

The effect of Research, Monitoring, and Assessments on Government performance

Effect: positive (attributed to increased accountability among government leaders, strong collaborative relation between community members & government & transformation in the security management approach)

Confidence in study findings: Low (one study, low confidence)

Short summary

The implementation of the Early Warning and Early Response System (EWERS) led to a variety of positive outcomes in the conflict clusters in Northwestern Kenya. The report primarily attributes these outcomes to the system's ability to facilitate information sharing, leading to quicker and more effective responses to potential security threats. This, in turn, contributed to increased accountability among government leaders, and strengthened collaborative relations between community members and the government, resulting in a transformation of the security management approach.

Long summary

The intervention

EWERS is an Early Warning and Early Response System implemented by a Faith-Based Organization (FBO) in Kenya to address ethnic violence. The system is designed to facilitate communication and collaboration between community members and authorities, enabling timely reporting and response to potential security threats

How is the intervention expected to work

The outcomes demonstrate that the EWERS, as an ICT-based intervention, played a significant role in promoting peacebuilding efforts and inclusivity by:

- 1) Strengthening Bridging and Linking Social Capital: the system facilitated connections and trust between different ethnic groups and between communities and authorities.
- 2) Weakening Bonding Social Capital: it broke down the barriers of exclusivity within certain groups that contributed to the marginalization of others.
- 3) Creating New Forms of Social Capital: it led to the emergence of peace networks and collaborative relationships that transcended ethnic divides and power structures.

This enabled the leveraging of existing social capital mechanisms and fostered a more balanced and equitable distribution of social capital resources.

The evidence base

There is one qualitative study assessing the effect of **Research, Monitoring, and Assessments on Government performance in Kenya**. This study is by F. Mukoya and AS. Mukherjee (2020). *The Role of Social Capital in Mediating ICT-Enabled Peace Building Efforts: A Case Study from Kenya*. In *The Future of Digital Work: The Challenge of Inequality: IFIP WG 8.2, 9.1, 9.4 Joint Working Conference, IFIPJWC 2020, Hyderabad*,

India, December 10–11, 2020, Proceedings (pp. 326-340). Springer International Publishing.
All references are from this study.

The evidence

- 1) ICTs facilitated strong collaborative relations between community members and security agencies, particularly the police. The EWERS system relied on community networks to share real-time security information, mitigating trust barriers. Previously, residents feared intimidation and victimization when reporting crimes, causing underreporting. The anonymization feature empowered them to report incidents safely, ensuring more responsive law enforcement actions (p. 6).
- 2) The EWERS transformed security management, prompting police to attend community forums, seminars, and public security meetings. They invited community members for motivational talks and educated the public on case reporting and investigation processes. This strengthened bonds between police and community leaders, improving reporting and ensuring effective responses (p. 6-7).
- 3) The integration of EWERS in violence prevention increased accountability among government leaders, especially chiefs and security personnel, who were now expected to respond to security alerts. Reports were also sent to their superiors, ensuring accountability. Previously ignored cases were now addressed, strengthening trust between officials and communities. Frequent interactions during response efforts fostered transparency, with chiefs and assistants holding regular consultative meetings to address emerging issues (p.7).

Confidence assessment

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