



EVERYDAY
PEACE INDICATORS

Why Everyday Peace Indicators?

Everyday Peace Indicators (EPI) is a research NGO (501c3) that uses community-generated indicators to inform peacebuilding and social justice initiatives in conflict-affected areas. We ask everyday people to describe the daily experiences that signal to them whether their community is at peace—these signs are what we refer to as “everyday indicators.”

Our work supports peacebuilding around the world, including in the US, Sri Lanka, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Colombia. The Everyday Peace Indicators approach is an innovative, participatory tool that illuminates local needs and priorities. We can inform:

Programs: Our data offers valuable insights for shaping programs across a range of areas, including employment, infrastructure, education and conflict-related issues. Everyday indicators also serve as an effective tool to monitor and evaluate projects.

Policy: Everyday indicators can indicate the need for changes in policies, funding allocation or the delivery of public goods and services. Indicators can also reveal issues and specific government (in)actions, at the local and/or national level, that hinder the progress of reconciliation or peace.

Community Engagement: Our data catalyzes local action by assisting communities to identify and respond to local priorities, such as mobilizing people and resources to address the disrepair of public spaces.



The EPI Difference

We partner with everyday people to generate bottom-up, community-generated indicators of hard-to-define concepts like peace, justice and coexistence.

Our core belief

We believe communities impacted by conflict are best at defining peace and should be the main informants on peacebuilding programs and policies.



“Everyday” indicators

Instead of relying on “off-the-shelf” measures often used in traditional monitoring, evaluation and research, we help communities identify their own indicators of peace and justice.



Better data

Community-generated indicators enhance program design, monitoring, and evaluation for civil society and government agencies, ensuring increased relevance and effectiveness aligned with community priorities.





How We Work

Using a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods, we collect bottom-up data that helps organizations work locally and increase their impact.

Our Process

Working locally, at the neighborhood level, we apply the EPI process in four rigorous stages:

- we conduct focus groups to develop indicator lists
- we consult the wider community in town halls to verify and rank the lists
- we use the indicators to analyze programs and policy performance, and
- we monitor for changes in people's perceptions.

Everyday indicators reveal important information about daily life that is often overlooked by donors, policymakers and practitioners in the communities they serve. For example, in Uganda we found that locals gauge their environment's tranquility and security through unconventional signs such as the frequency of dog barking (indicative of intruders) or the number of bicyclists (suggestive of safe roads). Similarly, in Afghanistan, we found that the absence of rooftop antennas (indicative of access to television), pointed to the Taliban's dominance over a community.

These everyday signs give unique, nuanced perspectives on peace, safety and justice, offering insights beyond what traditional metrics can capture.

Our Impact

Amplifying community voices

Everyday indicators reveal local priorities and can increase the impact of program and policy design, monitoring and evaluation for civil society organizations and government agencies.

Robust community-driven data

Our database with over 17,000 indicators from nine countries has informed 35+ publications (cited in 3000+ articles) and influenced national and international discussions.

Transforming policy and practice

Our partners and funders, including the UN, USAID and Humanity United, indicate the widespread adoption and impact of "everyday peace". EPI now forms the basis of the first Pillar of Search for Common Ground's "Peace Impact Framework."

"The EPI research findings played a crucial role in identifying the fundamental priorities for everyday reconciliation in the communities we worked in. It assisted us in collaborating with stakeholders and grantees and the research facilitated the co-creation of strategies, project formulation, and successful implementation" **Global Communities, Sri Lanka, EPI NGO Partner**



Case Study: *Strengthening Transitional Justice in Colombia*

Project Overview

In Colombia, we used our participatory methodology to assess the implementation of the Colombian peace processes. We asked people in villages across three departments, Antioquia, Cauca and Bogota (Sumapaz), to think about what they considered indicators of justice and coexistence in their communities. These indicators ranged from intuitive signs of coexistence, like “violent acts are not repeated,” to more nuanced and locally relevant indicators, such as “the community maintains the local cemetery” and “the state maintains access roads.” These findings suggest a variety of access points from which government and organizations can work toward national objectives like coexistence and justice in more meaningful ways.

Partnerships

We partnered with national organizations like MINGA, a Colombian grassroots human rights organization. These partnerships were complemented by our national-level engagement with the Colombian Truth Commission, the national restorative justice court (Special Jurisdiction of Peace), the follow-up Truth Commission and the Colombian Victims Unit.

Our Findings

We identified key differences between state-led and community-led justice efforts in Antioquia. Our findings suggest that community-led efforts more effectively address the needs and experiences of both civilians and ex-combatants, providing a more viable route to coexistence.

Our Impact

- Our project has played a pivotal role in shaping the activities of the Colombian Truth Commission and its 2022 report.
- We have established impactful partnerships with various organizations to train them in participatory methodologies and bottom-up measurement, enhancing the accountability of peacebuilding efforts to the communities they serve.
- This project's approach has been recognized and financially supported by the National Science Foundation and the US Institute of Peace, receiving USIP's largest research grant in 39 years.
- Our project has led to significant contributions in transitional justice-related media, policy and academic fields, including publications in the Journal of Human Rights Practice, Action Research, Devex and The Conversation.
- Our work has been recognized as the most extensive evaluation for the Inter-American Foundation in its 54-year history.