

Effect of Public sector provision, governance and institutionalization intervention on economic security

The cell shows that peace building fund intervention have a moderate impact on reducing poverty and corruption.

Geographic focus: Sub Saharan Africa

Effect: Moderate effect (g=0.167)

Confidence in study findings: Low (1 study with 34 effect sizes)

Short Summary

Evidence from the Peace Building Fund (PBF) in Burundi indicates a moderate effect on economic security outcomes. 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, calming violence-prone provinces, and organizing dialogue workshops. Economic outcomes were mixed: residents in PBF areas recognized women's revenue-generating projects as reducing poverty but attributed continued poverty increases and corruption in administration and police to systemic issues and refugee influx.

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 III) from 2007 to 2013. PBF activities included unblocking parliamentary deadlocks, facilitating the integration of rebel groups into political processes, resolving logistical barriers for elections, calming communities affected by conflict and population displacement, and organizing dialogue workshops to foster political consensus ahead of subsequent elections.

How the intervention is expected to work

The PBF was expected to enhance economic security by creating development opportunities and strengthening local governance. Women-focused revenue-generating activities aimed to reduce poverty at the community level, while administrative and police oversight were intended to reduce corruption and improve institutional effectiveness. Survey responses indicated that residents in PBF-supported areas were more aware of development interventions and attributed positive economic outcomes to such programs. However, systemic issues such as refugee influx, weak institutions, and ongoing corruption moderated these effects.

The evidence base

The cell contains 2 studies designed as quasi-experimental and qualitative study. The study was conducted in Burundi (1) and Mozambique (1).

Evidence findings

Findings suggest that PBF interventions moderately improved economic security by supporting revenue-generating projects and raising awareness of development initiatives. However, persistent corruption in local administration and police, along with structural challenges such as refugee influx, limited the overall impact. Overall, the intervention had a moderate positive effect on economic security in targeted communities. There is 1 impact evaluation in the cell and evidence summaries of the study are thus provided here:

Included studies

Campbell (2014) -83547903 - The study assesses the contribution of the peacebuilding 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.

Confidence assessment

Overall low confidence due to the limited number of studies.

Other outcomes in this study

Violence and atrocity prevention / Diplomatic relations & Peaceful dispute resolution

Social cohesion / Feelings of trust and acceptance of diversity

Human security / economic security