

Effect of Media & Communication on Economic Security

Radio programming under the PDEV II program showed a **harmful effect** on economic security outcomes.

Geographical region : Sub-Saharan Africa

Effect: Harmful effect (g = -0.013)

Confidence in study findings: Low (1 study with 3 effect size)

Short summary

Media and communication interventions under the Peace through Development II (PDEV II) program had a harmful effect on economic security indicators, showing no measurable improvement in livelihoods, employment, or financial stability. Implemented between 2011 and 2016 in Burkina Faso, Chad, and Niger, the program aimed to strengthen community resilience, promote social cohesion, and counter violent extremism through vocational training, leadership development, and radio-based outreach. While the intervention fostered civic engagement and governance awareness, its economic outcomes were limited, reflecting a focus on social and political rather than financial resilience.

Long summary

The Intervention

The PDEV II program combined vocational training, literacy initiatives, leadership programs, and community media activities to strengthen resilience to violent extremism. Media interventions included the production of governance-oriented radio programs, interfaith dialogues, and training local radio stations. Complementary activities involved civil society capacity-building, community action committees, and governance training for local officials to promote accountability and inclusive participation.

How the intervention is expected to work

The program is expected to build **economic and social resilience** by enhancing youth employability, civic participation, and public trust in governance. Radio programming was intended to amplify these effects by spreading messages of peace, tolerance, and empowerment. However, limited direct support to income generation and financial inclusion may have restricted its impact on economic outcomes.

The Evidence Base

The cell contains one high to medium quantitative confidence conducted in at-risk communities across Burkina Faso, Chad, and Niger.

Evidence findings

The PDEV II radio component demonstrated a harmful effect on economic security, showing negligible or negative impacts on employment and livelihood indicators while contributing more to social and political engagement than to economic stability.

Included studies:

the cell include one IE/primary study & thus the detailed summary is provided as below

Finkel (2018) evaluates The Peace through Development II (PDEV II) program, implemented from 2011 to 2016, aimed to enhance resilience to violent extremism (VE) in at-risk communities across Burkina Faso, Chad, and Niger. It focused on four strategic objectives (SOs): empowering youth, amplifying moderate voices, strengthening civil society, and improving local governance. The program combined community activities with media efforts, notably radio, to reach wider audiences.

Under SO1, "Youth Empowered," PDEV II offered vocational training, leadership programs, and literacy support. SO2, "Moderate Voices Increased," focused on media capacity-building, public campaigns, and interfaith dialogues. SO3, "Civil Society Capacity Increased," aimed to strengthen civil society organizations through training and the formation of Community Action Committees (CACs). SO4, "Local Government Strengthened," improved the skills of local officials in public administration and governance.

The program targeted 83 zones, with core zones receiving full interventions, non-core zones focusing on radio, and no-activity zones having limited engagement. It used high and low-intensity zones to prioritize resources and activities for deeper community engagement.

The evaluation of the PDEV II radio component shows limited impact on economic security outcomes. While radio programming positively influenced political and social perceptions, it did not lead to measurable improvements in livelihoods, employment, or financial stability in the target areas. The analysis found no significant changes in economic security indicators resulting from the intervention. The study is rated as medium to high confidence.

Confidence assessment

Overall, The cell is rated low confidence due to the limited number of studies

Other outcomes in this study:

Social cohesion/Feeling of trust & acceptance of diversity

Human security/Political security

Community & state governance/Civic participation.

Violence & atrocity prevention/social norms regarding violence or atrocity