



Assessing the Impacts of Rebels on Economic Development in Conflict Zone, KIRAMU District in Front, Oromia Regional State

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Abstract

This study aims to assess the impacts of rebels on economic development in KIRAMU District, Oromia Regional State, and a conflict-prone District in Ethiopia. The study utilizes qualitative research methods, including key person interviews and document analysis, to gather data from the local community, government officials, and other stakeholders. The findings indicate that rebel violence has had a significant negative impact on economic development in the district, including hindering investment, discouraging economic growth, and disrupting economic activities. The lack of security and the risk of violence have created an atmosphere of apprehension and ambiguity, resulting in a dearth of economic opportunities. The displacement of people and the closure of businesses have led to job losses and a decline in income, contributing to poverty and food insecurity in the district. The study also pinpointed the need for conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts to improve the security situation and create an enabling environment for economic development in the region. It recommends the involvement of local communities, government, and other stakeholders in the peacebuilding process to ensure sustainability and inclusivity.

Keywords: Rebels; Economic; Growth; KIRAMU

Abbreviations: UNDP: United Nations Development Programme; MENA: Middle East and North Africa; UNSOM: United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia.

Introduction

The relationship between rebel activities and economic development in conflict zones is complex and can have positive or negative impacts depending on the specific nature of the activities and the context in which they occur. Some researchers have focused on the positive effects of rebel groups in their studies. For example, Mejía and Restrepo [1] examined the impact of armed conflict on human development in Colombia and found that the presence of

rebel groups had a beneficial effect on human development in regions susceptible to conflict. The study revealed that rebels provided essential services such as healthcare and education, which improved the human capital of the region and stimulated economic growth.

Kishi and Mampilly's [2] research on rebel governance in northern Mali sheds light on the intricate relationship between rebel groups and economic progress in regions affected by conflict. According to the study, rebel groups in northern Mali established a form of governance that offered security and basic services to the populace, leading to a positive effect on economic development. One of the critical findings was that the rebels created a security system for

the population by instituting checkpoints, patrols, and other security measures, which lowered the risk of violence and fostered a more stable environment for economic activities. This, in turn, facilitated the growth of local markets and trade, which contributed to the development of the local economy. The study also found that the rebel groups had established basic social services, such as healthcare and education, which had a positive impact on human development in the region. This was particularly important in a context where the government was unable to provide basic services to the population due to the conflict.

It is worth noting, however, that the establishment of rebel governance also had some negative aspects. The study revealed that rebel groups frequently engaged in predatory activities, such as extortion and taxation, which could impede economic growth and discourage investment in the area. The absence of accountability and transparency in rebel governance also posed a challenge to the sustainability of economic development. Additionally, the study emphasized the intricate nature of rebel governance and its impact on economic development. While rebel governance can offer some short-term perks, it is not a sustainable answer to the challenges of economic development in regions affected by conflict. Ultimately, a comprehensive and inclusive approach that involves the government, civil society, and the private sector is necessary to achieve sustainable economic development in these regions. Studies also explored the negative impacts of rebels on economic development in conflict zones Nilsson and Nygren [3]; Stewart [4]. These studies suggest that rebel activities, particularly violence, can have significant negative impacts on economic growth. For instance, on the impact of rebel violence on economic growth in the Democratic Republic of Congo found that rebel violence reduced economic activities, increased the cost of goods, and reduced investment in the area. Rebel violence can disrupt trade routes, making it more difficult for goods to be transported, which can increase the cost of goods and reduce their availability [5]. Additionally, rebel violence can create an environment of fear and uncertainty that can discourage investment and hinder economic activities.

Numerous studies have examined the effects of rebel violence on economic growth in conflict-prone regions, and South Sudan offers an excellent illustration of the adverse effects of such violence on economic development. According to Stewart's [6] research, rebel violence in South Sudan disrupted economic activities, forced people to flee their homes, and caused an increase in the cost of goods, ultimately reducing economic growth. One of the critical consequences of rebel violence on economic development is population displacement. In many conflict-affected areas, rebel violence can lead to massive population displacement, as communities flee their homes to escape the violence. This

can result in the loss of homes, property, and income, which can significantly impede economic growth. The destruction of infrastructure and property is another impact of rebel violence that can negatively affect economic growth. Rebel violence often leads to the destruction of infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and buildings, which can disrupt economic activities and increase the cost of goods. This can make it difficult for businesses to operate and for goods and services to be transported, further hampering economic development.

According to a report by the World Bank [7], conflict-affected areas are often characterized by a lack of security and the risk of violence, which can create an atmosphere of apprehension and ambiguity, hindering investment and discouraging economic growth. The report also notes that businesses are hesitant to invest in such areas, resulting in a dearth of economic opportunities and a decrease in economic growth. In Ethiopia's Tigray region, the ongoing conflict has disrupted economic activities, displaced people, and raised the cost of goods, which has had an adverse impact on economic growth in the region [8]. Furthermore, a report by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) [9] highlights that the conflict has led to the closure of businesses and the displacement of workers, resulting in job losses and a decline in income.

Similarly, in South Sudan, the risk of violence and the lack of security have hindered investment and discouraged economic growth, resulting in a dearth of economic opportunities. According to a report by the International Crisis Group [10], the conflict in South Sudan has led to the closure of businesses, the displacement of workers, and a decline in economic activity. The report notes that the lack of economic opportunities has contributed to poverty and food insecurity in the country. These studies demonstrate that rebel violence can create an atmosphere of apprehension and ambiguity, hindering investment and discouraging economic growth. The impacts of such violence can be observed in other conflict-prone regions, such as Ethiopia, where conflict has disrupted economic activities, displaced people, and raised the cost of goods, resulting in an adverse impact on economic growth in the region.

An illustration of the impact of conflict on economic development can be observed in the Gambella region of Ethiopia, as studied by Assefa and Tadesse [11]. The research revealed that the conflict had a substantial adverse effect on the local economy by disrupting economic activities, particularly agriculture, which is the primary source of livelihood for the local population. Moreover, the conflict had resulted in displacement of people, destruction of property, and loss of income, all of which had a negative impact on economic growth in the area. Similarly, Gebremedhin and Swinton [12] found that conflict in Ethiopia had a

significant negative impact on agricultural production and household welfare. The study showed that conflict disrupted agricultural activities, destroyed crops and livestock, and led to population displacement, which reduced household income and had a negative impact on economic growth in the area.

The conflict-prone zone of Kiramu District in Oromia Regional State of Ethiopia is likely to experience significant impacts on economic development due to the presence of rebel groups. The area has been affected by a longstanding conflict between these groups and the government, which has disrupted economic activities and had a detrimental effect on economic growth and development in the region. The objective of the study is to identify the unfavorable effects of rebel activities on economic growth and to propose strategies that can promote peace and stability in the area, address the underlying causes of the conflict, and support economic recovery and development to alleviate the negative impacts of rebel activities on the local economy [13].

Methodology of the Study

The study used literature review and key informant interviews. By examining academic journals, policy papers, and reports from NGOs and international organizations, the study gained a comprehensive understanding of the historical and current contexts of the conflict in the district, as well as the broader economic development challenges that the area faces. The key informant interviews with various stakeholders, including local residents, government officials, and NGOs, provided the researcher firsthand accounts of how the conflict and rebel activities have affected economic development in the area. These interviews can also provide insight into the perceptions, attitudes, and experiences of different stakeholders regarding the conflict and the potential strategies for promoting peace and stability, addressing the root causes of the conflict, and supporting economic recovery and development in the district. Overall, the combination of these data collection methods contributed to a more comprehensive understanding of the impacts of rebel activities on economic development in the conflict-prone zone of Kiramu District in Oromia Regional State of Ethiopia, thereby informing the development of effective policies and programs to mitigate these impacts.

Results and Discussion

The finding from both reviews of literatures and key informants are analyzed and supported with evidences from relevant studies. According to key informants, rebel activities, especially violence, can have significant negative impacts on economic growth and development in regions affected by conflicts. For example, such activities can disrupt trade,

transportation, and investment, thereby limiting economic activities and reducing economic growth. Additionally, the interviewed persons noticed that the violence can cause displacement of people, destruction of property, and loss of income, which can negatively affect household welfare and economic growth. Report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) support the above information that the effects of conflict on economic development in Africa, which found that conflict can result in a decrease of GDP growth by 2% to 4% per year, leading to a decline in investment, trade, and human development [14]. Similarly, the World Bank conducted a study on the impact of conflict on economic growth in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, which discovered that conflict, can reduce economic growth by 2.3% per year, leading to a decline in investment, trade, and human development [15]. Furthermore, a study by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the impact of conflict on economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa found that conflict can reduce per capita GDP growth by 2.2 percentage points per year, and lead to a decline in investment, trade, and human development [15].

Disruption of Trade Activities

According to the findings of the study, all business activities and trade in the area have been disrupted, affecting the means of livelihood for the local population. The impact of such disruption caused by rebel activities in conflict-prone zones like Kiramu District is significant and has a negative effect on the local economy. The interruption of the supply chain of goods and services can lead to a decline in economic activities, limiting employment opportunities and hindering economic growth. Munyambonera and Matsumoto [16] explained that several other conflict zones, including Yemen, have experienced similar disruption of trade due to rebel activities. For instance, a study on the effect of conflict on trade in Syria found that the conflict had a significant negative impact on trade, with exports decreasing by 95% and imports by 35% [17]. Similarly, a study on the impact of conflict on trade in the Democratic Republic of Congo found that rebel activities had a significant negative impact on trade, reducing exports by 50% and imports by 44%.

Rebel activities causing trade disruption have long-term impacts on the local economy in Kiramu District. The loss of market share for local producers, due to reduced competitiveness and inability to compete with foreign producers, has led to a decline in the quality of goods and services. Additionally, the ripple effect of the trade disruption extends throughout the economy, affecting the availability and price of basic commodities like food and medical supplies. This has a direct impact on the welfare of households and the overall health of the population. The limitations on market access, caused by rebel activities in conflict zones such as

Kiramu District, can severely hinder economic growth and development. The barriers to entry created by rebel activities lead to reduced competition, increased prices of goods and services, and lowered consumer welfare. This, in turn, reduces the demand for goods and services, further limiting economic activities and growth in the district.

According to Khan and Gul [18], several other conflict zones, including Somalia, have also experienced limitations on market access due to rebel activities. For instance, a study on the effect of conflict on market access in Afghanistan found that the conflict had a significant negative impact on market access, limiting traders' ability to access markets and reducing competition. Similarly, a study on the impact of conflict on market access in Liberia found that the conflict had a significant negative impact on market access, reducing the availability of goods and services and increasing the prices of basic commodities [19]. The restrictions on market access caused by rebel activities can have long-term effects on the local economy. For example, it can lead to reduced investment and entrepreneurship as investors and entrepreneurs may perceive the environment as too risky and unstable to operate in. This can further limit economic activities and growth in the district.

The negative impact of rebel activities on economic growth and development in conflict zones like Kiramu District is further compounded by a decline in investment. Investors are often reluctant to invest in such environments due to the high level of risk and uncertainty associated with them. This lack of investment can result in a reduction of economic activities, employment opportunities, and economic growth. Al-Shammari and Al-Ani [20] noted that, in addition to Afghanistan, several other conflict zones have experienced a decline in investment due to rebel activities. For example, a study on the impact of conflict on investment in Syria found that the conflict had a significant negative impact on investment, with foreign direct investment decreasing by 85% and domestic investment decreasing by 66% [21]. Similarly, a study on the impact of conflict on investment in Iraq found that the conflict had a significant negative impact on investment, reducing foreign direct investment by 90%. The decline in investment caused by rebel activities can have long-term impacts on the local economy, resulting in reduced access to capital and technology, which can limit the ability of local firms to compete in the global market. This can further limit economic activities and growth in the district.

Strategies that can Promote Peace and Stability in the Kiramu District

Dialogue and mediation efforts with rebel groups have been proven effective in promoting peace and stability in conflict zones. In Kiramu District, it is crucial to engage in

such efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution to the conflict. One example of successful dialogue and mediation efforts is the peace agreement between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebel group in 2016. The peace agreement was the result of several years of negotiations and mediation efforts, led by the Colombian government, civil society, and other stakeholders. As a result of the agreement, the FARC was disarmed and demobilized, leading to a significant reduction in violence in Colombia [22].

The success of dialogue and mediation efforts in promoting peace and stability in conflict zones is further illustrated by the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland, which ended years of violence and conflict in the region. The agreement was the result of negotiations and mediation efforts led by the British and Irish governments, civil society, and other stakeholders [23]. Other research has also shown the effectiveness of such efforts in promoting peace, such as a study on peace negotiations in Sudan, which found that negotiations contributed significantly to the peaceful resolution of the conflict [24]. Promoting economic development is another important strategy for addressing the root causes of the conflict in Kiramu District. Economic development can create job opportunities, reduce poverty and inequality, and promote social stability. The effectiveness of promoting economic development in conflict zones is demonstrated by various examples.

For instance, after the 1994 genocide, Rwanda implemented a range of economic development policies that helped to promote peace and stability in the country. These policies focused on improving infrastructure, promoting small and medium-sized enterprises, and investing in education and healthcare. The government worked to create a business-friendly environment, with measures such as simplified tax procedures and reduced bureaucratic barriers. These policies helped to attract foreign investment and promote the growth of the private sector, leading to sustained economic growth in the country. The growth of the economy also led to increased employment opportunities, reduced poverty, and improved living standards for the population. In addition, investments in education and healthcare improved human capital and contributed to social stability. The sustained economic growth and social development contributed significantly to promoting peace and stability in Rwanda [25].

The Northern Ireland peace process, which led to the Good Friday Agreement, also included a significant focus on promoting economic development in the region. The peace process recognized that promoting economic development was key to addressing the underlying issues that had led to the conflict. The British and Irish governments, along

with other stakeholders, invested in infrastructure and job creation, and provided support for small and medium-sized enterprises. These efforts helped to create employment opportunities and reduce poverty and inequality in the region. The reduction in poverty and unemployment played a crucial role in contributing to the peace process as it helped to reduce social tension and promote social stability. Additionally, the investments in infrastructure helped to improve the quality of life for people in the region, which also contributed to the peace process. In summary, promoting economic development was a crucial part of the Northern Ireland peace process, and it helped to reduce poverty and unemployment, which in turn contributed to peace and stability in the region [26].

Liberia experienced a long period of conflict that had significant negative impacts on its economy and development. To address the underlying issues that led to the conflict, Liberia implemented a series of economic development policies that focused on improving infrastructure, promoting entrepreneurship, and investing in education and healthcare. These policies helped to create a business-friendly environment, attract foreign investment, and promote the growth of the private sector. The investments in education and healthcare improved human capital and contributed to social stability. The country's sustained economic growth, coupled with policies that reduced poverty and inequality, contributed significantly to promoting peace and stability in Liberia. The reduction in poverty and improvement in economic growth also led to improvements in living standards for the population. While the country still faces challenges, the implementation of these economic development policies has helped to lay the foundation for sustainable growth and development in Liberia [27].

In Kiramu District, promoting economic development is a crucial step towards promoting peace and stability. This can be achieved through a variety of measures, including investing in infrastructure, promoting entrepreneurship, improving access to education and healthcare, and creating opportunities for employment. The government can take steps to improve infrastructure development, such as building new roads and electricity grids, which can help to attract investment and improve connectivity. Additionally, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises by providing access to credit and business incubation programs can help to promote entrepreneurship and job creation.

Strengthening governance and rule of law is also a critical strategy for promoting peace and stability in Kiramu District. Research has shown that effective governance and rule of law can reduce the risk of conflict and promote social stability. For instance, in Colombia, strengthening governance and rule of law was a key component of the peace agreement with

the FARC rebel group. The agreement included measures to combat corruption, promote accountability, and strengthen the justice system, which helped to promote social stability and reduce the risk of conflict [27].

Similarly, in Afghanistan, strengthening governance and rule of law has been identified as a crucial element in promoting peace and stability. The government has implemented measures to improve accountability and transparency, combat corruption, and strengthen the justice system, which have helped to reduce the risk of conflict and promote social stability [28]. Sierra Leone, Tunisia, and South Africa are examples of countries that have implemented governance and rule of law reforms to promote peace and stability after periods of conflict or political transition. In Sierra Leone, reforms focused on improving accountability, transparency, and participation in decision-making processes. These efforts resulted in a significant reduction in corruption and improved governance in the country. Similarly, in Tunisia, reforms focused on improving the independence of the judiciary, increasing accountability, and promoting human rights. These efforts contributed to a stable political transition and improved governance in the country. In South Africa, reforms focused on promoting human rights, improving accountability, and increasing access to justice. These efforts contributed to a peaceful political transition and improved governance in the country.

In all three countries, the implementation of governance and rule of law reforms was a crucial step towards promoting peace and stability. These reforms helped to improve transparency, accountability, and access to justice, which are essential elements for sustainable development and economic growth. By reducing corruption, promoting human rights, and strengthening the justice system, these countries were able to address the underlying issues that had led to conflict or political instability. The reforms also helped to promote social stability and create an enabling environment for economic development.

In Kiramu District, strengthening governance and rule of law is a key strategy for promoting peace and stability. Improving accountability and transparency in decision-making processes, increasing access to justice, and promoting human rights can help to create an enabling environment for sustainable development and economic growth. For instance, increasing the independence of the judiciary, promoting transparency in government, and protecting human rights can help to improve governance and reduce the risk of conflict.

Providing access to social services, including education and healthcare, is also crucial for promoting peace and stability in Kiramu District. Research has shown that access to

education and healthcare can improve human development and reduce the risk of conflict. For example, in Nepal, providing access to education helped to reduce the risk of conflict by promoting social stability and reducing inequality [17]. Similarly, in Rwanda, investments in education and healthcare helped to improve human capital and contribute to social stability and economic growth [29]. In addition to education and healthcare, providing access to other social services, such as water and sanitation, can also contribute to promoting peace and stability. For instance, in Ghana, providing access to water and sanitation helped to improve health outcomes and reduce poverty, which contributed to social stability [30].

Afghanistan, Colombia, and Nepal are examples of countries that implemented policies to promote access to education and healthcare after periods of conflict. In Afghanistan, decades of conflict had severely impacted the country's development, and to address this, the government implemented policies to promote access to education and healthcare. These policies contributed to significant improvements in human development and reduced the risk of conflict. Similarly, in Colombia, policies were implemented to promote access to education and healthcare in conflict-affected regions. These policies contributed to improved social cohesion and reduced the risk of conflict. In Nepal, policies were implemented to increase access to education and healthcare in conflict-affected regions, which also contributed to improved human development and reduced the risk of conflict.

Access to education and healthcare is a crucial strategy for promoting peace and stability after periods of conflict. Education helps to promote social stability and reduce inequality, while healthcare improves health outcomes and reduces poverty. By promoting human development, these policies can help to address the underlying issues that have led to conflict and promote social stability. Additionally, by providing access to education and healthcare in conflict-affected areas, these policies can help to promote social cohesion and reduce the risk of conflict in the future. In Kiramu District, promoting access to education and healthcare is a key strategy for promoting peace and stability. Building schools and health clinics, training healthcare workers and teachers, and providing access to basic healthcare services can help to improve human development and reduce the risk of conflict. Education can promote social cohesion by providing opportunities for personal and professional development, while healthcare can improve the overall health and well-being of the population, which can contribute to social stability.

Supporting community-based initiatives is also a crucial strategy for promoting peace and stability in Kiramu District.

Community-based initiatives can help to build trust, promote social cohesion, and reduce the risk of conflict. For example, in Afghanistan, community-based initiatives were implemented to promote peace and stability. These initiatives included community dialogues, peace, and community policing, which helped to build trust and promote social cohesion [31]. Similarly, in Colombia, community-based initiatives were implemented to promote peace and reconciliation. These initiatives included community-led development projects, which helped to build trust and promote social cohesion [32]. In addition to promoting social cohesion, community-based initiatives can also help to address the underlying causes of conflict. By involving communities in the decision-making process and addressing their needs and concerns, these initiatives can help to create an enabling environment for sustainable development and economic growth.

The effectiveness of community-based initiatives in promoting peace and stability after periods of conflict

The effectiveness of community-based initiatives in promoting peace and stability after periods of conflict can be seen in the examples of Burundi, Sri Lanka, and Somalia. In Burundi, after years of civil war, community-based initiatives played a crucial role in promoting peace and stability. A report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) highlighted the importance of community-led peacebuilding efforts, inter-community dialogue, and support for local initiatives in addressing the root causes of the conflict and reducing violence in the country [33]. Similarly, in Sri Lanka, after decades of civil war, community-based initiatives were implemented to promote reconciliation and reduce the risk of conflict. The Sri Lankan government, with the support of international partners, launched community-led peacebuilding efforts, inter-community dialogue, and support for local initiatives. These initiatives contributed to a significant reduction in violence in the country [34]. In Somalia, community-based initiatives were also implemented to promote social cohesion and reduce the risk of conflict. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) supported community-led peacebuilding efforts, inter-community dialogue, and local initiatives to address the root causes of conflict. These efforts contributed to a significant reduction in violence in the country [35]. Overall, these examples demonstrate that community-based initiatives can be effective in promoting peace and stability after periods of conflict. Such initiatives can involve community-led peacebuilding efforts, inter-community dialogue, and support for local initiatives to address the root causes of conflict and promote reconciliation. By involving local communities in the peacebuilding process, community-based initiatives can be more sustainable and tailored to the specific needs of the local context.

Community-based initiatives are a crucial strategy for promoting peace and stability after periods of conflict. By involving communities in the decision-making process and addressing their needs and concerns, these initiatives can help to build trust, promote social cohesion, and address the underlying causes of conflict. Community-based initiatives can also help to create an enabling environment for sustainable development and economic growth. In addition to promoting peace and stability, community-based initiatives can also help to promote human development. By providing communities with the tools and resources they need to address their needs and concerns, these initiatives can help to improve human development outcomes, reduce poverty, and promote social justice [36].

In Kिरamu District, supporting community-based initiatives is a crucial strategy for promoting peace and stability. To achieve this, the government can provide support for community-led peacebuilding efforts, promote inter-community dialogue, and support local initiatives to address the root causes of the conflict. Civil society organizations can also play a critical role in supporting community-based initiatives [37]. The government can provide funding and resources for community-led peacebuilding efforts, such as community dialogues and reconciliation initiatives, by working with local organizations and community leaders to identify the needs and priorities of the community. The government can also promote inter-community dialogue by facilitating meetings between different communities and creating opportunities for communication and engagement. Additionally, the government can support local initiatives to address the root causes of the conflict, such as through the provision of grants and technical assistance. Civil society organizations can also play a critical role in supporting community-based initiatives. These organizations can provide a platform for communities to come together and engage in dialogue, promote peace and reconciliation efforts, and support the implementation of local initiatives. Civil society organizations can also advocate for policies that promote peace and stability and hold the government accountable for its commitments to supporting community-based initiatives [38].

Developing effective strategies for promoting sustainable economic growth and development is crucial for promoting peace and stability in Kिरamu District. The strategies mentioned such as encouraging private sector investment, developing infrastructure, promoting entrepreneurship, investing in education and healthcare, promoting sustainable agriculture, and encouraging regional integration can all contribute to sustainable economic growth and development. Encouraging private sector investment is critical for creating job opportunities and stimulating economic growth [39]. This can be achieved by creating an enabling environment

for private sector investment, such as reducing regulatory barriers and providing incentives. The government can also support the development of small and medium-sized enterprises by providing access to credit, training, and business incubation programs [40].

Developing infrastructure is also essential for promoting economic growth and development. It can improve connectivity, facilitate access to markets, and improve the delivery of social services. The government can invest in infrastructure development, including roads, electricity, and water supply, to attract investment and promote economic growth. Promoting entrepreneurship is another effective strategy for creating job opportunities and stimulating economic growth. The government can provide support for small and medium-sized enterprises, such as access to credit, training, and business incubation programs [41]. This can help to create a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation, which can contribute to economic growth and development. Investing in education and healthcare is crucial for improving human development and increasing productivity. This can lead to improved economic growth and reduced poverty. The government can invest in education and healthcare to improve access to these services and promote human development. Promoting sustainable agriculture is also essential for improving food security, reducing poverty, and stimulating economic growth in rural areas. The government can support sustainable agriculture practices, including access to inputs, value chain development, and infrastructure development [42].

Rebels can have a detrimental effect on economic activities by creating an atmosphere of apprehension and uncertainty that discourages investment, causing displacement, property destruction, and loss of income. The fear of violence and instability can also lead to reduced investment, as investors would be hesitant to put their money into an uncertain environment. Nevertheless, rebels can also positively impact economic development [43]. For instance, they may provide security in areas where the government is unable to do so, creating a stable environment for economic activities to flourish. Additionally, they may offer vital services such as healthcare and education, which can enhance the human capital of the area and promote economic growth.

In conclusion, the impacts of rebels on economic development in conflict zones are complex and can have both positive and negative effects. While the negative effects of rebels' activities, such as looting and forced recruitment, can hinder economic growth, rebels can also provide security and essential services that can promote economic development. Therefore, it is crucial to understand the context in which rebels operate and the nature of their activities to develop

effective strategies for promoting economic growth in conflict districts. To develop effective strategies, policymakers must have a nuanced understanding of the situation on the ground. They should engage with local communities and stakeholders to understand the specific challenges and opportunities that exist. This can help to identify potential areas for intervention and develop tailored strategies that are sensitive to the local context. Furthermore, the strategies developed must take into account the complexity of the situation and be flexible enough to adapt to changing circumstances. This may involve a combination of short-term and long-term approaches, including addressing immediate security concerns, providing essential services, and promoting economic development. In addition, collaboration between different stakeholders, including the government, civil society organizations, and the private sector, is essential to developing effective strategies for promoting economic growth in conflict zones. This can help to leverage the strengths and resources of different actors and ensure that interventions are coordinated and aligned with the needs of the local community [44].

Based on the findings the following are some recommendations

To assess the impacts of rebels on economic development in KIRAMU District, the following actions are recommended; conduct a comprehensive needs assessment, analyze the nature of rebel activities, assess their impact on different sectors, examine the role of the government in addressing the situation, engage with local communities and stakeholders, and foster collaboration between stakeholders. These actions can provide insights into the specific challenges and opportunities for economic development and guide the development of effective strategies that are tailored to the needs of the local community.

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