

RECLAIMING EVERYDAY PEACE

Bringing armed conflicts to an end is difficult; restoring a lasting peace can be considerably harder. *Reclaiming Everyday Peace* addresses the effectiveness and impact of local level interventions on communities affected by war. Using an innovative methodology to generate participatory numbers, Pamina Firchow finds that communities saturated with external interventions after war do not have substantively higher levels of peacefulness according to community-defined indicators of peace than those with lower levels of interventions. These findings suggest that current international peacebuilding efforts are not very effective at achieving peace by local standards because disproportionate attention is paid to reconstruction, governance and development assistance with little attention paid to community ties and healing. Firchow argues that a more bottom-up approach to measuring the effectiveness of peacebuilding is required. By finding ways to effectively communicate local community needs and priorities to the international community, efforts to create an atmosphere for an enduring peace are possible.

Pamina Firchow is Assistant Professor of Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University. She has published widely on the effectiveness of international aid after conflict. Specifically, she studies the international accompaniment of communities affected by mass violence, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. Professor Firchow has received support for her research from the United States Institute of Peace, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Rotary Foundation, the Kellogg Institute for International Studies and the University of Geneva. She has been working in the peacebuilding sector as a scholar-practitioner for non-governmental organizations and universities since 1999.

Reclaiming Everyday Peace

LOCAL VOICES IN MEASUREMENT AND
EVALUATION AFTER WAR

PAMINA FIRCHOW

George Mason University



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To the memory of my father, Peter Edgerly Firchow

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Acknowledgments

This book tackles two important questions encountered by the international community in conflict-affected contexts: How do we know what interventions work best for sustainable peace at a local level? And, how can we measure effectively in a way that reflects the priorities and needs of the population we strive to serve? These are questions that have fascinated me since I began my career in peacebuilding almost twenty years ago, and they are in large part what led me to become a scholar, in the hope that I might contribute to the collective effort of answering them. In this book, I present a different approach to measurement that addresses many of the concerns elaborated upon by peacebuilding scholars and practitioners. I use the everyday indicators to answer questions about local level peacebuilding effectiveness and demonstrate how we need to change our thinking and doing to reorient ourselves to a more participatory and inclusive approach. I demonstrate how this is possible using both qualitative and quantitative data.

I have several goals for this book. First, I hope that this introduction and demonstration of the everyday indicator approach helps to address some of the concerns and further the debates about the reliability of measurement equivalence across contexts and experiences. Valid measurement is mostly about ensuring that what you are measuring means the same thing to everyone who is being measured. That means ensuring the concepts you use are adequately defined for everyone. I hope to contribute, in whatever small way, to these important discussions about the role of concepts in measurement. It is said that statistics are like sausages: the more you know about them the less appetizing they are. My hope is that with this book, and the everyday indicator approach presented in it, the potential and possibility for the measurement of difficult-to-define concepts such as peace will become a little more appealing and, ultimately, more valid.

Many people have helped me write this book. First and foremost, I am indebted to the community members of Atiak and Odek, Uganda and El Salado and Don Gabriel, Colombia who participated in this project, as well as staff at the Justice and Reconciliation Project and the Fundación Semana. In particular, I am grateful to Rosario Arias Callejas, Maria Cabal Londono, Oryem Nyeko, Evelyn Akullo, Patrick Odong and Grace Achan. I am, also, deeply indebted to several colleagues and friends for their generous engagement with and support of my work. Gary Goertz, Ernesto Verdeja, Tom Scherer and Agnieszka Pazynska provided helpful feedback on the entire manuscript. Their comments and critiques helped me to bring together many ideas and thoughts into what I hope is a coherent whole. Solon Simmons, Thomas Flores, Charles Martin Shields, Peter Wallenstein, Roger Mac Ginty, Adam Moore, Henk-Jan Brinkman, Andy Carl, Melanie Greenberg, Allard Duursma, Chris Mitchell and, in particular, Naomi Levy gave valuable feedback on specific chapters of the manuscript. Their feedback helped improve individual chapters within their own areas of expertise. Montserrat López, José (Pepe) Saldaña, Nilofar Sakhi, Lindsay McClain Opiyo, Luis Felipe Botero, Michael English and Shannon Golden provided much needed editing, research and program management assistance. Kristen Wall's practical and theoretical knowledge of the field, as well as her excellent editing skills, were indispensable in putting this book together.

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Finally, my father passed away ten years ago, but his guidance, patience and influence on my life guide me daily and will always stay close to my heart. This book is dedicated to him.

Abbreviations

ADP	Area Development Program
CNRR	Comisión Nacional de Reparación y Reconciliación
CORE	Community Reconciliation team
DME	Design, Monitoring and Evaluation
DPS	Departamento para la Prosperidad Social
EPI	Everyday Peace Indicators
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GPI	Global Peace Index
g7+	Group of Seven Plus
HDI	Human Development Index
HTS	Human Terrain Systems
ITK	Indigenous Technical Knowledge
IMPACT	Initiative to Measure Peace and Conflict Outcomes
IEP	Institute for Economics and Peace
INCODER	Instituto Colombiano de Desarrollo Rural
PIRC	Integrated Plan of Collective Reparations
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
ICD	International Crimes Division
ICC	International Criminal Court
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organizations
IOs	International Organizations
JRP	Justice and Reconciliation Project
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation

MSC	Most Significant Change
CNRR	National Reparations and Reconciliation Commission
NRA	National Resistance Army
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NAVCO	Nonviolent and Violent Conflict Outcomes
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PAR	Participatory Action Research
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PRDP	Peace Recovery and Development Plan
PSGs	Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals
UPDF	Peoples' Defence Forces
RCTs	Randomized Control Trials
RRA	Rapid Rural Appraisal
RFPs	Requests for Proposals
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
SFCG	Search for Common Ground
SMEs	Subject Matter Experts
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SCORE	The Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index
DFID	United Kingdom Department for International Development
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
IAEG-SDG	United Nations Inter-Agency Expert Group
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
TST	United Nations Technical Support Team
AUC	United Self-Defense Forces
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USIP	United States Institute of Peace
UCDP	Uppsala Conflict Data Program
VGFs	Verification Focus Groups
PRT	Workers Revolutionary Party of Colombia
WFP	World Food Program