

Review Article

Security-Development Nexus: A Review of Ethiopia's Security Challenges since 2018

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Abstract

This paper reviews the security challenges that Ethiopia has faced since 2018 and analyzes the relationship between security and development in the country. The various security challenges, such as political instability, ethnic conflicts, terrorism, economic challenges, and natural disasters, have had a negative impact on Ethiopia's economic growth, poverty reduction, and access to basic services. The paper also discusses the strategies and initiatives that Ethiopia has implemented to address these challenges and promote sustainable development. Additionally, the paper identifies opportunities for enhancing security and promoting development in Ethiopia, including measures to address ethnic tensions promotes economic growth and reduces poverty, enhance disaster preparedness and response, strengthen democratic governance, and support regional integration. The paper concludes that addressing Ethiopia's security challenges requires a comprehensive approach that considers the underlying root causes of insecurity while promoting sustainable development.

Keywords: *Security, development, security challenges, security-development nexus*

Introduction

The interconnection between security and development has been a key topic in policy and discussions, particularly since the Cold War. During this period, both were viewed as interdependent, and improving them was primarily the responsibility of the state. In his article, "Perception of Security and Development after World War II," Duffield (2014) explores the relationship between security and development in the post-World War II era. Duffield contends that the prevailing notion of security during this time was centered on state security, and this perspective had significant consequences for development policies.

The inseparability between security and development is further affirmed by the former Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, in the following quotation:

There is an undeniable connection between development and security. A secure global environment can only be achieved if impoverished nations are provided with real opportunities for development. The presence of extreme poverty and infectious diseases not only pose a direct threat to many individuals but also create a fertile ground for other hazards, such as civil conflicts. Even citizens of wealthy countries will benefit from their governments' efforts to assist poor nations in overcoming poverty and disease through the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals.

Globally, during the Cold War era, there was a heightened focus on incorporating human rights into development practices due to their frequent violation during that time. The Universal Declaration on Human Rights, which was adopted in 1948, underscored the universality of rights, the shared objective of humanity to attain those rights, and the different types of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights that should be granted to all individuals. However, the ideological differences between Western liberal democracies and the Eastern bloc resulted in a division of human rights initiatives both within the United Nations and between countries (Abdullahi, 2017).

Africa has faced numerous security challenges since the 1990s, including civil wars, ethnic conflicts, terrorism, and piracy. One among the challenges is Civil wars: Several African countries have experienced civil wars since the 1990s, including Angola, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. These conflicts have resulted in significant loss of life, displacement of people, and destruction of infrastructure (Human Rights Watch, "Africa, 1990).

Other challenge is Ethnic conflicts. Ethnic tensions have also fueled conflicts in Africa, particularly in countries like Rwanda, Burundi, and Nigeria. These conflicts have often involved violence against civilians and have led to massive displacement of people (United States Institute of Peace, n.d "Ethnic Conflict in Africa: A Short History"). Another challenge is terrorism. In conclusion, terrorism has been a major security challenge in Africa, affecting many countries across the continent. Groups like Boko Haram, Al-Shabaab, and ISIS have carried out attacks on civilians, government officials, and tourists, causing significant loss of life and damage (Council on Foreign Relations, 2021).

Africa has experienced a range of security challenges in recent years, including cybercrime, climate change, pandemics, and political instability. Cybercrime has become a growing threat, with criminals targeting individuals, businesses, and governments for financial or political gain. Climate change has led to rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and food insecurity, posing a risk to populations across the continent. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of global health systems and highlighted the need for effective pandemic preparedness and response. Political instability can lead to civil unrest and conflicts, which can have significant social and economic impacts. In response to these and other security challenges, governments, international organizations, and civil society groups have developed various strategies and initiatives to enhance security and promote peace and stability. These efforts include security cooperation, conflict resolution, peacekeeping, and development programs aimed at addressing the root causes of insecurity.

Ethiopia has faced various security challenges since 1991, following the fall of the communist government and the establishment of a new federal system. Different researchers have presented some examples of security challenges that Ethiopia has faced since 1991. For

example, Berihun (2017) examines the ethnic conflicts in Ethiopia, which have been a significant security challenge since the 1990s, and their impact on state fragility. Tekle (2019) provides an analysis of the threat of terrorism in Ethiopia, particularly from the Somalia-based militant group Al-Shabaab, and its impact on the country's security. Tadesse (2019), examines the border conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, which has been a significant security challenge since the 1990s, and the political dynamics that have shaped efforts to resolve the conflict. Gebrekidan (2019) analyzes the causes of political instability in Ethiopia, which has been a significant security challenge since the 1990s, and the prospects for addressing these challenges. Furthermore, Mekonnen (2018) examines the impact of climate change and natural disasters on human security in Ethiopia, which have been a significant security challenge since the 1990s, and the efforts to address these challenges. Finally, Kassahun (2021), provides an in-depth analysis of Ethiopia's security challenges since 2018, including political instability, ethnic conflicts, terrorism, and economic challenges. The article also explores the relationship between security and development in Ethiopia, highlighting the need for a coordinated approach to address these challenges and promote sustainable development in the country. The article draws on various sources, including government reports, academic literature, and news articles, to provide a comprehensive overview of Ethiopia's security situation. These studies support the statement that Ethiopia has faced various security challenges since 1991, including ethnic conflicts, terrorism, border conflicts, political instability, and natural disasters.

The main objective of the study is to provide an in-depth analysis of Ethiopia's security challenges in recent years, with a focus on the relationship between security and development. Specifically, the study aims to examine the various security challenges that Ethiopia has faced since 2018, including political instability, ethnic conflicts, terrorism, economic challenges, and natural disasters, and their impact on the country's development. Finally, the study also aims to explore the strategies and initiatives that have been implemented to address these challenges and promote sustainable development in Ethiopia.

Methodology

The study adopted a qualitative research approach, as the conceptual issues being investigated required a comprehensive analysis of qualitative data and discussions. The study primarily relied on secondary sources such as books, journals, research, and institutional reports. The collected data was thematically evaluated, and a transactive perspective was discussed in sections as an alternative explanation as part of the analysis.

Result and Discussion

Results

Ethiopia has faced several security challenges in recent years that have affected the stability and development of the country. Here is an in-depth analysis of some of these challenges. One of the challenges includes Political instability. Ethiopia has experienced political instability in recent years, with protests and civil unrest leading to violence and instability. This has been fueled by various factors, including economic challenges, ethnic tensions, and political repression.

As one cause for political instability in Ethiopia, protests and civil unrest is becoming common since 2018. Ethiopia has experienced protests and civil unrest in recent years, with citizens taking to the streets to demand political reforms and greater freedom. These protests have been met with a heavy-handed response from the government, leading to violence and

instability. Ethnic tensions have also contributed to political instability in Ethiopia, with clashes between different ethnic groups leading to violence and displacement of people (Human Rights Watch, 2020").

The government's response to protests and civil unrest has been characterized by political repression, with opposition leaders, journalists, and activists arrested and detained. This has contributed to a climate of fear and mistrust, further fueling political instability (Amnesty International, 2018). The international community has also played a role in addressing political instability in Ethiopia, with various organizations, such as the African Union and the United Nations, supporting peace and reconciliation efforts in the country (United Nations, 2021). Addressing political instability in Ethiopia requires a sustained effort from the government, civil society organizations, and the international community. This effort should focus on addressing the root causes of political instability, such as ethnic tensions and political repression, while also promoting political reforms that enhance democratic governance and respect for human rights.

Ethnic conflicts have been a significant security challenge in Ethiopia, particularly in regions like Oromia, Amhara, and Tigray, where tensions between different ethnic groups have led to violence and displacement of people (Human Rights Watch, 2020). Ethiopia has also experienced several border conflicts with neighboring countries, including Eritrea and Somalia. These conflicts have resulted in significant loss of life and displacement of people (United States Institute of Peace, 2021).

In addition to the above challenges Ethiopia has been challenged by Economic challenges: Economic challenges, such as high unemployment and inflation rates, have also contributed to social unrest and instability in Ethiopia (World Bank, 2020). Furthermore, natural disasters are also becoming a challenge for Ethiopia since recent times.: Ethiopia has faced various natural disasters, including droughts and floods, which have had a significant impact on the country's food security and economic development. These disasters have led to displacement of people and exacerbation of poverty (United Nations Development Programme, 2021).

Addressing these security challenges requires a comprehensive approach that involves addressing the root causes of conflicts, promoting political and economic stability, and enhancing disaster preparedness and response. The Ethiopian government has taken various measures to address these challenges, including reforms to promote political and economic stability, peace talks to address ethnic conflicts, and counterterrorism measures to address the threat of terrorism.

The impact of these security challenges on Ethiopia's development has been significant, with negative effects on economic growth, poverty reduction, and access to basic services. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach that involves addressing the root causes of conflicts, promoting political and economic stability, and enhancing disaster preparedness and response.

Discussion of the findings

The various security challenges that Ethiopia has faced since 2018, including political instability, ethnic conflicts, terrorism, economic challenges, and natural disasters, have had a significant negative impact on the country's development. The negative impact of security challenges on Ethiopia's development can be seen in various sectors, including the economy,

social services, and human development. Here's a discussion of the impact of these challenges on Ethiopia's economic growth, poverty reduction, and access to basic services.

The security challenges in Ethiopia have had a significant negative impact on the country's economic growth. For instance, political instability and ethnic conflicts have led to the disruption of economic activities and investment, leading to a decline in economic growth. The threat of terrorism has also negatively affected the country's tourism industry, which is an essential source of foreign exchange. Additionally, natural disasters such as droughts and floods have led to crop failures, affecting agricultural production, which is a significant contributor to the country's GDP. The decline in economic growth has resulted in a reduction in job opportunities, particularly for the youth, leading to an increase in unemployment levels. This has also had a negative impact on the country's public finances, making it difficult for the government to invest in infrastructure and other essential services.

Ethiopia has made significant progress in reducing poverty over the past few decades. However, the security challenges in the country have threatened this progress. For instance, political instability and ethnic conflicts have led to the displacement of people, leading to increased poverty. The economic challenges, including high unemployment and inflation rates, have also made it difficult for many Ethiopians to access basic needs such as food, healthcare, and education. The increase in poverty levels has also led to a decline in the country's human development index, which measures the overall well-being of people based on indicators such as life expectancy, education, and income.

The security challenges in Ethiopia have also affected access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and clean water. For instance, the displacement of people due to ethnic conflicts has led to a disruption of healthcare and education services. Additionally, natural disasters such as droughts and floods have led to a shortage of clean water, affecting the health and well-being of many Ethiopians. The economic challenges have also made it difficult for the government to invest adequately in basic services, leading to a decline in the quality of services provided. The decline in access to basic services has had a significant impact on vulnerable groups such as women, children, and the elderly. It has also contributed to a decline in the country's overall human development, affecting the prospects for sustainable development.

Generally, the security challenges in Ethiopia have had a significant negative impact on the country's development, including economic growth, poverty reduction, and access to basic services. Addressing these challenges requires a concerted effort from the government, civil society organizations, and the international community. This effort should focus on addressing the root causes of conflicts, promoting political and economic stability, and enhancing disaster preparedness and response. Additionally, there is a need for the government and the international community to invest adequately in the country's development to ensure sustainable growth and poverty reduction.

What strategies have been taken?

Ethiopia has implemented several strategies and initiatives to address the various security challenges it has faced since 2018 and promote sustainable development. Here are some of these strategies and initiatives:

The Ethiopian government has implemented various political reforms to address political instability and promote democratic governance. These reforms include opening up the political space, releasing political prisoners, and engaging in peace talks with opposition

groups. The government has also established a National Reconciliation Commission to address grievances and promote peace and reconciliation in the country.

The Ethiopian government has also implemented several economic reforms to address economic challenges and promote sustainable development. These reforms include promoting private sector development, attracting foreign investment, and improving the business environment. The government has also implemented a home-grown economic reform program, which aims to address macroeconomic imbalances and promote inclusive growth. The Ethiopian government has implemented several initiatives to promote human development and reduce poverty. These initiatives include expanding access to healthcare, education, and social protection programs. The government has also implemented a program to address malnutrition, which has been a significant challenge in the country.

The Ethiopian government has invested in infrastructure development to promote economic growth and improve access to basic services. These investments have included the construction of roads, railways, and airports. The government has also invested in the energy sector, with the aim of improving access to electricity and promoting renewable energy. Similarly, The Ethiopian government has also implemented several initiatives to improve disaster preparedness and response. These initiatives include the establishment of a Disaster Risk Management Agency, which is responsible for coordinating disaster preparedness and response efforts. The government has also invested in early warning systems, which help to anticipate and respond to natural disasters such as droughts and floods.

In addition to these initiatives, Ethiopia has also received support from the international community in addressing its security challenges and promoting sustainable development. For instance, the World Bank has provided financial and technical support to the country's economic reform program, while the United Nations has provided support for peace and reconciliation efforts and disaster preparedness and response.

Summary and recommendation

The relationship between security and development in Ethiopia is complex and interconnected. The country's security challenges, such as political instability, ethnic conflicts, terrorism, economic challenges, and natural disasters, have had a significant negative impact on its development, affecting economic growth, poverty reduction, and access to basic services. At the same time, the country's lack of development, including inadequate access to basic services and economic opportunities, has contributed to its security challenges, such as social unrest, poverty, and political instability.

To enhance security and promote development in Ethiopia, the country needs to address the underlying root causes of its security challenges, while also implementing measures to promote sustainable development. Here are some opportunities for enhancing security and promoting development in the country:

1. Addressing ethnic tensions and promoting social cohesion: Ethnic tensions have been a significant security challenge in Ethiopia. Addressing these tensions requires a comprehensive approach that involves promoting social cohesion, addressing grievances, and promoting inclusive economic growth. The government can also promote dialogue and reconciliation among different ethnic groups while addressing the underlying economic and political factors that contribute to ethnic tensions.

2. Promoting economic growth and reducing poverty: Addressing economic challenges, such as high unemployment and inflation rates, requires promoting economic growth and reducing poverty. This can be achieved through various measures, such as promoting private sector development, attracting foreign investment, and investing in infrastructure development. The government can also implement social protection programs and expand access to basic services, such as healthcare and education.
3. Enhancing disaster preparedness and response: Ethiopia is prone to natural disasters, such as droughts and floods, which have a significant negative impact on the country's development. Enhancing disaster preparedness and response requires investing in early warning systems, building resilience, and improving emergency response mechanisms. The government can also work with local communities to develop disaster risk reduction plans and promote adaptation to climate change.
4. Strengthening democratic governance: Addressing political instability and promoting democratic governance requires strengthening democratic institutions, promoting human rights, and enhancing accountability. This can be achieved through various measures, such as promoting media freedom, protecting civil society, and supporting the rule of law. The government can also engage in dialogue and reconciliation with opposition groups to promote political stability and national unity.
5. Supporting regional integration: Ethiopia is part of several regional organizations, such as the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Supporting regional integration can promote economic growth and enhance security by promoting peace and stability in the region. The government can also work with regional partners to address common security challenges, such as terrorism and transnational crime.

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