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Review Article

Roles of the African Union in assisting Somali security forces in post-conflict peace-building in Mogadishu. A cross-sectional study.

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Abstract

Background

The study aimed to examine the role of the African Union in assisting Somali security forces in post-conflict peace-building in Mogadishu.

Methodology

The study employed an explanatory sequential mixed-methods design involving 126 respondents selected from a target population of 183. Purposive and random sampling techniques were used to select participants. Primary data were collected using self-administered questionnaires and interview guides, while secondary data were obtained through documentary analysis. Instrument validity was assessed using the Content Validity Index, while reliability was established using Cronbach's alpha (0.871). Quantitative data were analysed using SPSS, Pearson correlation, and regression, while qualitative data underwent content analysis.

Results

Of 126 distributed questionnaires, 110 were returned, yielding an 87.3% response rate. Men constituted 54.5% of respondents and women 45.5%. Regarding education, 36.4% held degrees, 18.2% master's qualifications, 13.6% diplomas, 10.0% certificates, and 21.8% other qualifications. The African Union's assistance to Somali security forces received an overall mean score of 3.74 (SD=1.061), indicating generally favourable perceptions. The highest-rated item concerned efforts to demobilise Somali troops (M=4.13, SD=0.839), while establishing an administrative framework for sustainable development received the lowest rating (M=3.25, SD=1.305). Interview themes highlighted the AU's contribution to security and peacebuilding, conflict-resolution strategies, and challenges in building local security and civilian capacity. Regression analysis indicated a statistically significant relationship between AU assistance and post-conflict peacebuilding ($F=5.165$, $p=.024$), although the association was weak ($R=.136$, $R^2=.018$; $\beta=-.136$). AU assistance therefore had a significant but limited negative association, explaining 1.8% of variation in peacebuilding outcomes within Mogadishu's wider post-conflict recovery and governance context.

Conclusion

African Union's recent post-conflict peace-building initiatives in Somalia have included the demobilization of Somali forces.

Recommendation

The African Union, Somali security forces, and development partners should strengthen troop demobilisation, government administration, and infrastructure reconstruction in Mogadishu and affected areas.

Keywords: *African Union, Somali security forces, post-conflict peacebuilding, security sector reform, demobilization*
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Background of the study

Somalia has experienced prolonged political instability, armed conflict, institutional weakness, and insecurity since the collapse of its central government in 1991. The resulting power vacuum contributed to the emergence of competing armed groups, clan-based conflicts, humanitarian crises, and extremist organisations, particularly Al-Shabaab. These challenges weakened public institutions, undermined national security, and limited the government's capacity to provide essential services and protect public infrastructure. Efforts to restore stability have therefore required coordinated interventions involving Somali authorities, regional organisations, and international partners (Menkhaus, 2009, 2010, 2014).

The African Union (AU) became a central actor in Somalia's security and peacebuilding efforts through the establishment of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in 2007. The mission was mandated to support the Transitional Federal Government, facilitate humanitarian assistance, protect key institutions, and contribute to the stabilisation of the country. United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1744 (2007), 1863 (2009), and 2036 (2012) provided

successive authorisations and strengthened the mission's operational responsibilities. The AU's involvement represented an important regional response to Somalia's security challenges and demonstrated the role of African-led interventions in addressing complex conflicts (African Union Commission, 2013; African Union, 2017).

One major component of the AU's intervention involved supporting Somali security forces through operational cooperation, training, logistical assistance, and capacity development. These interventions aimed to improve the ability of Somali forces to conduct security operations, counter Al-Shabaab, secure recovered territories, and progressively assume responsibility for national security. However, the development of effective national security institutions remained challenging because of limited resources, fragmented command structures, institutional weaknesses, and difficulties coordinating international and local security actors (Albrecht & Haenlein, 2016; Williams, 2018).

Counterterrorism operations were another important aspect of AMISOM's mandate. Joint operations between AU troops and Somali forces contributed to the recovery of strategic locations and reduced Al-Shabaab's control over parts of Mogadishu and other areas. Nevertheless, military operations alone could not guarantee sustainable peace. Long-term stability also depended on reconciliation, effective governance, public confidence, functioning institutions, and the provision of essential services (Lotze & Williams, 2016; Williams, 2013). The complex relationship between external military intervention, local political interests, and statebuilding further demonstrated the need for interventions that considered Somalia's political and social context (Ingiriis, 2018a, 2018b).

The protection of government facilities was equally important because public institutions represented the authority and continuity of the Somali state. Securing government offices, infrastructure, and strategic installations helped create conditions for public administration, service delivery, and the restoration of state authority. However, the sustainability of these achievements depended on the ability of Somali institutions to maintain security independently and establish effective administrative and accountability frameworks (Menkhaus, 2014; United Nations Security Council, 2018).

Although the AU made important contributions to Somalia's security transition, operational achievements did not automatically translate into sustainable peacebuilding. Challenges involving institutional capacity, coordination, local ownership, and the gradual transfer of security responsibilities continued to influence the effectiveness of interventions (Williams & Boutellis, 2014; United Nations Security Council, 2022). The study aimed to examine the role of the African Union in assisting Somali security forces in post-conflict peacebuilding in Mogadishu.

Methodology

Research design

This study employed a mixed-methods research design to investigate the effectiveness of the African Union's role in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts in Mogadishu, Somalia, from 2017 to the present. To achieve clarity and consistency in focus, the research was structured around an explanatory sequential design, which allows for the integration of both quantitative and qualitative data in a coherent manner.

The quantitative component of the study involved a correlational approach, which sought to examine the relationships between various measurable variables related to the AU's peacebuilding initiatives. This phase included the collection of data from a diverse sample of respondents, enabling the analysis of statistical relationships and trends over time.

Following the quantitative analysis, the qualitative component was conducted to provide deeper insights into the experiences and perceptions of stakeholders involved in peacebuilding efforts.

Target population

The study focused on a target population of 183 participants, which comprised representatives from foreign military forces and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs located in Mogadishu. Additionally, selected delegates from international troops in Mogadishu were included, as outlined in the AU report of 2023. These individuals were specifically chosen due to their extensive understanding of international military operations and the processes of post-conflict peace-building in Somalia.

Sample size

The research concentrated on a specific cohort of 183 individuals, which included members of foreign military forces and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs based in Mogadishu. Furthermore, delegates from international military contingents present in Mogadishu were incorporated, as detailed in the African Union report of 2023. These participants were deliberately selected for their profound knowledge of international military operations and the mechanisms involved in post-conflict peace-building efforts in Somalia:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(\alpha)^2}$$

Where; n = sample size; N = target population; and $\alpha = 0.05$ level of significance

$$n = \frac{183}{1 + 183(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{183}{1 + 183(0.0025)}$$

n = 126

n = 126 respondents

Table 1: Research population and sample size

Category	Target population	Sample size	Sampling techniques
Foreign Military officials (AMISOM)	10	8	Purposive sampling
International Non-governmental organization officials	173	118	Random sampling
Total	183	126	

Source: Primary Data (2024)

Sampling techniques

Purposive sampling

The researcher employed purposive sampling to identify officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as these individuals are considered to possess critical knowledge about foreign military engagement and post-conflict peace-building efforts in Somalia. This sampling technique was deemed suitable due to the selection of knowledgeable individuals who contributed data that was sufficiently detailed to enhance understanding of the issue at hand. The appropriateness of this method is underscored by the fact that the chosen sample consisted of well-informed individuals capable of offering comprehensive insights into the problem.

Random sampling

The approach utilized for the selection of respondents from the target population was based on random sampling techniques. Individuals from foreign military contingents located in Mogadishu were randomly selected to guarantee that each person had an equal chance of being represented. This approach guaranteed that each member of the population had an identical likelihood of being selected. Additionally, the researcher applied random sampling techniques to larger populations to achieve equitable representation among respondents, thereby ensuring that every employee had an equal chance of selection.

Data sources

Primary data

The collection of primary data was conducted through the use of questionnaires and an interview guide. Participants provided primary data by taking part in interviews and filling out self-administered questionnaires. This primary data is essential for analyzing the variables being studied.

Secondary data

Secondary data were gathered from a range of documented resources, such as books, scholarly articles, and policy papers concerning international military forces and human welfare. Furthermore, data were collected from digital platforms, especially the internet. This secondary data included previously documented information, prior research outcomes, and specific publications relevant to the study's objectives. Further information was extracted from online resources.

Data collection methods

Self-administered questionnaire

The primary method employed by the researcher for data collection was the use of questionnaires. Specifically, closed-ended questionnaires were utilized to obtain information, which were distributed to representatives of foreign military personnel for completion. This instrument was intentionally chosen as it aims to capture the personal preferences of
respondents, thereby facilitating the expression of a diverse range of responses based on their experiences.

Interview

The researcher conducted important interviews with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mogadishu, using a set format for the questions. This approach necessitated direct interaction with the respondents, allowing for face-to-face engagement where pertinent questions related to the study were posed. The chosen method was intentional, as it facilitates a systematic exchange of information through the sequential arrangement of questions, while also addressing any gaps in the data collected via questionnaires.

Documentary analysis

Document analysis represents a qualitative research methodology wherein researchers interpret various documents to extract insights and significance pertaining to a specific assessment topic (Bowen, 2019). In this context, this approach was employed to examine documents associated with African Union interventions and post-conflict peace-building, utilizing a range of secondary sources such as internet websites, academic journals, textbooks, and published research articles.

Data collection instruments

The study used two data collection instruments, namely: a self-administered questionnaire and interview guide.

Questionnaire

A self-administered questionnaire is a quantitative data collection instrument. The questionnaire had two sections, sections A and B. The questions in section A were on background characteristics, while the questions in section B were on the main variables. The self-administered questionnaires used closed-ended items. Closed questions were selected because they were easy to administer, easily coded and analyzed, and allowed comparisons and quantification, and they are more likely to produce fully completed questionnaires while avoiding irrelevant responses.

Interview guides

For the interview guide, this is a face-to-face data collection instrument. The design of the interview items was a standardized open-ended interview that allowed the participants to provide detailed information because of the probing questions, and it served as a means of follow-up. Interview data were collected from key informants/respondents.

Documentary analysis

1. Document analysis represents a qualitative research methodology wherein researchers interpret various documents to extract insights and significance about a specific assessment topic (Bowen, 2019). In this context, this approach was employed to examine documents associated with African Union interventions and post-conflict peace-building, utilizing a range of secondary sources such as internet websites, academic journals, textbooks, and published research articles.

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Validity and reliability of the instrument

Validity of the instrument

The validity of this instrument is predominantly established through expert judgment, with the researcher confirming that the validity coefficient reached a minimum of 70%. After a thorough evaluation of the questionnaire, appropriate modifications were implemented while maintaining alignment with the study's objectives. The researcher employed the following approach to assess the validity of the instrument;

$$\text{CVI} = \frac{\text{no of items declared valid}}{\text{total no of items}}$$

$$CVI = \frac{22}{24} = 0.917$$

The CVI for the questionnaire was valid at above 0.70 because the least CVI recommended in a survey study is 0.70 (Bolarinwa, 2015).

Reliability of the instrument

Reliability refers to the extent to which assessment tools yield consistent results or data across multiple trials. To evaluate the reliability of the instrument, the Cronbach's Alpha test was employed. As noted by Stevens (2023), a Cronbach's Alpha score exceeding 0.9 is deemed excellent; scores ranging from 0.9 to 0.8 are classified as good; scores between 0.7 and 0.8 are considered acceptable; scores from 0.6 to 0.7 are viewed as questionable; scores between 0.5 and 0.6 are regarded as poor, and scores below 0.5 are seen as unacceptable. For internal consistency and transparency, Cronbach's alpha coefficients should ideally fall between 0.75 and 0.8 to be regarded as appropriate. This was also another critical instrument that the researcher used as a measure of the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results or data after repeated trials

Table 2: Cronbach's alpha value

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.871	23

Data analysis

Quantitative data analysis

The quantitative results were derived solely from the data obtained through the questionnaires. The primary data were deemed too rudimentary for adequate interpretation. Furthermore, it was essential to systematically organize and plan this data to extract meaningful insights and knowledge. The raw data from the questionnaires were cleaned, processed, and coded. The coded data were entered into a computer, tested, and statistically evaluated using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) program to produce descriptive and inferential statistics. The Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient analysis was used to test the relationship among the variables, and regression coefficient models were used to examine the extent to which the independent variables impact the dependent variable. The results were presented in tables, analyzed and interpreted, and then conclusions and recommendations were drawn.

Qualitative data analysis

Interviews with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mogadishu offered important qualitative information. The qualitative data analysis involves several stages, including open, axial, and selective coding, as well as the categorization and interpretation of the fundamental definitions of the phenomenon under investigation. This stage of research needs deep involvement for a long time to fully understand the subject. We used content analysis to simplify and clarify the data into clearer statements. This method requires complete focus for as long as necessary to gain a clear understanding of the topic. The data was also refined and reorganized through editing to create more concise and simple expressions.

Ethical considerations

The investigator conducted the study with the complete awareness and approval of the senior officials in Mogadishu. Initially, the investigator obtained an introductory letter from Kampala International University, which served to dispel any doubts regarding his intentions. Following this, the investigator proceeded to identify participants and schedule dates for distributing and collecting questionnaires, as well as arranging interviews.

A critical responsibility of the investigator was to guarantee the confidentiality of the respondents, as this is essential to the integrity of the research.

Results

Response rate

Table 3: Response rate

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Responded	110	87.30%
Did Not Respond	16	12.70%
Total	126	100%

Source: Primary Data (2024)

The information in Table 3 shows that 110 out of 126 questionnaires were returned, leading to a response rate of 87.3%. This is a very high rate. According to Mugenda (2003), a 50% response rate is enough for analysis, 60% is good, and 70% or more is considered excellent.

Demographic characteristics of the respondents

This part presents the background information of the respondents who participated in the study. The purpose of presenting the background information was to find out the demographic characteristics of the respondents.

Gender of respondents

Table 4: Shows the gender of respondents

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Male	60	54.5
Female	50	45.5
Total	110	100.0

Source: Primary Data (2024)

The findings presented in Table 4, indicating that 54.5% of respondents were male while 45.5% were female, indeed shed light on the gender dynamics within the context of the study on the African Union and post-conflict peace-building in Somalia. This distribution reflects the reality that, in many societies, including Somalia, there are traditional beliefs and societal norms that influence the participation of men and women in certain activities, including trade and labor. The observation that a higher proportion of male respondents participated in the study aligns with prevailing gender roles and expectations within Somali society, where men are often perceived as the primary breadwinners and are more likely to be engaged in economic activities such as trade and labor. These societal beliefs and norms may contribute to the overrepresentation of men in certain sectors, including those relevant to the study. However, it is crucial to note that the study's methodology ensured the inclusion of both male and female respondents, indicating a deliberate effort to consider gender diversity in the research process. By including participants from both genders, the study acknowledges the importance of capturing diverse perspectives and experiences related to the African Union and post-conflict peace-building in Somalia. Furthermore, the gender distribution observed in the study findings reflects broader issues of gender inequality and social disparities that may exist within Somali society. Recognizing and addressing these disparities is essential for promoting gender equality, inclusive development, and

social cohesion.

Education of respondents

Table 5 Shows the education of respondents

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Certificate	11	10.0
Diploma	15	13.6
Degree	40	36.4
Masters	20	18.2
Others	24	21.8
Total	110	100.0

Source: Primary Data (2024)

The findings reveal that the largest proportion of respondents, constituting 36.4%, held diplomas, followed by 21.28% categorized under "others," and 18.2% holding certificates. Additionally, 10.0% of respondents held Master's degrees, while 13.6% held Bachelor's degrees. These results suggest that the majority of respondents had attained at least a diploma-level education, with a significant proportion having pursued higher education qualifications. The predominance of respondents with diplomas and higher education qualifications indicates a level of education that likely equipped them with a deeper understanding of the study topic. Individuals with diploma-level and higher qualifications often possess critical thinking skills, analytical abilities, and a broader knowledge base, which are beneficial for comprehending complex subjects such as the African Union and post-conflict peace-building in Somalia. Moreover, the presence of respondents with Bachelor's and Master's degrees further enriches the study's dataset, as individuals with advanced degrees may offer nuanced insights and perspectives derived from their specialized knowledge and academic training. Their contributions to the study could provide depth and sophistication to the analysis, enhancing the overall quality and credibility of the research findings. However, it is noteworthy that a considerable proportion of respondents were categorized under "others," indicating a diverse range of educational backgrounds beyond diplomas, certificates, Bachelor's, and Master's degrees. While specific details regarding this category are not provided, their inclusion underscores the importance of capturing the perspectives of individuals with varied educational experiences and qualifications, thereby ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the study topic.

Marital status of respondents

Table 6: marital status of respondents

Marital Status	Frequency	Percent
Single	22	20.0%
Married	74	67.0%
Separated	14	13.0
Total	110	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2024

The findings from the field indicate that the majority of respondents, comprising 67%, were married, while 20% were single, and 13% were separated. This observation underscores the prevalence of married individuals among the study participants. The predominance of married respondents suggests a demographic characteristic that is relevant to the study's objectives. Married individuals often have familial responsibilities and may possess a deeper understanding of societal dynamics, including those related to stability and security, which are central themes of the study. Their experiences and perspectives as married individuals may offer valuable insights into the implications of the African Union and post-conflict peace-building in Somalia on family life and community dynamics. Furthermore, the significant representation of married respondents indicates a level of commitment and engagement with the study topic. Married individuals may have a vested interest in issues of peace, security, and stability, particularly concerning their impact on family well-being and community cohesion. As such, their participation in the study strengthens the validity and relevance of the research findings. However, it is essential to

acknowledge the inclusion of single and separated respondents in the study cohort. While they constitute smaller proportions of the sample, their perspectives are equally valuable and may offer unique insights into the study topic. Single individuals, for instance, may provide perspectives from a different stage of life, while separated individuals may offer insights into the social challenges and dynamics that contribute to marital instability in conflict-affected contexts.

Age of the respondents

Table 7: age of the respondents

Age of the respondents	Frequency	Percent
19-25	21	19.1
26-30	46	41.8
31-35	28	25.5
42-46	11	10.0
Above 46	4	3.6
Total	110	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2024

The findings indicate that the majority of respondents belonged to the age group between 26 and 30 years, comprising 41.8% of the sample. This demographic was followed by individuals aged between 31 and 35 years, representing 25.5% of respondents. The third largest category consisted of individuals aged between 19 and 25 years, making up 19.1% of the sample. Additionally, individuals aged between 42-46 years accounted for 10% of respondents, while those above 46 years constituted the smallest proportion at 3.6%. The distribution of respondents across different age groups provides insights into the demographic profile of the study participants. The predominance of respondents in the 26-30 age group suggests that individuals in this demographic are more likely to engage with the study topic. Middle-aged adults, represented by respondents aged between 26 and 35 years, may possess a combination of life experiences, professional maturity, and social awareness that makes them particularly well-informed and insightful regarding issues of post-conflict peace-building and peacekeeping efforts. Furthermore, the significant representation of younger adults, aged between 19 and 25 years, underscores the importance of capturing the perspectives and experiences of the youth population in discussions related to post-conflict peace-building. Despite their relatively younger age, individuals in this demographic cohort may have unique insights, aspirations, and concerns that contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the study topic. However, it is essential to acknowledge the inclusion of respondents from older age groups, as they may offer perspectives shaped by their accumulated life experiences and historical context. While they constitute smaller proportions of the sample, their contributions remain valuable for enriching the study's findings and providing a more holistic view of the topic under investigation.

Time respondents stay in Somalia.

Table 8: Time respondents stay in Somalia.

Respondents	Frequency	Percent
Less than 1 year	25	22.9
2-10 Years	19	16.8
Above 10 years	66	60.3
Total	110	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2024

The findings presented in Table 8 highlight that the majority of respondents, comprising 60.3%, had resided in Somalia for more than 10 years. Additionally, 16.8% of respondents had stayed in Somalia for 2-10 years, while 22.9% had been in the country for less than 1 year.

The prevalence of respondents with long-term residency in Somalia underscores their deep-rooted connection to the country and their extensive experience within the local context. Individuals who have resided in Somalia for more than a decade are likely to have developed a profound understanding of the socio-political dynamics, cultural nuances, and historical background of the region. Their

perspectives on the contributions of external factors, such as the European Union, to Somalia's post-conflict peace-building efforts are informed by years of firsthand experience and observation.

Furthermore, the inclusion of respondents with varied lengths of stay in Somalia enriches the study's dataset by capturing diverse perspectives and experiences. Individuals who have resided in Somalia for shorter durations, including those with less than 1 year of residency, may offer fresh insights and observations about the impact of external interventions on post-conflict peacebuilding, drawing comparisons with their experiences in other contexts.

The findings also suggest that many respondents have actively participated in the socio-economic and political life of Somalia during their stay. Their engagement with the local community and familiarity with the challenges and opportunities facing the country provide valuable context for evaluating the contributions of external factors, such as the European Union, to Somalia's stability efforts.

The roles of the African Union in assisting Somali security forces in Mogadishu, Somalia. This section mainly concerns the roles of the African Union in assisting Somali security forces in Mogadishu, Somalia. The study results are presented in the table below;

Table 9: The roles of the African Union in assisting Somali security forces in Mogadishu, Somalia

Indicators	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean	Std. Dev.
Demobilization of Somali troops has been one of the African Union's strategies towards post-conflict peacebuilding in Somalia in recent years	12 (4.0%)	64 (21.2%)	34 (11.3%)	132 (43.7%)	60 (19.9%)	3.54	1.145
African Union's policy has made serious efforts in the demobilization of Somali troops in the region	8 (2.6%)	6 (2.0%)	23 (7.6%)	167 (55.3%)	98 (32.5%)	4.13	0.839
Establishing a government administrative machinery framework in the context of sustainable development	17 (5.6%)	99 (32.8%)	55 (18.2%)	53 (17.5%)	78 (25.8%)	3.25	1.305
African Union's demobilization of Somali troops was instrumental in rebuilding Somalia's dilapidated and war-torn infrastructure	13 (4.3%)	29 (9.6%)	60 (19.9%)	134 (44.4%)	66 (21.9%)	3.70	1.050
The essentials of post-conflict peacebuilding must remain at the heart of peace work and demand an overall impact on development	6 (2.0%)	8 (2.6%)	70 (23.2%)	90 (29.8%)	128 (42.4%)	4.08	0.968
Average						**3.74**	**1.061**

Table 10: grading.

Scale	Mean Range	Response Mode	Interpretation
5	1.0–1.8	Strongly Disagree	Very Low
4	1.8–2.6	Disagree	Low
3	2.6–3.4	Neutral	None
2	3.4–4.2	Agree	High
1	4.2–5.0	Strongly Agree	Very High

Demobilization of the Somali military has been one of the African Union's efforts for post-conflict peace-building in Somalia in recent years.

A total of 12 students (4.0%) expressed strong disagreement, while 64 respondents (21.2%) disagreed. Additionally, 34 respondents (11.3%) remained neutral, 132 respondents (43.7%) agreed, and the remaining 60 respondents (19.9%) strongly agreed that the demobilization of Somali troops has been a significant strategy employed by the African Union in its efforts toward post-conflict peace-building in Somalia in recent years. The data yielded a mean score of 3.54 and a standard deviation of 1.145. This suggests that a substantial majority of respondents recognized the African Union's involvement in formulating and executing administrative strategies aimed at stabilizing Somalia.

The African Union's policy has made substantial attempts to demobilize Somali forces in the region.

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The data presented in the table indicates that 8 respondents (2.6%) strongly disagreed, 6 respondents (2.0%) disagreed, and 23 respondents.
(7.6%) remained neutral, 167 respondents (55.3%) agreed, and 98 respondents (32.5%) strongly agreed regarding the assertion that the African Union's policy has made significant strides in the demobilization of Somali troops in the region. The mean score was calculated at 4.13, with a standard deviation of 0.839, which corresponds to a neutral position on the Likert scale. This outcome implies that a substantial majority of respondents perceive the African Union as continuing to play a vital role in the enhancement of the administrative framework of the Somali government.

All development partners in Somalia have agreed to establish a framework for government administration in the context of long-term peace.

The results illustrated in the preceding table reveal that 17 respondents (5.6%) expressed strong disagreement, while 99 respondents (32.8%) disagreed. Additionally, 55 respondents (18.2%) maintained a neutral stance, 53 respondents (17.5%) agreed, and 78 respondents (25.8%) strongly agreed that the establishment of a governmental administrative framework aimed at fostering sustainable peace has been embraced by all development partners in Somalia, yielding a mean score of 3.25. This indicates that the African Union is actively engaged in enhancing peace through the fortification of administrative structures.

The African Union's demobilization of Somali troops helped rehabilitate Somalia's outdated and war-torn infrastructure.

The results of the study indicated that 13 respondents (4.3%) strongly disagreed, 29 respondents
(9.6%) disagreed, 60 respondents
(19.9%) remained neutral, 134
respondents (44.4%) agreed, and 66 respondents (21.9%) strongly agreed that the African Union's efforts in demobilizing Somali troops played a crucial role in the reconstruction of Somalia's damaged and conflict-affected infrastructure. The mean score was calculated at 3.70, with a standard deviation of 1.050.

The fundamentals of post-conflict peacebuilding must continue to be at the center of efforts to promote peace, and they require the development's overall influence.

The table presented above summarizes the findings of the study. Among the participants, 6 individuals (2.0%) expressed strong disagreement, 8
individuals (2.6%) disagreed, 70 individuals (23.2%) remained neutral, 90
individuals (29.8%) agreed, and 128 individuals (42.4%) strongly agreed that it is essential for the principles of peace-building to remain central to peace efforts following a conflict, thereby influencing overall developmental outcomes. The study yielded a mean score of 4.08, accompanied by a standard deviation of 0.968, indicating that a significant portion of respondents recognized the African Union's role in promoting peace post-conflict. Additionally, the overall mean score was 3.74, with a standard deviation of 1.061, reflecting a high rating on the Likert scale. This finding implies that the African Union continues to spearhead numerous initiatives and programs aimed at fostering sustainable peace in Somalia.

Interview responses

The qualitative data gathered from interviews provided valuable insights into the African Union's (AU) role in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts in Mogadishu, Somalia. To enhance the presentation of this qualitative data, a thematic analysis framework was employed, which involved coding the responses and deriving key themes and sub-themes from the interviews.

Theme 1: AU's contribution to security and peacebuilding

One prominent theme that emerged from the interviews was the AU's significant contribution to disarming Al-Shabaab and facilitating peacebuilding initiatives. A representative from the African Union Reconciliation and Federalism Support Project emphasized this point, stating that the AU's efforts in disarming militant groups play a crucial role in advancing post-conflict peacebuilding in the region. This sentiment was echoed by various respondents, indicating a broad recognition of the AU's critical role in these processes.

Sub-theme: Support from International Bodies

A United Nations Peacekeeping Forces officer highlighted the collaborative efforts of the AU and the United Nations Security Council, stating:

"The African Union, supported by the United Nations Security Council, is well-established to offer security assistance to the Federal Government of Somalia and to facilitate the development of conducive conditions for dialogue, reconciliation, and the delivery of humanitarian aid within the nation."

Theme 2: conflict resolution strategies

Another key theme identified in the qualitative data was the diverse methods of conflict resolution employed by the AU. Multiple respondents noted the variety of approaches utilized, including peaceful negotiations, governmental intervention, and mediation efforts. One anonymous officer from the AU articulated this point:

"Various methods of conflict resolution have been utilized, including peaceful negotiation, governmental intervention and mitigation, peace restoration, mediation, and arbitration, among others."

This theme emphasizes the multifaceted strategies the AU employs in addressing conflicts, which include

collaboration with significant organizations and governmental entities.

Theme 3: challenges in capacity building

Despite the AU's efforts, challenges remain in enhancing the effectiveness of peacebuilding initiatives, particularly in the training and support of local security forces. A Somali police officer remarked on the limitations of current training programs:

"The African Union (AU) has endeavored to uphold a strong presence in Mogadishu through the training of police forces; however, this initiative has not successfully contributed to the recovery of regions still dominated by Al-Shabaab. There is a need to create specialized training units aimed at bolstering the capabilities of Somalia's national defense and public safety institutions."

Sub-theme: Strengthening Civilian Capacity

The need for enhanced civilian capacity was also highlighted, with the officer stressing:

"Enhancing civilian capacity is essential to support the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) in its efforts to reestablish effective governance, foster reconciliation, uphold human rights and the rule of law, and ensure the provision of services in areas that have been reclaimed."

Roles of the African Union in assisting Somali security forces in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Table 11: Roles of the African Union in assisting Somali security forces in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.136[a]	.018	.015	.58275

a. Predictors: (Constant), African Union in assistance of Somali security forces

Table 12: ANOVA

ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	1.754	1	1.754	5.165	.024[b]
	Residual	93.729	109	.340		
	Total	95.483	110			

a. Dependent Variable: Post-conflict peace-building

Table 13: Coefficients.

b. Predictors: (Constant), African Union in assistance of Somali security forces **Coefficients[a]**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Unstandardized Coefficients Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	3.372	.244		13.831	.000
	African Union in assistance of Somali security forces	-.178	.078	-.136	-2.273	.024

a. Dependent Variable: Post-conflict peace-building

Source: Primary Data, 2024

According to the table above, the R^2 coefficient for the relationship between the African Union's support of Somali security forces and post-conflict peacebuilding was calculated to be 0.018. According to this graph, the African Union's support for the security forces in Somalia contributed 1.8% to the process of post-conflict peacebuilding. The data are closely scattered, as indicated by the standard error estimate of.58275.

The table also demonstrates how the analysis of variance (ANOVA) clarifies the relationship between the dependent variable (post-conflict peace-building) and the independent variable (African Union supporting Somali security forces). The African Union's support of Somali security forces had

a considerable impact on post-conflict peace-building in Mogadishu, Somalia, according to the significance level of 0.024.

The table also shows the regression analysis between post-conflict peace-building in Mogadishu, Somalia, and the aid provided by the African Union to Somali security forces. According to the regression study, the percentage of post-conflict peacebuilding that occurs without the support of the African Union for Somali security forces was 3.372. The constant and β have t values of (13.831) and -2.273), respectively, and their corresponding levels of significance are (.000 and.024). The researcher contends that the African Union has a substantial impact on aiding Somali security forces and post-conflict peacebuilding because the significance level was less than

0.05. The results of the study show that the African Union is supporting the security forces in

Mogadishu, Somalia. Furthermore, this suggests that the African Union is crucial to the post-conflict peace-building process by supporting the security forces in Somalia. This is consistent with the findings of Keating and Abiew (2010), who pointed out that one of the African Union's aid initiatives for the Somali security forces in recent years has been post-conflict peace-building. As previously stated, the African Union has seriously attempted to support the policies of the Somali security forces in post-conflict peace-building throughout the area, especially in light of TIKA's expansion and restructuring. The African Union, working with Somali security forces, has been instrumental in post-conflict peace-building efforts. It has helped rebuild the country's damaged infrastructure, including the airport in Mogadishu, paved much-needed roads that now connect the airport to the city center, and assisted Somalia in modernizing. This facilitates Somalia's reintegration into the global community.

Discussion

The findings indicated that AU assistance contributed to the broader security and peacebuilding efforts in Mogadishu, although the level of perceived contribution varied across the assessed areas. The overall mean score for AU assistance was 3.74 (SD = 1.061), suggesting a generally positive assessment among respondents. This finding was consistent with Williams (2018), who documented AMISOM's contribution to military operations, stabilisation, and the development of Somali security institutions. The results also reflected the importance of regional peace-support operations in environments where national institutions have limited capacity to maintain security independently (Albrecht & Haenlein, 2016).

Demobilisation received the highest mean score (M = 4.13, SD = 0.839), suggesting that respondents considered this an important area of AU-supported peacebuilding. Demobilisation can reduce the availability of armed personnel for continued conflict and create opportunities for reintegration and the restoration of civilian life. However, its effectiveness depends on complementary interventions, including disarmament, rehabilitation, livelihood support, and community reconciliation. Menkhaus (2010) emphasised that stabilisation in Somalia required more than military intervention because humanitarian, political, and security challenges were interconnected. Similarly, the AU's broader stabilisation framework recognised the importance of linking security improvements with reconciliation, governance, and institutional recovery (African Union Commission, 2013).

In contrast, the administrative framework recorded the lowest mean score (M = 3.25, SD = 1.305). This suggests that respondents perceived weaknesses in the administrative structures supporting security and peacebuilding interventions. Effective administration is essential for coordinating security agencies, managing resources, establishing accountability, and ensuring continuity when external forces gradually transfer responsibilities to national institutions. Menkhaus (2014) observed that external institution-building efforts in Somalia frequently struggled because they did not adequately accommodate local governance arrangements and political realities. Williams (2018) similarly identified fragmented institutions, coordination difficulties, and weaknesses in security-sector development as significant challenges affecting AMISOM's efforts to strengthen Somali security forces.

The regression analysis identified a statistically significant relationship between AU assistance and the assessed peacebuilding outcome ($F = 5.165$, $p = .024$, $R = .136$, $R^2 = .018$, $\beta = -.136$). However, the model explained only 1.8% of the variation in the outcome. This indicates that AU assistance, although statistically associated with the outcome, accounted for a relatively small proportion of its variation. The negative coefficient should be interpreted in relation to the study's variable coding and should not automatically be taken to mean that AU assistance weakened peacebuilding. Other political, institutional, economic, and community-level factors were likely to influence peacebuilding outcomes. This interpretation is consistent with Menkhaus (2009, 2014), who highlighted the influence of local political interests, informal governance structures, and institutional weaknesses on statebuilding in Somalia.

Regarding counterterrorism, the AU's support to Somali security forces was important in strengthening operations against Al-Shabaab and improving the government's ability to recover and secure strategic areas. Williams (2009) described the operational difficulties AMISOM faced after deployment into an active conflict environment, while Williams (2018) documented the mission's contribution to major military operations and its continuing challenges in security-sector reform. Lotze and Williams (2016) further explained that stabilisation required coordination between military operations and broader political and governance interventions. However, military gains could not independently eliminate the conditions that allowed armed groups to operate. Ingiriis (2018a) argued that external

military interventions could also complicate conflict dynamics when they failed to account adequately for local political conditions. Therefore, sustainable counterterrorism required both operational capacity and stronger, accountable Somali institutions.

The protection of government facilities was another important dimension of the study. Respondents reported a mean score of 3.61 (SD = 1.101), indicating a generally positive assessment of security arrangements around government installations. Protecting public facilities helps maintain government operations, safeguard personnel, and support the delivery of public services. This role is particularly important in Mogadishu, where government institutions have historically faced threats from armed groups. Williams (2013) noted that civilian protection was a major challenge for AMISOM and required deliberate policies, operational procedures, and coordination. The importance of strengthening protection arrangements was also reflected in the United Nations Security Council's continuing emphasis on supporting Somali security institutions and protecting civilians (United Nations Security Council, 2018, 2022).

The regression analysis for government-facility protection reported a negative coefficient ($\beta = -0.420$, $p = .005$, $R^2 = .176$). This suggests a statistically significant association, with the model explaining 17.6% of the variation in the outcome. Nevertheless, the direction of the coefficient must be interpreted according to the coding of the predictor and outcome variables. The result should therefore not be interpreted as evidence that AU assistance necessarily reduced facility protection. Rather, it demonstrates a significant relationship that requires consideration alongside the descriptive findings and the study's measurement approach.

The findings should also be considered within the wider framework of international and regional peacekeeping partnerships. Williams and Boutellis (2014) observed that effective AU–UN cooperation was affected by operational, financial, and institutional constraints. Albrecht and Haenlein (2016) similarly identified fragmentation within AMISOM's support arrangements as a challenge to mission coordination. These observations suggest that the effectiveness of AU assistance depended not only on military deployment but also on predictable financing, logistical support, clear command structures, and cooperation with Somali institutions.

Overall, the findings suggest that AU assistance played a relevant role in supporting security and post-conflict peacebuilding in Mogadishu. However, the relatively low explanatory power of the first regression model and the weaknesses perceived in administrative frameworks indicate that military and operational support alone may not ensure sustainable peace. Continued investment in Somali institutional capacity, accountable security administration, community reconciliation, and the gradual transfer of security responsibilities remains essential. These priorities are consistent with the AU's stabilisation objectives and the United Nations' emphasis on strengthening Somali-led security institutions (African Union, 2017; United Nations Security Council, 2022).

Conclusion

It was discovered that one of the African Union's recent post-conflict peace-building initiatives in Somalia has been the demobilization of Somali forces. As previously stated, the African Union's policy has made significant efforts to demobilize Somali troops in the area, especially in light of TIKA's expansion and restructuring. The demobilization of Somali troops by the African Union played a crucial role in the reconstruction of the country's deteriorated and war-torn infrastructure, including the Mogadishu airport and the much-needed roadways that now connect the airport to the city center.

The study comes to the conclusion that all development partners in conflict zones throughout Africa and the world have embraced the demobilization of the Somali army framework in the context of sustainable peace. When entering and operating in war areas, German government organizations like the German Development Service (DED) and GTZ (German Technical Assistance) do so.

A methodical connection between conflict analysis and the execution of interventions in conflict areas, as well as the integration of a theory of social change and conflict transformation with the realities of policy and program design, are crucial prerequisites for effective peace approaches. The fundamentals of post-conflict peacebuilding must continue to be at the center of efforts to promote peace, and they require a total impact on development.

Recommendation

Recommendations stemming from the study's outcomes suggest that the African Union, in conjunction with Somali security forces and development partners, should persist and strengthen their efforts in demobilizing Somali troops, establishing robust government administrative frameworks, and prioritizing the reconstruction of infrastructure in Mogadishu, Somalia, and other affected areas. These initiatives need to be continuously implemented to ensure sustainable peace and development. By maintaining a collaborative approach involving all stakeholders, including local communities, the African Union can effectively advance post-conflict peace-building in Somalia, ultimately contributing to long-term stability and progress in the region.

In addition to the aforementioned recommendations, it is essential for the African Union to focus on capacity-building initiatives for Somali security forces, enhance coordination among various stakeholders involved in peace-building efforts, and prioritize local community engagement and empowerment. Strengthening training programs, fostering cooperation between different entities, and involving the community in decision-making processes will further solidify

the foundation for sustainable peace in Mogadishu and beyond. Moreover, investing in socio-economic development projects, promoting reconciliation and dialogue among diverse groups, and ensuring transparent governance practices are crucial steps that can supplement the existing strategies. By incorporating these multifaceted approaches, the African Union can foster a comprehensive and holistic framework for long-term peace and prosperity in Somalia.

Further recommendations include the need for the African Union to support the establishment of effective conflict resolution mechanisms, promote inclusive political participation, and address root causes of conflict such as poverty and marginalization. Encouraging dialogue, mediation, and reconciliation processes at the grassroots level can help build trust and foster social cohesion within communities. Additionally, advocating for gender equality, human rights protection, and rule of law enforcement will contribute to a more stable and peaceful environment. Emphasizing sustainable development projects, supporting education and healthcare initiatives, and investing in job creation programs are also vital components to address socio-economic disparities and promote lasting peace in Somalia. By implementing a multifaceted approach that encompasses these aspects, the African Union can play a pivotal role in advancing peace and stability in Mogadishu and throughout Somalia.

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List of abbreviations

AU – African Union
AMISOM – African Union Mission in Somalia
ATMIS – African Union Transition Mission in Somalia
FGS – Federal Government of Somalia
SPSS – Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
CVI – Content Validity Index
SD – Standard Deviation
R – Correlation coefficient
R^2 – Coefficient of determination
β – Beta coefficient
ANOVA – Analysis of Variance
UN – United Nations
TIKA – Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency
DED – German Development Service
GTZ – German Technical Cooperation Agency

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest

Data availability

Data is available upon request from the author

Author contributions

AIB: conceptualization, methodology, investigation, writing the original draft.
MS: data curation, validation, supervision.

Informed consent

Written informed consent was obtained from all participants before their inclusion in the study. Participants were informed about the purpose of the study, procedures involved, potential risks and benefits, and their right to withdraw at any time without penalty.

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