

Effect of Public sector provision, governance and institutionalization intervention on Diplomatic relations & Peaceful dispute resolution

Evidence shows that peace building fund initiatives in public sector provision intervention have a small impact on the return of displaced persons, a potential cause of conflict in the community.

Geographic focus: Sub Saharan Africa

Effect: Small effect ($g=0.045$)

Confidence in study findings: Low (1 study with 38 effect sizes)

Short summary

Evidence from the Peace Building Fund (PBF) in Burundi indicates a small effect on diplomatic relations and peaceful dispute resolution. PBF interventions supported post-war recovery between 2007 and 2013, facilitating political negotiations, transforming the FNL rebel group into a political party, resolving logistical election challenges, and reducing violence in provinces with high populations of IDPs and ex-combatants. PBF-funded initiatives, including the P3P project, focused on refugee reintegration, land dispute resolution, community safety, and human rights, achieving some improvements in community stability.

Long summary

The intervention

The Peace Building Fund (PBF) provided structured financial and programmatic support to Burundi's post-war transition across three phases (PBF I, II, and preparation for PBF III) from 2007 to 2013. Key activities included unblocking parliamentary deadlocks, supporting the political transformation of rebel groups, addressing logistical election challenges, calming communities affected by conflict, and organizing dialogue workshops to foster political consensus. The P3P project, funded through PBF, targeted refugee and IDP reintegration, land dispute resolution, and promotion of human rights, implemented across three provinces with principles of Inclusion, Appropriation, and Durability.

How the intervention is expected to work

The PBF aimed to improve diplomatic relations and reduce potential sources of conflict by supporting reintegration of displaced persons, mediating land disputes, enhancing security, and promoting human rights. Collaboration between UNHCR, the National Land Commission (CNTB), and local authorities was central to these efforts. By addressing critical sources of tension such as land disputes and ensuring inclusion of vulnerable groups, the interventions were expected to foster community stability, build trust in local governance, and promote peaceful dispute resolution.

The evidence base

The cell contains 2 studies designed as quasi-experimental study and qualitative study (Coffey 2012).

The study was conducted in Burundi (1) and Sudan (1).

Evidence findings

Findings indicate that PBF interventions facilitated reintegration of refugees and IDPs through the P3P project, addressed land disputes, and strengthened collaboration among UNHCR, CNTB, and local authorities. These efforts contributed to improvements in community stability and human rights conditions. Overall, the interventions had a small effect on diplomatic relations and peaceful dispute resolution outcomes.

Included studies

There is 1 impact evaluation in the cell and evidence summaries of the study are thus provided here:

Campbell (2014) assesses the contribution of the peace building fund (PBF) support to Burundi's post-war transition for the entire period of PBF support to Burundi (2007 – 2013), which included two tranches of PBF funding (PBF I and PBF II) and the preparation of a third one (PBF III), and draws lessons for the PBF based on its support over this entire period. The study was designed as a quasi-experimental design. The evaluation employed an innovative research design that is grounded in a household-level survey of over 250 households from randomly sampled collines with and without PBF involvement, and over 165 semi-structured interviews, 90 of which are drawn from the randomly sampled collines. PBF funded projects made a crucial positive contribution to Burundi's peacebuilding process and achieved aspects of the Security Council mandate that would have been difficult to do without PBF funding. It provided crucial inputs that advanced Burundi's ongoing political negotiations, helping to: unblock a deadlock in the Burundian Parliament in 2007; remove the final remaining barrier to the transformation of the FNL rebel group into a political party in 2009; address several critical logistical barriers in the organization of the 2010 elections; calm communities in provinces that received a high number of IDPs and ex-combatants, and had suffered from the high levels of political violence and instability surrounding the 2010 elections; and it supported dialogue workshops in 2013 that made progress toward breaking another deadlock between political parties surrounding the preparation for the 2015 elections. The study is rated as medium confidence due to non experimental study design, partial definition of outcomes and attrition of more than 20% in the study sample.

Confidence assessment

Overall low confidence as there is only one study in the cell.

Other outcome in this study:

Violence and atrocity prevention/Diplomatic relations & Peaceful dispute resolution
Human security / Economic security