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Ex Post Evaluation of the PovPeace Programme

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Oxford Research:

SWEDEN

Oxford Research AB
Box 7578
Norrlandsgatan 12
103 93 Stockholm
Phone: (+46) 702965449
office@oxfordresearch.se

NORWAY

Oxford Research AS
Østre Strandgate 1
4610 Kristiansand
Norge
Phone: (+47) 40 00 57 93
post@oxford.no

DANMARK

Oxford Research A/S
Falkoner Allé 20, 4. sal
2000 Frederiksberg C
Danmark
Phone: (+45) 33 69 13 69
Fax: (+45) 33 69 13 33
office@oxfordresearch.dk

FINLAND

Oxford Research OY
Fredrikinkatu 61a,
00100 Helsinki,
Finland
Phone: +358 44 203 2083
jouni.eho@oxfordresearch.fi

LATVIA

Oxford Research Baltics Ltd
Vīlandes 6-1, Riga, LV-1010,
Latvia
Phone: +371 673-38-804
Aivars.Timofejevs@oxfordresearch.lv

BELGIUM

Oxford Research
c/o ENSR
5, Rue Archimède, Box 4
1000 Brussels
Phone +32 2 5100884
Fax +32 2 5100885
secretariat@ensr.eu

Introduction

In 2005, the Norwegian Research Council established the PovPeace programme in cooperation with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation. The objectives for the programme was to help build expertise, inform public debate and provide input to Norwegian and international policymaking processes. Furthermore, the aim of the programme was to generate knowledge that could act as a basis for strategies to promote poverty reduction and peace building and to strengthen Norway's international involvement within these areas.

The programme period lasted from 2006 and until 2013, and encompassed two main thematic dimensions, both with views to Norwegian interests:

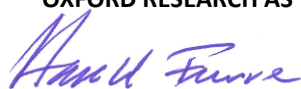1. Poverty and welfare
2. War, peace and development

The ex post evaluation's mandate was to assess the programme's goal attainment and results, how the programme had functioned, and to provide recommendations for future research in this area, including identification of relevant knowledge needs.

An expert panel in cooperation with Oxford Research carried out the evaluation in the period December 2014 to April 2015.

The expert panel consisted of Dr Laura Camfield from University of East Anglia, Professor Henrik Secher Marcussen from Roskilde University, Dr Aaltola Mika from Finnish Institute of International Affairs and Professor Herbert Wulf from Bonn International Center for Conversion. Project manager Aase Marthe Johansen Horrigmo and senior analyst Bart Romanow made up the Oxford Research's evaluation team.

We would like to thank all stakeholders for their participation in interviews and meetings.

OXFORD RESEARCH AS

Harald Furre

CEO

Title:	Evaluation of PovPeace
Client:	The Norwegian Research Council
Project period:	December 2014- March 2015
Project manager:	Aase Marthe J. Horrigmo
Authors:	Bart Romanow and Aase Marthe J. Horrigmo
Short summary:	This ex post evaluation has assessed the goal attainment in the PovPeace programme and the research results. The overall conclusion is that the programme has delivered on several goals. Our recommendations is that similar research initiative should be established, however, it is necessary to improve some aspects in the next programme.

Content

Executive summary

The Norwegian Research Council launched the Pov-Peace programme in 2005. The programme published its first call for proposals in 2005, and the first projects started up in 2006. The programme lasted until 2013, although it was included as an activity under the Norglobal programme, starting from January 2009.

The strategic aims for PovPeace were:

- Strengthening Norwegian research on poverty and peace issues in order to bring it up to the highest international standards. This was to include focus on doctoral and post-doctoral studies as well as high quality of research and strategic engagement of the university sector.

- Dissemination of research (publication in international journals and dissemination through conferences and mass media).

- Internationalization of the Norwegian research sector (better positioning for international funding and policymaking institutions).

Between 2005 and 2013, the PovPeace programme allocated 130 million NOK to 35 projects. There was a slightly larger allocation to research on poverty.

In terms of institutions leading the projects, CMI, NUPI and PRIO stood out both in the number of coordinated projects and in the budget allocation. Together with the University of Oslo, these institutions accounted for 58% of the entire programme allocation. Despite these institutions' large role, a number of other institutes received support from the programme, including some research institutions that traditionally have not conducted research on poverty or peace.

Evaluation mandate

The overarching aim of the PovPeace evaluation was to assess goal attainment in the programme. Furthermore, the evaluation team was also to make recommendations about future research on poverty reduction and peace development and identify knowledge needs within these areas.

The overall conclusion is that the programme partly delivered on its main objectives, while there is still a large area for further work and improvement.

Main findings

A number of projects, delivered high quality research. However, the research quality varied between projects. At the on hand, 7-8 projects resulted in very good or excellent publications. These projects have had an impact on the international scholarly debate. At the other hand, a quarter of the projects resulted in none or few peer-reviewed publications. The results from these projects were of a common sense nature, or were applied research, bordering to consultancy work. On average, the projects dealing with peace related topics were of a higher quality than the projects on poverty issues.

The PovPeace programme managed to sustain and slightly increase research competence in Norway, supporting a limited number of PhDs and postdoctoral positions. All the renowned Norwegian research institutions within the fields of poverty and peace research have participated in the programme; however, PovPeace also managed to mobilize new actors.

The programme was too small to have a global outreach and to include larger number of the key foreign research institutions. Despite this, the programme portfolio contained some renowned partners.

The projects were internationally oriented. While project partners in the South were not a prerequisite of the programme, the evaluation identified a large number of cooperation linkages between research institutions in the North and in the South.

The list of cooperation partners included institutions well established in the field of poverty and peace research, as well as institutions without such a record of accomplishment. A majority of the cooperation links was established before the programme. The southern partners, in some cases, played a limited role, collecting and analysing data and were not included in the scientific publishing process. However, there are several examples of co-authorship between Norwegian research institutions and their southern partners.

The participating researchers were clearly satisfied with the level of international cooperation, including the extensive network of collaborating institutes in the South. The projects that included strong southern partners have been easier to manage and they have produced more relevant research results. Although

PovPeace was not aiming at building research capacity in the South, projects with the southern partners are more likely to provide value than projects defined and implemented without any local support.

Furthermore, ethical issues, such as informed consent and benefit sharing, have not been addressed to a satisfactory extent in the projects.

An overview of findings and recommendations from the evaluation can be summarised in the following.

Main findings

1. **Output**: The projects produced a large number of research publications. A great number of articles, book chapters and a few books were published. Some projects did not report on publications. In terms of scientific publications and scientific conference presentations, the programme yielded good results.
2. **International impact and transfer of results**: 3-4 of the high quality projects had a sustained impact on the international academic debate. The transfer of research results to policy makers and the public in the South was poor, however; this was not on the list of programme objectives.
3. **Quality of research**: The quality of research and of publications varied both within and between projects and ranged from excellent to poor. Experts found 5-6 excellent projects, but also identified 3-4 poor projects in the portfolio.
4. **Capacity building**: The programme managed to sustain the capacity and engaged established research groups in Norway; however, its impact was not extraordinary. The programme was simply too small to be able to produce a large impact in terms of PhDs, post-doctoral positions and other similar indicators.
5. **Research cooperation:** Project managers and researchers mainly used existing contacts. The leading research institutions managed to develop and nourish important research linkages with top research institutions in the North and responsive research partners in the South.
   Although capacity building in the South was not a programme objective, the programme had a small impact on capacity building in the global South. Institutionally the cooperation did not bring much impact; however, PovPeace projects provided opportunities for young researchers in the South to gather experience.
6. **Research disciplines:** The program and projects connected researchers from different fields in the social sciences. The experts concluded that

there is little need to push for more interdisciplinarity in this area, as it was difficult to find examples of projects where interdisciplinarity would have increased the quality.
7. **Gender:** The expert panel has assessed two gender aspects: (1) the gender balance among researchers in the Norwegian project institutions was good, although most project managers were men. No information on the gender balance of the southern partners in the projects was available. (2) Gender issues played an important role in some projects and their publications. Other projects did not address this issue, even in cases where this might be expected.
8. **Thematic focus:** The diffusion in focus and thematic areas was large. The experts found that the poverty topic was not fully explored in the programme: subjects like extreme poverty and poverty pockets within exploding economies were missing.
   The expert panel also identified several gaps in the research on peace development: integrating the causes of war, conflict mechanisms, localism of the conflict creation, crisis preventions, conflict mediation, and monopoly on the use of force.
9. **Policy impact:** Most project had low or no direct impact on policy making in Norway. Two projects have had an important policy level impact internationally. Other projects reported minor interactions with policy makers.

Recommendations

1. **A new programme**: There is a need for a new research initiative with a similar focus on poverty reduction and peace development. The financing of this field of research should be continued.
2. **Research methodology:** Much more emphasis should be given to reflections and discussion of research methodology in project proposals, as well as research implementation and reporting, to assure better quality of findings.
3. **Capacity building:** There is still a need for capacity building in Norway. If PhDs and postdoctoral positions are to be the main measure of capacity building – this should be given focus and funding. Given the focus of research (poverty and peace and conflict in the global south), a new programme should focus more on capacity building in the global South. A new programme should emphasise balanced North-South part-

nerships, where the Southern partners are expected to be included at both the proposal and the publication stage.

4. **Reporting**: For the overall assessment of the quality of the programme and for comparison of the project results, a standardized structure of the final reports is needed. This may include e.g. methodology discussion, theory development, publications, gender balance, ethics, interdisciplinary, dissemination, policy impact, etc.

5. **Dissemination:** While the programme portfolio includes some very good examples of dissemination, there is a large room for improvement for most projects. Thus, a new programme should

further emphasise the need for dissemination directed at the public, in addition to scientific dissemination.

6. **Norwegian specialty:** Norway has developed a reputation as peace making negotiator. The expert panel recommends more analysis of why these negotiations have been successful. The alternative would be to discuss the mainstream issues of the international debate.

7. **Ethics:** Ethics in research needs to be emphasized, particularly regarding data gathering and data ownership (informed consent of interviewees) and of benefit sharing of research results.

Chapter 1.   Evaluation context and approach

The Norwegian Research Council, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Norad, launched the PovPeace programme in 2005.

1.1   About PovPeace

The programme held its first call for proposals in 2005, and the first projects started up in 2006. The programme lasted until 2013 however; it was later on included as an activity under the Norglobal programme from January 2009.

Strategic aims and objectives for the Pov-Peace programme, updated in 2010:

- To improve the understanding of how to achieve poverty reduction and promote peace building.

- To strengthen Norwegian research on poverty and peace issues and thus achieve the highest international research standards.

- To increase collaboration between relevant Norwegian researchers and their institutions and to expand networking and cooperation with leading development and peace research institutes in both the North and South as well as with international organisations.

- To support the potentially best research initiatives that address the key areas of poverty reduction, conflict prevention and peace building.

The following calls and action plans for PovPeace built on the programme's original programme plan, but the PovPeace board was dissolved and the Norglobal programme board followed up the programme.

1.1.1   PovPeace' objectives

The programme had both thematic objectives, as well as strategic aims. The programme should contribute to:

- Strengthening Norwegian research on poverty and peace issues in order to bring it up to the highest international standards. This was to include focus on doctoral and post-doctoral studies as well as high quality of research and strategic engagement of the university sector;

- Dissemination of research (publication in international journals and dissemination through conferences and mass media);

- Internationalization of the Norwegian research sector (better positioning for international funding and policymaking institutions).

The activity aimed at strengthening Norwegian research within the areas of poverty reduction and peace building, reflected the UN development goals.

One part of the programme was to improve understanding of the politics, processes and mechanisms that lead to poverty, with a particular focus on research that generated knowledge relevant for poverty reduction strategies, especially for those trapped in the worst forms of poverty in poor countries. The other part of the activity focused on the relationship between violence, peace and development.

1.2   The evaluation context and mandate

The overarching aim of this evaluation of the PovPeace programme has been to assess the goal attainment in the programme, to come up with recommendations about future research on poverty of peace and to identify knowledge needs within this area.

The evaluation mandate consisted of the following research questions:

- To what extent has the programme succeeded in building competence within poverty and peace areas and to what extent has this contributed to policy-making in this field?

- Have relevant research communities been represented in the programme portfolio? To what extent have they been represented?

- How well has the international cooperation in the projects worked?

- To what extent has the programme contributed to cooperation across relevant disciplines.

- What are the recommendations for future strategies?

The questions presented above indicate classical ex-post evaluation aspects. The last group of projects started up in 2011, and the majority of the projects ended in 2013. This has made it possible to study most of the outcomes and impact triggered by the projects.

1.3 Programme portfolio

Table 3 presents the 35 PovPeace projects.

In total PovPeace allocated almost 130 mil NOK between 2006-2014 to 35 projects coordinated by a number of Norwegian research institutes and universities.

The programme covers two thematic areas. Looking at the entire PovPeace-period, the budget allocation between the two thematic areas, poverty reduction and peace development, has been quite balanced.

In the beginning of the programme period, the programme received more applications in the peace research area. However, overall, there was a slightly larger allocation to research on poverty, and the final call for proposals only covered poverty research.

Several different Norwegian research institutions are represented in the PovPeace portfolio as project main beneficiaries, some of them gaining a significant share of the programme.

Table 1: Allocation to thematic areas in POW-PEACE programme

Programme Area	Financing (mill NOK)	% of the programme
Peace	59,11	46 %
Poverty	70,72	54 %
Sum	129,84	100 %

In terms of institutions leading the projects, CMI, NUPI and PRIO stood out both in the number of co-ordinated projects and in the budget allocation. Together with the University of Oslo, these institutions accounted for 58% of the entire programme allocation. These institutions also have a large portfolio of projects within the areas of either peace or poverty research.

At the other hand, the PovPeace portfolio also included research milieus that did not have poverty and peace research as their main thematic fields e.g. The Oslo School of Architecture and Design (AHO).

Table 2: Allocation to institutes and number of granted projects

Institution	Financing (mill NOK)	Share in programme allocation	Number of granted projects
AHO	5,14	4 %	1
CMI	23,75	18 %	7
DHS	1,83	1 %	1
FAFO	12,14	9 %	3
FNI	2,93	2 %	1
NIBR	6,73	5 %	2
NINA	5,	4 %	1
UMB NOR-AGRIC	4,82	4 %	1
NUPI	14,17	11 %	4
PRIO	20,6	16 %	5
SINTEF	4,22	3 %	1
SNF	4,5*	0 %	1
UiB	7,26	6 %	2
UiO	17,14	13 %	4
UiT	4,11	3 %	1
Total	129,84	100 %	35

financed from another programme line, not included in the total sum.

Table 3: Projects in PovPeace with allocation per year

Project name	Inst	Topic	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Violence in the Post-Conflict State	CMI	Peace	1,26	1,08	1,18							3,5
Poverty, prices and international inequality	NUPI	Poverty	0,27	0,26	0,26							1,1*
Conflict resolution and democratisation in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami: A comparative study of Aceh and Sri Lanka	UiO	Peace	,55	1,78	1,81	,97						5,1
Poverty and marginalisation in Central and West Africa: autoch-thony and land rights	FAFO	Poverty	1,49	1,88	,53							3,9
Protected Areas and Poverty in Africa (PAPIA)	NINA	Poverty		,7	1,08	1,21	1,12	,89				5,
Liberal Peace and the Ethics of Peace building Towards the inte-gration of ethics in peace building research	PRIO	Peace		1,62	1,72	1,66						5,
Violence, poverty and police corruption	NUPI	Poverty		1,39	1,94	1,07	,54					4,9
Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) and impli-cations for post-conflict economic recovery	NUPI	Peace		,74	1,42	1,16	,61					3,9
The moderation of Islamist movements	CMI	Peace		1,26	1,43	1,43						4,1
Poverty reduction strategies in a public health perspective. Social grants, HIV/AIDS and the role out of HAART in South Africa	FAFO	Poverty		2,41	,95	,22						3,6
Ethics, Rights and Poverty: Global Theory and National Practice	UiO	Poverty		1,13	1,27	1,03	,08					3,5
Land reform, trust, and customary land rights in the socio-eco-nomic transformation of Malawi	NIBR	Poverty		1,27	1,66							2,9
Domestic Capabilities for Peaceful Conflict Management	PRIO	Peace		,79	2,24	,97						4,
Property, Possession and Conflict in Re/Building Settlement	AHO	Peace		1,68	1,62	1,63	,21					5,1
Farmers' Rights related to Agrobiodiversity as a Means of Poverty Alleviation: Strategies of Civil Society Organisations	FNI	Poverty		,78	1,03	,99	,13					2,9
In the Shadow of a Conflict: Impacts of Zimbabwe's Land Reform on Rural Poverty and Development in Mozambique, South Africa, and Zambia	NOR-AGRIC	Peace		1,5	1,64	1,69						4,8
Going Home to Fight? Explaining Refugee Return and Violence	PRIO	Peace				,55	1,16	1,	,32			3,
Decentralization as a strategy for resolving conflict?	NIBR	Peace			0,48	1,28	0,69	1,11				3,6*
Rights, power and civic action: Comparative analyses of human rights-based approaches and civic struggle in development con-texts	UiO	Peace				1,61	1,35	1,54				4,5
Unravelling the Vicious Circle: Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Livelihoods in Small-scale Fisheries	UiT	Poverty				1,47	1,48	1,16				4,1
The Payoff of Promises: Articulating, Negotiating and Implement-ing Wealth Sharing	PRIO	Peace				1,45	1,55	,98				4,0
Flammable Societies: The Role of Oil and Gas Industry in the Pro-motion of Poverty Reduction and Social Volatility	CMI	Poverty				1,64	1,43	1,26	,32			4,6
Social networks, labour transactions and outcomes: A theoretical and empirical study of migrant workers, and their employers, in South-Asia.	CMI	Poverty				1,05	,85					1,9
Biofuels and human rights: Assessing biofuel plantations in Brazil, Indonesia and Tanzania Applying a Human Rights Impact Assess-ment	DHS	Poverty					,49	,47	,42	,44		1,8
Everyday State-Society Relationships and Social Movements in Adivasi Communities, Western Madhya Pradesh, India	UiB	Poverty					,81	,94	,85	,07		2,7
Gender in poverty reduction. Critical Explorations of Norwegian Aid Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Rights	UiB	Poverty					,63	1,62	1,24	,7	,39	4,6
Poverty, disability and access to social welfare in the Peoples Re-public of China	UiO	Poverty					1,01	,97	1,5	,54		4,
Poverty Reduction and Gender Justice in Contexts of Legal Plural-ism	CMI	Poverty					1,24	1,67	1,09			4,
Poverty traps in industries with low knowledge- and investment barriers	CMI	Poverty					1,	,67	,4			2,1
Violence in the Post-Conflict State, Phase II: Gender-based vio-lence in post-2001 Afghanistan	CMI	Peace					,85	1,02	,97	,66		3,5
Fighting poverty through alcohol misuse prevention in Malawi	SIN-TEF	Poverty						,99	2,08	1,15		4,2
Private Islamic Charity and Approaches to Poverty Reduction	PRIO	Poverty						,86	1,49	1,76	,49	4,6
On the Mechanics of Microfinance: Group dynamics and business outcomes;	SNF	Poverty	financed from another programme 4,5 mill NOK									
Peacekeeping, Poverty, and Development: Towards an Under-standing of the Gendered Peacekeeping Economies in the DRC, Sudan, and Liberia	FAFO	Peace						1,16	1,62	1,47	,41	4,7

Slums, states and citizens: Policing, welfare services and political participation among the urban poor in New Delhi, Nairobi and Durban	NUPI	Poverty						1,08	1,82	1,53		4,4
		Sum	3,77	20,41	30,6	29,27	17,06	12,11	9,42	6,29	,9	129,8

Final reports for these two projects bring confusing data regarding spending per year; the total spending for projects does not equal to the reported sum of yearly expenses (summing accordingly 0.804 and 3.5698 per project).

1.4 Evaluation framework and discussion of research questions

To be able to observe the various evaluation questions in relation to each other and to carry out a comprehensive analysis, we have put the evaluation questions into an evaluation framework.

The evaluation team used a general analytical model based on the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria as an evaluation framework. This model suggests four core evaluation criteria.

The four criteria we will consider are:

- **Relevance.** To what extent were the programme's goal and activities relevant to stakeholders?

- **Efficiency**. To what extent was the programme organized in an appropriate manner.

- **Goal attainment and effectiveness.** A measure of the extent to which the programme managed to attain its objectives. Is the goal attainment an effect of the projects, or would they have been attained without financial support from PovPeace?

- **Sustainability.** Are international linkages built within the programme sustainable? Is the cooperation between research institutions maintained? Are the research institutes able to continue the research in the poverty or peace areas?

We have used this approach to structure the evaluation questions and our analyses.

Figure 1 shows that an evaluation of a programme relates, first, to the actual context and needs behind the programme. Furthermore, the evaluation also looked at relevance and efficiency, as well as achievements (results) and impact of the programme. The question of relevance is a matter of doing the right things (i.e. whether the programme is needed and relevant for the stakeholders). The issue of efficiency is about the doing things right (cost and management efficiency). Effectiveness is about comparing the results of all the projects financed to objectives for the programme (i.e. whether the pro-gramme reached the targets with the planned actions). Finally, impact is about the overall effect that was reached, here being the general influence on the research community in Norway within the field, as a well as the global state of the art within the field.

In line with the research questions provided by the Research Council, the evaluation has focused on programme outcomes and overall impact, as well as national and international cooperation in the projects and project contents. The implementation procedures and programme objectives have also been taken into consideration. Overall, this is a summative, ex-post evaluation of the programme.

To provide an assessment of whether the programme has delivered on its objectives, the investigation started at the level of the programme's objectives (relevance) and the issues articulated in the programme plan. These were then put into a framework designed specifically to answer these types of questions.

In line with the DAC model's focus on relevance, we have described the programme theory of PovPeace in order to gain an understanding of the general concept of change that the programme is based upon. This makes it possible to follow the process from the initial discussions about research needs, to the programme implementation.

As a part of the description of the programme theory, we have examined how the programme was set up in order to achieve its goals, and more specifically, what activities the programme management undertook to achieve these objectives. Furthermore, we have investigated the relationship between activities, programme organization and goals, in order to trace logical relationships between these aspects.

The programme theory and description of the internal logic of the programme has provided a solid basis for addressing the question of the programme's general achievements and impact. Through assessment of this chain of input-output-outcomes (result) and impact, it has been possible to investigate the programme's overall goal attainment.

In the following, we discuss the outlined evaluation questions in more detail.

Figure 1: Overall evaluation model
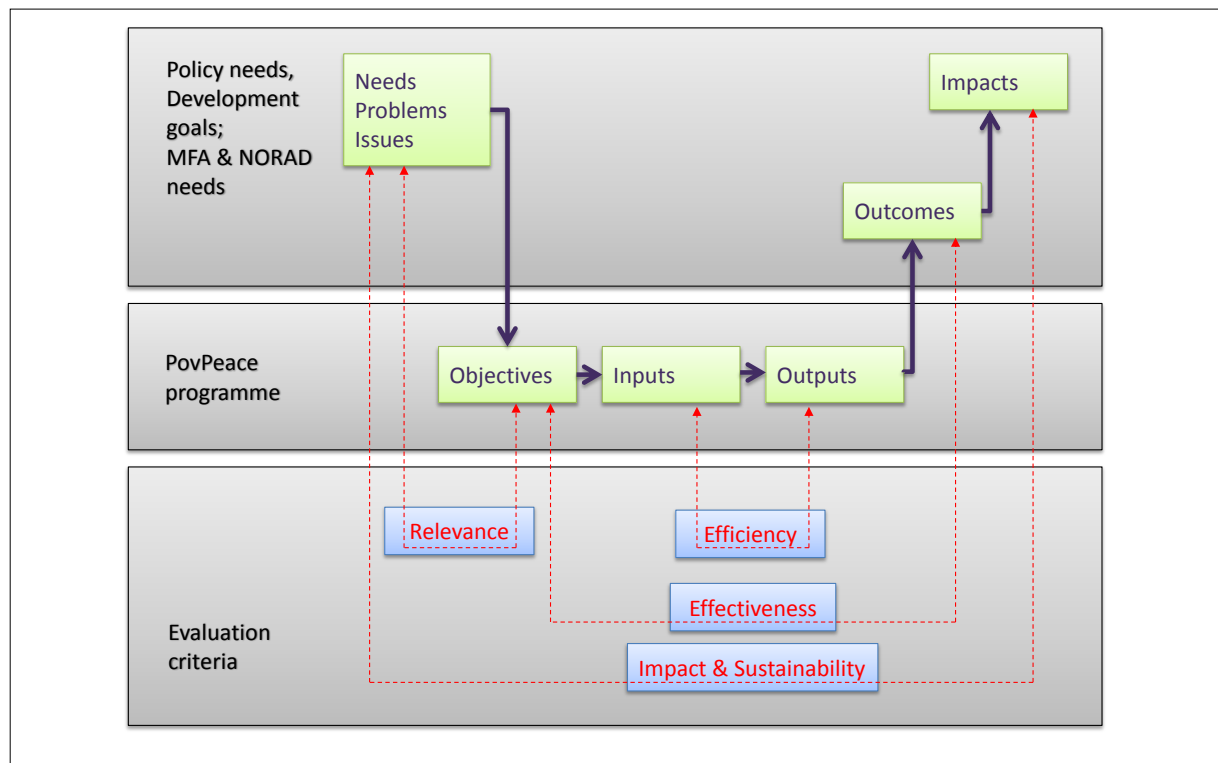
1.5 Research questions and context

We have grouped the research questions according to the theoretical framework presented above. In the sections below, we have discussed each of the evaluation criteria and main questions in more detail, with subsequent questions of investigation.

Relevance

The following questions are relevant to study the programme's relevance:

- Is there a logical link between the programme objectives and the types of projects that have been financed?

- PovPeace is a social science programme that is thematically focused - to what extent has the programme succeeded in financing projects that cover different thematic fields and allow for cross-disciplinary cooperation?

- Have the projects had any policy-impact?

- Have the expectations from Norad as regards the programme, provided through agreements with the Research Council, been met?

Two factors related to relevance have been especially important to consider. The first is internal relevance, which is closely related to the programme theory.

This has involved examining whether the programme has initiated the necessary activities to achieve their goals. A key point here is whether, as mentioned in in the first bullet point above, the programme has managed to finance projects covering the various thematic areas defined in the programme plan.

We have studied two subsets of activities. The calls for proposals are perhaps the Research Council's most important tool to make sure that the projects cover relevant topics. Have the calls covered the relevant topics? The second point regards the project selection – has the programme board selected projects that covered all relevant topics and has the project quality been up to standard?

Relevance also includes questioning whether the programme's objectives are relevant for the target group (researchers) and / or in accordance with policy makers' expectations.

Finally the evaluation also examined whether the programme contributed to the recruitment and strengthening of research institutions in Norway in order to increase their expertise in the required areas.

Efficiency:

Efficiency, in relation to management, is not covered by the evaluation. However, efficiency has several other aspects, such as:

- Which elements of the implementation should be improved upon in the future?

- How has the programme functioned in general?

Several groups have been important sources of information here: project managers and cooperating partners, including foreign researchers engaged in the projects, project managers responsible for project implementation and programme administrative staff.

The questions also cover general cooperation with the Research Council, the application process, project monitoring and reporting, cooperation and initiated activities in the programme.

The last point regards how the programme has worked in general. There are several key factors here:

- Was the programme financially large enough to meet its objectives?

- How strategic was the programme in general?

- How was the selection of projects organised? Which criteria were important?

Goal attainment and effectiveness:

Effectiveness is about how the results were achieved. Were the outcomes a result of the programme's activities, or would these results have been achieved without PovPeace support? The following questions have been important here:

- Would the same effect have been achieved without this programme intervention?

- Has the programme succeeded in mobilizing the relevant research groups?

- How did the programme manage to build Norwegian competence in the field? (including doctoral and post-doctoral positions)

- Has the programme boosted international cooperation?

- How well have the projects applied inter-disciplinarity in the research conducted?

- How well has the programme contributed to policy formulation and policy making in the areas covered? Which projects were of particular interest/influence in this regard?

- What were the general scientific results of the programme?

- Has the programme managed to create relevant competence in Norway in the areas covered?

- Did the programme influence strategic decisions and the development of the participating research groups in Norway?

To describe and assess the international cooperation we have conducted network analyses. These allowed for demonstrating the intensity of cooperation and cooperation patterns (number of projects where institutions cooperated, and using the outcome of bibliometric analysis i.e. co-authorship of publications). As we both used bibliometric data and information about cooperation partners from the applications, we were able to examine both the cooperation input side, i.e. the proposals, and the outcome side, i.e. co-authorship.

At the project level, we dug deeper into these questions through interviews with the project managers. In these interviews, we asked how the collaboration actually worked. This involved examining:

- Whether the scope of cooperation was large

- If the partners were responsible for work packages, or had only minor roles in the collaboration

- If the programme promoted collaboration with leading researchers and institutions on the international scene? How were research outcomes internationalized?

- Did the programme manage to build sustainable research networks?

The next issue is whether multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary collaboration occurred in the programme.

Multidisciplinary approach occurs when researchers from different fields work together on a common subject within the boundaries of their own discipline. Sticking to disciplines' boundaries, however often leads to a point where the project cannot progress any further. In such a case, researchers bring themselves to the fringes of their own fields to form new

concepts and ideas, applying what is called **interdisciplinary approach**.

Again, there is a possibility that the interdisciplinary cooperation described in the project application, in reality was a series of separated work packages in various unconnected fields. While this latter part could indicate a multidisciplinary project, an interdisciplinary approach, at the very least, must include a connection between the different disciplines. In practice, however, it is very difficult to separate the two. In order to try to separate these two, we have included questions that regard how researchers from different disciplines worked together.

Questions in this regard were:

- Which disciplines/areas were covered?

- Was there an inter-disciplinary collaboration, or was the project multidisciplinary?

- What new methods for inter-disciplinary collaboration have been deployed? Have any methods from one field been used in another?

- In addition, it may be necessary to investigate how project managers experienced interdisciplinary work. Is it the case that the application requirements promote interdisciplinary collaboration or is it the involved researchers working in collaboration with other relevant disciplines anyway?

Finally, we conducted a bibliometric analysis of the scientific publishing in the programme. We also used the publication data from this analysis to trace cross-institutional and international cooperation patterns, as mentioned above.

Sustainability:

The overall impact is defined by how the programme influenced the reality of its stakeholders. The most important questions in this regard were:

- Has the programme managed to build relevant competence in its field and establish sustainable networks and clusters?

- How were Norwegian research groups perceived internationally and how did PovPeace influence this perception?

The evaluation team approached answering these questions with a structured methodological approach, presented in the following chapter.

1.6 Expert assessment of the programme

They key part of the evaluation, was the expert panel's evaluation of the programme's scientific quality.

The experts were specifically asked to assess:

- To what degree do the PovPeace portfolio cover the thematic priorities in the programme?

- PovPeace is a research programme with a social science approach that opens up for interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research cooperation to obtain the best research results. The experts are asked to assess if the projects have been interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary, and how important this approach has been for the results.

- Given the objectives of the programme, could any research groups have been better represented in the programme portfolio?

- The experts are asked to assess the gender balance in the projects and how well the gender perspective is integrated in the projects.

- International cooperation is one of the objectives of the programme. How well has PovPeace met this objective?

- Identify thematic and or strategic findings that can be integrated in the recommendations for future research activities that will contribute to strengthening Norwegian development policy.

The experts were also expected to contribute to:

- the evaluation of the quality of the research, including the quality of the publications;

- the discussion on capacity building on poverty and peace;

- identify further research needs and knowledge gaps within poverty and peace research.

The panel members reviewed project applications and final project reports in order to these questions, especially concentrating on issues such as scientific quality, results of the projects, thematic focus, interdisciplinarity and relevance of the programme. Furthermore, they examined the PovPeace calls for proposals and assessed publications from all PovPeace projects.

The evaluation team had skype conversations with the expert panel members in the evaluation's initial phase. After the evaluation team's data collection was finished, the expert panel and evaluation team

had a joint meeting to discuss findings, conclusions and recommendations.

1.7 Methodological approach

The evaluation team conducted a number of analyses that fed into the expert panel's evaluation. In these analyses, different methodological approaches were applied.

Qualitative methods were at the centre of the data collection; however, in some cases we used a quantitative approach such as in the network analysis, in the bibliometric analysis and in the portfolio analysis.

The methodological and analytical tools used are:

- Desk studies

- Programme theory

- Qualitative in-depth interviews

- Bibliometrics

- Portfolio analysis

- Network analysis

In this chapter, we will give a more thorough description of our methodological approach.

1.7.1 Desk studies

The first step in the evaluation was desk research. This included collecting relevant documents, both policy documents and programme relevant documents.

1.7.2 Programme theory

An initial step in the project was to describe the programme theory. A programme theory is the theory of change that the programme draws on. It highlights the reasons for establishing the programme, the activities in the programme as well as the objectives. Thus, the programme theory shows how the Research Council expected the programme to function.

This approach also gives information about what does and does not function in the programme. The relationship between activities and objectives, whether this was logically consistent and whether the programme activities had been carried out as expected were all examined in turn.

Furthermore, the programme theory is an element in examining the internal relevance of the programme.

1.7.3 Qualitative interviews

Qualitative interviews have been the main source of information in this evaluation. The interviews have given in-depth knowledge about the programme, as well as the rationales behind the programme.

The interviews with representatives from the Research Council and Norad mostly contributed to the programme theory discussion. We conducted seven programme theory interviews. Initially we tried to interview representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but as Norad was responsible for this programme, it was difficult to find respondents in the Ministry that were familiar with the programme.

Interviews with project managers and cooperation partners, as well as several project partners from other countries, examined the extent and depth of project cooperation, thematic focus, and impact, as well as how the international partners perceived their Norwegian partners.

In this part of the evaluation, 15 interviews have been conducted, covering 13 different projects (including five projects dealing with peace and eight projects focusing on poverty issues). In 10 of these, the evaluation team interviewed project managers. The data material also included five interviews with cooperation partners.

1.7.4 Portfolio analysis

Our experience from former evaluations of Research Council programmes has shown that portfolio-analyses are a valid source of information. In the portfolio analysis, the approved projects, their institutional affiliation, cooperation partners, project size and thematic focus were analysed.

1.7.5 Bibliometrics

In order to conduct and bibliometric analysis, we compiled lists of scientific publications from the projects. This was a two-step process were we first identified the scientific publications in the final reports. The second step was to send the lists of reported publications to the project managers, so that they could supplement the lists with research that they had published after the project period. Based on this information, we categorized the outcomes using the Norwegian publication indicator system in order to conduct an indirect assessment of the research quality.

1.7.6   Network analysis

The information from the portfolio analysis was used to conduct a network analysis showing patterns of cooperation in the projects, including which institutions and countries the cooperation partners represented.

Furthermore, this analysis has been helpful in determining which research communities that have been represented in the portfolio, and whether the programme has spread the funding too thinly.

The network analysis was prepared using Cytoscape software.

The network graph presents all the main actors and their interconnections, providing an overview of programme internationalisation, both in terms of consortia and in terms of the patterns of cooperation in production of scientific results i.e. publications.

Chapter 2.   PovPeace' programme theory, background and rationale

In this chapter, we will examine the underlying rationale for the PovPeace programme. This includes describing the intervention logic for the programme, as well as the intention behind the programme and how it should achieve its objectives.

2.1   What is programme theory?

A programme theory is a description of the programme's intervention logic. Put simply, the programme theory is the programme's own theory on how to reach its objectives – its theory of change. It is the sum of the programme designers' thoughts on how the programme could achieve its goals.

Programme theory plays an important role in evaluating the internal logic and relevance of the projects. As described in the previous chapter, the programme theory is especially important to examine and make explicit the link between the objectives of the programme and the programme activities.

A key question is this if the implemented actives likely to yield the necessary or expected results and outcomes?

Furthermore, is there a link between the programme rationale and the programme plan? I.e. do the programme address the initial knowledge needs? In addition, do the projects de facto address these needs?

Together, these questions, or rather the answers to them, makes it possible to describe the internal logic of the programme.

With the description of the programme and its activities as a point of departure, we can then examine how the programme was expected to work and whether the programme's activities were likely to contribute to the goal attainment in the programme. This will help us identify why the programme has succeeded or failed, and, what parts of the programme activities have failed or succeeded.

In the following section, we will describe PovPeace' programme theory, through discussing why the pro-

gramme was established, which problems and challenges the programme should address as well as through which means these should be addressed.

In the discussion, we have drawn on data from several sources. Firstly, data from the Research Council has been important. This includes the programme plan, evaluations and studies in the fields of development and peace research.

Secondly, interviews with representatives from Norad (financing institution), and other actors involved in the establishment of PovPeace have been an important source of information.

2.2   PovPeace' programme theory

Development Paths in the south[1] was PovPeace' forerunner in the Research Council and seen as the Council's flagship in the area of development research. As the programme period was ending, the Research Council, as well as research milieus saw the need for a new programme that could finance development research.

2.2.1   The historical backdrop

Before Development paths in the South ended, the Research Council had commissioned reports dealing with poverty and development research. The Planning Committee considering research on poverty reduction had handed in their report in 2003. In 2005 the Research Council commissioned another evaluation of Norwegian Development Research, and in 2007, the evaluation committee delivered their evaluation report.

The 2003 report "Breaking the circle: which ways out of poverty?" came up with a new strategic plan for poverty research. The planning committee stated that the research community had an important role to play in combatting poverty, and that there was a need for:

- Systematic and reliable analyses of the effects on the poor of different policies and development

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trends, not least with reference to the UN's Millennium Development Goals.

- In-depth studies of policy interventions that evidently have resulted in reduction of poverty.

- Independent voices that critically examine basic assumptions and contribute with new insights to the international development debate.

- Concerned scientists in both developing and developed countries with the ability to bridge research and policy and contribute towards informed decisions.

The committee recommended a strategy where poverty research should be understood as a subset of development research. Among others, they recommended the promotion of a couple of research milieus with strong international links, and the development of strong interdisciplinary research programmes.

Some of these recommendations were also supported in the 2008 report. However, this report had a somewhat different approach. In sum, the evaluation committee recommended initiatives to increase research quality, allowing for more basic research, and a broader understanding of relevance, as well as an emphasis on dissemination and international collaboration.

2.2.2   From evaluations to two programmes

Parallel to the "Breaking the circle" report, CMI and PRIO approached the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a request for more funding of research on issues related to poverty, development, peace and conflict. The Ministry commissioned a report on research on conflict and development issues. CMI and PRIO finished the report, "Conflict and Development: A Framework for a Purposed Research Areas" in March 2003.

With two reports on poverty and conflict research, the Research Council appointed a programme plan committee. Their mandate was to set the priorities for future research on these two topics.

The overall objective for the programme committee was to recommend an initiative that could strengthen Norwegian research in key areas, in order to contribute to a better understanding of how to achieve poverty reduction and peace building. As such, the proposed programme would contribute to capacity building in Norway, and not necessarily in the South.

The committee came up with separate suggestions for the two areas. The following areas were prioritised in the programme plan and the first action plan[2]:

- The relationship between growth, poverty and inequality, including the effects of income.

- Inequality and inequity on growth and poverty alleviation.

- The role of institutions.

- Poverty, unemployment, labour markets and job creation.

- Poverty and public policies on welfare and social policies, including social security and

- Mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion.

- Poverty, environmental security and resources.

For the "war, peace and development" topic, the recommendations were specified under two sub-topics. As specified in the first action plan, the following topics were prioritised:

- The role of poverty, resource management, developmental and modernizing change in generating violent conflict.

- The developmental consequences of violent conflict.

- Development and peace building: strategies for transitions out of violent conflict.

In the programme plan[3], the plan committee states that the research initiative "should take advantage of broad and multidisciplinary expertise and experience assembled in Norway."

In addition, the programme plan described a series of strategic aims for the programme. To strengthen Norwegian research on these issues was a key objective for the programme, including supporting basic research, securing high quality research and securing funding for PHDs and postdoctoral positions. Furthermore, dissemination of research was crucial and the programme was expected to contribute to the internationalisation of Norwegian research by helping the research communities to position themselves better. To achieve this goal, the programme plan committee

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[2] Action Plan 2006-2007

[3] Programme plan 2005, page 4

intended that this required cooperation with international experts and researchers, both in the North and the South. The committee additionally intended to support Norwegian researchers' access to global networks, policy makers and even funders. Furthermore, the plan outlined high expectations for international funding.

Furthermore, the programme plan committee emphasised that the programme ought to fund projects of various sizes. However, they also emphasised the need for large scale-projects with room for capacity building at senior levels, including doctoral and post-doctoral positions. The committee also saw large-scale projects as important contributions to strategic international positioning and quality improvements.

The recommendation was that these projects should be awarded 3-5 million NOK each.

An important conclusion was that the programme committee recommended that the Research Council organised the two areas into two separate programmes. This idea was abolished in the programme implementation phase, and instead the thematic overlap between the two areas was emphasised. The reason for this choice was the need for a more efficient programme structure in the Council.

2.2.3 From one programme to an activity

PovPeace started as a programme with its own programme board. However, the programme later became an activity under NORGLOBAL. Following this merger, the programme board was dissolved. Some

board members, however, continued to serve on the NORGLOBAL board.
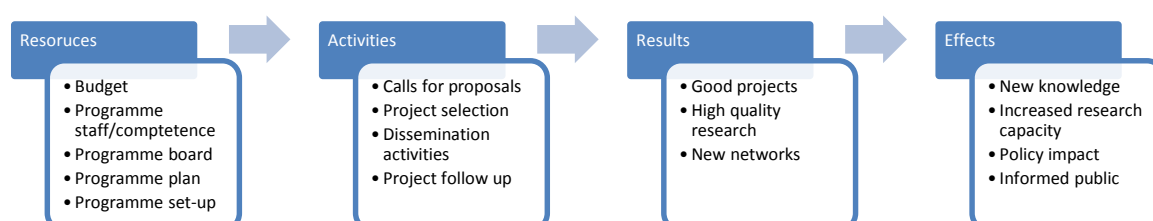
2.3 The intervention logic

PovPeace is a Research Council programme; this means that the focus is on research, and especially on financing research. To sum up the discussion above, the programme has both strategic and thematic goals. The latter concerns improved knowledge and understanding of phenomena related to peace, development and poverty. The strategic aims are related to capacity building in Norway, including support for PhDs and post doctors and increased internationalisation of Norwegian research on peace development and poverty reduction.

The big question is how the programme was set up to reach these objectives. The figure below shows a proposed intervention chain for the programme. The steps are categorised into resources, activities, results and effects.

2.3.1 How to achieve the programme goals

The next question is how the programme can achieve its objectives. A key element in research programmes is to make sure that the programme fund the best projects. Following the recommendations from the previous evaluations and the programme plan, the research should be of high quality, as well as being relevant to the suggested topics.

Figure 2: Programme intervention logic

Resoruces	Activities	Results	Effects
• Budget • Programme staff/comptetence • Programme board • Programme plan • Programme set-up	• Calls for proposals • Project selection • Dissemination activities • Project follow up	• Good projects • High quality research • New networks	• New knowledge • Increased research capacity • Policy impact • Informed public

Calls for proposals and project selection

The first step to make sure that the programme supports the best projects is the wording in the calls for proposals. The calls are central tools to securing thematic relevance in the programme's project portfolio. Furthermore, the calls also specify the project selection criteria.

There have been five calls for proposals within the programme period. There have been some adjustments along the road, and the final call only targeted poverty research. In the early programme phase, the high quality applications were mainly found in the peace and conflict area, and fewer on the poverty topics, thus the last call was an attempt to rectify this.

The calls have mainly been open within the constraints of the programme. That is, they have covered all the sub-topics of the programme. However, the calls have become broader towards the end of the period as new areas, most notably the gender aspect and issues related to unrecorded economic activities, have been added.

In addition to this, the calls specified that the applications should include detailed plans for dissemination, networking and internationalisation. The applicants should give attention to new networks with relevant academic fields, and the proposals should be relevant to development policies in the North and the South.

The project selection process was two tiered. Firstly, an expert reviewed the proposals. This process is different from today's model where expert panels review the proposals. Secondly, the programme board discussed the proposals and decided whom they wanted to fund. The programme board's focus was mainly on quality, however, the board also considered project relevance. In practice, Norad's representative was important in the relevance discussions.

As in other programmes, the board took on an active role. This meant that the board in some cases did not follow the advice from reviewers and funded projects that had not initially been recommended for support. The research community reluctantly accepted this.

Dissemination plan

Dissemination of results was a key part of the programme objectives, as the programme was expected to yield findings that could be used in the policy process. As specified in the calls for proposals, the project applications had to include specified plans for dissemination activities.

The focus on dissemination went beyond this. In 2008, the programme wrote a communication plan[4].

The plan was largely based on the communication plan between Norad and the Research Council[5].

The background for this was that the interface between researchers and user groups had been unsatisfactory. As discussed in the communication plan, researchers on the one hand had considered popularised dissemination and targeted reporting to policy-makers as not stimulation activities or even a waste of time[6].

At the other hand, policy makers expressed dissatisfaction with the researches and often found that the research was "uninteresting and untimely"[7]. The communication plan was seen as an attempt to address this problem, in order to increase the use of the research findings.

2.4   Discussion of the programme theory

We have described the most important activities in the programme, as seen from the Research Council's side. Of course, the research projects are at the core of the programme. However, we have not examined the activities and results from each project in this chapter. Results and project quality have been evaluated and described in Chapter 4. The findings from the evaluation of project quality are an indirect evaluation of the project selection phase, i.e. whether the programme board has selected high quality projects that have delivered high quality research.

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[4] PovPeace Communication Plan, http://www.forskningsradet.no/servlet/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheader=application%2Fpdf&blobheadername1=Content-Disposition%3A&blobheadervalue1=+attachment%3B+filename%3DPOVPEACE-CommunicationPlanfinal%2C0.pdf&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1274460388106&ssbinary=true

[5] PovPeace Communication Plan 2008 page 1
[6] Ibid.
[7] Ibid, page 1.

We will conclude this chapter with a short discussion of the programme theory. Our overall conclusion is that the programme theory is logically consistent, with some exceptions.

The calls for proposals mostly follow the thematic areas prioritised in the programme plan. However, there has been a slight shift of attention in the calls, with new topics being added to the list of prioritised areas. This means that the calls have not been consistent.

The calls have had an emphasis on network building and internationalisation. The Research Council has demanded a detailed plan on these issues. Internationalisation of the programme has not meant that southern partners are a prerequisite in the programme. This is in line with the programme plan where it is clearly stated that capacity building means building of competence in Norwegian research communities, and not capacity building in the South. However, in addition to the focus on capacity building in Norway, the programme plan also stated that the goals of internationalisation require cooperation with southern researchers, among others.

Instead, the emphasis has been on relevance for development policies in the North and the South. However, the 2009 call stated that cooperation with institutions in the South was encouraged, and in the 2010 call, the wording was changed to 'strongly encouraged'.

The programme plan elaborates on how large-scale projects could contribute to capacity building. All the calls stressed project size and they clearly indicated that the programme board would give attention to large-scale projects. At the same time, PhD and postdoctoral positions have not been a prerequisite for funding. That does not mean that the projects cannot fund recruitment positions, but the Council has not made this compulsory, despite the capacity-building objective. That being said, the PovPeace projects have funded several PhD positions.

The project plan also states that the research initiative should draw on the broad and multidisciplinary expertise in Norway. While several projects in the portfolio are multidisciplinary in their approach, mainly within the social sciences, the calls have not mentioned this point.

Dissemination was important in the programme. When the early projects, for several reasons, failed to involve policy makers and user groups, the PovPeace programme came up with a communication plan. Furthermore, each application had to include a dissemination plan.

The effects of the focus on dissemination varies between projects, as we will discuss more in following chapters. Overall, we have seen some positive dissemination results that go beyond scientific publications. In some projects, findings have manifested themselves in new guidelines or policies. Other projects have resulted in a large number of lectures and dissemination activities directed at the public. A critique from one of the project managers, was that the dissemination focus led to "publication counting" which made academic publications more important than thematic and policy relevance. This indicates a possible conflict between academic oriented dissemination, i.e. scientific publications, and dissemination for a general public and policy makers, and the latter seem to be much more difficult for academics to achieve than the first, due to the incentive structure within academic departments. This perceived conflict, although a problem found across academia, was also part of the motivation behind the Communication Plan.

Despite these issues, the general impression is that there is a link between the programme plan and programme objectives and the wording of the calls are prerequisites for funding and project selection. The issues discussed here, like recruitment positions, southern partners and interdisciplinarity are issues that could be addressed in a new research initiative on poverty, welfare and war, peace and development. This issue will be discussed in the report's final chapter.

Chapter 3.   Strategic aims, representation and impact

3.1   Capacity building

A strategic aim in the PovPeace programme was to help strengthen Norwegian research on poverty and peace issues. The objective was to bring the Norwegian research up to the highest international standards[8]. According to the programme plan, the PovPeace projects should contribute to develop strong expertise on poverty reduction and peace development.

In the programme plan, the goal to strengthen Norwegian research on poverty and peace was operationalized further.

In order to reach this goal, the programme should strive to generate high quality research, published in internationally renowned journals. Moreover, the programme should secure funding for PhDs and post-doctoral positions in relevant fields.

Furthermore, capacity building in poverty and peace research also meant increasing the methodological and theoretical competence. Finally, the programme plan committee appealed to the Research Council to lobby the universities, because resources and a broader engagement from the university sector was required in order to build capacity.

The questions we try to answer here is whether PovPeace has contributed to capacity building in terms of recruitment for research positions, theoretic and methodological competence, and representation of research milieus.

Building competence

For Norwegian institutes specialising in development research, the PovPeace programme's thematic scope was very relevant.

The interviewees all found the programme to be thematically broad, in both the peace and poverty areas. They thus saw the discontinuation of the programme as a huge disadvantage.

With the absence of a programme dedicated to poverty and peace research, the researchers in this field have to apply for funding from wider programmes of the Research Council. However, the interview researchers perceived the level of competition in these other programmes as higher than in thematic programmes such as PovPeace. Without a dedicated line of financing, they claim that their chances of succeeding in securing funding, is limited. As such, this shows that the programme has played an important role as funder of research in this area.

Despite the general positive outlook at PovPeace, the project managers we have interviewed claim that the programme has not managed to have a large and lasting effect on building Norwegian expertise in the field. The researchers agree that the programme has contributed to sustaining the Norwegian expertise, but they also claim that the funding has been spread too thinly across countries and research institutions to have a lasting impact in terms of building national expertise.

Despite the project managers' claim that the funding was spread too thinly, table 4 shows that some institutions have benefitted greatly from PovPeace funding. While new institutions have succeeded in securing PovPeace funding, the programme has extensively funded some key research groups in institutes such as CMI, PRIO and NUPI. Furthermore, in some cases, the PovPeace funding led to other research projects on the same topic after the PovPeace project ended.

In line with this, we find that the leading research institutions have managed to develop and nourish important research linkages with top research institutions in the North and responsive research partners in the South. A large benefit from the projects has been to bring different people's perspectives to the table, positively influencing research process and its findings. Overall, for some of the internationally focused institutes in Norway, this programme was important and aligned with their research agenda.

At the same time, the programme's contribution to create a research expertise that could be mobilized when policy makers and the media needed them was modest.

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[8] Research on Poverty and Peace, Programme Plan 2005

Several project managers repeatedly mentioned that the Norwegian research funding system has to be much more ambitious in its funding of research, if the country intends to contribute to the global scientific discussion.

At the project level, the interviewees stated that PovPeace had contributed well. Nevertheless, in terms of the entire Norwegian research environment, they considered the contribution as being too small. In their opinion, collaboration and networking in this field should be sustained over many years, allowing researchers to specialise and maintain their focus, instead of being forced to change focus according to policy winds. Although some project managers claimed that policy shifts are influencing the programme calls, our analysis of the calls did not find this to be the case. The PovPeace calls were open, leaving room for the research milieus to come up with their own topic within the framework of poverty and peace areas.

The projects funded did not create any particular new fields and research topics.

Two projects clearly managed to deliver publications that are today a baseline component of the international knowledge sharing. This contributes to the global discourse in their respective fields.

In the interviews, some respondents pointed to some obvious trends in this kind of research, regarding the thematic focus of projects. These trends follow international policy shifts in general, resulting in current research topics being the same for most of the financing (donor) agencies. This approach does not take into consideration the needs and expectations in the South.

Research groups' representation

The expert panel discussion concluded that the "usual suspects" have been represented in the programme, but also some new actors appeared, mostly representing the two important knowledge centres, Oslo and Bergen.

As the next table shows, the largest research institutes within poverty and peace research are well represented in the PovPeace portfolio.

Table 4: An overview of research institutions represented in the PovPeace portfolio and the number of projects they have managed in each thematic area.

	Poverty	Peace	Total
CMI	4	2	6
PRIO	2	3	5
NUPI	2	2	4
FAFO	1.5	0.5	2
UiO, including SUM	2	2	4
UiB	2		2
AHO		1	1
NMBU		1	1
NIBR		1	1
DHS		1	1
FNI	1		1
SINTEF	1		1
UiT	1		1
NINA	1		1

CMI, PRIO and NUPI are the research institutions that have received most funding from PovPeace. At the same time, other actors that have traditionally not dealt with issues such as peace development and poverty reduction, such as the Oslo School of Architecture and Design and the School of Fisheries at the University of Tromsø, were also represented in the programme portfolio.

Universities and university colleges are responsible for ten projects. In line with the programme plan committee's recommendations, the programme has managed to include the universities, and they have included master students in the projects. Despite that, the programme plan specifically mentions the need to mobilize the universities, there is still room for improvement in this area.

The expert panel found a linkage between the institutes and the quality of research. The CMI, NUPI and PRIO projects were generally of high quality. The project quality within the rest of the projects was on the other hand subject to great variation. The panel considered some projects from this group as rather poor, while there also were examples of excellence.

The correlation between institutions and quality was however not perfect, one of the projects from a well-established institute was also considered of poor scientific quality, as measured through the statements in the final reports, the publication list and reading of selected publications.

The largest institutes have the infrastructure and resources to run the kind of projects supported by

PovPeace. The expert panel identified few outstanding projects from theses institutes, indicating that these actors simply know how to run such projects.

An important point here is that they have experience in conducting field research in the South. They therefore know how to overcome most of the obstacles they encounter in the field. The institutes that are unfamiliar with this type of research, on the other hand, struggle more with what the expert panel regarded as problems everyone would have to expect to face in fieldwork.

In general, but not always, the experienced players delivered every good projects and reports. It is easy to work with them and they know the rules of the game, setting criteria and standards for new institutions. This of course may influence participation, capacity and competence building targeted by the programme, since it is harder for new actors to appear in the portfolio. With the high level of quality of applications from established institutes, it is difficult for newcomers to get funding.

At the same time, applicants that are unfamiliar with this specific field of research are probably not that experienced in running these types of projects, nor to draft systematic reports in this field, and holding outputs and outcomes against the research objectives.

Capacity building and recruitment

As mentioned above, the programme plan also saw funding for PhDs and post-doctoral positons as part of the capacity building in this area.

The analysis of PovPeace' portfolio shows that several projects included PhDs and post doctorial positions. The expert panel, in their assessment of the individual projects, found that some of the PhDs delivered impressive work, but not to the quantity, that one could expect from such an allocation of funds. There was a large variation between projects in this regard. In a handful of projects, the PhD candidates wrote very good articles. On the other hand, other PhD candidates did not produce any direct results.

The budget spending shows that doctoral and postdoctoral studies were not the focus in all projects. In several cases, the size of the projects is not large enough to fund a PhD position. In three projects, the project managers stated that their project had provided both masters and PhD-students with data,

although the programme did not fund the PhD positions.

Representation from the south

Several projects in the PovPeace portfolio included southern partners. Their role in the projects varied. In general, the project reports shows that the southern partners, beyond a handful of PhDs, only to a little degree contributed to the projects' scientific outcome and capacity building.

This indicates that the partners' role in many projects has been in data collection and analysis, rather than in writing publications. A good indicator of this is that the researchers in many projects have not co-authored articles with southern partners.

The programme's record of accomplishment in establishing new long-term, functioning partnerships is not satisfactory. The project managers claim that the programme period was too short to generate good results in this area. As there are few ways to get continued funding in this area, several researchers reported that it was difficult to uphold the functioning cooperation after the project period.

In this context, the expert panel noted a general unbalance in partnerships between the North and South. However, it must be underlined that in PovPeace was created as a programme aiming at development of competence in Norway. It was not compulsory to have a working partnership with or demonstrate a large impact in the countries of the South.

The projects have established, in general, good cooperative links, giving the institutions the possibility to apply and deliver proposals on time.

Overall, the expert panel assessed the transfer of the research results to the South as poor. While this was not an objective of the programme as such, benefit sharing is important in development research.

In general, the dissemination could be better and most of the projects in fact had no plan to have any policy impact nor any plan for policy dissemination. The Expert panel investigations, as well interviews did not reported any documented policy impact in Norway. Three projects direct impact on international policymaking and a few had influence/contacts with policymakers in southern countries in the South.

The expert panel's view was that the Research Council should require a detailed dissemination strategy already at the application stage. A budget allocation to dissemination should be included in the dissemination plan.

This requirement will force institutes to perform better in this regard in the future. The expert panel also concluded that the Research Council should consider preparation of detailed guidelines on dissemination, indicating how to formulate strategies and how to implement them.

Expertise, theory and methodology

The issue of expertise presented in project applications and reports, as well as results of the projects, is closely connected to the demonstrated research quality. In general, projects do not make much use and reference to theory in the final reports. The projects of excellent quality included a theoretical discussion.

A challenge was that it was not always possible to investigate what methods the researchers had applied in a project. In general, methodology was poorly reported in the final reports. In addition, methodology was not always discussed in the scientific publications. As a result, it was difficult to assess the capacity building bases on methods applied and the quality of the evidence generated.

As regards methods, the expert group discussed the ethical aspects of the projects data gathering practices. They found that in general, project proposals and reports did not include of ethical issues, nor did they include procedures for data gathering and informed consent. Ethical perspectives, including informed consent, is especially important when working in developing countries.

3.2 Policy impact

In most projects, interviews with project managers and analysis of the final reports provided little evidence of direct policy impact. However, some projects stand out and have clear linkages between their research and policy outputs.

Naturally, researchers are focusing on academic publications, while policy makers focus on making policy. Those responsible for shaping policies prefer to operate with short policy briefs than long scientific publications.

The evaluation of development research[9] in Norway, conducted in 2011, tried to provide an answer to the question on how the development research was used by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Their conclusion was that research results from these projects were not used as input into the policy process. The interviews with project managers and representatives in the Research Council corroborated these findings.

Another important point made in the interviews regarding the relation between scientific quality and policy relevance, was that these two issues, discussed in the context of one programme, often create a contradiction. Going more into the direction of scientific quality will (for various reasons, mostly timing) exclude the policy relevance, and vice versa. In any case, when selecting projects with a limited overall budget, the Research Council will have to prioritise some topics and selecting them for financing, while neglecting others.

The focus given to research quality makes the programmes less relevant for policymaking, but more attractive to the research community.

This corresponds with Norad's perspective, where the differences between researchers' long-term outlook and policy makers need for short policy briefs. Furthermore, the research results have been difficult to access for policy makers. This does not necessarily mean that the research conducted in PovPeace projects have not had an impact on Norwegian policymaking, but the interviews with Norad did not give concrete examples of such impact.

At the same time, the Research Council has initiated several seminars where policy makers and researchers could meet and discuss results.

The interviews with project managers did identify some examples of projects that did trigger direct policy impact, either at the country level (in the south) or internationally. These were:

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[9] Evaluation of Research on Norwegian Development Assistance; June 2011 SIPU International; "…found considerable evidence that existing research (whether independent or commissioned) on development assistance is not being used effectively by its primary audience."

- SINTEFs project "Fighting poverty through alcohol misuse prevention" got a large interest in Malawi, since its findings matched with a large policy debate in the country regarding alcohol misuse and its influence. The research somehow influenced policy making in the country in scope. In this study there was also important involvement from FORUT (Norwegian NGO, "Campaign for development and solidarity") being part of the application and contributing to publications in the project. Their main interest was to influence policy and advocacy in Malawi. The policy impact issue was therefore taken care of from the very beginning, in the planning phase, and during the project implementation.

- The project undertaken by Norges fiskerihøgskole (Svein Jentoft), "Unravelling the Vicious Circle: Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Livelihoods in Small-scale Fisheries" managed to influence FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' policy debate. The project contributed to the elaboration of "Guidelines for support of small-scale fisheries" and following up with two big international research projects/networks including the "Too Big To Ignore" project (http://toobigtoignore.net/) - global partnership for small-scale fisheries research, gathering above 400 researchers currently.

- "Decentralization as a strategy for resolving conflict?" a NIBR project managed by Marit Haug had some interaction with the government of Nepal, including presentations organised in Kathmandu reflecting on the important political processes regarding decentralisation of the country.

- The project "On the Mechanics of Microfinance: Group dynamics and business outcomes" (Kjetil Bjorvatn, NHH), generated as follow-up for a new conference called "C-deck – experimental economics in developing countries". The project also generated a number of presentations in Tanzania, engaging local authorities.

- The PRIO project on "Liberal Peace and the Ethics of Peace building towards the integration of ethics in peace building research" (Kristopher Liden) established an internationally active forum on peace building ethics, launched in New York within the UN setting. The outcomes of these projects were also recognized and largely disputed in research groups internationally.

Interestingly, the impact stories told in the interviews, all concern impact at the international level, and not in Norway.

While this was not a prerequisite in the projects, the interviews with project managers and cooperation partners indicated that most of the projects contributed somewhat to capacity building in the South. The researchers engaged in the project teams reported to benefit from the conducted activities and more junior researchers used the data and experience gathered for their masters or doctoral theses. Most of the interviewed project managers reported this kind of effect. Several respondents claimed that a number of researchers in each of these projects did deliver their MA or PhD dissertations as a result. In several cases, researchers started to write their thesis papers but never managed to finalize the process. Overall, it was underlined that the programme largely contributed to the production of knowledge in the cooperating institutions and triggered a number of studies that would not have been otherwise conducted. This effect mostly refers to researchers in the cooperating institutes from countries in the South.

3.3 Multidisciplinarity and interdisciplinarity

Neither multidisciplinarity nor interdisciplinarity in the projects was a prerequisite in the programme. The programme plan briefly mentioned the aim to mobilize research groups that, among other things, have shown an interest in exploring links and cooperation with new and innovative interdisciplinary and institutional networks.

The key question regarding interdisciplinarity is whether the projects have been interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary, and how important this approach has been for the results, in line with the expert panel's mandate.

All project managers and researchers interviewed, apart from one (engaging in medical researchers and physiotherapists), indicated that projects included different disciplines of the social sciences. Given that research institutes, which generally have staff with different disciplinary backgrounds, have received a large share of the programme funding, s quite as expected.

In most of the publications that were reviewed by the expert panel, scientists from different disciplines contributed to the production of knowledge, either through co-published books, articles or chapters. This included sharing methods, approaches and views across disciplines. In many projects, the research process contained a combination of qualitative and quantitative methodological approaches.

The interviewees described their research teams as open, discussing things along the projects implementation, creating research and data gathering tools using their disciplinary experience, sharing information, networking and solving research problems together. The joint picture presented, is that the cooperation across disciplines was fruitful and friendly cooperation, largely contributing to building a good learning atmosphere.

Disciplines named in the interviews were:

- sociology,
- biology
- philosophy,
- psychology
- religious studies
- social anthropology
- political science
- economy and econometrics
- political economy
- geography
- statistics
- law
- governance and public administration
- medical anthropology
- physiotherapy and medical rehabilitations

The great majority of the project managers interviewed (again with the same exception of medical focus), recall participation of representatives of social anthropology, sociology, political science and economics. Other disciplines such as law, public administration and geography appeared to a smaller extent, and some, for example philosophy or physiotherapy, were very project specific and connected with particular project topics.

The project managers themselves claimed that the interdisciplinary approach in their projects improved the quality of the research and the results.

The expert panel found that only some of the analysed projects were truly interdisciplinarity, instead the projects were of a multidisciplinary nature. There are also examples of disciplinary projects financed by the programme, with a clear example in a project that was managed and implemented by one person.

The expert panel assessed the interdisciplinarity rating from fair to good. However, a challenge in assessing this issue was that around one quarter of the projects did not address the interdisciplinarity issue at all in their reports. This meant that interdisciplinarity had to be evaluated through the publications.

The experts concluded, however, that there is no need to push the projects to increase the interdisciplinarity. It was difficult to find examples of projects where there was a need for more interdisciplinarity. Their position was thus that increased interdisciplinarity would not produce added value. Extensive interdisciplinarity is also not a standard way of working in the projects covering poverty and peace, and there is no need to artificially widen the scope to include new disciplines.

To conclude, it is not likely that including more disciplines in the PovPeace projects will yield better research. Instead, within the multidisciplinary projects, there is a great potential for working more interdisciplinary.

3.4   International Cooperation

We have assessed international cooperation in two ways. Firstly, we have conducted a network analysis to understand the patterns of cooperation. Secondly, we have examined the content of the cooperation through interviews with project managers and some foreign partners.

The network analysis gives a visual overview of the cooperation networks. The data input stems from the project applications. We screened the applications for proposed institutional partners, both national and international. In the case where individual researchers were listed in the application as partners, these were also "institutionalised", listing

the name of the main institution they were affiliated to, at the time of application.

The resulting list of all established "cooperations" was later on processed in order to visualise the existing network, demonstrating all established connections between intuitions financed in PovPeace.

Figure 3 demonstrates the final-result of the network analysis, showing all registered cooperation partners. The intensity of colour (from green demonstrating a single "cooperation") through yellow, orange to red (where red demonstrates the highest number of "cooperations") together with the size of nodes demonstrate the "degree"[10] of cooperation, being a statistical factor commonly used in network analysis.

CMI is clearly the leader in terms of number of "cooperations" established in the programme. Edge size (thickness) indicates a networking parameter called "edge betweenness"[11] indicating the number of paths between each of the institutions using, apart from thickness, also the same colour pattern as described previously (red for highest, green for lowest value).

In short, the bigger the node and the thicker the connection, the more important is the organisation for the entire network.

It is clear that there are a number of institutes who are leading the game in the programme. These are first of all CMI, PRIO, NUPI, and UiO. These research groups cooperate with each other and to some degree with other Norwegian partners. However, what sets them apart from other research groups is the number of cooperation partners and their strong international network. These networks include institution like London School of Economics and a number of American universities, as well as universities and institutes from the South. At the same time, these actors are involved in many projects, and the comparison between institutions must therefore consider this.

Institutions like London School Economics UK and University of Western Cape, South Africa, also cooperate with several of the Norwegian institutions.

Annex 1 contains a list of the abbreviations used in the network analysis.

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[10] The degree of a node in a network is the number of connections.
[11] The edge betweenness centrality is defined as the number of the shortest paths that go through an edge in a network (Girvan and Newman 2002). An edge with a high edge betweenness centrality score represents a bridge-like connector between two parts of a network, and the removal of which may affect the communication between many pairs of nodes through the shortest paths between them.

Figure 3 Network analysis of PovPeace cooperation
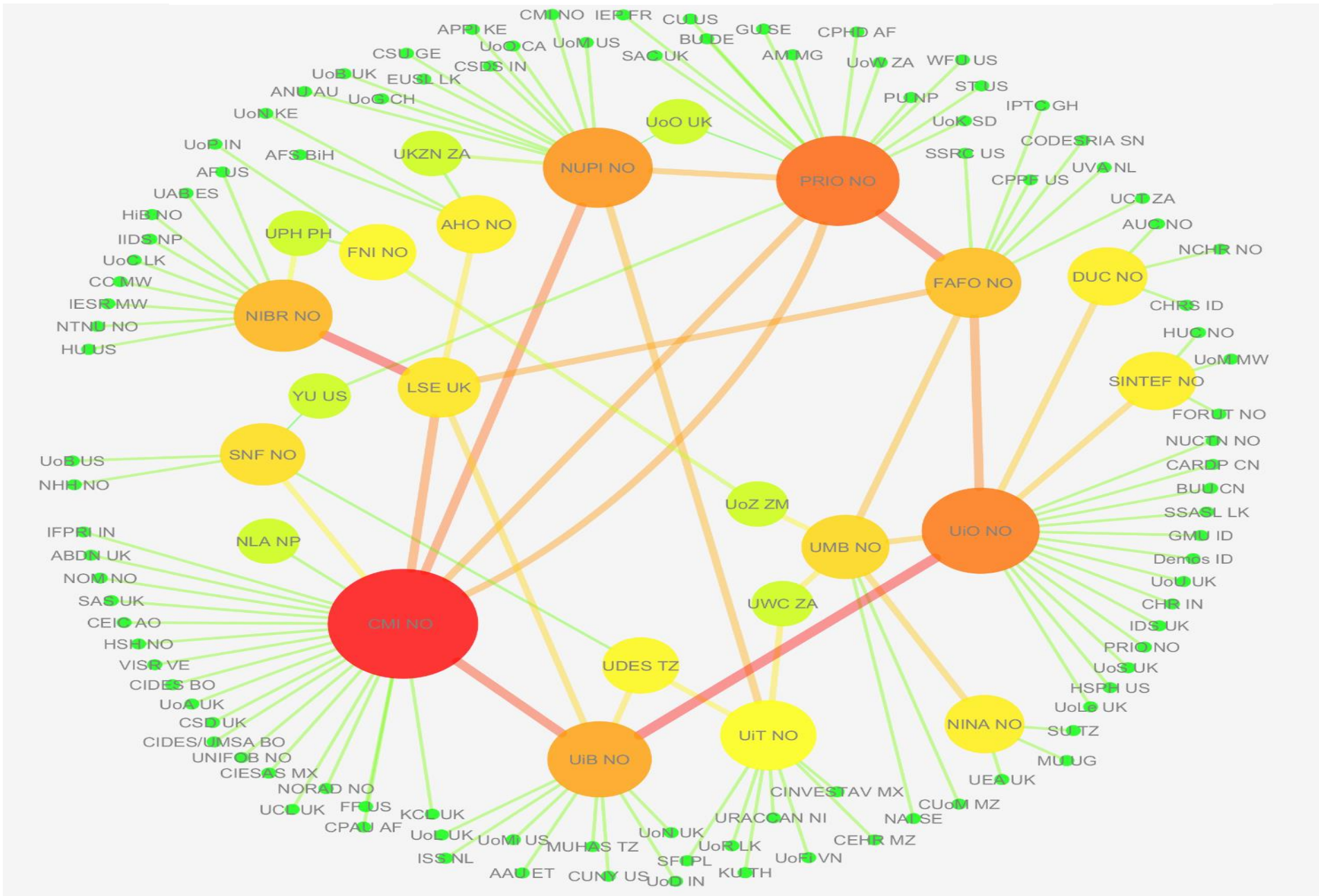
The interviews revealed that the international cooperation was in most of the analysed cases a result of already established contacts. Almost in all cases, the institutes leading the proposal were in fact bringing their established international contacts, as consortium partners, at the stage of application.

They claim that the Research Council's call deadlines are too short. The six weeks period from the calls are activated to the deadline is seen as too short for a well-prepared international project proposal to be put in place.

The project managers do not seem to be aware that the calls are available at the programme web site long before the programme administrations makes them "active". The fact that they find the period too short is not a result of the Research Council's practice, but a lack of knowledge in the research community. This issue could easily be resolved through information efforts.

Conducting research with international partners

In some cases, these core project consortia were somewhat shaped by project reality. Some of the international researchers dropped out of the projects, for different, mostly private, reasons. Others were coming in, when there was a need to organise research in the country in scope. The respondents claimed that other established research links were flourishing under the projects.

In most cases, the project managers argued that the end of PovPeace financing led to a rapid stop in further cooperation. Having the research links established does not necessarily mean that the cooperation continues without resources. This is particularly seen in the cooperation with researchers from the South, where it can be difficult to obtain project funding. This is an argument for building in dedicated funding in the projects' budgets, so that southern partners have time to write up and publish their own research.

Contributors from western (north) countries have their own national programmes and funding sources. In several cases, the established cooperation with these research groups can continue beyond the PovPeace project.

The contribution from established researchers in other northern countries was in most of the analysed cases extensive. The project partners have been members of projects research boards, participated in the general meetings, contributed or edited chapters in the books published. They were also responsible for leading research missions in their respective countries of particular interest.

In general, also the contribution of southern partners was seen as crucial. Having them on board in most of the projects allowed the entire research missions to deliver. Researchers in the South were responsible for the organisation of formalities and research permits, organising and delivering data collection, data gathering, data cleaning and in many cases also analysis and publishing. In addition, they also were serving projects with their established network of contacts, needed for both project implementation, as well as dissemination activities (e.g. the organisation of workshops and presentations in their countries and interaction with central and local governments, in some cases). The interviews show that projects without a strong local partner is likely to encounter more difficulties in delivering results and achieving usability, than projects that included a southern partner.

There is also another dimension mentioned here, the participation in PovPeace projects was quite important for many researchers from the South, especially young researchers. Project participation was a great opportunity for them to gain international experience on how to conduct research, how to lead discussions and how to publish. The projects also created the possibility to travel, which for some of the researchers from developing countries was a unique opportunity to widen their horizons.

In many cases, Norwegian partners were using other southern universities' research licences to conduct the research in the countries in scope. Without this formal assistance, most of the projects would simply not have been able to gather any data. In addition, the southern partners were in a large number of the cases, reported to have a high capacity to collect data in an efficient manner and with high data quality.

An important issue here is related to ethics. As already discussed, there are no uniform practice across the projects regarding data and benefit sharing. Furthermore, writing about ethical issues and procedures is not a prerequisite for the Research Council.

Furthermore, the interviews with the project managers showed that the data ownership in the projects was not formalised; in practice, partners had access to the data relevant for their research, shared the data sets and were able to use the data for their own and joint publishing. However, the datasets were not shared more widely, e.g. deposited in archives in the cooperating countries. This shows that there is a potential for more benefit sharing, especially with the research communities in the South.

Engaging people from different countries, having different ways of delivering the administrative part of the work, requires an effort to follow the rules of the programme, eligibility issues, and other guidelines. That is always considered a challenge in international cooperative projects. Even if the researchers are given academic freedom in their countries, this simple fact of working across cultures with administrative barriers is a major issue. Lack of administrative support in smaller institutions is another challenge for cooperation. The assumption in international projects is that partners have the same capacity, but that is often not the case.

Challenges in conducting research in the South

Many projects appeared somehow troublesome. In several southern countries there were either political or simply organisational problems envisaged during project implementation. All these might have created the impression of a troublesome programme, overall demanding much work for relatively limited money.

Troublesome cooperation should not be a reason not to cooperate. As the expert panel underlined, this is in fact to be expected as the programme focused on fragile and conflict-affected environments.

This is also a finding from the interviews. In general, it is difficult and complicated to undertake research in poor countries. Partners are in different locations, and this requires coordination, and attention towards cross-cultural issues and understanding different realities and modes of operations. However, the interviewees perceived that the point of having local institutions engaged from the beginning was a help in projects' implementation phase.

Money can be an important driver of international research cooperation. When the money stream ends, the activity and cooperation in the project from the partners also ends. It is very difficult to continue collaboration especially with southern institutions within the project, when the budget is exhausted. As shown in the bibliometric analysis and confirmed in the interviews, publication activity after the project period was almost exclusively on the side of Norwegian and other researchers from the North.

There is also an important horizontal aspect to funding, connected to policy making. Focusing the stream of funding on one region of the world makes researchers establish long-term relations in this particular region. When political priorities change for any reason, the focus of institutes operating in the field is also shifted. This creates a vacuum in all the countries, as already established research partnerships get abandoned when the funding has dried up.

In most cases, partners were at least consulted on the stage of proposal preparation. Some of them contributed to shaping the proposal, while the project manager's research group developed the project proposal and wrote the core parts of the application. In some cases, the consortia were reshaped during the project period because the initial partners or single researchers for different reasons quit the project team.

Another dimension, which must to be taken into consideration here, is the research quality. Some projects managed to engage top research institutions, including researchers both from the South and in the North. Overall, this cooperation contributed to improved quality of research and in many cases caused the entire project to get started and to begin producing results.

The expert panel emphasized that the experience of partners working together is important for project implementation. However, the southern and the northern partners are not equal project partners.

A need for new research fields

There is a need to open up new research fields in the areas of poverty reduction and peace development. The observed clustering of the institutions participating in the programme brings the notion that there might be a limited place for innovative ideas from other institutes.

One way to do this could be to open up the cooperation with the southern partners. PovPeace was supposed to be a north-driven programme addressing some defined areas in the South. In order to

open the programme up to new ideas, a shift in the balance and open new doors to a more South driven approach, engaging these partners in definition of the most relevant research areas as well as connect with the funding from other sources. This would allow the programme to take into consideration the needs from the South.

3.5   Gender balance

The programme plan did not mention gender balance. However, gender issue appear in the calls for proposals, starting from 2006, and the call in 2008 appears to be much more specific concerning gender issues.

We have in the following reviewed gender in two ways. Firstly, we have assessed the gender balance in the research teams. Secondly, we have examined if the projects dealt with gender issues when this was relevant for the studied topic. The expert panel, based on publication lists, final reports and publications, has assessed the latter part.

Gender balance in the research groups

The interviews with project managers reveal that gender balance was not considered as particularly important in the composition of research consortia, especially in the partnership institutions. Norwegian research groups are more balanced in this regard than teams in the South, where the role of men in research and academia is still prevailing in several countries.

Still, the majority of project managers were men, but some profiled projects had female leaders. At the PhD and master's level, the situations is different, with several female researchers.

The programme board members discussed this issue; however, they did not refuse to fund good applications due to a lack of gender balance, as this was not a prerequisite for project support.

At the same time, most of the interviewed project managers easily provided a number of examples of female researchers and students participating in the projects.

There is however no correlation between gender content of the research and the gender balance in the teams. Thus, it is not so that women study women's roles and men do not.

It was also underlined that the role and position of women in the society was of particular importance within the research on poverty. Understanding the role of women is simply central in understanding the entire topic of poverty. Therefore, project managers and researchers interviewed underlined often that large part of the data gathering process focused on women. These data were later on presented in many of the programme publications.

Gender as a topic for research

Only a few projects dealt explicitly with the gender issue and the role of women. Several projects in this group addressed gender explicitly in their articles including such subjects as the gender question in conflict and demobilisation.

Another matter is that projects that dealt with issues where gender perspectives are considered important, did not deal with this issues, as an example, is an issue were gender perspectives are important, but the projects dealing with migration has not always included a gender perspective. In these cases, projects should be asked to explain why they do not feel it is necessary to explore this, to avoid the impression of 'gender blindness'.

There were projects that in their application wrote that the project would include gender issues, but that did not address this in the produced articles and final report. The expert panel identified discrepancies between what was promised at the proposal stage and the final report statement in several projects.

Again a problem of the final report's structure surfaces. The reports do not follow the same headlines and content, and therefore make it difficult to monitor whether key issues, such as gender issues, that were mentioned in the application, was actually addressed in the projects.

Chapter 4.   Quality of research and thematic priorities

Research quality is at the core of any research programme. PovPeace has several objectives, both thematic and strategic, yet in order to achieve these objectives, the research quality must be high.

In the evaluation, the quality is analysed through three approaches. Firstly, the evaluation team has conducted a bibliometric analysis of the PovPeace projects and their publications.

Secondly, the expert panel has assessed the quality of the project's publications. Thirdly, the expert panel has given an overall assessment of research quality based on publications, applications and final reports.

4.1   Bibliometric analysis

We have conducted a bibliometric analysis of the publications in PovPeace.

Bibliometric approaches portray science results through the production of "knowledge". Literature is the manifestation of the knowledge production and allows a transfer of knowledge from the researcher to the scientific community.

Bibliometrics research uses information compiled from academic texts, principally journal articles, to construct measures that can be used to assess a number of important dimensions of academic work. Bibliometrical data are used as an indirect measure of quality. In addition, the institutional affiliation of the authors is also an indication on inter-organisational cooperation.

The development of international co-authorships is a good indicator for the internationalization of programme research activities. The existence of co-authorships between the Norwegian project managers and their southern partners is a good indication of scientific collaboration that extends beyond data collection.

However, it is important to point out that this is a supplement to other measures of cooperation and programme performance.

How to measure scientific outcomes

We have based the publication analysis on the Norwegian publication indicator.

Publication channels are the basis for the publication indicator. As such, the indicator does not examine the impact or quality of an individual article.

Publications included in the indicator are divided into the following groups:

- Scientific articles with referee
- Book chapters in anthologies
- Books/monographs

Definitions and criteria for the approval of new publication channels in the publication indicator.

The criteria for scientific journals, websites and quarterly publications include that the publication channels:

- Must be identified by ISSN
- Have a scientific editorial board
- Have routines for scientific peer review
Publish work by national and international authors, meaning that a maximum of 2/3 of the authors can be affiliated with one institution

Source: UHR "Vekt på forskning" (2004).

These publications are then awarded points, based on the type of publication (article or book chapter) and the classification made between levels. The publication indicator is a two-tier system, where the research published through a level 2-channel is awarded more publication points than level 1. Underlying the differences in weighting is an assumption that level 1 channels represent publication channels that correspond to the 'normal' level of publication patterns in a given field, whereas level 2

channels are assumed to be among the most selective or prestigious channels[12].

The Norwegian indicator has several advantages. Firstly, it includes more publication channels than those registered in the Web of science database. For social science disciplines, as well as the humanities, where other publication channels are frequently used, this is an advantage.

Secondly, there is a built in benchmark in the publication indicator. The publication channels included in level 2 should cover roughly 20% of the publications produced by an academic field[13].

This level division of the scientific publications, and thus allocation of credit (as practiced in Norway) is inherently a comparison against all publications in a given academic field, as the level-division of publishing channels is closely related to how many Norwegian scientists have published through these channels.

The publication indicator is however not completely discipline neutral. The evaluation of the indicator showed that a professor in the Humanities on average is rewarded with two and a half times the points than the average for a professor within the Medical Sciences[14]. However, as this programme mostly covers the social sciences, this is not likely to be a problem in our case.

About the data

We have based the bibliometric analysis on data gathered from the final reports. We then sent out the list of publications to each project manager. We invited the project managers to add missing publications or publications that had not been published when the final report was due.

Out of 35 project managers, 20 responded to our invitation; however, we gave all the managers the opportunity to respond. While some projects only sent in one or two extra publications, one project reported as many as 13 recently published articles, with additional forthcoming articles.

Only scientific publishing produces results for a bibliometric analysis. This include journals articles, books and book chapters that are a) published

through approved channels and b) are peer reviewed (refereed). The cut-off here is whether the publication channel is represented in the publication channels approved by the DBH. Therefore, central to the analysis is an overview of the publishing channels considered scientific. NSD is responsible for this overview. The committee of publishing in UHR is responsible for dividing the approved channels into levels.

We have removed forthcoming articles and submitted articles from the list. Furthermore, we have only included scientific publications, and we have excluded PhD theses and unpublished research reports.

The consequence is that the number of publications from the PovPeace projects is probably higher than the number we have registered.

After this initial round of data registration, we categorized all publications in the following categories: "book chapters", "monographs" and "scientific articles". Only research published in publication channels listed in the Norwegian publication scheme has been included.

4.2   Publications in PovPeace

In three projects, we have not registered any publications. For the remaining projects, we have registered 263[15] scientific publications. The table below shows the number of publications for all PovPeace projects, as well as type of publications. Book chapters are the most common types of publications in the data material, with scientific articles as the second most common type. A general observation is that several projects have ended with an anthology that sums up the main findings. In addition, some researchers have written monographs based on project data.

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[12] Schneider, J. (2009) "An Outline of the Bibliometric Indicator Used for Performance-Based Funding of Research Institutions in Norway" European Political Science (2009) 8, 364–378. doi:10.1057/eps.2009.19

[13] UHR A Bibliometric Model for Performance-based Budgeting of Research Institutions. Recommendation from the committee appointed by the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions on assignment from the Ministry of Education and Research

[14] Aagard, K. et al. (2014). "Evaluation of the Norwegian Publication Indicator". A report commissioned by the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions. Aarhus: DANISH CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN RESEARCH AND RESEARCH POLICY, AARHUS UNIVERSITY.

[15] In one instance, the same article has been reported by two projects. This article has been excluded in the total, but not in analyses for each project. The total number is thus 263 publications, however, the sum of publications based on project data is 264.

Table 5: Number of publications in PovPeace.[16]

	Number of publications
Book chapters	150
Monographs	6
Scientific articles	107
Total	263

Figure 3 shows how the number of publications differs on a yearly basis. The programme started in 2006 and the first publication peak was three years later, in 2009. 2011 is the year with the most publications, and the number of publications has since decreased as the projects financed by PovPeace have ended.

While three projects did not lead to any publications, the researchers in the most productive project published 30 publications, albeit this was mainly book chapters. As Figure 4 shows, the projects with the most publications also have the highest number of book chapters.

Figure 3: Yearly number of publications in PovPeace
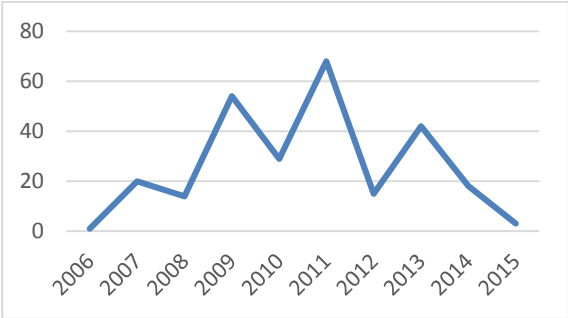

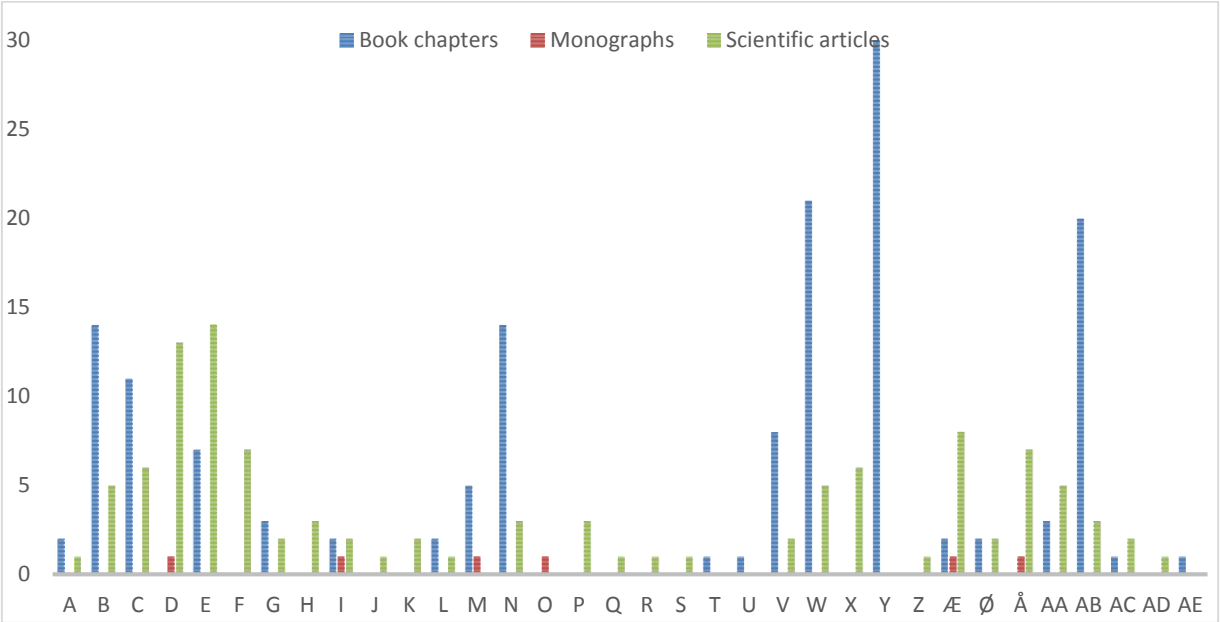**Figure 4: Number of different types of publications in each project.**

Table 6 shows the distribution of publications on level 1 and level 2. On average, within each discipline, about 20% of the publications are expected to be level 2 publications. The share of level 2 publications is well above 20%. Thus, PovPeace has performed well on this indicator.

There is however a caveat, the high number of book chapters in the sample is the key reason why the share of level 2 publications is as high as it is. On the

other hand, the share of level 2 articles is at the average 20% level.

The number of publications per project is however not high. On average, each project produced about three peer-reviewed articles, and as the expert panel pointed out, this is not a particularly high number for a project of 3-5 million NOK.

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[16] We received feedback from one project manager after the bibliometric analysis was finished; these have not been included in the analysis. However, the number of publications would have been slightly higher if these had been included.

Table 6: Publications' distribution on level 1 and level 2, in percentage.

	Total (N=263)	Articles (N=107)	Book chapters (N=150)	Mono-graphs (N=6)
Level 1	75 %	79,6 %	72 %	67 %
Level 2	25 %	19,4 %	28 %	33 %

Figure 5 shows the distribution of level 1 and 2-publications for each project. For most projects, level 1 publications are the dominant type of publications; however, in some projects, the majority of publications have been published through level 2 publication channels. We have not included the three projects without publications in the figure.

To benchmark the results, we have compared the numbers from PovPeace with publications at the faculty of social sciences at the University of Oslo and the University of Bergen.

The faculty staff at the University of Bergen published 24.7 percent of their work through level 2 publication channels in 2013. The corresponding numbers for the University of Oslo were 28.9 percent. In this light, the average results for the Pov-Peace projects are not as good. However, as figure 5 shows, there is a high degree of variation between the projects and some projects clearly outperform even the universities.

The question is whether we should expect better results from the projects financed by the research council than for general research at the universities.

At one hand, fully financed projects should be held to a high standard, yet at the same time, the research institutes manage a majority of the projects and they operate within a tighter economic framework than the universities.

Figure 5: The number of publications distributed on level 1 and level 2 and publications per million NOK, for each project.[17]
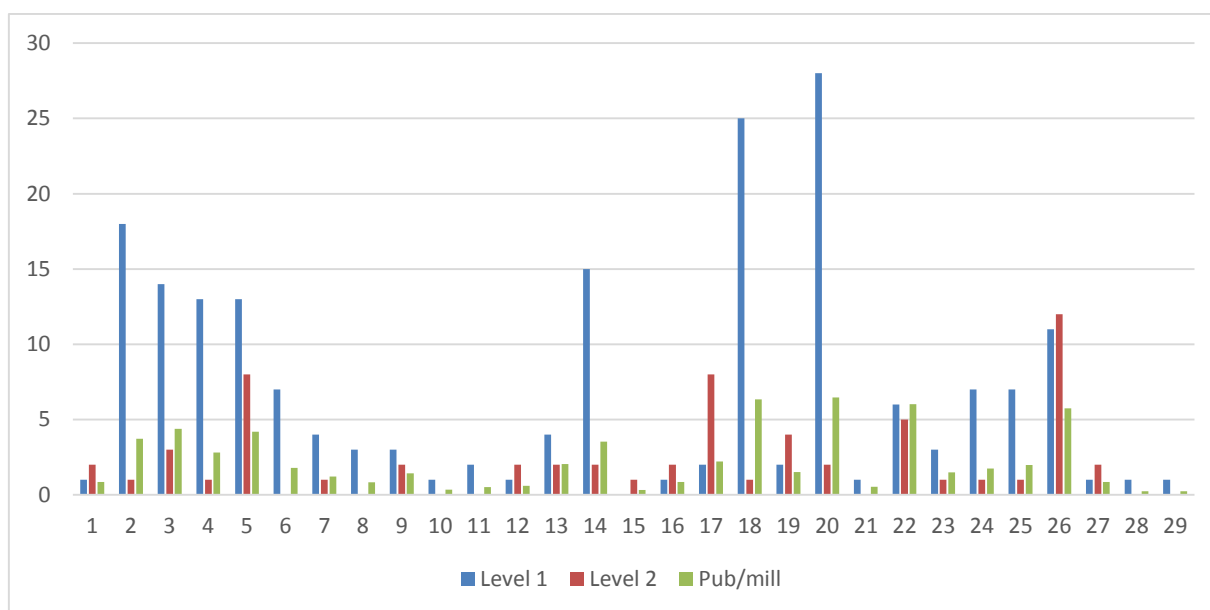
The number of publications per million NOK awarded to the project

We have also studied the relationship between the project size, understood as the economic size, and the number of publications. For those projects that were fully funded by PovPeace and where the re-

searchers had written scientific publications, the average number of publications per million NOK was 2.4. Much as expected, given the large variations in publications, the range of publications per million ranged from 0.2 to 6.5. However, the oldest projects have an advantage here, as the publication process can be rather time consuming. In fact, the two projects scoring 0.2 both had funding until 2014, thus it

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[17] As some of the projects in the PovPeace portfolio was jointly funded with other programmes, we do not have data on funding for these projects. This figure thus contains fewer projects than Figure 4.

is likely that the number of publications from these projects will increase in the coming years.

The final analysis of the bibliometric data has been to identify the journals in which the PovPeace researchers have published their research. The table below shows the journals where PovPeace researchers have published more than three articles. Overall, these researchers have published their results in 73 different journals. However, some journals are more popular than others are. One reason why "Conflict, security and development" and "International Peacekeeping" have ended up on this list is that they have dedicated special issues to findings from these projects and the topic the projects have covered.

Table 7: Most popular journals for PovPeace projects

Journal title	Number of articles
Conflict, security and development	9
Forum for Development Studies	6
International Peacekeeping	4
Nordic Journal of Human Rights	4
Africa Today	3
Forest Policy and Economics	3
International Social Science Journal	3

In general, there is little consistency in where the researchers publicize their results. Instead, the PovPeace results have been widely distributed and not limited to a narrow number of journals.

Another perspective is given by the network analysis of publications, demonstrating the intensity and structure of co-authorship between institutions.

The data file for this task was established by firstly listing all authors from the established PovPeace publications database, and secondly through assigning institutions' names for each of the authors. This allowed us to observe the pattern of cooperation between the research institutions. This "bibliometric network analysis" gives a different picture of the programme and includes a much smaller number of institutions, than what was the case for the analysis based on data from the proposals. This indicates firstly that the consortia have changed underway, and secondly, that the researchers at the project managing institutions do not always co-author articles with their partners. The latter could also indicate that the cooperation mentioned in the proposals are more in name only, or that the southern partners deliver data, but are not included in the analysis and writing phase.

As in the previous network analysis of PovPeace cooperation, the intensity of colour (from green through yellow, orange to red) and the size of nodes demonstrates the "degree" of cooperation in co-publications.

A single thin green line indicates one publication with authors from two different institutions. The thicker the line is and the redder it appears the more publications were co-published between institutions.

CMI is again clearly a leader in terms of the number of "co-publications" delivered in the programme. Edge size (thickness) indicates a networking parameter called "edge between-ness", demonstrating the number of connections between each of the institutions using the same colour pattern as described above.

There are three separate smaller networks of co-publishing institutions (with UiT, NINA and NIBR as central actors) in the programme, which are not connected with the large network. Finally, there are three Norwegian institutions publishing individually (FNI, DUC AHO).

Abbreviations used were listed in the annex

Figure 6: Network analysis of co-publications
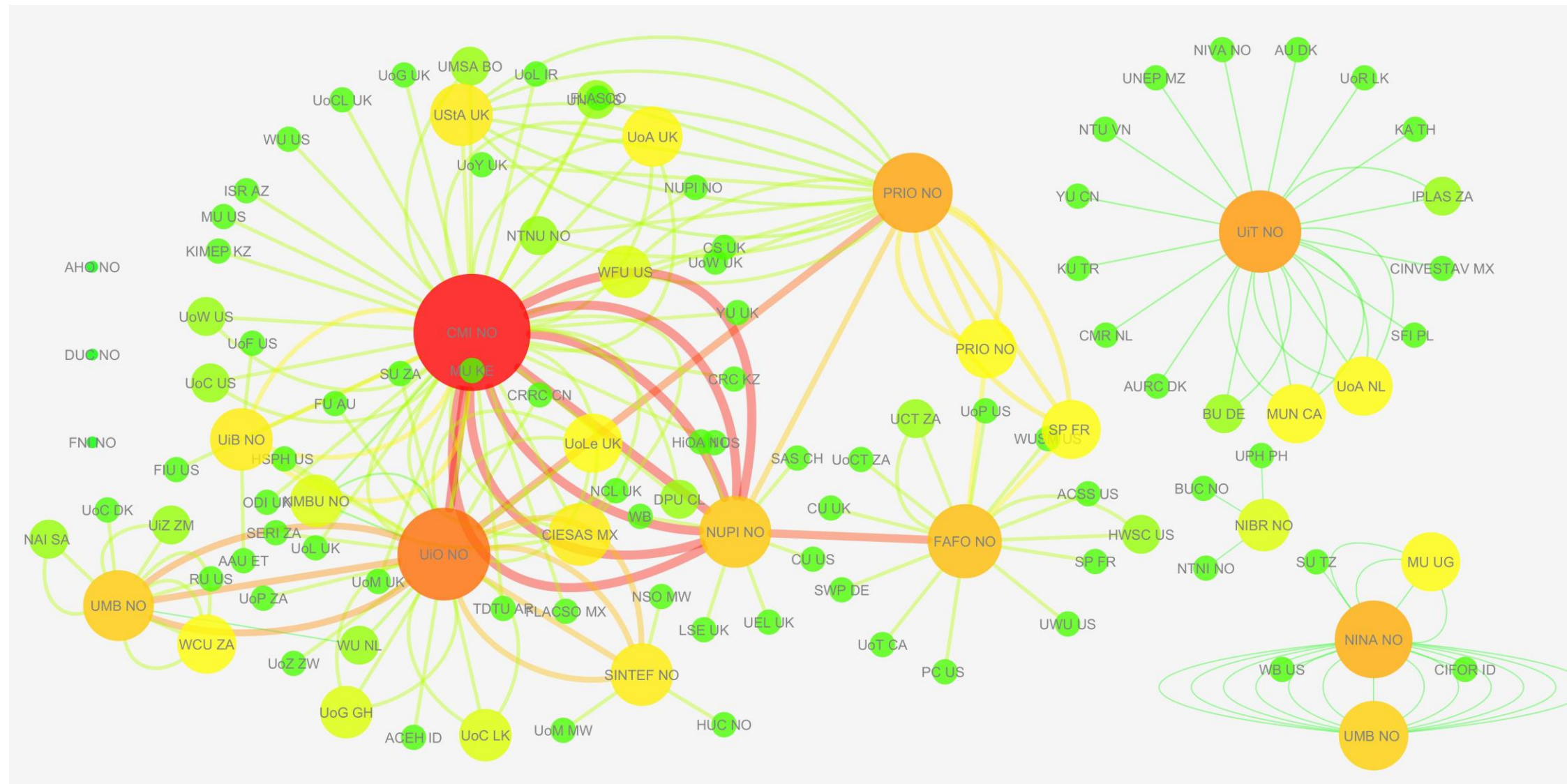
4.3   Publication quality

The expert panel assessed the scientific quality of the publications using the following approach. Each expert was responsible for quality assessment for 8-9 projects. For each project, the expert read two publications. The project managers selected the two publications, and we asked them to select the articles they believed were the two best publications. However, only 23 project managers responded to our request. For the remaining projects, the experts themselves chose the articles. Due to practical reasons, the experts only evaluated articles written in English.

Variation is the key word describing the publication quality. Both within the projects and between the projects the quality level varied. At the one end of the scale are the projects that mostly resulted in working papers and reports, while 7-8 projects resulted in very good or excellent scientific articles. Of the latter group, the publications in four projects were categorized as excellent. As expected, the majority of the projects had publications that were rated as satisfactory or good.

More disturbingly is the fact that close to one quarter of the projects had either no publications or publications that the expert panel assessed as poor or rather poor. Three projects had no publications others published a number of working papers and conducted a great number of lectures and other dissemination measures, but did not deliver strong peer reviewed publications. At the same time, some of the projects with good publications also followed their research up with good dissemination activities.

The expert panel found that the poorer publications contained very general formulations, they lacked good research questions and some candidates even handed in very poor final reports. The latter made it difficult to assess what they had and had not done in their project. Among these projects some resulted in what could be termed pure common sense results; others provided good applied research, but not research that was theoretically or methodologically advanced.

Merited institutions and publication quality

The publication quality varied across the projects. However, institutions that have dealt with peace or poverty topics earlier generally showed good results and in general published higher quality research compared to the institutions that were less

experienced in these topics. The expert panel's overall assessment was that the projects led by researchers from the well-known and merited institutions, resulted in better research and to some extent, excellent research. The institutions that were new to this field of research in general provided research of a lower quality, compared to the other institutions. However, in one instance one of the projects managed by one of the most merited institution did not produce any outcomes.

The conclusion still holds that there is a correlation between research quality and the research institutions' record of accomplishment in the field of peace or poverty research.

Methodological and theoretical contributions.

Methodological and theoretical framing of the projects is closely linked to research quality. The expert panel have addressed several issues here: Have the projects led to new ways to address knowledge? Have the projects provided new insights?

A general observation is that there is little methodological content in the publications. Some projects have positioned and framed the research well in terms of methods. One project had a particularly interesting methodological design, which involved using qualitative methods in a way that contrasted the mainstream research in this field, which is mainly based on statistics and modelling.

On the other hand, there are examples of projects where methods have been poorly addressed. An example is a case-based project, where there is little or no discussion on case selection. The researchers in the project wrote in a publication that they did not select the cases in a systematic way; instead, the cases presented themselves as opportunities.

Furthermore, it was not always possible to see what type of methods they used in the project. In several of the final reports, the project managers have not described the projects' methodological approach to the studied issues. This was even the case in some of the published articles.

This made it difficult to assess the methodological impact of the projects.

The expert panel observed a similar pattern concerning theory development. A significant minority of the projects did not position their project sufficiently theoretically. They failed to motivate their

projects theoretically, and in some cases, the theoretical approach did not play a role in the discussion of the results.

The projects the expert panel described as excellent, on the other hand, clearly had a theoretical impact. Thus, they contributed to bringing the field forward.

Again, a problem was that except in the publications, several project managers did not present the theoretical insights in the final reports.

4.4   Research quality

One of the ambitions for the PovPeace programme was to support research that could shed light on the mechanisms of poverty and conflict. A main question in this evaluation is whether the projects have increased the understanding of these mechanisms, i.e. if the projects have contributed to the programme's goal attainment.

The PovPeace programme covered separate themes: war, peace and development, and poverty and welfare. In the following discussion, we have separated the two areas because the quality of research is not the same in the two groups.

Poverty and welfare

The overall impression was that the research quality in this area was lower than what one expect in a Research Council programme. The projects' contribution to the understanding of mechanisms of poverty was low. Most projects did not study or reflect upon the mechanism of poverty, nor on how the project contributed to our understanding of issues related to poverty and welfare.

The projects were mostly applied research, and little basic research was evident in the portfolio. At the extreme side were projects that could be described as consultancy work, rather than research.

In line with this, the projects' contribution to the programme's thematic priorities was insufficient.

In the portfolio, there are examples of projects that did not go beyond what can be described as common knowledge in this field. These projects took a broad approach to the field, and even though they looked at poverty related issues, they produced few scientific articles of high quality.

Still, also projects with few peer-reviewed publications made a significant contribution to the public debate on poverty issues and policy. In fact, this is a part of a general picture, that several of these projects had a policy focus, rather than focusing on bringing the research a step further.

The portfolio also had examples of projects that stood out with good results, with an emphasis on more basic research and with high quality.

War, peace and development

The peace research in the programme has generally resulted in better research outcomes than the poverty projects. In this group of projects, there were some excellent projects and several very good or good projects. The projects were to a higher degree theoretically motivated and based in the social sciences. In the excellent projects, the research was of high quality and addresses relevant issues. Furthermore, the research was of such a quality that it contributed to bringing the research forward.

Several projects responded well to the objectives of the PovPeace projects. Thus, they contributed to goal attainment. Furthermore, several of the projects provided new knowledge, although not in all the thematic areas the programme covered.

What characterises the projects that did not deliver good results?

An issue here is whether the PovPeace programme has supported projects that from the outset were not good enough, or if the projects with poor results delivered good applications but were poorly managed or simply failed in the implementation phase. I.e. could the poor results have been avoided?

The expert panel's assessment provided some answers to this question. At least one of the projects encountered problems that the project manager could not have foreseen. This resulted in a lack of results in one part of the project. As the project was twofold, the project still resulted in very good publications.

On the other hand, the experts also found examples of projects that were granted funding based on applications of a poor quality. Furthermore, the experts found that there was a correlation between the quality of the final reports and the research quality.

Was the quality good enough?

The core question remains: did the PovPeace programme result in research of a satisfactory quality? The main answer is that the quality varied between the projects, from excellent to poor. The next question is thus if the ratio between excellent and poor projects has been good enough.

It is difficult to conclude on the general research quality in the programme, as the quality varies between projects and especially between the two fields addressed by the PovPeace programme.

The discussion above shows that in the area of peace research, the results have overall been quite good. This does however not mean that all projects studying peace development were of a very good quality. Although some of the projects on poverty reduction were very good projects, the projects in this area have struggled to achieve good quality. Thus, while there is room for improvement in both areas, the quality in the poverty and welfare projects has generally been too low.

4.5 Reporting and publications

The bibliometric analysis and expert assessment of publications has revealed a problem related with the reporting procedures. The first problem is that some projects have reported articles that were published very early in the project period. Figure 3 shows that several projects reported publications as early as 2007. In one case, the fieldwork predated the grant. In another project, the final report contained an article that the author had presented at a conference before the project received the grant.

In this evaluation, we have not conducted a complete systematic analysis of the articles published by project teams in the initial years of the projects implementation. The identified problem came up in the experts' assessment of publication quality. The experts analysis contained only two articles from each project, therefore the real number of cases where previous work was reported as being done in PovPeace projects might been higher.

This indicates that some of the project managers have been strategic in their reporting and have boosted their number of publications.

The second problem concerns an opposite case, namely under-reporting of articles. This is a general problem in the Research Council, because the deadline for final report submission follows shortly after the grant period is over.

This leads to under-reporting of publications, as publications based on project fieldwork and data collection are typically published towards the end of, and after, the grant period. Furthermore, the publication process itself can be long. The consequence is that the Research Council's database systematically underestimates the project output. This was evident when we asked project managers to review the publications from the final reports and add articles they had published after they filed the final report. The under-reporting varies. Among the 20 project managers that responded to our request and added new publications to our list, 3 managers added one new publications, the remaining project managers added 2 or more.

This reveals a weakness in the Research Council's reporting system that leads to underestimation of the PovPeace' projects research and knowledge production and dissemination.

The interviewed project managers, on the other hand, were generally satisfied with the Research Council's reporting requirements. The process allows the researchers to focus on research and not on formalities. The financial reporting and accountancy seem to be working well. Overall, the Research Council procedures are considered flexible and easy to follow in this regard, i.e. much more adequate than those existing in the EU programmes.

One of the recommendations from this evaluation is to develop more detailed templates for the final reports. Some of the project reports in PovPeace were of such a low quality, that it was very hard to assess the projects' achievements. The recommendations is that reports should follow certain standards and structure, adjusted to the main requirements and objective of the programme and the calls made. This may contain the most important issues like e.g. gender balance or capacity building in the North and in the South as separate parts of the final report, should the latter be made a prerequisite for funding.

Most of the project managers tended to connect what the projects achieved with the wider picture. This wider impact sometimes came with time, after the projects had been concluded. A second round of reporting, two years after project completion, could

be beneficial for demonstrating the entire programme impact.

The PovPeace programme was broad, while many of the projects were focused on particular interesting topics. In order to exchange information between researchers, the Research Council organised annual presentations of project portfolios. Researchers could present their projects during the meetings and report their findings. This was also an opportunity to meet the members of the Programme Board. These compulsory meetings had the function of discussing the project with the Board and the Council. In some selected interviews, the respondents stated that the meetings could have triggered more discussion if they were organised as a discussion rather than as presentations.

4.6 Thematic priorities and future research needs

The expert panel members were asked examine to what degree the PovPeace portfolio covered the thematic priorities in the programme. Furthermore, Research Council asked them to identify future research needs in the field of poverty reduction and peace development.

The calls have been important to identify the topics the programme set out to cover. The calls for proposals were rather open and generally referred to the programme plan. As the programme matured, the calls increasingly covered more fields such as gender and unregistered labour market participation. Even if these added topics created some inconsistencies between the programme plan and the calls, the researchers still found them open.

With this as a part of the departure, the experts discussed different ways to shape the calls. The first options is to list the topics in the call. The second solution is the "rainbow" approach, where the calls are open. PovPeace followed the second option.

Thematic scope

In their assessment of the programme, the experts generally found that the projects selected in the programme were very specific, but they were not addressing themes in a systematic way, e.g. while discussing the issue of conflict, conflict prevention in today's world should be investigated.

The expert panel's main findings concerning the programme's thematic scope was that:

- The projects did not, or to a little degree, cover key development topics such as social protection, children and young people and climate change or water management, and migration only appeared later in the programme. Furthermore, issues related to nutrition and education (being at the core of development studies research globally) were not represented in the portfolio. The general conclusion from the expert panel was that the portfolio itself could have been expanded.
- The poverty topic was not fully expanded to include subjects like extreme poverty, poverty pockets within economies that explode etc. The programme in fact was assessed as completely missing the opportunity of addressing a global approach.
- Environmental security was somehow mentioned in the two projects dealing with land and oil. However, even if this part might have been covered in other research programmes of the Research Council, there is no excuse for such a limited coverage.
- There were also gaps in the peace development area, and the programme did not fully explore topics such as integrating the causes of war, conflict mechanisms, localism of the conflict creation, crisis preventions, conflict mediation, and monopoly on the use of force.

While the programme did cover a large range of topics, the expert panel assessed the programme's thematic coverage as disappointing. While the peace development side of the programme managed to take the research into new avenues, addressing other forms of conflict issues and peace in new ways, the poverty research missed important elements.

Future research needs

Based on the discussion on the programme's thematic scope, the expert panel identified several research gaps and needs.

In a larger context, the gaps included an absence of impact focus in the PovPeace approach and a lack of blue-sky research. In order to both include topics that are important to Norwegian policy makers and to create a new research initiative with a global impact, the expert panel suggested firstly that a new

initiative could base the programme in Norwegian international peacekeeping involvement.

Norway has developed a reputation as a peace-making negotiator[18]. More analysis of why these approaches have been successful might have been reasonable.

The other option was to discuss the unanswered or unsolved dilemmas appearing in the international research debate.

These two approaches would result in two different types of focus for a programme like PovPeace. The main issue is to decide if the goal should be to help position Norwegian researchers in the international research frontier or if it is to contribute to the development of policy relevant research competence.

The internationalisation as a goal should rather be targeting the Norwegian research community's role in the global scientific discussions, not only implying cooperation with foreign partners in the projects. This could be connected with the approach of using the current existing top competence in several selected fields.

Integrating the causes of war, conflict mechanisms, localism of the conflict creation, crisis preventions, conflict mediation and use of force as specific Norwegian speciality aspects seem to be great ideas for a research focus.

Better calls for proposals

Overall, the experts concluded that, if the goal is to build a more focused programme, the Research Council should develop focused calls, in order to shape more specialised research. Broad programme calls, on the other hand, result in broad responses.

In several of the projects, the project managers did not manage to situate the project in the international research debate. The recommendation from the expert panel is that the calls should be aware of the international debate and the state of the discourse in the field. What is the particular interest and what do we want to learn from the international current discussion? This should be reflected in the calls, as well as necessary details and explanations that researchers could respond to.

The calls should include a list of specific topics expected, thus assuring that successful proposals are coherent with the expectations, evaluation criteria are clear and oriented towards assuring the thematic focus.

The general discussion about connecting poverty and peace in one programme also influenced the calls. The connection between the two that follows from having a joint programme, per definition made the calls very wide.

An important point is that the analysis of the calls, did not confirm the argument put forth in some of the interviews, that the calls were shaped by Norad or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, based on their particular policy related interests. The portfolio analysis did also not confirm this claim.

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[18] https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/foreign-affairs/peace-and-reconciliation-efforts/innsiktsmappe/peace_efforts/id732943/

Chapter 5.   Conclusions and recommendations

The PovPeace programme has overall reached or partly reached its goals. Overall, the projects supported by the programme have produced good research outcomes and to some degree contributed to policy development and capacity building.

The programme finished in 2013, but the evaluation has identified several research gaps that are important for Norwegian policymaking and for Norwegian research milieus.

The overall recommendation is to establish a similar programme or initiative; however several aspects should be reconsidered or improved.

5.1   Conclusions

The research quality varied between the PovPeace projects. Five to six projects produced research of an excellent quality and provided important contributions to the research in the field of peace development and poverty reduction. At the same time, the programme has supported projects of a rather poor quality and with few results to show.

Research quality, thematic scope and knowledge gaps

The PovPeace projects have produced a large number of research publications. Book chapters is the most frequent type of research publications, in several projects the researchers contributed to joint publications and other researchers wrote monographs. There is also a long list of research articles in a wide range of journals, while some projects did not report on publications at all.

The programme covered two large thematic areas. Calls for proposals have covered both poverty reduction and peace development. The final call focused entirely on poverty issues. The research output does not fully reflect this, as many poverty topics were left unexplored. Subjects like extreme poverty, poverty pockets within economies that exploded were missing.

The expert panel also revealed gaps in the peace development part of the programme. These gaps included integrating the causes of war, conflict mecha-

nisms, and localism of the conflict creation, crisis preventions, conflict mediation and monopoly on the use of force.

While the programme left several topics unexplored, the research quality was generally good for the projects dealing with peace development-issues. There were very good projects on poverty reduction topics, but the quality was on average lower in this field, than in peace development.

With a few exceptions, the gender balance in the Norwegian research teams was good. However, most project managers were men. No information on the gender balance of the southern partners in the projects was available in the final reports, but the interviews revealed that men were overrepresented among the southern partners.

Gender issues played an important role in some projects and their publications. Other projects did not address this issue, even though they covered topics were gender perspectives are considered important.

Programme impact

According to the programme plan, PovPeace should have an impact on development policies. There are some impact stories in the material, but only a minority of the projects have had a direct policy impact. Interestingly, the impact stories told in the interviews, show that the projects that had a direct impact on policymaking, influenced international policies, and not Norwegian.

The evaluation revealed a similar pattern concerning impact on the international academic debate. The projects that delivered high quality publications have contributed to new understandings of the problems at hand. In other projects, applied research was the focus, yet as mentioned above, only a selection of projects had a direct impact on policy.

The expert panel identified several knowledge gaps not covered by the programme, such as social protection, children and young people and climate change or water. Migration appeared later in the programme. Furthermore, the programme had little focus on nutrition and education.

Strategic objectives

The programme had both thematic and strategic objectives. A central strategic objective was "to help strengthen Norwegian research on poverty and peace issues in order to bring it up to the highest international standards"[19].

The programme contributed to maintain and slightly increase the capacity in the Norwegian research community. All the renowned Norwegian scientific groups on these topics have participated. PovPeace also managed to mobilize new research groups and while some of these delivered good results, others produced little new knowledge.

Several of the projects included PhD or post doctorial positions, and in a few cases, master students participated in the projects.

The programme was however too small to have a global outreach and to include, with a few exceptions, the important research institutions shaping the global discussion in the field of poverty and peace.

Cooperation with southern partners was not a pre-requisite in the programme. Despite this, the programme portfolio includes a large number of cooperation linkages between the project managing institutions and research institutions in the North and in the South. The cooperation has been of varying quality and type. Projects including strong partners in the South have been easier to manage and have produced relevant research. The policy relevance was not equally good in all cases. Norwegian researchers mostly decided the research topics and as a result, the research questions were not necessarily relevant to local needs. Furthermore, many southern partners simply played the role as data collectors, and they were not necessarily included in the results dissemination or in the publication phase.

Still, the cooperation with partners in the South has contributed to capacity building in the South and to co-authored publications.

Multidisciplinary cooperation was the modus operandi in several projects, gathering social scientists from different disciplines. The multidisciplinary approach was a strength in many projects and allowed for studying issues that are more complex. This does not mean that the projects were interdisciplinary. Yet, a more interdisciplinary take on the collaboration would not necessarily have produced better outcomes.

Dissemination of research is a much-debated issue. The programme has its own communication plan, yet dissemination and communication between policy makers and researchers was an ongoing issue throughout the programme period. Again, the results are varied. In some projects, dissemination to the public and to policy makers has been high on the agenda. In other projects, the main dissemination channel has been scientific publications. This is a dilemma in most research programmes.

The research community is not necessarily to blame for the lack of dissemination to policy-makers. In general, it has been challenging to get policy makers to attend conferences and seminars.

5.2   Recommendations

The general recommendation is that the Research Council should establish a similar programme or initiative.

Thematic scope in a new initiative

PovPeace has contributed to sustain capacity in the research communities. Norway has a few research groups that have contributed to the international research debate on poverty and peace issues. Without a dedicated programme, these research groups face harder competition for research funding. If the objective continues to be to contribute to strengthen Norwegian research on poverty reduction and peace development, especially poverty research is in need of more funding in order to bring it up to the highest international standards.

In a new initiative, the thematic scope of the programme should focus on areas that were underexplored in the PovPeace programme. Examples of such topics are extreme poverty and poverty pockets within economies that explode, as well as issues such as social protection, children and young people, climate change or water issues and migration. In the area of peace, conflict and war, topics such as integrating the causes of war, conflict mechanisms, localism of the conflict creation, crisis preventions, conflict mediation, and monopoly on the use of force could be better explored.

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[19] Programme Plan, 2005, Page 8.

A new initiative could take different approaches to define the programme's thematic scope.

Norway has played a role as a peace negotiator in countries in the South. The expert panel underlined that there is a need to study such processes in order to understand why the approach was successful. In line with this, a Norwegian research initiative is important. This approach also makes the programme relevant to Norwegian policymakers.

Integrating the causes of war, conflict mechanisms, localism of the conflict creation, crisis preventions, conflict mediation and use of force as specific Norwegian speciality aspects seem to be great ideas for a research focus.

Dissemination

Secondly, in order to have an impact on policy, research dissemination is necessary. Overall, the transfer and use of the research results is an issue for improvement. Most projects focused on scientific publications and did not focus on policy impact.

While projects have to include the dissemination perspective in their project proposals, there is room for improvement in this area.

If dissemination and policy impact are in focus, some kind of support or guidelines should be provided on how to organise and prioritise policy linkages in the projects financed. It must be defined what kind of dissemination would be expected and what are the success criteria here, as well as who is to be covered with this activity.

The Research Council needs to follow up, and continue to arrange seminars where policy makers and researchers meet. These seminars should open up for dialogue between policy makers and researchers, and not just be another arena for researchers to present their publications.

Cooperation

Today, the Research Council programmes that resemble PovPeace have a larger emphasis on cooperation with partners in the South.

In a new programme for peace and poverty research, cooperation with the South should be a prerequisite for funding of large projects. The programme should emphasise the need for balanced North-South partnerships, which allow the Southern partners to be included at both the proposal and the publication stage. This should increase the likelihood that the project studies issues of local relevance.

Ethics

Ethics in research needs to be emphasized, particularly regarding data gathering and data ownership (informed consent of interviewees) and of benefit sharing of research results.

As regards methods, the expert panel discussed the standards in the projects as regards data gathering. The project proposals and reports did not include discussion and description of procedures used assuring ethical procedures as regards data gathering and informed consent.

Such procedures must be addressed in the proposal and in the project period.
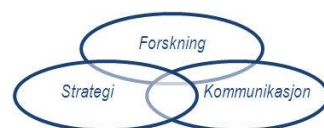
Annex – abbreviations used

Abbreviations used in network analysis:

Abbreviation and country code	Institution
AAU ET	Addis Ababa University
ABDN UK	University of the Highlands
ACEH ID	Aceh Independent Institute
ACSS US	The Africa Center for Strategic Studies
AF US	Asia Foundation
AFS BiH	Architecture Faculty Sarajevo
AHO NO	Arkitektur og Designhøgskolenil Oslo
AM MG	Academie Malgache
ANU AU	Australian National University
APPI KE	Africa Public Policy Institute
AU DK	Aalborg University
AUC NO	Akershus University College
AURC DK	Aalborg University Research Center
BU DE	University of Bremen
BUC NO	Buskerud University College
BUU CN	Beijing Union University
CARDP CN	China Association of Rehabilitation of Disabled People
CC MW	Chancellor College, Malawi
CEHR MZ	Centro de Escritóriosdo Hotel Rovuma
CEIC AO	CEIC Angola
CHR IN	Centre for Human Rights, Delhi
CHRS ID	Centre for Human Rights Studies indonesia
CIDES BO	CIDES- UMSA La Paz
CIDES/ UMSA BO	POSTGRADO EN CIENCIAS DEL DESARROLLO
CIESAS MX	CIESAS
CIFOR ID	CIFOR - Bogota
CINVESTAV	Marine Resources Dept. Cinvestav Unidad Mérida
CMI NO	Chr Michelsens Institutt
CMR NL	Centre for Maritime Research
CODESRIA SN	Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa
CPAU AF	Cooperation for Peace and Unity
CPHD AF	Center for Policy & Human Development, Kabul
CPPF US	Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum
CRC KZ	Competitivenes Research Centre
CRRC CN	China Rehabilitation Research Centre
CS UK	Creative Scotland
CSD UK	Centre for Study of Democracy
CSDS IN	Centre for the Study of Developing Societies
CSU GE	Chavchavadze State University, Tbilisi
CU UK	Cambridge University
CU US	Columbia University
CUNY US	City University of New York
CUoM MZ	Catholic University of Mozambique
Demos ID	Demos; Jakarta
DPU CL	Diego Portales University
DUC NO	Diakonhjemmet University College
EUSL LK	Eastern University of Sri Lanka

FAFO NO	Institute for Applied International Studies
FF US	Ford Foundation
FIU US	Florida Internation Univrsity
FLACSO MX	FLACSO
FLASCO	Faculty of Latin American Social Sciences
FNI NO	Fridtjof Nansens Institutt
FORUT NO	FORUT Campain for Development and solidarity
FU AU	Flinders University
GMU ID	Gadjah Mada University
GU SE	Gothenborg University
HiB NO	Buskerud University College
HSH NO	University College Stord Haugesund
HSPH US	Harvard School of Public Health
HU US	Harvard University
HUC NO	Hedmark University College
HWSC US	Hobart and William Smith Colleges
IDS UK	Institute of Development Studies
IEP FR	Institut d'études politique
IESR MW	Insitute for Economic and Social Research;
IFPRI IN	IFPRI, Delhi
IIDS NP	Institute of Integrated development Studies
IPLAS ZA	Insitute for poverty, land and agrarian studies
IPTC GH	Internat'l Peacekeeping Training Centre
ISR AZ	Institute for sci. research on economic ref
ISS NL	ISS, Hague
KA TH	Kasetstart
KCL UK	Kings College London
KIMEP KZ	KIMEP
KU TH	Kasetsart University,Thailand
KU TR	Kocaeli University
LSE UK	London School of Economics
MU KE	Masenu University
MU UG	Makerere University
MU US	Mercer University
MUHAS TZ	Muhimbili Univ. for Health and Associated Science
MUN CA	Memorial University of Newfoundland
NAI SA	Nordic Africa Institute
NAI SE	Nordic Africa Institute
NCHR NO	Norwegian Center for Human Rights
NCL UK	Nationl Centre for Languages
NHH NO	Norges Handelshøyskole
NIBR NO	Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research
NINA NO	Stiftelsen Norsk Institutt for Naturforskning
NIVA NO	Akvaplan NIVA
NLA NP	National Labour Academy, Kathmandu
NMBU NO	NMBU
NOM NO	Norwegian Oil Museum
Norad NO	Norad
NSO MW	National Statistical Office
NTNU NO	Norwegian University of Science and Technology
NTU VN	Nha Trang University
NUCTN NO	Network for University Cooperation Tibet-Norway
NUPI NO	Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt

ODI UK	Overseas Development Institute		UoG GH	University of Ghana
PC US	Pomona College		UoG UK	University of Glasgow
PRIO NO	Institutt for Fredsforskning		UoH US	University of Houtson
PU NP	Purbanchal University,Nepal		UoK SD	University of Khartoum
RU US	Rutgers University		UoL IR	University of Limerick
SAC UK	St. Anthony'sCollege UK		UoL UK	Goldsmiths, Univ. of London
SAS CH	Small Arms Survey		UoL UK	University of London
SAS UK	Institute for the Study of the Americas		UoLe UK	University of Leeds
SFI PL	Sea Fisheries Institute Gdynia		UoM MW	University of Malawi
SINTEF NO	Sintef		UoM UK	University of Manchester
SNF NO	Samfunns- Og Næringslivsforskning AS		UoM US	University of Maryland
SP FR	Sciences Politiques		UoMi US	University of Michigan
SP FR	Sciences Po		UoN KE	University of Nairobi
SP FR	Science Po		UoN UK	University of Nottingham
SSASL LK	Social Scientists' Association of Sri Lanka		UoO CA	University of Ottawa
SSRC US	Social Science Research Council		UoO UK	University of Oxford
ST US	Stanford University		UoP IN	University of Pune
SU TZ	Sokoine University		UoP US	University of Pennsylvania
SU ZA	Stellenbosch University		UoP ZA	University of Pretoria
SWP DE	SWP		UoR LK	University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka
TDTU AR	Torcuato Di Tella University		UoS UK	University of Sheffield
UAB ES	School for a Peace Culture, Spain		UoT CA	University of Toronto
UCL UK	University College London		UoU UK	University of Ulster
UCT ZA	ASRU - University of Cape Town		UoW UK	University of Westminister
UCT ZA	University of Cape Town		UoW US	University of Wisonsin
UDES TZ	University of Dar es Salaam		UoW ZA	University of Witwatersrand
UEA UK	School of Dev. Studies, Univ. of East Anglia		UoY UK	University of York
UEL UK	University of East London		UoZ ZM	University of Zambia
UiB NO	University of Bergen		UoZ ZW	University of Zimbabwe
UiO NO	University of Oslo		UPH PH	University of the Philippines
UiT NO	University of Tromsø		URACCAN NI	URACCAN
UiZ ZM	University of Zambia		UStA UK	University of St. Andrews
UKZN ZA	University of KwaZuluNatal, South Africa		UVA NL	University of Amsterdam
UMB NO	NORAGRIC; Norges Miljø- og Biovitenskaplige Univ.		UWC ZA	University of the Western Cape,
			UWU US	Northwestern University
UMSA BO	Universidad Mayor de San Andreas		VISR VE	Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research
UNEP MZ	UNEP		WB US	World Bank
UNIFOB NO	UNIFOB Global, Norway		WCU ZA	University of Western Cape
UNM US	University of New Mexico		WCU ZA	University of the Western Cape
UoA NL	University of Amsterdam		WFU US	Wake Forest University
UoA UK	University of Aberdeen		WU NL	Wageningen University
UoB UK	University of Bradford		WU US	Washington University
UoB US	University of Berkley		WUSM US	Washington University School of Medicine
UoC DK	University of Copenhagen		YU CN	York University Canada
UoC LK	University of Colombo		YU UK	York University UK
UoC US	University of California		YU US	Yale University
UoCL UK	University of Central Lancashire			
UoCT ZA	University of Cape Town			
UoD IN	University of Delhi			
UoF US	University of Florida			
UoFi VN	University of Fisheries, Vietnam			
UoG CH	University of Geneva,			