

Understanding the Complex Nexus of Security, Conflict, Poverty, and Instability: A Sociological Perspective

Ibietonye, Benjamin Ph.D
Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Sociology
Rivers State University (RSU)
Nkpolu/Oroworokwo, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Abstract:- This work aims to explore the interconnectedness of security, conflict, poverty, and instability as prevailing social problems and issues of our time, drawing upon extensive research and theoretical frameworks from various social sciences, this article delves into the multifaceted dynamics that underpin these challenges, providing insights into their root causes and consequences at individual, community, and societal levels. By examining their interrelationships, this article seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of these complex phenomena and their implications for contemporary society. Moreover, it highlights the importance of adopting an interdisciplinary approach that takes into account diverse sociological perspectives to effectively address these issues. The study adopts the qualitative approach to investigate the process. Societies of the 21st century are committed to understanding the complex interconnections between security, conflict, poverty, and instability from a sociological perspective. Recognizing the significance of these interconnected issues in society, this research investigates how these factors influence and reinforce one another, by examining the dynamics among security, conflict, poverty, and instability, this study seeks to contribute to a greater understanding of the underlying mechanisms and implications for policy interventions.

Keywords:- Security, Conflict, Poverty, Instability, Social Issues, Interrelationships, Interdisciplinary Approach, Sociological Perspective.

I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of security has evolved beyond the traditional understanding of protecting nations from internal and external threats using the conventional military security and coercion, today, it encompasses a broader framework that includes human security, environmental security, human rights protection, socio-economic security, and political stability. Sociological perspectives emphasize the distribution of power among respective constituencies, minimize inequalities,

marginalization, and exclusion as critical factors that shape security dynamics within societies (Buzan 1991). The struggle and agitation from majority of the population to be included in the distribution of political and economic resources keep generating rigid and power play calculation of importing conflict instead of wealth creation and distribution (Ibietonye 2023). In addition, conflicts which has become a chronic plagued of modern society, whether they be interpersonal, communal, or political, significantly impact security perceptions and realities (Galtung 1969). Poverty which is the inability of individuals, community and state to provide most basic necessities of livelihood is a pervasive issue in societies worldwide and plays a central role in shaping security dynamics and conflict patterns. Sociological theories highlight the structural nature of poverty, emphasizing how economic inequalities, social stratification and mobility contribute to its persistence (Piven & Cloward 1993). Poverty often leads to the marginalization and exclusion of certain groups, creating a breeding ground for social unrest, violence, and conflicts (Sen 1999).

Instability refers to the absence of order, predictability, and sustainable governance structures within a society, sociological analyses underline how security challenges, conflicts, and poverty can lead to a state of constant instability (Fearon, 2003). This instability, in turn, perpetuates cycles of poverty and exacerbates existing conflicts, making it difficult to achieve lasting peace and progress. The interplay between security, conflict, poverty, and instability forms a vicious cycle that requires multifaceted approaches for sustainable solutions. Understanding the interconnections between security, conflict, poverty, and instability is crucial for formulating effective policies. Sociological perspectives reveal that addressing these issues merely in isolation can lead to limited results or unintended consequences. For instance, restoring security without addressing underlying inequalities and poverty may only temporarily calm conflicts, as it fails to address the root causes of instability (Silke, 2002). By adopting a holistic approach that addresses the interconnections between these factors, policymakers can develop comprehensive strategies

that promote sustainable security, peace, and social development. This comprehensive research study highlights the importance of sociological perspectives in understanding the intricate interconnections between security, conflict, poverty, and instability. By recognizing the interdependencies among these factors, policymakers can move beyond fragmented approaches and develop more effective strategies focused on sustainable development, social justice, and peacebuilding.

II. METHODOLOGY

This research employs a qualitative research approach to explore the complex interconnections between security, conflict, poverty, and instability from a sociological perspective. Qualitative research methods allow for the exploration of complex social phenomena in-depth, enabling a deep understanding of the phenomenon under study (Miles & Huberman, 1994). The research design includes a mixture of data collection techniques, including literature review, in-depth interviews, a comprehensive literature review of relevant sources is conducted to provide an overview of the prevailing themes and concepts related to security, conflict, poverty, and instability, this includes academic articles from various fields, policy documents, and reports to establish the theoretical framework for the study. The study used the thematic analysis approach to analyze the data collected from the literature review, and in-depth interviews. Thematic analysis involves identifying recurrent patterns or themes that emerge from the data, organizing them, and interpreting their meaning (Braun & Clarke, 2006). This methodology is designed to provide a comprehensive and systematic exploration of the interconnections between security, conflict, poverty, and instability from a sociological perspective. The use of qualitative research methods enabled the study to capture the complexities and nuances of these issues and generate rich data that can contribute to policy interventions aimed at promoting sustainable security, peace, and social development.

III. THEORETICAL APPROACH

The study examines several key sociological theories that provide insights into the interconnectedness of security, conflict, poverty, and instability, and finally adopt one of the theories. Social Conflict Theory, developed by Karl Marx and later expanded by other sociologists, emphasizes the role of power struggles and social inequalities in shaping social order and instability (Marx 1867). It posits that conflict arising from economic disparities and resource allocation plays a significant role in creating conditions of insecurity and poverty. Structural Functionalism is associated with Emile Durkheim and others, the theory examines society as a complex system with interdependent parts that contribute to the overall social stability or instability of society (Durkheim 1893). It suggests that societal institutions, such as economic systems, environmental conditions and governance structures,

can influence levels of security, conflict, poverty and instability. Social Capital Theory, introduced by Pierre Bourdieu and later developed by Robert Putnam, explores the role of social networks, relationships, and trust in promoting or hindering social stability and security (Bourdieu, 1986; Putnam, 2000). It highlights how social cohesion and collective action can mitigate conflicts and reduce poverty. Human Security Theory, influenced by feminist perspectives, broadens the traditional notion of security to include the protection of individuals and communities from social, economic, and political threats (UNDP, 1994). It emphasizes the interconnected nature of security, conflict, and poverty and highlights the importance of addressing underlying causes such as inequality and marginalization.

Therefore, the social capital theory developed by Pierre Bourdieu (1986) and further expanded by Robert Putnam (2000) was adopted for this study, it provides valuable insights into the relationship between social networks, trust, and community cohesion, and how these factors influence security, conflict, poverty and instability. Social capital refers to the resources embedded in social networks, including trust, shared norms, and social relationships, that enable individuals and communities to collaborate and achieve common goals (Putnam, 2000). It emphasizes the role of interpersonal connections and collective action in promoting social stability and security. In application to this study, the theory explained how social networks and community relationships contribute to conflict resolution, poverty alleviation, and the promotion of overall security, and suggests that communities with higher levels of social capital are more likely to effectively address conflicts and reduce disparities, leading to improved security and reduced poverty levels. Whereas, in communities where social trust is low, conflicts may escalate into violence, exacerbating the levels of insecurity, and poverty. Additionally, social capital theory highlights the role of social networks in providing access to resources, information, and support. Strong community networks can facilitate economic opportunities, investment, and social mobility, thereby reducing poverty, these networks the theory suggest also enhance individuals' capacity to cope with, and recover from conflicts and other disruptions.

IV. LITERATURE REVIEW

Understanding the complex nexus of security, conflict, poverty, and instability, has been a pressing global concern for political, traditional, religious, policymakers and researchers, extensive literature highlight the interdependence of these dimensions, demonstrating how changes in one area can significantly impact others. Jude & Ibiytonye (2023) admitted that, significant efforts should be made to remove socio-economic inequalities that breed conflict and instability and further maximize opportunities for economic growth through structures that meet basic human needs. Security and conflict are closely intertwined, with conflict often emerging from insecurity caused by political, economic and social grievances.

Gurr (1970) conceptualized relative deprivation theory, proposing that collective violence often arises when individuals perceive their situation as unjust compared to others, leading to feelings of resentment and anger. Similarly, Fearon and Laitin (2003) identified economic and political factors as significant drivers of conflict, highlighting how poverty and weak governance can lead to grievances and violence. In many cases, conflict and insecurity can worsen poverty by disrupting economic activity, damaging infrastructure, and forcing communities to flee (Stewart, 2002). In conflict-affected countries, Schomerus et al. (2014) found a strong correlation between violence and poverty, with poverty being highest in areas where armed groups exerted control.

Instructively, poverty and instability are closely linked, with poverty being a significant driver of conflict, insecurity and instability, Mohan and Zack-Williams (2013) contend that material deprivation contributes immensely to destabilization of structures and institutions, as poverty limits citizens access to basic services, exacerbates inequalities and leads to persistent grievances. Further, poverty can destabilize societies by creating a situation where the affected population is vulnerable to exploitation and manipulation by greedy and power-hungry political actors (Sen, 1999). Instability is considered the creation of socio-economic difficulties, political exclusion, ethnic divides and religious intolerance fostered by poverty, leading to cycles of violence and conflict (Collier et al., 2003). Furthermore, poverty can intensify insecurity and cause social disintegration, amplifying the existing instability and creating further barriers to development (UNDP, 1997). The relationship between security and poverty is circular, with poverty often being a significant driver of insecurity, poverty has the potency to lead citizens to crime, unrest, and violent extremism, intensifying insecurity and hindering socio-economic progress (Saunders & Buscher, 2018). Similarly, high levels of insecurity can have significant economic costs, hindering growth and investment (World Bank, 2013). Security can also affect poverty levels indirectly by facilitating economic development, stimulating investment, and fostering trade and financial flows (Newman, 2010). Insecure and conflict-affected environments can make it challenging to develop productive sectors and attract investment, leading to economic and social decline (Gates et al., 2011).

Conflict and instability are mutually reinforcing, with conflict often being a significant driver of instability, conflict often create a fragile and unstable governance environment leading to economic dislocation, social and political disintegration and demographic shifts (Sen, 2006). Additionally, conflict often creates conditions conducive to the spread of criminal networks, armed groups and terrorism, amplifying instability and posing significant security challenges (Armed Conflict and Insecurity 2005). Conflict is the reason for long-term instability that hinder prospects for development, Collier et al. (2003) found that, following

conflict devastation of society, it can create a five to ten years economic stagnation for societies that experience conflict to regain their pre-conflict income levels. In many cases, conflict and insecurity can exacerbate poverty by disrupting economic activity, damaging infrastructure, and forcing communities to flee (Stewart, 2002). This disruption of economic systems not only leads to immediate economic deprivation but also hampers long-term development prospects. Schomerus et al. (2014) found a strong correlation between violence and poverty in conflict-affected countries, with poverty being highest in areas where armed groups exerted control. The relationship between security and poverty is circular, with poverty often being a significant driver of insecurity. Poverty can lead to crime, unrest, and violent extremism, intensifying insecurity and hindering socio-economic progress (Saunders & Buscher, 2018). Insecurity undermines people's ability to invest and engage in economic activities, perpetuating poverty and exacerbating existing inequalities.

➤ *Interconnections and Overlapping Patterns of Security and Conflict*

Interconnected dynamics of security, and conflict, often share overlapping patterns on economic disparities, political corruption, ethnic tensions, and inadequate governance which always contribute to a cycle of instability in the complex web of national affairs. Security is often compromised in regions plagued by conflict, as seen in the works of Buzan (1991) and Walt (1991). The interplay between security and conflict is intricate and mutually reinforcing the patterns that link these critical aspects of national development, shedding light on their intricate relationships and exploring the implications for national stability. Recognizing this interconnectedness is crucial for devising comprehensive strategies that address these challenges holistically, the vicious cycle between insecurity and conflict can exacerbate tensions, as discussed by Fearon and Laitin (2003), while policymakers navigate through this complex landscape, a multidimensional approach that considers the synergies between these factors is imperative for fostering a more stable and secure global environment. It is important to recognize the interconnected nature of these concepts, because the traditional notions of security often focused solely on military defense and the protection of a state against internal and external threats. However, the emergence of non-traditional security challenges, such as poverty, environmental degradation and conflict has emphasized the relevance of a holistic approach to security.

Consequently, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) argues that poverty is both a driver and outcome of conflict, and that addressing poverty is crucial for preventing conflict and enhancing security (UNDP, 2018). Similarly, insecurity and conflict have leads to the exacerbation of poverty and instability, as resources and infrastructure are destroyed, economies collapse, and livelihoods are disrupted (Krook-Riekkola, 2013). Quite understandably, the overlap between security, and conflict is

particularly significant, numerous studies have indicated that poverty increases the likelihood of conflict by creating grievances and frustrations that can fuel violence. Paul Collier's influential work on the economics of civil war demonstrates that poverty and low-income levels are strong predictors of conflict, as individuals faced with economic deprivation are more likely to engage in rebellion (Collier, 2004). Moreover, the United Nations recognizes that persistent poverty can breed social exclusion, marginalization, and inequality, all of which contribute to conflict and instability (United Nations, 2012). Furthermore, the relationship between security and poverty influences the larger context of stability and development, taking into cognizance that, there exist high levels of insecurity in conflict-affected regions. Therefore, security is paramount for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Addressing these complex issues requires recognizing and responding to the interconnections and overlapping patterns binding them, adopting right policy approaches that will not only focus on one dimension, such as purely military interventions or solely poverty reduction programs, which have often proved insufficient. It is essential to adopt comprehensive strategies that address the interrelated causes and effects, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a framework that acknowledges the interconnected nature of security, conflict, poverty, and instability, which aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, recognizing that peace, security, and social protection are intrinsically linked to poverty eradication and development (United Nations, 2022). Therefore, understanding the complex nexus of security and conflict, requires the ability to acknowledge the interconnections and overlapping patterns between these issues. Poverty expressly contributes to conflict and instability, while conflict and instability can further create poverty. Security is crucial for addressing poverty and achieving sustainable development through some comprehensive approaches that recognize these interconnections and employ multidimensional strategies which are necessary to effectively address these complex challenges.

➤ *Socioeconomic Factors and Instability.*

Socioeconomic factors play a critical role in understanding the drivers of instability in societies, which is generated through income inequalities, lack of educational attainment, lack of access to healthcare, unemployment opportunities, inequality, and absence of social cohesion. In this context, socioeconomic factors and instability can cause inequality and marginalization and strengthened the root causes of conflicts and security threats, while also exacerbating poverty and perpetuating cycles of instability. Therefore, the role of socioeconomic factors in this complex relationship is discussing their impact on conflicts and security, poverty, and instability. Research by Collier and Hoeffler (2004) suggests that countries with a high proportion of people living in extreme poverty are more prone to

experiencing civil wars, they argue that extreme poverty creates grievances and frustration among the population, increasing the likelihood of violence and conflict. Similarly, unemployment has been found to be a significant predictor of political violence, with studies showing a positive correlation between unemployment rates and the occurrence of civil unrest (Hirshleifer et al., 2001).

When socioeconomic factors of a state are not progressive in nature, it creates a situation that indirectly contribute to insecurity and conflicts through their impact on citizens that causes social inequality. Unprogressive socioeconomic factors create high levels of inequality which have the potency to breed social tensions and erode social cohesion, making societies more susceptible to conflict (Stewart, 2008). Moreover, inequalities create a gap that makes it difficult for citizens to have access to resources, create perceived unfairness in the distribution of wealth, exclusion from political participation, exacerbate grievances and lead to political violence (Wilkinson 2004). Moving on, socioeconomic factors are closely intertwined with the issue of poverty, poverty is both a consequence and a cause of conflicts and instability, greed and selfishness. According to Üngör and Çalışkan (2017) studies have it that poverty increases the risk of violent conflicts and makes it harder for societies to recover from occurrence. Extreme poverty leads to desperation and the erosion of social structures, making individuals more vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups (Kalyvas, 2006). Furthermore, poverty traps perpetuate cycles of instability and undermine efforts to achieve lasting peace. For instance, poverty can limit access to education and healthcare, exacerbating inequalities and creating barriers to social mobility. These structural inequalities impede sustainable development and perpetuate poverty, leaving societies trapped in cycles of economic and social instability (Stiglitz, 2012).

Continually, socioeconomic factors are significant determinants of instability in fragile and conflict-affected states, weak institutions, corruption, and limited state capacity contribute to the persistence of poverty and violence. Research has shown that weak governance, characterized by high levels of corruption and lack of transparency, contributes to perpetuating conflicts and violent extremism (Linder and Peters, 2020). In these contexts, systemic inequalities and limited access to basic services erode trust in institutions, making it harder for governments to establish peace and stability (World Bank, 2011). Therefore, socioeconomic factors are fundamental in understanding the complex nexus of security, conflict, poverty, and instability creating weak governance structures, contribute to conflicts and security threats, perpetuate poverty, and fuel cycles of instability. Addressing these socioeconomic factors requires holistic and multidimensional approaches that encompass economic development, social justice, political inclusivity, and good governance. Effective policies should aim to reduce poverty, promote social equality, foster inclusive growth, and ensure

access to basic services, which can ultimately contribute to both peacebuilding and sustainable development.

➤ *Consequences and Impacts of Security and Conflict on Individual Well-being and Safety*

Understanding the complex nexus to provide a deeper understanding of these relationships and their implications, shedding light on the mechanisms influencing the well-being and safety of individuals within the contexts of complex challenges. Fitzduff (2002) relates the relationship between security and conflict as multifaceted, that individuals trapped in conflict environments often bear the brunt of its adverse consequences, he posits that, insecure environments resulting from conflicts threaten individual security, both physically and psychologically, that conflict-related violence, including threats to personal safety, economic, displacement, and direct harm to individuals, significantly undermines their well-being. War trauma and exposure to violence will always have long-lasting effects on individuals, leading to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges are imminent (Steel et al., 2009). Conflict also disrupts social networks and support systems, further impacting negatively on individual well-being and safety (Miller & Sturman, 2009). Individual well-being and safety should always be considered to avoid armed conflicts which often result in the destruction or limited resources and essential public services, such as healthcare and education, which directly affect individuals' well-being and safety. Dube & Vargas (2013) argued that, conflict hinders economic opportunities, exacerbating poverty and vulnerability. Therefore, conflict has been identified to have wide-ranging consequences for individual well-being and safety.

Furthermore, poverty and instability are two interconnected concepts, with poverty acting as both a driver and cause of instability, because poverty limits individuals' access to basic needs of life, such as food, shelter, clothing and healthcare, undermining their well-being and safety (UNDP, 2014). In the contexts of instability, the poor suffers more and are particularly vulnerable to violence, exploitation, rape and abuse. Moreover, poverty and income inequality create a feeling of marginalization, frustration, and exclusion from mainstream activities, contributing to social unrest and political instability (Chen & Ravallion 2020). Persistent poverty leads to social and political disenfranchisement, fostering a breeding ground for radicalization and violent extremism (OECD 2015). Instability resulting from poverty not only affects individual well-being and safety but also hampers sustainable development efforts. According to World Bank (2011) it maintained that, the breakdown of state institutions and absence of effective governance structures have significantly impeded the delivery of essential services by leadership, it worsened the effect of poverty on citizens and creating a cycle of instability. Crime, violence, and insecurity have severe consequences for individuals living in poverty, high levels of insecurity pose obstacles to poverty alleviation efforts as they directly affect economic activities, investment,

and education (Stewart, 2002). Insecure environments deter potential investors, leading to reduced job opportunities and economic growth, further perpetuating poverty (World Bank, 2013).

➤ *Community Cohesion and Social Capital*

Community cohesion and social capital play a crucial role in emphasizing the importance of strong social ties, trust, and collective action within communities, which can contribute to peaceful coexistence, socioeconomic development, inclusive political participation, and resilience to conflicts and instability, developed strength of social connections, shared norms, and mutual trust within a community. It encompasses a sense of belonging, active participation, and a commitment to common goals and well-being. Community cohesion is instrumental in fostering peace and security, as stronger social bonds enhance cooperation, facilitate conflict resolution, and deter crime and violence. Research indicates that societies with higher levels of community cohesion have lower crime rates and higher levels of social order. Strang and Ager (2010) found that community cohesion, as measured by residents' perceptions of trust and belonging, was significantly associated with lower levels of violent crime in neighborhoods. High levels of trust and informal social control within close-knit communities can serve as deterrents to criminal behavior. Importantly, community cohesion and social capital contribute to poverty reduction and socioeconomic development, whilst social capital refers to the resources, networks, and support that individuals and communities have access to through their social connections. These resources can include information, employment opportunities, financial assistance, and social support in times of need.

A study by Narayan and Pritchett (1999) found that social capital, measured by indicators such as trust, reciprocity, and community participation, had a positive impact on household income and poverty reduction. Communities with greater social capital were more likely to have better access to economic resources and opportunities, enabling individuals to escape poverty and improve their well-being. Moreover, community cohesion and social capital should be harness to build resilience to conflicts and instability, in cohesive communities, individuals are more likely to come together to address common challenges, provide support during crises, and engage in collective action for community development. Social networks and trust facilitate information sharing, resource mobilization, and cooperation in times of emergencies, natural disasters, or social disruptions. A study by Aldrich and Meyer (2015) found that communities with high levels of social capital were more united to face challenges thrown by natural disasters, as they were better able to coordinate response and recovery efforts. Similarly, in conflict-affected regions, citizens with high social capital have the potency to provide supportive environment for peacebuilding and reconciliation initiatives by creating spaces for dialogue, fostering understanding, and promoting

cooperation across ethnic or religious divides. Therefore, community cohesion and social capital are integral to understanding the complex nexus of security, conflict, poverty, and instability. These concepts contribute to peace and security by fostering cooperation, reducing crime, and facilitating conflict resolution.

➤ *Peace and Stability at the National*

In understanding the complexities surrounding peace and stability from a sociological perspective, the pursuit of peace and stability becomes a central aim, sociological analysis recognizes that peace is not simply the absence of conflict, but a state where individuals and communities can freely and safely pursue their well-being (Galtung 1964). The perspective sheds light on the interplay between these interconnected factors, as Sen (1999) explained that, it recognizes the fact that poverty, inequality, and social exclusion breed discontent and frustration, leading to social unrest and conflict, in turn, the presence of conflict undermines security and stability, ravaging economies, displacing communities, and impeding social progress. To achieve peace and stability, it is imperative to address the root causes of these challenges, Collins (2014) posit that, sociologically the analysis underscores the significance of addressing structural and systemic issues such as income inequality, discrimination, and unequal access to resources and opportunities, by reducing poverty, ensuring social equity, and promoting inclusive institutions, societies can create an enabling environment for sustainable peace.

Furthermore, Paris (2004) sociologically recognizes the importance of social cohesion and collective identities in fostering peace and stability through the promotion of social integration, dialogue, and understanding among diverse groups, societies can mitigate the potential for conflicts fueled by divisions and grievances. Efforts to attain peace and stability must also respond to the complex dynamics between security and development, traditional security measures alone cannot effectively address the underlying socio-economic factors that contribute to conflict and instability. Therefore, a holistic critical approach that combines security with social and economic interventions is essential, this requires collaboration between governments, communities, civil society organizations, and international actors to develop comprehensive strategies that promote human rights, accountable governance, and inclusive development (Inglehart & Welzel 2005). By addressing the structural and systemic factors that perpetuate these challenges, promoting social cohesion, and adopting a comprehensive approach that integrates security with development, societies can aspire to build a peaceful and stable future for all.

V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the complex nexus of security, conflict, poverty, and instability can be better understood through a sociological perspective through the interrogation of the interconnectedness of these factors, it becomes evident that they are mutually reinforcing and perpetuate a cycle of vulnerability and insecurity. Sociologically it offers an insight into the structural and systemic causes of these issues, emphasizing the role of power dynamics, inequality, and social institutions. Poverty and inequality contribute to social unrest and conflict, which in turn undermine security and stability. Furthermore, the presence of insecurity and conflict hinders socioeconomic development and exacerbates poverty, creating a vicious cycle. Therefore, addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive critical approach that encompasses not only conventional security measures but also social and economic interventions to address poverty and inequality, where policymakers and stakeholders can work towards some more effective strategies and policies that promote lasting peace, social progress, and human well-being, to build a more secure, stable, and prosperous societies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Develop Community Cohesion and Social Capital;** Governments, civil society organizations, and development partners should prioritize initiatives that foster community cohesion that will build social capital and strengthen social ties. These initiatives can include promoting community dialogue, supporting collective action for development, and providing opportunities for social networking.
- **Identify and Address Root Causes of Conflict and Instability:** To reduce conflict and promote stability, it is essential to address the underlying causes of these problems. This includes tackling poverty, inequality, and exclusion, empowering marginalized groups, and promoting social justice. Furthermore, addressing economic, social, and political grievances can mitigate the risk of violence and promote peacebuilding efforts.
- **Strengthen Traditional Conflict Prevention and Resolution Mechanisms:** Governments and their partners should invest in robust conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms, including enhancing the capacity of local institutions, encouraging mediation efforts, and promoting transitional justice, the likelihood of violent escalation can be reduced.
- **Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development:** Economic development can be an essential tool for reducing poverty, enhancing stability, and promoting peace. However, these efforts must be inclusive and sustainable, ensuring that all members of society benefit from the growth and development of the economy, particularly those who are marginalized or excluded.

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