



Examining the Dynamics of Social Reconstruction in Tobelo After the Conflict and the Challenges of Sustainable Development

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the process of post-conflict social reconstruction in Tobelo and examines its implications for sustainable development within divided communities. Employing a qualitative case study approach, data were obtained through in-depth interviews, observation, and documentation involving religious leaders, community representatives, local authorities, and conflict-affected residents. The findings reveal that reconciliation efforts in Tobelo have gradually strengthened social cohesion through interreligious dialogue, customary peace practices, and community-based economic collaboration. Despite these improvements, challenges such as social fragmentation, economic inequality, institutional limitations, and collective trauma continue to hinder long-term development. The study highlights that sustainable development in post-conflict regions requires inclusive governance, participatory social engagement, and equitable economic policies to reinforce community resilience and social integration.

INTRODUCTION

Post-conflict societies commonly experience prolonged social fragmentation, weakened institutional trust, economic instability, and challenges in rebuilding collective identity. In many developing regions, social reconstruction after communal conflict is not solely directed toward restoring physical infrastructure, but also toward rebuilding social cohesion, intergroup relations, and community resilience. Within sociological discourse, post-conflict reconstruction is understood as a multidimensional process involving reconciliation, institutional recovery, cultural reintegration, and sustainable community development. Sustainable development in post-conflict areas therefore requires not only economic recovery, but also the strengthening of inclusive social structures capable of maintaining long-term peace and social integration (Brück et al., 2021; Ide et al., 2021). Furthermore, sustainable peacebuilding is closely associated with social participation, equitable access to resources, and institutional inclusiveness capable of reducing social vulnerability in post-conflict communities (Mac Ginty, 2022).

Tobelo, located in North Halmahera Regency, Indonesia, represents one of the important post-conflict regions affected by communal violence during the Maluku conflict between 1999 and 2001. The conflict generated social polarization between religious communities, displacement, collective trauma, and the weakening of local cultural values that had previously functioned as mechanisms of social integration. Previous studies explain that the conflict within the Hibua Lamo community in Tobelo was strongly influenced by religious fanaticism, social fragmentation, and the spread of violence from neighboring conflict areas, particularly Ambon (Duan & Kause, 2022). In addition, communal conflict in eastern Indonesia has been associated with identity politics, competition over local resources, and the decline of traditional mechanisms of conflict management (Ahyar & Haba, 2021). The prolonged impact of the conflict created structural and cultural challenges that continue to affect social interaction, economic equality, and local governance in the region.

Following the conflict, various reconciliation and reconstruction efforts emerged through local wisdom, customary institutions, and community-based peacebuilding initiatives. The concept of Hibua Lamo has become an important cultural foundation in restoring social relations among communities in Tobelo. Research conducted by Nur and Titaley (2025) demonstrates that customary values, intercommunity reconciliation, and the role of traditional leaders contributed significantly to rebuilding social cohesion after the conflict. Similarly, recent studies highlight that local cultural practices and interreligious dialogue remain central instruments for maintaining social harmony and preventing recurring communal tensions in North Maluku (Rahman & Yusuf, 2024). Local wisdom-based peacebuilding is considered more adaptive because it incorporates collective identity, kinship values, and participatory reconciliation mechanisms within local communities (Safi'i et al., 2023). These findings indicate that local wisdom possesses an important sociological function in reconstructing post-conflict societies and strengthening community resilience.

Nevertheless, despite the progress of reconciliation, several sustainable development challenges remain visible in Tobelo. Social segregation, unequal economic opportunities, institutional limitations, youth vulnerability, and the persistence of collective trauma continue to influence the social dynamics of the community. Research on post-conflict societies indicates that unresolved social inequality and economic marginalization often become factors contributing to recurring tensions and weakened social integration (Richmond & Visoka, 2021). In addition, modernization pressures, environmental exploitation, and uneven development policies increasingly threaten local social cohesion and indigenous cultural values (Suleman et al., 2023). The challenges of sustainable development in post-conflict regions are therefore not limited to economic recovery, but also include social justice, institutional trust, and long-term community resilience (UNDP, 2022).

Several previous studies have primarily focused on conflict resolution, religious reconciliation, and the revitalization of customary values in Tobelo (Nur & Titaley, 2025; Rahman & Yusuf, 2024). However, limited studies specifically examine the interconnected relationship between post-conflict social reconstruction and sustainable development within the sociological context of Tobelo. Most prior research tends to emphasize cultural reconciliation without comprehensively analyzing how post-conflict social transformation influences long-term development sustainability and community resilience. In addition, previous studies rarely integrate sociological perspectives on sustainable development with local post-conflict governance and participatory reconstruction models. Therefore, this study seeks to fill this research gap by examining the dynamics of social reconstruction in Tobelo after the conflict and analyzing the challenges of sustainable development within post-conflict society.

This study aims to analyze the process of social reconstruction in Tobelo following the communal conflict and to identify the major challenges affecting sustainable development in the region. The research is expected to contribute theoretically to sociological discussions concerning post-conflict reconstruction and sustainable development, while also providing practical insights for policymakers, local governments, and community institutions in strengthening social integration, participatory governance, and long-term peacebuilding in post-conflict communities.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Post-Conflict Social Reconstruction

Social reconstruction in post-conflict societies refers to the process of restoring social relations, rebuilding institutional trust, and strengthening collective identity after periods of violence and communal fragmentation. Sociologically, post-conflict reconstruction is not limited to physical recovery, but also involves rebuilding social cohesion, restoring social capital, and re-establishing inclusive patterns of interaction among divided groups (Paffenholz, 2021). Communities affected by conflict often experience long-term social polarization, weakened trust, and collective trauma, which may hinder sustainable peacebuilding if not addressed comprehensively (Lederach & Appleby, 2022).

Recent sociological studies emphasize that successful social reconstruction requires participatory approaches involving local communities, customary institutions, and civil society organizations. Community participation is considered essential because post-conflict recovery is closely related to the restoration of social legitimacy and collective ownership of peacebuilding processes (Kappler, 2021). In addition, local cultural mechanisms and traditional reconciliation practices frequently function as informal social institutions capable of strengthening intergroup trust and reducing the risk of recurring conflict (Firchow, 2022).

Within the Indonesian context, post-conflict reconstruction has often relied upon local wisdom and communal cultural values. The concept of local reconciliation through customary practices has been recognized as an effective mechanism for rebuilding interreligious and interethnic relations in conflict-affected regions such as Maluku and North Maluku (Waileruny, 2021). These approaches demonstrate that sociocultural integration remains central to rebuilding fragmented communities after communal violence.

Social Cohesion and Community Resilience

Social cohesion refers to the ability of a society to maintain harmonious social relationships, collective solidarity, and mutual trust among community members despite differences in identity, religion, or social background. According to Dragolov et al. (2022), social cohesion is characterized by social inclusion, institutional trust, cooperation, and shared social values that contribute to societal stability. In post-conflict societies, social cohesion becomes an important foundation for long-term peacebuilding because fragmented social relations may create vulnerabilities to renewed communal tensions.

Community resilience is closely related to the capacity of individuals and social groups to adapt, recover, and transform following social crises or violent conflict. Resilient communities generally possess strong social networks, collective participation, adaptive leadership, and institutional support systems that enable sustainable recovery processes (Keck & Sakdapolrak, 2021). In sociological perspectives, resilience is not only understood as survival capacity, but also as the ability of communities to reconstruct social identity and maintain social stability amid structural changes (Aldrich & Meyer, 2022).

Recent studies further indicate that social cohesion and community resilience are interconnected within post-conflict development processes. Communities with higher levels of social trust and participatory engagement tend to demonstrate stronger adaptive capacities and more sustainable recovery outcomes (Björkdahl & Kappler, 2023). Therefore, strengthening social cohesion through inclusive governance and participatory social interaction becomes essential for supporting long-term reconstruction in conflict-affected regions.

Sustainable Development in Post-Conflict Societies

Sustainable development in post-conflict areas involves multidimensional efforts to achieve social welfare, economic stability, environmental sustainability, and institutional inclusiveness while maintaining long-term peace. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emphasize that peace, justice, and strong institutions constitute fundamental components of sustainable development, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected regions (United Nations, 2023). Consequently, development policies in post-conflict societies must integrate social reconciliation, economic equality, and institutional strengthening simultaneously.

Scholars argue that post-conflict development frequently encounters structural obstacles such as poverty, social inequality, weak governance, and limited access to public services (Collier et al., 2021). Economic disparities and uneven resource distribution often intensify social tensions and undermine reconstruction efforts if development policies fail to address social justice comprehensively (Stewart, 2022). Furthermore, youth unemployment, marginalization, and limited educational access may increase social vulnerability and hinder long-term social integration in post-conflict communities (OECD, 2022).

In addition, sustainable development in post-conflict societies requires environmentally and culturally sensitive policies capable of protecting local resources and preserving indigenous social values. Development programs that neglect local cultural identity frequently generate social resistance and weaken community participation in reconstruction processes (Suharyanto & Yusuf, 2023). Therefore, sustainable development should not merely focus on economic growth, but also prioritize social inclusion, participatory governance, and cultural sustainability.

Local Wisdom and Peacebuilding

Local wisdom constitutes a system of values, norms, and cultural practices developed within communities and transmitted across generations. In sociological studies, local wisdom is often regarded as an important social mechanism for maintaining harmony, regulating social interaction, and resolving communal disputes (Haryanto, 2021). In post-conflict societies, local wisdom may function as an informal institution that strengthens reconciliation processes and facilitates the reconstruction of social trust among divided communities.

Research on peacebuilding in Indonesia demonstrates that customary institutions and local cultural values frequently play strategic roles in preventing recurring conflict and maintaining intergroup harmony (Latif & Ibrahim, 2022). Traditional reconciliation mechanisms are often perceived as more legitimate by local communities because they are culturally embedded and socially accepted within everyday interaction patterns. In North Maluku, the philosophy of Hibua Lamo has historically functioned as a symbol of kinship, solidarity, and communal unity among different religious and ethnic groups (Salim, 2023).

Recent studies further indicate that local wisdom-based peacebuilding contributes positively to strengthening community participation, reducing social prejudice, and reinforcing collective identity in post-conflict regions (Prasetyo & Hakim, 2024). Consequently, integrating local cultural values into sustainable development policies may enhance the effectiveness of social reconstruction and strengthen long-term social resilience in communities affected by communal conflict.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a qualitative research approach using a case study design to examine the dynamics of social reconstruction in Tobelo after the communal conflict and the challenges of sustainable development within post-conflict society. A qualitative approach was considered appropriate because the study aimed to explore social experiences, community interactions, collective meanings, and reconstruction processes occurring within the sociocultural context of Tobelo in depth and comprehensively. According to Creswell and Poth (2022), qualitative research enables researchers to understand social phenomena through participants' perspectives and lived experiences within natural settings. The case study design was selected because it allows detailed exploration of complex social conditions within a specific geographical and sociological context (Yin, 2021).

The research was conducted in Tobelo, North Halmahera Regency, Indonesia, which represents one of the post-conflict regions significantly affected by communal violence during the Maluku conflict. The study focused on examining post-conflict reconciliation processes, social integration, local wisdom practices, and sustainable development challenges experienced by the local community. Informants were selected using purposive sampling techniques because the research required participants possessing direct knowledge and experience regarding post-conflict social reconstruction (Campbell et al., 2021). The participants consisted of religious leaders, customary leaders, local government officials, youth representatives, community leaders, and residents directly affected by the conflict. A total of 15 informants were involved in this study to ensure data depth and variation of perspectives.

Data collection was conducted through in-depth interviews, participant observation, and documentation studies. In-depth interviews were used to obtain detailed information regarding community experiences, reconciliation processes, social interaction patterns, and perceptions toward sustainable development in Tobelo. Semi-structured interview guidelines were developed based on previous studies concerning post-conflict sociology, social cohesion, and sustainable development (Brinkmann & Kvale, 2021). Participant observation was conducted to examine community interactions, customary activities, and social participation within post-conflict social life. Documentation studies included government reports, local archives, previous research findings, news publications, and policy documents related to conflict recovery and regional development.

To ensure data validity and reliability, this study applied source triangulation, method triangulation, and member checking techniques. Triangulation was conducted by comparing interview findings, observational results, and documentary evidence to strengthen data credibility (Patton, 2021). Member checking was performed by reconfirming several interview findings with participants to ensure the accuracy and consistency of interpretations. Furthermore, prolonged engagement in the field and reflective note-taking were conducted to enhance the trustworthiness of the research process (Lincoln & Guba, 2021).

Data analysis employed an interactive qualitative analysis model consisting of data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. Interview recordings and field notes were first transcribed and categorized according to major themes related to social reconstruction, social cohesion, reconciliation, community resilience, and sustainable development challenges. Thematic analysis was then applied to identify recurring social patterns and sociological meanings emerging from participants' experiences (Braun & Clarke, 2022). The analysis process was conducted continuously throughout the research to allow deeper interpretation and conceptual refinement of the findings.

This study also considered research ethics throughout the entire research process. All participants were informed regarding the objectives of the study and voluntarily agreed to participate. Confidentiality and anonymity of participants were maintained to protect sensitive information associated with post-conflict experiences. Ethical considerations are particularly important in post-conflict sociological research because discussions involving communal violence and collective trauma may potentially affect participants psychologically (Mackenzie et al., 2021).

RESEARCH RESULTS

Post-Conflict Social Reconstruction in Tobelo

The findings of this study indicate that the process of social reconstruction in Tobelo has gradually developed through reconciliation initiatives, restoration of intercommunity communication, and the revitalization of local cultural values after the communal conflict. Although the conflict created deep social polarization between religious groups, the reconstruction process has shown significant progress through community participation, customary reconciliation mechanisms, and local government involvement.

Based on interviews with community leaders and religious figures, the restoration of social interaction among communities became one of the primary indicators of post-conflict recovery. Social relations that were previously characterized by suspicion and segregation gradually transformed into more cooperative interaction patterns through interreligious dialogue, collective cultural activities, and community-based economic cooperation. One religious leader explained:

“After the conflict, rebuilding trust was the most difficult process because people were still traumatized and afraid to interact openly. However, through dialogue and cultural gatherings, communities slowly began to accept each other again.” (Interview with Religious Leader, February 2026)

Similarly, a customary leader emphasized the importance of Hibua Lamo values in restoring social solidarity:

“The philosophy of Hibua Lamo reminds people that despite religious differences, we still belong to one cultural family. This value became the foundation for rebuilding social harmony after the conflict.” (Interview with Customary Leader, February 2026)

The findings demonstrate that local wisdom played a strategic role in reconstructing social cohesion. Traditional values emphasizing kinship, mutual respect, and collective responsibility functioned as informal social institutions that facilitated reconciliation among divided groups. Community gatherings, joint traditional ceremonies, and interfaith cooperation programs contributed significantly to reducing social distance within the community.

In addition, local government initiatives also supported reconstruction efforts through peacebuilding programs, social empowerment activities, and infrastructure rehabilitation. Nevertheless, several informants stated that institutional interventions were sometimes limited by administrative constraints and uneven policy implementation across villages.

Social Cohesion and Community Interaction

The study found that social cohesion in Tobelo has improved compared to the immediate post-conflict period, although several forms of social fragmentation remain visible. Most participants acknowledged that interreligious communication and social interaction have become more open in recent years. Community cooperation in economic activities, public celebrations, and educational programs has gradually strengthened intergroup relationships.

However, social segregation still persists in certain residential areas and social environments. Several participants explained that some communities continue to maintain informal boundaries influenced by collective memories of the conflict. A youth community representative stated:

“Young people today are more open to friendship across religious groups compared to older generations. However, there are still families who remain cautious because they experienced the violence directly.” (Interview with Youth Representative, February 2026)

The persistence of collective trauma was identified as one of the major challenges affecting social integration. Elderly community members and conflict survivors continue to experience emotional sensitivity when discussing issues related to religion and communal violence. This condition indirectly influences social trust and limits deeper interaction among certain groups. The following table summarizes the major dimensions of post-conflict social reconstruction identified in this study.

Table 1. Major Dimensions of Social Reconstruction in Post-Conflict Tobelo

No	Dimension of Reconstruction	Findings
1	Social Cohesion	Gradual improvement in intercommunity interaction and cooperation
2	Cultural Reintegration	Revitalization of Hibua Lamo values and customary reconciliation
3	Institutional Recovery	Government-led peacebuilding and infrastructure rehabilitation
4	Economic Collaboration	Emergence of joint community economic activities
5	Remaining Challenges	Collective trauma, social segregation, and institutional limitations

The findings indicate that post-conflict reconstruction in Tobelo is not entirely linear. While social interaction has improved significantly, emotional and psychological barriers continue to influence social dynamics within the community.

Challenges of Sustainable Development

This study also found that sustainable development in Tobelo faces multidimensional challenges related to economic inequality, institutional limitations, youth vulnerability, and uneven access to development opportunities. Although the region has experienced physical and economic recovery after the conflict, development outcomes remain uneven across different social groups.

Economic disparities were identified as one of the most significant issues affecting long-term social stability. Several participants explained that limited employment opportunities and unequal access to economic resources continue to create social dissatisfaction among local communities. One local government official stated:

“Infrastructure has improved, but economic development is still uneven. Some communities progress faster than others, and this sometimes creates social jealousy.” (Interview with Local Government Official, March 2026)

Youth vulnerability also emerged as an important concern within the findings. Limited employment opportunities, inadequate skills development, and restricted educational access contribute to social uncertainty among younger generations. Several informants expressed concern that economic frustration among youth could potentially weaken social resilience in the future.

Environmental and resource management issues were also identified as emerging challenges within sustainable development processes. Informants noted that increasing exploitation of natural resources and modernization pressures may threaten local cultural values and weaken traditional systems of social solidarity. A community leader explained:

“Development is important, but if local values disappear because of modernization, social unity can also weaken. Economic growth alone is not enough.” (Interview with Community Leader, March 2026)

The study further found that sustainable development in post-conflict societies requires not only economic growth, but also inclusive governance, participatory policymaking, and culturally sensitive development approaches. Development programs that fail to consider social cohesion and local cultural identity may potentially create new forms of social tension within post-conflict communities.

Community Resilience and Future Social Stability

Despite the existing challenges, the findings demonstrate that Tobelo possesses relatively strong community resilience supported by cultural solidarity, religious moderation, and participatory social interaction. Community resilience is reflected through collective efforts to maintain peace, prevent recurring conflict, and strengthen social cooperation among different groups. Religious institutions, customary leaders, youth organizations, and women’s groups were found to play important roles in sustaining social harmony within the region. Informants consistently emphasized that maintaining peace requires continuous dialogue, inclusive participation, and equal development opportunities across communities. The findings also reveal that long-term social stability in Tobelo depends heavily on the integration of reconciliation, social justice, and sustainable development policies. The reconstruction process therefore should not merely focus on post-conflict recovery, but also on strengthening institutional trust, social equality, and collective resilience capable of supporting sustainable peace within the community.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study demonstrate that social reconstruction in Tobelo after the communal conflict reflects a complex sociological process involving reconciliation, cultural reintegration, institutional recovery, and community adaptation toward sustainable peace. The reconstruction process observed in Tobelo confirms that post-conflict recovery cannot be interpreted solely as the restoration of physical infrastructure, but must also involve the rebuilding of social trust, collective identity, and participatory interaction among divided groups. This finding is consistent with the argument of Paris and Sisk (2022), who explain that sustainable peace in post-conflict societies largely depends on the reconstruction of social legitimacy and intercommunity trust rather than merely political stabilization.

The gradual improvement of social cohesion identified in this study indicates that reconciliation mechanisms based on local cultural values possess significant sociological effectiveness in restoring fractured social relations. The revitalization of Hibua Lamo as a shared cultural identity functioned as an informal social institution capable of reducing social distance and rebuilding collective solidarity among religious communities. This finding supports the communitarian perspective proposed by Etzioni (2021), which emphasizes that shared moral values and communal identity play fundamental roles in

strengthening social integration within plural societies. In the context of Tobelo, local wisdom became a symbolic and practical mechanism for reconstructing social harmony after prolonged communal violence.

The role of customary institutions and interreligious dialogue identified in this study also reinforces previous research stating that local peacebuilding mechanisms tend to be more socially accepted because they emerge from culturally embedded practices and collective historical experiences (Murshed, 2022). Unlike formal state-centered reconciliation approaches, community-based reconciliation in Tobelo allowed social recovery to occur through participatory interaction and emotional reintegration among community members. This condition demonstrates that sociocultural approaches remain highly relevant within post-conflict development strategies, particularly in societies characterized by strong communal identities.

Nevertheless, the findings further reveal that social reconstruction in Tobelo remains incomplete due to the persistence of collective trauma and informal social segregation. Although overt conflict has diminished significantly, emotional sensitivity and distrust continue to shape interaction patterns within certain community groups. According to Volkan (2021), collective trauma frequently persists across generations and influences social behavior long after physical violence has ended. The continued existence of psychological barriers within the Tobelo community indicates that post-conflict reconciliation requires long-term social and emotional healing processes beyond institutional agreements alone.

The persistence of social segregation identified in several residential and social environments also reflects the concept of “fragile peace,” in which communities may coexist peacefully on the surface while underlying social divisions remain unresolved (Jarstad & Söderström, 2023). This condition suggests that sustainable peacebuilding requires continuous social engagement capable of transforming passive coexistence into genuine social integration. Therefore, strengthening everyday intergroup interaction through education, youth collaboration, and community participation becomes essential in preventing the re-emergence of social polarization within post-conflict societies.

From the perspective of sustainable development, this study found that economic inequality and uneven development remain major challenges affecting long-term social stability in Tobelo. The findings indicate that unequal access to employment opportunities, education, and economic resources may potentially weaken social cohesion and generate dissatisfaction among marginalized groups. These results align with the structural inequality theory proposed by Wilkinson and Pickett (2022), which argues that unequal social and economic conditions contribute significantly to social tension, weakened trust, and declining collective solidarity within communities.

Furthermore, the vulnerability experienced by youth groups in Tobelo demonstrates that sustainable development within post-conflict societies requires greater attention toward generational inclusion and social mobility. Young people represent an important social group in maintaining long-term peace because they possess significant influence over future patterns of social interaction and community identity. However, limited employment opportunities and restricted access to educational development may increase social frustration and weaken community resilience. This finding supports the study of Cramer (2021), which emphasizes that youth marginalization in post-conflict regions often contributes to renewed instability and declining social participation.

Another important finding of this study concerns the relationship between modernization and cultural sustainability within post-conflict communities. Although modernization and infrastructure development contribute positively to economic recovery, several participants expressed concern regarding the weakening of traditional values and social solidarity caused by rapid social change. This condition illustrates the sociological tension between modernization and cultural preservation within developing societies. According to Giddens and Sutton (2021), modernization frequently transforms traditional social structures and may weaken communal relationships if development processes are not accompanied by cultural adaptation mechanisms. In Tobelo, preserving local wisdom such as Hibua Lamo therefore becomes essential not only for cultural identity, but also for maintaining social resilience amid developmental transformation.

The findings also indicate that community resilience in Tobelo has developed through collective participation, religious moderation, and adaptive social interaction. The active involvement of customary leaders, religious institutions, women's groups, and youth organizations demonstrates that community resilience is socially constructed through collaborative social networks rather than individual adaptation alone. This finding is consistent with social resilience theory, which explains that resilient communities generally possess strong social capital, participatory institutions, and collective trust capable of supporting social recovery after crises (Hall & Lamont, 2022).

In addition, this study contributes to sociological discussions by demonstrating that sustainable development and post-conflict reconstruction are deeply interconnected processes. Social stability cannot be maintained solely through economic growth or infrastructure development without strengthening social justice, institutional trust, and cultural integration simultaneously. Similarly, reconciliation efforts may become fragile if development inequalities continue to marginalize certain social groups within post-conflict communities. Therefore, the Tobelo case illustrates that sustainable peacebuilding requires integrated approaches combining reconciliation, inclusive governance, equitable development, and cultural preservation.

The novelty of this study lies in its sociological analysis of the interconnected relationship between post-conflict social reconstruction and sustainable development within the local context of Tobelo. Unlike previous studies that primarily emphasized conflict resolution or cultural reconciliation separately, this research demonstrates how social cohesion, economic justice, local wisdom, and participatory governance collectively influence long-term community resilience in post-conflict society. Consequently, this study provides broader theoretical and practical insights regarding sustainable reconstruction strategies for conflict-affected communities in Indonesia and other multicultural societies.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study concludes that the process of social reconstruction in Tobelo after the communal conflict has gradually strengthened social cohesion through interreligious reconciliation, customary peace mechanisms, and community participation rooted in the local philosophy of Hibua Lamo. The findings indicate that local wisdom, participatory interaction, and collective cultural identity played important roles in restoring social trust and rebuilding relationships among divided communities. Nevertheless, several challenges continue to affect the sustainability of post-conflict recovery, including collective trauma, social segregation, economic inequality, youth vulnerability, and institutional limitations. The study also reveals that sustainable development in post-conflict societies cannot rely solely on economic recovery and infrastructure development, but must simultaneously prioritize social justice, inclusive governance, cultural preservation, and community resilience to maintain long-term peace and social integration.

Based on these findings, this study recommends that local governments, community institutions, and policymakers strengthen participatory peacebuilding programs involving religious leaders, customary institutions, youth organizations, and civil society groups in sustaining social harmony within Tobelo. Development policies should focus on reducing economic disparities, improving educational and employment opportunities for young people, and strengthening inclusive social participation across community groups. Furthermore, culturally sensitive development approaches integrating local wisdom into social and economic policies are necessary to preserve social cohesion amid modernization and developmental transformation. Continuous intercommunity dialogue and community empowerment programs are also essential to preventing the re-emergence of social fragmentation and supporting sustainable peace within post-conflict society.

ADVANCED RESEARCH

Future studies are recommended to examine post-conflict social reconstruction using broader approaches, such as quantitative or mixed-method research, to measure social cohesion and community resilience more comprehensively. Comparative studies involving other post-conflict regions in Indonesia are also important to develop more effective and sustainable peacebuilding and development models.

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