

## Effect of peace processes and diplomacy on physical security

Informal peace agreements have large effects on prolonged security, while multilateral treaties require strong state capacity to be effective.

Geographic region: Global, Sub-Saharan Africa

Effect size: Large effect ( $g=1.422$ )

Confidence in study findings: Low (2 studies with 5 effect sizes)

### Short summary

Peace processes and diplomacy interventions include indigenous peace agreements and multilateral treaties. Indigenous peace agreements use traditional mediation and community-led negotiations, while multilateral treaties obligate state parties to respect human rights. The cell shows that informal agreements contribute to long-term security, whereas treaties alone have no significant impact on physical integrity rights unless backed by strong state capacity.

### Long summary

#### *The intervention*

Interventions involving peace processes and diplomacy may include indigenous peace agreements and multilateral treaties. Indigenous peace agreements rely on traditional dispute resolution mechanisms, including clan elders' negotiations, local mediation, and community-based justice to prevent and mitigate violent conflicts over scarce resources. Meanwhile, multilateral treaties may obligate state parties to respect, protect, and fulfil fundamental civil and political rights, ensuring that individuals are protected from government abuses.

#### *How the intervention is expected to affect this outcome*

Informal peace agreements, often rooted in local customs and indigenous dispute resolution mechanisms, can help promote physical security by creating platforms for negotiations, fostering trust-building between conflicting parties, and institutionalizing mediation efforts. Meanwhile, strong state capacity and governance can play a crucial role in enforcing human rights protections, as strong bureaucratic institutions are expected to improve treaty compliance and enhance legal accountability.

#### *The evidence base*

The cell includes 2 non-experimental impact evaluation studies, and 1 qualitative study. One of the studies utilized a global dataset while the other two are set in Kenya and Sierra Leone.

#### *Evidence findings*

Findings suggest that informal peace agreements can foster peaceful coexistence and long-term security. In contrast, multilateral treaties show no significant impact on physical integrity rights outcomes. However, their effectiveness improves when combined with strong bureaucratic and infrastructural state capacity.

#### *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. The findings suggest that informal peace agreements have played a significant role in managing conflicts between the Borana and Gabra communities, with notable success in fostering cooperation, reducing violence, and promoting peace. The study is rated medium as it is non-experimental and due to its partial description of the evaluation question, intervention, and outcomes.

**Cole (2015)** explores the role of state capacity in implementing human rights treaties, with a specific focus on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The study employs a two-stage regression model to examine the relationship between state capacity and treaty compliance across a sample of countries that are ICCPR signatories. The independent variables include various indicators of state capacity, such as bureaucratic quality, corruption control, military involvement in politics, and infrastructural strength, to test their impact on compliance with civil, political, and physical integrity rights. To address endogeneity, the following instrumental variables were used: ratification hurdles, legal system type, government type, and a global cumulative ratification measure. The study finds that higher bureaucratic efficacy, characterized by reduced corruption and military influence in politics, significantly enhances compliance with human rights commitments. Meanwhile, enhanced infrastructural reach, such as communication networks and urbanization, is associated with better protection of physical integrity rights. Finally, strong coercive capacities, indicated by larger military expenditures, were found to be linked to increased likelihood of rights violations. The study is rated medium confidence due to its partial description of the intervention and outcomes, and its non-experimental design.

#### *Confidence assessment*

Overall low: This cell has an overall low rating as it has less than 4 impact evaluations.

#### **Other outcomes in the study:**

Violence and atrocity prevention / Diplomatic relations & peaceful dispute resolution

Human security / Political security

Human security / Economic security