identified, including peaceful dispute resolution, sexual and gender-based violence.¹²

¹⁰ Studies often evaluated multiple outcome sub-domains. As such, the total number of outcome sub-domains reported (n=1,128) in our analysis is greater than the total number of studies included in the EGM (n=573). Therefore, the summation of percentages exceeds 100%.

¹¹ Studies often evaluated multiple outcome domains. As such, the total number of outcome domains reported (n=892) in our analysis is greater than the total number of studies included in the EGM (n=573). Therefore, the summation of percentages exceeds 100%.

¹² It is worth reiterating here that a gap in evaluated outcomes alone does not suggest an evidence gap has been identified as there may not be a strategic or theoretical need to fill the gap.

Secondary outcomes: The most common secondary outcomes evaluated by studies were economic security (n=104; 45% of the human security outcome group) and government performance (n=92; 69% of the community and state governance group). These secondary outcomes also reflect those evaluated in studies of interventions with AP explicit aims. Food security and nutrition (n=7; 3% of the human security group) and transitions of power (n=3; 2% of the community and state governance group) were the least common secondary outcomes evaluated by the evidence base. Again, secondary outcome gaps for interventions with AP aims were found, including social safety nets, educational security and political security.

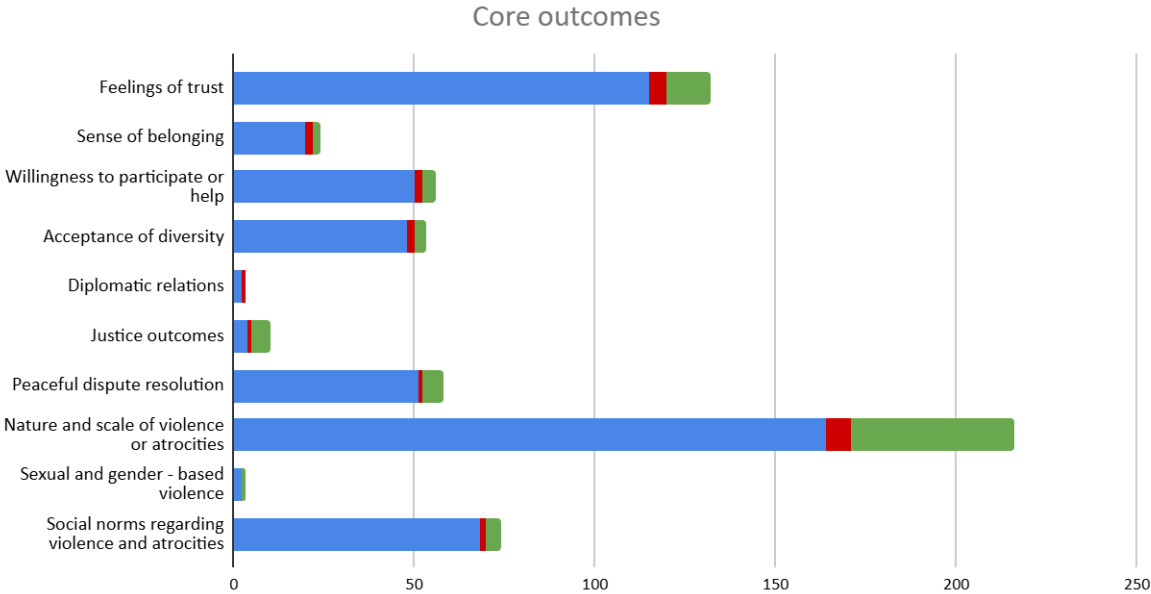
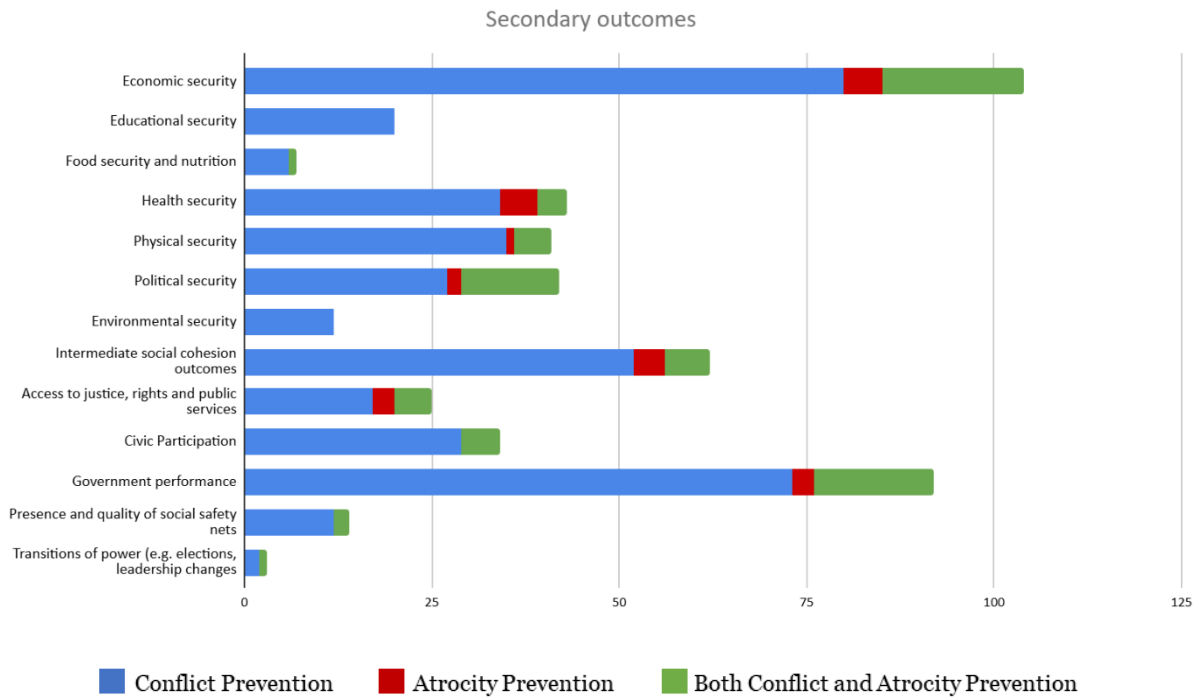
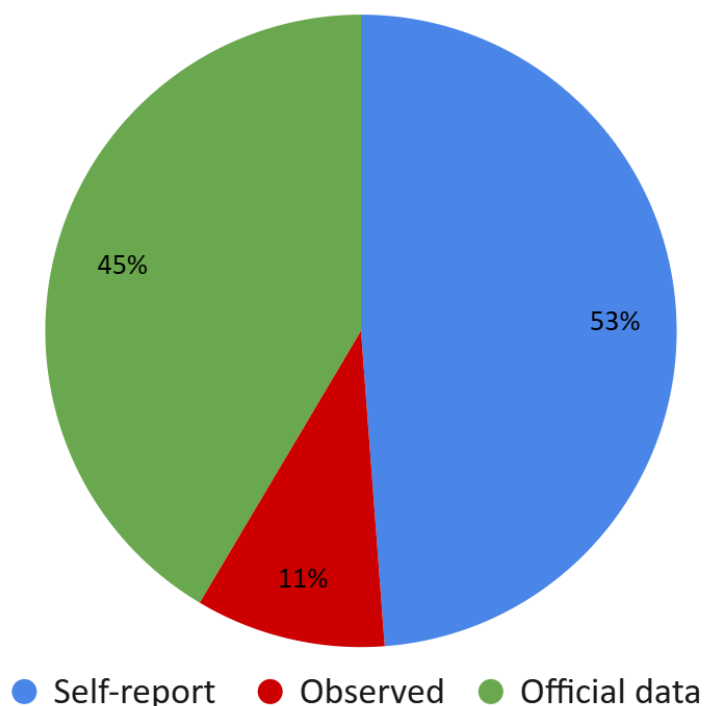


Figure 15: Distribution of studies by core and secondary outcomes evaluated



Outcome data collection: To better understand how outcomes were assessed, we analysed the data sources used to approximate outcomes (Figure 16). Just over half (n=306, 53%) of the included studies collected data through self-reported measures using tools like surveys, with 45 percent (n=260) drawing on official data sources and 11 percent (n=61) using observational data. For example, in two different evaluations of intergroup contact interventions, Ugarriza & Salazar (2022) measured attitude change toward ex-combatants using a 12-item Likert self-reported survey, while Goldenberg et al. (2016) measured inter-group cooperation by observing the success of specified cooperation tasks by different groups.

Figure 16: Methods of outcome data collection



Confidence in research design and conduct

We found 25 evidence syntheses (4%). These included systematic reviews focusing on strengthening women’s empowerment and gender equality for a peaceful society (Lwamba et al., 2021), and strengthening of inter-group social cohesion (Sonnenfeld et al., 2021). A rapid evidence assessment collected evidence on armed conflict prevention and mitigation (Cramer et al., 2016), and another examined the effectiveness of community-driven development and reconstruction (White et al., 2017).

Primary studies used a range of designs, most commonly large-n quantitative approaches (459 studies; 80%) including randomised controlled trials, of which we included 127 RCTs (22%; e.g., Blattman et al., 2015) and 333 quasi-experiments (58%; e.g., Best et al., 2011) (Figure 17)¹³.

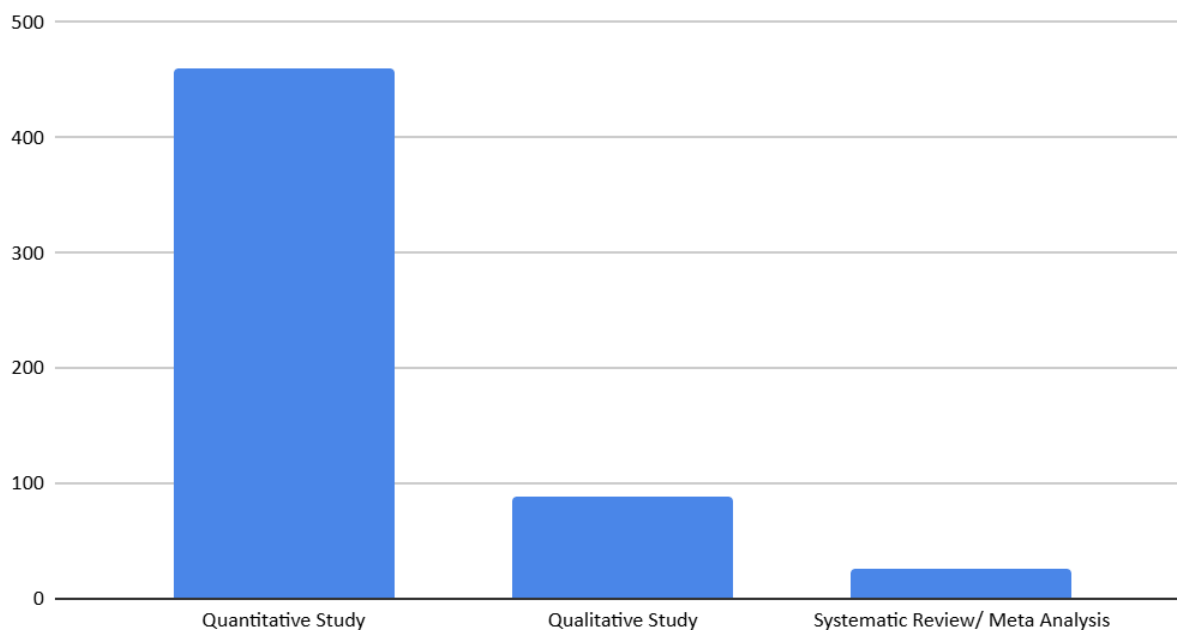
However, a significant minority of studies (n=89; 16%) used small-n theory-based qualitative approaches to measure the causal effect of the intervention strategy. To take one example, Brehm et al. (2021) used a case study methodology to evaluate restorative justice in Rwanda.

The small number of theory-based approaches identified could reflect publication bias. For example, there may be security reasons that prevent publication or limited resources to support

¹³ One large-n study used RCT to evaluate some components of the intervention and quasi-experiment to study other components.

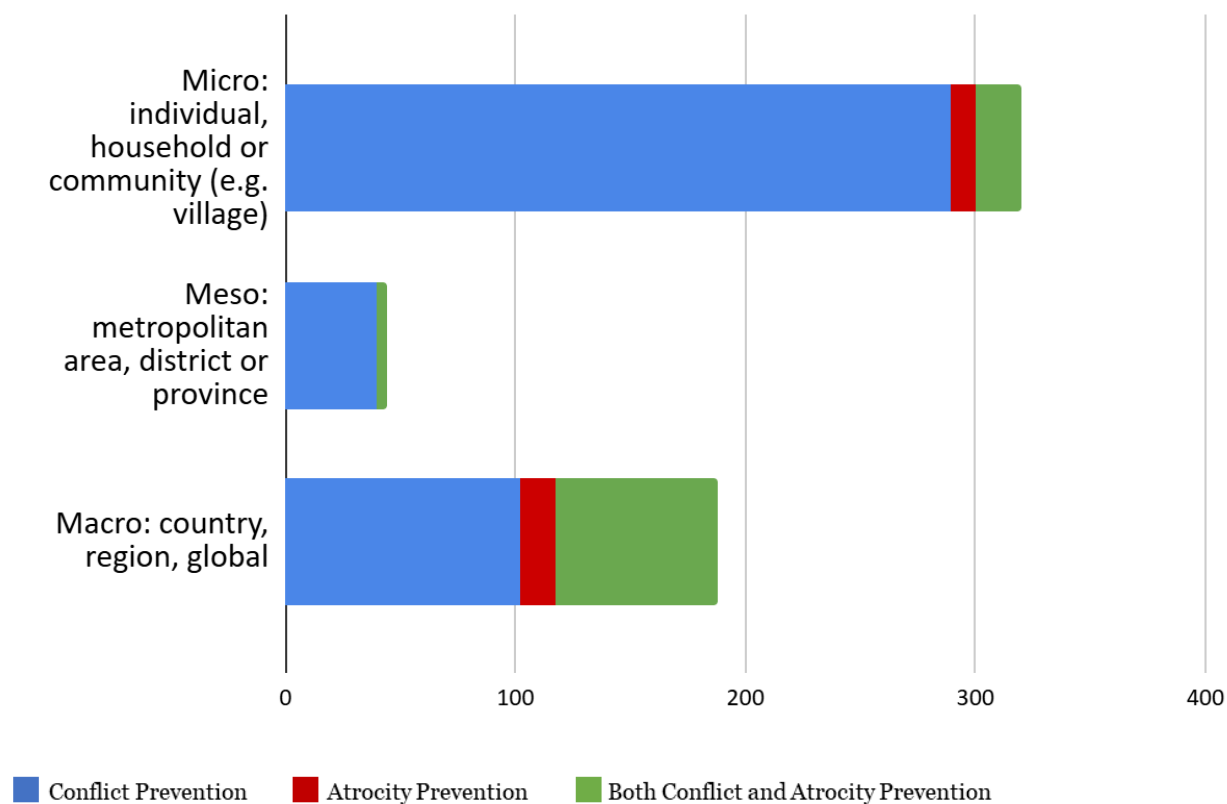
publication in a crisis context. It could also reflect quality; as discussed above, we included an additional 222 studies that deployed small-n designs to evaluate relevant interventions and core outcomes, but that did not meet the study design criteria to be included in the primary map.

Figure 17: Types of study designs in EGM



Most primary studies ($n=320$; 56%) were analysed using data collected at the micro-level, from individual households and communities (Figure 18). However, 188 studies (33%), including the majority of studies examining intervention strategies with explicit AP aims ($n=15$; 57% of the 26 AP studies) were macro-level analyses. Macro-level analyses are useful because they use data with sufficient contextual variation so that generalisable trends can be identified for policy and practice. However, it is also often difficult to credibly establish in macro-level studies, which usually draw on cross-country case analysis, that the findings are causal rather than correlational. Therefore, the AP literature in particular may benefit from more micro- and meso-level analyses using rigorously designed quantitative, qualitative or mixed (quantitative and qualitative) approaches.

Figure 18: Distribution of studies by study units of analysis



Evidence synthesis studies

As noted above, we used AMSTAR2 (Shea et al., 2021) to appraise evidence synthesis studies (Figure 19). There are 16 total categories across seven critical domains, and overall confidence based on the assessment in the critical domains. We have modified the critical domains and include five critical items (1) adequacy of the literature search, (2) justification for excluding individual studies, (3) risk of bias from individual studies being included in the review, (4) appropriateness of meta-analytical methods, and (5) consideration of risk of bias when interpreting the results of the review.

Figure 19: Assessment of evidence synthesis studies



Eight studies (32% of the 25 completed synthesis studies) were assessed overall as at ‘high confidence’ based on the critical domains in the tool (Cramer et al., 2016, Hsieh et al., 2021, Lwamba et al., 2022, Sonnenfeld et al.,2021, Spangaro et al.,2013 and Spangaro et al.,2021) (Figure 20). Three studies (12%; Aboud et al.,2012, Jewkes 2014, and White et al.,2018) were assessed as being of ‘medium confidence’ which meant more than one non-critical items, but ten (40%) studies were of ‘low confidence’ meaning that there was one critical flaw with non-critical weaknesses. A further four studies (Carthy et al, 2020; Dittmann et al., 2017, Kumar and Willman, 2016 and Wong, 2012) were rated as of ‘critically low confidence’, meaning that there were multiple critical flaws. Overall, the included evidence synthesis studies clearly reported the PICO components and search strategies and the list of databases and grey literature searched, but did not always transparently and adequately assess the risk of bias in the evidence included in the studies. Most studies also did not report important aspects of evidence synthesis including publication of a study protocol, reporting of funding sources or assessment of publication bias.

We also assessed the reviews according to the extent to which they engaged with theory. The summary assessment results are in Figure 20. Fourteen (56% of 25 synthesis studies assessed) reviews were assessed as partially or fully engaging with theory, since half presented a theory of change, logic model or theoretical discussion informing causal mechanisms. Nine (36%) of the

studies reported primary intermediate and endpoint outcomes. Finally, over half (n=15) reviews incorporated qualitative evidence in mixed methods analysis, to answer additional questions about intervention effectiveness, design, barriers and enablers, adherence, context, implementation and/or causal mechanisms.

Figure 20: Overall confidence in evidence synthesis studies

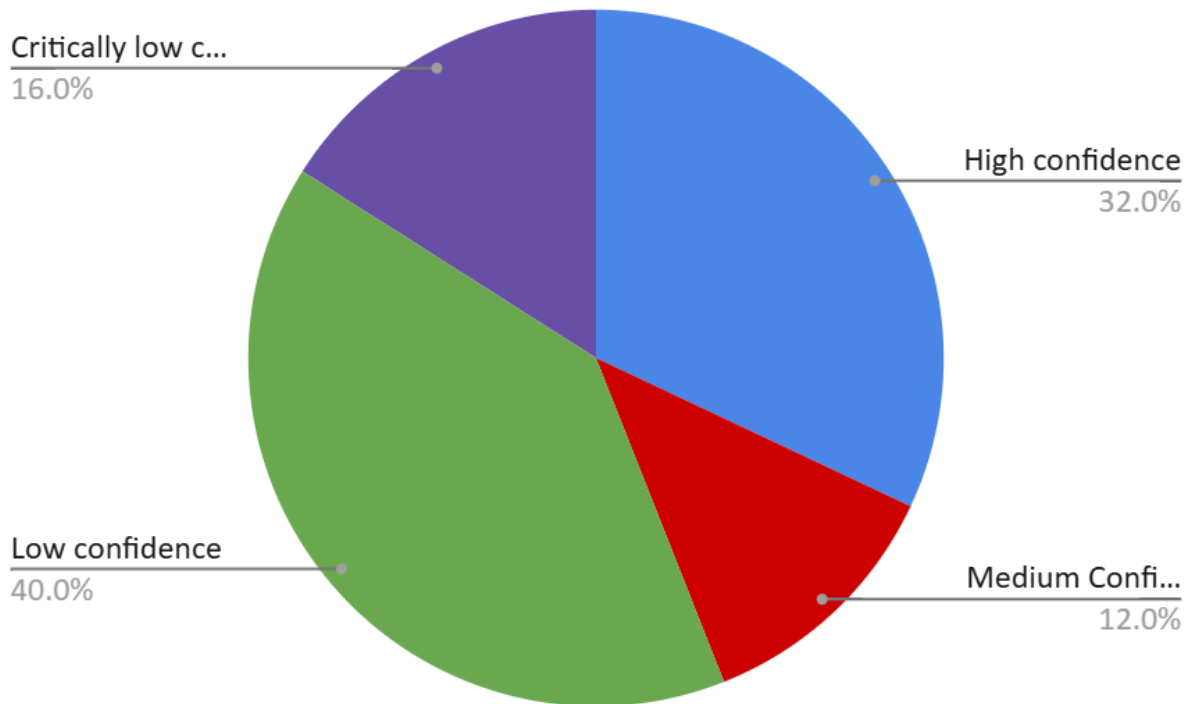
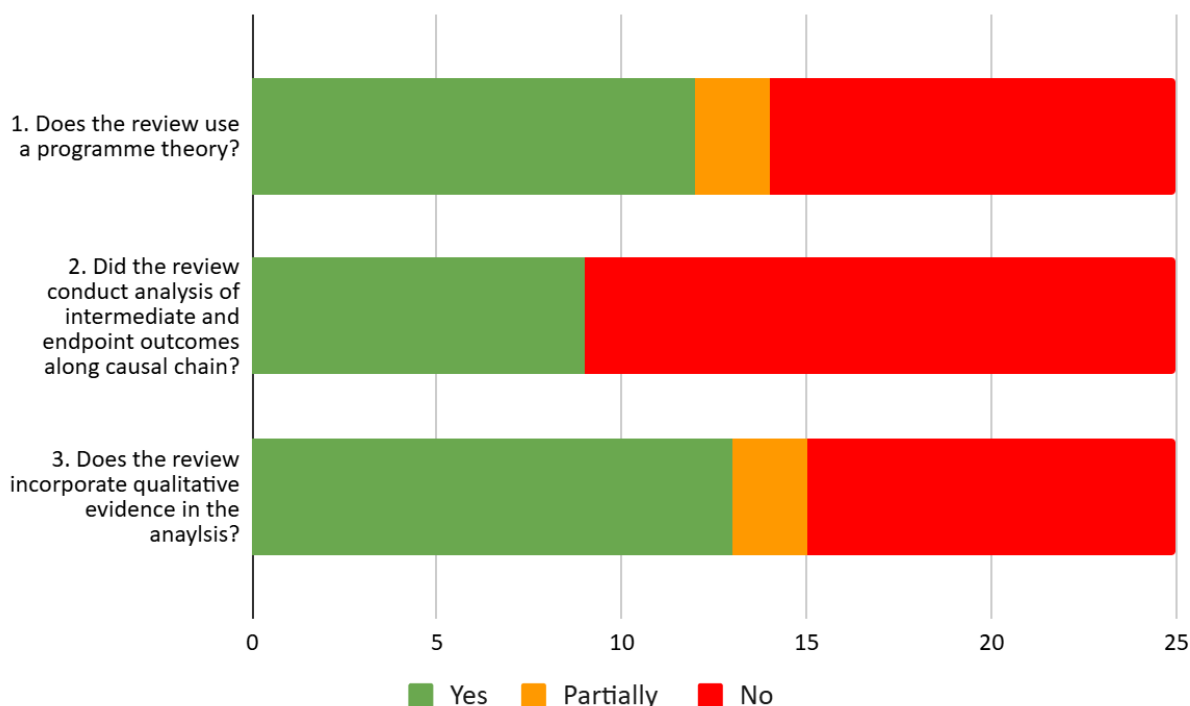


Figure 21: Engagement of reviews with theory and qualitative evidence



We note that two reviews (White et al., 2018; Wong, 2012), which were assessed as at ‘medium confidence’ and ‘low confidence’ respectively, engaged more fully with theory and mixed-methods than other reviews, scoring ‘yes’ or ‘partially yes’ for all three questions, and therefore engaging with a wider range of questions than most other reviews. This highlights the importance of incorporating an assessment of the use of theory and mixed quantitative and qualitative methods in reviews of social interventions, in order to provide better decision support.

Large-n quantitative studies

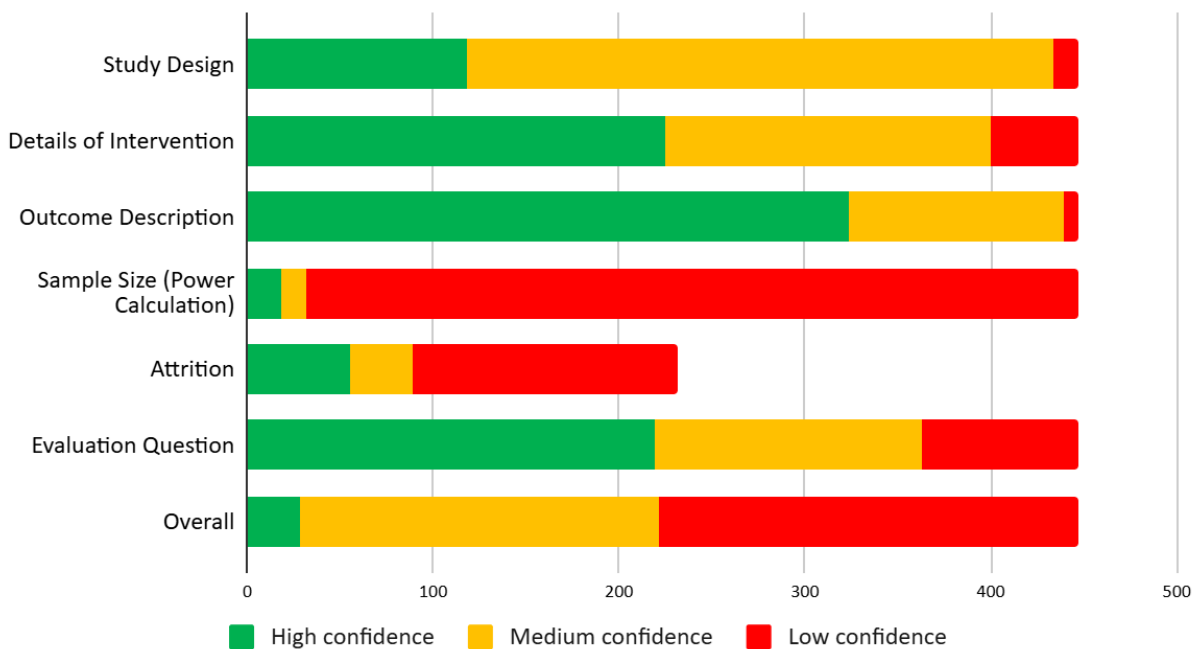
We assessed the confidence in findings of the included studies based on key features including study design, methodology and reporting. The confidence assessment tool was developed by the Campbell Collaboration for EGMs. The tool contains critical dimensions of the evaluation, each of which is marked as ‘high confidence’, ‘medium confidence’, and ‘low confidence’. The overall score uses the ‘weakest link in the chain’ (or maxi-min) principle. Hence, the confidence in study findings can only be as high as the lowest rating given to the nine critical items in effectiveness studies.

In this map, 6 percent of the completed large-n quantitative studies (n=28) were rated as of ‘high confidence’, 43 percent (n=193) were rated as of ‘medium confidence’ and 51 percent

(n=226) were rated as of 'low confidence' (Figure 22)¹⁴. The studies scored highly in terms of framing the evaluation questions, detailing the intervention and the outcomes, and regarding attrition (losses to follow-up or drop-outs) of study participants. Attrition is not always a relevant factor in impact evaluations, as in the case of studies that use cross-sectional evidence; these studies were not scored against attrition.

Thirty-two percent of the completed large-n quantitative studies (n=143) were rated as of 'low confidence' due to the absence of reporting on attrition (losses to follow-up). However, we did not consider reporting about power calculations as a critical item in the assessment. Many studies relied on existing data sources and hence did not need to perform tests to determine whether sample sizes were sufficient for detecting effects beforehand, in order to define the optimum sample size for data collection (i.e. power calculations). While power is still relevant in these studies (e.g., power to estimate effects overall or for particular population sub-groups) we opted not to mark down these types of studies if they did not report test of this nature for the purposes of our confidence assessments.

Figure 22: Assessment of large-n quantitative studies



Small-n qualitative studies

There were in total 89 small-n studies included in the evidence map (16%). As shown in Figure 23, based on our assessment criteria, three studies (3% of the small-n studies) were rated overall

¹⁴ Out of 459 large-n quantitative studies, 447 studies were assessed for confidence. The other 12 studies were ongoing; therefore these were not included in the confidence assessment.

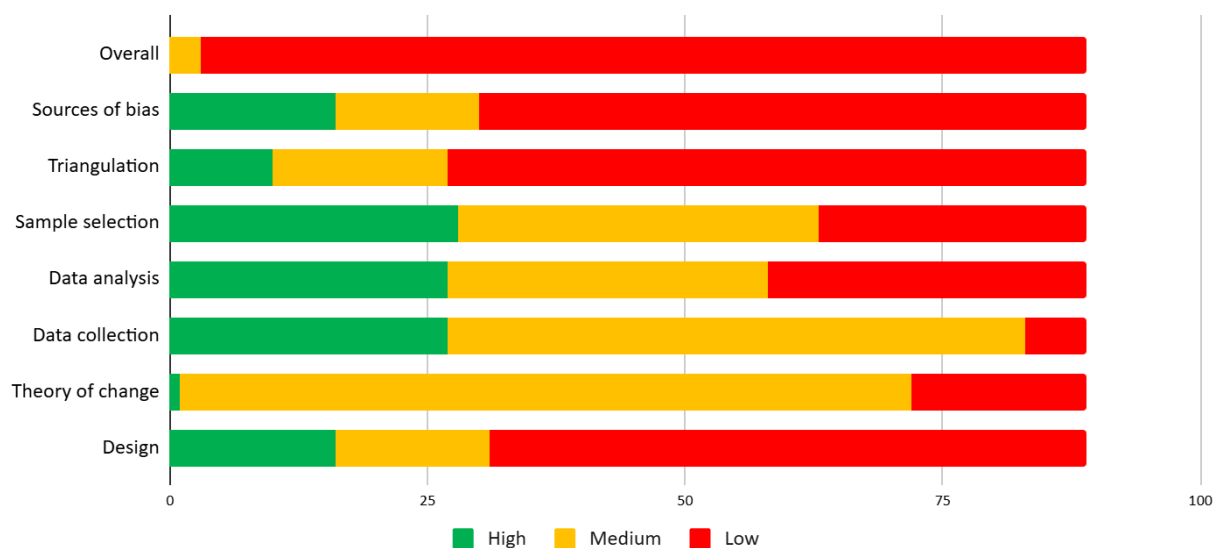
at 'medium certainty': these studies were coded as at either 'medium' or 'high certainty' on each of the seven criteria. The other 86 studies (97%) were of 'low certainty' overall, meaning that they were assessed as at 'low certainty' for at least one of the seven items. No study was rated as at 'high certainty' overall (i.e., none was rated as at 'high certainty' on all items).

This predominance of 'low certainty' ratings overall is due to lower ratings for criteria 'study design', 'triangulation' and 'source of bias'. The 'study design' criterion asks whether the study used an established small-n method. While 31 studies (35%) used such methods as process tracing and qualitative comparative analysis, 58 studies (65%) did not mention any small-n approach as defined in the protocol. The criterion 'triangulation' asks whether and how the study conducted triangulation. Sixty-two studies (70%) did not mention triangulation, and the other 27 studies (30%) explicitly stated triangulation was done, of which 10 (10%) described a detailed process; in most cases it was done by using a variety of data sources (data triangulation). A similar tendency can be observed for the 'sources of bias' criterion: 59 studies (66%) were rated as at 'low certainty' as they did not mention a potential source of bias. Some of the studies assessed as at high or medium certainty (n=30; 34%) used triangulation as a means to address potential sources of bias.

We also note that for the criterion 'theory of change', the vast majority of studies were rated as at 'medium certainty': this criterion requires a study to present a theory of change or theoretical framework that includes six key elements: (1) inputs, activities, outputs, intermediate/final outcomes, (2) underlying intervention logic (3) project-affected people (4) timeline (5) assumptions and (6) contextual factors. Seventy papers (79%) were coded as at 'medium certainty' on this criterion, as they presented only a theoretical background linking interventions and outcomes (element 2), sometimes accompanied by assumptions (element 5) or contextual factors (element 6).

Overall, the data collection method and data analysis process were more clearly described: 27 studies (30%) were assessed as being of 'high certainty' for the criterion 'Data collection', because they included detailed information such as when or where interviews and focus group discussions happened, as well as who had collected data from whom, and which questions were included in the survey instrument. Fifty-six studies (62%) were assessed as at 'medium certainty' for providing clear but limited information on data collection methods. Twenty-seven studies (30%) discussed the process for data analysis, for example, how qualitative data were coded, and therefore were rated at 'high certainty' on 'Data analysis' criterion. For the 'sample selection' criterion, which assesses how sufficiently the study explains and justifies the sample or case selection strategy, 63 studies (71%) were rated as at 'high' or 'medium' certainty, of which 35 (39%) were 'medium', mainly due to insufficient 'justification' of choice of sampling strategy.

Figure 23: Assessment of small-n qualitative studies



Analysis of evidence bucket studies

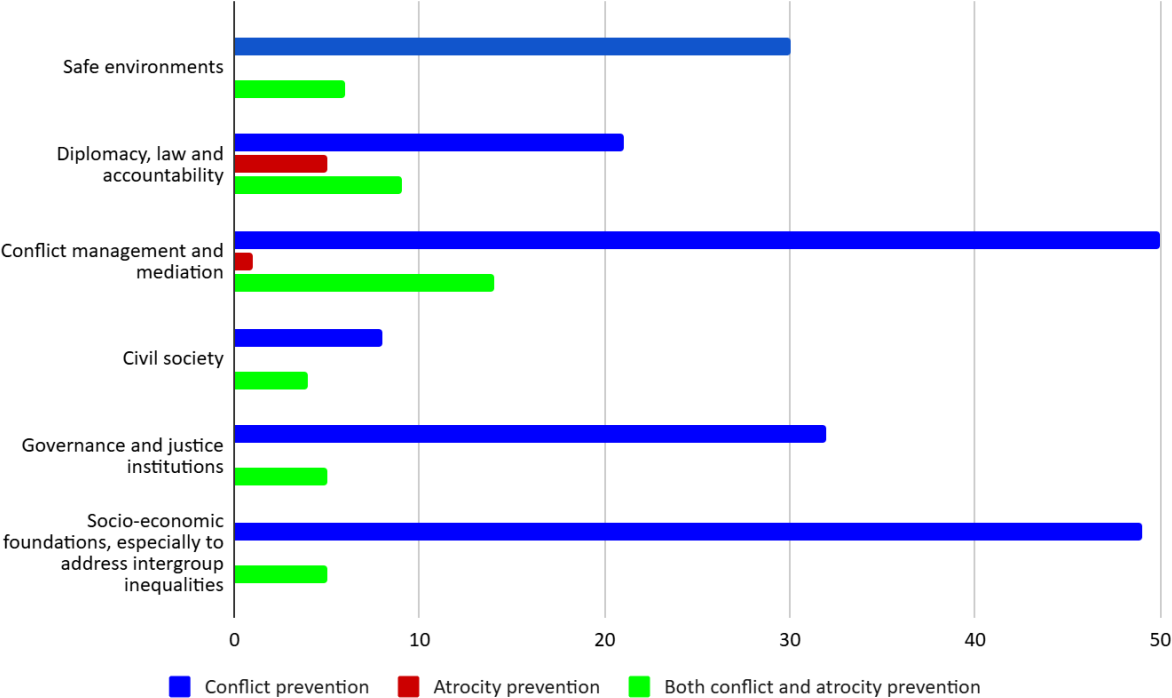
We piloted lowering the bar on study design inclusion to see if that mattered for the share of CP and AP studies found. There were 222 small-n qualitative studies that were excluded from the EGM but which we analysed in this consistency check on our study design inclusion criteria. These studies included primary data analyses with qualitative approaches (which were not evaluation toolkit methods like contribution analysis or process tracing) and discussed eligible CAP interventions and outcomes in a relevant low- or middle-income setting. But the studies did not include theoretical discussion or analysis that linked intervention strategies with outcomes, so they could not justifiably be regarded as studies of causal effects of CAP strategies. To take one example, Upreti et al. (2018) discussed the effectiveness of the DDR process for female ex-combatants in Nepal. The study clearly described the data collection methods and historical background of the conflict event, and the authors presented their findings on relevant outcomes, namely re-integration to the community and income generation activities of the female ex-combatants based on their rich data from interview and focus group discussion. However, the discussion around the outcome findings was not based on a theoretical framework (i.e., how in theory the intervention was expected to lead to the outcome), or analysis of a causal pathway from DDR intervention to the outcomes measured, so it was not possible to determine if the inferences made were causal.

We found the same share of CP and AP studies as in the EGM. Regarding the types of evaluated interventions and study locations, we found broadly the same trends as in the primary EGM (Figure 24). Among 222 studies, the majority evaluated conflict prevention explicitly (n=177,

80%), very few studies were explicitly of atrocity prevention (n=6, 3%), and others evaluated both conflict and atrocity prevention (n=39, 18%).

In terms of interventions, 128 studies (58%) were of direct interventions and 101 were of indirect interventions (45%). The most common intervention evaluated conflict management (n=65 studies; 29%), followed by socio-economic foundations (n=54; 24%), governance and justice institutions and safe environments (n=37; 17% each), but only 12 studies (5%) of civil society interventions.

Figure 24: Interventions studied in evidence bucket

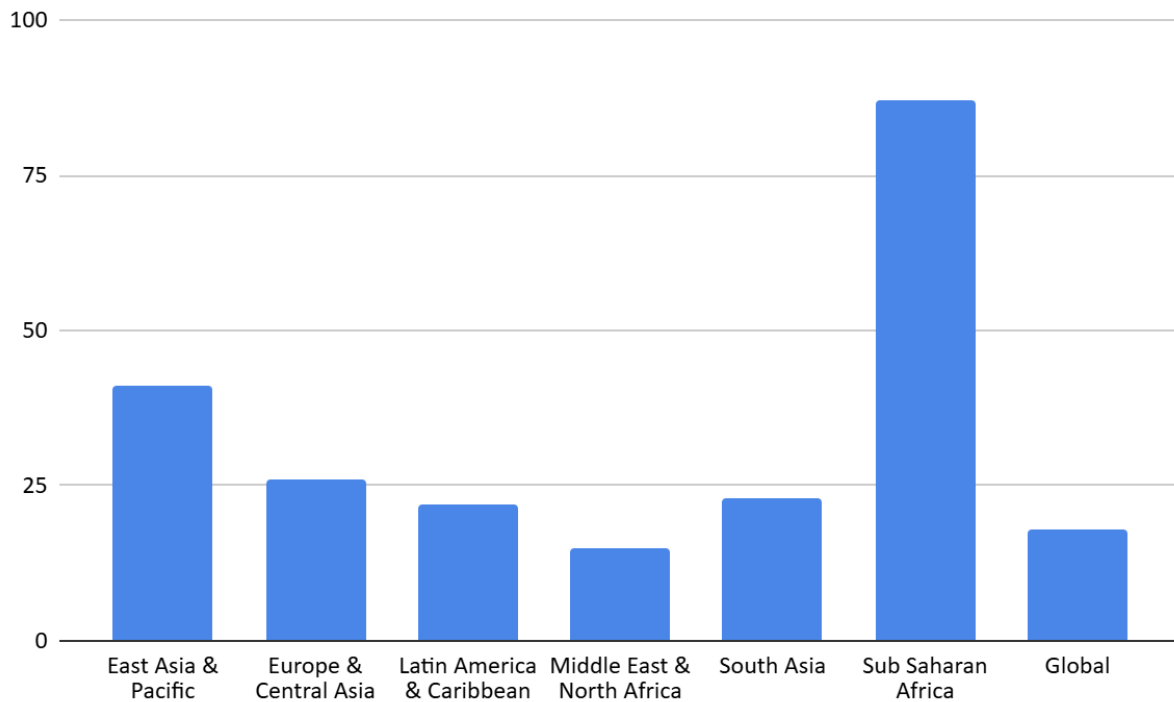


The studies are most likely to be of interventions in sub-Saharan Africa (n=87, 39%), East Asia and Pacific (n=41, 18%), Europe and Central Asia (n=26, 12%) and then approximately equal number of studies in South Asia and Latin America and Caribbean (around 10% each). The least representative area of studies was in the Middle East and North Africa (n=15, 7%) (Figure 25).

Because we found the same shares of CP and AP studies, together with approximately the same shares of interventions, we concluded that the distribution of EGM findings by CAP and intervention categories were not primarily due to the choice of study design inclusion criteria, but rather that researchers working on particular topics have engaged with casual interference

methods to differing degrees. In particular, we concluded that most of the literature on AP strategies has not engaged with questions about, or methods for evaluating, casual interference.

Figure 25: Location of studies in Evidence Bucket



Discussion

In this section we present the findings of the review in light of the evidence questions, we discuss a conceptual framework for understanding and linking policy research on conflict and atrocity prevention, reflect on the nature of the atrocity prevention literature, and discuss the limitations of the study.

Findings for evidence questions

In this section, we aim to answer the four evidence questions posed under the review objectives.

EQ1. What is the extent of evidence on the effectiveness of conflict and atrocity prevention interventions in improving core outcomes and secondary outcomes?

We found 573 studies that examined the effectiveness of strategies for conflict and atrocity prevention in addressing violent conflict and atrocities and the social cohesion risk factors for violence and atrocity. These are included in the evidence and gap map. We piloted lowering the bar on study design eligibility, to see if it mattered for the share of studies found by intervention, analysing a further 222 studies which were relevant studies of CAP interventions, but which did not use eligible methods to establish the causal relationship (contribution or attribution) between prevention interventions and conflict, atrocity or social cohesion outcomes. We found the same shares of CP and AP studies, and intervention strategies, as in the EGM, concluding that researchers working on particular topics have engaged with casual interference methods to differing degrees.

The most common intervention group evaluated was conflict management and mediation (n=165; 29%), followed by diplomacy, law, and accountability (n=146; 25%), socio-economic foundations (n=114; 20%), and safe environments (n=96; 17%). Interventions to support civil society were associated with the fewest number of studies (n=48; 8%). Interventions with explicit CP aims were evenly classified across all the six intervention groups. The majority of interventions with explicit AP aims (either solely or in combination with CP aims) were classified under diplomacy, law and accountability (n=90; 70% of the 127 studies evaluating interventions with AP or mixed CP/AP aim).

The most common intervention evaluated was intergroup contact (n=70; 42% of the conflict management and mediation group). This was followed by peace support and peacekeeping operations (n=47; 49% of the safe environments group). Sanctions (n=57; 39% of the diplomacy, law and accountability group) was the third most evaluated intervention, which was also the most common approach with explicit AP aims (n=13; 50% of the AP studies). Sanctions were

also evaluated in studies looking at violent conflict prevention or both conflict and atrocity prevention (n=44). This was followed by peace processes and diplomacy (n=40; 27% of the diplomacy, law and accountability group), and peace education (n=47; 28% of the conflict management and mediation group). We also found relative densities of studies in the areas of socio-economic foundations including cash transfers (n=28; 25% of the group), market development (n=19; 17%), land reform and natural resources management (n=23; 20%), training (n=17; 15%) and job creation (n=18; 16%).

Studies evaluated both core outcomes relating to violent conflict and atrocity prevention and social cohesion (n=629; 110%), as well as secondary outcomes relating to community and state governance and human security (n=499; 87%). The most common outcome group evaluated was violence and atrocity prevention (n=335; 58%), followed by human security (n=233; 41%), social cohesion (n=191; 33%), and community and state governance (n=133; 23%). Evaluations of the effects of interventions on the nature and scale of violence and atrocities (n=216; 64% of the violence and atrocity prevention group) were the most common. The most common secondary outcomes evaluated by studies were economic security (n=104; 45% of the human security group) and government performance (n=92; 69% of the community and state governance group). Just over half of the included studies reported outcomes using self-reported data (n=306; 53%), with official data accounting for 45% (n=260), and observational data accounting for 121% (n=61).

EQ2. How does the coverage of evidence vary by geography and other contextual factors?

Most of the studies were of interventions that had explicit conflict prevention aims (n=446; 78%). Only 26 studies (5%) were of interventions with solely atrocity prevention aims, although a substantial minority of studies were conducted of interventions with combined CAP aims (n=101; 18%). The greatest number of studies in any single global region were in sub-Saharan Africa (n=204; 36%), reflecting the relatively large number of dormant, active and latent violent conflicts there. Most studies were conducted drawing on data collected from the general population, although significant minorities of studies collected data from vulnerable groups such as women, children and displaced people, and among combatants and ex-combatants. We also found that a few cases of conflict and atrocity seemed to be systematically under-represented in the literature, notably in the Central African Republic and North Korea.

EQ3. To what extent are the studies designed, conducted, and reported appropriately to answer questions about the effectiveness of CAP interventions?

Primary studies most commonly employed large-n quantitative approaches (n=459; 80%) including randomised controlled trials (n=127; 22%). Most primary studies evaluated effects at the micro level (n=320; 56%). The majority of large-n quantitative studies were rated as of 'low

confidence' (n=226; 51% of the large-n studies). The main reason for this was attrition (losses to follow-up) and limited reporting to calculate attrition rates. Again, the majority of small-n qualitative studies were rated as of 'low certainty' (n=86; 97% of the small-n studies), with limited or low quality discussion of triangulation and sources of bias explaining this result. We identified 25 evidence synthesis studies (4%). Confidence in the results of the majority of evidence syntheses was also low (n=14; 56% of the completed synthesis studies). This result was due to unclear reporting of funding sources, limited analysis or reporting of likely publication bias, and limited reporting on excluded and included studies.

EQ4. Where are the key gaps and what opportunities are there for conducting future primary studies and evidence syntheses to fill them?

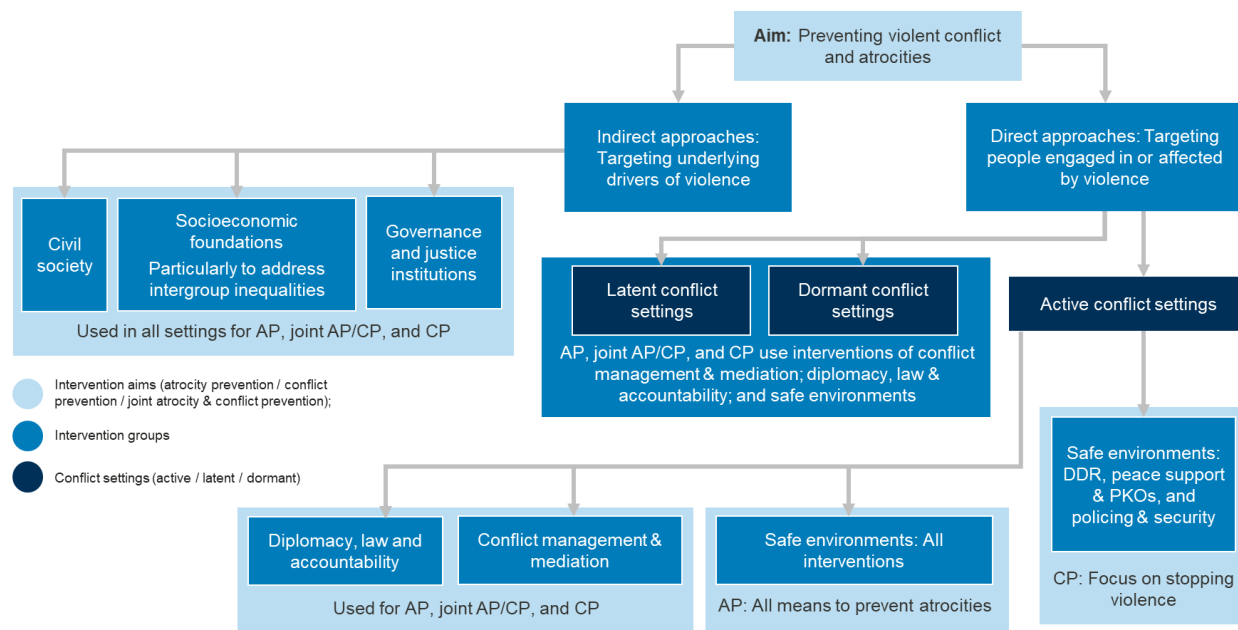
Each intervention strategy included in this map was evaluated by at least one study, but several interventions were only associated with a few studies (e.g., financial products or services or providing support to civilians and non-state armed groups). We found no studies of the effectiveness for some eligible intervention sub-types (e.g., intervention strategies to challenge violence and atrocity ideation in cyberspace).

It is also not clear that the included studies are representative of the full range of potential conflict and atrocity circumstances, especially those where conflicts or atrocities were avoided as a result of successful intervention strategies. This suggests that primary studies should necessarily incorporate risk factors for violent conflict and atrocity, particularly social cohesion, governance and human security outcomes. We found few systematic reviews and other evidence syntheses (n=25; 4%), and none of the reviews we found concerned interventions for atrocity prevention. We present our conclusions about opportunities for conducting future evidence syntheses in the final chapter of this report.

Conceptual framework

As described in the introduction, the literature suggests that there may be a distinction under certain conditions between interventions that may be used to prevent conflict, from those that may be used to prevent atrocities. Our initial theory was that indirect interventions look similar for both conflict and atrocity prevention, while direct interventions were likely to look similar in contexts of latent or dormant conflict - but in active conflict contexts, we expected to see some differences in the approaches used. As noted above, this could for example include the arming of minority groups to prevent atrocities - an approach that would not be used to prevent violent conflict. Figure 26 shows our initial conceptual framework, based on this hypothesis.

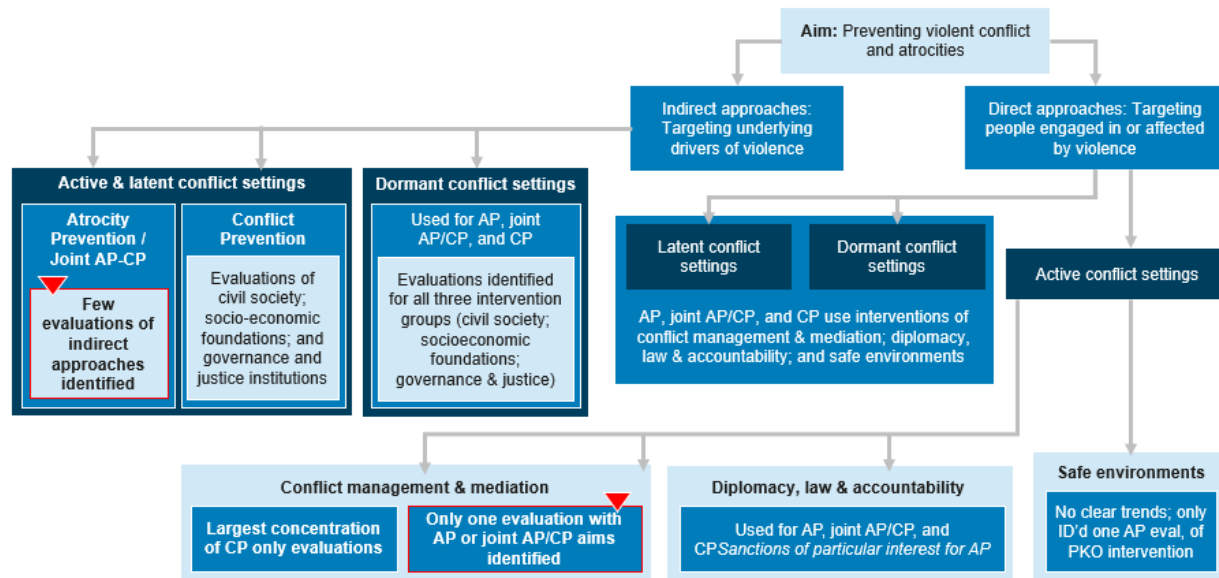
Figure 26: Initial conceptual framework for violent conflict and atrocity prevention



Analysis of the distribution of primary evaluations identified in this EGM suggested some weak support for a conceptual framework that differentiates between the approaches applied for violent conflict prevention versus atrocity prevention in different types of conflict settings (latent, active, or dormant).

The analysis, described in the paragraphs below and summarised in Figure 27, suggested a range of adjustments to this initial hypothesis, particularly related to the use of indirect approaches for atrocity prevention and the approaches utilised in settings of active conflict. While we expected that indirect approaches would look similar for conflict and atrocity prevention, the distribution of evaluations identified by the EGM suggests that in active and latent conflict settings, indirect approaches may not be seen as useful for atrocity prevention.

Figure 27: Refined conceptual framework for violent conflict and atrocity prevention



We identified primary evaluations of the use of indirect approaches for both CP, AP, and joint CP/AP in dormant conflict settings. Yet in both active and latent conflict contexts, we found only five evaluations of interventions with a purely AP or joint AP/CP focus using indirect prevention approaches (i.e. targeting the underlying drivers of violence and atrocities). However, for conflict prevention only, we identified many (n=235) primary evaluations of interventions using such approaches in active and latent conflict settings, although the CP research focused relatively more on direct approaches in all settings.

We identified some distinctions in the direct approaches used in active conflict contexts for AP versus CP across two of the three direct intervention groups. Most strikingly, we found only one primary evaluation in active conflict contexts with a purely AP or joint AP/CP focus using conflict management and mediation approaches (Bilali 2019). By contrast, the largest concentration of primary studies of CP-specific interventions in active conflict contexts evaluated conflict management and mediation approaches (particularly intergroup contact (22 primary studies) and peace education (16 primary studies)). This suggests that in active conflict settings, conflict management and mediation approaches may not be seen as useful for atrocity prevention, but are frequently undertaken with an aim to prevent violent conflict.

We identified primary studies evaluating diplomacy, law and accountability interventions in active conflict settings across all focus areas (AP, AP/CP, CP). For AP and AP/CP focuses, these were primarily evaluations of sanctions interventions. Indeed, almost half of all purely AP primary studies identified were of sanctions interventions (13 of 26 total, and 4 of 4 in active

conflict settings), with a sizeable proportion of joint AP/CP primary studies also evaluating sanctions interventions (42 of 101, 41% total, and 5 of 15 in active conflict settings). A smaller number of studies were identified evaluating sanctions for CP purposes. While as a proportion of the much larger CP literature identified, the proportion of evaluations of sanctions was smaller (2 of 446, <1% total), and this evaluation was in active conflict settings. This suggests that in active conflict contexts, sanctions interventions are of particular interest, particularly for AP or joint CP/AP purposes.

Amongst interventions aiming to ensure a safe environment, we only identified two evaluations of AP-specific intervention, a peace support and peacekeeping operations study (Ruggeri et al., 2013) and policing and public security study (Blair et al., 2019). There were no clear trends in differences between the AP/CP evaluations and the CP-specific evaluations in this intervention group.

This suggested some weak support for a hypothesis that where the risk of atrocities is high due to an active or latent conflict context, the range of interventions applied to prevent atrocities is more focused on direct approaches in the safe environments and diplomacy, law, and accountability groups. This differs from conflict prevention literature, where even in active conflict contexts, we identified evaluations of a wide range of intervention types, including those that target underlying drivers of conflict.

A major caveat, however, is that this EGM was not designed to test this hypothesis; our search strategy and inclusion criteria were focused on effectiveness evaluations, the distribution of which across intervention types and settings may not align perfectly with the distribution of implementation. Rather, this reflects the research interests of CP/AP researchers, which may or may not correlate with intervention program spend, as other EGM authors have found in different sectors.

Reflections on Atrocity Prevention literature

Given the smaller body of evidence identified as specifically focused on AP, we conducted additional analysis of the interventions coded as AP only, in an effort to better understand the evidence base and identify any potentially relevant trends. We found that the AP studies could be loosely grouped into a few categories. The largest group, which particularly comprised evaluations of sanctions interventions (which in turn comprised the bulk of the identified AP evidence base), were evaluations of efforts to prevent non-democratic governments from committing atrocities against citizens who disagree with them. Other groups of AP evidence include those evaluating interventions in the aftermath of well-known atrocities, such as the Rwanda genocide; a group of studies on international human rights law prosecutions (of both state and non-state actors); and finally, a group of studies focusing on the effectiveness of UN PKOs on AP.

As noted in the introduction, there is substantial overlap in the AP/CP space. In general, across these different AP groups (sanctions, well-known atrocities, prosecutions, and UN peacekeeping

operations), we identified two common factors: these were either evaluations of (a) the effectiveness of international penalties for atrocities (either sanctions or prosecution, or the threat thereof); or (b) interventions targeting state or state-controlled armed groups, or other organised armed groups (militias, etc.). The group of studies in (a) are those that are, by definition, AP because they aim to prevent or penalise actors who commit human rights violations, which are by definition atrocities. For the group of studies in (b), these were identified as AP-specific because they tend to target instances in which there is not clear intergroup conflict; rather, the threat is of the state or organised armed groups abusing power. A key distinction between this body of literature and the majority of the evidence base mapped in the CAP EGM is that the latter aimed to prevent violence generally between different identity-based groups (social, political, ethnic, etc.), whereas the former tended to target states, state actors, or organised armed groups.

Limitations and deviation from study protocol

In this EGM we have attempted to address several known limitations in research synthesis and evidence mapping. These included searching for both academic and grey literature, to ensure the study does not have in-built publication bias, including a wide range of study designs appropriate to the interventions and outcomes of interest, not only evidence from large-n quantitative approaches, and also assessing the confidence in the evidence included in the map. In order to incorporate and assess small-n theory-based studies, we drew on and further developed a confidence assessment tool to evaluate these studies. We also aimed to ensure that all relevant small-n causal studies on conflict and atrocity prevention were included in the evidence map, which required an iterative process where studies were eligible that did not merely use established methods of causal inference (such as contribution analysis or process tracing), but which used a theory-based approach to verify causal claims. The aim of this approach was to enable relevant studies to be incorporated that used methods commonly applied in research on the effectiveness of conflict and atrocity prevention strategies such as case studies.

However, there are some limitations of this EGM. We limited eligibility to studies published in English. While we used independent double-coding for screening of studies and data collection, the confidence assessments of included studies were done by a single author. The study assessment tools were taken from fields where standards of study design, conduct and reporting may be more advanced. In the first draft of this report, we produced confidence assessments which we felt were overly harsh. Therefore, we therefore adapted the confidence assessment tools to be more appropriate to the fields of CP and AP evaluation, by incorporating non-scoring criteria in the assessments. This is therefore noted as a deviation from the study protocol.

Conclusions

The aims of this study were to catalogue, map, and appraise the available evidence, and gaps in the evidence, on the effectiveness of interventions for conflict and atrocity prevention in L&MICs. The goal of this study is to improve discoverability of evidence by decision makers and researchers, so as to promote evidence-based decision making in policy and programming on CAP, particularly in FCDO's Office for Conflict and Stabilisation and Mediation (OCSM). This concluding section presents a set of concluding remarks and implications of this study for future primary studies and for future evidence synthesis. Based on the study results, we have drawn the following overarching conclusions about the CAP evidence base.

EGMs can accommodate a broader set of study designs that often thought is possible but more consensus on study design and conduct is needed. We conclude that evidence mapping that aims to address questions on causal effects of interventions can be adapted to a wider range of study designs, and therefore topic areas, than is often thought possible. However, to support this, there needs to be greater consensus on what constitutes valid evaluation design and conduct, particularly in small-n qualitative evaluations of causal effects, and how these studies should be assessed for confidence.

The CAP evidence base is larger than we anticipated, because we included a broader set of interventions and eligible study designs. We anticipated that the map would include around 200 studies based on typical numbers of studies included in EGMs on similar topics. Instead, we identified 542, more than double our expectation. This result is largely explained by the broad intervention inclusion criteria, which reflect development, trade, and diplomatic efforts, and to a lesser extent by the inclusion of both violent conflict and atrocity prevention, and small-n theory-based qualitative evaluations in our scope.

We found evidence across most intervention and outcome categories for CP but evidence for AP was limited. We found studies of most interventions with CP aims in our framework, especially intergroup contact and peace education interventions, and peace support and peacekeeping operations. The evidence considered effects across most outcomes, although studies mainly focused on measuring change in violent conflict and atrocity, feelings of trust, and economic security.

The identified evidence base may not fully consider instances where violence was prevented. Included evidence mainly evaluated prevention efforts in response to violent conflict or atrocities. Relatively few studies considered interventions where violence had not yet arisen (latent violence) or had been successfully prevented. The evidence base identified may

not be fully representative of all instances of violence, as they may not be observed in some cases. This problem is not inherent to the CAP literature. It also arises in research that measures the effectiveness of strategies that aim to avoid an event like a violent conflict or other serious adverse outcomes such as the incidence of crime or terrorist acts.

Most included primary studies used large-n quantitative approaches; numerous small-n qualitative studies were identified but were often scored as low certainty.

Despite our efforts to include small-n studies (to account for effectiveness evidence where only small sample sizes are feasible), most included studies used large-n quantitative methods. The majority of these studies were rated as medium confidence. This suggests quantitative designs are appropriate for some CAP interventions, especially CP interventions. Quantitative designs using cross-context (including cross-country) data were also applied to evaluate large-scale interventions like peacekeeping operations led by the international community. We excluded around 250 small-n qualitative studies that were not sufficiently explicit on data analyses conducted. Of those that we did include, the majority were scored as of low certainty for similar reasons, with limited or low-quality discussion of triangulation and sources of bias explaining this result.

Implications for future effectiveness research

Primary research

Based on the results of this study, we propose the following implications for future primary effectiveness studies, or impact evaluations, of CAP interventions.

Several policy-relevant gaps have been identified that could be filled with primary studies, i.e. new impact evaluations of interventions, particularly for atrocity prevention. We found less evidence on indirect interventions; interventions with specific AP-aims; interventions targeting vulnerable groups; interventions in contexts where violence has not yet arisen (latent); and changes diplomatic relations and diplomacy outcomes. These gaps should be considered by decision-makers responsible for commissioning evidence. We hope that decision-makers will also interrogate the online EGM to better understand possible gaps relevant to their context, for example by specific interventions, geographies, or outcomes.

Primary studies can usefully consider assessing changes in intermediate outcomes related to violent conflict and atrocity risk. To better understand the effectiveness of CAP interventions in all settings, studies could evaluate changes in risks associated with negative violent conflict or atrocity events, and not just the incidence or intensity of these events. This could be done by considering social cohesion outcomes (trust, belonging, acceptance of diversity, and willingness to participate or help) or broader measures of violence risk, as we have done in this study, and is supported by others (e.g., Blattman, 2023). These measures are

routinely observed and easily measurable in rigorous causal studies, and support research in settings where violence may not have arisen yet.

FCDO, and other evidence commissioners, should place appropriate requirements on primary study teams to report designs, conduct and results fully and consistently.

Evidence commissioners should proactively take steps to ensure that primary study authors fully report study designs and results. Comprehensive and consistent reporting and assessment of all aspects of an effectiveness study is critical for evidence uptake and use. Without this, evidence may not sufficiently credible or robust, which makes it challenging to use, conduct evidence synthesis, and wastes resources. Particular efforts should be made to encourage authors of CAP studies to report according to accepted standards like CONSORT and authors of CAP small-n qualitative studies to report the steps taken to triangulate results, assess bias and infer causal claims. The novel approach taken in this study to incorporate and assess a broader set of study designs, like contribution analysis and process tracing, should be considered in future so that similar mapping and synthesis efforts incorporate rigorous and relevant evidence for all CAP communities of policy and practice.

Evidence synthesis

Rigorous systematic reviews examining the effectiveness of particular intervention strategies can be commissioned to fill gaps in evidence synthesis, and to update existing syntheses, either to capture the more recent literature, to update the scope to incorporate relevant evaluation questions (e.g., around intervention design and implementation), or to update the quality of methods used (e.g., by using theory-based approaches). These studies should also be conducted using appropriate methods of stakeholder engagement, to ensure that the questions asked are the most relevant for policy and programmes (Waddington et al., 2018).

Using the decision framework identified in the methods section, we propose several meaningful synthesis gaps. Overall, we identified 25 interventions where there was clear support for investing in synthesis, and an additional two interventions where there was partial support (Appendix J). Through additional engagement with the Review Advisory Group, we identified six areas where new mixed-methods systematic reviews, or expansions of existing evidence syntheses, could usefully inform CAP policy and practice.

The effectiveness of conflict management and mediation programmes: We found 47 primary studies of peace education, and over 90 primary studies of dispute resolution, intergroup contact and media and communication. These studies examined a range of outcomes including the extent and scale of violent conflict and social cohesion (including intermediate social cohesion outcomes relating to knowledge, self-efficacy and sociocultural awareness). While there are existing research syntheses on topics like peace education (e.g. Ditzmann et al., 2017), these studies tend to be restricted to published academic literature examining effects

using large-n approaches, used inappropriate approaches of synthesis like ‘vote counting’, and omitted small-n causal studies and studies examining intervention design and process. Syntheses that incorporate the latter types of study have been shown to be more useful in answering relevant questions for decision making (White, 2018), or in uncovering and testing mechanisms that determine intervention generalisability (or context-specificity) (e.g., Waddington et al., 2019).

The effectiveness of sanctions: A total of 57 primary studies in the evidence map examined the effectiveness of sanctions, half of which concerned impacts on the nature and scale of violence, and half examining economic and political security outcomes. These interventions were evaluated for both AP and CP aims. All but one of the studies used a quantitative large-n design, and we were not able to identify any existing evidence syntheses on the effectiveness of sanctions. A mixed-methods review which drew on these studies, together with additional qualitative and programmatic evidence examining intervention strategy design and processes of implementation, could be a useful step towards providing evidence on the effectiveness of a key UK government policy.

The effectiveness of ceasefire agreements: All forms of ceasefire agreement were defined under the peace processes and diplomacy intervention group. In total, we identified 33 studies of ceasefire agreements that are broadly defined across three groups: studies broadly evaluating ceasefire agreements as an intervention (n=13; with an additional 12 studies from secondary EGM); studies evaluating ceasefire agreements as an outcome (n=6); and studies focusing on other issues (n=2). Given global interest in the effectiveness of ceasefire agreements, a review of these studies using systematic review methods may yield relevant lessons for policy and practice.

The effectiveness of different formulations of peacekeeping operations: In total, 47 primary studies evaluated the effects of peace support and peace-keeping operations, largely using quantitative study designs. Analysis showed that this intervention was often an umbrella term for the delivery of multiple interventions, with many deploying at least two intervention strategies. Given the perceived strategic importance and high levels of investment in such programmes, a review that seeks to understand what combination of intervention strategies appear to be effective in specific contexts may be relevant.

The effectiveness of interventions promoting socioeconomic foundations in building peace: There are 18 primary studies of job creation and 23 primary studies of land reform and natural resources management. All of the studies of job creation, and around half of the studies of land reform and NRM, use large-n quantitative designs that are amenable to statistical synthesis. While three reviews of this evidence do exist, as included in the EGM, they were mostly assessed as at low confidence due to the synthesis methods employed and none used statistical methods of synthesis like meta-analysis. Theory-based systematic reviews and

meta-analyses on these topics that engage with mixed quantitative and qualitative evidence to quantify the magnitude of impacts on violent conflict and social cohesion, and attempt to explain the variation in findings across contexts, could provide useful decision support on these programmes.

A theory-building review examining the effectiveness of interventions in crisis settings for combatting atrocities and violent conflict: as articulated above, there may be situations in which efforts aiming to prevent violent conflict may increase the risk of atrocity and vice versa. We presented an initial conceptual framework that attempts to articulate this theory at the aggregate level. The dataset and analysis we have done is not sufficient to fully update the conceptual framework, but does suggest that it needs refinement, which could be done through subsequent research. A systematic theory-building review (also called a “realist review”), drawing on the studies contained in this map, plus additional evidence from qualitative and programme evaluations, could further elaborate the mechanisms and contexts under which particular interventions might lead to contrasting or unintended consequences. Such a review could also help draw lessons for research design, conduct and reporting from the conflict prevention literature for research on atrocity prevention, which is a less established field as indicated by the more limited evaluation literature covered by this evidence map.

Our analysis of the AP-specific literature identified a high degree of overlap between AP-specific studies and interventions that target States or State actors. We suggest that future mapping and synthesis efforts should code studies according to whether interventions target State actors, as this may serve as a useful proxy for a large proportion of AP-specific efforts.

FCDO, and other evidence commissioners, should place appropriate requirements on evidence synthesis teams to report designs, conduct and results fully and consistently. To further aid the uptake and use of evidence syntheses in evidence-informed decision making, commissioners should proactively encourage review teams to report evidence synthesis methods results fully and consistently in line with best practices, including registering study protocols. Based on the results of this EGM, further consensus is needed on how to critically appraise syntheses of CAP literature and efforts made in this study to adapt existing critical appraisal approaches can be used to inform this.

Author Contributions

This report was prepared by Hugh Sharma Waddington (HSW), Suchi Kapoor Malhotra (SKM), Nick Moore (NM), Ada Sonnenfeld (AS), Lucrezia Taddei (LT) and Hikari Umezawa (HU). All team members participated in the piloting process for study inclusion and data extraction. AS and NM led the development of the intervention-outcome framework on which the evidence map is based. HU led the design of the assessment tool for small-n qualitative evaluations. The searches were designed by Sarah Young. Study inclusion decisions were undertaken by SKM, HU, Sadhita Sharma (SS), LT, with support from NM, AS, HSW and Howard White (HW). Study coding was done by SKM, HU, SS, and LT. HW and Adrian Gallagher provided overall technical and subject matter oversight of the project.

Competing Interests

AS and NM have led or co-authored evidence syntheses (evidence gap map, systematic review) on peacebuilding and social cohesion interventions. HW has led impact evaluations and systematic reviews of community-driven development and reconstruction. HSW has led or contributed research to systematic reviews and meta-analyses on social cohesion and governance. No researchers have been involved in the development of relevant interventions.

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Appendixes

Appendix A Electronic search strategy

Example database: Web of Science Core Collection (SSCI, SCI, ESCI)

Serial No.	Search string	Number of records
1	TS=(((Countr* or nation* or region* or territor* or provinc* or group or groups or ethnic* or communit* or tribe* or tribal* or situation* or state or states) NEAR/3 [SY1] (fragile or weak or failed or unstable or conflict or conflicts or "conflict-afflicted" or "conflict-affected" or "post-conflict" or "post-war" or "war-affected" or "war-torn" or violen* or "conflict afflicted" or "conflict affected" or "post conflict" or "post war" or "war affected" or "war torn")) or genocid* or massacre* or "forc* displace*" OR atrocit* OR "mass killing*" OR "mass murder*" OR "systematic killing*" OR "systematic murder*" OR politicide OR "ethnic* cleans*" OR "crime* against humanity" OR "war crime*" OR "mass rape*" OR "systematic rape*" OR "mass violence" OR "political violence")	125,410

TS=(afghanistan or albania or algeria or "american samoa" or angola or "antigua and barbuda" or antigua or barbuda or argentina or armenia or armenian or aruba or azerbaijan or bahrain or bangladesh or barbados or "republic of belarus" or belarus or byelarus or belorussia or byelorussian or belize or "british honduras" or benin or dahomey or bhutan or bolivia or bosnia or herzegovina or botswana or bechuanaland or brazil or brasil or bulgaria or "burkina faso" or "burkina fasso" or "upper volta" or burundi or urundi or "cabo verde" or "cape verde" or cambodia or kampuchea or "khmer republic" or cameroon or cameron or cameroun or "central african republic" or "ubangi shari" or chad or chile or china or colombia or comoros or "comoro islands" or "iles comores" or mayotte or congo or zaire or "costa rica" or "cote d'ivoire" or "cote d'ivoire" or "cote divoire" or "cote d ivoire" or "ivory coast" or croatia or cuba or cyprus or "czech republic" or czechoslovakia or djibouti or "french somaliland" or dominica or "dominican republic" or ecuador or egypt or "united arab republic" or "el salvador" or "equatorial guinea" or "spanish guinea" or eritrea or estonia or eswatini or swaziland or ethiopia or fiji or gabon or "gabonese republic" or gambia or "georgia (republic)" or georgian or ghana or "gold coast" or gibraltar or greece or grenada or guam or guatemala or guinea or "guinea bissau" or guyana or "british guiana" or haiti or hispaniola or honduras or hungary or india or indonesia or timor or iran or iraq or "isle of man" or jamaica or jordan or kazakhstan or kazakh or kenya or korea or kosovo or kyrgyzstan or kirghizia or kirgizstan or "kyrgyz republic" or kirghiz or laos or "lao pdr" or "lao people's democratic republic" or latvia or lebanon or "lebanese republic" or lesotho or basutoland or liberia or libya or "libyan arab jamahiriya" or lithuania or macau or macao or macedonia or madagascar or "malagasy republic" or malawi or nyasaland or malaysia or "malay federation" or "malaya federation" or maldives or "indian ocean" or mali or malta or micronesia or kiribati or "marshall islands" or nauru or "northern mariana islands" or palau or tuvalu or mauritania or mauritius or mexico or moldova or moldovian or mongolia or montenegro or morocco or ifni or mozambique or "portuguese east africa" or myanmar or burma or namibia or nepal or "netherlands antilles" or nicaragua or niger or nigeria or oman or muscat or pakistan or panama or "new guinea" or paraguay or peru or philippines or philippines or phillippines or philippines or poland or "polish people's republic" or portugal or "portuguese republic" or "puerto rico" or romania or russia or "russian federation" or ussr or "soviet union" or "union of soviet socialist republics" or rwanda or ruanda or samoa or "pacific islands" or polynesia or "samoan islands" or "navigator island" or "navigator islands" or "sao tome and principe" or "saudi arabia" or senegal or serbia or seychelles or "sierra leone" or slovakia or "slovak republic" or slovenia or melanesia or "solomon island" or "solomon islands" or "norfolk island" or "norfolk islands" or somalia or "south africa" or "sri lanka" or ceylon or "saint kitts and nevis" or "st. kitts and nevis" or "saint lucia" or "st. lucia" or "saint vincent and the grenadines" or "saint vincent" or "st. vincent" or grenadines or sudan or suriname or surinam or "dutch guiana" or "netherlands guiana" or syria or "syrian arab republic" or tajikistan or tadjikistan or tadjhikistan or tadjhik or tanzania or tanganyika or thailand or siam or "timor leste" or "east timor" or togo or "togolese republic" or tonga or trinidad or tobago or tunisia or turkey or turkmenistan or turkmen or uganda or ukraine or uruguay or uzbekistan or uzbek or vanuatu or "new hebrides" or venezuela or vietnam or "viet nam" or "middle east" or "west bank" or gaza or palestine or yemen or

yugoslavia or zambia or zimbabwe or "northern rhodesia" or "global south" or africa or magreb or maghrib or sahara or "west indies" or "indian ocean islands" or caribbean or "central america" or "latin america" or "south and central america" or "south america" or "asia, central" or "central asia" or "asia, northern" or "north asia" or "northern asia" or "asia, southeastern" or "southeastern asia" or "south eastern asia" or "southeast asia" or "south east asia" or "asia, western" or "western asia" or "europe, eastern" or "east europe" or "eastern europe" or "developing country" or "developing countries" or "developing nation\$" or "developing population\$" or "developing world" or "less developed countr*" or "less developed nation\$" or "less developed population\$" or "less developed world" or "lesser developed countr*" or "lesser developed nation\$" or "lesser developed population\$" or "lesser developed world" or "under developed countr*" or "under developed nation\$" or "under developed population\$" or "under developed world" or "underdeveloped countr*" or "underdeveloped nation\$" or "underdeveloped population\$" or "underdeveloped world" or "middle income countr*" or "middle income nation\$" or "middle income population\$" or "low income countr*" or "low income nation\$" or "low income population\$" or "lower income countr*" or "lower income nation\$" or "underserved nation\$" or "underserved population\$" or "underserved world" or "under served countr*" or "under served nation\$" or "under served population\$" or "under served world" or "deprived countr*" or "deprived nation\$" or "deprived population\$" or "deprived world" or "poor countr*" or "poor nation\$" or "poor population\$" or "poor world" or "poorer countr*" or "poorer nation\$" or "poorer population\$" or "poorer world" or "developing econom*" or "less developed econom*" or "lesser developed econom*" or "under developed econom*" or "underdeveloped econom*" or "middle income econom*" or "low income econom*" or "lower income econom*" or "low gdp" or "low gnp" or "low gross domestic" or "low gross national" or "lower gdp" or "lower gnp" or "lower gross domestic" or "lower gross national" or lmic or lmics or "third world" or "lami countr*" or "transitional countr*" or "emerging economies" or "emerging nation\$")

TS=(afghan or afghans or afghani or albanian\$ or algerian\$ or "american samoan\$" or angolan\$ or antiguan\$ or barbudan\$ or argentine\$ or argentinian\$ or argentinean\$ or armenian\$ or aruban\$ or azerbaijani\$ or bahraini\$ or bangladeshi\$ or bangalees or bajan\$ or belarusian\$ or byelorussian\$ or belizean\$ or beninese\$ or bhutanese or bolivian\$ or bosnian\$ or botswana or batswana or brazilian\$ or brasilian\$ or bulgarian\$ or burkinabe or burkinese or burundian\$ or "cape verdean\$" or "cabo verdean\$" or cambodian\$ or khmer or cameroonian\$ or "central african\$" or chadian\$ or chilean\$ or chinese or colombian\$ or comorian\$ or congolese or "costa rican\$" or ivorian\$ or croatian\$ or cuban\$ or cypriot\$ or czech\$ or djiboutian\$ or dominican\$ or ecuadorian\$ or egyptian\$ or salvadoran\$ or "equatorial guinean\$" or equatoguinean\$ or eritrean\$ or estonian\$ or swazi\$ or swati\$ or ethiopian\$ or fijian or gabonese or gabonaise or gambian\$ or georgian\$ or ghanaian\$ or gibraltarian\$ or greek\$ or grenadian\$ or guamanian\$ or guatemalan\$ or guinean\$ or "bissau guinean\$" or guyanese or haitian\$ or honduran\$ or hungarian\$ or indian\$ or indonesian\$ or iranian\$ or iraqian\$ or iraqi\$ or manx or jamaican\$ or jordanian\$ or kazakhstanian\$ or kenyan\$ or kirabati or kirabatian\$ or "north korean\$" or korean\$ or kosovar\$ or kosovan\$ or kyrgyz* or lao or laotian\$ or latvian\$ or lebanese or lesothan\$ or lesothonian\$ or mosotho or basotho or liberian\$ or libyan\$ or lithuanian\$ or macanese or macedonian\$ or malagasy or madagascan\$ or malawian\$ or malaysian\$ or maldivian\$ or malian\$ or maltese or marshallese\$ or mauritanian\$ or mauritian\$ or mexican\$ or micronesian\$ or moldovan\$ or mongolian\$ or mongol or montenegrin\$ or moroccan\$ or mozambican\$ or burmese or myanma or namibian\$ or nauruan\$ or nepali or nepalese or "netherlands antillean\$" or nicaraguan\$ or nigerien\$ or nigerian\$ or "northern mariana islander\$" or mariana\$ or omani\$ or pakistani\$ or palauan\$ or panamanian\$ or "papua new guinean\$" or paraguayian\$ or peruvian\$ or philippine\$ or philipine\$ or philippine\$ or philippine\$ or filipino\$ or filipina\$ or polish or pole or poles or portuguese or "puerto rican\$" or romanian\$ or russian\$ or "soviet people" or "soviet population" or rwandan\$ or rwandese or ruandan\$ or ruandese or samoan\$ or "sao tomean\$" or santomean\$ or "saudi arabian\$" or saudi\$ or senegalese or serbian\$ or montenegrin\$ or seychellois or seychelloise\$ or "sierra leonean\$" or slovak\$ or slovene\$ or "solomon islander\$" or somali\$ or "south african\$" or "south sudanese" or "sri lankan\$" or ceylonese or kittitian\$ or nevisian\$ or "saint lucian\$" or vincentian\$ or sudanese or surinamese\$ or syrian\$ or tajik\$ or tajikistani\$ or tanzanian\$ or tanganyikan\$ or thai or timorese\$ or togolese or tongan\$ or trinidadian\$ or tobagonian\$ or tunisian\$ or turk\$ or turkish or turkmen\$ or tuvaluan\$ or ugandan\$ or ukrainian\$ or uruguayan\$ or uzbek\$ or vanuatu* or venezuelan\$ or vietnamese or yemeni\$ or yemenite\$ or yemenese or yugoslav\$ or yugoslavian\$ or zambian\$ or zimbabwean\$ or african\$ or asian\$ or "pacific islander\$" or "latin american\$" or "central american\$" or "south american\$" or caribbean\$ or "west indian\$" or iberoamerican\$ or "middle eastern" or "middle eastern*")

4	#2 OR #3	6,208,646
5	TS=((match* NEAR/2 (propensity or coarsened or covariate or neighbor)) or "propensity score" or ("difference* in difference*" or "difference-in-difference*" or "differences-in-difference*" or "double difference*") or (quasi-experiment* or "quasi experiment*") or (estimator and evaluat*) or ("instrumental variable*" or (IV NEAR/2 (estimation or approach))) or (Heckman NEAR/3 (model* or approach*)) or ((two-stage or "two stage") NEAR/3 (control* or function* or "least squares")) or "regression discontinuity" or "time series" or counterfactual or "segment* regression" or (non NEAR/2 participant*) or ((control or comparison) NEAR/2 (group* or condition* or area* or village* or household* or intervention)) or (panel* NEAR/2 (data or household* or model*)) or ((exploit* or "tak* advantage") NEAR/3 (variation* or variety or exogen* or heterogen*)) or (econometric NEAR/2 (model* or adjust*)) or (select* NEAR/2 (bias* or self)))	1,282,822
6	TS=((experiment* NEAR/2 (design or study or research or evaluation or evidence or vary or varies or variation)) or ((random or randomi?ed or randomly) NEAR/2 (trial or assign* or treatment or control* or allocat* or experiment* or vary or varies or variation or choose or chose*)))	1,670,599
7	TS=((impact\$ or effect*) NEAR/2 (evaluat* or assess or assessing or assessment or analyze or analyse or analyzing or analysing or analysis or analytical or estimate or estimating or estimation or cause or causal))	1,417,919
8	TS=("program* evaluation" or "project evaluation" or "evaluation research" or "natural experiment*" or "program* effectiveness" or "outcome assessment" or "evaluation study" or "field experiment")	86,636
9	TS=((Systematic* or synthes*) NEAR/3 (research or evaluation* or overview or finding* or thematic* or report or descriptive or explanatory or narrative or meta* or review* or data or literature or studies or evidence or map or mapping or quantitative or study or studies or paper or impact or impacts or effect* or compar*))	935,460
10	TS=("Meta regression" or "meta synth*" or "meta-synth*" or "meta analy*" or "metaanaly*" or "meta-analy*" or "metanaly*" or "Metaregression" or "Meta-regression" or "Methodologic* overview" or "pool* analys*" or "pool* data" or "Quantitative* overview" or "research integration")	527,015

11	TS=((effectiveness or effects or systemat* or synth* or integrat* or gap or methodologic* or quantitative or evidence or literature or rapid or scoping) NEAR/3 (review or map))	915,055
12	#5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11	5,431,769
13	#1 AND #4 AND #12	4213
14	Limit 2000-present	4129

Appendix B Benchmark studies used in piloting of search strategy

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Appendix C Study screening tool

#	<i>PICO element</i>	<i>Screening type</i>	<i>Screening question</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>
1	Population	Publication year	Was the study published in or after 2000?	INCLUDE	EXCLUDE
2	Population	Intervention year	Was the programme start date in or after 1991?	INCLUDE	EXCLUDE
3	Population	LMIC	Was the programme under evaluation set in at least one LMIC? We define the income status of a country using the WB classification and the start year of the programme being evaluated.	INCLUDE	EXCLUDE
4	Population	Setting	Was the programme responding to a clearly specified form of intergroup violence?	INCLUDE	EXCLUDE
5	Intervention / outcome	Core Non-core (secondary)	Follow nested questioning in nested screening (Table A)	-	-
6	Study	Large-n Small-n	Did the study employ a research design listed by our study protocol (e.g. contribution analysis, process tracing, most significant change, outcome harvesting, theory-based "case study", qualitative comparative analysis)?	INCLUDE in evidence map	EXCLUDE, but go to #6 if small- or medium-n
7	Study	Small-n	Did the study aim to evaluate the effectiveness (attribution/ contribution) of an eligible intervention on an eligible outcome, without articulating a clear method?	Include in Evidence Bucket	EXCLUDE

Table A: Nested screening table

#	CAP explicit aims?	Intervention type	Core reported?	outcome Include?
1	Y	Indirect only	Y	INCLUDE
2	Y	Indirect only	N	INCLUDE if secondary (non-core) outcome reported, else EXCLUDE
3	Y	At least one direct	Y	INCLUDE
4	Y	At least one direct	N	INCLUDE if secondary outcome reported, else EXCLUDE
5	N	Indirect only	Y	INCLUDE
6	N	Indirect only	N	EXCLUDE
7	N	At least one direct	Y	INCLUDE
8	N	At least one direct	N	INCLUDE if secondary outcome reported, else EXCLUDE

Appendix D Codebook and variable definitions

#	Code	Description
1	Publication Year	Enter the year of the publication
2	Start date of the Implementation	Enter the year
3	Region	East Asia & Pacific Europe & Central Asia Latin America & Caribbean Middle East & North Africa South Asia Sub-Saharan Africa
4	Country	Name of the country
5	Type of setting	Active, latent, or dormant conflict
6	Intervention aim	Conflict prevention Atrocity prevention Both conflict and atrocity prevention
7	Type of study participant	All population Vulnerable group: females Vulnerable group: children Vulnerable group: displaced population Vulnerable group: other Combatants/ex-combatants
8	Unit of analysis	Micro: individual, household or community (e.g. village)

#	Code	Description
		Meso: metropolitan area, district or province Macro: country, region, global
9	Study type	Large n Small or medium n
10	Study design	Large n: RCT, QED Small or medium n: Type I approach (e.g., Contribution Analysis, Process Tracing), Type II approach (e.g., outcome harvesting or other participatory method), QCA
11	Publication type	Study protocol Final report
12	Intervention type	Direct Indirect
13	Intervention category (select category and sub-category)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safe environments <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Policing and Public security 1.2 Peace support and peacekeeping operations 1.3 Military operations 1.4 Support to civilians and non- state armed groups 1.5 Disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of ex- combatants 2. Diplomacy, law and accountability <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Diplomatic recognition 2.2 Law 2.3 Peace processes and diplomacy 2.4 other diplomatic efforts 2.5 Sanctions 2.6 Aid assistance and aid conditionalities 2.7 International Criminal Court (ICC) or regional equivalent 3. Conflict management and mediation (community) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Research monitoring and assessments 3.2 Dispute resolution

#	Code	Description
		3.3 Intergroup contact
		3.4 Peace education
		3.5 Media and communication
		3.6 Social inclusion and reintegration activities
		4. Civil society
		4.1 Civil Society capacity building
		4.2 Civic engagement and empowerment initiatives
		4.3 Social funds, community - driven development and reconstruction
		5. Governance and justice institutions
		5.1 Foundational state design processes
		5.2 Transitional political processes (e.g. transitional governments)
		5.3 Power sharing
		5.4 Election Support
		5.5 Public sector provision, governance and institutionalisation, and law
		5.6 Transitional or restorative justice
		5.7 Justice system support and reform
		5.8 Security sector reform
		6. Socio-economic foundations, especially to address intergroup inequalities
		6.1 Mental health and psychosocial support
		6.2 Market development and macroeconomic policy
		6.3 Land reform and NRM
		6.4 Training
		6.5 Job creation (including public works)
		6.6 Financial products and services
		6.7 Cash and in- kind transfers
		6.8 Infrastructure investment
14	Outcome domain (select domain and sub-domain)	1. Violence and atrocity prevention
		1.1 Diplomatic relations
		1.2 Justice

<i>#</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>
		1.3 Peaceful dispute resolution
		1.4 Nature and scale of violence or atrocities
		1.5 Sexual and gender - based violence
		1.6 Social norms regarding violence and atrocities
		2. Social Cohesion
		2.1 Feelings of trust
		2.2 Sense of belonging
		2.3 Willingness to participate or help
		2.4 Acceptance of diversity
		3. Community and State Governance
		3.1 Access to justice, rights and public services
		3.2 Civic Participation
		3.3 Government performance
		3.4 Presence and quality of social safety nets
		3.5 Transitions of power (e.g. elections, leadership changes)
		4. Human Security
		4.1 Economic security
		4.2 Educational security
		4.3 Food security and nutrition
		4.4 Health security
		4.5 Physical security
		4.6 Political security
		4.7 Environmental security
		4.8 Social security

Appendix E Assessment tools for primary studies and reviews

Evaluations using large-n quantitative designs

Item	Description	Key	Notes
Intervention	Is the intervention clearly named and described, including all relevant components?	High: full and clear description, so that the main components and how they are delivered are clear Medium: Partial description Low: Little or no description	
Evaluation questions	Are the evaluation questions clearly stated?	High: full and clear description, so that the main components and how they are delivered are clear Medium: Partial description Low: Little or no description	

Item	Description	Key	Notes
Study design	Use the study design coding	<p>High: Randomised study and sharp discontinuity design</p> <p>Medium: Non-randomised study (quasi-experiment)</p> <p>Low: single time-point before versus after</p>	
Outcomes	Are the outcomes clearly defined? Where appropriate do they use an existing, validated measurement tool?	<p>High: full and clear definition using validated instruments where available (a researcher wishing to use these outcomes would have sufficient information to do so)</p> <p>Medium: Partial definition. May use validated instruments but without sufficient references to source.</p> <p>Low: Little or no definition</p>	

Item	Description	Key	Notes
Sample size (power calculation)	Do the authors report a power calculation as the basis for sample size?	<p>High: Power calculation report and sample size meets necessary sample size</p> <p>Medium: Power calculation mentioned and sample size meets necessary sample size</p> <p>Low: No mention of power calculation.</p>	
Attrition	<p>Reported for endline and longest follow up. Calculate overall attrition and differential attrition (see example below). It is often necessary to calculate from the table of results. If sample size varies by outcome, calculate for highest attrition.</p>	<p>High: total attrition <20% and differential attrition <10 percentage points</p> <p>Medium: total attrition >20% or differential attrition >10 percentage points</p> <p>Low: total attrition >20% and differential attrition >10 percentage points</p>	

Item	Description	Key	Notes
Overall (including questions for all studies)	The overall score uses the weakest link in the chain principle - i.e., is the lowest score on any item.	High: High on all items Medium: No lower than medium on any item Low: At least one low	

Evaluations using small-n qualitative designs

Item	Description	Key	Notes
Design	Does the study use an established small n approach (e.g., contribution analysis, process tracing)?	<p>High: Approach is named with clear descriptions of analytical process actually taken</p> <p>Medium: Approach is named without description of analytical process</p> <p>Low: Established small n approach is not used/Unclear</p>	Examples of established small n approach: contribution analysis, process tracing, qualitative comparative analysis, realist evaluation, general elimination methodology
Theory	Is the analysis based on an explicit theory of change or theoretical framework?	<p>High: ToC/theoretical framework presented with 3 or more elements listed</p> <p>Medium: ToC/theoretical framework presented with 2 or fewer elements</p> <p>Low: ToC/theoretical framework not presented, or refers to external sources</p>	<p>Desirable information :</p> <p>(1) inputs, activities, outputs, intermediate and final intense outcomes, including indicators</p> <p>(2) underlying intervention logic and theoretical links</p> <p>(3) programme participants and project-affected people</p> <p>(4) timeline</p> <p>(5) assumptions</p>

Item	Description	Key	Notes
			(6) contextual factors and external influences
Data collection method	Is the data collection method clearly described (e.g., key informant interview, focus group discussion, document review)?	<p>High: Method(s) clearly described, including when it happened , who collected data from who, survey instrument, etc.</p> <p>Medium: Method(s) named, without clear description</p> <p>Low: No description</p>	
Data analysis process	Are the procedural steps for data analysis clearly defined (e.g., presentation of a coding tool)?	<p>High: Clear description</p> <p>Medium: Unclear description (e.g., analytical principle/strategy named without explanation)</p> <p>Low: No description</p>	

Item	Description	Key	Notes
Selection of cases	Is the sample/case selection strategy explained and justified?	<p>High: Explained and justified</p> <p>Medium: Explained but not justified</p> <p>Low: No explanation and justification</p>	
Analysis	Was triangulation done and is it clear how it was done?	<p>High: Triangulation was done with description of how it was done</p> <p>Medium: Triangulation is said to have been done but unclear how it was done</p> <p>Low: No triangulation</p>	
Bias	Are potential sources of bias addressed (e.g., alternate explanations for the changes in outcomes observed, reporting bias)?	<p>High: Sources of bias mentioned and addressed, and it is clear how it was addressed</p> <p>Medium: Sources of bias mentioned but not addressed (e.g., only discussed as limitation)</p>	

Item

Description

Key

Notes

Low: No discussion of bias

Review assessment criteria: theory and mixed methods from Jiménez et al. (2018)

Question	Coding guide
<p>1. Does the review use a programme theory? Did the authors present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A logic model articulating the intervention causal chain from inputs/activities through to outcomes? o Assumptions, either in the logic model itself or discussed in supporting text? o A (middle-range) theory (economic theory, e.g. trade theory; social theory, e.g. diffusion theory; etc.) which informed the logic models and/or from which inferences can be made about mechanisms and contexts under which outcomes might occur? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Yes o No o Partially o Not applicable <p>Coding guide: YES: Some theory is used, whether an intervention level logic model or causal chain, or formal theory, and underlying assumptions are explicitly described. NO: None are reported. PARTIALLY: A theory is used but underlying assumptions are not reported.</p>
<p>2. Did the review conduct analysis of intermediate and endpoint outcomes along causal chain?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did the review conduct analysis of primary endpoint outcomes? 2. Did the review conduct analysis of primary intermediate outcomes? 3. Did the review conduct analysis of secondary endpoint outcomes? 4. Did the review conduct analysis of secondary intermediate outcomes? <p>Note: Primary outcomes are outcomes that must be reported regardless of any other outcome. Any relevant study including a primary outcome is eligible for inclusion in the review. Secondary outcomes are outcomes that are only reported if primary outcomes are also reported. Any relevant study including a secondary outcome but not a primary outcome is ineligible for inclusion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Yes o Partially o No o Not applicable (e.g. no studies or no data) o Can't tell <p>Coding guide: YES: Boxes 1 and 2 are ticked PARTIALLY: Boxes 1 and 4 or 2 and 3 are ticked. NO: analysis of outcomes along causal chain is not undertaken and only endpoint outcomes are analysed (and outcomes at different stages of the causal chain were excluded). NOT APPLICABLE: if no studies/no data CAN'T TELL: if unsure (note reasons in comments below)</p>

<p>3. Does the review incorporate qualitative evidence in the analysis?</p> <p>1 To answer specific review questions about intervention design (e.g. project portfolio information)</p> <p>2 To answer specific review questions about barriers and facilitators/enablers of implementation (assumptions or risks in the causal chain/ logic model)</p> <p>3 To answer specific review questions about adherence or participant views?</p> <p>4 To provide information on context for included quantitative studies (e.g. moderators or implementation fidelity)?</p> <p>5 To provide evidence on ‘middle-range’ causal mechanisms or contextual factors (e.g. policy context, second order changes e.g. general equilibrium effects, sustained</p>	<p>o Yes</p> <p>o No</p> <p>o Partially</p> <p>o Not applicable</p> <p>Coding guide:</p> <p>YES: 1, 2, or 3 plus 4 or 5 are reported.</p> <p>NO: None are reported.</p> <p>PARTIALLY: Any other combination.</p>
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Assessments of included reviews

	<i>Did the review use an explicit programme theory?</i>	<i>Did the review conduct analysis of intermediate and endpoint outcomes along causal chain?</i>	<i>Did the review incorporate qualitative evidence in the analysis?</i>
Aboud et al. (2012)	Partially	No	No
Afrizal et al. (2022)	No	No	No
Brück et al. (2020)	Partially	Yes	No
Burde et al. (2015)	Yes	No	Yes
Burde et al. (2016)	Yes	No	Partially
Cramer et al. (2016)	No	Yes	Yes
Ditlmann et al. (2017)	No	Yes	No
Harbi et al. (2020)	No	No	No
Holder et al. (2023)	No	No	Yes
Hsieh et al. (2021)	No	No	No

	<i>Did the review use an explicit programme theory?</i>	<i>Did the review conduct analysis of intermediate and endpoint outcomes along causal chain?</i>	<i>Did the review incorporate qualitative evidence in the analysis?</i>
Jewkes et al. (2014)	No	No	Yes
King et al. (2010)	Yes	No	Yes
Kumar et al. (2016)	No	No	Yes
Lwamba et al. (2022)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pagdee et al. (2006)	No	No	Yes
Persson et al. (2009)	No	No	No
Sonnenfield et al. (2021)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spangaro et al. (2013)	No	No	Yes
Spangaro et al. (2021)	Partially	Yes	Yes
White et al. (2018)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wong et al. (2012)	Yes	Yes	Partially
Zurcher et al. (2017)	Yes	No	Partially

Appendix F Definitions of interventions and outcomes

Intervention categories and sub-categories

<i>Intervention category</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Intervention sub-category</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Safe environments	Direct	Policing and public security	Interventions that involve the use, reform of, or support provided to, public services to prevent and/or manage community-based unrest, violent conflict, or the onset and/or escalation of atrocities, including the management of different forms of public protest, civil unrest or riots, and the provision of specific security assistance or guarantees in settings where conflict or atrocities are anticipated.
Safe environments	Direct	Peace support/keeping operations	This specifically includes 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 organisations, 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.
Safe environments	Direct	Military operations	Any efforts that involve the use of a state's armed forces to prevent, de-escalate or resolve a violent conflict or atrocity. This could operations where armed forces are engaged in combat and those that do not have primary objectives to engage in combat (i.e. the presence of armed forces in specific locations. this also includes cyberwarfare operations when delivered by a state's armed forces.

<i>Intervention category</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Intervention sub-category</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Safe environments	Direct	Support to civilians and non-state armed groups	Any support provided to civilians or non-state groups to counter, mitigate, deter or avoiding a threat and preventing violence in the context of an atrocity. This could include military assistance such as the provision of weapons, funds, logistics, military training and access to intelligence and sanctuaries, or the provision of other assistance, such as advice, funding, or providing material goods.
Safe environments	Direct	Disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants	Disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration is a complex 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
International diplomacy, law and accountability	Direct	Diplomatic recognition	Any effort made to legally recognise a state or political entity, their acts, or accounts, in order to afford a state or group access to the rights, duties, and obligations of international law, as well as the ability to hold them accountable to international law. This could include support provided to a group or state to achieve formal recognition, efforts made to advocate for the recognition of a state or group, efforts made to encourage specific states to recognise a state or group, naming and shaming of conflict or atrocity perpetrators, or the official barring of legal proceedings against certain individuals or groups (official amnesties).
International diplomacy, law and accountability	Direct	Human security law	The use, revision, or development of law, covering conventions, treaties and standards, to prevent a conflict or atrocity from emerging or escalating. Law and conventions typically include a suite of other interventions to hold states to account and to attempt to enforce compliance by affected parties and include efforts to protect and uphold human rights. These laws can be applied at different levels.

<i>Intervention category</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Intervention sub-category</i>	<i>Definition</i>
International diplomacy, law and accountability	Direct	Peace processes and diplomacy	A peace process is often thought of as ‘a political process in which conflicts are resolved by peaceful means’ and consist of a mixture of ‘politics, diplomacy, changing relationships, negotiation, mediation, and dialogue in both official and unofficial arenas’ (Saunders 2001). These interventions encompass not only supporting political institutions, but working with key actors to establish the preconditions for peacebuilding and avoiding the emergence or escalation of atrocities, including ceasefires, establishing national and community dialogues, and ensuring that marginalised groups (such as women, youth, and ethnic minorities) participate in the process (Berghof Foundation 2015).
International diplomacy, law and accountability	Direct	Sanctions	Any reaction adopted unilaterally or collectively by States against a perpetrator of an internationally unlawful act in order to ensure respect for and performance of a right or obligation, in order to prevent a conflict or atrocity from starting or escalating. Sanctions could be of an economic (e.g. trade embargo between one or more states, or the seizure of assets held by individuals or states), diplomatic (e.g. national or international travel bans, banning organisations through the use of proscriptions), or militaristic (e.g. restricted movement or no fly zones, regulation of arms sales, or nuclear controls) nature.
International diplomacy, law and accountability	Direct	Other diplomatic efforts	This intervention captures any other form of diplomacy that is not focused on a specific peace process. This could include diplomatic messaging or engagements in response to specific risks.

<i>Intervention category</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Intervention sub-category</i>	<i>Definition</i>
International diplomacy, law and accountability	Direct	Aid assistance and aid conditionalities	The use of financial or resource assistance, or the use of pressure, by one or more donors, in terms of threatening to terminate assistance, or actually terminating it, if conditions are not met by recipients. These conditions can be imposed before (ex-ante) or after (ex-post) the delivery of assistance, typically through the use of a contract or the presentation of evidence against conditions. In this case, conditions will relate to the prevention of new or further conflict or atrocities. Assistance relates to the provision of aid only. Military assistance and conditions in the absence of a specific PKO or PSO, will be coded under “Military operations”.
International diplomacy, law and accountability	Direct	International Criminal Court (ICC) or regional equivalents	The use of international or regional to prosecute individuals who commit genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. This primarily focuses on the use and role of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which is legally and functionally independent from the United Nations. But regional bodies that seek to prosecute individuals on similar ground will also be considered.

<i>Intervention category</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Intervention sub-category</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Conflict management and mediation	Direct	Research, monitoring, and assessments	This includes any intervention that seeks to provide research, monitoring or assessment activity to develop a new and/or improved understanding of the drivers and risks underlying existing or possible conflicts and/or atrocities, with a view to anticipate or manage these going forwards. The could include research to understand the relative prominence of certain conflict drivers in a given setting, specific atrocity risk assessments undertaken using known tools and frameworks, or monitoring missions to periodically assess risk factors underpinning a possible conflict or atrocity, e.g. fact-finding missions, or understand the scale of violence present. These activities could draw on the single or multi-use of any form of data collection, such as traditional desk-based methods, survey approaches, analysis of secondary or open source data, or qualitative approaches. Activities could also be undertaken to identify or predict conflicts or atrocities before they commence, i.e. early warning systems, or whilst a conflict or atrocity is underway, escalated or subsided, to understand changes in context or key developments as they arise.
Conflict management and mediation	Direct	Dispute resolution	These interventions emphasise handling disputes in community settings through informal means, including specific programmes dedicated to dispute resolution, traditional councils and cultural means of dispute resolution.
Conflict management and mediation	Direct	Intergroup contact	These interventions aim to increase dialogue and social interaction and contact between different groups, including different ethnic groups, displaced and host-community groups, and people of different faiths. They are not part of formal peace processes, but rather processes that use engagement with key community leaders to bring different groups together. They may include purely dialogue-focused interventions or bring groups together through activities such as arts or sports, or empathy-building activities (like perspective-taking/giving and personal narratives).

<i>Intervention category</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Intervention sub-category</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Conflict management and mediation	Direct	Peace education	Peace education interventions promote the knowledge, skills and attitudes that shape the social environment to both prevent conflict from occurring and help people to resolve it peacefully. These interventions can be run at many scales (i.e. local versus national) and often involve promoting a community dialogue. They usually cover a range of topics including non-violent conflict resolution techniques, human rights, democracy, disarmament, gender equality, tolerance, and communication skills.
Conflict management and mediation	Direct	Media and communication	These interventions focus on the use of mass media and communications to change the behaviour of conflict and atrocity actors to prevent a violent conflict or atrocities from arising or escalating. This could include the direct development of media to influence a specific group or counter a specific narrative (e.g. campaigns, naming and shaming conflict actors, radio/TV/documentary programming, peace messaging, discursive framing, countering disinformation), building the capacity of specific media actors (e.g. journalist training, media CSO support), or efforts to improve the quality, resilience and diversity of a state's media sector overall.
Conflict management and mediation	Direct	Social inclusion and reintegration activities	These interventions have specific CAP aims and include efforts to engage marginalised groups in the social fabric of communities, including the reintegration of non-combatants affected by violence. This can include building relationships between vulnerable individuals and potential mentor figures, their families and the wider community. It can also include both formal and informal efforts to minimise social isolation. This category does not cover the reintegration of ex-combatants, which is captured elsewhere.
Civil society	Indirect	Civil society capacity building	Any intervention that seeks to develop the capacity of individual civil society organisations (i.e. capacity building of civil society organisations to advocate for and engage with citizens and the government), as well as any efforts to improve the quality, resilience, and diversity of a state's CSO sector overall. This can include the establishment of community interest groups, such as women and youth committees.

<i>Intervention category</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Intervention sub-category</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Civil society	Indirect	Civic engagement and empowerment initiatives	These are interventions that aim to empower specifically targeted individuals, often marginalised groups or youth, by providing them with formal and/or informal opportunities to make their voices heard through engaging in politics, civilian participation and oversight of public institutions and other civil society activities.
Civil society	Indirect	Social funds, community-driven development and reconstruction	These interventions, including social funds, CDD and CDR, encourage participatory planning and the inclusion of local constituents in identifying and addressing local needs. This can include social funds based on community decision-making, collaborative projects with the local government, and establishing community committees to help oversee the development or reconstruction efforts. This does not cover social safety nets or funds where decisions are not controlled by communities.
Governance and justice institutions	Indirect	Foundational state design processes	This includes efforts to support the design and drafting of legal foundations (e.g. constitutions), as well as political system design and state institutional design (e.g. drawing boundaries, decentralisation, federalism or division of territory into districts).
Governance and justice institutions	Indirect	Transitional political processes (e.g. transitional governments)	Any intervention that installs or supports a temporary government as a state transitions to new leadership. This could refer to a state where the political group responsible for state administration is changing and/or where a state is transitioning between different political systems.
Governance and justice institutions	Indirect	Power-sharing	Any attempt to guarantee the participation of representatives of significant groups in political decision making in order to reduce the danger that one group will become dominant as a new governmental process is specified. This includes power-sharing among groups previously in violent conflict, but also marginalised groups

<i>Intervention category</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Intervention sub-category</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Governance and justice institutions	Indirect	Election support	Trusted elections help to establish the legitimacy of the government, and election support interventions typically work with both international actors (who often monitor elections) and local civil society organisations (and NGOs) to ensure that electoral law is followed, eligible citizens are able to vote freely, and election results are more trustworthy. Elections support also comprises interventions to increase access to information about election processes and candidates.
Governance and justice institutions	Indirect	Public sector provision, governance and institutionalisation, and law	These interventions work with public institutions at all levels (national, subnational and local), including core government bodies and public service institutions. They aim to build capacities and processes to strengthen governance, including through improving the accountability, transparency, responsiveness, efficiency and equity of access to government and public services, as well as efforts to reduce levels of public service corruption. Whilst public services (e.g. health and education) are usually thought of as provided by the government, they may also be provided by NGOs, although this is usually envisioned as an intermediary step, whereas capacity is built in the government. These interventions also may include efforts to build links between civilians and state officials to strengthen state legitimacy and efforts to reform laws that do not relate directly to human security.
Governance and justice institutions	Indirect	Transitional or restorative justice	Any efforts made to convene a meeting between victims and the perpetrators of historic or current conflict in order to prevent further violent conflict. This could include the role and use of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission but also any other organisations, states or entities seeking to convene victims and perpetrators. These efforts could result in the formal acknowledgement of, or apologies for acts, as well as agreement to repair harm or damages caused.

<i>Intervention category</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Intervention sub-category</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Governance and justice institutions	Indirect	Justice system support and reform	Any effort made to improve the rule of law and justice system in a country through improvements to courts and their equitable access and use. This can include integrating human rights into the legal framework, capacity building for courts and lawyers, and reforming the criminal penal code to strengthen equal protection for human rights under national laws.
Governance and justice institutions	Indirect	Security sector reform	These interventions work to help governments improve their provision of safety, security and justice through actors in the security sector, which includes all levels of military and civilian organisations, governmental bodies providing oversight to such organisations, and actual state security providers (including police, customs, military forces and correction officers). This can include interventions to reform armed forces, improve national security planning, and provide oversight and transparency to justice, police and corrections actors.
Socio-economic foundations, especially to address intergroup inequalities	Indirect	Mental health and psychosocial support	These interventions aim to provide psychosocial support to victims and/or perpetrators in the context of preventing inter-group violence. This can include trauma healing, psychosocial support groups, individual therapy (sometimes for specific groups, such as torture survivors or ex-combatants), arts-based therapies, and building awareness around mental health.
Socio-economic foundations, especially to address intergroup inequalities	Indirect	Market development and macroeconomic policy	Any intervention design to stimulate the performance of sectors or the economy of a state overall. This could relate to changes in fiscal (taxation and spending, and investment decisions) or monetary (money supply and interest rate decisions) policy. This category will include interventions that target both public and private sector actors, those that consider engagement with other state and non-state actors and interventions over the short, medium and long term. These policies do not have explicit CAP aims (these are covered by #11)

<i>Intervention category</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Intervention sub-category</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Socio-economic foundations, especially to address intergroup inequalities	Indirect	Land reform & NRM	Efforts made to strengthen state or community-level management of natural resources, including water, rangelands and forests. This may include participatory management of irrigation systems, water user associations, rangeland/forestry user associations, crop substitution or climate adaptation and/or mitigation. Interventions to support community-based natural resource management groups can comprise elements of conflict resolution training.
Socio-economic foundations, especially to address intergroup inequalities	Indirect	Training	This category provides training programmes primarily for jobs and livelihoods but can also include programmes such as music instruction for youth, which may have less obvious monetary reward but aims to provide skills and an alternative to violence. Importantly this category does not include the development of peace skills (such as conflict management).
Socio-economic foundations, especially to address intergroup inequalities	Indirect	Job creation (including public works)	These interventions include all job creation programmes, including support for the private sector.
Socio-economic foundations, especially to address intergroup inequalities	Indirect	Financial products and services	This typically comprises microcredit, microinsurance, and micro savings interventions (including establishing village savings and loan associations) and financial literacy support.
Socio-economic foundations, especially to address intergroup inequalities	Indirect	Cash and in-kind transfers	This includes interventions that both in-kind and cash transfers. This covers the provision of goods and assistance, and specifically includes food assistance (where it is given directly to the community), and social safety nets, in terms of cash and subsidies to community members, which might be conditional or unconditional. This category also includes short-term cash-for-work programmes, which provide assistance in the form of cash for performing labour (rather than a traditional aid hand-out), and interventions that combine transfers with other forms of support, such as skills training or health support.

<i>Intervention category</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Intervention sub-category</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Socio-economic foundations, especially to address intergroup inequalities	Indirect	Infrastructure investment	This covers all interventions that build, or re-build, infrastructure outside of CDD&R processes, with the aim of stimulating the economy through both short-term employment and ensuring the presence of infrastructure necessary for economic development.

Outcome domains and subdomains

<i>Outcome domain</i>	<i>Outcome sub-domain</i>	<i>Outcome type</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Violence and atrocity prevention	Diplomatic relations	Core	Any measure of the extent to which two (bilateral) or more (multilateral) states have engaged in diplomatic relations where the primary focus is either a specific peace process, or broader relations to address conflict drivers and/or atrocity risk factors. This would also reflect negative changes in diplomatic relations arising as a result of interventions.

<i>Outcome domain</i>	<i>Outcome sub-domain</i>	<i>Outcome type</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Violence and atrocity prevention	Justice	Core	<p>ICJ convictions - possibly even trials/persecutions.</p> <p>This includes specific efforts - whether successful or not - to hold perpetrators of atrocities accountable to crimes and/or human rights violations. It also includes other justice outcomes, such as public apologies or the initiation of truth and reconciliation processes. It does not include outcomes related to changes in the state justice institutions or systems for accessing those systems (see outcome 10 below).</p>

<i>Outcome domain</i>	<i>Outcome sub-domain</i>	<i>Outcome type</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Violence and atrocity prevention	Peaceful dispute resolution	Core	This encompasses all indicators related to the peaceful resolution of disputes primarily involving state actors in the first instance, such as accessibility of dispute resolution mechanisms, the capacity of state actors to resolve disputes, and frequency with which conflict or possible atrocities are resolved peacefully. Any indicator of the nature and quality of resolution reached, such as the distribution of power or the contents of a peace agreement will also be included here.

<i>Outcome domain</i>	<i>Outcome sub-domain</i>	<i>Outcome type</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Violence and atrocity prevention	Nature and scale of violence or atrocities	Core	Any indicator that measures changes in the scale and type of violent conflicts or atrocities observed, e.g. the extent of violence or specific atrocity acts, no of battles, geographic scale, volume of participants or nature of equipment and weapons deployed. This also includes explicit proxies of violence, such as recruitment to violent groups.

<i>Outcome domain</i>	<i>Outcome sub-domain</i>	<i>Outcome type</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Violence and atrocity prevention	Sexual and gender-based violence	Core	Any indicator that measures incidence levels, attitudes or norms related to SGBV. SGBV ‘refers to any act that is perpetrated against a person’s will and is based on gender norms and unequal power relationships. It encompasses threats of violence and coercion. It can be physical, emotional, psychological, or sexual in nature, and can take the form of a denial of resources or access to services. It inflicts harm on women, girls, men and boys’ (UNHCR n.d.)
Violence and atrocity prevention	Social norms regarding violence and atrocities	Core	The norms and behaviours surrounding violent conflicts and atrocities including support for political violence or armed groups, and attitudes towards the use of violence.

<i>Outcome domain</i>	<i>Outcome sub-domain</i>	<i>Outcome type</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Social cohesion	Feeling of trust	Core	Any measure of an individual's 'confidence in the reliability of a person or group, regarding a given set of outcomes or events' (Giddens 1990, p.34). The outcomes of interest are unspecified in this definition and could apply to a broad range of situations. This could reflect the perception of trust present in a community, or towards a particular group, as well as actual reported levels of trust stated by participants.
Social cohesion	Sense of belonging	Core	Any measure of an individuals' or groups' sense of shared identity.

<i>Outcome domain</i>	<i>Outcome sub-domain</i>	<i>Outcome type</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Social cohesion	Willingness to participate or help	Core	Any measure of an individual's' or group's willingness to participate in political (participate) or civil society or engage in actions that benefit others based on altruistic motives (help). Such actions might include community service, volunteering or donating to causes that benefit others.
Social cohesion	Acceptance of diversity	Core	Any measure of the extent to which individuals or groups recognise others' rights to belong, be trusted and/or be helped, even where there are differences in values, identities or lifestyles. This includes any changes in the levels of discrimination or hate experienced by specific groups across all media. Acceptance of diversity may refer to people within one's own group as well as across groups.

<i>Outcome domain</i>	<i>Outcome sub-domain</i>	<i>Outcome type</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Community and state governance	Access to justice, rights and public services	Secondary	This includes all indicators of access to justice and rights, including the intent, capability and capacity to protect human rights in civilian and military settings (including access to documentation), and equitable access to public services (e.g. health, education).
Community and state governance	Civic participation	Secondary	This includes all indicators for participation or inclusion in civil society, state institutions and decision-making, including capacity for collective action.
Community and state governance	Government performance	Secondary	This includes all indicators of how well state institutions are functioning (e.g. indicators of how consistent or high-quality a service is) or perceived to be functioning, as well as corruption, strength of democratic practices, and government capacity.

<i>Outcome domain</i>	<i>Outcome sub-domain</i>	<i>Outcome type</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Community and state governance	Presence and quality of social safety nets	Secondary	Any indicator that measures the ability of a system, community or society to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a physical, political economic or social shock (e.g. natural disaster, conflict, economic event) in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions.
Community and state governance	Transitions of power (e.g. elections, leadership changes)	Secondary	Any indicator that evaluates the extent to which a newly appointed or elected government or other state entity takes leadership of a state without the presence or unrest or violence.

<i>Outcome domain</i>	<i>Outcome sub-domain</i>	<i>Outcome type</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Human security	Economic security	Secondary	Any indicators that measures the economic or financial performance of a group or state, covering individual, household and sector measures of economic security (household consumption, expenditure, savings, wealth measures, revenue, investment, productivity), as well as macroeconomic measures, covering labour market measures, prices and inflation, fiscal activity (state consumption, trade/balance of payments, government spending, investment or saving) or monetary activity (interest rates, money supply).

<i>Outcome domain</i>	<i>Outcome sub-domain</i>	<i>Outcome type</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Human security	Educational security	Secondary	Any measure of the educational satisfaction, attainment or performance of participants. Access to education services forms a focus of community and state governance
Human security	Food security and nutrition	Secondary	Any measure of the food security or nutrition status. Food security measures cover the accessibility, availability, affordability and safety of food to households or groups, covering all measures of food insecure / stressed households. Nutrition status measures cover the diet quality and adequacy of participants, the status of any micronutrient, and anthropometric, other physical or other mental, cognitive, or socioemotional developmental measures.

<i>Outcome domain</i>	<i>Outcome sub-domain</i>	<i>Outcome type</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Human security	Health security	Secondary	This includes any indicator measuring the physical, mental and social well-being of study participant, including such as disease incidence, vaccination rates, psychological well-being (e.g. levels of PTSD, anxiety), and life expectancy. This does not cover access to health services (which appears under governance).

<i>Outcome domain</i>	<i>Outcome sub-domain</i>	<i>Outcome type</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Human security	Physical security	Secondary	This includes measures of perceived safety in the home, safety in the community and freedom of movement, perceptions of the state of peace and conflict vulnerability in a community or country, perceptions of the capacity of police and security apparatuses to ensure safety, and levels of anti-social behaviour, and engagement in illicit activities (e.g. mercenary activities, illegal mining, violent crime) not directly related to CAP.
Human security	Political security	Secondary	This includes measures of openness in the political space, the ability to participate in politics and political processes. This also includes enjoyment of political and civil rights and perceptions of political and civic freedom.

<i>Outcome domain</i>	<i>Outcome sub-domain</i>	<i>Outcome type</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Human security	Environmental security	Secondary	This includes any indicator that measures the quality of natural resources, including water security, land degradation, land management, or changes in biodiversity.
Human security	Social security (intermediate social cohesion outcomes)	Secondary	Any measure of some intermediate step towards one of the other specified social cohesion outcomes. These include measures of levels of forgiveness, knowledge about other specific groups, knowledge of peace and conflict mediation approaches, sociocultural awareness, social and emotional skills, and self-efficacy (i.e., an individual's perception that they can create change).

Appendix G PRISMA checklist

Section and Topic	Item #	Checklist item	Location where item is reported
TITLE			
Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review.	EGM
ABSTRACT			
Abstract	2	See the PRISMA 2020 for Abstracts checklist.	NA
INTRODUCTION			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of existing knowledge.	Y
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of the objective(s) or question(s) the review addresses.	Y
METHODS			
Eligibility criteria	5	Specify the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the review and how studies were grouped for the syntheses.	Y
Information sources	6	Specify all databases, registers, websites, organisations, reference lists and other sources searched or consulted to identify studies. Specify the date when each source was last searched or consulted.	Y
Search strategy	7	Present the full search strategies for all databases, registers and websites, including any filters and limits used.	Y
Selection process	8	Specify the methods used to decide whether a study met the inclusion criteria of the review, including how many reviewers screened each record and each report retrieved, whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Y
Data collection process	9	Specify the methods used to collect data from reports, including how many reviewers collected data from each report, whether they worked independently, any processes for obtaining or confirming data from study	Y

		investigators, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	
Data items	10a	List and define all outcomes for which data were sought. Specify whether all results that were compatible with each outcome domain in each study were sought (e.g. for all measures, time points, analyses), and if not, the methods used to decide which results to collect.	Y
	10b	List and define all other variables for which data were sought (e.g. participant and intervention characteristics, funding sources). Describe any assumptions made about any missing or unclear information.	Y
Study risk of bias assessment	11	Specify the methods used to assess risk of bias in the included studies, including details of the tool(s) used, how many reviewers assessed each study and whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Y
Effect measures	12	Specify for each outcome the effect measure(s) (e.g. risk ratio, mean difference) used in the synthesis or presentation of results.	NA
Synthesis methods	13a	Describe the processes used to decide which studies were eligible for each synthesis (e.g. tabulating the study intervention characteristics and comparing against the planned groups for each synthesis (item #5)).	NA
	13b	Describe any methods required to prepare the data for presentation or synthesis, such as handling of missing summary statistics, or data conversions.	NA
	13c	Describe any methods used to tabulate or visually display results of individual studies and syntheses.	Y
	13d	Describe any methods used to synthesize results and provide a rationale for the choice(s). If meta-analysis was performed, describe the model(s), method(s) to identify the presence and extent of statistical heterogeneity, and software package(s) used.	Y
	13e	Describe any methods used to explore possible causes of heterogeneity among study results (e.g. subgroup analysis, meta-regression).	NA
	13f	Describe any sensitivity analyses conducted to assess robustness of the synthesized results.	NA
Reporting bias assessment	14	Describe any methods used to assess risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis (arising from reporting biases).	Y
Certainty assessment	15	Describe any methods used to assess certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for an outcome.	NA
RESULTS			
Study selection	16a	Describe the results of the search and selection process, from the number of records identified in the search to the number of studies included in the review, ideally using a flow diagram.	Y
	16b	Cite studies that might appear to meet the inclusion criteria, but which were excluded, and explain why they were excluded.	Y

Study characteristics	17	Cite each included study and present its characteristics.	EGM
Risk of bias in studies	18	Present assessments of risk of bias for each included study.	EGM
Results of individual studies	19	For all outcomes, present, for each study: (a) summary statistics for each group (where appropriate) and (b) an effect estimate and its precision (e.g. confidence/credible interval), ideally using structured tables or plots.	NA
Results of syntheses	20a	For each synthesis, briefly summarise the characteristics and risk of bias among contributing studies.	NA
	20b	Present results of all statistical syntheses conducted. If meta-analysis was done, present for each the summary estimate and its precision (e.g. confidence/credible interval) and measures of statistical heterogeneity. If comparing groups, describe the direction of the effect.	NA
	20c	Present results of all investigations of possible causes of heterogeneity among study results.	NA
	20d	Present results of all sensitivity analyses conducted to assess the robustness of the synthesized results.	NA
Reporting biases	21	Present assessments of risk of bias due to missing results (arising from reporting biases) for each synthesis assessed.	NA
Certainty of evidence	22	Present assessments of certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for each outcome assessed.	NA
DISCUSSION			
Discussion	23a	Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence.	Y
	23b	Discuss any limitations of the evidence included in the review.	Y
	23c	Discuss any limitations of the review processes used.	Y
	23d	Discuss implications of the results for practice, policy, and future research.	Y
OTHER INFORMATION			
Registration and protocol	24a	Provide registration information for the review, including register name and registration number, or state that the review was not registered.	Y
	24b	Indicate where the review protocol can be accessed, or state that a protocol was not prepared.	Y
	24c	Describe and explain any amendments to information provided at registration or in the protocol.	NA
Support	25	Describe sources of financial or non-financial support for the review, and the role of the funders or sponsors in the review.	Y
Competing interests	26	Declare any competing interests of review authors.	Y

Availability of data, code and other materials	27	Report which of the following are publicly available and where they can be found: template data collection forms; data extracted from studies; data used for all analyses; analytic code; any other materials used in the review.	Y
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Source: from Page et al. (2021).

Appendix H Evidence and gap map

Available as a supplementary file – <https://campbellsouthasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/GAPMap.html>

Appendix I Synthesis decision framework - coding tool

Criteria	Decision rule
1. At least 3 primary studies?	If there are less than 3 primary studies under the intervention category, answer 'No' and exclude this from the synthesis option. Otherwise answer 'Yes' and go to question 2.
2. Multiple primary studies exist	If there are more than 10 primary studies, code 1, otherwise 0.
3. Employing comparable methods	If at least 7 primary studies employ same method category (RCT/QED; small-n) 1, otherwise 0
4. Not been reviewed recently	If one of the following is true: (a) no high/medium confidence SR in the previous 3 years AND more than 3 primary studies published in previous 3 years; OR (b) no high/medium confidence SR ever; OR (c) recent high/medium confidence SRs are quantitative only AND more than 3 primary qualitative studies then 1, else 0. (Existing SR focusing on narrower context/population (e.g., women targeted intervention), and/or reviewing multiple intervention categories, are not considered in this question)
5. Relevant policy issue	If one of the following is true: (a) intervention mentioned in FCDO's White Paper ¹⁵ ; OR (b) outcome mentioned in FCDO's White Paper + more than 3 studies of that intervention measure that outcome
6. Support for synthesis	If $(H+I+J+K)/4=1$, Yes; If Policy issue = 1 and $(H+I+J)/3 > 66\%$, Partial; Otherwise no

Appendix J Synthesis decision framework - coding results

<i>Intervention category</i>	<i>At least three primary studies?</i>	<i>Sufficient primary studies exist</i>	<i>Employing comparable methods</i>	<i>Not been reviewed in past five years</i>	<i>On relevant policy issue</i>	<i>Support for synthesis?</i>
Policing and public security	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Peace support/keeping operations	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Military operations	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Support to civilians and non-state armed groups	No	-	-	-	-	No
Disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Diplomatic recognition	Yes	0	0	1	1	No
Human security law	Yes	0	1	1	1	Partial
Peace processes and diplomacy	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Ceasefire agreements	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Sanctions	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Other diplomatic efforts	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Aid assistance and aid conditionalities	Yes	0	0	1	0	No
International Criminal Court (ICC) or regional equivalents	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Research, monitoring, and assessments	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Dispute resolution	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Intergroup contact	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Peace education	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes

<i>Intervention category</i>	<i>At least three primary studies?</i>	<i>Sufficient primary studies exist</i>	<i>Employing comparable methods</i>	<i>Not been reviewed in past five years</i>	<i>On relevant policy issue</i>	<i>Support for synthesis?</i>
Media and communication	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Social inclusion and reintegration activities	Yes	0	0	1	1	No
Civil society capacity building	Yes	0	0	1	1	No
Civic engagement and empowerment initiatives	Yes	0	0	1	1	No
Social funds, community-driven development and reconstruction	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Foundational state design processes	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Transitional political processes (e.g., transitional governments)	Yes	0	0	1	1	No
Power-sharing	Yes	0	0	1	0	No
Election support	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Public sector provision, governance and institutionalisation	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Transitional or restorative justice	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Justice system support and reform	Yes	0	0	1	1	No
Security sector reform	Yes	0	0	1	1	No
Mental health and psychosocial support	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Market development and macroeconomic policy	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Land reform & NRM	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Training	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Job creation (including public works)	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes
Financial products and services	No	-	-	-	-	No
Cash and in-kind transfers	Yes	1	1	1	1	Yes

<i>Intervention category</i>	<i>At least three primary studies?</i>	<i>Sufficient primary studies exist</i>	<i>Employing comparable methods</i>	<i>Not been reviewed in past five years</i>	<i>On relevant policy issue</i>	<i>Support for synthesis?</i>
Infrastructure investment	Yes	0	1	1	1	Partial

