PEACE AND STABILITY INDEX

A Mixed-Methods Evaluation Design for a Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Program in Somalia

pact

WHAT IS THE PEACE AND STABILITY INDEX?

The Peace and Stability Index (PSI) was designed to support the measuring of impact-level changes from baseline to end line for 6 target districts in Somalia. At baseline, the BORDERS II project had a framework of 24 components for key impact and outcome areas and these were later developed into the Peace and Stability index (See table 1). The PSI provides a comprehensive picture of peace and stability that goes beyond the work done by a specific project and reflects contextually relevant factors that influence peace and stability. The findings from the baseline PSI informed the programming for each BORDERS II target district to ensure the tailored implementation of key interventions.

BORDERS II OVERVIEW

Pact's Broadening Options for Reconciliation, Development and Empowerment among Somalis II (BORDERS II) was a 36-month project in South Central Somalia funded by the Somalia Stability Fund (December 2012 to November 2015). It supported community based organizations to implement strategic projects that contribute to social reconciliation between conflict-affected communities.

IMPLEMENTING THE PSI FOR BORDERS II:

The PSI quantifies findings from focus group discussions and key informant interviews (stakeholders) on the key domains of the tool, for the district being measured. The qualitative data is reviewed by a panel of scorers, using the PSI criteria to assign a score for each of the 24 components (0 = worst conditions, 5 = best conditions). Table 2 provides an example of the criteria used to score a component.

TABLE 1
PSI KEY DOMAINS AND COMPONENTS

IMPACT: STABILITY
1. Security
2. Rule of Law and access to justice
3. Legitimacy of District Government (DG)
4. Overall capacity/effectiveness of DG
5. Coherent engagement with regional and national gov
6. Coherent DG Engagement with neighboring DGs

OUTCOME: PRIORITY INTER-COMMUNAL CONFLICTS MANAGED

7. Levels of inter-communal relationships tensions and conflict
8. Strength of community peace agreements and institutions
9. Collaboration between DG, communities, and diverse civil society
10. Level of peace network coordination

OUTCOME: RESPONSIVENESS/INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN PEACEBUILDING

11. DG Engagement with District Peace Committees (DPCs), Community Based Organizations, and communities in peace initiatives
12. DG supports implementation of Community Peace Agreements (CPAs)/initiatives to address structural drivers of conflict
13. DG involvement of communities in district security plans and systems

OUTCOME: IMPROVED CAPACITY/EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNITY PEACE ORGANIZATIONS

Legitimacy, coherence, effectiveness of:
14. Councils of elders
15. DPCs
16. Community policing groups
17. Religious leaders
18. Youth peace groups
19. Women peace groups
20. Livestock, traders, business/elites, diaspora

OUTCOME: SOCIAL RECONCILIATION INITIATIVES

21. Score of social reconciliation dialogues
22. Range of actors and approaches to social reconciliation

JOINT SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROJECTS
23. Status of socio-economic initiatives involving conflicting communities
24. Range of actors, and depth of their involvement in joint socio-economic initiatives

PSI LESSONS, CHALLENGES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The PSI is an adaptive tool and should be used with formative research to align the context with general and project-specific questions with the components.

- The PSI provides a comprehensive assessment of peace and stability, so attribution to a specific project may be difficult.

- Take into account the safety needs of data collectors working in conflict-affected communities, especially since the type of information targeted is sensitive.

- The timing of data collection can affect the content given these are constantly changing situations (e.g. following an attack).

- Significant time is needed to refine the tool given that language and definitions of the terms need to be precise and reached by consensus.

- The choice of stakeholders for focus group discussions and interviews is crucial and must have deep knowledge of peace and stability.

- The experts doing the scoring must understand the project design but not be part of the programme to reduce bias.
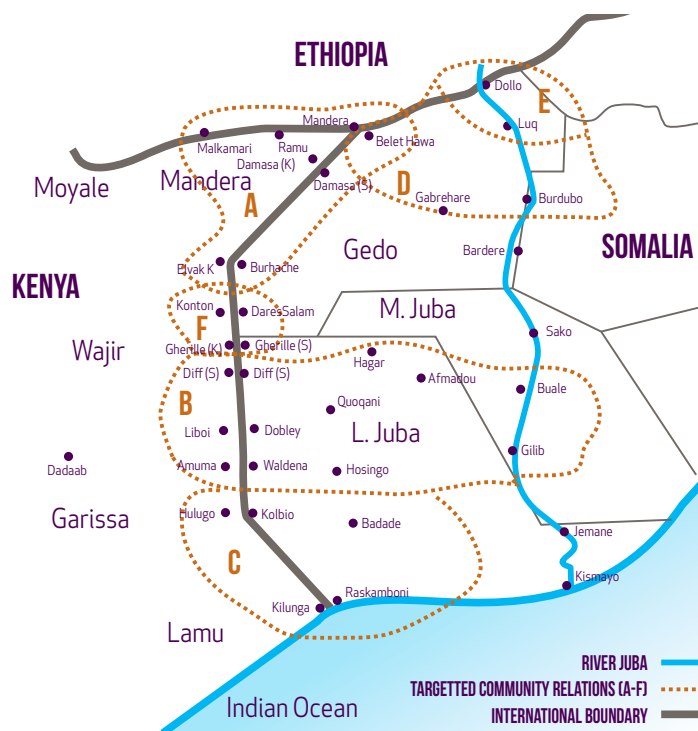

TABLE 2
EXCERPT OF COMPONENT DESCRIPTIONS FOR ASSESSMENT

Impact Level: Stability

index component	description of area assessed within index component
SECURITY	Levels of armed violence, militia activity and freedom of movement
RULE OF LAW AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE	Levels of discipline in the armed forces and effectiveness of modern and customary courts
LEGITIMACY OF DG	To what extent the District Government is inclusive of different communities and works with them
CAPACITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF DG	To what extent the District Government operates beyond military/security concerns and the degree to which it acts as a civil administration working to improve district governance and development
COHERENT DG ENGAGEMENT WITH NEIGHBOURING DGS	Quality and frequency of District Government relations with neighbouring districts
COHERENT DG ENGAGEMENT WITH REGIONAL & NATIONAL GOVERNMENT	Level of engagement, communication and cooperation with the regional and new national government

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