

## **The effect of Diplomatic recognition & other diplomatic efforts on Physical security**

Effect: Moderate (While ECOMOG played a critical role in protecting civilians and ultimately contributing to the end of the war, their actions also resulted in human rights violations and civilian casualties)

Confidence in study findings: Low (one study, low confidence)

### **Short Summary**

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) intervention in the Sierra Leone civil war was widely viewed as legitimate and effective in achieving peace. The deployment of ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) troops was crucial in deterring rebel violence and establishing a secure environment. While the intervention was successful in restoring peace, it was marred by human rights abuses, including the use of child soldiers and sexual violence. According to the author, to ensure lasting peace, ECOWAS needs to address these issues and establish a new disciplinary unit to prevent future abuses.

### **Long summary**

#### *The intervention*

Deployment of a peacekeeping force by the ECOWAS to Sierra Leone during the civil war (1991-2002). This force, known as the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), was tasked with restoring peace and stability in the country

#### *How is the intervention expected to work*

ECOWAS intervention was expected to work by employing various strategic processing tools, both military and non-military. The deployment of ECOMOG troops was a key component of the intervention, serving to deter rebel violence and establish a secure environment. The non-military component encompassed humanitarian aid to address the needs of the population and provide economic and physical security to promote recovery.

#### *The evidence base*

There is one qualitative study assessing the effect of **diplomatic recognition & other diplomatic efforts on physical security in Sierra Leone**. This study is by Touray, M. (2019). *The Role of the Economic Community of West African States in Counterinsurgency and Conflict Resolution* (Doctoral dissertation, Walden University). All references are from that study.

#### *The evidence*

Diplomacy efforts to build popular support contributed to a reduction in violence, the disarmament of combatants, and the restoration of a democratically elected government. However, the challenges reported highlight the importance of accountability, respect for human rights, and sustained engagement in peacebuilding efforts.

- 1) ECOMOG's military operations against the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) were crucial in creating a more stable environment where diplomatic efforts could be effective. The presence of a robust peacekeeping force also deterred further violence and provided a sense of security. ECOMOG's military presence deterred rebel attacks and provided protection for civilians. Participants in the study express gratitude for ECOMOG's willingness to fight the rebels and protect them from violence (p.91-95)
- 2) ECOWAS's role as a mediator and facilitator of peace talks between the Sierra Leone government and the RUF culminated in the signing of the Lome Peace Accord in 1999, which provided a framework for ending the conflict. The peace accord included provisions for a ceasefire, disarmament, demobilisation, and the reintegration of former combatants. The ceasefire led to a significant reduction in violence (p.104)
- 3) ECOWAS facilitated the disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration of combatants, which contributed to reducing violence. The DDR program was a part of ECOMOG's mandate. This program aimed to remove weapons from circulation and help former fighters reintegrate into civilian life, thereby reducing the potential for future violence (p.155)
- 4) On the other hand, a negative impact is that ECOMOG's military operations sometimes resulted in civilian casualties. Participants describe instances where the use of force, particularly airstrikes, led to the unintended deaths of civilians. This underscores the challenges inherent in military interventions, where the use of force can have unintended and harmful consequences for non-combatants (p. 113-115)
- 5) ECOMOG was accused of committing human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings and sexual assault. Nine out of ten participants in the study mention ECOMOG's involvement in the killing of innocent civilians, and seven report ECOMOG's participation in the rape of women. These actions directly contradicted ECOWAS's stated goals of protecting civilians and establishing peace (p.113-115)

#### *Confidence assessment*

Overall confidence: Low Confidence Qualitative Study (It is unclear whether the study uses an established small n approach)