

DOES DEVELOPMENT AID REDUCE CONFLICT? FRONT LINE AID AND VIOLENCE LEVEL DURING OEF / ISAF MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN (DEVSEC)

The experience of nearly two decades of the international intervention in Afghanistan provides interesting, useful and quite unique framework for analysing how development aid politics and practices influence violence in an ongoing asymmetrical warfare environment. This situation provides an opportunity to look into wartime political economy and both ways aid to violence impacts.

DEVSEC is a project envisaged first to carry out a systematic review of a several representative cases of front line socio-economic development aid actions and programs executed during OEF/ISAF mission (2001-2014), an integral part of stabilisation policy. Mixed civil-military institutions, were designed to work in challenging environments planned to support transition from conflict to reconstruction. Next, it plans to assess the impact of development aid actions on violence level in Afghanistan. Finally, aims at building a theoretical concept capable of describing and explaining basic relations and dynamics of development & violence in an asymmetrical conflict zone. DEVSEC selected widely differing group of donors: Italian, Hungarian, Turkish, Canadian, Polish and the US' development aid politics and practices.

Research focused on a development aid (assistance) usually is defined as element of an political economy research area. Likewise, investigation of violence is a crucial part of security research. Studies assessing the impact of development aid on violence in conflict zones are surprisingly rare. DEVSEC's overarching scientific problem to be analyzed is **the impact of development aid actions on violence level in Afghanistan**. How development shapes, or influences security? How to precisely describe its content, and what explains the nature of that relation? The project will address the problem through building theoretical concept on the relations between development aid and violence level in an ideologically driven asymmetric warfare.

The project should enhance understanding of the relationships between context and intervention; economy (particularly wartime distribution of resources, and public management) and power, or conflict, and civilian-military division. Then it will inform future research on EU and NATO and other international interventions. At the same time it will bring contribution to political economy research in international conflicts, debate over determinants, distribution of resources during reconstruction efforts and public management during asymmetric warfare, power struggle and interplay between different institutions in non-permissive environment.