

Civil society organisation and peace-building initiatives in Juba County, South Sudan. A cross-sectional study.

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Abstract

Background

The purpose of this study was to identify the relationship between Civil Society organisations and peace-building initiatives in Juba city, South Sudan.

Methodology

This study employed a descriptive cross-sectional design and targeted 18 registered civil society organisations in Juba that deal with peacebuilding. The completed questionnaires were edited for completeness and consistency, checked for errors and omissions, and then coded.

Results

The majority of the respondents (69.6%) were male. There was a high relationship between the capacity building and peace-building, as the coefficient of determination, r , was ($r = 0.606$). The R-squared shows that capacity building used in the study accounted for 60.6% of the variance in peace-building. There is a strong positive relationship ($r = 0.621$, $p < 0.05$) between emphasis on participation and inclusion, and it was strongly reflected in peace-building initiatives. The R-square shows that advocacy and lobbying used in the study accounted for 46.9% of the variance in peace-building initiatives. (61.1%) indicated that government policies influence CSOs on peace-building to a very high extent.

Conclusion

Participation and inclusion are very crucial in the success of CSOs in peace-building, heightening conflict when wrong information is passed on. Advocacy and inclusion of government supports and Donors help CSOs to carry out their role since funding was a very essential for the effectiveness of the organizations. CSOs staff are trained, refreshed, and upgraded, among others, on evolving and new concepts of managing peace-building with the newly acquired capacity building. CSOs are hand-tied by government policies, making it hard for them to function smoothly.

Recommendations

The media and civil society should team up to disseminate peace messages to conflict-affected communities and also ensure that they are not used for malice by any parties to avoid intensifying conflict.

Keywords: Civil society organization, Peacebuilding initiatives, Juba County, South Sudan.

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Background of the Study

Peacebuilding is essentially the process of achieving peace, a wide description that shows the extent of the concept, but as highlighted by the World Bank (2006), too broad a definition of peacebuilding makes it difficult to differentiate from regular development activities, as both want to address themes such as democratization and socio-economic development. Knight (2003) defines peacebuilding as a complex and multidimensional exercise that encompasses tasks ranging from the disarmament of warring factions to the rebuilding of political, economic, judicial, and civil society institutions. The changes in perspective of what peace entails and how

to create sustainable peace to avoid countries falling back into vicious circles of violence have led to a significant rise in the interest in peacebuilding activities from the 1990s onwards. The perception of possible peacebuilding actors has widened, from solely government and opposition leaders with help from external governmental and intergovernmental bodies, to include a broad range of other types of actors. Research has shown that a higher level of participation by civil society can lead to a more long-lasting peace (Wanis & Kew, 2006; Bouvier, 2009). Paffenholz (2009) points out that there has been a lack of scientific and organized research to validate the

idea of civil society 's peacebuilding effect and efficiency.

In the international community 's past peacebuilding practices, the main focus has turned towards the political rather than the personal, which has tended to mask the underlying psychosocial processes that mainly contribute to the willingness and readiness of people to choose a path of peace and reconciliation rather than engaging in further mass violence and/or abuse of human rights. Barnett et al. (2007) instead divide the objectives of peacebuilding into three different dimensions in Peacebuilding: namely, stability creation, restoration of state institutions, and addressing the socio-economic dimensions of conflict. Harpviken and Kjellman (2004) argue that one always must take into consideration the local context when defining civil society, stating that —the complexity of the social infrastructures, networks, and relationships that characterize civil society vary greatly from context to context, thereby necessitating a broad definition. Spurk (2010) maintain that the term civil society is contested and ambivalent, and that it is used in diverse ways in both science and policy making. Capacity building of CSOs has gathered growing recognition from policymakers, grant-making bodies, and international development agencies in recent years. It rests on the principle that investing in the human and social capital of marginalized individuals and groups enables them to develop the capacities needed to thrive, and to play an autonomous role in developing and renewing their communities (Bentley et al, 2003). All recent definitions share three aspects, centered on the understanding that capacity-building efforts need to be considered from a systems perspective that recognizes the dynamics and connections among various actors and issues at the different levels, as part of a broader unit rather than as loosely connected factors (Baser, 2000). The purpose of this study was to identify the relationship between civil society organizations and peacebuilding initiatives in Juba city, South Sudan.

Methodology

Research Design

This study employed a descriptive cross-sectional study. Descriptive research designs are used in preliminary and exploratory studies to allow researchers to gather information, summarize, present and interpret it for the purpose of clarification. This study fitted within the provisions of descriptive research design because the researcher employed all the steps of descriptive research in her study, the role of civil society in peacebuilding in South Sudan

Target Population and Sample Size

The total population consisted of 18 registered civil society organizations in Juba dealing with peacebuilding, where the respondents were senior managers and middle-level managers. The study targeted 10 respondents from each civil organization, making a total population of 180 respondents. Given a population of 180 respondents, the sample size was 123 respondents, determined using the Krejcie and Morgan table.

Sampling procedures

The study employed both purposive and simple random sampling. The study purposefully sampled senior managers and middle-level managers in every organization as they are involved in to day running of the organization. They included: the operations, fields, programmed, development, and social work senior managers and middle-level managers.

The study used Questionnaires and interviews to collect information from the respondents.

Questionnaires

The study used questionnaires to collect empirical data from the obtained sample size. Each item in the questionnaire was developed to address a specific objective and research question.

Interview guide.

This study employed open-ended questions, but with the guidance of an interview guide. The following were interviewed: senior managers and middle-level managers to cater to the likely missing link in the use of questionnaires. Focus group discussions were also utilised

Pretesting (Validity and reliability)

Validity

To ensure validity and reliability, the researcher used the test-retest technique, where the questionnaire was given to a group of junior-level managers in Civil society organizations dealing with peacebuilding. Data quality was incorporated in the entire study process, especially at the data collection point, to include completeness of questionnaires, legibility of records, and validity of responses. At the data processing point, quality control includes: data cleaning, validation, and confidentiality.

There are three types of validity which were addressed and stated: Face validity with pre-testing of survey instruments was a good way to increase the likelihood of face validity; Content validity is the use of expert opinions, literature searches, and pretest open-ended questions to help establish content validity; and Objective validity that entails confirm-ability where the study results could be confirmed or corroborated by others through data audit to examine the data collection and analysis procedures and makes judgments about the potential for bias or distortion.

Reliability of the research instruments

The questionnaire was pre-tested through a pilot test, but was not part of the sample population in the study to avoid double inclusion of pre-test participants in the main study. Their feedback helped in making vital adjustments to enhance the reliability and validity of the study findings. To ascertain the reliability of the data collection instrument, the results of the pilot study were examined by professionals co-opted in the study, who included other researchers and the Supervisor, and modifications were made based on the responses obtained.

Data Analysis

Before processing the responses, the completed questionnaires were sorted, checked, and edited for completeness and consistency. The data was then coded to enable the responses to be grouped into various categories. Descriptive statistics technique was used to analyse the quantitative data. Coding was done in SPSS, and the output was interpreted in frequencies, percentages, mean scores, and standard deviation. The findings will be presented using tables. This was enhanced by an explanation and interpretation of the data. Correlation and

regression analysis were used to establish the degree of association/effect between the dependent and independent variables.

Procedure and Ethical Considerations

Once the proposal was approved, the process started by obtaining an introductory letter from the School of Postgraduate Studies and Research of Team University. From there, selection and briefing of the two research assistants on the details of the research project were done. The study then proceeded to the Civil Organisations to introduce research assistants. Research assistants administered the questionnaires to respondents. The study took into account ethical considerations, meaning that the researcher first sought consent from all prospective participants and then explained to them what the study was all about and what the information given would be used for. He then confirmed to them that the information obtained was not to be disclosed, as well as the names of schools and respondents involved in the study.

Results

Response rate

The researcher administered 123 questionnaires to the sampled respondents during data collection. 102 questionnaires were returned from the respondents, representing an 82.9% response rate. This response rate was considered very satisfactory for the study.

Table 1: Respondents' gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	71	69.6
Female	31	30.4
Total	102	100.0

Respondents' demographic data

Table 1: The majority of the respondents (69.6%) were male. These findings were an indication of the existence of gender disparity in civil society organization leadership

due to the huge difference in gender representation of senior and middle-level managers in the organizations. This information showed that the study was not gender biased as it had representation across genders, so as to get data with uniform societal representation.

Table 2: Respondents' age

No. of years	Frequency	Percentage (%)
21-30	9	8.8
31-40	25	24.5
41-50	68	66.7
Total	102	100.0

Table 2 shows that the majority of the respondents (66.7%) were in the ages between forty to fifty years old, an indication that civil society organisations were headed by leaders with potential authority since at this age they may

have gained experience from past events. This implies that the respondents were selected across all age groups, thus equal representation was experienced on the study.

Table 3: Respondents' highest level of academic qualification

Qualification	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Undergraduate	14	13.7
Postgraduate	88	86.3
Total	102	100.0

Table 3 shows that, overwhelming majority of the respondents indicated postgraduate as their highest level of academic qualification. This was an indication that they were properly equipped to handle their responsibilities in the organization. It was an implication that the senior and

middle-level managers have received training to facilitate their effective carrying out of their roles. The researcher also sought to find out the duration these managers had been in the organizations and requested to source their length of stay in the organizations.

Table 4 Respondents' length of stay in the organization

No. of years	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Below 3 years	8	7.8
3 – 5 years	18	17.6
5 – 7 years	44	43.1
Over 7 years	32	31.5
Total	102	100.0

Table 4 majority of the organization managers, 74.6%, had been in the organization for more than five years, with most of them, 43.1%, being between 5 to 7 years. This was an implication that many of the managers had been in the

organizations long enough to effectively carry out their duties due to their familiarity with functions. It was important for this study to establish the role played by the organizations in peacebuilding.

Table 5: Responses on the role played by organizations in peacebuilding

Role	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Peace awareness forums	59	57.8
Advocacy	18	17.6
Intermediation	9	8.8
Civic education	16	15.8
Total	102	100.0

Table 5 shows that the majority of the CSOs, 57.8%, play a major role in essential peace awareness, while support, mediation and enlightening societies are part of the roles presumed by civil society in the bid to promote peace to

war-torn societies. This is an indication that CSOs are on the front line to advocate for effective reconstruction of conflict-affected societies.

Table 6: Responses on capacity building and peace-building initiatives in CSOs.

No	Factors under consideration	Mean	Std. Deviation
1	Capacity plays an important role in the creation and success of a strong civil society structure	3.3837	.92615
2	Capacity building is a tool that can trigger war through communication or can create awareness and promote peace	3.7442	.43759
3	Capacity building is a tool that can enable more effective participation in a civil society framework by providing accurate and timely information.	4.0000	.00000
4	CSOs have been able to promote peace and hinder the recurrence of conflicts through social capacity building	3.5640	.49734
5	Civil society and capacity building have a critical role to play in building a culture of integrity within government institutions.	4.3837	.92615
6	Capacity-building programs enhance conflict resolution skills among local leaders.	3.621	0.4542
7	Training and education programs improve peace-building capacities of individuals and groups.	2.445	0.5443
8	Strengthening institutions is crucial for effective peacebuilding.	3.567	0.3334
9	Capacity-building programs foster social cohesion and community resilience	4.112	0.56632

Capacity building and peace-building initiatives.

Table 6 shows that the statement that capacity building is a tool that can enable more effective participation in a civil society framework by providing accurate and timely information scored the strongest agreement with a mean score of 4. The statements; civil society and the capacity building have a critical role to play in building a culture of integrity within government institutions; and capacity building plays an important role in the creation and success of a strong civil society structure had a mean of 4.3837 and 3.3837, capacity building programs foster social cohesion and community resilience had a mean of 4.112, Strengthening institutions is crucial for effective peace-building with a mean score of 3.567, Capacity

building programs enhance conflict resolution skills among local leaders had a mean of 3.621. These findings show that capacity building plays a significant role in CSOs' role in peace-building initiatives due to the high scores in agreement in the factors under consideration.

Correlation between capacity building and peace-building initiatives

Table 7, Results obtained from the correlation analysis indicate that there existed a significant relationship ($r = 0.778$, $p < 0.05$), which also indicates that the variables had a strong positive correlation. This finding implies that the bank had put considerable emphasis on capacity building, and it was being strongly reflected in peace-building initiatives.

Table 7: Correlation between Capacity building and peace-building initiatives in CSOs.

		Peace-building	Capacity building
Peace-building	Pearson Correlation	1	.778**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	101	101
Capacity building	Pearson Correlation	.778**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	101	101

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Regression analysis between capacity building and peace-building initiatives.

Table 8, there was a high relationship between the dependent and independent variables as the coefficient of determination, r , was ($r = 0.606$). The R-squared shows that capacity building used in the study accounted for 60.6% of the variance in peace-building.

Table 8: Model Summary for capacity building Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.778 ^a	.606	.600	2.39244

Table 9: Coefficient Analysis between capacity building and peace-building initiatives.

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	11.125	3.204		3.473	.001
	Capacity building	.750	.104	.778	10.367	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Performance

Table 9 shows the coefficient analysis for the independent variables in the study. As shown, the study reveals that capacity building had a positive and significant effect on peace-building initiatives ($\beta = .750$, $p = .000$). This means

that an improvement in capacity building leads to an improvement in peace-building initiatives and vice versa. Therefore, the resulting regression model is peace-building initiatives = $11.125 + 0.750$ capacity-building.

Table 10: Responses on participation and inclusion on peace-building initiatives.

No	Factors under consideration	MEAN	Deviation
1	CSOs involve employees in decision-making processes.	4.1802	.81439
2	Employee feedback is considered in policy development.	3.4360	.49734
3	CSOs promote diversity and inclusion in the workplace.	3.1860	.39028
4	All employees feel valued and respected regardless of their background.	3.1802	.81439
5	CSOs' values promote peace, inclusion and respect.	3.4360	.49734
6	CSOs' efforts contribute to building a more peaceful society.	3.1332	.67541
7	Organisational culture encourages open communication and transparency.	4.1802	.81439
8	CSOs ' peace-building initiatives have a positive impact on the community.	2.9087	.65432
9	Employees are trained to manage conflict in a constructive manner.	3.7654	.76594

Participation and inclusion, and peace-building initiatives.

Table 10, most of the statements score a mean of 3-4 agreement with the statements in the Likert scale. The statements that CSOs involve employees in decision-making processes and that organisational culture encourages open communication and transparency scored

the highest mean at 4.1802. This is an indication that participation and inclusion are properly accounted for peace peace-building initiatives in CSOs in Juba County, South Sudan. The statement, CSOs ' peace-building initiatives have a positive impact on the community, had the lowest mean; this is an indication that the participants did not feel the impact of CSOs' role in peace-building initiatives in the community.

Correlation between participation and inclusion, and peace-building initiatives.

Table 11, which shows the results obtained from the correlation analysis, indicates that there existed a

significant relationship ($r = 0.621$, $p < 0.05$), which also indicates that the variables had a strong positive correlation. This finding implies that the CSOs had put considerable emphasis on participation and inclusion, and it was being strongly reflected in peace-building initiatives.

Table 11: Correlation between participation and peace-building initiatives.

		Peace-building initiatives	Participation and inclusion
Peace-building initiatives	Pearson Correlation	1	.621**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	101	101
Participation and inclusion	Pearson Correlation	.621**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	101	101

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Regression Analysis between participation and inclusion, and peace-building initiatives.

Table 12 shows the model summary of the results. From the results, there was a high relationship between the dependent and independent variables, as the coefficient of determination, r , was ($r = 0.385$). The R-square shows that participation and inclusion used in the study accounted for 38.5% of the variance in peace-building initiatives.

Table 12: Model Summary for participation and inclusion

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.621 ^a	.385	.376	2.98686

a. Predictors: (Constant), participation and inclusion

Table 13: Coefficient Analysis for participation and inclusion

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error			
1	(Constant)	16.378	4.217		3.884	.000
	Participation and inclusion	.915	.138	.621	6.623	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Peace-building initiatives.

Table 13 above shows the coefficient analysis for the independent variables in the study. As shown, the study reveals that participation and inclusion had a positive and significant effect on peace-building initiatives ($\beta = 0.915$, $p = .000$). This means that an improvement in participation and inclusion leads to an improvement in peace-building initiatives and vice versa. Therefore, the resulting model is

Peace-building initiative = $16.378 + 0.915$ Participation and inclusion.

Advocacy and lobbying, and peace-building initiatives.

Table 14: Responses on Advocacy and lobbying on peace-building initiatives.

No	Factors under consideration	Mean	StrsS S- Deviation
1	CSOs effectively advocate for policy changes that promote peace-building.	3.1860	.39028
2	CSO lobbying efforts influence decision-makers to prioritise peace-building initiatives.	2.4360	.49734
3	CSOs engage with relevant stakeholders to promote peace-building agendas.	2.9302	.66298
4	We build strong relationships with key stakeholders to advance peace-building goals.	2.2384	.83500
5	CSOs conduct research to inform peace-building advocacy efforts.	3.2326	1.31278
6	We analyse policy briefs and reports to identify opportunities for peace-building.	2.8876	.66654
7	CSOs have sufficient resources to effectively advocate for peace-building.	3.1112	.56741
8	Staff have the necessary skills and expertise to engage in effective advocacy.	2.4321	.76673
9	Advocacy efforts contribute to positive changes in peace-building policies and practices.	2.1123	.89906

Table 14 shows that, statement scores mean of 2 – 3, showing that respondents were in agreement with the factors under consideration on civil society 's advocacy and lobbying skills. The statements that CSOs effectively advocate for policy changes that promote peace-building and CSOs have sufficient resources to effectively advocate for peace-building, a mean score of 3.1860 and 3.2326, respectively.

Correlation between Advocacy and lobbying and peace-building initiatives.

Table 15 shows that the relationship between the two variables was significant ($r = 0.685$, $p < 0.05$). However, the coefficient of correlation from Pearson's product-moment indicated that the relationship between the variables was strong and positive.

Table 15: Correlation between Advocacy and lobbying and peace-building initiatives.

		Peace-building initiatives	Advocacy and lobbying
Peace-building initiatives	Pearson Correlation	1	.685**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	101	101
Advocacy and lobbying	Pearson Correlation	.685**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	101	101

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Regression between advocacy and lobbying and peace-building initiatives.

Table 16 shows the model summary of the results. From the results, there was a high relationship between the

dependent and independent variables, as the coefficient of determination, where r , was ($r = 0.469$). The R-square shows that advocacy and lobbying used in the study accounted for 46.9% of the variance in peace-building initiatives.

Table 16 Model Summary for Advocacy and Lobbying

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.685 ^a	.469	.462	2.77554

a. Predictors: (Constant), Advocacy and lobbying.

Table 17: Coefficient analysis for Advocacy and lobbying

Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	15.084	3.717		4.058	.000
Advocacy and Lobbying	.885	.113	.685	7.866	.000

Dependent Variable: Peace-building initiatives.

Table 17 shows the coefficient analysis for the independent variables in the study. As shown, the study reveals that Advocacy and lobbying had a positive and significant effect on peace-building initiatives ($\beta = 0.885$,

$p = 0.000$). This means that an improvement in Advocacy and lobbying leads to an improvement in peace-building initiatives and vice versa. Therefore, the resulting

regression model is Peace-building initiatives = 15.084 + 0.885 Advocacy and lobbying.

Table 18: Ranking of CSOs' roles in peace-building initiatives

No	Roles	Mean	Deviation
1	Supporting broad-based education	3.3198	1.10134
2	Establishing nonviolent ways of resolving conflict	2.2558	1.56112
3	Return of IDPS	2.5814	1.81266
4	Reconstruction of infrastructure	3.314	1.61156
5	Providing guidance and counselling	2.5640	1.36860
6	Disarmament	3.6337	1.27487
7	Providing basic services	3.6802	0.77010
8	Accepting combatants	3.0698	1.24994
9	Micro financing	3.3198	1.10134

The role of CSOs in peacebuilding

Table 18, From the study findings, all the roles conducted by CSOs scored a mean of 2-3, showing that CSOs are involved in advocacy at a great extent. Roles including: Supporting broad-based education; Reconstruction of infrastructure; Providing basic services; Accepting combatants; and Micro financing scored a mean of 3. This is an indication that the roles carried out by CSOs are very effective in peace-building.

Discussion

Findings revealed that the overwhelming majority of the respondents indicated that capacity building influenced the role of CSOs on peace-building initiatives to a very high extent, agreeing that the capacity building affected them through the skills gained during training. Thus, despite Capacity building's active role in peace-building initiatives in CSOs, they also affect peace-building negatively during and after conflict, as it is used as to mindset changer in favour of the beneficiary. The findings indicate that capacity building has a positive and significant relationship to peace-building initiatives in Juba city, with a correlation coefficient of 0.778%). The coefficient of determination, r , was ($r = 0.606$). The R-

squared shows that capacity building used in the study accounted for 60.6% of the variance in peace-building. The study further revealed that capacity building had a positive and significant effect on peace-building initiatives ($\beta = .750$, $p = .000$).

Participation and inclusion have an effect on peace-building initiatives in CSOs in Juba city, South Sudan, to a large extent. While an overwhelming majority of the respondents indicated that the government offers funds to their organisations. The majority of the respondents indicated that organisational culture encourages open communication and transparency at a mean score of 4.1 in South Sudan. The finding revealed that respondents did not concur with the statement that CSOs' peace-building initiatives have a positive impact on the community, with the lowest mean of 2.9. The finding further revealed that the results obtained from the correlation analysis indicate that there existed a significant relationship ($r = 0.621$, $p < 0.05$), which also indicates that the variables had a strong positive correlation. Equally important, the study found that there was a high relationship between the dependent and independent variables, as the coefficient of determination, r , was ($r = 0.385$). The R-square shows that participation and inclusion used in the study accounted for 38.5% of the variance in peace-building initiatives.

On the attribute of Advocacy and Lobbying, the study revealed that the majority of the respondents indicated that CSOs conduct research to inform peace-building advocacy efforts at a mean of 3.2, an indication that respondents agreed to the statement and thus impact peace-building initiatives positively. However, respondents disagreed with the statement, Advocacy efforts contribute to positive changes in peace-building policies and practices of the CSOs at an average of 2.1. The findings showed that the relationship between the two variables was significant ($r = 0.685$, $p < 0.05$). However, the coefficient of correlation from Pearson's product-moment indicated that the relationship between the variables was strong and positive. From the results, there was a high relationship between the dependent and independent variables, as the coefficient of determination, where r , was ($r = 0.469$). The R-square shows that advocacy and lobbying used in the study accounted for 46.9% of the variance in peace-building initiatives. The study revealed further that Advocacy and lobbying had a positive and significant effect on peace-building initiatives ($\beta = 0.885$, $p = 0.000$). This means that an improvement in Advocacy and lobbying leads to an improvement in peace-building initiatives and vice versa.

However, the study revealed that most of the civil society organisations are hindered conducive working environment, interfered with, and are oppressed in any spoken presentations. All respondents suggested that the government is bound to let the civil society organisations run independently without interference, whilst a relatively high percentage suggested that they are supposed to be actively involved and consulted in policy formulations. This would enhance effective peace-building. CSOs' role in peace-building plays various advocacy roles. The study findings show that most of the organizations indicated that advocacy is at a great extent in CSOs. Other than the diverse role of CSOs in peace-building, they are all involved in other societal roles that range from engaging in civic education, election monitoring, and other responsibilities they carry out to create contact with the general public, even in the absence of conflict.

Conclusions

CSOs staff are trained, refreshed, and upgraded, among others, on evolving and new concepts of managing peace-building with the newly acquired capacity building. They are enlightened on various aspects to improve their enhancement through capacity-building programs. CSOs are governed by government policies, thus influencing their activities to a very high extent. Thus, they are hand-

tied by government policies, making it hard for them to function smoothly.

The CSOs play a very crucial role in the success of peace-building initiatives in Juba city, South Sudan. Though despite participation and inclusion in active roles in supporting peace-building initiatives in CSOs in Juba city, societies are still embedded in conflict, which affects peace-building initiatives through politicization and biased decisions. This can heighten conflict when wrong information is passed on during conflict, making peace-building a failing trial.

Advocacy was a very crucial essential for the civil society to effectively carry out its role in peacebuilding. The government supports CSOs to carry out their role since funding is a very important essential for the effectiveness of the organisations. There are private institutions in Kenya that support CSOs' work their funds do not last the organisations long enough to sustain their role in peace-building. However majority of the civil society organisations offer sustainable or effective empowerment to the communities, thus promoting peacebuilding in conflict-affected communities and also making them self-reliant.

CSOs staff are trained, refreshed, and upgraded, among others, on evolving and new concepts of managing peacebuilding with the newly acquired capacity building. They are enlightened on various aspects to improve their enhancement through capacity-building programs. CSOs are governed by government policies, thus influencing their activities to a very high extent. Thus, they are hand-tied by government policies, making it hard for them to function smoothly.

Recommendations

The government should actively involve civil society organizations in policy formulation on peace-building. This will reduce victimization of both the government and the civil society on biased policies.

The media and civil society should team up to disseminate peace messages to conflict affected communities and also ensure that they are not used for malice by any parties to avoid intensifying conflict.

Civil society organization should set up income-generating programmes to sustain their organization to avoid closure and ensure sustainability.

The government and CSOs should offer seminars and workshops to civil society personnel to ensure that the

roles of CSOs are entrusted to capable hands and they are up-to-date with regulations.

Policy makers should encourage the participation of civil society personnel to ensure equal representation in policy formulation so as to ensure the blame game does not hinder peace-building.

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List abbreviations and acronyms

CSOs Civil Society Organizations

SPSS Statistical Package for Social Sciences

TV Television

Source of funding

The study was not funded.

Conflict of interest

The author did not declare any conflict of interest.

Author biography

Emmanuel Giita is a student with a degree of master's of development studies from Team University.

George Dang, a lecturer at Team University

Author contributions

Emmanuel Giita collected data and drafted the manuscript of the study.

George Dang supervised the study.

Data availability

Data is available upon request.

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