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**LECTURE SERIES:  
EVERYDAY PEACE  
INDICATORS**

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# RATIONALE & SPEAKER

In recent decades peacebuilding and peacekeeping operations carried out by the United Nations have become the cornerstone of the UN's global operations. With this upscaling in operation size and complexity, there have been critiques that the solutions being pursued are ones that meet Western ideas of success rather than that of local populations. The concept of everyday peace indicators works to solve this relationship by turning to local communities instead of foreign experts to measure difficult to quantify subjects such as reconciliation, peace, security, and radicalization.

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# Peacebuilding and Everyday Peace Indicators

Two types of peacebuilding that are important to this discussion.

**Big "P" Peacebuilding:** Traditional peacebuilding, characterized by large-scale interventions

**Small "p" peacebuilding:** Localized and relationship orientated efforts looking to build peace at the community level. This is where **Everyday Peace Indicators** operate.

## Everyday Peace Indicators (EPI)

Everyday Peace Indicators seeks to provide communities a method of depoliticizing the peace process, and empowering communities and beneficiaries to define their own concepts of peace post-conflict.

At its core EPI is a research methodology to create community-generated indicators of Peace which attempts to bridge epistemological and methodological divisions in the social sciences

# EPI Process

1. **Develop:** Researchers and local partners conduct focus group sessions and gather indicators from communities that are already being used.
2. **Verify:** Participants go through and refine the list of indicators and have the **entire community** vote on the indicators.
3. **Design:** Teams use Everyday Indicators to design projects that meet the needs of the community.
4. **Fieldworkers:** Survey the community with a refined list of indicators; surveys are repeated several times to measure change.

## Examples of Everyday Peace Indicators from case studies in Uganda & Colombia

Atiak, Uganda: “Can the boda-boda cyclist ride to certain areas?”

Odek, Uganda: “Can you dig without fear?”

El Salado, Colombia: “Are traditional festivals (fiestas patronales) celebrated regularly?”

Don Gabriel, Colombia: “Is there a forum for dialogue within the community?”

# Case Studies: Don Gabriel & El Salado

**Background:** Don Gabriel and El Salado were chosen for the EPI case study as both reside within the same region of Montes de Maria, and both are similar in regards to their distance from the nearest municipality, religion, population size, agricultural style, and in the impact of paramilitary forces in 2001 and 2000 respectively. While their situations are both very similar, El Salado received significantly more international attention and aid after their victimization & displacement than Don Gabriel did.

**Findings:** The case study's findings suggest that development interventions are effective at achieving increased levels of observed development, but may come with the cost of higher perceived insecurity.

The indicator analysis suggests that this may be because not enough is done to help communities heal and reconstruct social ties after war to promote coexistence and improve community security.

This finding is in contrast to much of the academic and policy literature that advocates for increased economic development and infrastructure as a path toward the achievement of peace and security without taking into serious consideration social issues such as community cohesion and interdependence.

**Moving Forward:** The findings of this study have major implications for how we measure peace conceptually, as well as how we measure peacebuilding effectiveness on a project level by stressing the critical importance of the **small p** and **social dimensions** of peacebuilding interventions, which are often forgotten or sidelined in the rush to “reconstruct” or “stabilize.”

The first step toward determining what works best is to actively include communities not only as sources of data in measurement, but also as **partners** in the design of the tools used to evaluate them.

# Sources for Further Learning

- Everyday Peace Indicators
- Photovoice Project in Columbia
- What Afghan Women (and Men) Really Want, by Pamina Firchow & Eliza Urwin
- Matched Case Quasi-Experimental Cluster Design for programming and evaluation of Reconciliation Activities in Sri Lanka (Article)
- Reclaiming Everyday Peace
- Indicators +: A proposal for everyday peace indicators