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Addressing and Mitigating Violence

Addressing and Mitigating Violence: Uptake Strategy, Year Four Update

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1 Introduction

Research uptake: *For the purposes of this report we define uptake as the acknowledgement and use of evidence-based recommendations by those key stakeholders who we want to influence (i.e. whose behaviour or attitudes we are seeking to change).*

The overarching purpose of the Addressing and Mitigating Violence (AMV) theme is to generate useful analysis to tackle policy dilemmas relating to 'newer' forms of violence and organised crime. Such a focus is becoming increasingly pertinent following the complex crises that have emerged, particularly in the Middle East, and which are dominating global foreign policy.

Year four of the AMV programme showcased and built on the following sub-themes:

Theme One
Strengthening core state functions and citizen agencies to mitigate and prevent routine forms of violence as well as organised violence and crime.

In year one the work in Nigeria and Sierra Leone focused on the 'core state function' aspect of the sub-theme; in year two, Egypt, Kenya, and Cape Town/Mumbai provided a complementary focus on the 'citizen agency' element; year three consolidated and provided a comparative analysis of the work to date.

Theme Two
Improving access to livelihoods, jobs and basic services in violent contexts, including in large urban settings.

This work focused on Maharashtra, India and Nairobi, Kenya in year one, and on Kathmandu and Terai, Nepal in year two. Year three focused on India, specifically on public service provision and violence across the Indian states, and a study on a Youth Betterment project in Mumbai.

Theme Three
External stresses and violence mitigation in fragile contexts.

This theme started in year two with two studies which developed a comprehensive and nuanced framework for policy analysis focusing on West Africa. The studies considered Guinea-Bissau and the member states of the Mano River Union, i.e. Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire; and Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, respectively. Year three focused on Kenya and specifically on the transnational dynamics that link it and Somalia in a wider conflict system in the Horn of Africa, and which bear on Kenya's internal political relations and stability.

Year four built on and consolidated the external stresses sub-theme with two regional events: a roundtable held at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) which looked at conflict centred around the Mano River, West Africa; and two seminars in Nairobi which considered the potential impacts of large-scale investment, economic growth and resource capture in Eastern Africa on marginalised communities and inter-community and ethnic relations. This work was accompanied by regional studies on the dynamics of violence in the Horn of Africa and West Africa, respectively.

A key priority for year four was to engage key audiences, in order to focus on the common threads that have emerged and to consider the implications of the research as a whole. This was put into effect through hosting a theme conference and further targeted roundtable and policy dialogue activities. A series of accompanying publications for year four also supported the broader programme narrative, and the targeted roundtable and policy dialogue events drew together key messages across the sub-themes.

2   Developing the uptake strategy

All outputs within the themes are disseminated through IDS channels, which incorporate the main IDS site plus dedicated knowledge portals Eldis (www.eldis.org) and BRIDGE (www.bridge.ids.ac.uk). IDS also has a very strong – and growing – social media presence.

As per the previous years' experience, IDS staff developed an 'approach to uptake' which they will continue to share with IDS researchers in the AMV theme. Within this process primary attention is given to understanding pathways to influence and impact; maximising opportunities for uptake during the research process and when the output is released; and designing appropriate knowledge products in line with the target audiences that we want to reach.

The priority for year four work in the AMV theme has been to consolidate the research to date and reflect on the key issues that have emerged. As such, a significant portion of the uptake work has been focused on engaging with key stakeholders through the holding of face-to-face events. Such engagement ensures that:

- Participants can garner a full understanding of the programme's aims and focus
- The programme is able to highlight the large collection of studies that have been produced – a clear opportunity for research uptake among a group of key stakeholders
- There is an opportunity to share and build knowledge around the key issues and debates that the programme has highlighted.

To maximise the efficacy of the events careful consideration was given to:

- The information needs of those attending (i.e. the appropriate format, language, etc.)
- Appropriate materials to convey key messages
- Further opportunities to encourage exchange among attendees – particularly among policymakers and practitioners
- Post-event knowledge products that can record and convey learning and process to a wider audience.

Outside of face-to-face events and as part of the ongoing research uptake process, key opportunities were maximised throughout year four to ensure that programme outputs were leveraged into key debates – by both drawing exclusively on the theme, and cross-publicising theme outputs and key messages alongside other Accountable Grant/IDS work.

3   Uptake strategies

As we are moving towards the end of the programme, focus has centred on highlighting the key messages and findings from the project. As such, events were held/products developed to consider the theme as a whole. The events have been particularly key for uptake – ensuring that programme findings are shared and debated with key stakeholders.

There has also been further work to reinforce the *External stresses and violence mitigation in fragile contexts* sub-theme, which started in year two.

3.1   Conferences and events

3.1.1 'Challenges for Reducing Armed Violence: Towards Effective Development Responses'

This was the programme's key conference, held in London in November 2015.

What was the objective of the event?

- To showcase the work of the AMV programme to key stakeholders including the Department for International Development (DFID), Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), academics, and peace-building non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- To encourage debate on the programme findings and create an opportunity for dialogue on emerging thinking on key AMV topics such as identity politics and conflict, and religion and extremism in North Africa.

Who participated?

There was a strong constituency from across the conflict, security and peace-building community. From the UK policy perspective there were key personnel from DFID and the FCO, including the Deputy Head of the UK government's new Conflict, Stability and Security Fund, and internationally, from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in Djibouti; there were important academics, including from King's College London, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), Overseas Development Institute (ODI), University of Bradford, University of Johannesburg and IDS; and significant representation from the NGO community, including International Alert, Saferworld, Oxfam and the Arab Reform Initiative.

What knowledge products were employed to facilitate learning/uptake?

During the event, participants could take advantage of a number of listening posts in the venue – these were audiovisual stations where videos of experts and practitioners could be viewed. There was also live tweeting from the event.

What were the significant outcomes or outputs from the event?

There were conference reports on both the IDS and Eldis websites. Duncan Green, strategic adviser at Oxfam GB, was asked to collate his thoughts from the event. The AMV programme's convenor, Jeremy Lind, also published a blog on the conversation which placed the programme's research within wider debates on conflict, violence and development. A participants list was circulated post-event to all attendees.

3.1.2 'A New Peace: The End of the Mano River Wars'
This event was held at IDS in conjunction with the Sussex Centre for Conflict and Security Research, 30 June – 1 July 2015.

What was the objective of the event?
To build upon and explore further the issues raised by Jeremy Allouche and Janet Mohammed's report on <u>cross-border violence between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia</u> and the relevance of the Mano River War concept – an output of the AMV theme.

Specifically, it was also to:

- Debate the concept of a Mano River War
- Explore cross-border networks during and after the Mano River War
- Stimulate academic–practitioner–policy dialogue and policy lessons for a regional approach to security and development.

Who participated?
There was a strong academic focus to the event and, as such, a significant presence of relevant academic personnel from the UK, Europe and the United States. There were also key stakeholders from the FCO and the United Nations Mission in Liberia.

What were the significant outcomes or outputs from the event?
Leading members from the West Africa Peace and Security Network were at the event. They were able to strengthen their forum by publicising and securing membership from within the participants. It is also worth noting that attendees kept a local restaurant open until 2am as this was a rare opportunity to discuss such issues!

An Evidence Report will be produced which will build upon the issues explored (see Section 3.2.3).

3.1.3 'Violence and Dynamic Change in Eastern Africa: A Regional Symposium on Trends, Dynamics and Conditions of Violence in the Region'
This symposium was held in conjunction with the Centre for Human Rights and Policy Studies, Nairobi, 12–13 October 2015.

What was the objective of the event?
Against a backdrop of large-scale investment, economic growth and resource capture in the region there was a focus on the impacts on marginalised communities and inter-community and ethnic relations. A number of key questions were addressed, including:

- How are intensifying processes of regional economic integration and growth influencing dynamics of violence in Eastern Africa?
- Who frames the meaning, interpretation and pursuit of integration? How does integration map onto contemporary understandings of violence, shifts in the global political economy and different responses at scale?
- How do 'extractive' projects situate themselves within narratives of growth, transformation and 'development' of agro-ecosystems, livelihood strategies, and local economies?

Who participated?
Scholars from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and the UK attended as well as Nairobi-based researchers from various research institutes and thinktanks, including the Strathmore Extractives Industry Centre and the International Crisis Group.

What were the significant outcomes or outputs from the event?
An Evidence Report will be produced which will build upon the issues explored (see Section 3.2.3 below). The researchers who participated are also planning a proposal for a journal special issue building on the presentations at the symposium, as well as complementary work by other researchers.

A half-day panel discussion was held in partnership with the Rift Valley Forum in Nairobi on 13 October 2015, to further explore the issues raised. It focused on how extractive development may affect the dynamics of violence in Eastern Africa and examined policy and legal options to prevent such violence. The director of the Strathmore Extractives Industry Centre chaired a discussion with panellists from Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. The event was very well attended – some 100 people from industry, civil society, the Kenyan government, and diplomatic and aid missions – and was a further opportunity to debate issues raised by the theme with a largely non-academic audience.

3.2 Publications

3.2.1 Theme Evidence Report
Lind, J.; Mitchell, B. and Rohwerder, B. (2016, forthcoming) *Reducing Violence in a Time of Global Uncertainty: Insight from the IDS Addressing and Mitigating Violence Programme*, IDS Evidence Report, Brighton: IDS

What is the focus?
Summary of the key issues and debates that have emerged from four years of analysis. It also looks to relate the work and respond to current crises – for example Syria – and developments in international security policy.

How will it be shared?
IDS and partner platforms, websites, subscriber lists and social media channels. The report will also be shared with participants who attended the programme's November 2015 conference in London. There will be an accompanying Policy Briefing which will ensure that the key messages of the research programme are communicated to a wider audience.

3.2.2 *IDS Bulletin* on the Middle East
Ruptures and Ripple Effects in the Middle East and Beyond

The *IDS Bulletin* is the Institute's flagship publication and has been a significant repository for in-depth analysis of international development issues since its launch in 1968. The Addressing and Mitigating Violence theme is funding an issue in order to further explore issues highlighted by the programme and root them in the context of the continuing crisis in the Middle East.

What is the focus?
The *Bulletin* issue seeks to challenge some of the mainstream understandings of and approaches to the rapid and dynamic reconfiguration of power in the contemporary Middle East. The articles focus in particular on Egypt and Syria, as perhaps the two critical sites of conflict and contestation within the region, and address issues ranging from political

economy and socioeconomic change, to social movements, political violence and the current refugee crisis.

How will it be shared?
Since January 2016, the *IDS Bulletin* has been open access, thus ensuring that there will be no cost to users. Significant channels for dissemination have been built up over the years:

- E-alerts will be sent out to the Bulletin's and IDS' dedicated subscriber lists (15,000+)
- There will be an accompanying news story on the IDS website as well as an internal seminar on the Bulletin's launch which will be live-streamed
- Social media, such as Twitter and Facebook will also be employed – IDS' Facebook page has over 160,000 Likes
- Contacts within the national media will be employed in order to garner further exposure.

An *IDS Bulletin* issue is also a fully searchable PDF and is embedded with altmetrics which allows us to track how the articles are accessed and used, and by who.

3.2.3 Evidence Reports on regional violence dynamics in the Horn of Africa and West Africa

What is the focus?
Two reports that address, respectively, regional violence dynamics in the Horn of Africa and West Africa. The Horn of Africa report takes a particular focus on large-scale infrastructural programmes and extractive development, and the implications these raise for security governance in marginal, rural areas. The West Africa report assesses the conflict system in the Mano River states and the implications of interlocking conflict situations for regional peace and security.

How will it be shared?
IDS and partner platforms, websites, subscriber lists and social media channels. The reports will also be shared with participants who attended the June 2015 meeting on West Africa at IDS, as well as those who attended the regional symposium in Nairobi in October 2015.