

## **Effect of Social Inclusion & Reintegration Activity on Nature & Scale of Violence or atrocities**

The BRA-KDP program had a small effect on reducing violence, with social divisions seldom escalating into physical conflict.

**Geographical region:** East Asia & Pacific

**Effect:** Small effect ( $g = 0.012$ )

**Confidence in study findings:** Low (1 study with 4 effect size)

### **Short Summary**

The BRA-KDP program aimed to reduce violence and promote social cohesion in conflict-affected villages in Aceh through community-driven block grants. A quasi-experimental study using matching and instrumental variable techniques compared treatment and control villages. Findings indicated that social division such as between aid recipients and non-recipients or wealth groups were common but rarely escalated into physical conflict. Overall, the program had small effect on reducing violence, likely due to its short duration, community-driven priorities, and pre-existing constraints

### **Long summary**

#### *intervention*

The BRA-KDP program implemented community-driven development (CDD) through block grants in 1,724 high-conflict villages. Activities included infrastructure development, livelihood support, and participatory decision-making to engage community members in local development and conflict management.

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

The program was intended to strengthen local capacity for managing tensions and resolving conflicts through formal mechanisms. By addressing social divisions and supporting inclusive community projects, the intervention aimed to enhance dispute resolution and reduce the likelihood of violence.

#### *The evidence base*

The cell includes two studies: a primary study or IE conducted in Indonesia and a low-confidence qualitative study by Khoury Amal I (2007).

#### *Evidence findings:*

The BRA-KDP program had a small effect on violence, with social divisions rarely escalating into physical conflict. Overall, the program did not significantly reduce tensions but maintained stability within participating communities.

#### *Included studies*

The cell includes one low-confidence primary study. The details of the study summary are thus provided here,

**Barron (2009):** The study evaluated the Community-Based Reintegration Assistance for Conflict Victims Program (BRA-KDP) in Aceh, Indonesia. This intervention aimed to support conflict-affected communities by providing block grants directly to villages. The evaluation used a quasi-experimental design to compare treatment villages that received the program

with control villages that did not. Initially planned for two phases across Aceh, only the first phase was completed. Conducted from August to the following year, the program targeted 1,724 villages—about one-third of Aceh's total—across 67 rural sub districts chosen for their conflict impact and success in fund disbursement, ensuring all villages in these sub districts received block grants. To address selection bias, the researchers utilized matching techniques, where treatment villages were matched with control villages based on factors like conflict exposure and village characteristics to ensure comparability. An instrumental variables approach addressed non-compliance and confounding factors, isolating the program's effects. Alternative specifications were used to test the robustness of findings, particularly regarding social divisions and conflict escalation.

The study observed minimal violence and atrocities in both treatment and control villages. Divisions rarely escalated to physical violence in both the treatment and control communities. There is no evidence that the program strengthened the ability of communities to prevent the escalation of tensions to violence. There is some evidence that the program is associated with less acceptance of ex-combatants by conflict victims in the project areas. However, there is no evidence that these tensions escalated to violence. In summary, the findings suggest that while the program did not significantly reduce the escalation of tensions to physical violence, there were also no significant violence outbreaks observed in the communities, either in the treatment or control groups. The study is rated as low confidence.

#### *Confidence assessment*

Overall, the cell is rated as low due to the small (n) in the cell and the presence of low confidence in the findings.

#### **The other outcomes assessed**

**Social cohesion**/Feeling of trust & acceptance of diversity. Sense of belonging

**Human security**/Economic security, Education security, Health security,

**Community & state governance**/Civic participation, Government performance, Access to justice, rights & Public service

**Violence or atrocity prevention**/Diplomatic relations & peaceful dispute resolution