

WHAT ARE THE BEST TARGETS TO REDRESS VIOLENCE?

TARGET 1: Reduce assaults. Evidence is limited but one UK pilot study found that benefits are 17 times the cost.

TARGET 2: Eliminate severe physical violence as a method of child discipline, which will return 11 dollars back on the dollar.

TARGET 3: By 2030, reduce the number of countries experiencing large scale wars to 3 or fewer and the number of countries experiencing small scale wars to 14. For every dollar spent the benefit is 5 dollars.

TARGET 4: Improve Policing. The benefits are likely to be many times higher than the costs, resulting in a high benefit-cost ratio.

TARGET 5: Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. These benefits are estimated to greatly exceed the costs, resulting in a high benefit-cost ratio. However, much depends on the interventions used.

“For each battlefield death in civil war, about nine times as many people are killed in interpersonal disputes.”

Violence Costs 9.5 Trillion Dollars A Year

Anke Hoeffler, Research Officer at Oxford University and James Fearon, Professor of Political Science at Stanford University have compared social and economic benefits and costs to identify the best targets to redress conflict and violence.

This work was then peer-reviewed in alternative perspective papers by S. Brock Blomberg, Professor of Economics at Claremont McKenna College and Rodrigo R. Soares, Professor of Economics at Sao Paulo School of Economics. Additionally, NGOs and stakeholders such as Cure Violence, Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum, Stability: International Journal of Security and Development, and Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom also submitted viewpoint papers concerning Hoeffler and Fearon’s analysis.

Ultimately, an expert panel consisting of Nobel Laureate economists will weigh up the economic, social and environmental benefits and costs of all targets discussed for the post-2015 development agenda to form recommendations.

ABOUT POST-2015 CONSENSUS: In a world of limited resources, we can’t do everything, but how should we prioritize? The Copenhagen Consensus Center provides information on which targets will do the most social good relative to their costs. The final decision on choosing goals will definitely rest on a number of factors, not just economics – but knowing the costs and benefits provides an important piece of information. Together, with the input of renowned experts from the UN, NGO and private sectors, our 62 teams of economists produce research papers to establish the most effective targets within the 19 core issue areas.