Everyday Peace Indicators (EPI) - Dimensions Codebook
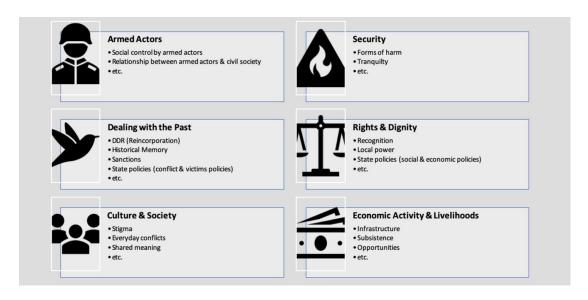
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Background

EPI endeavors to put local meanings at the center of its data collection and analysis process. As such, it has always approached coding inductively, using indicators as the empirical basis for the development of codebooks, which differ from one context to another, reflecting the diversity of local peacebuilding actors and dynamics. After creating several, country-specific codebooks, EPI researchers detected a need for common, higher-order codes to enable the comparison of data across countries and, even within the same country, make it easier to detect patterns in the rich and highly nuanced indicators.

In 2019, drawing heavily on the indicator datasets from Colombia and Sri Lanka, EPI researchers developed a set of six common dimensions that could, in principle, be applied to data from any context. The dimensions represent different facets of community life with special emphasis on dynamics of violence and peacebuilding. Each dimension covers multiple themes that are theoretically connected and often cluster together in everyday narratives. In real life, these six dimensions overlap. However, as discrete codes, they have proven helpful for understanding, visualizing, and comparing the various ways that communities talk about 'peace.'

Description of Dimensions

Armed Actors	Security
• Social control by armed actors • Relationship between armed actors & civil society • etc.	• Forms of harm • Tranquility • etc.
Dealing with the Past • DDR (Reincorporation) • Historical Memory • Sanctions • State policies (conflict & victims policies) • etc.	**Rights & Dignity** • Recognition • Local power • State policies (social & economic policies) • etc.
Culture & Society • Stigma • Everyday conflicts • Shared meaning • etc.	**Economic Activity & Livelihoods** • Infrastructure • Subsistence • Opportunities • etc.

Dimension 1: Armed Actors
This dimension encompasses all categories that have to do with armed actors, such as Military, Non-State Armed Actors, Armed Actors/Civilian Relations, Victimizing Acts, etc.

Dimension 2: Dealing with the Past
This dimension encompasses all categories that have to do with dealing with the past, such as Accountability, Forgiveness, Healing, Land, Memory, Missing Persons, Reparations, Truth, Rehabilitation, Reincorporation, Return, Punishments, Sanctions, etc.

Dimension 3: Security
This dimension encompasses all categories that have to do with Mobility, Safety, Stability, Victimizing Acts, Tranquility/Security, etc.

Dimension 4: Culture & Society
This dimension encompasses all categories that have to do with culture and society, such as Language, Religion, Social Norms, Media, Social Media, Empathy, Gender, Minors/Youth, Daily Conflicts, Collective Sentiment, External Relations, Intergenerational Relations, etc.

Dimension 5: Rights & Dignity
This dimension encompasses all categories that have to do with Political, Public Services, Rule of Law, Representation, Equality, Freedom of Expression, Respect, Trust, Use of Local Power, Autonomy, Recognition and Dignity, State-Society Relations, etc.

Dimension 6: Economic Activity & Livelihoods (Or Livelihoods and Health)
This dimension encompasses all categories that have to do with Agriculture, Economy, Living Conditions, Illicit Crops, Environment, etc.

Use of the Six Dimensions

The six dimensions outlined above have been applied to several country-specific EPI codebooks. Researchers retained inductively-derived, country-specific categories (and subcategories) and mapped them onto the most appropriate dimension. Any indicators coded into that category were automatically assigned to the corresponding dimension. When indicators were coded into two categories, they were counted twice, once for each dimension. Dimensions guided the empirical analysis of indicators for several unpublished reports. They were also the basis for the article: Peter Dixon and Pamina Firchow, "Collective Justice: Ex-Combatants and Community Reparations in Colombia," *Journal of Human Rights Practice*, Volume 14, Issue 2, July 2022, Pages 434–453, https://doi.org/10.1093/jhuman/huac030.

Limitations

The dimensions, unlike the everyday indicators, are largely imposed from above. They are one of many possible ways to group and interpret EPI data. Theoretically, there is significant overlap between them. The inductive coding process used to create country-specific categories means that, in practice, the categories don't always map seamlessly onto a single dimension. Lastly, since the standard convention of EPI is to code indicators on up to two categories, indicators may be assigned to two dimensions (or counted twice in a single dimension). The limitations should be taken into consideration when utilizing the dimensions to analyze indicator data.