



PAKISTAN

The Current Situation

Pakistan is a key U.S. partner in the fight against extremism. Ensuring Pakistan's stability is seen as a critical aspect of America's strategy to bring peace to the South Asian region. The U.S. government remains committed to assisting Pakistan and has broadened the relationship considerably in the recent past. In spite of this renewed cooperation, however, tensions have surfaced intermittently over Pakistan's alleged unwillingness to tackle militants operating against Coalition forces in Afghanistan from Pakistani territory, increased use of U.S. drones in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), and the modalities governing the transfer and utilization of U.S. economic assistance to Pakistan.

The present democratic dispensation in Pakistan has raised hopes for institutional revival, and the civilian leadership has had notable political successes in spite of increased militant violence and a severe economic crisis that has left Pakistani institutions excessively stressed. Yet Pakistan requires uninterrupted democratic rule over the long term for stability to return to the country. Simultaneously, the state must find resolve to tackle militancy, in all its forms, within its borders. USIP is actively engaged in helping policymakers understand and address these issues as well as supporting initiatives to foster long-term peace and stability through a variety of research and action-oriented programs.

Our Goals

- Improving Mutual Understanding between the U.S. and Pakistan
- Strengthening the Capacity to Mitigate Conflict
- Promoting Peacebuilding through Education and Civil Society Initiatives

Improving Mutual Understanding between the U.S. and Pakistan

Pakistan Policy Working Group: Pakistan's long-term stability is just as critical for the U.S. as is its immediate role in tackling terrorism. While Pakistan has collaborated closely with the U.S. as a front-line ally since 9/11, there are tensions over conflicting interests and challenges. In order to improve mutual understanding and allow for more informed policymaking, USIP's Pakistan Policy Working Group provides forums for U.S. and Pakistani officials and experts to regularly discuss important policy-related issues relevant to this bilateral relationship. A variety of activities are conducted under the Working Group umbrella, including public events and internal seminars at USIP, public seminars and invitation-only roundtables in Pakistan and USIP publications, as well as briefings and recommendations for policymakers and Congress, with the aim of generating innovative ideas and developing synergies in U.S.-Pakistan relations.

Expert-level Consultations on Key Policy Questions: The mutual lack of understanding in the U.S.-Pakistan relationship pervades even some of the most critical policy questions. There is very little appreciation of the positions adopted by the two governments on particular issues and the concerns and constraints that may dictate their decisions in certain eventualities. The Institute has commenced a series of projects based on expert-level consultations that aim at better comprehending U.S. and Pakistani policies on specific issues. A project was recently completed examining U.S. options vis-à-vis Pakistan in the event a successful terrorist attack on U.S. soil is traced back to Pakistan. Another, examining Pakistan's view on the situation in Afghanistan and its likely role in the so-called 'end game,' is drawing upon the expertise of Pakistani opinion makers and leaders. It will run through spring 2011.

The Growing Influence of the Pakistani Taliban and Its Implications for Regional and Global Security: The growth of the Pakistani Taliban risks destabilizing Pakistani society as well as undermining peacebuilding efforts in Afghanistan. While considerable research exists on the Afghan Taliban, relatively little work has been carried out on the Pakistani Taliban. USIP's 2009-2010 Jennings Randolph Fellow Imtiaz Ali is researching the origins of the Pakistani Taliban, the nature of insurgency on the Pakistani side of the border, its connection with the insurgency in Afghanistan, and its links with local and global terrorist organizations such as al-Qaeda. The research will provide insight into the radicalization of the Pashtun people on the Pakistani side of the border.

Pakistan's Negotiating Behavior: In 2011, the Institute is publishing *How Pakistan Negotiates with the United States* by Ambassadors Howard and Teresita Schaffer. This book will identify, illustrate, and analyze characteristic features of Pakistani negotiating behavior in diplomatic encounters with the U.S., with particular emphasis on the political-cultural aspects of their diplomatic interactions. Based on the authors' direct negotiating experience, interviews with U.S., Pakistani, and Indian officials, and a review of relevant literature, the book is an important addition to the Institute's series on cross-cultural negotiation.

Strengthening Capacity to Mitigate Conflict

Assessing Pakistan's Counterterrorism Challenge: Defeating terrorism in Pakistan is a priority both for the Pakistani and U.S. governments. Despite a consensus that this goal cannot be achieved by military force alone, much of the practical focus remains on this aspect. This research-based project will analyze Pakistan's counterterrorism effort in a holistic manner. In addition to analyzing the military's performance, it will delve into the hitherto ignored aspects of counterterrorism: police capacity, legal impediments to countering terrorism, preventing financial flows to militants, and use of cyberspace, among others. The project is engaging Pakistani, U.S., and international experts to contribute to an edited volume to be published by USIP.

Cross-Border Dialogue Initiative: In partnership with Afghan and Pakistani non-governmental organizations (NGOs), USIP's Academy for International Conflict Management and Peacebuilding conducted a series of dialogues with representatives from local government, businesspeople, traditional leaders, religious leaders, NGOs, academics, and media from Pashtun regions on both sides of the border. The sectoral dialogues aimed to build relationships and networks between communities in the border regions to address the root causes of violent conflict and extremism, and provided trainings to participants to build their capacities in negotiation and advocacy. Over the course of three sectoral and two multisectoral dialogues, participants reached consensus about their priority concerns and recommendations for addressing them. Through a micro-grants program in both countries, local NGO partners conducted further dialogues with participants from remote regions. In January 2011, two conferences, one in Kabul and one in Islamabad, brought together dialogue initiative participants and representatives from the relevant ministries in their respective governments for priority concern and policy recommendation discussions.

Developing a Network of Conflict Management Facilitators: Along with a multitude of ethnic challenges, Pakistan continues to face an active Taliban-led insurgency on its soil. As is typical of such insurgencies, the dynamics surrounding the Taliban's operations and tactics associated with establishing control over local populations involve a mix of tools. All too often, exploitation of local conflicts is a favored measure; it leads to a culture of violence and fear. Building local capacity to prevent and manage potentially violent conflicts can reduce radicalization and militancy in troubled areas.

The Institute's Academy for Conflict Management and Peacebuilding is conducting intermediate and advanced training with Pakistani community and civil society leaders to develop the capacity of local entities working on dialogue, conflict resolution and peacebuilding at the community level. These trained conflict facilitators will then identify and undertake dispute resolution efforts with support from USIP's innovative micro-grant program, putting the conflict resolution tools and resources into the hands of local actors. Since the project commenced in 2009, the facilitators have been resolving, or contributing to the resolution of conflicts in their communities on a grassroots level.

Pakistan's Upcoming Generation—Hope or Despair: With over 57 percent of Pakistan's population of 170 million below the age of 24, the orientation of Pakistani youth will determine the country's future trajectory. USIP's Pakistan program seeks to focus attention on Pakistan's youth by mapping youth perceptions and preferences for the country's future and linking these to policy options that would put Pakistan on the path to progress. This exercise will examine the current state and views of Pakistani youth, the threat of radicalization among this demographic, and the possible avenues for U.S. policy to influence their future positively. An analytical report covering various aspects of the subject will be published by USIP.

The Ottawa Dialogue on Nuclear Conflict Prevention: Track II diplomacy is a means of engaging representatives from adversarial countries in dialogue on sensitive subjects to identify possible means of conflict resolution that the participants may carry into official circles as private recommendations for constructive action. Long-standing rivals India and Pakistan became new nuclear states in 1998, and their deep disputes pose significant risks for the region. USIP is collaborating with the University of Ottawa to bring together influential Pakistani and Indian participants in a series of dialogues on courses of action serving nuclear conflict reduction and stability. Issues discussed in these dialogues include escalation control, arms control, nuclear deterrents, and civilian nuclear cooperation, among others. Three dialogues have taken place since 2009, and the next one is scheduled for July 2011.

Pugwash India-Pakistan Track II Dialogue: The U.S. has a strong interest in ensuring peaceful coexistence between India and Pakistan. Track II dialogues are crucial in reducing the potential for confrontation between these two sides, especially in regions like South Asia, where track I communications become the first casualty in times of distress. This series of dialogues will complement the Ottawa Dialogue on nuclear conflict prevention by covering a broader set of issues including terrorism, resource-based tensions, prospects for normalization across the Line of Control in Kashmir, and Indian and Pakistani roles in Afghanistan. Led by the Pugwash Commissions on India and Pakistan, a group of former officials, retired military personnel and key opinion makers, the dialogue series began in June 2009 in Islamabad and will continue with its next round in February 2011.

Security Sector Governance in Pakistan: Developing professional support institutions and accountability mechanisms is necessary to ensure that security sector reforms are sustainable and locally owned. USIP's Security Sector Governance Center publishes reports on critical and timely issues related to security sector reform. On Pakistan, Christine Fair, assistant professor at Georgetown University, is authoring a Special Report. The report will be based on original field research and interviews and will focus on the governing bodies that oversee and manage Pakistan's security forces, including the defense and interior ministries, parliament, and the executive branch.

Promoting Peacebuilding Through Education and Civil Society Initiatives

Civil Society Capacity Building: The Grant Program has been working in partnership with Pakistani civil society and international nonprofit organizations to develop local capacities for peacebuilding and conflict resolution since spring 2007. The Pakistan Priority Grant Competition employs a two-pronged strategy. This strategy includes support for Pakistani civil society organizations to promote dialogue against religious extremism and advance public education on understanding Pakistan's diversity across key religious, cultural, regional, gender and generational divides. Grant-supported organizations achieve this through interfaith/intersect dialogue, and expanded and improved media coverage. The second component focuses on education reform that includes support for curriculum development, teacher training and the integration of materials related to peace education and interfaith tolerance in formal educational settings.

Peace Education Textbook and Teacher Training: In the past 15 years, Sunni and Shi'ite militias have caused devastating violence in Pakistan. The flourishing of extremist groups like Tehreek-e-Taliban, Lashkar-e Taiba, and Jama'at Dawa has produced a culture of sectarian violence and strained relationships within Islamic sects in Pakistan. In order to counteract sectarian violence, the Institute's Religion and Peacemaking Program worked with both Sunni and Shi'ite religious scholars to produce an Islamic peace education textbook for religious schools in Pakistan, now published in Urdu. The textbook is directed at the high school level, and seminary teachers in the five major Islamic sects in Pakistan will use this textbook to teach a course on Islamic peacemaking and conflict resolution. In collaboration with local partners, the Religion and Peacemaking Program is also providing training to these teachers. By doing so, this initiative is developing the capacity in peacebuilding and conflict prevention for current religious teachers and the next generation of religious leaders.

USIP Pakistan Program Publications

Peace Briefs

- Leonard S. Rubenstein, "Humanitarian Space Shrinking for Health Delivery Program in Afghanistan and Pakistan," October 2010.
- Moeed Yusuf, "Correcting America's Image Problem in Pakistan," August 2010.
- Altaf Ullah Khan and Mary Hope Schwoebel, "Flooding Challenges Pakistan's Government and the International Community," August 2010.
- Moeed Yusuf and Ashley Pandya, "The Quest for Nuclear Disarmament in South Asia: A Reality Check," August 2010.

Special Reports

- Daanish Mustafa, "Hydropolitics in Pakistan's Indus Basin," Special Report No. 261, November 2010.
- Hassan Abbas, "Too Flawed to Fix? Reforming Pakistan's Police and Law Enforcement," Special Report No. 266, February 2011.

Books

- Howard B. Schaffer and Teresita C. Schaffer, *How Pakistan Negotiates with the United States* (Washington, DC: U.S. Institute of Peace Press, forthcoming, 2011).
- Qamar-ul Huda, *Crescent and Dove* (Washington, DC: U.S. Institute of Peace Press, 2010).



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USIP provides the analysis, training and tools that prevent and end conflicts, promotes stability and professionalizes the field of peacebuilding.

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