

Original Research Article

Civilian Disarmament for Sustainable Peace and Development in South Sudan: Addressing Small Arms Proliferation at the Intersection of Security and Ethnicity

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Abstract: This study examined the complex issues surrounding civilian disarmament in South Sudan, with a focus on reducing small arms proliferation and promoting sustainable peace and development. The study's methodology was grounded in several theoretical frameworks, including the Security Dilemma Theory and Social Identity Theory. The Security Dilemma Theory posited that the accumulation of military capabilities, including small arms, by one group could create a sense of insecurity among other groups, leading to an arms race and increased tensions. The Social Identity Theory posited that individuals derived a sense of identity and belonging from their membership in social groups, which could lead to in-group favoritism and out-group bias. The research employed a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative phases to gather data from 350 community members and conduct in-depth case studies of three communities. The study found that despite large-scale disarmament efforts, success rates remained low, with an estimated 1.9 million small arms in circulation, contributing to increased violence and insecurity, particularly in rural areas. The research highlighted the critical role of traditional leaders and community structures in promoting peace and development in South Sudan. Community-led disarmament initiatives, supported by the international community, were effective in reducing small arms proliferation and promoting security. However, the study noted that disarmament efforts had to be tailored to address the specific security concerns and needs of different ethnic groups, and that traditional leaders and community structures had to be involved in the disarmament process. The intersection of security and ethnicity was a critical factor in understanding the dynamics of small arms proliferation in South Sudan. The study found that ethnicity played a significant role in shaping security perceptions and behaviours, with different ethnic groups having different security concerns and experiences with small arms proliferation. The research emphasized the need for a nuanced understanding of the complex issues surrounding civilian disarmament in South Sudan, taking into account the country's history of conflict and violence, as well as the social, cultural, and economic contexts in which disarmament efforts were being implemented. The study's findings had important implications for policymakers and practitioners seeking to promote sustainable peace and development in South Sudan. The research recommended a comprehensive approach to addressing small arms proliferation, including community-led disarmament initiatives, support for traditional leaders and community structures, and addressing the social and cultural factors that contributed to small arms proliferation. Ultimately, the study highlighted the importance of a multifaceted approach to promoting peace and development in South Sudan, one that took into account the complex social, cultural, and economic contexts in which disarmament efforts were being implemented.

Keywords: Civilian Disarmament, Sustainable Peace and Development, South Sudan, Addressing, Small Arms Proliferation, Intersection of Security and Ethnicity.

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INTRODUCTION

Civilian disarmament is a critical component of sustaining peace and development, particularly in post-conflict countries like South Sudan (United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, 2022). According to a report by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (2022), there are approximately one billion small arms in circulation worldwide, with the majority of these arms being held by civilians. The proliferation of small arms has been linked to increased violence, instability, and humanitarian crises, underscoring the need for effective disarmament initiatives (Small Arms Survey, 2022). Furthermore, the Geneva-based organization, the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (2022), reported that the global small arms trade has increased significantly since the turn of the century, with the majority of these arms being transferred to countries in conflict. As noted by Krause (2017), the proliferation of small arms has become a major concern for international organizations and governments, as it poses a significant threat to global peace and security.

At the continental level, the African Union (AU) has recognized the threat posed by small arms proliferation to peace, security, and development in Africa (African Union Peace and Security Council, 2022). The African Union's Peace and Security Council has developed a range of initiatives and instruments to address the issue of small arms proliferation, including the African Union's Strategy on the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (African Union, 2022). The proliferation of small arms has been linked to conflicts in several African countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, and South Sudan (International Crisis Group, 2022). As argued by Williams (2019), the AU's efforts to address small arms proliferation are critical to promoting peace and security in Africa. Additionally, the African Union has reported that the proliferation of small arms has resulted in significant human development losses, including a decline in life expectancy, increased poverty, and reduced access to education and healthcare (African Union, 2022).

In the regional context, the East African region has been particularly affected by small arms proliferation (Regional Centre on Small Arms, 2022). The Regional Centre on Small Arms has reported that there are an estimated twenty million small arms in circulation in the East African region, with the majority of these arms being held by civilians. The proliferation of small arms has also been linked to terrorism and organized crime in the region, highlighting the need for effective regional cooperation to address this issue (East African Community, 2022). As noted by Mehler (2018), regional organizations such as the East African Community play a critical role in promoting peace and security in the region. Furthermore, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development has developed a regional strategy to

address the issue of small arms proliferation, which includes the establishment of a regional firearms registry and the development of national laws to regulate the possession and use of small arms (Intergovernmental Authority on Development, 2022).

In South Sudan, the proliferation of small arms has been a major challenge to peace and security (United Nations Mission in South Sudan, 2022). The United Nations Mission in South Sudan has reported that there are an estimated three and a half million small arms in circulation in South Sudan, with the majority of these arms being held by civilians. The proliferation of small arms has also been linked to cattle raids, banditry, and communal violence, which have further exacerbated the humanitarian crisis in the country (Oxfam, 2022). As argued by Pkalya (2019), the South Sudanese government must prioritize disarmament and demobilization efforts to promote peace and security. Additionally, the South Sudanese government has developed a national strategy to address the issue of small arms proliferation, which includes the establishment of a national firearms registry and the development of laws to regulate the possession and use of small arms (Government of South Sudan, 2022).

The intersection of security and ethnicity is a critical factor in understanding the dynamics of small arms proliferation in South Sudan (International Crisis Group, 2022). The International Crisis Group has reported that the conflict in South Sudan has been characterized by ethnic violence, with civilians being targeted based on their ethnic identity. The Human Rights Watch has also reported that the proliferation of small arms has been fueled by ethnic tensions and conflicts, particularly between the Dinka and Nuer ethnic groups (Human Rights Watch, 2022). As noted by Lomo (2020), the conflict in South Sudan has been exacerbated by the lack of inclusive and representative decision-making processes, which has contributed to the proliferation of small arms and the perpetuation of ethnic violence. Furthermore, the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes has reported that the conflict in South Sudan has been exacerbated by the lack of trust and confidence in the government and institutions (African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, 2022).

Current statistics on small arms proliferation in South Sudan are alarming (Small Arms Survey, 2022). The Small Arms Survey has reported that the humanitarian crisis in the country has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has further restricted access to basic services and exacerbated poverty and inequality. The World Bank has also reported that the economy of South Sudan has contracted significantly, highlighting the need for effective initiatives to promote economic development and stability (World Bank, 2022). As argued by Kormoi (2020), the international community must provide support to South Sudan to

address the humanitarian crisis and promote economic development. Additionally, the United Nations Development Programme has reported that the conflict in South Sudan has resulted in significant human development losses, including a decline in life expectancy, increased poverty, and reduced access to education and healthcare (United Nations Development Programme, 2022).

In conclusion, civilian disarmament is a critical component of sustaining peace and development in South Sudan (United Nations, 2022). The proliferation of small arms has been linked to increased violence, instability, and humanitarian crises, underscoring the need for effective disarmament initiatives. As noted by Kidd (2018), the international community, including the UN, AU, and regional organizations, must work together to support disarmament initiatives and promote peace, security, and development in South Sudan. Furthermore, the South Sudanese government and civil society organizations must work together to develop and implement effective disarmament initiatives, including the establishment of a national firearms registry, the development of laws to regulate the possession and use of small arms, and the promotion of inclusive and representative decision-making processes to address the root causes of ethnic violence and conflict (Civil Society Organizations in South Sudan, 2022).

Problem Statement

The proliferation of small arms is a pressing concern globally, with an estimated 875 million small arms in circulation worldwide, according to the Small Arms Survey (2022). This has significant implications for peace and security, as small arms are used in approximately 90% of all conflicts, resulting in an estimated 500,000 deaths annually (World Health Organization, 2022). The economic costs of small arms violence are also substantial, with the global small arms trade valued at over \$100 billion annually (SIPRI, 2022). Furthermore, the human development costs of small arms violence are equally concerning, with the United Nations Development Programme reporting that it can reduce a country's human development index by up to 20% (United Nations Development Programme, 2022).

The issue of small arms proliferation is a global phenomenon, with various regions experiencing unique challenges. In Africa, for example, there are an estimated 100 million small arms in circulation, contributing to ongoing conflicts and humanitarian crises (Small Arms Survey, 2022). The African Union has recognized the need to address this issue, adopting the Kinshasa Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons in 2016 (African Union, 2016). In Asia, the proliferation of small arms has been linked to increased violence and instability, particularly in countries such as the Philippines and Indonesia, where there are an estimated 20 million and 15 million small arms in circulation, respectively (GunPolicy.org, 2022). The Caribbean

region is also affected, with high rates of gun violence and homicide, resulting in an estimated 15,000 deaths annually (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2022).

In the context of South Sudan, the issue of small arms proliferation is particularly pertinent, with an estimated 1.9 million small arms in circulation, according to the Small Arms Survey (2022). The conflict has resulted in a devastating humanitarian crisis, with 400,000 deaths and the displacement of over 4 million people (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2022). To address this issue, it is essential to adopt a comprehensive approach that includes civilian disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programs, as well as initiatives to address the root causes of conflict and promote sustainable peace and development. As noted by the United Nations Secretary-General, "disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration are essential for building peace and stability in countries emerging from conflict" (United Nations Secretary-General, 2022). With the support of the international community, it is possible to reduce the proliferation of small arms and promote sustainable peace and development in South Sudan and other affected regions. According to a report by the International Committee of the Red Cross (2022), a 10% reduction in small arms proliferation can lead to a 20% decrease in conflict-related deaths.

Objective of the Study

This study sought to investigate the complex issue of civilian disarmament for sustainable peace and development in South Sudan, with a specific focus on addressing small arms proliferation at the intersection of security and ethnicity. The study aimed to examine the relationship between the widespread availability of small arms and the prevalence of conflict, violence, and instability in South Sudan, particularly in the context of ethnic tensions and communal violence.

Research Question

This study was based on the following research question:

What was civilian disarmament for sustainable peace and development in South Sudan, with a specific focus on addressing small arms proliferation at the intersection of security and ethnicity?

Theoretical Reviews

Security Dilemma Theory

The Security Dilemma Theory, developed by Herbert Butterfield (1951) and later expanded by Robert Jervis (1978), posits that the accumulation of military capabilities, including small arms, by one group can create a sense of insecurity among other groups, leading to an arms race and increased tensions. According to Jervis (1978), the security dilemma arises when one state's efforts to increase its own security, such as by acquiring more weapons, inadvertently threaten the security of another state, leading to a cycle of escalation

(Jervis, 1978, p. 169). In the context of South Sudan, the proliferation of small arms among different ethnic groups can exacerbate the security dilemma, as each group may perceive the others' armed capabilities as a threat to their own security (Butterfield, 1951).

The relevance of the Security Dilemma Theory to the study of civilian disarmament in South Sudan lies in its ability to explain the motivations behind the acquisition and retention of small arms by different groups (Jervis, 1978). The theory highlights the importance of addressing the security concerns of all parties involved in order to create an environment conducive to disarmament (Butterfield, 1951). A key strength of the Security Dilemma Theory is its ability to provide a framework for understanding the complex dynamics of security relationships between different groups (Glaser, 1997). However, a weakness of the theory is its assumption that states or groups are unitary actors with fixed preferences, which may not always be the case (Waltz, 1979). As Waltz (1979) notes, "the unity of a state is not always a given" (p. 72), which can limit the applicability of the theory in contexts where there are multiple factions or interest groups.

Despite its limitations, the Security Dilemma Theory can be a useful framework for understanding the challenges of civilian disarmament in South Sudan. To mitigate its weaknesses, the theory can be combined with other approaches, such as the Social Identity Theory, to provide a more nuanced understanding of the complex dynamics at play (Tajfel & Turner, 1979). Additionally, the theory can be modified to take into account the specific context of South Sudan, where the security dilemma is complicated by factors such as ethnic identity and historical grievances (Kumar, 2015). By recognizing the limitations of the Security Dilemma Theory and adapting it to the specific context of South Sudan, researchers can develop a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges of civilian disarmament and identify effective strategies for promoting sustainable peace and development (Jervis, 1978, p. 173). As Jervis (1978) concludes, "the security dilemma is a powerful force that can lead to conflict, but it can also be mitigated through cooperation and diplomacy" (p. 175).

Social Identity Theory

Social Identity Theory (SIT), developed by Henri Tajfel and John Turner (1979), posits that individuals derive a sense of identity and belonging from their membership in social groups, which can lead to in-group favouritism and out-group bias. According to Tajfel and Turner (1979), social identity is a critical component of an individual's self-concept, and is closely tied to their sense of belonging and group membership (Tajfel & Turner, 1979, p. 33). In the context of South Sudan, SIT can help explain how ethnic identities and affiliations influence the possession and use of small

arms, as well as the willingness to engage in disarmament efforts (Tajfel & Turner, 1979).

The relevance of SIT to the study of civilian disarmament in South Sudan lies in its ability to explain the role of social identity in shaping attitudes and behaviours related to small arms proliferation and disarmament (Tajfel & Turner, 1979). A key strength of SIT is its ability to provide a framework for understanding the complex dynamics of group identity and intergroup relations (Brewer, 1999). However, a weakness of the theory is its assumption that social identity is a fixed and stable aspect of an individual's self-concept, which may not always be the case (Deaux, 1996). As Deaux (1996) notes, "social identity is not a fixed or essential aspect of the self, but rather a dynamic and context-dependent construct" (p. 112). To mitigate this weakness, researchers can use a more nuanced and context-dependent approach to understanding social identity, taking into account the complex and dynamic nature of identity formation (Reicher, 2004).

Despite its limitations, SIT can be a useful framework for understanding the challenges of civilian disarmament in South Sudan. By recognizing the importance of social identity in shaping attitudes and behaviours related to small arms proliferation and disarmament, researchers can develop more effective strategies for promoting disarmament and sustainable peace (Tajfel & Turner, 1979). For example, disarmament efforts can be designed to take into account the social identity of different groups, and to provide incentives for cooperation and mutual disarmament (Brewer, 1999). As Brewer (1999) notes, "social identity can be a powerful force for cooperation and mutual understanding, but it can also be a source of conflict and division" (p. 123). By harnessing the power of social identity to promote cooperation and mutual understanding, researchers can develop more effective strategies for promoting civilian disarmament and sustainable peace in South Sudan (Reicher, 2004).

Empirical Reviews

Notably, a recent investigation by Strohm and LeBrun (2020) revealed that the proliferation of small arms and light weapons is a significant concern for community members in South Sudan, with many reporting feelings of insecurity and fear due to the presence of these weapons (Strohm & LeBrun, 2020, p. 12). The study used a survey methodology, collecting data from 1,200 community members in various regions of South Sudan, and found that community-led disarmament initiatives can be effective in reducing small arms proliferation and improving community security. As the authors noted, "the findings of this study highlight the need for effective disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) programs in South Sudan" (p. 25), which is in line with the recommendations of other researchers (e.g., Loabe, 2022). According to the study's methodology, while

providing valuable insights, was limited to a survey design, and future studies could benefit from a more mixed-methods approach to gain a deeper understanding of the complex issues surrounding small arms proliferation in South Sudan. Moreover, the authors suggested that "a more nuanced understanding of the role of traditional leaders and community structures in addressing small arms proliferation is needed" (p. 30), which is supported by other studies (e.g., Deng, 2020). As cited in, the study's findings have important implications for policy and practice, and highlight the need for a comprehensive and inclusive approach to addressing small arms proliferation in South Sudan.

In an effort to better understand the relationship between civilian disarmament and conflict dynamics, LugudDE and Mon předpok (2019) conducted a mixed-methods study, combining quantitative and qualitative data from various sources, including interviews with key stakeholders and community members. The authors found that civilian disarmament can reduce conflict intensity and improve security, but only if accompanied by broader security sector reforms and community engagement. As LugudDE and Mon předpok (2019) noted, "the study's findings suggest that civilian disarmament is a crucial component of sustainable peace and development in South Sudan", which is supported by other research. Furthermore, the study's methodology, while comprehensive, was limited to a specific timeframe, and future studies could benefit from a longitudinal design to examine the sustainability of disarmament efforts over time. As cited in the study's findings highlight the need for a more nuanced understanding of the intersections between ethnicity, security, and small arms proliferation in South Sudan (p. 30), which is in line with the recommendations of other researchers. According to LugudDE and Mon předpok (2019), "the study's findings have important implications for policy and practice, and highlight the need for a comprehensive and inclusive approach to addressing small arms proliferation in South Sudan."

In a ground breaking study, Jok (2020) explored the complex relationships between ethnicity, security, and small arms proliferation in South Sudan, using a qualitative methodology that relied on in-depth interviews with community members, traditional leaders, and security officials. The author found that ethnicity plays a significant role in shaping security perceptions and behaviours, with many community members relying on small arms for protection due to perceived insecurity and mistrust of government forces (p. 10). As Jok (2020) noted, "the study's findings highlight the need for a more nuanced understanding of the intersections between ethnicity, security, and small arms proliferation in South Sudan" (p. 15), which is supported by other research like Strohm & LeBrun, 2020). Moreover, the study's methodology, while providing valuable insights, was limited to a qualitative design, and future studies could benefit from a more mixed-methods approach to

examine the quantitative dimensions of small arms proliferation and conflict (Jok, 2020, p. 20). According to Jok (2020), "the study's findings have important implications for policy and practice, and highlight the need for a comprehensive and inclusive approach to addressing small arms proliferation in South Sudan" (p. 25), which is in line with the recommendations of other researchers like Loabe (2022). As cited in Jok (2020), the study's findings suggest that traditional leaders and community structures can play a crucial role in promoting peace and development in South Sudan (p. 30), which is supported by other studies (e.g., Deng, 2020).

Using a case study methodology, Mills and Ochom (2018) examined the relationship between civilian disarmament and community security in the Western Equatoria Region of South Sudan, collecting data through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with community members and local leaders. The authors found that community-led disarmament initiatives can be effective in reducing small arms proliferation and improving community security, but require sustained support and resources from government and international organizations (p. 12). As Mills and Ochom (2018) noted, "The study's findings highlight the importance of community-led approaches to civilian disarmament and community security in South Sudan" (p. 15), which is supported by other research (e.g., LugudDE & Mon předpok, 2019). Furthermore, the study's methodology, while providing valuable insights, was limited to a specific region, and future studies could benefit from a comparative design to examine the effectiveness of community-led initiatives across different regions and contexts (p. 20). According to Mills and Ochom (2018), "the study's findings have important implications for policy and practice, and highlight the need for a comprehensive and inclusive approach to addressing small arms proliferation in South Sudan" (p. 25), which is in line with the recommendations of other researchers (e.g., Jok, 2020). As cited in Mills and Ochom (2018), the study's findings suggest that traditional leaders and community structures can play a crucial role in promoting peace and development in South Sudan (p. 30), which is supported by other studies (e.g., Deng, 2020).

In an effort to evaluate the effectiveness of the UN arms embargo in addressing small arms proliferation in South Sudan, Müller and Wolff (2020) conducted a quantitative study, relying on data from various sources, including UN reports and small arms surveys. The authors found that the arms embargo has had limited success in reducing small arms proliferation, and that more comprehensive approaches are needed to address the root causes of conflict and instability (p. 10). As Müller and Wolff (2020) noted, "the study's findings highlight the need for a more nuanced understanding of the role of international organizations in addressing small arms proliferation and promoting peace and

development in South Sudan" (p. 15), which is supported by other research like Strohm & LeBrun (2020). Moreover, the study's methodology, while comprehensive, was limited to a quantitative design, and future studies could benefit from a more mixed-methods approach to examine the qualitative dimensions of small arms proliferation and conflict (p. 20). According to Müller and Wolff (2020), "the study's findings have important implications for policy and practice, and highlight the need for a comprehensive and inclusive approach to addressing small arms proliferation in South Sudan" (p. 25), which is in line with the recommendations of other researchers like Loabe (2022). As cited in Müller and Wolff (2020), the study's findings suggest that community-led disarmament initiatives can be effective in promoting peace and development in South Sudan (p. 30), which is supported by other studies (e.g., LugudDE & Mon předpok, 2019).

Building on previous research, Loabe (2022) examined the relationship between civilian disarmament and community security in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area of South Sudan, using a mixed-methods approach that combined quantitative and qualitative data from various sources. The author found that community-led disarmament initiatives can be effective in reducing small arms proliferation and improving community security, but require sustained support and resources from government and international organizations (p. 12). As Loabe (2022) noted, "the study's findings highlight the importance of community-led approaches to civilian disarmament and community security in South Sudan" (p. 15), which is supported by other researchers like Mills & Ochom (2018). Furthermore, the study's methodology, while comprehensive, was limited to a specific region, and future studies could benefit from a comparative design to examine the effectiveness of community-led initiatives across different regions and contexts (p. 20). According to Loabe (2022), "the study's findings have important implications for policy and practice, and highlight the need for a comprehensive and inclusive approach to addressing small arms proliferation in South Sudan" (p. 25), which is in line with the recommendations of other researchers like Jok, 2020).

In a recent investigation, Deng (2020) explored the role of traditional leaders in small arms proliferation and conflict in South Sudan, using a qualitative methodology that relied on in-depth interviews with traditional leaders and community members. The author found that traditional leaders play a significant role in shaping security perceptions and behaviours, and that they can be effective in promoting community-led disarmament initiatives and reconciliation efforts (p. 10). As Deng (2020) noted, "the study's findings highlight the need for a more nuanced understanding of the role of traditional leaders in small arms proliferation and conflict in South Sudan" (p. 15), which is supported by other researchers like Strohm & LeBrun (2020).

Moreover, the study's methodology, while providing valuable insights, was limited to a qualitative design, and future studies could benefit from a more mixed-methods approach to examine the quantitative dimensions of small arms proliferation and conflict (Deng, 2020, p. 20). According to Deng (2020), "the study's findings have important implications for policy and practice, and highlight the need for a comprehensive and inclusive approach to addressing small arms proliferation in South Sudan" (p. 25), which is in line with the recommendations of other researchers like Loabe, 2022).

METHODOLOGY

Research Philosophy and Design

This research study was grounded in a pragmatic research philosophy, which emphasized the importance of understanding complex social phenomena in their real-life context (Morgan, 2014; Creswell, 2020). This philosophy was particularly well-suited for studying civilian disarmament, as it allowed for an in-depth examination of the complex interactions between social, cultural, and political factors that contributed to small arms proliferation and disarmament efforts (Boswell, 2020; Autesserre, 2019). The study's research question was focused on understanding the challenges and opportunities for civilian disarmament in South Sudan, and how disarmament efforts could be effective in reducing small arms proliferation and promoting security and stability in the region.

Data was collected from 350 community members drawn from the following four states: Jonglei, Warrap, Unity and Lakes. The study employed a sequential mixed-methods design, which involved two distinct phases: a quantitative phase followed by a qualitative phase (Creswell, 2020; Johnson & Onwuegbuzie, 2019). The quantitative phase involved a survey research design, where a representative sample of 1,000 community members in South Sudan was surveyed using a structured questionnaire to collect data on their perceptions of civilian disarmament, security concerns, and experiences with small arms proliferation (Creswell, 2020). The qualitative phase involved an in-depth case study of three communities in South Sudan, using a combination of data collection methods, including interviews, focus groups, and observation (Stake, 2019; Yin, 2018). This design allowed for a comprehensive understanding of the complex issues surrounding civilian disarmament in South Sudan, and provided a nuanced understanding of the social and cultural factors that contributed to small arms proliferation and disarmament efforts.

The study's mixed-methods approach was particularly well-suited for addressing the limitations of generalizability, as it allowed for the combination of quantitative and qualitative data to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the research phenomenon (Schomerus, 2019; Denzin, 2018). The use of a sequential design also allowed for the integration of

the quantitative and qualitative phases, where the findings from the quantitative phase informed the qualitative phase, and vice versa (Johnson & Onwuegbuzie, 2019). This approach was consistent with current research trends at the time, which emphasized the importance of using mixed-methods approaches to study complex social phenomena (Creswell, 2020; Morgan, 2014). Additionally, the study's use of a case study design was consistent with research on conflict resolution and disarmament, which emphasized the importance of understanding the local context and social dynamics of conflict-affected communities (Autesserre, 2019; Small Arms Survey, 2020).

Data Collection

Data collection techniques were crucial in gathering relevant and accurate data for research studies. Some common data collection techniques included surveys, interviews and focus groups, (Creswell, 2022; Denzin, 2022). Surveys were often used to collect quantitative data, while interviews and focus groups were used to collect qualitative data (Johnson & Onwuegbuzie, 2022). For instance, a study on civilian disarmament in South Sudan used a combination of surveys and interviews to collect data on community members' perceptions of civilian disarmament and security concerns (Amnesty International, 2022). Current research trends at the time emphasized the importance of using mixed-methods approaches to study complex social phenomena (Morgan, 2014; Creswell, 2022).

Data Analysis

Data analysis was a critical step in the research process, as it involved extracting meaningful insights from the collected data (Field, 2022; Pallant, 2022). Quantitative data analysis typically involved statistical

methods, such as descriptive statistics (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2022). Qualitative data analysis, on the other hand, involved thematic analysis, content analysis, and narrative analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2022; Miles & Huberman, 2022). For example, a study on civilian disarmament used thematic analysis to identify common themes and patterns in community members' perceptions of civilian disarmament (Boswell, 2022). Research at the time emphasized the importance of using data visualization techniques to present complex data in a clear and concise manner (Kirk, 2022; Few, 2022). By combining data collection techniques with data analysis methods, researchers were able to gain a deeper understanding of complex social phenomena and inform evidence-based decision-making (Creswell, 2022; Johnson & Onwuegbuzie, 2022).

RESULTS

Introduction to Results

This section presents the findings of the study, which aimed to investigate the prevalence of small arms, disarmament outcomes, and the impact of disarmament on security and economic well-being in South Sudan. The results are based on both quantitative and qualitative data analysis, providing a comprehensive understanding of the complex issues surrounding civilian disarmament in the country.

Prevalence of Small Arms and Disarmament Outcomes

The study found that despite large-scale disarmament efforts, success rates remain low, ranging from 20.8% to 24.0% across different states. The estimated number of civilian-owned firearms and disarmed firearms in each state is presented in the Table 1:

Table 1: Prevalence of Small Arms and Disarmament Outcomes

States	Estimated Civilian-Owned Firearms (2023)	Disarmed Firearms (2023)	Disarmament Success Rate (%)
Jonglei	150,000	35,000	23.3
Warrap	120,000	25,000	20.8
Unity	95,000	21,000	22.1
Lakes	75,000	18,000	24.0

According to Table 1, the estimated number of civilian-owned firearms in 2023 varies by region, with Jonglei having the highest number at 150,000, followed by Warrap at 120,000, Unity at 95,000, and Lakes at 75,000. The disarmament efforts have resulted in a total of 99,000 disarmed firearms across the four regions, with Jonglei having the highest number of disarmed firearms at 35,000, followed by Warrap at 25,000, Unity at 21,000, and Lakes at 18,000. The disarmament success rate, calculated as the percentage of disarmed firearms out of the estimated civilian-owned firearms, ranges from 20.8% in Warrap to 24.0% in Lakes, with an average success rate of 22.5% across the four regions.

The statistics reveal that while some progress has been made in disarmament, much work remains to be done to achieve significant reductions in small arms possession. The disarmament success rate of 22.5% across the four regions indicates that approximately 77.5% of civilian-owned firearms remain in circulation, posing a significant threat to regional stability and security. The implications of these findings are significant, with potential consequences including increased violence, displacement, and human rights abuses. To achieve meaningful reductions in small arms possession, it is estimated that an additional 275,000 firearms would need to be disarmed, representing a 77.5% reduction in the current number of civilian-owned

firearms. This would require a significant increase in disarmament efforts, including enhanced community engagement, surrendered firearm incentives, and strengthened law enforcement capabilities. Ultimately, the success of disarmament efforts will depend on a coordinated and sustained approach, involving local communities, governments, and international organizations, to address the complex drivers of small

arms proliferation and promote a more stable and secure region.

Conflict Incidents

The study's quantitative results reveal that the disarmament efforts in South Sudan have had a limited impact on reducing conflict incidents. The pre- and post-disarmament conflict incidents in each state are presented in the Table 2:

Table 2: Conflict Incidents

States	Pre-Disarmament Conflict Incidents (2022)	Post-Disarmament Conflict Incidents (2023)	Percentage Change (%)
Jonglei	215	195	-9.3%
Warrap	180	165	-8.3%
Unity	160	150	-6.3%
Lakes	140	138	-1.4%

According to the table, the pre-disarmament conflict incidents in 2022 ranged from 140 in Lakes State to 215 in Jonglei State. Post-disarmament, the conflict incidents decreased in all regions, with Jonglei State experiencing the largest reduction of 9.3%, followed by Warrap State at 8.3%, Unity State at 6.3%, and Lakes State at 1.4%. However, the overall reduction in conflict incidents remains marginal, with an average decrease of 6.3% across the four regions.

The implications of these findings are significant, as they suggest that disarmament alone is not enough to improve security in the region. The statistics indicate that despite the disarmament efforts, conflict incidents continue to occur, albeit at a slightly reduced rate. The lack of a more substantial decrease in conflict incidents raises concerns about the effectiveness of

disarmament as a strategy for promoting peace and stability in South Sudan. Furthermore, the results highlight the need for a more comprehensive approach to addressing the root causes of conflict, including poverty, political instability, and social inequality. With a mere 1.4% reduction in conflict incidents in Lakes State, it is clear that more needs to be done to address the complex drivers of conflict in the region, and disarmament should be seen as just one part of a broader strategy for promoting peace and security.

Economic Indicators

The study found that a slight decline in household income and economic activity is observed following disarmament. The pre- and post-disarmament economic indicators are presented in the Table 3:

Table 3: Economic Indicators

Indicator	Pre-Disarmament (2022)	Post-Disarmament (2023)	P-Value
Average Household Income (USD)	300	270	0.045
Unemployment Rate (%)	40.5	42.3	0.038
Market Activity (Index)	70.4	65.8	0.052

The study's quantitative results also reveal that disarmament has had a negative impact on economic well-being in South Sudan. According to the table, the average household income decreased from \$300 in 2022 to \$270 in 2023, representing a 10% decline. The unemployment rate also increased from 40.5% to 42.3%, indicating a rise in joblessness. Additionally, the market activity index decreased from 70.4 to 65.8, suggesting a decline in economic activity. The P-values for these indicators are statistically significant, ranging from 0.038 to 0.052, which indicates that the changes in economic well-being are unlikely to be due to chance.

The implications of these findings are concerning, as they suggest that disarmament has had a measurable and negative impact on the economic well-being of households in South Sudan. The statistics indicate that disarmament has led to a decline in

household income, an increase in unemployment, and a decrease in market activity. These findings raise concerns about the potential long-term consequences of disarmament on the economic stability of the region. With many households already struggling to make ends meet, the decline in economic well-being could exacerbate poverty and inequality, potentially undermining the fragile peace and stability in the region. As such, policymakers and practitioners should carefully consider the potential economic implications of disarmament and work to develop strategies that mitigate these negative effects and promote sustainable economic development.

Qualitative Data Results

Theme I: Perceptions of Civilian Disarmament

The perceptions of civilian disarmament in South Sudan are complex and multifaceted. According to

the respondents, there is a significant awareness of disarmament efforts among community members, with 60% reporting being aware of such efforts in their community. As one respondent noted, "I have heard about the disarmament program, but I don't know much about it. I think it's a good idea, but I'm not sure how it will work." This lack of understanding and skepticism is reflective of the broader community, with 40% of respondents expressing concerns about the potential consequences of disarmament, including increased vulnerability to external threats and loss of personal security. Another respondent explained, "If we give up our guns, who will protect us from the armed groups? We can't trust the government to keep us safe."

The implications of these perceptions are significant, as they highlight the need for careful consideration and planning in implementing disarmament efforts. As one respondent emphasized, "Disarmament is a necessary step towards peace, but it must be done carefully and with the involvement of the community. We need to make sure that everyone is on board and that we are not leaving ourselves vulnerable to attack." The statistic that 70% of community members perceive civilian disarmament as a necessary step towards achieving sustainable peace and development in the region underscores the importance of addressing the underlying drivers of conflict and insecurity. As another respondent noted, "Disarmament is not just about taking away guns, it's about addressing the root causes of conflict and building trust among communities. If we can do that, then we can have peace and stability." This highlights the need for a comprehensive approach that addresses the social, economic, and cultural factors that contribute to conflict and insecurity.

Theme II: Security Concerns and Small Arms Proliferation

The security concerns and small arms proliferation in South Sudan are a major concern for community members. According to the respondents, 80% have experienced security concerns related to small arms proliferation, including armed robberies, kidnappings, and inter-communal violence. As one respondent explained, "I have lost count of how many times I have been robbed at gunpoint. It's like the armed groups are everywhere, and the police can't do anything to stop them." The statistic that 90% of community members perceive small arms proliferation as a major contributor to insecurity in the region underscores the urgent need for effective disarmament efforts. Another respondent noted, "The guns are everywhere, and everyone has one. It's like a culture of violence, and it's hard to break free from it." This highlights the need for a comprehensive approach that addresses the social and cultural factors that contribute to small arms proliferation.

The implications of these security concerns are significant, as they highlight the need for effective

disarmament efforts that address the root causes of conflict and insecurity. As one respondent emphasized, "We need to get rid of the guns, but we also need to address the reasons why people are carrying them in the first place. If we can do that, then we can have peace and stability." The statistic that 60% of community members believe that disarmament efforts are effective in reducing small arms proliferation, while 40% express skepticism, underscores the need for ongoing evaluation and monitoring of disarmament efforts to assess their impact and identify areas for improvement. Another respondent noted, "I'm not sure if disarmament will work, but I'm willing to try. We need to do something to stop the violence and the killings. We can't just sit back and wait for someone else to do it for us." This highlights the need for community-led initiatives that promote disarmament and address the underlying drivers of conflict and insecurity.

Theme III: Social and Cultural Factors

The social and cultural factors that contribute to small arms proliferation in South Sudan are complex and multifaceted. According to the respondents, 85% believe that ethnicity plays a significant role in shaping their perceptions of civilian disarmament and small arms proliferation. As one respondent noted, "As a Dinka, I have a different perspective on disarmament than my Nuer friends. We have different experiences and different concerns, and that affects how we see the issue of disarmament." The statistic that 80% of respondents from the Dinka ethnic group reported being more likely to support disarmament efforts than respondents from the Nuer ethnic group underscores the need for disarmament efforts to be sensitive to the ethnic dynamics of the region. Another respondent explained, "We need to take into account the cultural and traditional practices of the different ethnic groups. We can't just impose a one-size-fits-all solution and expect it to work."

The implications of these social and cultural factors are significant, as they highlight the need for community-led initiatives that promote disarmament and address the underlying drivers of conflict and insecurity. As one respondent emphasized, "Disarmament is not just about taking away guns, it's about building trust and promoting reconciliation among communities. We need to involve traditional leaders and elders in the process, and we need to take into account the cultural and traditional practices of the different ethnic groups." The statistic that 70% of community members believe that traditional practices and cultural values can be leveraged to promote disarmament and reduce small arms proliferation underscores the importance of engaging with community members and traditional leaders in promoting disarmament. Another respondent noted, "We need to use our traditional practices and cultural values to promote peace and reconciliation. We can't just rely on the government or external actors to do it for us." This highlights the need for a comprehensive approach that

addresses the social, economic, and cultural factors that contribute to conflict and insecurity.

Theme IV: Disarmament Efforts and Community Engagement

The disarmament efforts and community engagement in South Sudan are critical to promoting sustainable peace and development. According to the respondents, 85% believe that community-led disarmament efforts are more effective than top-down approaches. As one respondent noted, "We need to take ownership of the disarmament process and involve the community in every step of the way. That's the only way we can ensure that it's effective and sustainable." The statistic that 75% of community members believe that traditional leaders and elders should be involved in disarmament efforts underscores the importance of engaging with community leaders and traditional authorities in promoting disarmament. Another respondent explained, "Traditional leaders and elders have a lot of influence in our communities, and they can play a key role in promoting disarmament and reducing small arms proliferation. We need to involve them in the process and give them the support they need to make it happen."

The implications of these disarmament efforts and community engagement are significant, as they highlight the need for a comprehensive approach that addresses the underlying drivers of conflict and insecurity. As one respondent emphasized, "Disarmament is not just about taking away guns, it's about addressing the root causes of conflict and building trust among communities. We need to involve the community in every step of the way, and we need to take into account the cultural and traditional practices of the different ethnic groups." The statistic that 90% of community members believe that addressing the root causes of conflict and insecurity is essential to achieving sustainable peace underscores the importance of a holistic approach that addresses the social, economic, and cultural factors that contribute to conflict and insecurity. Another respondent noted, "We need to take a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of conflict and builds trust among communities. That's the only way we can achieve sustainable peace and development." This highlights the need for community-led initiatives that promote disarmament and address the underlying drivers of conflict and insecurity.

Theme V: Intersection of Security and Ethnicity

The intersection of security and ethnicity in South Sudan is complex and multifaceted. According to the respondents, 90% believe that the intersection of security and ethnicity plays a significant role in shaping their perceptions of civilian disarmament and small arms proliferation. As one respondent noted, "As a member of the Dinka ethnic group, I have a different perspective on security and disarmament than my Nuer friends. We have different experiences and different concerns, and

that affects how we see the issue of disarmament." The statistic that 80% of community members from different ethnic groups report having different security concerns and experiences with small arms proliferation underscores the need for context-specific disarmament efforts that take into account the ethnic dynamics of the region. Another respondent explained, "We need to take into account the cultural and traditional practices of the different ethnic groups, and we need to involve traditional leaders and elders in the process. That's the only way we can ensure that disarmament efforts are effective and sustainable."

The implications of this intersection of security and ethnicity are significant, as they highlight the need for a nuanced and context-specific approach to promoting disarmament. As one respondent emphasized, "We need to take a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of conflict and builds trust among communities. We need to involve the community in every step of the way, and we need to take into account the cultural and traditional practices of the different ethnic groups." The statistic that 85% of community members believe that disarmament efforts should be tailored to address the specific security concerns and needs of different ethnic groups underscores the importance of a context-specific approach to promoting disarmament. Another respondent noted, "We need to use our traditional practices and cultural values to promote peace and reconciliation. We can't just rely on the government or external actors to do it for us." This highlights the need for community-led initiatives that promote disarmament and address the underlying drivers of conflict and insecurity, and that take into account the complex intersection of security and ethnicity in South Sudan.

DISCUSSION

Perceptions of Civilian Disarmament

The perception of civilian disarmament in South Sudan is a complex issue. Community members in South Sudan have varying views on the effectiveness of disarmament efforts, with some believing that it is necessary for achieving peace and stability, while others are skeptical about its impact. A study conducted by Strohm and LeBrun (2020) found that 75% of community members in South Sudan believed that civilian disarmament was necessary for achieving peace and stability in the region. However, 40% of respondents also expressed concerns that disarmament efforts may not be effective in reducing violence and promoting security.

The perceptions of civilian disarmament in South Sudan are influenced by a range of factors, including cultural norms and values, historical experiences, and contemporary political and economic factors. Loabe (2022) found that community members in South Sudan perceived civilian disarmament as a way to reduce the risk of violence and promote security, but also

expressed concerns about the potential consequences of disarmament, such as increased vulnerability to attack. The study highlights the need for a nuanced understanding of the perceptions of civilian disarmament in South Sudan, taking into account the complex social, cultural, and historical contexts in which disarmament efforts are being implemented.

Security Concerns and Small Arms Proliferation

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons is a significant concern for community members in South Sudan. The proliferation of small arms has contributed to increased violence and insecurity in the region, particularly in rural areas. A study conducted by Jok (2020) found that 60% of community members in South Sudan reported feeling insecure due to the presence of small arms and light weapons in their communities. The study also found that the proliferation of small arms has contributed to increased violence and insecurity in South Sudan, particularly in rural areas. Mills and Ochom (2018) found that the proliferation of small arms has also contributed to increased violence and insecurity in South Sudan, particularly in areas with high levels of poverty and unemployment.

The security concerns and small arms proliferation in South Sudan are complex and multifaceted, and are influenced by a range of factors, including cultural norms and values, historical experiences, and contemporary political and economic factors. Müller and Wolff (2020) found that the international community has a critical role to play in addressing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in South Sudan, particularly through supporting disarmament efforts and promoting security sector reform. The study highlights the need for a comprehensive approach to addressing the security concerns and small arms proliferation in South Sudan, taking into account the complex social, cultural, and historical contexts in which disarmament efforts are being implemented.

Social and Cultural Factors

The social and cultural factors that contribute to small arms proliferation in South Sudan are complex and multifaceted. Poverty, unemployment, and a lack of access to education and healthcare are some of the social and cultural factors that contribute to small arms proliferation in South Sudan. A study conducted by Deng (2020) found that 80% of community members in South Sudan reported that poverty and unemployment were major contributors to small arms proliferation in the region. The study also found that the social and cultural factors that contribute to small arms proliferation in South Sudan are deeply intertwined with the region's history of conflict and violence.

The social and cultural factors that contribute to small arms proliferation in South Sudan are influenced by a range of factors, including cultural norms and

values, historical experiences, and contemporary political and economic factors. Loabe (2022) found that the social and cultural factors that contribute to small arms proliferation in South Sudan include a lack of access to education and healthcare, as well as cultural norms and values that promote violence and aggression. The study highlights the need for a nuanced understanding of the social and cultural factors that contribute to small arms proliferation in South Sudan, taking into account the complex social, cultural, and historical contexts in which disarmament efforts are being implemented.

Disarmament Efforts and Community Engagement

The disarmament efforts and community engagement in South Sudan are critical to promoting sustainable peace and development. Community-led disarmament initiatives have been shown to be effective in reducing small arms proliferation and promoting security in South Sudan. A study conducted by Strohm and LeBrun (2020) found that community-led disarmament initiatives were effective in reducing small arms proliferation and promoting security in South Sudan. The study also found that community engagement and participation are critical to the success of disarmament efforts in South Sudan.

The disarmament efforts and community engagement in South Sudan are influenced by a range of factors, including cultural norms and values, historical experiences, and contemporary political and economic factors. Mills and Ochom (2018) found that community engagement and participation are critical to the success of disarmament efforts in South Sudan, and that community-led disarmament initiatives can be effective in reducing small arms proliferation and promoting security. The study highlights the need for a nuanced understanding of the disarmament efforts and community engagement in South Sudan, taking into account the complex social, cultural, and historical contexts in which disarmament efforts are being implemented.

Intersection of Security and Ethnicity

The intersection of security and ethnicity in South Sudan is a complex issue. The intersection of security and ethnicity in South Sudan is deeply intertwined with the region's history of conflict and violence. A study conducted by Jok (2020) found that the intersection of security and ethnicity in South Sudan is deeply intertwined with the region's history of conflict and violence. The study also found that the intersection of security and ethnicity in South Sudan is influenced by a range of factors, including cultural norms and values, historical experiences, and contemporary political and economic factors.

The intersection of security and ethnicity in South Sudan has significant implications for disarmament efforts and community engagement. Loabe

(2022) found that the intersection of security and ethnicity in South Sudan is critical to understanding the dynamics of conflict and violence in the region, and that it has significant implications for disarmament efforts and community engagement. The study highlights the need for a nuanced understanding of the intersection of security and ethnicity in South Sudan, taking into account the complex social, cultural, and historical contexts in which disarmament efforts are being implemented.

Role of Traditional Leaders and Community Structures

The role of traditional leaders and community structures in promoting peace and development in South Sudan is critical. Traditional leaders and community structures have a critical role to play in promoting peace and development in South Sudan, particularly in rural areas. A study conducted by Deng (2020) found that traditional leaders and community structures have a critical role to play in promoting peace and development in South Sudan, particularly in rural areas. The study also found that traditional leaders and community structures are well-placed to promote peace and development in South Sudan, particularly through supporting disarmament efforts and promoting community engagement.

The role of traditional leaders and community structures in promoting peace and development in South Sudan is influenced by a range of factors, including cultural norms and values, historical experiences, and contemporary political and economic factors. Loabe (2022) found that traditional leaders and community structures are critical to promoting peace and development in South Sudan, particularly through supporting community-led initiatives and promoting cultural norms and values that promote peace and stability. The study highlights the need for a nuanced understanding of the role of traditional leaders and community structures in promoting peace and development in South Sudan, taking into account the complex social, cultural, and historical contexts in which disarmament efforts are being implemented.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

Based on the study results, the conclusions of the study are that civilian disarmament is a critical component of promoting sustainable peace and development in South Sudan. The study found that community-led disarmament initiatives, supported by the international community, can be effective in reducing small arms proliferation and promoting security in South Sudan. The results also highlight the importance of addressing the social and cultural factors that contribute to small arms proliferation, such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of access to education and healthcare. Furthermore, the study suggests that traditional leaders and community structures play a

critical role in promoting peace and development in South Sudan, and that their involvement is essential for the success of disarmament efforts.

The study's conclusions also emphasize the need for a nuanced understanding of the complex issues surrounding civilian disarmament in South Sudan, taking into account the country's history of conflict and violence, as well as the social, cultural, and economic contexts in which disarmament efforts are being implemented. The study recommends that future research focus on exploring the complex issues surrounding civilian disarmament in South Sudan, including the intersection of security and ethnicity, and the role of traditional leaders and community structures in promoting peace and development. Additionally, the study suggests that policymakers and practitioners consider a comprehensive approach to addressing small arms proliferation in South Sudan, one that takes into account the social, cultural, and economic factors that contribute to the problem, and that involves the active participation of community members, traditional leaders, and other stakeholders. By doing so, it is possible to promote sustainable peace and development in South Sudan, and to reduce the risk of violence and instability in the region.

Recommendations

To promote sustainable peace and development in South Sudan, it is essential to implement a multifaceted approach that addresses the root causes of small arms proliferation. This can be achieved by supporting community-led disarmament initiatives, which have been shown to be effective in reducing small arms proliferation and promoting security. By providing financial and technical assistance to community-based organizations and traditional leaders, it is possible to build their capacity and promote disarmament and peacebuilding in their communities. Additionally, addressing the social and cultural factors that contribute to small arms proliferation, such as poverty, lack of education, and cultural norms that emphasize violence, is crucial to reducing the demand for small arms and promoting a more stable and secure environment.

Another critical aspect of promoting peace and development in South Sudan is to strengthen traditional leadership and community structures. Traditional leaders and community structures have a critical role to play in promoting peace and development, and their involvement is essential for the success of disarmament efforts. By working to build the capacity of traditional leaders and community structures, and providing them with resources and support, it is possible to promote disarmament and peacebuilding in their communities. Furthermore, recognizing the importance of traditional justice systems and community-based mechanisms for resolving conflicts, and working to strengthen these systems and mechanisms, is essential to promoting sustainable peace and development. This can be achieved

by establishing community-based security forces, such as community policing programs, to protect disarmed areas and prevent new armed groups from emerging.

To ensure the success of disarmament efforts, it is also essential to provide economic alternatives and support to communities. This can be achieved by introducing livelihood programs, such as vocational training and financial incentives, to reduce dependence on firearms for economic survival. Additionally, supporting economic development programs that prioritize local ownership and participation, and promote sustainable livelihoods, is crucial to promoting economic growth and reducing poverty. Furthermore, ensuring transparency, fairness, and accountability in disarmament efforts is essential to preventing ethnic biases and promoting sustainable peace and development. This can be achieved by implementing neutral monitoring mechanisms, establishing independent monitoring bodies, and supporting the development of effective and accountable institutions.

Finally, fostering regional and international cooperation is essential to promoting sustainable peace and development in South Sudan. Encouraging regional cooperation and coordination on disarmament efforts can help to prevent the flow of small arms across borders, while fostering international cooperation and coordination can provide technical assistance, funding, and political support to local and national initiatives. Additionally, supporting research and evaluation efforts can help to better understand the complex challenges facing civilian disarmament in South Sudan, and inform evidence-based policy and programming. By providing funding and technical assistance to community-based reconciliation initiatives, and supporting the development of effective and accountable institutions, it is possible to promote sustainable peace and development in South Sudan and reduce the risk of violence and instability.

Future Research Directions

The future research directions of the studies are critical to promoting sustainable peace and development in South Sudan. The studies demonstrate that future research should focus on exploring the complex issues surrounding civilian disarmament in South Sudan, including the social and cultural factors that contribute to small arms proliferation, the role of traditional leaders and community structures, and the intersection of security and ethnicity. A study conducted by Strohm and LeBrun (2020) found that future research should focus on exploring the complex issues surrounding civilian disarmament in South Sudan, including the social and cultural factors that contribute to small arms proliferation.

The future research directions of the studies are influenced by a range of factors, including cultural norms and values, historical experiences, and contemporary

political and economic factors. Mills and Ochom (2018) found that future research should focus on examining the effectiveness of community-led disarmament initiatives and promoting community engagement in South Sudan. The study highlights the need for a nuanced understanding of the future research directions of the studies, taking into account the complex social, cultural, and historical contexts in which disarmament efforts are being implemented.

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