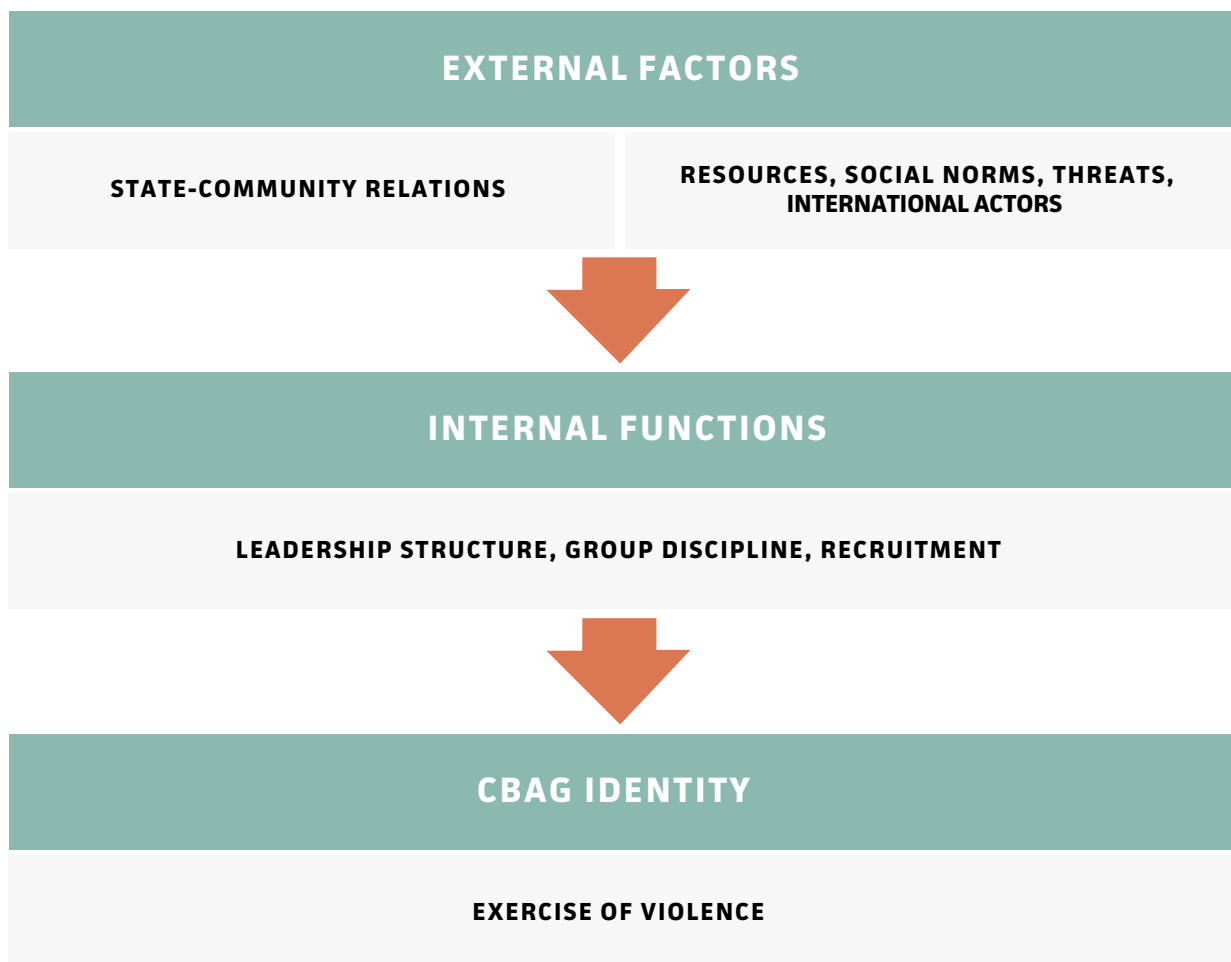


From Self-Defense to Vigilantism:

A Typology Framework of Community-Based Armed Groups

This fact sheet provides a snapshot of conclusions from the mapping effort of the RESOLVE Network's Community-Based Armed Groups Research Initiative that investigates the dynamics of community-based armed groups (CBAGs) to identify potential approaches to engage, manage, and transform them. This Research Report develops a typology framework to enhance the understanding of these groups in informal political and security networks and identifies definitive internal functions that position CBAGs within state-society relations and external factors that drive CBAG transformations. To learn more about the research methodology and findings, please refer to this fact sheet's companion RESOLVE Research Report by Lauren Van Metre: *From Self-Defense to Vigilantism: A Typology Framework of Community-Based Armed Groups*.



FUNCTION/TYPE OF VIOLENCE	RELATIONSHIP	...WITH THE STATE	...WITH THE COMMUNITY
SECURITY	NEGOTIATED	PARAMILITARY, WARLORD, HUNTER, GOVERNMENT-DEPUTIZED	COMMUNITY PROTECTION, HUNTER, NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH, ANTI-CRIME, COUNTERINSURGENCY
	COERCED	WARLORD, PARASTATE, MILITIA	VIGILANTE, PARAMILITARY, TRIBAL/ETHNIC MILITIA
POLITICAL	NEGOTIATED	PARAMILITARY, PRIVATE SECURITY, PATRONAGE	TRIBAL/ETHNIC SELF-DEFENSE
	COERCED	ARMED POLITICAL WING, MILITIA	POLITICAL WING OF VIGILANTES/HUNTERS, CLIENTELISM, PATRONAGE
ECONOMIC	NEGOTIATED	CARTELS, STATE CAPTURE, OLIGARCHY, CLIENTELISM	RESOURCE COMPETITION, ARMED LABOR/OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS, CATTLE PROTECTORS, HUNTERS
	COERCED	GANGS, SMUGGLERS, TRAFFICKERS	BANDITS, ROBBERS, CATTLE-RUSTLERS, TRAFFICKERS, ORGANIZED CRIME

Key Takeaways

- » For international organizations working in an environment with CBAGs or local civil society groups working within a community impacted by or supporting a group, it is critical to understand CBAG shifts.
- » There may be an ideal type of CBAG ripe for engagement: a group rooted in community norms and values, protective, and exercising internal discipline and order. However, these groups may be unique and easily transform in negative ways if factors in their external environment change, such as funding and threat levels.
- » Holistic monitoring and engagement strategies for CBAGs are key for identifying routes to create defensive, noncoercive hybrid security systems.
- » Strategies must consider the entirety of CBAG existence: norms of social order that may legitimize types of CBAG violence, endorsement by the state, and legitimacy rooted in communities.
- » Engagement strategies also need to consider internal characteristics—such as sources of legitimacy and loyalty, leadership capacities, recruitment pools, and institutional structures.

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RESOLVE is housed at the U.S. Institute of Peace, building upon the Institute's decades-long legacy of deep engagement in conflict affected communities.

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