# SUSTAINABLE PEACEBUILDING THROUGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN SOUTH SUDAN: A CASE OF TEREKEKA STATE

1

**Alex Garang Aleu; Reg. No. 2014/HD03/18665X**

**ABSTRACT**

Despite the fact that a lot of research has been done about community development in relation to peacebuilding, there are only a few studies available on the contribution of community development projects to peacebuilding processes. The intention of this study is to fill the gap by investigating the contribution of the community development projects to the peacebuilding process in South Sudan, with a specific case of Terekeka State. The study adopted the qualitative approach. Two community development projects were selected for the study, that is, the South Sudan Livelihood and Development Project (SSLDP) and the Food Security and Livelihood Project (FSLP). The total number of participants in the case of SSLDP was 38 individuals for in- depth interviews (30 were project participants while eight were non-participants). With regard to FSLP, the respondents totaled 22 individuals for in-depth interviews (18 were project participants while four were non-project participants). In addition, 32 key informants were interviewed. Eight focus group discussions (FGDs) were carried out for both the projects studied. The results of the finding were discussed after the process of data collection, with the help of key informants. The study revealed actors’ positive perceptions of the contributions of community development projects to sustainable peacebuilding, which included nurturing friendly attitudes among the project participants; promoting unity and restoring positive communication; building confidence and trust; building a sense of tolerance and love; overcoming fear and suspicions; enabling positive collaboration; creating a bond between members; and enabling capacity building for peacebuilding engagement. In conclusion, the Community Development Projects studied contributed to the peace and stability. Each of the community development projects studied provided a favorable space in which negative-de-humanising attitudes were overcome, while positive, re-humanising ones were fostered: from fear to fearlessness; from suspicion to trust; from division to union.

**Supervisors: Dr. Paul Bukuluki and Dr. Christine Mbabazi Mpyangu**

**Date** of Defense 10th August, 2020; **Time**: 10.00 am; **Venue** CTF1 Room 4.2