

Lessons from Pakistan: Analyzing the Effects of Peace and Conflict through Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA)

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Abstract

Due to the prior presence of International Development Agencies (IDAs) in countries affected by violence, it was deemed crucial in the first decade of the 21st century to thoroughly examine, understand, and approach the outcomes of these efforts with care. The concept of Peace and War Impact Assessment (PCIA) emerged as a response to the challenges and complexities associated with development and humanitarian initiatives in war zones. The Peacebuilding and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA) highlights the importance of conducting conflict analyses at crucial stages of project cycles and before commencing operations in conflict-affected or conflict-prone areas, in order to uphold peace and promote conflict sensitivity. The objective of these investigations should be to maintain concord and enhance awareness of future disputes. This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the Performance and Competency Improvement Assessment (PCIA) undertaken by the Pakistani Industrial Development Authorities (IDAs). Previous studies have shown that there is a lack of understanding of Participatory Community Impact Assessment (PCIA) at the project level. Moreover, individuals operating at the grassroots level have a limited comprehension of these tactics. After conducting a comprehensive investigation of the disparities between theory and practice, several suggestions were put forward as possible solutions.

INTRODUCTION

After the genocide that took place in Rwanda in 1994, there was a heightened realisation of the need to prioritise conflict resolution in development efforts, which led to the development of instruments that were aimed at attaining this purpose. This realisation came as a direct result of the massacre that took place in Rwanda. As a result, it has come to be acknowledged that development interventions in conflict zones are rarely impartial, and that development cooperation frequently results in unintended implications for the existing patterns of peace and war (Schmelzle, 2005). This resulted in discussions about the political role that should be played by development cooperation in areas that are defined by violence. Intense arguments have resulted in the creation and deployment of strategies such as "Do no harm" (Anderson, 1999) and "PCIA" (Bush, 1998) in order to prioritise conflict resolution within development efforts.

These strategies were developed and applied in order to improve the effectiveness of development efforts. During the course of this century, there have been a great number of cases in which Integrated Development Approaches (IDA) have made use of Participatory Climate Information Analysis (PCIA). In light of the extensive use of conflict-sensitive tools over the span of a decade, it has become imperative to undertake an examination of the effects and implementation of Peace and

Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA) by scrutinising the experiences of individuals employing PCIA in locations that are prone to conflict. In order to do this, it is necessary to conduct an examination of the effects and implementation of Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA). The primary objective of this research is to investigate the use of Performance and Capacity Improvement Agreements (PCIA) and other analogous mechanisms in Pakistan. More specifically, the data from International Development Agencies (IDAs) that are currently active in the country will be incorporated into the analysis. It is vital to scrutinise the implementation of Project-Level Countering Violent Extremism (PCIA) techniques in light of the growing incidence of extremism, sectarianism, and militancy across the country.

This publication's goal is to share the lessons that development workers in Pakistan and other countries have learnt through their work in Pakistan with those working in development in Pakistan. The findings of the study reveal that in order to maximise the efficacy of PCIA, it is essential to provide individualised training that takes into consideration the various individual contextual aspects. This is because PCIA works best when it is applied in a specific setting. Because of this, it will be possible for all of the relevant stakeholders to obtain the greatest possible benefits from the system. In addition, this article investigates, from the perspective of a specific location, a number of significant difficulties connected to the deployment of PCIA in the real world. In the framework of interactions between local and international entities during conflict situations, the purpose of this statement is to encourage a necessary conversation regarding the function of PCIA (Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment) and related systems.

In addition, this discussion investigates topics of power dynamics, the transfer of skills, and the general usefulness of instruments that are said to be applicable everywhere. It is crucial to note, however, that due to the limited number of project samples collected from within Pakistan, the research does not offer a comprehensive analysis of all IDA projects in the nation in regards to PCIA and related approaches. This is because of the low number of project samples obtained from within Pakistan. The present investigation is founded on a period of fieldwork that lasted for three months and was conducted in Swat, Swabi, and D.I. Khan between the months of November 2006 and January 2007. In addition to this, the researcher worked directly with PCIA from 2006 through 2008, gaining valuable expertise in the process.

The researchers conducted in-person interviews and focus groups with persons who were actively involved in the use, development, and practise of PCIA while they were out in the field gathering data for this study. Personnel from the International Development Association (IDA) as well as personnel from partner non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were included.

Situation of conflict

Conflicts within Pakistan's borders, as well as those in neighbouring regions and further afield, have an impact not just on the country's security but also on its sociopolitical standing. In the setting of Pakistan, there has been a discernible rise in the prevalence of nationalist sentiments, which has been witnessed most prominently in the provinces of Baluchistan and Sindh. Additionally, the problem of sectarian

violence is made worse by the fact that Afghanistan's instability in the western region is a source of the problem. The Transformation of Kashmir's Region from One of Peace to One of Struggle The evaluation starts on page one of the 2011 edition of the publication's Volume 5, Number 2 (the year it was published). I apologise, but in order to deliver an answer, I will need some further text or information from you.

In addition to an ongoing conflict with India, the northern section of the country. The following six structural flaws, as defined by FES 2005:1-2, are frequently attributed to the cause of violence in Pakistan as well as its ongoing occurrence: 1. The military plays a unique role in the sociopolitical and economic spheres of society. 2. There is a significant gap, in terms of socioeconomic status, between different regions of the country. 3. The opportunities for participation that are available to civil society in political, economic, and social advancement are limited. 4. Gender roles continue to be segregated, which contributes to observable disparities. 5. There is a coexistence of multiple regional, sub-regional, and local identities, which is juxtaposed with a collective national identity that is either weak or nonexistent. 6. Within the context of society, women are placed in a precarious situation.

After the beginning of counterterrorism activities in the tribal regions next to Afghanistan, there has been a discernible increase in the number of terrorist attacks that have taken place in Pakistan. As a direct result of this, there has been a visible increase in the number of native militants participating in acts of terrorism inside a particular region of the country. There have been a number of incidents in which law enforcement officers, military personnel, and people in public spaces have been assaulted. In addition, it is important to note that Westerners have been specifically targeted in a number of incidents, such as the heinous murder of Daniel Pearl^[1], the violent attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore, the deliberate assassination of charitable workers, and the assaults on the premises of non-governmental organisations (NGOs). In 2008, there was a sad incident that took place at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, which was typified by a suicide explosion that led to a minimum of 53 fatalities and close to 200 others incurring injuries, as stated by a report by the BBC. According to Rondeaux (2008), a previous incident took place in the Italian restaurant Luna Caprese in Islamabad.

As a result of this incident, five employees from the United States embassy were injured. The well-planned attacks were directed primarily at locations that were frequently frequented by tourists from other countries as well as members of the country's intellectual elite. Following the publication of blasphemous photos of the Prophet Muhammad in 2007 by one Danish newspaper and their subsequent publishing in a number of other Danish periodicals in February 2008, there was an increase in the expression of anti-Western sentiments. As a direct response to the incident described above, an explosive device went off in close proximity to the Danish Embassy in Islamabad in 2008, as reported by Perlez and Shah. The Christian population in Pakistan is a small minority, yet they have been subject to periodic acts of violence committed by radicals in response to the Western influence in the country. Since the return of democratic rule to Pakistan in 2008, a number of significant steps

forward have been taken, including the reassignment of the constitutional role of the armed forces and the reestablishment of an independent and impartial judicial system.

These are only two examples of the progress that has been made. According to the conclusions of a conflict analysis that was carried out by FES in 2005, it is obvious that the democratic government is currently undergoing a major shift in its civil-military relations, with the primary aim of preserving the sovereignty of the parliament. This is evident based on the fact that the democratic government is currently experiencing this transformation. There was a momentous event that took place in June 2008, and it had to do with the consideration that the parliamentary body gave to the defence budget for the fiscal year 2008-09. An understanding was reached in February 2009 between the government of Pakistan and the Tehrik-i-Nifaz-i-Shariat-i-Muhammadi (TNSM), which is a movement dedicated to the execution of Islamic law derived from the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad.

In order to bring peace to the volatile region that is the Swat valley, the parties to this ceasefire accord came to an agreement. With the assistance of local Taliban troops, the Tehrik-i-Nifaz-i-Mohammadi (TNSM) was able to keep a constant presence within the town for more than a decade. This was made possible by the group's ability to recruit members from within the neighbourhood. According to the information that is currently available, the implementation of its anti-secular education activities has resulted in the closure of over 300 educational institutions in the region, with a special emphasis placed on those that catered to female students. Since October of 2007, it has been reported that the level of violence in contacts between Pakistani security forces and a group of approximately 3,000 terrorists in Swat has increased (Ahmed, 2009:30-31).

In accordance with the terms of an agreement reached between the Tehreek-e-Nafaz-e-Mohammadi (TNSM) and the government, the TNSM has been given the authority to implement Sharia law in the Swat valley. In spite of concerns regarding potential violations of human rights in areas of Swat that are currently under the control of terrorists, the legislative body of Pakistan gave its unanimous approval to the motion that supported President Zardari's decision to sign the peace accord. This suggests that the democratic government was unable to sidestep the legislative body in its decision-making process. The plot was ultimately unsuccessful, which led to the removal of all extremists from Swat by security forces in the year 2009. Given the presence of several structural deficiencies in Pakistan that render it susceptible to conflicts across numerous domains, it becomes apparent that the implementation of Peacebuilding, Conflict Prevention, and Integrated Approaches (PCIA) tools is imperative for the nation.

Kenneth Bush shares his thoughts in response to the question asked about the best place to conduct PCIA (Peacebuilding and Conflict Impact Assessment) operations. The integration of the Post-Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA) should be considered in initiatives that are situated within conflict zones characterised by high levels of tension and violence. Nevertheless, it is imperative that these strategies are adaptable to interventions in a significantly wider array of conflict-ridden contexts, namely those where there exists a potential for a nonviolent dispute to evolve into a

state of aggression. The following are included in the previously mentioned domains: According to the author (2003:5), there are three main issues that have been the subject of debate and disagreement.

These include conflicts over territory or the utilisation of resources, the increasing gaps in socioeconomic conditions between different groups, and the simultaneous increase in unemployment alongside a decline in living standards and human security. Since the September 11th attacks, there has been a notable shift in foreign policy towards Pakistan. This movement may be attributed to the United States-led efforts to combat terrorism, which have increasingly focused on addressing the issue of terrorist safe havens located in the tribal regions bordering Pakistan. Due to the ethnic connections between the inhabitants of Pakistan's tribal areas and a substantial population in Afghanistan, the NATO forces stationed in Afghanistan conducted a number of proactive military operations in the Pakistani tribal areas. These actions subsequently intensified the existing hostility towards the central government and the Western powers.

As a consequence of the war on terror, the United States and various international development agencies (IDAs) have allocated significant financial resources to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, previously referred to as the North-West Frontier Province. These funds have been directed towards various endeavours such as environmental security, women's empowerment, education, and infrastructure development, among other areas of focus. The Western countries demonstrated significant interest in the sociopolitical environment of these territories, as exemplified by the "Understanding FATA" campaign, which was supported by the British High Commission in Pakistan. International Development Agencies (IDAs), particularly the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), allocate substantial financial resources into comparable endeavours.

In order to adequately resolve conflicts of varying forms and degrees of intensity, it is important to possess a comprehensive comprehension of the contextual intricacies behind the conflict, surpassing a superficial level of awareness. This is an analysis of how Pakistan's many Integrated Development Agencies (IDAs) have included Peacebuilding, Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA) into the overarching strategic goals and project implementation strategies at the national level. Before delving into the conclusions of the study, it is imperative to establish a clear definition of PCIA, examine existing PCIA models, and explore ongoing controversies surrounding PCIA and its associated technologies. The goal is to facilitate conflict transformation efforts in areas of the country that are affected by ongoing conflicts or are susceptible to future conflicts.

Assessment of the effects of peace and conflict

The primary purpose of evaluation research and methodologies employed by the international development community is to assess the efficacy of development measures. The application of these development measures in violent contexts has received insufficient consideration (Paffenholz et al., 2005). Increasing numbers of people are realising that complete neutrality is impossible in the context of a violent conflict and that all development initiatives have the potential to generate unintended

negative effects in a conflict setting (KOFF, 2004). Consequently, the IDA community recognised the need to develop concepts and methodologies for evaluating the impact of development initiatives in conflict-affected and conflict-prone regions. Beginning in the early 1990s, development professionals began debating the necessity of employing distinct evaluation instruments for conflict-affected and conflict-prone project regions.

Initially, the 36 member states of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations (UN), and several International Development Agencies (IDAs) shared the aforementioned concerns. Numerous conflict management strategies have been developed and implemented in response to the prevalent Western perspective. Bush (1998), in collaboration with the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC), introduced the Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA) methodology. According to the research of Paffenholz (2005), the evolution of PCIA can be divided into three discrete phases. From 1996 to 1999, individuals became increasingly aware of the impact of aid on the dynamics of conflict and the facilitation of peacebuilding efforts. Consequently, in response to this issue, scholars such as Mary B. Anderson (1999) devised the "Do no harm" strategy, while Kenneth Bush (1998) proposed the PCIA approach, as means to address this challenge. Numerous Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (IDDR) initiatives were swiftly implemented in regions affected by armed conflicts as a result of the widespread acceptance of these ideas.

From 1999 to 2004, a number of project planning and management techniques were developed, predominantly based on peace research, with the aim of preventing conflicts. Either the instruments were created by IDAs or they were created with IDAs in mind. During this time period, there was some confusion because several conflict analysis instruments were collectively referred to as PCIA. The third segment of the project began in 2004 and is still ongoing. This stage is characterised by heightened difficulty in defining PCIA due to the abundance of available concepts and methodologies. Numerous International Development Agencies (IDAs) have chosen to replace the term "PCIA" with terms such as "conflict-sensitive development" and others.

This shift in strategy hopes to maintain a concentrated focus on conflict-related issues while mitigating the potential distraction caused by the vast array of activities associated with peacebuilding efforts. The PCIA strategy is predicated on the idea that every development initiative, regardless of its context in a conflict-ridden region or a post-conflict setting, may unintentionally have negative outcomes. By cultivating a greater understanding of the interplay between development initiatives and their respective environments, this method serves the dual purposes of project evaluation and conflict sensitivity. Kenneth Bush, a prominent figure in the development of the PCIA method, defines PCIA as a systematic approach to proactively anticipating, closely monitoring, and critically analysing the potential or actual impact of an intervention on the complex dynamics of peace or conflict within a conflict-prone territory (Bush 2003:3). Notably, the "Do no harm" approach (Anderson, 1999) has inherent limitations because it focuses predominantly on the negative effects of development initiatives in conflict-affected regions. In contrast, the PCIA technique gives equal weight to conflict dynamics and peace processes within a project area.

There are two distinct applications for PCIA: macro and micro. Prior to initiating aid efforts, a macro- or country-level Poverty and Climate Impact Assessment (PCIA) is conducted to aid the International Development Associations' (IDAs) strategic planning efforts.

The 2011 article titled "Peace and Conflict Review: A Critical Analysis" published in Volume 5, Issue 2 of the journal discusses numerous peace and conflict-related topics. In the third section of this study, the national ramifications of the conflict(s) are examined in order to devise effective strategies for mitigating their negative effects. Utilising Project Cycle Impact Assessment (PCIA) at the micro or project level is advantageous for project personnel tasked with ensuring the successful execution of projects. At this stage, the primary objective is to determine the localised effects of key factors that contribute to, initiate, or exacerbate tensions, thereby allowing the development of strategic approaches to resolve conflicts. When assessing the effectiveness of a development initiative, the Programme for Comprehensive Impact Assessment (PCIA) does not take into account the degree to which it achieves its explicitly stated goals.

In contrast, the analysis concentrates on the degree to which it aligns with indicators of peace and conflict dynamics. According to Besancon (2005), the process of making informed decisions regarding project planning, implementation, and evaluation promotes tranquil outcomes and reduces the likelihood of conflict.

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