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POLITICAL CONFLICT AND LIVELIHOODS SUSTAINABILITY IN NTAHANGWA DISTRICT, BUJUMBURA PROVINCE, BURUNDI

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Abstract: *The overall objective of this study is to investigate how political conflict affects livelihoods security at household level. The study used mixed methods research design where both quantitative and qualitative perspectives are adopted to examine the causes of political discrimination among the communities, investigate on the socio-economic effects of political conflict, explore the effects of violence caused by political conflict on realization of basic livelihoods and determine the effects of political conflict at the household level in Ntahangwa district. The study sampled a total of 102 respondents. Multi-stage sampling technique was used to select the district, zones and households; while purposive sampling was used to select family members (parents) and community leaders where simple random was used to select the youths. Primary data was obtained using interview guides and questionnaires. Secondary data were reviewed from reports of national and international NGOs and journals. Quantitative data were analysed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) Version 20 and qualitative data were analysed using framework and thematic analysis. The study found that the political intolerance, selfishness of leaders, negative ethnicity, class and regionalism were the causes of political discrimination among communities where majority of the respondents agreed that political discrimination resulted in political conflict. All respondents indicated that the socio-economic effects of political conflict had negative effects on the communities in the study area, and by extension in the Country. Half of the respondents indicated that the violence reduced job opportunities while majority agreed that political conflict affected social security and wellbeing of the households. In conclusion political activism and reactional movements were found to affect cohesion in the region. The study recommends all people regardless of ethnicity, class, regionalism and socio-economic status to adopt political tolerance and inclusive dialogue in order to mitigate political conflict and strengthen principles of democracy and good governance. Equal sharing of resources and involvement of citizens during decision making without any form of discrimination are also recommended in order to sustain the livelihoods at household level of Burundians in country and especially in Ntahangwa district.*

Key Words: *political conflict, livelihoods sustainability, political discrimination, socio-economic Security, violence and household.*

1.1 Background to the Study

Conflict is an existing state of disagreement or hostility between two or more people (Nicholson 1992). By this, it means two or more parties do not have an accord and are as such on two different parallels on the same issue. In politics conflict is said to exist when two or more groups engage in a struggle over values and claims to status, power and resources in which the aims of the opponents are to neutralize, injure or eliminate the rivals (Jeong, 2000). Political Conflict in the world can result from a wide range of factors, including competition for scarce resources and political power, ethnic or religious tensions and desperation of marginalized groups (United States Agency for International Development, 2005). For instance, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics were pursuing incompatible goals (capitalist democracy and socialism respectively) between 1945 and 1990, an era historically referred to as the Cold War. The 'war' implies the conflict of ideologies and irreconcilability of foreign policies (Sheriff F. Folarin, 2010).

In Africa there are multi-faceted socio-political problems, which often lead to political conflict. Those problems may be the results of different causes which are characterized in three groups as roots causes, secondary causes and tertiary causes. Under Roots causes there are: Inequality, state collapse or coup, economic decline, natural resources wealth. Under Secondary causes there are: unemployment, lack of education and population pressure, ethnicity, militarization, regionalism (Department for International Development, 2001); patronage and impunity, weak institutional capacity; lack of inclusiveness and lack of commitment towards nation building; oil as causes of conflict and power struggle (Aziza Geleta Dessalegn, 2017). Under Tertiary causes there are: regional conflicts, the conflict cycle, inadequate and inappropriate mediation and misplaced humanitarian (Department for International Development, 2001). Schafer (2002), point out that the main characteristics of situations of political conflict have been identified as follows: A state in which public institutions are seriously weakened; external legitimacy of the state is contested; existence of violence and forced displacement. Those characteristics make the livelihoods vulnerable to external shocks and serious poverty (Schafer 2002).

Some of the more common types of shocks that political conflict brings include: insecurity which interrupting food security, restricting access natural resources, causing inflation, disrupting businesses, destroying assets, encouraging sexual violence, disruption of social capital (David Seddon and Karim Hussein, 2002). Generally in period of political conflict there are serious violations of international humanitarian laws, human rights and deprivation of liberty (Tewodros, 2015). Burundi is a developing country. The country has 27,834 km² and with a population of 12,746,388 people in 2019 and the density of 457.9/km² (countrymeters.inf.Burundi, 2018). The population is divided into three ethnic groups: the Hutus (about 84 percent), the Tutsis (about 15 percent) and the Twas (1 percent). Burundi first elections took place on 8 September 1961 and UPRONA (Union Pour le Progress National); a party led by Prince Louis Rwagasore won just over 80% of the electorate's votes. On 13 October the same year, the 29-year-old Prince Louis Rwagasore was assassinated (David Rawson, 2009). The country claimed independence on 1 July 1962, (Burundi United States Department of state, 2008). In 1963, King Mwambutsa appointed a Hutu prime minister, Pierre Ngendandumwe, but he was assassinated on 15 January 1965 (Lemarchand, 1996).

The roots of Burundi's current political conflict started in April 2015 rest in President Pierre Nkurunziza's third term. The ignorance of the Arusha Agreements has generated significant

political violence. That situation made 500,000 refugees; which means more than 4.5% of population in 2015 to flee the country, thousands of people are killed, and put the economy into recession and pushed Burundi to civil war. National and International human rights groups have highlighted an increase in torture, sexual violence against women and girls, disappearances, and killings (Institute de Relations International et Strategic, September, 2016).

The conceptual understanding of current political conflicts started in 2015 and livelihoods in Burundi particularly in Ntakangwa district, is that the lives and livelihoods of the Burundians had experienced no appreciable improvement from political representation which fails to guarantee social justice and basic human needs for citizens. The construction of livelihoods takes place not just within a physical environment; but also within a social, economic and political environment. The contextual understanding of livelihoods structure is to recognize explicitly that the livelihoods of individuals and households are structured by the political situation. The livelihoods of people in Ntakangwa district depend on a nexus of social relationships with others, and on their way to gain control and access to resources generator of income. When political situation is good livelihoods are good and vice versa. Therefore, the major concern of this study was to find out how political conflict in Burundi affects the livelihoods sustainability at household level in Ntakangwa district through identification of key factors that influence political conflict, their effects and suggest mitigations for them.

1.2 Statement Of The Problem

The study set out to examine the causes and effects of the consistent political conflict in Ntakangwa district which has negatively affected the socio-economic livelihoods of the local communities in the area over the years. Although Political systems are serving in regulation of public affairs, enactment of Laws and policies formulation, in Burundi it seems to have always created extraordinary anxiety, fear and death leading to huge displacement of indigenous people which motivated this study. During the political conflict in 1993 in Burundi over 300,000 civilians were killed and other 1.2 million displaced (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, Burundi, 2013). The current political conflict started in April 2015 forced over 500,000 refugees to flee the country, many other people are killed, raped and kidnapped (*Institute de Relations International et Strategic*, 2016). Nevertheless the effect of political conflict on livelihoods sustainability at household level in Bujumbura city especially in Ntakangwa district has not been well documented. The current conflict destabilizes all what people do for their survival in the urban area, although this is a place where community members would be fully engaged in different economic activities.

1.3 Overall Objective

To investigate how political conflict affects livelihoods at household level in Ntakangwa district, Bujumbura Province, Burundi.

1.3.1 Specific Objectives are as follows:

- a) To examine the causes of political discrimination among the communities in Ntakangwa district

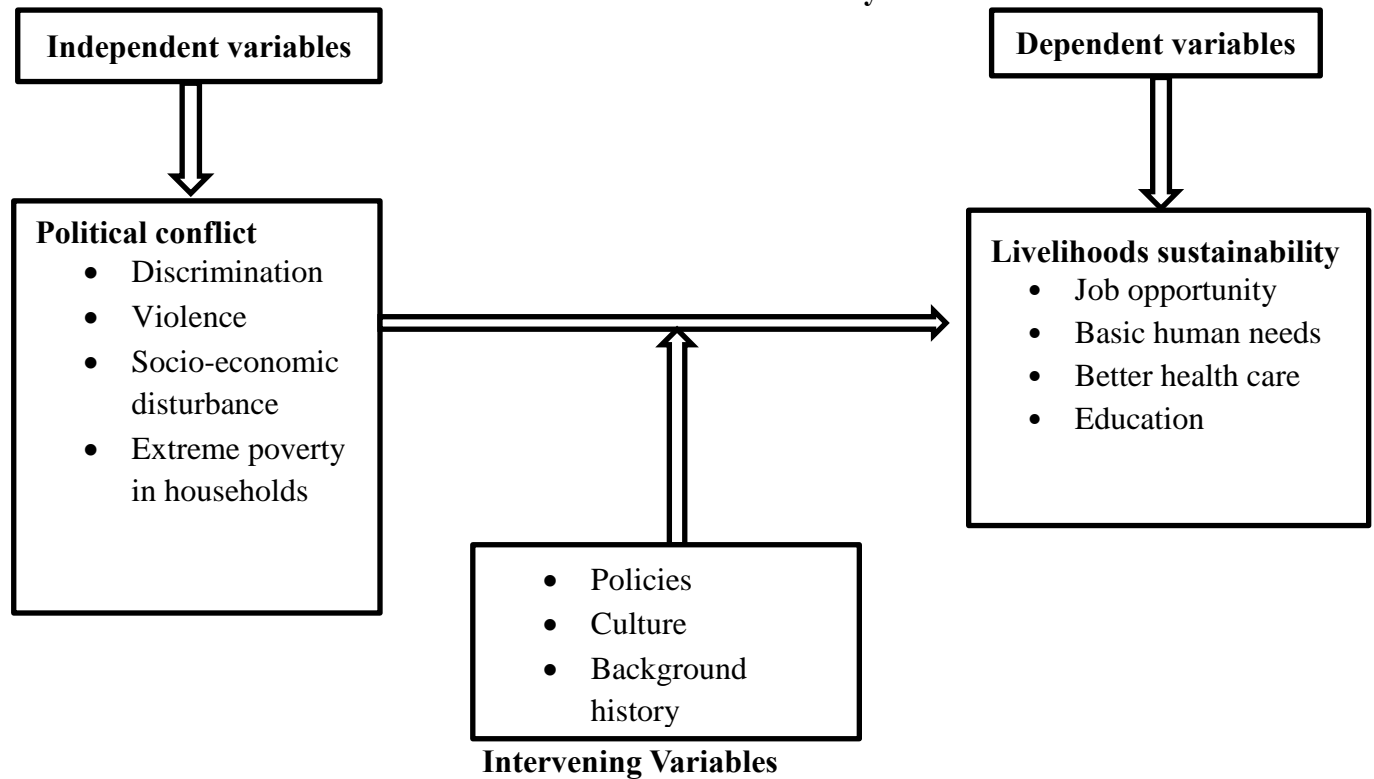
- b) To investigate the socio-economic effects of political conflict in Ntahangwa district
- c) To explore the effects of violence caused by political conflict on realization of basic livelihoods in Ntahangwa district
- d) To determine the effects of political conflict at the household level in Ntahangwa district

1.3.2 Study Questions

- a) What are the causes of political discrimination among the communities in Ntahangwa district?
- b) Which are the socio-economic effects of political conflict in Ntahangwa district?
- c) To what extent violence caused by the political conflict affects the realization of basic livelihoods in Ntahangwa district?
- d) What are the effects of political conflict at the household level in Ntahangwa district?

1.4 Conceptual Framework

Political Conflict and its effects on Livelihoods Sustainability



Source: Researcher, 2018

Livelihoods consist of the capabilities, assets both material and social resources and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide net benefits to other livelihoods locally and more widely, both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resources base (Chambers and Conway, 1992). This output, however, can be achieved after the inputs in the accessibility of livelihoods assets which allow a better socio-economic situation and promote a good realization of basic livelihoods through avoidance of all type of conflicts.

Policies, culture and background history represent an important set of external factors that influence the livelihoods of people (Food and Agriculture Organization & International Labor Organization, 2009).

The livelihoods sustainability is output and the better access to assets is input. The output is influenced by how the access to assets is feasible without external complaints and violence. In conceptualization; the study attempted to point out how the interaction between the political conflict and the access to different assets as input affect the livelihoods sustainability as output.

1.5 Theoretical Framework

The study used the conflict theory and the theory of sustainable livelihoods. The conflict theory emphasizes on the existence of opposing forces in the life of individuals, groups, social structures and society generally; in an attempt to explain factors that may contribute to cause political conflict. The principles assumption underlying this theory is that all members in society do not have the same values, interests or expectations. These vary according to one's position, privileges, ability, class and wealth. Agreement tends to appear among those who share similar privileges. This is likely to encourage unequal distribution of the resources and opportunities. This results in divisions in society manifested in hostility and opposition. The study used this theory to explain why conflicts occur in society (Kombo and Tromp, 2016). The strength of conflict theory is that it seeks moral ends: the emancipation of humanity from false claims of "universality". The weaknesses of theory of conflict is that it assumes, without argument that human nature is generally good but corrupted by "civilization" and when it is eliminated, people will then begin to cooperate (Walter, 2017). In general conflict theory is strongest at a group level of analysis and weaker at the individual level. On the other hand conflict theory doesn't often explain very well why people work together and cooperate (Enoch, 2015).

Discrimination, Inequalities of power and conflicts of interest are not sufficiently acknowledged, either within local communities themselves or between communities. Therefore the study attempts to find out how conflict theory is applicable in indicating factors that cause political conflict in Burundi. Based on the theory of sustainable livelihoods, appropriate solutions focusing to the livelihoods sustainability at household level in Ntahangwa district, Bujumbura-Burundi were suggested. Theory of sustainable livelihoods helps to answer the questions of what are sustainable livelihoods and how they can be achieved. Sustainable livelihoods (SL) can thus be seen as a way of thinking about the objectives, scope and priorities for development, in order to enhance progress in poverty elimination (Sustainable Livelihoods Support Office, 1999). The strengths of the Sustainable Livelihoods theory is to show the variety of activities that people carry out, often in combination, to make a living (Hussein and Nelson, 1998). The weaknesses of sustainable livelihoods theory is that none of the sustainable livelihoods approaches discussed how to identify the poor need to be assisted.

1.6 Review Of Empirical Literature

Discrimination may occur because of institutional bias, which is enacted by prejudiced and/or unprejudiced social actors and takes the form of "laws, customs, and practices which

systematically reflect and produce group based inequities in any society” (Henry, 2010). Prejudice and discrimination in political life implicit and explicit attitudes and stereotypes play a key role in the decisions made by political actors (Al Ramiah, 2010).

In Africa there is discrimination based on real or perceived descent from slaves. This is the case amongst some populations in West African countries whose borders encroach upon the Sahara, such as Mali and Mauritania. There is also form of descent based discrimination which is against the hunter-gatherer societies and their descendants. In all cases community members are discriminated against access to their civil, political, social, economic; and the cultural rights is severely restricted (The International Dalit Solidarity Network *Working globally against discrimination by work and descent* ‘Discrimination based on descent in Africa’; (Tamari, 1991).

In our view, political discrimination in Burundi is based on the way political parties and other independent politicians don’t have the same place in decision making in different sectors of the country. The politicians in opposition don’t have opportunities of exercising freely their activities at the same level as politicians in government. That discrimination in different political activities result in political conflict where those marginalized politicians search to defend their rights through demonstrations or other techniques like rebellion which result to violence and lead to the death, injuries, forced displacement and disability of innocent people.

Although individual motivation is also important, group motivation and mobilization underlie many political conflicts. Groups engaged in internal conflict are often united by a common ethnic or religious identity (Graham and Stewart, 2015). In Burundi the current political conflict started in April, 2015 to date; based on different interpretations of constitution’s laws by politicians in government and opposition; because of this misunderstanding; some politicians decided to be united in opposition without consideration of ethnic groups and religions in purpose of defending the respect of laws finding in constitution of Burundi which not allows any form of discrimination. The country like Burundi which was experienced war; there is probability of occurrence of political conflict because of the background histories which make people using political discrimination as revenge for those background histories. This situation makes the country to stay in the cyclical conflicts.

Political sociologists David Keen and Mark Duffield and economists Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler have emphasized private or individual motivation as the fundamental cause of conflict (Collier and Hoeffler, 2004). Keen lists many ways in which political or violent conflict confers individual benefit on particular categories of people: it permits people, especially uneducated young men, to gain employment as soldiers; it offers opportunities to loot, to profiteer from shortages and from aid; to trade arms; and to carry out illicit production and trade and the possibilities of enrichment by war or violence are considerable (Graham and Frances, 2015). Moreover, conflicts may persist because some powerful actors benefit through the manipulation of scarcity, smuggling, among other actions, and have no interest in resolving the conflict (Collier, 2000).

The study used the case of group called Imbonerakure in Burundi. According to Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium 2010, Imbonerakure (the Kirundi word for “those that see far”) is the youth wing of the Burundi ruling party. Imbonerakure is suspected of collaboration with the Burundian authorities in harassing, rape, extrajudicial killings, banditry, as well as political killings (Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium, 2010). The group has been publicly active since

2015 and they are responsible for 58% of violence against civilians in 2018, and present in each of Burundi's 18 provinces including Bujumbura province particularly Ntakangwa district (Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, 2018). The study examined those causes of political discrimination among communities influenced by personal interests of some leaders through collection of information from different participants; in order to understand how that political discrimination leads to political conflict in country particularly in Ntakangwa district, Bujumbura province, Burundi.

A large number of developing countries have experienced serious political conflicts in the last decades, including large-scale civil wars (Bénabou, 1996). Those conflicts have affected millions of people and have led to significant lost opportunities in terms of economic growth and social development. Although conflict can assume a variety of forms, all types of conflict will entail important private and social costs. While violent types of conflict are frequently responsible for the death of valuable members of society as well as the loss of livelihoods; most forms of conflict increase the risk of private investment and lead to a loss of trust between economic agents and waste resources. Between 1950 and 1990, wars in developing countries have resulted in over fifteen million deaths in the world (Stewart and Fitzgerald, 2001).

The use of military or police forces as a common reaction against political conflict implies the diversion of important financial flows and labour supply from productive activities into the maintenance of unproductive security forces. In addition, risk-averse investors faced with political conflict environments will have the incentive to withdraw national investments or invest abroad in more stable locations. The worse consequence of conflict is the social, political and economic disruption which will severely decrease people's well-being and, consequently, increase even further existing poverty and inequality gaps in society (Justino, 2004).

The location of Ntakangwa district in Bujumbura province and its strategic communication network as well as agricultural products has made the district into a commercial nerve centre for the city. But because of political conflict most of the businesses closed and others work in hard situation where employees were reduced because of lack of money of buying raw materials and paying salaries and wages for them which affected community productivity. The political conflict in Bujumbura province affected the transport sector in various ways. The occurrence of violence conflicts in some parts of the city makes certain roads inaccessible. This means long detours have to be made to reach near destinations. The vehicles which travel with passengers to our neighbour country like Rwanda are forbidden to cross the borders the same for vehicles from Rwanda. That situation affects negatively the businesses between those two countries and also the activities in Bujumbura city where some products used in that locality come from other countries like Uganda and Kenya passing Rwanda. To get those products traders use other roads where products rich in country with high prices due to the high cost of the journey.

The concerted effort to undermine the Arusha Agreements in Burundi as indicated in background has generated significant political violence and even a coup on 13 May, 2015. That situation forced over 500,000 refugees to flee the country which means more than 4.5% of population in 2015 fled the country and go in different countries like Tanzania, Rwanda, DRC, Uganda, Kenya and elsewhere in the world, more than 1,200 died and they still died even now, and put the economy into recession and pushed Burundi to the precipice of renewed civil war. Because of that political conflict also, almost Burundi's opposition party leaders, independent journalists and civil society

activists had fled the country after receiving repeated threats. Violence escalated in the second half of 2015 resulted to the targeted killings of high profile government and opposition figures. Grenade attacks in the capital Bujumbura including Ntakangwa district became increasingly frequent. Torture to the suspected opponents became widespread and extremely brutal (Human Right Watch, 2015). In early 2016, following international condemnation of the situation in Burundi, some of the abuses became more covert, with an increase in abductions, enforced disappearances, and unexplained deaths. Several military officers and soldiers have also been killed. There has been almost total impunity for these crimes. Many people in Burundi are living in fear, amidst continuing killings, abductions and torture (Human Rights Watch, April 2015 to July 2016).

The 2015 crisis had a pronounced impact on the already weak Burundian economy particularly in Ntakangwa district. Because of that disrespect of human rights, Burundi received more sanctions including withdrawing the funds and aids from other countries like European Union and United States and those sanctions increase poverty, unemployment, inflation, devaluation of the currency, and increased hunger. The economic deterioration is particularly worrying (Search for common Ground, 2016). In Burundi 50% of the national budget is sourced through international development assistance. Political instability has impeded market activity in Bujumbura, which accounts for 55% of Burundi's economic output. Rates of inflation for basic commodities in the capital Bujumbura have increased from 7.2% to 11.7% and continue to rise. The country has a long-term poor economic performance where 65% of the population living under the poverty line because of political conflict (Patrick Nduwimana, 2015).

The socio-economic situation in Burundi was affected negatively by political conflict. According to the World Bank, in 2017, economic growth remained at 1.5 per cent, while there was no change in key macroeconomic indicators. According to Kenya Daily Nation's article of first September 2018; annual economic growth went from an average of 4.2 percent between 2004 and 2014, to a contraction of 3.9 percent in 2015 and a contraction of 0.6 percent in 2016. Public investment and foreign exchange reserves dropped sharply during that year.

In our view, the socioeconomic effects of political conflict in Ntakangwa district are many. Socially there are many families which lost their relatives, their places, and many members of family live separately. Economically there are many activities closed, businesses disrupted and taxes imposed by the government; there are no new investors and jobs opportunities. There is corruption within different institutions in country which make a group of leaders to become very rich than others and with that financial power those leaders manipulate everybody even the Justice in order to protect themselves which make the citizens suffering.

1.7 Data Collection Methods

The study used both primary and secondary data. For primary data the study employed two data collection instruments which are: interview guides for community members (parents) and questionnaires for the community leaders and the youths to collect data from those respondents of Ntakangwa district about the causes and effects of political conflict on their livelihoods and the suggestions for mitigation on that social issue; while secondary data were found from different report of national and international organizations, journals and books.

This study used the mixed methods research approach where both quantitative descriptive survey and qualitative explanatory research designs were used. Descriptive survey research design was used in this study to obtain data from the target population which is composed by the family members (parents), community leaders and the youths. Explanatory research design or qualitative design attempts to clarify why and how there is a relationship between two aspects of a situation or phenomenon. This research attempted to explain, how political conflict affected livelihoods of people. It is used to find the most likely explanations regarding some observed problem (Ranjit Kumar, 2011). On the contrary, Creswell and J.W (2014) note that qualitative research is deficient because the researcher's subjective interpretations and the ensuing biases make it difficult to generalize the findings. This supports the adoption of a mixed methods research approach as was used in this study.

When dealing with people, sample size is a set of respondents (people) selected from a larger population for the purpose of survey (Kombo and Tromp, 2016). This study used the sample size of 102 >100 respondents gotten referring to the table of Glen, 1992, using the precision (e) $\pm 10\%$ with a total population of 248 915 residents of Ntakangwa district >100 000 population. To support the reason of choosing the 100 responds as the sample size from Ntakangwa district the following formula of Yamane (1967) was used:

$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$. Where: **n** is the sample size, **N** is the population size, and **e** is the level of precision.

When this formula was applied to our research with $e=10\%$ and $N=248\ 915$, we got the following equation: $n = 99.95$ or $100 < 102$ respondents.

This study used probability and non-probability sampling procedures to sample target groups, namely family members (parents), community leaders and youths. To reach to the target population the researcher used the multi-stage sampling technique. Multistage sampling refers to sampling plans where the sampling is carried out in stages using smaller and smaller sampling units at each stage (Guillaume Chauvet, 2015).

The respondents were divided by choosing purposively thirty six (36) family members (Parents) from six zones of Ntakangwa district. Purposive sampling also was done to select twelve (12) community leaders from the six zones. Simple Random sampling was used to select fifty four (54) youths from Ntakangwa district. The sampling resulted in 102 respondents as sample size. The researcher distributed the questionnaires to 12 community leaders, 54 youths and got responses from 10 community leaders and 51 responses from youths. The researcher also interviewed 23 out of 36 family members and in total the respondents were 84 who represented the simple size of 102 respondents from Ntakangwa district.

Data in this study was analysed using both qualitative and quantitative data analysis techniques. Descriptive Statistics dealt with the presentation of numerical facts, or data, in either tables or graphs form, and with the methodology of analysing the data. The analysis of quantitative data was done through the use of SPSS Version 20.

Two ways were used to analyse qualitative data in this study. The first one is the framework analysis where the findings were examined with a pre-defined framework, which reflected the aims, objectives and interests. The second approach was the thematic network analysis which took

a more exploratory perspective, encouraging the researcher to consider and code all data, allowing for new impressions to shape the interpretation in different and unexpected directions.

1.8 Study Findings

The Causes of political discrimination among the communities in Ntampangwa district

The study found out that the big causes of political discrimination often observed are connected to the political intolerance. There is also a lack of political education among leaders and the dictatorship leadership; where political discrimination took place and the political intolerance among political party's members manifested. The selfishness of some leaders influenced the accumulation of the resources belong to the country and protection of their interests through the detriment of the common interests of citizens using political discrimination; where participation in decision making for citizens is ignored. The other causes are the negative ethnicity, social class, fighting for power and regionalism which influenced political discrimination among communities based on the group membership.

The socio-economic effects of political conflict in Ntampangwa District

The findings indicated that majority, composed of community leaders, agreed that the socio-economic effects of political conflict in Ntampangwa District were negative and disagreed with the positive effects brought by political conflict. Hence we can clearly prove that the political conflict was the threat to the society of Ntampangwa district and its economy.

Respondents showed the following specific effects of political conflict in Ntampangwa district: There were high levels of insecurity in the area where citizens lived; There was widespread poverty due to poor development levels within the locality because development was impossible without security; There was outright corruption during the provision of granting services; There was easy access to arms that fueled the proliferation of organized criminal groups; There was a significant reduction in job opportunities; People fled from their dwellings and become internal or external refugees; The economy of the country, particularly the Ntampangwa district, dropped significantly; Poverty which make life to harder and more expensive; Lack of trust within society; Widespread insecurity which results in juvenile delinquency and criminal activities; Lack of equal political participation and cooperation in decision-making; A drop in productive activities as a result of fewer internal and external investors; The rate at which of students withdraw and drop out from schools shot up; Diseases, including psychological trauma, were prevalent; Instability within households resulting from the death or absence of their providers; Family conflicts such as divorce, which multiplied day after day, as a result of families not being able to ever be together; Loss of young lives which was the big loss to the household; Youths engaged in drug abuse and criminal activities which eventually cost them their lives; Hatred, social killings, negative ethnicity, regionalism, tribalism and discrimination became widespread among families; The number of orphans and widows increased in most households; Many people lacked proper shelter because their houses were destroyed and NGO's closed which meant that many members of households lost their jobs.

The study found out also that the effects of political conflict on social organization expressed by the presence of the loss of lives, disability persons because of tortures and psychological disorder

among people, multiplication of vulnerable persons, presence of refugees which decreased manpower and affected negatively the economy. There are also abandoned children, widows and orphans in society. In addition, the political conflict in Ntakangwa district influenced the degradation of manners and habits of culture in the communities. There are no unit, no stability and friendship among the people which became the sources of misunderstanding. Economically political conflict reduced productivity among people due to lack of job opportunities, death or disability for victims of violence, disturbance in their daily activities. Political conflict influenced the high inflation where most of goods in country increased prices to more than 100%. The presence of mistrust among people made them to not cooperate positively and weakened the social capital together with the economy of Ntakangwa district.

Majority of respondents in their responses agreed that the violence caused by political conflict negatively affected the realization of basic livelihoods. All respondents considered the violence generated by political conflict as a barrier to the realization of their basic livelihoods. This can be explained specifically by the way residents of Ntakangwa district we're at times unable to attend to their daily activities because of violence. They fled their homesteads and farms and became idle. This led to an increase in the levels of poverty. There were rampant cases of also looting and burglary in the locality. As a result, violence broke out. This eventually negatively influenced income generator activities in the affected communities.

Violence caused by Political conflict led to an increase in the number of men, women and young people with physical disabilities. This impacted negatively on the well-being of the families because these members of the families were unable to earn or produce enough in to meet their basic human needs. Lack of job opportunities led to widespread unemployment. This also had an impact on their ability to generate enough income that could support their families.

In Ntakangwa district, the political conflict gave rise to retrograde behaviour which led the citizens to group themselves into various tiers, rampant lawlessness and outright meanness towards each other. This meant that the citizens of Burundi, particularly those from Ntakangwa district, were faced with the problem of overcoming community pressure in order to support their colleagues who were victims of political conflict. Most had been affected either socially or economically. The political conflict made the people to face different social and economic difficulties. This made life expensive and influenced the government's contribution towards various activities. This included contributions towards the 2020 election and construction of various key social infrastructure including stadiums, schools and markets.

1.9 Conclusions

Based on the findings of this study, the following conclusions were drawn by the researcher:

Political intolerance, lack of political education among leaders, selfishness influenced by greed, negative ethnicity, social classes, fighting for power and regionalism were the main causes which influenced political discrimination among communities of Ntakangwa district. Political conflict undermined the livelihoods sustainability in Ntakangwa district at a very high level. The households were more affected through to the loss of their members, loss of assets like houses,

properties and jobs where the income generation was disturbed which led them to live in the extreme poverty.

The political conflict also generated violence and insecurity in the area where people are limited for hours of working and the free movement in the district. Social network was negatively affected due to political conflict which generated the presence of internal and external refugees which undermined the social organization and social capital. Political conflict made many people in the district to hate each other where the mistrust and misunderstanding took place which were bad things for community because there is no development where there is no peace, justice and trust.

Economically the households of Ntakangwa district were affected negatively because of reduction of productivity among community members and also because of a high inflation together with forced contributions required by the government and the lack of job opportunities where people lost power for purchasing different products needed at household level. Political conflict also influenced the internal and external investors to flee the country where the sector of taxation, job creation, innovation, education, healthcare and entrepreneurship were affected negatively and made the livelihoods at household level to be in bad situation.

Dialogue, political tolerance, and avoidance of discrimination based to political party membership, classes, ethnicity and promotion of education for leaders were highlighted by respondents as tools needed for mitigation of political conflict. The study contributed to knowledge through the valid findings which will help policy makers including politicians to make adequate decisions in order to sustain livelihoods of citizens at household level in country particularly in Ntakangwa district.

1.10 Recommendations

The study recommended the members of government and opposition leaders who are not in government and the citizens who are instruments in different political activities; to put political tolerance at first level and the respect for human rights and using inclusive dialogue as key tool in mitigation of political discrimination in country particularly in Ntakangwa district. The government was also recommended to strengthen skills in leadership through capacity building in political education, promotion of good governance and political sharing in management of the country.

Public participation from all citizens on decision-making for socio-Economic development of the country was recommended. The study recommended the key participants in politic of the country; to avoid corruption, looting and burglary which generated negative impacts on society and the economy of the country. The study recommended the members of ruling party and opposition to avoid using violence and intimidation during political conflict which disturbs activities of community members in country.

The all citizens of Burundi especially those from Ntahangwa district were recommended to not accept to be manipulated by politicians and avoid participation in violence activities which disturb the realization of livelihoods. All stakeholders in politic of Burundi were recommended to adopt the attitude of peaceful contributions and change the mind-set through positive thinking which influences positively the sustainable livelihoods in different households of the country particularly in Ntahangwa district.

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