The Role Of The Central Government In South Sudan: Addressing Displacement And Security Challenges Since 2013

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Article History	Abstract
	This article seeks to unravel the intricate relationship of ethnic politics, displacement and security dilemmas in South Sudan from 2013 by looking at how the central government has negotiated them. The study fills a gap in research on the role that central government authorities play with respect to access to resources, service delivery and security for displaced populations, particularly in the specific political context of South Sudan. Drawing from Ethnic Identity Theory, Conflict Theory, Security Dilemma Theory, Human Security Theory, and Postcolonial Theory, the project investigates how historical memories and state institutions condition displacement outcomes and security perceptions among heterogeneous ethnic communities. A mixed-methods, pragmatic method was adopted, through combined descriptive and explanatory research designs. Methods of data collection Data were collected from security commanders, diplomatic communities, international agencies and Protection of Civilians through structured questionnaires. Finally, government officials and university students were also interviewed and engaged in focus group discussions. Quantitative data were analyzed with the use of descriptive and inferential statistics, whereas qualitative data was analysed thematically. Significant trends suggest statistical correlation between the positional role of central government and displacement and its dilemmas (R Square = 0.490, p < 0.001), indicating that there seems about 49% variance in displacement output is explained by the forced movements due to state actions. But the fact that a significant share of Mexicans blame the government for security dilemmas is a call for policy reevaluation. Political centrality-based problems such as corruption, resource imbalance, little local freedom and bureaucratic inefficiency aggravate the problem of displacement and security. In light of these findings, the research suggests a cohesive national policy framework that would bring together displacement and security issues and strengthen (vertical) government coordination between central and periphery. The findings emphasize the hotspot of strengthening local government capacity-building, providing adequate decentralized power and resources. Accountability- and transparency-building measures, as well as addressing the causes of displacement by promoting inclusive governance and fair allocation of resources are important. Additional research is needed on long-term effects of displacement, across intervention comparisons and by including the perspective of displaced people themselves. This is an—orignal contribution—originality to have been empirical on

the mediation of displacement and security by central governments in post-independence South Sudan to evidence-based policy recommendations recommend(s) promoting stability, reconciliation, and enhanced security for all communities.

Keywords: *Role of the Central Government, Displacement, Conflict Generated Security Dilemmas, South Sudan (DataType)*

Background of the Study

The relationship between ethnic politics, displacement, and security remains a key theme in post-independence in many parts of the world. As countries recovering from colonialism, they have faced the consequences of ethnic fissures along political fault lines leading to collapsing of States and humanitarian emergencies. Here, the paper examines how post-colonial states experience ethnic politics and what it means to displacement as well as security dilemma.

Displacement appears as both cause and effect in ethnic conflict. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), at mid-2022, more than 89 million people had been forcibly displaced by conflict, persecution and human rights violations uprooted in part by ethnic tensions worldwide [UNHCR (2022)]. Many of the displaced are children, which illustrates that displacement influences education and development. For example, in the year of 2020 alone, it was reported that already 48 million people were displaced because of violence and wars (Phuong, 2004).

The (not so) good news of course is that humanitarian crises frequently also result from these dislocations; with more at global and local cost, both financially as well socially. In 2020, the worldwide price tag for displacement was nearly $20.5 billion. There were more conflict-driven IDPs in sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Syria, and Ethiopia are among countries in which displacements primarily arise out of inter-communal-political conflicts emboldened by historical grievances and political exploitation.

The Syrian Civil War of 2011 resulted in >13 million displacements, half as registered refugees within neighbouring states (World Bank, 2021). The war has drawn in several ethnic and sectarian groups, while fighting against government suppression. Such an environment has resulted in tragic consequences including ethnic cleansing and genocidal warfare and shows the potential for increased conflict along ethnic lines.

Within Syria, actors such as the International Conflict Dynamics intervene to facilitate inter-party dialogue and governance in the intricacies of the protracted civil war (International Conflict Dynamics, 2021). The presence of foreign powers, including the US, Russia and Iran, has also complicated politics on the ground and extended instability.

The Ukraine conflict, brought to an all-time high by pro-Russian separatists in 2014, showed how ethnic and territorial conflicts can compromise national security as well as cause mass movement of people (Lauren Van Metre, 2015). In the DRC, ethnic-based conflicts are not only a problem for itself, but to the whole world, asserting the integration of local tribal politics with global peace and security (Namangale, 2015).

The conflict dynamics in Ethiopia, especially in Tigray, are resulting in alarming levels of displacement and the force-feeding of humanitarian crises. Millions were displaced from Tigray and nearby regions in the wake not long after fighting began, with the United Nations estimating that approximately 5.2 million people are now in need of emergency aid as a result of persisting conflict-driven food shortages (VOA News, 2021; Mosley, 2021). Government restrictions have further degraded the situation, with dire warnings of famine and suffering from among displaced populations.

After gaining independence, many nations have experienced renewed local-level ethnic conflict fueled in some cases by communally-based politicians. In Rwanda, the colonial baggage increased animosities between Hutu and Tutsi communities, resulting in a 1994 genocide that resulted in nearly 800,000 fatalities (Kagwanja, 2017). This history points out how ethnic identities can influence political loyalties and patterns of conflict.

As the youngest country in Africa, South Sudan had its share of early challenges when it gained independence in 2011. Scailed by the optimism of a new sovereign state, South Sudan within no time plunged into civil war over factional politics between mainly Dinka and Nuer communities. The consequential civil war has resulted in considerable internal displacement: over 1.4 million people registered as IDPs by late 2021 (UN OCHA, 2021). The political crisis was situated against a backdrop of historical issues related to the legacies of colonialism and lack of functioning systems of governance.

2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that paved the way for South Sudan's secession, had put in place a fragile power sharing system that did not account for underlying ethnic fissures. Disputes within the political establishment erupted in December 2013 over a leadership struggle amongst factions of the Sudan People Liberation

Movement (SPLM) which turned violent and devolved into ethnic-based fighting (Koos & Gutschke, 2014; UN Security Council, 2015). Fuelled by civil conflict, political fragmentation spiralled to produce one of the world's worst humanitarian crises and one of the largest numbers of IDPs around the globe.

There is evidence to suggest that the international intervention in ethnic warfare can sometimes have watered down impact. Peacekeeping missions are able to maintain relative stability among conflicted regions, but they tend to pay scant attention to the root causes behind ethnic rivalries- an example particularly manifested in DRC and South Sudan (Prunier, 2019). The nature of the conflicts dictates a multi-dimensional solution that deals with immediate humanitarian demand and political stability/governance challenges in relation to these.

This paper is set against a backdrop that reflects complex interplay of ethnic politics, displacement and security dilemmas in many regions. The historical backdrop of these tensions is one in which the battle between ethnic identity and political authority continues. We can learn about the horrific effects of ethnic bloodletting and displacement from case studies in Syria, Ethiopia, Rwanda and South Sudan. This realization highlights the desperate need for inclusive governance and collective international action to address the humanitarian disasters that have resulted from ethnic conflicts.

Problem Statement

The central government of South Sudan has faced enormous challenges. It must tread wary between concepts like diaspora and ethnic politics. Over 2 million people have been displaced. Another 1.5 million are refugees (UNHCR, 2023), exacerbating pre-existing ethnic tensions and resource constraints. The situation generates an intricate lattice of insecurity. It calls for a better grasp of how central government policy serves to alleviate or aggravate pressures that drive different ethnic groups' displacement with people.

Existing research assesses how displacement is related to conflict (Van Krieken et al., 2015; Van Moten, 2018), but this also lacks some nuanced understanding in South Sudan's specific political context on how a mediation of roles integrating the central government might work to bring about success. There is a critical gap in governmental action that must be bridged. This involves the distribution of resources, services and protection for displaced populations and how such activities in turn shape inter-ethnic relations coupled with wealth distribution (McCalley, 2017). Identifying these Gaps, then filling them are essential prerequisites for coming up with ways to

overcome security and policy challenges that stem from displacement.

This research aims to systematically examine the impact of centrally coordinated government in South Sudan on displacement and security, including policies. Through exploring the intersectionality of ethnic politics, displacement and the state itself, we hope to inform evidence-based policy recommendations that promote inclusive governance, effective peacebuilding–in other words attainable solutions for diaspora. Ultimately, our goal is to contribute a little to stability and reconciliation among all communities within southern regions. With happier villagers comes good security everywhere. Case-In-Chief Objective of the Study

The goal of this investigation is to support the South Sudan government while simultaneously promoting its successful practice. Heretofore there had been a grave predicament in South Sudan that must be dealt with: both at home and abroad, in motion to shift away from its acute era of crisis. It was difficult just to maintain normal life for all but very hard to achieve an escape opportunity. At least with these two dilemmas behind us, we will be able to move on.

Literature Review

This study was anchored on the following five theories:

Ethnic Identity Theory

Ethnic Identity Theory, pioneered by Henri Tajfel and John Turner, focuses on how individuals perceive and interact with their ethnic identities within social groups, driving in-group favouritism and out-group discrimination. This theory is particularly relevant in understanding South Sudan's complex dynamics, where ethnic affiliations significantly influence perceptions, behaviours, and conflicts. Analyzing displacement patterns and security dilemmas through this lens reveals how ethnic identities shape decisions about seeking refuge and contribute to the volatile security landscape exacerbated by the central government's actions since 2013. (Tajfel, 1979; Turner, 1987).

However, solely focusing on ethnic identity can overlook broader structural factors that contribute to the issues in South Sudan. To provide a more comprehensive understanding, Ethnic Identity Theory should be integrated with analyses of economic disparities, political power struggles, and the central government's role in exacerbating ethnic tensions through its policies and actions. This approach will provide a more complete picture of how identity interacts with political and economic factors to drive displacement, insecurity, and the ongoing challenges faced by the central government since 2013.

Conflict Theory

Originating from Karl Marx's analysis of societal conflicts driven by systemic inequalities (Marx, 1867), Conflict Theory provides a critical framework to examine the struggles over resources and power dynamics in South Sudan. By focusing on how economic and social inequalities contribute to tensions and violence among various groups, the theory reveals how competition for limited resources exacerbates conflicts in a nation already riddled with political instability. With systemic economic disparities deeply entrenched in South Sudan's society, understanding these conflicts through the lens of Conflict Theory uncovers the underlying structural forces that fuel intergroup hostility and violence.

Nonetheless, while Conflict Theory effectively highlights the importance of economic and social inequalities, it can sometimes overemphasize these factors at the expense of acknowledging cultural and psychological influences that also play a significant role in conflicts (Dahrendorf, 1959). In South Sudan, where ethnic identities and historical grievances are paramount, integrating the insights of Conflict Theory with an understanding of cultural dynamics and individual motivations will enhance the analysis of the complexities driving conflicts. This multifaceted approach is essential in navigating the intricate layers of displacement and security dilemmas that have emerged since the onset of conflict in 2013.

Security Dilemma Theory

Security Dilemma Theory, developed by John Herz (1950) and further explored by Robert Jervis (1978), addresses the cyclical nature of insecurity and violence in conflict zones like South Sudan. This theory highlights how actions taken by one group to enhance its security can inadvertently escalate tensions with other groups, as those actions are perceived as threatening. This creates a spiral of insecurity and mistrust, providing a valuable framework for interpreting the unintended consequences of security strategies employed by various actors within South Sudan, be they governmental, rebel, or international peacekeeping forces.

While the Security Dilemma Theory effectively captures the complexities of security dynamics, it often assumes a level of rationality among actors that may not always reflect the reality of fear-driven behaviours observed in South Sudan. Integrating insights from behavioural economics or psychology, such as how cognitive biases and emotional responses influence decision-making in conflict situations, could enrich the analysis of security dilemmas in this context and lead to more effective conflict resolution strategies.

Human Security Theory

Emerging in the late 1990s, Human Security Theory shifts the focus from state-centric security to the protection and well-being of individuals (Commission on Human Security, 2003; UNDP, 1994). This approach is particularly relevant in South Sudan, where diverse forms of insecurity profoundly affect vulnerable populations, especially the displaced. By addressing not only physical safety but also critical aspects of human life, such as economic stability, access to healthcare, food security, and protection from violence, this theory offers a holistic framework for policymakers and humanitarian agencies working to improve the lives of South Sudanese citizens.

However, criticisms of Human Security Theory often cite its perceived vagueness and lack of clear, measurable implementation frameworks. To enhance its practical application in South Sudan, there is a need for the development of specific, context-appropriate metrics to measure human security outcomes effectively. This would allow for better monitoring and evaluation of interventions aimed at improving human security, ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently and that real progress is being made in protecting and empowering individuals.

Postcolonial Theory

Postcolonial Theory, championed by scholars like Edward Said (1978), Homi Bhabha (1994), and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak (1988), provides valuable insights into how the legacies of colonialism continue to shape contemporary conflicts and social dynamics in South Sudan. This theoretical framework critiques Eurocentric perspectives that have historically dominated understandings of the region and emphasizes the importance of understanding the lasting impacts of colonial policies and power structures on current challenges, including issues of governance, identity formation, and resource distribution.

While Postcolonial Theory offers a valuable critical lens for examining power dynamics and identity formation in South Sudan, some critics argue that it may prioritize theoretical discourse over the development of practical solutions to address immediate challenges. To enhance its applicability in the South Sudanese context, empirical research and case studies should be integrated to ground theoretical insights in real-world contexts. This would allow for a more nuanced understanding of how colonial legacies interact with contemporary factors to drive conflict and insecurity, facilitating the development of more effective strategies for peacebuilding and development.

Empirical Review

This study (Harvard University's Belfer Center, 2022) examines the Syrian government's handling of the humanitarian crisis arising from the civil war. It employs a

qualitative approach, analyzing policy documents, expert interviews, and secondary sources to understand the government's strategies. The research uncovers the complexities of the situation, revealing how the government attempts to balance providing aid with maintaining control and security. The key finding is that the Syrian government has often used humanitarian aid as a tool to consolidate its power, limiting access to certain populations and areas. This raises significant challenges for international aid organizations, highlighting the need for careful navigation to avoid reinforcing authoritarian tendencies. The study underscores the importance of further research into the long-term impacts of these policies and exploring alternative approaches that prioritize the needs of affected populations.

The International Crisis Group's (2017, 2021) report analyzes the Myanmar government's response to displacement, specifically focusing on the Rohingya crisis that escalated in 2017. This report uses a mixed-methods approach, combining field research, interviews with affected communities and government officials, and analysis of existing data. The central focus is evaluating how the government addressed the displacement and the security concerns surrounding it. The report finds the Myanmar government's response to be inadequate, marked by failures in protecting civilians, providing sufficient aid, and creating conditions for safe return. It calls for a rights-based approach that includes accountability for past abuses and inclusive governance reforms. Further research is needed to understand the long-term effects of displacement on the Rohingya and to evaluate the effectiveness of alternative solutions to the crisis.

This report, jointly produced by the Norwegian Refugee Council and the International Rescue Committee (2020), reviews the South Sudanese government's response to its ongoing displacement crisis. It relies on a desk review methodology, analyzing existing reports, policy documents, and academic literature to assess the government's actions. The core aim is to identify strengths and weaknesses in the government's approach. The report concludes that the South Sudanese government's response has been significantly hampered by a lack of resources, capacity, and political will, leading to inadequate protection and assistance for displaced people. It emphasizes the need for the government to address the root causes of displacement, such as conflict and insecurity, and to prioritize peacebuilding, good governance, and human rights. Further research is needed to understand the lived experiences of displaced populations and to evaluate the impact of specific government programs.

The United Nations University's Centre for Policy Research (2020) explores the link between government capacity and the effectiveness of humanitarian responses to displacement across Africa. The study utilizes a comparative case study approach, examining responses in countries like South Sudan, Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, drawing on secondary sources, policy documents, and expert interviews. The key objective is to understand how government capabilities influence humanitarian outcomes. The study finds that strong government capacity is essential for an effective humanitarian response. This includes robust institutions, effective governance, and adequate resources. The report recommends that international actors support government capacity-building efforts to improve humanitarian responses to displacement. Further research is needed to better measure government capacity and to explore innovative approaches to addressing displacement in contexts of weak governance, including the role of local actors and civil society.

Published in the South Sudanese Journal of Social Sciences (2022), this study focuses specifically on the South Sudanese government's response to displacement in the Upper Nile State. It employs a mixed-methods approach, combining surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions with displaced people, government officials, and humanitarian actors to provide a comprehensive picture of the situation on the ground. The central goal is to assess the government's response from multiple perspectives. The study concludes that the government's response has been inadequate, characterized by a lack of coordination, resources, and effective policies. It highlights the challenges of delivering aid in a conflict-affected environment and emphasizes the need for improved security and governance, in addition to community participation and local ownership. Further research is needed in other regions of South Sudan and on the long-term impacts of displacement, as well as evaluating the effectiveness of alternative solutions like livelihood support and peacebuilding.
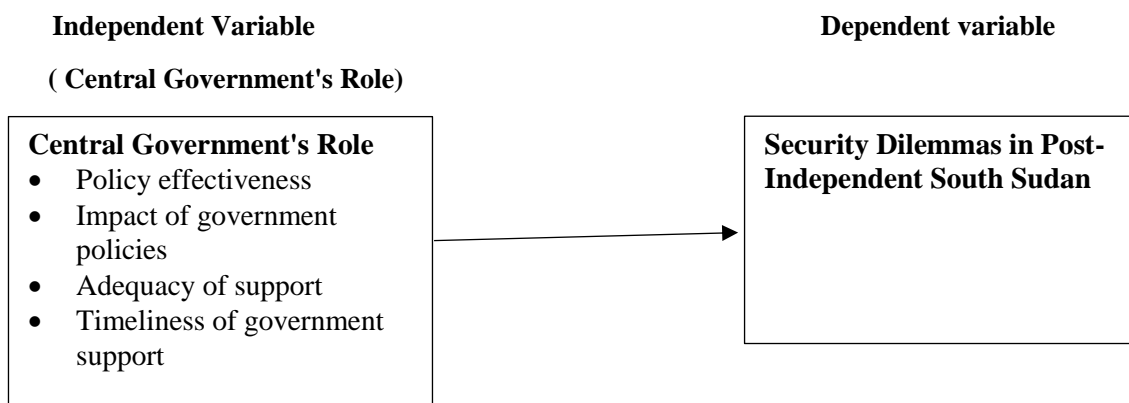
Conceptual Framework

Independent Variable

(Central Government's Role)

Dependent variable

| Central Government's Role | Security Dilemmas in Post-Independent South Sudan |

Central Government's Role
- Policy effectiveness
- Impact of government policies
- Adequacy of support
- Timeliness of government support

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework on Interplay between Central Government's Role on Displacement and Security Dilemmas

Source: Researcher's Conceptualization (2024)

This conceptual framework (Figure 1) represents a systematic and comprehensive approach to understanding the interplay between the Central Government's role and displacement and security dilemmas. The independent variable (Central Government's Role) is the focal point, capturing various aspects that influence the outcome of displacement and security dilemmas. It comprises four key variables: policy effectiveness in addressing displacement, the impact of government policies on security dilemmas, adequacy of support for local governments, and timeliness of the government's response to displacement. These variables represent different dimensions of the central government's influence.

The dependent variable (displacement and security dilemmas) is the outcome that is being analyzed and explained by the conceptual framework. The framework suggests that the central government's role (independent variable) has a direct and indirect impact on displacement and security dilemmas (dependent variable). The arrows in the figure indicate that the central government's actions and decisions (policy effectiveness, impact on security dilemmas, support for local governments, and timely response) shape the nature and extent of displacement and security concerns. This framework allows for a nuanced analysis of how government actions influence displacement outcomes and the resulting security dilemmas. It is a tool for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to better understand the complex dynamics at play and develop effective strategies to mitigate displacement and enhance security in conflict-affected areas.

Research Methodology

This section outlines the research methods, design, target population, data collection and sampling techniques, and data analysis methods used in the study. This study adopted pragmatic research philosophy. The pragmatic research approach has been significantly shaped by influential thinkers such as William James (1842-1910), John Dewey (1859-1952), and Charles Sanders Peirce (1839-1914). Their works, spanning from the late 19th century to the early 20th century, established a foundation for this philosophy, emphasizing the importance of practical consequences and real-world applications of research. More recently, Tashakkori and Teddlie (1998) have contributed to the mixed methods paradigm by asserting that a pragmatic framework allows researchers to effectively combine qualitative and quantitative approaches, particularly in exploring complex social phenomena.

One of the key strengths of pragmatism is its inherent flexibility, which empowers researchers to select methods most suited to their specific research questions (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2011). This flexibility, combined with the capability to provide comprehensive insights through mixed methods, allows for a robust analysis. The pragmatic approach prioritizes practical outcomes and real-world applicability, making it particularly useful for generating research that can inform policy-making, especially in dynamic contexts involving human conflict (Morgan, 2007).

However, the pragmatic approach is not without its weaknesses. Methodological ambiguity may arise due to the flexible nature of pragmatism, potentially leading to confusion regarding research design and methods (Biesta, 2010). Additionally, issues related to epistemological relativism can complicate the validity and reliability of findings, as multiple interpretations may emerge. There is also a risk that qualitative components may be superficial unless robust methodologies are applied, which could undermine the depth of analysis (Rocco & Hatcher, 2011).

To address these challenges, researchers can implement strategies that enhance the clarity and rigor of their studies. Establishing a clear research framework will help mitigate methodological ambiguity, ensuring coherent integration of various methods. Employing specific criteria for assessing validity and reliability can strengthen the credibility of both qualitative and quantitative data (Shenton, 2004). Finally, ensuring that qualitative analyses are thorough and deep can prevent superficial interpretations and foster a more nuanced understanding of complex social issues, perfectly exemplified in research on conflict dynamics in South Sudan (Sandelowski, 2000).

In this study, the researchers utilized both descriptive and explanatory research designs to provide a comprehensive understanding of displacement and security issues. Descriptive research design gathered quantitative data on the demographics and geographical distribution of displaced populations, along with qualitative insights through interviews or focus groups that captured the lived experiences of those affected.

Conversely, explanatory research design sought to elucidate causal relationships between post-independent ethnic politics and displacement and insecurity issues. Through exploring connections between these two variables, the researchers developed theoretical frameworks that clarified the complexities of the conflict dynamics in South Sudan.

The study employed a qualitative research strategy, focusing on specific case studies located in South Sudanese cities such as Juba, Malakal, and Wau. These capitals were selected due to their distinct but interconnected experiences with conflict and displacement, which provided a comprehensive understanding of the broader dynamics affecting the country.

Table 1: Target Population

Category of Respondents	Target Population	Sample size	Sampling Techniques
Interviews and Focus Group Discussion			
Government Officials	58	25	Purposive sampling (Interview)
University students	58	25	Purposive sampling (FGD)
Total	**116**	**50**	
Structured Questionnaires			
Security Commanders	121	52	Stratified random sampling
Diplomatic communities	105	45	Convenience
International agencies	306	131	Systematic sampling
Protection of Civilians	369	158	Snowball sampling
Total	**900**	**386**	

The target population of this study consisted of the 58 government officials, 58 University's students, 121 security commanders, 105 diplomatic communities, 306 international agencies and 369 Protection of Civilians (POCs) as illustrated in Table 1. The research study employed various sampling techniques to ensure a representative analysis of conflict dynamics in post-independent South Sudan, including purposive sampling for government officials, stratified random sampling for security commanders, convenience sampling for diplomatic communities, systematic sampling for international agencies, and snowball sampling for Persons of Concern (POCs).

By combining these methods, the study aimed to capture diverse perspectives from key stakeholders, including government officials, security personnel, diplomats, POCs, and university students. Recruitment involved formal invitations and local partnerships, ensuring informed consent and confidentiality. The structured sampling design aims to yield comprehensive data that can inform policy formulation and peacebuilding initiatives in the region.

This study utilized a range of data collection instruments, including structured questionnaires, interviews, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews, to gather both quantitative and qualitative data. Structured questionnaires aimed to systematically collect information from diverse stakeholders, while interviews provided opportunities for direct communication, capturing firsthand experiences and expert insights. Focus group discussions facilitated interactive dialogues among participants from various backgrounds to explore issues related to conflict and displacement, while key informant interviews obtained in-depth perspectives from individuals with specialized knowledge in the field. This multi-method approach, emphasizing ethical considerations and participant confidentiality, was designed to yield comprehensive

insights into the complexities of displacement and security challenges in post-independent South Sudan.

The validity and reliability of research instruments in the study on conflict dynamics, displacement, and security challenges in South Sudan were ensured through various measures. Content validity confirmed that the instruments covered relevant aspects of the research topic, while construct validity verified alignment with the theoretical framework. Criterion validity assessed relationships between instruments and established measures. Reliability was addressed through internal consistency, often measured by Cronbach's alpha; test-retest reliability for stability over time; and inter-rater reliability among different researchers.

Triangulation enhanced the credibility of findings by cross-verifying information from multiple sources. Attention to potential biases ensured the research remained credible. The data analysis phase involved comprehensive steps, including data cleaning, statistical summaries, and qualitative pattern identification, ultimately aimed at deriving meaningful conclusions and informing policy recommendations for South Sudan.

Results and Discussions
Introduction

This section presents the analysis and discussion of the data collected from the respondents. The data was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics, and the findings are 4.2

Response Rate

The total number of questionnaires that were returned was 306 questionnaires, consisting of 79.3% of the total number of the questionnaires distributed. At the same time, open-ended interactive questions were administered to 25 interviewees through interpersonal interviews successfully conducted by 100% per cent and two focus group discussions. The number of questionnaires that were not returned was 80(20.7%), which was attributed to the respondents who didn't wish to give their responses.

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

4.2.1 Gender

The gender distribution of the respondents is presented in Table 2. In the context of the politics of conflict dynamics in post-independent South Sudan, Table 2 highlights the gender distribution of respondents in a study examining displacement and security dilemmas, revealing that males constitute 58.2% of the sample with 178 respondents, while females represent 41.8% with 128 respondents, totaling 306 participants.

Table 2: Gender of Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	178	58.2%
Female	128	41.8%
Total	**306**	**100%**

This gender disparity may reflect broader societal norms and roles within the region, potentially influencing perspectives on security and displacement issues as experienced by different genders in the ongoing socio-political context.

4.2.2 Age

Table 3 presents the age distribution of the respondents.

Table 3: Age of Respondents

Age Bracket	Frequency	Percentage
18-24 years	28	9.2%
25-34 years	100	32.6%
35-44 years	111	36.3%

45-54 years	56	18.3%
55 and above	11	3.6%
Total	**306**	**100%**

In the analysis presented in Table 3, the age demographics of respondents reflect a diverse range of perspectives in relation to displacement and security dilemmas in post-independent South Sudan. The most prominent age group is 35-44 years, encompassing 36.3% of the sample, followed closely by those aged 25-34 years at 32.6%. Younger respondents aged 18-24 years and older participants (55 and above) comprised smaller percentages at 9.2% and 3.6%, respectively. This age distribution suggests that the majority of respondents are in their prime working years, which may influence their views on the socio-political climate and security issues affecting their lives. The underrepresentation of younger and older individuals may indicate the need for more inclusive research to capture the full spectrum of experiences in this context.

4.2.3 Education Level

The education levels of the respondents are summarized in Table 4.

Table 4: Education Level of Respondents

Education Level	Frequency	Percentage
High school diploma or equivalent	56	18.2%
Bachelor's degree	167	54.6%
Master's degree	67	21.8%
Doctorate degree	5	1.8%
Other	11	3.6%
Total	**306**	**100%**

Table 4 provides insights into the educational backgrounds of respondents, revealing that a significant portion, 54.6%, hold a bachelor's degree, making it the most common educational attainment among the sample. Master's degree holders comprise 21.8%, while those with only a high school diploma account for 18.2%. Doctorate degree holders are minimal at 1.8%, and individuals categorized as "other" constitute 3.6%. This distribution indicates a relatively high level of education within the respondent group, potentially affecting their awareness of and engagement with issues related to displacement and security in post-independent South Sudan. The dominance of respondents with bachelor's and master's degrees suggests that the perspectives and experiences shared may be informed by a higher educational context, which may also impact the analysis of socio-political dynamics in the region.

4.2.4 Years of Service in the Organization

Table 5 presents the respondents' years of service in their respective organizations.

Table 5: Years of Service in the Organization

Years of Service	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 1 year	27	8.8%
1-3 years	83	27.1%
4-7 years	112	36.6%

8-10 years	54	17.7%
More than 10 years	30	9.8%
Total	**306**	**100%**

Table 5 outlines the distribution of respondents based on their tenure in their respective organizations, revealing that the most significant group, 36.6%, has served between 4 to 7 years. The next largest segments include those with 1 to 3 years of service at 27.1% and those who have been with their organizations for 8 to 10 years at 17.7%. A smaller percentage of respondents, 8.8%, have less than one year or more than ten years of service. This distribution indicates that the majority of respondents possess a moderate level of experience within their organizations, suggesting they may have a substantial understanding of the operational and contextual dynamics affecting their work, particularly in relation to issues of displacement and security in South Sudan. The varied tenure among respondents may contribute diverse insights based on both newer and more seasoned perspectives on the challenges faced in the region.

4.3.1 Central Government's Role

Table 6 provides descriptive statistics that reflect perceptions of the central government's role in managing displacement and security dilemmas in certain regions. The table lists various statements related to the government's effectiveness and the public's perception of its policies.

Table 6: Descriptive Statistics for Central Government's Role

Statement (n=306)	Percentage	Mean	SD	Tolerance
Central government effectively addresses displacement issues.	120 (39.2%)	3.5	0.8	0.32
Government policies contribute to security dilemmas in certain regions.	180 (58.8%)	4.0	0.7	0.29
Local governments receive adequate support from the central government.	100 (32.7%)	3.0	1.1	0.36
The central government's response to displacement is timely.	110 (36.0%)	3.4	0.9	0.34
Public perception of the central government's role in security is positive.	90 (29.4%)	2.9	1.0	0.40
Government initiatives are effective in preventing further displacement.	130 (42.5%)	3.8	0.8	0.30
Coordination between central and local governments is strong.	75 (24.5%)	2.7	1.2	0.45

Notably, the percentage of respondents agreeing with each statement provides insight into the overall opinion about government actions regarding displacement and security challenges.

One statement highlighted that 39.2% of respondents believe the central government effectively addresses displacement issues, with a mean score of 3.5 and a standard deviation (SD) of 0.8. This suggests a moderate level of agreement, indicating that while some individuals view the government's efforts positively, a substantial portion remains skeptical about its effectiveness in addressing displacement. The corresponding tolerance of 0.32 reinforces the variability of responses around this mean, suggesting a need for continued evaluation of government policies.

In contrast, a significant 58.8% of respondents indicated that government policies contribute to security dilemmas in certain areas, achieving a mean score of 4.0 with an SD of 0.7. This higher level of agreement suggests a prevalent sentiment that government actions may exacerbate existing

security challenges, possibly undermining public trust in governmental authority. The lower tolerance of 0.29 indicates a narrower range of responses, pointing to a consensus among respondents concerning the negative impact of governmental policy on security dynamics.

The table also highlights areas where public perception is more critical of central government performance. For instance, only 32.7% of respondents felt that local governments receive adequate support, with a lower mean score of 3.0 and a higher SD of 1.1, potentially signaling significant discontent regarding the support mechanisms in place. Similarly, a mere 29.4% perceived the central government's role in security management as positive, reflected by the lowest mean score of 2.9 and the highest SD of 1.0, suggesting considerable variability in public opinion regarding governmental performance in this domain.

The challenges of coordination between central and local governments were pronounced, with only 24.5% indicating strong collaboration, reflected in a mean score of 2.7 and the highest standard deviation of 1.2. This finding underscores a critical issue in governance, where inadequate coordination can lead to ineffective responses to both displacement and security dilemmas. Overall, the data indicates significant public concern regarding the effectiveness of central government policies, the support for local governments, and the perceived efficacy of

initiatives aimed at preventing further displacement. These insights highlight the necessity for policymakers to address these perceptions to rebuild trust and enhance coordination.

4.3.6 Displacement and Security Dilemmas

Table 7 presents the perceptions of 306 respondents concerning displacement and its associated security dilemmas. The findings indicate that a striking 80.1% of respondents believe that displacement increases vulnerability to violence, supported by a high mean score of 4.5. This significant consensus reflects a well-recognized connection between being displaced and exposure to various forms of violence. The low standard deviation of 0.6 underscores a general agreement among respondents about the stark realities facing displaced individuals in conflict-prone environments.

Further, 71.9% of the respondents indicated that displaced individuals face increased economic insecurity, with a mean score of 4.3 indicating strong validation of this view. Economic stability is essential for personal safety and well-being, and the data suggests that displacement often disrupts economic activities and livelihoods. The standard deviation of 0.7 suggests some variability in perceptions but still emphasizes the widespread understanding that economic hardships accompany displacement, which can further heighten security risks.

Table 7: Descriptive Statistics for Displacement and Security Dilemmas

Statement	Percentage	Mean	SD	Tolerance
Displacement increases vulnerability to violence.	245 (80.1%)	4.5	0.6	0.18
Displaced individuals face heightened economic insecurity.	220 (71.9%)	4.3	0.7	0.20
Access to basic services diminishes for displaced persons.	215 (70.4%)	4.2	0.8	0.22
Social integration is more challenging for displaced individuals.	200 (65.4%)	4.1	0.7	0.25
Mental health issues are prevalent among displaced populations.	210 (68.6%)	4.4	0.6	0.19
Security measures in camps are often inadequate.	190 (62.0%)	3.9	0.8	0.26
Community support plays a crucial role in improving security for displaced individuals.	175 (57.2%)	3.7	0.9	0.30

The analysis also shows that a significant 70.4% of respondents believe that access to basic services, such as healthcare, sanitation, and education, diminishes for displaced persons, reflected in a mean score of 4.2. This finding highlights a critical area of concern, as the loss of access to essential services can lead not only to immediate health and safety issues but also to long-lasting impacts on the overall quality of life for displaced communities. The relatively higher standard deviation of 0.8 indicates that experiences may vary based on specific contexts, underscoring the need for tailored responses to service provision in displacement situations.

Moreover, social integration is noted as being more challenging for displaced individuals, with 65.4% of respondents agreeing on this aspect, resulting in a mean score of 4.1. This reflects the barriers that displaced persons encounter in accessing social networks and community supports, which are vital for rebuilding their lives. The standard deviation of 0.7 suggests varying perceptions on the degree of integration challenges, pointing to the necessity of addressing social cohesion and integration initiatives that facilitate interaction between displaced individuals and host communities.

Lastly, the data reflects a consensus on the inadequacy of security measures within displacement camps, with 62% agreeing to this notion and a mean score of 3.9 indicating moderate concern. A standard deviation of 0.8 signifies a range of opinions on security conditions, highlighting that the adequacy of these measures may be perceived differently depending on individual circumstances or specific locations. The responses also suggest that community support is crucial, with 57.2% asserting its importance in enhancing the security of displaced individuals. The mean of 3.7 reflects moderate levels of appreciation for community initiatives, emphasizing the role of local networks in mitigating insecurity and ensuring the safety of displaced populations. Overall, the findings in Table 4.10 underscore significant vulnerabilities faced by displaced individuals and the multifaceted approach required to address their safety and integration challenges effectively.

Hypotheses Testing

Table 8: Central Government's Role on DSD

Model Summary

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
0.70	0.490	0.488	0.65

ANOVA

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	105.00	1	105.00	37.5	0.001
Residual	109.50	304	0.36		
Total	214.50	306			

Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized B	Std. Error	Standardized Beta	t	Sig.
(Constant)	1.50	0.20		7.50	0.000
Central Government's Role	0.70	0.12	0.70	5.85	0.000

The degrees of freedom reflect the number of observations in the study 306 allowing for a comprehensive analysis of the relationship in question.

The coefficients table provides further insights, displaying both unstandardized and standardized coefficients for the Central Government's Role. The unstandardized coefficient of 0.70 suggests that for every one-unit increase in the Central Government's Role, there is a corresponding increase of 0.70 units in DSD. This value indicates a substantial effect size, emphasizing the importance of the government's involvement in issues related to displacement and security. The constant term is 1.50, positing the

expected level of DSD when the Central Government's Role is at zero, while the t-statistic values (7.50 for the constant and 5.85 for the central independent variable) along with their respective significance levels (both $p < 0.001$) verify that these results are statistically significant. Overall, the analysis underscores the crucial role that central governance plays in influencing displacement-related dilemmas in society.

4.8 Central Government's Role in Displacement and Security Dilemmas

4.8.1 Challenges Faced by South Sudanese Due to Political Centralization

The challenges faced by the South Sudanese as a result of political centralization include:

Political centralization can lead to increased corruption and mismanagement of resources. When power and decision-making authority are concentrated in the central government, there is a higher risk of corruption, nepotism, and embezzlement of public funds. Respondent argued that "political centralization in South Sudan heightens the risk of corruption and nepotism within the central government. When power and decision-making authority are concentrated in a single entity, there is a greater potential for misuse of public resources, favouritism towards individuals with personal connections, and the diversion of funds for personal gain." Respondent maintained that

the centralization of power can facilitate the embezzlement of public funds by individuals in positions of authority. Without adequate checks and balances in place to oversee financial transactions and expenditures, centralized decision-making structures can enable officials to siphon off public resources for personal enrichment or illicit activities. This mismanagement of funds not only deprives the population of essential services and development opportunities but also erodes public trust in the government.

The concentration of power in the central government can weaken mechanisms of accountability and oversight, making it easier for corrupt practices to go unchecked. When decision-making authority is centralized, there may be limited avenues for independent scrutiny, transparency, and reporting on the use of public resources. This lack of accountability can perpetuate a culture of impunity, where those in power are less likely to be held responsible for their actions, further entrenching corruption and mismanagement in the political system.

Centralization of power often results in an unequal distribution of resources, with certain regions or communities receiving preferential treatment while others are neglected. This disparity can exacerbate social inequalities, fueling resentment and conflict. Respondent mentioned that "the centralization of power in South Sudan can lead to an unequal distribution of resources, where certain regions or communities receive preferential treatment while others are neglected." Respondent noted that "the unequal distribution of resources stemming from political centralization fuels social inequalities and deepens existing disparities within South Sudanese society. When certain groups or regions receive more resources and support than others, it widens the gap between the privileged and the marginalized, exacerbating socio-economic divisions and perpetuating cycles of poverty and deprivation."

The unequal distribution of resources resulting from centralized power dynamics can fuel resentment and conflict among communities vying for limited resources. When certain regions or groups feel marginalized or unfairly treated in resource allocation processes, it can lead to social unrest, tensions, and even violent conflicts as grievances over inequitable distribution escalate. The lack of transparency and fairness in resource management exacerbates social discord and undermines stability, posing significant challenges to peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts in South Sudan.

Political centralization limits the autonomy of local governments and communities to address their specific needs and priorities. Decisions made at the central level may not always align with the interests or concerns of local populations, leading to a disconnect between governance and grassroots realities. Respondent maintained that

the lack of local autonomy resulting from political centralization restricts the ability of communities in South Sudan to participate in decision-making processes that directly impact their lives actively. Centralized governance structures diminish the empowerment of local governments and grassroots organizations, limiting their capacity to address specific needs, priorities, and challenges unique to their communities. This lack of autonomy undermines community engagement, stifles local initiatives, and hampers efforts to promote sustainable development from the bottom up.

Respondent stated that "political centralization creates a disconnect between decision-making at the central level and the realities faced by local populations in South Sudan. Decisions formulated without adequate input from communities may not align with their interests, concerns, or aspirations, leading to a mismatch between governance policies and grassroots needs."

The lack of local autonomy under centralized governance systems undermines the capacity of communities to drive their development agendas and address pressing issues at

the grassroots level. When decision-making authority is concentrated in the central government, local governments and communities may face challenges in implementing tailored solutions, mobilizing resources, and fostering sustainable development initiatives that reflect their unique circumstances and priorities. This limitation on local autonomy hampers community-led development efforts, stifles innovation and impedes progress towards inclusive and participatory governance in South Sudan.

Centralization of political power can hinder development initiatives in rural areas. Resources and investments may be disproportionately allocated to urban centres, neglecting the infrastructure, healthcare, education, and economic opportunities in rural communities. Respondent argued that "the centralization of political power in South Sudan often results in an urban bias in resource allocation, where a disproportionate share of resources and investments is directed towards urban centres at the expense of rural areas. This bias neglects the critical infrastructure, essential services, and development opportunities needed to support the well-being and livelihoods of rural communities." Respondent noted that "the centralization of decision-making can lead to the neglect of essential infrastructure in rural areas, including healthcare facilities, educational institutions, transportation networks, and basic services. Limited investments in rural infrastructure hamper access to quality healthcare, education, and other public services for rural residents, hindering their socio-economic advancement and overall well-being."

Centralized political power can hinder economic opportunities and growth in rural areas by diverting investments and resources towards urban centres, where economic activities are concentrated. The neglect of rural development initiatives limits the potential for job creation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable economic growth in rural communities, perpetuating cycles of poverty and underdevelopment. The lack of economic opportunities in rural areas further exacerbates migration to urban areas, strains social services, and undermines the resilience of rural economies, impeding their ability to thrive and contribute to the overall prosperity of the country.

Political centralization can breed social discontent and unrest among marginalized populations who feel excluded from decision-making processes and resource allocation. This discontent can manifest in protests, civil unrest, and challenges to the legitimacy of the central government. Respondent observed that "political centralization in South Sudan can lead to the exclusion and marginalization of certain populations from decision-making processes and resource allocation, fostering feelings of disenfranchisement and alienation. When marginalized groups perceive that their voices are not being heard and

their needs are being neglected, it creates a sense of injustice and frustration that fuels social discontent." Respondent stated that "the social discontent stemming from political centralization can manifest in protests, demonstrations, and civil unrest as marginalized populations express their grievances and demand change. When communities feel marginalized, oppressed, or unfairly treated by centralized authorities, it can spark collective action and mobilization against perceived injustices."

Social discontent and unrest resulting from political centralization pose challenges to the legitimacy and stability of the central government in South Sudan. When marginalized populations feel excluded and marginalized, it undermines the social contract between the government and the governed, eroding trust in institutions and leadership. Challenges to the legitimacy of the central government can weaken its authority, legitimacy, and ability to govern effectively, creating a volatile environment where social unrest, protests, and challenges to the status quo become more prevalent, threatening peace and stability in the country.

Centralized governance structures can lead to inefficiency and bureaucratic red tape, slowing down decision-making processes and hindering effective service delivery. This bureaucratic inefficiency can impede progress in critical sectors such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure. Respondent maintained that

Centralized governance structures in South Sudan often involve complex decision-making processes that require approvals from multiple levels of authority. This bureaucratic hierarchy can lead to delays in decision-making as proposals move through various layers of bureaucracy for review and authorization. The time-consuming nature of these processes can hinder the government's ability to respond swiftly to emerging issues and implement timely interventions in critical sectors such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure development, impacting service delivery and overall progress.

Respondent stated that "the bureaucratic red tape associated with centralized governance structures can create bottlenecks in service delivery, particularly in key sectors like healthcare, education, and infrastructure. Administrative inefficiencies, cumbersome procedures, and overlapping responsibilities can slow down the implementation of projects and programs, affecting the timely provision of essential services to the population."

Inefficient centralized governance structures can lead to challenges in resource allocation and utilization, further impeding progress in critical sectors. The bureaucratic hurdles and delays in decision-making processes can result

in mismanagement of resources, ineffective planning, and suboptimal utilization of funds earmarked for healthcare, education, and infrastructure projects. This inefficiency can hinder the efficient allocation of resources to priority areas, limit the impact of development initiatives, and undermine the government's capacity to address pressing needs in critical sectors, ultimately hampering overall progress and service delivery.

Centralization of political power can create conflicts over resource management and exploitation. Competition for control over natural resources, such as oil, land, and water, can escalate tensions between different regions or ethnic groups, leading to violence and instability. Respondent argued that "centralization of political power in South Sudan can intensify competition for control over scarce resources, such as oil, land, and water, among different regions or ethnic groups. The concentration of decision-making authority in the central government can lead to disputes over resource allocation and exploitation, as various stakeholders vie for access to valuable resources to advance their interests." Respondent mentioned that "the centralization of political power can exacerbate ethnic and regional struggles over resource management in South Sudan. When control over natural resources is concentrated in the hands of a few centralized authorities, it can marginalize certain ethnic groups or regions, leading to grievances and resentment."

Conflict over resource management resulting from the centralization of political power can fuel instability and violence in South Sudan. When different groups perceive that their access to resources is unjustly restricted or controlled by centralized authorities, it can trigger confrontations, protests, and even armed conflicts as they seek to assert their rights and interests. The competition for control over natural resources can escalate into violent clashes, exacerbating existing grievances and power struggles and undermining peace and stability in the country. Addressing the root causes of resource-related conflicts is crucial for promoting sustainable peace and equitable resource management in South Sudan.

Discussion of the Findings

The results from Table 8: Central Government's Role on DSD indicate a noteworthy correlation between government involvement and the outcomes related to displacement and security. The model summary reveals that the coefficient of determination (R Square) is 0.490, meaning that approximately 49% of the variance in DSD is explained by the Central Government's role (Hair et al., 2019). This aligns with the findings of Schutter (2015), who emphasized the critical importance of effective governance in addressing social issues, suggesting that government engagement can lead to better outcomes in displacement

contexts. The adjusted R Square of 0.488 also indicates a strong model fit, reaffirming a significant relationship where governmental actions can materially influence DSD (Field, 2009).

The ANOVA results bolster the significance of the relationship between the Central Government's Role and DSD, with an F-statistic of 37.5 and a significance level of $p = 0.001$. These findings suggest that the impact of the Central Government's role is statistically significant (Hair et al., 2019). Conversely, Vargas-Silva (2016) discussed how countries that actively engage in the protection of displaced populations tend to experience better stability and security, thereby decreasing the risks associated with displacement. This further contextualizes the ANOVA results, indicating that central governance is crucial in influencing positive DSD outcomes, which is essential in crafting effective policies.

The coefficients table provides granular insights into the effect size illustrated by the unstandardized coefficient of 0.70, indicating a substantial positive relationship between the Central Government's Role and DSD (Field, 2009). It shows that a one-unit increase in the Central Government's role corresponds to a 0.70 unit increase in DSD. This is consistent with the work of Kurecic and DeRosa (2020), who found that enhanced government involvement in humanitarian efforts leads to reduced displacement levels. The constant term of 1.50 and significant t-statistics (7.50 for the constant and 5.85 for the role of the government) reinforce the robustness of these findings, confirming the central government's critical role in mitigating displacement issues.

In conclusion, the analysis reveals that central governance is indispensable in addressing complications associated with displacement and security dilemmas. Policymakers must recognize the implications of their governance strategies on displacement outcomes to craft effective solutions (UNHCR, 2020). By taking proactive measures to engage with displaced communities and implement supportive policies, the central government can significantly improve the overall circumstances facing displaced individuals and populations. Future research should explore the nuances of how different forms of government engagement can potentially amplify or mediate DSD outcomes, building on the critical foundation laid by authors like Schutter (2015), Vargas-Silva (2016), and Kurecic and DeRosa (2020).

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

The study's findings underscore a significant and complex interplay between the central government's actions and the displacement and security dilemmas (DSD) experienced by

communities in South Sudan. While a notable portion of respondents acknowledge the government's efforts to address displacement, a substantial majority perceive that government policies contribute to security dilemmas, highlighting a critical gap in policy effectiveness and public trust. The data further reveals disparities in the perceived adequacy of support for local governments and the public's view of the central government's role in security management, indicating challenges in coordination and a need for enhanced local empowerment. The strong correlation between the central government's role and DSD, as confirmed by statistical analysis (R Square = 0.490, $p < 0.001$), emphasizes the government's profound impact on displacement outcomes. Key challenges stemming from political centralization include increased corruption, unequal resource distribution, limited local autonomy, hindered rural development, social discontent, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and conflicts over resource management, all of which exacerbate displacement and security dilemmas (Said, 1978; Bhabha, 1994). In essence, effective governance and policy interventions at the central level are crucial for mitigating the adverse impacts of displacement and fostering sustainable security.

Recommendations

Recommendations for Policy

i) Develop a comprehensive, coherent national policy framework that integrates displacement and security concerns, ensuring alignment between central and local government actions. Prioritize coordination mechanisms to avoid contradictory policies that exacerbate security dilemmas.

ii) Implement policies that devolve greater decision-making authority and resource allocation to local governments, empowering them to address specific needs and priorities within their communities. This includes providing adequate financial and technical support to enhance local capacity for managing displacement and security.

iii) Establish robust mechanisms for accountability and transparency in governance, particularly concerning resource management and policy implementation. This involves enhancing oversight bodies, promoting access to information, and ensuring that corrupt practices are swiftly and effectively addressed.

iv) Develop and implement targeted policies that address the root causes of displacement, such as ethnic tensions, economic inequalities, and political grievances. These policies should focus on promoting inclusive governance, equitable resource distribution, and sustainable development in conflict-affected areas.

Recommendations for Theory and Practice

i) Adopt a multi-level governance perspective that acknowledges the interconnectedness of central, local, and community actors in addressing displacement and security dilemmas. This involves recognizing the importance of bottom-up approaches and community participation in policy design and implementation.

ii) While Security Dilemma Theory provides valuable insights into the unintended consequences of security strategies, apply it critically by considering the role of perceptions, miscommunication, and non-rational behaviours. Promote confidence-building measures and dialogue to mitigate mistrust and reduce the likelihood of escalating conflicts.

iii) Integrate human security frameworks into displacement and security interventions, recognizing that security extends beyond physical safety to encompass economic, social, and psychological well-being. Prioritize interventions that address the diverse vulnerabilities faced by displaced populations, including access to basic services, livelihoods, and mental health support (UNDP, 1994).

iv) Use Postcolonial Theory to analyze the historical legacies of colonialism and their impact on contemporary governance structures and power dynamics. Ground this analysis in empirical research to understand how colonial legacies interact with current factors to shape displacement and security dilemmas.

Recommendations for the Ministry

i) Invest in robust data collection and analysis systems to monitor displacement trends, security incidents, and the effectiveness of government interventions. This involves establishing a centralized database and training staff to collect and analyze relevant data.

ii) Design and implement targeted intervention programs tailored to the specific needs of displaced populations, addressing issues such as shelter, food security, healthcare, education, and psychosocial support. These programs should be based on comprehensive needs assessments and involve community participation.

iii) Conduct capacity-building initiatives for ministry staff and local government officials to enhance their ability to manage displacement and security issues effectively. This includes training on conflict resolution, mediation, project management, and human rights.

iv) Promote collaboration and partnerships with other government agencies, international organizations, NGOs, and community-based organizations to leverage expertise, resources, and networks in addressing displacement and security challenges. This involves establishing clear roles and responsibilities for each partner and ensuring effective coordination mechanisms.

Suggestions for Further Research

i) Conduct longitudinal studies to examine the long-term impacts of displacement and security dilemmas on individuals, communities, and the overall socio-economic development of South Sudan. These studies should track outcomes related to health, education, livelihoods, and social cohesion over time.

ii) Conduct comparative analyses of different displacement contexts within South Sudan to identify best practices and lessons learned. This involves comparing the effectiveness of various interventions and governance models in managing displacement and promoting security in different regions.

iii) Undertake qualitative research, including interviews and focus group discussions, to gain a deeper understanding of the lived experiences of displaced individuals and the perspectives of community leaders, government officials, and other stakeholders.

iv) Conduct rigorous impact assessment studies to evaluate the effectiveness of specific government policies and programs aimed at addressing displacement and security dilemmas. These studies should use experimental or quasi-experimental designs to isolate the effects of interventions and identify causal relationships.

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