

The Aftermath of Disarmament on Community Security in Warrap State, South Sudan: The Case of Gogrial East County

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ABSTRACT

South Sudan has been in the limelight for security-related issues stretching beyond the independence and autonomy of the country. The insecurity saw many people armed with weapons in pursuit of protecting themselves from the constant insecurity. Traditionally, security issues were confined to the realm of states; however, a new emerging paradigm of security has given the community a say on these issues by putting the individual at the center of the debate. The fundamental indicators of community security in Gogrial East in the aftermath of disarmament are the safety of the local people in their communities, the protection of their animals while grazing in fields and at watering points, their security at home, their protection against raid attacks from armed clans, and human killings involving firearms. The purpose of the study was to establish the aftermath of civilian disarmament in Warrap State, South Sudan. This study was guided by the Post-Modernist Approach and Neo-Realist Approach theories. The study utilized a qualitative research design. The target population was 146,276. The village elders in the area of study, youth who serve as warriors in the cattle camps, and members of the Peace Committees in the homesteads formed the sample size. Additionally, representatives of law enforcement officers (LEOs) from the Sudan People's Defense Force, South Sudan National Police Services, and the Community Police. Lastly, the study incorporated key informants (KI) such as politicians, CSOs, and community elders. The study adopted purposive sampling, stratified sampling, and random sampling with the strata of interest; a sample size of 110 using Mugenda and Mugenda and Borg and Gall formulas was used. Primary and secondary data collection were used. Questionnaires, interview guides, and focus group discussions were the data collection instruments. The study adopted multiple sources of data, ranging from primary to secondary. Both quantitative and qualitative techniques were used for data analysis and presentation. The data obtained was presented in percentages, pie charts, bar graphs, and tables. The qualitative data captured was analyzed using a narrative approach. The study found that the government of South Sudan and the military comprehend their role to protect the state, but more importantly, the people of South Sudan as stipulated in the constitution, especially those affected by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. On a positive note, the level of state security after the disarmament of 2018, especially the security of the local people in their communities and the safety of their animals while grazing in fields and at watering points, there is security at their homes (cattle camps), and their protection against raid attacks from armed clans and human killings involving firearms in Gogrial East County is significantly safer currently. As the SSPDF continues to refine the disarmament program and operations in Gogrial East, the need for increased focus on community security has also increased. The study recommends that state and civil society organizations should look for ways to supplement community safety initiatives by funding educational and employment-generating initiatives so that children, youth, the unemployed, and other marginalized groups have more opportunities to secure gainful employment. This process will address some of the root causes of personal, community, and national insecurity. Mental disarmament of communities rather than physical disarmament is preferred. If the communities are mentally disarmed to fully understand the danger of illegal firearms and get assurance of their protection by the government, they will voluntarily surrender their arms.

Keywords: Community Security, Disarmament, Gogrial East County, Proliferation of Small Arms, South Sudan, Warrap State

I. INTRODUCTION

Disarmament is defined by the United Nations (UN) as the process of “collection, documentation, control, and disposal of small arms, ammunition, and light and heavy responsible arms management programs” that includes both the establishment of trustworthy programs for managing arms and the ammunition of adversaries and civilians (UN, 2006). In order to cut down on military spending, the primary goal of disarmament during World War II and during the Cold War was military disarmament (Vignard, 2003). States were urged to cut back on military spending on the grounds that doing so would facilitate spending on economic development and other domestic priorities like education and technological advancements (Knight et al., 1993).

Cooper (2006) notes that the focus was mostly on maintaining the military superiority of the Super Powers during the Cold War and the post-Cold War dominance of the West and the United States. Cooper goes on to say that



when civil wars increased, the idea of post-conflict disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) was added to disarmament discourses. The goal of this procedure was to improve peace and stability while putting an end to civil wars. In some cases, such as Mozambique and El Salvador, the implementation of DDR programs resulted in peace, but in others, like Angola, there was little success and the fighting resumed (Cooper, 2006).

In the 21st century in particular, the United Nations has played a pivotal role in fostering collaboration over small arms control. The UN Conference on the "Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons" in all of its areas was a highly important endeavour. It happened in New York in 2001. States committed to addressing small arms manufacture, distribution, and the destruction they wreak during the meeting (Dye, 2009). The UN Programme on "Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illegal Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons" was later developed as another international tool. This document, also referred to as the UN Programme of Action (UNPoA), provided states with instructions and recommendations on how to establish and reinforce national and regional controls over SALW. A further endeavour was the United Nations Protocol to Prevent the Illicit Production and Trade of Weapons, Their Parts and Components, and Ammunition. Prior to the UN Conference, the African Union established the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the illicit manufacturing, distribution, and trafficking of small guns and light ammunition (Dye, 2009).

The declaration sought the cooperation of all African governments to address the manufacturing and distribution of SALW, seeing it as a corporate issue that affected the entire continent. The Bamako Declaration was submitted to the UN Conference in 2001 with full support. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Convention on SALW, their ammunition, and other associated materials was formed in 2006, and other regional measures have also been enacted (Dye, 2009). One such measure is the one pertaining to West Africa. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on the "Control of Firearms, Ammunition, and Other Related Materials" was created and approved in the Southern African Subregion in 2001.

Additionally, "The Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of the Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons 2001" was a sign of the subscribing countries' commitment to addressing the shared issue of illicit weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa. "The Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control, and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons" was formed in 2004 throughout the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa in accordance with the *Nairobi Declaration*. The Nairobi Protocol has legal force, in contrast to the politically binding *Nairobi Declaration*. Member states are required under the Nairobi Declaration and Nairobi Protocol to establish National Focal Points on SALW and institutions that are in charge of managing small arms issues at the national level (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute [SIPRI], 2005). Despite these initiatives geared towards peaceful coexistence within national and international borders in Africa, there are perennial wars and conflicts in various countries. Most notable include South Sudan and Warrap, specifically Gogrial East County. People living in this part of the country have had to live in a lot of fear and tension due to insecurity directly linked to the proliferation of SALW. There has been lamentation over both internal and external factors contributing to the insecurity attached to how firearms are managed among the pastoralists' communities. Notably, there has been a relatively low presence of security personnel, but there have been numerous challenges around resources such as water and grazing land (Gebreselassie, 2018). One of the arms management strategies that have been proposed and implemented is the disarmament of civilian pastoralists. According to Mkutu (2008), effective disarmament of civilian pastoralists can reduce the chances of recurrent gun violence. Consequently, disarmament can be a foundation on which socio-economic and socio-political social development can be realized.

The South Sudan government used forceful disarmament to confiscate guns, with the ultimate objective of restoring community security, which it hoped would create a conducive environment for socio-economic recovery and development in Gogrial East County at this point in time. The state, through presidential executive order, directed the national army to launch "cordon and search" disarmament operations to forcefully confiscate guns from tribesmen in Gogrial East. Prior to the operations, insecurity was prevalent due to the proliferation of illicit SALW in Warrap State. The insecurity caused stagnation in the community in terms of human development (Gebreselassie, 2018). The government of South Sudan identified disarmament as a key element to enhance security and arrest the rise of gun violence in Gogrial East County. This explains the increase in levels of national interest in formulating and implementing disarmament policies as the main strategy for securing the nation. With the insurgence of insecurity in one part of the county affecting the other part of the same either directly or indirectly in Gogrial East County, the government prioritized disarmament.

Although in many parts of the world where disarmament has been linked to some success in community security, it is acknowledged that stakeholder participation is critical, but the implementation of the same has not been effected in Gogrial East County. Inasmuch as the government appreciates involving the main stakeholders, that is, the civilians in the affected area, the same government does not have a proper and effective stakeholder involvement strategy or fails



to comply with the policies aimed at fully involving the civilians. In the long run, what is achieved is disarmament itself, not security, which is the ultimate objective of the program. Substantive impact on community security ultimately has to get at the community level (Carames & Sanz, 2008).

1.1 Statement of the Problem

To restore peace and secure civilians, the government has initiated disarmament as a logical strategy to curb the possession and use of illegal guns among civilians and the gun violence associated with them. Due to the increasing proliferation of SALW, cattle rustling and community insecurity had become severe, with many people being killed in the conflicts in Gogrial East County. It was not until 2018, when the government introduced the disarmament campaign “Search and Cordon,” that the conflicts calmed down but did not end. Many pastoralists were opposed to the disarmament and thus reluctant to do so because they wanted to be guaranteed their security in the short and long run (Saferworld, 2018).

As noted by Muhereza (1999), civilians get hesitant about government security measures because, in most cases, they are left on their own and the government only intervenes when matters escalate to threaten national security. As such, security at the grassroots level concerns civilians more than they would think about national security. The dissatisfaction with the government’s initiative to address the security and safety of citizens leads to the conclusion that civilians’ possession of firearms could offer more security as opposed to having none. Post-conflict peace is the launch pad for an enabling environment in which sustainable peace and development can be achieved in volatile communities. Unfortunately, most of the disarmament programs, particularly those implemented in Africa, do not significantly appreciate the essence of community participation (Solomon & Ginifer, 2008).

Specker (2008) argues that in many African countries, community security has been so state-centered that the corresponding disarmament programs often sideline the grassroots stakeholders who bear the heaviest burden of insecurity. Consequently, the implementation of disarmament is not based on specific community security needs. Since the initiation of the disarmament program by the Government of South Sudan in 2008, there has never been clear documentation on the success of the program. This research therefore found out the aftermath of the disarmament initiative on the security of the communities as well as its influences on other processes that shape specific security inferences in Gogrial East County.

1.2 Research Objective

- (i) The objective of the Study was to establish the aftermath of disarmament on community security in Warrap State, South Sudan

1.3 Research Question

- (i) What is the impact of disarmament initiatives on the incidence of violence and conflict in Gogrial East County, Warap State?

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Review

According to Wasike and Odhiambo (2016), “everyone uses theories, whether they know it or not. One cannot analyze data without resorting to causal explanations. But theories often lack the specificity needed to make and implement decisions. As a result, policymakers are often dismissive of the value of theories. No single theory captures the complexity of contemporary world politics. The study used postmodernism and neo-realist theories.

2.1.1 Post-Modernist Theory

Some proponents of postmodernism are Foucault (1977) and Baudrillard (1994). Michel Foucault's ideas gave rise in the 1970s and '80s to philosophical postmodernism, a movement characterized by broad epistemological skepticism and ethical subjectivism, a general suspicion of reason, and an acute sensitivity to the role of ideology in asserting and maintaining political and economic power, while Jean Baudrillard alludes to the fact that what has happened in postmodern culture is that our society has become so reliant on models and maps that we have lost all contact with the real world that preceded the map. The framework of postmodernism consists of four perspectives toward it. Philosophical perspective that believes postmodernism is evidence of a vacuum in the absence of modernity itself. The historical perspective that sees the postmodern turn away from the modernity movement or of a rejection of some aspects. The political-ideological perspective sees the postmodern erosion of the illusions of Western ideology. The



strategic perspective believes that the approach to the texts of postmodernism does not comply with methodological standards; there is not a single reading but an open and multiple reading (Alruwaili, 2002).

A post-modernist, otherwise popularly alluded to as “critical human security,” is rooted within the pluralist theory of impassive politics and represents a shift in how community security should be perceived. This theory makes several assumptions with regards to the preexisting notions of community security. In the argument, the theory provides that the primary referent of security is the state, but rather the primary consumer of security. This is relevant to this study because the concepts of disarmament and community security came after World War 1.

2.1.2 Neo-Realist Theory

The neo-realist theory of security argues that community security must always be considered alongside state security because no security can be achieved with either of the two lacking. Partly, the theory equates state security with community security, although the state is far wider than the community in the context of this study. Buzaoniakes writes on “the fate of human collectivities” as being the chief object or referent of community security. In this argument, “human collectivities” refers to citizens and civilians. The state comes into light because it represents “human collectivities” (Buzan, 2000).

Buzan maintains that the state can act as the source of both security and security for the community. In this light, the citizens have to decide what is less of a threat and more of a benefit as far as their evaluation is concerned. Although his arguments make sense, they fail to demonstrate how a state mandated to protect its citizens can at times be. The assumption is that whatever threats emanate from the state are likely to have a more serious impact than those arising from the community. As a result, the threats intensify as society grows to rely more and more on the state as the foundation of social and economic security institutions. The state and society can work together to provide community security, but they can also work against each other at times. Ultimately, it all comes down to survival (Buzan, 2000).

Globally, security is a concept that requires unremitting improvement and can only be informed by a continuous analysis of the community’s security needs and challenges. Problems which emanate from amenable technical solutions should form the focus of the improvements (Johnston, 2006). Foucault (1991), in his essay, opines that the government mentality is all about an effort at structuring human behaviour since the government's priority has always been its citizens’ welfare. The preparedness of the government to improve its delivery of security through the adoption of disarmament where necessary is always a concern for the citizens’ security because the disarmament approach is often not centered on the citizen. The citizens hold that they should participate in the identification of the gaps before the disarmament can be rolled out.

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2.2 Empirical Review

For a long time, the concept of security has been broader, referring to the security of both the state and individual citizens (Rothschild, 1995). As can be traced among the Greeks, the city-state distinctly defined security prerequisites



for human development and well-being (MacFarlane & Khong, 2006). In Rome, “*securitas*” was used to express safety, comfort, and liberation from worries (Rothschild, 1995). The same applies to Latin, in which the terms “*securitas*” were used in reference to tranquility and freedom from worries, or “Cicero” was termed the absence of apprehension with which life cannot be fulfilled. Notably, many government and international diplomatic reports equate security with freedom from fear, which then emphasizes the pluralist notion that security is an indispensable and fundamental human need (Liotta, 2002).

According to Walt (1991), security studies started before World War II. During that time, strategic military issues were a domain for the professional military only, while scholarly studies on security, defense, and peacekeeping were addressed in military and diplomatic chronicles. The realization of the weight of the human cost effects of World War I (WW1) and the successive scrutiny of its connection with politics and the military instigated the development of the perspective that war was not something to be left to the generals alone but needed collaboration and cooperation with civilians. This ideology paved the way for extensive civilian participation and involvement in the planning of military operations during World War II. This involvement and participation of the civilians was a new dawn with the revelation that community security could not succeed without the individual citizens at the grass roots being part of the deal. In other words, community security can only be measured by the degree of physical safety, basic freedoms, well-being, and sustainable prosperity of the civilians. In ethical terms, human security is a systemic practice and process that stimulates and procures stability and security. Security is achieved through the progressive incorporation of individual citizens within their relationships with the state, society, and community (Halliday, 1994).

Despite the recognition of the central role of the civilian after the end of the Cold War, more conflicts have been witnessed between civilians than between countries. Many civilians have faced direct threats from their fellow civilians rather than from across national territories. Reports indicate that more people have died at the hands of civilian attacks from within their countries. In most cases, threats and conflicts arise from within due to tension created by competition for resources such as land, pasture, and water, among others. The situation has seen a lot of discussion focused more on community security than national security (Hobbes, 1983). Consequently, civilians’ participation has been encouraged as a measure of taking care of the interests of the community. However, critics, including Axworthy (2001), propose that the meaning of the word “security” should shift in the post-Cold War era due to the emergence of a focus on the “human element”, represented by the human or individual. It should, however, be noted that the human element does not challenge the supremacy of the military but rather complements and makes the security issue people-oriented.

Within the scope of community security, there have been concerns about the clarification of the definition. The Commission on Human Security (CHS) defined community security as the “means protecting fundamental freedoms, freedoms that are the essence of life. It is the protection of people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and situations through a strategy of protection and empowerment” (UNDP, 2009). Although the focus of community security is only the civilians, and thus the need for their full involvement, the involvement does not override the role of the state in providing security. Indeed, Landman (2012) asserts that the involvement of the citizen at the grass root does not diminish the obligatory role of the government to provide security. The rationale is that the government has a constitutional mandate to protect its citizens and everyone within its jurisdiction, and that the security of the grass roots defines whether the state is accountable to the security dynamics within its borders (Landman, 2006).

The government has many ways of involving its citizens in the security framework. Among the ways include empowering the citizens in terms of knowledge about why disarmament is as good for the citizens as it is for the state (Buzan, 2000). The big question on disarmament would thus remain how effective it is with and without the involvement of the citizen. Monitoring and evaluating the outcomes of disarmament on community security is thus a necessity, which would help inform decisions on improving what is needed to enhance community security in the short and long run.

III. METHODOLOGY

The study utilized a qualitative research design. According to Kate (2011), qualitative research design is suitable for collecting data on opinions, values, and behaviours in the prevailing social contexts of any population because it gives people the opportunity to speak without coercion or undue influence. Bickman and Rog (1998) add that a qualitative research approach enables the researcher to gain a profound understanding of a situation, organization, or event and is therefore able to provide explicit and satisfactory information and understanding of certain social patterns within a given community.

The target population is the group of individuals that the intervention intends to conduct research on and draw conclusions from. In this study, the target population was 146,276 residents of Gogrial East County.

Sample size is defined as that fraction of the study population that is selected to participate in the study (Borg & Gall, 1979). The sample size should therefore be set such that it satisfactorily represents the study population and that

the information collected should be representative of the study population. The sample size should neither be too small to be effective nor too big to be inconvenient for the researcher (Nworgu, 1991). In most cases, the sample should be calculated based on the population of the study (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). A sample size of 110 participants was recruited to respond to the interview guides, the questionnaires, and the focus group discussion. Table 1 shows the sampling frame that was used to stratify the sample size.

Table 1

Study Populations, Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

Study Population	Sample Size	Sampling Techniques
1 Law Enforcement Officers (LEO)	30	Purposive Sampling
Government Officials	10	Purposive Sampling
Civil Society Originations	10	Purposive Sampling
Elders	50	Purposive Sampling
Cattle-Keeper (Gelweng)	10	Purposive Sampling
Total	110	

The sampling technique is the specific method of sampling that a researcher opts to adopt in order to get the right respondents in the right proportion. Depending on who the study population is, various sampling techniques can be explored. Simple random sampling, for example, is applicable where the targeted information can be obtained from anybody, anywhere. However, stratified sampling is suitable where the information needed is not generally available to anyone. And where the study targets people in different social classes by either profession, ethnicity, gender, knowledge, seniority, or age. Accordingly, the sample population informs which sampling technique is best.

The study adopted purposive sampling, stratified sampling, and random sampling with strata of interest. This is because the study population is diverse, including village elders, youth warriors, members of the Peace Committees, representatives of law enforcement officers (LEOs), community and political figures, CSOs, and community elders—a targeted sample. Some Bomas in Gogrial East County were purposefully selected because they live in the areas located near the fringes of Gogrial East County, which are the hotspots of conflicts and where disarmament has been implemented.

The research comprised a combination of primary and secondary data collection methods. Primary data was gathered through questionnaires, key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and observations on the topics on the list. The researcher created questionnaires and interview transcripts based on the study's goals in order to streamline fieldwork and prevent anomalies. The researcher was introduced to the field by a cover letter from the Mount Kenya University School of Social Sciences, Institute of Security Studies, Justice, and Ethics. In the letter, the researcher introduced himself to the various offices he visited on field visits. The military officials in Gogrial East County were made available to the researcher, and they agreed to participate in an interview after confirming that the study would not jeopardize their security. The researcher gained entry to several government offices and the offices of civil society organizations by using the same letter.

The narrative method was employed for the analysis of the collected qualitative data. Since narratives explain why things are the way they are or have become the way they are, they try to explain what has happened. In order to make sense of the question of evaluating the impact of disarmament in providing adequate and effective security to local communities in Gogrial East, the narrative approach offered two domains: the realm of experience, where respondents describe how they as individuals experience certain events and confer their subjective meaning onto these experiences, and the sphere of devices that are put to use.

IV. FINDINGS & DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Response Rate

An establishment of the aftermath of disarmament on community security in Warrap State, South Sudan, revealed that, in almost all Payams that formed the study area, an overwhelming majority of the respondents, 85 (77%), felt secure, while 15 (23%) indicated that they were not secured.

Community security following disarmament is a universal right and an essential component of human well-being. In places where individuals are unable to live in security, there is a high prevalence of injustice and lawlessness. In addition to providing substantial evidence to support these assertions, numerous nations have recently reaffirmed the necessity of promoting a security paradigm that centers on people. Disarmament strategies for community security



should safeguard all individuals, not only those defending their own states' boundaries, as was the case with nation-states' security strategies (Whitehead, 2010).

Regarding the significance of disarmament, the majority of respondents, 77 (70%), said that it is the most significant means of ensuring security and peace throughout the Gogrial East Payams. However, 23 (30%) had differing opinions. Respondents who participated in focus groups and interviews on the subject made strong arguments in favour of full and universal disarmament for all inhabitants of Gogrial East and surrounding regions.

This subject arose from conversations about the disarmament effort and the increased security that most communities felt as a result. Although it was anticipated that there would be some overlap between these themes and that respondents could find it challenging to separate their individual experiences from the more general conceptual objective of disarmament, opinions about disarmament as a goal were surprisingly very positive.

Decades of instability and gun violence had led to a largely positive view of disarmament as the ultimate aim. Men and women in Gogrial East and surrounding regions were overwhelmingly in favour of total disarmament. The respondents' divergent opinions on disarmament as a goal and their own unfavourable experiences with the disarmament process were evident.

When asked about the reason for improved security, the respondents in communities gave these replies: disarmament and increased military and police detachments in almost every Payam.

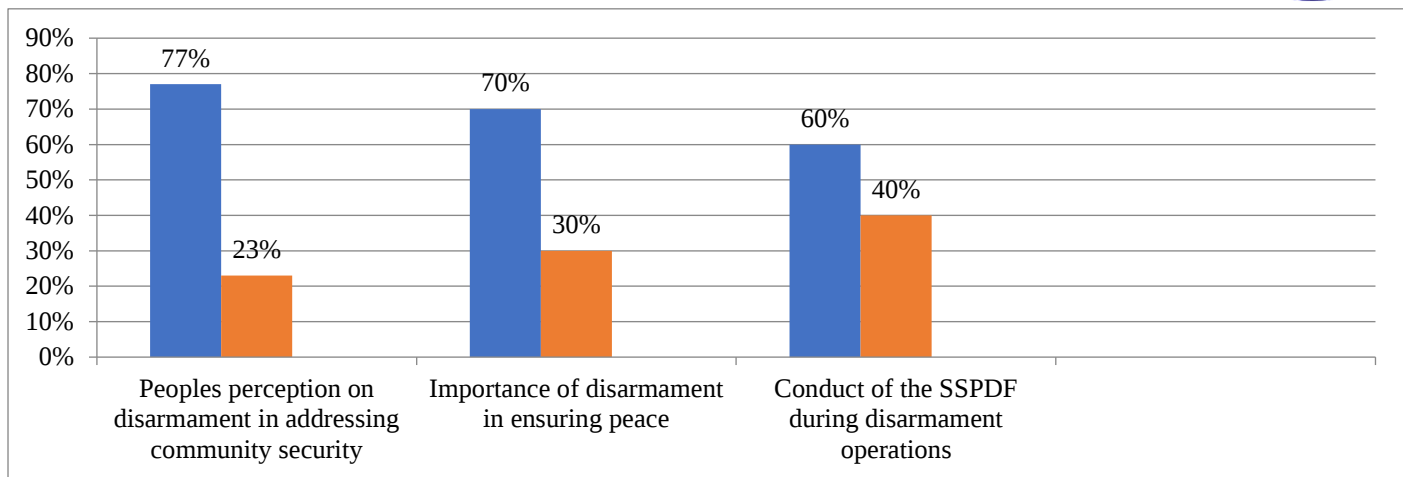
It is impossible to examine the perceptions of disarmament in terms of security as a conceptual goal without highlighting personal experiences. An assessment of personal experiences of disarmament highlights negative responses compounded by human rights abuses by the disarmament team, arbitrary arrests by soldiers, and delays at military barracks, especially at the height of the disarmament of 2018. As an elderly man confided to the researcher about his negative experiences:

"The pains and wounds of Search and Cordon in 2018 by the government have not subsided nor healed. We had our legs tied with ropes as the other end of the rope was tied on the tree. This was aimed at extracting confessions on the where-about of guns we were accused of hiding. (Interview with an Elder. 15th October 2023, Yiik-Adoor Payam)"

Confirming on the operation of the SSPDF during disarmament and how is carried out, 55 (60%) of the respondents acknowledged improvements in the conduct of the SSPDF while 45 (40%) indicated negative response. The above negative experiences appeared at the height of the disarmament of late there is improvement of abuses committed by the military against the local people. When asked about the change of attitude of the SSPDF, the reasons from correspondents included increased sensitization and civic education by military officials, advocacy by NGOs focusing on human rights. This was evidenced by members from the Peace Conference in Ajiep Kuach (October 2023).

The abuses of SPLA on civilians during the cordon and search were so terrible, that included arbitrary extended detentions and harsh physical torture in 2008 and it was continuous, it has now been reduced in recent days because of increased civil-military relations. We think this shift is because of recognizing civilians as part of the solution to disarmament. So, they have initiated community dialogue and have suggested that the Chiefs be more involved in security issues. (Interview- with an elder, 16th October 2023, Mading-Biong Payam).

Similar to this, Elias (2012) contends that a complete peace requires a mentality change away from violence on the part of both the disarming force and the disarmed population. From a historical angle, the author highlights how important it is to establish social standards of restraint and etiquette in order to achieve politeness during disarmament. The monopolization of physical force and state guarantees of security are essential components of post-disarmament stability in order to accomplish this. Figure 1 shows an establishment of the aftermath of disarmament on community security in Warrap State, South Sudan

**Figure 1**

Establishment of the Aftermath of Disarmament on Community Security in Warrap State, South Sudan

Regarding existing community security threats after disarmament, most of the respondents 74 (67%) admitted that while the threats of large raids had declined, there were still occasional petty theft cases at the cattle camps contrary to the 36 (33%) of the respondents.

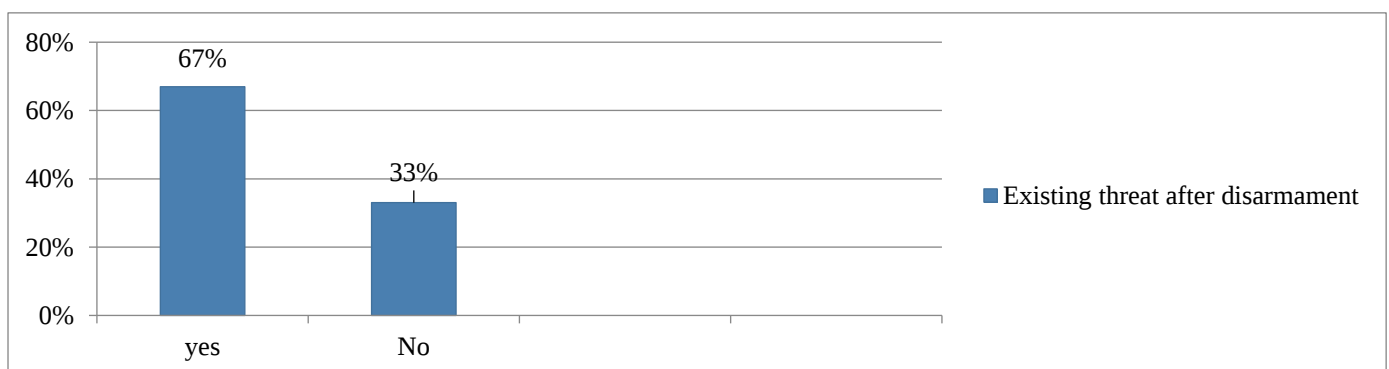
The existing theft patterns are on a smaller scale, as described by a group of young men in Lietnhom County HQs:

“There are no more raids. The SSPDF has done a very good job, because you will never see a big (group of warriors) going to raid like in those days back then. What is happening is an increase of desperate thieves moving up and down. They can be Nuer, Aguok, etc. they will get finished eventually. We are happy that there are no more big raids, just petty cattle thefts.” (Interview with Youth, 18th October 2023. Lietnhom County HQs)”

Youth unemployment is a result of the prevalent trend of smaller-scale thefts taking the place of larger raids, together with disarmament, where guns were considered the only means of subsistence. Youths make up a substantial portion of the population. This illustrates how, despite recruiting and training community police, the government and military have not been able to adequately support law and order in society.

Therefore, it is critical to understand how the public views disarmament in relation to community-based security in order to foster more confidence between local populations and state forces. This is due to the fact that community involvement can be crucial in resolving conflicts between local populations and the army and police (Hettne, 2010).

One challenge is the sub-region's high incidence of small guns. In the midst of interethnic disputes between towns in the northeast of Warrap State and Unity State that haven't entirely given up their weapons, Gogrial East is situated in the center. Thus, weapons become essential equipment for ensuring safety. The armed warriors of the Aguok and Nuer, respectively, pose a threat to the local inhabitants in Gogrial East. Figure 2 shows the existing community security threats after disarmament

**Figure 2**

Showing Respondents Views on the Existing Community Security Threats After Disarmament

From Figure 3, it is evident from the respondents' views ((82,75%) that one of the existing gaps between disarmament and community security promotion in Gogrial East is the lack of an efficient early warning system among the SSPDF. A functional early response capacity is more crucial than any workable communication or feedback mechanism between community police, Gelweng, and other pertinent parties.

This was linked to the complaints made by numerous respondents over law enforcement's inability to reply to information provided to them. Most of the time, people's tips about impending raids and/or crimes are disregarded. Nonetheless, 18 (25%) of the respondents said that although warnings are sometimes issued, the government does not have the resources necessary to stop or anticipate crimes. Reactions in other situations are more reactive than proactive.

The opinions expressed by the respondents indicate that strengthening the current early warning system is necessary. One way to achieve this would be for the local officials to come to an agreement and work together. Under the national early warning and early response arrangement between the SSPDF and community police, the residents should have a reliable system that is not the security of monitors, law enforcement, or any other actor. However, initiatives to get the public to be more forthcoming with early warning information would need to be taken.

Among the 40 (36%) respondents who identified as law enforcement officers and NGO/CSO respondents, some of the factors contributing to the current divide between community security and disarmament were corruption, low motivation, inadequate resources, and understaffing of the police force. Furthermore, in contrast to the 60 (64%) respondents who held different opinions, there is also a lack of cooperation among law enforcement organizations and a lack of expertise among personnel, some of whom are inadequately prepared, particularly in handling civil-military ties.

These opinions were supported by the majority of those who responded, 61 (55%) in FGDs and interviews. The issue that was brought up the most was how the lack of development in the infrastructure makes it difficult to stop banditry and rustling. For example, the northern and eastern regions of Liethom Payam are located in areas that are not reachable by road. This has made it more difficult for security personnel to stop the spread of small guns and cattle rustling. Because the location is only accessible on foot, security personnel are unable to approach sheep that have been driven down the valley by rustlers. This is further impacted by the fact that, in contrast to the other respondents, 39 (45%), some law enforcement officers' lives were lost in prior security operations in the area.

Moreover, it becomes implausible to anticipate that disarmament will be a success. In a post-conflict setting, disarmament should not be seen as a cure-all for all security issues. According to respondents' opinions, disarmament and the end of a particular conflict are not inherently related. Following disarmament, a number of security risks, including political and criminal violence, may surface that disarmament is not intended to address. Disarmament is not enough to combat those specific forms of violence on its own. Figure 3 shows lessons learned from the existing gaps between disarmament and community security promotion.

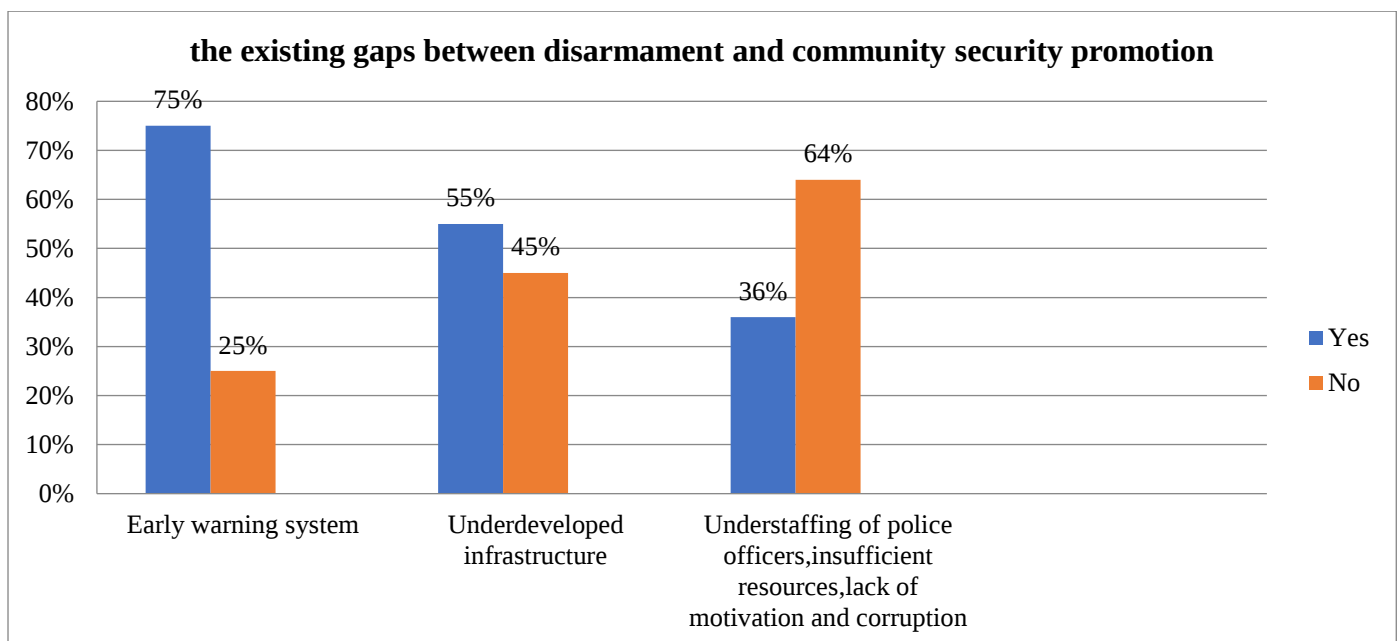


Figure 3

Lessons Learned from the Existing Gaps Between Disarmament and Community Security Promotion



V. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

The research revealed that the South Sudanese government and armed forces recognize their responsibility to safeguard the state, but they also recognize their duty to defend the people of South Sudan as outlined in the constitution, particularly those impacted by the spread of small arms and light weapons. The state has intensified civil-military relations in the aftermath of disarmament with a properly structured and governed security plan for the communities that looked at the gun as the sole security provider in order to guarantee community security. These are visible in terms of numerous military detachments present in every Payam and increased security patrols. There are no longer fears like in the past that, after disarmament, communities will be attacked or politically dominated by other groups. The improvement of community security and the perception of disarmament as a goal for addressing community security are therefore vital in the aftermath and during disarmament.

The patterns of existing community threats can be drawn or mapped along areas with no animals, like forests or bushes, as women go to streams to bathe and collect wild fruits. This is so rare traditionally because the main economic asset of value was attached to a cow, both for prestige and wealth. This indicates the patterns of petty theft are aimed at survival only. This confirms that roadside security has improved, and the absence of traditional cattle camps has reduced the possibility of major raids. Trading centres have also beefed-up security, suggesting that if these places continue to be safe, local buyers will gain from an increase in trade, which will stimulate economic commerce by bringing in more traders and a wider variety of food and non-food commodities.

5.2 Recommendations

The state should collaborate with other government bodies, such as the police and the local community, to establish a timetable and indicators for the handover of security duties, as well as indicators and a monitoring system to ensure that police are able to successfully perform these tasks, so that the SSPDF can withdraw completely and focus on the protection of South Sudan's sovereignty, because looking after animals should not be the responsibility of the national army. The government needs to encourage the prosecution of corrupt officials by its judicial branches. In order to strategically address concerns about neighbourhood safety and security, engage with important law enforcement and civil society groups.

The state and civil society organizations should look for ways to supplement community safety initiatives by funding educational and employment-generating initiatives so that children, youth, the unemployed, and other marginalized groups have more opportunities to secure gainful employment; this process will address some of the root causes of personal community and national insecurity. Mental disarmament of communities rather than physical disarmament is preferred. If the communities are mentally disarmed to fully understand the danger of illegal firearms and get assurance of their protection by the government, they will voluntarily surrender their arms.

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