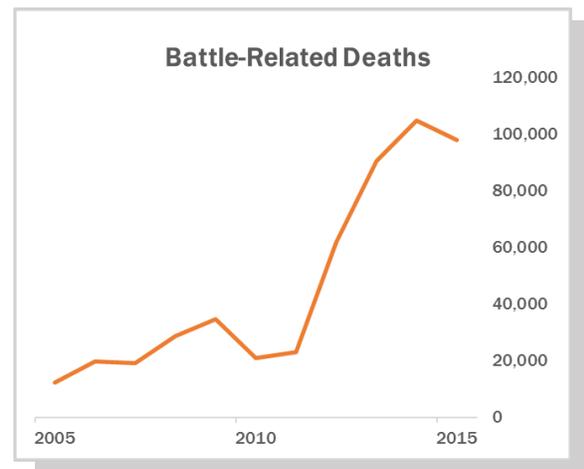


# Armed conflict is increasing dramatically.

In the last 10 years, the number of active conflicts worldwide increased by over 33% and battle-related deaths increased nearly ten-fold.

This occurred despite almost \$400 billion dollars of official development assistance in conflict affected countries.



Source: Uppsala Conflict Data Program

## The Challenge

The dramatic rise in global conflict despite large scale development investments in affected areas has led many to question the value of conflict prevention, mitigation, and reduction interventions. Policymakers, operating in increasingly stringent budget environments, are asking for empirical evidence to substantiate the value of global peacebuilding interventions.

The peacebuilding community's longstanding monitoring and evaluation (M&E) efforts, which measure program outputs and outcomes, are insufficient to address this concern. Current M&E practices largely ignore whether:

- funding would have been more effectively spent elsewhere
- program objectives were achieved at a reasonable cost
- money was wasted

**A successful program should not only be effective but also cost-effective.**

## What's Missing?

While macroeconomic studies concluded that peacebuilding spending results in a positive net economic benefit, few (if any) studies examine which specific peacebuilding activities achieve the greatest impact per dollar spent.

There is scarce data and information to inform the allocation of resources across different peace-building and violence prevention activities. Addressing this challenge requires research that looks at individual programs and interventions to identify those which are the most cost-effective.

# Our Research

Frontier Design Group undertook an accelerated literature review and consultations with peacebuilding academics and researchers to evaluate the current state of peacebuilding cost-effectiveness research and the availability of data in the public domain to enable future research.

This research, made possible by the support of Mr. Milt Lauenstein focused on developing hard evidence to support the allocation of peacebuilding resources. This research effort was a modestly funded preliminary effort and our hope is that it encourages future research aimed at this important goal.

Cost-Effectiveness for Peacebuilding  
Exploring the Possibilities



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Frontier Design Group was founded on International Peace Day to use the tools of design and systems thinking to address the world's most complex and persistent human and national security challenges. We balance rigorous, data-driven analysis of complex systems with the creativity of design tools to build innovative solutions for our clients.

We have served a variety of public and private organizations including the United States Institute of Peace, Alliance for Peacebuilding, US Agency for International Development, the Clinton Foundation, the Social Innovation Fund, the Council on Foreign Relations, and United Way Worldwide.

For more information visit [www.fdg-llc.com](http://www.fdg-llc.com).

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## The Opportunity

Although the data is not perfect, **there is sufficient data in the public domain to test cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA) as an analytical method in the peacebuilding context.** We recommend piloting the use of CEA as a tool to provide peacebuilders with empirical data about cost and effectiveness to guide decision-making and resource allocation.

In our report, we provide an in-depth discussion of CEA and its application to the peacebuilding context. We also discuss many of the challenges associated with this effort and provide recommendations to overcome them. The full research report can be accessed at the following link: <http://fdg-llc.com/cepp2/>

## What's Next?

We identified 12 programs with sufficient data to pilot the use of CEA in the peacebuilding context. We are currently working on evaluating these programs. In order to build a sufficient evidence base, far more programs need to be evaluated. Additionally, there are steps the peacebuilding community can take to enable more rigorous evaluation of cost-effectiveness. Our report discusses these steps in detail.

We are committed to sparking, cultivating and maintaining a community of interest in cost-effective peacebuilding. Please contact our lead author, Steve Sheamer at [steve@fdg-llc.com](mailto:steve@fdg-llc.com), if you are interested in learning more.



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### Next Steps and Future Research

Our research team is currently working to establish and pilot a repeatable methodology to conduct CEA studies for different types of peacebuilding activities. At a minimum, this will include the initial set of programs identified in the previous section. There are two primary CEA comparisons that will be piloted – a comparison of like units of outcome per dollar (e.g. dollars spent per capita improvement in perceptions towards violence) and dollars spent per change in violence indicator (dollars spent per capita reduction in civilian fatalities or battle deaths). For the programs selected here, there is sufficient data available to establish a normalized CEA ratio for both program indicators and violence indicators. Table 5 lists some of the illustrative program indicators that are related to violence that will be used to establish comparative CEA outcomes.

Program	Illustrative Program Indicators and Outcomes
Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>50% reduction in civilian fatalities / attack</li><li>Each labor project reduces civil attacks by 2%, 40% decrease in incidents</li></ul>
Conciliation in Nigeria Through Community based Conflict Management and Cooperative Use of Resources (CONCJUR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>15% increase in frequency disputes resolved successfully</li><li>72% felt they could move safely within their villages without fear of violence</li><li>75% felt tensions had decreased</li></ul>
DDR in Congo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Civilian perceptions of community security: 71% OK to safe vs. 10% OK to safe</li></ul>
Ethno-Religious Violence in Pakistan and Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Police as cause of violence decreased by 23%</li></ul>
Liberia Community Empowerment Program (CEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Police as perpetrators of violence decreased by 6%</li><li>Trainers/leaders 44% more likely to find resolution to money conflict</li><li>34% less likely to experience a serious fight with weapons (community)</li><li>5% increase in perception of security (travellers)</li></ul>
National Solidarity Program (NSP) in Afghanistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1% reduction in probability of a villager engaging in dispute with another villager</li><li>5% increase in male perception of security</li><li>4-5% increase in female perception of security</li></ul>
Plateau Will Arise (PWA) project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Capacity of the communities to resolve conflict peacefully rated as good (49%) or very good (28%)</li><li>39% perceived security in community as improving a little, 40% as improving a lot</li><li>70% of respondents felt that inter-community relations had improved</li><li>45% less likely to be willing to fight in a neighboring war</li></ul>
Agricultural training and capital program for Liberia ex-fighters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>71.7% of the participants reported that conflicts were managed peacefully, corresponding to 41% increase from the baseline of 13%</li><li>67% of the respondents said their area was secure, vs. from 38% 12 months ago</li></ul>
Stabilizing Vulnerable Communities in CAR through the promotion of intercommunity dialogue and economic cooperation (SVC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>8% improved knowledge of ways to counteract violence</li><li>13% reduction in the intensity of electoral violence</li><li>10% reduction in the intensity of use of violence</li></ul>
Anti-Electoral Violence in Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>15% increase in use of conflict management techniques</li></ul>
Working with men to prevent intimate partner violence in Côte D'Ivoire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>8% decrease in intention to use violence</li></ul>
Reconciliation in Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>15% increase in use of conflict management techniques</li><li>34% less likely to fight in another war</li></ul>

Table 5. Illustrative Program Indicators and Outcomes

We are committed to sparking, cultivating and helping maintain a community of interest in cost-effective peacebuilding. Eventually, we hope a community of interest will grow into a robust community of practice like that of the burgeoning peacebuilding evaluation community. Please contact our lead author, Steve Sheamer at [steve@fdg-llc.com](mailto:steve@fdg-llc.com) if you are interested in joining this effort.