



CURRENT SITUATION IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan continues to face multiple internal and external threats to peace, despite the fact that it completed its first-ever peaceful transfer of power from one civilian government to the next in 2013. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government came into office with an ambitious agenda of economic development, peace negotiations with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan militants, and renewed relations with Pakistan's neighbors. These efforts have stalled or reversed in a number of areas, however, and the government today faces protests from domestic political opponents. Meanwhile, Pakistan continues to face multiple internal and external threats to peace. A common structural factor in many of these conflicts is the weakness of the Pakistani state and its inability—or reluctance—to prevent and contain the actions of all violent sub-state actors. However, despite its weaknesses, leadership from the Pakistani state also remains central to addressing most of the significant drivers of conflict.

USIP'S WORK

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) has worked to promote peace and stability in Pakistan since 2005. USIP's programming supports domestic constituencies for peace to address the growing intolerance of religious, ethnic, and political diversity in the country and to help reduce the state's credibility deficit in the eyes of its citizens. The program also conducts research and analysis and convenes dialogues that inform policymakers.

The Institute's most important current efforts in Pakistan include:

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE): USIP supports projects aimed at strengthening civil society initiatives that seek to prevent, mitigate and resolve conflict. A key objective is to take back the public space that violent extremists use to influence and recruit. Themes supported under this initiative include peace education, inter-faith and inter-sect dialogues, and "peace messaging," among others. Ongoing projects include: Bargad Volunteers Network, a nationwide youth hub against extremism; Bedari's Peace through Arts, an initiative to promote tolerance of diversity through arts in Southern Punjab; and Paiman's Women of Faith which promotes social cohesion through active engagement of women leaders of different faiths.

Supporting Police and Law Enforcement: Since July 2010, USIP has been working with senior retired and serving members of the Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) to improve the ability of Pakistan's police to counter extremist violence, sectarian conflict and organized crime. The program has focused on providing the PSP with an approach to countering Pakistan's endemic violence and is created to improve police-community relations and basic law enforcement. This police reform advisory group has requested continued USIP support for a four point framework for promoting police reform, including shaping the environment for police reform; developing model legislation for a new counterterrorism law; reforming the role and efficacy of the police station, the basic policing unit in Pakistan; and developing deeper relationships between Pakistan's police and specialized counter terrorism agencies.

Peace Innovation Fund (PIF): USIP's PIF for Pakistan is an entrepreneurial initiative that promotes peace by piloting innovative local solutions to local problems. Awardees under PIF are grassroots activists, reformers, and social enterprises whose work is sustained locally and is focused on upholding

tolerance across civil society. Awardees include the Peace Rickshaws Project that sought to use three-wheelers as message boards to promote peace messaging, the 60 Second International Film Festival that allowed youth to submit amateur films which contained messages of peace and went viral in a number of countries, and Quaid Se Batein (Talks with Jinnah) an animated TV series that promotes tolerance by using Pakistan's founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah as the role model.

Conflict Analysis: USIP seeks to inform US, Pakistani and international policies and programs by providing relevant analysis to promote better understanding of the drivers of peace and conflict in Pakistan. The Institute also supports inter-state track 1.5 and track II dialogues to improve peaceful co-existence. A number of India-Pakistan initiatives have been supported.

USIP PUBLICATIONS

USIP's staff and experts publish in-depth reports, as well as short, timely policy briefs, that distill expert research, lessons learned and problem-solving solutions to advance peacebuilding in Pakistan.

In the first three quarters of 2014, USIP released six publications on Pakistan and multiple additional commentary and analysis pieces. Recent research has focused on analyzing subnational conflict dynamics, assessing sources of sectarian violence or radicalization, studying the role of the Pakistani police services in national counterterrorism policy, and on bilateral U.S.-Pakistan relations, among other topics. Recent reports include:

PeaceWorks: Mapping Conflict Trends in Pakistan

Special Report: A Counterterrorism Role for Pakistan's Police Stations

Special Report: Religious Authority and the Promotion of Sectarian Tolerance in Pakistan

PeaceBrief: Youth Radicalization in Pakistan

USIP EVENTS

USIP frequently hosts events, bringing together thought leaders, scholars, experts, policymakers and elected officials. In October 2013, USIP hosted the Pakistani Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif for a public talk. During the first half of 2014, USIP convened nearly 15 on-and off-the-record events, roundtables and conferences. Recent events include:

Countering Terrorism in Pakistan's Megacities: Exploring the Role of the Pakistan Police: Panel experts including former coordinator of Pakistan's National Counterterrorism Authority Tariq Parvez, Former Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Affairs Ambassador Robin Raphel, Executive Director of the Perito Group Robert Perito, and USIP South Asia Director Moeed Yusuf discussed the capacity of Pakistan's local police to counter terrorism in the nation's urban centers.

Insurgency and Counterinsurgency in Pakistan and the South Asia Region: In April 2014, USIP convened Cameron Munter, former U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Peter Lavoy, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs (APSA), General John Allen, former Commander of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), and Moeed Yusuf to discuss counterinsurgency efforts in Pakistan and the greater South Asia region.