

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-58222

Title: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE: THE CONTRIBUTION OF HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC STABILITY IN BAIDOA .

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality			✓	
Clarity		✓		
Significance		✓		

Reviewer's ID: JPR-002

Detailed Reviewer's Report

"Strengthening Community Resilience: The Contribution of Humanitarian Interventions to Socio-Economic Stability in Baidoa"

The manuscript addresses an important and timely issue by examining the contribution of humanitarian interventions to community resilience and socio-economic stability in Baidoa, Somalia. The topic is highly relevant to humanitarian studies, development economics, public policy, and disaster management, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected regions. The paper highlights the humanitarian-development nexus and provides practical insights into how humanitarian assistance can transition from emergency relief to long-term resilience building. The overall structure of the manuscript is logical, progressing from the introduction through the literature review, theoretical framework, methodology, findings, conclusion, and recommendations. The language is generally clear, and the paper demonstrates a strong commitment to addressing a significant real-world problem.

The abstract adequately summarizes the study by outlining the background, objectives, methodology, major findings, and conclusions. However, it could be strengthened by explicitly mentioning the qualitative research design rather than stating a mixed-methods approach, since the methodology section later describes only qualitative methods such as field observations, key informant interviews, community consultations, and document analysis. This inconsistency between the abstract

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and methodology should be corrected to improve methodological transparency. Furthermore, including a brief statement on the practical implications of the findings would enhance the impact of the abstract.

The introduction effectively establishes the context by discussing Somalia's prolonged humanitarian crisis and the specific challenges faced by Baidoa. It clearly identifies the research gap regarding the limited empirical evidence on the long-term contribution of humanitarian interventions to resilience and socio-economic stability. Nevertheless, the research objectives and research questions are not explicitly stated. Presenting clearly defined objectives and research questions at the end of the introduction would improve the focus and direction of the study. Additionally, a concise statement highlighting the novelty and originality of the research would strengthen the manuscript's contribution to the existing literature.

The literature review provides a broad overview of humanitarian interventions, resilience theory, and the humanitarian-development nexus. The authors appropriately cite international organizations such as UNDP, FAO, UNHCR, the World Bank, and UNOCHA. However, the review relies heavily on institutional reports and policy documents while citing relatively few peer-reviewed journal articles. Incorporating more recent empirical studies published in high-quality international journals would significantly strengthen the academic foundation of the study. Moreover, the literature review remains largely descriptive and could benefit from a more critical comparison of previous studies, highlighting areas of agreement, disagreement, and unresolved issues. A conceptual framework illustrating the relationship between humanitarian interventions, resilience, and socio-economic stability would also improve theoretical clarity.

The theoretical review introduces several theories, including Resilience Theory, Sustainable Development Theory, Social Capital Theory, Urbanization and Spatial Planning Theory, and Participatory Governance Theory. While each theory is briefly explained, the discussion lacks integration. The manuscript should explain more clearly how these theories collectively inform the research design and interpretation of findings. It would also be beneficial to justify why these particular theories were selected instead of alternative theoretical perspectives. Establishing stronger links between theory and empirical findings would improve the overall scholarly contribution of the paper.

The methodology section requires considerable improvement. Although the authors describe the research as qualitative, essential methodological details are missing. The paper does not specify the sampling strategy, sample size, participant selection criteria, interview duration, ethical approval,

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informed consent procedures, or methods used to ensure credibility and trustworthiness of the qualitative findings. Statements indicating that the study is largely based on the authors' field experience raise concerns regarding potential researcher bias. The authors should clearly explain how subjective bias was minimized through triangulation, member checking, or peer debriefing. Furthermore, the thematic analysis process should be described in greater detail, including coding procedures, theme development, and data validation techniques.

The findings section presents several valuable observations regarding improvements in food security, healthcare, education, social cohesion, governance, and infrastructure resulting from humanitarian interventions. The discussion successfully demonstrates the positive role of collaboration among humanitarian agencies, local authorities, and communities. However, the findings remain largely narrative without direct evidence from participants. Including quotations from key informant interviews or community consultations would significantly enhance the credibility and richness of the qualitative analysis. In addition, the findings should be organized under clearly labeled thematic headings to improve readability and analytical coherence.

The discussion of findings is relatively limited and should be expanded. The authors should compare their results with previous empirical studies discussed in the literature review, explaining whether their findings confirm, contradict, or extend existing knowledge. A stronger analytical discussion linking empirical evidence with the theoretical framework would improve the academic quality of the manuscript. The paper currently presents findings descriptively rather than critically interpreting their broader implications for humanitarian policy and resilience-building strategies.

The conclusion summarizes the major findings effectively and reinforces the importance of integrating humanitarian assistance with long-term development planning. However, the manuscript does not explicitly acknowledge the study's limitations. Every empirical study should include a limitations section discussing issues such as limited geographical coverage, reliance on qualitative evidence, potential researcher bias, or limited generalizability. Including directions for future research would further strengthen the conclusion by identifying areas requiring additional investigation.

The recommendations are practical, comprehensive, and directly related to the study findings. The emphasis on public-private partnerships, institutional strengthening, urban planning, evidence-based policymaking, and decentralized governance provides useful guidance for policymakers and humanitarian

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practitioners. However, the recommendations could be prioritized according to short-term, medium-term, and long-term implementation strategies, making them more actionable for different stakeholders.

From a technical perspective, the manuscript is generally well written but requires careful proofreading. Several grammatical inconsistencies, repetitive statements, and formatting issues should be corrected. Citation style should be reviewed to ensure consistency throughout the manuscript. The reference list is relatively limited and should be expanded by including more recent peer-reviewed publications from internationally recognized journals published within the last five years. Tables, figures, or conceptual diagrams illustrating the research framework or thematic findings would also improve the presentation of the study.

Overall, this manuscript addresses an important humanitarian issue and has the potential to make a valuable contribution to the literature on resilience building and humanitarian interventions in fragile contexts. Nevertheless, the paper requires substantial revisions to strengthen its methodological rigor, theoretical integration, literature review, analytical discussion, and empirical evidence. Addressing these concerns will significantly improve the scientific quality, credibility, and publication readiness of the manuscript.