

Effect of peace processes and diplomacy on economic security

Peace agreements have large effect on economic security through improvements in equitable resource sharing among communities.

Geographic region: Sub Saharan Africa, Europe and Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, Latin America and Caribbean

Effect size: Large effect ($g=0.63$)

Confidence in study findings: Low (3 studies with 10 effect sizes)

Short summary

Peace agreements, such as the Maikona and Walda peace accords, have large effects on economic security, as seen in the Borana and Gabra communities in Kenya. Findings indicate that the majority of respondents view these agreements as effective in enhancing resource distribution and conflict management, therefore contributing to economic stability.

Long summary

The intervention

The study in this cell examines the effect of informal peace agreements as a strategy for managing community conflicts, particularly between the Borana and Gabra communities in Marsabit County, Kenya. These agreements, such as the Maikona and Walda peace accords, aim to foster conflict resolution through community-based negotiations, equitable resource sharing, and sustained security efforts.

How the intervention is expected to affect this outcome

The study suggests that informal peace agreements, such as the Maikona and Walda peace accords, can positively influence economic security by fostering cooperation between conflicting communities. These agreements promote equitable resource sharing, which can reduce competition over scarce resources such as grazing land and water, crucial for the livelihoods of pastoralist communities like the Borana and Gabra.

The evidence base

This cell contains: 2 qualitative studies, and 3 quantitative studies. The study settings are Colombia, Kenya, Rwanda, and Mozambique. One of the qualitative studies had a larger scope, thus including the following: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Kosovo, Palestine, Timor-Leste. The study findings tend to be inconsistent.

Evidence findings

One of the studies found that peace agreements are effective in ensuring equitable resource sharing, with over 44% of the respondents thinking that the Maikona Declaration is effective, and 14% perceiving it as very effective in managing conflicts between the Borana and Gabra

communities. Meanwhile, another study finds that peace agreements improved healthcare access but contributed to increased catastrophic health expenditures.

Included studies

Adan (2020) evaluates the role of informal peace agreements in managing community conflicts between the Borana and Gabra communities in Marsabit County, Kenya. The study focuses on the Maikona Declaration and other indigenous mechanisms as proactive tools for sustainable peace. The study employed a descriptive survey design, targeting 152 respondents, including elders, chiefs, women leaders, youth representatives, and NGO staff, with a final sample size of 110 participants. Data collection involved questionnaires and key informant interviews, with quantitative data analyzed through inferential statistics and qualitative data analyzed thematically. Survey responses revealed that a majority of respondents perceived the agreement as effective or very effective in ensuring equitable sharing of resources, thereby fostering greater cooperation and sustainable development in the region. The study is rated medium as it is non-experimental and due to its partial description of the evaluation question, intervention, and outcomes.

Igei (2021) examines the impact of vocational training on economic empowerment and social reintegration among demobilized ex-combatants with disabilities in Rwanda. Using a pipeline approach, a quasi-experimental design that compares individuals who completed training with those about to start, the study finds significant positive effects on employment, income, and social reintegration. The training increased the probability of employment by over 60%, nearly tripled income levels, and improved social acceptance within families and communities. The study is rated medium due to its partial description of the intervention, outcomes, and evaluation questions. This is also a non-experimental study.

León-Giraldo et al. (2021) explored how Colombia's 2016 peace agreement with the FARC-EP affected inequalities in catastrophic health expenditures (CHE) in conflict-affected areas. The study focused on Meta, a region heavily impacted by conflict. Using survey data from the Conflicto, Paz y Salud (CONPAS) survey conducted in Meta, covering 1,309 households for the years 2014 and 2018, the study applies multivariate logistic regression to identify sociodemographic factors influencing CHE. To examine changes over time, the Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition method is used, which breaks down changes in inequality into factors such as distributional shifts in population and varying effects of sociodemographic characteristics. The findings suggest that the incidence of CHE slightly rose from 29.3% in 2014 to 30.7% in 2018, with inequality also increasing. Meanwhile, the decomposition analysis revealed that increased CHE inequalities were primarily due to shifts in the impact of sociodemographic factors, especially informal employment and residing in high-conflict zones. The results also show that the peace agreement improved healthcare access but also contributed to increased CHE inequality, with poorer households bearing a disproportionate financial burden.

Confidence assessment

Overall low: The rating for this cell is low considering that it includes less than 4 quantitative studies.

Other outcomes in the study:

Violence & atrocity prevention / Diplomatic relations & Peaceful dispute resolution

Human security / Physical security