

THE EXTENT TO WHICH NGOS HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION BETWEEN THE MVOLO AND YIROL: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY.

Simon Yeng, Moses Oyena, Dr. Muhamad SSendagi*
School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Team University.

Page | 1 **Abstract**

Background

This study aims to examine the extent to which NGOs have been engaged in conflict resolution between the Mvolo and Yirol.

Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive research design. The researcher will use both primary and secondary data sources to collect the data for the study. The researcher used questionnaires to gather the data

Results

In terms of gender, males were 52.1% while females were 47.9%, the study established that non-governmental organizations have played a giant play in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. They have become important players in building bridges of peace and reconciliation among the Mvolo and Yirol, through providing humanitarian assistance, meeting basic needs, providing health services, building and equipping schools, and rehabilitating warriors from both communities into productive social activities like football clubs to create unity. This has greatly continued to improve relationships, peace, and stability along the border areas of Mvolo and Yirol.

Conclusion

The study wishes to conclude that both the governments of Western Equatorial and Lake States should consider using Non-Governmental Organizations in settling disputes along their borders since they have proved to be more effective in conflict resolution, their activities on development in these border areas have made them neutral, liberal and non-partisan in any conflict management, earning them more trust and confidence from the local's population in these areas.

Recommendation

Both state governments of the two counties should consider partnering with Non-Governmental Organizations and the village elders in providing water through drilling boreholes, and joint markets, and deploying joint police petrol at the border points, this will greatly help reduce conflicts that originate from scarcity of water during prolonged droughts which lead to scramble for the available little water for their livestock.

Keywords: Extent, NGOs, Engaged, Conflict Resolution, Mvolo and Yirol.

Submitted: 2024-01-03 Accepted: 2024-01-18

*Corresponding author: Dr. Muhamad SSendagi**

Email: Sendagimoh@gmail.com

School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Team University.

Background of the study

Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) are non-profit organizations that operate across the world protecting and preventing different societies that are deemed vulnerable for the collective common good and promoting their living standards for a better future. These organizations deal with different issues across the globe. On many occasions, these issues can be addressed in three different frameworks which may vary based on the focus of a given debate. One of them is looking at world politics and how to stabilize global political temperatures, another is to participate in global community social activities and make the less developed communities compete globally, and finally, they strengthen the institutional legal framework of different states (Ayaz, 2016). For decades the Mvolo and Yirol communities have

adopted an agricultural and pastoral lifestyle respectively and engaged in a constant conflict mainly over access to land and control of resources such as water points and pasture for their animals which has graduated to constant raids and cattle rustling. These conflicts are mainly cross-border conflicts caused by inadequate pasture/water in Yirol, food supply, and high levels of illiteracy. On many occasions what is planned from different counties and executed in the other counties often tension and animosity is evident among the two communities. Blood spills and fatalities are evident when the state intervenes to quell violence from the rival parties (Stites, Akabwai, Mazurana & Ateyo, 2007).

Despite Non-Governmental Organizations being effective tools of conflict resolution along the Mvolo and Yirol border it has not been used to address conflict

among the communities cross border conflict. Therefore, it is on this ground research that this study will be conducted to examine the extent to which Non-governmental organizations have been engaged in conflict resolution with a specific focus on the Mvolo and Yirol communities along their border.

Methodology

Research Design

The study adopted a descriptive research design. Descriptive studies give a roadmap of the study and will seek to find the how, what, and where of a phenomenon (Khawaja, Haim, & Dileep, 2012). This research, therefore, will simplify the findings to the cluster communities and other similar communities. This method seeks to passionately investigate the problem that is significant to the study's research problem. The research project will focus on establishing the role of International Non-governmental organizations in conflict resolution with a specific focus on Mvolo-Yirol cross-border conflicts.

Target Population

The research population precisely will comprise International Non-Governmental Organizations and agencies such as USIP, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), World Vision, the International Organization for Migration IOM, Red Cross, World Food Program (WFP), Mercy-Corp, USAID, and local partners like ONAD, New Tribe, Women Aid Vision (WAV), Capacity Development Centre (CDC), Stakeholders like Traditional Chiefs, Civic leaders, senior security personnel, representatives of religious leaders and other Faith-based groups, in Mvolo and Yirol Counties in Lake State.

Sampling Procedures and Sample Size

The research will use questionnaires on the Mvolo-Yirol cross-border conflict and many other secondary sources as they appear on the references page. Data collection through the sampling method will allow the focus of data to be collected only on the sub-group data and not on all the possible areas of study. Both probability and non-probability sampling methods will be used in the research. Since the target population is above 100,000, the stratified random sample size will be derived from Morgan's formula as pointed out by Chua Lee Chuan, (2006)

Data Sources and Instruments

The researcher will use both primary and secondary data sources to collect the data for the study. The primary source included questionnaires while secondary sources included journal articles, books, media publications,

internet, and previous research by employing content analysis. The researcher used questionnaires to gather the data. Hence the selection of tools was guided by the nature of the data that was collected and the time available for the research. According to Xu, (2015), a questionnaire is a very important data collection tool since it allows a large amount of data to be collected within a shorter period and covers a broader geographical area. Given that the research was mostly concerned with opinions, views, and perceptions hence the information was collected through the use of questionnaires (Bowling, 2005)

Data Collection Procedure

The researcher will use questionnaires for all the individual respondents. Both qualitative and quantitative data will be collected during the process. Secondary data is data gathered for other purposes in different fields and is used in this current project. This type of data is retrieved and analyzed from different published sources and is also generated separately from sources such as annual reports and published data. Normally, secondary data is acquired from libraries, organizations, companies, the internet, media publications, and research centers among others.

Data Analysis and Presentation

This part involves organizing, interpreting, analyzing, and presenting data collected. Data analysis required sorting and verifying questionnaires to ensure completeness of the data needed and to check if items were coded correctly. The analysis of Quantitative data was done using descriptive statistics using Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) since it has been the most recent efficient data presentation version, it will enable the data to be presented in different forms of percentages, frequencies, means, and standard deviations. The researcher utilized graphs, pie charts, and prose form, this was done by tallying and computing the percentage of the variations in response. Interpreting and describing data putting into consideration the assumption and objective by using SPSS to interpret the research results. Content analysis will be used to analyze the qualitative data from the open-ended questionnaires. This study was mainly interested in establishing the effect on Non-Governmental Organizations in the Conflict Resolution case study of Mvolo Yirol cross-border conflict.

Results

The Demographic Characteristics of Key Respondents

The following tables and pie charts indicate the gender of the respondents, category of respondents, age of the respondents, their frequency, and percentage distribution.

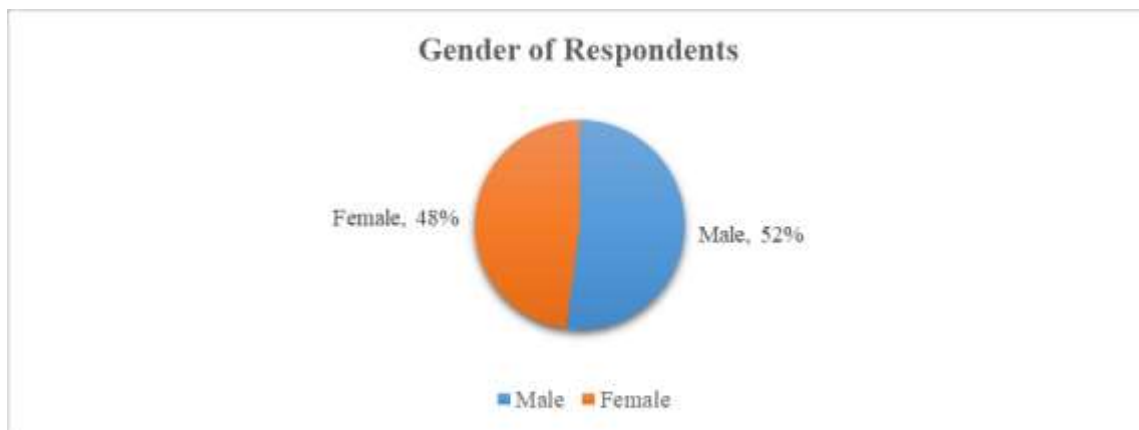


Figure 1: Gender Response

Figure 1 explains that there was a fair representation in terms of gender, with males standing at 52.1% while females at 47.9%, however, this balance can be explained by the nature of the Mvolo Yiol border area which is the border route to both countries, presence of primary and

secondary schools on the Mvolo side as seen several women being educated from both counties. However, the few that the study managed to capture were in NGO offices, schools, Dispensaries, chiefs' offices, and some along the roads in the border region

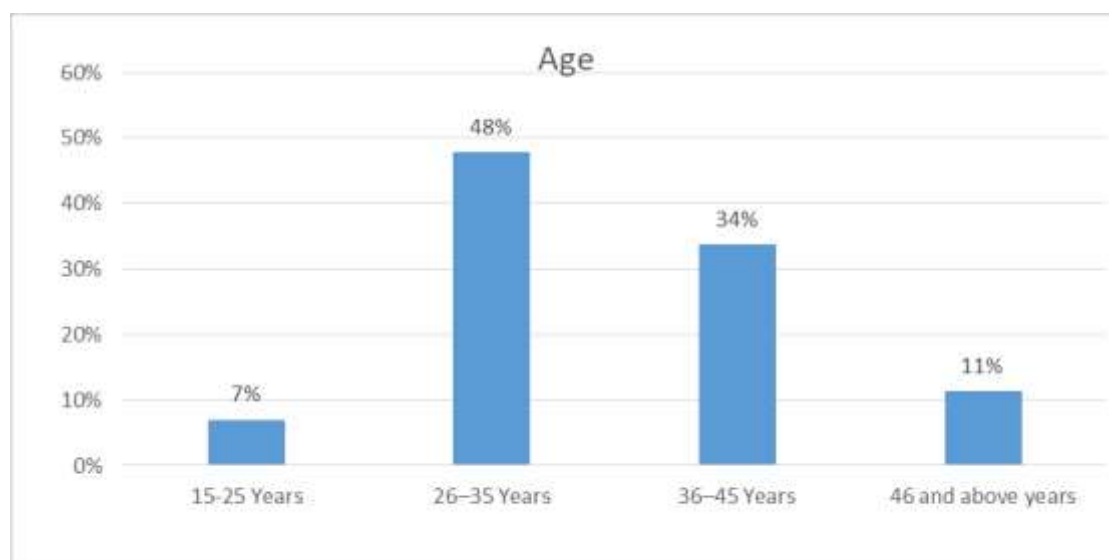


Figure 1: Age Response

Figure 1 explains the age distribution of the respondent and their respective distribution in percentages. 5 respondents between the age of 15-25 which represented 7%. 34 respondents between the age of 26-35 represented 47.9%. 24 respondents between the age of 36-45 which represented 33.8%. and 8 respondents above 46 years old represented 11.3%. The study found that the highest number of the respondents within the region were youths aged between 26 and 35 years respectively which gives a clear testimony that the majority of youths that the study captured knew the presence of non-governmental organizations in the region.

The Extent to which NGOs have Engaged in Conflict Resolution

NGOs have played a leading role in ensuring that peace and stability are achieved and ensure that both the Mvolo and the Yiol communities live in harmony respectively. Series of peace meetings have been carried out by NGOs in the region, providing foodstuff, civic education, sensitization to both communities on the importance of peaceful coexistence, playing a mediatory role, providing guidance to community and village elders, ensuring that development is realized in the region, providing psychological therapy and rehabilitation of cattle rustlers.

Table 1: Efforts made by USIP-supported partners and others to ensure that Peace is Realized.

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	4	6%
Disagree	12	17%
Neutral	14	20%
Agree	17	24%
strongly agree	24	34%
Total	71	100%

Table 1 shows the effort that different non-governmental organizations have made in Mvolo Yirol border areas towards the realization of peace. From the study, it is evident that out of the 71 respondents, 24 respondents strongly agree that non-governmental organizations have contributed towards the realization of peace representing 33.8% of the total respondents, while 17 respondents representing 23.9% agree on the non-governmental organizations' contribution to peace, 14 respondents

could not agree or disagree and choose to remain neutral representing 19.7% of the total respondents, 12 respondents representing 16.9% disagreed on the Non-governmental organizations effort towards peace realization, 4 respondent representing 5.6% of the total respondents strongly disagreed on the efforts Non-governmental organizations play in ensuring that peace is realized.

Table 2: Civil Societies at the Center Stage of Quelling Violence

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	1%
Disagree	16	23%
Neutral	23	32%
Agree	22	31%
strongly agree	9	13%
Total	71	100%

Table 2 shows how the civil society organization has been at the center stage in quelling violence in the Yirol Mvolo border areas, with 9 respondents representing 12.7% strongly agreeing. 22 respondents representing

31% agreed. 23 respondents representing 32.4% stalled neutral. 16 respondents representing 22.5% disagreed. 1 respondent representing 1.4% strongly disagreed.

Table 3: NGOs Have Greatly Contributed to Resolution of Conflict

	Frequency	Percentage
Disagree	4	5.60%
Neutral	9	12.70%
Agree	26	36.60%
strongly agree	32	45.10%
Total	71	100%

Table 3 shows the efforts of non-government organizations on have greatly contributed to the resolution of conflict in the Mvolo Yirol border region. 32 respondents representing 45.1% strongly agree. 26

respondents representing 36.6% agreed, 9 respondents representing 12.7% stayed neutral, while 4 respondents representing 5.6% disagreed, and none of the respondents strongly disagreed.

Table 4: Conflict has Attracted Neutral Parties to Officiate Peace Building Process

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	3	4%
Disagree	8	11%
Neutral	18	25%
Agree	19	27%
strongly agree	23	32%
Total	71	100%

Table 4 shows how conflict has attracted neutral parties to office in the peacebuilding peace-building Mvolo Yiol cross-border region. 23 respondents representing 32.4% strongly agreed, 19 respondents representing 26.8%

agreed, 18 respondents representing 25.4% stayed neutral, 8 respondents representing 11.3% disagreed, and 3 respondents representing 4.2% strongly disagreed.

Table 5: NGOs Conflict Resolution through Mediation

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	3	4%
Disagree	9	13%
Neutral	13	18%
Agree	20	28%
strongly agree	26	37%
Total	71	100%

Table 5 shows how non-governmental organizations have played a wider broader mediatory role in resolving conflict. 26 respondents representing 36.6% strongly agree, 20 respondents representing 28.2% agreed, 13 respondents representing

18.3% stayed neutral, 9 respondents representing 12.7% disagreed, while 3 respondents representing 4.2% strongly disagreed

Table 6: NGOs (USIP) have been very Instrumental in Conflict Resolution

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	2	3%
Disagree	7	10%
Neutral	11	16%
Agree	22	31%
strongly agree	29	41%
Total	71	100%

Table 6 shows how non-governmental organizations have been very instrumental in conflict resolution in the Yiol Mvolo border conflict. 29 respondents representing 41% strongly agreed, 22 respondents representing

31% agreed, 11 respondents representing 15.5% opted to stay neutral, 7 respondents representing 9.9% disagreed and 2 respondents representing 2.8% strongly disagreed.

Table 7: National Policymakers on NGOs for guidance

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	1%
Disagree	5	7%
Neutral	12	17%
Agree	10	14%
strongly agree	43	61%
Total	71	100%

Table 7 shows how national policymakers have always turned to non-governmental organizations for guidance. 43 respondents representing 60.6% strongly agreed, 10 respondents representing 14.1% agreed, 12 respondents

representing 16.9% opted to stay neutral, 5 respondents representing 7% disagreed, and 1 respondent representing 1.4% strongly disagreed.

Table 8: Negotiation as an Effective Way of Resolving Dispute

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	2	3%
Disagree	4	6%
Neutral	13	18%
Agree	26	37%
strongly agree	26	37%
Total	71	100%

Table 8 shows how negotiation is the most favorable way of action taken by the parties in resolving the dispute along the Mvolo Yiroi cross-border conflict. 26 respondents representing 36.6% strongly agreed, 26

respondents representing 36.6% agreed, 13 respondents representing 18.3% opted to stay neutral, 4 respondents representing 5.6% disagreed, and 2 respondents representing 2.8% strongly disagreed.

Table 9: World Food Program in Food Distribution

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	2	3%
Disagree	3	4%
Neutral	10	14%
Agree	27	38%
strongly agree	29	41%
Total	71	100%

Table 9 shows how the World Food Program is a lot in food distribution to Mvolo and Yiroi counties in Lake State. 29 respondents representing 40.8% strongly agreed, 27 respondents representing 38% agreed, 10

respondents representing 14.1% opted to stay neutral, 3 respondents representing 4.2% disagreed, while 2 respondents representing 2.8% strongly disagreed.

Table 10: Effect of Conflict Resolution and Peace Initiative Program on Children

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	1%
Disagree	5	7%
Neutral	23	32%
Agree	25	35%
strongly agree	17	24%
Total	71	100%

Table 10 shows how children should be included in the peace initiative program since they are also affected in one way or another. 17 respondents representing 23.9% strongly agreed, 25 respondents representing 35.2%

agreed, 23 respondents representing 32.4% opted to stay neutral, 5 respondents representing 7% disagreed, and 1 respondent representing 1.4% strongly disagreed.

Table 11: Relationship between Poverty and Conflict

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	1	1
Disagree	6	9
Neutral	1	1
Agree	3	4
strongly agree	1	2
Total	7	1

This table shows how the relationship between poverty and conflict goes hand in hand between the Mvolo and Yirol communities. 19 respondents representing 26.8% strongly agreed, 34 respondents representing 47.9%

agreed, 11 respondents representing 15.5% opted to stay neutral, 6 respondents representing 8.5% disagreed, and 1 respondent representing 1.4% strongly disagreed.

Table 12: Cattle Rustling with the help of small arms as Fueled Mvolo and Yirol Border Conflict

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	1%
Disagree	8	11%
Nneutral	17	24%
Neutral	24	34%
strongly agree	21	30%
Total	71	100%

Table 12 shows how cattle rustling is practiced with the help of small arms escalating the conflict in the cross-border conflict among the Mvolo and Yirol. 21 respondents representing 29.6% strongly agreed, 24 respondents representing 33.8% agreed, 17 respondents representing 23.9% opted to stay neutral, 8 respondents representing 11.3% disagreed, while 1 respondent representing 1.4% strongly disagreed.

Discussion

The respondents observed that different factors have influenced the cross-border conflicts between the Mvolo and Yirol people and how the Non-Governmental Organizations have been very instrumental in resolving conflict between the two rival communities, being agricultural and pastoral communities respectively. Yirol people keep cows, goats, sheep, donkeys, and camels for their day-to-day survival, and

so the communities in Mvolo mostly grow crops of all kinds for their livelihoods, however, due to changing climatic conditions such as prolonged drought season and famine-led to depletion of pasture and the little available water for the animals becomes a rear commodity. Hence for the cattle keepers of the Yirol people, the changing trend of herding animals from one place to another in search of pasture and water due to its scarcity in different territories has fueled conflict, and over time because of insecurity and mistrust, it has made both

communities to have constant conflicts, violence and creating worrying relationships as both communities lost their loved ones and property.

The study purposed to find out whether Non-Governmental Organizations operating in the study areas play a big role in conflict resolution among the Mvolo and Yiröl in times of conflict. This study confirms the arguments of Blair and Lacy, (2000) that conflict resolution in this case through representatives from the NGOs who participated in a constructive and practical dialogue was based on consultation and negotiations of issues, ideas, and facts to arrive at a common ground. This approved solution favors both sides for a win-win scenario. It was observed that conflict resolution can be achieved through diplomacy.

The study also found that peacebuilding in an African setting should be advocated by the native community members. When the majority of Non-Governmental Organizations and donors fully involved the natives in the whole process yielded fruits confirming the words of Mung'ou (2018), the study further established that the connection between NGOs in the region and poverty has yielded fruits.

The provision of medical services drugs and food to the rival communities by the Non-governmental organizations has greatly helped in resolving conflict and peace building.

Conclusion

The study wishes to conclude that both the government of Western Equatoria and Lake States should consider using Non-governmental Organizations in settling disputes along its borders since they have proved to be more effective in conflict resolution, their activities on development in this border areas have made them neutral, liberal and non-partisan in any conflict management, earning them more trust and confidence from the locals population in these areas.

I thank my everlasting God for the time, sustenance, wisdom, knowledge, and strength He has graciously accorded me to write this research proposal. I express my gratitude towards my friends of 2021 for their moral support throughout the semester. I thank my entire family for their prayers and encouragement to strive in pursuit of a master's degree. Lastly, I appreciate my lecturer Oyena Moses for instilling the knowledge of research in a very vigorous and intensive manner; I learned a great deal about research

List of Abbreviations

INGOs International Non-Governmental Organizations
 NGOs Non-Governmental Organizations
 UN United Nations AU African Union EU European Union
 NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization
 CSOs Civil Society Organizations
 UNHCR United Nations High Commission for Refugees

MPC Myanmar Peace Center
 UNFC United Nationalities Federal Council
 CLO Civil Liberty Organization
 RC Red Cross
 AI Amnesty International
 MDC Movement for Democratic ChangeCCSF
 Church and Civil Society Forum
 CCJP Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace
 USIP United States Institute of Peace
 LRF Legal Resource Foundation
 PPNT Permanent Peace Negotiation Team
 PBWG Peace Building Working Group
 CRO Conflict Resolution Non-Governmental Organize
 NPI Nairobi Peace Institute

Source of funding

The study was not funded.

Conflict of interest

The author had no conflict of interest.

Author Biography

Simon Yeng, Master Student of Arts Public Administration and Management at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences Team University.

References

- 1) Ayaz, A. T. (2016). The Role of International Non-governmental Organizations (NGO) in preserving international peace and security. *International Academic Journal of Social Sciences*, 3(6), 48–52.
- 2) Blair, J., & Lacy, M. G. (2000). from the SAGE Social Science Collections. Rights
- 3) Reserved. *Sociological Methods & Research*, 28(3), 251–280.
- 4) Bowling, A. (2005). Mode of questionnaire administration can have serious effects on data quality. *Journal of Public Health*, 27(3), 281–291
- 5) Khawaja, K., Haim, H., & Dileep, K. (2012). Get Along With Quantitative Research
- 6) Process. *International Journal of Research in Management*, 2(2), 15–29.
- 7) LeeChuan R., & M., M. (2010). Organized crime and the efforts to combat it: A concern for public health. *Globalization and Health*, 6, 15–17.
- 8) Stites, E., Akabwai, D., Mazurana, D., & Ateyo, P. (2007). Angering Akuju : Survival and Suffering in Karamoja. *Tufts University Feinstein International Center*, (December), 43.
- 9) Xu, X. (2015). MICU1 mutation: A genetic cause for a type of neuromuscular disease in children. *Clinical Genetics*, 87(4), 327–328.

SJ Business Research Africa

[Vol. 1 No. 1 \(2024\): January 2024 Issue](#)

<https://doi.org/10.51168/sjbusiness.v1i1.44>

Original Article

Publisher details:

Page | 9

SJC PUBLISHERS COMPANY LIMITED



Category: Non-Government & Non-profit Organisation

Contact: +256775434261(WhatsApp)

Email: admin@sjpublisher.org, info@sjpublisher.org or studentsjournal2020@gmail.com

Website: <https://sjpublisher.org>

Location: Wisdom Centre Annex, P.O. BOX. 113407 Wakiso, Uganda, East Africa.