

Effect of military operations on government performance

Military operations have a moderate positive effect on public perceptions of government performance and security, though the effect varies by population group.

Geographical region: Su- Saharan Africa

Effect: Moderate effect ($g = 0.138$)

Confidence in study findings: Low confidence

Short summary

Kenya's "Operation Linda Nchi" against al-Shabaab positively impact public perceptions of government performance. Such interventions are expected to influence people's trust in state institutions by altering their perceptions of security and governance. Muibu and Cubukcu (2023) analyze Afrobarometer survey data to assess how counterterrorism efforts influenced trust in the police, the ruling government, and local authorities among ethnic groups. Post-intervention, Somalis showed lower trust in the police and government but increased obedience to the law and trust in local government, while non-Somalis reported higher trust in the police, government, and law enforcement.

Long summary

The intervention

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 be operations where armed forces are engaged in combat and those that do not have primary objectives to engage in combat (e.g. the presence of armed forces in specific locations and training). This also includes cyberwarfare operations when delivered by a state's armed forces.

How the intervention is expected to work?

Military operations like "Operation Linda Nchi," Kenya's military offensive against al-Shabaab terrorist attacks, are expected to have an effect on people's perception of government performance. Such interventions may influence trust in the police, the ruling government, and local authorities. Their impact varies across ethnic groups, shaping attitudes toward governance and security institutions.

Evidence base

The cell contains 1 quantitative study: Muibu (2023) focuses on Kenya. The cell includes one qualitative study: Fitzsimmons (2013), Middle East & North Africa.

Evidence findings

Post-intervention of Kenya's military offensive, Somalis are less likely to trust the police but more likely to obey the law. They also trust the ruling government less but hold more favorable views of local government compared to pre-intervention levels. Non-Somalis, in contrast, show increased trust in the police, greater willingness to obey the law, and improved trust in local government.

Included studies

Muibu (2023) investigates the impact of counterterrorism measures in Kenya on Somali minorities' perceptions of the police and government, comparing them to those of other ethnic groups. The intervention, known as "Operation Linda Nchi" (Operation Protect the Nation), was Kenya's military offensive against al-Shabaab terrorist attacks. The study uses nationally representative data from the Afrobarometer project (Round 4: 2008, N=1,104; Round 6: 2014, N=2,397) to compare pre- and post-intervention periods across ethnic groups. The sample includes adults aged 18 and above, selected through a randomized, stratified, multistage area sampling method. Four ordered logistic regression models analyze outcomes: obligation to obey the law, trust in the police, trust in the ruling government, and trust in local government. Propensity score matching with bootstrapped kernel matching ensures robustness. Findings indicate that, post-intervention, Somalis are less likely to trust the police but more likely to obey the law. They also trust the ruling government less but hold more favorable views of local government compared to pre-intervention levels. Non-Somalis, in contrast, show increased trust in the police, greater willingness to obey the law, and improved trust in local government. The study is rated low confidence.

Confidence assessment

Overall, the cell is rated low confidence.

Other outcomes

No additional outcomes were found for this cell.