

# Homegrown Safety: Community Participation and Violence Prevention

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## Abstract

Homegrown safety aims to look at the effectiveness of community participation in ending gender-based violence (GBV) in a post-conflict era. The secondary research compares the effectiveness of these localized efforts through multiple measures. The methodological framework includes statistical analysis of GBV rates pre and post-conflict as well as pre and post-programmatic implementation. The study will also use comparative policy analysis as well as the qualitative method of content analysis to compare and dissect the impact of local efforts in relation to non-binding treaties like UN 1325. The working thesis looks at whether policies of deterrence or radical cultural change have long-lasting promise to end GBV.

## Results & Discussion

Preliminary results indicate that there is a significant drop in GBV post-conflict with the implementation of these community-based initiatives. However, I hope to examine if there is a genuine increase in transformative behavior if the programs are created *by* community members rather than *for* community members. I also seek to answer the question of how the presence of armed conflict impacts this violence. The biggest limitation of this project is that at this time the research is conducted through secondary means instead of primary, self-conducted data collection.

## Materials & Methods

The paper will use basic statistical calculations and regressions to examine the magnitude of decrease in GBV post-conflict. The research will be focused in West Africa including nations like Cote de 'Ivoire, Uganda, and Ethiopia. The research will also employ content analysis to evaluate materials like policy documents, community accounts, along with descriptions of violence to help inform the discussion as to the "psychology of violence." All of the data will be viewed through a critical theory lens.

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# Title

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