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(REVIEW ARTICLE)

Obstacles to sustainable peace in post-conflict Liberia: An analysis of the challenges faced by peacekeeping operations

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Abstract

With over 15 years of peacekeeping experience in Liberia, it is crucial to recognize the challenges faced by international organizations in maintaining peace and stability. Based on this, the paper provides a comprehensive understanding of the complex and multi-dimensional challenges encountered in peacekeeping efforts in Liberia. Specifically, the paper identifies and analyzes the key factors that have hindered the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations in Liberia and assesses the impact of the identified challenges on the overall success and sustainability of peacekeeping missions in Liberia. Utilizing a qualitative research methodology and the purposive sampling of secondary data taken from books, journal articles, magazines, etc., the thematic approach which was adopted for the presentation of data facilitated the provision of a comprehensive overview of the challenges faced by peacekeeping operations in Liberia. Consequently, the paper reveals that the resolution of the conflict in Liberia was achieved through a multifaceted approach that encompassed regional diplomacy, the deployment of international peacekeeping forces, and the concerted efforts of organizations such as the United Nations and ECOWAS. However, the experience in Liberia also highlighted the complexities and difficulties encountered during peacekeeping operations, including the need for effective coordination among various actors, addressing root causes of conflict, promoting sustainable governance and development, and ensuring long-term peacebuilding efforts. Therefore, the paper recommends Improving training and support for peacekeeping personnel, strengthening democratic institutions, and promoting good governance, among others, as strategies that will mitigate the challenges and ensure an impactful peacekeeping mission in the future.

Keywords: Peacekeeping; Conflict; Post-conflict; Stability

1. Introduction

Peacekeeping operations play a crucial role in maintaining peace and stability in conflict-affected regions around the world (Bellamy & Hunt, 2014; Karim, 2016). Notably, there have been a record number of conflicts in West Africa thus, it has faced significant challenges in the realm of peacekeeping. In fact, Liberia shares a significant portion of conflicts in the subregion especially between the late 80s and late 90s. Indeed, following the end of a devastating civil war, Liberia became a focal point for international peacekeeping efforts (United Nations, 2021). However, the process of restoring peace and establishing stability in Liberia has encountered numerous obstacles.

The challenges of peacekeeping in Liberia encompass a wide range of issues. One significant challenge relates to the weak state institutions in the aftermath of the civil war. The collapse of governance structures, including security forces and judicial systems, created an environment that was conducive to violence and lawlessness (Cleveland & Reardon, 2019). Consequently, establishing effective and accountable governance systems became a formidable task. The absence

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of functional institutions and the lack of trust in the government hindered the ability to enforce law and order, undermining the overall stability and peacebuilding efforts in the country.

Furthermore, deep-rooted ethnic divisions, historical grievances, and political rivalries have posed challenges to achieving sustainable peace and reconciliation in Liberia. The civil war was characterized by ethnopolitical conflicts, with different factions vying for power and control (Gberie, 2015). The scars of the conflict and underlying social, economic, and political disparities continue to fuel tensions and impede efforts to build trust and unity among diverse factions within Liberian society. Overcoming these divisions and fostering genuine reconciliation is a complex and long-term process that requires addressing historical injustices and promoting inclusive governance structures.

Another major challenge lies in the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) process. Liberia's post-war scenario was characterized by a high proliferation of small arms and a large number of ex-combatants, necessitating an effective DDR programme to reintegrate former fighters into society (Jaeger & Wyss, 2019). However, implementing a successful DDR process in Liberia has been hindered by logistical and financial constraints, limited political will, and inadequate support for livelihood opportunities for ex-combatants. Without a doubt, the reintegration of former fighters into society is essential for sustainable peace, but it requires addressing not only their economic needs but also the psychosocial aspects of their transition back to civilian life.

Furthermore, the protection of civilians remains a critical challenge in peacekeeping operations in Liberia. The widespread prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence, human rights abuses, and the targeting of vulnerable populations necessitate robust measures to ensure the safety and security of civilians (Vlassenroot & Raeymaekers, 2019). Regardless, effectively protecting civilians in complex conflict environments is a multifaceted task that requires comprehensive strategies, adequate resources, and strong coordination among various stakeholders.

The foregoing challenges, notwithstanding, studies have shown that to address these challenges, a holistic approach is necessary. This includes strengthening state institutions and governance structures, promoting inclusive political processes and reconciliation efforts, and investing in sustainable development and livelihood opportunities. Moreover, there is a need for effective coordination and collaboration among international peacekeeping forces, the Liberian government, and local communities. Engaging local actors and addressing their specific needs and concerns is essential for building trust and ensuring the long-term success of peacekeeping efforts in Liberia.

Pointedly, peacekeeping operations in Liberia have faced significant challenges in their mission to restore peace and stability. Weak state institutions, deep-rooted divisions, DDR complexities, and the protection of civilians are among the key obstacles that have hindered progress. Since recognizing and understanding these challenges offers both policymakers and peacekeeping practitioners the necessary basis to develop targeted strategies to overcome them and achieve sustainable peace in Liberia, it is, therefore, crucial to draw upon empirical literature and historical analysis to inform these strategies and interventions.

Empirical literature offers valuable insights into the challenges and complexities of peacekeeping in Liberia. Studies such as those conducted by Cleveland and Reardon (2019) and Jaeger and Wyss (2019) shed light on the specific obstacles faced in post-war governance, DDR processes, and the protection of civilians. These studies provide a deeper understanding of the contextual factors and dynamics that have impeded progress in peacekeeping operations in Liberia.

Additionally, historical analysis plays a crucial role in comprehending the root causes of conflict and the legacy of violence in Liberia. Works such as Gberie's (2015) examination of historical grievances and political rivalries contribute to a nuanced understanding of the challenges faced in achieving reconciliation and unity. No doubt, the historical context offers policymakers and practitioners a broader perspective on the underlying factors that need to be addressed for sustainable peace to be achieved.

Peacekeeping in Liberia has encountered significant challenges due to weak institutions, deep-rooted divisions, complex DDR processes, and the protection of civilians. However, the need to enhance the prospects for sustainable peace and stability in Liberia necessitated this paper to account for the challenges faced in peacekeeping operations in Liberia. To achieve this, the paper examines the factors that have hindered the effectiveness of these missions. Identifying and analyzing these challenges gives insights into the complexities of peacekeeping in Liberia and the strategies necessary to overcome them.

1.1. Statement of the Problem

Peacekeeping missions in Liberia have faced numerous obstacles, impeding their ability to establish sustainable peace and stability (Barutciski & Jackson, 2015). According to Vlassenroot and Raeymaekers (2019), these challenges encompass political, social, economic, and institutional aspects, making the situation highly intricate. However, N'Diaye (2019) notes that addressing these challenges requires an in-depth understanding of their origins, interactions, and implications to inform effective policy decisions, enhance peacekeeping strategies, and support long-term peacebuilding in Liberia.

Remarkably, despite significant international efforts, the challenges faced in peacekeeping operations in Liberia have hindered the restoration of peace and stability (United Nations, 2021). Therefore, a comprehensive empirical understanding of these challenges is lacking, impeding the development of effective strategies and interventions. Drawing from this, there is a need for an empirical investigation that examines and accounts for the multifaceted challenges of peacekeeping in Liberia, supported by relevant data. Against this background, this paper aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the complex and multi-dimensional challenges encountered in peacekeeping efforts in Liberia. No doubt, by investigating the underlying factors contributing to these challenges, this paper seeks to shed light on the intricate dynamics that hinder successful peacekeeping operations in Liberia.

1.2. Research Questions

This paper is guided by the following questions:

- What are the key factors that have hindered the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations in Liberia?
- How do these identified challenges impact the overall success and sustainability of peacekeeping missions in Liberia?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of this paper is to account for the challenges faced in peacekeeping operations in Liberia, aiming to provide valuable insights into the factors hindering effectiveness and their impact on the success and sustainability of peacekeeping missions. However, the specific objects are:

- To identify and analyze the key factors that have hindered the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations in Liberia.
- To assess the impact of the identified challenges on the overall success and sustainability of peacekeeping missions in Liberia.

1.4. Significance of the Study

This paper which accounts for the challenges faced in peacekeeping operations in Liberia, examining the factors that have hindered the effectiveness of these missions, holds great scholarly and practical significance. The paper is important in both academic and practical realms as it can contribute to the improvement of peacekeeping efforts in Liberia, the promotion of sustainable peace, and the guidance of policy and decision-making processes. Specifically, its findings will enhance peacekeeping effectiveness, promote sustainable peace and stability, aid policy and decision-making, and contribute to the existing body of academic literature on peacekeeping, conflict resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction. Indeed, it will serve as reference material for this area of knowledge.

2. Methodology

In this paper, a qualitative research methodology was employed to explore the challenges encountered in peacekeeping operations in Liberia. The research drew upon various secondary sources, including journal articles, books, magazines, official government publications, and online resources. These materials were purposefully selected to achieve specific objectives, such as identifying and analyzing the primary factors impeding the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations in Liberia, as well as evaluating the consequences of these challenges on the overall success and sustainability of such missions. Content analysis was utilized to examine and interpret the information gathered from these sources, and a purposive sampling technique was employed to select the most relevant materials for analysis.

The findings of this paper were organized thematically, with a specific focus on the key factors hindering the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations in Liberia, and the subsequent impact of these identified challenges on the overall success and sustainability of peacekeeping missions. This thematic approach facilitated the provision of a

comprehensive overview of the challenges faced by peacekeeping operations in Liberia. The aim was to generate insights that can inform the development of policy and intervention strategies intended to enhance the effectiveness and long-term viability of peacekeeping missions in Liberia.

2.1. Theoretical framework-theory of complex emergencies

This paper adopts the theory of complex emergencies as the framework for its conceptualization. The theory of complex emergencies, rooted in humanitarian studies, provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the challenges of peacekeeping operations in Liberia. Peacekeeping efforts in Liberia have faced significant obstacles due to the complex nature of the post-conflict environment. The theory of complex emergencies offers valuable insights into the multifaceted dynamics that hinder the effectiveness of these missions.

At its core, the theory of complex emergencies recognizes that peacekeeping operations cannot be viewed in isolation from the broader context in which they take place. It acknowledges that conflicts are not solely the result of armed violence but are influenced by a combination of political, social, economic, and environmental factors (O'Brien & Wisner, 2016). In Liberia, the legacy of a devastating civil war, deeply entrenched political factions, and unresolved ethnic tensions have all contributed to the complexity of peacekeeping efforts (Murphy, 2016). Understanding these interconnected factors is essential for comprehending the challenges faced by peacekeepers in their mission to restore peace and stability.

Historically, the theory of complex emergencies has evolved in response to the changing nature of conflicts and humanitarian crises. Initially emerging in the 1980s and 1990s, the concept of complex emergencies sought to address the challenges posed by conflicts that extended beyond traditional military confrontations. It aimed to encompass the intricate interplay of political, social, economic, and environmental factors that contribute to the complexities of humanitarian crises.

The early development of the theory can be traced back to scholars and practitioners working in the field of humanitarian studies. They recognized that conflicts often occur within complex systems and are influenced by a range of interconnected factors, including political instability, economic disparities, natural disasters, and social fragmentation. This understanding led to the realization that addressing the humanitarian consequences of these conflicts requires a multidimensional approach that goes beyond the provision of immediate relief assistance (Leaning & Guha-Sapir, 2013).

Over time, the theory of complex emergencies has been refined and expanded. Scholars have further explored the interdependencies and feedback loops between different dimensions of complex emergencies, such as armed conflict, displacement, food insecurity, and public health crises (Leaning & Guha-Sapir, 2013). This broader perspective recognizes that conflicts are not isolated events but part of a larger web of complex systems and interactions.

Additionally, the theory has been influenced by lessons learned from specific case studies and real-world experiences, such as the conflicts in Somalia, Rwanda, and the Balkans. These experiences have highlighted the need to consider the interconnectedness of various factors and to adopt a holistic approach that addresses the underlying causes of conflicts and their humanitarian consequences (Leaning & Guha-Sapir, 2013).

In recent years, the theory of complex emergencies has continued to evolve alongside emerging challenges, such as climate change, urbanization, and the increasing involvement of non-state actors in conflicts. Scholars and practitioners have sought to integrate these new dimensions into the theory, recognizing their impact on the dynamics of complex emergencies (Hilhorst, 2019). The historical development of the theory of complex emergencies reflects an ongoing effort to understand and respond to the intricate challenges posed by conflicts and humanitarian crises. Indeed, the theory provides a valuable framework for comprehending the complexities of peacekeeping operations and guiding effective interventions in conflict-affected regions by acknowledging the complex interplay of political, social, economic, and environmental factors. Therefore, this theory helps identify the intricate interactions among various stakeholders, power dynamics, and socioeconomic disparities that affect the success and sustainability of peacekeeping missions in Liberia (Checchi et al., 2013). In fact, it enables a more nuanced analysis of the challenges and facilitates the development of context-specific strategies to address them.

Moreover, the theory of complex emergencies emphasizes the need to consider the broader impact of these challenges on peacekeeping missions. It recognizes that the effectiveness and sustainability of peacekeeping efforts are influenced not only by the immediate security situation but also by socioeconomic development, governance, and the overall well-being of the population (Hilhorst, 2019). Based on this, the theory of complex emergencies was adopted as the

framework for this paper. Explicitly, the theory of complex emergencies sheds light on the intricate web of political, social, economic, and environmental factors that hinder the effectiveness of these missions.

2.2. Limitations of the Study

Based on the research methods chosen, this paper encountered limitations. For instance, a mixed research design would have been more appropriate, but time constraints and anticipated respondent attitudes prevented gathering primary data. However, these limitations were overcome by using sufficient secondary data to cover any methodological gaps. The purposive sampling procedure adopted is a nonprobability technique that restricts survey participation, but the use of specific secondary sources mitigated potential sampling bias. Despite these limitations, this paper provides valuable insights into the challenges of peacekeeping in Liberia. The utilization of secondary data helped compensate for limitations and maintain the study's robustness.

2.3. Review of Related Literature

As a background, the Liberian conflict had its roots in economic disenfranchisement, government corruption, and class division (Mills, 2013). The country's wealth was concentrated in the hands of a small elite, while the majority of the population lived in poverty and lacked access to basic services. This created deep-seated resentment and led to the rise of opposition groups, such as the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) led by Charles Taylor (Adebajo, 2016). The NPFL launched a rebellion against the government in 1989, triggering a civil war that lasted for over a decade. Special events are listed as follows:

- 1980: Samuel Doe overthrows the government of William Tolbert in a military coup.
- 1985: Elections are held, but widely considered rigged in favor of Doe's party.
- 1989: Charles Taylor forms the NPFL and launches a rebellion against the government.
- 1990: Doe is captured and killed by rebel forces, leading to further violence.
- 1995: Peace talks begin, but fail to end the conflict.
- 1997: Charles Taylor is elected president in disputed elections.
- 2003: International pressure forces Taylor to resign and go into exile, leading to the end of the conflict.

Empirically, several pieces of literature provide insights into the complexities of peacekeeping efforts in post-conflict Liberia and can help in understanding and analyzing the challenges faced by peacekeeping missions in the region. For instance, Luck (2014) in his study of *The UN Security Council: Practice and Promise,* provided a comprehensive analysis of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Luck in his study explores the Council's historical development, decision-making processes, strengths, and weaknesses. However, Luck (2014) addresses the influence of permanent and non-permanent members, the impact of the veto power, and the Council's response to global crises. Additionally, Luck pinpointed reform proposals and their potential to enhance the Council's effectiveness in maintaining international peace and security.

Similarly, Bellamy's (2009) *Global Politics and the Responsibility to Protect: From Words to Deeds* examines the evolution and practical implementation of the responsibility to protect (R2P) principle in global politics. Alex J. Bellamy delves into the historical background of the R2P principle, tracing its origins and development within the United Nations. Bellamy analyzes the debates and challenges surrounding the implementation of R2P, including issues related to sovereignty, intervention, and the role of international organizations. Through a comprehensive examination of case studies, such as the crises in Darfur and Kosovo, Bellamy highlights the successes and failures in applying the R2P principle. He evaluates the various actors involved, including states, regional organizations, and non-state actors, and assesses their contributions to the implementation of R2P. overall, Bellamy (2009) explores the complexities of preventing and responding to mass atrocities on a global scale.

Murphy (2016) examined *The Role of the United Nations in the Liberian Peacekeeping Intervention (2003-2013).* Murphy focuses on the UN's role in facilitating the peace process and maintaining stability in Liberia during a critical period of transition, explores the UN's efforts in coordinating the deployment of peacekeeping forces, providing logistical support, and assisting in the political and security reform processes, and analyzes the challenges faced by the UN in the Liberian context, such as the disarmament and reintegration of ex-combatants, establishing the rule of law, and promoting national reconciliation. Although Murphy discussed the collaboration between the UN and other actors, including regional organizations and donor countries, in supporting the peacekeeping mission in Liberia, the article highlighted the importance of partnerships and coordination in achieving sustainable peace and development. Therefore, Murphy (2016) concludes that the role of the United Nations in the Liberian Peacekeeping Intervention (2003-2013) cannot be overstated but pinpoints the complexities of peacekeeping operations and the role of international actors in post-conflict reconstruction.

Furthermore, Ihonvbere (2005) studied *Liberia: The Challenges of Restoring Peace and Stability*. Ihonvbere examines the root causes of the conflict in Liberia, including political instability, economic disparities, and ethnic tensions. Ihonvbere (2005) also analyzes the efforts made by both national and international actors to address these challenges and restore peace. In the study, Ihonvbere (2005) notes the role of regional organizations, such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), in facilitating peace negotiations and providing security assistance. As a result, Ihonvbere evaluates the impact of international interventions, particularly the United Nations' peacekeeping mission in Liberia. Ihonvbere (2005) explores the post-conflict reconstruction process in Liberia, including issues related to governance, justice, and socioeconomic development. Ihonvbere highlights the importance of inclusive political participation, economic reforms, and social reconciliation in achieving sustainable peace. Overall, Ihonvbere offers insights into the dynamics of peacebuilding, regional and international interventions, and the critical aspects of post-conflict reconstruction in Liberia.

Drawing from the review, it is evident that the conflict in Liberia was ultimately resolved through a combination of regional diplomacy and the deployment of international peacekeeping forces (Mills, 2013). Notably, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) played a pivotal role in stabilizing the country and facilitating the transition to a more peaceful and democratic society (Adebajo, 2016). Through its presence and activities, UNMIL contributed to the disarmament and demobilization of ex-combatants, the restoration of law and order, the promotion of human rights, and the support for democratic processes. The collaborative efforts of regional organizations, such as ECOWAS, in mediating peace negotiations and providing security assistance were also instrumental in resolving the conflict and establishing a foundation for long-term stability in Liberia.

3. Discussion of findings

Africa has been plagued by numerous internal conflicts, and Liberia is no exception (Adebajo, 2016). With over 15 years of peacekeeping experience in Liberia, it is crucial to recognize the challenges faced by international organizations in maintaining peace and stability. As a result, this section outlines the major obstacles that have affected peacekeeping missions and offer potential solutions to mitigate these issues. To set the tone, it is necessary to mention that the peacekeeping efforts in Liberia can be divided into four stages: stabilization, consolidation, transition, and drawdown (Karbo, 2016). The stabilization phase focused on the establishment of a secure environment, including the disarmament of former combatants and the provision of basic services to the population. The consolidation phase aimed to build on the progress made during the stabilization phase, including the restoration of state authority and the establishment of democratic institutions. The transition phase focused on the transfer of responsibility for security and governance from the UN and ECOWAS to the Liberian government. The final drawdown phase marked the gradual reduction of UNMIL's presence in Liberia in response to the improving security situation (UN Security Council, 2016).

Explicitly, peacekeeping efforts in Liberia have evolved over the years to address the changing needs of the region (Karbo, 2016). Initially, the focus was on establishing a secure environment and providing humanitarian assistance. As the situation improved, the focus shifted to building democratic institutions and promoting human rights. More recently, the emphasis has been on supporting the government in addressing the root causes of conflict, such as poverty and inequality. UNMIL has also worked to promote regional cooperation and coordination in peacekeeping efforts, recognizing that many conflicts in West Africa are interconnected (UN Security Council, 2016). In fact, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) was established in 2003 to support the implementation of the ceasefire agreement that ended the Second Liberian civil war (Karbo, 2016). UNMIL's mandate included tasks such as providing security, facilitating humanitarian assistance, promoting human rights, and supporting the government in rebuilding key institutions (UN Security Council, 2016). The mission was supported by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which played a key role in the initial deployment of peacekeeping forces to Liberia (Karbo, 2016).

Nevertheless, the challenges to peacekeeping in Liberia are outlined as follows

- Challenges with Infrastructure in Liberia. The lack of proper infrastructure in Liberia is a significant challenge for international organizations tasked with maintaining peace and stability. For example, difficult terrain, inadequate roads, and damaged infrastructure limit mobility making it difficult for organizations to move personnel and supplies around the country (Karbo, 2016). This can be a particular challenge during emergencies when rapid response is critical (UNDP, 2017). Similarly, Karbo (2016) notes that communication issues, including language barriers, make it difficult to transmit and receive information effectively. This can hinder the coordination of efforts among different organizations and between organizations and the local population. Also, healthcare facilities and services are limited, and the cost of medical care is often prohibitive for many Liberians (Karbo, 2016). In fact, the UNDP (2017) avers that some organizations have responded by establishing their medical facilities and training local health workers.

- Political instability in Liberia. The political instability in Liberia can create problems for peacekeeping missions, as it leads to a lack of trust between the population and the government. Implicitly, political instability in Liberia results in weak government institutions, corruption, and the intimidation and harassment of peacemakers. Ihonvbere (2005) alludes that political instability can create an environment where peacekeepers are targeted for intimidation and harassment; lead to corruption, which can undermine the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions, and lead to weak government institutions that are unable to provide essential services to the population.
- Impediments from society. Peacekeeping efforts in Liberia can be met with resistance from local communities, which can create challenges for international organizations attempting to maintain peace. UNDP (2010) and Ihonvbere (2005) suggest that neo-colonialism, sovereignty, and cultural differences are some reasons to resent and resist the presence of international organizations. For example, UNDP (2010) states that local community members may see peacekeeping measures as a form of neo-colonialism, as they are often implemented by foreign powers with their interests in mind.
- Limited resources. Liberia is a country with limited resources, and this can create obstacles for humanitarian and peacekeeping organizations. Resource scarcity is a common challenge faced by peacekeeping missions in many parts of the world. In Liberia, this challenge is particularly acute due to the country's history of civil conflict and underdevelopment (UN, 2020). However, despite the challenges posed by limited resources, peacekeeping missions in Liberia have made significant progress in recent years.
- Inadequate Personnel and Security Concerns. Understaffing, inadequate training, and insufficiently qualified personnel can impede peacekeeping missions. Besides, the UN (2020) avers that disease outbreaks, poor living conditions, and volatile political situations pose risks to peacekeeping personnel.

4. Conclusion

With over 15 years of peacekeeping experience in Liberia, it is crucial to recognize the challenges faced by international organizations in maintaining peace and stability. Therefore, accounting for the challenges of peacekeeping in Liberia sheds light on the intricate dynamics and lessons gleaned from the intervention. The resolution of the conflict in Liberia was achieved through a multifaceted approach that encompassed regional diplomacy, the deployment of international peacekeeping forces, and the concerted efforts of organizations such as the United Nations and ECOWAS. The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) played a central role in stabilizing the country, supporting the disarmament and demobilization process, restoring law and order, and facilitating the transition to a more peaceful and democratic society. However, the experience in Liberia also highlighted the complexities and difficulties encountered during peacekeeping operations, including the need for effective coordination among various actors, addressing root causes of conflict, promoting sustainable governance and development, and ensuring long-term peacebuilding efforts.

Recommendations

Despite the challenges, peacekeeping missions in Liberia have made important progress in recent years. Implementing the listed recommendations will require sustained effort and collaboration between international organizations, the Liberian government, and local communities. With continued commitment and investment, peacekeeping missions in Liberia can help to build a more stable and prosperous future for the country and its people. The following are the recommendations:

- Improving training and support for peacekeeping personnel. Increased training, better living conditions, and more efficient risk management can help alleviate these concerns. Additionally, peacekeeping missions should work closely with local communities to build trust and understanding, which can help to improve security and reduce the risk of conflict (UN, 2020).
- Strengthening democratic institutions and promoting good governance. Deliberate efforts must be put into strengthening democratic institutions for the success of any peacekeeping mission in the future. As already established, Liberia's weak institutions breed corruption which in turn impairs governance. As a result, a conscious effort must be made both by its government and development partners to strengthen its democratic institutions.
- Effective resource management is essential for peacekeeping missions to operate successfully in resource-limited environments (Kumar & Garg, 2019). This includes a careful budget allocation to ensure that resources are used efficiently (UN, 2020). Logistics management is also important for ensuring that resources are distributed effectively and are available when and where they are needed (Kumar & Garg, 2019). Along this line, temporary infrastructure can be used to create the necessary resources for peacekeeping operations, such as housing and medical facilities (UN, 2020).

- To gain the support of local communities, peacekeeping missions must engage with local leaders and community members to understand their needs and concerns. This can help to build trust and create a sense of ownership over the peacekeeping process. Additionally, transparency in decision-making and communication can help to address concerns about neo-colonialism and sovereignty. In the same vein, promoting local ownership of peacekeeping initiatives can help to create a sense of investment in the success of the mission.
- Infrastructure challenge. To address this, the UNDP (2017) posits that some organizations have implemented language training programs and worked to establish better communication networks while a few others have responded to the dearth of medical infrastructure by establishing their medical facilities and training local health workers. Indeed, there is an urgent need to revamp the infrastructure of a conflict zone for any meaningful peacekeeping effort.

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