USIP DIALOGUE PROJECTS AND TRANSFER

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Study Focus and Purpose

Focus

Comparative analysis of dialogue-based projects funded by USIP over the past 25 years
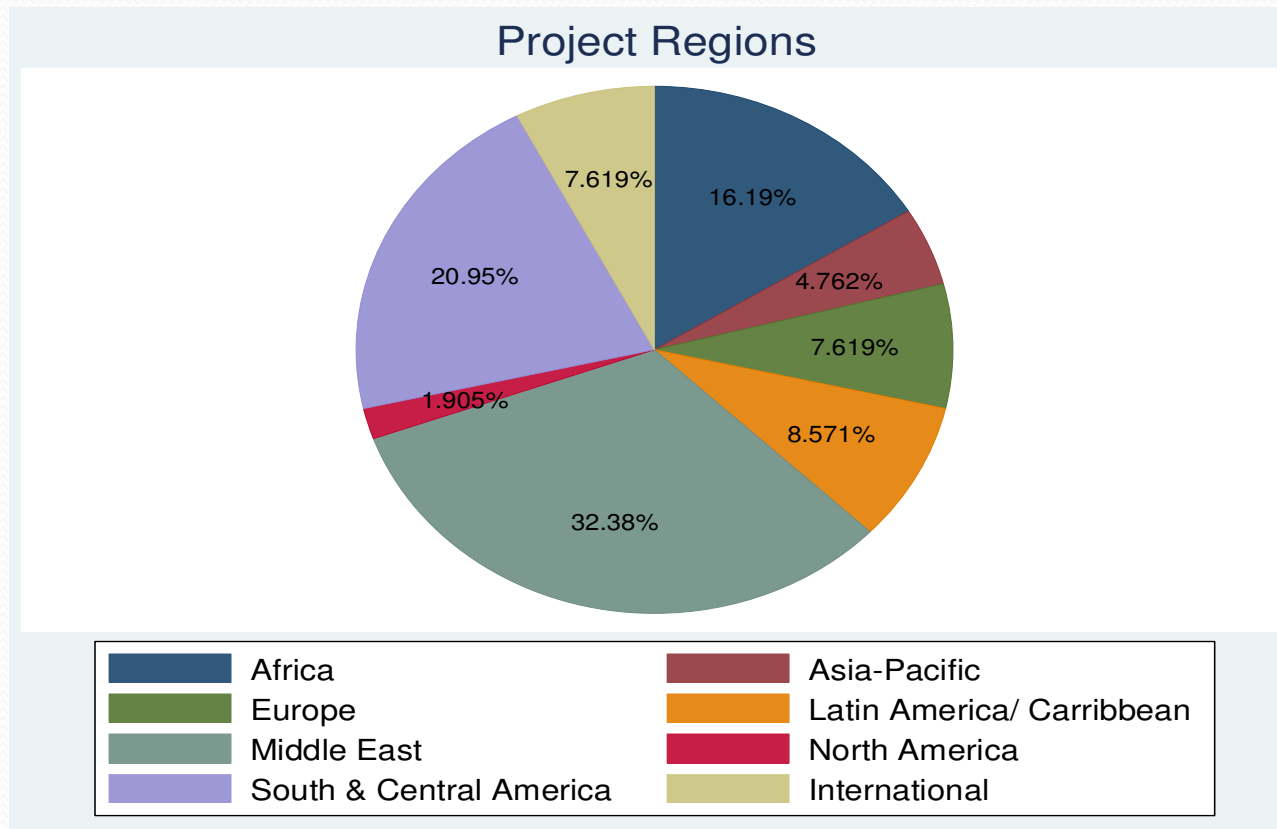
- Changes over time
- Factors influencing project success
- Transfer approaches and effects (beyond participants) – micro, meso, macro

Purpose

- Inform future USIP dialogue programming
- Identify generalizable lessons about what makes dialogue successful
- Identify impact beyond participants – how, why

Dialogue Project Dataset

- N=105 (1992-2015)

Project Regions

Region	Percentage
Africa	16.19%
Asia-Pacific	4.762%
Europe	7.619%
Latin America/ Carribbean	8.571%
Middle East	32.38%
North America	1.905%
South & Central America	20.95%
International	7.619%

Data Collection & Analysis

- Desk Review
  - 105 projects, 1992 – 2016
- Field Research
  - 23 projects (22% of total) – 5 Colombia, 13 Israel / Palestine, 5 Pakistan
  - 129 participants in interview, focus groups
- Qualitative (Dedoose) and Quantitative Software (Stata – measures of association)
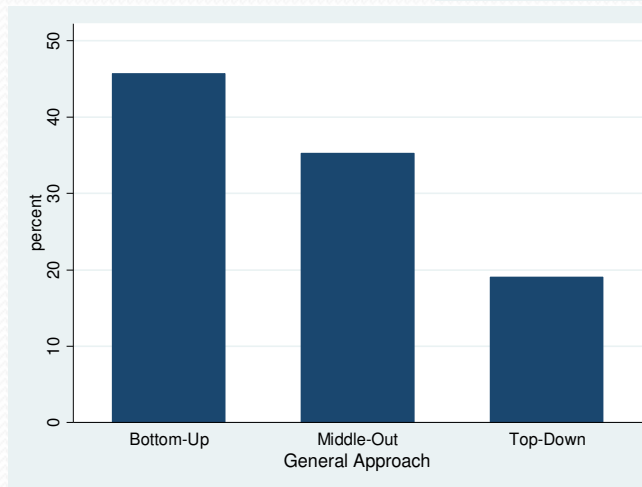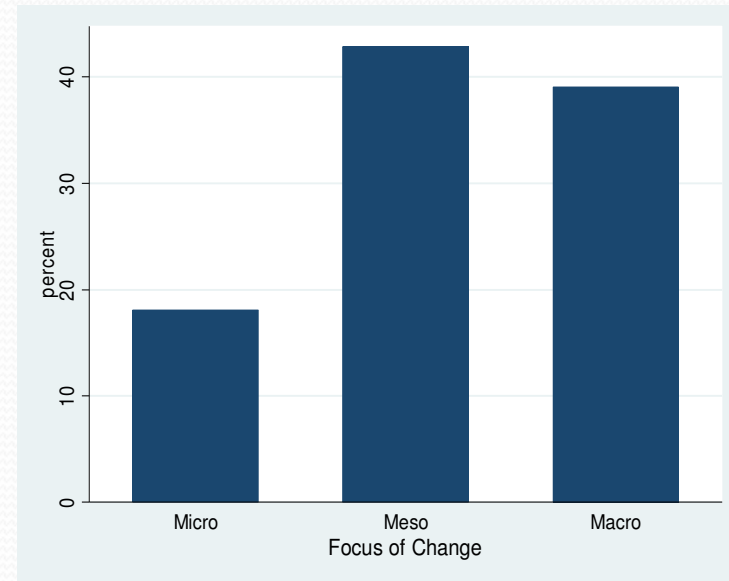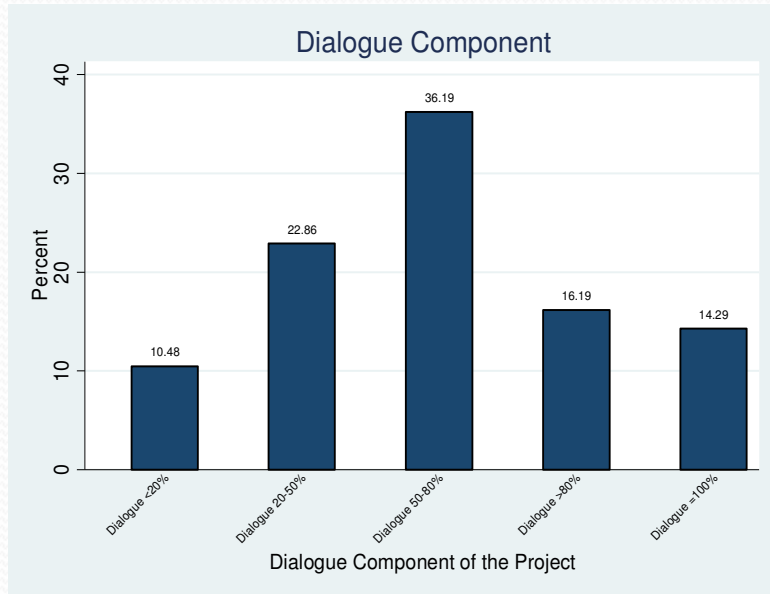
Verification & Limitations

- Cross-case comparisons & triangulated data sources, collection and analysis methods strengthened reliability & validity
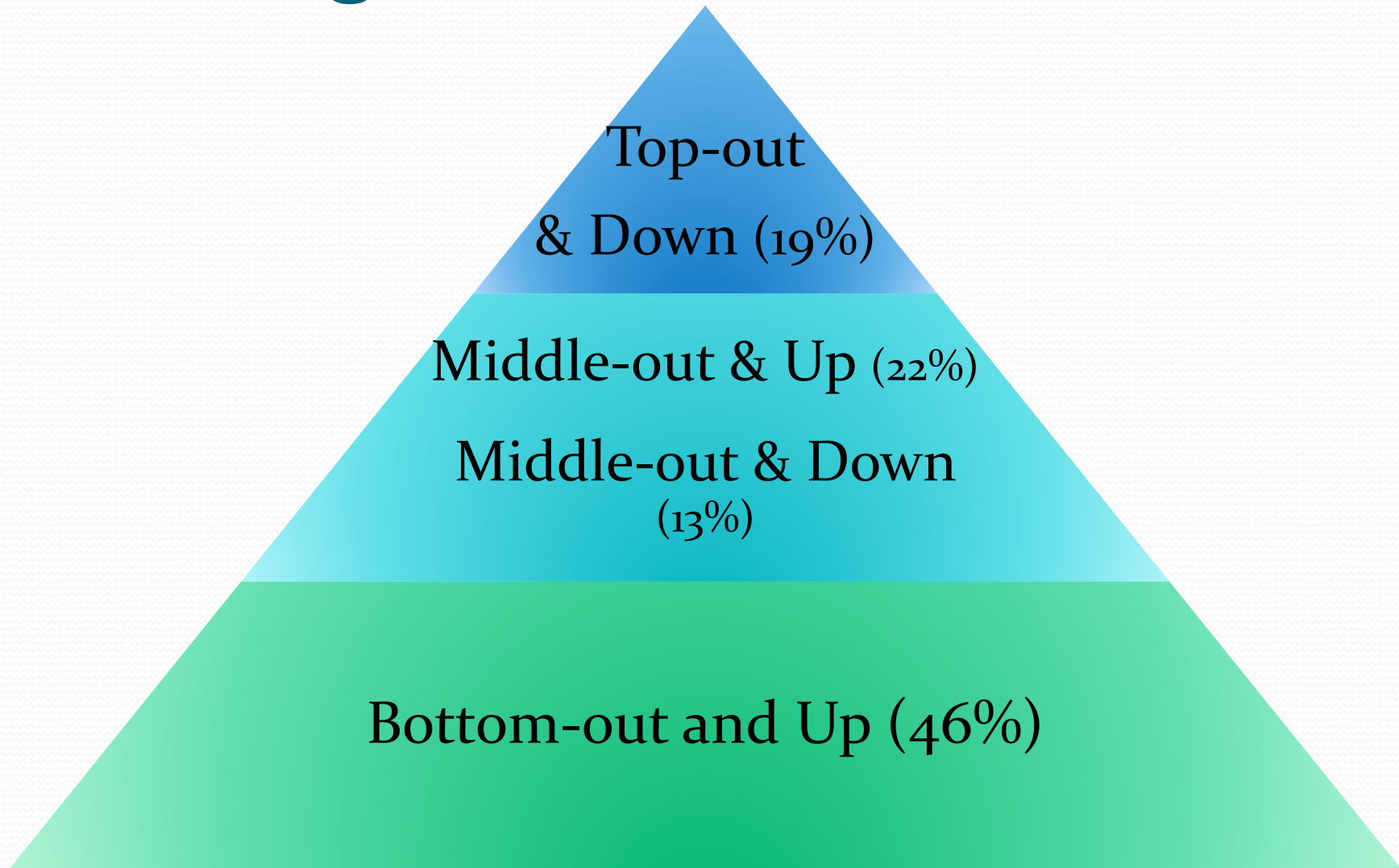
  - Data level limitations: (e.g. imperfect case selection; uneven reporting; reliance on self-reports)

- Method level limitations: (e.g. impact of intangibles; different scopes & scales; aggregated assessments)

Dialogue Projects

Dialogue & Transfer Models

Top-out
& Down (19%)

Middle-out & Up (22%)

Middle-out & Down
(13%)

Bottom-out and Up (46%)

Transfer Methods by Model

Transfer Method by General Approach	Bottom-up (N=48)	Middle-out (N=37)	Top-down (N=20)	Total
Disseminate Product	73%	76%	75%	74%
Ripple Effect	65%	57%	30%	55%
Political/Policy Advocacy	27%	43%	85%	44%
Media (print, radio, tv, social media)	48%	51%	20%	35%
Cascade Model (replication)	44%	32%	0%	31%
Dialogue & Peacebuilding Mechanisms / Platforms	31%	38%	10%	30%
Community Meetings, Conferences, Roundtables	35%	14%	10%	23%
Cooperative Action	25%	19%	10%	20%

Mixed methods (85% of projects)
The more transfer methods used, the greater the frequency of impacts and project success (p<.001)

Products for Transfer by Model

Product Types for Transfer by General Approach	Bottom-up (N=48)	Middle-out (N=37)	Top-down (N=20)
Analysis & Policy recommendations	10%	35%	70%
Curriculum (educational/training materials/ toolkits)	23%	22%	0%
Educational/Awareness materials (brochures, pamphlets, posters, DVDs)	13%	11%	5%
Film, Theatre, Radio Programs	25%	5%	0%
Program Products (newsletters, updates, analysis reports)	17%	8%	5%

Sustainability Plans

1. Grantee planned other activities(43%)
2. Participants planned project-related activities (33%)
3. Participants developed or engaged in other peacebuilding activities (e.g., spin-off projects)(28%)
4. Grantee sought funding (25%)
5. Dialogue/peacebuilding mechanisms created or strengthened that ensured continued opportunities for engagement (23%)

Participant-led sustainability plans were most associated with projects that included capacity building, dialogue and action.

Sustainability ratings were significantly associated with project impacts beyond participants (p=.017).

Impact

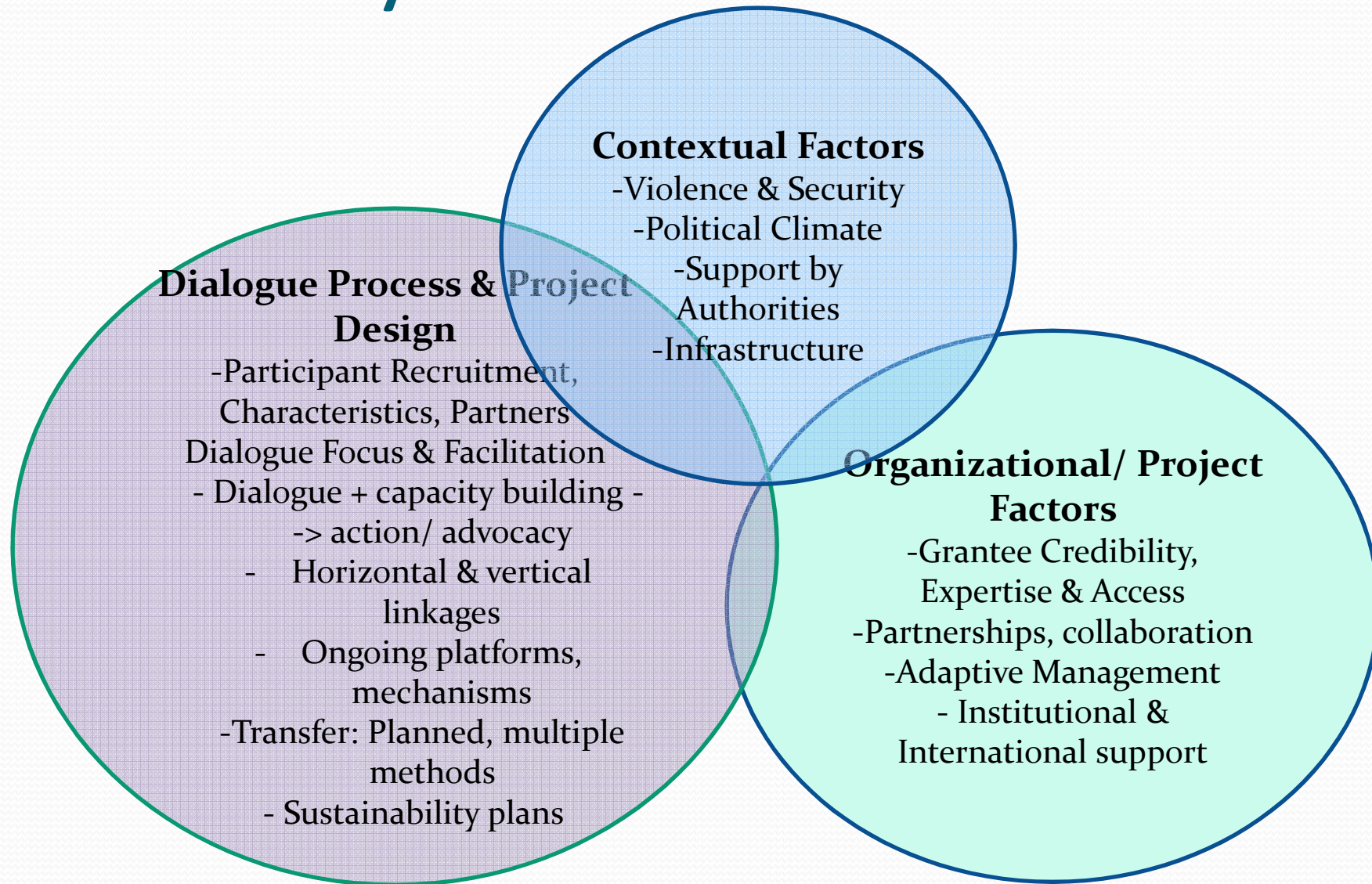| Percentage of projects	Micro Impact (individual)	Meso Impact (relational)	Macro Impact (structural)
Bottom-up Approach	50%	46%	46%
Middle-out Approach	27%	49%	46%
Top-down Approach	15%	20%	60%

p=.076

Key Factors for Success

Contextual Factors
-Violence & Security
-Political Climate
-Support by Authorities
-Infrastructure

Dialogue Process & Project Design
-Participant Recruitment,
Characteristics, Partners
Dialogue Focus & Facilitation
- Dialogue + capacity building -
-> action/ advocacy
- Horizontal & vertical
linkages
- Ongoing platforms,
mechanisms
-Transfer: Planned, multiple
methods
- Sustainability plans

Organizational/ Project Factors
-Grantee Credibility,
Expertise & Access
-Partnerships, collaboration
-Adaptive Management
- Institutional &
International support

Recommendations for Dialogue Project Design and Implementation:

1. Promote theory-based dialogue design
2. Align dialogue transfer models with intended impacts
3. Adapt programs to political and security context
4. Recruit the right participants
5. Ongoing dialogue projects, but...
6. Move from dialogue + capacity building to action/advocacy and transfer
7. Create strategic partnerships and networks (horizontal connections)
8. Connect levels of leadership (vertical connections)
9. Practice adaptive management
10. Strengthen plans for sustainability