# Peace Interventions Dataset
## Practical User Guide

# Contents

# Introduction

The goal of this guide is to provide practitioners in the peacebuilding field with a comprehensive guide to understanding and utilizing the Peace Interventions Dataset. This dataset is a valuable resource for anyone involved in efforts to mitigate, resolve, or prevent conflicts, including NGOs, government officials, donors, and researchers.

This guide has three main objectives:

-Introduce the Dataset: Explain the purpose behind building this dataset, what the dataset contains, its structure, and the types of information it includes.

-Demonstrate Practical Uses: Show how the dataset can be used to explore questions that practitioners might face in their work.

-Promote Evidence-Based Decision-Making: Encourage the use of data-driven insights to enhance the effectiveness and impact of peacebuilding interventions.

Incorporating data into decision-making processes enables peacebuilding practitioners to base their strategies on solid evidence rather than intuition alone. This approach not only increases the likelihood of success but also enhances the overall effectiveness and sustainability of peacebuilding efforts. By making data an integral part of their toolkit, practitioners can significantly improve their impact on the ground, fostering more resilient and peaceful communities.

# Understanding the Dataset

## Purpose of the Dataset

The Peace Interventions Dataset aims to provide a comprehensive and integrated resource for analyzing the dynamics of intrastate and internationalized intrastate conflicts and the various peace interventions implemented to address them. This dataset fills a critical gap in the field of peacebuilding by consolidating diverse data sources into a single, accessible platform, enabling practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and funders to make informed decisions based on systematic evidence.

One of the primary challenges in peacebuilding research and practice is the fragmentation of data across various sources. This fragmentation leads to several issues:

Different Units of Analysis: Existing datasets are often designed to answer specific questions and, as a result, employ different units of analysis. Some focus on the country level, others on specific conflicts, peacekeeping missions, peace agreements, or transitional justice policies. This diversity makes it difficult to compare and integrate data across studies.

Temporal Inconsistencies: Datasets that track the same units over time often do so at different temporal resolutions. Some measure events at the monthly level, while others use yearly data. This inconsistency complicates efforts to analyze the timing and sequencing of interventions and their impacts.

Fragmented Data Sources: Data on peacebuilding initiatives is scattered across multiple sources, each with its own methodologies and definitions. This fragmentation hinders comprehensive analysis and can lead to incomplete or biased understandings of the effectiveness of various interventions.

The Peace Interventions Dataset addresses these challenges by integrating data on interventions and policies into a unified format. The conflict-year format—explained below—allows for temporal analysis, providing insights into how conflicts evolve over time and how different interventions impact their progression and resolution. This helps in understanding the timing and sequencing of effective interventions.

By organizing data in an accessible format, the dataset enables users without a background in data analysis to explore and utilize the information effectively. This democratizes access to valuable data, empowering a wider range of stakeholders to engage in evidence-based peacebuilding. Moreover, the integrated nature of the dataset facilitates comprehensive analysis and comparison, helping to overcome the limitations imposed by fragmented and inconsistent data sources.

## Applications of the Dataset

- Conflict Analysis: Users can analyze the progression and characteristics of conflicts over time, identifying trends and patterns in conflict dynamics.

- Evaluation of Interventions: The dataset allows for the assessment of various peace interventions, including peacekeeping operations, peace agreements, and transitional justice measures, to determine their effectiveness in different contexts.
- Resource Allocation: Policymakers and funders can use the dataset to allocate resources more efficiently by identifying areas with the greatest need and potential for impact.
- Strategic Planning: Peacebuilding organizations can develop more informed and strategic plans by leveraging data on past interventions and their outcomes.
- Research and Advocacy: Researchers can conduct in-depth studies on conflict and peacebuilding, while advocacy groups can use the data to support their campaigns and initiatives.

## Inclusion criteria

This dataset is a comprehensive collection of data on intrastate and internationalized intrastate conflicts that have occurred between 1990 and 2022. Some conflicts might have started before 1990, but data collection for these conflicts only begins from 1990 onwards. The dataset focuses on conflicts that have met a specific intensity threshold, ensuring that only the most impactful conflicts are included for analysis.

The dataset includes conflicts listed in the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) armed conflict dataset. Only conflicts that have resulted in at least 100 battle-related deaths in more than half of the years they have been active are included. This criterion ensures the dataset focuses on significant conflicts, providing valuable insights into more intense and impactful situations.

## What "Conflict-Year Format" Means

The "conflict-year format" refers to a specific way of organizing and presenting data where each row in the dataset represents a single conflict observed in a particular year. This format allows for detailed temporal analysis of conflicts by breaking down their progression year by year.

In this dataset, each conflict is tracked annually from 1990 to 2022, capturing its status, intensity, and various interventions for each year it is observed. The dataset includes both active and inactive years of conflicts, ensuring a comprehensive historical record. When a country

becomes inactive an enters a "peace spell", the conflict is tracked for a maximum of ten years and, as long as it doesn't become active again during that period, it exits the dataset.

For instance, if a conflict is active during 1994 and 1995 and then becomes inactive, it remains in the dataset for up to 10 years of inactivity or peace. If the conflict becomes active again, the dataset continues to track it through its subsequent active and inactive periods. The goal of including both active and inactive years is to observe what policies and interventions take place while the parties are actively fighting and evaluate their impact on the cessation of fighting. Additionally, it allows for the observation of policies implemented in the aftermath of a conflict, which may help prolong peace and prevent the conflict from resuming. This structure provides a continuous timeline, enabling users to analyze the duration and recurrence of conflicts, as well as the timing and sequencing of different peace interventions.

## Data Included in the Dataset

The dataset includes four main types of data: a. data that identifies the conflict; b. data on temporal aspects of the conflict; c. data on conflict type and intensity; d. data on peace interventions.

## Conflict Identification

The dataset includes several variables that help to identify each conflict. These variables are crucial for integrating data from multiple sources. Specifically, the dataset contains the conflict ID from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP), which serves as a unique identifier for each conflict. Additionally, the dataset includes information on the country and region where the conflict is taking place and the names of the parties involved in the conflict.[1] These identification variables were essential for constructing this database because they allow us to match data from various sources. For example, they enable us to link data on United States foreign assistance by recipient country to the country in which each conflict is taking place. These variables are also useful for potential users who want to combine this dataset with other data or subset the data to specific conflicts, countries, or regions.

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[1] The dataset includes the location country of the conflict in the format used by UCDP, Gleditsch and Ward, Correlates of War and the World Bank, as well as region and continent of the conflict location country in the format used by the World Bank.

## Temporal Aspects of the Conflict

To provide a temporal context, the dataset includes variables that indicate when each conflict is being observed and other related temporal dimensions. The year of observation is recorded for each conflict-year entry. Additionally, the dataset includes variables that help understand the temporal progression of each conflict. For example, each conflict-year observation includes a variable indicating how many years the conflict has been active since its historical start. Another variable shows, if a conflict is inactive and thus undergoing a "peace episode," how many years this peace episode has been ongoing. These temporal variables allow users to evaluate the extent to which a temporal dimension affects the efficacy of interventions. For example, whether certain interventions are more effective early on during peace episodes or if they require a relatively more established peace context to be fruitful.

## Categories and Intensity of Conflicts

The dataset includes a collection of indicators about the grievances, incompatibilities, and motivations of the parties involved. These indicators allow users to classify conflicts based on their underlying disagreements (e.g., territorial disputes, governmental control, natural resources) or whether they are intertwined with religious or ethnic divisions across fighting parties. The dataset also includes indicators of the conflict's intensity at each point in time, such as whether the conflict is active, whether it is considered a minor conflict or a war, and the number of military and civilian deaths caused by the warring parties that are directly related to combat.

## Peace Interventions

The dataset includes over a thousand variables capturing various peace interventions. By interventions, we understand initiatives, policies, and institutional efforts by a variety of actors that could influence the duration of an armed conflict and its recurrence. These interventions do not need to be explicitly designed as peace-inducing or peace-building efforts, and peace does not need to be their primary purpose. The dataset includes indicators of actions ranging from targeted interventions with explicit goals of inducing peace or making peace more durable to policies and actions that might not have a peace goal but could still affect the motivations of actors in a conflict. Among the former, users can find indicators of the adoption of peace agreements and their design choices, the existence of peacekeeping operations (including their

size, mandates, and activities), the number of transitional justice policies adopted, the establishment of schemes for integrating militias, and the amount of foreign aid designated for demobilization or disarmament. Among the latter, users can find indicators of electoral processes, trade agreements, and defense cooperation agreements. For a detailed list of variables, explanations, and information about their sources, users can refer to the dataset Codebook.

## Examples of Data-Driven Insights

This section presents a series of common questions in the peacebuilding field, accompanied by examples of visualizations produced from our dataset that can help explore those questions. These visualizations are primarily descriptive, meaning they do not require advanced skills in statistical analysis to create or interpret. By examining these examples, practitioners can get a sense of the types of insights our data can provide. With all relevant data consolidated in one place, these visualizations enable practitioners to explore complex questions about conflict dynamics, intervention impacts, and resource distribution, among other topics relevant to planning, decision-making, and evaluating peacebuilding initiatives.

Example 1: How do security-related activities implemented by peacekeeping operations correlate with the level of conflict-related fatalities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)?

**DRC PKOS (MONUC + MONUSCO) Activities in Security and Fatalities**



Activities: — Control of SALW — Demilitarization — Disarmament/Demobilization — Reintegration
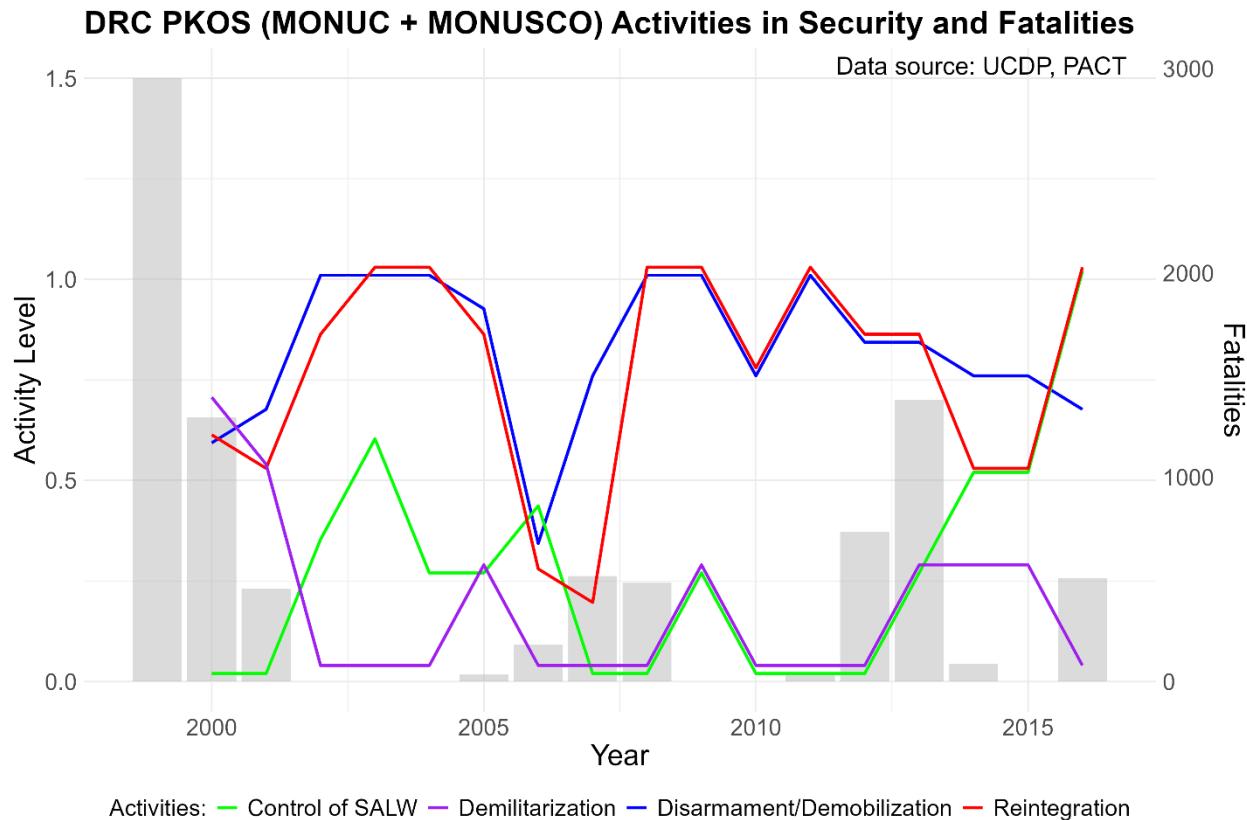
The graph displays the activity levels of MONUC and MONUSCO, the United Nations peacekeeping missions in the DRC, over time alongside the number of conflict-related fatalities. The activity level is represented by the share of months in a given year during which the missions performed tasks in the specified areas. As explained in the codebook, this indicator is derived from monthly dummy variables, where a value of 1 indicates that the mission reported activity in that area. The yearly activity level is the sum of these monthly indicators, reflecting the intensity of the mission's work in each security area.

The bar chart in the background shows the number of fatalities each year on the right-hand vertical axis, while the lines in different colors represent the activity levels of the missions in each area on the left-hand vertical axis. The years without fatalities data indicate periods when the conflict was considered inactive.

*Interpretation:*

-Activity Levels: The lines for each type of activity show how intensively the peacekeeping missions engaged in specific tasks. For example, periods with high levels of activity in SALW control, Demilitarization, Demobilization/Disarmament, or Reintegration are indicated by peaks in the respective lines.

-Fatalities: The bar chart reveals the annual fatalities, allowing us to observe any potential correlation between the intensity of peacekeeping activities and the number of deaths. Peaks in fatalities can be compared with the levels of different types of peacekeeping activities to identify any patterns or associations.

-Temporal Dynamics: The visualization shows how the intensity of peacekeeping activities and fatalities vary over time, highlighting periods of increased or decreased peacekeeping engagement and their potential impact on conflict intensity.

*Potential Applications:*

-Evaluating Effectiveness: By comparing the activity levels of different peacekeeping tasks with the number of fatalities, practitioners can explore which types of interventions may be more effective in reducing violence.

-Resource Allocation: This analysis can guide the allocation of resources to specific types of activities that appear to have a stronger impact on reducing conflict-related deaths.

-Strategic Planning: Understanding the temporal dynamics of peacekeeping activities and their correlation with fatalities can help in planning future missions and interventions, ensuring that efforts are concentrated in areas and periods where they can have the most significant impact.

-Policy Development: Policymakers can use these insights to develop policies that support the most effective peacekeeping strategies, promoting practices that have been shown to reduce fatalities and enhance security in conflict zones.

*Measurement:*

| Indicator | Variable Code | Source |
|---|---|---|
| Number of battle-related deaths in the conflict in the given year | ucdp_fatalities | Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) |
| The share of months in the year in which the relevant PKO missions for a specific conflict in a given year performed at least one task in the area of disarmament and demobilization. | pact_disarmdemob_total | Peacekeeping Activities Dataset (PACT) |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The share of months in the year in which the relevant PKO missions for a specific conflict in a given year performed at least one task in the area of control of small arms and light weapons. | pact_controlsalw_total | |
| The share of months in the year in which the relevant PKO missions for a specific conflict in a given year performed at least one task in the area of reintegration. | pact_reintegration_total | |
| The share of months in the year in which the relevant PKO missions for a specific conflict in a given year performed at least one task in the area of demilitarization. | pact_demil_total | |

Example 2: How does the military expenditure in peacekeeping operations (PKOs) correlate with conflict intensity?

**PKO Military Expenditure in the Previous Year vs. Conflict Fatalities in Current Year**
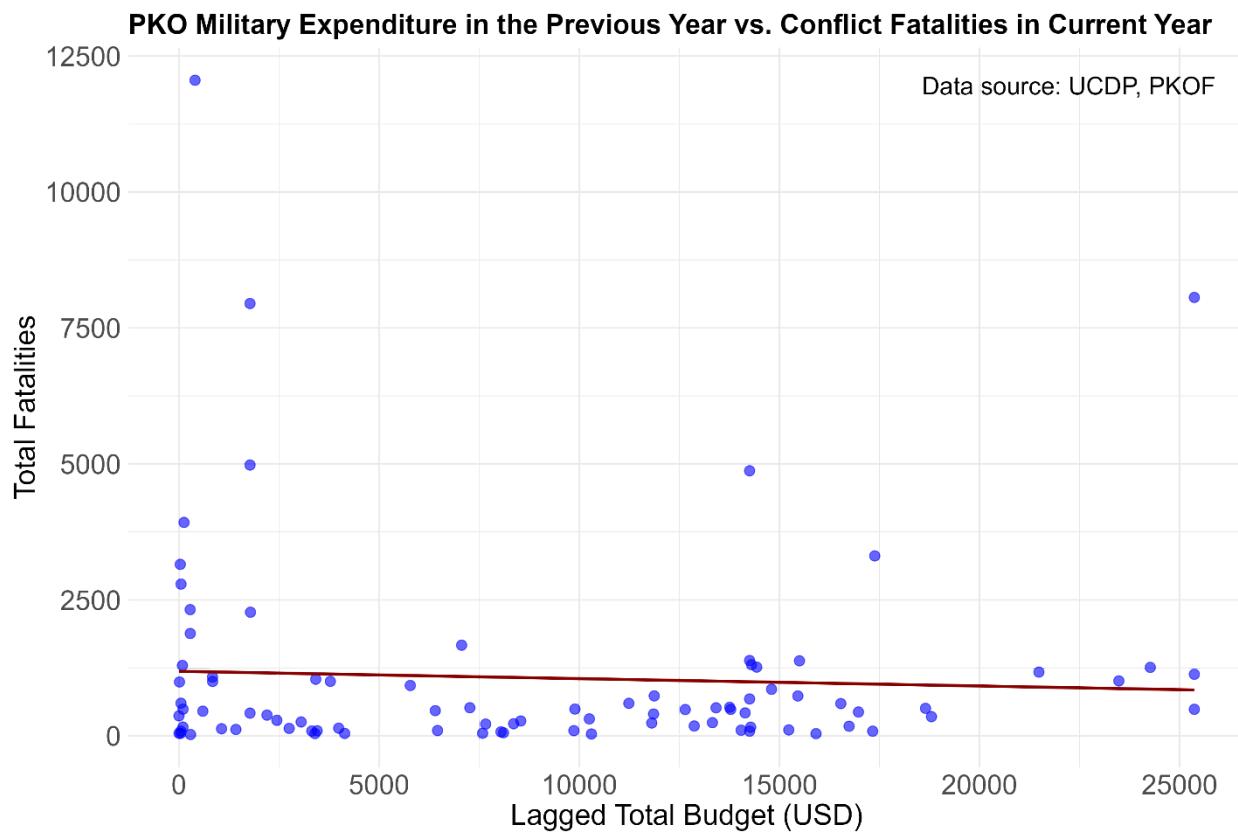


This scatter plot displays the relationship between the military budget of peacekeeping operations (lagged by one year, meaning the value corresponds to the previous year) and the yearly datalities attributed to the conflict. Each point on the graph represents an observation for a specific active conflict-year. The horizontal axis shows the lagged total budget in USD, while

the vertical axis shows the total fatalities for the corresponding year. A lowess smoothing line is included to highlight the trend.[2]

Lagging the military expenditure by one year means that the budget data used for each observation is from the previous year. This approach makes sense because the effects of financial investments in peacekeeping operations might not be immediate. It allows us to explore if there is a delayed impact of military expenditure on reducing or increasing conflict intensity. By considering a lag, we aim to capture the potential delayed effect of resource allocation on the ground.

One observation is removed from this visualization to make the graph more interpretable. The dropped observation corresponds to Syria in 2012 when the UN established the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS). The fatalities in Syria for 2012 were exceptionally high, making the visualization difficult to interpret with the rest of the data. Removing this outlier helps to provide a clearer view of the overall trends and relationships in the data.

*Interpretation:*

-General Trend: The lowess smoothing line indicates a slight downward slope, suggesting a weak negative relationship between lagged military expenditure and total fatalities. This implies that higher military budgets in peacekeeping operations might be associated with slightly lower conflict intensity in the following year.

-Outliers and Variability: While most data points cluster towards the lower end of both axes, there are a few points scattered higher along the fatalities axis. This variability indicates that in some cases, even with significant military budgets, conflict intensity remains high.

-Complex Relationships: The lack of a clear trend may point to the complexity of factors influencing conflict intensity, beyond just the financial investment in peacekeeping operations. Other variables such as the nature of the conflict, the effectiveness of interventions, and the political context may play significant roles.

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[2] LOWESS smoothing works by fitting simple lines to small sections of the data, then joining these lines to create a smooth curve that shows the overall trend. It doesn't force the data into a straight line; instead, it adapts to the shape of the data, providing a more accurate representation of how peacekeeping expenditures might relate to conflict fatalities over time.

*Potential Applications:*

-Policy Adjustment: Policymakers can use this information to re-evaluate the effectiveness of military expenditure in peacekeeping operations. The lack of a clear relationship suggests a need for a more nuanced approach.

-Further Research: Researchers can delve deeper into the factors that might explain the variability in conflict intensity, examining other interventions and contextual variables.

-Strategic Planning: Peacekeeping organizations can use these insights to design more effective interventions, considering not only financial investments but also other strategic and operational factors.

*Measurement:*

| Indicator | Variable Code | Source |
|---|---|---|
| Number of battle-related deaths in the conflict in the given year | ucdp_fatalities | Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) |
| In US dollars, the amount of money spent in the military component of the mission in the given year. | pkof_militaryexp | UN Peacekeeping Operations Financial Resources (PKOF) |

## Example 3: Does the Number of Military Peacekeepers Vary with the Status of a Conflict?

**Military Peacekeepers in MONUC and MONUSCO**
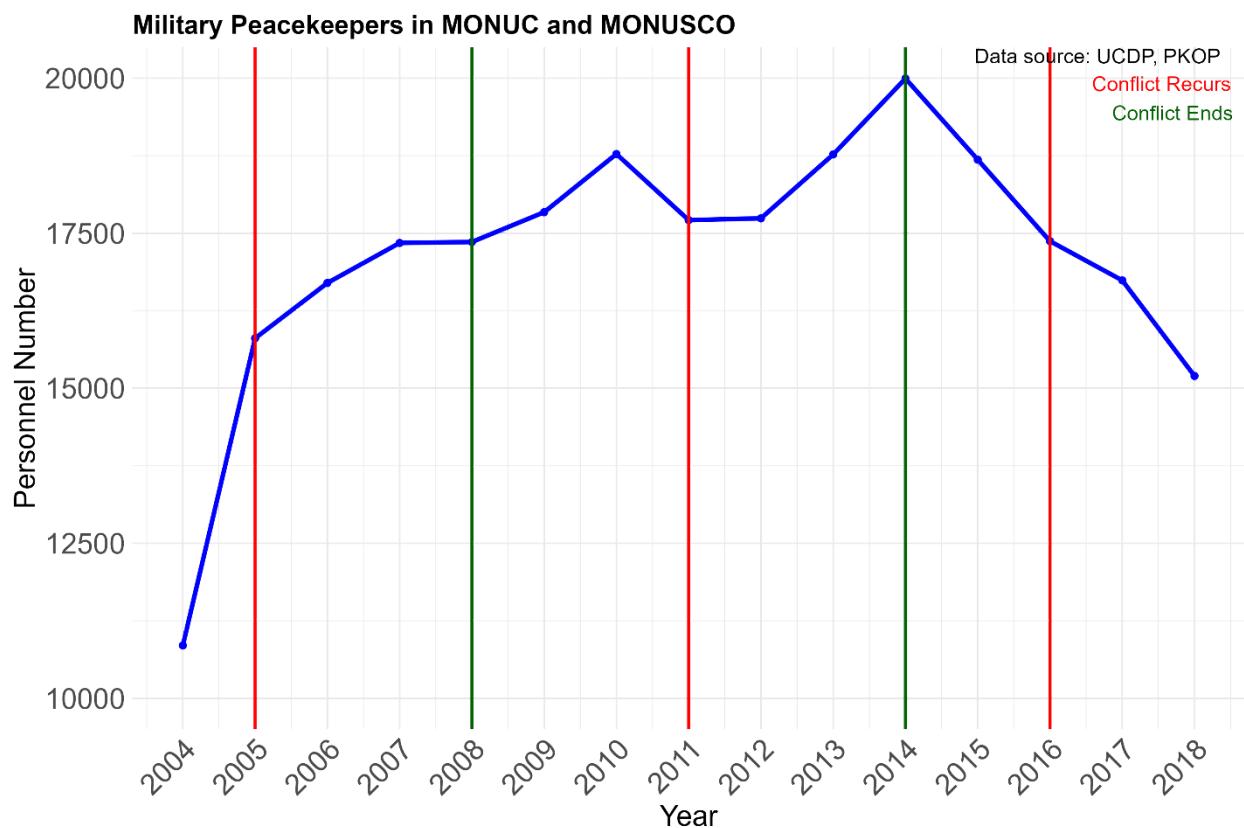


This visualization represents data from the conflict between the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and various rebel groups, including AFDL, RDC, and MLC. The blue line tracks the number of military peacekeepers deployed over time to the UN peacekeeping missions MONUC and, then, MONUSCO. Although the conflict and peacekeeping missions began before the period shown, data on peacekeeping personnel from the UN Peacekeeping Operations Personnel dataset (PKOP) is only consistently available from 2005 due to changes in UN reporting formats. Vertical lines indicate significant changes in conflict status: green lines represent years when the conflict experienced an end to active fighting, and red lines indicate years when fighting recurred. The graph can highlight how peacekeeping strategies are adjusted in response to conflict dynamics. Significant increases or decreases in peacekeeper numbers following red or green lines can indicate strategic decisions made by the UN in response to the evolving situation on the ground.

*Interpretation:*

-Initial Surge and Conflict Recurrence: The number of military peacekeepers deployed in the DRC increased significantly from 2004 to 2005, reflecting an initial surge aimed at stabilizing the conflict. However, the red vertical line in 2005 indicates a recurrence of conflict, suggesting that despite the increased presence of peacekeepers, the situation remained volatile.

-Sustained High Levels and Conflict Endings: From 2005 to 2008, peacekeeper numbers remained relatively high, indicating sustained international efforts to manage the conflict. The green vertical line in 2008 marks a period when the conflict ceased, which coincides with a high deployment of peacekeepers. This suggests that a substantial peacekeeping presence may have contributed to reducing violence and achieving a temporary cessation of conflict.

-Fluctuations in Peacekeeper Numbers: The number of peacekeepers fluctuated between 2009 and 2014, with peaks around 2011 and 2014, corresponding to renewed fighting in 2011 and a period of reduced conflict activity in 2014. These fluctuations may indicate adaptive responses to the conflict's changing intensity, with peacekeeper numbers increasing during periods of heightened violence and decreasing during lulls.

-Gradual Decline and Final Recurrence: After peaking in 2014, the number of peacekeepers gradually declined, reflecting a possible shift in strategy or resource reallocation. The final red line in 2016 indicates another conflict recurrence, after which peacekeeper numbers continued to decrease. This pattern may suggest challenges in maintaining long-term peace or the need for continuous international presence to prevent conflict resurgence. Despite periods of high peacekeeper deployment, conflicts can recur, as seen with the repeated red lines. This highlights the challenges in achieving long-term stability and the potential need for more comprehensive peacebuilding strategies that go beyond military intervention to address underlying causes of conflict.

*Potential Applications:*

-Policy and Strategic Planning: Policymakers and international organizations can use these insights to refine peacekeeping strategies, ensuring that deployments are adaptive and responsive to the evolving conflict landscape. Emphasizing sustained engagement and

comprehensive peacebuilding measures can improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions.

-Resource Allocation: Efficient resource allocation is critical for the success of peacekeeping operations. Understanding the relationship between peacekeeper numbers and conflict dynamics can help optimize the use of limited resources, directing them where they are most needed to prevent conflict recurrence and support long-term peace.

-Monitoring and Evaluation: Continuous monitoring and evaluation of peacekeeping missions are essential to assess their impact and make necessary adjustments. Visualizations like this one provide valuable data for evaluating the success of interventions and identifying best practices.

-Advocacy: Advocacy groups can use this information to highlight the importance of international peacekeeping efforts and advocate for sustained support and funding. By demonstrating the positive impact of peacekeeping forces on reducing violence, they can garner greater international commitment to peacebuilding initiatives.

*Measurement:*

| Indicator | Variable Code | Source |
|---|---|---|
| The date, as precise as possible, when the current or most recent active episode started. | ucdp_epstart_date | Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) |
| The date, as precise as possible, when the current active episode ended. | ucdp_epend_date | |
| Number of Military Peacekeepers. | pkop_military | UN Peacekeeping Operations Personnel (PKOP) |

Example 4: Which countries were allocated the largest budgets by the UN Peacebuilding Fund? Which countries were allocated the largest funds per fatality?

**Total Fatalities by Country 2015-2020**
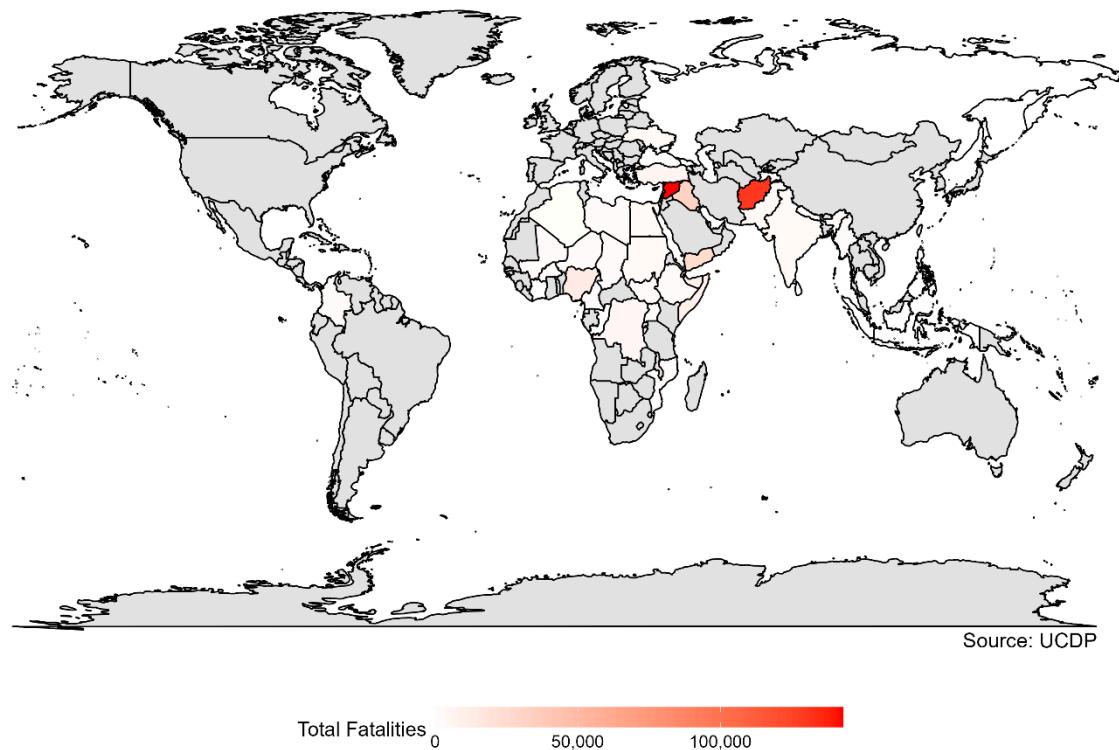


This map visualizes the total number of conflict-related fatalities by country over the period from 2015 to 2020. This period is selected to align with the available data on PBF budgets, ensuring a relevant comparison. Each country is colored according to the aggregated number of fatalities, with a gradient scale indicating the intensity of fatalities (from light yellow for fewer fatalities to dark red for higher fatalities). Countries with no data or no reported fatalities are shown in gray.

**Aggregated Peacebuilding Fund Projects Budget (2015-2020)**



Source: PBF

Total Budget  0    25,000,000  50,000,000  75,000,000  100,000,000
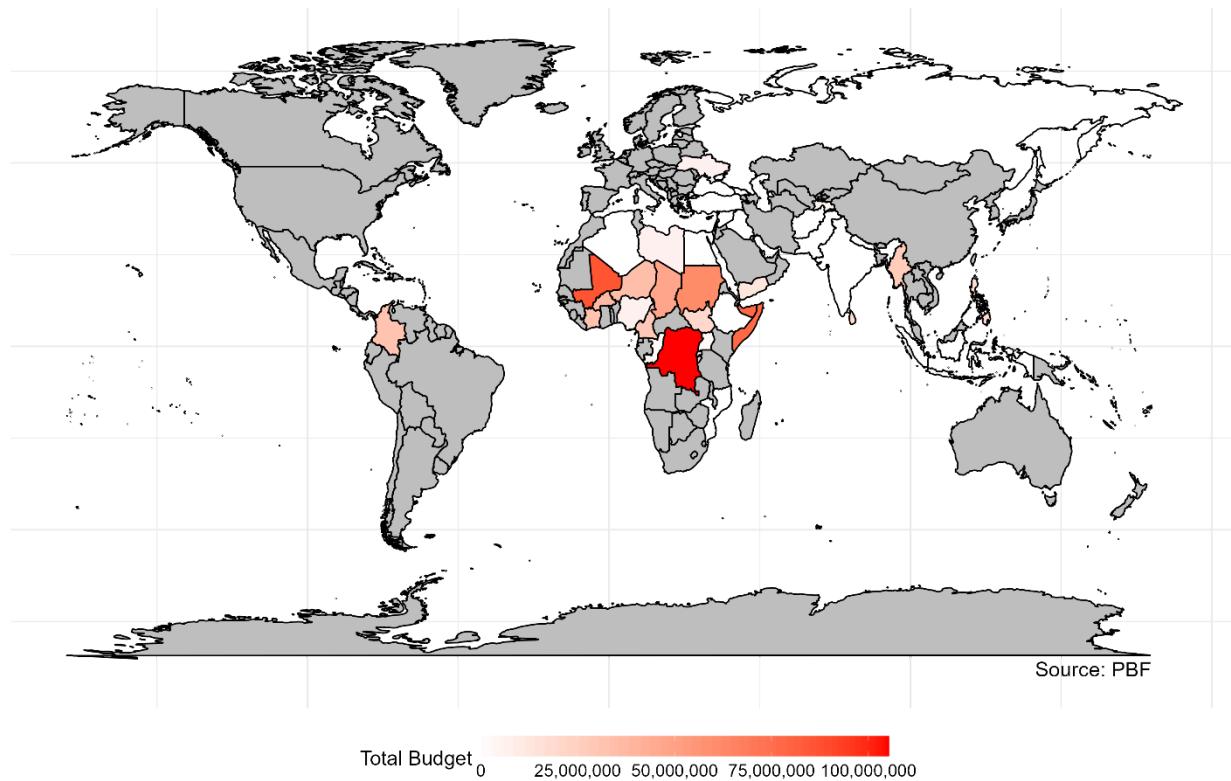
This second map displays countries colored according to the aggregated value of the approved budgets for Peacebuilding Fund projects from 2015 to 2020. Countries with higher budgets are shown in darker shades of red, while those with lower budgets are in lighter shades. The data is drawn from the number and approved budget of all PBF projects for each conflict-affected country over the specified period. The Peacebuilding Fund is a key instrument of the United Nations, designed to invest in prevention and peacebuilding efforts globally. It supports joint UN responses to critical peacebuilding opportunities, bridging development, humanitarian, human rights, and peacebuilding pillars. The Fund collaborates with various partners, including national and subnational authorities, civil society organizations, regional organizations, and multilateral banks, to address pressing peacebuilding needs. This map reflects the Fund's financial commitment to different countries over a five-year period, providing a snapshot of its global impact and highlighting both the allocation and gaps in funding.

**Aggregated Peacebuilding Fund Projects Budget per Fatality (2015-2020)**



Source: UCDP; PBF

Budget per Fatality  0    20,000    40,000    60,000
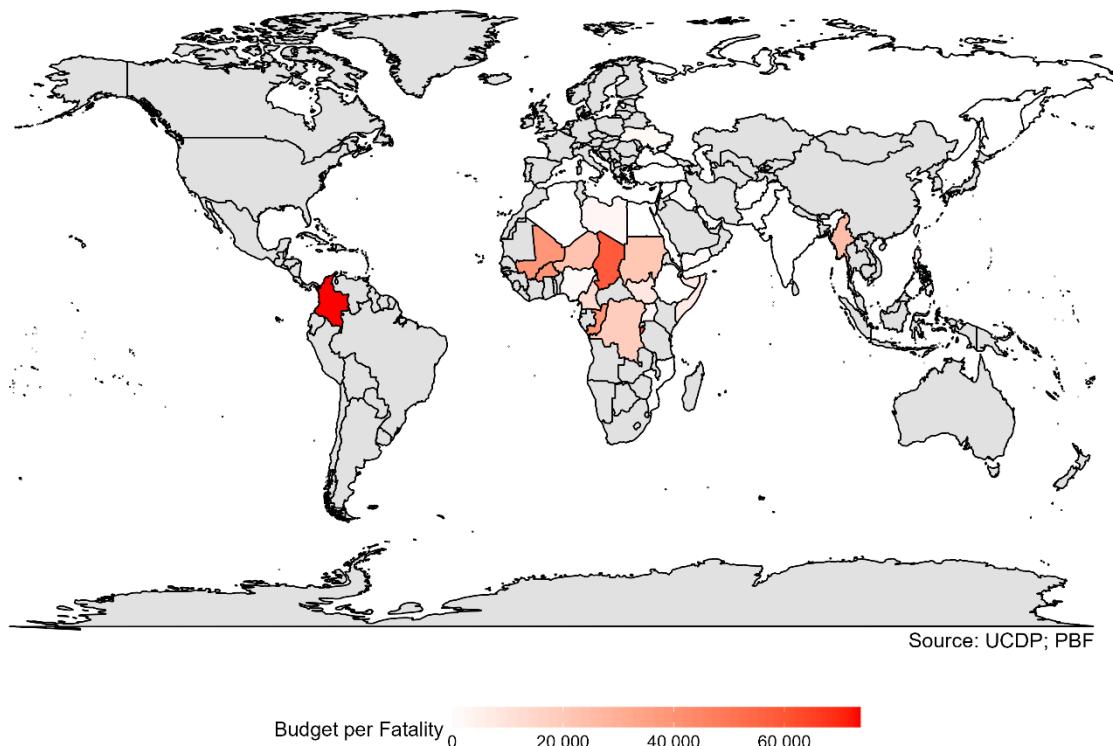
This last map illustrates the proportion of Peacebuilding Fund budgets to the total number of fatalities by country from 2015 to 2020. To create this visualization, the total PBF project budgets for each country over the given period were aggregated. This data was then divided by the total number of conflict-related fatalities for the same period to compute a ratio of budget per fatality. Countries are colored on a gradient scale, with darker shades of red indicating higher budgets allocated per fatality. Countries with no data or no reported fatalities are shown in gray.

*Interpretation:*

-High Budget per Fatality Countries: Colombia stands out with the darkest red, indicating it received the highest budget from the Peacebuilding Fund relative to its conflict-related fatalities. The high budget per fatality indicates substantial financial resources allocated to peacebuilding efforts despite a potentially lower fatality count, suggesting other considerations such as political significance, potential for successful intervention, or strategic priorities.

-Moderate Budget per Fatality Countries: Other countries, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, and Somalia, show medium to dark shades of red, indicating they also received substantial budgets relative to their fatalities. These countries have been known for

their prolonged conflicts and significant peacebuilding challenges, which may explain the higher budget allocations per fatality.

-Low to No Budget per Fatality Countries: Several countries in Africa and Asia show lighter shades or no coloring, indicating lower or no budget allocations from the Peacebuilding Fund relative to their conflict-related fatalities. This could point to regions that either have less intense conflict situations, received fewer resources relative to their needs, or have been overlooked in terms of funding allocation.

Potential Applications:

-Resource Allocation: The insights derived from these data and visualizations can significantly enhance how policymakers allocate peacebuilding resources globally. By examining the total number of fatalities alongside budget allocations and the budget per fatality, stakeholders can identify discrepancies and imbalances in funding allocation. This proportional approach helps highlight countries where substantial financial resources are dedicated relative to the human toll of conflict, and conversely, where fatalities are high but funding is relatively low. It underscores the need for a more balanced and needs-based approach to resource distribution.

-Strategic Planning: The data insights can guide strategic planning for future peacebuilding efforts by pinpointing areas that have received significant funding and those that have not. By identifying countries with high fatalities but low funding per fatality, stakeholders can prioritize regions that may require increased resources to address the root causes of conflict and support sustainable peace processes. These insights inform decisions on where additional resources might be necessary to achieve peacebuilding objectives effectively.

-Funding Advocacy: NGOs and advocacy groups can leverage these insights to highlight funding gaps and advocate for more balanced resource allocation. By showcasing regions that are underfunded relative to their conflict-related fatalities, they can push for a more equitable distribution of peacebuilding resources. This advocacy is crucial for ensuring that regions with significant human suffering receive the attention and resources needed to mitigate conflict and build peace.

-Monitoring and Evaluation: By comparing the funding data with on-the-ground outcomes, stakeholders can assess the impact of these investments and make informed adjustments to their strategies. The proportional budget per fatality insights, in particular, provide a lens to evaluate whether the financial commitments are translating into meaningful reductions in conflict

and human suffering. This encourages a continuous assessment of how well resources are being utilized to achieve peacebuilding goals and informs future funding decisions.

*Measurement:*

| Indicator | Variable Code | Source |
|---|---|---|
| Number of battle-related deaths in the conflict in the given year | ucdp_fatalities | Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) |
| The approved budget of all Peacebuilding Fund Projects approved for the conflict location country in the given year | pbf_projects_budget | Peace & Security Data: Peacebuilding Fund Projects (PBF) |

Example 5: What thematic areas has the UN Peacebuilding Fund prioritized through its budget allocation? What are the top destinations for each thematic category of funding? How has expenditure across thematic areas changed over time?
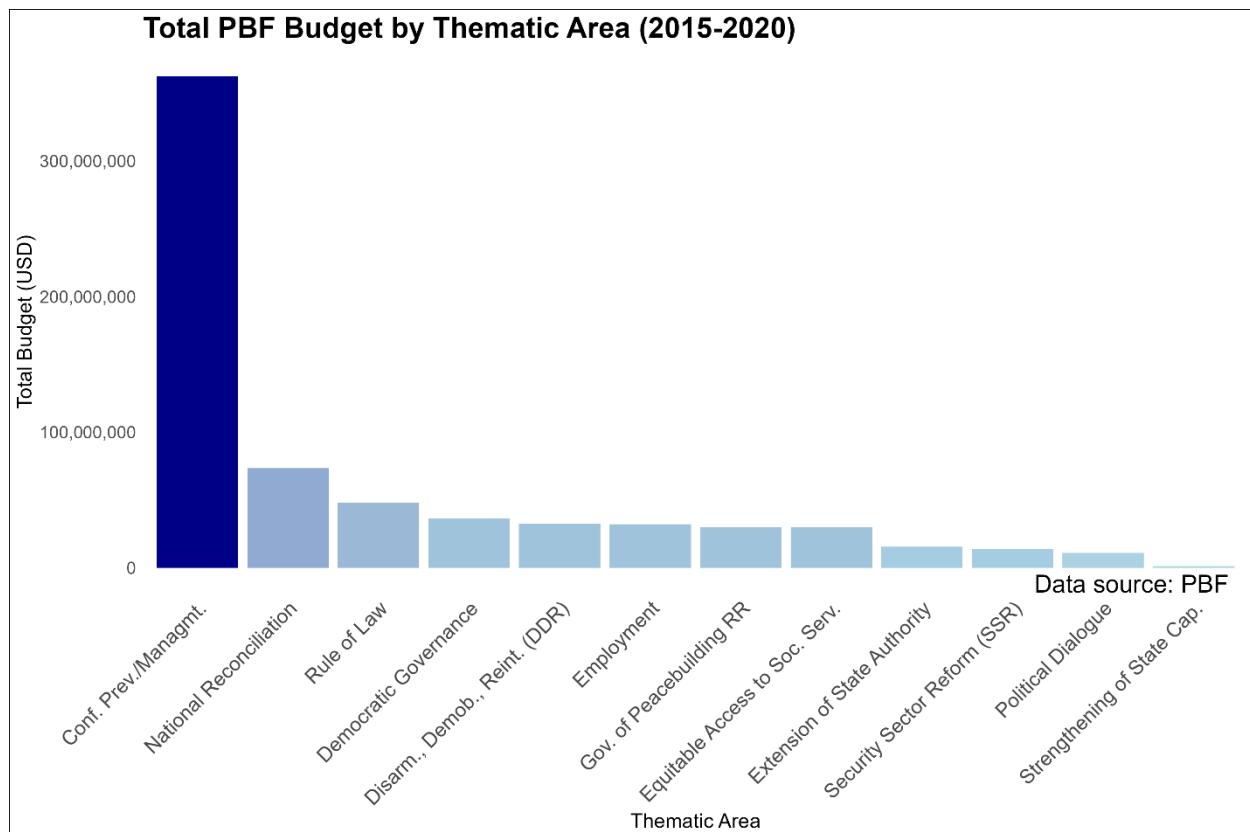


This bar plot shows the total Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) budget allocated to various thematic areas from 2015 to 2020. To construct this plot, the data was first selected for the years 2015 to 2020, aligning with the available data on PBF budgets to ensure relevant comparisons. The focus was on variables representing specific thematic areas of PBF spending. The values for each thematic area were aggregated to obtain the total budget over the specified period. The bars are colored using a gradient, with darker colors representing higher values. This visual distinction helps to quickly identify which thematic areas received the most funding.

**Top 10 Countries by PBF Funding for Each Thematic Area (2015-2020)**



Data source: PBF
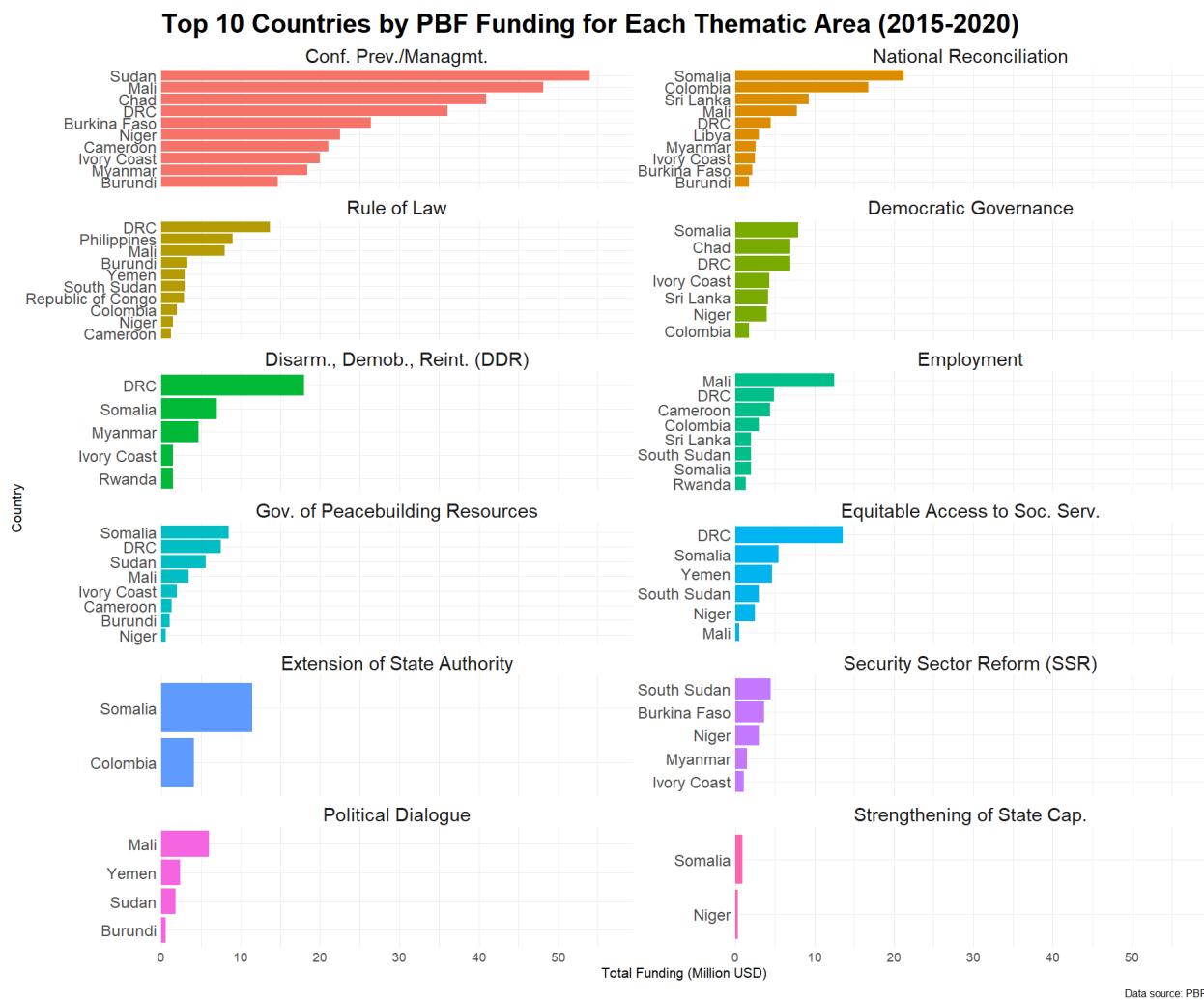
This visualization displays the top 10 countries that received the most funding from the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) across various thematic areas between 2015 and 2020. By constructing the plot in this manner, it becomes easier to see which countries are the largest recipients of PBF funding within each thematic area, highlighting the focus and priority of peacebuilding efforts globally. The data was aggregated to show total funding for each thematic area. Countries with zero funding were excluded to streamline the visualization. Each subplot allows for a clear comparison within thematic areas, while the use of different colors helps differentiate between these areas. This approach helps identify trends and patterns in funding distribution, offering insights into which countries and thematic areas are prioritized by the PBF.

**Yearly Total Funding by PBF Category (2015-2020)**



Data source: PBF
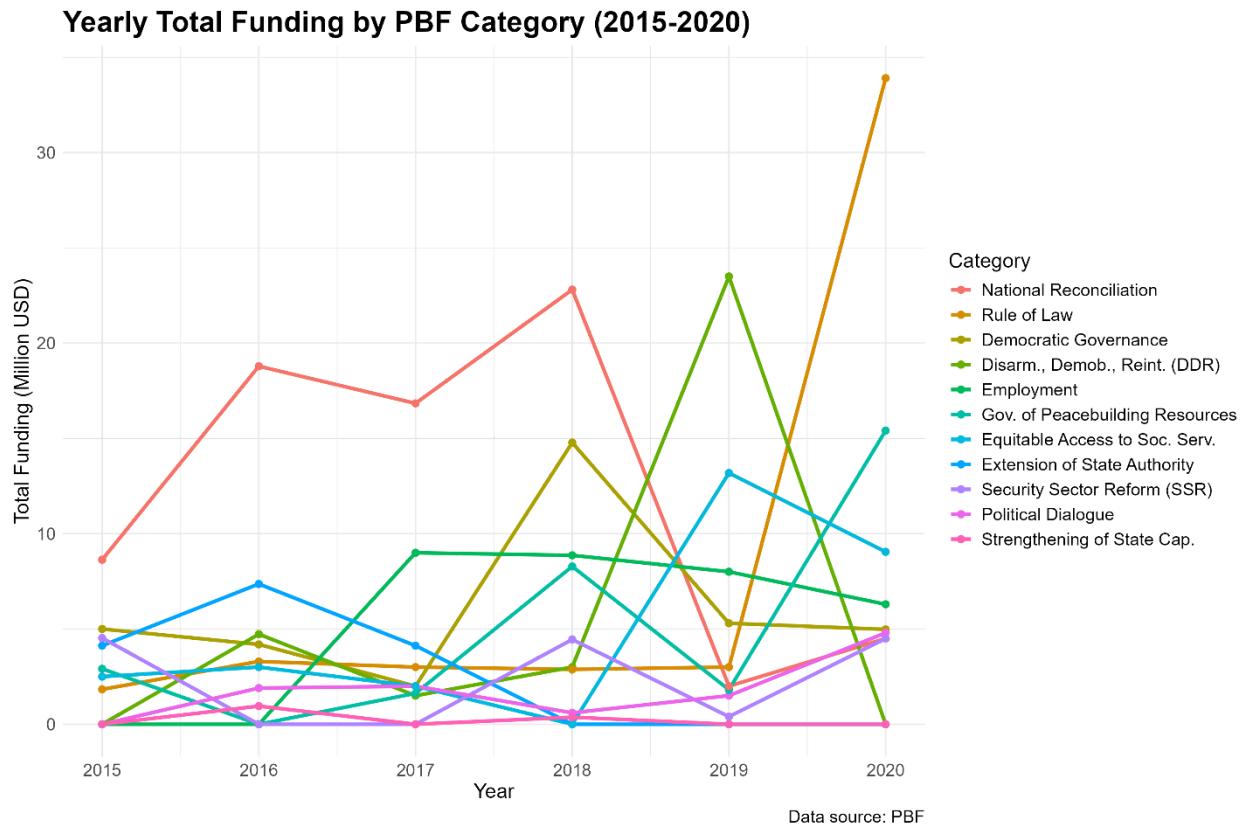
This line plot shows the yearly total of funding allocated to different thematic areas by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) from 2015 to 2020, excluding the category "Conflict Prevention/Management" due to its significantly larger budget compared to other categories. Each line represents one of the remaining eleven thematic areas, with different colors used to distinguish between them. The data was first filtered for the specified years and then aggregated annually to show the total funding per thematic area each year. This visualization allows for a clear comparison of how funding allocations have changed over time across different thematic areas. By using a line plot, it becomes easier to identify trends, patterns, and potential shifts in funding priorities, helping to understand the dynamics of peacebuilding efforts and the strategic decisions made over the years.

*Interpretation:*

-Top Priorities: The bar plot reveals that the "Conflict Prevention/Management" thematic area received the highest funding, as indicated by the darkest bar. This suggests that significant emphasis is placed on preventing and managing conflicts, highlighting the importance of proactive measures in peacebuilding efforts.

-Substantial Funding: Other areas such as "National Reconciliation," "Rule of Law," and "Democratic Governance" also received considerable funding. These areas are crucial for establishing and maintaining peace, indicating a comprehensive approach to peacebuilding that includes both immediate conflict management and long-term institutional development.

-Lower Funding: Thematic areas like "Strengthening of Essential National State Capacity" and "Political Dialogue" received comparatively lower funding. This might reflect either a lesser perceived need or a strategic focus on other interventions believed to have a more immediate impact on peacebuilding.

-Geographic Allocation: The visualization of the top ten countries by PBF funding within each thematic area shows the geographic distribution of these funds. It highlights specific countries that received the most funding, providing insights into regional priorities and the global allocation of peacebuilding resources.

-Trends Over Time: The line plot illustrating yearly totals of funding within each category shows trends and fluctuations in funding allocations over the years. This plot excludes the "Conflict Prevention/Management" category to allow for clearer comparisons among other categories, as its higher values would make it difficult to compare.

*Potential Applications:*

-Resource Allocation: Organizations and policymakers can use these insights to understand the current distribution of peacebuilding resources globally. By identifying thematic areas and countries that receive more or less funding, stakeholders can make informed decisions on where to allocate additional resources, ensuring that efforts are directed towards areas with the greatest need.

-Strategic Planning: The visualizations serve as valuable tools for strategic planning in peacebuilding initiatives. By showing which thematic areas and countries receive the most funding, these plots provide a basis for prioritizing future efforts. Organizations can align their strategies with funding priorities to ensure their initiatives are well-supported and effectively targeted.

-Funding Advocacy: NGOs and advocacy groups can use these visualizations to highlight funding gaps and advocate for a more equitable distribution of peacebuilding resources. By showcasing underfunded thematic areas and countries, they can make a compelling case for redirecting or increasing funds to these regions, ensuring a balanced approach to peacebuilding.

-Monitoring and Evaluation: These plots can be used to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of PBF investments. By comparing funding data with on-the-ground outcomes, stakeholders can assess the impact of these investments and make informed adjustments to their strategies. Continuous monitoring helps ensure that allocated resources are used effectively to achieve peacebuilding objectives.

-Program Development: Understanding the distribution of PBF budgets across thematic areas can aid in developing targeted programs. For example, if certain areas like "Strengthening of Essential National State Capacity" receive less funding, organizations can develop specialized programs to address these gaps. Additionally, by analyzing further data, organizations can observe the channels through which PBF funds are distributed, such as through UN agencies or civil society organizations. This detailed understanding can help optimize program design and implementation.

-Policy Formulation: Policymakers can use these insights to formulate policies that promote balanced and effective peacebuilding interventions. By understanding which thematic areas and countries are prioritized in terms of funding, they can develop policies that address neglected areas, ensuring a holistic approach to peacebuilding.

*Measurement:*

| Indicator | Variable Code | Source |
|---|---|---|
| The approved budget of all Peacebuilding Fund Projects approved for the conflict location country in | pbf_ssr_budget | Peace & Security Data: |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| the given year for which the focus area is listed as "Security Sector Reform". | | Peacebuilding Fund Projects (PBF) |
| The approved budget of all Peacebuilding Fund Projects approved for the conflict location country in the given year for which the focus area is listed as "Rule of Law". | pbf_rol_budget | |
| The approved budget of all Peacebuilding Fund Projects approved for the conflict location country in the given year for which the focus area is listed as "Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration". | pbf_ddr_budget | |
| The approved budget of all Peacebuilding Fund Projects approved for the conflict location country in the given year for which the focus area is listed as "Political Dialogue". | pbf_dialogue_budget | |
| The approved budget of all Peacebuilding Fund Projects approved for the conflict location country in the given year for which the focus area is listed as "National Reconciliation". | pbf_reconcile_budget | |
| The approved budget of all Peacebuilding Fund Projects approved for the conflict location country in the given year for which the focus area is listed as "Democratic Governance". | pbf_demgov_budget | |
| The approved budget of all Peacebuilding Fund Projects approved for the conflict location country in the given year for which the focus area is listed as "Conflict Prevention/Management". | pbf_confprev_budget | |
| The approved budget of all Peacebuilding Fund Projects approved for the conflict location country in the given year for which the focus area is listed as "Employment". | pbf_employ_budget | |
| The approved budget of all Peacebuilding Fund Projects approved for the conflict location country in the given year for which the focus area is listed as "Equitable Access to Social Services". | pbf_socserv_budget | |
| The approved budget of all Peacebuilding Fund Projects approved for the conflict location country in the given year for which the focus area is listed as "Strengthening of Essential National State Capacity". | pbf_statecap_budget | |
| The approved budget of all Peacebuilding Fund Projects approved for the conflict location country in the given year for which the focus area is listed as "Strengthening of Essential National State Capacity". | pbf_authext_budget | |
| The approved budget of all Peacebuilding Fund Projects approved for the conflict location country in the given year for which the focus area is listed as "Governance of Peacebuilding Resources (including PBF Secretariats)". | pbf_pbresources_budget | |

Example 6: What is the relationship between the number of UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions mentioning an ongoing conflict and the number of fatalities in that conflict? What is the geographical distribution of the UNSC attention?



**Scatterplot of Yearly Count of UNSC Resolutions vs. Yearly Fatalities**

Data source: UCDP; RDCS
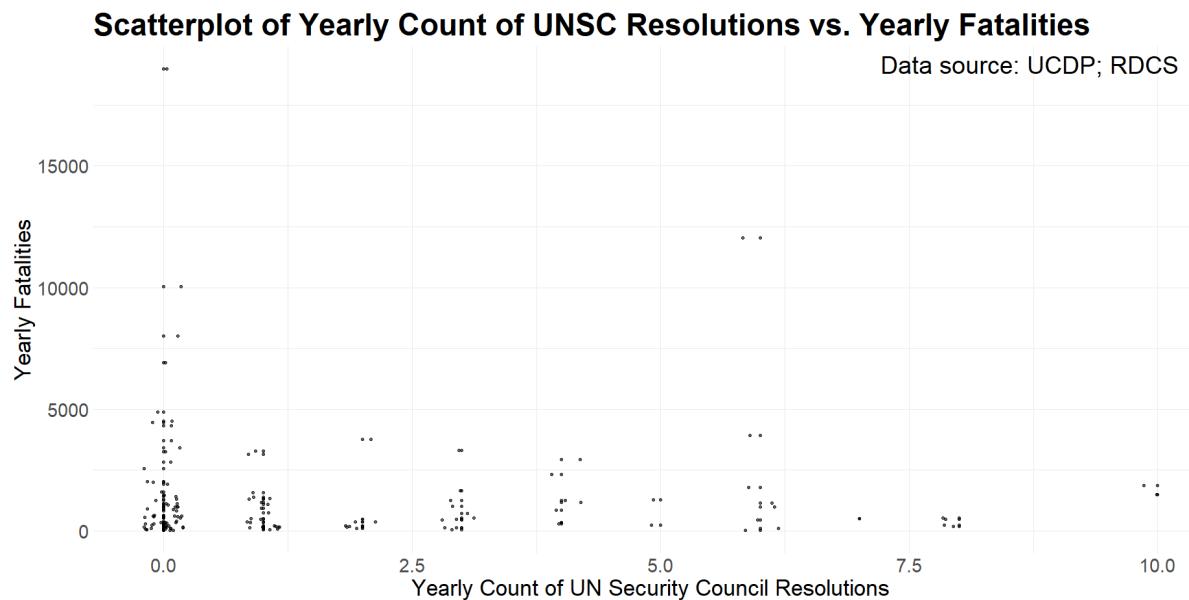
This scatterplot illustrates the relationship between the number of UN Security Council resolutions that mention the country in which a conflict occurs (horizontal axis) and the yearly fatalities recorded for the conflict (vertical axis) during the entire period covered by our dataset. Each point represents an active conflict-year observation. The horizontal axis indicates the count of Security Council resolutions, while the vertical axis shows the number of fatalities. The data on country mentions in UNSC resolutions was collected from official UN datasets of Security Council records. Using a comprehensive dictionary of possible country name variations, statistical software identified resolutions mentioning each country in the resolution's description of its topic and subject. It shows that the majority of conflicts have low numbers of UNSC resolutions (mostly between 0 and 2) and varying fatalities. A few conflicts have higher resolution counts, with some associated with high fatalities, though these are relatively rare.

**Number of UNSC Resolutions by Country of Focus**



Data source: RDCS

UNSC Resolutions  0    50    100    150    200
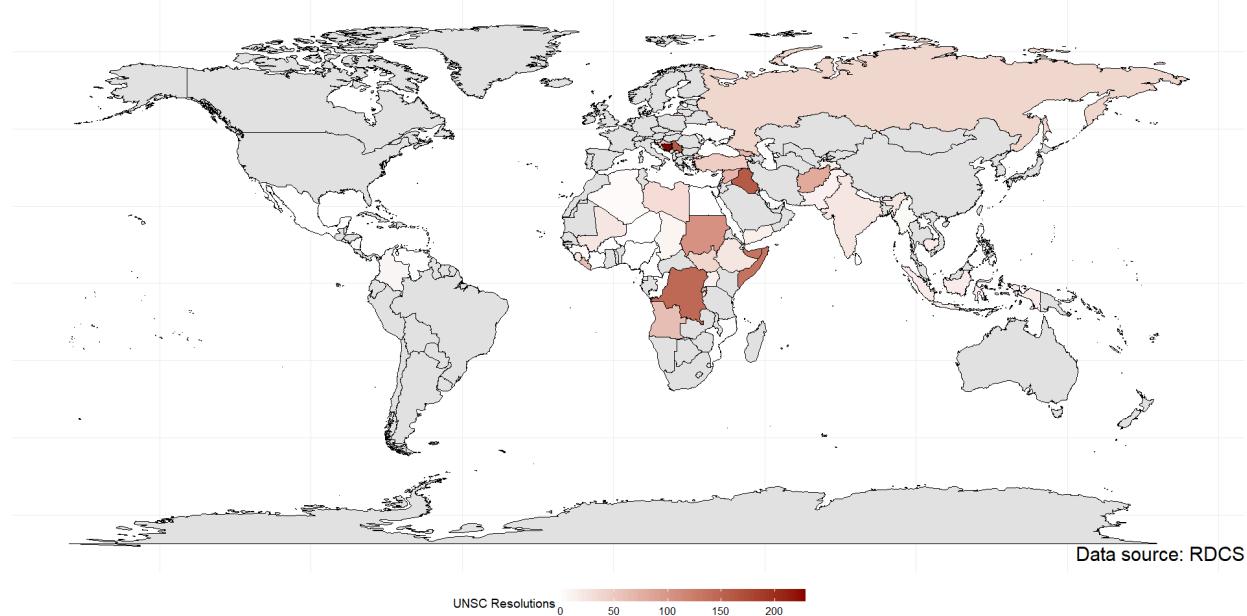
This map displays the number of UNSC resolutions by the country of focus. Each country is shaded according to the total number of UNSC resolutions mentioning that country. The darker shades of red indicate a higher number of resolutions, highlighting countries that have been the focus of more UNSC activity.

*Interpretation:*

-Concentration of Resolutions: The scatterplot shows that the majority of conflicts have a low yearly count of UN Security Council resolutions. However, there are a few outliers with a higher number of resolutions, which aligns with the countries listed having the highest cumulative resolutions. Countries like Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Serbia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Somalia have received a significant number of resolutions. This indicates a high level of international diplomatic attention on these countries, likely due to the intensity and prolonged nature of their conflicts.

-Correlation between Resolutions and Fatalities: The scatterplot reveals that many conflicts with high fatalities do not necessarily correlate with a high count of resolutions. For instance, some conflicts with over 10,000 yearly fatalities have fewer than five resolutions. This suggests that high casualty rates alone do not drive the number of resolutions; other factors such as geopolitical interest and strategic importance may play a role. On the other hand, countries with a high number of resolutions tend to have varying levels of fatalities, indicating that resolutions might be more about maintaining peace and stability rather than just reacting to fatalities.

-Geographic Focus: The map highlights that international diplomatic efforts, as measured by the number of UNSC resolutions, are concentrated in specific regions. Africa, the Middle East, and parts of Europe (such as the Balkans) are prominently featured. Countries like Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, and Serbia are notable for their high resolution numbers, reflecting sustained international engagement over time.

*Potential Applications:*

-Policy and Strategic Planning: The data can help policymakers understand which regions and conflicts receive the most attention from the international community. This can inform decisions on where to allocate resources and diplomatic efforts. Understanding the distribution of resolutions can help in evaluating the effectiveness of the UN's interventions and guiding future actions to areas that may be underrepresented.

-Resource Allocation: Organizations can use this information to target their peacebuilding and humanitarian efforts more effectively. By identifying countries with high resolution counts, they can align their programs with international priorities and potentially leverage additional support. The analysis can also help identify countries with high fatalities but lower international attention, highlighting areas that may need increased focus.

-Advocacy and Awareness: Advocacy groups can use these insights to raise awareness about the discrepancies between fatalities and international attention. They can campaign for more balanced attention to conflicts that are highly lethal but underrepresented in UNSC resolutions. By showcasing the countries with the highest number of resolutions, advocacy efforts can push for sustained or increased diplomatic engagement to ensure long-term peace and stability.

-Conflict Analysis and Research: Researchers can delve deeper into the factors that drive the number of UNSC resolutions, beyond fatalities. This can include geopolitical interests, the presence of natural resources, or the strategic importance of certain regions. Comparative studies can be conducted to understand why some high-fatality conflicts receive fewer resolutions, providing insights into the political dynamics of international diplomacy.

*Measurement:*

| Indicator | Variable Code | Source |
|---|---|---|
| Number of battle-related deaths in the conflict in the given year | ucdp_fatalities | Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) |

| | | Peace & Security Data: Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council (RDSC) |
|---|---|---|
| The number of UN Security Council resolutions that mention the conflict location country in the resolution's content description. | rdsc_res_count | |

Example 7: How prevalent are bilateral versus mediated negotiations in efforts to resolve armed conflicts in Africa, and which types of actors are most frequently involved in mediating these peace negotiations? In which countries affected by armed conflicts are each type of mediators more frequently employed?

**Number of Bilateral and Mediated Negotiations**

## Number of Negotiation Rounds by Mediator Type
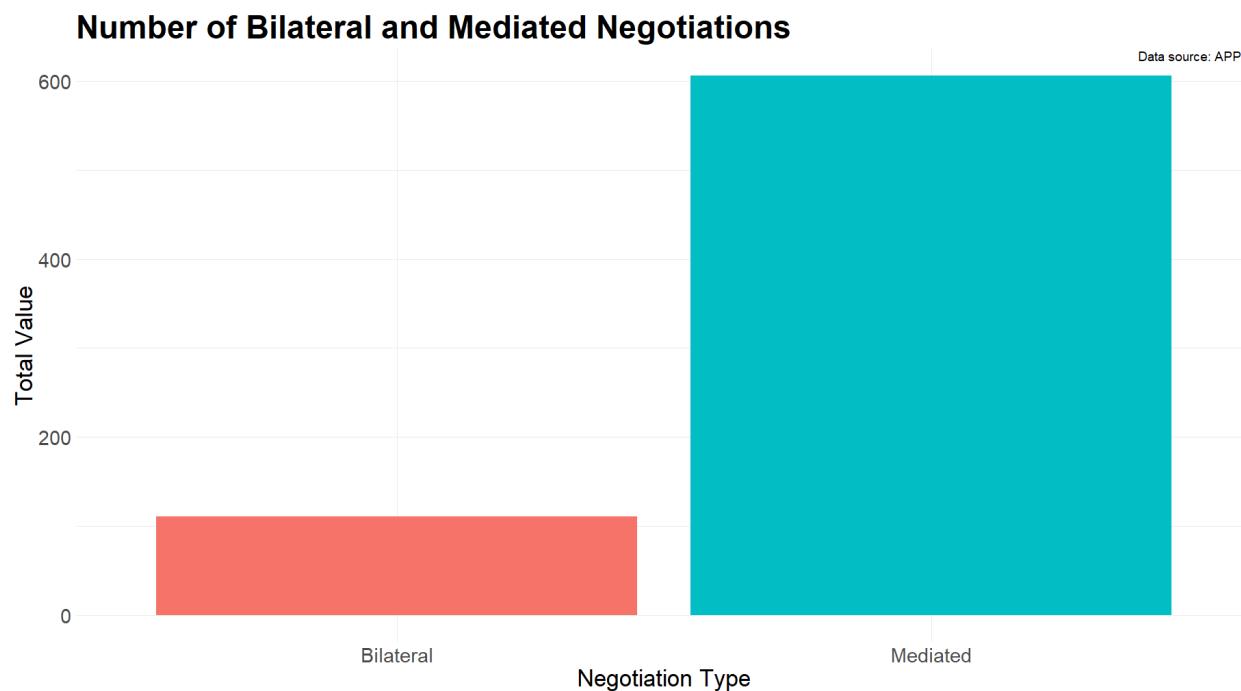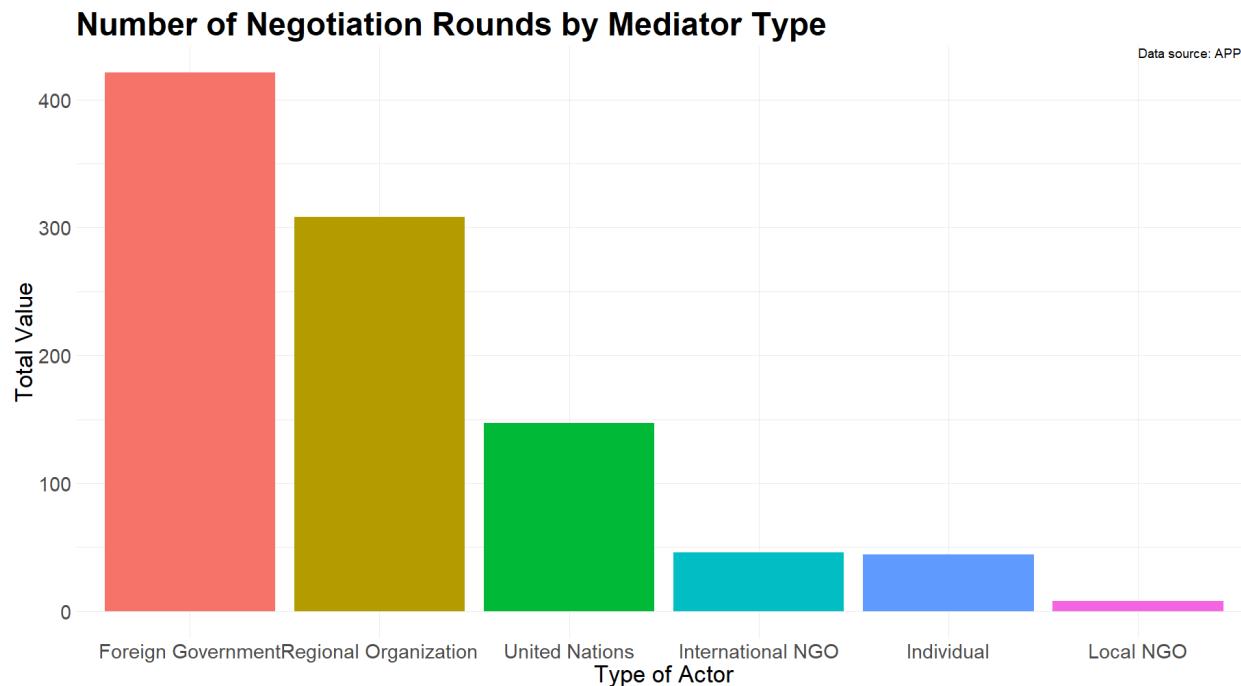


The first bar plot visualizes the total count of bilateral and mediated negotiation rounds in African armed conflicts over the 1990–2019 period. Data for these visualizations comes from the African Peace Processes dataset (APP) hence data is only available for African conflicts. Bilateral negotiations are rounds conducted directly between conflict parties without a third-party mediator, while mediated negotiations involve a third-party mediator aiming to help the conflict parties reach a settlement, requiring consent from both adversaries for involvement and outcome. The second bar plot represents the total count of negotiation rounds facilitated by different types of mediators in African conflicts. Mediator types include Foreign Governments, Regional Organizations, United Nations, International NGOs, Individuals, and Local NGOs.
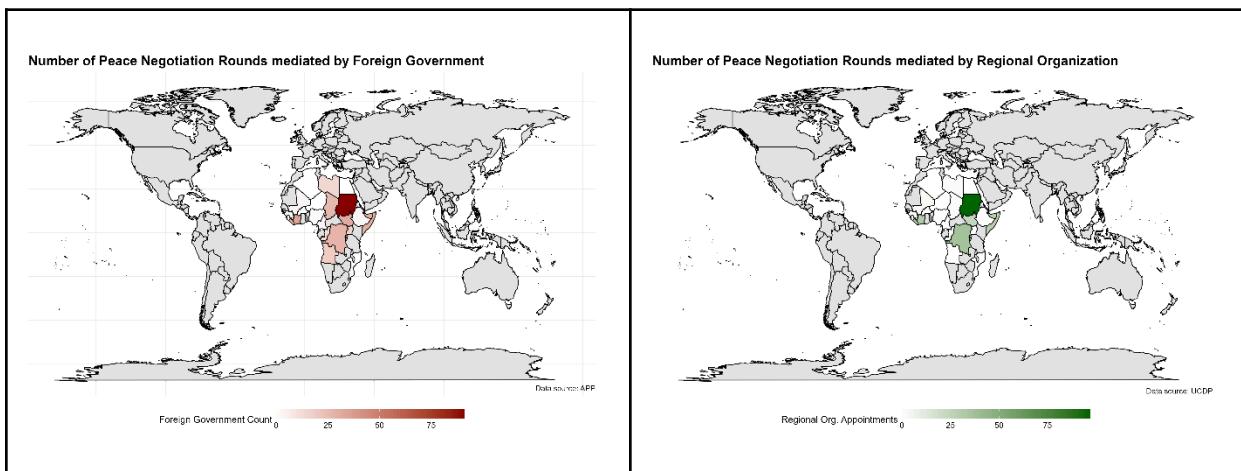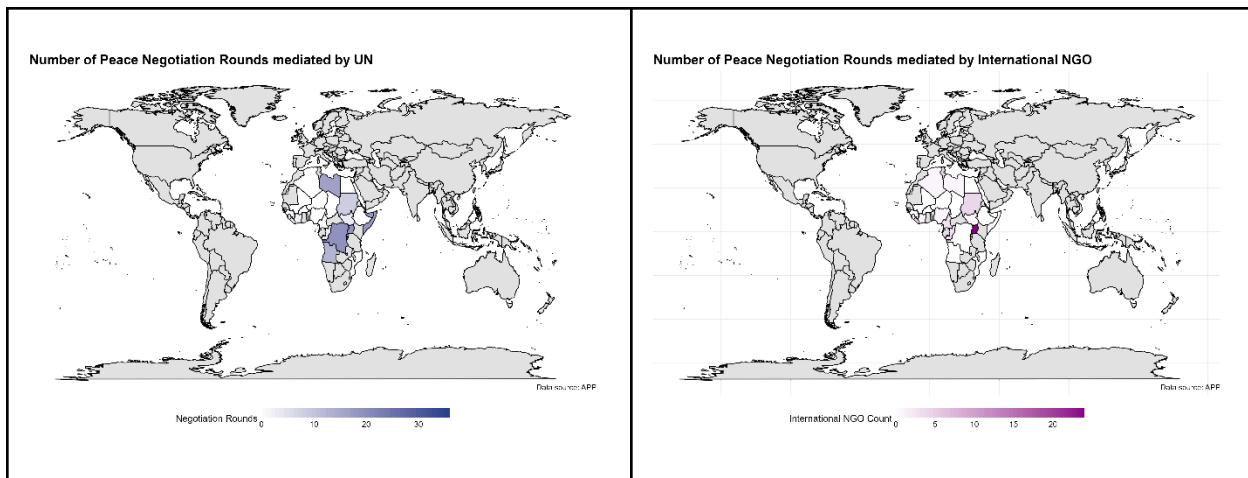
These maps collectively visualize the number of peace negotiation rounds mediated by different actors: international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), regional organizations, foreign governments, and the United Nations (UN). Each map uses a color gradient to represent the count of mediation rounds, with lighter shades indicating fewer rounds and darker shades representing more rounds. By comparing these maps, we can observe which countries have been the focal points of mediation efforts by different actors, providing insights into the geographic distribution and involvement of various mediators in peace processes. This combined visualization facilitates an understanding of the relative engagement of different mediators across conflict-affected regions, highlighting both the concentration of mediation efforts and potential gaps in international involvement. The data source for all maps is indicated as APP, ensuring consistency and reliability.

*Interpretations:*

-Mediated negotiations are significantly more common than bilateral negotiations. This suggests that third-party mediation is a preferred or necessary approach in resolving conflicts, perhaps due to the complexity and intensity of the conflicts, which require neutral parties to facilitate dialogue and negotiation.

-Foreign governments are the most frequent mediators, followed closely by regional organizations. The United Nations also plays a significant role, but international NGOs, individuals, and local NGOs are involved to a lesser extent. This indicates that higher-level actors (foreign governments and regional organizations) are more frequently engaged in peace negotiations compared to grassroots organizations or individual mediators.

-Geographical trends: Sudan shows a higher proportion of negotiation rounds mediated by regional organizations and foreign governments compared to other types, indicating significant regional and foreign governmental involvement in its peace processes. Somalia, DRC, and Uganda prominently featured in UN-mediated negotiations, reflecting the UN's extensive involvement in these conflict areas. This suggests a strategic focus of the UN in these countries' peace efforts. Uganda represents a large number of international NGO-mediated negotiations. Almost no other countries appear to have a significant number of INGO-mediated rounds, highlighting Uganda's unique position in attracting NGO mediation efforts.

*Potential Applications:*

-Targeted Support: Insights from these maps can guide international organizations and governments to allocate resources effectively. For instance, the concentration of regional organization mediation in Sudan may suggest the need for additional support to these regional efforts.

-Strategic Planning: Policymakers can use these insights to make informed decisions on where to focus future peacebuilding efforts. Understanding the key mediators in different countries can help tailor strategies to leverage the most influential actors.

-Advocacy and Fundraising: NGOs and advocacy groups can use these visualizations to identify gaps in mediation efforts. For example, countries with high foreign government mediation but low UN involvement may need advocacy for increased UN support.

-Monitoring and Evaluation: These maps provide a baseline for monitoring and evaluating the impact of different mediators over time. Stakeholders can track changes in mediation efforts and adjust strategies to enhance the effectiveness of interventions.

Collaboration and Partnerships: By identifying the key players in peace negotiations in specific countries, these insights can foster stronger collaborations and partnerships between different mediators, ensuring a more unified and effective approach to conflict resolution.

*Measurement:*

| Indicator | Variable Code | Source |
|-----------|---------------|--------|

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The number of rounds of bilateral negotiations that began for the conflict in a given year. | app_bilateral_negotiations | African Peace Processes dataset (APP) |
| The number of rounds of mediated negotiations that began for the conflict in a given year. | app_mediated_negotiations | |
| The number of negotiations that began for the conflict in a given year in which a local NGO was involved in mediation. | app_local_ngo | |
| The number of negotiations that began for the conflict in a given year in which an international NGO was involved in mediation. | app_international_ngo | |
| The number of negotiations that began for the conflict in a given year in which a regional organization was involved in mediation. | app_regional_organization | |
| The number of negotiations that began for the conflict in a given year in which the UN was involved in mediation. | app_un | |
| The number of negotiations that began for the conflict in a given year in which a foreign government was involved in mediation. | app_foreign_government | |
| The number of negotiations that began for the conflict in a given year in which an individual was involved in mediation. | app_individual | |

Example 8: What is the relationship between the amount of aid in the area of Conflict, Peace, and Security going into each conflict location country and the number of fatalities in that conflict?

**Scatterplot of Foreign Aid (Conflict, Peace, and Security) vs. Yearly Fatalities**
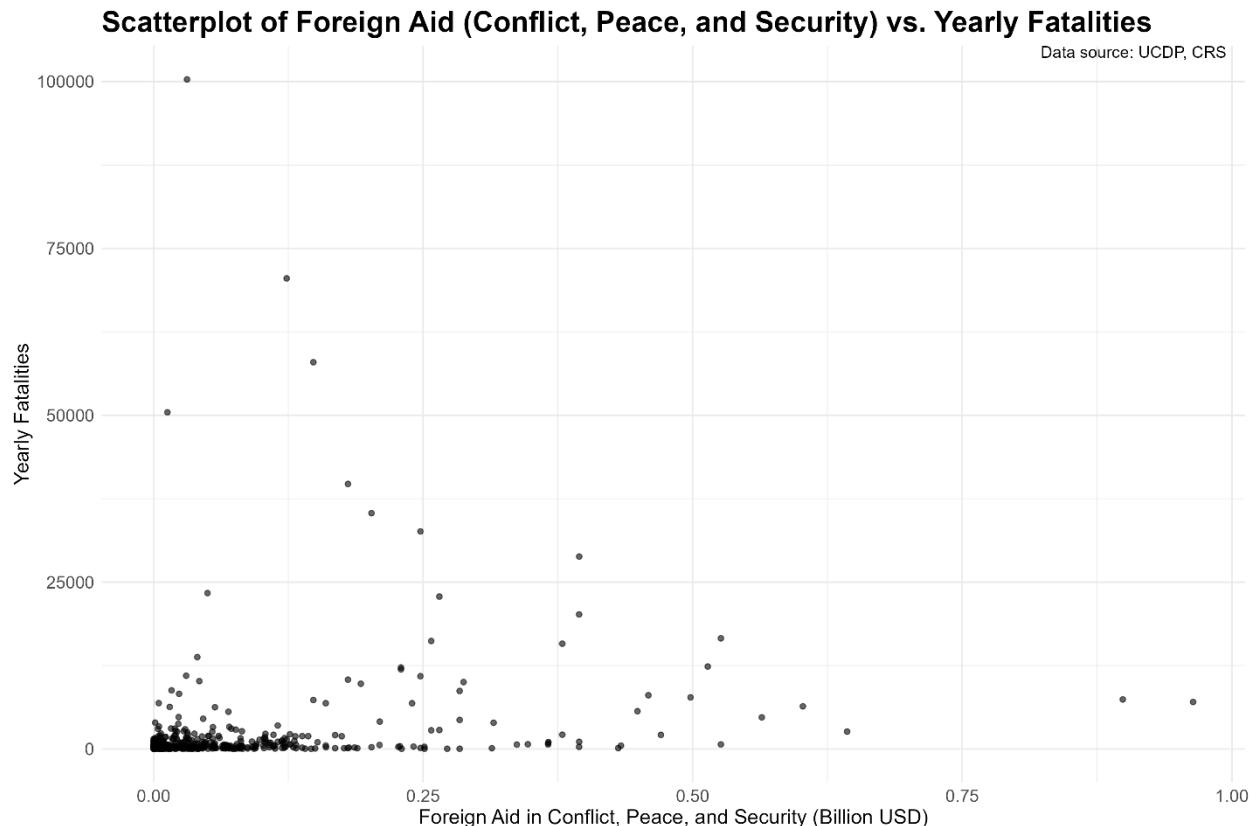


This scatter plot is constructed using two key variables from the dataset. Foreign Aid in Conflict, Peace and Security represents the total amount of foreign aid disbursed in that thematic area measured in constant 2021 U.S. dollars. It is displayed on the horizontal axis. Yearly Fatalities represents the yearly fatalities recorded in conflicts by UCDP, which is displayed on the vertical axis. Each point corresponds to an individual year for each active conflict in the dataset for which data are available. The original OECD dataset includes data points from developing countries or territories eligible to receive official development assistance (ODA) between the years 2002 and 2022. Scatter plots are ideal for examining the relationship between two continuous variables. In this case, we aim to investigate if there's a pattern or correlation between the amount of foreign aid disbursed for conflict, peace, and security and the number of fatalities in conflict situations. Scatter plots effectively reveal the density and distribution of data

points. They can show clusters, gaps, and outliers, making it easier to understand how aid is distributed relative to the severity of conflicts. They help in identifying outliers that could be of particular interest. For instance, high-fatality conflicts receiving significant aid or high-fatality conflicts with comparatively low aid.

**Conflict, Peace and Security Aid Value by Conflict-Year**



Data source: UCDP, CRS

## Conflict, Peace and Security Aid Value per Fatality by Country-Year
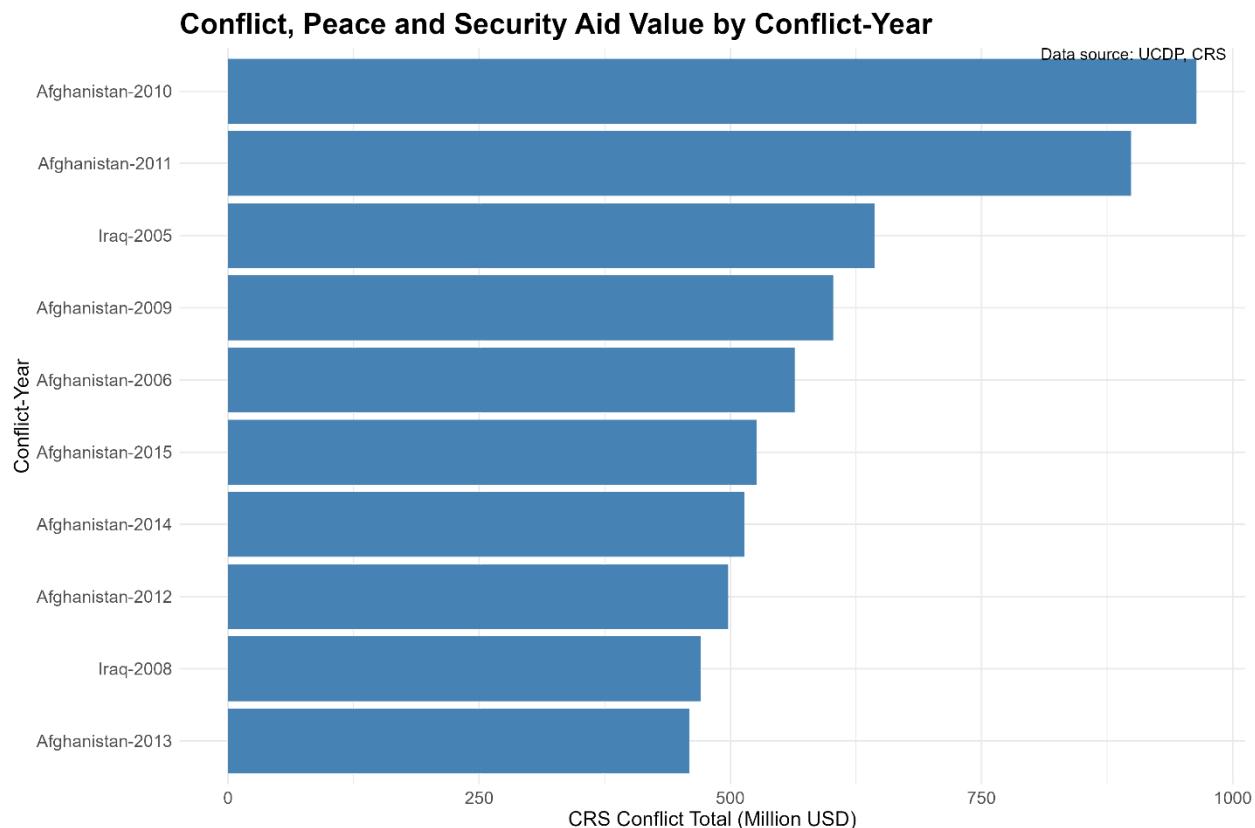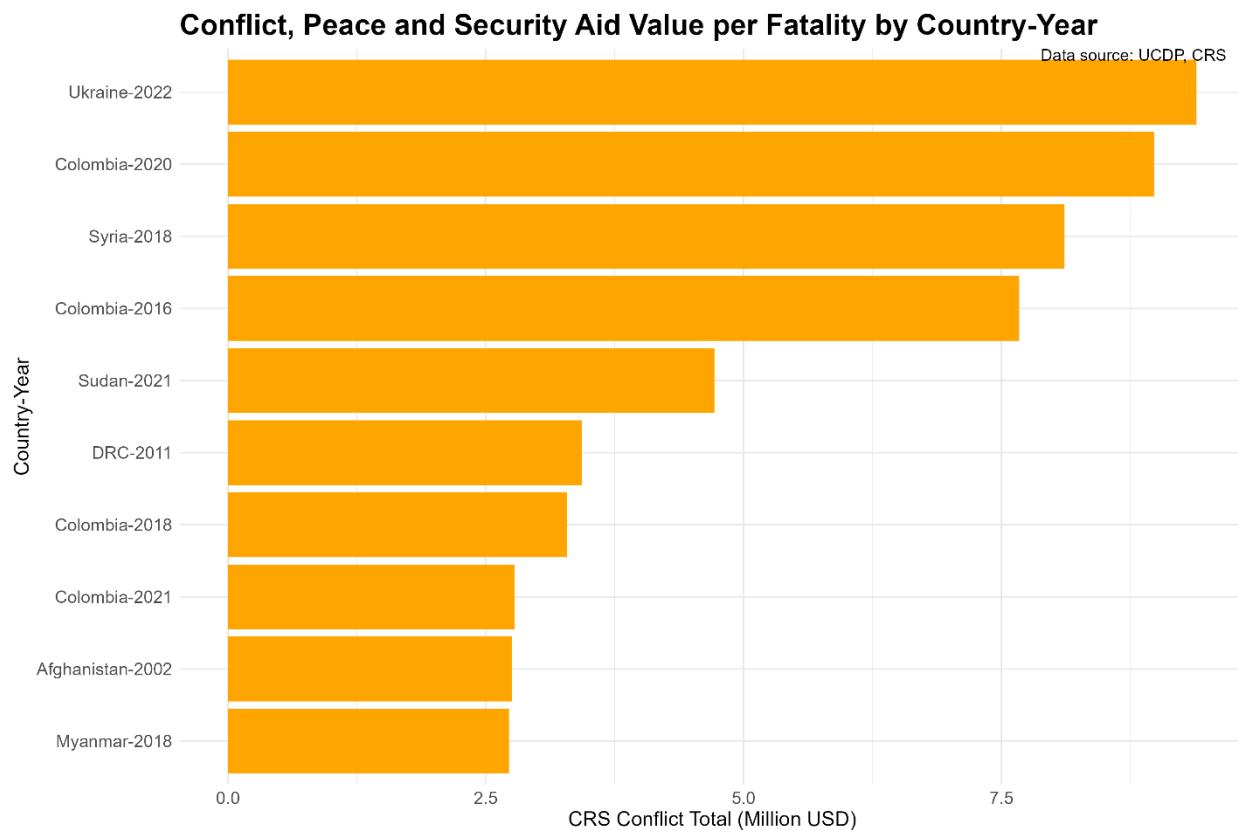


The first plot displays the top 10 active conflict-year observations with the highest foreign aid volumes in the area of Conflict, Peace, and Security. The horizontal axis represents the amount of aid in million USD, and the vertical axis represents the country and year. The second plot showcases the top 10 active conflict-year observations with the highest aid per fatality in the area of Conflict, Peace, and Security. Here, the horizontal axis represents aid per fatality, and the vertical axis represents the conflict location country-year combination. The aid per fatality indicator is calculated by dividing the total aid received in a given year by the number of fatalities that occurred in the same period. This measure highlights the amount of aid allocated for each fatality, offering a perspective on the responsiveness and targeting of aid relative to the conflict's human impact. A higher aid per fatality ratio could potentially indicate a focused and intense international response to specific conflicts. Considering these plots side by side facilitates understanding how aid is distributed not only in absolute terms but also relative to the severity of conflict, measured by fatalities. This dual approach provides insights into both the total foreign aid allocated and the efficiency or intensity of aid distribution relative to the human cost of conflict.

*Interpretation:*

-High Volume of Foreign Aid: The first bar plot reveals that Afghanistan and Iraq are the top recipients of foreign aid in the area of Conflict, Peace, and Security, with Afghanistan's 2010 and 2011 observations leading the list. This indicates a sustained international focus and substantial financial support for these conflict zones, likely reflecting the prolonged nature and intensity of conflicts in these countries as well as the direct role Western powers, specifically the United States, have played in these conflicts.

-Aid Efficiency in Relation to Fatalities: The second bar plot, which measures aid per fatality, shows that Ukraine in 2022, Colombia in 2020, and Syria in 2018 received the highest aid relative to the number of fatalities. This suggests a different pattern where significant international aid is directed towards conflicts that may be nearing resolution or experiencing reduced intensity. The high aid per fatality in these cases may indicate that the international community is intensifying its aid efforts towards the end of conflicts rather than at their peak. The case of Ukraine in 2022 highlights a specific internal conflict with separatists from the Donetsk People's Republic, rather than the broader interstate war with Russia. This results in a scenario where the number of recorded fatalities is not as high, but the volume of aid is substantial since it is capturing the entirety of aid flowing into Ukraine in 2022.

-Diverse International Responses: The scatter plot illustrates the wide range of international aid responses to conflicts of varying severity. The dispersion of points indicates that significant aid is provided in both high-fatality and low-fatality conflicts, suggesting that aid allocation is influenced by factors beyond just the death toll, such as geopolitical importance, strategic interests, or the stage of the conflict.

*Potential Applications:*

-Resource Allocation: These visualizations can help identify potential gaps in international aid distribution. While Afghanistan and Iraq have received substantial aid, other conflict zones might require more attention. Policymakers can use this information to ensure a more balanced allocation of resources across different conflict areas.

-Aid Timing and Efficiency: Understanding that aid per fatality is higher towards the end of conflicts can guide more timely and effective interventions. International organizations can learn to allocate resources not only based on immediate fatalities but also considering the strategic timing of aid to maximize its impact and support long-term peacebuilding.

-Strategic Planning: By understanding the relationship between aid and conflict severity, organizations can better plan their interventions. The scatter plot provides insights into how aid is distributed across conflicts of varying intensities and stages, enabling strategic decisions that maximize the effectiveness of aid.

-Monitoring and Evaluation: These visualizations offer a comprehensive view of aid dynamics, which can be used to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions. Organizations can adjust their strategies based on observed patterns to improve outcomes in conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts.

-Advocacy and Policy Development: The data can support advocacy for more equitable aid distribution. Policymakers can develop strategies that prioritize underfunded conflicts, ensuring that all conflict zones receive the necessary support to address their unique challenges. This approach promotes a more effective and just international response to conflicts.

*Measurement:*

| Indicator | Variable Code | Source |
|---|---|---|
| Number of battle-related deaths in the conflict in the given year | ucdp_fatalities | Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) |
| Monetary value of all disbursements to the conflict location country in the year in the OECD sector `Conflict, Peace and Security' (152). | crs_conflict_total | OECD Creditor Reporting System Microdata (CRS) |

## Example 9: How do Conflict, Peace and Security foreign aid and fatalities relate to each other as a conflict progresses?

**Conflict Fatalities and Value of 'Conflict, Peace and Security' Aid going into Afghanistan**

Data source: UCDP; CRS

**Conflict Fatalities and Value of 'Conflict, Peace and Security' Aid going into Sudan**
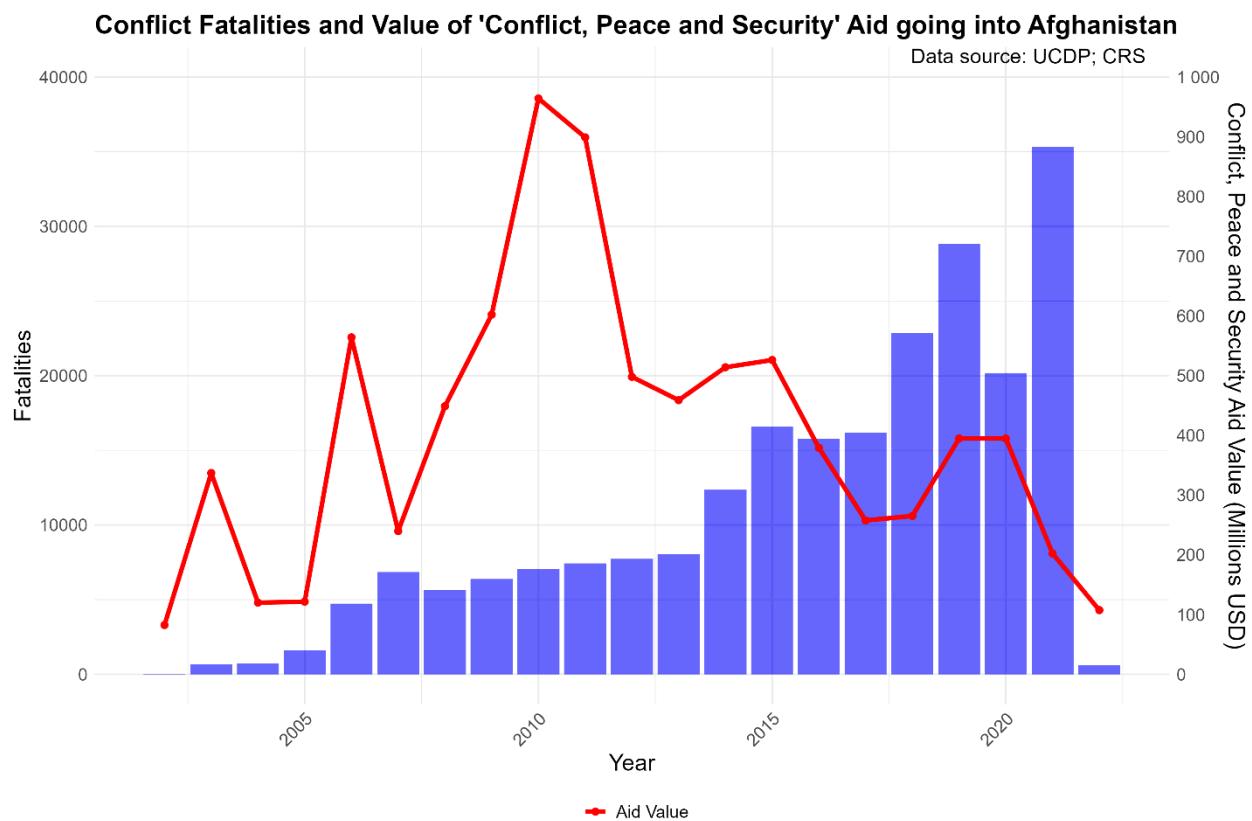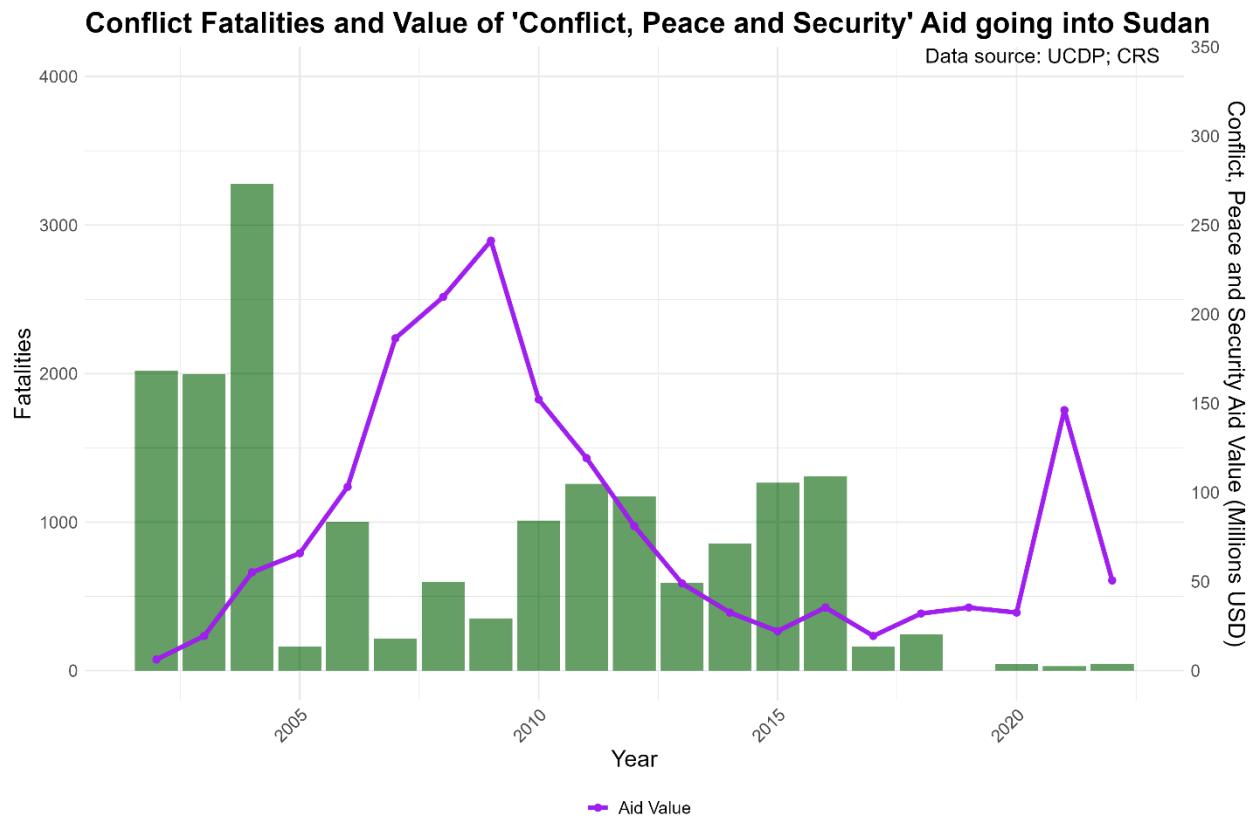


These visualizations show the relationship between foreign aid flows in the area of Conflict, Peace, and Security and the intensity of conflicts in terms of fatalities over time for Afghanistan and Sudan. The Afghanistan plot shows the conflict between the Afghan government and the Taliban, among other affiliated groups, while the Sudan plot captures the internal conflict initially involving the Sudan People's Liberation Army in the South and later morphing to include groups from the Darfur region. These plots focus on active conflict spells, which are continuous periods during which the conflict is active (the dataset follows each conflict during its active years and for a maximum of 10 peaceful years after the fighting stop). In each plot, the vertical bars represent the yearly recorded fatalities, indicating the intensity of the conflict, while the line represents the annual amount of foreign aid received, measured in millions of USD.

*Interpretations:*

-Aid appears to be in an inverse relationship with fatalities*:* The Afghanistan plot shows fatalities increasing gradually up to 2014, followed by a more significant increase, peaking in 2021, which coincides with the Taliban insurgent offensive that began in May 2021. The peak in aid, however, occurs much earlier, in 2010, and then decreases as the conflict becomes more

violent. The Sudan plot shows a similar dynamic. There is a high peak in fatalities around 2004, followed by a less intense period from 2005 (the years of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement) until 2010, where fatalities increase again before decreasing substantially around 2017. Aid has two peaks, both in years with low levels of fatalities, 2009 and 2021.

-Violence hinders the implementation of aid-funded programs: High levels of violence create an unstable environment, making it difficult to deploy aid workers, organize local implementing partners, and deliver services effectively. This necessitates a minimum level of stability for aid to be effectively utilized on the ground. Therefore, significant foreign aid flows might only occur when there is a perceived opportunity to build peace or when the conflict intensity diminishes to a manageable level, allowing for the safe and effective implementation of aid programs. This dynamic could explain the observed patterns in both Afghanistan and Sudan, where the aid response appears to be more closely aligned with periods of relative stability or in response to the immediate aftermath of intense conflict.

*Applications:*

-Conflict Monitoring and Early Warning: By tracking the trends in fatalities and aid over time, policymakers and analysts can identify periods of escalating violence or emerging stability. This can help in predicting potential future spikes in conflict intensity and in making timely decisions to mitigate the impact. These visualizations can aid in planning and prioritizing emergency responses. For instance, if aid tends to decrease when fatalities peak, there may be a need for developing strategies to ensure aid delivery during high-intensity conflict periods.

-Policy Development: Policymakers can use these visualizations to develop evidence-based policies. By understanding how aid interacts with conflict dynamics, they can craft policies that enhance the stability and support peacebuilding efforts in conflict-affected regions. These visualizations can be used to hold both governments and international organizations accountable for their aid distribution and conflict management strategies. Transparent data presentation fosters trust and collaboration among stakeholders.

-Program Evaluation: Evaluating the impact of aid programs on conflict dynamics can be challenging. These visualizations provide a clear and intuitive way to assess whether aid is correlating with decreases in violence or if it's being effectively utilized. Organizations can use

these insights to adapt their programs in real-time. If aid is not having the desired effect, they can quickly pivot their strategies to better address the evolving needs on the ground.

-Public Awareness and Advocacy: Visualizing the relationship between aid and conflict can help raise public awareness about the complexities of conflict zones. This can be a powerful tool for advocacy groups seeking to mobilize support for humanitarian interventions. Storytelling through data visualization can help build compelling narratives that highlight the importance of sustained and strategic aid in conflict-affected areas.

*Measurement:*

| Indicator | Variable Code | Source |
|---|---|---|
| Number of battle-related deaths in the conflict in the given year | ucdp_fatalities | Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) |
| Monetary value of all disbursements to the conflict location country in the year in the OECD sector `Conflict, Peace and Security' (152). | crs_conflict_total | OECD Creditor Reporting System Microdata (CRS) |

# Example 10: What is the Relation between Full Peace Agreements and Conflict Recurrence?
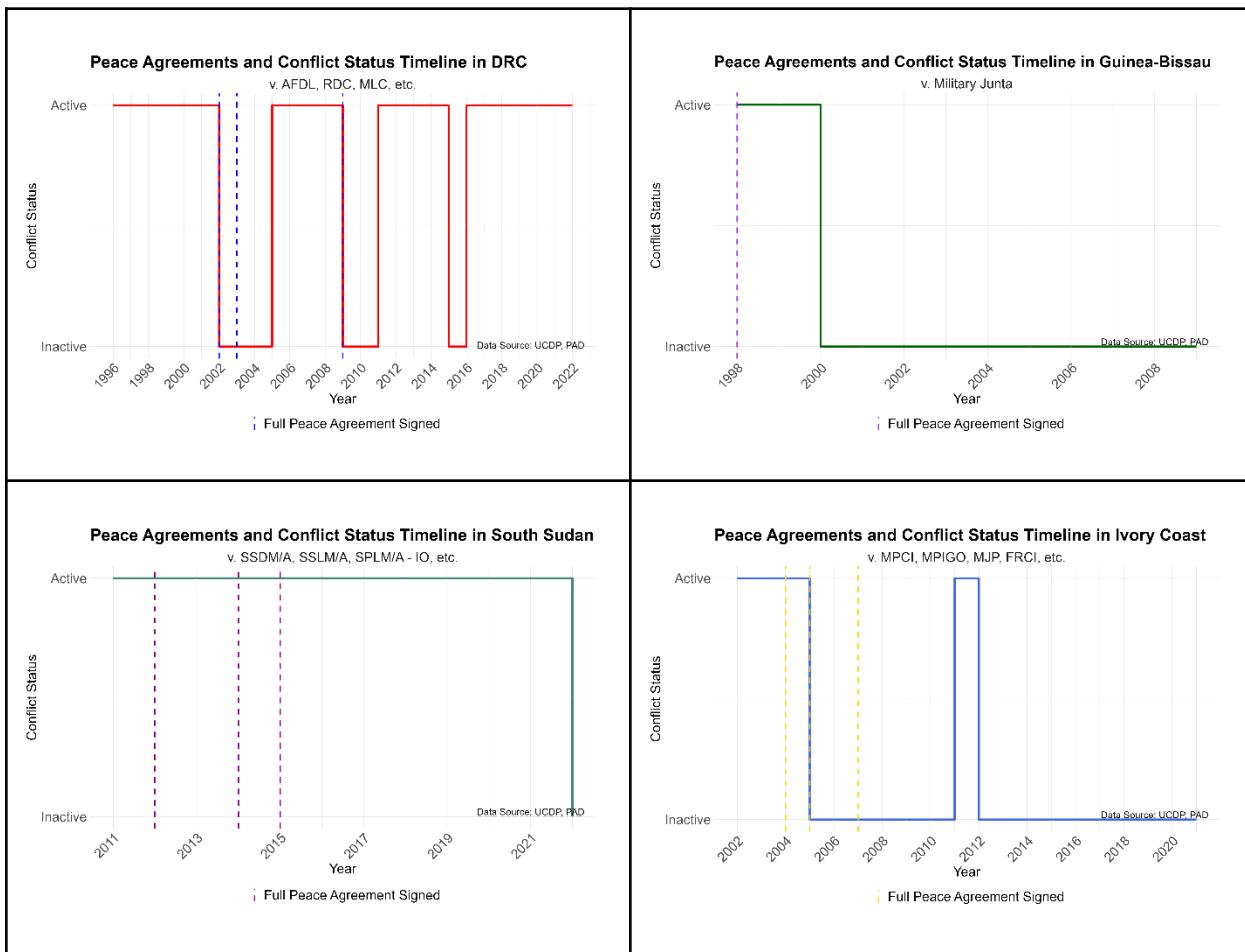


These are four plots showing the same information for four different conflicts: a. The conflict between the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and AFDL, RDC, MLC, and other rebel groups. b. The conflict between the government of Guinea-Bissau and the Military Junta. c. The conflict between the government of South Sudan and various rebel groups, including SSDM/A and SSLM/A. d. The conflict between the government of Ivory Coast and rebel groups such as MPCI, MPIGO, and MJP, among others. Each plot displays all years for which each conflict is tracked in the dataset (the dataset follows each conflict during all its active years and for up to ten consecutive years of inactivity during the period 1990-2022). The horizontal line in each plot shows the status of the conflict during those years, whether it is active or inactive, according to UCDP conflict data. The vertical dashed lines represent the years in which at least one full peace agreement is signed, as recorded in UCDP's Peace

Agreement Dataset (PAD). A full agreement is an agreement where the government and at least one adversary actor agree to settle the entire incompatibility over which they are fighting. By comparing these lines with the conflict activity status, one can assess the immediate and long-term impact of these agreements on the conflict. For example, if a peace agreement is followed by a period of inactivity, it might suggest that the agreement was effective in reducing conflict. Conversely, if the conflict remains active or resumes shortly after an agreement, it may indicate that the agreement was either ineffective or not fully implemented.

*Interpretation:*

-Conflict in the DRC: The conflict has multiple active periods. Full peace agreements signed in 2002, 2003, and 2009 did not prevent the conflict from reactivating, suggesting challenges in maintaining lasting peace and possibly inadequate implementation.

-Conflict in Guinea-Bissau: The conflict shows a clear cessation of active conflict following peace agreements signed in 1998. Post-2000, the conflict remained inactive, indicating the agreements, albeit not immediately, were effective in bringing about a lasting resolution.

-Conflict in South Sudan: Despite a series of peace agreements in 2012, 2014, and 2015, the conflict continued to recur, highlighting ongoing instability and challenges in achieving lasting peace. This suggests that the agreements might have failed to address key issues and were not upheld by the parties.

-Conflict in Ivory Coast: Peace agreements signed in 2004, 2005, and 2007 seem for the most part to have been followed by inactivity, except for a short episode of renewed fighting. Although not avoiding recurrence completely, the agreements did give way to a mostly pacific aftermath.

-Relationship between peace agreements and conflict recurrence: Considered together, these insights reveal that this relationship is not uniform and is highly influenced by conflict-specific factors. While some agreements lead to lasting peace, others fail to prevent recurrence due to issues such as inadequate implementation and lack of commitment from involved parties. The effectiveness of peace agreements varies significantly across different conflicts, underscoring the importance of tailored, context-specific approaches to peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

*Potential applications:*

-Policy Formulation and Conflict Resolution Strategies: By analyzing the effectiveness of peace agreements in different contexts, policymakers and conflict resolution practitioners can tailor strategies that address specific needs and challenges in each conflict. For example, understanding that certain agreements have led to recurring conflict can prompt a reevaluation of the negotiation and implementation process to ensure that root causes are adequately addressed.

-Monitoring and Evaluation of Peace Agreements: The data can be used to monitor and evaluate the success of peace agreements over time. Tracking conflict recurrence and the periods of activity and inactivity can help in assessing the long-term impact of agreements and making necessary adjustments to maintain peace.

Resource Allocation: Insights from these plots can guide the allocation of resources to regions most in need of sustained peacebuilding efforts. Understanding where peace agreements have failed can help direct funds and resources to bolster conflict prevention mechanisms and support ongoing peace processes.

Training and Capacity Building: Organizations involved in peacebuilding can use these insights to develop training programs for negotiators, mediators, and peacekeepers. Understanding the complexities of different conflicts and the factors influencing the success of peace agreements can enhance the skills and effectiveness of those working on the ground.

Advocacy and Awareness: Advocacy groups can use the data to raise awareness about the challenges and successes of peace agreements. By highlighting specific cases where agreements have led to lasting peace or recurrent conflict, they can advocate for more effective and comprehensive peacebuilding efforts.

Negotiation Support: During peace negotiations, these insights can provide negotiators with evidence-based strategies to address potential pitfalls and design more robust agreements. Understanding the shortcomings of past agreements can inform the development of more comprehensive and durable peace accords.

*Measurement:*

| Indicator | Variable Code | Source |
|---|---|---|
| A dummy indicator that takes the value of 1 if the conflict is active during that year and 0 otherwise. | ucdp_status | Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) |
| The number of full peace agreements concluded in a given conflict and year. A full agreement is an agreement where one or more dyad agrees to settle the whole incompatibility. | pad_full | UCDP Peace Agreement Dataset (PAD) |

# Conclusion

The Peace Interventions Dataset and this accompanying guide serve as valuable tools for practitioners in the peacebuilding field, providing a comprehensive resource to enhance their decision-making and strategic planning. By leveraging this dataset, peacebuilding professionals can gain a deeper understanding of conflict dynamics, the effectiveness of various interventions, and the allocation of resources.

## *Empowering Data-Driven Decision Making*

One of the primary goals of this guide is to promote evidence-based decision-making. By integrating data into their strategies, practitioners can move beyond intuition, grounding their decisions in solid empirical evidence. By fostering a data-driven approach, this resource enhances the capacity of organizations to make informed decisions, allocate resources wisely, and develop strategies that contribute to lasting peace and stability. As peacebuilding efforts continue to evolve, the integration of comprehensive data will remain a cornerstone of effective and sustainable interventions, ultimately fostering more resilient and peaceful communities globally.

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