

**THE MANY FACES PLAYED BY NON-STATE ACTORS IN SHAPING PEACE
AND SECURITY IN EASTERN PART OF DRC: A CASE OF GOMA CAMP**

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DECLARATION

I, **Natasha Chambu**, hereby declare that this dissertation has been produced out of my own effort with the guidance of my supervisor and has never been submitted to any other institution for any award.

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APPROVAL

This dissertation has been supervised and approved by me and is therefore ready for submission to Uganda Christian University.

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MADAM KEREN HAPPUCH KICONCO

DEDICATION

With special regard, I wish to dedicate this piece of work to my family especially my parents who have always been there to support me in my education. May the Almighty God richly bless you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank the Almighty God for the gift of life and guiding me throughout my education; it has not being easy but it was possible. My heart-to-heart appreciation goes to my supervisor, Madam Keren Happuch Kiconco for the tireless efforts and expertise she rendered to me during his supervision.

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God bless all of you.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the multi-faceted role of non-state actors in shaping peace and security in eastern DRC: a case of Goma camp. The objectives that guided the study included, among others, finding out some of the peace and securities practices in the DRC; mapping out the forms and phases of the peace processes and practices involving a wide variety of non-state actors across different conflict areas in the DRC; establishing the factors influencing peace and security among non-state actors in the Goma camp; and providing insight into how to promote and realize the salient functions and potential of non-state actors for a more inclusive, holistic, and durable peace landscape in the DRC.

This study was carried out using a case study research design, where a qualitative research approach was also employed. The data were obtained through interviews and focus group discussions during the data collection. In this context, both purposive and simple random sampling methods were used to obtain a sample size of 38 respondents who were the top administrators of MONUSCO and leaders, plus focus group discussions with 30 displaced people living in Goma Camp.

The results of this study represent a very complex landscape of peace and security practices in Goma Camp, revealing what has been achieved so far, as well as what the particular challenges are. Although mediation, community policing, and support programs play significant roles in peacebuilding processes, these initiatives are hindered by resource scarcity, lack of coordination, tensions within the community, and poor communication in fully carrying out their work. Issues such as enhancing community participation, better coordination by non-state actors themselves, and how to deal with the challenges through improved training, communication, and selective support-all have a critical bearing on making the peace process more inclusive and durable in the DRC. These are fundamental in attempting to bring stability and actually help the displaced population effectively.

It finally recommended that community participation in peacebuilding be increased, coordination among non-state actors be enhanced, communication and transparency be promoted, funding is made sustainable, and training and capacity-building programs are increased. These will be of great help in making the process of peace in Goma Camp more inclusive, effective, and sustainable through the taking of varied needs into consideration, using resources to the fullest, and having all active stakeholders duly supported.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

The study will, therefore, trace the contextual influence from the historical and current influence of non-state actors in the eastern part of DRC to the actual contributions of different non-state actors to peace and stability. It will focus in particular on identifying areas for improvement and concerns regarding the existing mechanisms engaging non-state actors in building up sustainable peace in the region.

In 2008, International Rescue Committee-a humanitarian aid organization-published a report claiming that since World War II, the Democratic Republic of Congo has been the site of the deadliest conflict. In 2018, death tolls related to war and conflict sources reached over five million. Competition for natural resources, ethnic division, state weakness, and a complex web of non-state armed groups have combined to render the eastern DRC in particular a flashpoint of chronic violence, instability, and civil strife. Mortality in the Democratic Republic of Congo: An ongoing crisis, 2007)

Indeed, there have been numerous peacebuilding attempts from international and national actors in the last two decades, yet durable peace remains a quest. It is in this complex political and security environment that non-state actors are increasingly becoming powerful mechanisms for determining the face of peace and security in the region.

The term "actor" generally refers to a social entity that participates in collective political and social action in influencing the run of the society and in decisions and major directions of the society. (Scott, 2000)

In the course of much of the conflict that has continued to beset the eastern part of DRC, emphases of both scholarly and practical work have fallen on understanding and engaging such non-state actors in peacemaking at various levels.

Very few studies have gone beyond rebel groups-only recently and then only occasionally to include other local leaders-as the non-state main actors. Recently, however, there has been a

growing call for the international community to identify and interact with the wider range of non-state actors in bottom-up peacebuilding processes.

The latter ranges from armed rebel groups operating within and exceeding the eastern borders of the DRC, to international NGOs such as the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo-MONUSCO, political and civil society groups, all of which have been directed and influenced by the representative from the DRC to such an extent as to unify peace and reconciliation agendas.

Conclusively, the main aim of the study will be informed and critically drive home understanding in diversified roles taken by non-state actors on different grounds of peace and stability along with the overall effectiveness of such peacemaking efforts.

1.1 Background of the Study

With a total area and population, the Democratic Republic of Congo happens to be the largest and most populous country in Central Africa. It is rated as the third largest country on the African continent and stands at 12th position on the world's map. The DRC has much potential for development in view of its natural resources, but the country is marred by political instability, a weak governance system, and social and ethnic tensions. Its eastern region, in particular, has been the theatre of a complex and brutal civil conflict since the mid-1990s.

This conflict has its origin in the genocide in neighboring Rwanda in 1994, when more than a million Rwandan refugees fled into eastern DRC to escape a Tutsi-dominated government that took over after the genocide.

Since then, the international community and the government of the DRC have increasingly engaged in efforts toward the restoration of stability in the region for lasting peace. This is well evidenced by the big United Nations peacekeeping mission present in the area for more than a decade.

However, Rothe and Mwewa, while calling for peace and security, noticed that in 2016, there was little evidence of this brokering a sustainable peace in the Great Lakes region of East Africa, a region where eastern DRC falls. - Dawn Roth, 2016.

A key argument put forth in the observation is that the armed groups, considered responsible for most of the insecurity within the region, have been marginalized or completely excluded from peace processes and thus still remain a threat to stability.

As succinctly put by the Dalarna University research group, transitions from violence to peace in civil wars rarely result from any single pre-determined process based on one side's victory or a negotiated settlement or mediator-led peace processes; rather, it is peace as the result of complex dynamism involving many actors seeking to shape it. (Dudouet, 2006)

It is in this context that the research was placed.

1.2 Problem statement

The role of non-state actors in conflict zones is multi-layered and complex, particularly in the aspect of peace and stability. In the context of the DRC, this has not been duly examined. Most commonly excluded from discussions are powerful rebel groups or NGOs. These are difficult to research because they fall outside the regular structures, and their objectives also vary significantly. In particular, it is very well pointed out by the case of the Mai-Mai militia in the DRC, which, though at times violent, may be interested in peace negotiations and thus already show how complex their role may be in fueling and resolving conflicts. -Stearns, 2021

Although there had been involvement in the peace and complete stability of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo-MONUSCO and other international mediations, the same has not been realized. There is continued prevalence of armed groups that still take advantage of the adverse power vacuum situation to oppress the locals through violence. Concurrently, peace, security and conflict literature has traditionally used state-centric approaches. -Stearns, 2021

This study is therefore, designed to address this gap through the critical review of the role played by NSA in eastern DRC toward its peace and stability. By doing so, the present study would contribute not only to the academic scholarship on peace and conflict but also provide the

pertinent insights to the policy makers and practitioners of international development and peacebuilding.

1.3 Purpose of the study

The study, therefore, sets out to examine the complex roles played by various non-state actors in promoting or thwarting peace and stability in the eastern part of the DRC.

Specifically, it probes how the goals and operating styles of various non-state actors—from armed groups right through to local civil society organizations—influence the story of national and local peace in a context of elaborate networks of selfish alliances and intense rivalries.

The research also aimed to provide an in-depth understanding of the multiplicity of causes of conflict and multi-layered peace processes, while at the same time exposing the complex ways in which peacemaking is sought and practiced. The research focused on one of the most volatile regions of eastern DRC, the South Kivu province, and offered practical suggestions for enhancing the strengthening of non-state actors in consolidating peace and stability within a local society that has experienced protracted socio-political instability and intensive violence.

1.4 Objectives of the study The objectives of the research were set out as follows :

- i. To find out some peace and securities practices in DRC.
- ii. Mapping out the forms and phases of peace processes and practices, involving a wide variety of non-state actors across different conflict areas in the DRC.
- iii. Establishing the factors influencing peace and security amongst non-state actors in Goma camp.
- iv. Provide insight into the promotion and realization of the salient functions and potentials of non-state actors in a more inclusive holistic, and durable peace landscape in DRC.

1.5 Research questions

- i. What are the significant peace and security practices applied by different non-state actors in the conflict-affected regions of the Democratic Republic of Congo?

ii. How do the diverse forms and phases of peace do- processes and practices, involving diverse non-state actors, play out across the diverse conflict areas in the DRC?

iii. What are the factors that predispose peace and security amongst the non-state actors in Goma camp.

iv. How could the salient functions as well as the potentials of the non-state actors be put to use in order to advance more inclusive holistic and durable peace landscapes in the DRC?

1.6 Scope of the study

1.6.1 Geographical scope

The present study takes into consideration the whole political map of the DRC and focuses on that particular area commonly known as the eastern DRC. This area is divided politically and administratively into four provinces: North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tshopo. All these provinces have experienced incessant conflicts not only in the DRC, but also in Africa in general. It is at this level that deep analysis is made by considering the levels of interactions and forming different types of peace and stability initiatives. North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tshopo

1.6.2 Contextual scope

This was to understand the multi-faceted role that the non-state actors have in shaping peace and security in the eastern part of DRC, a case of GOMA CAMP

1.6.3 Time scope

This case study estimated the role played by the non-state actor in shaping peace and security in eastern DRC with a focus on Goma Camp. It focused on activities running from July 2024 to September 2024. The third quarter of 2024 was selected to capture a more focused and manageable timeframe for research that could allow the researcher to conduct an in-depth analysis of the various initiatives, interventions, and engagements which the non-state actors may have been involved in within Goma Camp during the period. It is through such analysis of the activities, strategies, and outcomes of the Goma Camp for a period of three months that a proper assessment by the researcher of the evolving role and impact of non-state actors will be feasible

and thus possibly yield much-valued insight into the dynamics and influence of the non-state actors within the region for this specific time period, thus enabling patterns, trends, and changes that occur over time to be compared with other time periods. Also, choosing the third quarter of 2024 makes it better to undertake research with data and information that are relatively recent. As such, the researcher is able to update and have more developed insights to both inform the analysis and findings of the case study.

1.7 Rationale of the study

Growing up in the DRC, this is what limits traditional peacebuilding initiatives. While the presence of MONUSCO brought hope, lasting peace has not been realized. This further motivated my interest to research into non-state actors, as it might lead to more inclusive and sustainable solutions understanding their roles in the DRC.

1.8 Significance of the study

The responsibility of the policy maker is to devise effective strategies through the use of robust research. The results of this study will outline the details of complex dynamics with regard to peace and security in eastern DRC. With a deep understanding of the multi-roles played by non-state actors, policymakers will be able to devise interventions that address the root causes of conflict and tap into existing networks to build peace.

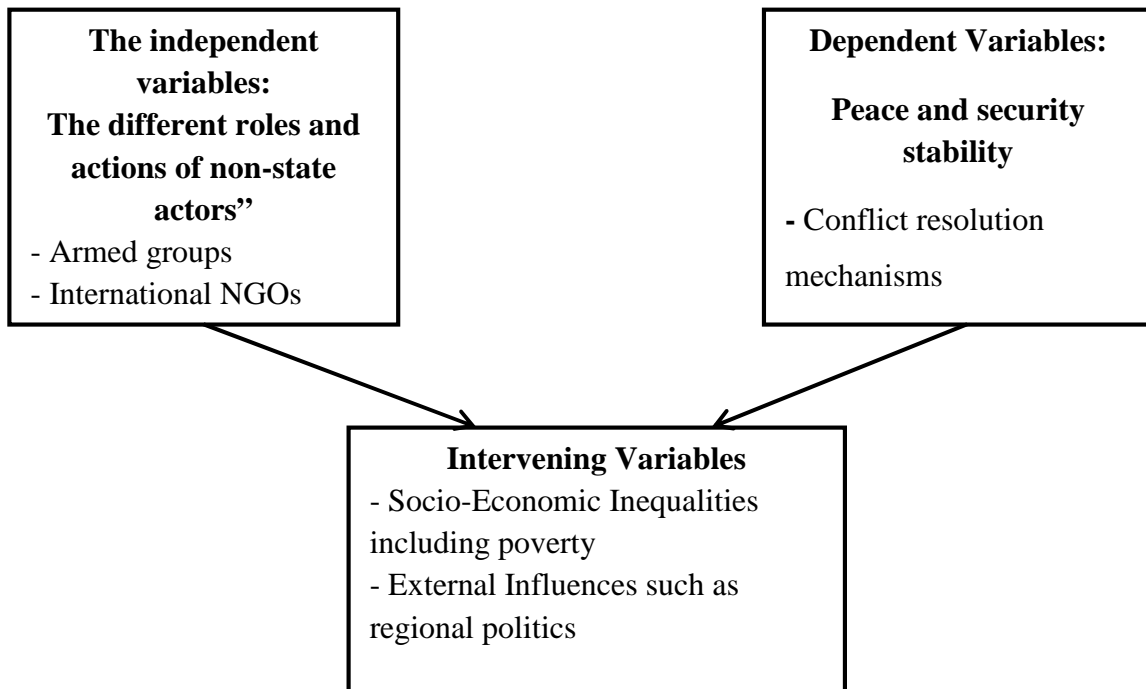
These missions of security and peace work under very adverse conditions in the war zones. The findings from this study shall add to an important contribution to improving their effectiveness in various operations. Knowledge of the various roles and motivations shall help missions tailor strategies, coordinate better, and focus more on priorities for intervention, which in turn would increase the likelihood of achieving peace that is more sustainable.

The government of the DRC is at the center of conflict and instability. These findings of the study will hence provide useful insights to inform government policies and programs in the eastern region. With such knowledge about the complex interaction by non-state actors, the government will be better positioned to design more inclusive and efficient strategies for conflict resolution, governance, and socio-economic development, and consequently consolidate its legitimacy and capacity for governance.

Communities at the grassroots level are the first lines of actors in peacebuilding processes. The findings of this study will hence empower communities to understand better the drivers influencing their security environment. Knowledge provided by this study will equip them with evidence that can be used to mobilize resources and dialogue, advocate for their needs. Thus, it will motivate bottom-up initiatives complementing top-down interventions, contributing to more resilient and inclusive peace processes.

1.9 Conceptual framework

The conceptual framework of this research builds from related academic and public debates that have questioned the state-centered limitations for understanding fragility and conflict. Moving away from an internally focused approach to the structure and performance of the state, this framework critically interrogates the role of powerful non-state actors in shaping peace and stability, particularly against the backdrop of an evolving Westphalia system.



Source: *Brecht & Martin (1996) and modified by the researcher (2022)* Central to this framework is the difference in state-centric versus non-state-centric conceptualizations and practices of security. This framework examines the ways in which non-state security actors, operating often across borders and usually empowered by advances in technology and globalization, have developed in a manner that can press against more state-based approaches to security, such as the rise of global terrorism as some asymmetric response. The framework also provides that a non-state-centric security approach may be sensitive to the issue of being fair and reasonable about matters relating to authority, power, and resources, and not always aimed at establishing absolute security based on what is defined by the states.

The theoretical and conceptual underpinning thus guides the methodology in the research study and resultant analysis, as it attempts to explore the various dimensions of the roles that non-state actors can play in shaping peace and security within a particular context. Anchoring the study in these bigger academic debates thus refines and renews the investigation itself, while providing the same to broader policy discussions regarding the nature of evolving security and conflict in today's era.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has been involved in various complex and multi-dimensional conflicts over a period of time, involving a plethora of state and non-state actors pitted against each other. While the government of the Congo and international peace-keeping forces have for some time formed the core of peace and security operations in the country, the roles and contributions of a number of non-state actors have become very visible and influential. This literature review was intended to explore the diversity of ways in which non-state actors have engaged in and shaped peace and security practices in the DRC. It attempts to map out the different forms and phases of peace processes, involving a wide variety of non-state actors across different conflict areas in the DRC. By synthesizing the existing research, the review presented insight to promote and realize salient functions and potential in realizing more inclusive, holistic, and durable peace landscapes through non-state actors in the country.

2.1 Peace and securities practices

A key body of research has taken interest in the role which international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and regional bodies have played in leading formal peackeeping, peace enforcement, and peacebuilding efforts. Studies have looked at the establishment, mandates, and activities of United Nations peacekeeping missions regarding what those missions have achieved and failed to achieve in establishing ceasefires, protecting civilians, and paving the way for political transitions. References Doyle, M. W., & Sambanis, N. (2023). Höglund, K., & Kovacs, M. S. (2023).

Along with state-centered approaches, this literature also demonstrates the roles that non-state actors are playing in shaping peace and security practices. For instance, researchers report on civil society organizations, community-based associations, faith-based bodies, international NGOs involved in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and community-level security interventions. They explored how non-state actors engaged in conflict mediation, peace education, trauma healing, and promoting reconciliation at the local level in contexts and how to navigate power dynamics and competitive interests.

Analysts have looked into tensions, power dynamics, and synergies arising from the interaction of formal, state-led initiatives and those grassroots, non-state-led efforts. Such studies are important in understanding how multiple armed actors, proliferation of informal economies, and entanglements between the local and regional have complicated, at times undermined, the effectiveness of government and civil society-led peace and security initiatives.

It is here that scholars have pressed for the need towards more inclusive holistic approaches in sustainable peace and security, with the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders in the design and implementation of peace and security initiatives.

The importance of local ownership and context-specific approaches: The current state of research underlines that peace and security initiatives must stem from the local level, taking into consideration priorities and power relations there, rather than imposing one-size-fits-all solutions from the outside (Donais, 2023; Leonardsson & Rudd, 2023). This includes the systematic inclusion of a variety of local stakeholders, comprehension of their perspectives, and adaptation of interventions to the specific contextual factors of each conflict-affected area.

The challenges of coordination and coherence: There is, for example, the work that reflects on the challenges of coordination and coherence among the numerous international, national, and local actors operating to achieve peace and security. Competing mandates, organisational cultures, and resources hinder the total impact that such peace and security initiatives can have.

The role of gender and intersectionality concerning peace and security: There is research on how such dynamics of gender are combined with other intersecting social identities and power structures, shaping the experience of conflict and durable peace. On this count, Paffenholz et al. (2023) and Thomson & Durojaye (2023) highlighted the need to develop greater sensitivity in integrating more gender-responsive approaches into tapping into particular needs and competencies of different groups within the communities affected by conflict.

2.2 Forms and phases of peace processes and practices, by a wide variety of non-state actors, across different conflict areas

2.2.1 Mediation and Facilitation of Conflict: The literature chronicled how, in fact, non-state actors, that is, civil society organizations and religious leaders, played their role in fostering dialogue and facilitating mediation processes between opposing parties, especially at the level of a locality and community. Many such actors command confidence and legitimacy in their respective communities to bring together alienated and warring factions and nurture mutual understanding, with the view to finding a common solution to the conflict.

2.2.2 Grassroots Peacebuilding Initiatives: Equally well documented by scholars is the role that has been played by community-based organizations, local NGOs, and indigenous groups in becoming significant partners in effectively undertaking peacebuilding initiatives at the grassroots level. This normally consists of healing trauma, training in conflict resolution, the building of social cohesion, and creating other economic livelihoods that serve to reduce the causes of the conflict.

2.2.3 Monitoring and Advocacy: The literature underlines the importance of international and regional NGOs in monitoring, reporting, and advocating for protection of human rights and safety of civilians in areas of conflict. Such actors may perform an important watchdog function, highlighting violations and holding state and non-state actors responsible under international law (Keck & Sikkink, 2023; Risse et al., 2023).

2.2.4 Transitional Justice and Reconciliation: Contributions by civil society organizations, religious institutions, and traditional justice mechanisms go a long way in helping the transitional justice process and reconciliation in the aftermath of violent conflicts. Specific initiatives in this direction include truth-telling, reparations programs, and the development of local-level dispute resolution mechanisms (Lederach, 2023; Baines, 2023).

2.2.5 Security Sector Reform and Community Policing: Within the literature, there are examples of non-state security actors, including community-based organizations and traditional leaders, in security sector reform and community policing initiatives. This is done in efforts to elicit trust between the local communities and security providers, enhancing accountability and developing more representative and responsive security governance structures (Baker, 2023; Lemay-Hébert & Oosterhoff, 2023).

2.2.6 Women's Participation and Gender-Inclusive Peacebuilding: Indeed, the literature has increasingly highlighted the critical role women's participation plays in complementing peace processes and efforts at peacebuilding. The contributions of various women-led civil society organizations, peace activists, and community-based groups in the fight for the rights of women, issues of gender-based violence, and ensuring that peace agreements and post-conflict reconstruction genuinely reflect the unique needs and perspectives of women, have been documented (Anderlini, 2023; UN Women, 2023).

2.2.7 Youth Engagement and Peacebuilding: Some scholars have also highlighted that young people should be involved in the processes for peace and in building peace. Youth-led and youth-focused non-state actors, such as student groups, community-based organizations, and social movements, have played pivotal roles in addressing grievances and aspirations of young people, advocating for non-violent conflict resolution, and promoting intergenerational dialogue and collaboration for peace. This can be especially important in contexts where the marginalization of youth and the lack of economic opportunities have contributed to an outbreak or perpetuation of conflict.

2.2.8 Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding Intermediaries: The literature identifies the integral function that non-state actors continue to serve as "intermediaries" in facilitating processes of conflict transformation and peacebuilding by Lederach, 2023; Odendaal, 2023. In particular, such non-state actors emerging from the local communities themselves can bridge the divide between warring factions, government authorities, and international organizations, thus serving as a trusted conduit for dialogue, negotiations, and collaborative solution development.

2.3.9 Engaging the Structural Causes of Conflict: The calls have been made by scholars increasingly for non-state actors to be at the center in dealing with the structural causes of conflict, such as inequality, marginalization, and asymmetrical access to resources and power. Non-state organizations can thus work at the grassroots levels, in policy advocacy, and in collaboration with state actors for transforming the structural causes of violence and instability.

2.3 Insights into promoting and realizing the salient functions and potentials of non-state actors for a more inclusive holistic and durable peace landscape

2.3.1 Institutional and Organizational Strengthening: Scholars indicate that the institutional and organizational capacities of non-state actors should be strengthened as a means of increasing effectiveness in practices relating to peace and security. This will include technical and financial support, accessing training and resources, and capacities related to monitoring and evaluation and reporting. Also, it will make the non-state actors more resilient, sustainable, and better equipped to handle complex political processes by strengthening their institutional bases.

2.3.2 Encouraging Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration and Coordination: The literature has demonstrated the need for creating effective collaboration and coordination mechanisms within state and non-state actors in the peace and security initiatives. This can be done by providing an all-embracing peace and security governance framework, identifying joint action plans, and facilitating regular dialogues and information-sharing platforms. The idea is that these collaborative approaches can help mobilize complementary strengths from diverse stakeholders by addressing potential tensions and power imbalances, while ensuring a much more holistic and coherent response in light of complex conflict dynamics.

2.3.3 Empowerment of Marginalized Groups for Greater Voice and Participation: There is an emphasis by academics on the necessity of greater voice and participation in the peace processes and peacebuilding by marginal groups, including women, youth, ethnic minorities, and internally displaced persons. This shall be achieved by encouraging the organization and strengthening of grassroots organizations representative of these groups, offering them every opportunity to participate effectively at the various levels of decision-making, and ensuring that their particular needs and concerns are met. This would make it more responsive to the diversified lived experiences and priorities of all affected communities. As Anderlini (2007) and McEvoy-Levy (2006) argue, this enables the practices of peace and security to be more responsive to the many different lived experiences and priorities of various affected communities.

2.4.3 Fostering Local Ownership and Contextual Adaptation: The literature shows a need to nurture local ownership and foster context-specific adaptation of peace and security practices. Empower and support non-state actors to develop and lead solutions in their localized contexts with the backing of local knowledge about the social dynamics and the cross-sections of culture and politics within those communities. In moving toward a more locally driven approach, peace and security initiatives become adequately tailored to deal with local needs, priorities, and mechanisms of conflict resolution.

2.3.4 Overcoming the Gap between Top-Down and Bottom-Up Approaches: Several scholars have noted the crucial role that non-state actors play in attempting to bridge the gap between top-down, state-centric peace and security programs and more bottom-up approaches emanating from within the grassroots, community-based levels themselves (Lederach, 1997; Paffenholz, 2010). Working at various levels enables actors to link information flow, resources, and influence smoothly between local, national, and international levels so that peace and security efforts are more responsive to the needs and standpoints of the affected populations.

2.3.5 Fostering Horizontal Linkages and Cross-Border Collaboration: The literature emphasizes that non-state actors may create horizontal linkages and cross-border collaboration among communities, civil society organizations, and social movements across conflict divides. These transnational networks could further enhance knowledge diffusion, solidarity mobilization, and advocacy, besides developing joint strategies toward shared peace and security challenges.

2.3.6 Enhancing Resilience and Adaptive Capacity: Some scholars argue that non-state actors contribute to enhancing resilience and adaptive capacity for societies affected by conflict. These actors mobilize local knowledge, social capital, and innovative problem-solving strategies to enable them to resist shock and stress from violent conflicts more effectively, while facilitating the parallel development of more flexible and responsive governance structures.

2.3.7 Cultivating Active Civil Society and Democratic Culture: The literature underlines that non-state actors can and do have a very particular role in the active cultivation of civil society to foster democratic culture in conflict-affected countries and regions. By facilitating civic space, political participation, and the free flow of ideas, these help solidify the building blocks for governance that is inclusive, accountable, and responsive-characteristics indispensable to durable peace and security.

2.3.8 Alleviating the Negative Consequences of Conflict Among Vulnerable Populations: Many researchers have pointed to the significant contribution of non-state actors in alleviating the impacts of armed violence for vulnerable groups-which generally include women, children, the elderly, and subgroups that are at heightened risk (Anderlini, 2007; McEvoy-Levy, 2006). Humanitarian aid, psychosocial support, and protection of human rights reduce immediate suffering and long-term effects of armed violence.

2.4 Conclusion

Non-state actors, such as but not limited to civil society organizations, faith-based groups, and local community leaders, afford a complementary balance to state-led peace and security processes. Indeed, non-state actors facilitate an astonishing breadth of activities, from mediation and negotiation of conflict to post-conflict reconciliation and rehabilitation, often taking varied forms and occurring in various phases of peace processes. Recognizing and leveraging the expertise, relationships, and legitimacy of non-state actors can enhance inclusivity, sustainability, and long-term impact in peace efforts. Therefore, supporting formal integrations of the perspective of non-state actors, providing capacity-building support, and protection for non-state peace actors is important to strengthen their contribution and realize their full potential for more inclusive holistic and durable peace landscapes.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

The research investigated the insidious role played by non-state actors in maintaining a state of no peace and no war with regards to peace and security within the eastern DRC using the case of MONUSCO.

The eastern DRC has been embroiled in violence and conflict for two decades now. The deployment of MONUSCO in 2006 has failed to bring lasting peace and security to the region.

The next chapter details the methodological approach necessary for understanding the complex interplay of the non-state actors and peace building efforts in relation to the general security landscape of the region.

3.1 Research design

This research adopted a case study research design. According to Creswell, a case study as an empirical research has the following distinguishing characteristics: an inquiry in which an investigator studies a bounded system or multi-bounded systems; investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context and when boundaries between phenomenon and context are not evident. The other characteristics are that the problem context shall be an issue that, in relevance, needs to be studied and how-and-why research questions answered; in-depth exploration should be performed by thick, detailed, in-depth data collection with multiple sources of information such as observations, interviews, documents, and reports, and with the interactions between the factors that explain the present status or those influencing change or growth. The thesis, therefore, adopted a case study design because the study bares all the distinguishing characteristics mentioned above to qualify it for case study design. The research design also involved the use of qualitative research approach. In the handbook of qualitative research, Denzin & Lincoln describe qualitative research as one that involves "an interpretive naturalistic approach to the world.". This means qualitative research studies things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of or interpret phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them." Qualitative research approach was used because it helps in providing

details about human behaviour, emotions and personality characteristics of the respondents plus details on the topic under study. Data was collected through interviews and focus group discussion.

3.2 Area of study

The researcher has viewed, in this study, the whole political map of the DRC and focused on that particular area commonly known as the eastern DRC. This is the area which is politically and administratively divided into four provinces, namely North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tshopo. All these provinces have been experiencing incessant conflicts not only in the DRC but in Africa in general. It is at this level that deep analysis is made by considering the levels of interactions, and the forming of different types of peace and stability initiatives; North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tshopo (Stearns, 2011).

3.3 Population of the study

Statistics from the Goma Camp Administrator, 2024, indicate that in 2024, 135,000 displaced people were living in Goma camp. The study included displaced persons as the population under study. The target population in the study was based on the community leaders of the different zones in the camp and the top administrators of MONUSCO, which includes the Peace Building Commissioner, Policy Officer, Security Council Affairs Commissioner, and the Chief of United Nations Police Component. The following represented the population in a table for these:

Table 1: Showing population distribution

Category	Total population
Displaced people living in Goma Camp from the 6 zones	135,000
Top administrators of MONUSCO	4
Community leaders	4
TOTAL	135,008

Source: Goma Camp, DRC (2024)3.4 Sample size selection

A sample size is the total number of sub-elements or individuals randomly selected and assigned from a given population (Amin, 2005). In this case, for the displaced people living in Goma

camp, the researcher selected 30 displaced people from the six zones in the camp, and this means that in each zone, 5 displaced people were selected, and these were included in the focus group discussions. Moreover, the community leaders of the various zones in the camp and the senior officials of MONUSCO who included; Peace Building Commissioner, Policy Officer, Security Council Affairs Commissioner, and Chief of United Nations Police Component -UNPOL which summed up to 8 was involved in the study as key informants for qualitative data. The table for sample size distribution is shown below as follows;

Table 2: Sample size

Categories of respondents	Population	Sample size	Sampling methods
Displaced people living in Goma Camp from the six zones	135,000	30	Simple random sampling
Top administrators of the MONUSCO	4	4	Purposive sampling
Community leaders	4	4	Purposive sampling
Total	135,008	38	

Source: *Goma Camp, DRC (2024)*

3.5 Sampling methods

The researcher has chosen a combination of both purposive sampling, which is a technique to apply for non-probability samples, and simple random sampling, categorized within probability sampling techniques in which everyone holds an equal chance of being selected or not. A simple random sampling method was used to select the displaced people living in the different zones in Goma camp, given that these were big in number, using this method eased their selection. It gave each person an opportunity to participate in the study. Simple random sampling was preferred because its procedure is unbiased, preventing bias in their work and making research on large populations more practical.

The key informants included the community leaders of the various zones in the camp and the top administrators of MONUSCO, who were purposively sampled for the study because they are in charge of shaping peace and security in eastern DRC. The reason why purposive sampling was used for this category of respondents is because of their knowledge on the topic under study, these individuals also had special qualification and therefore these categories of respondents were expected to provide in-depth information about the topic under study.

3.6 Data sources

The fact that the researcher had unused and fresh data helped a great deal in the determination of the events. Therefore, the researcher directly reached the respondents through interviews, focus group discussions among other instruments of collecting the data. Secondary sources: Document review related to the study, newspapers, online journals, textbooks among others will be used such that the researcher is well equipped with the required data for facilitating the study.

3.7 Data collection instruments

The study used interview guide and focus group discussion guide to collect information.

3.7.1 Interview guide

The interview topical guide was designed to collect information. This guide helped to maintain consistency. The interviews are preferred for top management who are an informed category by virtue of their offices, wide latitude to talk about the subject at length without limit. These are unstructured items on each and every variable in the conceptual framework that democratic, transactional, and transformational leadership and performance. According to Ragin (2009), an interview guide has items used in guiding the interviewing process henceforth the process has the advantage of making sure probing for more information, clarification and capturing facial expression of the interviewees. Accordingly, the researcher interviewed the community leaders of the various zones in the camp and the topmost administrators of MONUSCO who are; the Peace Building Commissioner, the Policy Officer, the Security Council Affairs Commissioner and the Chief of the United Nations Police Component UNPOL .

3.7.2 Focus Group Discussion Guide

In this study, it has been used to collect data from the selected 30 displaced persons living in the different zones located in Goma camp. This instrument was composed of open-ended questions and therefore aimed at soliciting information on how non-state actors have played a multi-faceted role in shaping peace and security in Goma camp, DRC. This is because it offers the researcher an avenue of generating and assessing data from the different subgroups of a population under study area. It further allows the gathering of data on attitudes, values, and opinions. In this regard, focus group discussions were conducted with the selected displaced people living in the different zones located in Goma camp. For instance, the researcher formed groups of 10 members each because, through this group number, he gave each respondent a chance to participate in the study and, having only 10 members each, the respondents had enough time to give their views on the topic under study. In this regard, three focus group discussions with 10 displaced people living in the various zones located in Goma camp were used. The respondents from the camp zones were of heterogeneous nature; young, adults, and elderly were selected to capture information from diverse views of the respondents.

3.8 Data collection procedure

A recommendation and introductory letter was obtained from Uganda Christian University, after which the researcher approached the different respondents and organisations in Goma Camp, DRC for permission to use them as a case study. After that, the researcher approached different respondents to conduct the interviews and focus group discussions.

3.9 Data Analysis

Analysis of qualitative data: This was done through thematic review. To this end, qualitative data was first edited and reorganized into meaningful phrases. Otherwise put, the qualitative data were analyzed using a thematic approach in which themes, categories, and patterns were identified. Recurring themes arising in respect to each guiding question from the interviews were reported in the results, where selected direct quotations from participants were also presented for illustration.

3.11 Ethical consideration

A copy of the introductory letter from the University by the Faculty of social sciences was presented to ensure that the information obtained from research was for academic purposes. The researcher ensured participation was voluntary and therefore did not force them, the researcher also debriefs the recipients before the data is collected from them. The documents used in this work were all cited by the researcher to recognize his effort as far as the secondary data was concerned.

3.12 Limitations of the study

Sample and selection problem: Sampling errors occurred because a probability sampling method was used to select a sample because the sample did not reflect the general population or appropriate population concerned.

Insufficient sample size for statistical measurement: In a study, the sample size was important to come up with a valid research result. The sample was too small in size, and the identification of a significant relationship was hard to work out from the data because statistical tests require larger samples to ensure the representativeness of the sample of a population and statistical results generalized to a large population.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents and discusses the results of the analysis that has been done to look at the specific objectives of the study and in relation to the reviewed literature. In this regard, the study was carried out using interviews with 8 top administrators of the MONUSCO and leaders plus focus group discussions with 30 displaced people living in Goma Camp from the six zones. The results of the analysis done to look at the following specific objectives of the study are presented and discussed in this chapter: i) To find out some of the peace and securities practices in DRC. ii) To map out the forms and phases of peace processes and practices involving a wide variety of non-state actors across different conflict areas in the DRC.

iii. To determine what factors influence peace and security among non-state actors in Goma camp.

iv. To provide an understanding of how the promotion and realization of salient functions and potential by non-state actors can facilitate more inclusive, holistic, and durable peace landscapes in the DRC.

The purpose of this chapter, therefore, is to present the results from the interviews conducted with the above-mentioned respondents regarding the three research objectives. This chapter therefore begins with the presentation and interpretation of results from the first objective up to the last objective as presented and discussed below.4.1 Some of the peace and securities practices in DRC

Table 3: Showing the peace practices initiated by non-state actors

Form of Peace Practice	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mediation and Conflict Resolution	12	31.6
Community Policing	10	26.3
Trauma Counseling and Psychosocial Support	8	21.1
Livelihood Programs and Economic Empowerment	5	13.2

Educational Workshops on Peace building	3	7.9
Total	38	100.0

Source: *Primary data*

The forms of peace practices they have observed from those led by non-state actors, which have impacted the community in the camp, were sought from interviews conducted with the selected top administrators of the MONUSCO, leaders-head of blocks/zones, and the displaced people living in Goma Camp from the six zones. Their responses were as follows;

4.1.1 Mediation and conflict resolution: Through the interviews and FGDs, mediation and conflict resolution were singled out by the highest number of respondents as the best peace practice in Goma Camp, represented by 31.6%. It was noted therein that this process largely aided by the non-state actors such as international NGOs and local community organizations has gone a long way in addressing and resolving conflicts among the displaced. These mediatory processes involve trained mediators who help conflicting parties reach peaceful resolutions, and hence avoid disputes that could have culminated in violence. This practice has been very instrumental in creating dialogue and understanding within the camp, hence stable and peaceful coexistence.

4.1.2 Community policing: The second most identified peace practice among the respondents was community policing, indicated by 26.3% of the respondents. It was observed therein that the non-state actors have worked together with the local security personnel to develop community policing programs within Goma Camp. The developed model involved the training of the community members to collaborate with the security personnel, to monitor and report any suspicious activity. It has actually enhanced feelings of safety and security among the residents of the camp since community policing does ensure cooperation and builds trust between the displaced people and the security forces.

4.1.3 Trauma counselling and psychosocial support: Trauma counselling and psychosocial support were also stated as being one of the key peace practices by the respondents. These services, led by non-state actors, try to orient mental health care for a population that suffered severe trauma due to conflict and displacement. On-site counseling and support groups have been established so that the individuals can discuss their experiences and receive emotional

support. Such services help in soothing psychological stress, which, therefore, helps in minimizing tensions and a possible conflict within the camp. 4.1.4 Livelihood programs and economic empowerment: Further, 13.2% of the respondents reported that livelihood programs and economic empowerment are some of the other peace practices the non-state actors employ. These are those programs through which the non-state actors try to impart skills and tools to the displaced people so that they may earn their livelihood and become self-dependent. These programs have provided training in various trades and access to small loans, reducing economic dependency and idleness that are sources of frustration and conflict. The respondents showed that all these programs contribute to a more peaceful atmosphere in the camp by giving people a sense of purpose and financial stability.

4.1.5 Peacebuilding educational workshops: Finally, as indicated by 7.9% of the respondents, other peace practices initiated by non-state actors are peacebuilding educational workshops. The workshops, which are run by the non-state actors themselves, aim at educating the principles of peace, conflict resolution, and community cohesion among the residents of the camp. Though the practice was identified by a few respondents, those who did pointed out that this is an important way of fostering a culture of peace in the camp. These workshops provide participants with the ability and knowledge to deal with or manage conflicts non-violently, hence generally contributing positively to peace in Goma Camp. Some of the selected respondents reported that, "...The community policing is working effectively. It gives room for security, which in turn would give us more confidence that we are safer in the camp." Community leader/Head of block "...The peacebuilding workshops have taught us how to solve conflicts amicably and work together as a community...." Coordinator from MONUSCO "...The economic empowerment programs have equipped us with the means to sustain ourselves and steer clear of conflicts over resources...." Displaced person Among the peace practices that non-state actors have initiated in Goma Camp, the most salient are mediation and conflict resolution, community policing, trauma counseling, and economic empowerment. These findings are concurrent with the literature in pointing out the importance of inclusion of local and non-state actors for peacebuilding. According to Autesserre, mediation and community policing are examples of peace practices that are effective locally and able to prevent conflicts from flaring up and to further stability, supportive of the emphasis placed on these practices as essential in the handling of disputes and

enhancement of security. In a related manner, Debiel and Rinck argue that non-state actors take on a leading role in peacebuilding in fragile contexts through delivering basic services and support in other ways, which resonates with the findings of this study in the case of trauma counseling and economic empowerment programs. This literature further and constructively aids in suggesting why non-state actors are integral in terms of immediate needs and stability over a longer term for countries beset by conflict.

Table 4: Most effective peace and security practices in maintaining order in Goma

Most effective peace and security practices	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Community policing	16	42.1
Mediation and conflict resolution	10	26.3
Trauma counseling	7	18.4
Economic empowerment programs	5	13.2
Total	38	100.0

Source: *Primary data*

From the interviews conducted with the selected top administrators of the MONUSCO, leaders (head of blocks/ zones) and the displaced people living in Goma Camp from the six zones, they were asked to give the peace and security practices that have been most effective in maintaining order in Goma camp and their responses were as follows;

4.1.6 Community policing: The most frequently mentioned practice that has been effective in maintaining order in Goma Camp is community policing, cited by 42.1% of respondents. This practice involves the active engagement of residents in monitoring and reporting any suspicious activities or conflicts within the camp. The presence of trained community members who work closely with security personnel has created a sense of accountability and vigilance, contributing to a safer environment. Respondents noted that this system has helped deter criminal activities and fostered a sense of shared responsibility for the safety and well-being of the community. One key benefit highlighted by respondents is the quick response to incidents, which prevents situations from escalating. The collaborative approach between residents and security forces also strengthens trust, making the camp more secure overall.

4.1.7 Mediation and conflict resolution: Mediation and conflict resolution practices were the second most mentioned, with 26.3% of respondents acknowledging their effectiveness. These practices involve structured dialogue facilitated by trained mediators who help resolve disputes between individuals or groups within the camp. Respondents praised this approach for its ability to address conflicts before they escalate into violence. The mediation sessions are seen as impartial and fair, which encourages participants to engage in the process and accept the outcomes. These practices have been particularly effective in addressing disputes over resources, land allocation, and other community issues. By resolving conflicts peacefully, mediation helps maintain harmony and reduces tensions in the camp.

4.1.8 Trauma counseling: Trauma counseling was mentioned by 18.4% of respondents as an effective practice in maintaining peace and security in Goma Camp. Many displaced people in the camp have experienced severe trauma due to conflict and displacement, and counseling services have been essential in helping them cope with their experiences. Respondents emphasized that by addressing mental health issues, counseling reduces the likelihood of violent outbursts and helps individuals regain a sense of normalcy. Counseling sessions, often conducted in groups, provide a platform for individuals to share their stories and support each other, fostering a sense of community and mutual understanding. This emotional support is seen as vital for maintaining peace within the camp.

4.1.9 Economic empowerment programs: Economic empowerment programs were highlighted by 13.2% of respondents as effective in maintaining order within the camp. These programs offer training and resources to help displaced people develop skills and start small businesses. By providing opportunities for economic self-sufficiency, these initiatives reduce idleness and the potential for conflict arising from economic desperation. Respondents noted that when people are engaged in productive activities, they are less likely to engage in disruptive behavior. Economic empowerment also gives residents hope for a better future, which contributes to a more positive and peaceful atmosphere in the camp. Some of the selected respondents reported that,

“.....Mediation has saved us from many conflicts that could have turned violent. It’s a fair way to settle disputes, and it keeps the peace.....” **Community leader/ Head of block**

“.....Community policing has been crucial in creating a sense of security among residents. People feel more in control and responsible for their safety.....” **MONUSCO Administrator**

“.....The training I received has given me a way to support my family. I feel more secure and less worried about our future.....” **Displaced person**

The findings revealed that community policing was identified as the most effective peace and security practice in maintaining order in Goma Camp, Community policing with 42.1% of respondents emphasizing its impact. The findings relate with the literature by highlighting the importance of local and collaborative approaches to peacebuilding, as noted by Mac Ginty (2011), who argues that hybrid forms of peace, such as community policing, are essential for effective conflict resolution and maintaining stability. This practice not only promotes a sense of security and accountability but also fosters trust between residents and security forces, aligning with the concept of local ownership and participation in peacebuilding efforts discussed by Debiel and Rinck (2016). Mediation and conflict resolution, trauma counseling, and economic empowerment programs were also recognized, supporting the view that comprehensive and multi-faceted approaches are necessary for sustaining peace in fragile contexts (Berdal & Zaum, 2013).

Table 5: Distribution of responses on whether living in Goma camp is peaceful

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	12	40.0
No	18	60.0
Total	30	100.0

Source: *Primary data*

In the interviews with the selected displaced people living in Goma Camp from the six zones, they were asked whether it is peaceful to them living in this camp. Responses were as follows;

From the study findings, the majority of the respondents represented by 60% reported that living in Goma Camp is not peaceful. This, they attributed to several reasons, including sustained tensions and conflicts within the camp. Overcrowding and competition over scarce resources

such as food, water, and shelter have been mentioned as cardinal sources of unrest. The respondents have also claimed that while peace initiatives, such as community policing and mediation, do exist, they are usually too weak to deal with the grave issues which set off conflict.

Also, many of the respondents have shown how the psychological trauma of staying in the camp has caused stress and occasional outbursts of violence among these residents. These areas of insecurity also magnify feelings of unease among the residents who cannot feel entirely safe. Furthermore, the temporary nature of existence within the camp, with people's constant arrival and often leaving, makes the texture of social life disrupted and may lead to suspicion and tension between different groups.

On the contrary, 40% of the respondents who like administrators of MONUSCO, Community leaders, and some Displaced people that are living in Goma Camp from the six zones felt that living within Goma Camp is peaceful. They credited this to the different peacebuilding efforts pursued by non-state actors. The Community policing for instance along with conflict resolution activities, were enacted well and helped establish control and ensured disputes didn't spiral out of control. These respondents further indicated that these support services, such as trauma counseling and economic empowerment programs, have helped in bringing about an increased level of stability and security.

These respondents also cherished the sense of community, which has developed at the camp and was continually reinforced through peace education workshops. As they claimed, this has provided them with the capability to solve conflicts in a non-violent manner, which has turned out to be priceless in these unbearable conditions. Some of the selected respondents declared that,

"...Too many are competing for too little, hard to feel peaceful if you are always wondering where the next meal is going to come from...." IDP "...The traumas of our past lives continue to live on in many minds. People are up in arms, and the least bit will set tempers flaring...." IDP

"...The workshops about peacebuilding have created a difference. We learned how to handle the outstanding issues without violence, and thereby life here became more peaceful...." Displaced person

4.2 Forms and phases of peace processes and practices involving a wide variety of non-state actors across different areas of conflict in the DRC

Table 6: How the community participates in the initiatives on peace and security in Goma From the interviews conducted with the selected displaced people living in Goma Camp from the six zones, they were asked whether it is peaceful for them living in this camp and their responses were as follows;

From the study findings, majority of the respondents represented by 60% indicated that living in Goma Camp is not peaceful. They cited several reasons for this, including ongoing tensions and conflicts within the camp. Overcrowded conditions and competition for limited resources such as food, water, and shelter were mentioned as major sources of unrest. Respondents also noted that despite the presence of peace initiatives like community policing and mediation, these efforts are sometimes insufficient to address the deep-seated issues that lead to conflict.

Furthermore, many respondents highlighted the psychological trauma that continues to affect camp residents, leading to stress and occasional outbursts of violence. The insecurity in the surrounding regions also exacerbates the sense of unease, making it difficult for residents to feel completely safe. Furthermore, the transient nature of life in the camp, with new arrivals and departures, often disrupts the social fabric, leading to mistrust and tension among different groups.

Conversely, 40% of the respondents like the administrators of MONUSCO, Community leaders and some Displaced people living in Goma Camp from the six zones felt that living in Goma Camp is peaceful. They credited this to the various peacebuilding efforts implemented by non-state actors. Community policing and conflict resolution initiatives were seen as effective in maintaining order and preventing disputes from escalating. These respondents also mentioned that the support services, such as trauma counseling and economic empowerment programs, have helped create a more stable and secure environment.

In addition, these respondents appreciated the sense of community that has developed within the camp, supported by educational workshops on peacebuilding. They noted that these programs have equipped them with the tools to manage conflicts non-violently, contributing to a more peaceful atmosphere despite the challenges. Some of the selected respondents reported that,

“.....There are too many people fighting for too few resources. It’s hard to feel at peace when you’re constantly worried about where your next meal is coming from.....”

Displaced person

“.....The trauma from our past lives still haunts many of us. People are on edge, and it doesn’t take much for tensions to boil over.....” **Displaced person**

“.....The peacebuilding workshops have made a difference. We’ve learned how to resolve our disputes without violence, and that has made life here more peaceful.....” **Displaced person**

4.2 Forms and phases of peace processes and practices, involving a wide variety of non-state actors, across different conflict areas in the DRC

Table 6: How the community participates in peace and security initiatives in Goma

Forms of participation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Reporting incidents and suspicious activity	14	36.8
Participating in community policing	12	31.6
Attending peace and security meetings	7	18.4
Involvement in conflict resolution	5	13.2
Total	38	100.0

Source: *Primary data*

From the interviews conducted with the selected top administrators of the MONUSCO, leaders (head of blocks/ zones) and the displaced people living in Goma Camp from the six zones, they were asked for their views on how community members participate in peace and security initiatives within the camp and their responses were as follows;

4.2.1 Reporting incidents and suspicious activity: The most commonly mentioned form of participation, cited by 36.8% of respondents, involves community members actively reporting incidents and suspicious activities within the camp. This form of participation is crucial in preventing potential conflicts and ensuring that the security forces can respond promptly to emerging threats. Respondents emphasized that by being vigilant and reporting any unusual activities, residents contribute significantly to maintaining peace and security in the camp. This

practice fosters a sense of responsibility among the community members, as they are directly involved in safeguarding their environment. It also strengthens the relationship between the residents and the security personnel, leading to more effective peacekeeping efforts.

4.2.2 Participation in community policing: From the findings, 31.6% of the respondents pointed out community policing which involves residents actively participating in patrolling and monitoring the camp as a key form of participation. This initiative not only enhances security but also empowers the residents by giving them a direct role in maintaining order. Respondents noted that community policing has been effective in deterring criminal activities and fostering a sense of unity among the residents. Through community policing, residents work closely with the official security forces, which builds trust and ensures that security measures are well-coordinated. This collaborative approach has been crucial in maintaining peace and reducing tensions within the camp.

4.2.3 Attending peace and security meetings: Attending peace and security meetings was cited by 18.4% of respondents as an important form of participation. These meetings provide a platform for residents to voice their concerns, suggest solutions, and stay informed about the security situation in the camp. Respondents highlighted that such meetings are essential for ensuring that everyone is on the same page regarding security protocols and practices. These gatherings also serve as a forum for resolving minor disputes and discussing ways to improve the overall safety of the camp. The involvement of residents in these discussions fosters a collaborative atmosphere and ensures that the security strategies reflect the needs and concerns of the community.

4.2.4 Involvement in conflict resolution: Involvement in conflict resolution was mentioned by 13.2% of respondents as a way in which community members participate in peace and security initiatives. This involvement typically takes the form of mediating disputes between residents before they escalate into larger conflicts. Respondents noted that community leaders and elders often play a key role in this process, using their authority and wisdom to guide the disputing parties towards a peaceful resolution. This practice helps to maintain harmony within the camp and prevents small disagreements from disrupting the overall peace. By taking an active role in conflict resolution, residents help to sustain a peaceful environment and reduce the burden on formal security structures. Some of the selected respondents reported that,

“.....When people patrol their own areas, they take pride in keeping it safe. It brings the community together and helps prevent crime.....” **Community leader/ Head of block**

“.....The willingness of the community to report suspicious activities has been invaluable. It allows us to act quickly and prevent issues before they escalate.....” **Coordinator from MONUSCO**

“.....These meetings allow us to express our concerns and contribute to the decisions that affect our safety. It makes us feel involved and heard.....” **Displaced person**

The findings revealed that the most prominent forms of community participation in peace and security initiatives in Goma included reporting incidents and suspicious activity (36.8%), participating in community policing (31.6%), attending peace and security meetings (18.4%), and involvement in conflict resolution (13.2%). The findings relate with the literature by illustrating how local engagement in peacebuilding processes is critical for maintaining stability, as highlighted by Donais (2012), who emphasizes the role of local ownership and involvement in post-conflict consensus-building. This active participation aligns with Mac Ginty’s (2011) notion of hybrid forms of peace, where community-led efforts complement formal security measures. Additionally, the emphasis on reporting suspicious activities and participating in community policing reflects Richmond's (2011) argument about the importance of integrating local practices into broader peacebuilding strategies to enhance their effectiveness and sustainability.

Table 7: Personnel involved in peace and security matters

Involved party	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Community members	15	39.5
MONUSCO personnel	10	26.3
Local leaders and elders	7	18.4
NGOs like CARITAS	6	15.8
Total	38	100.0

Source: *Primary data*

From the interviews conducted on the selected top administrators of the MONUSCO, leaders, that is head of blocks/ zones and the displaced people living in Goma Camp from

the six zones, they were asked for their view on the question of who is involved in peace and security matters and their responses were as follows;

4.2.5 Community members: The majority of respondents, 39.5%, emphasized that the main actors of actions related to peace and security in Goma Camp are the community members. They actively participate in ensuring law and order through the reporting of suspicious activities, community policing, and conflict resolution. The involvement of community members is important because the bottom line is that peace and security are informed by the lived experiences of the residents and their immediate needs. Their involvement instills a sense of ownership over the security of the camp-a key tenet for the perpetuation of peace in the camp.

4.2.6 MONUSCO personnel: MONUSCO personnel were mentioned by 26.3% of the respondents as central figures in the camp's peace and security efforts. Such people are in charge of security operations, civilian protection, and coordination with local actors to prevent violence as part of the UN peacekeeping mission. The presence of MONUSCO personnel inside the camp is a stabilizing factor, thus providing physical and psychic feelings of security among its residents. This is an assurance that international standards of peacekeeping are observed within the camp.

4.2.7 Local leaders and elders: Local leaders and elders were identified by 18.4% of respondents as those contributing to peace and security in the camp. They are figures of authority within the community, commanding respect that enables them to resolve conflicts, maintain social order, and influence group decisions. In such a diverse and often fragmented setting as a displaced persons' camp, their involvement will be of paramount importance for the maintenance of social and cultural coherence that may be an essential factor in peace.

4.2.8 NGOs (e.g., CARITAS): In this regard, the stakeholders in peace and security matters are also the NGOs like CARITAS mentioned by 15.8% of the respondents. These organizations provide the much-needed support through humanitarian assistance, conflict resolution initiatives, and capacity-building programs for the residents and their local leaders. Often, their interventions have been the difference between peacemaking at the international levels and the

peoples' realities at the grassroots levels; measures for peace and security become all-inclusive and sustainable. A few of the electors who responded said,

"...People listen to us because we understand their concerns. We help resolve issues before they become bigger problems...." Community leader/ Head of block

"...Our mandate is to protect the civilians and support the local peace efforts. We work closely with the community to make sure they are safe...." Coordinator from MONUSCO

"...We are the first line of defense. If we don't watch out for each other, no one else will...."
Displaced person

Table 8: Role of non-state actors in the different phases of peace processes in Goma

Roles	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mediation and conflict resolution	16	42.1
Community engagement and awareness	10	26.3
Monitoring and reporting	7	18.4
Providing humanitarian assistance	5	13.2
Total	38	100.0

Source: Primary data

During the interviews with the selected top administrators of the MONUSCO, leaders, head of blocks/zones, and the displaced people living in Goma Camp from the six zones, they were asked to describe the role of non-state actors within different phases of peace processes in Goma camp, and they shared their views presented below.

4.2.9 Mediation and conflict resolution: This role is the most mentioned among those of non-state actors, by 42.1% of the responding subjects. Non-state actors involve community leaders, NGOs, and local peace committees which play a very important role in mediating disputes and bridging gaps in communications between conflicting parties. It is when their involvement becomes highly necessary to resolve tensions before things get out of hand and blow into major conflicts. These actors negotiate agreements, commonly understand, and build consensus among community members, thus contributing to a more stable and peaceful environment. Non-state actors have the perception of being more accessible and culturally suited; hence, they are

effective in the mediation effort. Their inclusion in peace processes helps to ensure all interests and concerns are taken into consideration for the sake of inclusivity.

4.2.10 Community Engagement and Awareness: Community activities and awareness raising were indicated as a major role for non-state actors by 26.3% of respondents. These actors participate in workshops, forums, and education to raise peace processes and security measures within a community. The sense of ownership and responsibility in sustaining peace is imparted into the residents through deliberation and decision-making participation. In so doing, they would be building confidence, enhancing cooperation, and ultimately making sure that the peacemaking effort is timely, well-supported, and understood at the right time by the natives. This is an important role which ensures longevity in peace; better-informed and better-engaged people participate more and support more in peacebuilding. Monitoring and reporting had also been mentioned by 18.4% of respondents as an essential role of non-state actors in the process. They monitor the implementation of peace agreements and actual effectiveness of peace initiatives, report violations, and flag concerns that may arise. Their monitoring would ensure that transparency and accountability are maintained in the peace process, allowing for timely intervention if problems were noted. They give regular reports and updates necessary to keep up the momentum in building peace so that commitments are upheld. Monitoring and reporting make the peace process more effective and responsive because they serve to identify certain areas that need attention if improvement is to take place.

4.2.12 Humanitarian assistance: A humanitarian assistances' role of a non-state actor was identified by 13.2%, to mean delivering essential services like food, medical care, and shelter, which are highly crucial for maintaining livelihoods of these displaced persons. In contributing to a more stable atmosphere by meeting immediate needs and reducing suffering, non-state actors enable the peace process to better take hold. Their assistance often complements other peacebuilding efforts in assuring basic needs are being met and, in general, that the stress and conflict within the camp are diminished. Again, this narrow role of non-state actors focuses on immediate needs; however, it is vital for the creation of an enabling environment for sustainable peace. Some of respondents reported that,

"...We are often the first point of contact for resolving disputes. By negotiating and listening to all sides, we help maintain peace in the camp...." Community leader/ Head of block

"....We depend on information from non-state actors for an idea of how successful peace initiatives are and areas in which an adjustment may be necessary" MONUSCO Administrator

....The support we get helps us focus our attention on the reconstruction of our lives and working together for peace instead of just mere survival..." Displaced person

The findings indicated that non-state actors in Goma were mainly involved in mediation and conflict resolution at 42.1%, community mobilization, and sensitization at 26.3%, monitoring and reporting at 18.4%, and humanitarian services provision at 13.2%. These findings relate to the literature by underlining how non-state actors are constitutive of peacebuilding processes, a fact corroborated by Debiel and Rinck (2016), who raise the importance of diplomacies from non-state actors in fragile contexts like that of the DRC. This falls in line with what Richmond (2011) defines as a post-liberal peace, whereby local and international actors have deep enmeshing with respect to immediate needs and long-term stability. Furthermore, the roles mentioned above, particularly mediation and monitoring, point towards the hybrid model of peacebuilding as advocated by Mac Ginty 2011, in which local inputs are complemented by the broad international interventions in a more integrated peace process.

4.3 Factors influencing peace and security among the non-state actors in goma camp

Table 9: Factors influencing peace and security among non-state actors

Factors	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Resource Scarcity	14	36.8
Lack of Coordination	11	28.9
Community Tensions	7	18.4
Insufficient Training	4	10.5
Poor Communication	2	5.3
Total	38	100.0

Source: *Primary data*

From the interviews, the selected top administrators of MONUSCO were requested to give their views on the forces that influence peace and security amongst the non-state actors in Goma

camp. Also, heads of blocks/zones and the displaced persons are currently living in Goma Camp from the six zones.

4.3.1 Resource scarcity: Resource scarcity is the most mentioned factor that hinders peace and security among the non-state actors in Goma Camp. Indeed, the lack of tangible resources such as finance, humanitarian supply, and basic infrastructure has an effect on the efficient undertaking of peacebuilding activities by the non-state actors. Scarce resources restrict the number of programs carried out, reducing the ability to meet the existing needs and increasing tension within the camp. Most non-state actors face difficulties in meeting the needs of the displaced persons and sustaining themselves; this lowers their level of success in peacemaking and security.

4.3.2 Lack of coordination: The second most mentioned issue by the respondents is the lack of coordination among non-state actors. Many underlined that this overlapping, misaligned goals, and lack of coordination between different organizations and community leaders at large result in inefficiencies and reduce effectiveness in peacebuilding. Effective coordination would develop a coherent approach to how conflicts are addressed and ensure resources are used effectively and efficiently. Lack of unified strategy leads to fragmentation and lost opportunities to achieve collective impact.

4.3.3 Community tensions: Community tensions were also identified as an impediment to peace and security. These tensions, usually along ethnic, social, or economic lines, affect cooperation both between the non-state actors and the community members. Conflicts within the community may make peacebuilding even more complex, with suspicion and division characterizing community life. These need to be tackled if a supportive environment is to be developed wherein peace initiatives could be more earnestly pursued.

4.3.4 Poor training: A second but related problem is the incomplete training of these non-state actors. Indeed, according to the respondents, small training limits the yield of peacebuilding activities because persons and organizations are unable to tackle specific situations. Additional training in conflict resolution, negotiation, and project management is needed for better capacity development among those in the peace process so their intervention can be more effective.

4.3.5 Poor communication: Poor communication was the last reason identified to hamper peace and security. The respondents observed that a lack of information sharing and transparency between non-state actors and the community results in misunderstandings and a reduction of trust. Communication is an important aspect of relationship-building, expectation management, and the keeping of all parties informed and involved in the peace process. Some of the selected respondents reported that,

"...When various organizations begin giving support without harmonizing their activities, it always leads to confusion and inefficiencies. There is a need for better alignment to make our interventions more effective...." Community leader/ Head of block

"...Aside from the problem of few resources, it's a big challenge. We cannot provide enough support since we lack financial and material resources...." MONUSCO Administrator

"...The constant conflicts at the community level create an enabling environment that hardly allows peace initiatives to thrive; therefore, we have to ensure that we work at the grassroots level to address these issues that contribute to instability...." Internally Displaced

From the findings, the absence of resources 36.8%, coordination issues 28.9%, conflict issues at the community level 18.4%, lack of training 10.5%, and communication issues 5.3% were the main issues that contributed to peace and security among non-state actors in Goma camp. The findings resonate with the literature, in the sense that they reflect challenges similar to those put forward by Debiel and Rinck, 2016, on how resource constraints and lack of coordination can seriously impact the effectiveness of non-state actors in such fragile contexts as DRC. This observation is also in tune with the criticism of Autesserre regarding the failure of international peacebuilding in stopping local violence, such that too little or no resources and very poor communication characterize the means to pursue peace. The issues of community tensions and inadequate training find resonance in Richmond's discussion of post-liberal peace, which emphasizes comprehensive local engagement and capacity building in addressing the underlying conflict for an enhanced outcome of peacebuilding.

4.4 Empowering and actualizing salient functions and potentials of non-state actors toward more inclusive, holistic, and durable peace landscapes in the DRC

Table 10: How non-state actors can contribute to a more inclusive peace process in Goma

Suggestions	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Enhance community participation	13	34.2
Increase collaboration between non-state actors	11	28.9
Improve communication and transparency	7	18.4
Provide targeted support and resources	5	13.2
Expand training and capacity building	2	5.3
Total	38	100.0

Source: *Primary data*

From the interviews with the selected top administrators of MONUSCO, leaders (head of blocks/zones), and the displaced people living in Goma Camp from the six zones, they were asked for their views on how non-state actors could be more engaged to create a more inclusive peace process in Goma camp. They were in agreement over the fact that:

4.4.1 Enhancing community participation: Most of the respondents 34.2% added that enhancing community participation is one of the crucial ways through which the peace process can be made inclusive. Community members need to have a chance to participate in planning, implementing, and monitoring the peacebuilding process, particularly by non-state actors. Participation gives full guarantee that the peace process will be representative of the needs and views of the whole camp population. Non-state actors can foster a deeper sense of trust and cooperation on the back of more active participation, factors that will go a long way in ensuring the prosperity and sustainability of peace initiatives. Community involvement is necessary because one has to ensure that active participation by the beneficiaries informs and drives any peace effort.

4.4.2 More cooperation among non-state actors: This was suggested by 28.9% of the respondents. This would include strengthening coordination between NGOs, community leaders, and other organizations in the development of an integrated strategy or framework for peacebuilding. Better coordination can enhance effectiveness since resources can be used more astutely, there is less duplication of services, and a variety of expertise and experience can be pooled. In this way, a coherent and effective peace process may also cover a wider range of

issues and needs in the camp. A collaborative approach ensures that peacebuilding efforts are comprehensive and well-supported.

4.4.3 Improved communication and transparency: 18.4% stated that inclusivity in peace processes can be achieved when improved communication and transparency take place. Non-state actors have to make sure that all parties are informed in regards to peace initiatives, decisions taken, and their follow-up. That is to say, transparency develops trust and negates all chances of misunderstanding; the community members would feel that they are included and bound to peace. Communication helps in managing expectations. This way, it shall be pretty clear that the needs and concerns regarding the community will be looked after. Clear and open channels of communication are all the more needed to keep up the trust and involvement as far as peace initiatives are concerned.

4.4.4 Targeted support and resources: The respondents suggested that targeted support and resources would go a long way in making peace processes more inclusive at 13.2 percent. It is important that non-state actors make their support relevant to the different needs of the various groups within the camp—for instance, the vulnerable or those with particular challenges. This focused assistance from non-state actors opens up peace initiatives to all and makes them more conducive. Targeted support, therefore, meets special needs and guarantees full participation and benefits of peace processes to all groups.

4.4.5 Expand training and capacity building: The next area of priority that emerged from a smaller but significant percentage of the respondents was that of expanding training and capacity building at 5.3% of the total. This includes training non-state actors and members of the community to enable them to participate actively in the peace process. Training would make peace activities more successful, for it would mean participants are better equipped with more advanced tools and knowledge of the practice of peacebuilding. In capacity building, each concerned party is well-prepared to contribute toward achieving and sustaining peace. Greater skills and knowledge build greater effectiveness and sustainability of peacebuilding activities. Some of the respondents mentioned,

"....Keeping the community informed about what's happening and being open about the process helps everyone feel more connected and involved...." Community leader/ Head of block

"...Greater collaboration between different organizations and leaders can streamline our efforts and make our interventions more impactful..." Coordinator from MONUSCO

"... When our voices are heard in decisions that involve us, our lives seem to include peace initiatives as a possession of ours that we have a say in and for which we can contribute our improvements..." Displaced person

Table 11: How non-state actors can contribute to a more inclusive peace process in Goma

Strategies	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strengthen coordination and collaboration	14	36.8
Increase community engagement	10	26.3
Enhance training and capacity building	7	18.4
Secure sustainable funding	4	10.5
Improve monitoring and evaluation	3	7.9
Total	38	100.0

Source: *Primary data*

From the interviews conducted with the selected top administrators of the MONUSCO in Goma Camp from the six zones, they were asked for their views on the strategies that can be implemented to enhance the effectiveness of non-state actors in achieving durable peace in the DRC and their responses were as follows;

4.4.6 Strengthen coordination and collaboration: The most frequently mentioned strategy, highlighted by 36.8% of respondents particularly the MONUSCO administrators, is to strengthen coordination and collaboration among non-state actors. Effective peacebuilding requires a unified approach where various organizations and groups work together seamlessly. This involves creating platforms for regular communication, aligning objectives, and sharing resources. Improved coordination can help avoid overlapping efforts, optimize resource use, and ensure that peace initiatives are comprehensive and coherent. By working together, non-state actors can enhance their impact and address multiple aspects of conflict more effectively. Effective collaboration among non-state actors can lead to a more unified and impactful peacebuilding effort.

4.4.7 Increase community engagement: Increasing community engagement was cited by 26.3% of respondents particularly the MONUSCO administrators as a key strategy. Engaging local communities in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of peace initiatives ensures that these efforts are relevant and supported by those directly affected by the conflict. Community involvement helps in identifying local needs, fostering ownership of peace processes, and ensuring that interventions are culturally appropriate. By empowering community members, non-state actors can enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of peace initiatives. Community involvement is essential for ensuring that peace efforts are tailored to local needs and gain widespread support.

4.4.8 Enhance training and capacity building: Enhancing training and capacity building was suggested by 18.4% of respondents particularly the MONUSCO administrators. Non-state actors can improve their effectiveness by investing in the training of their staff and community members involved in peace efforts. This includes providing skills in conflict resolution, negotiation, and project management. Capacity building also involves equipping local organizations with the tools and knowledge needed to manage and implement peace initiatives effectively. By strengthening the capabilities of all involved parties, peace efforts can be more efficiently executed and sustained. Training and building capacity are critical for improving the skills and effectiveness of those involved in peacebuilding.

4.4.9 Secure sustainable funding: Securing sustainable funding was highlighted by 10.5% of respondents particularly the MONUSCO administrators as a vital strategy. Long-term peace efforts require consistent and reliable funding to be effective. Non-state actors need to develop strategies to secure financial support from various sources, including international donors, government grants, and private sector partnerships. Ensuring stable funding helps in planning and implementing comprehensive and long-term peace initiatives without interruptions. Reliable funding is essential for maintaining the continuity and effectiveness of peace initiatives.

4.4.10 Improve monitoring and evaluation: Improving monitoring and evaluation was mentioned by 7.9% of respondents particularly the MONUSCO administrators. Effective monitoring and evaluation systems help in assessing the impact of peace initiatives, identifying areas for improvement, and ensuring accountability. Non-state actors should establish robust mechanisms to track progress, measure outcomes, and adjust strategies based on evidence. This

helps in making data-driven decisions and enhancing the overall effectiveness of peacebuilding efforts. Monitoring and evaluation are key for understanding the impact of peace initiatives and making necessary adjustments. Some of the selected respondents reported that,

“.....Involving the community in every step of the peace process makes us feel invested in the outcome and helps ensure the initiatives are effective.....” **Coordinator from MONUSCO**

“.....When organizations collaborate and coordinate their efforts, we see more strategic and impactful peace initiatives that address the root causes of conflict.....” **MONUSCO Administrator**

“.....Providing more training for both the non-state actors and local leaders would help us handle conflicts better and implement peace initiatives more effectively.....” **MONUSCO Field Supervisor**

The findings revealed that enhancing community participation (34.2%), increasing collaboration between non-state actors (28.9%), improving communication and transparency (18.4%), providing targeted support and resources (13.2%), and expanding training and capacity building (5.3%) are essential for creating a more inclusive and effective peace process in Goma camp. The findings relate with the literature by reflecting the principles outlined by Donais (2012), who emphasizes the importance of local ownership and community engagement in peacebuilding processes. This is supported by Mac Ginty (2011), who argues that hybrid forms of peace that integrate local perspectives and needs can significantly enhance the sustainability and inclusiveness of peace initiatives.

4.5 Conclusion

In conclusion, the study highlights a complex landscape of peace and security practices in Goma Camp, revealing both progress and persistent challenges. While mediation, community policing, and support programs contribute significantly to peacebuilding, issues such as resource scarcity, lack of coordination, community tensions, and poor communication undermine their effectiveness. Enhancing community participation, improving coordination among non-state actors, and addressing these challenges through better training, communication, and targeted

support are crucial for creating a more inclusive and durable peace process in the DRC. These efforts are essential for fostering stability and effectively addressing the needs of the displaced population

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter includes the discussion of findings in relation to the literature. It also summarizes all findings reported in chapter four according to questions of the study, draws conclusions, suggests recommendations and also proposes some areas for further study.

5.1 Summary of findings

5.1.1 Some of the peace and securities practices in DRC

The findings from the study on peace and security practices in Goma Camp depicted a mixed picture of effectiveness and challenges. Inasmuch as mediation/conflict resolution was the most ordinarily practiced and effective, 31.6% of the respondents pointed to it as preventing disagreements from escalating. Community policing, at 42.1%, was therefore highlighted as the best practice that guaranteed order, safety, and cooperation among residents and security forces. Trauma counseling and psychosocial support, besides economic empowerment programs, are other key activities to a lesser extent, with 18.4% and 13.2%, respectively, which are needed to address the mental health and economic challenges facing the local population. Accordingly, despite this, 60% of the displaced persons reported that the living condition in the camp remained troubled due to resource scarcity, overcrowding, and continuous tensions, whereas 40% said the environment had been relatively peaceful due to the peacebuilding initiatives. This seems to indicate that even though big gains have been made by non-state actors in their peacebuilding work, there are consistent erosions that tend to undermine overall feelings of security and stability within Goma Camp.

5.1.2 Forms and phases of peace processes and practices, involving a wide variety of non-state actors, across different conflict areas in the DRC

The research findings followed various forms and phases of community and non-state actor involvement in peace and security initiatives in Goma Camp. Community participation is dominated by reporting incidents at 36.8% and community policing at 31.6%, contributing to an active behavior of safety and improving community-security force relations. Other forms of participation include peace meetings at 18.4% and conflict resolution at 13.2%, indicating the community's interest in dialogue and dispute management processes. Community members maintain order, which is very important. The staff from MONUSCO provide necessary security and coordination. Local leaders mediate between the parties in conflict. Non-governmental organizations like CARITAS provide humanitarian assistance. In other words, mediation actors, which are non-state actors, also perform the role of community engagement actor (26.3%), monitoring actor (18.4%), and humanitarian assistance actor (13.2%). This allows for a greater demonstration of the multi-layered contribution that can be made by non-state actors toward peace processes and how their interactive role plays an important part in stability while responding to immediate needs.

5.1.3 Factors affecting peace and security among non-state actors in Goma camp

Semi-structured interviews with MONUSCO administrators, community leaders, and internally displaced persons who are residents of Goma Camp identified a number of factors that affect peace and security among non-state actors. Resource constraints are most dire and impact on the ability to effectively provide peacebuilding processes due to the lack of financial and material support. Lack of coordination among the non-state actors implies inefficiency and fragmentation of effort. Community tensions, usually along lines of ethnicity, social background, or economic status, make peace efforts hard to handle and breed mistrust. In more complicated situations, inadequate training renders the non-state actors incompetent. Thus, improved training programs become highly necessary. Poor communication increases misunderstanding, reducing the trust—the opposite of what needs to take place if effective information sharing and transparency are to be achieved. Cumulatively, these matters undermine the efficiency of the peace and security projects in Goma Camp.

5.1.4 Advancing and actualizing salient functions and potentials of nonstate actors toward more inclusive holistic and durable peace landscapes in the DRC

The findings have pointed out different ways to enhance the inclusiveness and efficiency of the Goma peace processes. Core to the community involvement, 34.2% point out the need for strength so that peace initiatives may respond to the very different needs represented within the camp. Somewhat similarly, 28.9% favor further cooperation among these actors in the interest of streamlining efforts with a view to not duplicating programs. Lastly, communication and transparency need to be improved, as 18.4% would wish to see this particular aspect changed to build up more trust and involvement. Targeted support is also indicated to be given, at 13.2%, while increasing training is at 5.3% to target particular needs in developing skills. For durable peace, enhancement of coordination is at 36.8%, community engagement at 26.3%, and improved training at 18.4%, while sustainable funding is at 10.5%, and improved monitoring and evaluation stands at 7.9%. This will make the process of peace more coordinated, knowledgeable, and sustainable.

5.2 Conclusions

The study therefore concludes that peace and security practices in Goma Camp have been characterized by relative successes, while at the same time facing overwhelming challenges. Practices such as mediation and conflict resolution are successful; they create a buffer against disputes. Community policing has emerged as an indispensable practice in maintaining safety and security. However, resource scarcity and population pressure stand and remain salient features in determining the general sense of security, a pointer that though some progress has been made, the camp still faces considerable challenges.

Thirdly, it epitomizes community and non-state actors in peace initiatives through active reporting of incidents by the community and community policing. The involvement of the non-state actors-MONUSCO, local leaders, NGOs-are indicative of the important roles they have to play in bringing about order, providing security, and humanitarian assistance. Multi-faceted contributions of this kind are what a country at unrest needs in the way of stability and also meeting immediate needs.

Besides, several factors and challenges to effective peacebuilding were put into light, which include resource limitations, coordination difficulties, tensions in the community, inadequate training, and lack of proper communication. These factors contribute to inefficiencies, mistrust, and reduced impact of peace efforts. All of these shortfalls-supplying more resources, better coordination, strategies on conflict resolution, comprehensive training, and improvement in communication-shed light on the ways effectiveness of peace and security initiatives can be heightened in Goma Camp.

The conclusion is that in order for peace processes to be more inclusive and efficient, community participations must be increased, with an increased coordination of non-state actors. To achieve this, there is a need to increase communication and transparency, target support, and increase training toward diverse needs and the building of trust. This paper finds it imperative that in a quest to enhance coordination, increase community engagement, attract sustainable funding, and enhance monitoring and evaluation, strategies will be paramount to making the peace process more cohesive and sustainable.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on findings, this study recommends some of the following to be necessary in the light of developments about a multi-faceted role of non-state actors in shaping peace and security in the eastern part of the DRC: a case of Goma Camp;

The study recommends a need for improved community involvement in initiatives of peace and security through active engagements of residents in every stage of the process for peace building.

The study also calls for the strengthening of coordination and collaboration by non-state actors, including NGOs, community leaders, and international organizations. This would ensure better streamlining of efforts, optimization of resource use, and avoidance of duplication, ensuring a more coherent and impactful peace process.

The study also urges the need for improved communication and transparency in undertaking peace and security. Non-state actors are required to let all stakeholders be informed about progress made and the decisions reached concerning efforts to attain peace.

Also, there is a need to secure sustainable funding to support long-term peacebuilding efforts. Reliable financial resources are essential in making good plans and conducting comprehensive initiatives without interruptions.

Lastly, this requires an increase in capacity-building and training programs for non-state actors and community members.

5.4 Areas for further research

Since the study aimed to examine the multi-faceted role of non-state actors in shaping peace and security in Eastern DRC, it recommends that similar research should be done on other areas about this topic; and the other areas of further research needed include the following:

Future research may focus on the detailed roles and contributions different types of non-state actors-local NGOs, international organizations, and community leaders-play in shaping peace and security in the Goma Camp. A study of how these players coordinate and collaborate on the ground can provide insight into enhancing their effectiveness and cohesiveness.

Further studies could also dwell on the long-term impacts of community involvement in peacebuilding processes, including how local ownership and participation affect sustainability.

Second to last, further research might want to look into the targeted interventions that are already being pursued, such as economic empowerment and psychosocial support, and their relation to overall regional stability.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Focus Group Discussion

With displaced people in Goma Camp DRC

Dear sir/madam

Good morning/afternoon. My name is, Chambu Natasha, a student of BGIR at Uganda Christian University. I am conducting a study on “the multifaceted role of non-state actors in shaping peace and security in the eastern part of DRC; a case of Goma Camp.” The information given will be used only for academic purposes and will be treated with the highest level of confidentiality.

I will ask you a series of questions. There are no right or wrong answers. I only want to learn what you think. If I ask a question that you would prefer not to discuss, you do not need to discuss that topic. If you find the discussion topic uncomfortable, you are welcome to withdraw from the discussion at any time. I will be recording this discussion so that we can be sure to have your opinion in your own words when I analyse the information later. OK, let’s get started.

Instruction: Tick or Write answers in full where applicable.

Questions on the objectives

1. Tell me about yourself (*period spent living in this camp*)
2. Can you describe any peace practices initiated by non-state actors that have impacted your community?
3. Is it peaceful for you living in this camp?
4. What specific peace and security advantages do you find most effective in Goma camp?
5. How do you feel about the current security practices and their impact on your safety in the camp?
6. What roles do you see non-state actors playing in the peace processes in Goma camp?
7. How can non-state actors be better involved in creating a more inclusive peace process in your camp?

8. What suggestions do you have for improving the effectiveness of non-state actors in ensuring long-term peace in Goma camp?

Thank you for your cooperation

Appendix 2: Interview Guide

For the key informants

Dear respondent,

My name is Chambu Natasha; I am a student of BGIR at Uganda Christian University. I am conducting a study on “the multifaceted role of non-state actors in shaping peace and security in the eastern part of DRC; a case of Goma Camp.” You have been specifically selected to participate in this study and the information collected shall be purely for academic purpose and treated with the highest level of confidentiality. The success of this study shall greatly dependent on your response. Your cooperation shall highly be appreciated.

Questions on the objectives

1. Concepts understanding (non-state actors and peace and security)
2. What forms of peace practices led by non-state actors have you observed in the camp?
3. What peace and security practices have been most effective in maintaining order in Goma camp?
4. How do community members participate in peace and security initiatives within the camp?
5. Who is involved in peace and security matters
6. Can you describe the role of non-state actors in the different phases of peace processes in Goma camp?
7. In your opinion, how can non-state actors contribute to a more inclusive peace process in the camp?
8. What strategies can be implemented to enhance the effectiveness of non-state actors in achieving durable peace in the DRC?

Thank you for your cooperation