



# EVIDENCE 4 PEACE – IMPACT EVALUATION PROGRAM ON FRAGILITY, CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE

**DIME's Evidence for Peace (E4Peace)** program was launched in 2014 with a goal to fill evidence gaps in responses to Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) through generating high-quality knowledge on strategies to best achieve pathways to peace. Today, the program includes 30 Impact Evaluations (IEs) across 15 countries, and \$21 million of research projects with a total value of \$2.1 billion in lending projects.

## E4Peace Program Distribution

### Breaking Poverty Traps and Addressing Vulnerability

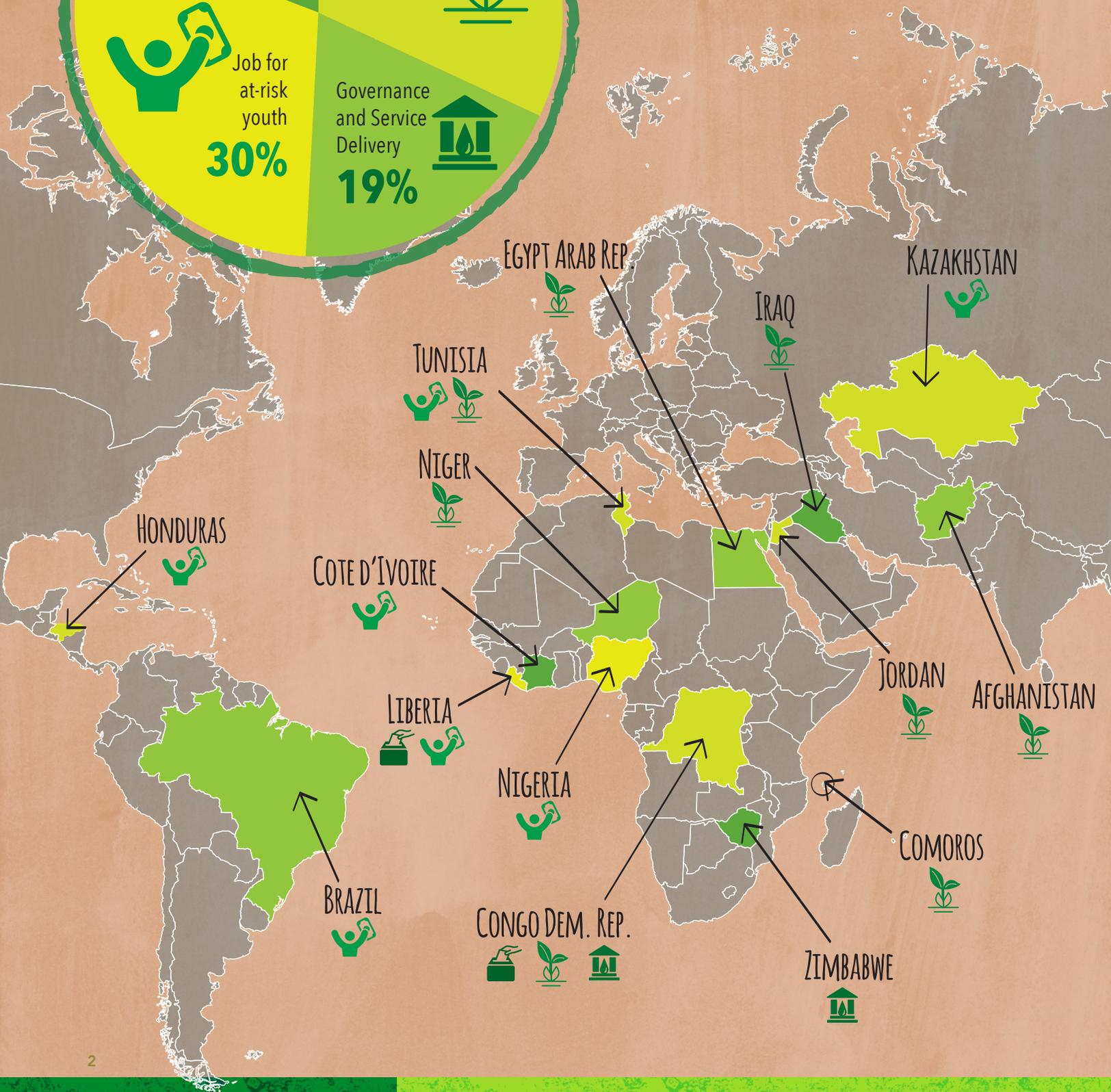
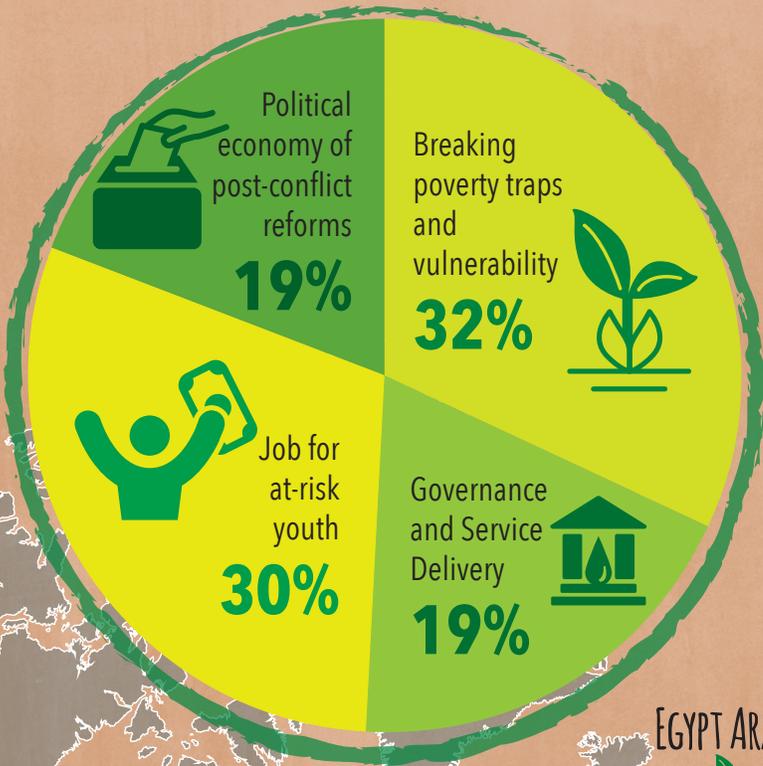
Building on the literature about the ultra-poor, the research under this theme seeks to better understand the potential of breaking poverty traps and addressing systemic vulnerabilities through integrated approaches. It explores ways to improve

the labor market potential of the ultra-poor, norms-shifting, and targeted interventions to eradicate child labor and address gender-based violence. We also explore social safety net programs such as labor intensive public works, designed to provide immediate economic reprieve and, especially when combined with complementary interventions, to move participants from vulnerability towards sustained economic and social well-being.

Moreover, in 2018, the E4Peace team launched the **Forced Displacement** sub-theme with the objective of enhancing the economic and social integration of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in host communities. Planned research in Niger and Jordan explores programs to support forced migrants and local populations through interventions such as capital grants for micro-entrepreneurs, labor intensive public works, and youth engagement.

Research Questions	Targeted countries	Some key findings	Next Steps: Pushing the knowledge frontier
What basket of features (cash payments size, targeting of populations, and modes of delivery) and complementary interventions (capital transfers and mentoring) secure deeper and longer-term impacts on poverty eradication?	Afghanistan, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Tunisia	Labor Intensive Public Works (LIPW) in Côte d'Ivoire, Tunisia and Egypt had short-term positive impacts across economic outcomes of interest, including employment, income, consumption, and savings.  These impacts dissipate in the medium run, 12 to 15 months after the projects are completed.	What complimentary interventions can sustain impacts of LIPW programs? (DRC)  What are the differential impacts on women, how to we improve female entrepreneurship? (Tunisia)  What are the impacts of similar programs on conflict and violence? Can economic inputs help reduce violence or is this more of a social constraint? (DRC)  How do such social safety net programs work in contexts of forced displacements? How do they impact incentives to move and social cohesion between different population groups? (Niger, Jordan)

# E4PEACE PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION





## Jobs for at-risk youth

Youth in FCV contexts often lack opportunities to develop marketable skills and to cultivate a sustainable livelihood. They can become vulnerable to involvement in conflict, illicit activities, or violent crime. E4Peace

research targets labor market and other impediments facing youth-at-risk in settings ranging from post-conflict countries to high-violence urban areas. In addition to traditional skills development and apprenticeship programs, we

look at novel approaches such as the provision of soft skills, psychosocial therapy, and other labor market insertion schemes targeting youth who lack basic foundational skills.

Research Questions	Targeted countries	Some key findings	Next Steps: Pushing the knowledge frontier
How do we improve access to jobs for vulnerable youth?	Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Azerbaidjan, Kazakshstan, Nigeria, Brazil	Subsidized apprenticeship programs lead to a large number of firm-youth matches, but this comes with substantial windfall and substitution effects. As a result, for 1000 subsidized places, there are only from 545 to 741 new matches.	What is the effectiveness of vocational training and apprenticeship programs for marginalized youth isolated from mainstream society, both in terms of improving economic prospects and in reducing violence and support for extremism in the volatile and crisis-prone Sahel. (Nigeria)
Does employment reduce violence and gang related activities?		Absent the program, there are many vacancies to fill at the firm level.	What is the additional impact of Cognitive Behavior Therapy on employment and violence? (Honduras)

## Governance and Service Delivery

IE research under this theme focuses on civil service reform and on the rebuilding of government capacity and accountability systems. It covers recruitment and deployment strategies, patronage networks, misalignment of

incentives, and capacity issues that hinder the effective delivery of services. The knowledge generated under the program is providing clear policy guidance to build and strengthen the delivery of critical services such as health, education,

and justice. Work toward improving the provision of services in weak states is ongoing in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, and Zimbabwe, among others.

Research Questions	Targeted countries	Some key findings	Next Steps: Pushing the knowledge frontier
Do CDD programs improve service quality and access?	Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo	In Colombia, providing legal services through Mobile Victims Units has advanced the administrative process of reparations.	How to ensure social downstream effects of CDD programs (social cohesion, participation, women empowerment)? (DRC)
How do we improve the interface between service users, providers, and frontline ministries?		In the DRC Community Driven Development (CDD) programs show positive impacts on infrastructure quality and service delivery, however there is no evidence of an impact on the downstream social, economic and accountability-related outcomes.	

## Political Economy of Post-Conflict Reforms

Postwar societies are often confronted with a wide range of issues such as information asymmetries between elites and masses, social dislocations, and security and mobility constraints.

These prevent a rapid return to stable social and political orders. Some of these are root causes of conflict in the first place or conflict drivers that sustain the cycle of fragility, conflict, and violence.

E4Peace research in this area focuses on understanding the sources of these conflict drivers and evaluating strategies designed to address them.

Research Questions	Targeted countries	Some key findings	Next Steps: Pushing the knowledge frontier
What are conflict drivers? How do we reduce conflicts?	Liberia, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone	Providing groups of women with access to a safe space to listen to unbiased political radio broadcasts helps overcome information gaps and address barriers to collective action. This leads to increased female political participation in many forms at both national and local levels.  Communities that received the intervention exhibit smaller gender gaps across most governance outcome indicators.	Does rejuvenating civil service improve performance? (DRC)  Does deploying civil servants outside of their networks reduce patronage? (DRC)  Does deploying civil servants outside of their networks reduce performance due to lower regional knowledge? (DRC)

## Making research operational, relevant, and accessible

### Big Data and Monitoring Systems

A cornerstone of our work is supporting clients in their efforts to improve data systems and systematic use of data for decision making, this is especially important in fragile contexts. For example, in the DRC we are georeferencing all villages targeted by a rural LIPW program, overlaid with any project data, such systems serve to identify development gaps as well as facilitate real-time conflict monitoring to inform project placement and implementation responses. The program provides additional support through monitoring dashboards which help governments track and allocate project activities. Beyond providing digital tools, we work in continuity with project teams to harmonize impact evaluation data collection with project M&E frameworks, working together to build comprehensive data infrastructure for projects and agencies.

### Access to knowledge

A series of white papers on gender-based violence, employment in FCV, and civil service reform synthesize the state of the evidence and have been used to engage academics, policy makers and practitioners within the World Bank as well as external partners in this field. Several IEs have generated results which are already impacting policy decisions<sup>1</sup>. For example, at program design stage in the DRC, the E4Peace team helped the government rethink the packages that should accompany the LIPW intervention (savings and trainings). More than just rationalizing programs, the team has also helped in making informed policy decisions. For example, in Egypt, the positive impacts of another cash-for-work program has led the government to aim for a scale-up of the successful program.

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the E4Peace program and team, including publications and working papers, see <http://www.worldbank.org/en/research/dime/brief/fragility-conflict-and-violence>

### Capacity Building

In all impact evaluations, the E4Peace team consistently works with government agencies and local partners to develop their data and research capacity. To do so, research teams work hand-in-hand with project managers and policymakers during the entire project life cycle, helping them take ownership of the impact evaluation through a learning-by-doing process. In turn, the research team gains valuable local knowledge about projects' socioeconomic and geographic contexts and institutional settings which may affect outcomes in important ways. This process of co-producing knowledge thus contributes to higher-quality products and lays the ground for policy take-up of findings from day one on.

### Team

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