



# Youth Clubs and Social Cohesion in Urban Peacebuilding: Evidence from Sierra Leone's Post-conflict Districts, 2011

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## Abstract

Youth clubs have emerged as a critical component in urban peacebuilding efforts aimed at enhancing social cohesion post-conflict in Sierra Leone. A mixed-methods approach combining quantitative survey data from a sample of 500 youths with qualitative interviews to explore perceptions and experiences within selected districts. Youth clubs significantly contributed to fostering social cohesion, particularly in addressing inter-communal tensions and promoting community engagement across diverse groups. Youth clubs play a pivotal role in urban peacebuilding by mediating social divisions and encouraging collective action towards reconciliation. Investment in youth clubs should be prioritised as part of comprehensive post-conflict recovery strategies, with targeted support to enhance their capacity-building and sustainability.

**Keywords:** *Africanization, Community Development, Peace Studies, Social Capital, Youth Mobilization, Qualitative Research, Urban Planning*

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