

## **The Human Security Implications of Operation Restore Order on Urban Habitation in Zimbabwe**

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**KEYWORDS** Operation Restore Order. 'Murambatsvina'. Responsibility to Protect (R2P) Human Security. Urban Habitation. Socio-economic Consequences

**ABSTRACT** This paper examines how the 2005 Operation Restore Order, popularly known as *Murambatsvina*, impacted on the key facets of human security on urban habitation in Zimbabwe. Precisely, the paper examines the humanitarian consequences of the clean up exercise from the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and human security dimensions. By applying one of the key principles of the R2P mandate, namely, 'the responsibility to rebuild', the study explored the extent to which the government of Zimbabwe delivered its R2P mandate of protecting its people from the unintended consequences of the Clean Up exercise. Utilising the case study research strategy and guided by the R2P theoretical framework, the study sought to investigate and gather artefacts of the 2005 clean up exercise from four locations in the city of Harare. Purposive sampling was employed in order to gather primary data from people who experienced and were directly affected by *Murambatsvina*. Semi-structured interviews and structural observations revealed that the government of Zimbabwe did not fulfil its promises to *Murambatsvina* victims, as outlined in the R2P mandate. From the findings, we conclude that, in the absence of international intervention, operation restore order ended up inflicting more negative socio-economic consequences on urban inhabitants in Zimbabwe.