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Addressing and Mitigating Violence

Addressing and Mitigating Violence: Uptake Strategy, Year Three Update

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The IDS programme on Strengthening Evidence-based Policy works across seven key themes. Each theme works with partner institutions to co-construct policy-relevant knowledge and engage in policy-influencing processes. This material has been developed under the Addressing and Mitigating Violence theme.

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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. Across the contexts where we work, we undertook a multi-level governance analysis with a multi-actor governance approach to better understand the contributions and possibilities for convergence between state and non-state stakeholder efforts in different policy spaces.

The work for year three provided additional case studies and further analysis to consolidate the work on the sub-themes to date. Year three also provided an opportunity to present a body of work from the first two sub-themes to key stakeholders and wider audiences through the hosting of targeted roundtable and policy dialogue activities.

Year three builds on the following 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 consolidates and provides 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 in Kathmandu and Terai, Nepal, in year two. Year three focused on India, looking at a longitudinal dataset on public service provision and violence across the Indian states, and adding an empirical 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.

Alongside this thematic work a series of Key Issue Policy Briefings support the broader programme narrative, and the targeted roundtable and policy dialogue events draw together key messages across the sub-themes.

This strategy is a working document that reflects uptake as an ongoing process which is responsive to emerging policy opportunities, learning and partnership activities. As the AMV programme progresses into year four the strategy will be continually updated and strengthened through incorporating new approaches to knowledge uptake and dissemination based on ongoing learning.

2 Developing the uptake strategy

All outputs within the themes are disseminated through Institute of Development Studies (IDS) channels. However, it is the sentinel outputs (i.e. those studies listed here) which have had more comprehensive input in terms of uptake and communications planning. As can be seen via the respective case study plans, we have developed targeted strategies to maximise uptake and influence.

Year three work in the AMV theme, as has been stated, has had a strong consolidation focus. Two roundtables offered new analysis of work across sub-themes one and two synthesising key messages and showcasing the work of the first two years. The roundtables provided a clear opportunity for research uptake amongst a group of key stakeholders. As such, we developed and planned a process that would allow us to maximise the efficacy of the events by carefully considering:

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

As per the previous years' experience, IDS staff from Knowledge Services (KS), Central Communications and the Partnerships Officer 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.

As in year two, Accountable Grant-wide (AG) work focused on a selected number of products within each theme that were identified as 'sentinel outputs'. This approach identifies such 'outputs', which are those thought to be of high policy relevance due to the timeliness of the work or the content and context of the issues addressed. Resources for policy uptake and communications are directed in particular to promoting 'sentinel outputs' and, in year three, to consolidating learning and key messages to enable direct engagement with policy products at the sub-theme level.

KS and Communications staff continued to be involved in communication activities linked to the publication of case study outputs throughout the year (see Section 5).

3 Partnering principles

The year one uptake strategy focused on developing a set of partnering principles that were reflective of the specific risk context of the work in the AMV programme. In year two these challenges were realised in both the Egypt and Kenya cases in particular, and to some extent in the work in Nepal.

In year three, the synthesis of evidence across sub-themes and the building of the broader theme narrative have provided opportunities to connect with partners in new ways and to build a shared agenda on common issues.

IDS has been **proactive** in extending relationships with partners from the work conducted in years one and two through engaging in further study, i.e. the partnership with the Yuva Parivartan project as part of the [Urban Pilot](#) led to engagement in the impact study (see Section 4.2); working with partners from the case studies in sub-theme one led to engagement in the policy influencing activities through the roundtable (see Section 5); and **valuing** the reach and influence of partners at country level through supporting targeted country-level outreach such as with the Nepal [op-ed](#) and the Nepalese [audio productions](#), and with the Nairobi forum (see Section 4.3). By being both proactive and valuing our partners, IDS has been able to demonstrate **sensitivity** to the shared interests and goals of our partners in engaging with IDS in the work programme.

4 Sub-theme uptake strategies

Each new piece of work has the following pre-determined outputs:

- Main study report (10,000 words)
- A Summary Brief (1–2 page summary of the main report)
- A Policy Briefing (2–4 pages) (apart from sub-theme two). Policy Briefings are either synthesis briefings for sub-themes (*Strengthening core state functions and citizen agencies*, policy typology) or individual study briefings (Kenya, External Stresses).

These formats allow us to target a variety of audiences. They are supplemented by blogs, audio or visual products and news items prepared by the sub-theme teams.

Sentinel outputs for the third year of the AG are:

1. Practical policy typology (sub-theme one)
2. Impact evaluation, India (sub-theme two)
3. External stresses, Kenya (sub-theme three).

4.1 Sub-theme one

Status within the theme

The [Evidence Report](#) and [Policy Briefing](#) from this study contribute to the first sub-theme: *Strengthening core state functions and citizen agencies to mitigate and prevent routine forms of violence as well as organised violence and crime.*

Partners

None.

What is this analysis about?

In the first two years of the AG a group of IDS researchers and partners elaborated a series of Evidence Reports and Policy Briefings on issues related to the overarching question of how violence can be prevented and mitigated in fragile and conflict-affected settings. This work was carried out by looking at violence and violence prevention/mitigation from the perspective of both the state and citizens, in addition to analysing the role of what the World Bank's (2011) *World Development Report 2011* refers to as 'external stresses', such as transnational drug trafficking and conflict spillovers. The generated evidence base is robust and the policy recommendations that have been produced are wide-ranging. This body of work has been used to elaborate a practical policy typology designed to help diverse actors and stakeholders in countries affected by violence, or at risk of being affected, address key violence prevention and mitigation issues in effective ways.

This work draws on the Evidence Reports and Policy Briefings on addressing and mitigating violence that have been produced by IDS researchers and partners in the 'state and citizens' sub-theme in the past two years. This body of work has been analysed comparatively. It draws on:

- From Year One: [*Nigeria's Post-1999 Political Settlement and Violence Mitigation in the Niger Delta*](#) (Schultze-Kraft 2013); and [*Is it the Right Time for the International Community to Exit Sierra Leone?*](#) (Allouche 2013)
- From Year Two: [*Settling After the Revolts? Egypt's Political Settlements and Violent Transition*](#) (Tadros 2014); and [*Roots and Routes of Political Violence in Kenya's Civil and Political Society: A Case Study of Marsabit County*](#) (Scott-Villiers et al. 2014).

A key aim is to establish how policy responses to violence at the state level connect to those at the citizen level and how they can reinforce each other. As the concept of 'political settlement' has been used as a tool in several of the reports, special attention will be paid to the question of how an inclusive political settlement can be built and what the implications for violence prevention and mitigation are. Select reference will be made to the policy prescription that has been elaborated by other research and development organisations and thinktanks on the violence situations covered by IDS' policy analysis, in order to contextualise the policy prescription that flows from it and bring to the fore the novelty and relevance of the approaches to policy developed by IDS researchers and partners.

Who do we want to influence with this work?

We can draw on a wide range of stakeholders from/with an interest in the four states (Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria and Sierra Leone) – the case studies each have their own stakeholder lists which can be utilised. A key audience sector will be civil society (including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), activists and grass-roots community organisations), policymakers (both local and international) and academic researchers.

These groups include: Department for International Development (DFID)/Foreign Commonwealth Office (FCO) special advisers; the Arab Partnership (joint FCO/DFID initiative); Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development-Development Assistance Committee; World Bank (via the Hive community); and United Nations (UN) bodies: United Nations Development Programme; UNHabitat; UN Women, etc.

As well as published outputs, we endeavour to reach these audiences through a range of channels such as social media (Twitter, Facebook), publishing through blogs (African Arguments, the *Huffington Post* and IDS blog platforms), through events such as the World Urban Forum and through media engagement (IDS has partnerships with *the Guardian* and *AllAfrica*).

There will also be further academic audiences who have an interest in research on the Middle East and East and West Africa to which the report will be of interest.

What alternative knowledge products can be employed to help communicate the key messages of the research?

A blog will be published highlighting the key messages of the research.

Policy roundtable and report

A roundtable was held in London in October 2014. The event used the lens of political settlements to review the case studies from years one and two with a view to developing a framework for understanding political settlement from the perspective of states and citizens. The event invited key academics, practitioners and policy actors to engage with the lessons learnt and the new narrative. It provided an opportunity to share the policy typology that emerged from this sub-theme and builds on the work being presented.

A closed policy dialogue at dinner with DFID and FCO provided space for a more in-depth discussion on critical issues arising from the roundtable and the policy typology and over

follow-up activities around political settlements, and the idea of a seminar at DFID was discussed among participants. It provided policy actors with a direct opportunity to explore lessons and experiences from those engaged in work on political settlements in key countries and regions of interest: West and East Africa and the region of the 'Arab Spring', and to review the salience of the typology in these spaces.

Dissemination: What existing channels can we use? Are there any events/policy hooks that we can link the work to? How can we ensure key actors are reached with the final product?

All outputs will feature on dedicated, searchable project pages on the IDS website. Furthermore, outputs will be added to the Eldis dataset (part of IDS' family of services), and marketed through its dedicated conflict and security email reporter (8,000+ subscribers). Further activities are listed in Section 5. The case study lead will be able to utilise existing contacts within the policy, practice and academic community in order to maximise uptake.

4.2 Sub-theme two

Impact evaluation and policy roundtable on the role of public goods provision in addressing civil unrest.

Status within the theme

The Evidence Report and Policy Briefing from this study contribute to the second sub-theme: *Improving access to livelihoods, jobs and basic services in violent contexts, including in large urban settings.*

Partners

None.

What is this analysis about?

The aim of the evaluation is to address the following question: Can public goods provision act as a violence preventive measure in situations of social and political unrest and against crime?

The past few years have seen an increase in civil unrest across the globe, from food riots in many countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, to the 'Arab Spring' events, and the 'Occupy' movement in the United States and some European countries. The private and social costs of civil unrest can be high as violence and political instability may result in the destruction of livelihoods and markets, increases in the risk of investment, loss of trust between economic agents and the waste of significant human and economic resources, particularly in situations where levels of violence escalate. The forms of civil unrest listed above have also been linked to rises in economic and social disparities between different population groups, systematic forms of social exclusion and deprivation, and other forms of perceived differences and injustice, which have resulted in the accumulation of social discontent. There is, however, limited empirical evidence about the type of policies that may be used to mitigate civil unrest or prevent its escalation into widespread violence.

The project consists of two parts. The first part involves in-depth empirical analysis of the role of public goods provision in mitigating civil unrest. This analysis makes use of a longitudinal dataset compiled over the past few years by Patricia Justino across all Indian states for the period 1970–2012. The second part is a mixed-method evaluation of the Kherwadi Social Welfare Association's Yuva Parivartan (Youth Betterment) Prison Project (YPPP), as a means to assess an intervention aimed at the sustained reduction in juvenile repeat offending. We are interested in the outcomes of youth between the ages of 18 and 20, who have been arrested and incarcerated before their 18th birthday. Understanding the outcomes and challenges faced by this section of society is of key importance to youth poverty and

wellbeing outcomes, arguably one potentially important factor in the rise of civil unrest and crime in India.

Who do we want to influence with this work?

We want to influence policymakers within governments (United Kingdom and others), NGOs and other academics.

How will we engage key actors during the evidence gathering process?

Key actors will be engaged through informant interviews, meetings and email discussions.

Policy roundtable and report

A roundtable in January 2015 aimed to pull together lessons from the work in years one and two, together with the emergent learning from the Yuva Parivartan case and the results of the analysis of the longitudinal dataset across India. The roundtable sought to explore the role of public service provision and access in reducing violence in urban areas. It provided an opportunity to share lessons from across the sub-theme cases and develop key messages for the policy audience around the emergent knowledge.

Dissemination: Are there any events/policy hooks that we can link the work to? How can we ensure key actors are reached with the final product?

All outputs will feature on dedicated, searchable project pages on the IDS website. Furthermore, outputs will be added to the Eldis dataset, and marketed through its dedicated conflict and security email reporter (8,000+ subscribers). Further activities are listed in Section 5. The case study lead will be able to utilise existing contacts within the policy, practice and academic community in order to maximise uptake. The outputs were also presented at the roundtable on 12 January – entitled Improving Lives and Reducing Violence through the Provision of Services – with attendees from DFID, FCO, international NGOs, and other academic institutions.

4.3 Sub-theme three

Policy analysis of external influences on political stability and violence in Kenya.

Status within the theme

The Evidence Report and Policy Briefing from this study contribute to the third sub-theme: *External stresses and violence mitigation in fragile contexts.*

Partners

Centre for Human Rights and Policy Studies (CHRIPS), Kenya.

What is this case study about?

Kenya is widely regarded as the anchor of stability in the Horn of Africa. Yet, violence has often been close to its politics and development. The post-election violence following the disputed December 2007 general election results cast a light on its troubled internal divisions and worsening fragmentation along regional and ethnic lines.

In recent years, violence has flared in its peripheral northern counties including Marsabit, Isiolo, and Tana River, while sectarian tensions and unexplained attacks have precipitated security crackdowns in Nairobi and Mombasa. These developments belie sweeping reforms that have taken place to address and prevent violence in the country. Scott-Villiers *et al.* (2014: 3) note that the adaptability of Kenya's 'system of violence' is such that 'a positive change in reducing violence in one part of the system often seems to be rapidly overwhelmed by the rule still operating undisturbed in other parts of the system'.

This study adds to existing analyses of Kenya's politics and political settlement by examining the role of external influences on its system of violence. While most studies dig deeply into Kenya's internal splits and the power of its informal networks to thwart the reforming power of its domestic institutions, less is known about how these networks intersect with actors, processes and flows that extend beyond its borders. The study will focus on the transnational dynamics that link Kenya and Somalia in a wider conflict system in the Horn, and which bear on Kenya's internal political relations and stability.

Problem statement

This study builds on the notion that internal and external stresses are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and connected through transnational actors and international/global networks (Schultze-Kraft 2014). In the case of Kenya and Somalia, very little is documented about how cross-border networks influence Kenya's security situation and government responses to security threats. Furthermore, the study uses the insights from Scott-Villiers *et al.* (2014) about the adaptability of the violence system, in which the state plays a part. Whereas the Kenyan state may promote security on the one hand, other (violent) actions and processes that maintain the political settlement also cause regional conflict dynamics to persist.

The question that guides the gathering of evidence is: Which are the important transnational actors and networks across the Kenyan-Somali border and how do they influence and shape Kenya's security?

Policy outcome

This study seeks to influence changes in agenda-setting as well as framing policies for managing external pressures/opportunities, by incorporating transnational actors and networks in the analysis of insecurity. This analysis offers entry points for working with transnational actors where relevant and appropriate, while highlighting which transnational networks contribute to violence and insecurity and need to be addressed.

Who do we want to influence with this work?

- Kenyan public debate on terror threat and responses – through this we hope to influence the Kenyan government
- DFID (Conflict, Humanitarian and Security (CHASE); Fragile States; Horn of Africa; Kenya officials)
- FCO (Horn of Africa group)
- Wider donor community supporting conflict prevention in Kenya (United States Agency for International Development, European Commission, Scandinavian donors), as well as civil society peacebuilding community
- Research community working on the Horn of Africa.

How will we engage key actors during the evidence gathering process?

In November 2014, a seminar was held with the Nairobi Forum and the International Crisis Group in Nairobi. The Nairobi Forum is a Chatham House-type centre that hosts high-level dialogues and conferences and seeks to contribute to public debate. It is a credible and well-known forum among policy actors in Kenya, organised by the Rift Valley Institute, and it has hosted events on Somalia in the past. They usually prepare meeting reports after their event, and their mailing list has wide reach and influence. The seminar was attended by 40 participants from the Kenyan government, diplomats, donor agency advisers, human rights officials and researchers. Hassan Yusuf, a Kenyan parliamentarian, and Tom Kagwe, head of Kenya's Independent Policing Oversight Authority, reacted to the presentations and provided an update on the status of political and security reforms needed to better address

and mitigate the threat of violence linked to al-Shabaab. A short meeting report was prepared after the seminar.

What alternative knowledge products can be employed to help communicate the key messages of the research?

The lead author published three blogs on [African Arguments](#) which outline and discuss key issues that will be explored in more detail in the report. The lead author also published a blog on Peace Direct's 'Insight on Conflict' blog series. In addition, the Kenyan co-author has written an op-ed for Kenya's *Daily Nation* paper.

Dissemination: What existing channels can we use? Are there any events/policy hooks that we can link the work to? How can we ensure key actors are reached with the final product?

A blog was published on African Arguments by the lead and Kenyan co-author to coincide with the one-year anniversary of the Westgate attack.

Our engagement strategy in 2015 will be reactive to events in Kenya (via our aforementioned online/media channels):

- If more al-Shabaab atrocities unfold these will be moments to put out our research messages (on Kenya's security/policing/intelligence failures, on the need for an alternative security approach to get Kenyan Somalis and Muslims on-side, etc.)
- Kenya's military campaign in Somalia. The opposition has pushed for troops to come home, saying they are making Kenya vulnerable to terrorist attacks. If there is any shift in Kenya's military approach in Somalia, there would be opportunity for comment
- There are also continuing debates in Kenya on the management of security under the new decentralised system. The county governors are pushing for greater control over security, while the centre is resisting. It is unsettled, but has been making front page news in the past two months since the June 2014 massacres in Coast Province. As this unfolds, it could also be a moment to write something for one of the Kenyan papers.

In addition, all outputs will feature on dedicated, searchable project pages on the IDS website. Furthermore, outputs will be added to the Eldis dataset, and marketed through its dedicated conflict and security email reporter (8,000+ subscribers). Further activities are listed in Section 5. The case study lead will be able to utilise existing contacts within the policy, practice and academic community in order to maximise uptake.

5 Global dissemination plan

Our dissemination activities recognise the value of building a coherent body of work, both within the theme and across IDS, which can be marketed to multiple stakeholders and audiences. We are continuously building upon a critical stakeholder list which was mapped in year two from across the themes and which lies at the heart of ongoing dissemination work. In addition, the IDS web pages covering programmes and projects have been expanded to better reflect the work across IDS.

Targeted external communication work is an ongoing process which continues throughout the lifespan of the programme and is responsive to opportunities as they arise. We keep abreast of external events and policy dates so that Researchers, Communications and KS staff on the AG AMV theme are able to plan additional knowledge products drawn from the theme's research outputs, and input theme perspective into current debates. This will allow us to market outputs more widely.

In 2014, we produced new outputs drawing on (and publicising) year two work in order to feed into debates:

- on the [Egyptian elections](#) – and also re-presented project survey data in the form of an [interactive infographic](#)
- on a new report from the West African Commission on Drugs – a blog feature, 'Bold West African drug policy proposal should be taken up, and taken further' was published on the IDS Governance and Development blog and in the [Huffington Post](#), and also circulated on the [World Bank's Hive](#) (knowledge platform on fragility, conflict and violence) and the [Peace and Collaborative Development Network](#) (30,000+ members).

There are a number of important events which we will be looking to target in the coming months, including:

- Nigerian elections, 14 February 2015
- International Monetary Fund/World Bank *Global Monitoring Report*, 24 April 2015
- *Africa Progress Panel Report*, 5 May 2015
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime *World Drug Report*, 1 June 2015
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: Youth Forum, 10–20 June 2015
- Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 26 June 2015
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development *Least Developed Countries Report*, 1 July 2015
- World Day of Social Justice, 20 February 2015; International Women's Day, 8 March 2015.

In addition, collaboration with IDS in-country partners will allow us to reach audiences at the country level, through the marketing of the joint projects' publications via their own networks.

Within the AG links are being made across themes to maximise the opportunities for dissemination and reaching wider audiences. A research output from year two of the theme – *Agency and Citizenship in a Context of Gender-Based Violence* (Shahrokh and Wheeler 2014) – was cross-publicised on the interactive site of the [Influencing Policies to Support the Empowerment of Women and Girls theme](#).

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