Including Local Voices in the Politics of Measurement and Evaluation after War

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Why Everyday Indicators?

• Need to improve indicators because they wield significant power and are of crucial importance for the procurement of resources and funding.

• A change in the design of indicators is particularly urgent now since increasing numbers of policy outcomes are influenced by indicators with an increase in top-down, technocratic approaches.

• Finding better ways to measure difficult concepts by including beneficiaries and communities that are part of what we are measuring.
  • Communities help to define their own peace, which currently lacks adequate conceptual definition and is often highly politicized.
The Challenges of Measuring difficult concepts

- Conceptual challenges in measurement:
- Interpretivists (truth is relative) versus Positivists (truth is measurable)
  - Interpretivist approaches
    - Concerned with the relativity of concepts
    - Concerned with capturing all attributes of a concept – paradox of measurement (Merry & Wood 2015)
    - The failure of indicators to represent all dimensions of a concept raises concerns
  - Positivist approaches
    - Less concerned with measurement error to do with the definition and structure of concepts
    - Concerned with “reconstruction” (Schaffer 2016) – what belongs in the conceptual container?
    - Concerned with data availability - indicators are sometimes discarded if there is no data available to measure them.
    - Concerned with universal applicability of an indicator
The Challenges of Measuring difficult concepts

- We struggle to measure difficult to define concepts like violent extremism, reconciliation, democracy and peace. Yet, these concepts are of fundamental importance if we want to understand the impact of our work and whether or not the programming we develop in communities affected by war is effective.

- With the increasing availability of big data, it is urgent that we reconsider the ways in which we design our measurement and evaluation systems.
EPI Locations since 2013*

*The Everyday Peace Indicators Pilot Projects are funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the United States Institute of Peace
Everyday Peace Indicator Selection
Examples of Locally-Defined Indicators

**Uganda:** “the boda-boda cyclist can ride to different areas”

**South Africa:** “the cars don’t have bullet holes”

**Zimbabwe:** “people can worship whatever religion they want”

**South Sudan:** “there are no barking dogs at night”

**Colombia:** “the community knows the truth about what happened here”
Preliminary Indicators – Eastern Afghanistan

**Everyday CVE Indicators**

1. The night market is open
2. Vaccination campaigns present
3. The police are not carrying weapons
4. NGO branded projects
5. Strangers are not present in the village/people don’t mask their faces
6. Not seeing people digging by the side of the road
7. Men not paying MAHR (*a bride price abolished by ISIS*)
8. Not seeing cars with tinted windows/fake number plates

**Global Peace Indicators**

1. Number of deaths from organized conflict
2. Number of refugees and displaced persons as percentage of population
3. Level of violent crime
4. Number of armed-services personnel
5. Ease of access to small arms and light weapons
6. Number of jailed persons per 100,000 people
7. Political instability
Indicator Categories

Cohesion & Interdependence
Leadership
Education
Social
Conflict resolution
Discrimination
Economic
Food & Agriculture
Health
Infrastructure
Security: Crime
Security: Daily
Security: Forces
Freedom
Transitional Justice & Human Rights
Indicators According to Categories – sub-Saharan Africa

Indicators in categories (All countries)

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Communities
EPI Mobile Phone Surveys

- Multiple mode – voice, IVR, face-to-face handset, (text)
- Longitudinal

Mobile data collection for the real world

From simple feature phones to high-end handsets and tablets, Mobenzi Researcher provides a tried and tested solution to enhance field research and data collection.
# Everyday Peace Indicators Survey Answers

**Daaglikse Vrede Aanwysers**

Please refer to this key when answering questions during the Everyday Peace Indicators survey. Press the number on your cell phone keypad that corresponds with the answer you choose.

*Verwys asseblief na die volgende opsies waaneer u die telefoniese meningspeiling beantwoord.*

*Druk die nommer op u telefoon wat met u antwoord ooreenstem.*

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For comments or questions, please contact Kenneth at 021 763 7128. Thank you.

*Vir navrae, kontak Kenneth asseblief by 021 763 7128. Dankie.*
The Way Forward

- **Publications in** *Politics, International Studies Perspectives*
- **Working Papers** on methodology, results, comparison with other indexes, Substantive issues – transformative justice in Uganda; Reparations and Reconciliation in Colombia

**Grants:**
- **Carnegie Corporation of New York Grant Renewal ($300,000)**
  - Can EPI be scaled up? How can EPI help make macro indices more robust?
  - How is this information being used by governments and international organizations? Does it lead to behavioural change?

**Research Consultancies and EPI implementation:**
- **USIP (Afghanistan and Ukraine)**
- **NDI South Sudan**
- **International Alert**
- **Trainings and Orientations to integrate EPI**