

Principles Derived from the Impact Assessment of Peace and Conflict (PCIA) in Pakistan

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In the first decade of the twenty-first century, it was crucial to thoroughly examine, understand, and approach with care the outcomes of the operations conducted by International Development Agencies (IDAs) in countries affected by war. The concept of Peace and War Impact Assessment (PCIA) emerged as a response to the challenges associated with development and humanitarian initiatives in war zones. The Peacebuilding and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA) highlights the importance of conducting conflict analyses at key 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 PCIA (Participatory Community Impact Assessment) at the project level. In addition, 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 viable solutions.

INTRODUCTION

Following the 1994 Rwandan genocide, there was a growing awareness of the urgent need to prioritise conflict resolution in development efforts. This realisation prompted the creation of equipment specifically designed to achieve this goal. This realisation was brought

about by the genocide that occurred in Rwanda. Increasingly, it is recognised that development cooperation often leads to unforeseen consequences for the ongoing dynamics of peace and war. It is therefore uncommon for development interventions in conflict zones to be impartial (Schmelzle, 2005). Later, there were questions about the political consequences of providing development assistance in regions affected by violence. The emergence of intense conflicts has led to the invention and adoption of strategies such as "PCIA" (Bush, 1998) and "Do no harm" (Anderson, 1999) to prioritise conflict resolution in development efforts. The purpose of developing and implementing these techniques was to enhance the efficacy of development projects. The utilisation of Participatory Climate Information Analysis (PCIA) in conjunction with Integrated Development Approaches (IDA) has been frequently employed in various instances during the present century. Given the widespread use of conflict-sensitive tools in recent years, it is crucial to thoroughly investigate the practical effects and outcomes of Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA). This can be achieved by conducting a detailed analysis of the experiences of PCIA practitioners in conflict-prone regions. It is important to conduct an analysis of the results and execution of Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA) in order to achieve this objective. The main aim of this study is to determine how Performance and Capacity Improvement Agreements (PCIA) and similar mechanisms are being implemented in Pakistan. The study will especially utilise data obtained from International Development Agencies (IDAs) already operating in the country. An examination of the execution of Project-Level Countering Violent Extremism (PCIA) tactics is crucial given the increasing occurrence of extremism, sectarianism, and militancy in the country. The purpose of this book is to disseminate the knowledge and experiences acquired by development practitioners, both local and international, while working in Pakistan, to professionals involved in development work in the country. According to the study's findings, it is crucial to offer

personalised training that considers the distinctive contextual aspects of each participant in order to optimise the effectiveness of PCIA. PCIA is particularly efficient in particular settings. As a result, the system would be able to provide maximum benefits to all relevant parties. Furthermore, this essay examines other substantial challenges linked to the use of PCIA in real-world environments, with a particular emphasis on a specific area. The objective of this proclamation is to initiate a crucial discussion about the role of PCIA (Peace and Crisis Impact Assessment) and similar systems in the context of interactions between domestic and international organisations during times of crisis. Furthermore, this discussion explores issues related to the transfer of skills, the dynamics of power, and the broad use of certain tools. However, it is important to remember that the analysis conducted in the research does not cover all IDA projects in the country in terms of PCIA and associated techniques. This constraint arises from the limited number of projects gathered solely from Pakistan. This is due to the limited quantity of project samples obtained from Pakistan. The present investigation is based on the fieldwork undertaken in Swat, Swabi, and D.I. Khan from November 2006 to January 2007, which lasted for three months. Furthermore, from 2006 to 2008, the researcher actively collaborated with PCIA, acquiring essential skills at this time. The researchers collected data for this study by conducting in-person interviews and focus groups with individuals who were actively involved in the use, development, and implementation of PCIA. The attendees consisted of representatives from the International Development Association (IDA) and collaborating non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Situation of conflict

Conflicts in adjacent countries and on an international scale not only affect the security and sociopolitical status of Pakistan but also have consequences that extend beyond its borders. The frequency of nationalist sentiments in Pakistan has experienced a substantial increase, with Sindh and Baluchistan being notably impacted.

Furthermore, the escalation of sectarian violence is compounded by the fact that Afghanistan's instability in the western region serves as a contributing cause to this problem. The transformation in Kashmir: The region became more arduous after the establishment of peace. The initial page of the assessment is located in Volume 5, Number 2, 2011, which corresponds to the year of its publication. Unfortunately, I cannot reply until I receive further communication from you or until you supply me with further information. To the north of the country, there is a continuing dispute with India. According to FES 2005:1-2, the ongoing violence in Pakistan is often attributed to six specific structural weaknesses. 1. The military occupies a distinct role within the economic and sociopolitical domains of society. 2. There is significant disparity in the socioeconomic level among different regions of the country. 3. The realms of development, namely political, economic, and social, offer restricted chances for civil society to engage in participation. 4. The persistence of visible distinctions is directly linked to the ongoing segregation of gender groups. 5. Unlike a weak or non-existent national identity, there are multiple local, sublocal, and regional identities that exist simultaneously. 6. Women have a vulnerable position within the social hierarchy. Pakistan has observed a noticeable rise in the occurrence of terrorist attacks since the commencement of counterterrorism operations in the bordering tribal regions of Afghanistan. Consequently, there has been a discernible rise in the number of native insurgents involved in acts of terrorism in a specific region of the country. Instances of assault have repeatedly taken place against military personnel, law enforcement officers, and civilians. Furthermore, it is important to note that Westerners have been targeted in various incidents, including the brutal murder of Daniel Pearl [1], the violent attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore, the intentional killing of aid workers, and the assaults on the facilities of non-governmental organisations (NGOs). In 2008, a distressing incident took place at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad. The incident was defined by a suicide detonation that

resulted in a minimum of 53 fatalities and approximately 200 injuries, as reported by the BBC. According to Rondeaux (2008), a previous event occurred in the Italian restaurant Luna Caprese in Islamabad. This incident resulted in injuries to five people from the United States embassy. The meticulously orchestrated assaults targeted primarily sites commonly visited by foreign visitors and the country's intellectual elite. The circulation of sacrilegious depictions of the Prophet Muhammad in February 2008 by several Danish publications, including their publication in a Danish newspaper in 2007, led to a rise in anti-Western attitudes. Perlez and Shah have recorded that in 2008, an explosive device was detonated near the Danish Embassy in Islamabad as a clear act of retaliation for the incident reported before. Despite being a minority, the Christian population in Pakistan has been frequently targeted by Islamists who oppose Western influence in the nation. Pakistan has had notable progress after the restoration of democratic administration in 2008. These include the transfer of the constitutional responsibility for the military forces and the reinstatement of an independent and impartial judicial system. These examples demonstrate only two cases of the advancements that have been made. The findings of a conflict analysis carried out by FES in 2005 suggest that the civil-military relations of the democratic government are currently undergoing a significant change with the main goal of safeguarding the sovereignty of the parliament. This is apparent from the present condition of the democratic administration. In June 2008, a significant incident occurred with the deliberation of the defence budget for the fiscal year 2008-2009 by the parliamentary body. In February 2009, the Pakistani government and the Tehrik-i-Nifaaz-i-Shariat-i-Muhammadi (TNSM), a group dedicated to enforcing Islamic law based on the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad, reached a resolution. The parties engaged in this armistice agreement have unanimously agreed to establish peace and stability in the volatile region of the Swat valley. The town has been under the control of the Tehrik-i-Nifaz-i-Mohammadi (TNSM) for more than ten years,

with support from local Taliban fighters. This conclusion was aided by the group's capacity to attract individuals from within the community. The closure of over 300 educational institutions in the region, namely those that served female students, can be related to the implementation of anti-secular education policies. According to Ahmed (2009:30-31), there has been an alleged escalation in the level of bloodshed during confrontations between Pakistani security forces and a terrorist group consisting of around 3,000 members in Swat since October 2007. The government and the Tehreek-e-Nafaz-e-Mohammadi (TNSM) have agreed to an arrangement where the TNSM will be responsible for enforcing Sharia law in the Swat valley. Although there were concerns about potential violations of human rights in certain areas of Swat that are currently under the control of terrorists, the legislative assembly of Pakistan unanimously supported President Zardari's decision to sign the peace agreement. This indicates that even though the legislative body was democratic, it was unable to bypass its decision-making procedures. In the end, the plan was unsuccessful, leading to the removal of all radicals from Swat by security forces in 2009. Pakistan's susceptibility to conflicts in many domains is worsened by several structural shortcomings; so, it is evident that the country should promptly embrace instruments such as Peacebuilding, Conflict Prevention, and Integrated Approaches (PCIA). Kenneth Bush offers his viewpoint on the inquiry regarding the most advantageous site for conducting Peacebuilding and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA) operations. When engaging in projects in areas of conflict characterised by high levels of violence and tension, it is recommended to consider doing the Post-Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA). However, when a nonviolent disagreement has the possibility to turn into a state of violence, it is crucial that these methods may be used to intervene in a wider variety of conflict-ridden circumstances. The specified domains include the following: The author (2003:5) cites three main concerns that have sparked significant discussion and disagreement. These disputes involve conflicts over land or the

exploitation of resources, as well as the growing economic inequalities between different groups. They also coincide with rising levels of unemployment, poverty, deterioration of living conditions, and threats to human security. Foreign policy with Pakistan has experienced a substantial shift since the September 11 attacks. The rise of this movement can be attributed to the United States' focused counterterrorism efforts, namely addressing the issue of terrorist safe havens in the tribal areas near Pakistan. NATO forces stationed in Afghanistan conducted proactive military actions in the Pakistani tribal areas, driven by the ethnic connections between the residents of those regions and a substantial percentage of the Afghan populace. Consequently, the existing hostility towards the central authority and Western forces was intensified. The United States and multiple international development agencies (IDAs) have allocated substantial financial resources to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, previously known as the North-West Frontier Province, in response to the war on terror. The granted monies have been used for many goals, such as the development of infrastructure, ensuring environmental safety, and promoting the empowerment of women. The "Understanding FATA" initiative, supported by the British High Commission in Pakistan, demonstrated the significant interest that Western countries had in the sociopolitical conditions of these areas. International Development Agencies (IDAs), such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), allocate substantial financial resources to projects that are similar in character. In order to effectively resolve disputes of all types and intensities, it is crucial to have a comprehensive understanding of the intricate contextual factors that contribute to the conflict, surpassing a superficial awareness. This analysis explores how the various Integrated Development Agencies (IDAs) in Pakistan have integrated Peacebuilding and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA) into their project implementation techniques at the national level and their overall strategic goals. Before delving into the study's results, it is essential to develop a clear definition of PCIA,

examine existing PCIA models, and explore the current debates around PCIA and its associated technologies. The goal is to aid with the transfer of authority in areas of the country that are currently embroiled in conflicts or susceptible to additional hostilities.

Assessment of the effects of peace and conflict

The main goal of the evaluation studies and methodologies employed by the international development community is to evaluate the effectiveness of development initiatives. The insufficient attention given to implementing these development initiatives in volatile situations has been noted (Paffenholz et al., 2005). Some persons are increasingly realising that development projects, due to their inherent character, might unintentionally produce negative outcomes in a conflict situation. It is also acknowledged that complete impartiality is impossible when dealing with violent conflicts (KOFF, 2004). As a result, the IDA community recognised the need for concepts and approaches to assess the effects of development projects in regions that are susceptible to or have experienced war. In the early 1990s, there was a divergence of opinion among development specialists over the necessity of employing separate evaluation techniques for project regions that are prone to violence. The concerns indicated above were initially expressed by the 36 member nations of the United Nations (UN), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and several International Development Agencies (IDAs). In reaction to the dominant Western viewpoint, numerous ways for resolving conflicts have been created and put into practice. The Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA) approach was first introduced by the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in partnership with Bush (1998). Paffenholz (2005) conducted studies that identified three unique phases in the evolution of the PCIA. Between 1996 and 1999, there was a significant increase in public awareness about how aid affects conflict dynamics and its role in promoting peacebuilding efforts. In response to this difficulty,

scholars such as Mary B. Anderson (1999) and Kenneth Bush (1998) introduced the PCIA technique and the "Do no harm" policy, respectively, as potential solutions. The widespread adoption of Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (IDDR) concepts has led to the quick implementation of several programmes in regions devastated by armed conflicts. The objective from 1999 to 2004 was to avert disputes by implementing a range of project planning and management practices, mostly influenced by peace studies. When the instruments were invented, they were either made by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDAs) or with IDAs as the intended users. Multiple conflict analysis instruments being referred to as PCIA at the same time resulted in significant confusion. The third phase of the project began in 2004 and is now advancing without any issues. The multitude of potential concepts and methodologies add to the increased difficulty associated with defining PCIA at this level. Several International Development Agencies (IDAs) have replaced the word "PCIA" with alternative titles such as "conflict-sensitive development" and others. The goal is to minimise the distracting impact of the various activities involved in peacebuilding efforts, while still prioritising conflict-related issues, by adjusting the strategy. The PCIA technique is based on the premise that any development effort, whether implemented in a post-conflict or conflict-ridden setting, has the capacity to inadvertently inflict harm. This approach combines project assessment with a recognition of conflicts by fostering a deeper comprehension of the interaction between development efforts and their surrounding ecosystems. Kenneth Bush, a significant figure in the advancement of the PCIA method, describes it as a methodical way to forecasting, closely observing, and examining the possible or actual outcomes of an intervention on the intricate dynamics of peace or conflict in a region prone to conflict (Bush 2003:3). A significant drawback of the "Do no harm" approach (Anderson, 1999) is its primary focus on the negative outcomes of development projects in conflict-affected nations. In contrast, the PCIA

method gives equal significance to both conflict dynamics and peace processes in the specified region. PCIA is employed in both macroscopic and microscopic situations. Before providing aid, a comprehensive assessment called the Poverty and Climate Impact Assessment (PCIA) is undertaken at the national or macro level. This assessment helps the International Development Associations (IDAs) in their strategic planning. The 2011 article titled "Peace and Conflict Review: A Critical Analysis" from Volume 5, Issue 2 of the magazine explores a wide range of subjects related to peace and conflict. The third phase of this study is dedicated to examining the national implications of the war and developing effective methods to minimise its impact. Project workers responsible for ensuring the successful implementation of projects will benefit from using Project Cycle Impact Assessment (PCIA) at the micro or project level. The main purpose is to identify the specific impacts of major elements that produce, contribute to, or worsen tensions before devising effective approaches to resolve disputes. The Programme for Comprehensive Impact Assessment (PCIA) evaluates the efficacy of a development project, but it does not consider the extent to which the programme accomplishes its stated objectives. However, the assessment focuses on the extent to which it corresponds with indices of peace and conflict dynamics. Besancon (2005) states that following informed decision-making in project planning, implementation, and assessment leads to positive outcomes and decreases the chances of conflict.

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