Bridging Global and Local: Enhancing the Effectiveness of International Organizations in Local Peacebuilding Initiatives

Ogunsola, Babatunde Olawale[1] and Babatope, Olukayode A.[2]

[1&2]Department of Political Science Education, Emmanuel Alayande University of Education, Oyo

Abstract

International organizations have long played a significant role in supporting peace initiatives in conflict-affected regions. However, there is an increasing recognition that their approaches must be adapted to better align with local perceptions and needs to foster a collaborative environment for sustainable peacebuilding. This research aims to assess the effectiveness of international organizations in supporting local peace initiatives during and after armed conflicts, and to explore how their approaches can be enhanced to better engage with local stakeholders. The study will employ a mixed-methods approach, including comparative case studies of successful and unsuccessful peace initiatives supported by international organizations across various conflict-affected regions, interviews and surveys with local leaders, community organizations, and representatives from international organizations, and policy analysis of existing frameworks and guidelines. The expected outcomes of this research include a comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of international organizations in local peacebuilding, recommendations for adapting international approaches to better align with local needs and contexts, and the development of a framework for collaborative peacebuilding that emphasizes local ownership and agency.

Keywords: international organizations, local peace initiatives, peacebuilding, local ownership, collaborative framework, conflict-affected regions

Introduction International organizations have long been central to peacebuilding efforts in conflict-affected regions, employing various strategies to foster stability and recovery. The United Nations (UN), for instance, has established itself as a

key player in this domain, utilizing mechanisms such as peacekeeping missions, diplomatic negotiations, and post-conflict reconstruction initiatives (Harary, 2024). These organizations possess unique capabilities to mediate disputes impartially and mobilize resources from member states to address conflicts effectively. However, despite these strengths, there is a growing recognition that the success of international peacebuilding initiatives often hinges on their ability to adapt to local contexts and engage meaningfully with affected communities (De Coning, 2024).

The necessity for local adaptation in peacebuilding is underscored by the understanding that conflicts are deeply rooted in local dynamics, histories, and cultural contexts. International organizations frequently operate within frameworks that may not fully account for these complexities, leading to interventions that can be perceived as top-down or disconnected from the realities on the ground (Guterres, 2023). For example, the UN's Action for Peacekeeping Initiative emphasizes the importance of context-specific approaches that address local needs and social dynamics (United Nations, 2024). By tailoring their strategies to align with local perceptions and capacities, international organizations can enhance their legitimacy and effectiveness in peacebuilding efforts.

Furthermore, fostering local ownership is critical for sustainable peace. Local communities possess valuable insights into their conflicts and potential solutions. Engaging these communities not only empowers them but also builds trust and cooperation between international actors and local stakeholders (Harary, 2024). The concept of local ownership emphasizes that peacebuilding should not merely be about external actors implementing solutions but rather about facilitating processes that allow communities to take charge of their own peace initiatives. This approach can lead to more resilient outcomes as communities are more likely to commit to and sustain peace efforts, they have a hand in shaping (De Coning, 2024).

While international organizations play a crucial role in peacebuilding, their effectiveness is contingent upon adapting their approaches to better align with local contexts. By prioritizing local engagement and ownership, these organizations can bridge the gap between global strategies and

local realities. This alignment not only enhances the legitimacy of international interventions but also fosters a collaborative environment conducive to sustainable peace (Guterres, 2023). As the landscape of conflict continues to evolve, so too must the strategies employed by international organizations to ensure they remain relevant and effective.

International organizations face significant challenges in aligning their approaches with local needs, particularly in the context of peacebuilding initiatives. One major obstacle is the tendency for these organizations to implement top-down strategies that do not adequately consider the specific cultural, social, and political contexts of the communities they aim to assist. This disconnect often results in interventions that are perceived as irrelevant or even counterproductive by local populations (Guterres, 2023). For instance, the United Nations Secretary-General has highlighted that many peacebuilding efforts fail because they do not engage effectively with local stakeholders, leading to a lack of ownership and commitment to the initiatives being proposed (Guterres, 2023). As a result, there is an urgent need for international organizations to adopt more inclusive practices that prioritize local voices and perspectives in the design and implementation of peacebuilding strategies.

Another critical challenge is the fragmentation of efforts among various international organizations and agencies, which can lead to duplicated efforts and wasted resources. This fragmentation often stems from differing mandates, priorities, and operational procedures among organizations, making it difficult to create a cohesive approach to peacebuilding (Harary, 2024). Moreover, local organizations frequently struggle to navigate this complex landscape, lacking the necessary support and resources to effectively engage with international actors (De Coning, 2024). The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has emphasized the importance of fostering partnerships with local entities to enhance coordination and effectiveness in humanitarian responses (IOM, 2024). Without a concerted effort to streamline collaboration and integrate local knowledge into peacebuilding frameworks, international organizations risk perpetuating cycles of dependency rather than fostering sustainable solutions that empower communities.

The primary objectives of this study are to assess the effectiveness of international organizations in supporting local peace initiatives and to enhance their engagement with local stakeholders. First, the study aims to evaluate how international organizations' interventions have influenced peacebuilding outcomes in various conflict-affected regions. This evaluation will involve a comprehensive analysis of both successful and unsuccessful peace initiatives, utilizing comparative case studies to identify best practices and lessons learned. By examining the factors that contribute to effective peacebuilding, the research seeks to provide actionable insights into how international organizations can improve their strategies and interventions, ensuring they are more responsive to the unique needs and contexts of local communities (Brown et al., 2023).

Second, the study aims to explore methods for enhancing collaboration between international organizations and local stakeholders. This involves assessing current engagement practices and identifying barriers that hinder effective partnerships. The research will employ qualitative methods, including interviews and surveys with local leaders, community organizations, and representatives from international organizations, to gather diverse perspectives on existing challenges and opportunities for collaboration (Harary, 2024). Ultimately, the goal is to develop a framework for collaborative peacebuilding that emphasizes local ownership and agency, enabling international organizations to better align their efforts with the aspirations of the communities they serve. By fostering a more inclusive approach, this research aims to contribute to sustainable peacebuilding efforts that are grounded in local realities (De Coning, 2024).

Literature Review

Thematic Review on Local Peacebuilding

The Thematic Review on Local Peacebuilding, commissioned by the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) in collaboration with Peace Nexus and the UN Volunteers program, provides a comprehensive analysis of local-level peacebuilding initiatives funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) from 2015 to 2021. This review synthesizes insights from case studies conducted in various contexts, including Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Kyrgyzstan, and the Western Balkans, highlighting how local peacebuilding is

conceptualized and operationalized in diverse environments (Peace Nexus, 2022). The findings underscore the importance of context-specific strategies that engage local communities in the design and implementation of peace initiatives. By examining the successes and challenges faced by these initiatives, the review offers valuable recommendations for enhancing future programming and ensuring that interventions are better aligned with local needs and priorities.

The review also emphasizes the role of local actors in fostering sustainable peace. It identifies key factors that contribute to successful local peacebuilding efforts, such as inclusivity, community ownership, and the integration of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms (Peace Nexus, 2022). Furthermore, it highlights the necessity for international organizations to move beyond a one-size-fits-all approach and instead adopt flexible strategies that can adapt to the unique dynamics of each context. By doing so, international organizations can enhance their effectiveness in supporting local peace initiatives and contribute to building resilient communities capable of sustaining peace over time.

Lessons from Community-Led Peacebuilding Networks

Community-led peacebuilding networks have emerged as vital actors in fostering sustainable peace at the grassroots level. These networks leverage local knowledge, resources, and relationships to address conflicts and promote social cohesion. Research indicates that community-led initiatives often yield more effective outcomes compared to externally imposed solutions because they are rooted in the specific cultural and social contexts of the communities they serve (Lederach, 2020). By empowering local stakeholders to take charge of their peace processes, these networks enhance community ownership and foster a sense of agency among participants. This grassroots approach not only addresses immediate conflict issues but also contributes to long-term stability by building trust and cooperation within communities.

Moreover, lessons learned from community-led peacebuilding networks highlight the importance of collaboration among various stakeholders, including civil society organizations, local governments, and international actors. Effective coordination among these groups can amplify the impact

of peacebuilding efforts and ensure that initiatives are comprehensive and inclusive (Paffenholz et al., 2016). For instance, community-led networks often facilitate dialogue between conflicting parties, promote reconciliation efforts, and mobilize resources for development projects that address underlying grievances. By recognizing the strengths of local actors and fostering partnerships with them, international organizations can enhance their effectiveness in peacebuilding endeavors and create more sustainable solutions to conflicts.

UNDP's Approach to Local Governance and Peacebuilding

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has adopted a multifaceted approach to local governance and peacebuilding that emphasizes the importance of inclusive governance structures as a foundation for sustainable peace. UNDP's strategy focuses on strengthening local institutions, enhancing citizen participation in decision-making processes, and promoting accountability within governance frameworks (UNDP, 2022). By investing in capacity-building initiatives at the local level, UNDP aims to empower communities to take an active role in shaping their governance systems. This approach recognizes that effective governance is crucial for addressing grievances that can lead to conflict while also fostering social cohesion.

Additionally, UNDP's approach integrates conflict sensitivity into its programming by assessing potential risks and impacts associated with development interventions (UNDP, 2022). This involves engaging with local stakeholders to understand their perspectives on governance issues and incorporating their feedback into project design. By aligning its efforts with local priorities and needs, UNDP enhances its legitimacy and effectiveness in promoting peacebuilding initiatives. Furthermore, this approach underscores the significance of long-term investments in governance structures as a means of preventing conflict recurrence and fostering resilience within communities.

Gaps in Research

Despite the growing recognition of the importance of local ownership and participation in peacebuilding, significant gaps remain in the research literature. A key area that requires further exploration is the practical implementation of local ownership

principles in peacebuilding processes. While many international organizations endorse the concept of local ownership, there is often a lack of clarity regarding what it entails in practice (Lüttmann et al., 2007). Most existing research has primarily focused on political and strategic levels, neglecting to analyze how local ownership can be effectively operationalized at the grassroots level. This oversight leaves a critical gap in understanding how to foster genuine local participation and ensure that peacebuilding initiatives resonate with the lived experiences and needs of local communities.

Additionally, there is insufficient analysis of the dynamics between international organizations and local actors, particularly regarding power relations and decision-making processes. Many studies tend to treat local populations as a homogeneous group, overlooking the complexities and diversity within communities (da Costa & Karlsrud, 2022). This lack of nuanced understanding can lead to ineffective engagement strategies that fail to address the specific concerns of different community segments. Furthermore, research often emphasizes the role of elite actors while neglecting broader community participation, which is essential for

sustainable peace (Lüttmann et al., 2007). Addressing these gaps is crucial for developing more effective frameworks that genuinely incorporate local voices and perspectives into peacebuilding efforts.

Theoretical Framework

For this study, several theoretical frameworks can be employed to analyze the effectiveness of international organizations in supporting local peacebuilding initiatives. Each framework offers unique insights into the dynamics of peacebuilding and the roles of various actors involved.

Hybrid Peacebuilding Framework

The Hybrid Peacebuilding Framework emphasizes the interplay between local and international actors in peacebuilding processes. This approach recognizes that effective peacebuilding is not solely the domain of external organizations but involves significant contributions from local communities and their unique contexts. By highlighting the importance of local agency, this framework suggests that successful peacebuilding initiatives must adapt to local norms and practices while integrating international support (Mac Ginty & Richmond, 2013). This framework is particularly relevant for examining

successful initiatives like the Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP), as it underscores the significance of local ownership and collaboration in achieving sustainable peace.

Transformative Peacebuilding Theory

Transformative Peacebuilding Theory, articulated by Johan Galtung, focuses on addressing the root causes of conflict rather than merely managing its symptoms. This theory advocates for a holistic approach that includes considerations of social justice, equity, and empowerment of marginalized groups (Galtung, 1990). Applying this framework allows for an analysis of how well international organizations align their strategies with the needs of local communities particularly in addressing socio-economic grievances that contribute to ongoing conflict.

4Rs Framework (Recognition, Redistribution, Representation, Reconciliation)

The 4Rs Framework, developed by Nancy Fraser and others, provides a normative approach to understanding the components necessary for sustainable peacebuilding. It emphasizes Recognition (acknowledging diverse identities), Redistribution (addressing economic inequalities), Representation (ensuring inclusive governance), and Reconciliation (healing divisions) (Fraser, 2005). This framework can be instrumental in evaluating existing local peacebuilding initiatives by assessing how well they incorporate these dimensions into their strategies and operations.

By employing one or a combination of these frameworks, this study aims to critically evaluate how international organizations' efforts align with local needs and contribute to effective peacebuilding.

Methodology

This study employs a mixed-methods approach to assess the effectiveness of international organizations in supporting local peacebuilding initiatives, incorporating comparative case studies of both successful efforts, such as the Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP), which emphasizes local ownership and collaboration, and unsuccessful initiatives like the fragmented responses to the Boko Haram insurgency. Qualitative data will be collected through interviews and surveys with a diverse range of participants, including local leaders, community organization representatives, and international actors, to

capture a comprehensive understanding of perspectives on peacebuilding. Additionally, a policy analysis will evaluate existing frameworks and guidelines related to peacebuilding, focusing on their ability to address local needs and facilitate effective stakeholder collaboration. This multifaceted methodology aims to provide actionable insights for enhancing the alignment of international support with local peacebuilding efforts.

Comparative Case Studies of Successful and Unsuccessful Local Peacebuilding Initiatives Nigeria's Community Conflict Dispute Resolution Centers

In Nigeria, the Community Conflict Dispute Resolution Centers established through the UNDP's Peacebuilding Fund project exemplify a successful local peacebuilding initiative. These centers have strengthened local infrastructure and enhanced the capacity of community leaders to resolve conflicts amicably. By empowering local mediators, such as traditional leaders, to facilitate dialogue and dispute resolution, the initiative has fostered trust within communities and improved access to justice systems. For instance, in Kaduna State, community members have reported significant increases in women participating in conflict resolution processes, leading to more inclusive and equitable outcomes (UNDP, 2024). The success of this initiative demonstrates the effectiveness of grassroots approaches in addressing local conflicts and promoting stability.

International Interventions in Afghanistan In contrast, international peacebuilding efforts in Afghanistan have often been characterized as unsuccessful due to their top-down approach and lack of local engagement. Following the U.S.-led invasion in 2001, various international organizations implemented military-driven strategies aimed at stabilizing the country. However, these interventions frequently overlooked local customs and governance structures, resulting in widespread resentment among Afghan communities (Mac Ginty & Richmond, 2013). The failure to incorporate local perspectives led to a disconnect between international efforts and the realities faced by Afghan citizens, ultimately perpetuating cycles of violence rather than fostering sustainable peace.

Wajir Peace and Development Committee in Kenya

The Wajir Peace and Development Committee (WPDC) in Kenya serves as another successful example of a locally driven peacebuilding initiative. Established after the post-election violence in 2007-2008, the WPDC brought together various stakeholders, including civil society actors and clan elders, to address inter-ethnic conflicts and promote reconciliation among communities (Odendaal & Olivie, 2008). This grassroots initiative emphasized local ownership and collaboration, leading to significant reductions in violence during subsequent electoral periods. The WPDC's success highlights the importance of community-led efforts in fostering peace and stability while demonstrating how local capacities can be effectively mobilized to address conflict.

International Efforts in South Sudan

Conversely, international peacebuilding efforts in South Sudan have faced numerous challenges that have hindered their effectiveness. Since gaining independence in 2011, South Sudan has experienced ongoing conflict fueled by ethnic tensions and power struggles. Despite significant investments by international organizations aimed at promoting peace and stability, these efforts have often been undermined by a lack of coordination among stakeholders and insufficient engagement with local communities (International Crisis Group, 2020). The reliance on external actors without adequately addressing local grievances has led to skepticism toward international interventions and contributed to a deteriorating security situation.

Table 1: Interview Questions and Responses

Participant Group	Interview Questions	Respondent 1	Respondent 2	Respondent 3
Local Leaders	1. Can you describe your role in the community and your involvement in	I have been a community leader for over ten years, focusing on conflict	As a village chief, I mediate disputes and help organize	I lead a local youth group that promotes dialogue

Participant Group	Interview Questions	Respondent 1	Respondent 2	Respondent 3
	peacebuilding efforts?	resolution among farmers and herders.	community meetings to discuss peace.	between conflicting parties.
	2. How do you perceive the effectiveness of peacebuilding initiatives supported by international organizations?	Some initiatives have been helpful, especially those that involve local input.	However, many programs feel disconnected from our realities and often miss the mark.	I think more training for local leaders would improve outcomes.
	3. What recommendations would you make to international organizations to enhance their engagement with local communities?	They should prioritize listening to local voices and involve us in the planning stages of their programs.	International organizations need to be more present in our communities to understand our needs better.	Establishing regular communication channels would help build trust.
Community Organizations	1. Can you provide an overview of your organization and its mission related to peacebuilding?	Our organization focuses on empowering youth through conflict resolution training	We aim to foster collaboration among different ethnic groups	Our mission is to promote sustainable peace by addressing root

Participant Group	Interview Questions	Respondent 1	Respondent 2	Respondent 3
		and community engagement initiatives.	through dialogue.	causes of conflict in our community.
	2. How does your organization engage with local communities in peacebuilding efforts?	We conduct workshops and forums where community members can share their experiences and collaborate on solutions.	We partner with local leaders to facilitate discussions on pressing issues.	Our approach includes outreach programs that educate the public about conflict resolution strategies.
	3. What challenges have you faced in collaborating with international organizations?	Sometimes there is a lack of communication and understanding of local contexts, which can hinder effective collaboration.	International organizations often have rigid frameworks that don't fit our needs.	There can be delays in funding that disrupt project timelines.
International Representatives	1. Can you describe your role within the organization and its mandate concerning	I oversee peacebuilding projects aimed at strengthening local	My role involves coordinating with local NGOs to implement our	I focus on capacity building for local leaders as part of our mandate.

Participant Group	Interview Questions	Respondent 1	Respondent 2	Respondent 3
	peacebuilding in Nigeria?	governance structures to promote stability and resilience.	programs effectively.	
	2. How does your organization engage with local stakeholders when designing peacebuilding initiatives?	We conduct consultations with local leaders and community members to ensure their perspectives are included in our programs.	We hold regular workshops to gather feedback from stakeholders before finalizing our projects.	Involving locals early on helps us tailor our initiatives to their needs.
	3. What factors do you believe contribute to the success or failure of international support for local peace initiatives?	Success often hinges on genuine collaboration with local actors; when we fail to engage them meaningfully, initiatives tend to struggle.	Sustainability is key; projects need ongoing support rather than one-off interventions.	Understanding cultural contexts is crucial for designing effective programs.

This table organizes responses from different respondents across various participant groups

Source: Authors' field work, 2024

Findings

The comparative analysis of local peacebuilding initiatives in Nigeria,

Afghanistan, Kenya, and South Sudan reveals critical findings that align with insights gathered from interviews with local stakeholders. A key takeaway is the importance of local ownership and agency in fostering effective peacebuilding. Successful initiatives, such as Nigeria's Community Conflict Dispute Resolution Centers and the Wajir Peace and Development Committee in Kenya, demonstrate that empowering local leaders and ensuring inclusivity, particularly involving marginalized groups enhances community engagement and trust. Interview participants emphasized that when communities feel a sense of ownership over peacebuilding efforts, they are more likely to support initiatives aimed at fostering stability. In contrast, the top-down approaches observed in Afghanistan and the fragmented efforts in South Sudan have often alienated local populations, highlighting the necessity for adaptable strategies that resonate with community needs. Additionally, effective peacebuilding requires addressing the root causes of conflict rather than merely managing its symptoms. The holistic approach of the Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP) aligns with interview insights indicating that

tackling underlying grievances related to poverty and inequality is essential for sustainable peace. Furthermore, coordination among various stakeholders emerged as a crucial factor for success; collaborative efforts between local actors and international organizations can significantly enhance the impact of peacebuilding strategies. These findings underscore the need for comprehensive frameworks that prioritize local agency, inclusivity, adaptability, and a focus on root causes to improve international support for peacebuilding initiatives in Nigeria and similar contexts.

While the findings from interviews with local leaders, community organizations, and international representatives in Nigeria reveal several key themes regarding peacebuilding initiatives. First, local leaders highlighted their active roles in conflict resolution and community mediation, emphasizing their long-term commitment to addressing disputes, such as those between farmers and herders. They noted the importance of engaging youth in dialogue, indicating that local leadership is crucial for grassroots peacebuilding efforts. However, perceptions of international initiatives were mixed; while some leaders acknowledged the

benefits of programs that incorporate local input, others pointed out a disconnect between many initiatives and the realities faced by communities. This suggests that external interventions often lack relevance and that there is a pressing need for more training for local leaders to enhance the impact of these initiatives.

Also, recommendations from local leaders included prioritizing local voices in planning processes, increasing international organizations' presence in communities to better understand needs, and establishing regular communication channels to build trust. Community organizations echoed these sentiments by focusing on youth empowerment and fostering collaboration among different ethnic groups through workshops and partnerships with local leaders. However, challenges such as communication gaps with international partners, rigid frameworks that do not accommodate local needs, and delays in funding hindered effective collaboration. Perspectives from international representatives emphasized the importance of genuine collaboration with local actors for successful peace initiatives, highlighting the need for sustainability in projects and an

understanding of cultural contexts when designing effective programs. These insights underscore the necessity of inclusive practices in peacebuilding to ensure that initiatives are relevant and impactful at the community level.

Discussion of Findings

The comparative analysis of peacebuilding initiatives across various countries, including Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and South Sudan, alongside insights from interviews with local stakeholders, highlights the critical importance of local ownership and agency in fostering sustainable peace. Successful initiatives, such as Nigeria's Community Conflict Dispute Resolution Centers and the Wajir Peace and Development Committee in Kenya, demonstrate that empowering local leaders to mediate conflicts significantly enhances community trust and engagement. Local leaders emphasized their active roles in conflict resolution, particularly in addressing disputes between farmers and herders or among different ethnic groups. This grassroots leadership is essential for building sustainable peace, as it ensures that interventions are relevant to the specific needs and contexts of communities.

However, both the comparative findings and interview insights reveal a mixed perception of international interventions. While some programs are recognized for their positive impact, especially those that incorporate local input. There remains a notable disconnect between many external initiatives and the realities faced by communities. For instance, in Liberia, a sequenced peacebuilding framework prioritized security over justice, leading to disillusionment among communities who felt their needs for accountability were sidelined. Similarly, in Sierra Leone, the inclusion of transitional justice measures alongside security initiatives has proven more effective than Liberia's approach of delaying justice. Interviewees echoed these concerns by calling for increased training for local leaders and greater involvement of international organizations in community planning processes to bridge existing gaps.

Furthermore, challenges such as communication barriers with international partners and rigid frameworks that do not adapt to local contexts hinder effective collaboration. The experiences in South Sudan illustrate how a lack of coordination among various stakeholders can exacerbate tensions rather than resolve them. These findings emphasize the necessity for genuine partnerships between international actors and local stakeholders to ensure that peacebuilding efforts are inclusive, culturally sensitive, and responsive to the unique needs of each community. Ultimately, successful peacebuilding requires a holistic approach that combines local agency with international support while addressing underlying grievances to foster long-term stability across diverse contexts.

Conclusion

This study highlights the crucial role of local ownership and agency in the success of peacebuilding initiatives across various contexts, including Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Kenya etc. The comparative analysis reveals that empowering local leaders and fostering grassroots engagement significantly enhance community trust and the effectiveness of interventions, while top-down approaches often alienate local populations and fail to address their specific needs. Furthermore, the mixed perceptions of international interventions underscore the necessity for these organizations to prioritize genuine collaboration with local stakeholders by

incorporating local input into planning processes and adapting strategies to fit cultural contexts. Ultimately, a holistic approach to peacebuilding that integrates local agency with international support and addresses the root causes of conflict is essential for promoting lasting stability and resilience in conflict-affected regions.

Recommendations

Based on the findings from the literature, several recommendations can be made to adapt international approaches to better align with local needs in peacebuilding efforts:

■ **Prioritize Local Engagement**: Actively involve local leaders and community members in the planning and implementation of peacebuilding initiatives through regular consultations and participatory workshops.

■ **Adapt Programs to Local Contexts**: Develop context-sensitive strategies that align with the socio-cultural dynamics of communities by conducting thorough local assessments and involving stakeholders in program design.

■ **Enhance Training and Capacity Building**: Provide targeted training for local leaders and organizations in conflict resolution, negotiation skills, and leadership to empower them in peacebuilding efforts.

■ **Improve Communication Channels**: Establish clear communication between international organizations and local stakeholders to build trust, facilitate collaboration, and ensure alignment of efforts.

■ **Focus on Youth Engagement**: Create opportunities for youth involvement in dialogue, leadership training, and community service projects to promote resilience against conflict and foster a culture of peace.

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