

## Military operations - row summary

Military operations are any efforts that involve the use of a state's armed forces to prevent, de-escalate or resolve a violent conflict or atrocity, usually resolving the conflict in favour of one of the parties – which is called a biased intervention. This excludes peacekeeping missions provided by multilateral forces, which are intended to be unbiased. Military operations include operations where armed forces are engaged in combat and those that do not have primary objectives to engage in combat (e.g. the presence of armed forces in specific locations or for training). This also includes cyberwarfare operations when delivered by a state's armed forces.

Military interventions and support are expected to reduce violence by ending or reducing conflict, either by the threat of force or the actual use of force. When one side of the conflict receives external support, other combatants may be more willing to enter into negotiations (that is diplomatic relations and peaceful dispute resolution). Military operations are expected to bring peace and stability to areas, allowing governments to deliver services and put safety nets in place, thus improving citizen perceptions of government. The presence of outside troops can may improve observation of human rights.

The evidence does not support these theoretical expectations. Overall, there is a small negative effect on violence, which undermines the possibility of other effects such as social safety nets, and economic security. However, some forms of military intervention in certain contexts – notably drones in Pakistan – have reduced violence. And anti-terrorism efforts by the Kenyan government improved confidence in government, notably amongst Somalis. In addition, military support has a moderate effect on the likelihood of negotiations (though biased support for the government reduces this likelihood), and support by democracies improves respect for human rights, though this effect can be offset if a conflict becomes more intense.

### Effect of military aid

Outcome sub-domain	Effect size	No. of studies	No. of effect sizes
Government performance	0.138	1	17
Social safety nets	-0.005	1	2
Political security	0.114	1	2
Economic security	-0.015	2	35
Physical security	0.453	1	2
Diplomatic relations and peaceful dispute resolution	0.107	2	24
Nature and scale of violence and atrocities	-0.013	15	53