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ABSTRACT

Peace promotion and its maintenance in every community depends largely on the inhabitants of that community with support of the government or civil society organisations. The inhabitants of the communities either become agents of peace or perpetrators of violence. This significantly points to the need for peace building actions amongst communities in the North West and South West region of Cameroon especially in those communities where traits of conflict or perpetual violence have become visible due to the warring situation in the regions. This study takes the North West and South West region of Cameroon as a case study and explores the role that NGOs play in the enhancement of peace building, encouraged by the desire to contribute to the few available local literature in this field and to highlight the urgency of peace building activities amongst the warring communities, the study set out to identify NGOs working in the field of peace building; to identify the nature of peace-building activities and assess their impact in terms of communities transformation towards a more peacefully oriented population within the regions identified. The study is mainly qualitative and adopted a case study methodology with interviews and focus-group discussion as the major data collection process. Theoretically, the study uses the Comprehensive Peace building Framework as espoused by Paul Lederach (2003). Literature with respect to the context of the crisis in the two English speaking regions of Cameroon were also examined. The analytical design for this study was thematic analysis with the use of themes like (humanitarian activities, education, Sporting activities, prevention and reconstruction, mediation activities, conflict of interest and thread). After the analysis, findings reveal that NGO peace building activities are conducted through seminars, workshops and community sensitization campaigns, sporting activities, education, humanitarian action and conflict prevention. Between 2016 and 2018, NGOs the sampled NGOs have a couple of actions such as peace education workshop, advocacy campaign, human right prevention and respect of the rule of law, protection of gender base violence etc. This makes for a conclusion that NGOs have contributed significantly to peace building process in the warring regions of North West and South West. The study identified inadequate funds, lack of collaboration among NGOs, thread from the central government of siding with the separatist. Although a lot has been published on NGOs and peace building, the current study remains very important because it will add more knowledge to some of the literature that already exist on the socio-political history of Cameroon especially with the armed conflict that is ravaging the two anglophones regions of Cameroon..

CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Since the post cold War, peace building has become an important part of the international agenda; thence the debates on peace building have been constantly unfolding. The basic definition of peace building is the process of achieving peace. However, with further differences of the understanding of peace, different approaches to peace building, scope of activities and timeframes exist (Paffenholz, 2010:44). Thus, among scholars' debates derive concerning the understanding of peace building as a broad approach, including preventive actions (Bellamy, 2010; Newman, Paris & Richmond, 2009; Schnabel, 2002) or peace building as a post-conflict set of actions (Paffenholz, 2010; Verkoren & Van Leeuwen, 2013; Andrieu, 2010; Chandler, 2010). Some scholars are developing critiques on peace building agenda's for being Western-guided, using top-down approaches, a lack of inclusion of the local actors and not being adjusted to the local context in peace building process (Cubitt, 2013, Richmond, 2007), besides there is a significant debate on recognition of the importance of local actors, including local civil society (Paffenholz, 2014; Andrieu, 2010; Mac Ginty & Richmond, 2013), and the idea of peace building from below (Ramsbotham, Woodhouse & Miall, 2016). Nowadays there is an acknowledgement that NGOs are important actors in peace building and together with the international community in which mutual responsibilities and also add to the rebuilding of states and communities after sivere armed conflicts (Cubitt, 2013; Bellamy, 2010; Paffenholz, 2014; Pouligny, 2005; Richmond, 2011).

This part of project gives us an overall introduction to the study. It includes background to the study, statement of problem, the aim or objective of the research, Research Question, the importance or significance of the research, the scope of the research, the Definition of some terms and summary of chapter.

1.2 Research Relevance /Background to the Study

The underlining justification and motivation of the research work stemmed from the warring situation of the North West and South West region of Cameroon which start

in October 2016 and took a different dimension by November 2016. Due to the current socio-political crisis in the two English speaking regions where some villages and or communities were hugely affected in one way or another, school activities paralyzed, economic activities went down the drain, peace and harmony jeopardized. This therefore made the research very necessary because with the onset of the crisis, many NGOs starting showcasing their interest and desire in the communities affected either through humanitarian action or preaching peace and return to normalcy. With this in mind the research therefore decided to carry out a study on the role of these NGOs in peace building in the warring regions of North West and south west.

Conflict prevention and conflict resolution are important mechanisms that enable common responsibility with regards to attaining Sustainable Development Goal number 16 which supports " peace, strong institution and justice". This is a vital section of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development goal, a long-term plan of action for everyone who is seeking to address global problem (UNPPA, 2016). While peace building is vital and crucial for the prevention of war; according to Alex Bellamy (2010) effective peace building is a crucial component of prevention. Despite the fact it is a new concept compared to others in the development and international relations sphere, conflict prevention is needed and its significance is reiterated by multinational organizations and researchers (SIPRI, 2000) as it is cost-effective compared to post-conflict rebuilding, saves lives and safeguards development and democratic gains (Ramsbotham et al., 2016; World Bank Group, 2018:iv). The field of conflict prevention has its own difficulties; there is however an understanding that a notion of prevention demands a variety of state and non-state actors (SIPRI, 2000). Even though the primary responsibility for preventive action rests on governments, however with the fast changing global landscape and nature of the conflicts, they become not just the actor. Contemporary conflict prevention and peace building requires inclusion, cooperation and the involvement of actors on different level: from the central government, the regional level and international. Inclusive prevention requires empowering the abilities of the various groups of society, including civil society (World Bank Group, 2018).

Peace remains highly valued and indeed the greatest need in history. The world has not reduced its efforts in seeking for peace and the termination of conflict, and the greatest concern in contemporary Cameroon today is the search for peace. The war waged against the Boko Haram armed group in the Northern part of the country, the chaos in the East Region due to the mass movement of refugees from Central Africa into the area, and the current Anglophone crisis are at different levels of intensity which all require lasting solutions for peace to return. These conflicts have wreaked devastating effects on Cameroon and has led to enormous loss of lives, suffering of humans and animals, the destruction of infrastructures, the disruption of educational, economic and agricultural activities and the increasing anarchy that threatens not only peace and security within Cameroon but also on a larger scale, it has affected peace in Africa and beyond. The Boko Haram insurgency in Cameroon has caused about one thousand, five hundred deaths and displaced one hundred and fifty five thousands people internally, seventy three thousands externally as refugees. International Crisis Group. Report No 241/Africa (2016).

The quest for peace has therefore become the most pressing challenge faced by Africa at large and Cameroon in particular. In discussing about the important for peace in the world today (21st century), the world Agenda for Peace (The Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the 21st Century, 199) declared in its preamble that:

It is time for people to assert their commitment to peace and -if necessary to wrest peace-making away from the exclusive control of politicians and military establishments. Most of the time, peace talks are not proposed as priorities rather as a last resort, with negotiations restricted to the protagonist of war, and imposed on those most affected, particularly women and children. War victims must also be involved on the table when peace agreements are drawn up, if women are evenly represented, if need be, civil society should also convene peace initiatives before crisis gets out of control and lives are lost. This can help to prevent conflicts at warning phase from a slogan into a reality An Agenda for Peace (1992)

The World Agenda for Peace together with goals lays emphasizes on the need for all to take the initiative in peace building but highlights the specific responsibility of the civil society in this field. The civil society is one of the pillars of development, health promotion, elimination of societal ills, and advancement in literacy, education and democracy and acts as a watchdog by covering it nationals from the harsh decisions of the state market economy (Thania. P and Spurk C. 2006)

It is an emerging concept in the context of peace building. Evidence of research shows that it has been highly used by both international and local governmental and non-governmental organizations including global entities in these domains. From the existing literature, it is also evident that civil society has received much attention as one strategy for bringing societies to conform with another in conflict as a result of its inherent power to foster an attitude of give and take, thus building the practice of mutual concessions, shared benefits, and cooperation (Harriet J. 2013).

Going by The Hague Agenda for Peace, there has been a continuous surge in opportunities for grass-roots organizations to seek remedies for conflicts and initiate peace drives at the local or national level. Too often, violent conflict is “resolved” by external actions with less regards to the needs of those who must live with the solution. Because of this, the solution reached often served for very short period of time. For this solutions to be long-lived, and effective in resolving and transforming violent conflicts, they must be based on the strong inclusion participation of their local civil society groups committed to building peace.

The groups mentioned above includes NGOs and CSOs who generally refer to private sector, voluntary (also often non-profit and non-sectarian) groups that are also involved in cooperation projects, education, training or other activities for humanitarian purpose, progressive or watchdog activities for the improvement of humanity (Thania Paffenholz, 2010).

It is progressively visible that success in development does not only depend on a vibrant private sector and an efficient public sector but on a vigorous civil society as well. To depend the state alone has been described as trying to sit on a two-legged stool, which is it is imbalanced. Task-driven and led by persons who have a common

interest, such organizations perform a variety of service and humanitarian functions. They bring citizen concern to governments, advocate and monitor laws and foster political inclusiveness by supplying information. Some are centred within particular issues, like human rights, education, environment or health. They bring inspecialized advance knowledge and act as cautious instruments and assist in observing and apply international agreements. Their connections with the various bureaus and organs of the United Nations system varies depending on their mission, their location and tenure in an office of a particular institution. Brought together by a desire to better conditions across the globe, non-governmental organizations are a very diverse group, with varying objectives, functions and structures. In essence, these organizations are dedicated to service in parts of society that are undeserved or neglected by governments and other official institutions (Thania Paffenholz, 2010).

1.3 Problem Area/ Research Field

Experiencing a long period of instability and insecurity, the entire North West and South West Region of Cameroon is in need of a comprehensive peace process. The conflict that emerged in 2016 as a result of teacher uprising due to persistence marginalization took another dimension and involved all the communities in the Two English Speaking Region of Cameroon, followed by alleged proclaimed sovereign “people’s republics”, which put people life and property in a state of jeopardy and has had a significant and detrimental impact on human welfare, and on social and economic conditions (Harriet J. 2013).

These two regions are experiencing the prolonged crisis which necessitates an urgent need for reconstruction in term of economic and social recovery with implementation of peace and good governance and preventive mechanisms which is not only needed in the conflict-affected communities, but in the other regions of the country as well. According to the UNHCR data (2019), the estimated number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from these Regions is around 1,500,000 people. The result of the conflict therefore helps boosting the image and works of some national and international NGOs which has gain prominent recognition as peace crusaders.

This study took place in the North West and South West Region of Cameroon with two NGOs serving as focal point for data collection process. The NGOs whose activities in centred but not limited only to the North West and South West regions of Cameroon, namely: Human Is Right, and the Association for the Protection of Women's and Children's Right (APWCR). These are carefully chosen local NGOs who are on the ground and leave every experience as the victim of the crisis. Unlike multinational organization that are well protected and backed by their countries, these local NGOs manage their project and activities with little protection either from the state or internationally. They are directly involved on the field and have access to first-hand information thus the reason why this project is limited to the experience of local NGOs in peace building in Anglophone Cameroon.

An overview of the peace building field in two English speaking region of Cameroon shows that peace building activities have been monitored by a multi-track view point (Kyselova, 2017). Following the growth of the international aid programmes, peace building is becoming a 'new agenda' for local civil society in Cameroon. Never the less, a rise in funding has increased the tensions and competition among local organizations (Kyselova, 2017) that influence their efficiency in comprehensive peace building activities. Besides, most of the support for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) does not address the needs of the local communities and many at times the support does not even reach them.

1.4 Problem Description

Since post Cold War period, the notion of peace building has become an important part of the international agenda; thence the debates on peace building have been constantly unfolding. The basic definition of peace building is the process of achieving peace. However, with further differences of the understanding of peace, different approaches to peace building, scope of activities and timeframes exist (Paffenholz, 2010:44). Thus, among scholars' debates derive concerning the understanding of peace building as a broad approach, including preventive actions (Bellamy, 2010; Newman, Paris & Richmond, 2009; Schnabel, 2002) or peace building as a post-conflict set of actions (Paffenholz, 2010; Verkoren & Van

Leeuwen, 2013; Andrieu, 2010; Chandler, 2010). Some scholars are developing critiques on peace building agenda's for being Western- guided, using top-down approaches, a lack of inclusion of the local actors and not being adjusted to the local context in peace building process (Cubitt, 2013, Richmond, 2007). Besides there is a significant debate on recognition of the importance of local actors, including local civil society and or NGOs (Paffenholz, 2014; Andrieu, 2010; Mac Ginty & Richmond, 2013), and the idea of peace building from below (Ramsbotham, Woodhouse & Miall, 2016)

Today, there is a general acceptance that civil society is an important actor in peace building and together with the external community it shares duties and add to the reconstruction of states and societies after violent conflicts (Cubitt, 2013; Bellamy, 2010; Paffenholz, 2014; Pouligny, 2005; Richmond, 2011). Based on the surmounting importance of NGOs in the process of establishing lasting peace among the conflict views, the study on the role of NGOs in peace building becomes very relevance especially at this time where the two regions are in dyeing need of peace and for things to return to normalcy.

Contemporary research underlines that civil society actors play an important role in the democratization processes (Paffenholz, 2010; White, 2011; World Bank Group, 2018). Thus their involvement in peace building and preventive actions is essential as it has an important function in promoting democracy by engaging citizens into political processes and also connecting the international assistance actors through humanitarian assistance, the government, local people and communities (Jácome, Milet, & Serbin, 2005; Verkoren & Van Leeuwen, 2013; World Bank Group, 2018). Besides, these local civil society actor live in the country and continue contributing to the sustainability of peace building process.

1.5 Problem Statement/Formulation

Although there exist multiple research that has explored the role of NGOs not just in Cameroon, other violent hit zones, there has been insufficient research and information on the role of NGO, that deals specifically on peace building in the two English speaking regions of Cameroon that is currently hit by armed conflicts and

constant war of words and disagreements between the state of Cameroon and NGOs on issues of humanitarianism and peace building in the South West and North West regions in particular. In other words, we wish to know how people working in local NGOs are experiencing their own contribution to the peace building process.

The growing trend both in numbers and activities of NGOs which emerged during the on-going crises in the two English speaking regions is a loadable initiative which if well establish for the purpose of peace building, communities affected will regain their strength and purpose. Most of the existing NGOs were created to establish and bring out lasting peace among the warring parties. But it should be underscored here that, even the presence of these NGOs, peace is far fetch. This makes very difficult for a global assessment or appreciation of the efforts of such organizations to be established. Base on the fact that there exist many NGOs in the warring communities in the Southwest Region of Cameroon, yet the crisis and unrest keep taking the central stage in some localities in the region (Adeline, 2018). As such it became prominent and therefore an urgent need to explore this area which will ascertain the existence of NGOs and peace building in Southwest Region, their activities, their challenges and prospects. It should be noted that current Anglophone crisis has put of South West Region in a very strategic position and the young persons living in the area are at the ones leading either as those fuming the conflict or as solution providers. This makes the need for this research on peace building to be timely as it will encourage participation of not only the government but the civil society organizations in general. It is therefore very need to explore this domain thus our research..

1.6 Objectives of the study

The objectives of the studies are as follows:

1.6.1 General objectives

As the main objective of this study, the researcher sought to examine the role of Non-Governmental Organizations NGOs in peace building in the English-Speaking Region of Cameroon.

1.6.2 Specific objective

The study seeks:

- To identify the responsibility of NGOs in Peace building in Cameroon.
- To examine how NGO activities help promoting the peace building process North West and South West Region of Cameroon
- To find out how NGOs Officials see the effectiveness/success of NGO activities towards peace building in Cameroon English-Speaking Regions.

1.7 Research Questions

The following questions were formulated as research question to guide the present study.

1.7.1 General Research Question

What role do Non-Governmental Organizations play in fostering peace building in the English-Speaking Region of Cameroon?

1.7.2 Specific Research Questions

This research work seeks to answer the following questions.

- What are the responsibilities of NGOs in Peace building in the English-Speaking Region of Cameroon?
- How have the NGO activities help in promoting peace process in the English-Speaking Region of Cameroon?
- What is the perspective of NGO officials' on the effectiveness/success of NGO activities towards peace building in Cameroon English Speaking Regions?

1.8 Organization of the study

This research work is structured into six chapters. Chapter One examines the general introduction and objective of the project taking into consideration the motivation and/or justification of the study, problem area, problem description, problem statement and working research questions,

The Second chapter deals with project methodology and/or analysis strategies/ approach that will be used in the course of the research. It includes the type of analysis strategy that will be used in the course of the research and the reason why it was been used. How the selected theories will be used in the study and their connectivity to the research problem under investigation. The chapter also highlights on the methods that will be used and how it will be used in connection with the collection of empirical data and why the method seems relevance in the context of the problem statement.

The third chapter comprised of the theoretical review with respect to the investigation. The chapter highlights the selected theories that are relevance to the present study and the reason for the choice of the theories. The role of the theories in the work will also be discussed.

The chapter four presents the review of existing literature, which is literature that primarily deals with discussions and related concepts of the research. It also examines the contextual framework or issues, taking into consideration the historical review-from both the broader field of research and the specifics on Cameroon. The chapter will also articulate on the selected NGOs.

Chapter five deals with the analytical design and the analysis of findings, here presentation of findings from field work will be done. That is, it comprises presentation and analysis of results. It main instrument analysis will be interview while the method of data analysis will be thematic analysis of data obtained from the field.

The last chapter is the summary of the findings, conclusions, perspective/discussion, and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

METHODOLOGICAL AND ANALYTICAL STRATEGY

2.1 Introduction

This chapter gives us the methodology that was used in the study. It deals with project methodology and or analysis strategies/ approach that will be used in the course of the research. It includes the type of analysis strategy that will be used in the course of the research and the reason why it was used. How the selected theories will be used in the study and their connectivity to the research problem under investigation. The chapter also highlights on the methods that will be used and how it will be used in connection with the collection empirical data and why the method seems relevance in the context of the problem statement.

2.2 Research Approach

This research applies an Abduction approach to the analysis of the qualitative data gathered through the semi-structured interviews with representatives of two NGOs in the South West and North West region of Cameroon. Interviewing NGOs officials that work in the sphere related to peace building contributes to the research objective and problem identification. The research was undertaken as a case study in the two English speaking regions of Cameroon because of its peculiarities of the crisis. The qualitative primary data was gathered through telephone call on September 2023. The results will be based on 2 interviews with NGO representatives that are directors and other officials of the NGOs selected.

Abduction is an interpretative method, and according to Charles S. Peirce who introduced it, there are three different ways to explain this concept which correspond to three different aspects of scientific research (reasoning, thinking and arguing in a wider sense), which are: abduction as formalized inference, abduction as re-description/re-contextualization and abduction as a central element in all perception (Danermark et al., 2002:89). In this study abduction will be used as a formalized interference and re-description/re-contextualization. Formalization refers to an existing verifiable occurrence that is connected to a rule, which leads researcher to a new supposition about the phenomenon. According to Danermark et al. (2002), in

social science research the rule is most usually a body that interprets or a theory. In case of this study, selected NGOs in North West and South West region of Cameroon will be interpreted through the analytical framework of Paffenholz that results in conclusion as an outcome of understanding the contribution of NGOs in the two regions to peace building.

Re-description/re-contextualization in this research will be applied as interpretation and explanation of NGOs functions in peace building within the frame of a new context, namely conflict prevention concept within case-study in the English speaking regions of Cameroon. Re-contextualization gives a new meaning to already known phenomena (Danermark et al., 2002:91), thus the analytical framework for the functions of NGOs in peace building will be related to conflict prevention concept, thereby extending its appliance to not only post-conflict phase but also to pre-emptive phase and activities.

This qualitative study was addressing a problem of undiscovered potential of civil society's role in peace building. It adds to the discussion on the essence of inclusion of civil society actors in peace building by investigating the contribution of local NGOs to sustainable peace in the South west and North West region of Cameroon, analyzing their activities by applying an analytical framework for peace building functions by Paffenholz and Spurk (2010)

2.3 Research Design

A research design is used as plan that delineate the conditions and procedures for collecting and analyzing data” James H. Mcmillan; S. Schumacher (2010). This strategy helps to systematically address the central research problem and specific research questions, for situating researchers in the context of the empirical world and for connecting them to specific sites, individuals/groups, and methods of data analysis Paul D. Leedy; (2001) J.E. Omrod . It is the design that exposes the stages that the researcher follows in the collection and the analysis of data. This blueprint enables the researcher to address the question(s) as unambiguously as possible D.A. De Vaus (2001). The approach employed by the researcher in this project is the qualitative method design. This method was chosen for the following reasons:

Qualitative research is an open-ended process. The open-ended structure of the qualitative research makes it possible to get deeper information from shallow responses and logical thoughts to gather information from an individual's emotional responses. Also, with qualitative research, subject material can be evaluated with greater detail. Again, the research frameworks can be fluid and based on incoming or available data. It can therefore adapt to the quality of information that is being gathered. Furthermore, the smaller sample sizes are used in qualitative research, which can save on costs. However, because it is difficult to have a complete qualitative study, some quantitative data has been employed in the study.

This research work employed a case study research design. In this design, a collection is made of responses or opinions from respondents representing the population of the study with respect to the variables of the study. These respondents constitute the sample, selected through a defined process. Data analyzed from this sample and the results can to a certain extent be generalized on the entire population at least as gathered discourses that other actors in the field can recognize and relate to.

This work makes use of case study research because it gives room for a lot of vivid information to be collected that would not normally be easily obtained by other research designs such as survey. The information gathered using this design is a lot richer and of more details than can be found through other research designs.

Also, case studies are a practical solution when a large sample population is difficult to gain. Furthermore, case studies present data of real-life situations and they provide more explicit knowledge into the deeper conduct of the topics of interest. The research made use of interview guides and focus-group discussion as instruments for data collection.

According to Yin (2014), a case study is aimed at investigating a contemporary phenomenon in depth and in its real-world context. A case study allows researchers to focus on a "case", such as small group behaviour, an organization or a partnership, community or a specific project, and to retain a holistic perspective. The choice of the case study as an approach largely depends on the research questions that seek to

explain social phenomenon through the “how” and “why”-formulated questions that allow to develop in-depth description and analysis of the social circumstances. Also, Yin is postulating that case study is used to investigate contemporary events (as opposed to entirely historical). Moreover, case study research is defined as qualitative approach of the investigation of a case (single or multiple) through multiple source data collection, for example observations, interviews, audio-visual materials, reports and documents (Creswell, 2013:97).

The case study is proved to be appropriate for this research as the selected case for the study has clear boundaries and requires in-depth understanding. According to the identified research problem and questions, a case for the research in this thesis is NGOs activities limited to the geographical boundaries in the South West and North West regions of Cameroon. South West and North West's context will be a unit of a case study that allows including; all factors, social, political and economic for the investigated phenomenon.

2.4 Sample and Sampling Technique

A sample of 2 representatives of NGOs was used for the study. For the selection of respondents, I used purposive sampling(the selection process was base on the researchers judgement), the selection of units (NGOs) that are directly connected to the research questions from which the guidelines and indicators for the sampling were formulated that would allow the research questions to be answered (Bryman, 2016).

Within, the case two different levels of sampling were used. First, geographical area of the research was chosen, which the Southwest and North West region of Cameroon was. These regions were selected for the research as one of the most vulnerable and relevant for peace building because of the on-going crisis in the regions.

Afterwards, within selected area the NGOs were sampled. Then I made a sampling of NGOs based on the approach of a critical case sampling that is characterized by choosing units precisely as it is anticipated that it might allow for a framework to be used (Bryman, 2016). Critical case sampling allows researcher select and utilise a

small but vital number of cases that are likely to "yield the most efficient information and have the highest influence on the growth of knowledge" (Patton, 2015:276). For a critical case sampling the criteria for selecting NGOs were drawn from personal observation. Here, Critical case sampling used was based on the secondary data sources, about the role of NGOs in peace building actions; I already had understanding and information that is the most active and relevance to the study.

2.5 Sources for Data Collection

There are many sources of data collection as spelled out below.

2.5.1 Primary Source

Conducting interview is one of the widely used forms of collecting data in the development research and is the most widely used in qualitative research (Bryman, 2016; Desai & Potter, 2006). An addition,, this mode of collecting qualitative data is easily manageable in time, so it allows to collect a sufficient amount of data within limited time, unlike other methods of qualitative research, such as ethnographic observations, for example (Bryman, 2016:466).

The selection of the interview type (structured, semi-structured or unstructured) depends on the nature of research. For this research, a semi-structured type of interviewing was chosen as it permits to maintain a specific focus for gathering the data (see Appendix A), but allows people to answer more on their own terms, to bring their ideas and thoughts, and to enter into the dialogue with the interviewee (May, 2011; Desai & Potter, 2006).

2.5.2 Semi-structured Interview

The open-ended interview technique was used to the role of NGOs in peace Building in two anglophone regions of Cameroon. The most important feature that the open-ended interview form provides is that it is more systematic and comparable information, as the interview is done with respect very specific protocol. Open-ended interview may have some questions which enable the researcher to gather basic factual data on participants such as their demographic information, but usually they focus more on the participant's thoughts, feelings, experiences, knowledge,

skills, ideas and preferences about the subject and variables under study. The reason for choosing the open-ended interview technique in this study was the need to establish a form or themes that would enable further questions and explanations in order to explore the role of NGOs in peace Building in the two English speaking regions of Cameroon. Open-ended interview was also considered for this study because it helps probe information and create a better relationship between the researcher and the respondent in a way that doubts can be clarified immediately, and there is room for further questioning that will drive more related data. Additionally, the study made use of open-ended interview because even though the questions have been formed already, the respondents usually doesn't know what the contents of the response will look like. On-site and telephone interview was considered because of its reliability and less costly considering the fact that the researcher is based in part of the area under investigation.

Also, in this study, the researcher made use of an interview guide which was semi-restrictive in nature. The researcher adopts an open outline of issues or questions, but he/she may bring up other questions spontaneously or other topics in respect to how the participant respond to the questions. The interview guide was open-ended in nature with a cover letter which outlines the topic of research, the reason and consent information. In this research, the researcher divided the interview guide into two sections. Section A comprised of demographic information of respondents while section B deals with theme of the topic which was according to the stated objectives of the study. The following themes (humanitarian activities, education, Sporting activities, prevention and reconstruction, mediation activities, conflict of interest and thread) were in line with the research objectives and each theme was developed from research questions. The themes were design based on the role of NGO in peace building.

2.5.3 Secondary Sources for Data Collection

Frankfort-Nachmias et al (2015) Defines the Secondary data analysis to as a means for analysing research problems that is based on data created or collected by others (Frankfort-Nachmias, Nachmias & DeWaard, and 2015:262). According to Bryman, secondary data analysis should be considered by all social researches, as

using this method allows to spend more time on analysis and interpretation of data, and also provides an opportunity to work with high-quality data (Bryman, 2016:309).

This research includes analysis of secondary source data, such as official documents, reports of the organizations, video materials, articles and other research materials. Moreover, data of public opinion polls in Ukraine was used for the background analysis. Also, the secondary data was used during the initial sampling of the NGOs; I could get information about their goals and mission and main implemented projects from their official web pages. Besides, during the interviews some of the respondents were referring to the analysis and reports they have made, thus the important data from there was relevant for this work as well.

2.6 Validity and Reliability

Validity and reliability are key aspects of all research especially in a qualitative study. Careful attention to the two the two aspects mentioned above can be of huge important to differentiate a good research and poor research and can help to assure that fellow researcher or investigator accept findings as credible and trustworthy especially in a pour qualitative study. That is, this aspect of credibility and trustworthiness is particularly vital in qualitative work, where the researcher's subjectivity can so readily overshadow how the researcher interprets the data, and where research findings are often questioned or viewed with doubtful observation by the scientific or research community. It is worth noting that, the interest of discussion here will be anchored on trustworthiness and credibility of this study.

Trustworthiness or rigor of a study refers to the degree of trust in the data, its interpretation, and means used to ensure the quality of a study. It means how real the finding confirmed to the reality on ground. This gives us the amount of believe, or credence, readers have in results. In this study, trustworthiness was not only achieve through the respondents but also the means in with literature was gotten and the informed feedback from the readers. Here, a protocols and procedures were established for the study and findings to be considered worthy of consideration by readers. To operationalize the used of trustworthiness in this particular study, long

engagement in the field and the triangulation of data sources, methods, and other investigators or researchers were needed to establish credibility and objectivity (trustworthiness). The goal of validity and reliability in qualitative study lies on trustworthiness which is something to be judged during the study and after the research is conducted. During the researcher process respondents and other data sources form part of the trustworthiness process while after the study respondents, readers and other investigators are adequately informed. To validate this study, while involving the supervisor, proprietor of NGOs and their officials without losing sight of literature pertaining to the present study.

To achieve Credibility of this study, researchers made sure the respondent were correctly selected and described. Also, to established credibility just like trustworthiness there must be a prolonged engagement with the participants. For this study to be considered Credible there must be an evidence confidence in the truth of the study and therefore the findings. The finding should not be a duplicated one as such readers and other investigator are there to ensure credibility of the study. For one to be able to affirm the credibility of a study he or she must be involved in the study to confirmed its credibility. Another important aspect is to be transparent in what methods and theories one uses so that the reader can understand what the premise and principals are for the research in hand.

2.7 Procedure for Data Collection

Telephone interviews and in some cases the respondents prefer to give written replies. These were the main data collection techniques for the study. Interview was conducted based on questions listed in Interview Guide (see Appendix A). Authorisation to carry out the research was gotten from the stakeholder of my department of studies. After the researcher received permission from the department, the researcher booked an appointment with proprietor of the sampled NGOs online audio interview to be conducted.

The interview was conducted with the proprietors of the selected NGOs based on the objectives of the study. *However, respondent were given the freedom to discuss about their experiences in whatever way they feel comfortable. Any doubts with respect to the question asked were clarified by the researcher before proceeding to the next question.*

2.8 Method of Data Analysis

After collecting data from all participants and various pre-existing studies, the next thing was to analyse the data in order to bring out reasonable material from all the information that has been gathered. This is done by revisiting the collected as many times as possible to be able to grasp the deeper content in the data and revisit the research objectives to enable the researcher to correlate the data with the research questions and extract solutions to the different questions from the data was a good way to scrutinize data and facilitate coding. Given out symbols to identity such as sex of an individual, age range, will be of huge assistance make out and understand ordinary responses to each research question.

In this study, thematic analysis was used. It stands as one of the most frequently used technique in analysing qualitative data. Here, thematic analysis was used to analyse information gotten from respondents through interview. The information was then grouped in themes for analysis to be done. This procedure was adopted in this study because the researcher was interested in finding out information from respondents about their views and perspective with regards to the role of NGOs in peace building. Here, data were presented in themes based on research questions and or objectives. In this analysis, direct quotations were used to present the participants' views. In this mode of making analysis, the researcher collects the qualitative data, transformed, arranged and analysed, in order to make the raw data useful by identifying important pieces of information using themes. It was also because it's quite flexible and adaptive in nature as it enables the researcher to analyse the data and identify key information as per their requirement. Given that the major reason for this study was to explore the role of NGOs in peace building, thematic analysis formed the main focus of data analysis since data were gathered through transcripts of interviews which were structured in themes.

In the analysis of data, the following steps were considered: The first step was to know the data and understand the elements that were more obvious in it. In this cased open-ended interview guide was used to gather data from respondents. Another aspect was to find out the interesting aspects of the data set that can become the basis of the themes. Here the main ideas or themes were coded and documented. The next

aspect was reflecting upon the data and the themes that have been generated in the previous step. The themes were set to cover all the data set. Further themes and first set of data that were received were reviewed. The aim was to make sure that none of the data were left out from being analysed during these steps. Moreover, the researcher went further in naming each theme and documented them. It worth mentioning here that themes are symbols that define a specific concept that was bound by one meaning. They give name to a research idea and make it meaningful. The themes and its meaning has to be connected to the research question otherwise they are of no value. All the data that were relevant to the research question were analysed under some theme. Finally, the researcher came to the position to analyse each theme (humanitarian activities, education, Sporting activities, prevention and reconstruction, mediation activities, conflict of interest and thread) in detail and the data were analysed across the themes and none of the important data were left behind for interpretation of the analysis of data.

2.9 Ethical Considerations

Using the above methods and research designs, the researcher collected relevant data from respondents without any problem because he took into consideration all the research ethical issues. The first thing the researcher did was to prepare a written interview protocol to be used during the interview. The same interview protocol was used to interview every respondent to help ensure accuracy during the interviews.

After the interview protocol the next aspect was to obtain an informed or implied consent, which was explaining the purpose of the research and its benefits to the participants of the study and the entire community. In this regard, all the above ethical issues were well addressed with the aid of a verbal authorisation from the department to permit the researcher contact the organisations earmarked for administration of instrument and data collection.

Another important aspect was to establish trust. In a qualitative research interview, it was very important to get the trust of the respondent to get a clear and accurate research data. This trust can be gained by informing all participants about the reason for the study, the type of information required, how the researcher will use the information gotten, the privileges or rights of participants to participate, or not to

participate in the interview. In addition, all the research participants were equally assured of confidentiality and anonymity.

2.10 Summary of Chapter

This chapter enhanced the methodological aspect of this study. It examines the research design, area of the study, study population, the method used for sample and sampling, instruments for data collection, it also looks at how valid these instruments are, it also explains reliability of the instrument, procedure for data collection, method of data analyses and ethical consideration. This study made use of case study research design with a qualitative approach. The study was carried out in North West and South West Region of Cameroon. The study made use of proprietors and officials of some chosen NGOs in the study area and the instrument for data collection was open-ended interview which was based on online video call with respondents. Data for this study was subjected to thematic analysis and all the ethical issues were considered in the course of the study.

CHAPTER THREE

THEORETICAL REVIEW

3.1 Introduction

This chapter comprised of the theoretical review with respect to the investigation. The chapter highlights the selected theory that was found relevance to the present study and the reason for the choice of the theory. The role of the theory in the work was also discussed in this section.

3.2 Comprehensive Peace Building Framework by Lederach (2003)

For its theoretical framework, the study uses the Comprehensive Peace building Framework as espoused by Paul Lederach. This theory builds on an understanding that conflict is a normal social occurrence and therefore focuses on the transformation of the violent conduct into a peaceful one. In his book, *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies*, Lederach (2003) developed the Comprehensive Peace building theory against existing analyses, current historical developments, his spiritual background, and experiences from different conflict contexts, notably Colombia and Somalia. Lederach (2003), through this framework views peace building as a long-term process of systemic transformation from war to peace. He argues that a peace process contains multiple initiatives at many different levels of society. His framework has three key components: (Paffenholz, 2010)

First, Peace building must be undertaken simultaneously at every level of society. Lederach (2003), states that a successful peace building strategy must reach all components of society and not just be focused on high-level political actors. He ask us to reflect in a context of conflict in the same way we would a biological ecosystem; one which is dynamic and inter-related. Peace processes cannot be be gotten separately in one section of society without similar amount of activities at other areas if the process is going to be truly transformative or indeed long-lasting, since there still exist rhe temptation to go back to violence that are often placed on the system. Lederach (2003),

Secondly, according to him, both short and long term plan must be linked. The second component of a comprehensive peace building approach is one that helps us to connect these two actions which can meet short term needs and processes which can help us build a broader vision. This element of the approach helps us to think about ensuring that immediate needs driven by crisis or by key moments are linked to a broader overall vision of the peace process. Lederach (2003)

Thirdly, Lederach's theory also relates to his work on reconciliation which does not only see the insufficient resolution of key issues such as whether a parade should or should not go ahead or whether a border should be redrawn but one which transforms the relationships themselves.

Lederach thinks of leadership in a population affected by a conflict in terms of a pyramid (see figure 1). The pyramid permitted him to lay out the leadership base in three main groupings: beginning with the top level, middle range then the grassroots. (Paffenholz, 2010)

According to him, the top-level is made up of leadership such as the key political and military leaders in the conflict. During conflicts within states, these people leaders stand as representative of government or opposition bodies or present themselves as such. They are at the highest level of power and authority.

He further argues that in the middle-range are persons whose responsibility in leadership roles is limited within a particular realm of problem; but whose position is defined in ways not necessarily connected to or managed by the powers of the formal government or major opposition movements. Numerically, they are more than the leaders at the top-level and they interrelate through networks of multiple persons with influence all areas of the conflict. (Paffenholz, 2010)

Types of Actors

Level 1: Top leadership
Military/political/religious/Leaders
with high visibility

Level 2: Middle-range leadership
Leaders respected in sectors
Ethnic/religious leaders.
Academic/intellectuals
Humanitarian Leaders (NGO)

Level 3: Grassroots leadership
Leaders of indigenous NGOs
Community developers Local
health officials/refugee camp
leaders

Approaches to Peace building

Focus on high-level negotiations,
emphasizes cease-fire, led by
highly visible single mediator

Problem-solving workshops,
training in conflict resolution,
peace-commissions, insider
partial teams

Local peace commissions,
grassroots training, prejudice
reduction, psychosocial work
in post-war trauma

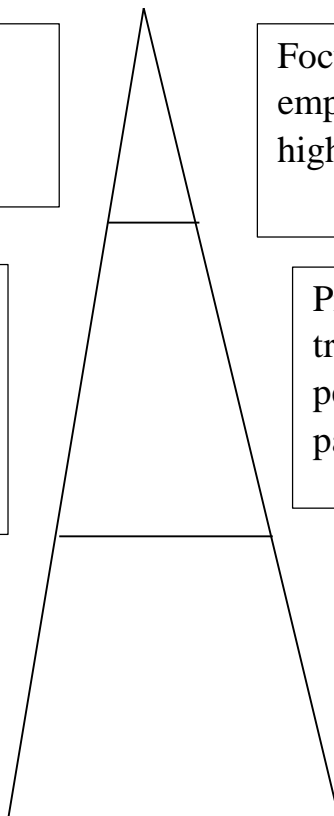


Figure 1: Actors and Approaches to Peace building

According to Lederach (2003), civil society plays an important role in the process of reconciliation. His argument was generated from the three points mentioned above. Civil society organisation are of prime essence to these three points for a fact that they are often present at all levels of peace building in the society.

Lederach's theory has been criticized for several reasons. Fetherson (2000) points to the lack of power analysis in his approach and Paffenholz (2001),problematizes the limited role of outsiders and uncritical discussion of the 'local', stressing the need to focus on direct support to level III actors.

Miall (2004) further highlights the limited attention given to the political system of the conflict-affected society and the specific regional and international context of peace building.

Despite the many criticism received on his theory, Lederach's original theory has emerged as one of the main peace building theories that both integrate other conceptual works as well as exerting a considerable impact on peace building policy and practice.

3.2 Relevance of the Theory to the present study

In relation to the present study, as far as the link between NGOs activities and peace building is concerned, Smith, McCandles, Paulson and Wheaton (2011) have argued that it is a complex area with imprecise definitions of terms and many variables, so it is difficult to demonstrate, correlate; NGOs implementation and activities since it is a field which is mainly undertaken by development agencies whose main priority is quick impact rather than systematic research, the volatile environments in conflict-affected societies mean that operational conditions and data gathering are difficult; short program cycles, high levels of staff mobility and poor institutional memory make reflective research uncommon; and where there is a commitment to evaluation this not commonly defined in terms of indicators of achieving program goals, rather than focusing on impact in terms of the concept of peace building. McCandles, Paulson and Wheaton (2011)

Despite the difficulties mentioned by Smith and colleagues, research literature highlights a number of hypotheses about the linkages between NGOs activities and conflict resolution. Each goes beyond explanations involving the features of the formal education system such as curriculum or teaching methods. They give us a description on the wider role of NGOs towards education in conflict-affected societies.

The importance of NGOs in these three points comes from the fact that they are often present at all levels of peace building in the society. NGOs are situated in a way that they are able to link the grassroots level to the highest level of decision-making. This linkage is two ways in that decision maker can also channel policy decisions through the NGOs to the citizens. The support all towards the government is crucial for better administration McCandles, Paulson and Wheaton (2011).

The grassroots means the population who are the foundation of the society. Life at this level is characterized, particularly in settings of protracted conflict and war, by a survival mentality. In tight circumstances, the masses at this level are take the responsibility to make available basic needs like food, water, shelter and safety. The Leaders here are people involved in local communities, members of indigenous nongovernmental organization (NGOs) carrying out relief projects for local

populations, health officials, and refugee camp leaders McCandles, Paulson and Wheaton (2011).

CHAPTER FOUR

HISTORICAL CONTEXTUAL SETTING AND LITERATURE REVIEW

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the review of existing literature that is, literature that primarily deals with discussions and related concepts of the research. This will be done conceptually and contextually. The reason behind the review is to relate the research findings of the present study to other scholarly works that are relevant to this study. Konings, P. (2002) was of the view that the evolution of NGOs in the 1990s can be seen within the context of the social, economic and political factors that paved the way for their existence. The economic crisis of the 1980s that struck the country as a result of the fall in commodity prices in the world market, the value of export products such as cocoa, and coffee fell drastically and remained low with the consequences felt throughout the country Ebenye K.(2018). This led to an increase in NGOs activities especially as agents of peace building and protection of human life and humanitarian activities. The review of literature also anchored as catalyst of closing the existing research gap especially on the role of NGOs towards peace building.

4.2 Contextual Review

According to Viktoria P.(2009)The history of NGOs can be traced back to 1807, the year when the British abolished the slave trade. The abolition was followed by the formation of several organized, non-profit movements which addressed the issues of slavery. As time went on, their area of focus shifted from abolition to other social concerns Ebenye K(2018). The International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in 1864, became one of the leading humanitarian organizations in conflict areas. The American Friends Service Committee was set up in 1917; Save the Children came into being in 1919, followed by OXFAM in 1942, all initially oriented in addressing consequences of victims of war. Viktoria, P. (2009)

After World War II, a series of service-oriented organizations, which avoided political confrontation and chose the path of neutrality emerged-, Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere

(CARE), dealing with aids, war relief and post-war reconstruction. The 1960s and the 70s brought on confrontational approaches by the NGOs. Addressing not only issues of war and famine, but through lobbying and campaigning they began bringing attention to the causes of conflicts. Amnesty International, Doctors without Borders, Christian Aid and OXFAM became social critics of states, multilateral organizations and their positions on war and violent conflict. It was not until the 90s that international humanitarian NGOs, whose primary role has hitherto been seen in providing humanitarian assistance in the suburbs of violent struggle evolved and changed significantly. Fitzduff M. & Church C. (2004)

In Cameroon, the evolution of NGOs in the 1990s can be seen within the context of the social, economic and political factors that paved the way for their existence. Cameroon was faced with economic crisis in the 1980s which due to the fall in prices of items in the global world market, the value of export products such as cocoa, and coffee fell drastically and remained low with the consequences felt throughout the country. Konings, P. (2002), Ebenye K. (2018)

From a social perspective, because of this global economic crisis explained above, the rate of unemployment was very high, with university graduates hardly picking up jobs. Besides, the introduction of tuition fees in state universities further provoked hardship and huge burden to many who could not even provide their basic needs. Konings, P. (2002)

Also, many other levies were imposed on the students. As a result, many students dropped out of school since they could not afford such payments. To make the situation worse, many Cameroonians were deported from Gabon and they felt more frustrated as they remained idle, causing untold misery to themselves and their families and the government as they joined the unemployed in the job market. As a matter of fact, the end of each academic calendar introduced over 30,000 graduates joined the job market with less than 5,000 of them finding employment. About 40% of the potential workforce was unemployed, thus, causing NGOs to come in to rescue the situation (Tse, A. 2014). Based on the unemployment nature and other social ills in Cameroon, people were forced to the street which started like a joke and the whole process escalated into a civil war which led to the destruction of life and

property and disposed of individual. In that effect to normalized the situation NGOs step in as peace building agents.

The political atmosphere in the 1990s also paved the way for the emergence of NGOs in Cameroon. During this period, Cameroon experienced high level bad governance and embezzlement of State funds by state bureaucrats who had all the powers control distribution of resources, goods and services in their favour All these had negative impacts on the economy as the few who controlled the resources of the state, enriched themselves and accumulated wealth at the detriment of the poor, the net effect was that the Cameroonian society, from the height of the state level, appeared to be peopled exclusively by private individuals chosen for loyalty to the Head of State rather than on merit. (Tse, A. 2014)

These challenges coupled with other changes at the global such as Gorbachev's Glasnost and Perestroika (2021) which called on the single party dictatorial states to implement openness and reform. Cameroon was therefore caught up in what Awasom described as the opening and expanding of the political space (Awasom, C. 2005). The development of the political scene in Cameroon has been a complex an on-going process that has been shaped by a variety of factors including the pressure from civil society organisation and opposition parties, the influence of international organisation and donor countries, and leadership of presidents Paul Biya. While the country has made significant progress in term of political reforms, and the holding of multiparty elections, there are still significant challenges to be address in order to ensure the full participation of all political actors in the political process. (Awasom, C. 2005).

The developments at the international stage coincided with a series of social unrest and ghost towns which forced the government to introduce a series of reforms in 1990. One of these was the freedom of Association law, No. 90/053 of 19 December, 1990 which replaced Law on the 12 of June 1967 which operated under a limited one-party state context. Churchill, E.M. (1990)

The law guiding Non-Governmental Organizations in Cameroon is Law no. 99/014 of the 22nd December 1999 and freedom of association is regulated by the law of 19th December 1990.

Significant investigations have been undertaken in different parts of the world regarding the activities of NGOs and the fulfilment of their objectives. While some are seen as valid tools of transformation, (Maricol, N. N., 2016) others have been found to be dubious organizations, aimed at fending for the owners (Adeline, Y., 2018). These observations notwithstanding, in the research area under review, significant research has been undertaken but there still exist some gaps that this study intend to bridge. It becomes therefore difficult for an authentic voice to be established regarding their work and efficiency. This is even more so for the particular purpose of assessing the role NGOs in peace building in the South West region of Cameroon with a worrisome situation caused by the on-going crisis in the two English speaking regions of Cameroon. Taking into cognizance the role of NGOs in fostering effective school, identification of the activities of NGOs during crisis periods and the challenges encountered in pursuing their goal and objectives. Such worries situations constitute the basic motivations for the researcher to undertake this study.

Despite the fact that NGOs has being existing in Cameroon prior to the event and unrest in the 1990s, the crisis in the English speaking regions of Cameroon known today as the Anglophone conflict, began in 2016 with simple protest march by lawyers in this regions of the country with the aim to, expressing their dissatisfaction on the practice of Common Law in Cameroon, . Also the shocking unavailability of an English version of the OHADA documents, as well as other recommendations that ere tabled such as the creation of two separate divisions of the Common Law and Civil law, urge the government to respect the bilingual nature of the country as stipulated in the Constitution given the bi-juridical, bilingual and bi-cultural nature of Cameroon. the absence of a Common law division judicial system and the non-appointment of notaries in the Anglophone regions Ngoh, V. (2019), were calls for concern. Again, they cried that the Anglophone Cameroonians are under-represented are neglected in recruitment of legal staff. This inequalities has been confirmed by

the minister of justice Laurent Eso as he presented statistics in 2017 which shows majority of the judiciary personnel including those transferred in the English speaking regions are purely French speaking lack basic knowledge on common law system of justice for example, according to Relief web (2017) the entire anglophone regions had 554 judicial officers with 499 being Francophone and 15 Anglophones. Also out of the 128 magistrates in the North West, 67 were Francophone, of the 27 magistrates in Bamenda, 21 were Francophone Relief Web. (2017). Rationally , NGOs have come up with multiple claim and through diverse means role to reduce the impact of the Anglophone conflict. The grievances of these NGOs only received attention after many years waiting and led to the escalation of the crisis. Based this peace building initiatives was necessary and most NGOs took the leads in championing the peace building actions through their activities and campaigns.

4.3 Conceptual Review

The study was conceptualized on the role of NGOs on peace building. The concept worth articulating on includes; the state and the civil society with the local NGOs, and the role of Local NGOs in peace building initiatives

4.3.1 The state and the civil society with the local NGOs

Conflicts destroys society and the recovery process after the violent requires a lot of financial resources. At the start of the twenty-first century, approximately 60 countries are in conflict or have recently come out of it; most of these countries are usually the poorest on the planet Human Security Report (2005). Helping these states in their reconstruction processes is one of the major difficulty faced by NGOs .

When the conflicts comes to an end, the rebuilding is usually tough because resources are hardly available from the local sources thus external financial support is usually needed to go through this phase. It is seen as failure on the side of states that cannot support it citizens faced with crisis, such state will therefore have no credibility in the eyes of it citizens. Approximately half of the states of the world is undergoing a feeble process . And some states have already fallen example is Somalia. These nations going through the weakening process are face with violent, riots which last for long. Some of these countries are Cameroon, Sudan, Burundi.

These conflicts are usually interstate, intrastate religious conflict and the desire to gain authority over scarce resources available (Hugues, 2021). The existence of Non-Governmental Organizations' crisis hit areas is hardly a new phenomenon. Robert I. Rotberg, (2002). More recently, a number of international humanitarian organizations like Care International, Oxfam, and Action Aid among others have been highly visible players in coping with disasters.

What is different about the human rights NGO activism in conflict hit areas is that they now play a proactive role to de-escalate the conflict right from the beginning and not just wait to react cleaning the suffering that results from it. Ndung'u Wainaina, (2006).

NGOs have invented many range of measures to help detect and defuse violence from its inception phase. Some of these measures come early warning, they open dialogue between disgruntled parties and mediation. Some NGOs through their agenda help nations to improve the democratic process. (Ndung'u Wainaina, 2006)

4.3.2 The Role of NGOs in Peace Building

The world is now faced with new forms of struggles after the cold war. Both national and multi national NGOs have come with diverse strategies to look into these problems, they at times serve partners with states which has gone a long way in dealing with conflict and reconstruction. Again, it is worth noting that these NGOs have been very effective in defending the interest of "global civil society" into a concrete reality on the ground Ndung'u Wainaina, (2006), Like they are also engaged in solving conflicts especially in areas that the international community has failed to attend and deal effectively with global problems. As it could be easily noticed in the examples of Rwanda, Somalia, Bosnia, the international agencies and government bodies are champions at reporting late to crisis which could either be as a result of political negligence and lengthy administrative protocols thus this restricts from adequately engaging when faced with situations of enormous complexity and delicacy. Barnes, C. (2006)

NGOs are known for mediation and dialogue during conflict situations, they investigate and invent strategies to solve or mitigate violence right at its early phase.

It is not new how NGOs are ever present in every conflict hit area regardless of how tense the atmosphere may be. As a matter of fact, high risk areas such Southern Sudan, Burundi, democratic Republic of Congo still has NGOs playing decisive roles in heading off major conflicts. Hugues p. (2021)

In recent years, there has been increased recognition of the role NGOs can play as partners with government and intergovernmental organizations in the conflict resolution and peace-building agenda Barnes, C. (2006). Against this backdrop, it is important to examine the diverse interventions that Non-governmental organisations undertake especially in crisis such as the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon that will be worthy of replications in other warring countries and situations. Perhaps an interesting perspective for the reader might be to access the level of interventions that NGOs have done since the crisis started and how they have been felt across the Central Africa's sub region.

As concerns the Anglophone conflict, protest marches by Anglophone lawyers in September 2016, expressing their grievances on the practice of Common Law in Cameroon, was the herald of the Anglophone crisis. The absence of an English version of the OHADA documents, the creation of two separate divisions of the Common Law and Civil law, protecting the Anglophone minority as stated in the Constitution given the bi-juridical, bilingual and bi-cultural nature of Cameroon, the absence of a Common Law section at the supreme court, the absence of English law in the judicial system and the non-appointment of notaries in the Anglophone regions Ngoh, V. (2019), were calls for concern. Again, they complained about the inequality in representation and recruitment of legal staff. The Minister of Justice, Laurent Esono, confirmed this by declaring in 2017 that the legal body had 1542 magistrates made up of 39 on Secondment, 91 at the ministry and 1412 in courts. Within these personnel were 1256 Francophone magistrates for 227 Anglophones, 554 judicial officers with 499 being Francophone and 15 Anglophones. Even in the Anglophone regions, there were mostly Francophone magistrates with civil law background not respecting the common law background of the regions. For instance, of the 128 magistrates in the North West, 67 were Francophone, of the 27 magistrates in Bamenda, 21 were Francophone Relief Web. (2017).

CHAPTER FIVE

ANALYTICAL DESIGN AND THE ANALYSIS

5.1 Introduction

The main objective of this study was to examine the role of Non-Governmental Organizations NGOs in peace building in the English-Speaking Region of Cameroon. The objective of this chapter was to analyse and interpret findings gotten from respondents. It examined objectives such as identify the responsibility of NGOs in Peace building in Cameroon, examine how NGO activities help promoting the peace building process North West and South West Region of Cameroon and to find out how NGOs Officials see the effectiveness/success of NGO activities towards peace building in Cameroon English-Speaking Regions. This chapter presents findings of this study from the analysis of data obtained from the field. The chapter starts with an introduction, followed by the analysis of data from the interview based on research questions with a conclusion for each of them. Thematic analysis design formed the main focus of data analysis of this study since data were gathered through transcripts of interviews which were structured in themes. Since the study was purely qualitative in nature, thematic analysis was the best suited means of data analysis of the study (Thematic analysis is a method of qualitative data analysis that aims to identify and describe patterns and themes within data. It involves a systematic and iterative process of coding and analysing data to identify key themes and concepts. The method is based on the idea that data can be analysed and interpreted in terms of themes, which are patterns or concepts that recur across different pieces of data.). Findings are presented using statistical tables, and their interpretations to enable the reader have a clear understanding of data. It should be noted that the analysis of data were based on research questions and objectives which were captured in different headings constituting themes, groundings and sampled quotation from respondent's responses, as such all recorded information from the field (row data) were transformed into themes for clarity and understanding. In other to perfectly carry out

the analysis, the following research questions were examined in the course of the study.

- What are the responsibilities of NGOs in Peace building in the English-Speaking Region of Cameroon?
- What are the NGO activities that help to promote peace process in the English-Speaking Region of Cameroon?
- What is the perspective of NGO officials' on the effectiveness/success of NGO activities towards peace building in Cameroon English Speaking Regions?

The analyses presented in this chapter were performed using data collected in September 2023. In this light, the presentation was based on thematic analysis of interview from respondents' perspectives on the role of NGOs in peace building using tables that were established for this study. The presentation is chronological, that is the result of each research question was presented separately using statistical tables followed by its interpretations. During data analysis process, the research question serves as a guiding principle for the entire process. It helps researchers focus their efforts and determine the specific objectives they aim to achieve through their analysis. The research question plays a crucial role in shaping the data collection methods, analysis techniques, and interpretation of results. The formulation of a research question typically involves identifying the variables of interest and their relationship. This helps in determining the appropriate statistical tests or analytical methods to be employed during data analysis which in this case is thematic analysis. The research question should also consider the availability and suitability of data sources, ensuring that the necessary information can be obtained to address the question effectively. Once the research question is established, it guides the selection of appropriate data collection methods. Like the interviews, that was used in this study as the primary tool in data collection, or secondary data analysis. The researchers decision to use a particular technique to gather data will depend on factors such as feasibility, resources available, and ethical considerations. This is better presented on the chapter on methodology.(Studocu, 2023)

5.2 Demographic information of Respondents

Basically two NGOs took part in this study because of time constrained. Among which is Human is Right and The Association for the Protection of Women's and Children's Rights (APWCR)

Human Is Right Cameroon (HSR-Cameroon) is a non-governmental, apolitical and non profit organization dedicated to protect and promote the growth of human rights, they are also out to promote easy access to Justice, equality, Democracy, the rule of law in Cameroon and beyond. HSR-Cameroon is engaged in diverse human rights activities through it investigation, consultation and other human rights projects with the goal of strengthening a suitable human rights culture in Cameroon. Human is Right also as part of it agenda, offers range of opportunities to academic researchers lawyers and other persons interested to learn more and gain hands on experience in the field of human rights.

This organisation also attends to urgent rights problems amongst which includes rights of prisoners, gender inequality, civil liberty deficiencies, corruption, and minority rights amongst others.

We work at grassroots level to provide legal advocates who work with local communities to advance justice. Our legal advocates fighting on the front lines help to ensure that people can protect their rights, access essential services, and take part in the decisions that govern their lives. They work to instil a culture of human rights and respect for the rule of law amongst national and also the respect for human rights as found in the constitution and other treaties signed by Cameroon.

Actions

- They provide legal assistance to persons that have suffered abuse
- They teach the local people on the basic tenets of their rights and responsibility
- Policy advocacy for prisons reform
- Human rights universal periodic review (Cameroon)
- Information dissemination on avenues for remedy for victims of human rights abuse

- Promotion and protection of minorities rights
- Liaising with local and international NGOs and diplomatic missions.
- Promoting and Protecting Women's Rights.

The next organisation we worked with is known as The Association for the Protection of Women's and Children's Rights (APWCR). This NGO was particularly effective in this present study because of the complexity and rough challenges it has experience especially in the hands of the government. Being a neutral body, since the start of the armed conflict in the English speaking regions of the country they were forced to move its headquarters to the United States of America. This organisation was conceived in the 1990s in the city of Limbe-Cameroon. As a human rights development non-profit organization, APWCR now predominantly deals with charitable and educational activities as required in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time (the "Code"), or the corresponding provision of any future federal tax law, and may engage in any lawful act or activity for which corporations may be incorporated under the Pennsylvania Non-profit Corporation Law of 1988, as amended, to the extent consistent with such charitable and educational purposes, including, without limitation, the protection and promotion of human rights through research, education, advocacy and developmental programs in the USA and Africa, with headquarters in Pittsburgh - USA. In April 2016, APWCR obtained Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

APWCR's founder, Mr. George Abang Tawoh, was pushed to start this non-profit organisation because of his experience on frequent occurrence of human rights violation within his environment, particularly the pervasive practice of forced marriage. It was common to see teenagers and women forced to marry older men in order to pay off a family debt. That was the case for Mr. Abang Tawoh's beloved aunt.

We specifically target the most vulnerable rural communities and populations, teenage mothers, children, female students who have dropped out of school, and

commercial sex workers. However, we believe our programs truly benefit the entire community -- men, women, children and youth alike.

APWCR's mission is to promote and protect the rights of women and children, with a particular focus on those who are marginalized or vulnerable. To effectively attain its objectives, the organization makes use of a variety of activities, including: Advocating for policy and legal changes that benefit women and children, providing education and awareness-raising programs to promote gender equality and children's rights, supporting women and children who have experienced violence or discrimination, and Collaborating with other organizations and stakeholders to advance the rights of women and children. (www.apwcr.org)

In conducting a research like this, it is crucial for a researcher to select an appropriate organization or institution to study that is in relation to the research question and objectives of the study. As such what guided the choice of the organisation were the research questions. This is because the choice of an organisation can have an imposing influence on the rationality and reliability of the research findings especially if wrong choices were made. In constituting the choices of the NGOs, it involved firstly by clearly defining the research question or problem statement. This will help the researcher identify the type of organization or institution that is most relevant to the study. Once the research question is defined, the researcher can begin identifying potential organizations or institutions that might be suitable for the study. Another aspect worth considering was the organisation reputation with respect to peace building initiatives and above all the organisations' function and desire to effectively take part in the study. JMIR, (2016)

5.3 Analytical Design

In this study, thematic analytical design was used. This technique is frequently used more than any other method in analysing qualitative data. Here, thematic analysis was used to analyse information gotten from respondents through interview. The information was then grouped in themes for analysis to be done. The researcher employed the above mentioned means to analyse this data because, the researcher was interested in finding out information from respondents about their views and

perspective with regards to the role of NGOs in peace building. In this analysis, direct quotations were used to present the participants' views and opinion with respect to the research question under investigation. With this method of analysis, the qualitative data is gathered, transformed, arranged and analysed, in order to make the raw data useful by identifying important pieces of information using themes. It was also because it's quite flexible and adaptive in nature as it enables the researcher to analyse the data and identify key information as per their requirement. Given that the main goal of this work was to explore the role of NGOs in peace building, thematic analysis formed the main focus of data analysis since data were gathered through transcripts of interviews which were structured in themes.

According Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2019), the thematic methodological tool is a valuable approach in qualitative research that offers several benefits and advantages. Here are some reasons why it is a fruitful tool to use: Thematic analysis allows researchers to gain a deep and nuanced understanding of the data, as it involves a systematic and detailed examination of the themes and patterns that emerge from the data. This approach enables researchers to uncover the underlying meanings and experiences that are conveyed through the data, providing a rich and detailed account of the phenomena being studied. Thematic analysis is also a flexible method that can be applied to a wide range of data types, including texts, interviews, observations, and social media data. This flexibility makes it an ideal approach for exploring complex and multifaceted phenomena, as it can accommodate various forms of data and capture the diversity of human experiences. In other word, thematic analysis places a strong emphasis on contextualizing the data within the broader social, cultural, and historical context in which it was collected. This approach helps researchers to understand the data within its original context, which can provide valuable insights into the meaning and significance of the themes that emerge. More so, thematic analysis is a replicable method that can be repeated and verified by other researchers. This replicability is achieved through the use of systematic and transparent methods, which helps to ensure the validity and reliability of the findings. Thematic analysis can also be used in conjunction with a range of theoretical perspectives, including constructivist, interpretivist, and critical theory.

This flexibility allows researchers to draw on a variety of theoretical frameworks to inform their analysis and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the data and above all, thematic analysis involves a systematic and rigorous methodology that is grounded in the data and informed by theoretical perspectives. This direction helps to guide us such that the findings are valid and reliable, and that the analysis is thorough and comprehensive. (Creswell 2014)

Thematic analysis is a powerful and flexible method of qualitative data analysis that can be applied to various types of data. It involves a systematic and iterative process of coding and analysing data to identify key themes and concepts. Thematic analysis has been applied in a wide range of fields, including psychology, sociology, human science education, healthcare, and business. By using thematic analysis, researchers can gain a deeper mastery of the information collected and find new ways and tendencies that may not be immediately apparent. Thomas, D. (2017)

In the analysis of data, the following steps were considered: The first step was to know the data and understand the elements that were more obvious in it. In this case an open-ended interview guide was used to gather data from respondents. Another aspect was to find out the interesting aspects of the data set that can become the basis of the themes that will be used in my later analysis. Here the main ideas or themes were coded and documented. The next aspect was reflecting upon the data and the themes that have been generated in the previous step. The themes were set to cover all the data set. Further themes and first set of data that were received were reviewed. The aim was to make sure that none of the data were left out from being analysed during these steps. Moreover, the researcher went further in naming each theme and documented them. It is also worthy to note themes are symbols that define a specific concept that was bound by one meaning (according to Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2006), themes in thematic analysis refer to the patterns or recurring ideas that emerge from the data being analysed. Thematic analysis is a style of qualitative used to identify, analyse, and interpret themes or patterns within a dataset. It involves systematically organizing and categorizing data to uncover underlying meanings and concepts. Cypress S.(2017).

In thematic analysis, themes are the central units of analysis that express the importance of the information gathered and give more meaning to the research question or objective. They represent the main ideas, topics, or concepts that are present in the data and help researchers make sense of the information collected. Themes in thematic analysis provide a way to organize and structure qualitative data, making it easier to understand and interpret. They allow researchers to identify commonalities, differences, and relationships in the information, this gives them the opportunity to get reasonable solutions and generate new insights. Themes can take various forms depending on the nature of the research and the dataset being analysed. They can be descriptive, capturing what is explicitly stated in the data, or they can be interpretive, representing underlying meanings or implicit messages. Themes can also be hierarchical, with broader overarching themes encompassing more specific sub-themes. Overall, themes in thematic analysis serve as a means of organizing and summarizing qualitative data, facilitating interpretation and understanding. They provide a framework for analysing complex information and extracting meaningful insights from it. (Nowell, L. S., Norris, J. M., White, D. E., & Moules, N. J. (2017).

5.4 Presentation of Research Questions/Findings

The analysis here, will be done in respect to the research questions and the theoretical based here is the Comprehensive Peace building Framework by Lederach (2003) and liberal peace building approach by UN (2015). The Comprehensive Peace building Framework by Lederach provides a comprehensive and integrated approach to peace building. By addressing the dimensions of reconciliation, justice, security, and development, it offers a holistic perspective on building sustainable peace. The framework emphasizes the interconnectedness of these dimensions and underscores the importance of cross-cutting themes in peace building processes. While the liberal peace building approach represents a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of how to build sustainable peace in post-conflict societies. By emphasizing the importance of democratic values, human rights, and the rule of law, this approach offers a framework for promoting lasting peace and stability in some of the world's most troubled regions. Even though there exist unquestionably setback and limitation to this approach, its emphasis on inclusivity, accountability, and the

protection of human rights makes it an important tool for achieving peace and security in the 21st century.

Research Question One: What are the responsibilities of NGOs in Peace building in the English-Speaking Region of Cameroon?

The focused here was the responsibilities of NGOs in Peace building in the English-Speaking Region of Cameroon. Here, the focus was to identify the responsibility of NGOs in Peace building in Cameroon.

Table 5.1: The responsibilities of NGOs in Peace building in the English-Speaking Region of Cameroon

Themes	Groundings	Sampled Quotations
Human Right Actions and Protection	2	<p>“we carry out human right promotion and protection in terms of facilitating access in justice and the role of law”</p> <p>“engage in human rights campaign to help school the local population on right instrument available which will help protect their rights”</p> <p>“educate local leaders within communities on how to manage victim of gender based violence”.</p> <p>“also engage in humanitarian activities to assist both internal and externally displaced persons and also do referral for cases that might need medical attentions”.</p> <p>“Organise seminars and conferences on peace building”.</p>
School Resumption	2	<p>“they also pledge to support the communities with school didactics materials”</p> <p>“our role is to inform and carry out advocacy campaign on the necessity of school resumption as a catalyst for peace ”</p> <p>“A society without education will certainly perish as such we organise radio programmes to sensitise the population on school resumption”.</p>

The analysis of research question one anchored on the respondents perspectives on the responsibilities of NGOs in Peace building in the English-Speaking Region of Cameroon. The interviewees hold strong opinion that their peace building initiatives, Human Rights actions seem to be very prominent in building everlasting peace in respective communities. To them, they carried out human right promotion and protection which help in facilitating access to justice, the role of law and peace building. Where there is justice peace seems enormous. Apart from promoting human rights actions, they also engaged in educating the communities on the human

right instrument available which will help protect their rights and individual property. With respect to the liberal theory of peace building advocated by UNO, NGOs in the sampled area do carried out transitional justice which is a peace building approach that seeks to address past human rights abuses and promote accountability, justice, and reconciliation in societies transitioning from conflict like the case of North West and South West region of Cameroon. It includes mechanisms such as truth commissions, criminal prosecutions, reparations programs, and institutional reforms to ensure accountability for past atrocities and prevent their recurrence. Also, the Comprehensive Peace building Framework by Lederach provides a comprehensive and integrated approach to peace building by addressing the dimensions of reconciliation, justice, security, and development; it offers a holistic perspective on building sustainable peace.

Furthermore, as part of NGOs responsibility in peace building in the Two English Speaking Regions of Cameroon, they opined that, their responsibility was in training focal points on various aspects that required peace action. Among which is gender-based violence. The Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) (policy studies institute, 2022) agenda is a crucial approach that recognizes the unique role of women in peace building processes. It emphasizes the inclusion of women in decision-making processes, conflict prevention efforts, peace negotiations, and post-conflict reconstruction. The WPS agenda aims to address gender inequalities, promote women's rights, and ensure their meaningful participation in all aspects of peace building. These organisations opined the importance of women in the peace process during the crisis. Women were seen with peace plans and these women are been empowered by NGOs. They also carried out humanitarian activities to support displaced person and refugees especially those ignited by the crises. It should be underpinned that many persons have been displaced from villages and settled in towns like Kumba, Buea, Bamenda Tiko, Limbe with very little to leave on as such the organisation assist in such circumstances and in cases where their sphere of influence does not permit the do referral especially cases with need urgent medical attention or mental health challenges. It was also noticed that respondents do

organised seminars and conferences to educate the population of the necessity of embracing peace in order to foster harmony in the society

Furthermore, among the responsibility of NGOs in Peace Building actions, fostering school resumption took the central stage. Respondents were of the view a perfect society cannot be built without education. Education seems very importance even among those agitating because since the beginning of the crisis education and school related activities are in constant attack and paralysed in most of the communities in the Two English Speaking Regions of Cameroon. Participants were of the view that in as part of their peace building mission and objectives, they usually support the communities with didactics materials to be used in school. This is in order to promote effective school resumption since peace education is an important approach that seeks to promote a culture of peace by providing knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values necessary for peaceful coexistence. It seeks to investigate the origin of conflicts through formal and informal educational programs that teach conflict resolution skills, tolerance, empathy, human rights awareness, and non-violent communication. They were also of the opinion that part of their role is to inform and carry out advocacy campaign on the necessity of school resumption and as a catalyst for peace. In this light, they organise radio programmes to sensitise the community on the importance of education.

Research Question Two: How have NGO activities help to promote peace building process in the English-Speaking Region of Cameroon?

The focused here was on the NGOs activities and the extent to which those activities help in promoting peace in the English-Speaking Region of Cameroon. Here, the focus was to access how NGOs activities help in promoting peace in the English-Speaking Region of Cameroon.

Table 5.2: NGO activities and peace building process in the English-Speaking Region of Cameroon

Themes	Groundings	Sampled quotations
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Humanitarian Activities	2	<p>“promote the growth of economic activities and helps to heal victims of human abuse the communities ”</p> <p>“ supply the needy population immediate basic needs like food, bed equipments etc”</p> <p>“Provide didactics material for students and children to encourage them to go back to school. Also provide scholarship to outstanding students and people”.</p> <p>“they sensitize the communities through workshops and seminars on the importance of peace and this is option done in an organised manner in collaboration with the community heads and chiefs”</p>
Sporting Activities	2	<p>“Also organise football for peace tournament during the long student holidays and jamboree in some community which was a medium where we could preach peace and reconciliation messages”.</p> <p>“sport in itself a unifying factor and as such both youth and the adults were very interested in giving us a listening ear during sporting activities like during the final in Akwaya Sub Division, messages of peace and reconciliation were being echoed ”</p>
Prevention and mediation	2	<p>“sometimes in extreme cases we are involve in protecting the life of vulnerable person and IDPs ”</p> <p>“act as link between the government and the local communities</p> <p>“engage on educative talks to promote conflict resolution”</p>

Base on the perspective of NGOs officials and activities as a catalyst for peace building process in the English-Speaking Region of Cameroon, participants reported that in order to build everlasting peace in the warring communities, they took it upon themselves in carrying out some activities in the like of humanitarian activities, protection and mediation activities and above all sporting activities. According to the UNO liberal peace approach (2015) Sporting activities play a significant role in peace building by fostering understanding, promoting dialogue, and creating a sense of unity among individuals and communities. Sports helps to bring people from different background and opinion together, interact, and engage in healthy competition, which helps to break down barriers and build bridges between different groups. Sports bring people together in a non-threatening environment where communication flows naturally. Whether it is players discussing strategies on the field or spectators cheering for their favourite teams, sporting events create opportunities for dialogue. These conversations can lead to the exchange of ideas, opinions, and experiences, fostering mutual understanding and resolving conflicts

through peaceful means. Sporting activities also provide a platform for individuals to address social issues and promote important causes such as gender equality, inclusivity, and human rights. More so, sporting activities have immense importance towards peace building by promoting understanding, fostering dialogue, building unity, resolving conflicts peacefully, and empowering youth. Because sport is an important tool to unite diverse persons, interact harmoniously, and work towards common goals. The importance of sports could be found in its capability to transcend societal divisions and create an environment where peace can flourish.

It should also be underline here that respondents were of the opinion that they carried out humanitarian in the form of economic development and rehabilitation of vulnerable person in some of the localities. This is usually done through reconstruction of destroyed settlement and ravaged communities and in some cases granting scholarship schemes to Internally Displaced Person as a result of the ongoing crisis in the English speaking regions of Cameroon. They also opined that victims of the crisis were more often provided with basic necessities like foodstuff, mattresses etc. To build their mental health, they are often referred to a more competence person in situation of extreme challenges that concerned health and psychological issues.

Conflict Prevention and mediation action is also of paramount concern of the NGOs peace building initiative in the North West and North West region of Cameroon. According to the Comprehensive Peace building theory by Lederach (2003), Conflict prevention is often regarded as a crucial peace building approach that focuses on identifying and addressing the underlying source before they mature and become severe. It involves early warning systems, mediation, diplomacy, and dialogue to resolve disputes peacefully. Conflict prevention strategies also include promoting good governance, human rights, and social justice to address grievances and inequalities that can lead to conflict. While Conflict resolution and mediation are essential approaches in peace building that aim to facilitate dialogue between conflicting parties and help them reach mutually acceptable agreements. Persons in charge of mediation serve as neutral third parties with goal to promote communication , negotiation, and problem-solving processes. They assist in finding

common ground, building trust, and fostering understanding between conflicting parties.

Based on the analysis above it was revealed that NGOs do perform lots of activities which are geared towards peace building and good governance. It was recorded that their main mission amongst other things include promotion and respect for human rights, rule of law, and democratic principles, promoting democracy and good governance void of conflict through on and off line campaigns, developing strategies and put together resources to ensure conformity with human rights standards, working with government authorities to improve human rights situations especially in warring situation like the case of North west and South West region of Cameroon. The also pointed to the fact that, to keep abuses to a minimum, providing legal services to victims of human rights violations, provide legal assistance to victims of human rights abuses by working in close collaboration with members of the legislative, judiciary and executive branches so as to bring the necessary legal changes, serving as a liaison with other NGOs focused on human rights and above all involved in humanitarian activities to carter for IDPs and victims of human right violations. These analysis were in line with the Comprehensive Peace building theory by Lederach (2003) as sited in Smith, McCandles, Paulson and Wheaton (2011) who argued that peace building is an idefinite notion and with multiple variables, so it is difficult to demonstrate, correlate; NGOs implementation and activities since it is a field which is mainly pursued by bodies that seeks for immediate results rather than systematic research, the volatile environments in conflict-affected societies mean that operational conditions and data gathering are difficult; short program cycles, high levels of staff mobility and poor institutional memory make reflective research uncommon; and where there is a commitment to evaluation this not commonly defined in terms of indicators of achieving program goals, rather than focusing on impact in terms of the concept of peace building. McCandles, Paulson and Wheaton (2011).

Research Question Three: What is the perspective of NGO officials' on the effectiveness/success of NGO activities towards peace building in Cameroon English Speaking Regions?

The focused here was on the perspective of Stakeholders 'on the effectiveness/success of NGO activities towards peace building in Cameroon English Speaking Regions. Here, the focus was to perspective of Stakeholders 'on the effectiveness/success of NGO activities towards peace building in Cameroon English Speaking Regions.

Table 5.3: NGO officials' Perspective on the Effectiveness of NGOs Activities

Themes	Groundings	Sampled quotations
NGO Officials' Perspective	2	<p>“our works are recognize by the government and most of the state agency happened to be our partners ”</p> <p>“we work in close collaboration with the state to ensure there is a smooth and peaceful atmosphere in the communities we function”</p>
Conflict of Interest	2	<p>“regarding the socio-political crisis, there exist some antagonism between the state agents on the one hand and the separatist on the other hand, the separatist see us as agent of the state while the state sees our activities as being contrary to the rule of law”.</p> <p>“trust is a huge fact. However, we try to mediate between the state and local communities”</p>
Threat	2	<p>“even before the crisis, NGOs were confronted with a lot of threat from the Administrator in the concerned communities especially when it has to do with humanitarian gesture which happened to be part of NGOs activities”</p> <p>“We also serve as a bridge between the state and the local communities by carry out sensitisation talk on the importance of peace and conflict resolution in other to reduce to threats.</p>

Base on the perspective of NGOs' officials on the effectiveness/success of NGO activities towards peace building in Cameroon English Speaking Regions, participants reported, despite the fact that their activities were welcomed and accredited by the state and most of the state agency happened to be they partners they still face threat from those same state agents especially when it has to do with humanitarian issues. To them they are aiding and sponsoring separatist activities by encouraging them. Because of these NGOs officials and state agents are always in a conflicting state. This issue arises as a result of mistrust. It was also recorded that despite the fact that there exit some collaboration between the state and NGOs base on the fact that they act as a liaison for the state to reach the crisis communities where they often have mediation talk with the community leaders for effective peace and governance to return to normalcy.

From the analysis above it shows that stakeholders rather than seeing NGOs as actors of peace and security in the warring situation of North West and South west Regions of Cameroon, they rather see them as a threat. This could be because the NGOs are closer the people and their needs are often met by these NGOs.

Based on the above analysis, it was therefore concluded that NGOs plays a Surmounting role as peace building agents in the crisis in the English speaking regions of Cameroon. Their activities ranges from humanitarian, social, human right advocacy, respect of rights of human and property, maintenance of law and order, protection of people and their community, advocacy on gender based violence and mediating rule.

Although NGOs official are often involved in reconciliation and healing which are critical components of peace building approaches that focus on addressing the deep-rooted divisions and traumas caused by conflicts. These approaches aim to promote forgiveness, understanding, and healing among individuals, communities, or societies affected by violence. Reconciliation processes often involve truth-telling mechanisms, memorialization efforts, community dialogues, reparations programs, and psychosocial support for victims. They are also faced with much threat especially with regards to the security situation and health of the communities in which their activities are based. The state usually accused the NGOs official of siding with those involving in perpetrating violence through their humanitarian gesture. This so because of misconstrue of functions and the role of NGOs in crisis situation like the case of North West and South West region of Cameroon.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVE

6.1 Introduction

The main goal of this research was to explore the role of Non-Governmental Organizations NGOs in peace building in the English-Speaking Region of Cameroon. This chapter sets out to provide summary of the research findings, conclusions, prospect, and recommendation.

6.2 Summary of findings

The findings reveal that NGOs, through seminars, workshops, community sensitization, have contributed in raising awareness, instil life skills and educating the community on peace building for positive change in the community.

The analysis of research question one revealed that the two NGOs sampled were responsible in carrying out the following activities: humanitarian activities in the form of economic development and rehabilitation of vulnerable person in some of the localities. This was usually done through reconstruction of destroyed settlement and ravaged communities and in some cases granting scholarship schemes to Internally Displaced Person as a result of the on-going crisis in the North West and South West region of Cameroon. NGOs play a significant role by emphasizing the inclusion of women in decision-making processes, conflict prevention efforts, peace negotiations, and post-conflict reconstruction.

NGOs in the warring regions were also engage in peace education. This seems to be a significant tool because education has being at the forefront of the ongoing crisis in the two English region since the beginning of the crisis, educational activities has being paralyzed and as such many school going ages have engage in delinquent activities.

Furthermore, NGOs actions as peace building crusaders were extended to sporting activities. These were to bring the communities together towards social cohesion. Sporting activities have immense importance towards peace building by promoting understanding, fostering dialogue, building unity, resolving conflicts peacefully, and

empowering youth. Through sports, individuals from diverse backgrounds can come together, interact harmoniously, and work towards common goals. The power of sports lies in its ability to transcend societal divisions and create an environment where peace can flourish.

Conflict Prevention and mediation action is also of paramount concern of the NGOs peace building initiative in the North West and North West region of Cameroon. Conflict prevention is often regarded as a crucial peace building approach that focuses on identifying and addressing the underlying causes of conflict before they escalate into violence. It involves early warning systems, mediation, diplomacy, and dialogue to resolve disputes peacefully. Conflict prevention strategies also include promoting good governance, human rights, and social justice to address grievances and inequalities that can lead to conflict.

6.3 Conclusion

This research was addressing an undiscovered role in peace building in the South West and North West region of Cameroon. While major themes such as humanitarian action of NGOs, Sporting activities of NGOs, conflict mediation, peace education, conflict prevention and their contribution to the discussion on the importance of inclusion of civil society actors (NGOs Officials) in peace building and the prevention of conflict in other to attain sustainable peace in the South West and North West region of Cameroon.

Civil Society organisations are at the forefront in the process of peace building activities and as a result of this study two NGOs were identifies: Human Is Right Cameroon and The Association for the Protection of Women's and Children's Rights (APWCR). Their role is crucial for the establishment of durable peace to their communities in the peace in South West and North West Region in general. These two NGOs have so far succeeded in identifying their importance in the peace process. Nevertheless, community engagement in NGOs peace building programs needs to be strengthened and altered to make more effective use of their full potential as peace builders.

The research discovered that the most efficient duties of NGOs in South West and North West Region of Cameroon are contributing to the social cohesion, mediation and promoting a culture of dialogue functions. However, the study makes us to understand that those activities are connected to the interviewees understanding of peace building process, which is mostly perceived as a dialogue and acceptance of the other's ideas, respect of others and the ability to hear different opinions. And there withal the activities correspond to the issues that they define as the most conflicting and hurtful in the region which happened to be the ongoing crisis in the South West and North West Region

Peace building has been a very big developmental challenge, which is affecting not only South West and North West Region but all other parts of the country. NGOs have made remarkable contributions peace building through some of their activities such as organizing workshops, seminars, sensitization campaigns and school visits, human right advocacy and conflict prevention, reconstruction and mediation. It should be noted that most of the communities have been impacted with various life skills such as decision-making, problem-solving, self-awareness, negotiation, communication, critical and creative thinking through seminar, radio programs, community talks and above all sporting activities'. All these programs and activities have gone a long way to inform the population on peace concerns and add to the promotion of lasting peace in the South West and North West Region. Despite the efforts put in by the NGOs to see that affected communities receive and regain peace, either through advocacy campaign, trainings programs on peace education, humanitarian activities, conflict prevention and mediation there is still a lot to be done. Most of the communities ragged by the crisis are yet to regain momentum or even recover from the situation the crisis has put them in. schools are yet to begin in many of the affected communities. Youth have become agents of destruction and juvenile delinquency. It is wise remember that communities in South West and North West Region are still being radicalized by the day and the idea of enjoying durable peace is still a far-fetched reality in those communities.

6.4 Perspective/Discussion

Considering the role NGOs are playing in peace building in the English Speaking Regions of Cameroon, necessary measures must be put in place to ensure that this role does not diminish or fade away with time. Cooperation and collaboration are required from the various NGO officials involved. Cooperation between the NGOs and the government, the communities, and amongst NGOs themselves will be the best way forward for the promotion of peace building for a peaceful society not only within the two regions but the entire nation at large.

Forums which brings together NGOs and government should be encouraged as it will foster efficient functioning of these NGOs. The government is far bigger than all NGOs in the English speaking regions of Cameroon put together. These organizations are there to assist the government carry out its responsibilities and not to take the government's position. Both institutions need a forum which will help them achieve their objectives and through which NGOs will be able to execute their projects. The forum will further serve as a medium where NGOs can air their grievances and receive assistance both materially and financially which will lead to better and efficient work. Consequently the state can achieve her vision 2035 of an emerging Cameroon.

The immediate population directly benefiting from these peace building programs need to be trained on why the program is needed. Therefore, communities should be considered as stakeholders in the peace process and not mere beneficiaries. The local population should be involved in at all levels of the peace process from the conceptualization to the execution phase. This is imperative because in a best position to identify their needs. This will render NGOs more accountable, open and proactive in their service provision. Communities must be made to understand the importance of the programs not just to the participants but to the entire community and nation. Without such education, most of the programs will continue to lose their importance and performance over the years.

NGOs too have to push for deep partnership with local government authorities like municipal councils and village development associations. This will boost

community actions and encourage citizens to be involved in the program design and implementation which now points to be a most promising way or ensuring durable peace.

There is need for a synergy for NGOs operating in the two targeted regions. Such forums for networking will help change and improve the performance of these NGOs. Through this network, the organizations will be able to create better impact in the field of peace building. There will be exchange of ideas amongst NGOs which will help solve or reduce some of the challenges faced by the organizations. For example, collective research can be undertaken through the forum which will form a data base for all NGOs wanting to carry out projects in the any affected community. This will save time wasted by individual NGOs to carry out a study on their community and different NGOs will engage in different aspects of peace building rather than having all NGOs carryout one and the same project. This synergy will further constitute a great force that could lobby for funds, run programs, pull forces from other institutions, as well as create great impact on the communities which will help to enhance peace building capacity and advocacy.

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APPENDICES

Interview Guide for NGO Officials

Dear Respondents,

I am a final year masters student in the department of Politics and Society at Aalborg University . This interview guide is designed to gather information on ‘the role NGOs in peace building in the English-Speaking region of Cameroon. The information will be treated with strict confidence and will be used strictly for the purpose of this study. Do not indicate your name anywhere on the interview.

Please tick or provide information as may be applicable.

Section A:Demographic Information

Please answer the following general questions about yourself. Remember the information you provide will be anonymous and will only be used in aggregate form along with those from other teachers.

1. What is the name of your organisation? _____
2. What is the size of your organisation? _____
3. What is your role/position in the organisation? _____

Section B: Information Based on Objective of the Study

The responsibility of NGOs in Peace building inCameroon

4. In your opinion what are the responsibilities of your organisation towards peace building initiative in the Region?
5. How has your efforts towards school resumption in the warring region helped in foresting peace building?

NGO activities that help to promote peace process inCameroon

6. In your opinion what are those activities that your organisation is carrying out that help to promote peace process in the English-Speaking Regions of Cameroon
7. What are some of the activities/projects your organisation has work on or is currently working on that are related to peace building actions?. And what is the most important issue that you deal with work wise daily.

Stakeholders’ perspective on the effectiveness/success ofNGO activities towards peace building in Cameroon English Speaking Regions

8. How do Stakeholders’ view your activities towards peace building in Cameroon English Speaking Regions
9. Have you ever received support or resistance from the government towards your peace building initiative?
10. What are the problems you face daily (personal/work-related)?
11. Please tell me about your working week looks from Monday morning until the weekend.