



Building a Hybrid Early Warning and Early Response System in Farmer-Herders Conflict in Nigeria

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Introduction

Critics argue that the liberal peacebuilding framework is detached from local aspirations for peace and creates a non-emancipatory peace that alienates local societies (Richmond 2006; Mitchell 2010). Based on the assumption that the populations affected by armed conflict are motivated to respond to warnings and have invaluable local knowledge, the local turn in peacebuilding which incorporates cooperation between local actors, with assistance from a global third party, becomes an approach to addressing this challenge. Using an ethnopolitical conflict case study of farmer herder conflict in Plateau state Nigeria, how does this Hybrid turns out on ground and what are its implications and limitations?

Research / Findings

The study reveals that while developing community mechanisms supported trust-building among conflicting parties, the design of the system constituted a misfit between method and structure. This has the immediate effect of demotivation among the local communities and potentially leading to further security challenges. The findings reiterate previous argument that such interventions could result in prescriptive framings of hybrid peace as an enabler of positive emancipatory outcomes. By engaging with certain actors or groups based on their cooperation over the other. A truly local nuance engages with all the levels of the local, including state structures in which power and resources to respond are concentrated.

Finding 1.

the programs creates community led warning systems including committess, local monitors and vigilante groups, expected to communicate warnings and act on prevention in some cases without the right resources, trainings to do this, putting their lives at risk in the process

Finding 2.

State mechanisms, such as the peace building agency and the state security apparatus are involved in the structure minimally and rather instrumentally. the local mechanism experience minimal support from this system adn it even competes with grassroot org for funding its projects

Finding 3.

Acting as the third side in conflict prevention; as a provider, a bridge builder and a teacher. These functions were all deployed as strategies in designing the hybrid CEWER system in Plateau State through capacity building initiatives, trust building, activities and the use of participatory mechanisms which worked well. however, elite participations were high.

Analysis

four themes were generated from coding. These themes are further explored in subthemes through an explanation-building process covering the set-up's nuances- the stakeholders' roles and capacities in the design and its implication on the warning response system. The results are then discussed at the end of each theme to understand the major limitations and prospects of such design and whether it engenders sustainable peace. his study reiterates Bargués-Pedreny & Randazzo, (2018) argument that designs are easily manipulated to suit the intent of instrumentalisation depending on the factors of tension and cooperation between actors. This is evident in the concentration of warning and response in the local, ignoring the consequences of such a move, the performatory way state actors were included in the design the lack of depth or sensitivity with which social identity struggles were framed. This finding backs Simangaran's (2017) argument that hybrid forms of peacebuilding could also lead to conflict-promoting and exclusionary outcomes and reproducing elements of the status quo.

