

Effect of Research Monitoring & assessment on Diplomatic relations & peaceful dispute resolution

Research, Monitoring, and Assessment (RMA) interventions show a moderate effect on supporting negotiation and implementation of peace agreements. Stalemates can foster negotiations, while unresolved power struggles may weaken outcomes. UN missions contribute to security, prevent defections, and support governance, with strong institutions critical for sustaining peace.

Geographic region: Global (post-civil war countries)

Effect: Moderate effect ($g=0.139$)

Confidence assessment: low confidence (2 studies with 15 Effect size)

Short summary

Research, Monitoring, and Assessment (RMA) interventions systematically evaluate civil war resolution and peacekeeping effectiveness. Evidence indicates that military stalemates can drive negotiations, but unresolved power imbalances and coordination challenges may weaken peace agreements. UN peacekeeping missions improve security, prevent defections, and support governance structures. These interventions show moderate positive impacts, though confidence is low due to the limited number of studies.

Long summary

The Intervention

The interventions focus on systematic research, monitoring, and assessment of civil war resolution and peace agreement implementation. They analyze negotiation dynamics, actor behavior, and the role of international missions, identifying risks that affect long-term stability. Data-driven approaches, including statistical modeling and comparative case analysis, are used to evaluate how peace agreements are formed and maintained in post-conflict settings. How is the intervention expected to work

The intervention aims to reduce risks affecting civil war resolution and peace agreement implementation. By monitoring negotiations, assessing actor behavior, and evaluating peacekeeping efforts, it strengthens commitment credibility and improves strategic decision-making. UN involvement and institutional capacity are expected to enhance compliance, prevent defections, and support governance, increasing the likelihood of sustained stability and peaceful dispute resolution.

The Evidence base

The cell includes two primary impact evaluations (IEs) that analyze multiple post-civil war countries using global data from the *Peace Accords Matrix Implementation Dataset (1989–2010)*, covering conflict-affected regions with UN peacekeeping missions. It adopts a quantitative research design to assess peace agreement implementation scores across multiple cases.

Evidence Findings

RMA interventions moderately support negotiations and peace implementation. Military stalemates can facilitate negotiation, but unresolved power struggles and coordination issues may reduce effectiveness. UN missions aid in preventing defections, improving security, and supporting governance. Strong institutional support is essential for lasting peace.

Included studies

There are two primary studies included under this cell. The detailed summary thus provided below:

Findley (2012) examines civil war resolution as an interdependent process, where peace emerges through sequential stages: battle → negotiation → agreement → implementation. Using bargaining theory, the study analyzes how military stalemates and the number of actors influence each stage. While these factors encourage negotiations, they often undermine long-term peace implementation due to coordination challenges and unresolved power dynamics. Employing a nested logit statistical model, the research evaluates 116 civil wars, capturing the interdependence of negotiation, agreement, and implementation phase.

Findings indicate that military stalemates push conflicting parties toward negotiation but fail to ensure lasting peace, while a higher number of actors makes agreements easier to reach but harder to implement due to spoilers and coordination issues. Uncertainty in power distributions leads to unstable agreements, increasing the likelihood of conflict recurrence. Additionally, third-party interventions, such as peacekeeping missions and security guarantees, have varied effects depending on when they occur. This study falls under the intervention category of research, monitoring, and assessments, systematically evaluating factors that impact peace durability. It highlights that early negotiation conditions shape later implementation success, and stalemates often result in temporary peace deals that collapse due to unresolved power asymmetries. The study is rated as low confidence.

Maekawa et al. (2019) examine the role of United Nations (UN) involvement in implementing civil war peace agreements, focusing on how UN missions mitigate risks of defection during the peace process. They identify two types of commitment problems: involuntary defections, where actors are unable to implement agreements due to polarized voting or weak state capacity, and voluntary defections, where actors deliberately renege due to shifting power dynamics and changing incentives. These challenges can undermine agreement implementation and increase the risk of conflict recurrence. Using data from the Peace Accords Matrix Implementation Dataset (1989–2010) and UN personnel commitments, the study finds that larger UN peacekeeping missions improve peace agreement implementation by reducing the likelihood of defections, increasing security, and supporting institutional stability. UN peacekeeping missions play a critical role in preventing conflict relapse by enforcing agreements, monitoring compliance, and providing technical and logistical support to post-conflict governments. The study employs a quantitative research design, analyzing a comprehensive dataset of peace agreements to assess implementation scores across multiple cases. Findings indicate that polarized voting and weak state capacity cause delays in implementation, while power shifts and rebel fragmentation further undermine success. However, stronger government leverage improves outcomes, reinforcing the UN's role in stabilizing post-conflict environments. This research falls under the intervention category of research, monitoring, and assessments, systematically evaluating the effectiveness of UN missions in ensuring sustainable peace. The study is rated as high-medium confidence.

Confidence assessment:

Overall the cell represents low confidence due to the small number of studies, inconsistency in findings.

Other outcomes under this cell (studies):

None