

## **The effect of policing & public security on the presence and quality of social safety nets**

Effect: None (Police mediation is not effectively implemented for addressing conflict, diplomatic relations & peaceful dispute resolutions in both East Asian and Sub-Saharan regions)

Confidence in study findings: Low (two studies, low confidence)

### **Summary**

Suspicion of mediation interventions and other measures that are tied to the authority of the state means that the promise of service-oriented policing reforms may not be effectively implemented. A flawed military-centric approach, characterised by kinetic force and human rights abuses, further alienated the Nigerian populace and hindered effective cooperation against Boko Haram. This over-reliance on military hard power has proven ineffective, driving a wedge between security forces and the citizens they need as partners. Indonesian men often perceive the police as ineffective and potentially corrupt, leading to widespread distrust.

### **Long summary**

#### *The intervention*

The intervention refers to the perception of police intervention compared to community mediation in addressing violence among Indonesian men, whereas in the Sub-Saharan context, it refers to Nigeria's counter-terrorism policy. The intervention encompasses pre-mediation, mediation, and post-mediation efforts, involving negotiation, reconciliation, and the reintegration of conflicting parties into the community.

#### *How is the intervention expected to work*

The specific interventions employed depend on the context of the conflict, the nature of the parties involved, and the mediators' skills and resources. However, the overarching goal of these interventions is to shift the dynamics of the conflict from confrontation to collaboration, facilitate dialogue and agreement-building, and promote sustainable solutions that address the needs and interests of all stakeholders. In Nigeria, within the Counter Violent Extremism Program (CVE), a component called de-radicalisation aims to reintegrate terrorists and their family members back into society. This reintegration is achieved through vocational training and 'the activities of prison interventions' (p.146). In Indonesia, the mediators could provide training on conflict management, negotiation, and communication skills. This empowers parties to address future conflicts constructively (p.135).

#### *The evidence base*

There are two qualitative studies assessing the effect of **Policing & public security on the presence and quality of social safety nets**. The included studies are by A. Demartoto, P. Nilan, A. Broom, & J. Germov (2014). *Indonesian men's contrasting perceptions of how to deal with local*

violence. *Asian Journal of Criminology*, 9, 125-142; and Ojelade, S. O. (2018). *Counterterrorism policy towards Boko Haram in Nigeria during 2009-2015*. Walden University. All references are from these studies.

### *The evidence*

Inadequate policing and public security create a vicious cycle with social safety nets. The Nigerian government's initial, uncoordinated military response to Boko Haram fueled a severe humanitarian crisis, displacing millions and straining aid resources. In turn, widespread poverty and unemployment—a lack of strong social safety nets—drove people to join Boko Haram, worsening the insecurity. Although the government introduced social programs, their effectiveness was undermined by the security forces' brutality, corruption, and inter-agency conflicts. Ultimately, a breakdown in public security alienates the populace and prevents social safety nets from functioning as intended.

Policing and public security significantly influence the presence and quality of social safety nets in Indonesia, often by creating a reliance on informal community-based mechanisms due to a lack of trust in formal police interventions. This results in reliance on a community-based mediation approach, which can be an effective tool to promote diplomatic relations and peaceful dispute resolutions in the region by addressing the root causes of conflict, training and building trust in religious leaders and the head of the family. This has created a dual system of justice where traditional authorities play a critical role in resolving disputes, with the police often deferring to them

### *Confidence assessment*

Overall confidence: Low Confidence Qualitative Study (It is unclear whether the study uses an established small n approach; theoretical framework is not presented; no triangulation done; sources of potential data bias are not discussed)