

*Full Length Research Paper*

# **The security-development nexus in Ethiopia since 1991: The case of eastern Wallagga zone**

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In Ethiopia, security and development are often in conflict with each other, as certain development policies may harm human security and vice versa. This article aims to examine the security and development nexus in Eastern Wallagga Zone, an area that has faced various challenges related to conflict, displacement, and lack of basic infrastructures. Qualitative research design is used. Key person interviews, focus group discussions, and non-participant observations were used to collect data from primary sources and wide range of materials, such as books, academic articles, government reports, newspaper articles, and online databases were used as secondary sources. The findings show that security and development are closely linked and conflict can have a significant impact on development outcomes. Since the area is affected by conflict, development efforts were disrupted or delayed, and the human and economic costs of conflict were significant. Hence, it is important for development programs to be sensitive to the local context and to engage with local communities to ensure that their needs are met and that they are involved in the decision-making process. In other words, development programs can also play a role in promoting peace and reducing conflict by fostering dialogue and reconciliation, building trust and social cohesion, and addressing the root causes of conflict in the study area. The study recommends a holistic approach that prioritizes conflict prevention, peacebuilding, inclusivity, resilience, and cooperation, that might be possible to promote peace, stability, and prosperity and promote sustainable development and reduce the risk of insecurity the area.

**Key words:** Conflict, development, Eastern Wallagga, peace, security.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Historically, security and development were viewed as separate fields with distinct objectives. Security focused on safeguarding a state's sovereignty from external

threats, while development aimed at promoting economic growth and poverty reduction. However, since the 1990s, there has been a growing recognition of the

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interdependence between security and development. This shift is attributed to factors such as the end of the Cold War, the emergence of new security threats, and a change in the dominant approach to security.

According to scholars, the traditional understanding of security before the 1990s was centered on state security and military power, neglecting non-military aspects like economic, social, and environmental security. This narrow approach failed to address other forms of security and marginalized certain groups and forms of knowledge. Scholars argue for a broader definition of security that includes economic, environmental, and human dimensions, as well as addressing underlying causes of insecurity like poverty and inequality (Buzan, 1991; Booth, 1991; Chandler, 2014; Williams, 2003).

In the 1990s, the concept of security expanded to include the well-being of individuals and communities, in addition to state protection. This shift towards human security recognizes that threats can come from poverty, inequality, disease, environmental degradation, and human rights abuses. The UNDP (1994) played a key role in developing the concept, emphasizing the safety, well-being, and dignity of individuals, communities, and nations. Kaldor (1999) further emphasized the need to protect people from various threats and address underlying causes, rather than just focusing on territory or symptoms of insecurity. Human security involves protecting individuals from political violence, economic deprivation, environmental degradation, and promoting social justice and sustainable development.

Integrating security and development faces challenges due to the complexity of the concepts and the diverse perspectives within each field. Security and development encompass various types of threats, levels of concerns, and developmental issues. Critics express concerns about merging these complex concepts, citing potential confusion and incoherence in policies. However, there is a growing recognition that an integrated approach is necessary to address poverty, conflict, and environmental degradation. Collaboration and coordination among governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector are crucial (Boonstra and Shapovalova, 2012; Tschirgi, 2005; International Peace Academy, 2006). This was also emphasized in the 2005 World Summit Outcome document adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, which highlights the collective responsibility to protect populations from atrocities (UNODC, 2018).

To address the complexity and potential policy confusion, the OECD (2019) suggests four methods for connecting human security and development: integrating human security into development policies, measuring human security through indicators, recognizing their theoretical interdependence, and promoting shared understanding through dialogue. Integrating human security into development policies in Ethiopia is challenging due to complex security and development

issues (Tadesse, 2016; Mamo and Tadesse, 2014). Obstacles include the country's political and socio-economic context, which lacks democratic institutions and a centralized power structure (Asnake and Abebe, 2017). Corruption, weak governance, and limited resources further complicate efforts to promote human security (Assefa and Woldemariam, 2019).

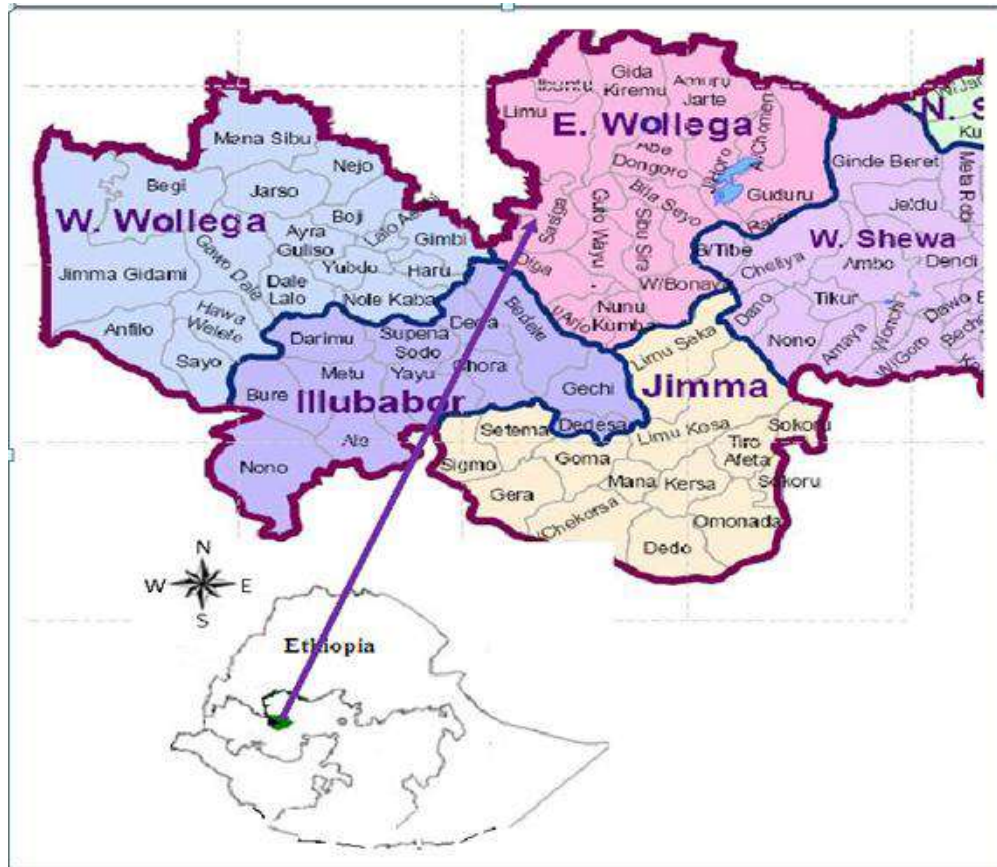
Ethiopia's policy statements reveal a discrepancy between state security, human security, and development. Major plans and policies prioritize economic growth over other aspects of human security (Belachew, 2014). This securitization of the economy links economic growth to national security. However, this emphasis on economic growth may come at the expense of addressing critical human security issues (Teshome, 2021). The ongoing internal conflict in regions like Oromia and Tigray has not always prioritized human security and may have worsened it.

The implementation of human security and development involves constructed discourses that serve specific interests and power dynamics. Scholars emphasize the need for policymakers to critically analyze these discourses to understand underlying assumptions and power dynamics (Belachew, 2014; Teshome, 2021). Implementing the human security and development nexus at the local level faces challenges due to the complexity and diversity of local contexts.

## Study area

The research was conducted in Eastern Wallagga Zone, one of the nineteen zones in the Oromia National Regional State. This administrative area is named after the former province of Wallagga and is bounded on the south-west by Illubabor, on the west by the Didessa River, on the north and north-West by the Benshangul Gumuz and Amhara National Regional States, on the east by West Showa and Horro Guduru Wallagga, and on the southeast by the Jimma Zones, according to the Central Statistical Agency (CSA, 2007).

The Eastern Wallagga Zone has a population of 1,213,503 people residing in an area of 12,579.77 square km, with 606,379 men and 607,124 women. The population density is 96.46, and 7.72% of the population lives in urban areas, while 28% are agro-pastoralists. There are 255,534 households in the zone, with an average of 4.75 people per household and 246,680 housing units. The two largest ethnic groups in the zone are the Oromo and Amhara, accounting for 87.74 and 10.89% of the population, respectively, while other groups make up 1.37%. Afan Oromo is the predominant language, spoken by 88.13% of the population, followed by Amharic with 10.85%, and other languages with 1.02%. According to the Eastern Wallagga Zone Administration Bulletin of 2020, the majority of the population, 48.42%, practices Protestantism, followed by



**Figure 1.** The Location map of the study area.  
Source: Adopted from Google Map (2022).

Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity with 37.04%, and Islam with 12.09%. Figure 1 shows the Location map of the study area.

## RESEARCH METHODS

### Research design

According to Leedey (1997), research design refers to a study plan that outlines the framework for gathering data. Creswell (2015) describes qualitative research as an approach that is concerned with understanding the meaning and experiences of individuals and groups. In this study, qualitative research design mainly descriptive design is used. Qualitative research design is well-suited for exploring the implementation of human security and development initiatives at the ground level, as it allows the researcher to understand the perspectives and experiences of individuals and communities in their natural setting.

### Study participants and Sampling techniques

Purposive sampling techniques were employed in this study, wherein participants were selected based on specific criteria relevant to the research objectives. The researcher utilized maximum variation sampling, aiming to include participants with diverse characteristics and experiences. Given that the study

focuses on the implementation of security measures and development projects in the Eastern Wallagga zone, maximum variation sampling was applied to select participants from various communities with varying socio-economic backgrounds.

A total of 18 key informant interviews were conducted with religious leaders, elders, and community members. Key informants are individuals with extensive knowledge and experience related to the research topic, capable of providing valuable insights and perspectives. One criterion for selecting key informants was the duration of their stay in the study area (Braun and Clarke, 2019). Community members who had resided in the study area for an extended period were deemed likely to possess a deeper understanding of the local context, culture, and history. They may also have established relationships with other community members and have a better understanding of community dynamics and power structures. Other criteria, such as their knowledge, expertise, and status within the community, were considered. For example, a community leader or an individual with specialized knowledge related to the research topic was valuable key informant, even if they have not lived in the study area for a long period. Additionally, four focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted, in which participants were elders, local chief, and internally displaced community member, youths, and women.

### Methods of data collection

Three qualitative data collection methods were employed in the study: key person interviews, focus group discussions, and non-

participant observation. These methods were utilized to gather primary data. Additionally, to support the primary data, various secondary sources such as books, academic articles, government reports, newspaper articles, and online databases were consulted. This diverse range of sources facilitated a comprehensive examination of the implementation of the human security-development nexus in the zone and provided a variety of perspectives and data sources for analysis. All interviews and focus group discussions were conducted between December 21, 2022, and January 20, 2023.

In addition, the researcher utilized non-participant observation as a data collection method. Non-participant observation proved valuable in rural areas where community members tend to be more reserved in their interactions with outsiders or during interviews. By observing behavior and interactions in a natural setting, the researcher gained insights into community dynamics, power structures, and other aspects of the social context that might not be readily discernible through other data collection methods.

### Method of data analysis

Data analysis is a critical aspect of research because it helps connect findings to higher-level concepts. According to Creswell (2015), the initial step in qualitative data analysis involves organizing all the data collected from the field into a computer file. Subsequently, the information gathered from interviews and audio recordings is transcribed into written form. The data is then categorized, and the need for additional information is assessed. This approach ensures the credibility of results by balancing the data collected with the researcher's understanding and interpretation. In this study, a case study analysis was employed as a qualitative data analysis method. This involved analyzing the situational context of the case, identifying the primary actors and factors that influenced the outcome, and assessing the impact of the case on the broader issue of how the human security and development nexus has been implemented in the Eastern Wallagga Zone since 1991.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section of the study presents the results, which reflect the viewpoints and opinions of the interviewees and participants in focus group discussions. These results are discussed in conjunction with the findings of relevant studies that were mentioned in the literature review section. The outcomes are categorized into three distinct groups: security practices, development practices, and the implementation of their interconnection at the grassroots level in Eastern Wallagga.

### Security practices in the eastern Wallagga zone since 1991

Since the overthrow of the Dergue regime in 1991, there have been significant changes in the country's security and development landscape. Despite this, the challenges of balancing human security and development priorities have remained a persistent issue. According to the interviews conducted with community members, East Wallagga has faced a number of security challenges

since 1991, including political instability, inter-communal conflict, and organized crime. They specify that "one of the major security challenges in the zone has been political instability, which has taken various forms over the years. For example, in the early 1990s, the region experienced a civil war that resulted in the displacement of thousands of people and the loss of numerous lives. Since then, political instability has continued to be a sporadic occurrence, with occasional clashes between different political groups and ethnic groups". The political instability that has persisted in Eastern Wallagga since 2018 has indeed contributed to community insecurities in the zone. This instability has been characterized by conflicts between different political factions and parties, as well as tensions between different ethnic groups.

Based on the information from FGD participants the political tensions have often spilled over into inter-communal conflicts, particularly in areas where there are significant ethnic divides. For example, Human Rights Watch (2019) report indicates that in the aftermath of the 2018 elections, there were violence and displacement of communities because of ethnic based clashes between Oromo and Amhara communities. Moreover, the political instability has also had economic consequences, with disruptions to trade and investment contributing to economic insecurity and poverty in the region. For instance, the roadblocks to Nekemte Town have led to the closure of businesses and markets, which has affected livelihoods and access to basic goods and services in the northeast part of the zone.

Inter-communal conflict has also been a significant source of insecurity in Eastern Wallagga since 1991. This has often been fueled by competition over resources such as land, water, and pasture, as well as ethnic and cultural differences. In some cases, inter-communal conflict has led to the displacement of entire communities and has contributed to a cycle of violence and revenge attacks in the zone. The interviewed community member remind that "one of the most significant inter-communal conflicts in the zone occurred in 1993, when violence erupted between the Oromo and Amhara communities over land ownership and political representation. The conflict resulted in the displacement of thousands of people and the loss of numerous lives". Johansson (2009) confirmed that since then, inter-communal conflicts have continued to occur in the zone, often triggered by disputes over resources or political power. Inter-communal conflicts have significant impacts on human security. It can lead to the displacement of communities, loss of livelihoods, and physical harm to individuals. Moreover, these conflicts can also contribute to a cycle of violence and revenge attacks, which further undermine security and stability in the zone. Interviews suggest that inter-communal conflicts can have wide-ranging and long-lasting impacts on human security, with implications for physical health, economic well-being, and social cohesion. There are evidences by numerous

studies and reports indicating inter-communal conflicts significant impacts on human security. For example, a report by the World Health Organization (WHO) found that inter-communal conflicts lead to a range of physical and mental health problems, including injuries, malnutrition, and psychological trauma (WHO, 2017). Moreover, the report noted that inter-communal conflicts also disrupt access to healthcare and other essential services, which can exacerbate the health impacts of the conflict. These disruptions have been seen in the study area. Similarly, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) found that inter-communal conflicts have significant economic consequences, particularly for vulnerable populations such as women and children (UNDP, 2018). The study noted that inter-communal conflicts lead to the destruction of property, displacement of communities, and loss of livelihoods, which can contribute to poverty and social exclusion.

Organized crime, particularly related to human trafficking and smuggling, has also been a growing security concern in the Eastern Wallagga. According to the interviewees, "the porous borders with neighboring regional states have made Eastern Wallagga a transit point for migrants and refugees, many of whom fall prey to human traffickers and smugglers. This has led to instances of kidnapping, extortion, and other forms of violence against vulnerable populations." There is evidence to suggest that these issues have been a concern in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa region more broadly since at least the 1990s. For example, a report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) notes that human trafficking and smuggling have been a significant security concern in the Horn of Africa region since the 1990s, with Ethiopia serving as a transit country for migrants and refugees (UNODC, 2018). The report notes that these activities are often linked to other forms of organized crime, such as drug trafficking and money laundering. Overall, the security challenges in East Wallagga since 1991 have been complex and multifaceted, with political, social, and economic factors all playing a role.

### **Development practices in the eastern Wallagga zone since 1991**

Since 1991, the Eastern Wallagga zone has witnessed various development practices aimed at promoting economic growth and enhancing social welfare. These initiatives encompass agricultural development programs, health and education initiatives, infrastructure development, and other efforts geared towards improving economic opportunities and the quality of life for local communities. Focus group discussion participants reported that 'development in the Eastern Wallagga zone since 1991 has been implemented through various programs and initiatives with the goal of promoting

economic growth and enhancing social welfare. They mentioned some of the key ways in which development has been implemented in the area. The Ethiopian government has executed various development programs in the Eastern Wallagga zone, encompassing agricultural development programs, health and education initiatives, and infrastructure development projects. Additionally, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have also been actively involved in implementing development programs in the Eastern Wallagga zone. Likewise, the private sector has played a role in driving development in the area. For example, private companies have invested in agricultural value chains such as coffee, corn, and sesame production to promote economic growth and create employment opportunities. However, there are several challenges that have hindered the success and sustainability of development initiatives in the Eastern Wallagga zone since 1991. Interview respondents have identified various challenges that have impeded the success and sustainability of development initiatives in the Eastern Wallagga zone since 1991. The area has poor infrastructure, particularly in remote areas, which has limited access to basic services and economic opportunities. Governance challenges, including corruption and inadequate land tenure systems, have also hindered development efforts. Environmental degradation due to unsustainable agricultural practices, deforestation, and overgrazing has further exacerbated the situation. The zone has also experienced conflicts and insecurity, which have impeded the implementation and sustainability of development initiatives.

These challenges have been identified and discussed in different studies. The zone has poor infrastructure, particularly in remote areas, which hinders access to basic services and limits economic opportunities. Alemu et al. (2019) noted that poor infrastructure, especially in transportation and communication hinders the effectiveness of health and education programs in the zone. Degefu and Adnew (2021) noted that governance challenges, such as corruption and inadequate land tenure systems, have hindered the success and sustainability of development initiatives in the region. The study found that land tenure insecurity hinders investment and contributes to environmental degradation in the Eastern Wallagga zone. Teshome et al. (2018) confirms that the zone has experienced environmental degradation due to unsustainable agricultural practices, deforestation, and overgrazing, which hinders the sustainability of development programs.

### **The security and development nexus practices at the ground in eastern Wallagga since 1991**

The security and development nexus has been an important consideration in development practices at the local level in the eastern Wallagga zone since 1991.

Development efforts have been aimed to promote economic growth and improving social welfare, while also addressing security challenges in the zone. The interconnection between security and development has been recognized as an important consideration in development practices. In the context of the Eastern Wallagga zone, security and development practices have been closely linked. The FGD participants raise that “development initiatives aimed at promoting economic growth and improving social welfare has been implemented alongside efforts to address security challenges in the zone.” The focus group discussion revealed that the Eastern Wallagga zone has been historically marginalized and underdeveloped, leading to a lack of access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and clean water. This lack of infrastructure has also hindered economic development in the region, limiting prospects for growth and employment. Participants attributed the historical marginalization and underdevelopment in the Eastern Wallagga zone to various factors, including systemic discrimination, political instability, and limited infrastructure.

According to interviewees and focus group discussions, development policies can have negative impacts on human security, and security concerns can impede development practices. One participant in a focus group discussion stated that there is a complex interplay between human security and development in the Eastern Wallagga zone, and that development policies can have adverse effects on human security. Another interviewee noted that development policies and practices can lead to negative consequences for human security, resulting in economic insecurity, social unrest, and physical harm in the zone. In addition, development practices that prioritize economic growth over social welfare have exacerbated inequality, leading to insecurity and conflicts in the zone. These perspectives are supported by academic studies. For instance, Tessema et al. (2019) found that poverty and unemployment contribute to economic insecurity in the region, while Dessalegn and Zeleke (2018) identified inter-communal conflicts as causing physical harm and displacement of communities. Teshome et al. (2018) also pointed out that unsustainable agricultural practices and deforestation contribute to environmental degradation, exacerbating economic insecurity and social unrest.

Researcher's non-participant observation has confirmed that the Eastern Wallagga zone is at high risk of violence or conflict, which has led to delays or cancellations of development projects due to security concerns. This has resulted in missed opportunities for economic growth and social development. Additionally, security measures in the zone are often harsh and inhumane. Checkpoints and curfews are prevalent, limiting people's freedom of movement and access to basic services, which further undermines human security. Some studies, such as Walch (2020) and Abdi and

Abdullahi (2018), suggest that such measures can contribute to economic insecurity and limit access to basic services, while others, such as Berman and Matanock (2015), propose that they can improve security and stability in conflict-affected areas. Ultimately, the effectiveness of checkpoints and curfews as a security measure depends on the manner of their implementation and the broader context in which they are used.

During a focus group discussion (FGD), it was noted that the limited infrastructure in the zone is linked to security concerns. Basic infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, electricity, water supply, and communication networks, were either absent or very limited in the zone. Participants emphasized that the absence or inadequacy of these basic necessities resulted in various forms of insecurity, including economic, physical, and social insecurity. For instance, the lack of access to basic infrastructure such as roads limited individuals' and communities' ability to engage in economic activities and access markets, resulting in reduced income, livelihood opportunities, and ultimately leading to poverty and food insecurity in the zone. In supporting these perspectives, Tessema et al. (2019) found that poverty and unemployment are major contributors to economic insecurity in rural areas of Ethiopia. Lack of access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, and healthcare can lead to economic insecurity and make it difficult for people to meet their basic needs. Koggie et al. (2019) also discovered that the absence of basic necessities such as food, water, and healthcare can lead to social unrest and even violent conflict, as people compete for scarce resources. Similarly, Gudina et al. (2019) identified that the lack of access to basic necessities such as fuel and energy can result in unsustainable environmental practices, which can contribute to environmental degradation and exacerbate economic and social insecurity.

The researcher's observation also indicates that the absence of basic infrastructure, such as electricity and water supply, has already led to physical insecurity by compromising the health and safety of the local community. Without access to clean water, individuals are at risk of waterborne diseases, and without electricity, they may encounter accidents or injuries due to poor lighting or the use of unsafe energy sources. Additionally, the lack of communication networks has resulted in social insecurity by restricting people's ability to connect with others and access external resources, leading to social isolation, reduced access to healthcare and education, and limited opportunities for civic engagement and participation. There is substantial evidence supporting this perspective. For example, a study conducted in rural communities in Ethiopia found that the lack of access to clean water and sanitation facilities contributed to a higher incidence of water-borne diseases such as cholera and typhoid fever, as well as malnutrition and stunted growth in children (Molla et al., 2019). These health

problems can limit people's ability to work, attend school, and engage in social activities, ultimately leading to economic insecurity and social isolation.

According to community members interviewed, economic growth in the Eastern Wallagga zone has progressed significantly in recent years, but human security is deteriorating due to various factors such as the displacement of local communities, environmental degradation, and conflicts over resources. This highlights a significant challenge in the relationship between human security and development. While economic growth can provide opportunities and improve living standards, it is crucial to ensure that human security and well-being are not compromised in the process. The community leader suggested that the deterioration of human security in the area could be attributed to several factors. While some studies, such as Berman and Matanock (2015) and Abdi and Abdullahi (2018), propose that economic growth and human security have a conversely related relationship in the Eastern Wallagga zone, others, such as Oxfam International (2018) and Tessema et al. (2019), suggest that economic growth and security measures can improve human security. However, the effectiveness of such measures depends on their implementation and the broader context in which they are applied.

Furthermore, the interviewed persons highlighted that eastern Wallagga zone is affected by conflict, which disrupts or delays development efforts and imposes extensive human and economic costs. Conversely, development plays a crucial role in reducing the risk of conflict and promoting peace and stability. The conflict and insecurity in the area have disrupted development efforts, damaged or destroyed essential infrastructure and social services, and displaced people, causing a loss of livelihoods and a decline in economic opportunities. While development can provide opportunities for conflict resolution and peacebuilding in the Eastern Wallagga zone, it is crucial to recognize that this relationship is complex and context-specific. The views expressed by the community members that development can provide opportunities for conflict resolution and peacebuilding are supported by some research findings, such as Mampilly (2011) and United Nations Development Programme (2017), but contradicted by others, such as Duffield (2014) and the International Crisis Group (2019).

According to the interviewees, implementing development plans requires effective security measures to prevent conflict and promote stability. These measures include disarming and demobilizing combatants, promoting human rights and implementing the rule of law, and addressing the underlying grievances that fuel conflict. Collaboration between various actors, such as national and local governments, civil society organizations, and international actors, is essential for effective security measures. The interviewees also emphasized that addressing the root causes of conflict is critical in creating an environment of trust and security

that facilitates development efforts. Job creation and poverty reduction programs can also help address the underlying economic grievances that often fuel conflict. Establishing effective and accountable security institutions can prevent violence, deter criminal activity, and provide a sense of security to local communities. Regarding the importance of addressing the root causes of conflict, some research findings, such as the United Nations Development Programme (2016) and Collier (2007), support this approach. However, other sources, such as Keen (2008) and International Crisis Group (2019), have cautioned that addressing the root causes of conflict may be challenging in practice, as they may be complex and deeply entrenched.

The researcher has observed that implementing development and security measures in the Wallagga zones is hindered by obstacles related to governance, limited infrastructure, conflict and instability, and socioeconomic factors. Weak governance, corruption, and lack of political will are specifically identified as hindrances to the implementation of such measures in Eastern Wallagga. These challenges are supported by various studies, such as the UNDP's 2018 report, which identified weak governance as a critical factor affecting development and security in Ethiopia, including in the Wallagga zones. Additionally, Human Rights Watch (HRW's) 2020 report, highlighted limited infrastructure, including the lack of basic amenities like water, sanitation, and healthcare facilities, as a significant obstacle to development and security in Ethiopia, particularly in rural areas like Wallagga. The Institute of Security Studies (ISS) also noted in its study that periodic outbreaks of violence and inter-communal conflict contributed to displacement and insecurity in the Wallagga zone. Furthermore, studies have identified socioeconomic factors such as poverty, unemployment, and inequality as underlying factors that hinder the implementation of development and security measures in Ethiopia, including in the Wallagga zone.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the implementation of the human security-development nexus is indeed a multifaceted concept that requires a comprehensive understanding of the social, economic, and political dynamics at play in a given context. In the case of Eastern Wallagga since 1991, it is essential to take into account the historical, cultural, and socio-economic factors that have shaped the region's development trajectory and its security landscape. To effectively implement the human security-development nexus in Eastern Wallagga, it is crucial to address the challenges and obstacles that hinder the realization of this concept. These challenges include weak governance, limited infrastructure, conflict, and instability, as well as socioeconomic factors such as poverty, unemployment,

and inequality. To overcome these challenges, it is necessary to develop policies and programs that are context-specific, responsive to local needs, and inclusive of all stakeholders, including marginalized groups. Hence, successful implementation of the human security-development nexus in Eastern Wallagga requires a holistic approach that takes into account the region's unique historical, cultural, and socio-economic context. Addressing the challenges and obstacles that hinder the realization of this concept requires the development of policies and programs that are responsive, inclusive, and context-specific.

### Recommendation

The study recommends several points based on its findings. Addressing weak governance and corruption is crucial to effectively implement the human security-development nexus in Eastern Wallagga. This can be achieved by promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in decision-making processes. Additionally, the limited infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, is a significant obstacle to development. As such, it is essential to invest in basic amenities such as water, sanitation, education, and healthcare facilities, which are critical to promoting human security and well-being. It is also necessary to address conflict and instability, as periodic outbreaks of violence and inter-communal conflict contribute to displacement and insecurity in Eastern Wallagga. Addressing the root causes of conflict and promoting peacebuilding efforts can create a conducive environment for development. Similarly, socio-economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, and inequality are underlying factors that hinder the implementation of the human security-development nexus. To address these factors, it is necessary to develop policies and programs that promote inclusive and sustainable development. Furthermore, developing context-specific policies and programs that are responsive to local needs and inclusive of all stakeholders, including marginalized groups, is also crucial for the effective implementation of the human security-development nexus. Fostering partnerships and collaboration between various stakeholders, including government, civil society, and the private sector, can help leverage resources and expertise to achieve shared goals. Finally, promoting education and capacity-building is critical to promoting human security and development in Eastern Wallagga.

### CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors have not declared any conflict of interests.

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