

**Emerging Trends
in
Conflict Resolution, Peace
and
Strategic Studies**

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the Almighty God, the creator of the heavens and the earth who gave all the inspiration, ability and resources to package this works together as an invaluable asset to the academic world.

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We give all glory and praise to the Almighty God from whom all blessings flow and from whom we derived the direction to bring out this work.

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FOREWORD

Conflict is inevitable in any society. Thus, there is need for strategic methods for its resolution to ensure sustained peace. *Emerging Trends in Conflict Resolution, Peace and Strategic Studies*: is an attempt by the authors to analyze and furnish students, and others with the emerging trends in conflict resolution, peace and strategic studies.

The book gives clear insights on practical strategies in conflict resolution. It addresses linguistic strategies, the effective role of women, religion and third party, the role of youths, national security, terrorism, the role of technology among several other strategies for conflict resolution and peace, particularly in Nigeria.

A major strength of this advance book on *Emerging Trends in Conflict Resolution, Peace and Strategic Studies* is that it has succeeded in assembling and analyzing practical strategies in conflict resolution and peace building that can be widely applied. The Book is well edited and organized into different chapters.

Ultimately, the Book provides clear insight to readers, and serve as working tool for government and other security agencies on practical methods in conflict resolution and peace building. I wish to commend the contributors of the various chapters, and particularly the editors, for embarking on this very noble assignment and recommend the book to all students, scholars, government(s) and security agencies.

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CHAPTER 1

HUMAN SECURITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PARAMETERS IN THE 21ST CENTURY: POLICIES, CHALLENGES AND PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

Jacob Eneji Ashibi*

INTRODUCTION

The concept of human security has evolved significantly from its traditional focus on state-centric military threats to a more holistic approach that prioritizes the protection and well-being of individuals. This shift, emerging prominently in the post-Cold War era, recognizes that threats to security extend beyond armed conflict to include pervasive and critical threats such as poverty, disease, environmental degradation, and economic instability (United Nations Development Programme, 1994). In the 21st century, socio-economic indices such as income, education, health, and employment have become essential indicators of human security, reflecting a comprehensive understanding of what it means to be secure.

In Nigeria, the relevance of this broadened concept of human security is particularly pronounced. As Africa's most populous country, Nigeria faces an array of socio-economic challenges that directly impact the security and well-being of its citizens. Despite its vast natural resources and significant economic potential, Nigeria struggles with high levels of poverty, unemployment, and inequality. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (2020), about 40% of Nigeria's population lives below the national poverty line. This widespread poverty is not just an economic issue but a severe human security threat, as it exacerbates

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vulnerabilities to other forms of insecurity, including food insecurity, poor health outcomes, and limited access to education.

Education is a critical socio-economic parameter influencing human security in Nigeria. The country's education system is plagued by underfunding, poor infrastructure, and significant disparities in access. The literacy rate, though improving, remains a concern, with substantial gender disparities further complicating the situation (UNICEF, 2020). In regions affected by insurgency, such as the Northeast, educational attainment is severely hindered by ongoing conflict and instability, depriving young people of opportunities and perpetuating cycles of poverty and insecurity (Amnesty International, 2020). Health is another crucial dimension of human security. Nigeria's healthcare system faces numerous challenges, including inadequate funding, insufficient healthcare facilities, and a shortage of medical professionals. These issues contribute to poor health outcomes, with life expectancy in Nigeria among the lowest in the world at just 54.3 years (World Health Organization [WHO], 2020). Infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS remain prevalent, while non-communicable diseases are on the rise. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed the fragility of Nigeria's healthcare system, highlighting the urgent need for reforms to improve health security (NCDC, 2021).

In light of these challenges, the Nigerian government, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations are working to implement policies and initiatives aimed at improving socio-economic conditions and enhancing human security. For example, the National Social Investment Programmes (NSIP) aim to reduce poverty and promote economic development through initiatives such as conditional cash transfers, school feeding programs, and youth empowerment schemes (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2020). These efforts, while promising, require sustained commitment and coordination to address the root causes of insecurity and promote sustainable development. Human security, with its emphasis on protecting individuals from a broad range of threats, provides a valuable framework for understanding and addressing the complex socio-economic challenges facing Nigeria. By

focusing on key socio-economic parameters such as income, education, health, and employment, and by implementing comprehensive and integrated policies, Nigeria can enhance human security and pave the way for sustainable development in the 21st century.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this study is grounded in the human security paradigm, which broadens the concept of security to include economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political security (United Nations Development Programme, 1994). Additionally, socio-economic theories, such as modernization theory and dependency theory, provide insights into how economic and social development can impact human security.

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 1994), the human security paradigm expands the traditional notion of security beyond military and state-centric concerns to include a broader range of threats to individual well-being. This paradigm encompasses economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political security, thereby recognizing that human security is multidimensional and interconnected. These forms of human security are discussed independently thus:

- i. **Economic Security:** Economic security refers to having a stable income and access to resources necessary for a decent standard of living. In the Nigerian context, economic security is crucial due to widespread poverty, unemployment, and economic inequality. These factors directly affect individuals' ability to afford basic necessities, access education, and healthcare, and maintenance of a stable livelihood.
- ii. **Food Security:** Food security involves consistent access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food. In Nigeria, food security is often compromised by factors such as climate change, conflict, insurgency and economic instability. Ensuring food security is essential for overall human security as it impacts health, productivity, and social stability.
- iii. **Health Security:** Health security encompasses protection from diseases and access to healthcare services. Nigeria faces significant challenges in this area, including

inadequate healthcare infrastructure, high rates of infectious diseases, and insufficient public health funding. Enhancing health security is vital for improving life expectancy and overall quality of life.

- iv. **Environmental Security:** Environmental security addresses the protection of individuals from environmental hazards such as pollution, natural disasters, and resource depletion. Nigeria's environmental challenges include oil spills, deforestation, and water scarcity. Addressing these issues is necessary to safeguard the health and livelihoods of communities.
- v. **Personal Security:** Personal security involves protection from physical violence and threats. In Nigeria, personal security is a major concern due to high rates of crime, insurgency, and communal conflicts. Strengthening personal security requires effective law enforcement, conflict resolution, and community policing strategies.
- vi. **Community Security:** Community security focuses on the protection of communities from ethnic, religious, and social conflicts. Nigeria's diverse population often experiences tensions along these lines, leading to violence and displacement. Promoting social cohesion and inclusive development is crucial for community security.
- vii. **Political Security:** Political security involves ensuring that individuals have the freedom to participate in political processes and are protected from state repression and human rights abuses. Nigeria's political landscape is characterized by issues such as corruption, electoral violence, and limited political freedoms. Strengthening democratic institutions and ensuring political rights are fundamental to political security.

Socio-economic Theories

To complement the human security paradigm, socio-economic theories such as modernization theory and dependency theory offer valuable insights into the relationship between economic and social development and human security.

- a. **Modernization Theory:** Modernization theory posits that economic development leads to social and political progress. It suggests that as countries industrialize and modernize, they experience improvements in living standards, education, and governance. Applying this theory to Nigeria, economic growth and technological advancement could potentially enhance human security by creating jobs, improving infrastructure, and expanding access to services.
- b. **Dependency Theory:** In contrast, dependency theory argues that underdevelopment in some countries is a result of their exploitation and dependence on more developed nations. This theory highlights the structural inequalities in the global economy that hinder sustainable development in countries like Nigeria. It suggests that addressing these imbalances through equitable trade practices, debt relief, and investment in local industries is essential for improving socio-economic conditions and human security.

In the Nigerian context, integrating the human security paradigm with socio-economic theories provides a comprehensive framework for understanding and addressing the complex challenges facing the country. Policies aimed at enhancing human security must consider the multi-dimensional nature of threats and the socio-economic factors that exacerbate them.

- i. **Economic Policies:** To improve economic security, policies should focus on job creation, poverty alleviation, and equitable distribution of resources. This includes investing in education, healthcare, and infrastructure to create a conducive environment for sustainable development.
- ii. **Food and Health Policies:** Ensuring food and health security requires robust agricultural policies, public health initiatives, and infrastructure development. Efforts should be made to enhance agricultural productivity, improve healthcare access, and address environmental issues that impact food and health security.
- iii. **Environmental and Personal Security Policies:** Environmental protection and personal security can be enhanced through stringent environmental regulations, community policing, and conflict resolution mechanisms. Addressing environmental

degradation and promoting sustainable practices are crucial for long-term human security.

- iv. **Community and Political Security Policies:** Promoting social cohesion and political stability involves implementing inclusive development policies, strengthening democratic institutions, and ensuring that all citizens have equal political rights and opportunities. Efforts to reduce corruption, enhance transparency, and promote participatory governance are essential for political security.

Current Socio-economic Conditions in Nigeria

Nigeria, with its vast resources and large population, presents a complex socio-economic landscape. Despite being one of the largest economies in Africa, Nigeria grapples with significant socio-economic challenges. Key socio-economic indicators such as GDP, employment rates, education levels, and health outcomes reveal a nation struggling with deep-seated issues of poverty, inequality, and underdevelopment.

Nigeria's GDP grew by 2.98% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2024, an increase from 2.31% in the same period in 2023. The services sector was the main driver, growing by 4.32% and contributing 58.04% to the aggregate GDP. The agriculture sector grew by 0.18%, while the industry sector saw a growth of 2.19% (NBS, 2024). Also, the World Bank (2024) maintained that Nigeria's inflation reached a 24-year high of 31.7% in February 2024.

This high inflation rate has significantly impacted the purchasing power of Nigerians, pushing millions into poverty. The poverty rate is estimated at 38.9%, with approximately 87 million Nigerians living below the poverty line. This makes Nigeria home to the world's second-largest poor population after India. Besides, Nigeria's human capital index remains low, with children born in 2020 expected to be only 36% as productive as they could be if they had full access to health and education. This places Nigeria among the countries with the lowest human capital index globally.

Demographic Overview

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, with over 200 million people. This demographic reality presents both opportunities and challenges for socio-economic development. The youthful population could be a potential asset for economic growth, but only if adequate investments are made in education, health, and employment opportunities (World Bank, 2020). Nigeria's economy is heavily dependent on oil, which accounts for a significant portion of its GDP and government revenue. This dependence on oil has made the economy vulnerable to global oil price fluctuations. Additionally, there is a large informal sector that is often overlooked in official economic statistics (International Monetary Fund, 2020).

Nigeria's social indicators paint a grim picture. According to the World Health Organization (2020), life expectancy in Nigeria is just 54.3 years. Education levels are also concerning, with a literacy rate of 62% and significant gender disparities in educational attainment (UNICEF, 2020). The healthcare system is underfunded and overburdened, contributing to poor health outcomes.

Infrastructure development in Nigeria has been uneven, with significant gaps in transportation, energy, and telecommunications. While there have been improvements in access to mobile phones and the internet, rural areas remain underserved (Nigerian Communications Commission, 2020).

Challenges to Human Security in Nigeria

Nigeria faces numerous challenges that threaten human security. These challenges are multifaceted and interconnected, requiring comprehensive and coordinated responses.

Poverty and Inequality

Poverty remains a pervasive issue in Nigeria, with approximately 40% of the population living below the national poverty line (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). Income inequality is also a significant concern, with a Gini coefficient of 0.35, indicating a high level of income disparity (World Bank, 2020).

Poverty and inequality are pervasive issues that significantly undermine human security in Nigeria. Despite being one of Africa's largest economies, Nigeria has a high poverty rate, with approximately 40% of the population living below the poverty line. Income inequality exacerbates the situation, with wealth concentrated in the hands of a few while the majority struggle to meet basic needs. The rural-urban divide also contributes to this disparity, as rural areas often lack access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure, further entrenching poverty.

Health Crises and Epidemics

Nigeria's healthcare system is ill-equipped to handle the numerous health crises it faces. The country is plagued by infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS. The COVID-19 pandemic has further strained an already fragile healthcare system (World Health Organization, 2020). Health crises and epidemics pose significant threats to human security in Nigeria.

Additionally, Nigeria has experienced outbreaks of diseases like COVID-19 and, more recently, Lassa fever, which have strained the healthcare system. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Nigeria has one of the highest burdens of malaria in the world, affecting millions annually. The healthcare infrastructure is often inadequate, with limited access to quality medical care, particularly in rural areas, further compromising health security.

Political Instability and Governance Issues

The August 2024 nationwide protest was essentially triggered by Political instability and poor governance which has been persistent issues in Nigeria. Corruption, lack of transparency, and weak institutions undermine the effectiveness of government policies and erode public trust (Transparency International, 2020). Political instability and governance issues are critical challenges to human security in Nigeria. The country has a history of political turmoil, including military coups, electoral violence, and corruption. Governance challenges are evident in the weak institutional framework, lack of transparency, and widespread corruption,

which undermine the rule of law and the effective delivery of public services. These issues erode public trust in government institutions and hinder sustainable development efforts.

Environmental Degradation and Climate Change

Environmental issues such as deforestation, desertification, and pollution pose significant threats to human security in Nigeria. Climate change exacerbates these issues, leading to more frequent and severe weather events, which disproportionately affect vulnerable populations (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2020). It leads to more frequent and severe weather events such as floods and droughts, which threaten food security and livelihoods. The Niger Delta region, in particular, suffers from environmental degradation due to oil spills and gas flaring, which have devastating effects on local communities and ecosystems.

Crime, Violence, and Insecurity

Nigeria experiences high levels of crime and violence, including terrorism, armed robbery, and kidnapping. The Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast has caused widespread displacement and insecurity, affecting millions of people (Amnesty International, 2020). Crime, violence, and insecurity are pervasive threats to human security in Nigeria. The country grapples with various forms of violence, including terrorism, armed banditry, kidnapping, and communal clashes. The Boko Haram insurgency in the Northeast has led to significant loss of life, displacement of communities, and destruction of property. In addition, widespread criminal activities such as armed robbery and kidnapping for ransom create an atmosphere of fear and insecurity. The inadequate response from security agencies and the judiciary's inefficiencies further exacerbates the problem, leaving many Nigerians vulnerable.

Impact of Nigeria's Socio-economic Conditions on Human Security

The socio-economic conditions in Nigeria have a profound impact on human security. Economic stability, education, healthcare, and employment are crucial for enhancing human security and promoting sustainable development.

Economic Stability

Economic stability is essential for human security as it provides individuals with the means to meet their basic needs and improve their quality of life. However, Nigeria's economy is characterized by volatility and uncertainty, which undermines human security (International Monetary Fund, 2020). Economic stability is a critical component of human security, as it ensures that individuals and communities have the means to meet their basic needs and live with dignity. In Nigeria, economic instability significantly undermines human security. The country has experienced fluctuations in economic growth, often linked to its heavy reliance on oil exports. When global oil prices fall, Nigeria's economy suffers, leading to reduced government revenue, cuts in public spending, and increased poverty rates.

For instance, during the oil price crash in 2016, Nigeria's GDP contracted by 1.6%, pushing the country into recession for the first time in 25 years (World Bank, 2017). This economic downturn exacerbated poverty and unemployment, impacting millions of Nigerians. Economic instability also leads to inflation, which erodes purchasing power and makes it difficult for families to afford basic necessities such as food, housing, and healthcare. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Nigeria's inflation rate stood at 16.47% in January 2021, the highest in over three years (NBS, 2021).

Education and Healthcare

Education and healthcare are fundamental to human security. Higher levels of education are associated with better health outcomes, higher incomes, and greater social mobility. Conversely, poor health and lack of access to education limit opportunities and perpetuate cycles of poverty and insecurity (UNESCO, 2020). Access to quality education and healthcare is fundamental to human security. In Nigeria, socioeconomic challenges severely hinder the delivery of these essential services. The education sector suffers from inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, and a lack of qualified teachers, particularly in rural areas. As a result, literacy rates remain low, and many children, especially girls, are out of school. According to UNICEF, 10.5 million children in Nigeria are out of school, the highest number in the world

(UNICEF, 2021). As of May 2024, the number of out-of-school children in Nigeria has reached 18.3 million, according to UNICEF. This alarming figure places Nigeria as the country with the highest number of out-of-school children globally. The issue is attributed to various factors, including inadequate policies, limited budget allocation, teacher and classroom shortages, poor infrastructure, cultural norms, health and safety concerns, and child labour. Only 63% of primary school-age children regularly attend school, and merely 84% transition to junior secondary education after completing primary school (Vanguard News, 2024).

Healthcare in Nigeria faces similar challenges. The country has one of the highest maternal and infant mortality rates globally, attributed to inadequate healthcare facilities, insufficient medical personnel, and limited access to essential medicines (WHO, 2021). The COVID-19 pandemic further strained Nigeria's fragile healthcare system, exposing its vulnerabilities and highlighting the urgent need for reforms.

Employment and Economic Opportunities

Employment provides individuals with the means to support themselves and their families, contributing to economic stability and social cohesion. However, high unemployment rates, particularly among young people, pose a significant threat to human security in Nigeria (International Labour Organization, 2020). Employment and economic opportunities are vital for improving living standards and promoting human security. However, Nigeria struggles with high unemployment and underemployment rates, which exacerbate poverty and social inequality.

According to the NBS (2020), the unemployment rate in Nigeria rose to 33.3% in the fourth quarter of 2020, the second highest in the world. Youth unemployment is particularly alarming, as it fosters feelings of frustration and hopelessness, potentially leading to increased crime and social unrest. The lack of economic opportunities also forces many Nigerians into the informal sector, which is characterized by low wages, poor working conditions, and a lack

of social protection. This precarious employment situation leaves workers vulnerable to exploitation and limits their ability to contribute to national development.

Urbanization and Rural Development

Urbanization presents both opportunities and challenges for human security in Nigeria. While cities offer greater economic opportunities and access to services, they also face issues such as overcrowding, increased crime rates, inadequate infrastructure, and social inequalities. Rural areas, on the other hand, often lack basic services and economic opportunities, leading to rural-urban migration (United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2020).

Rapid urbanization in Nigeria has created significant challenges for human security. While cities like Lagos and Abuja have experienced substantial economic growth, this has not translated into improved living conditions for all residents. Urban areas face issues such as overcrowding, inadequate housing, poor sanitation, and limited access to clean water. These conditions contribute to the spread of diseases and negatively impact the quality of life (UN-Habitat, 2020).

Conversely, rural areas in Nigeria suffer from underdevelopment and neglect. Many rural communities lack basic infrastructure such as roads, electricity, and clean water. This disparity between urban and rural areas perpetuates a cycle of poverty and limits opportunities for rural inhabitants.

Policies and Initiatives for Enhancing Human Security

To enhance human security in Nigeria, a multifaceted approach is required, involving the individuals, government, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Individual Roles

Enhancing human security in Nigeria necessitates a multifaceted approach, with individuals playing a pivotal role in this endeavour. One fundamental way individuals can contribute is through education and awareness. Promoting literacy and education is essential, as it equips individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to improve their socio-economic conditions

and make informed decisions. Volunteers, donors, and local advocates can significantly impact by supporting schools, providing educational materials, and participating in adult education programs. Raising awareness about human rights and security issues through social media, community meetings, and local organizations can build a more informed and vigilant society, capable of addressing security concerns effectively (UNDP, 1994; Sen, 1999).

Community engagement and advocacy are also critical. Active participation in local governance enables individuals to influence security measures, infrastructure, and service provision at the grassroots level. Community members can advocate for better public services and infrastructure improvements, which directly impact human security. Additionally, supporting vulnerable groups such as the elderly, disabled, and other marginalized populations enhances communal resilience. Through community support activities, individuals can provide essential aid and foster a sense of solidarity and mutual assistance, which is crucial during times of crisis (World Bank, 2011).

Economic participation plays a vital role in enhancing human security. By fostering entrepreneurship and job creation, individuals contribute to economic stability and poverty reduction. Supporting local businesses and promoting fair trade and ethical practices ensures that economic activities are sustainable and do not exploit workers or harm the environment. Economic security reduces poverty and increases access to essential resources, thereby enhancing overall human security (Sen, 1999; UNDP, 2014). Health and well-being are central to human security. Individuals can participate in public health initiatives, support vaccination drives, and volunteer in health services. Ensuring good health is fundamental for human security, as it enables individuals to lead productive lives. Mental health support is equally important; reducing the stigma associated with mental health issues and providing support services can improve community well-being. Health education and preventive measures can mitigate health risks and enhance overall resilience (WHO, 2015).

Environmental sustainability is another crucial aspect. Engaging in activities such as tree planting, waste management, and advocating for policies that protect the environment can

mitigate risks associated with environmental degradation. Adopting sustainable practices in daily life, such as reducing waste and conserving water, helps protect the environment and ensures long-term human security. Individuals can lead by example and inspire others to adopt environmentally friendly practices, contributing to a healthier and more sustainable environment (UNDP, 2014).

Legal and social justice advocacy are essential for enhancing human security. Individuals can support legal reforms, participate in human rights organizations, and advocate for policies that promote social justice and equality. Promoting peaceful conflict resolution and tolerance within communities can reduce violence and enhance social cohesion. By standing up against injustice and discrimination, individuals can help create a more equitable society where everyone's rights are protected (Amartya Sen, 1999).

Personal responsibility and preparedness are also key components. Being vigilant and adopting personal security measures, such as participating in neighbourhood watch programs, can enhance individual and community safety. Emergency preparedness, including having plans and supplies ready, can mitigate the impact of disasters and enhance resilience. Personal actions, when collectively adopted, can significantly improve the overall security and stability of communities (WHO, 2015; UNDP, 2014).

Government Policies and Programs

The Nigerian government has implemented various policies and programs aimed at improving socio-economic conditions and enhancing human security. These include the National Social Investment Programmes (NSIP), the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP), and various sector-specific policies in health, education, and agriculture (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2020). Additionally, one of the key policies is the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), which was introduced in 2003. NEEDS focuses on poverty reduction, wealth creation, employment generation, and value re-orientation, aiming to improve the socio-economic conditions of Nigerians. This program targets the provision of

essential services such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure, which are critical components of human security (National Planning Commission, 2004).

Another significant initiative is the Social Investment Programmes (SIPs), launched in 2016, which include the N-Power Program, Government Enterprise and Empowerment Program (GEEP), and the National Home-Grown School Feeding Program (NHGSFP). These programs aim to reduce poverty and unemployment, enhance food security, and improve the health and education of vulnerable groups. For instance, the NHGSFP provides nutritious meals to schoolchildren, thereby enhancing their health and educational outcomes (Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning, 2017). The Nigerian government has also focused on improving security through the establishment of various security agencies and the enhancement of existing ones. The creation of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) is one such measure aimed at complementing the efforts of the police in maintaining internal security. The NSCDC has been instrumental in protecting critical national assets and infrastructure, thereby contributing to human security (Oyewole, 2016).

Role of International Organizations and NGOs

International organizations and NGOs play a crucial role in supporting human security in Nigeria. They provide financial assistance, technical expertise, and capacity-building support to various sectors. Key organizations include the United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and numerous international NGOs (United Nations Development Programme, 2020).

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been actively involved in various initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable development and human security. One of the notable programs is the UNDP's support for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria. The UNDP collaborates with the Nigerian government to address issues such as poverty, health, education, and gender equality, which are essential for human security (UNDP, 2018). The World Bank has also contributed significantly through its various projects aimed at improving economic stability and reducing poverty. For instance,

the World Bank's Nigeria Country Partnership Strategy focuses on promoting economic diversification, reducing poverty, and improving governance. These efforts are aimed at creating a more secure and prosperous environment for all Nigerians (World Bank, 2019).

NGOs such as the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) provide critical humanitarian assistance in conflict-affected areas of Nigeria. These organizations offer healthcare, education, and livelihood support to displaced persons and vulnerable communities, thereby enhancing their human security. For example, MSF's medical interventions in the northeast region of Nigeria have been pivotal in addressing the health needs of communities affected by the Boko Haram insurgency (MSF, 2017).

Case Studies of Successful Interventions

There have been several successful interventions in Nigeria that have enhanced human security. These initiatives aimed at improving agricultural productivity and food security have had positive impacts on rural livelihoods (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2020). One of the successful interventions in enhancing human security in Nigeria is the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program under the National Social Safety Nets Project (NASSP). This program provides cash transfers to poor and vulnerable households, conditional on school attendance and healthcare utilization. The CCT program has significantly improved the living conditions of beneficiaries by providing financial support and encouraging access to essential services (Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, 2020).

Another notable case is the Integrated Health Program (IHP), funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The IHP aims to strengthen the health system in Nigeria by improving the quality of primary healthcare services and increasing access to essential health services. The program has successfully enhanced maternal and child health outcomes, contributing to the overall human security of the affected populations (USAID, 2020). The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) provide an example of regional collaboration in addressing security

challenges. These organizations work together to combat the Boko Haram insurgency and restore stability in the Lake Chad region. Their efforts have led to improved security and facilitated the return of displaced persons to their communities, thereby enhancing human security in the region (LCBC, 2018).

Pathways to Sustainable Development in Nigeria

Achieving sustainable development in Nigeria necessitates strategic approaches that effectively integrate human security and socio-economic development. Human security, encompassing economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political security, is fundamental for sustainable development. The United Nations Development Programme (2020) emphasizes the importance of addressing the root causes of insecurity and underdevelopment through a holistic approach that integrates economic, social, and environmental dimensions. In Nigeria, this means tackling poverty, unemployment, and inequality while ensuring access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and clean water.

Innovative solutions and best practices from around the world offer valuable insights for enhancing human security in Nigeria. Technology plays a crucial role in this context. For instance, the use of digital tools in education can bridge the gap in access to quality learning, especially in remote areas. Telemedicine and mobile health applications can significantly improve healthcare access and outcomes, particularly in underserved regions. Moreover, community-based approaches to development, as highlighted by UNESCO (2020), empower local communities, foster participation, and promote ownership of development projects, thereby ensuring their sustainability.

Community-based and participatory development models are essential for addressing local needs and priorities effectively. According to the International Institute for Environment and Development (2020), involving local communities in the planning and implementation of development projects enhances the responsiveness of these initiatives to the specific needs of the communities. This participatory approach not only ensures that development projects are

more relevant and effective but also promotes a sense of ownership and accountability among community members, which is critical for the sustainability of development efforts.

Sustainable economic growth strategies are vital for achieving long-term development goals in Nigeria. Promoting economic diversification is crucial to reduce dependence on oil and enhance resilience to economic shocks. Improving infrastructure, such as roads, electricity, and internet connectivity, is necessary to create an enabling environment for businesses and attract investment. Additionally, investing in education and skills development is essential to equip the workforce with the capabilities needed for a modern economy. Supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and fostering innovation and entrepreneurship are also key strategies highlighted by the African Development Bank (2020) to drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

In conclusion, integrating human security and socio-economic development in Nigeria requires a multifaceted and holistic approach. By addressing the root causes of insecurity and underdevelopment, leveraging innovative solutions, involving communities in development processes, and promoting sustainable economic growth, Nigeria can pave the way towards sustainable development. Implementing these strategic approaches will enhance human security, improve socio-economic outcomes, and contribute to the overall well-being of the population.

Future Directions for Action

To strengthen human security and promote sustainable development in Nigeria, several key recommendations are proposed, focusing on policy, socio-economic planning, institutional capacity, and resilience strategies. These recommendations aim to create a more inclusive, secure, and sustainable future for Nigeria.

Enhancing social protection systems is a critical policy recommendation to safeguard vulnerable populations. This includes expanding social safety nets, such as unemployment benefits, food assistance, and healthcare subsidies, to protect individuals from economic shocks and improve their quality of life. Improving access to quality education and healthcare

is essential for human capital development and long-term socio-economic growth. Education policies should focus on increasing enrolment rates, reducing dropout rates, and improving the quality of education through teacher training and curriculum development. Healthcare policies should prioritize the expansion of healthcare infrastructure, training of healthcare professionals, and ensuring the availability of essential medicines. Promoting inclusive economic growth involves creating opportunities for all segments of society, including women, youth, and marginalized communities. This can be achieved through targeted support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), vocational training programs, and policies that encourage entrepreneurship. Strengthening governance and institutions is crucial for effective policy implementation and the promotion of human security. This involves enhancing the capacity of government institutions, improving public service delivery, and ensuring the rule of law (World Bank, 2020).

Long-term socio-economic planning is vital for sustainable development. This involves setting clear development goals aligned with national priorities and global commitments, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Comprehensive strategies should be developed to achieve these goals, encompassing various sectors such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, and environmental protection. Mobilizing resources is essential for the successful implementation of development plans. This requires coordinated efforts between different levels of government, the private sector, and civil society. Public-private partnerships can be particularly effective in leveraging resources and expertise for development projects. Additionally, international cooperation and assistance can provide valuable support for resource mobilization and capacity building (United Nations Development Programme, 2020).

Strengthening institutional capacity and governance is critical for effective policy implementation and sustainable development. Improving public sector efficiency involves streamlining administrative processes, reducing bureaucratic bottlenecks, and enhancing the capacity of public servants through training and development programs. Enhancing

transparency and accountability is essential for building public trust and ensuring the responsible use of resources. This can be achieved through the implementation of anti-corruption measures, regular audits, and the promotion of open data initiatives. Fostering citizen participation in governance is crucial for ensuring that policies and programs are responsive to the needs and priorities of the population. This can be facilitated through mechanisms such as public consultations, participatory budgeting, and the establishment of feedback and grievance redressal systems (Transparency International, 2020).

Promoting resilience and adaptation strategies is essential for building the capacity of individuals, communities, and institutions to cope with and recover from shocks and stresses. Investing in disaster risk reduction involves the implementation of measures to prevent and mitigate the impact of natural disasters, such as early warning systems, resilient infrastructure, and community preparedness programs. Climate change adaptation strategies are necessary to address the long-term impacts of climate change on various sectors, including agriculture, water resources, and health. These strategies should be integrated into national and local development plans and supported by adequate funding and technical assistance. Social safety nets play a crucial role in promoting resilience by providing a buffer against economic shocks and helping individuals and families to recover and rebuild. This includes programs such as cash transfers, unemployment benefits, and food assistance, which provide immediate support during times of crisis (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2020).

Conclusion

Achieving sustainable development in Nigeria is an intricate endeavour that requires a comprehensive and integrative approach, marrying human security with socio-economic development. As this chapter has demonstrated, addressing the root causes of insecurity and underdevelopment is crucial. Nigeria's challenges are multifaceted, encompassing economic disparities, health crises, educational deficits, and environmental issues. Each of these dimensions must be tackled holistically to pave the way for sustainable development.

Human security, as emphasized throughout the chapter, is foundational to this process. Ensuring economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political security provides the bedrock upon which sustainable development can be built. By mitigating vulnerabilities and enhancing the resilience of communities, Nigeria can create a stable environment conducive to growth and prosperity. The United Nations Development Programme underscores the importance of a multi-dimensional approach that integrates economic, social, and environmental considerations.

Innovative solutions and best practices from global experiences offer valuable insights for Nigeria. The integration of technology in education and healthcare has the potential to significantly improve access to and the quality of these essential services. For instance, digital learning platforms can reach remote and underserved areas, bridging the educational divide, while telemedicine can enhance healthcare delivery in regions with limited medical infrastructure. Community-based approaches to development, as highlighted by UNESCO (2021), empower local populations, ensuring that development initiatives are responsive to their needs and sustainable in the long term. Nigeria's path to sustainable development requires a holistic and integrated approach that addresses the root causes of insecurity and underdevelopment. By implementing the strategies and recommendations outlined in this chapter, Nigeria can enhance human security, improve socio-economic outcomes, and build a resilient and prosperous future for all its citizens.

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CHAPTER 2

STRUCTURED CLIMATE CHANGE MANAGEMENT AND EDUCATION ADVANTAGE: HUMAN HEALTH, WELFARE AND LIFE EXPECTANCY OF NIGERIA IN VIEW

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INTRODUCTION

Climate change refers to changes to the average weather and weather variability of a region or the planet over time measured by changes in temperature, precipitation, wind, storms and other indicators. Climate change has taken center stage in the midst of the world's many dangerous environmental challenges. Its consequences, mitigation strategies, and adaptation strategies are of great concern to researchers and policy makers alike since climate change remains a major threat to humans and livelihoods particularly where, the majority of local farmers rely on rain-fed farming (Bukola *et al.*, 2021; Afriye-Kraft *et al.*, 2020). The term "climate change" refers to a long-term shift in either the climatic average or the variability of the climate (Abraham and Fonta, 2018; IPCC, 2022).

The adverse impacts of climate change on humans and livelihood forms by extension especially are quite obvious in the sectors of, industry and commerce (Group, 2021; IPCC, 2022), health (World Health Organization, 2020); obviously causing losses and wide range productivity damages (IPCC, 2022) besides prerogatives on the environment. Vulnerable exposure to a wide range of climate change-caused dangers and disasters – floods, storms, ocean surges, droughts, wildfires, pest infestations, air and water pollution (Haider, 2019;

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Group, 2021) in addition, influence output and yield given extensive rain-fed agriculture practiced globally (Haider, 2019).

Furthermore, with projected global population of 9.1 billion people in 2050, rising temperatures and predictions of a warmer earth caused by climate change, certain environmental elements in the long and short term, including sunshine, annual rainfall, average temperature increase of 0.2 °C in the next 30 years and CO₂ emissions (that is influencing health, healthy-human life expectancy and socio-economic life) at the individual, national and global level may not remain the same (Agbenyo *et al.*, 2022; Olabode, 2020). Thus, the possibility of structured environmental climate change management and offset possibilities in light of optimizing the impact of climate change for positive economic prosperity and growth using measures such as, nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration, habitat preservation and hydrological cycling are aggregated overall likely.

Theoretical framework

Carbon dioxide theory

The carbon dioxide theory states that, as the amount of carbon dioxide increases, the atmosphere becomes opaque over a larger frequency interval; the outgoing radiation is trapped more effectively near the Earth's surface and the temperature rises. The carbon dioxide theory was first proposed in 1861 by Tyndall. The CO₂ theory of climate change has changed dramatically on timescales of decades to centuries in the period 1850 to 1950. In 1896 Svante Arrhenius published an article on the Earth's heat budget as influenced by variations in the concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide (Arrhenius, 1896).

In constructing his model, Arrhenius relied heavily on the experimental and observational work of others, including Josef Stefan's new law of radiant emission, Samuel P. Langley's measurements of atmospheric transmissivity, Léon Teisserenc de Bort's estimates of cloudiness, Knut Ångström's absorption coefficients of water vapor and carbon dioxide, Alexander Buchan's charts of mean monthly temperatures, and A.G. Högbom's estimates of

the carbon cycle. T.C. Chamberlin also outlined a carbon dioxide theory of glaciation (Chamberlin, 1897).

Theory of Comparative Advantage

The theory of comparative advantage was developed by David Ricardo in the year 1817 as a modification to trade and resource advantage theories. The theory reasoned that there were flaws in Adam Smith's theory of absolute advantage which states that a country can only benefit from certain advantage – resource, trade and offset situations when it has absolute advantage. According to Ricardo's theory of comparative advantage, even in the midst of assumed absolute cost disadvantage in a nation's production sector especially with resource, trade and offset situations, there still exists a basis for mutually beneficial advantage (Ricardo, 1817). This nexus between resource, trade and offset situations comparative advantage and growth vis-à-vis climate change has always been a source of debate among economic researchers and policy makers over the years. There has not been a general consensus about the direction of causality and/or bi-directional causality between climate change, offset advantage and economic growth. While some studies favoured growth-led-climate change offset advantage others favoured and argue that positive productivity effects of climate change do not necessarily occur in developing countries.

Notwithstanding, absolute and comparative offset advantage of climate change should focus on the production and exportation of the commodities in which a nation is relatively less inefficient in since international trade brings about dynamic impacts critical to a country's economic development, including the ability to acquire foreign capital and new technologies. Thus, resource, trade and offset climate change comparative advantage and growth vis-à-vis productive production and trade with other countries can increase the efficiency of a country's resource use, and hence increase national growth, development, labour advantage and goods productivity. These are the assumptions inherent in Neoclassical Trade Theory that further builds on the principle of comparative advantage of David Ricardo but, stresses that a country has a comparative resource, trade and offset advantage if the opportunity cost for goods and

services production, development and deployment, in terms of previous status quos and relative to, other goods is, lower in that country than it is in other countries given, labor and capital, equal technology in all countries, perfect competition, and constant returns to scale, and factor mobility between sectors but not between countries (Were *et al.*, 2002; Appleyard *et al.*, 2001).

Climate Change Advantage: Issues and Concerns

Solar intensity health and welfare transfer advantage of climate change

Climate facts exist (NWS, 2020) that despite CO₂ emissions have exacerbated natural warming in recent decades, the entire climatology area was in for a surprise when global temperature between 2000 and 2016 failed to rise as anticipated by the climate alarmists rather, fewer winter deaths; lower energy costs; better agricultural yields; probably fewer droughts; maybe richer biodiversity and, the unbelievable winter deaths exceeding summer deaths reports (NOAA, 2020) may mean that the overall aggregate effect of climate change are likely both positive and negative. In addition, these positive climate change benefits – economic and ecological, humanitarian and financial if, aggregated conclusively is overall positive today and is likely to stay positive until around 2080 given climate trends (Tol, 2009).

Further overall, Tol (2024) finds that climate change in the past century to be linked to improved human welfare. He calculates the improvement has been 1.4 percent of global economic output and to rise to 1.5 percent by 2025. For some people, this means the difference between survival and starvation. Some of the initial benefits arise partly because more carbon-dioxide in the atmosphere reduces “water stress” in plants and may make them grow faster (Long, Ainsworth, Leakey, Noesberger, and Ort, 2006). In addition, the output of the global economy is concentrated in the temperate zone, where warming reduces heating costs and cold-related health problems.

Notably from Tol (2024) estimates, projections and positions the climate responds rather slowly to changes in greenhouse gas emissions besides, the initial warming can no longer be avoided and, should be viewed as a sunk benefit. In addition, the turning point in

terms of economic benefits occurs at about 1.1°C warming (with a standard deviation of 0.7°C). Although the world population is concentrated in the tropics, where the initial effects of climate change are probably negative, the relatively smaller size of the economy in these areas means that – at least over the interval of small increases in global temperatures – gains for the high-income areas of the world exceed losses in the low-income areas. However, this pattern should be interpreted with care.

Total economic effects of incremental greenhouse gas emissions and warming

Further into the future, given climate trends as posited by Yohe and Schlesinger (2002), the, incremental effects of greenhouse gas emissions per person are expected to go higher in high-income countries with, relative impacts of climate change greater in low-income countries. Again, like the impending solar minimum that NASA has predicted for the next two solar cycles between 2021 and 2041, a period of global cooling like it did during the solar minimum of 17th century is expected. Ushering in these solar minimums predicted by NASA (NOAA, 2020), was the Solar Cycle 24 (11 years average in length with the 4th-smallest intensity since regular record keeping began ostensibly with Solar Cycle 1 in 1755). It was also the weakest cycle in 100 years and continued past December 2019 when the 13-month smoothed sunspot number of the solar minimum cycle 24 fell to 1.8 according to the Solar Cycle 25 Prediction Panel, co-chaired by NOAA and NASA.

The earth is currently in Solar Cycle 25 with peak sunspot activity expected in 2025. This cycle period that is precisely currently between solar minimums cycles of Solar Cycle 24 and 25 – a period when the sun is predicted to be least active – studies show (NWS, 2020; NOAA, 2020) may be linked to little or no increase in the frequency or intensity of floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, droughts, or other extreme weather events contrary to what happened between Solar maximum periods that heightened in April 2014 with sunspots peaking at 114 for the solar cycle, well below average, which is 179.

In short, even though total economic effects of 1–2°C warming may be positive, incremental impacts beyond that level are likely to be negative in low-income countries

relative to high-income countries. Hence in Nigeria, especially during this solar maximum period, environmental security threat factor of climate change caused increased durations and intensities of rainfall that produced large runoffs and flooding in many places in Nigeria (Olaniyi, Olutimehin, Funmilayo, 2019). The flooding began in early July 2012, killed 363 people and displaced over 2.1 million people as of 5 November 2012. The flood was responsible for the loss of houses, farms, farm produce, properties and lives. According to statistics released in 2014 by National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), about 5,000 houses and 60 homes were affected in the windstorm that occurred in four states in the south west region (Beyioku, 2016). According to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), 30 of Nigeria's 36 states were affected by the floods. The floods were termed as the worst in 40 years, and affected an estimated total of seven million people (IRIN Africa, 2012). The estimated damages and losses caused by the floods were N2.6 trillion (NEMA, 2015).

Similarly, Nigeria experienced another flooding in 2013 which brought further misery to a population that was still recovering from the 2012 fatal floods. Many mud-brick homes collapsed and families' belongings were ruined. Dug wells which are sources of potable water were also polluted. The states of Abia, Bauchi, Benue, Jigawa, Kebbi, Kano, Kogi and Zamfara were most affected by the floodwaters which lasted for 48 hours. The situation in Kaduna and Katsina was aggravated by the collapse of earth dams. According to the National Emergency Management Agency, more than 47,000 people were affected. This lesser number of people affected is attributed to the lessons of the 2012 floods which prepared the country for a better response (IFRC, 2021).

Health-Life Expectancy Benefits from Climate Change: Confidence and Uncertainty

According to Semenza (2014), until mid-century, projected climate change will impact human health mainly by exacerbating health problems that already exist (very high confidence). Either due to likely greater likelihood of injury, disease, and death due to more intense heat waves and fires (very high confidence); increased likelihood of under-nutrition resulting from diminished food production in poor regions (high confidence); risks from lost work capacity

and reduced labor productivity in vulnerable populations; and increased risks from food- and water-borne diseases (very high confidence) and vector-borne diseases (medium confidence) throughout the 21st century; climate change is expected to lead to increases in ill-health in many regions and especially in developing countries with low income, as compared to high income countries (high confidence) – a baseline comparative for climate change studies. Despite these, positive health effects of climate change are expected to include modest reductions in cold related mortality and morbidity in some areas due to fewer cold extremes (low confidence), geographical shifts in food production (medium confidence), and reduced capacity of vectors to transmit some diseases.

Implementing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and WASH-oriented programs that improve basic public health measures such as provision of clean water and sanitation, secure essential health care including vaccination and child health services; negative impacts of climate change earlier projected to increasingly outweigh positive impacts will diminish (high confidence) due to, increased capacity for disaster preparedness and response, and improved incomes cum poverty alleviation that WASH and WASH-oriented programs advance (very high confidence) (UNICEF, 2024a). Otherwise by 2100 for the high-emission scenario RCP8.5, the combination of high temperature and humidity in some areas of the globe, for parts of that year, projections and predictions show that normal human activities, including growing food or working outdoors (high confidence) may be compromised due to climate change (Hausfather, 2019; Liebreich, 2019; Hausfather, 2018; Ritchie & Dowlatabadi, 2017; van Vuuren *et al.*, 2011; Riahi *et al.*, 2011).

Adopting WASH is arguably one most effective vulnerability reduction measure of climate change negative impacts on health both in the near-term and future-term. Besides its structured climate change management positive effects, growing up in a clean and safe environment is every child's right. Access to clean water, basic toilets and, good hygiene practices can prevent the spread of disease to over three billion people worldwide, people living in; rural areas, urban slums, disaster-prone areas, low-income countries including;

hundreds of millions of school-going children – the most vulnerable and the most affected (UNICEF, 2024a; b). Hence, the structured climate change WASH and WASH-oriented program model is more important now than ever before.

Even though climate change crisis' exposure is significantly making water unsafe; sanitation and hygiene oriented to WASH keeps children thriving whilst giving them a healthier start in life. This structured climate change management model measure has extensive effects of increased life expectancy to over 700 children under age 5 that die every day of climate change crisis' exposure of diarrheal disease and nearly 14000 children in areas of conflict attributed to climate change crisis' exposure of resource depletion, more likely to, die before their 6th birthday (UNICEF, 2024a; b).

Mixed Climate Change Welfare Effects

The effects of climate change that have been quantified and monetized include the impacts on agriculture and forestry, water resources, coastal zones, energy consumption, air quality, and human health. Despite these relatively mixed climate change effects doubtless are, other obvious effects such as: extreme climate scenarios, the possible very long-term biodiversity loss, the possible effects of climate change on economic development, and even political violence that worth some additional research in order to quantify if they pale in comparison to these mixed climate change effects or otherwise. For instance, climate change may drive tourism especially summer tourists towards the poles and up the mountains, which amounts to a redistribution of tourist revenue (Berrittella, Bigano, Roson, and Tol, 2006). Other mixed effects may include that some rivers may see an increase in flooding and others a decrease (Kundzewicz *et al.*, 2005). Other effects are simply not known.

Further, the structured climate change management model measure of redesigning urban water management systems, be it for more or less water that may not be costly will offset extreme climate scenarios of alteration of ocean circulation (Ashley, Balmford, Saul, and Blanksby, 2005). Given, increased possibilities for climate change induced future circumstances of extratropical storms likely to cause greater (Dorland, Tol, and Palutikof,

1999) altered tropical storm frequency, intensity, and spread of tropical storms (McDonald, Bleaken, Cresswell, Pope, and Senior, 2005) the structured climate change management model measure of redesigning urban water management systems will probably induce positive higher wind speeds in the mid-latitudes that will offset extreme climate scenarios of alteration of ocean circulation in decreasing the cost of wind and wave energy used for household and productive industrial and manufacture purposes (Breslow and Sailor, 2002). The resulting less sea ice would improve the accessibility of Arctic harbors, reduce the costs of exploitation of oil and minerals in the Arctic, and might even open up new transport routes between Europe and East Asia (Wilson, Falkingham, Melling, and de Abreu, 2004). This structured climate change management model measure of redesigning urban water management systems would offset the warmer weather climate change effect and also have extensive effects via reduced expenditures on clothing and food, and traffic disruptions due to snow and ice (Carmicheal, Gallus, Temeyer, and Bryden, 2004).

Fundamental energy advantage of Greenhouse gas emissions to the world's energy system

Greenhouse gas emissions are fundamental to the world's energy system. CO₂, the predominant gas implicated in climate change, is intrinsic to fossil fuel combustion; specifically, thermal energy is generated by breaking the chemical bonds in the carbohydrates, oil, coal, and natural gas and oxidizing the components to CO₂ and H₂O. One cannot have cheap energy without carbon dioxide emissions. Similarly, methane (CH₄) emissions, an important greenhouse gas in its own right, are necessary to prevent the build-up of hydrogen in anaerobic digestion and decomposition. One cannot have beef, mutton, dairy, or rice without methane emissions. The sources of greenhouse gas emissions are more diffuse.

Global Crop Production Increase by Offset-Climate Change Soil Organic Carbon Advantage

Soil organic carbon sequestration – structured climate change management model strategy has, been one advanced offset climate change soil fertility-improvement advantage. While its contribution is yet quantitatively indefinable however to crop productivity, data from 13,662

controlled field trials with 66,593 treatments across a broad range of soils, climates and management practices show that, crop yields increase with increased offset climate change soil organic carbon advantage, until no further increase ($p < 0.05$) occurs above mean optimum soil organic carbon of 43.2–43.9 g kg⁻¹ for maize, 12.7–13.4 g kg⁻¹ for wheat and 31.2–32.4 g kg⁻¹ for rice. In addition, by increasing soil organic carbon beyond natural climate change creation and current technology to certain (optimum) levels, global production of the three most important staple crops increases by 4.3% (sufficient to provide calories for 640 million people). This implies that sequestering soil organic carbon – offset climate change soil fertility-improvement advantage model measure – is one-fifth as effective (that is, 80% less) as nitrogen fertilization for improving crop yield where soil management is optimized. However, currently available management practices to sequester soil organic carbon would increase crop production by only 0.7% once other production constraints have already been addressed as, yield improvements under currently available technologies are unlikely to drive adoption of soil organic carbon sequestration globally except in hot-spot regions where crop production benefits most, or unless novel practices that allow greater soil organic carbon sequestration beyond current limitations can further increase yields cost-effectively (Ma *et al.*, 2023).

Carbon sequestration as a function seeks to reduce net GHG emissions through the long-term storage of CO₂, achieving carbon neutrality in the case of fossil carbon storage (i.e., CCS) or negative emissions in the case of biogenic carbon (as in BECCS) or DAC contrasted with CO₂ utilization as a function that seeks to (re)use CO₂ as a carbon feedstock, achieving negative emissions relative to a counterfactual case of developing and delivering products or services using virgin fossil carbon. This carbon feedstock utilization function engaged depends on the lifetime of the product in some cases and thus, both CO₂ sequestration and utilization functions may be fulfilled by a single product, process, or service such as the CO₂ mineralization for building materials example (Sterrying, 2015).

Further, with the difficulty in moving away in some sectors (e.g., long-distance freight or air transport), and impossible in others (e.g., parts of the chemical industry, especially organic chemicals) from using carbon-containing materials cum reliance on carbon-containing materials that are increasing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and playing a key role in extending world climate change today, offset climate change advantage model measure of transforming the increasing carbon-greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions energy supplies causing climate change is a key structured climate change advantage model measure and strategy. This structured climate change advantage model measure of transforming the increasing carbon-greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions into something with more value at a time and location required by the end user is an offset climate change move advantage that recognizes the need for society to move away from a mindset of carbon consumption to one of carbon custodianship. The later, revolutionary for creating the needed emphasis in which the “end user” has a duty of care to ensure carbon-greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions sustainable (re)use. This move is possible and consistent to the long-awaited circular economy derivation. Further, this structured climate change advantage model measure cum strategy buys the concept of “carbon provenance,” posited arguably as the provenance guarantee of organic products within the food supply chain (Soil Association, 2024).

Thus, both the offset climate change advantage model measure of transforming the increasing carbon-greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions into valuable energy and the structured climate change advantage model measure of combining carbon-dioxide utilization (CDU) strategies in producing energy cum fuels previously provided by fossil carbon with renewable energy sources (RE) and hydrogen (H₂) prerequisites – utilized for both climate change advantage model measures – is a key advantage for waste avoidance. Further since in most cases the CDU process does except mineralization in its overall process and being a notable structured climate change advantage model measure possible, the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (IPCC, 2022) currently firmly includes CDU as a key technology for waste avoidance in the arsenal of important tools of CO₂ sequestration and utilization carbon emissions cum

greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions structured management for sustainable global vital supply chain functions

Sensitive Farming ‘Win-Win’ Under Different Climatic Influences

Despite climate change affects us all, its undetachable influence on agriculture is particularly dangerous for developing countries especially those experiencing slow development, particularly those in Asia and Africa. Temperatures are already higher forcing, agricultural systems to shift according to Agbenyo *et al.* (2022). Thus, smallholder farmers especially need, more capacity and stability to cope.

Two schools of thought explain the decline in agricultural yield for agri-producing countries. While agri-productive activities are associated with rising GHGs in the atmosphere amid other internal factors relative to decline in agricultural yield and affecting export supply amid external factors external to the individual country including dynamic natural factors causing climate is influencing warmer earth with predictions averaged for temperature to increase by 0.2 °C in the next 30 years (Nkwi, Ahungwa & Folorunso, 2021). Thus, many major agri-producing nations such as Nigeria as posited by experts still produce below full potential due to the vulnerability of food and cash crops-output yield among others to changing climate parameters.

Major changing climatic focus elements of CO₂ emissions, annual temperature, annual rainfall and sunshine has been identified to influence crop production both long and short run amid other environmental and socio-economic variables influencing cocoa production also over time (Ajagbe, Asogwa & Ezihe, 2021). This climate change impact is raising the concern to study, research and discuss environmental climate change offset potentials in terms of shade crop biodiversity and habitat conservation, enhanced nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration and hydrological cycling (Olabode, 2020).

Unfortunately, the extent of services of each of these climate change offset functions are crop-specific for, agro-forest shade composition and density; the regional land use composite to affecting the degree and quality of ecosystem-level functions within which the

individual crop is produced. Consequently, climate change environmental impacts of sunlight on crop production are in part causing, farmer-health and produce-content contamination from agrochemicals; increasing soil depletion threat of pests, deforestation, habitat loss, decreased fauna and flora populations and forest fragmentation. However, there are cases where full sunned staple crops climate-benefit and environmental-change-benefit variably causing, increased productivity per hectare to the extent that farmers do not encroach on primary or secondary neighboring forests in certain cases. Consequently, the crop-land under cultivation is used over the long-term on a rotational basis. This ample the use of genetically improved varieties whilst reducing the production expense of increasing inputs composite to the crop and related crop production needs (Clay, 2004).

Offsetting Climate Change for Positive Health, Income and Food Security Through Structured Climate Change Advantage Via Climate Smart Agriculture Measure

Agriculture is important for economic growth and a propeller of development (Sertoglu *et al.*, 2017). Agriculture is crucial to the development of any-world country because it provides food for households, raw materials for producing firms, employment for teeming population, and foreign exchange earnings for public and private investment especially with governance and government administration. Agriculture is concerned with the cultivation of land for production of crops, and the use of human and material resources for the rearing of livestock. Agriculture provides the primary source of income for approximately 70% of the world's poor. The sector employs approximately 1.3 billion farm small-holders worldwide (Agbenyo *et al.*, 2022). In Nigeria for instance just as may be almost similar with other countries in Africa and Asia, the agricultural sector is considered as one of the most important sectors and represents a major food source due majorly for the protein they provide and the industrial products it makes probable. As a prime source of protein, fish-agriculture is culturally, economically and socially important as a global dietary ingredient in achieving sustainable food security (Polycarp *et al.*, 2021).

Despite that climate change crisis pose food and nutrition insecurity threats – two of the greatest development challenges of the current age – a more sustainable food system following the structured climate change advantage model measure of climate smart agriculture will not only heal the planet, but ensure food security for all (World Bank, 2024). This structured climate change advantage model measure is consistent to deliver on multiple fronts of a climate change coppicing agriculture that must feed the world, adapt to climate change, and drastically reduce its greenhouse gas emissions (World Bank, 2024; CarbonBrief, 2024; Tandon, 2021; Crippa et al., 2021; United Nations, 2024; Ritchie and Roser, 2024).

While addressing climate change issues, promoting food security and sustainable development, CSA builds on existing agricultural knowledge, sustainability principles, agricultural productivity practices and technologies which simultaneously boost sustainable agricultural productivity, enhance resilience and reduce GHG emissions. CSA is distinct in several ways. First, it has an explicit focus on addressing climate change in the agrifood system. Second, CSA systematically considers the synergies and tradeoffs that exist between productivity, adaptation, and mitigation. And third, CSA encompasses a range of practices and technologies that are tailored to specific agro-ecological conditions and socio-economic contexts including the adoption of climate-resilient crop varieties, conservation agriculture techniques, agroforestry, precision farming, water management strategies, and improved livestock management. This structured climate change advantage model measure provides the triple sustainable agriculture win of (World Bank, 2024):

1. Increased productivity: Produce more and higher quality food without putting an additional strain on natural resources, to improve nutrition security and boost incomes, especially for 75 percent of the world's poor who live in rural areas and mainly rely on agriculture for their livelihoods.
2. Enhanced resilience: Reduce vulnerability to droughts, pests, diseases and other climate-related risks and shocks; and improve the capacity to adapt and grow in the face of longer-term stresses like increased seasonal variability and more erratic weather patterns.

3. Reduced emissions: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions of the food system, avoid deforestation due to cropland expansion, and increase the carbon sequestration of plants and soils.

Anything align to the principles of this structured climate change advantage model measure of CSA continue to create the vicious circle common to traditional agriculture that is emitting one third of global greenhouse gas emissions, using up half of the earth's habitable land for food production – the biggest driver of biodiversity loss across the world (Ritchie and Roser, 2024).

Environmental Education

The dire impacts of climate change indicate that our collective progress is insufficient if, the objectives imperative for, meeting the targets of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) with emphasis on necessitating more rapid and comprehensive environmental education action is, not achieved. This environmental education must extend across governments, businesses, and societies at large. Environmental education measure of the structured climate change advantage model – from governments to corporate behemoths and societal advocates – is banking on the globe pivot toward a sustainable future, reduce carbon intensity, drive energy efficiency in our operations and facilities, transform the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Production portfolio, produce low-carbon fuels aimed at the circular economy, such as new biofuels, generate low-carbon power by investing in wind and solar generation, foster carbon capture, use, and storage technologies (CCUS) (RESPOL, 2024; Bernoville, 2024; Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 2021; DataAspire, 2024; da Silva *et al.*, 2023).

In taking a systems approach, the environmental education measure of the structured climate change advantage model recognizes the interconnectivity of actions, uses policy instruments or technological solutions complementarities considered towards managing the complexity of the climate change crisis system. This combined effort approach will amplify the cumulative structured climate change advantage model measures and achieve multiple objectives that operate reliably and efficiently a complex system that continue variably due to

climate change. Evenly, this deepest transformation in earth's history is premised on: continued updated comprehensive climate policy that is geographical and social contexts specific, particularly in developing or low-income areas, and order to meet the needs of both society and the planet; great cooperation and coordination in terms of integrated use of different resources, technologies, or processes to guarantee inclusion and socioeconomic development of communities and enterprises' competitiveness in the global market; flexible and innovation-receptive substantial efforts to allocate consistent investments in research and development, and technological breakthroughs, regulatory frameworks pivotal to trigger innovation, shorten the path toward global decarbonization and address the challenge of climate crisis (RESPOL, 2024; Bernoville, 2024; Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 2021; DataAspire, 2024; da Silva *et al.*, 2023).

Conclusion and recommendation

Climate change itself is not primarily only about carbon and greenhouse gas emissions, environmental degradation and health hazards. Producing cheap energy is structured-climate change possible although, producing cheap fuels is not the major goal advantage of structured climate change. Hence, transforming the existing climate change crisis via management systems *sine qua non* to the outlined and detailed structured climate change management model is a valuable synergy for benefit-supplies. Hence, implementing the structured climate change advantage model is of the essence both in utilizing and transforming the erstwhile climate change crisis into valuable end user consumables for benefits previously conducted as impossible. These "climate change crisis-consumables" possible is pragmatic of, recognizing the need for society to move away from a mindset of just carbon consumption to one of carbon custodianship, in which the "end user" has a duty to ensure structured carbon sustainable (re)use. Alongside this, is the move to a more circular economy and the consideration that neither carbon sequestration nor conversion are stand-alone carbon emission climate change solution. Consequently, both will be necessary, together with other measures of the structured climate change advantage model amidst such variables – short-, mid- and/or long-term of –

reduced carbon-containing materials use or total avoided carbon-containing materials consumption to, consolidate on the structured climate change management model for optimum *carbon provenance*.

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CHAPTER 3

CRIMINOLOGICAL APPRAISAL OF TERRORISM AS CRIME OF PASSION

Halliru TIJJANI*

INTRODUCTION

The goal of this text is to explore the phenomenon of terrorism as crime of passion and their diversifying theoretical narratives. It has been carefully structured to cover relevant material in a comprehensive, balanced, and objective fashion. Every attempt has been made to make the presentation of material interesting and contemporary. Terrorism has elements that differ from other law violations. Richard Rosenfeld (2002) observes that terrorism deserves a high priority in criminology research because it is qualitatively different from the common forms of violence and does not fit easily with many current criminological theories, such as the development and life-course perspective, social control theories, or those stressing self-control. Terrorism has four significant elements. First, it involves an act of violence intended to create fear in those exposed to it. It targets both active opponents as well as innocent victims, and it has a political purpose.

Terrorism usually involves a type of political crime that emphasizes violence as a mechanism to promote change. Whereas some political criminals sell secrets, spy, and the like, terrorists systematically murder and destroy or threaten such violence to terrorize individuals, groups, communities, or governments into conceding to the terrorists' political demands. Because terrorists lack large armies and formidable weapons, their use of subterfuge, secrecy, and hit-and-run tactics is designed to give them a psychological advantage and the power to neutralize the physical superiority of their opponents (Paul Wilkinson, 1977).

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Throughout history, the criminologists researchers have tried to explain what causes the unusual social behaviour that contributes to terrorism, crime of passion and the phenomena of crime in general.

Conceptual clarification

Crime

The scientific style of reasoning was the Enlightenment thinking about crime. Crime is a particular form of deviance. It is a violation of a law. Laws are the most formal of norms. Deviance relates to the violations of folkways and mores, whereas the term 'crime' specifically refers to those behaviours that violate norms encoded in the penal code or criminal laws. According to Durkheim (1893); a sociologist, crime is as a result of a necessary consequence of the existence of a collectively supported morality. Crime can be seen as a necessary part of every social order because any social order needs a collectively supported morality.

Paul Tappan, lawyer and sociologist defined crime as an intentional act or omission in violation of criminal law (statutory and case law) committed without defense or justification and sanctioned by the state as a felony or misdemeanor. A person may not be punished for his or her thoughts. There must be a prescribed act or omission proven to be committed. Words may tantamount to an act as in Treason, Aiding or Abetting. But to think about committing a crime is not punishable in (McGuire, Mike, et al, eds, 2002).

Technically, crime is composed of two elements: (1) the act itself (or, in some cases, the failure to do what the law required) and (2) criminal intent (in legal terminology, mens rea, or "guilty mind") intent is a matter of degree, ranging from willful conduct to negligence in which a person does not deliberately set out to hurt anyone but acts (or fails to) in a manner that may reasonably be expected to cause harm (Wolfgang & Marvin, 1968).

Crime of Passion

The definition of a **crime of passion** is the kind of murder that takes place when a person is emotionally charged or assaulted and then suddenly reacts without thinking. In this case, the person who committed the crime had not a single beat to think before their action; they simply

acted without premeditation. This is also often referred to as **voluntary manslaughter** or heat of passion crime.

The meaning of crime of passion simply refers to the passion a person felt before committing the crime. It can only be classified as such if it has the following characteristics:

- No time passes between the action that triggered the offender and the kill they commit
- The victim must have made a move/comment that went beyond a simple statement or hand gesture (such as flipping them off)
- The offender must have been threatened in some way with physical harm or with the implication their family/loved ones might be hurt
- The offender did not have any moment to consider committing the crime; they acted without thinking about the consequences

Examples of crime of passion cases most often involve the murder of another human being. However, it can refer to any violent crime committed without discernment and can be enraged for a variety of reasons. One of the most common examples would be when a person abruptly discovers their significant other or spouse has been cheating on them. Often, this involves walking in on their partner having sexual relations with another person. They respond immediately, committing either a violent crime or murder without thinking. Another example might be if someone suffered an outright assault and their first reaction was to fight back, resulting in the assaulter's death.

Terrorism

Terrorism is being increasingly seen as one of the most serious, disturbing and damaging problems of life in our time. That is why Andrew Silke (2004) Stated that, research on terrorism is not abstract science; it involves real people with real lives which are ruined, changed and controlled by the processes under study. Organized and planned campaigns of violence do not happen within a vacuum and they are not driven by trivial or fleeting motivations which reside in and are shared only by the perpetrators. Terrorism is not the result of psychopathy or mental illness. After thirty years of research all that psychologists can safely

say of terrorists is that their outstanding characteristic is their normality. Terrorism is not the work of madmen or devils and to try and fight it in those terms is to fight it with a very mistaken concept of who your enemies are and why others may support and sympathize with them. Understanding the subject matter, terrorism research goes now in the years after 9/11? For some, the future perhaps strangely appears bright. 9/11 and the subsequent USA led 'War on terrorism'

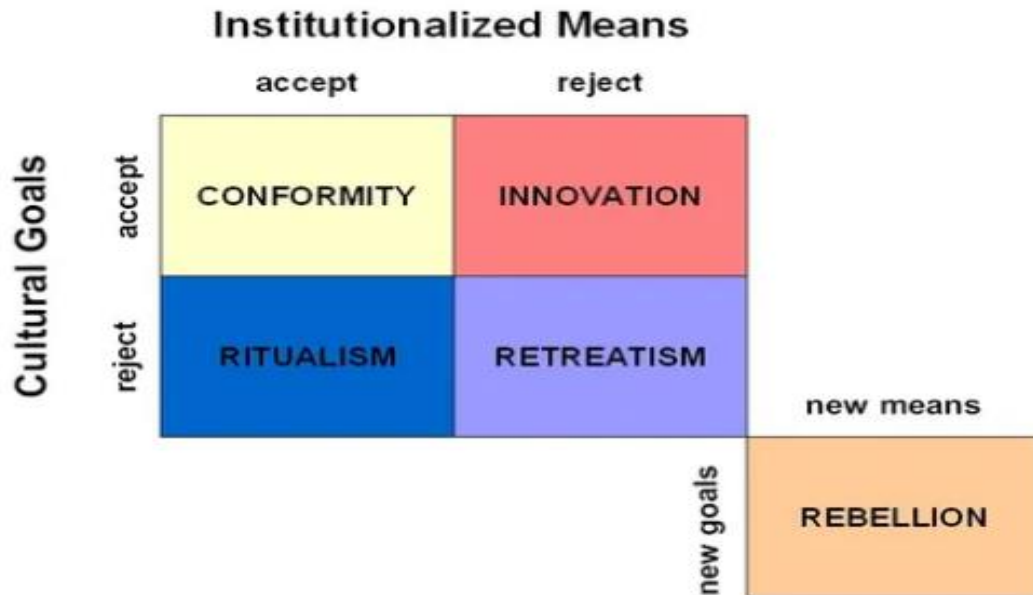
has heightened dramatically the profile of a category or general area of interest.

Importantly, disagreements over doctrine, ideology and targets, have caused a major split in its leadership. This became all too obvious in August 2016, when ISIS installed Abu Musab al-Barnawi as the new leader of Boko Haram – a move which was outrightly rejected by Shekau who insisted on heading the Boko Haram faction (Onuoha, 2016). The result was the emergence of two notable factions. One faction that retained the name Boko Haram was led by Shekau until his reported death on 19 May 2021. The second faction, ISWAP, was initially led by Abu Musab al-Barnawi but he was later replaced by Ba Idrisa (also addressed as Abu Abdullah Idris ibn Umar al-Barnawi) (Zenn, 2020).

The General Strain Theory of Terrorism

Building off of Durkheim's work on anomie, Merton (1957), was the first person to write about what sociologists call strain theory. To Merton, anomie was a condition that existed in the discrepancy between societal goals and the means that individuals have in achieving them. On the other hand, the General Strain Theory of Terrorism was developed by Robert Agnew in 2010. Based on this theory's assumptions terrorism is most likely to occur because of the experience of 'collective strains' or strains experienced by the individuals from an identifiable group or collectivity, frequently a race/ethnic, religious, class, political, and/or regional group. Just a little rate of collective strains improves the probability of terrorism.

Robert K. Merton's Deviance Typology



Source: Inderbitzin, Bates, & Gainey (2018)

Conformity: individuals are following a societal goal through legitimate means. Although a conformist may not necessarily achieve the societal goal, he has enough faith in society to follow legitimate means. For example, a student who is going to school in order to advance a professional career is conforming, as he is following the American cultural value of success through an approved means (Inderbitzen, Bates, & Gainey 2016).

Innovation: the individual shares the cultural goal of the society but reaches this goal through illegitimate means. Thieves - who share the cultural goal of wealth obtainment, but do so through breaking the law (such as drug dealing or embezzlement), are innovators.

Ritualists: individuals who have given up hope of achieving society's approved goals but still operate according to society's approved means. A member of middle management, for

example, who accepts that they will never progress but nonetheless stays in their position is a ritualist.

Retreatists (like dropouts or hermits): individuals who have rejected both a society's goals and the legitimate means of obtaining them, and live outside conventional norms altogether. Drug addicts and figures such as Chris McCandleless — an Emory University graduate found dead in Alaska after attempting to reject capitalism, hitchhike north, and live off the land — retreat from both societal rule and societally-approved means (Krakauer 2018).

Rebellion exists outside of Merton's system altogether. Rebels aim to replace societal goals with those of their own and devise their own means of achieving them. The most obvious examples of rebellion are terrorist organizations, which attempt to advance a goal, typically political, through means such as violence (Inderbitzen, Bates, & Gainey 2016).

The General Strain Theory (GST) offers a valuable lens through which to understand the motivations and perspectives of individuals who engage in terrorism. Developed by Robert Agnew in the early 1990s, GST posits that strain, or stress, experienced by individuals can lead to various forms of deviant behavior, including criminality and violence. When applied to terrorism, GST suggests that individuals may turn to terrorism as a response to perceived strain or stressors in their lives. These strain-inducing factors can vary widely and may include:

1. **Socio-political grievances:** Individuals may feel marginalized, oppressed, or discriminated against due to their political, ethnic, religious, or cultural identity. This sense of injustice and exclusion can create feelings of anger, resentment, and alienation, which may drive individuals towards violent extremist ideologies.
2. **Economic deprivation:** Poverty, unemployment, and economic inequality can generate significant strain, particularly in regions where basic needs are not met and opportunities for advancement are limited. Economic grievances can be exploited by terrorist organizations seeking to recruit individuals who feel disenfranchised and seek a sense of purpose and belonging.

3. **Social alienation:** Feelings of social isolation, loneliness, and lack of belonging can contribute to a sense of existential strain. Individuals who perceive themselves as socially disconnected may be more susceptible to radicalization and recruitment by terrorist groups that offer a sense of community and camaraderie.
4. **Psychological trauma:** Experiences of trauma, such as exposure to violence, abuse, or displacement, can have profound psychological effects and exacerbate feelings of anger, fear, and hopelessness. Traumatized individuals may seek outlets for their pain and rage, which extremist ideologies may exploit by offering a sense of empowerment and revenge.
5. **Political oppression:** Repressive political regimes, censorship, and human rights abuses can generate significant strain among populations, leading some individuals to resort to terrorism as a means of resistance or rebellion against perceived tyranny and injustice.

From the perspective of GST, terrorism can be seen as a maladaptive coping mechanism employed by individuals who feel overwhelmed by the strain they experience in their lives. By engaging in acts of violence, terrorists may seek to alleviate their feelings of frustration, achieve a sense of empowerment, and attract attention to their grievances. However, it's important to note that while GST provides valuable insights into the underlying motivations of terrorists, it does not excuse or justify their actions. Terrorism remains a reprehensible and morally indefensible means of pursuing political or ideological goals, and addressing the root causes of terrorism requires comprehensive strategies that address the social, economic, and political factors that contribute to radicalization and violent extremism.

Bad governance

This paper examines how bad governance simply generate a crisis of insecurity especially the terrorist activities in Nigeria. The Nigerian social structure epitomizes the social exhibition within Nigerian society, by and large as it is different from other nation. Nigerian society is typically made up of individual members, belonging to families, ethnics nationalities and other

groups such as Islam and Christianity as well as political and socio-economic groups base in the geographical placement (923, 748 square kms) called Nigeria. The running of Nigerian social structure has strong prestige from our social institutions. Example, distribution of resources in Nigeria are quietly unevenly due to strong influence of regional stakeholders due to bad governance especially marginalization, corruption and domination of political structure.

In his view Akinola (2008) explained that, Nigeria as a petroleum-rich state is beared by socio-political instability, coupled with high degree of corruption, mass animosity to the “public,” and poor macro-economic management, continue to display the hallmark of a state in catastrophe.

Link between Crime of Passion and Terrorism

Crimes of passion do not actually exist in the legal world and acquittal is no more common when dealing with a crime of passion than it is in a case under normal circumstances.

Another term that the Texas Penal Code uses to qualify crimes of passion is “adequate cause”. “Adequate cause” is defined as any root that would “commonly produce a degree of anger, rage, resentment, or terror in a person of ordinary temper, sufficient to render the mind incapable of cool reflection.” In this case, a person of ordinary temper, often referred to legally as a “reasonable person”, would be moved to action by other actions such as the discovery of adultery or assault, and not just words.

What type of crime is the crime of passion? Crimes of passion are generally invoked when death is involved, so the charges are usually either manslaughter or murder charge, but they can also apply to capital murder charges, intoxication manslaughter, and [criminally negligent homicide](#).

A crime of passion is committed under extreme emotional circumstances and frequently involves discovering disturbing behavior on the part of a lover or spouse, which allegedly creates a state of temporary insanity in the person committing the crime. It is both an act and a legal defense. Temporary insanity may be the more common defense than crime of passion,

and when used by a defendant, part of the goal is to get sentencing reduced or eliminated on a crime that the defendant has clearly committed, like serious assault or murder.

A crime of passion is no innocent accident. Here, passion is not being romantically involved, but overpowering emotions that cloud the rationality and push a person to break the law and commit crimes. Lombroso, the father of criminology, introduced this term, stating that female criminals are more involved in crimes of passion than males. It is understood that ‘passion’ or ‘heat-of-the-moment’ are the driving factor for crimes like murder and homicide committed by males, especially in the domestic setup or sexual relationships. It is important to understand that just because something may be considered a “crime of passion” does not mean that prosecutors or law enforcement officials will not bring murder or manslaughter charges against an individual. If someone has been killed, there will almost always be criminal charges involved.

A sudden passion cannot be used as a defense in a murder or manslaughter case, and it will not be raised when working to determine a person’s guilt or innocence in a trial. In other words, just because a “crime of passion” may have occurred, this will not affect whether or not a person is found innocent or guilty of the killing.

Propensity for crimes of passion

Profiling of the offender becomes crucial here to give more insight in such cases. This includes:

- History of abuse, assault or conflict between the offender and the victim,
- Previous acts of violence that may be hushed up by the family
- History of personal and professional functioning that can dispel the illusion of such violence as foreign or new to the character of the person involved
- History of anger and threats as a habitual response towards conflicts of life
- Overindulgence in sex, alcohol or food.

The provocation defense serves to recognize that some reactions can be provoked spontaneously, without giving one the opportunity to reflect on their actions, and, therefore,

the required mental state of premeditation or deliberation is not met. In simple terms, a crime of passion or crime Passione derived from French refers to a violent crime, particularly homicide, in which the culprit executes the act against someone out of a strong grudge, such as sudden passion, rather than as a premeditated crime. The defense in the crime of passion challenges the mensrea element by stating that there was no malice in premeditated murder and that the crime was done in the ‘heat of passion,’ lowering the accusation from first-degree murder to manslaughter or second-degree murder. A violent pub-goer who hits another person after an argument, or a wife who finds her husband is having an affair and attacks or murders him or his lover is an example of a crime of passion.

In the United States, crime of passion accusations has generally been linked with defenses of unsoundness of mind or provocation. After killing his wife’s lover, Philip Barton Key, a U.S. Congressman Daniel Sickles of New York utilized this defense for the [first time](#) in 1859. During the 1940s and 1950s, it was employed as a defense in murder trials. Historically, such defenses were employed as complete defenses for a variety of violent crimes, but they gradually were largely utilized as a partial defense to a murder accusation; if the court accepted temporary insanity, a murder charge may be reduced to manslaughter. <https://www.thetexastrialattorney.com/blog/is-crime-of-passion-a-legal-defense/>

Table 1: **Crime of passion versus Premeditated crime**

	Crime of passion	Premeditated crime
1.	Crimes of passion are decided to commit in the heat of passion.	Premeditated crimes have been committed with malicious intentions.
2.	A crime of passion is not a planned and intentional crime.	Premeditated crime is an intentional crime.
3.	A crime of passion is committed out of heartbreak without intending to murder someone.	Premeditated crime is committed out of rage and with the intent to murder someone.
4.	A crime of passion is a murder committed on the spot without a second thought.	Premeditated crime is a long-term planned murder.

5.	A crime of passion is one committed as a result of heartbreak or betrayal against the victim.	Premeditated crime is a type of crime committed while holding a grudge.
6.	Crimes of passion are punished less harshly than premeditated crimes.	When compared to the crime of passion, premeditated crime receives a harsher punishment.
7.	It seeks to eliminate or reduce certain punishments based on valid evidence in the case.	It does not eliminate or reduce specific punishments related to the case.

Source: Author's Compilation 2024

While crime of passion and terrorism may seem like disparate phenomena at first glance, there are some potential links and intersections between the two, particularly in terms of underlying criminological, psychological and sociological factors. Here are a few points to consider:

Violence as a Response to Perceived Injustice: Both crimes of passion and terrorism can stem from a sense of perceived injustice or betrayal. In crimes of passion, individuals may react violently to feelings of jealousy, betrayal, or rejection within intimate relationships. Similarly, terrorists often perceive themselves or their communities as victims of oppression, discrimination, or marginalization, and may resort to violence as a means of redress or retaliation.

1. **Emotional and Psychological Triggers:** Both crimes of passion and acts of terrorism can be triggered by intense emotions such as anger, jealousy, hatred, or a desire for revenge. In crimes of passion, individuals may act impulsively in response to overwhelming emotional turmoil. Similarly, terrorists may be driven by emotions such as outrage, humiliation, or a desire for retribution against perceived enemies or oppressors.
2. **Sense of Loss of Control:** Perpetrators of both crimes of passion and terrorism may experience a sense of loss of control over their lives or their circumstances. In crimes of passion, individuals may feel a loss of control over their emotions or their relationships, leading to a violent outburst. Similarly, terrorists may feel a loss of

control over their political, social, or economic circumstances, leading them to resort to violence as a means of asserting agency or influence.

3. **Power and Control Dynamics:** Both crimes of passion and terrorism can involve dynamics of power and control. In crimes of passion, perpetrators may seek to exert power and control over their victims or assert dominance within their relationships. Similarly, terrorists may seek to exert power and control over their adversaries or advance their ideological agendas through acts of violence.
4. **Social and Cultural Influences:** Both crimes of passion and terrorism can be influenced by broader social and cultural factors. Cultural norms surrounding gender roles, relationships, and expressions of masculinity can contribute to both forms of violence. Additionally, societal attitudes towards violence, revenge, and honor can shape individuals' responses to perceived slights or injustices (Rosenfeld, 2002).

Terrorizing Society: Beginning, Principles and Activities of Boko Haram in Nigeria

Boko Haram is an alias for a violent insurgent group in Nigeria which has identified itself as Jamā'at Ahl as-Sunnah lid-Da'wah wa'l-Jihād' (The Group of the People of Sunnah for Preaching and Struggle) and recently as Wilāyat Gharb Ifrīqīyyah (The Islamic State's West Africa Province). It is predominantly active in the north-eastern states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa where it has perpetrated mass killings through diverse means including the use of female children for suicide bombings. The name "Boko Haram" is a compound name comprising of both Hausa and Arabic languages. "Boko" in the Hausa language means "Western education" while "Haram" in the Arabic language means "sinful or forbidden." So "Haram" is appended to "Boko" to mean "Western education is sinful."

In the early years of the conflict, government security forces were first on the offensive. The terrorist activities gradually turned after the death of their leader Muhammed Yusuf in police custody, and the sect, after a brief break for recruitment and armament, began to terrorize both state and federal security apparatus and the unprotected masses in a manner that drove even the military into defensive positions at some points. In

August 2014, *Premium Times* (Nigeria's leading investigative newspaper) reported the massive escape of (Nigerian troops into neighbouring Cameroon after they failed to suppress the sect in an offensive along the border (Akinbi, 2015).

The major activities of Boko Haram consist of several attacks, suicide bombings, kidnapping as well as conventional armed assaults on both civilian and law enforcement agencies. Following the Chibok kidnapping in 2014, the majority of Boko Haram's suicide bombers are female; many are teenagers (Ahmad, 2013, Charlotte, 2015, Thomas, 2015). The below table indicates some series of attacks by the terrorist. Since when the execution of reclamation and reintegration of ex-fighters started, series of attack have been set in motion in towns and villages across north-eastern Nigeria with much linchpin on Borno state and border areas, even, to high profile individuals such as Borno State Governor in 2020 as reported by (Aljazeera, 2020; Campbell, 2020) respectively.

Table 2: Death resulting from Boko Haram attacks till Date

Date 2019	Events
17 June	Konduga suicide bombing killing 30 people and wounding 40.
4 July	Attack on a Damboa, Borno killing 5 civilians and 14 soldiers.
27 July	Nganzai funeral attack resulting in the death of 65 people in Nganzi, Borno.
06 August	Two suicide bombing killing 3 civilians and wounding 8 in Mafa, Borno
23 August	Casualties of 12 villagers by Boko Haram sect raid in Gueskerou, Niger Republic.
26 September	An ambush leading to the killing of at least 7 soldiers in Gubio, Borno.
12 December	ISWAP fighters killed 14 militiamen and a police officer in Northeast Nigeria

Date 2020	Events
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6 January	At least 32 killed and 35 injured by an explosive blown in Gamboru, Borno.
9 February	At least 30 people killed, and many others abducted by militants in Auno, Borno
23 March	At least 50 Nigerian soldiers killed in an ambush near a village in Yobe.
5 April	Two Boko Haram suicide bombers killed seven civilians and themselves in Am-chide, Northern Cameroon.
18 May	Twelve soldiers killed and at least ten more wounded by Boko Haram militants in an attack on their outpost northeast of Diffa, Niger Republic.
9 June	June An attack by ISWAP on the herding village of Gubio in Borno State killing at least 81 people, seven people, over 1,200 cattle abducted, and the village destroyed.
10 July	20 soldiers killed, and fire opened on a military convoy near Gada Sokoto State.
2 August	Attack on an IDP camp in Nguetchewe, Northern Cameroon, killing 16 people.
28 November	About 110 civilians, mostly farmworkers killed in Koshebe, Borno.
11 December	344 schoolchildren from and all males boarding school kidnapped in Kankara, Kastina.

Date 2021	Events
16 January	14 people killed by suicide bombing through explosives in Mozogo, Cameroon.
18 January	ISWAP militants attacked and destroyed a military base in the town of Marte, Borno state killing 7 people and stole weapons, ammunition, and six vehicles. 11 February Nigerian soldiers ambushed in the suburbs of Monguno, Borno through an explosive killing 3 soldiers and wounding several others.

26 February	A midnight attack on a secondary school in Zamfara abducting least 317 schoolgirls.
10 March	An attack on Goniri near the Niger-Nigerian border killing 2 militiamen and burning down several buildings.
10 April	An attack on Damasak, killing 6 people including 2 soldiers and 3 soldiers in Maiduguri, the capital city of Borno state.
25 April	An attack in Mainok by ISWAP militants, arriving in around 20 vehicles, killing at least 31 Nigerian soldiers after ambushing a military convoy escorting weapon in Borno state.

Source: Author's Compilation 2024

Nigeria's ranking on the 2022 Global Terrorism Index (GTI)

The latest ranking comes as an improvement as Nigeria dropped two places from the fourth position — a position it had been since 2017. In the GTI, published by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), an independent and non-profit think tank, Nigeria, Syria and Somalia were the only countries among the 10 most impacted by terrorism to record an improvement in score from 2020 to 2021. The GTI also showed that law enforcement, including police and prison officers overtook both military and civilians as the most targeted group of 2021. These attacks, the report said, were largely driven by a surge in clashes between law enforcement and “separatist groups, such as the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB)”. According to the report, the death of Abubakar Shekau, leader of Boko Haram, and efforts of the government are factors that led to the decline of Boko Haram in Nigeria. “Total deaths from terrorism in Nigeria fell to 448 in 2021, the lowest level since 2011,” the report reads. “Terror-related casualties dropped by almost half compared with the previous year. However, the number of terrorist attacks increased by 49 per cent between 2020 and 2021. 36 percent of attacks were claimed by ISWA, Boko Haram being responsible for eight per cent and 44 percent not attributed to any group.

These external pressures, according to the report, resulted in a rise in Boko Haram attacks in neighbouring countries, particularly Cameroon which recorded 37 attacks and 58

deaths in 2021. The Nigerian military has continued to launch offensives against the insurgents in the north-east. Between 2011 and 2022, Boko Haram was responsible for thousands of deaths in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger republic. Nigeria is the country most affected by the terrorist group's attacks. States in the North-East register the highest number of deaths. Borno is by far the most threatened state, in that, Boko Haram has caused over 35 thousand deaths in this area. Among the news on attacks mostly present in the media, the kidnapping of 276 female students from a secondary school in Borno in 2014 received a global response. As of April 2021, over 100 girls were still missing, while six students were believed to have died.

Punch (2018) stated that, The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), designated as a terrorist group by the Nigerian government in 2017, while Global Terrorism Index (2023) reported that. IPOB recorded their deadliest year in 2022. They were responsible for 40 attacks and 57 deaths in 2022, an increase from 26 attacks and 34 deaths the year prior. IPOB is a separatist movement with many factions, many of which are seeking a peaceful succession from Nigeria. Boko Haram's attacks almost halved within the last year, while deaths attributed to the group increased slightly from 69 in 2021 to 72 in 2022. This is the lowest number of attacks by the group for over a decade. Boko Haram's decline has resulted in a substantial improvement in terrorism in Borno State, which experienced a decrease of 12 per cent in terrorism-related deaths when compared with the year prior. Attacks in the state also decreased from 91 to 48 respectively, a decrease of 47 per cent. ISWA is now the most prominent group in Borno State, recording 40 incidents that resulted in 168 deaths in 2022, compared to Boko Haram's six incidents and 63 deaths. The state, however, remains the hardest-hit region in Nigeria for terrorism, accounting for 60 per cent of all terror-related deaths in 2022.

The conflict between ISWA and Boko Haram that culminated in the death of Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau in May 2021, continued into 2022. Severe defeats, mass defections of operatives to ISWA, as well as counter-terrorism efforts by the Nigerian government and foreign military forces, have significantly weakened Boko Haram's impact in Nigeria. As a result, ISWA has become significantly stronger and continues to expand its

area of activity in north-eastern Nigeria and the Lake Chad region. Activity by terrorist groups such as ISWA is expected to increase in the lead up to, and following, February's presidential elections, as groups exploit tensions caused by the elections Okoli, (2022).

Conclusion

This study Examine the intersections and divergences between terrorism and crimes of passion in Nigeria, which gain a deeper understanding of the complex social, economic, and political dynamics that contribute to violence and insecurity within the country, the paper also highlighted on the beginning, principles and activities of Boko Haram in Nigeria. Crimes of passion are generally invoked when death is involved, so the charges are usually either manslaughter or murder charge, but they can also apply to capital murder charges, intoxication manslaughter, and criminally negligent homicide.

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CHAPTER 4

PEACE EDUCATION AND FOOD SECURITY IN NIGERIA: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE LINKAGES

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INTRODUCTION

Since the inauguration of Nigeria's fourth republic in 1999, the country Nigeria has witnessed outbreak of several violent communal or ethnic conflicts across all the six geo-political zones. From the; Zango-Kataf conflicts in Osun state (1999-2001), Tiv-Jukun crisis in Taraba state (1999-2001), Ife-Modakeke conflict in Osun state (1999-2000), Eleme-Okrika conflict, Itsekiri-Urhobo conflict (1999-2000), Itsekiri-Ijaw conflict, Aguleri-Umuleri conflict in Anambra state (1995-1999), Umuode-Oruku conflict, Igbo-Ikom conflict in Cross River state, to the Ezza-Ezillo conflict in Ebonyi state among others (Otite and Albert, 1999; Ubi, 2001; Imobighe, Bassey and Asuni, 2002; Best, 2006; Onwe, Nwogbaga and Nwakamma, 2015) these conflicts generally manifest essentially on several premise.

For instance, when manifesting in the form of host-stranger face-off, the communal conflict is provoked when or whereby a section of the community tags itself as the host (owner of resource asset or land) and the other group as strangers (visitors to the resource, asset, community or land) (Albert, 2001; Fearon and Latin, 2011). In similar cases, according to Best (2006), the communal conflict is provoked when the settlers import their culture and tradition into their new community to the discomfort of the host community. Hinging their violence on the constitutional provisions of free movement, free association, free ownership of property and capitalising on the constitutional and universal declaration of human rights whilst at the same time divorcing the principles of Federal character and quota system, this settler (non-

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indigene) sub-community dissipate the definition of status to assert their rights in their places of settlement (Best, 2006).

Onwe, Nwogbaga and Nwakamma (2015) posit the premise of communal conflicts in relation to the Nigerian experience on the struggle essentially by communities to control the available limited resources. Conflicts in Nigeria also, has been attributed to a number of factors including, divide-and-rule strategies especially under the military rule; poverty, unemployment and exploitation; political and religious manipulation; ethnic dividing lines and; the increased salience of ethnic identity and indigeneity as a consequence of the federal system (Quaker-Dokubo, 2000; Nolte, 2002; Akinwale, 2010; Alimba, 2014). These conflicts are generally not new in Nigeria and one major recurring problem confronting Nigeria in particular and Africa at large (Ololo, 2017).

Concept of Peace

Literally, the word ‘peace’ is derived from the original Latin word ‘pax’, which means a pact, a control or an agreement to end war or any dispute and conflict between two people, two nations or two antagonistic groups of people (Bloomsbury Dictionary of Word Origins, 1995; US Military History Companion, 2008). However, peace, is something more meaningful, valuable and important than the absence of war. Peace means or includes the presence of justice, law, order or government in the society (Vesilind, 2005).

Beyond focusing only on the absence of tension or the absence of unhappy situations, peace must include justice in society too (Kin, 2008). Peace can only last where human rights are respected, where people’s well-being is highly regarded, and where individuals and nations are free (Abrams, 1995). To Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677), one of the famous philosophers in second half of 17th century, peace is a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence and justice (Brussell, 1970). Jawaharlal Nehru (1889-1964) emphasized peace in the sense of a state of mind. In his view – peace is not a relationship of nations; it is a condition of mind brought about by a serenity of soul. Thus, lasting peace can come only to peaceful people (Fishel, 2008).

Concept of Pace Education

According to Johan Galtung, Norwegian peace scholar, the term 'peace' and 'violence' are linked (Galtung, 1995). Thus, the need for peace education. On the one hand, peace has two sides: negative peace and positive peace. While, negative peace is the absence of personal violence; positive peace is an absence of structural violence or social justice (Galtung, 1995). In fact, peace is the absence of violence and should be used as the social goal.

Peace education is the process of acquiring values, knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behaviours to live in harmony with oneself, others, and the natural environment. The pre-eminence of peace education focus minds and financing in an effort or as a means to bring about a culture of peace (United Nations, 2013). James (2008) posits the commitment of peace education to; encouraging a vow to peace for a settled disposition and enhancing the confidence of the individual as an individual agent of peace; informing the student on the consequence of war and social injustice; informing the student on the value of peaceful and just social structures and working to uphold or develop such social structures; encouraging the student to love the world and to imagine a peaceful future; and as caring for the student and encouraging the student to care for others. Thus, peace education is a right increasingly emphasized by peace researchers such as Betty (1997) and Douglas (1993). There has also been a recent meshing of peace education and human rights education (United Nations, 1993).

In addition, peace education approaches aim to alter beliefs, attitudes, and behaviours from negative to positive particularly, attitudes toward conflict as a basis for preventing violence (Van-Slyck, Stern and Elbedour, 1999). Various styles or peace education approaches in conflict resolution training (ADR, Verbal Aikido, NVC) give the peace education practitioner the means to accept the conflictual situation and orient it towards a peaceful resolution. As one peer mediation coordinator put it: "Conflict is very natural and normal, but you can't go through your entire life beating everybody up – you have to learn different ways to resolve conflict" (Jeffries, 2000).

Human rights education, another approach of peace education teaches the next generation about crime prevention, to better understand and address problems that can undermine the rule of law. This approach promotes peace and encourages students to engage actively in their communities and future professions. Making the rule of law (RoL) and a culture of lawfulness a priority part, this peace education approach is not just about transmitting knowledge, but also about values and behaviours that are modelled and enforced daily through the 'hidden curriculum' of the classroom. This 'hidden curriculum' of the classroom and school transmits norms, values and beliefs to learners in ways other than formal teaching and learning processes (Yury, 2019). This ensures that learners develop skills to engage in society as ethically responsible citizens.

Conceptualising Food Security

Based on the 1996 World Food Summit (FAO, 2024), food security is defined when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Food security is premised on four main dimensions. These are unravelled below.

Physical availability of food (that is, the supply of food – secure only – when the level of food production, stock levels and net trade are sustainable). Again, economic and physical access to food. That is, national or international adequate supply of food at the level that guarantee household food security. This household food security should also guarantee concerns resulting from policy, income, expenditure, markets and prices in lieu of insufficient food access or otherwise aimed at achieving food security. Further, food utilization. This is the way the body makes the most of various nutrients in the food. Combined with good biological utilization of food consumed, sufficient energy and nutrient intake by individuals determines the nutritional status of individuals. As a result, good care and feeding practices must be ensured amidst, food preparation, diversity of the diet and intra-household distribution of food. Finally, stability of the other three dimensions over time. Adequate food intake is considered to be food insecure if the adequate access to food occurs on a periodic basis, risking

a deterioration of individual or national nutritional status. Besides, adverse weather conditions, political instability, or economic factors (unemployment, rising food prices) that impact on food security status needs be addressed (World Bank, 2024).

Peace Education and Food Security: Farmers-Herders Clashes in View

Crisis in Nigeria threatens food security, peace and sustainable development of the nation. The incessant crises between Herders and Farmers can be understood as the problem of access to land for economic survival, which as a result, has caused economic, political and environmental tensions in Nigeria, especially in the middle belt and southern parts of Nigeria since the return to democracy in 1999. Occasioned by the conflict, many lives have been lost, so many others displaced, with attendant property damage and loss and, socio-economic consequences on sustainable development of the nation.

In search of greener pasture for their flocks or livestock and sequel to the challenges of, desertification and deforestation in the Sahara Desert, herdsman are forced to migrate down south for greener pasture for their cattle to graze. Though, herdsman by their nature are migrants who leave their traditional abode in search of greener pasture for their flocks or livestock, this wave of migration is caused generally by the absence of good and veritable land for their livestock to feed on; the alarming rate the Sahel region of Nigeria is experiencing drought, desertification and deforestation (Blench, 2004; Abass, 2012; Okolie, and Atelhe, 2013).

Unfortunately, despite military nor mediation panel intervention have been able to address the crisis and, in most cases, farmers-herders crisis has continued to thrive in several parts of Nigeria. This crisis' cause great damage to farmland, resulting to conflicts and confrontations with indigenes and farmers in particular (Boko, 2007; Hoffman, 2014). For instance, Agbede (2016), Amnesty International (2018) report that between the year 2000 and 2016, conflicts and confrontations between the herders and the farmers and also indigenes of the communities they migrate to in, the North-central states of Benue, Plateau and Nasarawa and other states in the south and middle-belt led to, the death of 168 people while 18,000

persons were displaced, with some who were landowners, becoming tenants in Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps.

With far-reaching impact on farming activities, Adama, Atelhe and Emmanuel (2017), Adebayo and Olaniyi (2008), Adebayo & Ojo (2012), Olabode and Ajibabe (2010), Ukamaka, Mbadiwe, Danjuma, Mbolle and Achonam (2017) further stress scarcity of food items which often leads to poverty and disease – bound to prevail due to the conflict. Following, unsafe environment for farming, forceful relocation of farmers, and increase in the number of widows and orphans and migration to marginal areas, widespread displacement of farmers from their farms following the destruction of farms by the invading pastoralist and subsequently a fall in farm yield as farmers abandon their more fertile farmland in avoidance of conflict and death; the North-central, middle-belt, southern parts and some other parts of Nigeria have been characterized by chronic food insecurity driven by the crisis (World Food Programme, 2019).

Implications of Conflict on Mental Health, Progress and Sustainable Development

Just as conflict has implications on economic growth and sustainable development so, does it on, mental health. According to WHO (2011) such factors of; peace and justice, economic growth, poverty are; strongly interlinked with mental health. In fact, mental health, to them (WHO, 2011) is key in, efforts to achieve; social inclusion and equity, sustainable health security, justice and, sustainable economic development. Since safe and resilient city-settlements depend on an overall mental health of society then, mental health has a cross-cutting overall relevance across development goals of; poverty, economic growth and, safety cum absence of conflict (UN-SDG, 2015; Bouzar, 2015; Chatterjee et al., 2014). Lending credence to this, Ogwuche & Mkpelanga (2014) affirms that, in the attendant conflict effects are; social injustice, crippling poverty, unemployment, lack of education, reduced health expectancy and welfare, inadequate resources to improve income status and the; cohort of desperate youths in society.

Armed conflict and violence disrupt social-support structures and exposes civilian populations to high levels of stress. In associated conflict cases in Nigeria and mental stress,

accumulated evidence posits; a positive association between conflict and mental disorders of depression and anxiety (Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, 2017); that 15-20% of conflict-affected populations develop mild-to-moderate mental disorders such as; post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD), depression and anxiety (Obilom and Thatcher, 2008; Beiser, Wiwa and Adebajo, 2010; Tangurum et al., 2014; World Bank, 2016). Furthermore, if not effectively addressed, the long-term mental health and psychological well-being of overall 3-4% of people exposed to conflicts may either deteriorate to; severe mental disorders of; psychosis or debilitating depression/anxiety which may affect ability to function and survive (World Bank, 2016).

In addition, the emotional, behavioural and academic feat correlates of conflict-afflicted population particularly youths include a wide range of mental health conditions of; substance use, anxiety, school disengagement, psychological stress, depression, somatisation, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), reduced self-esteem, disruptive and aggressive behaviour, academic failure (Neunar and Elbert, 2007; Obilom and Thatcher, 2008; Beiser, Wiwa and Adebajo, 2010; Tangurum et al., 2014). Thus, Musisi (2005), Cooley et al. (2009) posit that health of individuals particularly conflict-afflicted communities given traumatic mental conditions they experience usually requires and develops special need for understanding, emotional intervention, diplomatic security, a sense of belonging and self-worth. Consequently, communities especially conflict-afflicted communities in Nigeria need special treatment and school-based preventive interventions to ameliorate the psychological impacts of conflict plagued mental stress to aid them develop appropriately and further achieve academic success.

Nigerian Conflict: Issues and Concern

Most developing nations including Nigeria and in fact across the world are confronted with one major recurring problem – conflicts (communal, armed violence, exploitation) and proliferation of small arms and light weapons – that breed or further spread crime, torture, militarism, war consciousness and sexual vice (UN, 2015; Nwobodo, 2019). According to UN

(2011) roughly 20 million people have been killed in over 150 armed conflicts in developing countries since World War II – majority being youths who are usually the combatants during those conflicts. Further, post-2010, over two million young people died in situations of conflict amidst twelve million permanently disabled or seriously injured survivors. Further, conflicts between the years 2010 to 2020 rendered six million homeless and turned another one million individuals’ orphans. Yet, it is estimated that within that period in view about, 13% of adolescents globally became mentally ill and developed mental disorders cum illness as a result of conflicts (UNICEF, 2005; 2001).

Beiser, Wiwa and Adebajo (2010) in their study on conflict effects proxying two villages; one heavily exposed to conflict and study-experimentally controlled by a second village not affected by conflict; in the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria reported 60% prevalence of PTSD across community-members in the conflict-affected village and, 14.5% in the village not affected by the conflict. Further, the prevalence of; PTSD (23.6%), depression (15.8%), acute anxiety disorder (9.3%) was common across one refugee population resulting from the Tiv/Fulani conflict in Benue state Nigeria (Ogwuche and Mkpelanga, 2014). This is besides, the disturbing attendant psychological health risks of decreased self-esteem, high drug use, emotional distress; suicidal ideation, attempt and/or completion consequent on conflict-affliction (Mason, Andrew and Upton, 2010; Schlein, 2019).

The persistence of conflict has severe stress-related effects especially daily stressors associated with post-conflict environments capable to; impair the psychological well-being, weaken negatively cognitive development; harm psychological health and possibly damage social development and individual capacities to work and function effectively in the society (Ogwuche and Mkpelanga, 2014). Exposure to extreme forms of violence exhibited during conflict and, the constant threat of losing loved ones or being killed influence a number of maladjustment indicators including; increased risk of psychiatric morbidity; increased risk of a relapse with previous psychiatric illness or chronic health condition; increased risk to

decrease in mental health status and social functioning (Dyregov et al., 2002; Abdeen et al., 2008; Miller and Rasmussen, 2010).

These high rates of symptoms associated with higher number of traumatic events were prevalent especially amongst women and children post-conflict particularly with individuals and/or refugees who remained in the individual Nigerian communities that experienced part of the conflict (Barber, 2008). Thus, such individuals and/or refugees (IDPs) cohabiting with the perceived conflict-enemies especially the aged (65 years and older) experienced strong feelings of hatred and a feeling to act/strike if given a chance. Significantly, such IDPs/refugee individuals (children aged 15 years and above) behaved more aggressively than normal and comparative with non-refugees (Dyregov et al., 2002; Ng-Mak et al., 2004; Cardozo et al., 2004) in spite of coping strategies of support such as religious and spiritual practices and or family resource (Scholte et al., 2004).

Furthermore, incidence of hunger, poor medical and sanitary conditions, lack of clothes and shortage of school materials following, exposure to high level of violent events are psycho-social problems with war-affected zones. These daily stressors influence high levels of emotional distress, trauma, low social functioning and high levels of aggression (Paardekooper et al., 1999; Betancourt et al., 2009). In certain cases where socio-cultural disintegration interferes with communal functioning, community capacity to promote self-healing may be eroded (Beiser, Wiwa and Adebajo, 2010). This was adduced to evoke the notable malnourishment, kwashiorkor cases across the eastern block of Nigeria post-Nigerian civil war and the growing concerns of poor health facility utilisation across most states in Northern Nigeria (NBS, 2021).

Causes of Conflict in Nigeria

In an effort to explain conflict-causes in Nigeria and the associated mental illness consequent on conflict cum post-conflict, existing evidence has shown; human-control phenomenon, deprivation of certain entitlements accruable, issues of indigen-ship, land ownership issues, cultural denigration, competition for resources, material interest and dissatisfaction, deep-

seated animosity, deep-rooted hatred, widespread patterns of ethnic segregation, political factors and linguistic differences, loss of lives and property, destruction of economic base of belligerent communities, high crime wave and historical revisionism (Oji, Eme and Nwoba, 2015; Mbah and Nwangwu, 2014; Nwachukwu, 2016; Ugbo and Igiri, 2008). The resulting conflict from these issues while influencing mental stress may increase risk to severe mental illness and psychological distress especially when subjects are experiencing inequalities in income, power and prestige (Emerson, 2003; Hudson, 2005; Mirowsky & Ross, 2003).

These influence and/or increase mental illness given conflict settings despite human rights violations cumulatively negative on mental health (Vsevolod et al., 2019). While neutrality of government has been advocated while trying to resolve the conflict various, traditional, religious, spiritual practice, chemotherapy, psychotherapy and family resource have also been pointed out post-conflict for survivors (Ogwuche and Mkpelanga, 2014; Adeniyi, 2015; Adeniyi et al., 2019; Asogwa et al., 2017). More importantly authors have pointed out the need to demobilize armed youths especially with a compromised sense of moral order and perceived lack of social support or not feeling safe otherwise; structural and social capital components of community resilience may be battered (Onwe, Nwogbaga and Nwakamma, 2015). Also, protracted character issues including – truancy, delinquency, promiscuity, overwhelming hopelessness, unhappiness, nervousness, feeling guilty without a clear cause, spending a lot of time on mood-altering substances, deep unshakable sadness, self-dislike, deep sorrow or grief, suicidal tendencies, absence of pleasure, social and vocational impairment, social isolation, diminished interest in persons or past times, low self-regard – can be managed either by; empowerment, employment, particular focus on provision of infrastructure, rehabilitation of major conflict combatants (Rosenfield, 1999; DSM-5-TR, 2022; Hewitt, 2009; Terna, 2014; Thabet, Abed and Vostanis, 2004; Vsevolod et al., 2019; Bessa, 2012; Goodman & Huang, 2002; Ridner, 2004).

Theoretical and Contemporary Perspectives on Conflict-effects in Nigeria: Social Misfunctioning Anomie Theory in View

A modern sociological theory associated with social malfunctioning, conflict, mental health and concepts of suicide is Anomie theory formulated by Durkheim. In his book titled suicide, he argued that suicide rate varies in function of social integration and collective regulation pre-conflict, conflict or post-conflict. Using different levels of both concepts of social integration and collective regulation, he postulated the existence of four types of suicide namely; egoistic suicide; altruistic suicide; anomic suicide; fatalistic suicide

Durkheim posited that suicide victims – one kind of conflict-effect – is informed by a low degree of social integration. He argued that in the absence of strong social cohesion and strong social constraint in the form of norms, values, and morals (positions that fuel and sustain conflict), individuals who are not well socially integrated are more likely to commit suicide (Bessa, 2012). Compared to the egoistic suicide, which is linked to low social integration, the altruistic suicide is connected to high social integration while the third type of suicide in Durkheim's system (anomic suicide) is related to a low degree of social constraint. According to Durkheim, in the absence of a strong system of collective states of conscience the impulse of suicide takes over the victims' behaviour. With less social censure, the individuals give satisfaction to their wildest imaginations, which for the most part lead toward suicide. Durkheim associates this third type of suicide to the lack of social stability and order. As it was in the case of the first two types, the fatalistic suicide is the exact opposite of the anomic suicide. Durkheim further argued that these types of suicides reflect different degrees of social constraint. While the anomic suicide is associated with low level of social constraint, the fatalistic suicide is attributable to an excessive social regulation (Bessa, 2012).

Structural Strain Theory of Deviance

Contemporary sociological theory related to social malfunctioning, conflict, behaviour and health is the structural strain theory postulated by the American sociologist Robert Merton. The strain theory is also helpful in shedding light on individuals' post-conflict behavioural deviance phenomenon. Focused on such concepts as institutional norms, cultural goals, prescribed and proscribed behaviours, the variation in rates of deviant behaviours depends on

variation in cultural goals and institutional norms. Merton argued that cultural goals are the purposes and the interests seen as legitimate objectives; whereas institutional norms are acceptable social traditions that regulate the modes of reaching these goals. Arguing further, he posited that prescribed behaviours result from the equilibrium between cultural goals and institutional norms. Proscribed behaviours, or non-conformity to the social structure occur as a result of an imbalance between two factors: exposure to negative conditions such as conflict, conflict confusion or disorder (as opposed to order) at the expense of the institutional norms. The second factor is: mental health problems for individual victims of conflict, disequilibrium between expectations and actual cultural achievements with emphasis on adverse mental effects on individuals' which lead to deviance (Agnew, 2000).

Labelling theory

Societal reaction to rule-breaking is contributory to the worsening challenge of conflict in Nigeria. This deviance called the labelling theory was proposed by Sheff. He arrived at this theory from the study of deviant behaviours. According to him the concept of deviance is related to the notion of rules or norms. Furthermore, he argued that society spells out accepted and unaccepted norms which allows the society to reward individuals who conform and punish those who do not. In so doing to punish individual rule-breakers by labelling or stigmatise them, the individual rule-breakers sometimes orchestrate more severe rule-breaking (Bessa, 2012).

Conflict and the Double Burden of Malnutrition

The world is increasingly faced with both under- as well as over-nutrition worsen by conflict. Prevalence of; overweight, obesity, rising diet related non-communicable diseases (diabetes, hypertension, coronary heart diseases, gout and cancer), deficiency and excess of one or more diet nutrients leading to too little or excess nutrient absorption and utilisation conflict-precipitated; or post-conflict inflicted exist despite inadequate care practices, poor sanitation, inadequate health services incident with conflict (Profile, 2001). Thus, due to the conflicts' burden of malnutrition, life expectancy keeps declining accumulatively in Nigeria and other

developing nations while cardiovascular diseases and cancer keeps multiplying in industrialised countries. Despite integrated approaches, rapid change is witnessed in disease pattern further resulting in; changing dietary patterns and lifestyles (nutrition transition), spurred either by; conflict, urbanisation, market globalisation, economic development, modernisation and, industrialisation. These in addition to, declining levels of physical activity, rapid economic transition, under-nutrition, over-nutrition is, complicating infectious and chronic diseases such as Ebola virus, Lassa virus and Corona virus pandemics; existing over a long period of time (Nnam, 2011a; b).

Yet at the individual level, abandonment of traditional foods, industrialisation of the food chain, life-style changes for fortified processed foods and the attendant high consumption of processed foods are less favourable for; efficient macro-nutrients food-composition, resource-full micro-nutrients and phytochemical-diet composition, and well-organised energy-dense diet. This further increases in the affliction of conflict manifesting itself mainly as, protein-energy malnutrition (PEM), diarrheal diseases, infectious diseases, a broad array of clinical conditions ranging from poor physical growth of children in the spectra of kwashiorkor (characterised by oedema), marasmus (characterised by severe wasting), iron deficiency, vitamin A deficiency, iodine deficiency. The aftermath further is, high consumption of diets rich in saturated fat, sugar, refined foods, under-nutrition, over-nutrition, low or excessive intake of nutrients, poor nutrient utilisation, obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases (CVD), hypertension, stroke and their complications, all, health risk factors that could lead to death. These account for more than 60% of child mortality in Nigeria; more than 11% of the global burden of diseases and, cardiovascular diseases and cancer ranked as the top 2 causes of death (WHO, 2011).

Conclusion Remarks

The current trend in dealing with conflict is the issue of early intervention. Programme activities must be designed to ensure that the condition of pre-conflict and post-conflict does not deteriorate. In other words, high risk conflict-areas must be identified in order to

completely arrest or prevent further conflict or continued conflict. In lieu of successful implementation, such program must completely consider biological, environmental, cultural, social and financial situations in-community and between-communities in-mind to avoid anomalies promoting conflict development in those areas. Further, this special intervention must be designed at reducing the complexity and multiplicity variables affecting children, girls, women or persons with disability in the progress of addressing the issue of conflict. Onu (2002), Mukhopadhyay, Nenty and Abosi (2012) opined that such intervention programs should include policy instruments, training (ranging from health, peace, social, physical, emotional, skill), peace stimulation and inducement, youth empowerment, social and basic amenities funding and such as maximise intellectual skills and potentials – early enough.

Practically speaking and in efforts to completely rip Nigeria of conflicts, putting in place these intervention programmes to provide sustained adequate conflict education particularly as a taught subject across secondary schools may communicate the urgency for the need of peace across society – possibly absolute peace too – as members of society will be engaged in the development to peace progress. Also, as part of a sub-set of the ministry of women affairs and gender development, intentional acts of government to put together an agency to evolve the process of peace by; surveying, observing and evaluating the aspects that manifest conflict using a multi-disciplinary identification approach akin to contemporary national and international issues that prompt conflict and its defects extent to compound complexities and disintegration is of the essence. This agency should incorporate basic counselling and psycho-medical services to provide and establish individualised consistency per functioning and intervention sine qua none to making valid assessment from data, effective judgement and functioning for purposeful life and living and; attain the specific aspects of peace.

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CHAPTER 5

THE ROLE OF FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY IN NATIONAL SECURITY ARCHITECTURE IN NIGERIA: IMPLICATIONS AND PROSPECT

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INTRODUCTION

Financial Technology, commonly called Fintech, represents the intersection of finance and technology. It encompasses a wide range of innovations that aim to improve and automate the delivery of financial services (Agarwal and Zhang 2020). It is also referred to as software, mobile applications, and other technologies created to enhance and automate traditional forms of finance for businesses and consumers alike (Arner et al. 2017). Also, financial technology is seen as technological innovation in financial services like automated teller machines (ATM), point of sale (POS), electronic banking (E-Banking, and online banking, spanning areas such as banking, insurance, investment management, payments, and lending (Belanche et al. 2019). It leverages technological advancements, including artificial intelligence, blockchain, big data analytics, and cloud computing, to enhance efficiency, accessibility, and security in financial transactions and services for functionality (Buchak et al. 2018).

In addition, financial technology encompasses technologies such as Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data Analytics, Mobile and Cloud Computing, and the Internet of Things (IoT) which enhance, or automate financial services for businesses or consumers. Further examples of financial technology include but are not limited to mobile banking, peer-to-peer payment services (e.g., Venmo, CashApp), automated portfolio

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managers (e.g., Wealthfront, Betterment), or trading platforms such as Robinhood. It can also apply to developing and trading cryptocurrencies (e.g., Bitcoin, Dogecoin, and Ether) (Cao et al. 2020).

Fintech innovations are reshaping traditional financial services through digital payment platforms such as mobile wallets, peer-to-peer transfers, and contactless payments, improving lending and financing methods by introducing peer-to-peer lending, crowdfunding and improving credit scoring methods, offering automated advisory services (robo-advisors), algorithmic trading, and democratizing access to investment opportunities, streamlining policy management, claims processing, and risk assessment through digital platforms, utilizing technology to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, thereby enhance regulatory reporting (Chen et al. 2019). Fintech continues to revolutionize the financial services industry, offering innovative solutions that enhance efficiency, accessibility, and user experience while presenting regulation, cybersecurity, and customer trust challenges. As technology advances and consumer demands evolve, Fintech is poised to play an increasingly significant role in shaping the future of finance globally. In addition, Fintech promotes access to financial services for underserved populations, including those in remote areas or without traditional banking services, reduces operational costs for financial institutions through automation and digital processes, potentially leading to lower fees and better service pricing for consumers, provides personalized and convenient services, improving user satisfaction and loyalty, spurs innovation and competition within the financial industry, encouraging incumbents to enhance services and new entrants to disrupt traditional models, and improve risk assessment and management practices through advanced analytics and real-time monitoring (Chen et al. 2020).

The trends of the Financial Sector Development are crucial in shaping the future of the financial sector to promote income diversification, boost savings, and offer various financing and investment opportunities (Gai et al. 2018a), by creating a strong, dynamic, and stable sector, financial development drives economic growth and diversify national economies

through financial technology (Gomber et al. 2018) and this can be observed through several key indicators and themes that shape the landscape of financial systems worldwide. Financial services are increasingly digitalized, with a growing emphasis on online banking, mobile payments, digital wallets, and blockchain technology. This trend is driven by the need for efficiency, accessibility, and cost-effectiveness in financial transactions. The rise of financial technology (fintech) has disrupted traditional financial services. Fintech offers innovative solutions such as peer-to-peer lending platforms, robo-advisors, crowdfunding, and automated trading systems catering to consumers and businesses.

Fintech and the National Security Architecture

National security architecture refers to the framework of institutions, policies, strategies, and practices that a nation employs to safeguard its sovereignty, territorial integrity, citizens, and interests from external and internal threats. It encompasses both military and non-military components and is designed to ensure the resilience and security of the state in various dimensions. It includes the armed forces such as the army, navy, air force, and sometimes other specialized units like cyber warfare and space forces, whose capabilities are crucial for defending borders, deterring aggression, and conducting operations if necessary (Georgescu et al. 2019).

Other forms of national security architecture are intelligence agencies, law enforcement and security services, diplomacy and foreign policy agents, cybersecurity, critical infrastructural protection, Emergency Response and Crisis Management, strategic communication agencies, Border Security and Immigration Control, Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Non-Proliferation, Policy Coordination and Decision-Making Structures, and Resilience and Continuity of Government (Bakdash et al. 2018). However, the configuration and emphasis of these elements vary from country to country based on geopolitical circumstances, historical experiences, and perceived threats. Thus, national security architecture is a dynamic field that evolves in response to changing threats,

technological advancements, and geopolitical developments, requiring constant adaptation and readiness to address emerging challenges.

The importance of financial systems in national security cannot be overemphasized. Financial systems are integral to national security by supporting economic stability, funding defense efforts, protecting critical infrastructure, providing intelligence, enabling effective diplomacy, and promoting resilience in the face of threats and crises (Algarni et al. 2021). Adequate funding for defense and security measures relies on a healthy economy and well-functioning financial markets, which facilitate government borrowing, taxation, and budget allocation necessary to support military readiness, intelligence operations, and law enforcement (Agrafiotis et al. 2018).

The Nigerian Context

Fintech is driving the transformation of Nigeria's traditional banking systems at an unprecedented pace, increasing the reach and efficiency of financial services in Africa's most populous country. Through mobile banking, digital payments, and other innovations, fintech is extending financial services to previously underserved communities, driving financial inclusion and widening economic opportunities. A 2022 McKinsey report projects that Africa's financial services market could grow at about 10 per cent per annum, reaching around \$230 billion in revenues by 2025 and Nigeria's fintech sector makes up about one-third of Africa's fintech market. However, about half of Nigeria's adults remain unbanked or underserved, primarily due to the limitations of traditional banking infrastructure and this is especially true in rural and underserved areas, where physical bank branches are scarce or nonexistent (Busari, & Jayeoba, 2021).

Nigeria's dynamic fintech sector holds the potential to bridge those gaps with mobile money, digital payment platforms and wallets to reach underserved populations in rural and remote areas. Thus, in recent times, many fintech companies are collaborating with traditional banks to tailor services to the evolving needs of Nigerian consumers and businesses, offering a range of traditional banking products such as savings accounts and bill payments with

innovative tech solutions such as lending platforms, virtual investment advisors, digital insurance products, and digital remittance solutions (Enesi, & Ibrahim, 2021). Fintech offers more widely accessible financial products that can help close the unmet credit demand of micro, small and medium-sized businesses in the country (Akanb 2024). A 2022 IFC Nigerian SME Finance Market report estimates this is around 13 trillion Nigerian naira (equivalent to US\$9 billion today). These products include invoice financing services, supply chain finance solutions, inventory management systems, data analytics tools, digital capital investment, digital assets, neo-banking, and digital accounting and bookkeeping tools tailored to their needs.

Furthermore, Nigeria faces a variety of complex national security challenges that have significant implications for its stability, development, and regional influence, which arise from both internal and external factors, shaping the country's security landscape (Ayilara, 2024). Originating in the northeast region, Boko Haram has waged a violent insurgency since the early 2000s, seeking to establish an Islamic state and opposing Western education and this conflict has resulted in widespread displacement, loss of lives, and humanitarian crises (Sule et al. 2021). Furthermore, a splinter group of Boko Haram affiliated with ISIS, ISWAP operates mainly in the Lake Chad Basin area and continues to pose a threat through attacks on civilians, security forces, and humanitarian workers (Moreta et al. 2023), and others are Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS), Islamic State in the West African Province (ISWAP), Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM) as well as armed banditry in the northwest. Specifically, Boko Haram has carried out multiple attacks, bombings, and kidnappings that have resulted in fatalities, population relocation, and infrastructure destruction. The continuing existence and increasing power of violent extremist groups in the Sahel region threaten to worsen the humanitarian situation and disperse instability throughout Africa, putting neighboring nations' security and economies in danger (Manasseh et al. 2024).

Evolution of Fintech in Nigeria

The evolution of fintech in Nigeria has been a dynamic and transformative journey, marked by significant milestones and rapid growth. The sector's development can be traced back to the early 2000s, with the advent of mobile telecommunications and the introduction of mobile banking services. Pioneers such as Interswitch, founded in 2002, played a crucial role in building the infrastructure for electronic payments and financial transactions. By the 2010s, the fintech landscape in Nigeria began to flourish, driven by increasing internet penetration, smartphone adoption, and a burgeoning youthful population keen on technological innovations. Key players like Flutterwave and Paystack emerged, offering payment processing solutions that revolutionized how businesses and consumers transacted. These companies not only streamlined payment systems but also garnered significant international investments, showcasing the potential of Nigerian fintech on the global stage. Government policies and regulatory frameworks also evolved to support fintech growth. The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) introduced initiatives such as the cashless policy and the regulatory sandbox framework, fostering innovation while ensuring consumer protection and financial stability. Today, Nigeria boasts a vibrant fintech ecosystem encompassing various services, including mobile payments, digital lending, wealth management, and blockchain technology. This evolution has significantly improved financial inclusion, providing millions of Nigerians with access to financial services previously out of reach. As the sector continues to innovate, Nigeria is poised to become a leading fintech hub in Africa, driving economic growth and development.

The historical development of fintech in Nigeria is a story of rapid innovation and adaptation, beginning in the early 2000s. The initial phase saw the introduction of electronic banking and payment systems, spearheaded by companies like Interswitch, founded in 2002. Interswitch's development of the Verve card and Quickteller services laid the groundwork for a robust electronic payment infrastructure. As mobile telecommunications expanded, so did mobile banking services. Banks began offering USSD codes and mobile apps, making banking

services more accessible to a wider population. The success of mobile money platforms, such as Paga, launched in 2009, demonstrated the potential of fintech to enhance financial inclusion by providing banking services to the unbanked and underbanked populations. The 2010s marked a significant turning point with the rise of startups like Flutterwave and Paystack, which focused on simplifying online payment processes for businesses and consumers. These companies attracted substantial international investment, highlighting Nigeria's growing reputation as a fintech innovation hub. Paystack's acquisition by Stripe in 2020 for \$200 million underscored the global recognition of Nigerian fintech potential. Government policies also evolved to support this burgeoning sector. The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) introduced regulations to foster innovation while ensuring stability and consumer protection. Initiatives like the cashless policy and the establishment of a regulatory sandbox for fintech startups facilitated a conducive environment for growth. Today, Nigeria's fintech ecosystem is diverse and dynamic, encompassing mobile payments, digital lending, wealth management, and blockchain technology. The historical development of fintech in Nigeria has significantly improved financial inclusion and continues to drive economic growth and innovation.

First Bank of Nigeria (established in 1894), Wema Bank Plc (founded in 1945), United Bank for Africa (founded in 1949) and Sterling Bank (incorporated in 1960) are some of the long-standing Nigerian banks. Before 1989, when the now-defunct Societe Generale Bank Nigeria (SGBN) installed the first automated teller machine (ATM), these banks relied on analogue processes (mainly paperwork) to meet their customers' banking needs. However, the installation of ATMs pushed such automated machines into the mainstream banking industry. With the availability of ATM cards, performing digital transactions became feasible. These banks fall into the first generation of evolution, which was the era of traditional banking automation. By 2002, Nigerian electrical engineer Mitchel Elegbe founded Interswitch to tackle the lack of infrastructure to power digital payments through cards. Interswitch facilitated the seamless use of one card on multi-bank ATM points (interoperability).

Aside from Interswitch, other Fintech firms that provided the required infrastructure for facilitating payments were UPSL (Unified Payment Services Limited), Paga, Remita (by SystemSpecs), and eTranzact. They collectively fall into the second generation of Fintech evolution. While these companies played a crucial role in improving financial inclusion stats, there were still staggering figures of unbanked and unbanked Nigerians. Paystack, Flutterwave, and their ilk joined the fast-growing Fintech ecosystem between 2014 and 2016. The launch of these startups brought about innovative democratization, allowing more people access to digital financial services. Paystack and Flutterwave made e-commerce and online merchants a viable possibility in the country, as they serve as online payment gateways. So far, Flutterwave and Paystack have over 290,000 and 60,000 merchants respectively.

The third generation of Fintech companies saw the proliferation of neobanks in the country. These banks challenge the traditional brick-and-mortar banks by simplifying the ways that their customers access banking services as well as operating in several locations without physical branches. Studies have shown that one digital bank has been launched in Nigeria since 2017, with ALAT (owned by Wema Bank) being the pioneer neobank. Today, there are other neobanks like Sparkle, Kuda, VBank (by VFD), Eyowo, and Rubies.

Furthermore, in October 2020, the leading Irish-American financial services and software company, Stripe, announced a strategic business move to acquire Paystack, a Lagos-based Fintech firm that focuses on integrated payment services. The acquisition, which financial analysts estimated to be worth more than \$200 million, caught the attention of the global business communities and helped Paystack attain unicorn status. Today, Nigeria's Fintech landscape has over 200 Fintech startups, key stakeholders (such as banks, telecom companies, and government), and enablers and funding partners (universities, research institutes, investors, incubators, and consumers). Of the 200 firms, there are about six unicorns. According to Premium Times, these Nigerian unicorns are Interswitch, Paystack, Flutterwave, OPay, Andela, and Jumia.

Over the last decade, these Fintech firms have been attracting millions of dollars from venture capitalists and startup incubators. According to one McKinsey report, in 2019 alone, the Fintech space attracted over \$122 million, making it the second-highest after Kenya at \$149 million. Nonetheless, Nigeria has since toppled Kenya, thereby taking over as the biggest Fintech hub on the continent. The metric for measuring this performance is based on raising startup funding. The Fintech Times stats indicate that of the \$4 billion raised in the continent, Nigeria snagged \$1.37 billion (South Africa: \$838 million, Egypt: \$588 million, and Kenya: \$375 million). As a result, research and consulting firm Frost and Sullivan project that Nigeria's Fintech revenue would hit \$543.3 million before the end of 2022 as opposed to \$153.1 million in 2017. These figures are undoubtedly strong indications that the industry has fared well thus far.

The Role of Fintech in Enhancing National Security

Fintech plays a pivotal role in enhancing national security in Nigeria through various mechanisms that bolster financial transparency, efficiency, and inclusivity. One of the primary ways fintech contributes to national security is by digitizing financial transactions, thereby reducing the prevalence of cash-based activities that are often linked to illicit operations such as money laundering, terrorism financing, and corruption. Digital payment platforms, mobile banking, and blockchain technology facilitate real-time monitoring and tracking of financial flows, enabling regulatory bodies to detect and combat suspicious activities more effectively.

Fintech also promotes financial inclusion by providing accessible financial services to previously underserved populations. By integrating more people into the formal financial system, fintech helps reduce the socio-economic disparities that can contribute to insecurity and social unrest. Enhanced financial inclusion fosters economic stability and growth, creating a more resilient society less prone to the conditions that breed crime and violence. Additionally, fintech-driven identity verification and Know Your Customer (KYC) processes strengthen the financial system's integrity, ensuring that only legitimate users gain access to financial services. This not only safeguards the financial ecosystem but also contributes to

national security by preventing fraudulent identities from exploiting financial systems. In summary, fintech significantly enhances national security in Nigeria by improving financial transparency, enabling efficient monitoring of transactions, fostering economic inclusion, and strengthening identity verification processes.

Combatting Financial Crimes

Combatting financial crimes with fintech in Nigeria involves leveraging technology to enhance detection, prevention, and enforcement capabilities. These include the implementation of robust digital identity verification systems using biometrics and AI to authenticate customers and prevent identity theft and account takeovers, utilizing blockchain for secure and transparent transactions, reducing fraud in areas like remittances and supply chain finance, deploy AI algorithms to analyze transaction data in real-time, detecting anomalies and suspicious activities that could indicate fraud or money laundering.

Using predictive analytics to forecast potential financial crimes based on historical data patterns, and allowing preemptive actions, implement regulatory technology (RegTech) can result in solutions to ensure compliance with anti-money laundering (AML) and Know Your Customer (KYC) regulations, automating reporting and monitoring processes, facilitate information sharing among financial institutions and regulatory bodies.

Enhancing Financial Inclusion

Improving financial inclusion involves implementing strategies and initiatives that enable more individuals and businesses to access and use a range of affordable and effective financial services. Financial inclusion can be enhanced by increase the availability and accessibility of banking branches, ATMs, and agent banking networks in underserved areas, developing digital infrastructure such as mobile banking, internet banking, and payment systems to reach remote populations, create an enabling regulatory environment that encourages innovation while ensuring consumer protection and financial stability, simplifying and streamlining regulations to facilitate the entry of new financial service providers.

Financial inclusion can also involve increasing financial education of individuals and businesses about financial products, services, and basic money management skills, and awareness about the benefits and risks of using formal financial services, designing financial products that meet the specific needs of underserved populations, such as microfinance loans, savings accounts with low minimum balances, and insurance products tailored to informal sector workers, providing targeted financial services and support to MSMEs, including credit, business training, and access to markets, which are often significant contributors to economic activity and employment (Ozili 2018).

Strengthening Cybersecurity

Robust cybersecurity measures are critically important in fintech (financial technology) because fintech platforms handle sensitive financial information, including banking details, payment card information, and personal identifiers, therefore, cybersecurity measures to protect this data from unauthorized access, theft, and fraud are essential. Strong cybersecurity practices help maintain trust by safeguarding data integrity and ensuring privacy, essential in preventing financial crimes such as fraud, identity theft, and money laundering, which can have severe financial and reputational consequences for both consumers and fintech providers. Furthermore, since fintech platforms are attractive targets for cybercriminals due to the valuable data they process, cybersecurity measures defend against a wide range of threats, including malware, phishing attacks, ransomware, and insider threats. Strong cybersecurity enables fintech companies to innovate confidently, introducing new technologies and services without compromising security.

Also, it fosters a secure environment for technological advancements in the financial sector. In addition, effective cybersecurity measures include robust risk management frameworks and incident response plans and these help fintech companies identify, mitigate, and respond to cyber threats promptly and effectively. Thus, robust cybersecurity measures are essential for fintech companies to protect sensitive financial data, maintain customer trust, comply with regulations, prevent financial crimes, ensure business continuity, and foster

innovation. Investing in cybersecurity is not only a regulatory requirement but also a critical component of safeguarding the future of fintech operations and growth.

Efficient Government Transactions

E-governance refers to the use of electronic and digital technologies by governments to provide public services, engage with citizens, and manage internal processes. E-governance and digital payments for public services represent a transformative approach to enhancing government efficiency, transparency, and citizen engagement. E-governance and digital payments are integral to modernizing public service delivery, enhancing citizen engagement, and promoting inclusive economic development. Governments worldwide are increasingly leveraging digital technologies to improve efficiency, transparency, and accountability while advancing towards a cashless society.

However, while digital platforms streamline administrative processes, reducing paperwork, bureaucratic delays, and operational costs, E-governance facilitates interactive communication between citizens and government agencies, through online portals, social media, and mobile apps allow citizens to provide feedback, participate in consultations, and access public services conveniently. Online platforms enable governments to provide transparent access to information, policies, and decisions, through which citizens can monitor government activities, expenditures, and performance metrics, fostering accountability and trust. E-governance generates vast amounts of data that governments can analyze to make informed policy decisions and optimize service delivery, and promotes inclusive development by reaching marginalized populations who may face barriers accessing traditional government services (El Gohary, 2017). With increasing digital payment options, citizens can pay for government services anytime, anywhere, using mobile wallets, online banking, debit/credit cards, and other digital payment methods.

Crisis Response and Management

Fintech plays a crucial role in facilitating emergency fund disbursements by leveraging technology to streamline processes, ensure rapid delivery, and enhance accessibility. Fintech

companies often collaborate with government agencies, humanitarian organizations, and financial institutions to integrate their disbursement solutions seamlessly into existing emergency response frameworks. It enables rapid distribution of emergency funds through automated processes and digital transactions. This speed is crucial during crises such as natural disasters or pandemics when quick access to funds can mitigate hardships. Fintech companies facilitate digital payments directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts or mobile wallets, bypassing the need for physical checks or cash distribution, which ensures immediate access to funds and reduces the risks associated with handling cash.

The interesting part is that fintech solutions can scale rapidly to accommodate large volumes of fund disbursements to a wide range of recipients be it for individuals, businesses, or nonprofit organizations, and can handle diverse beneficiary profiles efficiently (Iman 2018). It utilizes data analytics to identify eligible recipients, assess needs, and determine the appropriate amount of funds to disburse (Lee and Shin, 2018). Fintech's role in emergency fund disbursements is characterized by speed, efficiency, scalability, accessibility, and security. By leveraging technology and innovative solutions, fintech contributes significantly to ensuring that emergency funds reach those in need promptly and effectively during critical times.

Implications of Fintech on National Security

The implications of fintech on national security in Nigeria are multifaceted, offering both significant benefits and potential challenges. In addition, while fintech offers substantial benefits for national security in Nigeria by enhancing transparency, regulatory oversight, financial inclusion, and identity verification, it also poses challenges related to cybersecurity, regulatory adaptation, and privacy protection among others. Addressing these benefits and challenges are essential to fully leverage fintech's potential for improving national security.

Regulatory and Compliance Challenges

Nigeria has multiple regulatory bodies governing different aspects of the financial sector, including fintech. These include the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Securities and Exchange

Commission (SEC), Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), and others and fintech companies may fall under the purview of one or more of these regulators depending on their business model (e.g., payments, lending, investments). Depending on their activities, fintech companies may need specific licenses or approvals from regulatory authorities such as the CBN or SEC and the process for obtaining these licenses can be time-consuming and complex, requiring detailed documentation and compliance with regulatory standards (Techpoint Africa 2021). Fintech companies handling customer funds or personal data must comply with consumer protection regulations such as transparent pricing, data privacy, and dispute resolution mechanisms to safeguard customer interests.

Also, Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) regulations require fintech companies to implement robust KYC (Know Your Customer) procedures and transaction monitoring systems and compliance with these regulations is critical to prevent financial crimes and ensure regulatory compliance (Steeves 2016). Fintech operations also require compliance with cybersecurity standards and data protection regulations (such as the NDPR) which is essential to protect customer information and maintain trust, and compliance to provide minimum capital requirements set by regulatory authorities. Fintech companies involved in cross-border transactions face additional regulatory challenges related to foreign exchange regulations, international remittance rules, and compliance with global standards. However, these regulatory and compliance challenges require fintech companies in Nigeria to adopt a proactive approach, invest in legal and regulatory expertise, maintain flexibility to adapt to regulatory changes, and prioritize consumer protection and data security. Collaboration with regulatory authorities and industry stakeholders can also help in addressing these challenges effectively.

Cybersecurity Risks

Digital financial systems, while offering convenience and accessibility, also come with vulnerabilities that need careful consideration. Digital financial systems are prime targets for cybercriminals due to the potential for financial gain and access to sensitive personal and

financial data. Common cybersecurity risks include hacking, phishing attacks, malware, and data breaches and weaknesses in system architecture, inadequate encryption, and poor authentication methods can exacerbate these risks. Digital financial systems are susceptible to various forms of fraud, including account takeover, credit card fraud, and social engineering scams. Fraudsters exploit vulnerabilities in transaction processes, weak authentication methods, and user behaviour to perpetrate fraudulent activities.

In addition, non-compliance with regulatory requirements and standards can expose digital financial systems to legal and financial penalties. Therefore, regulatory frameworks such as data protection regulations (e.g., GDPR, NDPR), anti-money laundering (AML) laws, and consumer protection regulations impose obligations on financial institutions and fintech companies to safeguard customer interests and maintain transparency. Therefore, updating systems, software, and security protocols regularly can boost the cybersecurity protection of financial technology (Sabillon, 2022).

Privacy and Data Protection

Privacy and data protection are critically important in the fintech industry since they handle sensitive financial information. Ensuring robust privacy and data protection measures builds trust with customers, which is essential for maintaining a positive reputation and attracting new users. Financial data is a prime target for cyberattacks and identity theft and strong data protection measures can help to mitigate these risks, protecting both the company and its customers from potential financial losses and fraud (NITDA, 2019). Thus, by prioritizing privacy and data protection, fintech companies can offer a better customer experience and users feel more secure knowing their financial information is well-protected, which can lead to increased loyalty and engagement.

When customers trust that their data is safe, they are more likely to adopt new fintech products and services, driving growth for the company. However, in the crowded fintech market, privacy and data protection can be a significant differentiator. Fintech firms that excel in safeguarding customer data can use this as a competitive advantage to attract customers

who prioritize security and privacy. This comes with ethical responsibilities, respecting customer privacy and protecting their data demonstrates a commitment to ethical business practices, which is increasingly important to consumers. Conclusively, privacy and data protection are foundational to the success and sustainability of fintech companies. They not only ensure legal compliance and mitigate risks but also foster trust, enhance customer experiences, and drive innovation and growth.

Digital Divide and Inclusivity

The importance of addressing the digital divide and promoting inclusivity in financial technology (fintech) is crucial because many people, particularly in underserved or remote areas, lack access to traditional financial services such as banking. Fintech solutions can bridge this gap by offering digital financial services that are accessible via mobile phones or the Internet. By addressing the digital divide, fintech can bring financial services to unbanked or underbanked populations, promoting financial inclusion and economic empowerment. Furthermore, fintech innovations often reduce the cost of financial services delivery and this can make financial services more affordable and accessible to low-income individuals and small businesses, who may have been excluded from traditional banking due to high fees or requirements. It also bridges digital divide by ensuring that all individuals, regardless of geographical location or socioeconomic status, have equal access to financial tools and opportunities (Aisseoui, 2021).

Fintech companies that prioritize inclusivity demonstrate corporate social responsibility and are more likely to comply with regulatory expectations related to financial inclusion and consumer protection. Addressing the digital divide and promoting inclusivity in fintech contributes to sustainable economic development. It supports the growth of resilient and inclusive financial systems that can withstand economic shocks and serve diverse populations effectively. Over-reliance on technology can contribute to social isolation or reduced interpersonal communication skills since people may prefer digital interactions over face-to-face communication, affecting relationships and social dynamics.

Technological Dependence

Over-reliance on technology poses several risks. It makes systems vulnerable to technical glitches, bugs, or failures, disrupting operations and causing downtime, affecting productivity and service delivery (Karagozoglu, 1989). The production, use, and disposal of technology can have significant environmental consequences, such as resource depletion, pollution, and electronic waste. Increased reliance on technology exposes systems to cyber threats such as hacking, malware, phishing, and data breaches, thereby, jeopardizing sensitive information, and leading to financial losses or reputational damage. It may also lead to a decline in traditional skills or knowledge as people become dependent on automated processes or software, which can further cause limited adaptability and problem-solving abilities in non-digital contexts in society.

Technology reliance requires robust infrastructure. Disruptions in power supply, internet connectivity, or telecommunications can cripple operations, especially for sectors heavily reliant on real-time data or digital communications. However, although technology is very beneficial in society, over-reliance on technology should be avoided due to risks it have. These risks require a balanced integration of technology with human judgment and resilience strategies to mitigate potential downsides while harnessing the benefits of technological advancements.

Prospects for Fintech in National Security

The prospects for fintech in enhancing national security in Nigeria are promising, with numerous potential benefits and advancements on the horizon. The prospects for fintech in enhancing national security in Nigeria are substantial. By leveraging advancements in technology, increasing financial inclusion, and strengthening regulatory framework among others, fintech can play a pivotal role in creating a more secure and stable economic environment.

Advanced technologies

Artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, and internet of things (IoT) hold immense promise for the future of fintech, driving innovation, efficiency, and inclusivity across the financial services landscape. As these technologies continue to evolve, they will undoubtedly redefine how we interact with money, invest, and secure financial transactions. AI algorithms analyze vast amounts of data in real-time to detect anomalies, prevent fraud, and assess credit risks with greater accuracy. Similarly, AI-driven trading algorithms optimize investment strategies, predict market trends, and execute trades at lightning speed, benefiting both institutional and retail investors. AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants can offer personalized financial advice, streamline customer support, and enhance user experience.

Furthermore, the Blockchain's decentralized ledger system promises to transform fintech in diverse ways. Firstly, immutable blockchain records can bolster cybersecurity by reducing vulnerabilities to hacks and ensuring transparent transaction histories. Second, smart contracts and decentralized finance (DeFi) platforms automate and expedite cross-border payments, reducing transaction costs and settlement times and third, blockchain technology provides unprecedented transparency in financial transactions, ensuring regulatory compliance and fostering trust among stakeholders. In addition to this, Internet of Things (IoT) will reshape fintech in the future in the following ways.

Digital Identity Systems

Integrating digital identity with national identification initiatives represents a significant step towards enhancing security, efficiency, and inclusivity in various sectors, including government services, healthcare, finance, and beyond. The landscape of identity verification and fraud prevention has undergone significant enhancements driven by technological innovation. These advancements are crucial in safeguarding businesses, consumers, and financial institutions against increasingly sophisticated threats. Biometric technology, such as fingerprint scanning, facial recognition, and voice recognition, has revolutionized identity verification by providing a higher level of security compared to traditional passwords or PINs,

as biometric identifiers are unique to each individual and difficult to replicate (Eke et al. 2022). Machine learning algorithms and artificial intelligence are pivotal in detecting patterns and anomalies in vast amounts of data. In identity verification and fraud prevention, AI analyzes user behaviour, transaction history, and other data points to identify suspicious activities in real time.

As such, governments worldwide are increasingly embracing digital identity (ID) solutions to streamline services, improve governance, and bolster security. A typical example in national identification initiatives which establish a central repository of verified identity information for citizens or residents. Digital identity initiatives was therefore built upon this foundational data by creating secure digital identities which are often linked to a unique identifier (like a national ID number) and are accessible via digital platforms or mobile apps. Integrating digital identities with national ID initiatives aims to achieve interoperability across government agencies and private sectors and this allows citizens to access a wide range of services—like voting, healthcare, education, and financial transactions—using a single, verified digital identity.

Collaboration and Information Sharing

Cooperation among fintech firms, regulators, and law enforcement is essential for achieving a balanced regulatory environment that promotes innovation while safeguarding financial stability and protecting consumers. Since fintech firms operate in the ambit of a highly regulated environment where adherence to laws and regulations is paramount, close cooperation with regulators ensures that firms understand and comply with regulatory requirements, including licensing, consumer protection, anti-money laundering (AML), and cybersecurity standards. Since, law enforcement plays a pivotal role in investigating and prosecuting financial crimes, such as fraud, money laundering, and terrorism financing, cooperation between fintech firms and law enforcement agencies enables the sharing of information and intelligence to identify suspicious activities promptly and take appropriate action.

Capacity Building and Education

Training programs for regulatory bodies and financial institutions are essential to ensure that all stakeholders are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and capabilities needed to navigate regulatory compliance, promote financial stability, and foster innovation responsibly. It should cover local and international financial laws, regulations, directives, and guidelines relevant to the jurisdiction in areas like banking regulations, securities laws, anti-money laundering (AML) laws, data protection regulations (e.g., GDPR), and consumer protection laws. This is essential for understanding techniques for detecting and preventing money laundering and terrorist financing activities, recognizing fraud schemes, implementing fraud detection measures, and responding to incidents of fraud, developing and implementing effective compliance programs, policies, and procedures to meet regulatory requirements and mitigate risks, promoting ethical behaviour, integrity, and transparency in financial institutions, and enhancing professionalism and competence among employees through ongoing training and education (Udoikah & Omeje, 2017).

Training programs ensure that regulatory bodies and financial institutions understand and adhere to applicable laws and regulations, reducing the risk of non-compliance penalties and legal issues. Also, effective training enhances participants' ability to identify and manage risks, thereby safeguarding financial stability and protecting stakeholders' interests. By investing in continuous education and professional development, stakeholders can navigate the complexities of the regulatory landscape effectively and contribute to a resilient and sustainable financial system.

Policy and Regulatory Innovations

Emerging regulatory trends and frameworks are shaping the future of industries worldwide, particularly in sectors like finance, technology, healthcare, and beyond. These trends reflect a response to technological advancements, evolving consumer expectations, and global challenges. However, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in Europe has set a global standard for data privacy laws and emerging trends include stricter data protection

regulations, enhanced rights for data subjects, and increased penalties for non-compliance. Following this standard, countries and regions around the world are adopting similar frameworks to protect personal data in the digital age. As cyber threats grow in sophistication, regulatory frameworks are evolving to require robust cybersecurity measures. With the proliferation of artificial intelligence (AI), regulators are focusing on ethical AI development and algorithmic transparency that aims to mitigate bias in AI systems, ensure accountability for AI decisions, and protect consumer rights (Zhang & Lu, 2021). These emerging regulatory trends and frameworks aim to balance innovation with risk management, protect consumers and businesses, and foster sustainable economic growth. They require collaboration between regulators, industry stakeholders, and policymakers to address complex challenges and ensure regulatory agility in a rapidly evolving global landscape. Therefore, regulatory frameworks will continue to evolve as technology advances and societal expectations shift, shaping the future of industries and economies worldwide.

Furthermore, understanding and adopting best practices from regulatory trends and frameworks in other regions can significantly benefit Nigeria, enhancing regulatory effectiveness, fostering economic growth, and promoting investor confidence. For instance, GDPR in Europe sets a high standard for data privacy, requiring businesses to obtain explicit consent for data processing, ensure data security, and report data breaches promptly and Nigeria can adopt similar comprehensive data protection legislation to enhance consumer trust, protect personal data, and facilitate secure data flows, supporting digital economy growth. Implementing robust cybersecurity regulations can strengthen Nigeria's cybersecurity posture, protect critical infrastructure, and safeguard against cyber threats targeting financial institutions, healthcare providers, and government agencies.

Case Studies and Real-world Examples - Role in National Security:

Here are several case studies and real-world examples demonstrating the role of financial technology (fintech) in enhancing national security architecture in Nigeria:

a). Case Study 1: Interswitch

- i. Digital Payments:** Interswitch, a pioneer in Nigeria's fintech landscape, has significantly advanced the digital payments ecosystem. By promoting electronic transactions, Interswitch has reduced reliance on cash, which is often associated with illegal activities such as money laundering and terrorism financing.
- ii. Fraud Prevention:** Interswitch's fraud monitoring systems analyze transaction patterns to detect and prevent fraudulent activities. This real-time monitoring aids in identifying suspicious transactions that could be linked to criminal activities, thus enhancing financial security.

b). Case Study 2: Flutterwave

- i. Cross-Border Payments:** Flutterwave facilitates seamless cross-border payments, ensuring that transactions are transparent and traceable. This helps authorities monitor international money flows and identify potential funding channels for illicit activities.
- ii. Regulatory Compliance:** Flutterwave's compliance tools ensure that all transactions adhere to local and international regulations. By enforcing KYC (Know Your Customer) and AML (Anti-Money Laundering) standards, Flutterwave helps prevent financial crimes that threaten national security.

c). Case Study 3: Paga

- i. Financial Inclusion:** Paga's mobile money platform provides financial services to the unbanked population, promoting economic stability and reducing poverty. Economic stability is crucial for national security as it lowers the risk of social unrest and crime.
- ii. Transaction Monitoring:** Paga's platform includes robust mechanisms for monitoring and reporting suspicious transactions. These aids regulatory bodies in tracking illicit financial flows and identifying potential security threats.

d). Case Study 4: Paystack

- i. Secure Payment Processing:** Paystack ensures secure processing of online payments, reducing the risk of cyber fraud and protecting users' financial information. This strengthens the overall security of the financial ecosystem.
- ii. Data Analytics:** Paystack leverages data analytics to identify and mitigate risks associated with financial transactions. By analyzing transaction data, Paystack can detect unusual patterns indicative of fraudulent activities or financial crimes.

e). Real-World Example 1: Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Regulatory Sandbox

- i. Innovation and Security:** The CBN's regulatory sandbox allows fintech companies to test innovative solutions in a controlled environment. This initiative encourages the development of secure and efficient financial technologies that can enhance national security.
- ii. Compliance Testing:** By operating within the sandbox, fintech firms must demonstrate compliance with regulatory standards, ensuring that new technologies do not pose security risks and are robust against financial crimes.

f). Real-World Example 2: Bank Verification Number (BVN) System

- i. Identity Verification:** The BVN system is a biometric identification system implemented by the CBN to ensure the unique identification of bank customers. This reduces identity fraud and enhances the integrity of the financial system.
- ii. Fraud Reduction:** By linking all bank accounts to a single BVN, it becomes easier to track and prevent fraudulent activities, thereby strengthening financial security.

g). Real-World Example 3: eNaira Digital Currency

- i. Digital Transactions:** The introduction of eNaira, Nigeria's digital currency, promotes digital transactions over cash, enhancing traceability and reducing the scope for illicit financial activities.

ii. Enhanced Surveillance: eNaira enables real-time monitoring of transactions, providing regulatory bodies with better tools to track financial flows and detect suspicious activities that could threaten national security.

y promoting financial transparency, improving transaction monitoring, and ensuring regulatory compliance, fintech companies contribute to a more secure and stable financial environment.

Successful Implementation of Fintech in National Security

FinTech can play a key role in tackling cybercrime in Nigeria. Cybercrime poses a threat to businesses and individuals and can discourage investment due to its impact on international perceptions. Firms may be hesitant to invest in digital companies due to concerns about online criminality as well as physical violence. Creating an intelligence-sharing hub between intelligence agencies, law enforcement and business community can help curb the success rate of cybercrimes, such as ATM spoofing, hacking, identity theft, piracy, and phishing. Sharing methods for detecting and preventing these attacks among businesses can improve security for Nigerian people and businesses. Sharing information and intelligence about successful attacks with law enforcement can provide evidence that the Government is addressing this threat and incentivise further investment.

The intelligence community being able to share threat intelligence with businesses, particularly those operating critical national infrastructure or services, will also improve the resilience of the Nigerian economy to cyber-attacks by adversaries. The UK has companies that provide a myriad of services to increase security in the sector, including a dedicated police unit for fraud (Dedicated Card and Payment Crime Unit), a public-private cyber intelligence sharing centre (Financial Sector Cyber Collaboration Centre), and a body overseeing the resilience of critical national financial infrastructure (Cross-Market Operational Resilience Group). These interlinked constructs support the digital ecosystem as a whole.

An example of international best practice is the Revised Payment Services Directive (PSD2) which permits data sharing by European financial services firms about their

customers, resulting in European countries having some of the highest number of FinTechs per capita in the world. Consolidated rulebooks from implementing regulators have distinguished those European countries that have benefited most from PSD2. Thanks to the efforts of the government and regulators, startups in Nigeria have access to regulatory and industry sandboxes to test out new products and solutions. The Financial Service Innovators launched the 'Industry Innovation Sandbox' with support from the CBN, EFInA, and Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System. In late 2022, the CBN launched its regulatory sandbox. SEC also introduced their own regulatory Incubation Program to support FinTechs operating in capital markets. Improving regulatory coordination and collaboration across these sandboxes would deliver even greater benefits by fully leveraging these tools. UK and South Africa's coordinated approach to its regulatory sandboxes provide good models for consideration.

Challenges and Failures

Despite these successful innovation initiatives, challenges remain in accelerating adoption of RegTech at scale. Overcoming these challenges requires collaboration and co-creation between policymakers, regulators, FIs, and solution providers, through existing frameworks, new mechanisms, and industry assets. Several factors can prevent the wider adoption of digital solutions and shared platforms, such as a lack of shared understanding of technology impacts on KYC processes; lack of clarity on roles and responsibilities for mandating standards; owning/operating industry assets such as utilities; and conflict between KYC and data privacy requirements. These barriers have knock-on effects, such as preventing RegTechs and FIs from forming partnerships and collaborations in RegTech.

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

In conclusion, financial technology (fintech) plays a critical role in enhancing the national security architecture in Nigeria by fostering financial transparency, improving regulatory oversight, and promoting economic stability. Fintech innovations such as digital payment platforms, mobile banking, and blockchain technology have significantly reduced reliance on cash transactions, which are often associated with illicit activities. By enabling real-time

monitoring and advanced data analytics, fintech provides regulatory bodies with powerful tools to detect and combat financial crimes such as money laundering and terrorism financing.

Furthermore, fintech promotes financial inclusion by providing access to financial services for underserved populations, thereby reducing socio-economic disparities that can contribute to insecurity and social unrest. The integration of biometric authentication and advanced identity verification processes strengthens the integrity of the financial system, ensuring that only legitimate users have access to financial services. Additionally, the proactive development of regulatory frameworks and initiatives, such as the Central Bank of Nigeria's regulatory sandbox and the Bank Verification Number (BVN) system, demonstrates a commitment to fostering a secure and innovative financial ecosystem. These measures not only enhance the security of financial transactions but also build trust in the financial system. Overall, the continued evolution and adoption of fintech in Nigeria hold significant promise for bolstering national security. By addressing cybersecurity risks, ensuring robust regulatory compliance, and leveraging advanced technologies, fintech can create a more secure, transparent, and inclusive financial environment, contributing to the broader goals of national stability and economic growth.

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CHAPTER 6

WOMEN, RELIGION AND THIRD-PARTY INTERVENTION IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION: PERSPECTIVES FROM SUDAN

Bayo Thomas Asala*

INTRODUCTION

Sudan has witnessed an explosion of conflict since the country's independence in the mid-1950s. Due to this, many women's organisations were initiated and formed. For example, the Women's Civil Society Network for Peace (WCSNP) alone had 65 members. These organisations covered all regions of Sudan, North, South, East, and West, and it came in a variety of forms such as NGOs Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and Research Centres/Institutions. (Malok, E. 2015). This phenomenal growth of women's organisations paralleled a similar process in the wider civil society movement in Sudan. The causes of that development could be the chronic and recurrent crises besetting Sudan over the last 49 years.

Consultations with women's groups and the network could provide insights into conflict situations and resolutions. Understanding gender norms and customs in a society may provide vital information for the Early Warning System. And because women's organisations are generally active at the community level, they are particularly aware of the needs of the community and the former fighters and can develop programs to address them. These non-governmental projects have included counselling to address trauma and psychological issues, health, medical assistance, education, and skill training.

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The Sudanese Conflict at the Local Level

The Sudan civil war remains the longest in Africa as of 2011 before Southern Sudanese secession, and has the loss of lives of over 2 million people most of whom were children and women. Women remained the greatest victims during the second civil war which commenced in 1983 and ended in 2005. The societal norm soon became reversed as women became heads of households, and experienced traumas and situations of conflict intimately. Throughout the history of the conflict, women were disproportionately represented among the civilian casualties of war. They remain the most affected victims of the war and hence the highest stakeholders of peace. People who fought to protect their bodies from abuse are those who understand the full potential of what destruction means. (Breidlid, 2014 and Holt, 1956)

During the war, women played salient roles as they often organised themselves in abiding to achieve peace and security in Sudan during the civil war era. They participated in writing campaigns to lobby officials Congress, and the media in the states and voiced their concerns on many issues which aimed at resolving the conflict. Without the participation of women in conflict resolution, it is believed that much would not have been accomplished in Sudan's peace initiatives. During the twenty-two years of the Second Civil War, women along with their male counterparts fought for peace to be achieved. Despite the work women did to sue for peace, their voices remained unheard during formal processes, including peace negotiations, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration, constitution creation, election, reconstruction, rehabilitation, truth and reconciliation and establishing a judicial system.

Women associations and activists undertook various informal peace initiatives and formulated their documents aimed at suing for peace. However, these efforts were not well publicised and were rarely integrated into or reflected in formal processes. Although various peace treaties were signed, there remain serious frictions between different groups in the South and disputes among different parts of the society in the North. These frictions normally resulted in serious conflict when they were not dealt with on time, so conflict transformation would be the most useful tool at this stage of the conflict, which normally includes

peacebuilding activities. The women bring the strategies and knowledge on how to resolve the conflict to the table providing practical understandings of the challenges confronting civilians and the best way to address these challenges. Women's concerns come not merely out of their own experiences but out of their societal role in their communities. They have made a difference in the peace negotiations to which they have gained access. The presence of the women at the peace table improved the quality of agreements which were reached and increased the chance of success in implementing the agreements. (UN. Women Peace and Security at a Glance).

Regional Conflict in Sudan

Sudan Council of Churches in Khartoum is one of the institutions that played a big role in peace activities through its National Women Programme. They conducted many seminars and workshops on Peace Building. They also conducted two Christian Women Conferences in Khartoum, the first was on "Women and the Law" held in June 1994 and the second one was entitled "Women: Agent of Development" held in June 1996. In these conferences, issues of development and peace were discussed with a greater focus on the role women can play in peacebuilding realisation and the Women's vision or peace. (UN. Women Peace and Security at a Glance).

Sudanese Conflict at the State Level

In an oral interview with Angelina Mattigo-Bazugba, she said that the citizens acknowledged the salient role played by women which contributed to peace in Sudan. For example, on 20th January 2003, the Vice-President of the Republic, Prof. Moses Machar called on Sudanese Women to contribute to the implementation of the peace programmes a matter that necessitates stepping up efforts from boosting the initiative of the General Union of Sudanese Women. The Vice President affirmed that women had suffered from war and displacement therefore; they should reactivate their role in supporting confidence among Sudanese citizens. He also stated that the government would support the union in completing its role in rehabilitating the south through the emergency development and rehabilitation programme,

referring to the projects which were inaugurated in Malaka town, Upper Nile State, Southern Sudan, in the context of the country's Independence Day celebrations. Given this role by the government of Sudan, women's activities escalated during this period of conflict as their impact was felt in all regions. The only challenges faced by the women came from the government itself, which failed to accept the suggestions made by the women's organisations, thus prolonging the conflict.

Women and Conflict Resolution in the Sudanese Conflict

Reconciliation is one of the elements of the Sudan peace process. Women held unique positions aimed at effecting and promoting values which led to the prevention of violent conflict. They were often the first to take the risk necessary to move towards reconciliation. Women in many parts of the world were already intimately involved in the reconciliation processes. Historically, Sudanese women began playing roles in peacebuilding by 1946, with the development of a peace movement parallel to the international peace movement. The first Sudanese woman who had the honour to be a member of the first peace committee in Sudan's history was Dr. Khaldia Zahir. Women's efforts in support of peace continued during the first opportunity for a woman from Southern Sudan to ascend to decision-making positions at the political level, at regional and national levels. (Interview with Miss. Mumbi Awut Alier and Mr. John Alok). Women have long been active in lobbying and organising for peace and disarmament. Grassroots women's groups have been organised across party and ethnic lines, advocating for peace and carrying out reconciliation efforts. They have called for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and campaigned against small arms. Mothers have organised to learn the fate of their "disappeared" children or to prevent their children from being conscripted or sent to war. (Interview with Miss. Mumbi Awut Alier and Mr. John Alok). Women have also taken a leading role in creating links for resolving inter-ethnic conflicts, leading to many grassroots peace accords. Examples include the People-to-People Peace-Processes [*alnnas 'iilaa eamaliat salam alnnas*], such as the Wunlit-Bahr El Ghazal, Covenant between the Nuer and the Dinka. The Dinka and Nuer are the two largest tribes and

have been on opposite sides of the war since 1991. The Wunlit Accord provides a concrete mechanism for peace, including a cease-fire, an amnesty, the exchange of abducted women and children and a monitoring mechanism. The Covenant immensely reduced conflict between the Dinka and the Nuer tribes during the year. (*Women: Agent of Development and Peace*). Another example at the grassroots level was the Lilir Covenant between Nuer groups. It has been reported that when it was decided by Dinka elders that a peace delegation was to be sent to Nuer land, no one wanted to go; it was the brave wife of a Dinka chief who demanded that her husband lead his people to Nuer land, even though she was aware of the high risk involved. (*Women: Agent of Development and Peace*).

Women at the grassroots stood together in solidarity against their husband's political position following the split in the SPLM/A in 1991. Women from both sides of the split continued to visit one another, maintain communication and provide a forum to discuss issues that affected their communities, something no man was capable of doing. The women used other strategies to convey the message of peace and that was through songs with meanings, calling people to pursue peace and reject the guns. (*Speech delivered by Niemat Kuku, 1992*).

The impact of the role of women in conflict resolution was very tremendous. At the international level, women's role was very vivid due to their participation in the negotiations between the SPLM/A and the GoS at the Naivasha Declaration in 2002. In 1991, women took an active part in resolving the Nasir split and bringing about the agreement between the GoS and the SPLM/A. Also in 1985, the New Sudan Women Federation (NSWF) was established purposely to resolve the protracted civil war in the country. From the initial focus on organising women to assist the women and feed the army, NSWF moved on to provide humanitarian assistance to women and children in refugee camps and commenced literacy classes for women. Likewise, in North Sudan, i.e. the government-controlled areas, there existed the Sudanese Women Association which clamoured for the aspirations of women on issues of conflict and peace. Women's participation in the peace negotiations started when two women joined the SPLM/A negotiating team. (UN: Women, Peace, and Security at a Glance

1325). Throughout the Machakos and Naivasha meetings, Southern women such as Jemma Kumba, Anne Itto Leonardo, Awut Deng, Agnes Lasuba, Christine Payiti, Susan Jambo, Lona Lowilla and a host of other women actively took part in finding a long-lasting political solution to the civil war in Sudan (1999 *Country Report on Human Rights Practices*). It is in the record of the political history of conflict resolution in Sudan that a woman called Prof. Anne Itto Leonardo acted in the capacity of Deputy Secretary General of SPLM/A from 2007-2012 and Acting Secretary General of SPLM/A from 2012-2015. From the above narration, it is vividly clear that the impact of Sudanese Women in conflict resolution during the first and second civil war was very tremendous.

The Role of the Religious Bodies in Sudanese Conflict Resolution

During the first and second Sudanese civil war, Christian and Muslim bodies participated actively in restoring peace among the principal actors of the war. The organisations, especially the churches, provided relief materials to those who had been affected by the war.

The churches were the most affected because their places of worship were destroyed, and their members were killed when the war was raging. Therefore, to achieve their primary objectives of propagating the gospel, the churches began to actively participate in the process of conflict resolution. The policy of the GoS against the missionaries (the policy sacked the missionary activities, confiscated the properties, and most of them were told to leave Sudan and the government closely monitored the missionaries when it expunged them from Sudan in 1962-1964 believing the church was aiding the movement to execute the war. This became a matter of concern for the churches to rise to resolve the raging crises in the country. The NSCC alleged that the SPLM/A had abused the privileges given to it by the church and had violated the basic rights of ordinary citizens. Due to these and many other human rights abuses such as misconduct by the SPLM/A soldiers and maladministration by Dr. John Garang and Dr. Rick Machar, the NSCC wanted to dismiss the principal actors and unite the Movement under the politico-military leadership of one of their ranks. (1999 *Country Report on Human Rights Practices*).

However, that opinion was not acceptable to the leaders of the movement. Another reason why the NSCC thought that it would take over the leadership of the Movement was its catalytic role in reconciling the Nasir and Torit SPLM/SPLA factions in 1997. The Church Reconciliation Committee, which was under pressure from Sudanese theocrats in the Executive Committee of the NSCC, did its best to persuade the renegades of Nasir to see reasons and rejoin the Movement, but their efforts failed because of divided opinions in the committee. The popular view of the committee was to make Dr. Rick Machar become the deputy leader of the Movement, but that move was rejected by the SPLM/A arguing that giving Dr. Rick Machar the second position in the Movement did not only mean that he was being rewarded for revolting, but that it also meant the Movement was being compromised because the Nasir rebellion was hand in gloves with the enemies in Khartoum. Consequently, the talks broke down but at a price on both sides as Dr. Angelina Mattijo-Bazugba, in an oral interview on the 6 April, 2017 confirmed.

The church's role, however, in the convention held between New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC) and the SPLM/A was a success because it led to the restructuring of the Movement. (Malok, E., 2015), said that the NSCC did its best within the parameters of war, and assisted the people, particularly in the areas, propagating the faith and the provision of social services such as relief materials, health, and education. Furthermore, in an effort to resolve the misunderstanding between the NSCC and the SPLM/A, Kajiko meeting conflict resolution which was held in 1997 in order to put down the nascent rival force.

Furthermore, for NSCC to achieve its principal goal, it began sponsoring peace talks. The NSCC learned peace processes from the activities of the women at the grassroots. This became the most visible initiative other than the SPLM/A was undertaking as a liberation movement. The people-based approach to peace processes became very visible; many within the ecumenical movement, but also the secular organisations wanted to support these processes. Many civil society organisations and foundations in Europe and North America saw these initiatives as a means of preparing the people for peace negotiations. (Heather, J.,

Sharkey, and Aguda, O.) The NSCC was in a strong position as a social actor, a dynamic readily translated into political power making the SPLM/A rather uncomfortable. Churches were exercising a very big voice that was being heard not only by Sudanese, but by the friends of Sudan, and even beyond Kenya.

When tensions began to develop between the SPLM/A and the church leadership, it was found necessary to identify a platform where the two forces could meet; (Malok, E. 2014) explained further that the Kajiko conference provided that platform. After the Kajiko conference came peace talks in Machakos, later in Naivasha, and eventually, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed. Rev. Dr. Benjamin Moro, at Juba Christian Center stated that Rev. Dr. John Gatu from The Presbyterian Church in Kenya moderated the Kajiko meeting and quoted him saying:

Before Kajiko, the church and the movement were enemies. Dr. John Garang was in control of most of Southern Sudan. But Kajiko helped him to make civilian administration with the church playing a key role in it. I was very impressed by Garang. He asked that al Mahdi is brought on board to fight the common enemy, Khartoum. I remember asking him if he could trust an Arab. But he said that first, he needed to win his trust by showing him he, Garang, could trust him. The bringing together of both the church and the movement was crucial to the attainment of peace in Sudan. The CPA was in many ways a child of Kajiko.

Therefore, from the above statement, it is very clear the role which the ecumenical played in Sudanese peace processes and conflict resolution. Without the role of the church, maybe the conflict would have been protracted and finding a lasting solution could have been beyond 2011. Furthermore, for academic purposes, it will be crucial to examine the roles played by Islamic organisations in conflict resolution in Sudan.

Heather Sharkey, J 1991, and Aguda, O. 2012 argued further that after the Nasir split in 1991, in which the SPLM/A accused al Bashir of being the brain behind the split and as years went by, the Muslim clerics and leaders in Sudan mobilised all Muslims worldwide in a Holy War (jihad) against the SPLM/A in particular and Southern Sudan in general. The Sudanese Muslim leaders such as Sheikh Dr. Hassan alTurabi mobilised both local and international Muslim opinion in support of the jihad against the infidels in Southern Sudan.

They mobilised a call to arms in the defence of the Islamic faith in the Sudan and accordingly, a huge Islamic holy army, comprising various international Muslim groupings or mujahedeen was organised, equipped and sent to the battlefield in Southern Sudan. Most of the countries whose populations professed Islam and most of the Arab countries were approached, and they contributed generously to the holy war efforts. Against this background of invasion, certain questions were posed by the NSCC:

1. If the Muslim clerics in the North were capable of exploiting the political, moral and military support in the name of the Holy Qur'an, why were the Christian Churches not intervening with the Bible on the side of the SPLM/A and behalf of Christianity in Southern Sudan?
2. If the Muslim clergy in the entire Islamic world were united in a holy war against Christians and Christianity in South Sudan, what was the role of NSCC in the war of liberation?

These questions provoked heated feelings among the NSCC membership, with various councils and conclaves feeling that they were being unduly criticised and misunderstood.

Aware of the level of mistrust and suspicion between the two parties, the leadership of the movement, therefore, convened the SPLM/A and the NSCC Conference in July 1997 in Yei Town. At the conference, issues of mutual benefits and interests were discussed and resolved, and a new modality was opened in their relationship on the way forward. The two parties, therefore, resolved to a mutual undertaking to fight for the spiritual and physical freedom of the people of Southern Sudan in particular and the people of other marginalised areas in general. The Yei Conference was, therefore, another mark of the success of the restructuring the Movement; it consolidated the common visions for the total freedom of the oppressed people. All Sudanese Christian Churches in the quorums of the NSCC were not only an integral part of the freedom struggle, but they became very influential representatives

and the mouthpiece of the Movement in the Christian World in general and in the World Council of Churches in particular.

The Role of the Troika

The emergence of the Troika was the collaboration which Norway had with the USA and UK in an effort to aid in the Sudanese peace processes from 1993-2005. The coming together of these countries constituted the Troika. Its aid was felt mostly in providing necessary support to the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought (IGAD) to facilitate peace and granting of food and other materials to the Sudanese who were affected by the conflict. In the area of peace processes, Troika's influence was very clear when they witnessed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement which was signed in 2005, and the implementation of the six years interim government before South Sudan seceded in 2011. The Troika also contributed tremendously during the referendum in the south and the Abyei region, either to be part of the south or north. (Interview with Dr. Leban Moro).

In a *Press Release. Sudan Peace Agreement* on January 9th, 2005 stated that although Britain colonised Sudan, it also saw its allegiance to make sure Sudanese find a lasting solution to the conflict which had ravaged the country for more than two decades and had a political stand with US foreign policies towards African states. To successfully achieve the signing and the implementation of CPA, the role the US played was very remarkable as it brought the GoS and the SPLM/A together. The mistake made here by the international community and the Troika was that GoS and the SPLM/A were not the only parties involved in the conflict in Sudan. There were other groups which were considered minor, but in the real sense of the struggle they were demanding for equality and social justice, they also were demanding for similar share at the national level just as the SPLM/A did. Most times, they were either in support of the mainstream movement or fighting for survival.

The US government in its foreign policy in Sudan was very diplomatic. It established a friendly relationship with the GoS and at the same time had intimate relations with the SPLM in South Sudan. This also enabled the government to have the support of both North and south

Sudanese in the diaspora. Norway likewise enjoyed cordial relations with the GoS based on its developmental programme in the country. In addition, with the SPLM/A, the Norwegian government maintained close positive interaction with the southerners both at home and in the diaspora to ensure that a workable solution was put in place.

The roles of the Norwegian government in providing aid impacted greatly on the Sudanese during the civil war through the activities of its NGOs such as Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), and the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA). The GoS and the SPLM/A both benefitted the outstanding and humanitarian services aid. The impact of these NGOs reduced the escalating tensions during the conflict by providing relief materials and the path to peace processes. The Norwegian further promised the warring actors that if they laid down the weapons and tow the path of peace to resolve the conflict they are assured to host forums on how to restructure the country.

It can be seen from the narration above that each member of the Troika played an active role in Sudanese conflict but the important point here is that this role did not infringe on one another. The collective role of the members was to find a lasting solution to the conflict in Sudan. In Southern Sudan, the Troika established a common fund for the “people-people peace processes” called the Transitional Support Unit (TSU) to finance mediation and reconciliation. Therefore, the primary motive to resolve the conflict in Sudan has been the drive for all that the Troika is doing to de-escalate the violence and pave the path for a mediation process in the north through “peace from within”[*alsalam min alddakhl*] and in the south through “people-people peace processes [*alnnas ‘iilaa eamaliat salam alnnas*]” to make the parties meet at the frontier to finally resolve the conflict. Despite the fact of these efforts, the Troika was still accused of being partial by the Southern Sudanese.

In conclusion, the Troika solely depended on the prowess of its members for the success they recorded. Britain the former colonial master who had a great interest in Sudan had a greater responsibility as a member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to see that peace reign in the country. U. S. and Norway both had the same goal of developing

and restructuring of the country through the efforts of the internal mechanism of nation-building and reconciliations of all the warring parties. The Troika also enjoyed the collaborations of the international community, NGOs, and diplomatic means in the field of humanitarian aid to achieve the tremendous success of their agenda in Sudan in bringing the longest conflict in Africa to an end primarily through an internal mechanism, that is, “peace from within” [*alsalam min alddakhl*] from the north of Sudan and “people-people peace processes” [*alnnas ‘iilaa eamaliat salam alnnas*] from the South Sudan.

Concluding remarks

The traditional role of foreign powers in African conflict must get a mention, such as the crucial role which China played in the Sudanese conflict. In the first place, the primary objective of China’s interest in Sudan is an investment in Sudanese oil which was discovered in the late 1970s. China was at that point an intimate ally of Khartoum as well as a good friend of Southern Sudan. During the prolonged civil war, China exchanged weapons and ammunition with crude oil.

During the civil war in Sudan, the major foreign policy of China was non-interference in the internal affairs of the country. However, she remained very friendly by investing in businesses. Even during the civil war, China invested majorly in petroleum, telecommunications services, and infrastructural development. The country also played a positive role in furthering peaceful solutions towards ending the civil war. It partnered with IGAD during mediation processes when it sponsored financially local initiatives of “peace from within” [*alsalam min alddakhl*] in the north and “people-people peace processes” [*alnnas ‘iilaa eamaliat salam alnnas*] in the south to end the conflict. China also had a cordial relationship with South Sudan by engaging the actors bilaterally or collectively towards a nationally owned agreement. IGAD also received financial aid from China to facilitate the peace processes and engaged in shuttle diplomacy between the GoS of SPLM/A before the signing of the CPA in 2005. The role which China played was viewed as vital in the conflict resolution.

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CHAPTER 7

EFFECTS OF INTERNAL SECURITY CHANGES ON NIGERIA'S NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: A PERSPECTIVE

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INTRODUCTION

In recent times, Nigeria has been bedeviled by a number of security challenges including terrorism, banditry and militancy at an unprecedented proportions. However, the incidences are not peculiar and limited to Nigerian states but are global occurrences popularized by public and private media. The incidences of terrorism, banditry and militancy have continued to increase over the years. For instance, Nigeria government is grappling with the frequency of the Islamic Boko Haram terrorists and killer herders who are constantly involved in kidnapping, killing of civilian population and security agents in the north east. Also there are bandits in the north west, involving in banditry activities such as kidnapping, cattle rustling, armed robbery and the Niger Delta militants who introduced kidnapping and hostage taken to pipeline vandalisation, bombing strategic government installations, bunkering, among others. Although, the government has always exerted extreme military force against Boko Haram and bandits, but the situation is increasingly getting out of hand.

The case of Niger Delta militants, amnesty, appeasement, negotiation and military strength were deployed but the situation persist as the root causes of their agitations remain unaddressed. It is equally of note that in spite of government's military presence in the northeast tackling Boko Haram insurgency, the situation is increasingly threatening as their

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nefarious activities - kidnapping for ransom and bandits menace have continued to pose security threat to the entire country. Boko Haram violence, is chiefly characterized by massacres, assassinations, enslavement, kidnappings, terrorism, and other crimes against humanity (Sharma, 2014). Human Rights Watch, cited by Nossiter has noted a dramatic increase in the number of people who died from insurgent violence in 2014 compared with 2011. 2011, the organization estimated that 935 people were killed, while in the first six months of 2014 alone, 2,053 civilian casualties and over 95 attacks were recorded (Nossiter, 2014).

The reason for embarking on this study is to unveil the havoc that is perpetrated by Boko Haram sect, herders and farmers violent conflict, Niger Delta militants and recently The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). Terrorist acts since 2009 have caused 20,000 to 30,000 deaths and displaced over 2.3 million people. From 2009 to 2015, Boko Haram took control of extensive territories in Maiduguri; where lives of millions of people were wasted; and this constituted a significant threat to the Nigerian state. Boko Haram fighters have slaughtered civilian population in villages and towns, forcibly marrying their abducted girls and women, and conducted terrorist attacks against mosques, markets, churches and camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) (Felbab-Brown, 2018). Bandits are locally known as armed criminal groups, and are increasingly unleashing vicious attacks on local communities kidnapping, rape, lives stock rustling, carjacking, murder, highway robbery, among others (Mellows, & Holmes, 2021).

Militancy in oil-rich Niger Delta region since the beginning of 2016 have become a threat to national development. Some attacks are worth highlighting against oil companies and government installations. Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) militants blew up the Bonny Soku Gas Line on 10 February 2016; they launched their “Operation Red Economy” on 13 February 2016, followed by devastating attack on the Trans Forcados Pipeline (TFP) on 14 February 2016; the Chevron Valve Platform located in the Delta state of Warri was blew up on 4 May 2016, another attack on the Chevron Well D25 in Abiteye along with gas lines feeding the

Warri and Kaduna refineries was blown up the next day, among others (Amaize & Perez, 2016).

From existing literature for instance, Ibenwa (2016), looked at terrorism and its management: a case study of Boko Haram Islamist Sect in Nigeria, with the aims to examine some of the religious riots encouraged by Boko Haram, the root causes, their goals, organisational structure, and their sources of funding. the paper adopted a descriptive and analytical method in analysing data and secondary sources in data generation. The paper discovered a huge loss of lives and property, and were sponsored by people in the government. Moreso that it is a move by the Muslims to Islamise Nigeria, and that the political elite are using it to settle political scores between them and their opponents and to rubbish President Jonathan Goodluck's administration. The paper recommended pro-active not re-active strategy, quick response to early warning signs should be adopted to prevent the activities of Boko Haram.

Kofar Naisa (2018), in his work “politics of exceptionalism and the escalation of terrorism in Nigeria; the case study of Boko Haram and Niger Delta Militants” with the aim to show the link between exceptionalism as a political phenomenon and the escalation of dreaded terrorist activities in both the northern and the southern hemisphere of the federal republic of Nigeria. The paper linked Boko Haram and Niger Delta militants to the poor political and security condition, increased in improved and modern weapons, suicide bombings and well-organized systems. Thus affects the economic, social and political development of Nigeria. The paper adopted public policy and Neo-realist theoretical frameworks to explain the phenomenon. Data was generated from informants and first-hand direct contacts and strengthened with secondary data from Library materials, newspapers, journals and articles. The paper revealed that Government strategies failed because it did not address socio-economic factors that created the veritable ground for terrorism, such as unemployment, poverty, corruption and poor economy. The paper recommends that government should focus on good governance, job creation and employment opportunities,

poverty alleviation, welfare and provision of modern equipment for the military and other security agents, for effective border patrol to sustain its sovereignty and an effective counter-terrorism measure among others.

Bello & Abdullahi (2021), in their study “farmers–herdsmen conflict, cattle rustling, and banditry in Anka and Maradun local government area of Zamfara State, Nigeria” examined the influence of farmers–herdsmen conflicts on cattle rustling and banditry, and vice versa. Exploratory research was employed; focus group discussion (FGD) and key informant interviews were used to collect primary data from the respondents. The data generated were transcribed and recorded verbatim (word-for-word account of verbal interview) and they were converted into written form. Data was enumerated and thematic analysis and categorisation was provided. Secondary data were sourced from internet and relevant books. This study adopted the environmental resources scarcity and frustration-aggression theory. The findings of the study revealed that farmers–herdsmen conflict precipitates the acts of cattle rustling and banditry. It also revealed that conversely cattle rustling and banditry contributed to the farmers–herdsmen conflict in the local government area of Zamfara State. The study discovered that the synthesis of farmers–herdsmen conflicts, cattle rustling, and banditry pose serious threat to the safety and security of the people. They recommended that there should be an introduction of grazing reserves equipped with adequate social amenities and that there should be policies capable of enhancing herders’ transformation from traditional to the modern method of animal husbandry. They also suggested that various factors responsible for farmers–herdsmen conflict, cattle rustling, and banditry should be properly managed by traditional and religious leaders.

The study is relevant because from the existing literature presented above, it is obvious that there was no comprehensive and compact study of the effect of terrorism, banditry and militant groups on national development in Nigeria. It is in this area the study contributes to an existing body of knowledge. It is against this backdrop that certain questions were interrogated, such as what are the causes of terrorism, banditry and militant groups in Nigeria?

and what are their effect on national development in Nigeria?. These pertinent questions will be answered in the body of the work.

General views on terrorism, banditry and militant

The Maitatsine uprising is known as the forerunner of Boko Haram insurgency in the Northern part of Nigeria. The Boko Haram violent rise in Sahel, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria has a link with maitatsine which has seriously undermined peace by attacking civilian population, churches, markets, police stations, the military, buildings and seizure of villages (Aisedion, 2021). The intensity of attacks in the Northeast by Boko Haram and ISIS-West Africa against civilians, security forces, and government have resulted in countless deaths, injuries, abductions, and wanton destruction of property. Boko Haram is indiscriminate in their attacks on civilians and government officials, whereas ISIS-WA has always focused attacks on security forces and government. Both terrorist groups have exploited the inability of the military to patrol outside the super camps to attack humanitarian operations hubs, abduct aid workers and ambush security on patrol. Boko Haram and ISIS-WA carried have carried out hundreds of attacks on Nigerians with the aid of small arms, to captured military equipment, detonated Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). For instance, freedom of movement is denied throughout Borno State and eastern Yobe State. In the states of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, they have contributed to the internal displacement of not less than two million people and external displacement of not more than 300,000 Nigerian as refugees to neighboring countries, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. Since Boko Haram's abduction of 276 students from Chibok, Borno State, in 2014, 112 students have remained missing. Also at Dapchi, Yobe State from those abducted in 2018, 113 students were released, while one student remains in the custody of insurgents (Bureau of counterterrorism, 2020).

The instruments of bandits and Boko Haram insurgent are kidnapping and abduction. For instance, the abduction of Chibok girls and the Zamfara kidnapping where 279 students were abducted from the Government Girls Science Secondary School in Zamfara State, on 26 February 2021 are among the myriads of kidnapping and abduction going on in Nigeria

(Abolade,2021). According to Campbell (2020, a lot of massacre in northern Nigeria also involved cattle rustling and abduction of citizens for ransom being the biggest organised crime affecting national development. Banditry activities operate as a form of organised crime flourishing with the aid of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons across the country for destructive tendencies. Banditry is one of the increasingly security challenges in Nigeria. It has to do with cattle rustling, armed robbery and kidnapping for ransom. Banditry is the act of carrying armed by a person having a dangerous weapon and threatens his victims with bodily harm (Chukwuma, 2019). The heinous act of kidnapping, rapping, cattle rustling, gruesome murder and wanton killings, are predominantly perpetrated by herdsmen who have taking occupation of unused forests to form camps in different states to carry out nefarious crimes.

The infiltration of non Nigerian armed herders crossing Cameroon, Niger and the Lake Chad basin countries into Nigeria, therefore aggravates insecurity as clashes continued between herders and farmers in country. In addition, the impunity with which AK47 assault rifles are proliferated and their flagrant open display on their shoulders has given them the temerity to engage in killings and violent crimes of various degrees (Aisedion, 2021). The spate of cattle rustling is heavily militarized following the increased maiming, raping, marauding, and killing all over the place in Nigeria by bandits. Bandits are organised local armed criminals who recruit members across Northwest and Northcentral Nigeria. Although there are about a hundred 100 bandit groups, but two out of the bandit organisations (Yan Ta'adda and Yan Bindiga) are identified by Nigerian government officially, operating in the Northwest region as terrorist organizations (Nextier, 2022). Banditry refers to the occurrence of armed robbery violently out by local gangs. It entails using force or making threats to use force in order to frighten someone with the intention to loot, rape, or commit murder. Therefore, banditry is a crime against people and animals, and has been a frequent kind of crime and one of the sources of violence in Nigeria. In the acts of banditry, cattle and other valuable items belonging to either the herdsmen or farmers are raided. The acts also involved

killing, raping, and raiding either the herdsmen or farmers. Banditry are on the increase apparently because of their economic and commercial benefits (Mohammed & Ibrahim, 2015). There is a high prevalence of banditry in Nigeria and their tactics entails cattle rustling, killing and seizure of property, among others (Rabi'u, & Muhammad, 2022). However, Rabi'u and Muhammad (2022), has this to say that the following causes have mostly encouraged crimes including armed robbery, livestock rustling, and banditry:

1. Opportunity to commit crime with impunity
2. Poor law enforcement
3. Post-conflict access to arms and ammunition
4. Pervasive corruption
5. Social injustice and oppression
6. Mass poverty and very poor pay
7. Excessive greed and materialism
8. Moral decay.

A number of militant groups operate in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. The Niger Delta region comprises of the states of Bayelsa, Rivers, Abia, Akwa Ibom, Cross River Imo, Ondo, Edo and Delta. These militant groups include; Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), which is most active group, The Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), Ijaw Youth Congress (IYC), The Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force (NDPVF), The Niger Delta Vigilante Force (NDVF), Niger Delta Avengers (NDA), with its tactics mainly focus on attacks on oil and gas installations, among others (Rosenje & Omojowo, 2022). They emerged in the process of demanding for improvement in the living conditions of their people. Their resistance by the government and the multinational oil companies led to the protest against environmental degradation which ultimately resulted in attacks on oil and gas facilities, hostage taking and kidnapping, bombing, raping, assassination, attacks against oil pipelines, oil bunkering, among others. Herders and farmers participating in armed groups have become increasingly intensified. The conflict is rooted in

both inability to access natural resources such as water and land. In January 2018, the conflict escalated and more than 1,300 fatalities and 300,000 people fleeing their homes with severe violations of human rights committed by both, herders' and farmers' groups, including massive destruction of houses, crops, killing of cattle and human beings, among others. The violence has affected numerous states across Nigeria, but in particular Benue, Adamawa, Taraba, Nasarawa and Plateau (EUAA, 2019). The activities of the Niger Delta militias have seriously undermined Nigerian daily crude oil production and badly affected both internal and foreign transactions, causing further hardship in the economy. More worrisome is hostage taken by the militants which affects investment, economic growth and people's living standards.

Terrorist, Bandit and Militant Attacks

In Nigeria, victims of terrorist, bandit and militant attacks are confronted with different kinds of bombings, kidnapping, assassinations, arsons and wanton killings and destruction of property. More worrisome are threat of killer herders and farmers conflict over scarce resources have made government helpless as scores of human capital have been sent to their early graves all over the place in Nigeria. Also vast farmlands are deserted, houses burnt to ashes and the survivors sacked to refugees camps particularly in Kaduna, Benue, Nasarawa, Zamfara, among others. The role of funding and the ease with which they access financial resources without being caught has increasingly encouraged the survival of terrorist organizations in Nigeria. The miniaturization of technology particularly the use of Automatic Teller Machine (ATM), and Point of Sale (POS), where they draw money from to buy weapons, and train their recruits have made terrorist, bandit and militant groups difficult to smoke out of existence (Oboh & Aisedion, 2008). Terrorism, banditry and militancy have become major concern to both the government and the high and low individuals in Nigeria. The militancy in the Niger Delta, are recklessly involved in illegal refinery of crude oil, bunkering and vandalization of oil pipelines, the Boko Haram terrorists have taken occupation of most villages in the northeast unleashing terror and indiscriminately claiming lives and

property, and the herdsmen killers are attacking farmers with dangerous weapons particularly with AK47 in Benue state and other states across the country. Bandits are also involved in illegal mining, cattle rustling, kidnapping for ransom and killings in Zamfara, and the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), also attacking innocent citizens and non citizens alike as well as police stations in the Southeast are clear indications that the future of Nigeria is currently at the cross roads.

The sporadic killings, destruction of property, the adoption of innocent citizens for ransom on a daily basis has affected the economic and political liberty of Nigerians. The activities of Boko Haram insurgency and killer herders have caused havoc as inhabitants of different villages who are predominantly farmers, have been sacked to take refuge in Internal Displaced Camps (IDCs) The after effect of this is famine and hunger in the land, wide spread of diseases, unemployment, high illiteracy, lack of shelter, housing, clothing and access to social amenities. While the militant in Niger Delta are involved in pipeline vandalism, oil bunkering, destruction and burning of government's strategic installations which to a greater extent affect national development (Amaize & Perez, 2016). Therefore, the responsibility of the study is to examine the causes of terrorism, banditry and militant activities and to evaluate their effect on national development. This is in consideration of the impunity with which the political and economic freedom of the people of Nigeria are been jeopardized, as citizens are not able to go on their daily businesses, especially the farmers, which has, in turn, led to famine and hunger in the land. Citizens had been deprived of their basic needs of lives, especially the internally displaced, while citizen's belongings had been lost in the crisis. All efforts by the security agents and the humanitarian organizations in combating the crisis and humanitarian crisis respectively have only yielded a little positive result, and, as attacks are carried out almost on a daily basis, making the humanitarian situation in Nigeria is becoming more widespread (Oboh & Aisedion, 2008).

Causes of Internal Security Challenges

Terrorism

The corruption and inequality in Nigeria gave birth to Boko Haram to take root. This assertion was easily accepted because the environment, the frustrations, the corruption and injustice made it fertile for the deprived and frustrated individuals to be recruited into the terrorist family (Sharma, 2014). Terrorism is the use of violence against people or property through intimidation and coercion, and sometimes for ransom. The causes of terrorism in Nigeria can be traced to illiteracy and poverty, religious tolerance, lack of basic needs of lives, unemployment, convenient system of banking and withdrawal, proliferation of small arms and light weapons, among others resulting in human displacement and high rate of deaths. Terrorists employ threats to instill fear among the public with a view to rendering government powerless. Several factors such as corruption, poverty, unemployment, religious extremism, and illiteracy are among the factors, responsible for terrorism in Nigeria. The propensity of poverty in the Northeast inspires vulnerable residents susceptible to joining terrorist groups to survive. Also, the influence of the

Islamic State in Syria and the Levant (ISIS or ISIL), Al-Qaeda, and Al-Shabab operating in Somalia is another factor influencing terrorism (Nextier, 2022). Banditry is rooted in several overlapping, political, economic, social and cultural problems. For example, bandits with over 30,000 militants are operating by maiming, killing, and kidnapping helpless citizens and residents in the northwest.

Banditry

Banditry and terrorism in northwestern states are instigated by poor criminal justice system, ethnic chauvinism and criminality induced by poverty. The key causes of the violent crime that has killed over 12,000 and displaced over one million persons in the Northwest, and Northcentral has taken a dimension of war with terrorists attacking military installations and rail lines. This consequently crumbling rural communities and decimating rural population and attacking hustling travellers on highways. Furthermore, bandits and their violent

enterprise are affiliated and sponsored by the northeast's Boko Haram insurgents, aggrieved politicians, foreign powers, the ultranationalist herdsmen (Olaniyan, 2018). The rise of banditry is attributed to the degenerating herders and farmers relations arisen from inadequate availability of grazing routes, pasture and water for their occupational activities. In the same vein, ethnic differences in Zamfara also fueled the conflict between the Hausa and Fulani groups. There have been series of attacks and counter attacks from both the Fulani and the Hausa following the 2013 murder of a Fulani leader. Arisen from the protracted hostilities, ethnic militias and armed vigilante organisations were established by Hausa and Fulani groups to advance their group wars (Vanguard, 2021). Unfortunately, these groups have destroyed homes and killed innocent citizens. The inability of the government to nip evolving conflicts on bud in Nigeria have made to establish and institutionalise various criminal groups and their deadly activities (Hamza, 2021).

Militancy

Militancy evolved from places like Rivers State, Delta State, Bayelsa state, Akwa Ibom State, among other states in South south of Nigeria. This act of militancy has not only threatened the entire economic system of the states but also affected Nigeria's political, social and foreign activities. The same goes on among other Niger Delta State agitating for self-determination, resource control, social and infrastructural development, fiscal and true federalism informed by social inequalities, environmental degradation, poverty, mass illiteracy, failure of various dialogues between Niger delta people and the government, and frustration arisen from the failed dialogues. Consequently, the youths resorted to pipeline vandalism armed violence, illegal oil bunkering, hostage taking and kidnapping, among other things. In 1990, militancy therefore, shifted from its original purpose of self-determination and resource control to gang extremism, criminality and cultism (Alumuna, Ofoegbu & Edet, 2017).

The Effects of Terrorism, Banditry and Militant Groups on Nigeria's National Development

Suicide bombings, kidnappings, and the destruction of lives and livelihoods by terrorists have continued to make Nigeria a ridiculous territory. Terrorist, bandit and militant groups, including Boko Haram and the Islamic State of West Africa (ISWA), are known to be responsible for violent conflicts in Nigeria. The consequences of their menace reinforce the country's security threats. The situation is worrisome as several communities have been ruined, with their unfortunate residents compellingly displaced. The affected and vulnerable innocent citizens are helplessly facing humanitarian crisis as victims. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and armed groups have undermined and threatened Nigerian state's ability to monopolise the use of force and its ability to improve the living standard of Nigerians such as quality of education, potable water, transportation infrastructure, medical care, employment, food amongst others (Aisedion & Omoregie, 2021). In northwest Nigeria, for the past two years, reckless havoc has continuously been wreaked on communities, killing hundreds, and kidnapping thousands. Thus, making the northwest totally unsafe for official, farming and commercial activities.

The attacks have also overwhelmed the security forces to powerlessness. National development involves collective improvement in the socio-economic and political life of the people to reduce poverty, inequality and unemployment to the barest minimum. It is painful to note that the intensity of attacks and wanton killings taken place in the country remains the greatest impediment to national development. From this discussion, the effect of terrorism, banditry and militant groups come with chronic poverty, hunger, inequality, diseases, deaths, unemployment, among others with a huge toll on every Nigerian both the rich and the poor.

According to Seers (1977), development in terms of reduction in poverty, unemployment and inequality. From this assertion, without reducing the intensity incidences of threats from terrorists, bandits and militants groups, the safety of lives and property will not be guaranteed and to think of national development is mirage. Therefore, the central should be the creation of enabling environment in which all, including the rich and the vulnerable can

enjoy healthy and creative lives (Aisedion, 2016). On this note, national development is designed to improve the social welfare of the people such as the provision of social amenities like quality education, portable water, infrastructural facilities and so on (Abimbola & Adesote, 2012). This means that national development must involve the aggregate of national resources of the country for the general well-being of the citizens in terms of their social and economic advancement. It also entails better food to eat, healthier and happier individual, better living system, sound education and enlightenment among the populace. Therefore, national development has to do with the protection of the people from danger, economic waste, death, uplifting the living condition of all and sundry in society. Furthermore, the realisation of national development can only be achieved in an atmosphere devoid of injustices, deaths, and depletion of human and material resources. So national development is the requirement to preserve the survival of the nation-state with economic, military, political power and the exercise of diplomacy (Zahn, 2003).

Since 2009 in Nigeria terrorists have posed grievous security challenges and great havoc in the country. The terrorist deadly act has sent a number of Nigeria citizens to their early grave with bombing, burning of houses, kidnapping and hostage-taking. Boko Haram insurgency since has killed tens of thousands and thousands displaced since 2009. Nigerian citizens social and economic endeavors were not spared as citizens are not able to go on their daily activities, particularly the farmers which have brought to bear famine and hunger in Nigeria. Some academic institutions have been attacked resulting to their shot down as many secondary students were constantly kidnapped, many teachers killed resulting in many Nigerian children out of school. The increasing large-scale destructions due to reported violent attacks especially in Borno State where some 2.3 million have been displaced from their communities and have also claimed more than 20,000 people. The intensity of threat has sent majority of the internally displaced persons to neighboring state of Adamawa, Yobe among others. The constant attacks on schools and health care Centres and their facilities by Boko Haram terrorist have further weakened the already overstretched and inadequate health

care and education system in Nigeria. The educational life of the children in North-eastern Nigeria have been jeopardized and halted thereby increasing the level of illiteracy and ignorant in Nigeria. The terrorists, bandits and militants activities have affected the tourism industries as foreign investors are scared of their investment thereby discouraging prosperous investors to look elsewhere for investment (Osewa, 2019). Terrorists activities have displaced not less than 3 million people and deaths of about 350,000 in Northeast Nigeria.

Furthermore, insurgents have destroyed up to 254 schools in Northeast Nigeria which have forced not less than 120,000 students to drop out of school (Nigerian Emergency Management Agency report, cited by Granville,2020). According UNICEF (2017), in Borno alone, not more than 1,400 schools have been destroyed and majority of them have not been opened because of damage or being in areas with high propensity of threat. Consequently, terrorists and banditry activities have caused unabated humanitarian crises, high level of unemployment and prevalent poverty. Nigeria's property and its officials are also experiencing the incessant attacks, particularly on military bases in Borno State have left soldiers killed, with the Islamic State of West Africa (ISWAP), taken responsibility. a breakdown faction of Boko Haram that affiliate with the Islamic state. The money needed for development projects are being diverted to tackling terrorism, as Nigerian budget on security has been increasing and money budgeted on the internally displaced person (IDP) has also increased drastically (Osewa, 2019). Terrorists, bandits and militants activities have negatively affected national development in the sense that industries and agricultural sector that would generate employment are in comatose, the educational sector where children need to be educated are not adequately functioning to enhance national planning and productivity, social activities, religious and cultural institutions are brought to a halt. In Nigeria, crops and animals have also become target by local terrorist gangs known as bandits in the northwestern and central Nigeria. The activities of bandits range from killing, cattle rustling, attack on farmers and their produce, illegal collection of taxes from villages, among others has affected the basic well-being of the people. This is because the adequate provision healthcare services, qualitative

education, employment opportunity, that would raise the standard of the people are reduced to mere dreams by the menace of violent conflict in Nigeria. In the same vein, the effect of terrorism, banditry and militancy have increased the level of external aggression, sabotage, subversion, and all other hostile activities affecting both the governed and the governance.

The attacks on farmers by herdsmen and farmers' reprisals on herders and the killing of their cattle have affected food and animal production in Nigeria. The role agriculture plays in the economy of Nigeria cannot be over emphasised. This is because it helps to connect and interacts with all the related industries of the country. Thus, if the agriculture sector is improving, it will definitely benefit all and sundry by decreasing unemployment rate. Also additional economic activities are boosted through the domestic economy as it beefs up national income and further ensures food and security. Therefore, the activities of terrorists, bandits and militants are seriously affecting the citizens' standard of living and the capacity of country to enhance the human security needs and the capacity of the government to sustain the monopoly of the use of force. Also, in the Niger Delta for instance, the long years of neglect, discrimination, oppression, marginalization, exploitation, deprivation and subjugation brought militancy to the region. Hostage taken in the Niger Delta region brought to reality the existence of militants of varying formations where both Nigerians and foreign oil workers were victims. The activities of militants in the region have not only led to the unemployment, political, social and economic backwardness of the region, but also brought underdevelopment to Nigeria as a whole.

Vandalisation of pipeline by militant causes high level of environmental degradation, water and air pollution, hardship and crisis, exacerbated by the presence of armed forces in the region (Alumuna, Ofoegbu & Edet, 2017). Terrorism, banditry and militancy have posed a fundamental threat in view of the overall number of people killed, children out of school, huge ransom paid to kidnappers, farms destroyed and herds of cattle killed, mosques and churches burnt, thousands of people internally displaced from their homes now living in camps with hunger and diseases widespread all over the camp and, more importantly, international

media's cynical comments on Nigeria affect national development. Recall that the death of human and the destruction of material resources affects the productivity and development capabilities of the affected individuals, the community and the country as a whole. Since human being's contribution enhances development, the death of a person is a colossal loss and as such affects national development (Aisedion & Omoregie, 2021).

Conclusion

Internal security challenges have evolved with attendant security challenges to the country. These have been manifested in various forms such as assaults on society, bombing buildings, slaughtered civilians, police, and soldiers, attack railways stations, politicians, among others. The three organizations share the same causes, have the same features and effect on national development. Their causes are more predominant in places where there is weak government, easy system of electronic banking, inequitable distribution of resources, blatant infringement of the rights and resources of others, weak relations with neighbours, short circuited information, small arms and light weapons proliferation, low levels of human development, high levels of corruption, poverty, hunger, high illiteracy level, environmental degradation, among others. For instance, the three organisations are also involved in kidnapping and hostage-taking for ransom, killing of innocent people, assassination and assault, scaring away investors both foreign and local, destruction of government property, demand for ransom, exploitation of natural resources, instilling fear, uncertainty, threat to lives and property, among others. Their criminal activities, individually, have serious implications for socio-economic, political, cultural, and psychological dimensions of society. From the economic view, they constitute untold hardship and threat to the livelihood of farmers and herders, while their multiplier effects intensified unbearable conditions on innocent Nigerians through maiming and killing of people, and destruction of property with constant fear, frustration and nightmare on their victims

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CHAPTER 8

NAVIGATING LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY: IMPLICATIONS FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN NIGERIA

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INTRODUCTION

Nigeria, a vibrant and diverse nation, faces a unique set of challenges rooted in its linguistic and cultural heterogeneity. The country boasts over 500 languages, with English serving as the dominant language in government and official domains. (Ayeomoni, 2012) This diversity has given rise to the development of concepts like bilingualism, multilingualism, and language choice, as Nigerians must navigate the distinct domains of indigenous and foreign languages (Ayeomoni, 2012). The cultural diversity also poses significant obstacles to national cohesion, as differing customs, traditions, and worldviews often lead to tensions and conflicts.

The complex linguistic landscape has far-reaching implications for conflict resolution, as the ability to communicate effectively and understand cultural nuances is crucial for addressing societal tensions. This paper delves into the interplay between language, culture, and conflict resolution, offering insights into how Nigeria can leverage its diversity to promote lasting peace and stability. Despite the prevalence of English, the use of indigenous languages remains crucial, particularly in local communities. The dominance of English has been viewed as a barrier to national development and security, as it limits the ability of the government to effectively communicate with and understand the concerns of its diverse citizenry.

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Consequently, there is a growing call for a more balanced language policy that incorporates both English and indigenous languages, depending on the contextual needs.

Furthermore, the cultural diversity of Nigeria adds another layer of complexity to the challenge of conflict resolution. Nigeria's ethnic groups possess distinct customs, traditions, and value systems, which can lead to misunderstandings and tensions. The depoliticization of language policy and the emphasis on English as a unifying element have been proposed as a means of fostering greater national integration and understanding. (Nwokoro et al., 2020). However, the path forward remains fraught with challenges, as the negotiation of linguistic and cultural differences is essential for sustainable peace and development. The English language has undoubtedly played a pivotal role in Nigeria's political, educational, and economic landscape, serving as a lingua franca and a tool for international engagement. Yet, the relegation of indigenous languages to informal and non-official domains has also led to the evolution of a unique hybrid language, Nigerian English, which seeks to bridge the gap between the foreign and the local.

Ultimately, the successful navigation of Nigeria's linguistic and cultural diversity is essential for effective conflict resolution and sustainable national development. A multifaceted approach that recognizes the value of both English and indigenous languages, while also promoting cross-cultural understanding, is crucial for Nigeria to realize its full potential.

Theoretical Framework: Contingency Theory of Strategic Conflict Management

The contingency theory of strategic conflict management provides a useful framework for understanding the implications of language and cultural barriers on conflict resolution in Nigeria. This theory posits that the most effective conflict management strategy is contingent upon the specific context and the nature of the conflict. In the case of Nigeria, the presence of language and cultural barriers presents a unique context that requires a tailored approach to conflict resolution. The diversity of languages and cultures within the country means that a one-size-fits-all approach to conflict management is unlikely to be effective. Instead, a more

nuanced and context-specific strategy is necessary, one that takes into account the linguistic and cultural factors at play.

The contingency theory suggests that effective conflict resolution in Nigeria would involve the ability to adapt communication strategies and negotiation processes to the specific linguistic and cultural needs of the parties involved. This may include the use of interpreters, the incorporation of traditional dispute resolution mechanisms, and the fostering of cross-cultural understanding and empathy. By embracing the contingency theory, Nigeria can develop a more flexible and responsive approach to conflict resolution, one that is better equipped to navigate the complex landscape of language and cultural diversity. For example, in regions where particular indigenous languages predominate, the use of these languages in conflict resolution processes may be more effective than relying solely on English. Similarly, the incorporation of cultural practices and norms into conflict resolution mechanisms can help to build trust and facilitate greater understanding between parties.

By adopting a contingency-based approach, Nigeria can leverage its linguistic and cultural diversity to develop more effective and sustainable conflict resolution strategies that address the unique challenges faced in different parts of the country. By aligning conflict resolution strategies with the linguistic and cultural realities of Nigeria, the contingency theory suggests that the government and other stakeholders can enhance the effectiveness of their efforts to address the country's myriad conflicts.

Conceptual Review

Language: The Cornerstone of Communication and Identity

Language is a fundamental aspect of human communication and identity, and this is particularly true in the Nigerian context. The country's linguistic diversity, with over 500 languages spoken, has shaped the way Nigerians interact with one another and engage with the government. The dominance of English, as the official language of government and education, has been a source of both benefit and contention. On the one hand, the use of English has facilitated communication and integration at the national level, enabling Nigerians

from diverse linguistic backgrounds to engage with one another and with the government. However, the prioritisation of English over indigenous languages has also been criticised as a barrier to effective communication and understanding, particularly at the local level.

The concept of language choice, which describes the decisions individuals and communities make regarding which language to use in a given context, has become a crucial consideration in Nigeria's socio-political landscape. (Ayeomoni, 2012) The distinct domains of usage for indigenous and foreign languages, as well as the phenomenon of bilingualism and multilingualism, have significant implications for conflict resolution and national development.

Culture: The Fabric of Nigerian Society

Alongside the linguistic diversity, the cultural diversity of Nigeria is a defining feature of the country. With over 250 ethnic groups, each with its own customs, traditions, and value systems, Nigeria's cultural landscape is both rich and complex. This cultural diversity has contributed to the country's unique identity and social fabric, but it has also been a source of tension and conflict. Differences in cultural practices, beliefs, and norms can lead to misunderstandings and disputes, particularly in the context of resource allocation, political representation, and community relations.

The depoliticisation of cultural identity and the promotion of cross-cultural understanding have been identified as important strategies for fostering national integration and conflict resolution in Nigeria. (Nwokoro et al., 2020) By recognizing and respecting the cultural diversity of the country, and by finding ways to bridge cultural divides, the government and other stakeholders can work to address the root causes of conflicts and build a more cohesive and stable society.

Language Barriers and Conflict Resolution

The presence of language barriers in Nigeria has significant implications for conflict resolution. The dominance of English as the official language of government and education can create challenges in communication and understanding, particularly for individuals and

communities who are more comfortable in their native languages. This can lead to misunderstandings, miscommunications, and a lack of trust between parties involved in conflict resolution processes. For example, the use of English in mediation or negotiation sessions may disadvantage those who are not fluent in the language, limiting their ability to fully express their perspectives and concerns.

To address these challenges, the incorporation of indigenous languages into conflict resolution processes can be a valuable strategy. By enabling parties to communicate in their preferred languages, conflict resolution efforts can be more inclusive, transparent, and effective. Additionally, the use of interpreters and the translation of key documents can help to bridge language gaps and facilitate better understanding between all parties involved. The linguistic diversity of Nigeria presents significant challenges for effective conflict resolution. The dominance of English in government and formal settings can create communication barriers for those who are more comfortable or proficient in indigenous languages. This can lead to misunderstandings, the exclusion of certain groups from decision-making processes, and the perpetuation of existing power structures.

To address these challenges, the incorporation of indigenous languages into conflict resolution processes, such as the use of local mediators and the translation of documents, can help to ensure that all parties are able to participate fully and have their voices heard. Additionally, the promotion of bilingual and multilingual education can help to build cross-linguistic understanding and communication skills, which can contribute to more effective conflict resolution. (Nwokoro et al., 2020).

Cultural Barriers and Conflict Resolution

The cultural diversity of Nigeria also presents challenges for conflict resolution. Cultural differences can also be a significant barrier to effective conflict resolution in Nigeria. Differences in values, norms, and customs can lead to misunderstandings and the inability to find common ground. To overcome these challenges, it is important to recognise and respect the cultural diversity of the country, and to find ways to incorporate cultural practices and

norms into conflict resolution processes. The use of traditional dispute resolution mechanisms, such as community-based mediation and the involvement of elders or religious leaders, can be particularly effective in addressing conflicts that are rooted in cultural differences.

Additionally, the promotion of cross-cultural exchange and understanding, through initiatives such as cultural festivals, educational programs, and community dialogues, can help to build bridges between different groups and facilitate more effective conflict resolution. In essence, the linguistic and cultural diversity of Nigeria presents significant challenges for effective conflict resolution, but also opportunities for developing more inclusive and effective approaches. By aligning conflict resolution strategies with the linguistic and cultural realities of Nigeria, the government and other stakeholders can enhance the effectiveness of their efforts to address the country's myriad conflicts. This would involve (Olagbaju, 2020) (Onyesom, 2015) (Keghku et al., 2019) (Adams & Iwu, 2015) incorporating local languages and cultural practices into conflict resolution processes, promoting cross-cultural understanding, and building the capacity of both formal and informal conflict resolution mechanisms to address the unique challenges facing Nigeria.

Conflict and Conflict Resolution

Conflicts are an inevitable aspect of human existence, as individuals and groups pursue incompatible interests and goals (Adams & Iwu, 2015). In the Nigerian context, conflicts have arisen from a variety of sources, including (Onyesom, 2015) (Keghku et al., 2019): the contestation over access to new political positions or perceptions of newly available resources brought about by development and societal changes. Effective conflict resolution requires an understanding of the complex and multi-faceted nature of conflicts, as well as a recognition of the unique cultural and linguistic factors that shape the Nigerian context. In the Nigerian context, the management and resolution of conflicts has been challenging, as evidenced by the continued prevalence of violent conflicts among ethnic and religious communities in different regions and states (Onyesom, 2015) (Keghku et al., 2019).

However, the literature also suggests that efforts to build national unity and cultural integration, such as the convocation of national conferences, amnesty programs, and the federal character principle, have not yielded significant results (Olagbaju, 2020). This underscores the need for a more comprehensive and context-specific approach to conflict resolution in Nigeria.

Incorporating Linguistic and Cultural Diversity

To enhance the effectiveness of conflict resolution in Nigeria, it is essential to acknowledge and incorporate the country's linguistic and cultural diversity into the process. The dominance of English in formal settings can create communication barriers for those who are more comfortable in their native languages, leading to misunderstandings, exclusion, and the perpetuation of existing power structures.

By enabling parties to communicate in their preferred languages, conflict resolution efforts can become more inclusive, transparent, and effective. This can be achieved through the use of interpreters, the translation of key documents, and the incorporation of indigenous languages into the conflict resolution process.

Cultural differences can also be a significant barrier to effective conflict resolution in Nigeria. Differences in values, norms, and customs can lead to misunderstandings and the inability to find common ground. To address this challenge, it is important to recognize and respect the cultural diversity of the country, and to find ways to incorporate cultural practices and norms into conflict resolution processes. The use of traditional dispute resolution mechanisms, such as community-based mediation and the involvement of elders or religious leaders, can be particularly effective in addressing conflicts that are rooted in cultural differences.

Relationship between Culture and Conflict

There is a strong relationship between culture and conflict in the Nigerian context (Adams & Iwu, 2015). Cultural differences and the politicization of cultural identity have been identified as key sources of conflict in the country. For instance, differences in cultural practices, beliefs,

and norms can lead to misunderstandings and disputes, particularly in the context of resource allocation, political representation, and community relations (Ojie & Ewghrudjakpor, 2009).

Additionally, the politicisation of cultural identity has been a driver of conflict, as ethnic and religious groups have engaged in struggles for power and resources (Ojie & Ewghrudjakpor, 2009). To address these challenges, the literature suggests that the depoliticization of cultural identity and the promotion of cross-cultural understanding are important strategies for fostering national integration and conflict resolution in Nigeria (Olagbaju, 2020). By recognising and respecting the cultural diversity of the country, and by finding ways to bridge cultural divides, the government and other stakeholders can work to address the root causes of conflicts and build a more cohesive and stable society. This has been particularly evident in the case of the neo-Biafran movement, which has been fuelled by a sense of relative deprivation and the desire for greater cultural and political autonomy (Okeke, 2016).

The literature suggests that the depoliticisation of cultural identity and the promotion of cross-cultural understanding are important strategies for fostering national integration and conflict resolution in Nigeria. By recognising and respecting the cultural diversity of the country, and by finding ways to bridge cultural divides, the government and other stakeholders can work to address the root causes of conflicts and build a more cohesive and stable society. The variety of customs, languages, and traditions among Nigeria's 389 ethnic groups gives the country a cultural diversity that is both a source of strength and a challenge for nation-building (Okeke, 2016). This cultural diversity is among the critical issues of nation-building in this African state.

Nigeria's cultural pluralism has led to centrifugal tendencies and activities based on ethnic grouping and consciousness, which have hobbled the country's nation-building efforts (Amali, 2013). The apprehension of power of one tribal or cultural group of the country by another, arising from "who gets what, when and how", has also been a major factor contributing to conflicts (Oghale et al., 2021).

To promote national integration, peace, and social justice in Nigeria, the country would require the cultivation of commonly yielding values that hold Nigeria together as a nation (Amali, 2013). This would involve incorporating local languages and cultural practices into conflict resolution processes, promoting cross-cultural understanding, and building the capacity of both formal and informal conflict resolution mechanisms to address the unique challenges facing Nigeria. The central problem of the Nigerian narrative is nation-building challenges (Okeke, 2016) resulting from this cultural diversity. In conclusion, the implications for conflict resolution in Nigeria given the existence of language and cultural barriers are significant.

Language, Culture, and National Integration

The relationship between language, culture, and national integration in Nigeria is a complex and multifaceted one. Nigeria's linguistic diversity, with over 500 languages spoken, has significant implications for conflict resolution and national development (Olanrewaju, 2018). The dominance of English in formal settings can create communication barriers and exclude those who are more comfortable in indigenous languages (Okeke, 2016) (Olagbaju, 2020). This can lead to misunderstandings, the marginalization of certain groups, and the perpetuation of existing power structures.

To address these challenges, the incorporation of indigenous languages into conflict resolution processes, such as the use of local mediators and the translation of documents, can help to ensure that all parties are able to participate fully and have their voices heard. Additionally, the promotion of bilingual and multilingual education can help to build cross-linguistic understanding and communication skills, which can contribute to more effective conflict resolution.

At the same time, the recognition and preservation of cultural diversity is crucial for national integration. Efforts to promote national unity should not come at the expense of local cultural practices and identities. The literature suggests that the depoliticization of cultural

identity and the promotion of cross-cultural understanding are important strategies for fostering national integration and conflict resolution in Nigeria (Okeke, 2016).

The literature suggests that a balanced approach that recognizes and respects cultural pluralism, while also promoting common values and shared identity, is essential for building a more cohesive and stable Nigerian society (Amali, 2013). In sum, the implications for conflict resolution in Nigeria given the existence of language and cultural barriers are significant. Addressing these challenges will require a multi-faceted approach that incorporates the perspectives and experiences of diverse communities, and that recognises the importance of language and culture in shaping conflict dynamics and resolution processes.

The Implication of Language and Culture on Conflict Resolution

Understanding the relationship between language, culture, and national integration is crucial for effective conflict resolution in Nigeria. The country's linguistic diversity and the dominance of English in formal settings can create communication barriers and exclude certain groups, perpetuating existing power structures and contributing to conflicts. (Nwokoro et al., 2020). To address these challenges, the incorporation of indigenous languages into conflict resolution processes and the promotion of bilingual and multilingual education can help to build cross-linguistic understanding and communication skills, which can contribute to more effective conflict resolution. (Olagbaju, 2020). Effective conflict resolution in Nigeria requires a nuanced understanding of the complex relationship between language, culture, and national integration. The linguistic and cultural diversity of Nigeria presents both challenges and opportunities for conflict resolution and national development.

On one hand, language and cultural barriers can impede effective communication, exclude certain groups from decision-making processes, and perpetuate existing power structures. This can lead to misunderstandings, mistrust, and the exacerbation of conflicts. On the other hand, the recognition and incorporation of indigenous languages and cultural practices into conflict resolution processes can enhance the effectiveness of these efforts, by ensuring that all parties are able to participate fully and have their voices heard. By aligning

conflict resolution strategies with the linguistic and cultural realities of Nigeria, the government and other stakeholders can enhance the effectiveness of their efforts to address the country's myriad conflicts.

This will require a multi-faceted approach that includes the following key elements:

- 1) The incorporation of indigenous languages into conflict resolution processes, such as the use of local mediators and the translation of documents;
- 2) The promotion of bilingual and multilingual education to build cross-linguistic understanding and communication skills;
- 3) The recognition and preservation of cultural diversity, while also promoting common values and a shared national identity;
- 4) The capacity building of both formal and informal conflict resolution mechanisms to address the unique challenges facing Nigeria.

This would involve (Omachonu, 2017) promoting qualitative language education, building the capacity of both formal and informal conflict resolution mechanisms to address the unique challenges facing Nigeria, and fostering intercultural competence through the use of literature-in-English in multicultural classrooms. Through these efforts, Nigeria can work towards achieving sustainable national development, where people live without fear for their lives and property, and where there is peace and prosperity for all.

Prescription for Effective Conflict Resolution in Nigeria

Given the insights from the contingency theory of strategic conflict management, as well as the findings from the sources provided, several recommendations emerge for effective conflict resolution in Nigeria:

1. Adopt a Multilingual Approach: The Nigerian government should implement a tripartite language policy that recognizes the value of English, indigenous languages, and Nigerian Pidgin, depending on the context (Olanrewaju, 2018). This will ensure that conflict resolution processes are conducted in the languages most accessible to the affected parties, fostering greater understanding and participation.

2. Promote Cross-Cultural Understanding: Incorporate cultural practices and norms into conflict resolution mechanisms to build trust and facilitate greater understanding between parties (Olagbaju, 2020).
3. Establish Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement: Ensure that stakeholder meetings convened by the government are all-inclusive, rather than elitist, to better represent the diverse voices and perspectives within the country (Keghku et al., 2019).
4. Enhance Coordination and Collaboration: Improve coordination and collaboration between various government agencies, civil society organizations, and community leaders to develop holistic and sustainable conflict resolution strategies (Adams & Iwu, 2015).
5. Address Systemic Drivers of Conflict: Tackle the underlying socioeconomic, political, and environmental factors that contribute to the escalation of conflicts, such as contestable access to resources and perceptions of inequality (Onyesom, 2015).

Conclusion

In sum, effective conflict resolution in Nigeria requires a nuanced understanding of the complex relationship between language, culture, and national integration. The linguistic and cultural diversity of Nigeria presents both challenges and opportunities for conflict resolution and national development.

To address this, the Nigerian government should adopt a multilingual approach, promote cross-cultural understanding, establish inclusive stakeholder engagement, enhance coordination and collaboration, and address the systemic drivers of conflict. By doing so, Nigeria can work towards achieving sustainable national development, where people live without fear for their lives and property, and where there is peace and prosperity for all.

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CHAPTER 9

DIGITAL FINANCE, CYBERSECURITY CHALLENGES, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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INTRODUCTION

Digital finance, which includes a variety of financial services delivered through digital platforms, is critical for economic development owing to benefits such as financial inclusion, cost reduction, and credit availability. It combines technology and financial services to handle cybersecurity challenges by implementing sophisticated security measures, detecting fraud in real time, ensuring regulatory compliance, and providing user education. These safeguards secure user information, maintain transaction integrity, and foster trust. By promoting greater financial inclusion, cutting costs, and facilitating more access to credit, digital finance has the potential to greatly accelerate economic development. However, there are significant risks associated with cybersecurity, necessitating stringent security protocols, sensible legislation, and continuous innovation to optimize profits while safeguarding investors and the financial system.

Digital finance refers to the integration of digital technologies into financial services, transforming how financial transactions, products, and services are accessed, delivered, and managed. It encompasses a broad range of digital innovations that facilitate financial activities, enhance financial inclusion, and drive economic growth (Agumagu, 2018). Digital finance, also known as fintech (financial technology), leverages digital platforms, mobile technologies,

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data analytics, and blockchain to provide efficient, accessible, and secure financial services (Aker et al. 2016). It encompasses both traditional financial services digitized for improved efficiency and new digital financial products and services tailored to meet diverse consumer needs. It facilitates peer-to-peer transfers, bill payments, and purchases using mobile devices, reducing reliance on cash, and utilizes near-field communication (NFC) technology for secure, convenient transactions via smartphones or cards, it includes cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and stablecoins, which offer alternative means of payment and store of value, allows customers to perform banking transactions via web platforms or mobile apps, including account management, transfers, and bill payments, it can operate entirely online, offering competitive rates, personalized services, and innovative features, matches borrowers with lenders through online platforms, often offering faster approval and lower costs compared to traditional loans, and promote microfinance and microcredit by providing improve lending avenue – Peer-to-Peer (P2P) lending which facilitate (Adelaja et al. 2020).

Digital finance expands access to financial services, especially in underserved and remote areas, promoting financial inclusion and economic empowerment, streamlines financial processes, reducing transaction costs, offers 24/7 accessibility, improving customer experience and operational efficiency for financial institutions, fosters innovation in financial products and services, encourages competition among financial service providers, and drives technological advancements in the financial sector, and enhances transparency, accountability, and regulatory compliance through improved data analytics, cybersecurity measures, and regulatory technology solutions (Karlan et al. 2016).

Importance of Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity is critically important in today's interconnected digital world. It safeguards personal and sensitive information, such as financial records, medical data, and intellectual property, against unauthorized access, theft, or misuse, ensures compliance with data protection regulations (e.g., GDPR, HIPAA), avoiding legal and financial penalties associated with data breaches, mitigate the risk of disruptions to business operations caused by cyber

incidents, ensuring continuous service delivery and customer trust, prevents financial fraud, including unauthorized transactions, phishing scams, and ransomware attacks, which can result in substantial financial losses for individuals and organizations, uphold organizational reputation by demonstrating a commitment to safeguarding customer data and maintaining trust with stakeholders, improve cliental confidence, minimize the impact of potential security breaches on business operations, facilitate proactive risk management strategies, identifying vulnerabilities and implementing controls to reduce cyber risks, enables secure adoption of new technologies (e.g., cloud computing, IoT), supporting digital transformation initiatives without compromising data security, foster business agility by enabling rapid adaptation to technological changes and market demands since people experience secured financial transactions, defends against sophisticated cyber threats, including malware, ransomware, social engineering attacks, and insider threats, which continue to evolve in complexity and frequency, ensures organizations can recover quickly from eventful cyber incidents and minimize potential damages, and promotes global economic stability by safeguarding critical infrastructure, financial systems, and supply chains from cyber disruptions and cyber warfare threats (Bozkir et al. 2020). Cybersecurity is therefore, indispensable for safeguarding individuals, businesses, and nations against cyber threats in an increasingly digital and interconnected world. By investing in cybersecurity measures, organizations can protect sensitive information, preserve business continuity, uphold trust, and foster innovation in the digital economy.

Economic Development Context

Between 2000 and 2014, Nigeria's economy experienced broad-based and sustained growth of over 7% annually on average, benefitting from favourable global conditions, and macroeconomic and first-stage structural reforms. From 2015-2022, however, growth rates decreased and GDP per capita flattened, driven by monetary and exchange rate policy distortions, increasing fiscal deficits due to lower oil production and a costly fuel subsidy program, increased trade protectionism, and external shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Weakened economic fundamentals led the country's inflation to reach a 24-year high of 31.7% in February 2024, which, in combination with sluggish growth, has pushed millions of Nigerians into poverty.

Despite having the largest economy and population in Africa, Nigeria offers limited opportunities to most of its citizens. Nigerians born in 2020 are expected to be future workers 36% as productive as they could be if they had full access to education and health, the 7th lowest human capital index in the world. Weak job creation and entrepreneurial prospects stifle the absorption of the 3.5 million Nigerians entering the labour force every year, and many workers choose to emigrate in search of better opportunities. The poverty rate is estimated to have reached 38.9% in 2023, with an estimated 87 million Nigerians living below the poverty line — the world's second-largest poor population after India. However, recent reforms offer a launching pad for a new social compact for Nigeria's development. Strengthening macroeconomic fundamentals will allow structural reforms to be pursued and economic growth to be restored. The current low social and economic equilibrium could be switched to one marked by a better-funded and more effective State that provides efficient public services, public goods, and a conducive economic environment for the private sector to flourish and create more quality jobs for Nigerians.

Evolution of Digital Finance in Nigeria

Significant milestones have occurred in Nigeria's digital financial growth, owing to technology breakthroughs and a strong regulatory framework. In the early 2000s, the arrival of mobile phones paved the way for mobile banking and payment options. Companies like Interswitch and eTranzact were pioneers in facilitating electronic transactions and payments. The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) played an important role by enacting regulations that encouraged cashless transactions and financial inclusion. In 2012, the CBN implemented the Cashless Policy, which intended to minimize the number of cash transactions while increasing the acceptance of electronic payments. This strategy accelerated the expansion of mobile money services, with companies such as Paga and FirstMoney leading the way. The 2010s

saw a spike in fintech innovation, with multiple businesses offering a wide range of services such as peer-to-peer lending, digital savings, and investing platforms. The security and trustworthiness of digital financial services were further improved in 2014 with the introduction of the Bank Verification Number (BVN). Considering the CBN effort, Nigeria's digital financial industry has expanded quickly because to a mix of increased customer uptake, governmental assistance, and entrepreneurial innovation. Nationwide financial inclusion and economic involvement have increased dramatically as a result of this progress. Although the stated and reported boost in economic growth in Nigeria as a result of financial technology advancement is controversial.

Historical Development

Constantly evolving, new services and products are periodically introduced that change the way Nigerians interact with Financial Institutions (“FIs”) and the Nigerian monetary and payment system. Not so long ago, Automated Teller Machines (“ATMs”) and Point of Sale (“PoS”) Terminals were considered new and innovative. Today, Nigerians who own bank accounts may also have a debit card which enables them to move around without cash and use ATMs and PoS terminals. Furthermore, with the creation of the Nigerian Interbank Settlement System (“NIBSS”) which serves as the central switch (World Bank, 2020) for Nigeria, internet banking was introduced which helps Nigerians easily transfer money to another customer within minutes rather than standing in long queues at banking halls just to achieve the same objective. Subsequently, there has been the introduction of mobile banking and mobile money which has made the banking process seem less cumbersome.

These payment systems and methods now serve as the backbone for the Payment Infrastructure in Nigeria and it seems that the Central Bank of Nigeria (“CBN”) wants to create other extensions to support and complement the infrastructure through the creation of its own digital currency called the eNaira. According to the World Bank, about 1.7 billion adults do not have a bank account (World Bank, 2018). In Nigeria, as of 2018, 60 million adults were unbanked (Emmanuel Paul, 2020). Central banks and various players are looking for

mechanisms to create access to financial products for their citizens and CBDCs may be one of those ways. Why? Because they only need minimal Know Your Customer (“KYC”) requirements. All they require is internet connectivity, a smartphone, and a digital wallet. With internet penetration on the rise and the adoption of cheap smartphones that have the processing power to handle digital wallets, CBDCs can potentially become a tool to give financial access to the unbanked and underbanked.

Furthermore, one of the frontrunners in Nigeria’s fintech scene is Flutterwave. Founded in 2016, Flutterwave provides a payment infrastructure for global merchants and payment service providers. Paystack is another leading player in the Nigerian fintech ecosystem. Launched in 2015, Paystack offers businesses an online payment platform to accept payments from anywhere in the world. In 2020, Paystack was acquired by Stripe for over \$200 million. This acquisition marked a significant milestone for Nigerian fintech, highlighting the sector’s potential to attract international investment. In addition, Interswitch, founded in 2002, is one of Nigeria’s earliest fintech companies. It provides electronic payment processing services for businesses and individuals. It also operates Verve, Nigeria’s most used payment card, and Quickteller, a consumer payments platform. The company’s long-standing presence in the market underscores the growth and resilience of Nigeria’s fintech sector. Paga is a mobile payments company that was established in 2009. It offers a platform for users to transfer money, pay bills, and buy things digitally. Paga has over 14 million users and has processed billions of dollars in transactions. The company’s success demonstrates the demand for mobile money solutions in Nigeria. Carbon, formerly known as Paylater, is a digital lending platform. Founded in 2016, Carbon provides instant loans to individuals and small businesses. In addition to lending, Carbon also offers investment and savings products. The company’s diverse range of services illustrates the breadth of solutions offered by Nigerian fintech companies.

Current Landscape

The digital financial sector is making a significant contribution to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In 2019, the sector contributed 1.25% to the country's GDP. This figure is expected to rise as the sector continues to grow. The sector is also playing a key role in diversifying Nigeria's economy. Traditionally reliant on oil, the country is now seeing growth in its digital finance sector and digital finance or Fintech companies are at the forefront of this transformation. The success of fintech companies is attracting more tech talent to Nigeria. Many young Nigerians are choosing careers in fintech over more traditional sectors unlike before. This is creating a vibrant tech ecosystem in the country. Digital finance companies are also creating jobs. In 2020, the sector employed over 10,000 people. As more fintech startups emerge, this number is set to increase. In conclusion, fintech is not just revolutionizing financial services in Nigeria. It's also driving economic growth and job creation.

Despite the rapid growth, fintech companies in Nigeria face several challenges. Regulatory hurdles are one of the main obstacles. The Central Bank of Nigeria is still developing regulations for the sector. This can create uncertainty for fintech startups. Cybersecurity is another major concern. As more financial transactions move online, the risk of cyber-attacks increases. Fintech companies must invest in robust security measures to protect their customers' data. Looking ahead, the future of fintech in Nigeria is promising. Experts predict that the sector will continue to grow. More innovative products and services are expected to emerge. The use of blockchain and cryptocurrencies is also likely to increase. These technologies have the potential to further revolutionize the financial landscape in Nigeria. In conclusion, while challenges exist, the outlook for fintech in Nigeria is positive. The sector is poised for continued growth and innovation.

The Role of Digital Finance in Economic Development

Financial Inclusion

Digital Financial Services are ushering in an age of financial innovation and convenience with technology as the driver. It aims at solving several needs of the public, helping governments

tackle newer problems and identifying the potential of new technology that may be conceived in a competitive landscape. Financial inclusion aims to bring as many unserved and underserved Nigerians into the formal financial sector. Thus, digital financial services are revealing gaps in the market that will allow the Federal government to intervene and cater to more members of the public than ever, using technology. Financial inclusion in Nigeria has had undeniable successes, with the onboarding of residents to the banking sector consistently progressing. However, the overall exclusion rates continue to exceed official targets, not least due to low financial literacy. Going forward, Nigeria's financial inclusion strategy should more systematically leverage rapidly developing digital instruments. The uptake of digital financial services, notably mobile money, is still lower than in peer countries, and overcoming this would require improving digital financial literacy, upgrading digital infrastructure, and promoting the incubation and sound practices of fintech firms. Nigeria's CBDC also has an enabling potential if accompanied by a comprehensive package of supportive policies.

Economic Empowerment

In terms of economic empowerment, digital finance provides access to formal financial services for unbanked and underbanked populations, including remote rural communities and low-income individuals. Platforms like mobile banking and mobile wallets enable secure savings, payments, and transfers via mobile phones, promoting financial inclusion and reducing cash dependency (Bech et al. 2017). Digital finance also facilitates easier access to credit and financing options for SMEs through online lending platforms, crowdfunding, and digital credit scoring mechanisms, by streamlining business transactions, reducing transaction costs, improving cash flow management, and enabling faster growth of SMEs (Bollaert et al. 2021). Governments use digital finance for efficient disbursement of social welfare benefits, pensions, and salaries, reducing leakages and ensuring transparency in public financial management, and it facilitates easier tax payments and improves revenue collection processes, supporting government initiatives for infrastructure development and public services (Das and Chatterjee 2021).

Efficiency and Productivity

Digital finance significantly enhances efficiency and productivity across various sectors in Nigeria by streamlining processes, reducing costs, improving access to financial services, and fostering innovation. Platforms like mobile banking, mobile wallets, and online payment gateways facilitate quick, secure, and convenient transactions. This reduces the reliance on cash, minimizes transaction times, and enhances cash flow management for businesses. Digital transactions incur lower processing costs compared to traditional methods, such as checks or physical cash handling, leading to overall cost savings for businesses and consumers alike, and expands access to banking and financial services, particularly in underserved rural areas, also, through mobile banking and agent banking networks, it enables individuals and businesses to perform banking activities without visiting a physical bank branch, thereby saving time and travel costs (Peter et al. 2018). It also facilitates the delivery of microfinance services to small-scale entrepreneurs and microenterprises, enhancing their access to credit for business expansion and investment (Ozili 2023).

Cybersecurity Challenges in Digital Finance

Nigeria faces significant cybersecurity challenges as it increasingly adopts digital technologies. The country's growing internet penetration and reliance on digital financial services have made it a target for cybercriminals. Key challenges include, **cybercrime, inadequate infrastructure, regulatory and legal frameworks, awareness and education and talent shortage**. addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach, including strengthening regulatory frameworks, improving cybersecurity infrastructure, raising awareness, and developing local talent.

Types of Cybersecurity Threats

Prevalent threats to banks and financial services companies include phishing attacks, malware and ransomware, insider threats, DDoS attacks, and vulnerabilities in application programming interfaces (APIs) and each of these can lead to significant financial and

reputational damage (Adelman, 2015). Furthermore, in the Nigerian context, other types of cybersecurity threats are:

- i.) Phishing and Social Engineering:** Phishing involves fraudulent attempts to obtain sensitive information (e.g., login credentials, credit card details) by masquerading as a trustworthy entity through emails, text messages, or fake websites.
- ii.) Malware:** Malware (malicious software) includes viruses, worms, trojans, and ransomware designed to infiltrate systems, steal data, or disrupt operations.
- iii.) Data Breaches:** Data breaches involve unauthorized access to sensitive data, such as customer information (e.g., names, addresses, payment card details) stored by financial institutions or service providers.
- iv.) Insider Threats:** Description: Insider threats involve malicious actions or negligence by internal employees, contractors, or partners who have authorized access to sensitive information.
- v.) Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) Attacks:** Description: DDoS attacks overwhelm digital finance systems or websites with a flood of traffic, rendering them inaccessible to legitimate users.
- vi.) Man-in-the-Middle (MitM) Attacks:** MitM attacks intercept communication between two parties to eavesdrop, modify, or manipulate data exchanged over digital channels.
- vii.) Crypto jacking:** Crypto jacking involves unauthorized use of a victim's computer or mobile device to mine cryptocurrencies, consuming system resources without the user's consent.
- viii.) Credential Stuffing:** Credential stuffing uses stolen usernames and passwords obtained from data breaches to access multiple online accounts, including financial accounts.
- ix.) IoT Vulnerabilities:** IoT devices connected to digital finance networks (e.g., mobile payment terminals, and smart ATMs) may have security vulnerabilities that attackers exploit to gain unauthorized access or manipulate transactions.

- x.) Supply Chain Attacks:** Supply chain attacks target third-party vendors or service providers within the digital finance ecosystem to compromise systems, access sensitive data, or distribute malware.

Impact of Cybersecurity Breaches

- i.)** Phishing attacks can lead to unauthorized access to financial accounts, identity theft, and financial losses for individuals and organizations.
- ii.)** Malware can compromise financial transactions, encrypt files for ransom, or steal sensitive information stored on computers or mobile devices.
- iii.)** Data breaches can result in identity theft, financial fraud, reputational damage, regulatory fines, and legal liabilities for organizations.
- iv.)** Insider threats can lead to data leaks, fraud schemes, or unauthorized modifications to financial systems, compromising confidentiality, integrity, and availability of data.
- v.)** DDoS attacks disrupt online banking services, payment processing, or trading platforms, causing financial losses and reputational harm to financial institutions.
- vi.)** MitM attacks can intercept login credentials, payment information, or transaction details, enabling attackers to conduct financial fraud or unauthorized transfers.
- vii.)** Cryptojacking can slow down devices, increase energy consumption, and compromise the performance of digital finance applications running on affected devices.
- viii.)** Credential stuffing attacks exploit weak or reused passwords, leading to unauthorized account access, financial theft, and potential identity compromise.
- ix.)** IoT vulnerabilities can compromise the integrity of financial transactions, leading to financial losses or operational disruptions for financial institutions and consumers.
- x.)** Supply chain attacks can disrupt financial services, compromise customer data confidentiality, and undermine trust in the security of digital finance platforms and services.

Cybersecurity Measures and Practices

To mitigate these cyber threats, organizations in the digital finance sector should implement robust cybersecurity measures, including:

- i.) **Strong Authentication:** Use multi-factor authentication (MFA) to protect accounts from unauthorized access.
- ii.) **Encryption:** Encrypt sensitive data both in transit and at rest to protect it from unauthorized access.
- iii.) **Regular Patching:** Keep software and systems up-to-date with security patches to mitigate vulnerabilities.
- iv.) **Employee Training:** Educate staff about cybersecurity best practices and how to recognize phishing and social engineering attempts.
- v.) **Incident Response Plan:** Develop and regularly update an incident response plan to swiftly mitigate and recover from cyber incidents.

Regulatory and Policy Framework

Regulatory Environment

In Nigeria, cybersecurity regulations aim to protect digital systems, networks, and data from cyber threats while promoting a safe and secure digital environment for businesses, government entities, and individuals. Here's an overview of cybersecurity regulations in Nigeria:

- i.) **National Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy:** The National Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy provide the overarching framework for cybersecurity governance in Nigeria. It outlines the country's approach to cybersecurity, including objectives, priorities, and roles of various stakeholders.
- ii.) **Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR):** The NDPR, enforced by the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), regulates the processing of personal data by public and private organizations in Nigeria.

- iii.) Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act, 2015:** The Cybercrimes Act is Nigeria's primary legislation addressing cybercrime and cybersecurity offences.
- iv.) Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Guidelines:** The CBN issues guidelines and regulations that financial institutions must adhere to regarding cybersecurity and information security.
- v.) Telecommunications Regulations:** The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) regulates telecommunications operators and internet service providers (ISPs) in Nigeria, including cybersecurity aspects.
- vi.) Sector-Specific Regulations: Financial Sector:** The CBN's regulations require banks and financial institutions to implement cybersecurity measures to protect customer financial data and ensure the integrity of financial transactions.
- vii.) Healthcare Sector:** The National Health Act and related guidelines impose cybersecurity obligations on healthcare providers to protect patient records and health information.
- viii.) Regulatory Enforcement and Compliance:** Enforcement Agencies: Regulatory enforcement of cybersecurity regulations involves agencies such as NITDA, CBN, NCC, and law enforcement agencies responsible for investigating cybercrimes.

Policy Initiatives

- i.) Capacity Building:** Enhancing cybersecurity awareness, skills, and capabilities among stakeholders, including businesses, government agencies, and the general public.
- ii.) Collaboration:** Strengthening collaboration between regulatory bodies, law enforcement agencies, industry associations, and international partners to address emerging cyber threats.
- iii.) Adaptation:** Continuously updating cybersecurity regulations to address evolving cyber threats, technological advancements, and global best practices.

Interdependence of Digital Finance and Cybersecurity

Robust cybersecurity is indispensable for the growth of digital finance due to its critical role in safeguarding financial transactions, protecting sensitive data, and maintaining trust among stakeholders. However, here are some key reasons why cybersecurity is essential for the growth of digital finance:

- i.) Protection of Financial Transactions:** Cybersecurity measures, such as encryption and secure authentication methods (e.g., multi-factor authentication), protect financial transactions from interception and manipulation by unauthorized parties. Also, Strong cybersecurity frameworks help prevent financial fraud, including unauthorized transactions, identity theft, and phishing attacks targeting individuals and businesses.
- ii.) Trust and Customer Confidence:** Effective cybersecurity practices ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of customer data, enhancing trust among consumers and businesses in digital finance platforms. In addition, compliance with cybersecurity regulations and standards demonstrates a commitment to protecting customer information and complying with data protection laws, fostering trust and loyalty.
- iii.) Operational Resilience:** Cybersecurity measures mitigate the risk of disruptions to digital finance operations caused by cyberattacks, technical failures, or natural disasters, ensuring uninterrupted service delivery and preparedness for incident response plans and recovery strategies minimizes the impact of cyber incidents and facilitates swift recovery to maintain business operations.
- iv.) Innovation and Market Competitiveness:** A secure digital environment encourages innovation in fintech solutions, such as mobile banking, digital wallets, blockchain-based financial services, and AI-driven financial technologies.
- v.) Regulatory Compliance and Reputation Management:** Compliance with cybersecurity regulations and guidelines, such as data protection laws and industry

standards (e.g., PCI DSS for payment card security), mitigates regulatory risks and avoids penalties. However, effective cybersecurity protects the reputation of financial institutions and fintech companies by preventing data breaches, which can lead to reputational damage and loss of customer trust.

- vi.) Cyber Insurance and Risk Management:** Cyber insurance policies provide financial protection against cyber risks, covering costs associated with data breaches, legal liabilities, and business interruption. Regular cybersecurity risk assessments and vulnerability testing identify weaknesses in systems and infrastructure, enabling proactive risk management and mitigation strategies.

Economic Benefits of Secure Digital Finance Systems

Secure digital finance systems provide numerous economic benefits that contribute to the growth, efficiency, and stability of economies globally, systematically, we discussed below the economic benefits of secure digital finance systems:

- i.) Enhanced Financial Inclusion:** Secure digital finance systems facilitate broader access to banking and financial services, especially for underserved populations in rural and remote areas, as individuals and small businesses can securely save, invest, and access credit through digital platforms, fostering economic growth and entrepreneurship.
- ii.) Efficiency and Cost Savings:** Digital payments and transfers are faster, more efficient, and cost-effective compared to traditional methods, reducing transaction costs for businesses and consumers. Through this, financial institutions achieve operational efficiencies through automation of processes, real-time data analytics, and streamlined customer service delivery.
- iii.) Promotion of E-commerce and Digital Economy:** Secure digital finance systems enable businesses, particularly SMEs, to access global markets through e-commerce platforms, expanding market reach and export opportunities. It also stimulates job

creation in technology, logistics, digital marketing, and related sectors, driving economic diversification and employment.

iv.) Financial Stability and Risk Management: Secure digital finance systems enhance risk management capabilities by detecting and preventing financial fraud, cyber threats, and operational disruptions. Financial institutions and economies build resilience against external shocks through secure digital infrastructure and robust cybersecurity measures.

v.) Innovation and Competitiveness: Secure digital finance systems foster innovation in financial technologies (fintech), such as blockchain, AI-driven analytics, and digital lending platforms, enhancing market competitiveness. Countries with secure digital finance ecosystems attract foreign investments in fintech and digital infrastructure projects, contributing to economic growth and technological advancement.

vi.) Government Revenue and Efficiency: Digital finance systems facilitate efficient tax collection and compliance through electronic filing, automated audits, and transparency in financial transactions. Governments improve efficiency in public expenditure management, budget allocation, and service delivery through digital finance platforms.

vii.) Consumer Confidence and Trust: Secure digital finance systems protect consumer data privacy, mitigate fraud risks, and uphold trust in financial institutions and digital service providers. Increased confidence in secure digital transactions encourages consumer spending, stimulating economic activity and driving economic growth.

Challenges and Opportunities

Balancing innovation in digital finance with cybersecurity is crucial for maintaining trust, security, and stability in financial systems. Achieving a balance between innovation in digital finance and cybersecurity requires a holistic approach that integrates technological advancements with robust security measures and regulatory compliance. Below are some highlighted ways cybersecurity has aided in promoting digital finance.

- i.) **Risk Assessment and Management:** Conduct thorough risk assessments to understand potential vulnerabilities introduced by new innovations. This helps in prioritizing cybersecurity measures according to the level of risk posed.
- ii.) **Regulatory Compliance:** Ensure that all innovations comply with relevant regulatory frameworks and standards for cybersecurity. Regulatory bodies often provide guidelines and requirements that help in mitigating risks.
- iii.) **Continuous Monitoring:** Implement continuous monitoring of systems and networks to detect any suspicious activity or potential cyber threats promptly. This includes using advanced analytics and AI-driven tools for anomaly detection.
- iv.) **Secure Design Principles:** Incorporate cybersecurity from the outset of design phases for new digital finance products and services. This includes following secure coding practices, implementing encryption, and adopting secure architecture frameworks.
- v.) **User Education and Awareness:** Educate users, including customers and employees, about cybersecurity best practices. This helps in reducing the risk of human error leading to security breaches, such as phishing attacks or improper handling of sensitive information.
- vi.) **Collaboration and Information Sharing:** Foster collaboration among industry stakeholders, including financial institutions, fintech firms, cybersecurity experts, and regulatory bodies. Sharing information about emerging threats and best practices strengthens the overall cybersecurity posture.
- vii.) **Adaptive Security Measures:** Implement adaptive security measures that can evolve and respond to new and emerging cyber threats. This includes leveraging technologies like AI and machine learning for proactive threat detection and response.
- viii.) **Incident Response Planning:** Develop and regularly update incident response plans to quickly mitigate and recover from cyber-attacks or data breaches. Conducting regular drills and simulations ensures readiness during actual incidents.

- ix.) **Vendor Management:** Evaluate and monitor third-party vendors and partners that provide critical services or technologies. Ensure they adhere to robust cybersecurity practices and standards.
- x.) **Ethical Considerations:** Balance innovation with ethical considerations regarding data privacy and consumer rights. Transparent policies and practices regarding data usage and protection build trust with users.

Case Studies and Real-World Examples

Successful Implementations

In Nigeria, the country faces a myriad of structural, technical and infrastructural problems that need to be resolved, including a fragmented digital financial services (DFS) ecosystem with numerous operators promoting proprietary systems; network complexity; a lack of interoperability (one mobile money operator to another); and poorly developed agent networks. A confusing and often contradictory legal and regulatory framework in which mobile money is often equated with mobile banking, market participants are not equally treated, and mandatory requirements such as the Bank Verification Number (BVN) create adoption challenges. High service fees disproportionate to the income levels of under-banked and unbanked consumers and other barriers to access are basic issues requiring measured intervention before mobile network operators-led mobile money schemes are likely to have any real impact. A more holistic approach to the enabling market conditions required to scale PAYG solar business models in Nigeria requires an understanding of the current gaps in Nigeria's digital financial ecosystem beyond a lack of MNO participation. A comprehensive DFS ecosystem consists of empowered users (consumers, businesses, government agencies, and non-profit groups) with a need for digital and interoperable financial products and services; accessible payment providers (banks, MNOs, e-Money issuers, and other licensed and non-licensed providers) who supply products and services through digital means; the financial and technical infrastructures required to complete transactions; and the governmental policies, laws and regulations that enable transactions to be completed in an accessible,

affordable, and safe manner. Most importantly, a strong DFS ecosystem promotes universal financial inclusion, which in Nigeria is also largely reliant on the stability and integrity of the National Payment System. The strength of this ecosystem is highly dependent on several critical components of Nigeria's enabling environment.

Challenges and Failures

Every innovation brings a new set of challenges that must be addressed. The adaptation of modern banking practices has given rise to numerous legal issues in Nigeria. These challenges include privacy concerns, data protection, cybersecurity and fraudulent transactions. For instance, in the three months ending September 2022, the total amount of money lost to fraudulent activities in Nigeria surged by 207.9%, according to a report published by FITC. Consumers of digital financial services face several challenges including lack of access to services, especially in rural areas, issues of affordability, and poor user experience.

Two of the initiatives adopted by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in its financial inclusion drive, the licensing of Mobile Money Operators (MMOs) and Payment Services Banks (PSB), have been of particular interest to telecom companies (Telcos) as they both rely extensively on the infrastructure, technology and reach the Telcos provide. Under the mobile money scheme, Telcos provide infrastructure to drive the exchange of messages for mobile payment and PSB licensees are expected to leverage on mobile and digital channels for the provision of their services, thereby enhancing financial inclusion and stimulating economic activity at the grassroots through the provision of financial services. Telcos should, therefore, be considered critical stakeholders in the digital financial ecosystem and in achieving the CBN's financial inclusion objectives.

Prospects and Future Directions

Emerging Trends in Digital Finance

The future trends in digital finance technology in Nigeria are influenced by a rapidly evolving landscape shaped by technological advancements, regulatory changes, and shifting consumer behaviour. It promises to be dynamic and transformative, driven by innovation, regulatory

developments, and increasing consumer demand for convenient and secure financial solutions. However, below are some emerging trends to watch out for:

- i.) **Expansion of Mobile Money Services:** With the success of platforms like M-Pesa in East Africa, Nigeria is seeing a rapid expansion of mobile money services. This trend is driven by increasing smartphone penetration, improved internet connectivity, and the push for financial inclusion.
- ii.) **Fintech Innovation:** The Nigerian fintech ecosystem continues to innovate across various sectors, including payments, lending, insurance, and wealth management. Startups are leveraging AI, machine learning, and big data analytics to create personalized financial solutions.
- iii.) **Digital Lending Platforms:** There is a growing trend towards digital lending platforms that use alternative data sources and AI-driven algorithms to assess creditworthiness quickly. These platforms are meeting the demand for accessible and convenient credit services.
- iv.) **Regulatory Developments:** Regulatory bodies are likely to play a crucial role in shaping the future of digital finance in Nigeria. Clearer regulations around fintech operations, data protection, and cybersecurity will foster a more stable and secure environment for innovation.
- v.) **Biometric Authentication:** With the proliferation of smartphones equipped with biometric sensors, biometric authentication methods such as fingerprint and facial recognition are becoming more prevalent in securing financial transactions.
- vi.) **Open Banking Initiatives:** Open banking initiatives are gaining traction globally, and Nigeria is expected to follow suit. This involves opening up APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) to third-party developers, allowing for greater interoperability between financial institutions and fintech firms.
- vii.) **Cybersecurity Enhancements:** As digital transactions increase, so does the importance of robust cybersecurity measures. Expect investments in technologies

like AI-powered threat detection, encryption, and secure authentication methods to combat cyber threats.

- viii.) **Digital Identity Solutions:** Digital identity solutions are critical for verifying users in digital transactions. Initiatives to develop secure and verifiable digital identities using blockchain or other technologies are likely to gain momentum.
- ix.) **Financial Education and Inclusion:** There will be a continued focus on enhancing financial literacy and expanding access to financial services among underserved populations. Technology will play a key role in making financial services more accessible and inclusive.

Future of Cybersecurity in Digital Finance

The future of cybersecurity in digital finance in Nigeria is poised for significant developments, driven by technological advancements, regulatory frameworks, and evolving cyber threats. However, the future of cybersecurity in digital finance in Nigeria will be characterized by a proactive approach to adopting advanced technologies, regulatory compliance, collaborative efforts, and a heightened focus on protecting financial data and transactions. Thus, below are the outlines of ways cybersecurity may influence digital finance in the future:

- i.) **Regulatory Frameworks:** Regulatory bodies in Nigeria are expected to play a pivotal role in defining cybersecurity standards and guidelines for the financial sector. Clear regulations will mandate financial institutions and fintech companies to implement robust cybersecurity measures to protect consumer data and transactions.
- ii.) **Adoption of Advanced Technologies:** There will be increased adoption of advanced cybersecurity technologies such as AI (Artificial Intelligence) and machine learning for real-time threat detection and response. These technologies will help in identifying anomalies and potential cyber threats before they escalate.
- iii.) **Collaboration and Information Sharing:** Collaboration among financial institutions, fintech firms, cybersecurity experts, and regulatory authorities will be

crucial. Sharing information about emerging threats and best practices will enhance the collective defence against cyber-attacks.

- iv.) **Focus on Data Protection:** With the implementation of data protection regulations like the Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR), there will be a heightened focus on securing sensitive financial data. Encryption, tokenization, and secure data storage practices will be prioritized to mitigate data breaches.
- v.) **Cybersecurity Awareness and Training:** Continuous cybersecurity awareness programs and training will be essential to educate employees and consumers about potential cyber threats like phishing, ransomware, and social engineering attacks. Well-informed users are key to maintaining a strong cybersecurity posture.
- vi.) **Mobile and Digital Payment Security:** As mobile and digital payments continue to grow in popularity, securing mobile banking apps, payment gateways, and e-wallets will be critical. Multi-factor authentication (MFA), biometric authentication, and secure APIs will be employed to protect transactions.
- vii.) **Incident Response and Resilience:** Developing and testing incident response plans will become standard practice for financial institutions and fintech firms. Prompt response to cyber incidents and effective recovery strategies will minimize the impact of attacks on financial services.
- viii.) **Governance and Risk Management:** Robust governance frameworks and risk management strategies will be essential to proactively identify and mitigate cybersecurity risks. Regular audits and assessments will ensure compliance with cybersecurity policies and regulations.
- ix.) **Emerging Threats:** Staying ahead of emerging cyber threats such as AI-driven attacks, IoT (Internet of Things) vulnerabilities, and supply chain risks will be imperative. Continuous monitoring of evolving cyber threats and adapting security measures accordingly will be necessary.

- x.) **International Collaboration:** Given the global nature of cyber threats, collaboration with international cybersecurity organizations and sharing threat intelligence will strengthen Nigeria's cybersecurity defense in digital finance.

Policy Recommendations

- i.) **Robust Regulatory Framework:** Establish a clear and comprehensive regulatory framework that addresses cybersecurity, data privacy, and consumer protection.
- ii.) **Cybersecurity Standards:** Develop and enforce robust cybersecurity standards for digital financial services, including encryption, secure authentication, and threat intelligence sharing.
- iii.) **Data Privacy Laws:** Enact and enforce data privacy laws that protect consumers' personal and financial data, such as the Nigerian Data Protection Regulation (NDPR).
- iv.) **Digital Identity Verification:** Implement a secure digital identity verification system to prevent fraud and ensure accurate customer identification.
- v.) **Secure Payment Systems:** Promote the adoption of secure payment systems, such as tokenization, chip-and-pin, and biometric authentication.
- vi.) **Consumer Education:** Launch public awareness campaigns to educate consumers on digital financial literacy, security best practices, and fraud prevention.
- vii.) **Incident Response Planning:** Require digital financial service providers to establish incident response plans to promptly respond to security breaches and incidents.
- viii.) **Collaboration and Information Sharing:** Foster collaboration and information sharing among stakeholders, including fintechs, banks, regulators, and law enforcement agencies, to combat cyber threats and fraud.
- ix.) **Regular Security Audits and Risk Assessments:** Conduct regular security audits and risk assessments to identify vulnerabilities and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

- x.) **Investment in Cybersecurity Infrastructure:** Encourage investment in cybersecurity infrastructure, including threat intelligence platforms, security operations centres, and incident response capabilities.

By implementing these policy recommendations, Nigeria can promote a secure and robust digital finance ecosystem that protects consumers' financial data and promotes trust in digital financial services.

Conclusion

The relationship between digital banking, cybersecurity issues, and economic development is vital, particularly in rising nations such as Nigeria. Mobile banking, internet payments, and fintech developments are all examples of digital finance that contribute significantly to economic progress. It improves financial inclusion by giving unbanked and underbanked people access to financial services, hence increasing economic participation and reducing poverty. For example, the World Bank's Global Findex Database has demonstrated how digital financial services may benefit underprivileged areas by providing easy and safe financial transactions. However, the rise of digital money creates substantial cybersecurity risks. Cyber risks like as fraud, data breaches, and system assaults have the potential to undercut the benefits of digital financial services. These concerns represent significant dangers to financial stability and consumer confidence, both of which are critical for digital finance's long-term acceptance and growth. The Nigerian Communications Commission has observed an increase in cyber-attacks, highlighting the vulnerability of the developing digital financial sector.

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CHAPTER 10

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE EDUCATION: THEORY, PRACTICE, AND POLICY OPTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Marian N. OHADIUGHA*

INTRODUCTION

Education is indispensable for cultivating unity among nations and improving the inner selves of individuals, thereby fostering a more robust sense of community. In the present digital era, a multitude of societies worldwide are currently undergoing violent conflicts and war. A comprehensive educational framework that is intended to create a world that is sustainable, equitable, and just must include peace education as a critical element. To empower learners to become advocates for peace in their communities and around the world, we can incorporate peace education into the curriculum, promote global citizenship and environmental responsibility, and foster critical thinking, empathy, and active participation. In addition to preparing students for personal success, this transformative educational approach also advances the overarching objective of fostering a peaceful and harmonious global community. It is essential to acknowledge and emphasize the significant role that education plays in the development of a culture of peace. The objective of peace education is to promote the full development of the human personality and to bolster the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Peace education is founded on the fundamental principles of human rights, which prioritize nonviolence and comprehension. They establish the foundation for social, political, and economic comprehensions that will inevitably lead to the establishment of non-violent conflict resolution and social cohesion. Mishra (2011). In the present day, the preservation of

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human rights is contingent upon the development of a culture that places a high value on peace and nonviolence. The ultimate goal of education is to instil a value that is essential for all individuals to appreciate peace. The absence of conflict or war and the harmonious coexistence of all members in complete freedom define peace, as a state of tranquillity and security that is devoid of stress (Mondal and Ghanta 2018). Despite its importance, peace education is not adequately emphasized within the Nigerian educational system, which comprises basic, post-basic, and tertiary levels. The National Policy on Education (2013) outlines the nation's educational philosophy, emphasizing living in harmony as one indivisible, democratic nation, promoting inter-African solidarity, and fostering world peace through understanding.

The policy also states that education is an instrument for national development and social change, vital for a united Nigeria, and a right for all Nigerians, irrespective of gender, social status, religion, ethnic background, or individual challenges. However, the implementation of peace education in Nigerian schools remains limited. The absence of a structured curriculum that prioritizes peace education hinders the full realization of education's objectives in Nigeria, especially its role in promoting peace and harmony. There is a need to recognize and underscore the substantial influence of education in cultivating a culture of peace. Peace education fosters the complete development of the human personality and reinforces respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It lays the groundwork for social cohesion and non-violent conflict resolution, which are essential for preserving human rights and establishing a culture of nonviolence and peace in contemporary society.

To address this gap, it is imperative to implement measures that ensure the quality of instruction at all educational levels and foster peace and harmony. This involves creating an effective curriculum that integrates peace education, promotes understanding and non-violence, and aligns with the nation's educational philosophy. Without such measures, the potential of education to contribute to national development, social change, and global peace remains underutilized. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the current state of peace education in Nigerian schools, identify barriers to its effective implementation, and propose

strategies to integrate peace education into the curriculum at all levels. This will help maximize the positive impact of education on peace and harmony in Nigeria and contribute to the broader goal of creating a peaceful global community (Sheikh & Akhter 2023).

Conceptual Analysis: Peace Education, General Education, and Curriculum Development

Peace Education

The evolution of peace education has been influenced by a wide range of philosophical concepts and historical events. The primary objective of the initial initiatives was to abolish war and promote pacifism, particularly in the wake of the catastrophic consequences of World War I and II. To offer a more comprehensive approach to the promotion of peace in a variety of life domains, including human rights, social justice, and sustainable development, the scope of peace education has expanded over time. Peace education is an essential instrument that can aid in the establishment of a culture of peace. It is the process of acquiring the knowledge, skills, and values that are essential for the promotion of peaceful coexistence and the prevention and resolution of conflicts. Peace education aims to establish a society that is devoid of oppression, discrimination, and violence, in which individuals can coexist in harmony and acknowledge the distinctive qualities of others (Sheikh and Akhter 2023). Consequently, peace education can cultivate a culture of peace that is distinguished by the presence of values such as empathy, justice, tolerance, and respect.

Muley (2017) defined peace education as a planning strategy for the elimination of conflicts and violence caused by justice, inequality, and human rights violations. The strategy involves the implementation of appropriate teaching and learning tactics to produce responsible global citizens who will help achieve and spread peace in the world. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) views peace education as an educational process that aims to promote the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values necessary to bring about behaviour change that will enable individuals, groups, and societies to live in harmony and resolve their conflicts peacefully (UNESCO, 2017).

Conversely, peace education is not exclusively focused on the acquisition of conflict resolution skills; it also entails the identification of the root causes of violence and conflict, such as poverty, inequality, and discrimination. Peace education may be implemented in an assortment of settings, including educational institutions, communities, workplaces, and universities. It may be integrated into the curriculum of a variety of subjects, such as language arts, social studies, and history, and it may also be offered through extracurricular activities, such as community service, the arts, and sports. Peace education is an educational process that is intended to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values that are necessary to induce behavioural changes that will enable children, youth, and adults to prevent conflict and violence, both overt and structural, to resolve conflicts peacefully and to establish the conditions that promote peace, whether at an intrapersonal, interpersonal, intergroup, national, or international level. It places a particular emphasis on the development of mutual respect, tolerance, and understanding among individuals and communities, and underscores the importance of environmental sustainability, global citizenship, social justice, and human rights. The goal of peace education is to motivate individuals to actively engage in the creation of a more sustainable, equitable, and peaceful world.

Peace education encompasses a variety of essential components, such as conflict resolution, environmental sustainability, human rights education, and intercultural understanding. Conflict resolution capabilities facilitate the peaceful resolution of disputes. Respect for the dignity and rights of all individuals is promoted through human rights education. The significance of sustainable living is underscored in environmental education. Respect and admiration for cultural diversity are fostered by intercultural comprehension. The objective of peace education is to foster a culture of peace and nonviolence by providing individuals with the requisite knowledge, skills, and values to advocate for conflict resolution and harmony. It underscores the importance of respect, tolerance, and understanding for others, irrespective of their cultural, religious, or social backgrounds. To achieve a more

peaceful world, one in which conflicts are resolved through dialogue and mutual understanding, rather than through violence, peace education is essential.

General Education

Education is essential for the meaningful development of any nation or people. This is the reason the National Policy on Education (NPE) stipulated that "education shall continue to be highly regarded in the national development plans"; education is the most significant instrument of change, and any fundamental change in the intellectual and social outlook of a society must be preceded by an educational revolution (FRN, 2004). Although the policy was revised in 1981, 1998, 2004, 2008, and 2013. Education is indispensable for the cultivation of a more robust sense of community by cultivating unity among nations and improving the inner selves of individuals. Numerous societies worldwide are currently experiencing violent conflicts and war in the current digital era. The goal of peace education, a critical component of a comprehensive educational framework, is to create a world that is sustainable, equitable, and just. The integration of peace education into the teaching curriculum can foster the development of critical thinking, empathy, active participation, global citizenship, and environmental responsibility. This approach fosters a peaceful and harmonious world by empowering learners to become advocates for peace in their communities and on a global scale, thereby enhancing their success.

Education is essential for the transformation of society and the development of Nigeria. The Nigerian education system is divided into three levels: basic (primary and junior secondary), post-basic (senior secondary), and tertiary (universities, polytechnics, and colleges of education). Providing a comprehensive learning experience from early childhood to higher education, this structure is designed to equip individuals with the requisite skills and knowledge to make a meaningful contribution to society. Education in Nigeria has undergone a substantial transformation over the years. The primary objectives of pre-colonial education, which were informal and community-based, were the transmission of cultural knowledge and the development of practical skills. Formal education systems were established during the

colonial period, with a focus on Western curriculum and methodologies. Nigeria has endeavored to establish an education system that aligns with its national aspirations and cultural values in the years that have transpired since its independence.

The philosophy and objectives of education in Nigeria are outlined in the National Policy on Education (2013), with a particular emphasis on global peace, equality, justice, freedom, democracy, and unity. This policy aims to transform education into a means of promoting national development and individual empowerment, thereby fostering a progressive and united Nigeria. Nigerian education endeavours to cultivate intellectual abilities and critical thinking skills employing a curriculum that is designed to facilitate cognitive development from the primary level of education to the tertiary level. Additionally, it fosters students' emotional intelligence, interpersonal skills, and ethical values by establishing a supportive environment that encourages the development of empathy, cooperation, and social responsibility. Moreover, education in Nigeria encourages the development of informed and engaged citizens who are committed to the preservation of democratic values and the advancement of nation-building by promoting active citizenship, social responsibility, and participation in democratic processes.

Curriculum Development

Experts are in disagreement regarding the definition of curriculum, which extends beyond a course of study. Some individuals perceive it as a structured sequence of learning outcomes, with an emphasis on the input that results in a particular output. Some individuals view it as a structured collection of formal educational or training objectives that prioritize the input perspective, with the school's curriculum being governed by precise regulations. Furthermore, the curriculum may be interpreted as a deliberate, systematic, and organized endeavor by the school to influence or modify the behavior of members of a specific society. This definition expands the definition of "curriculum" and incorporates the input-output paradigm, underscoring the significance of the school's planning and organization.

The primary objective of a curriculum is to achieve educational objectives that provide students with the requisite skills to succeed in life beyond the classroom. The content and direction of curriculum activities are significantly influenced by the expertise of curriculum specialists, who are essential to the collaborative curriculum development process. It is imperative to involve teachers and students in each stage of this process, from the initial planning and structuring phase to the organization, implementation, and assessment. The educational requirements and curriculum of society are subject to change as they develop, and they are maintained through an ongoing, dynamic, and progressive process of curriculum development to ensure that they are relevant, adaptable, and responsive to societal needs.

The curriculum is intended to cultivate citizens who will contribute to the growth, development, and sustainability of society in the context of local and global competitiveness. The activities and experiences of school must be translated into the values and challenges of both the immediate and distant society. The curriculum is a societal mechanism that is designed to protect itself from extinction and to foster the development of a generation that is actively involved in the development of a better future and the surmounting of environmental challenges. Additionally, the curriculum is intended to help society produce citizens who will contribute to the growth, development, and sustainability of society in the context of local and global competitiveness. A curriculum is a societal tool for preserving itself from extinction and fostering the development of a generation that is functionally engaged in the construction of a better tomorrow and the resolution of environmental challenges. (Nsikak- Abasi Udofia (2021)

Linkage between Curriculum Development and Peace Education

The curriculum is to assist society in producing citizens who will assist in the growth, development, and sustainability of that society in the light of local and global competitiveness (Udofia, 2021). It is essential to incorporate peace education into the curriculum formulation process to cultivate a culture of global citizenship, nonviolence, and social justice. This process entails the implementation of supportive policy measures, the comprehension of

theoretical foundations, and the application of practical teaching methods. The integration of peace education into the curriculum of educational institutions can significantly contribute to the establishment of a peaceful society. Peace education is one of the solutions that urgently needs to be implemented in systemic learning and to be continued in school. If it is deemed necessary, the government should incorporate peace education into the school curriculum (Wahyudin 2018).

The integration of these skills into the curriculum fosters a culture of peace among students and establishes a learning environment that prioritizes respect, inclusivity, and nonviolence, which is beneficial for both personal and academic development. The systematic and coherent integration of peace education into the mainstream educational framework is facilitated by the alignment of peace education with broader educational goals and standards, which ensures compatibility with national policies. Furthermore, the curriculum offers critical feedback for ongoing improvement by allowing for the evaluation of the efficacy of peace education initiatives through a variety of assessment methods, including projects, reflective journals, and group activities. The development of curriculum in the context of peace education is significantly influenced by a variety of educational theories. These theories establish the conceptual framework and guiding principles for the development of a curriculum that fosters a culture of social justice, non-violence, and peace. Constructivism underscores the importance of learners actively constructing their comprehension of the world through interactions and experiences. It underscores the significance of student-centered learning, in which learners participate in meaningful activities to develop knowledge. Constructivist principles promote experiential learning activities, including simulations, role-playing, and collaborative projects, in the context of peace education. These activities motivate students to engage in critical reflection, develop problem-solving skills, and investigate concepts related to peace. Peace education aims to transform the attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours of individuals toward social justice and peace. By incorporating transformative learning principles into the curriculum, teachers can encourage students to examine matters of

power dynamics, social inequalities, and conflict, thereby promoting personal and societal transformation.

It is imperative to establish national curriculum guidelines that prioritize the integration of peace education themes, which encompass conflict resolution, human rights, social justice, and global citizenship across all grade levels and subjects. The objectives, standards, and learning outcomes for peace education should be clearly defined by these guidelines, which will guarantee the uniformity and coherence of curriculum implementation across the country. It is essential to implement comprehensive teacher training programs and professional development initiatives to provide educators with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to effectively integrate peace education into their teaching procedures. To facilitate the implementation of peace education initiatives in educational institutions and schools, it is imperative to allocate sufficient resources, such as funding, instructional materials, and support services. Investment in the creation of curriculum materials, textbooks, and multimedia resources that reflect a variety of viewpoints encourages critical thinking and dialogue regarding peace-related issues.

Effective curriculum design for peace education involves both integration across subjects and the creation of dedicated courses. Subjects like history, literature, and social studies can incorporate peace education themes, while stand-alone courses can provide a deeper exploration of topics such as conflict resolution and global issues. Experiential learning methods, including role-playing and community projects, engage students in real-world applications. Collaborative learning fosters empathy and mutual respect, while critical pedagogy encourages students to question societal norms and injustices. These teaching methods are essential for developing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for building a peaceful society. To successfully implement peace education, supportive policies at national, regional, and school levels are crucial. Governments should integrate peace education into national curriculum frameworks and standards, ensuring it becomes a fundamental part of the education system. Teacher training programs must equip educators

with the necessary skills and knowledge to teach peace education effectively. Adequate funding should be allocated for developing peace education materials and resources. Schools can adopt a whole-school approach, creating a culture of peace through policies and practices that support a peaceful learning environment. Community partnerships with local organizations and international collaboration through global networks can further enhance the impact of peace education initiatives. Incorporating peace education into curriculum development is vital for creating a more just and peaceful world. By understanding the theoretical foundations, applying effective teaching methods, and implementing supportive policies, educators and policymakers can foster a culture of peace that extends beyond the classroom. Collaborative efforts at local, national, and international levels are essential for ensuring that peace education becomes a cornerstone of educational systems worldwide. This holistic approach to curriculum development can ultimately contribute to a more peaceful and equitable global society.

Need for Adequate Peace Education Curriculum

Peace education is an essential element of comprehensive education, to cultivate a culture of mutual respect, non-violence, and peace among individuals and communities. It entails the instruction of students in the values, attitudes, and behaviors that are essential for sustainable development, social justice, and conflict resolution. An appropriate peace education curriculum is indispensable for the development of a generation of responsible global citizens and peacebuilders in a world that is frequently afflicted by conflict and violence. This form of education provides students with the knowledge and abilities necessary to comprehend the underlying causes of conflict and violence and to participate in the peaceful resolution of disputes. Peace education fosters a safer and more inclusive society by promoting critical thinking, empathy, and cooperation, which in turn helps build more cohesive and resilient communities. This approach addresses a variety of forms of violence, including bullying, discrimination, and domestic violence.

Additionally, a peace education curriculum that is adequate promotes global citizenship by fostering students' comprehension of global interdependencies and their appreciation for cultural diversity. The sole method of influencing the students' minds is through the curriculum (Sharma 2019). It instills in students a sense of solidarity with individuals from diverse backgrounds and equips them to collaboratively confront global challenges by emphasizing the significance of environmental sustainability, social justice, and human rights. This curriculum fosters the development of critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, which are indispensable for the resolution of intricate social issues. Students acquire the ability to analyze situations from a variety of perspectives, identify the root causes of conflicts, and devise innovative solutions through simulations, debates, and discussions. These abilities are advantageous for personal growth and assist in the advancement of society and innovation. Peace education also imparts the necessary skills for achieving consensus, negotiating, and mediating disputes, all of which are essential for the preservation of peaceful relationships and communities. Students develop a greater ability to manage conflicts constructively in their personal and professional lives by engaging in conflict resolution in a secure and supportive environment.

Furthermore, peace education is instrumental in the prevention of bullying and violence in educational institutions. An appropriate curriculum fosters a zero-tolerance stance toward bullying and educates students on the consequences of their actions on others. It fosters the growth of a safe and respectful school environment that is conducive to the success of all students and promotes the adoption of positive behaviors. A comprehensive peace education curriculum addresses the issues of social justice and equity, educating students about systemic inequalities and encouraging them to advocate for social change. Students are encouraged to confront discrimination and strive for a more equitable society by comprehending the significance of justice and fairness. Today, the necessity of a comprehensive peace education curriculum is of the utmost importance. It equips students with the ability to be proactive agents of change, capable of peacefully resolving conflicts and fostering a culture of peace

and justice. Schools can significantly contribute to the development of a more sustainable, equitable, and peaceful future by incorporating peace education into the curriculum. Investing in peace education is an investment in the prosperity and well-being of future generations.

Theory and Practice of Peace Education in Nigeria

The critical role of education in national development, social change, and peace promotion is underscored in Nigeria's National Policy on Education (2013). The policy endeavors to instill the principles of global peace, justice, equality, freedom, democracy, and unity. It encourages the integration of peace education into the curriculum at all educational levels, from elementary to tertiary, to accomplish this. This integration entails a multidisciplinary approach that integrates peace themes into subjects such as social studies, history, and literature. Furthermore, experiential learning opportunities are provided by extracurricular activities such as community service projects and peace clubs. Teacher training is essential to guarantee that educators are adequately prepared to provide peace education effectively, while also encouraging students to engage in critical thinking, empathy, and active participation.

Nigeria's peace education implementation is confronted with numerous obstacles, despite its significance. These include a lack of awareness and comprehension of its importance, insufficient training and resources for educators, and resistance from certain communities. Furthermore, the effective delivery of services is significantly impeded by the persistent violence and instability in specific regions. The government, educational institutions, and civil society must collaborate to confront these obstacles. The positive impact of peace education on students and their communities is underscored by successful initiatives such as the Peace Club Initiative, which engages students in conflict resolution, dialogue, and community service, and the use of theatre and storytelling to teach peace and reconciliation.

The advantages of peace education are not limited to individual students; they also benefit the broader society by fostering critical thinking, empathy, and conflict resolution skills, which in turn foster more cohesive and resilient communities. It prepares students to be proactive agents of change capable of addressing local and global challenges collaboratively,

and it addresses various forms of violence, fostering a safer and more inclusive society. To maximize its influence, it is imperative to implement measures such as integrating peace education into teacher education programs, providing educators with sufficient training and resources, and raising awareness. In addition, it is imperative to establish a sustainable and effective peace education framework by fostering collaboration among the government, educational institutions, NGOs, and communities and developing supportive policies. Nigeria's future is secured by investing in peace education, which contributes to a more peaceful, equitable, and sustainable society and ensures the well-being and prosperity of its citizens.

Policy Option for Wholistic Peace Education Curriculum Development in Nigeria

Holistic peace education is designed to foster the intellectual, emotional, social, and ethical growth of individuals by incorporating values that promote sustainability, justice, and peace. A comprehensive peace education curriculum is essential in Nigeria to cultivate a culture of peace and non-violence within a society that is sometimes conflict-ridden and diverse. Peace education provides students with the requisite skills and values to peacefully resolve and navigate conflicts, thereby fostering critical thinking, empathy, and cooperation. By addressing a variety of forms of violence, such as bullying, discrimination, and domestic violence, this approach promotes the development of cohesive and resilient communities, thereby fostering a more inclusive and secure society.

A multidisciplinary approach is necessary to incorporate peace education into the Nigerian curriculum. Experiential learning opportunities are provided by extracurricular activities such as peace clubs and community service projects, while subjects such as social studies, history, and literature should incorporate peace themes. To guarantee that educators are proficient in the principles and methods of peace education, they must undergo teacher training. To ensure that educators remain informed about the most effective methods, training programs should encompass conflict resolution, human rights, and social justice, as well as ongoing professional development. Teachers who are knowledgeable and capable of fostering

a supportive learning environment and motivating students to adopt peace-building principles are essential for the successful implementation of peace education.

Peace education in Nigeria is confronted with numerous obstacles, including inadequate training and resources for educators, resistance from certain communities, and a lack of awareness, despite its significance. Furthermore, effective delivery is impeded by the presence of ongoing violence and instability in specific regions. Concerted endeavours from the government, educational institutions, and civil society are necessary to surmount these obstacles. Policy alternatives encompass the development of supportive policies, the allocation of resources for teacher training, and the enhancement of public awareness. Educational institutions, government agencies, and NGOs must collaborate. By enabling interactive content and streamlining teacher training, the integration of technology can improve peace education. Community involvement is also essential, as activities such as peace festivals and cultural exchange programs foster shared responsibility and reinforce peace principles. To evaluate the effectiveness of peace education programs and facilitate ongoing improvement, it is imperative to establish effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Nigeria can foster a generation of peacebuilders and responsible global citizens by addressing these challenges and utilizing community and technological support, thereby contributing to a more peaceful, equitable, and sustainable society.

Policy Options

1. Curriculum Developers should incorporate peace education themes into existing subjects and offer practical learning experiences through peace projects.
2. Comprehensive training and ongoing professional development that emphasize peace education should be implemented by the Federal Government through the Ministry of Education.
3. The Federal Government should ensure that peace education materials are adequately funded and resources are allocated to their implementation in schools. Additionally,

the delivery of these materials should be improved through the use of digital platforms.

4. Educational policymakers should establish national policies for peace education, ensure consistent implementation, track progress, and collaborate with NGOs and international bodies to provide support.
5. Policymakers should prioritize the integration of peace education into the national curriculum and allocate sufficient resources to support its implementation. This includes funding for teacher training, curriculum development, and the creation of educational materials.

Conclusion

Peace education is essential for the development of a more robust sense of community and the enhancement of the inner selves of individuals, thereby fostering unity among nations. Numerous societies are currently experiencing violent conflicts and wars in the digital age. To establish a world that is sustainable, equitable, and just, it is essential to integrate peace education into the curriculum. By supporting critical thinking, empathy, and active engagement, peace education motivates students to become advocates for peace in their communities and on a global scale. Additionally, this transformative educational approach provides students with the essential skills to achieve personal success, in addition to promoting a peaceful and harmonious global community. By emphasizing the comprehensive development of the human personality and the reinforcement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the foundation for social cohesion and non-violent conflict resolution is developed.

Peace education's implementation in Nigeria remains restricted, despite its substantial significance. The National Policy on Education emphasizes the importance of promoting inter-African solidarity, understanding, and harmony to promote world peace. The absence of a structured curriculum that prioritizes peace education, however, impedes the full realization of these objectives. In order to fully realize the potential of education in promoting peace and

harmony, it is essential to integrate peace education into the curriculum at all levels. This integration will help students develop the skills and values necessary to contribute to a peaceful society, thereby addressing a variety of forms of violence and fostering a more inclusive and secure community. Nigeria can cultivate a generation of peacebuilders and responsible global citizens by implementing these recommendations, thereby enhancing the impact of peace education. This investment in peace education will foster a more sustainable, equitable, and peaceful society, thereby contributing to the country's prosperity and well-being.

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CHAPTER 11

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND GLOBALISATION: AN EXPLORATION OF NIGERIA'S CITIZEN DIPLOMACY

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INTRODUCTION

International migration has become a significant aspect of globalisation, with Nigeria being a major player in global migration trends. Nigeria is strategically positioned in the world because of its population; Nigeria is the most populous black nation in the world. It is believed that there is a Nigerian in every country in the world, with 227 million people (Idio, Rogers, & Akadi, 2015). Most people in Africa have met a Nigerian in their lifetime, i.e., one out of every five Africans is a Nigerian. Nigeria, with its large diaspora community and strategic position in Africa, plays a significant role in international migration and global diplomacy (Falola & Oyeade 2017). Citizen diplomacy, involving non-state actors in diplomatic efforts, has emerged as a vital complement to traditional diplomacy (Malek 2013). The large population of Nigerians is very important to international migration and world diplomacy because of its sizable diaspora and advantageous location in Africa (Koser 2016).

Globalisation has increased mobility, leading to a rise in international migration. Globalisation and international migration are closely related (McAuliffe & Goossens, 2018). International migration is, on the one hand, driven by globalisation processes, which also include differences in development, demography, and democracy; the global jobs crisis; the division of labour markets across borders; technological advancements in communications and transportation; and transnational social networks (McAuliffe & Jayasuriya 2016; Bosiakoh 2013). However, international migration also brings about processes of

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globalisation, such as the international exchange of products and money, the development of global cities, and the expansion of social and cultural variety (Bosiakoh 2013; Idio, Rogers, & Akadi 2015).

Nigerian citizens are among the numerous citizens of other nations that have consistently shown a great interest in world development, global governance, and the management of international programmes for a variety of reasons (Obani & Odalonu, 2023). Nigerians are actively involved in diverse activities in the majority of nations worldwide, which has resulted in positive development and peacebuilding (Idio, Rogers, & Akadi, 2015; Ujara & Ibieta, 2016). In this instance, a Nigerian citizen's effort can be classified under the term citizen diplomacy, which could be interpreted as highlighting proactive measures used by a player in international relations to accomplish well-defined objectives (Malek 2013). Nigerian citizens have also persisted in being involved in a variety of international organisations, continental diplomacy, particularly in African affairs, and a broad range of diplomatic actions in almost every nation on the planet (Falola & Oyebade, 2017).

Nigeria's diaspora community plays a crucial role in the country's development, with remittances contributing significantly to the economy (Odoh & Nwogbaga 2014; **Omotola 2023**). Citizen diplomacy initiatives, such as the Nigerian Diaspora Organisation, have emerged to harness the potential of the diaspora community in this era of globalisation, which has transformed the world into an interconnected village, facilitating the movement of people, goods, and services across borders. Saliently, the late president Umaru Musa Yar'Adua's administration placed a strong emphasis on citizen diplomacy as one strategy for making Nigeria relevant in the international community from 2007 to 2011 (Madubuegwu, Obiorah, & Nwagbo, 2022). Thus, it is appropriate to evaluate and reawaken Nigerians' awareness of the value of citizen diplomacy in the modern, globalised world of ever-more intricate and varied international interactions. It enables nations to accomplish their goals without using force, promoting a more cooperative and peaceful international environment.

Therefore, this study explores the intersection of international migration and globalisation, with a focus on Nigeria's citizen diplomacy efforts. It also aims at understanding the dynamics of citizen diplomacy in the context of international migration and globalisation. The study delves into current international migration trends and patterns and analysis the role of Nigerian government in international migration and citizen diplomacy. Moreover, the study assesses the current challenges and opportunities in international migration for Nigerians and the role of Nigerian diaspora in citizen diplomacy among others.

Conceptual Analysis

International Migration

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) (2024) defines international migration as the movement of a person or a group of persons across international borders to reside in another country for a period of time or permanently. IOM (2024) further contends that the definition is an umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons.

The United Nations (2024) defines an international migrant as any person who has changed his or her country of residence. This includes all migrants, regardless of their legal status or the nature or motive of their movement. Triandafyllidou (2018) sees international migrants as people living in a given country who are either foreign-born or have foreign citizenship. Tsegay (2023) argued that the movement of individuals across international borders with the intention of settling down is known as international migration. International migrants relocate from one country to another, where they usually call home. In order to distinguish between shorter stays abroad and permanent international migration, the United Nations recommends measuring the degree of permanence of movement over a 12-month period (Adepoju & Van der Wiel 2012).

Globalisation

The term globalisation originated in the early 20th century, replacing the older French term *mondialisation*. It took some time for the term to take on its current meaning, and it gained popularity in the 1990s as a way to characterise the extraordinary level of interconnectedness that characterises the post-Cold War world. Globalisation means the advancement of movements and exchanges of human beings, goods, and services, capital, technologies, or cultural practices, among others, all over the world (McAuliffe & Goossens 2018). One of the outcomes of globalisation is that it promotes and increases interactions between different regions and populations around the globe (Makinde 2013).

Majekodunmi & Adejuwon (2012) posited that a significant feature of the new global order is globalisation, which is one of the key factors influencing how the planet will develop in the future. It has several facets, including social, cultural, political, security, environmental, health, and economic, among others. According to Ogunnubi and Aja (2022), globalisation refers to the increased interconnectedness and interdependence of people and countries. It is generally understood to include two interrelated elements: the opening of international borders to increasingly fast flows of goods, services, finance, people, and ideas; and the changes in institutions and policies at national and international levels that facilitate or promote such flows (Osakede, Ijimakinwa, & Ojo, 2024).

In geography, globalisation is defined as the set of processes; economic, social, cultural, technological, and institutional that contribute to the relationship between societies and individuals around the world (Dicken 2015). Dicken (2015) further describes the process of spatial shrinkage, where the world's distances and borders are increasingly bridged by flows of goods, services, people, and ideas. It is a progressive process by which exchanges and flows between different parts of the world are intensified (Akoda, 2015). Globalisation fosters and intensifies contacts between various communities and regions worldwide.

Citizen diplomacy

Citizen diplomacy refers to the engagement of citizens in diplomatic efforts, fostering people-to-people connections, and promoting global understanding and peacebuilding (Aleyomi & Abubakar 2017). Citizen diplomacy and public diplomacy are quite related but distinct concepts. Public diplomacy refers to the official diplomatic efforts of a government to engage with foreign publics and promote its interests, typically carried out by government officials, diplomats, and representatives (**Omotola 2023**). Ogunnubi & Aja (2022) asserted that public diplomacy serves as the bedrock and grassroots of foreign relations, which is part of traditional diplomacy that takes place between states. Citizen diplomacy, on the other hand, refers to the unofficial diplomatic efforts of private citizens to engage with foreign publics and promote understanding and cooperation (Offor, Nwankwo, & Nnaji 2018). It involves individuals, organisations, and communities engaging in international relations without official government affiliation. Citizen diplomacy involves person-to-person contact between citizens of different countries, whether by professionals, volunteers, students, or travelers (Ogunnubi & Aja, 2022).

Citizen diplomacy is a subset of multi-track diplomacy, with such activities classified under "track four" diplomacy. This is private citizen or peacemaking through personal involvement that includes the various ways that individual citizens become involved in peace and development activities through citizen diplomacy, exchange programmes, private voluntary organisations, nongovernmental organisations, and special interest groups (Staats, Walsh & Tucci 2019). The idea behind citizen diplomacy is that every person has the right, even the obligation, to influence their country's foreign policy. Students, instructors, athletes, artists, business people, volunteers, adventurers, and tourists can all serve as citizen diplomats (Ogunnubi & Aja 2022). They are driven by a sense of obligation to have meaningful, reciprocal conversations with the rest of the world, thereby promoting the image of their country to the rest of the world (Aleyomi & Abubakar 2017). Odock (2016) simplifies citizen

diplomacy as the conception that common people have the power to unite nations and cultures and promote global peace and stability.

Drawing inferences from the above, it is clear that for citizen diplomacy to succeed, there is a need for government support and citizen cooperation with the government. This is because the goal of both citizen diplomacy and public diplomacy is to promote understanding, build relationships, and foster cooperation between nations and cultures (Staats, Walsh, & Tucci 2019). Both recognise the importance of engaging with foreign publics and building people-to-people connections by using soft power to create attraction to persuade or influence rather than using coercion or force in the international climate (Osakede, Ijimakinwa, & Ojo 2024).

Nexus between international migration and globalization

Globalisation and international migration have a complicated and multidimensional relationship. Among the crucial elements are: Migration from poor to developed countries is on the rise as a result of economic globalisation, which widens the gaps in income, employment, and living standards (Adepoju & Van der Wiel 2012). Globalisation is aided by migration; immigrants strengthen cross-cultural interchange, add to the global workforce, close labour shortages, and promote global connectedness (Tsegay 2023). The trends in migration are shaped by globalisation in the world today. Transnational relationships are facilitated by social media and global networks, while new technology in communication and transportation eases movement (Triandafyllidou 2018).

Akoda (2015) argues that globalisation is impacted by migration in two ways: immigrant communities alter cultural and economic interchange, and migrant remittances effect global financial flows. He added that in order to balance concerns about the economy, society, and human rights, international accords and bodies address migration and globalisation through global governance. Globalisation and international migration interact dynamically, both impacting each other in complex ways (Dicken 2015). Globalisation has

brought about global citizenship, so migration encourages people to participate in diplomatic endeavours that extend beyond national boundaries.

Osakede, Ijimakinwa, and Ojo (2024) contended that a functional citizen of a nation serves as an ambassador, promoting its values and interests globally. Moreover, they actively engage in diaspora diplomacy, leveraging their international connections to influence international relations and foreign policy. In summary, the connection between globalisation and international migration offers chances for cultural interchange, economic cooperation, global governance, and citizen diplomacy, but it also poses obstacles that call for diplomatic efforts to overcome them (Ogunnubi & Aja 2022).

Theoretical framework

Social Capital Theory

The study adopted social capital theory to analyse the subject matter. Since intellectuals like David Hume, Adam Smith, Karl Marx, Georg Simmel, Émile Durkheim, de Tocqueville, and Max Weber, among many others, grappled with comparable ideas and emphasised the importance of human interactions, the concept of social capital is not new (Abimiku 2020; Adler & Seok-Woo 2002). However, after American political scientist Robert Putnam's book "Bowling Alone" was published, these concepts gained traction (Martikke 2017). Putnam (2000) bemoaned the loss of community life in modern America and suggested social capital, that is, social networks, trust, and norms, as a remedy. "Relationships matter" and "social networks are valuable assets" are the core tenets of social capital (Putnam 2000). He added that aspects of the social setting that are beneficial in the long run are called social capital. It encompasses the store of benevolence or solidarity among individuals and social groups (Claridge 2018).

This is so because social capital is what enables social exchange: common standards, values, and a sense of trust and belonging. Without social capital, our political system, institutions, economy, and society could not function. Social capital has thus been likened to glue (Adler & Seok-Woo, 2002). Everything is a benefit of social capital since it is one of the

productive advantages of sociality, especially in international politics. In summary, social capital theory highlights the significant value and impact of social networks and relationships in both personal and professional spheres. It underscores the importance of trust, cooperation, and norms of reciprocity in leveraging these networks for mutual benefit (Abimiku, 2020). The theory has broad implications, influencing how communities, organisations, and individuals understand and harness the power of social connections.

Therefore, Nigeria and Nigerians have the opportunity to use their international migrant base to influence the globe positively, relying on the social capital mechanism. Numerous Nigerian professionals are all over the world doing exploit, whether in sport, science, technology, education, health, agriculture, or music, among others. This can be leveraged to change the negative narrative image that a that a few Nigerians have of Nigeria within the international community.

Historical Overview of International Migration in Nigeria

Despite the challenges associated with accurately obtaining statistics and identifying migration as either domestic or foreign, there was evidence of international migration in the travels of native people who were either active in or victims of interethnic strife, warfare, and the slave trade. That is, international migration in Nigeria predates the country's colonisation (Obi-Ani, Anthonia Obi-Ani, Isiani, & Adu-Gyamfi 2020). Furthermore, between the middle of the sixteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries, millions of Africans and Nigerians were forcibly relocated to the Americas and the Caribbean as a result of European mercantilist growth (De Haas, Czaika, Flahaux, Mahendra, Natter, Vezzoli, & Villares-Varela 2019).

Consequently, numerous Nigerians came up with inventive ways to travel to Europe, frequently involving perilous crossings of the Sahara Desert and Mediterranean Sea (Bosiakoh, 2013). The primary push factors for the majority of Nigerians who wish to leave the country to pursue professional opportunities abroad are low pay, unemployment, growing levels of insecurity, and inadequate infrastructural facilities. The trend and pattern since the fourth republic are not far from what was experienced in the 80's and 90's with the constant

push of Nigerians to seek greener pastures abroad, especially the youth. The precarious state of the country's socio-economic status is one of the reasons for its development, with the obvious negative effects of brain drain (Obani & Odalonu 2023; Adhikari, Clemens, Dempster & Ekeator 2021).

Nigeria's International Migration: An Analysis of Current Trends and Patterns

The rate at which young Nigerians are seeking opportunities to travel abroad in order to escape poverty and unemployment at present is alarming (Adepoju & Van der Wiel 2012). This move is normally anchored on education and work abroad, with numerous agencies preying on the youth's desperation. Not only young people are involved in this desperation, but even old people. Unfortunately, many young people with little education and employable skills joined the emigration stream in substantial numbers as the country's desperation persisted (De Haas, Czaika, Flahaux, Mahendra, Natter, Vezzoli, & Villares-Varela 2019).

There are two perceptions on this development: some view it as a welcome development because it is an opportunity to export the labour force to other countries and increase the remittance base of Nigeria; and others view it as a social capital base to influence international migration policies and create impact at the global stage with the attendant benefits for the country. Others perceive it as a negative development—a situation where the country is losing its best brains to other nations of the world to advance their course to the detriment or socio-economic underdevelopment of Nigeria (Obani & Odalonu, 2023). Furthermore, the trend is seen as negative because of the destinations of some Nigerians; they can be found in countries that anyone will least expect, including underdeveloped African countries.

A growing number of Nigerians have relocated abroad by the early 2000s, and the most popular destinations for Nigerians in the world are the UK, Italy, Germany, Spain, the US, Ireland, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, the Gulf nations, Canada, South Africa, and other African countries like Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and Senegal, among others (McAuliffe & Goossens, 2018). Nigerians have suffered humiliation abroad because of the green passport.

The xenophobia saga in South Africa is still fresh on the minds of Nigerians. The narrative of Ghana must go as now change for Nigerians must go because Ghanaians are threatened by the population of Nigerians in their country, likewise South Africa (Ogunnubi & Aja, 2022).

The reason for lack of confidence in the green passport is unconnected to the issue of alarming corruption in the country and the high rate of internet fraud convictions that have attracted global attention. These trends and patterns have significant implications for Nigeria's development, economy, and society, as well as for the migrants themselves, which all depend on how the Nigerian government can cash in on the positivity through citizen diplomacy and forge a way to limit the negative effects.

Current Challenges and Opportunities in International Migration for Nigerians

No country is completely shielded from global economic challenges, and every nation faces its own set of difficulties in today's interconnected world. Several years ago, who would have thought that the largest displacement within the past five years would emanate from Europe, which was caused by the invasion of Ukraine by Russia (UN 2023)? The high rate of unemployment, population explosion, and unfulfilled aspirations that increase the pressure on young Nigerians to migrate internationally also put pressure on host countries that will receive Nigerian migrants (World Bank, 2021). Countries in the world are also implementing migration measures to ensure their citizens are not stamped economically in their own countries by migrants. For instance, the UK government has changed its policy on international students, restricting them from bringing their families with them during their studies (IOM, 2024). Also, the Trump administration's zero-tolerance immigration policy, introduced in 2018, aimed to strictly enforce US immigration laws by criminalising border crossings, expediting deportation, limiting asylum claims, detaining migrants, and separating families, among others. The policy aimed to deter migration and discourage asylum seekers, but it sparked widespread criticism. The policy was eventually modified, and some aspects were reversed or suspended, but its impact on US immigration policy and the lives of migrants and their families remains significant (McAuliffe & Goossens, 2018).

The western world has failed to observe the challenges of irregular migrants from a wholistic perspective, or they pretend and look away from the real issues because most times their border controls and awareness around irregular migration overlook the economic and demographic context in which irregular migration occurs (De Haas, Czaika, Flahaux, Mahendra, Natter, Vezzoli, & Villares-Varela 2019). The real factors that drive international migration are poverty and lack of opportunities, political instability and conflict, globalisation, and economic inequality, among others (Haas, 2007). By overlooking these underlying factors, border controls and awareness campaigns by the West may be ineffective in addressing the root causes of irregular migration and may even lead to unintended consequences, such as pushing migrants into more dangerous and exploitative routes, increasing their vulnerability to human trafficking and smuggling, among others (de Haas, 2023).

The irregular migration will also reduce drastically, and the image of the country will also be protected. A workable interplay mechanism that provides for countries of destination to provide technology and finance to train potential migrants with targeted skills in Nigeria prior to migration means both nations are in partnership. Such partnerships can provide employment opportunities for Nigerian youths in sectors such as healthcare, construction, and ICT. Multilateral organisations such as the World Bank can support these partnerships and provide financing and evaluation pilots on migration partnerships if they really want developing nations to develop; this is a critical approach to not granting loans that will degenerate into a financial burden for poor countries (Adepoju, 2017).

Nigeria's Government Role in International Migration and Diplomacy

With a number of programmes and regulations targeted at regulating migration, defending people overseas, and fostering diplomatic connections, the Nigerian government plays a significant role in both international migration and diplomacy. Among the important positions and projects are:

1. **National Migration Policy (2015):** A comprehensive framework for managing migration, addressing issues like irregular migration, trafficking, and brain drain. The policy seeks to ensure the effective management of migration in order to maximise its benefits while minimising its costs and risks, for the benefit of all Nigerians, including migrants, their families, and the country as a whole. It further seeks to balance the need to protect Nigeria's interests with the need to respect the rights and dignity of migrants and to promote international cooperation on migration issues (IOM, 2015).
2. **Ministry of Foreign Affairs:** responsible for protecting Nigerian citizens abroad, providing consular services, and promoting diplomatic relations. Nigeria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs performs a vital role in protecting and promoting Nigeria's national interests, representing and protecting the interests of the country, its citizens, and legal entities abroad, while also promoting African integration and unity and fostering international cooperation to achieve world peace and mutual respect among nations (<https://foreignaffairs.gov.ng/>).
3. **Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS):** manages border control, immigration enforcement, and the issuance of travel documents. The government agency ensures the effective management of migration, security, and citizenship functions while also promoting national interests and global cooperation (<https://immigration.gov.ng/>).
4. **Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM):** engages with Nigerian diaspora communities, promotes their interests, and harnesses their skills and resources for national development. NIDCOM's core mandate is to engage Nigerians in Diaspora in Nigeria's development, utilise their resources for national growth, and coordinate collaborations among Diaspora individuals and groups, thereby fostering structured and effective Diaspora engagement (Dabiri-Erewa, 2021).
5. **Bilateral Agreements:** Nigeria usually signs agreements with countries like Germany, the UK, and Italy in order to enhance cooperation on migration, trade, and investment. This agreement is to strengthen cooperation in various areas, specifically

to facilitate the movement of people, promote regular migration channels, and combat irregular migration, human trafficking, and smuggling, as well as to increase trade volumes, reduce barriers, and promote economic cooperation, including investments, technology transfer, and capacity building, and to attract foreign investment, promote economic development, and create jobs (ITA, 2023).

There are several ways the Nigerian government has been involved in international migration and citizen diplomacy, e.g., Nigeria collaborates with international organisations like the IOM, UNHCR, and EU to address migration challenges, combat trafficking, and promote international cooperation (IOM, 2024). Also, Nigerian embassies and consulates provide assistance to citizens abroad, including emergency services, passport issuance, and welfare support. More so, efforts are made to improve data collection and analysis to inform migration policies and decisions (IOM, 2015). Moreover, Nigeria engages in diplomatic efforts to promote its interests, resolve conflicts, and foster cooperation with other countries on migration and related issues (UNHCR, 2023).

The Role of Nigerian Diaspora in Citizen Diplomacy

Through the use of their knowledge, resources, and worldwide connections, the Nigerian diaspora contributes significantly to citizen diplomacy by advancing Nigeria's interests, encouraging international collaboration, and advancing national progress. Among the important roles are:

1. **Cultural Ambassadors:** Ayakoroma (2013) stated that diaspora Nigerians serve as cultural ambassadors, promoting Nigerian culture, values, and traditions worldwide. Nigeria's Cultural Ambassadors promote the country's rich cultural heritage by showcasing its music, art, literature, fashion, and cuisine to international audiences, building bridges with people from diverse backgrounds to foster cross-cultural understanding and exchange, and enhancing Nigeria's image by sharing positive stories and experiences that counterbalance negative stereotypes and promote a more accurate narrative about the country. The likes of Damini Ebunoluwa Ogulu MFR (Burna boy), David Adeleke

(Davido), Ayodeji Ibrahim Balogun (Wiz kid), Tobi Amunsa, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, among others, are making the country proud in these areas (Ayakoroma, 2013).

2. Economic Diplomacy: Gener (2018) contends that economic diplomacy is a viable tool to attract foreign investment and facilitate trade, contributing to economic growth and development. Nigerians engage in economic diplomacy through various endeavours, including working with global organisations, NGOs, and governments on development projects and economic cooperation, connecting with international entrepreneurial networks to access resources and partnerships, participating in trade missions to explore new markets, contributing to global economic policy discussions through research and analysis, and holding leadership positions in international organisations to shape policy and decision-making. The likes of Akinwumi A. Adesina, the 8th elected President of the African Development Bank Group, and Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, who took office as WTO Director-General on March 1, 2021 (Gener, 2018).

3. Political Advocacy: Diaspora Nigerians advocate for Nigeria's interests in their host countries, influencing policy decisions and shaping international relations. Nigerians mobilise support for causes like human rights, democracy, and good governance through various means, including online activism on social media platforms, community mobilisation through events and protests, and campaigning using petitions and rallies. They also participate in international election observation missions to promote democratic standards and transparency. Additionally, Nigerians engage in public diplomacy by participating in public debates, speaking at international forums, and writing opinion pieces to shape global perceptions and policies, further amplifying their voices on political issues (Dabiri-Erewa, 2021).

4. Development Partners: Nigerians engage in international development partnerships through citizen diplomacy by collaborating on projects with international organisations, NGOs, and governments to address global challenges like poverty, education, climate change, and healthcare, such as Nigerian doctors partnering with international

organisations to provide medical aid in crisis zones (Ayakoroma, 2013). They also engage in capacity building through knowledge sharing, skills transfer, and training programmes with international partners, as exemplified by Nigerian scholars participating in exchange programmes with foreign universities.

5. Conflict Resolution: Diaspora Nigerians can play a mediating role in conflict resolution, leveraging their global perspective and local understanding. Mrs. Adesanya, a Nigerian diaspora community leader, helped resolve a conflict between Nigerian and African American communities in the US, leveraging her understanding of both cultures. Also, Mr. Johnson, a Nigerian diaspora businessman, mobilised resources and expertise from his global network to support peacebuilding initiatives in Nigeria's Niger Delta region (Dabiri-Erewa, 2021).

Challenges and Limitations to Citizen Diplomacy

Citizen diplomacy in Nigeria faces several challenges and limitations, including but not limited to:

- 1. Limited resources and funding:** Abimiku (2020) contends that limited resources and funding pose significant challenges to citizen diplomacy abroad. Insufficient funds make it difficult to maintain a physical presence, such as by establishing and maintaining offices, cultural centres, or other physical presence abroad. Additionally, inadequate resources limit travel and mobility, restricting the ability to attend international events and engage in diplomatic efforts in person. This also reduces access to international networks, limiting participation in conferences, seminars, and other networking opportunities (Aleyomi & Abubakar 2017).
- 2. Lack of government support and recognition:** Without government recognition and support, citizen diplomats in Nigeria face significant challenges. They may lack legitimacy and credibility, making it difficult to effectively represent Nigeria's interests (Falola & Oyebade 2017). Navigating complex diplomatic protocols and procedures also becomes challenging, and they may not have access to government

networks, contacts, and partnerships, limiting their effectiveness. As a result, promoting Nigerian interests and values on the international stage becomes difficult.

3. **Security concerns and instability:** Madubuegwu, Obiorah, and Nwagbo (2022) asserted that citizen diplomats face significant security challenges that can hinder their efforts. The risk to personal safety is a major concern, as they may face dangers while travelling to or residing in unstable regions. Security concerns can also limit their ability to travel to certain areas, making it difficult to build trust with local communities and stakeholders.
4. **Corruption and bureaucratic hurdles:** Corruption and bureaucratic hurdles significantly impede citizen diplomacy by eroding trust in institutions and leaders, diverting resources away from essential programmes, and entangling efforts in excessive regulations and slow decision-making processes. This toxic combination undermines credibility, limits access to necessary support, and hinders swift responses to emerging opportunities or challenges, ultimately making it difficult for citizen diplomats to achieve their goals (Majekodunmi & Adejuwon 2012).
5. **Limited access to information and education:** Omotola (2023) opined that limited access to information and education significantly hinders citizen diplomacy by leaving diplomats without a deep understanding of complex issues, vulnerable to misinformation, and lacking essential skills to navigate diplomatic situations. Without reliable information and adequate training, citizen diplomats struggle to comprehend international relations, cultural differences, and political landscapes, making it difficult to evaluate information, identify biases, and make informed decisions (Makinde 2013).
6. **Cultural and linguistic barriers:** Ayakoroma (2013) posited that cultural and linguistic barriers can significantly hinder citizen diplomacy efforts. Citizen diplomats may struggle with understanding local values, beliefs, customs, and protocols, leading to unintended offence or miscommunication. Additionally, language proficiency

issues can arise, making communication difficult, even with some language knowledge, as nuances, idioms, and colloquialisms may be misunderstood.

Citizen diplomacy efforts often face significant challenges and limitations, including limited international connections and networks, which can restrict access to resources and partnerships. Additionally, difficulty measuring impact and effectiveness can make it hard to evaluate progress and secure funding. Furthermore, even successful initiatives may struggle to scale up due to limited resources and capacity. Finally, the limited institutional framework and support can leave citizen diplomats without the necessary infrastructure and guidance to effectively navigate complex diplomatic situations. These interconnected challenges can hinder the potential of citizen diplomacy to drive meaningful change, emphasising the need to address these limitations to unlock the full potential of citizen diplomacy (Dabiri-Erewa, 2021).

Nigeria and the Future of Citizen Diplomacy

As Nigeria looks to the future of citizen diplomacy, it is essential to increase people-to-people connections and grassroots understanding. This can be achieved through cultural exchange programmes, educational initiatives, and community development projects that bring Nigerians together with citizens from other countries (Dabiri-Erewa, 2021). By fostering greater understanding and empathy, Nigeria can build stronger relationships with the global community and create a more peaceful and prosperous world. Furthermore, Nigeria must foster greater collaboration between citizens, governments, and international organisations to address global challenges like climate change, migration, and inequality (Adhikari, Clemens, Dempster, & Ekeator, 2021).

Citizen diplomats can work with governments and international organisations to develop innovative solutions to these pressing issues, leveraging their unique perspectives and skills to drive positive change. By working together, Nigeria can help create a more just and equitable world for all (Obani & Odalonu, 2023). Also, it is crucial to support sustainable development and economic growth. Citizen diplomats can play a vital role in promoting trade,

investment, and innovation between Nigeria and other countries, fostering economic cooperation and development that benefits all. By supporting sustainable development, Nigeria can ensure that its economic growth is environmentally conscious, socially just, and equitable, creating a brighter future for its citizens and contributing to global prosperity (Adepoju & Van der Wiel 2012).

To amplify citizen diplomacy efforts, Nigeria must leverage technology and social media to reach a wider audience and empower marginalised communities. By utilising digital platforms, citizen diplomats can mobilise support, raise awareness about important issues, and build a global movement for change (Ayakoroma 2013). Moreover, Nigeria must prioritise inclusive diplomacy, promoting the voices and perspectives of marginalised communities, and ensuring that their needs and concerns are addressed in diplomatic efforts. By doing so, Nigeria can become a leader in the future of citizen diplomacy, driving progress and positive change both at home and abroad (Obani & Oдалonu, 2023).

Moreover, Nigeria's future in citizen diplomacy is closely tied to enhancing its global influence and reputation. By engaging in effective citizen diplomacy, Nigeria can project its values, culture, and interests on the global stage, strengthening its relationships with other nations and international organisations (Ayakoroma 2013). This, in turn, can lead to increased global influence, attracting investment, talent, and tourism, and solidifying Nigeria's position as a leader in regional and global affairs. Furthermore, citizen diplomacy can help strengthen global governance and multilateral cooperation, enabling Nigeria to play a more significant role in shaping global agendas and addressing shared challenges (Osakede, Ijimakinwa, & Ojo, 2024).

Policy Recommendations for Enhancing Nigeria's Citizen Diplomacy in International Migration

- ❖ Nigeria should create a formidable synergy between government, civil society, and the private sector to promote citizen diplomacy and establish a robust citizen diplomacy framework that engages Nigerians abroad and at home.

- ❖ The Nigerian government and other stakeholders should invest in education and training programmes for migrant communities and citizens that are interested in travelling abroad with respect to citizen diplomacy and in infrastructure and capacity building to support citizen diplomacy initiatives.
- ❖ The Nigerian government should develop strategies to address brain drain, encourage diaspora engagement in national development, enhance consular services and support for Nigerian citizens abroad, and promote cultural exchange programmes and people-to-people diplomacy.
- ❖ The Nigerian government should encourage international cooperation on migration and globalisation issues, support research and data collection on international migration and citizen diplomacy, and develop policies and programmes to address the root causes of irregular migration to harness the benefits of migration and citizen diplomacy while mitigating its challenges.

Conclusion

This discourse contributes to the understanding of citizen diplomacy in the context of international migration and globalisation, with a focus on Nigeria's experiences and perspectives. The issues raised will inform policy and practice, enhancing the effectiveness of Nigeria's diplomatic efforts in promoting peace, stability, and development in Africa and beyond. International migration and globalisation have created new opportunities and challenges for Nigeria, and citizen diplomacy has emerged as a vital tool in addressing these issues. Through citizen diplomacy, Nigeria can harness the skills and resources of its diaspora, promote cultural exchange, and foster international cooperation. However, as challenges persist, Nigeria must address issues like brain drain, irregular migration, and inadequate infrastructure to fully leverage citizen diplomacy.

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CHAPTER 12

THE ROLE OF YOUTHS IN PEACEBUILDING AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN NIGERIA

Emmanuel John NKANTA*

INTRODUCTION

Youth constitute one of the greatest assets that any nation can have, and they are not only profoundly regarded as the change agents of today, but also the greatest potential and investment for a country's development; with the inclusion of Nigeria. They are not only recognized as a vital resource whose prospects are inextricably tied to that of their country but also the valued possession of any society desirous of making tremendous progress; as without them, there can be no future. Youth are the center of reconstruction and development that serve as a good measure of the extent to which a country can reproduce as well as sustain itself. No wonder the extent of their vitality, responsible conduct, and roles in society is positively correlated with the development of their country (National Youth Policy, 2019).

According to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), more than 600 million young people live in fragile and conflict-affected contexts around the world today. In Nigeria, most youths are often portrayed either as victims or perpetrators of violent conflicts that plague their countries and communities, bearing enormous and long-lasting human, social and economic costs. However, recent years have seen an increase in attention and awareness of the positive role of youth as agents for peacebuilding and positive change. Societies that have achieved socio-economic, political, and

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technological advancement have done so by placing the youths not only at the center but also at the forefront of policy development, implementation, and realization. Many advanced Countries have reached their current levels of progress by empowering their youth. Consequently, these young individuals think and act positively in alignment with the demands and expectations of their societies.

Youth within any society possess the capacity to drive economic advancement, social development, and overall national progress. However, in contemporary society, it is evident that these same young people, who are expected to lead the way in development through their vigor, creativity, character, and outlook, face numerous challenges. They constitute a vulnerable group with distinct yet unmet needs and aspirations. Some of these problems according to the National Youth Development Policy include; Inadequate Parental care, Non-availability of suitable sports and recreational facilities, Moral decadence in the society, Lack of appropriate role models, Religious Fanatism, Cult activities, Political manipulation of youth organizations, Unemployment, and under-employment, Poor education, Breakdown of family values, Indiscipline, Mounting health and social welfare problems, Rapid rate of increase of sexually transmitted diseases(STDs), HIV/AIDS, Affliction with disabilities e.t.c (National Youth Policy, 2019).

As a concept, youth vary in different societies and cultures around the world. For statistical purposes, Youth is defined by various Countries and Institutions. For the United Nations, youth is defined as the age range 15 to 24 years. In any case, this age bracket is largely considered too narrow for countries in Africa, given their political, economic, and socio-cultural conditions. For the African Youth Charter of 2006, youth is defined as persons between the ages of 15 and 35 years. According to Nigeria's 2009 National Youth Policy, in its chronological definition, youth are considered as persons of age 18 to 35 years. This is also drawn from the results of the Nigerian 2006 Census where Nigeria had 50 million people in the age group 15-34 years; this youth population figure is represented as 35.6 percent of the Nigerian population (National Youth Policy, 2019).

Following the adoption of the United Nations Security Council resolution 2250 (SCR 2250) on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) in December 2015, Governments and the multilateral system have been challenged in effectively accessing, working with, and fully including young people in the contexts of peace and security. Before this resolution; which recognizes the important and positive contributions of youth in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, youth in conflict-affected societies have predominantly been viewed through negative stereotypes, which portray them as the primary perpetrators or the potential “spoilers” of delicate peace processes thus, the need to appraise the interventions of youth in peacebuilding and humanitarian action in Nigeria.

Youth engagement in peacebuilding and humanitarian action is crucial for fostering sustainable peace, promoting social cohesion, and addressing humanitarian crises effectively. Youth bring unique perspectives, energy, creativity, and innovative solutions to these complex issues. Their involvement not only empowers them but also contributes to building resilient communities and shaping a more peaceful world. They are often seen as agents of change due to their willingness to challenge the status quo and their passion for social justice. As noted by UNDP (2012), “Inclusive participation of young people is essential for building peaceful societies.” Youth engagement plays a significant role in preventing violent extremism by providing alternative pathways for young people at risk of radicalization.

Youth involvement in humanitarian action contributes to promoting sustainable development by addressing immediate needs while also investing in long-term solutions. As highlighted by UNICEF (2018), “Engaging youth in humanitarian response is critical for achieving sustainable development goals.” By involving youth in peacebuilding initiatives, we can enhance their conflict resolution skills and equip them with tools to address conflicts peacefully. Encouraging the involvement of young people in conflict resolution processes can contribute to the creation of more enduring peace agreements. Facilitating dialogue between different age groups is crucial for the transfer of knowledge and experiences, as well as for nurturing mutual understanding.

As stated by UNESCO (2016), “promoting intergenerational dialogue is key to ensuring the transfer of peacebuilding skills from one generation to the next.” Youth engagement in peacebuilding and humanitarian action is indispensable for creating a more inclusive, peaceful, and sustainable world. By harnessing the potential of young people as agents of change, we can address complex challenges effectively and build resilient communities.

The Impact of Youths in Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Action: A Case study of the Youth for Peace, Community of Sant’ Egidio, Abuja, Nigeria

The role of young people in the promotion of peace and humanitarian action cannot be overemphasized. No wonder the Youth for Peace Movement was introduced by the Community of Sant’ Egidio. Youth for Peace is considered as a movement of teens and adolescents tied to the Community of Sant’ Egidio. In many Italian cities and throughout the globe, they assist in concrete ways to reach out to the poor. They also foster a culture of friendship and solidarity. They grow up to refuse any type of social exclusion: they dream a city where nobody is forgotten or left alone. They organize the “School of Peace” which is a free afterschool program where children acquire knowledge and play together. They become friends of the elderly within the care homes to fight loneliness, sharing their time to make parties or choose a visit. It is an alliance between young and old, which will start even from the years of school. Members of the Youth for Peace also meet anyone living within the streets and go as far as bringing to them, the fundamental necessities and to shield them: anyone who remembers their name and who listens can save the lifetime of the person who resides within the streets.

Since its beginning in 1962, the Community of Sant’ Egidio has spread to over Seventy Countries and Nigeria is not an exception. In Nigeria, the Community of Sant’ Egidio gained ground in Abuja in the year 2002 where members were predominantly students in the University of Abuja, Gwagwalada, Abuja. From there it has spread to other States of the Country. It became a registered Non-Profit Foundation with the Corporate Affairs Commission on 26th May 2015. The Community is composed of young men and women who volunteer their Time, Talent and Treasure to touch lives positively. The Community, which is

predominantly made up of young people, has impacted positively on the lives of people through services at the lives of people especially the poor, through services at the schools of peace, elderly, inmates, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities, soup kitchen and meal services for poor people on the street , christmas lunch for the poor, the campaign on abolition of death penalty, youth for peace conference and musical contest, back to school education project, and other initiatives on peacebuilding and humanitarian action.

Driven by the need for a more peaceful society and to groom young people, especially youths on the need to respect life and peaceful co-existence as well as channelling their energies into productive ventures, the Community of Sant' Egidio in Nigeria, keyed into the global Youth For Peace movement and has contributed to peacebuilding and humanitarian action in the following ways:

Services to children at the schools of peace

One of the interventions of the youth for peace is the services at the Schools of Peace. The service begins with solidarity work, particularly with children (who often did not attend compulsory school), the old and the poorest (Riccardi, 2018). Members of the Community share lovely moments with all the children of the schools of peace because these children value and understand the importance of having older people as friends. The schools of peace are completely free centers, manufactured from a well-known environment, they facilitate integration into school and supply concrete support to families, while offering a model of education that is receptive to others, sympathetic with the less fortunate and overcoming barriers and discriminations(santegidio.org).

After twenty (20) years of volunteering in the peace education in suburbs and villages by our volunteers in Nigeria, the benefits are without doubt enormous. Members of the Youth for Peace have had hopeless children pick up challenges to be better and we guided them into becoming better citizens. Some of the children of the school of peace are now graduates, so many have gone from school of peace to youth for peace to members and at every state of participation, they are encouraged to give back to the society through services to the elderly,

the sick, the prisoners, the street persons, children, and many others; this has also helped them to stay off social vices like joining criminal gangs, cultism, drug abuse, molestation, theft, prostitution, armed robbery gangs and other forms of violence.

The Community understands that the quality of education gotten by these children are under per, coupled with the fact that these friends have been taught wrong values of life and have imbibed hatred for other children of different faith, tribe, and ethnic extractions; they try to make them unlearn these habits. To embrace every human being as one created by the same God and to be peace makers and builders wherever they are. Many of the volunteers are composed of youth who go into these villages, gather children, and spend approximately two (2) hours with them weekly, painting a bright future despite their current situation. We also intervene by paying the school fees of those out-of-school and attending to their hygiene needs.

Services to the elderly

Another intervention of the youth for peace is the services to the Elderly tagged: Long live the Elderly. Since its beginning, the Community of Sant' Egidio has been near the globe of the elderly. Born in 1972, this friendship has continued faithfully through the years and has become the way that brought us deeply into the extensive and sophisticated reality of the elderly. Each Community of Egidio, either within the North or South of the globe, includes a predilection for the elderly: it shares their anxieties, lives, and faith. This experience has been an education for the human maturation of the Community of Sant' Egidio. Older adults often carry with them the memory of painful or difficult histories they suffered, poverty within the past, emigration, two wars, fascism. These people – women, men, children, and old people – were those addressed by the Sant' Egidio Community within the poor suburbs (Riccardi, 2018).

However, they were able to fulfil his wish by giving him a befitting burial. Most recent was the meeting with almost a hundred elderly men and at the Community house in Yaba, Lagos State. They were invited to a meal and to spend time with members of the Community; to speak with them and understand their plight. They also made them feel alive and

appreciated. Fortunately, these meetings and fraternity have been sustained and a lot of them have expressed delight and gratitude for such attention given to them by the Community. They have overtime intervened in their health and other needs, even with our lean resources and they are most grateful.

Through the Community's interventions, a community of lepers was discovered in Kampani villages in Minna, Niger State. For the past eight [8] years we have spent time with them, through the Christmas lunch and other events. However, we have also lost a lot of friends like Auta Bala, Maria due to the absence of proper health care, sanitation and so on. To therefore make a difference and curb the incessant death, the Community recently constructed 2 Bathrooms/Toilets for the elderly at the Leprosarium. They have helped these old friends to repair their homes and teach their children some elementary knowledge. This act has engendered these friends to the community. Kampani village is abandoned without government presence in terms of infrastructure and some basic amenities.

Services to inmates

Services to inmates [Juvenile home Jos, Suleja and Kuje prisons] is another intervention of the Community of Sant' Egidio. The Juvenile home is a place created to reform young people who are guilty of deviant activities. These persons are sometimes regarded as those rejected by the society, even by their families. Instead of reforming them, they sometimes become hardened and unrepentant but considering the fact that not all of them are guilty as charged and even when they are, the youth for peace movement of the Community became friends with them to help them overcome situations that led to their involvements in deviant and other criminal activities.

For the Community, these men apart from laboring in the building trade, jobs were mostly precarious. They find themselves in the short path from being marginalized to being criminal, and there were many who went that way, quite often ending up in prison. In order to reach out to such marginalized persons, community of the marginalized arose who felt they had found a "center" in the gospel of hope in their lives (Riccardi, 2018). This gospel of hope

has transformed the lives of many of these excluded persons. In fact, when many of them are eventually bailed, they tend to live a new life and refer to the Community as a unique instrument that transformed them. So far, the Community have helped some of them in Kuje prison to become global citizens by providing computers and teaching them the basics some years back. They have also provided and installed pumping machine and water tanks for the inmates at the juvenile home in Jos and Cable Television to keep them abreast of events at home and abroad.

Service to the internally displaced persons

The internally displaced persons (IDP) and migrants, and their need for integration, have been in the heart of the Community of Sant' Egidio since its beginning, when they have started to be a significant component of the society. They welcome those who knock at their doors escaping from their state due to conflict and widespread violence caused by insurgency occurring in various states and communities in Nigeria. The services of the Community of Sant' Egidio for the internally displaced persons are reflected in the humanitarian relief materials that were shared at the internally displaced persons camp in Durumi and Kuchigoro, Abuja, respectively. In 2020, at the peak of the covid-19 lock down. This intervention was also supported by the support of the Belgian Embassy.

The Community creates a network that protects and prevents from division and individualism. With eh commitment to foster social inclusion by creating the occasion for encounters between the internally displaced persons and local citizens, the Community through her visit promote the culture of dialogue. **Meeting internally displaced persons and immigrants, the Community of Sant' Egidio perceived that they are looking for friendship and they want to share the values of citizenship. This also shows that different people can live together even if the globalized world is in crisis and conflicts are escalating and growing in number.** Some of them have left their state and countries because of violence, war, persecution, and discrimination. Some others have left homes and families seeking a better future and others again live in countries where social conditions ensure no

more hunger or war. The Community realize that respect for each other, that non-violence, justice, solidarity, and mutual esteem, are not just dreams, but are the real secret of saving this world in which we live.

Services to persons with disabilities

The bond of friendship between the Community of Sant' Egidio and a number of people living with physical and intellectual disability dates back to the early beginning of the Community. In Trastevere, an area in the old centre of Rome, members of the Community met several people with disabilities who also were adult with no relations; they spend their days wandering through the streets without a place to go and in search of friends and people who listen to them. This major concern prompted the Community to pay more attention to them also considering the fact that they are often excluded. It is one of the main aspects of the life and commitment of the Communities of Sant' Egidio all over the world.

In Nigeria, this concern and friendship for people living in disability have also grown. This prompted the made the Community to go in search for them in Abuja, at the disabled colony at Karamajiji and the school of the blind at Jabi. Being friends with people living with disability, they discovered the deep faith of many of them. During her visits, the Community supported persons with disabilities with human relief materials and established a school of peace service for the children living in the colony. While assessing the needs, the Community enrolled some of the Children into the Back-to-school project where they are offered scholarship.

Christmas lunch for the poor

Through the Christmas lunches organized by the Community across the country with the inclusion of Abuja, young people were able to reach out to the poor. The Christmas Lunch with the poor is considered tradition of the Community of Sant' Egidio since 1982, when a group of poor people were welcomed at the banquet table within the Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere. there have been about 20 people invited: a number of our elderly friends of the neighbourhood and a few homeless people we had need to know from the streets of Rome.

The Christmas lunch is built on the Gospel of (Luke, 14, 12-14) “When you provide a dinner or a banquet, don't invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbours, lest they also invite you reciprocally, and you be repaid. But after you provide a feast, invite the poor, the aimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. you'll be repaid at the resurrection of the Lord Just. It has been more than forty (40) years since that first Christmas lunch took place and from that moment on, the banquet table has become larger and bigger, and from Trastevere in Rome, it has reached many parts of world.

The Community has celebrated with Internally Displaced Persons in Abuja and Jos, inmates of Juvenile home/Prisons in Jos and Kaduna, at the leprosarium in Kampani Village – Minna, the elderly in Enugu, children and destitute in villages across the country. This gesture is to share the warmth of the season and give them the sense of belonging. That they are not abandoned, and we are their friends. The Christmas feast takes place everywhere, but specially where there's sorrow; in churches, in institutions for the elderly, for youngsters, for handicapped people, in prisons, at hospitals, and within the streets; because the sense of Christmas is to bring the feast also to the darkest and coldest corners yet on the foremost dispersed and forgotten places. This is somehow a miracle: the miracle of the smiling faces of the many exhausted people, the miracle of seemingly non-existent resources, which yet are often found. For such a miracle the Community believes it is worth knocking on every door to gather all that is necessary and by asking everybody for help – friends, colleagues, shop owners, and even people on the street.

The campaign on abolition of death penalty

Another intervention of young people through the Community of Sant' Egidio is the Campaign on Abolition of Death Penalty. For the past eight [8] years, Sant' Egidio Nigeria joined more than seventy (70) countries of the world to create the awareness for the respect and sanctity of life, asking the Nigerian government to explore alternative punishment for capital crimes other

than death penalty. For the Holy Father, Pope Francis, Capital punishment is unacceptable, however serious the crime of they may have been.

The Community believes that life is a precious gift from God and needs to be valued by all. This also means that everyone needs a chance to make amends. Besides, death penalty has not achieved its aim as crime rates in Nigeria are constantly heading North. They have also called for an appraisal of the criminal justice system in the country, for better investigation to avert punishment of innocent persons. The recent decision of the Catholic Church to review its stance on death penalty gladdens the heart of the Community. The Community believes that their campaigns about abolition of death penalty, better life for the elderly, religious harmony and so on can only reach our target audience through the tradition [Radio/Tv/Newspaper] and social media, hence the need to partner with several reputable outfits. Not employing the media in their strategy can be likened to winking in the dark where no one would see what you are doing.

Their call for a review of the country's justice system and the need for Nigerians to respect life is a campaign that requires sustainability. The Good Shephard Newspaper and other media organizations have been helpful in the regards, publishing some of our events such as the Cities For Life, and other activities of the Community of Sant' Egidio.

Youth for peace conference and musical contest

The Community of Sant' Egidio also organized a Peace Conference and Concert powered by the Youth For Peace Movement. The program was designed to promote the ideals of peace, unity, and love amongst young people especially those in secondary schools particularly and its environs in general. Through this project, young people were encouraged to direct their vigour, energy, and youthfulness into propagating the gospel of peace, services to the poor and interfaith peace building. It also explored the talents of young people especially those in disadvantaged communities. The event is usually scheduled for September annually, in celebration of the International Day of Peace.

Annually, the Community of Sant' Egidio in Rome put-together a musical competition where young people across the world are encouraged to compose songs and compete with their counterparts. Delightfully, in 2017, the Youth For Peace members of New Nyanya Community placed Nigeria high on the global scale by picking the 1st position. Moreover, the Youth For Peace Musical Contest organized by the Community of Sant' Egidio in Nigeria was successful as reflected in the level of participation amongst young people across Nigeria particularly Jos, Minna, Lagos, Kachia and New Nyanya.

In September 2020, the Community of Sant' Egidio also organized a Musical Contest with the theme: "Everything is Possible, Everything can change". The event is an annual event designed to build bridges, build best friends and promote peaceful co-existence amongst young people of diverse Religious Traditions. The competition is meant to bridge the gap that is created by socio-political, cultural, and religious conflicts. The main objective of the programme is to reignite the light of Love, Peace, Faith and Hope in our world as a response to the current pandemic.

Back to school education project

One of the projects handled by the Community of Sant' of Egidio is the Back-to-School Project facilitated by the Association of the Wives of the Diplomatic Corps/Ambassadors in Nigeria and the Community in Belgium. The Community through her young people also champions the Back-To-School Project. This was designed to provide scholarships to Children in disadvantaged Communities; especially those who do not have the means to pay for their fees. Many disadvantaged Children in Kaduna, Niger, Plateau, Abuja, Nasarawa and Enugu have benefited from this project.

However, they hope to secure more funds to enable them to sustain the project. Provision of Quality and Accessible Education is the main objective of the project. This intervention was also made possible through the support of Through their intervention, many Children in the primary and secondary schools were provided with school bags, uniforms, and books. In fact, many of them were offered scholarships.

Challenges Faced by Youths in Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Action in Nigeria

Youth in Nigeria face various challenges when it comes to engaging in peacebuilding and humanitarian action. These challenges hinder their ability to actively participate in efforts aimed at promoting peace and providing humanitarian assistance in the country. Some of the key challenges faced by youths in Nigeria include:

1. **Limited Access to Education and Skills Development Opportunities** One significant challenge faced by youths in Nigeria is limited access to education and skills development opportunities. According to a report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) titled “Nigeria Human Development Report 2016,” many young people in Nigeria lack access to quality education and vocational training, which hinders their capacity to contribute effectively to peacebuilding and humanitarian initiatives (UNDP, 2016).

2. **High Unemployment Rates** Another major challenge confronting Nigerian youths is high unemployment rates. The International Labour Organization (ILO) highlighted in its report “World Employment Social Outlook - Trends for Youth 2020” that youth unemployment rates in Nigeria are disproportionately high compared to other age groups, limiting their economic empowerment and ability to engage meaningfully in peacebuilding and humanitarian activities (ILO, 2020).

3. **Insecurity and Conflict** The prevalence of insecurity and conflict in various parts of Nigeria poses a significant challenge for youth engagement in peacebuilding and humanitarian action. A study conducted by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) titled “Youth Radicalisation in Northern Nigeria: Perspectives from Bauchi, Kano, Sokoto, Yobe, Borno States” emphasized how the ongoing conflicts hinder young people’s involvement in constructive activities that promote peace (ISS, n.d.).

4. **Lack of Inclusive Participation** Youths often face exclusion from decision-making processes related to peacebuilding and humanitarian action in Nigeria. The African Union Youth Division highlighted this issue in its publication “The Role of Youth Participation in Peacebuilding,” emphasizing the importance of including young people’s perspectives and

voices in shaping policies and programs for sustainable peace (African Union Youth Division, n.d.).

5. **Limited Access to Resources** Limited access to financial resources, technology, information, and networks also hinders youths' effective engagement in peacebuilding and humanitarian efforts. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) noted this challenge in its report "Youth Empowerment through Technology, Knowledge Sharing & Innovation," underscoring the need for increased support mechanisms for youth-led initiatives (UNICEF, n.d.).

Nigerian youths face multiple challenges that impede their active involvement in peacebuilding and humanitarian action efforts. Addressing these obstacles is crucial for harnessing the potential of young people as agents of positive change within their communities.

Strategies for Effective Youth Involvement in Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Action in Nigeria

Youth involvement in peacebuilding and humanitarian action is crucial for fostering sustainable development and stability in conflict-affected regions like Nigeria. Several strategies have been identified to enhance the participation of young people in these critical areas.

1. **Education and Skill Development:** Empowering young individuals with education and skill development opportunities is crucial for equipping them to actively participate in peacebuilding endeavours. By providing youths with the necessary knowledge and abilities, they can significantly contribute to initiatives aimed at fostering peace. Additionally, offering development opportunities and employment prospects further supports the engagement of youth in peacebuilding efforts. By fostering a culture of entrepreneurship among youth, societies can benefit from new ideas, job creation, and sustainable development (Tschudin, 2019).

2. **Mentorship Programs:** Implementing mentorship initiatives that pair young individuals with seasoned peace advocates can facilitate the transfer of knowledge, establishment of valuable

connections, and motivation for the youth to assume leadership responsibilities in peacebuilding. Mentorship offers direction and encouragement to young people as they navigate their roles in advancing peace within their societies. The transformative power of dialogue and collaboration in addressing social issues and promoting peace is vital for social change (Lemmetyinen, 2009).

3. Youth Participation in Decision-Making Processes: Empowering young individuals to participate in decision-making processes at local, national, and international levels enables them to have a direct impact on policies that influence their communities. Involving youth in these processes enhances the credibility of peacebuilding initiatives by ensuring a variety of perspectives are acknowledged and taken into account. Mobilizing youth to actively participate in peacebuilding initiatives is important. By engaging young people in decision-making processes and providing them with opportunities for education and employment, societies can harness their energy and creativity for positive change (Özerdem, 2019).

4. Access to Resources: Ensuring that young individuals have access to essential resources like funding, technology, and information is crucial for empowering them to execute effective peacebuilding projects. Resource mobilization plays a significant role in supporting initiatives led by youth that aim to foster peace and tackle humanitarian challenges. This underscores the importance of empowering youths to actively participate in humanitarian action. While they may face various challenges along the way, young individuals possess unique strengths that can significantly benefit global efforts to address crises and promote social justice (Caniero, 2021).

5. Collaboration and Networking: Collaboration among youth-led organizations, civil society groups, government agencies, and international partners is crucial in amplifying the impact of youth involvement in peacebuilding and humanitarian action. This collective effort can lead to innovative solutions, resource-sharing, and collective action towards building peaceful societies. By connecting with local and international organizations working on peacebuilding

initiatives, young individuals could access resources, knowledge, and support to strengthen their impact (Hartmann, 2016).

6. Capacity building: Relevant social institutions should improve human capacity development amongst the youth to prepare them for the leadership task ahead. Youth should also submit themselves for leadership training and relevant experience. They should not be too eager to assume leadership of the country without first going through the meal, undergoing internship in various fields of endeavors, engineering, politics, church administration, construction sector. The need for capacity building among youth to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to contribute meaningfully to humanitarian action is critical (Handloff, 2020).

7. Value Re-orientation and Education: The need for the Government to introduce ethical and attitudinal re-orientation to sharpen the values of the society and inculcate in the youth core values and culture of patriotism, humanitarianism, volunteerism, honesty, and transparency. The social intellectual development of the youth depends on the quality of education received during the primary and secondary schools' years. There should be a multidisciplinary approach in overhauling the school system and developing new values. According to Lederach (2018), sustainable reconciliation involves promoting inclusive dialogue and participation among all stakeholders, including marginalized groups and communities affected by the conflict.

Conclusion

The contribution young people make towards Peacebuilding and humanitarian action is significant for the rapid transformation of the Society even though pressure they face sometimes make them succumb to the temptations of negativity. Following the rapid changes that have occurred over the years in the Country, it has become obvious that many youths are deprived of the opportunity of contributing to nation building because they are caught in the shekels of poverty, unemployment, and other destabilizing challenges. The youth in Nigeria

must be given the opportunity to receive quality education, remain healthy, and eventually use information technology to enhance their knowledge and expertise for socio-political and economic development. Nigeria has a large pool of useful youth for dynamism, resourcefulness and over all development which can only be harnessed through sustained quality youth building and effective participation. The average Nigerian youth is desirous of empowerment to enable them to realize their vision.

The holistic participation of the youth which is the basic tenet of an egalitarian society is only tenable with a genuine democratic system, favourable socio-cultural environment, a stable economy, and the opportunity for every individual to attain his physical and intellectual potential as well as develop an amiable personality. Every Society desirous of development must therefore be ready to ensure that the inventiveness and vigour of the Youths are appreciated and properly channelled towards the right direction. If their great reserve of energy, resourcefulness, creativity, and dynamism is not appreciated and encouraged, they can constitute a threat to National stability and live survival as they are left to drift, unemployed and misguided. We must not wait for young people to be involved in vices detrimental to the development of the society before we begin to build structures that are geared towards sustainable development.

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CHAPTER 13

CLIMATE CHANGE, RESOURCE SCARCITY AND CONFLICT IN NIGERIA

Peters S. GWIMI* and Innocent S. OGAR†

INTRODUCTION

The World Bank (2022) predicts that Nigeria's population will reach 443 million by 2050, based on the medium-variant projection. The fear is that as many as half of this population, may likely be forced to migrate due to effects of climate change and its vulnerabilities. Climate change is no longer a matter of prediction, the evidence is glaring. Even a casual observer would have noticed the increasing frequency, and sometimes the intensity and unusual weather phenomena in recent times.

Nigeria's climate is likely to see growing shifts in temperature, rainfall, storms, and sea, levels throughout the twenty-first century. Poor adaptive responses to these shifts could help fuel violent conflicts in some areas of the country. A basic causal mechanism links climate change with violence in Nigeria. Under it, poor responses to climatic change create shortages of resources such as land and water. This shortage is followed by negative secondary impacts, such as more sickness, hunger, and joblessness. Poor responses to these, in turn, open the door to conflict. Therefore, drawing lines of causation, between climate change and conflict in specific areas of Nigeria, calls for caution. This chapter looks at how Nigeria is particularly vulnerable to the intersections of climate change, resource scarcity and conflict.

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The concept of climate change

Eneji, Williams, Ekpo and Isa (2017) defined climate as the regular weather condition of an area over a prolonged time. Nwankwoala (2015) defined Climate change as a long change in the average weather pattern over a specific region/and a significant period of time. It is also seen as a change in the statistical distribution of weather patterns when that change lasts for an extended period of time (i.e. decades to millions of years). Further, Agbebaku (2015) explained the term climate change as the changes in the earth's climatic system. It is majorly concerned with a change due to an increase in the average atmosphere temperature Changes in climate which occurs as a result of internal variability within the climate system and of external factors (natural and anthropogenic).

While in IPCC usage, climate change refers to any change in climate over time, due to natural variability as a result of human activity while UNFCCC sees climate change as being attributable directly or indirectly to human activity that alters atmospheric composition.

Causes of Climate Change and Global warming

A lot of gases in the atmosphere are transparent to the ultraviolet and visible light but absorb infrared radiation. These gases allow sunlight to penetrate the atmosphere and are absorbed by the Earth's surface. The sunlight energy is re radiated as infrared radiation (heat), which is absorbed by the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Since the effect is similar to what happens in a greenhouse (where the glass allows light to enter but retard the loss of heat), these gases are called greenhouse gases and the warming that occurs from their increase is called house effect.

Greenhouse Gases (GHG's) that Cause Global Warming and Climate Change

Carbon dioxide (Co₂): This gas is the most abundant of the greenhouse gases. It occurs as a natural consequence of respiration. Much larger quantities are put into the atmosphere as waste products of energy production from coal, oil, natural gas, and biomass which are burnt to provide heat and electricity for industrial processes, home cooking and heating. Another factor is deforestation. Trees and other vegetation remove carbon dioxide from the air and use it for

photosynthesis. This has resulted in the increase in concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's): This is entirely as a result of human activity. They are used as refrigerant gases in refrigerators and air conditioners, as cleaning solvent, as propellants in aerosol containers and as expanders in foam products.

Methane: This comes from biological sources, although some enter the atmosphere from fossils fuel sources. Several kinds of bacteria that are found in wetland and rice fields release methane in to the atmosphere.

Nitrous Oxide: A minor component of greenhouse gas usually from fossil fuels and fertilizers. Could be reduced by careful use of Nitrogen containing fertilizers.

Why climate change is of concern to Nigeria

The irony of climate change is that developing countries who contribute the least to its problem are the most vulnerable to its impacts. Developing countries are likely to suffer the heaviest degree of damage from climate change because they are the least endowed with resources to mitigate the problems and their economies are largely dependent on natural resources and that include sectors which are climate sensitive. Nigeria is particularly in danger because of the following.

- Level of vulnerability
- Proneness to drought and desertification
- Threat to food security and livelihoods
- Threat to water resources
- Threat to health and security

Adaptation procedures to Climate Change in Nigeria

Murtala, (2006) observes that Nigeria's Industrial growth is relatively small therefore adaptation is more important for the nation than mitigation. The states in Nigeria need to develop a well-coordinated adaptive strategy to the impact of climate change for sustainable livelihood and development. Sectors requiring adaption include but not limited to, agriculture

and food security, water resources and disaster management procedures. There is need for the use of drought resistant crops and application of new farming techniques. Professionals should be involved in managing irrigation, flood management and drinking water. The National Emergency

Management and non-governmental organizations should educate people on how to manage disasters as a result of rains and droughts, and avoid building on water ways, valleys and risky locations.

Possible obstacles to climate change adaptation in Nigeria.

- Rapid population growth of the country
- The poverty in Nigeria which includes heavy and total dependence on the immediate environment for livelihood.
- Land tenure systems which does not favour food security
- Ignorance of the climate change issues
- Non adaptation to new farming techniques
- Land scarcity due to desert encroachments

Resource scarcity and implications

Resource scarcity is a situation where the available resources (such as water, food, energy or minerals) are insufficient to meet the demands of a growing population leading to competition and conflict over access to the scarce resources.

Resource in this context is anything available in our environment which can be used to satisfy our needs and is technologically accessible, economically feasible and culturally acceptable. There are man-made resources as well as natural resources. Man/woman depends upon the animals, plants, the soil, the minerals, the air and water of the earth as well as its fellow human being for sustenance of life. These free gifts of nature which man/woman tap due to his/her ingenuity are regarded as natural resources. The influence of man/woman on the environment creates one form of cultural environment or the other. The resources that are

available for man/woman are in two main groups. They include organic or living resources (animate) and inorganic or non-living resources (inanimate)

The organic resources are derived from natural plants and animal life which include- forests, wildlife, natural pastures, the oceanic and other marine life and fish. While the non-living (inanimate) resources include water, air, mineral fuels, metals, and non-metallic minerals and solar energy. Soil as a resource falls in between the animate and inanimate as it is the melting pot where life sprouts out under the conditions of inanimate (decayed) conditions.

The earth's natural resources are of two kinds: Inexhaustible resources and exhaustible resources. The inexhaustible resources are those which will never run out and supplies of which will always remain available. The resources under this category include solar energy, air, water and rock. The exhaustible resources on the other hand are those that are in limited supply and which soon or later, may be used up. Among the exhaustible resources are those that are renewable, and those can be non-renewable.

The renewable resource is one that can be replaced in nature at a rate close to its rate of use. Most of the earlier mentioned inexhaustible resources like, oxygen in the air, and solar energy fall into this category as well as trees in the forest, food grown in the soil etc. However, the non-renewable resource is one that is used up faster than it can be replace in nature. They include metals-such as gold, silver, iron, copper, replaced in nature and aluminium, non-metals such as sand, gravel, limestone, sulphur, and energy sources such as coal, oil, natural gas and uranium. There are still some geological resources that can be re-cycled after use. However, most of the energy resources are destroyed by use. For instance, charcoal is got from fuel wood but the fire can destroy the charcoal to ash, which is most useless.

The issue of resource scarcity has long caused concern and controversy, extending back at least to Malthusian fears that population growth could periodically outstrip the availability of food resources, resulting in poverty and population decline. Resource scarcity remains an issue of concern, particularly in the context of rapidly increasing resource

consumption in some parts of the world. This concern reflects both the direct effects of resource scarcity (the fact that human needs will not be met if key resources are not available) and the indirect effects (such as conflict) that may occur as humans compete for increasingly scarce resources. A further area of concern is that, increasingly, environmental degradation may occur as a result of more intensive efforts to obtain ever-scarcer resources. However, there are conflicting views about the severity of current and future resource scarcities and about human capacity to adapt to those scarcities. Three main positions have been identified:

- Neo-Malthusians argue that finite natural resources impose strict limits on the growth of human population and consumption. If those limits are exceeded, poverty and social breakdown will result.
- Neoclassical economists argue that there are few, if any, absolute limits to human population, consumption and prosperity. Properly-functioning economic institutions (particularly markets) provide incentives to promote conservation, resource substitution, the development of new stocks of resources, and technological innovation.
- Distributionist's accept that there may be resource limits to human population growth, but argue that the main problem is the inequitable distribution of resources and wealth at all scales. Poverty and inequality, in this view, are the cause rather than the consequence of high population growth rates and of poor resource management.

Conflict in Nigeria

The word conflict often brings to mind images such as antagonism, struggles between parties, opposition processes and threats to co-operation. But environmental conflicts do not always come in these forms, rather they come in form of needs to be met or desires to be satisfied; they come in form of ideas that eventually change attitudes, habits, beliefs, feelings and perceptions. Mostly, conflict in Nigeria arises from religious, ethnic and political differences, poverty, resource scarcity as a result of climate change or combination of all

Recent years have witnessed increasing concerns about the linkage between climate change and insecurity. A number of complex interwoven causal mechanisms ranging from

conflict over resources, economic damage and risk to coastal cities and critical infrastructure and loss of territory and border disputes to environmentally induced migration, radicalization, tension over energy supply and threat to international governance have been identified as contributing to the concerns.

Extreme events such as droughts and floods are leading to an immediate loss of livelihoods and/or food insecurity and decrease the population's adaptive capacity. The effects can be particularly severe and long lasting. The northern part of the Nigeria, particularly the north eastern part, is one of the hardest hit regions to face the adverse impacts of warmer global temperatures. A major consequence of changes in the climatic conditions in the region is the shrinking of Lake Chad from about 45,000 km² in 1960 to less than 3,000 km² in 2013.

This is leading to the breakdown of social harmony and cohesion, increasing competition over scarce resources, a collapse of traditional leadership structures and increasing stress on the political leadership structures of the state. In addition, insecurity exacerbates women's vulnerability to sexual violence and loss of livelihoods. In this way, climate change acts as a threat multiplier, causing widespread instability in socio-political settings that may deepen existing social and political tensions and at times leads to new ones. It also opens up the opportunity for non-state actors to intervene and exploit the situation, further undermining the security and stability of the state. Loss of livelihoods and the resultant deepening of poverty, particularly among women and girls may also be serving as a recruiting ground for extremist groups in northeast Nigeria, resulting in a higher conflict risk.

Government policies in addressing climate-induced conflicts

Nigeria has a number of critical sector-specific policies in environment, agriculture, forestry, health, water resources, transport, ICT and communication that have significant bearings to climate change policy and response strategy (National Climate Change Policy, 2021). Although only a few of the policies deal with climate variability and climate change directly, however, most have a few measures that have links with climate change. Some of these policies include:

(i). **Environment policies, strategies and plans:** Towards meeting the challenges of addressing the environmental problems in the country, the Nigerian government developed a National Environmental Policy in 1989 which was revised in 1999 to accommodate new and emerging environmental concerns. The goal of the revised the policy is to achieve sustainable development and, in particular to (i) secure a quality of environment adequate for good health and well-being; (ii) promote the sustainable use of natural resources; (iii) restore and maintain the ecosystem and ecological processes and preserve biodiversity; (iv) raise public awareness and promote understanding of linkages between environment and development; and (v) cooperate with government bodies and other countries and international organizations on environmental matters.

In an attempt to implement the Environmental Policy (NCCP, 2021), Nigeria has enacted specific policies that could be adapted to support national climate change, particularly with respect to:

- a. drought and desertification - National Policy on Drought and Desertification; Drought Preparedness Plan, (2007);
- b. erosion, flood control and coastal zone management - National Policy on Erosion, Flood Control and Coastal Zone Management, (2005);
- c. national sanitation policy
- d. forestry - Draft National Forest Policy, 2006;
- e. biodiversity protection - National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2004;

The National Forest Policy is in the process of finalization, but there is the National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP) which is geared towards ensuring sustainable forest management, promoting participatory process of development, facilitating private sector – forestry development and adopting an integrated approach to forestry development. It comprises of 3 sub-programmes viz: forest management, social forestry and forest industries, all of which, if fully implemented will enable Nigeria to drastically increase its forest cover for climate change mitigation and adaptation and enable it to benefit from the REDD+ global programme.

The goal of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) is to develop appropriate framework and programme instruments for the conservation of Nigeria's biological diversity and enhance its sustainable use to enrich the biological diversity of the country and enhance its beneficial effects on climate change adaptation and mitigation options. NBSAP is to promote the integration of biodiversity considerations into national planning, policies, development plans.

The National Erosion and Flood Control Policy and its Action Plan is designed to ensure coordinated and systematic measures in the management and control of the hazards of erosion and floods to reduce their impacts on the people and the environment. Some of the key strategies are to: (i) evolve a mechanism for forecasting, monitoring and control of erosion and floods; (ii) review the land use laws and regulations; (iii) promote and strengthen training at all levels in erosion and flood prevention, management and control; and (iv) creating public awareness to encourage participation. Some of the critical laws that may have influence on climate change response, particularly as they relate to ecosystem adaptation, include (a) National Park Service Act – retained as Cap N65 LFN 2004 in national parks; (b) Endangered Species (Control of International Trade and Traffic) Act- retained as Cap E9 LFN 2004.

(ii) **Agricultural policy:** Nigeria adopted a new agricultural policy in 2001. Some of the main objectives of the Policy include: (i) the achievement of self-sufficiency in basic food supply and the attainment of food security; (ii) increased production of agricultural raw materials for industries; (iii) increased production and processing of export crops, using improved production and processing technologies; and (iv) generating gainful employment. The policy also seeks to reduce risks and uncertainties in agriculture by reducing the natural hazard factor (which may include climate change) militating against agricultural production and security of investment. The policy framework covers many issues that may be impacted by climate change including (i) crops, livestock, fisheries and agro-forestry production, (ii) pest control, and (iii) water resources and irrigation.

(iii). **Water policy:** The National Water Policy was developed in 2004. It seeks to improve on the nation's water resources management including the management of hydrological risks and vulnerabilities. Emphasis is for the assessment of water resources is to improve real time forecasting of hydrological phenomena, which will be relevant in response to the expected changes that are likely to occur in the country's hydrological cycle over the next few decades due to climate change impact.

(iv) **Coastal and Martine environment policy:** Nigeria's coastline which defines its coastal reaches spans a distance of more than 800km and is made up of highly varied geomorphologic characteristics that are very vulnerable to climate change. Although Nigeria is yet to have a separate policy directed at its coastal zone management, the country is participating in the implementation of the UNDP/UNE/UNIDO/GEF project on Combating coastal area degradation and living resources depletion in the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) through regional actions. A major output of this project implementation is the development of Strategic Action Programme to address sustainable management of the environment of the sub-region. Some of the remedial actions to address priority trans-boundary problems in the project portend good opportunity for anticipatory adaptation response to climate induced changes to the coastal environment in Nigeria.

(v) **Energy policy/plan: The National Energy Policy** establishes guidelines for the protection of the environment in the exploitation of Nigeria's fossil fuels. It also emphasizes the exploration of renewable and alternative energy sources, primarily solar, wind and biomass. Nigeria envisions a peaceful and prosperous nation driven increasingly by renewable energy. By the middle of the century, sustainable and affordable renewable energy will provide half of the country's total energy demand, thereby contributing to the country's efforts to keep GHGs at barest minimum. The country's Renewable Energy Master Plan (REMP) has several pertinent specific objectives which if achieved will enable Nigeria to address climate change risks in the energy sector, as well as ensure that the country meets its increasing energy

demands. In particular, the country will be able to pursue an economic development path that is less dependent on fossil fuels (e.g. oil)

(vi) **Health policy:** Increase in health-related problems that are anticipated in a climate change future, and the mounting challenge that climate change may pose to health management are directly related to climate change adaptation. The main objective of National Health Policy (NHP) is to improve the health status of Nigerians and the achievement of the health-related SDGs. Supporting the implementation of the NHP are (i) National Adolescence Health Policy, (ii) National Reproductive Health Policy and (iii) the Nigerian Health Promotion Policy, which is at its draft stage and which vision is to reduce the morbidity and mortality rates due to communicable diseases to the barest minimum; to reverse the increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases; meet the global targets on the elimination and eradication of diseases; and significantly increase the life expectancy and quality of life of Nigerians.

(vii) **Transport policy:** Nigeria's transport sector has some critical vulnerability issues which are already being amplified by increasing adverse weather conditions. This is more so because the sector is characterized by a collapsed rail system, weak civil aviation system and poorly maintained road transportation network. The Nigeria's policy in the transport sector in general is aimed at addressing issues such as economic regulation of urban transport, funding, land use and transport planning, safety enforcement, institutional framework and public private partnership in the transportation sector. The implementation of the policy will enhance Nigeria's preparedness for more severe weather conditions in a changing climate.

(viii) **Culture and Tourism Master Plan:** Culture is a major factor of climate change but is also profoundly affected by climate change. Given the high dependence of tourism on the environment, the sector is highly sensitive to climate and thus a wide-range of environmental changes due to climate change will have severe adverse impacts on it. It is climate that determines the seasonality in tourism demand and its operating costs, such as heating-cooling, snowmaking, irrigation, food, water supply etc. The National Tourism Plan (NTP) was

developed in 2005. It emphasized sustainable tourism, including the conservation and protection of national parks and game reserves. This makes it relevant to the imperative of environmental sustainability in the face of increasing climate change.

Socio-economic implications of climate change related conflicts in Nigeria

The implications of the changing climate on Nigeria are on eroding the assets, investments and futures of families, communities, effects on livelihood of the citizens and the State at large. As a result, the number of internally displaced persons is increasing and this jeopardises social and political stability. Social effects related to the consequences of climate change, scarcity of resources and natural disasters could play an important role in giving rise to various conflicts. This could be articulated to include the following:

Natural resource and agricultural activities: climate change affect economies whose economic activities are natural resource sensitive such as agricultural activities. Climate change in Nigeria has led to growing change in temperature, rainfall, storms, and sea levels. These climatic challenges, left unaddressed, had thrown already stressed resources such as land and water into even shorter supply. Moreover, poor responses to resource shortages could have serious negative secondary effects, including more sickness and hunger, fewer jobs, and poor economic growth, which in turn could open the door to more violence. It is a known fact that an area be it a region, population, or sector sees some poor responses to climatic change leads to resource shortages and poor responses to the resource shortages heighten one or more structural conflict risks. A basic causal mechanism links climate change with violence in Nigeria as we can observe in herders-farmers clash.

Unfortunately, climate change may lead to significant reductions in agricultural productivity in developing countries (McGuigan et al., 2002). Indeed, the effect of climate change on agricultural activities can be viewed from various aspects. Climate change affects the distribution of rainfall and temperature during a year and this determines crop yields especially those crops cultivated under rain-fed conditions (Thurlow et al., 2009). Excessive rainfall leads to destruction of arable land, impairment of cultivated crops, increased growth

of weeds and greater post-harvest loss while a significant reduction in rainfall may culminate in drier land, reduction in water level in streams and rivers, increase in farmers' search for water for irrigation and consequently resulting in invaluable man hour losses and reductions in crop yield (Ozor, 2009). Climate change also affects livestock production due to reduction in the available pasture land, reduction in surface water resources for animals, increase in salinity of water resources for animals, increase in salinity at watering points due to increased temperature and evaporation in the face of reduced rainfall. This implies that there would be a decline in the production of livestock, resulting in a reduction in the supply and availability of animal protein including meat, egg, milk and other animal produce such as hides and skins (Ozor, 2009).

Environmental disaster: Climate change has led to frequent environmental disasters in the country. In Nigeria, the manifestation of climate change can be seen in persistence drought and desertification in the north and erosion and flooding in the South. Gbenda (2010: 182) notes that Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara and Adamawa States are experiencing persistence drought. While Sahara Desert is affecting Jigawa, Katsina and Yobe areas. He also observes that there is rising sea level and inundation of coastal lands by sea water in the Southern part of the country. Coastal areas such as Warri, Bonny, Brass, Yenogoa, Degema, Ahoada and Okirika are at risk in the case of persistence rise in Sea level.

The Federal government has declared Anambra State, a disaster zone (Gbenda cited in Onah and Chinnah 2013). Oyo, Kogi, Benue, Plateau, Adamawa, Delta, Bayelsa, Anambra, Jigawa, Kano, Bauchi, Kaduna, Niger, Nasarawa, Taraba Cross River, Edo, Lagos, Imo States, Kwara, Katsina, Gombe, Ogun, Ondo, Ebonyi, Abia, Rivers States, Sokoto, Kebbi, Zamfara, Yobe, Enugu, Ekiti, Osun, Akwa-Ibom, Borno States and the FCT were ravaged by floods in 2012 (Taiwo Obalonye 2012:3) in varying degrees. Lives were lost, millions were displaced, farmlands washed away, livestock and property worth millions destroyed. The Nigerian Red Cross society reports in 2012 flood disaster is the worst in 40 years. In the following year some parts of Plateau, Kebbi and Cross River States were flooded as a result of heavy rainfall leading

to loss of lives, damage to properties including livestock and crops (Lawson 2013). In a similar vein, Nigeria loses about 350,000 hectares of land every year to desert encroachment in the northern part of the country. This has led to demographic displacements in villages across 11 frontline states in the North. It is estimated that Nigeria loses about \$5.1 billion every year owing to rapid encroachment of drought and desert in most parts of the north (Odiogor 2010). This is a source of threat to the citizens.

Human Health Hazard

Climate Change has serious implication for human health. High temperature, drought and changes in rainfall pattern affect fresh water supply and predispose people to infection and other health challenges. Change in climate condition increases the vulnerability of individuals to diseases and mortality. In many parts of the country floods are increasing in frequency and intensity as aforementioned. WHO (2013) confirms that floods contaminate freshwater supplies, heighten the risk of water-borne diseases, and create breeding grounds for disease-carrying insects such as mosquitoes. They also cause drowning and physical injuries, damage homes and disrupt the supply of medical and health services. Drought also leads to water scarcity and significant decrease in fresh water. This can compromise hygiene and increase the risk of diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases such as typhoid fever, cholera and river blindness.

Water shortage and scarcity: Usable water is already at a premium for much of Nigeria. Poor management and government supply failures, are likely the biggest causes today. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) rates Nigeria's water use and conservation practices "poor" by international and African standards, and only 8 percent of homes nationwide have treated pipe-borne water. More heat plus less rain is already creating drought conditions in parts of northern Nigeria. This is troubling when government data show rural households harvest rain for more than half their total water consumption and northern groundwater tables have dropped sharply over the last half century, owing partly to less rain.

In Nigeria, many communal clashes (often misinterpreted or misrepresented as ethnic and religious clashes) are actually struggle over either the control of land or mineral resources or both. In the northern and middle parts of the country, the cereal-productive Sudan savannah ecology is transiting to pure Sahel and the influence of the Sahara is increasing southwards. In the same vein, the root and tuber productive ecology of the Guinea Savannah is giving way to Sudan Savannah grassland. The predominant Fulani herdsman of the lower Sahel and Sudan savannah ecologies is now moving south to northern states (Nasarawa, Kogi, Abuja, Kwara, Plateau, Benue) who are close to the Guinea Savannah and Forest belt of the South - to find greener pasture for his herds. This is not acceptable to the root and tuber farmers of these northern states who are close to the Guinea Savannah that is already farming close to the climatic margin of cultivation.

Low economic opportunity: This is potentially relevant to Nigerian climate change issues. Anger over economic stagnation and joblessness turns up in opinion polls and conflict narratives across Nigeria. The power of climate change to disrupt economies and eliminate jobs needs closer study, but existing evidence suggests at least two troubling potential links to violence, both involving the young. First, climate change could increase the risk of violence in some areas where youth are especially affected. A full 60 percent of Nigeria's population and three-quarters of its unemployed are under thirty. Evidence in and outside Nigeria suggests that alienated young people who lack resources and economic opportunity are more likely to join rebellions. In the dusty streets of Borno state's capital, for instance, the violent anti-establishment Islamic group Boko Haram attracts rafts of jobless young men, as do the Delta's many militias and gangs. Second, more jobless youth could deepen the recruitment pool for political violence. Politicians bankroll, mobilize, and manipulate much of Nigeria's worst violence, often as a survival mechanism. Idle young men and women already provide the muscle for much of this unrest.

Migration: is also something of a wild card among the climate change-induced conflict. Nigerians could move in anticipation of climate-related crises or flee trouble once it lands.

Results again could be mixed: relocating might lessen the secondary effects of resource shortages or deepen them, both in the spots migrants leave and the places they move. Sudden influxes of migrants also can strain government's capacity to respond and encourage more divisive use of identity politics, as attested by the long history of "indigene" versus "settler" killings in the migrant-heavy urban slums of Kano, Kaduna, and Bauchi.

The challenge of increasing climate change-induced migration has led to conflicts among communities. For example, there are incidences of cattle herders from the north encroaching on lands in southern part destroying farmlands. The resultant conflicts have led to insecurity of lives and properties as many have met their untimely death in the conflict that erupted. Many have also abandoned their homes and means of livelihood for safety. For instance, clashes between Tiv people of Benue State and Fulani herdsmen over grazing land have been reported. In the conflicts that took place in Agatu Local Government area, about 50 persons were reportedly killed while over 10,000 persons became refugees (Abba 2013). Odiogor (2013) reported of similar clashes between Hausa/Fulani cattle men in Delta State where the cattle rearers have attacked communities in Ibusa in Oshimili North, Ogume in Ndokwa West local government areas. In Ogume, no fewer than 10 persons were killed in a clash with the herdsmen over the destruction of their farms.

Community-based adaptation strategies to mitigate climate-induced conflicts in Nigeria

Adapting to climate change entails taking the right measures to reduce the negative effects of climate change by making the appropriate adjustments and changes. It may also involve exploiting the positive effects of climate change.

Climate change mitigation is a secondary priority of the policy on climate change. Mitigation means the human interventions to reduce the sources of climate change or enhance sinks of green-house gases. In a nutshell, the government policies on climate in Nigeria aimed at promoting adaptation and mitigation measures in the vulnerable socio-economic sectors such as energy generation, oil and gas, transport, mining, manufacturing (industry), which produce the greatest amounts of emissions in the country.

Adaptation to Climate Change

The overall measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (direct and fugitive emissions), according (National Climate Change Policy, 2021) are summarized under the following headings; energy (including power generation), oil and gas, biomass (agriculture, forest and land use), health, industry, transport, water and waste sectors which include the following:

1. Protection of water resources from pollution through necessary legal and institutional instruments and implementation programmes to sustainably extend and improve water supply and water management infrastructure.
2. Promotion of the adaption of improved agricultural system for both crops and livestock by diversifying livestock and improved range management, increase access to drought resistant crops, livestock feeds, adapt better soil management practices, provide early warning/meteorological forecasts, increase planting of native vegetation cover, promotion of re-greening efforts and intensification of crops and livestock production in place of slash and burn.
3. In land use, forestry and Biodiversity, governments shall promote afforestation and re-forestation programmes particularly with fast maturing tree species and conservation of remaining forested area; promotion of alternative energy sources in order to reduce dependency on biomass for energy needs in both urban and rural areas; strengthening the enforcement of laws and good governance of forest and other natural resources; implementation of legislative and control measures such as fencing to limit access to protected forests and designation of more protected zones to protect endangered species.
- . 4. Facilitating the availability of health facilities, equipment and medicine to assist in early diagnosis and treatment in climate change related disease; promotion of awareness among populations on climate change related diseases and prevention. Governments shall also expand water and sanitation (NATSAN) infrastructure particularly in informal settlements to reduce outbreaks and spread of water borne diseases and provide access to health care services to vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, children, older persons and others.

5. In human settlement and housing, governments shall assist communities to reduce vulnerability through participatory planning of land use and housing, discourage housing settlement practices that are maladaptive in the face of climate change; discourage building/urban encroachment into vulnerable areas, high risk zones and low-lying areas and the strengthening of rural settlements in order to reduce migration.

6. To reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) emissions from the transport sector; governments shall invest in alternative modes of transport such as rapid bus transit (RBT), rail system, air and water transport to reduce road traffic and associated carbon-dioxide emissions; encourage non-motorized modes of transport such as bikeways and pedestrian walk ways in urban canterers; and encourage the importation of fuel-efficient transportation means such as plug-in hybrids, eclectic trains (ie, city trams).

7. In manufacturing and energy industries, governments shall support the development of low-cost green initiatives and technologies, promote sustainable waste management practices such as recycling and re-use including waste-energy opportunities that can among other benefits, attract carbon finance to reduce GHG emissions and other forms of environmental pollution in production processes and product delivery.

8. Cross-cutting measures: Implementation of the above adaptation and mitigation policies recommendations will not be effective without a set of critical pillars that cut across both adaptation and mitigation and across all sectors of national development. These pillars are called “enablers” and include

(a) Education training and public awareness to raise the level of awareness of climate change among the general populace and to impart specialized climate change knowledge and skills to enable the country or the nation address climate change risks as well as take advantage of its opportunities.

(b) Information and knowledge management systems to enhance the capacity of climate change information and knowledge management systems for improved response to climate change.

(c) Technology development, transfer and adoption to enhance the flow of know-how, experience and equipment for mitigating and adopting to climate change amongst different stakeholders such as governments, private sector entities, financial institutions non-governmental organizations and research education institutions (IPCC, 2000).

(d) Gender Dimension: In recognition of the differentiated impacts of climate change on woman, men, youth, the physically challenged and the poor as well as their differentiated roles, abilities and responsibilities in responding to climate change, the assessing vulnerability, impacts and risks of climate change and governments shall promote involvement of women, youth and physically challenged in climate change monitoring and decision making programs.

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CHAPTER 14

CONFLICT AND ITS DYNAMICS IN HAUSALAND: A PERSPECTIVE

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INTRODUCTION

Hausaland, a significant cultural and historical region in West Africa, is predominantly situated in northern Nigeria and southern Niger. From an extensive scholarly view on the ancient history of Hausaland and their inhabitants of the territory, great philosophers and historians were of the view that: Hausaland has dated the Early Stone Age in the Sub-Saharan Africa for over 2,500,000” (Mahdi, 2010). This prelude indicated that Hausaland was inhabited by man for millions of years ago (Mahdi, 2010; Mahdi, 2015). In the view of the legend historian Abdullahi Smith,

It was northern Hausaland, that is the Sub-Saharan territory called Azbin, that the original inhabitants of Hausaland had developed their ethnicity, culture, language and expanded southwards as the natural environment began to become less comfortable (Smith, 1970).

This view was attested to by other leading historians in Niger Republic, namely Dr. Diibo Hamani, Dr. Boube Gado and Dr. Illa Maikassoua. In another historical and archaeological discovery by John Sutton, accounts that; “it was along the western shores of the Mega-Lake Chad, i.e. eastern Hausaland, the Hausa people and the culture first appeared, eventually, they began to spread westwards and northwards” (John, 1976).

From concluding discourse, it noted that in the 1970s the history of Hausaland in the present millennium has been a westward push from the Hadejia-Daura-Kano region to that of

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Sokoto and beyond (Smith,1970). From historical account, nothing had existed as the current geographical location regarded as the northern region before 1914, but there was the existence to some large extent of various powerful states, Kingdoms, Empires and Dynasty at the horn of central Sudan which of comprises Borno, Daura, Zaria, Kano, Katsina, Zamfara, Gobir and Kebbi in the western axis. The great caravans moved from place to place and the markets of Kano and Katsina were famous (Shehu,2018: Shehu,2021). It is quite obvious that the development of trade and cultural inter-changes was one of the major themes of discussion in the history of Hausaland from the 14th to 19th centuries. Again, in order to consolidate political domination, the Hausa states established large boundary which could supplement the economy. This idea of expansionism led to intermittent warfare between neighbouring Hausa states. Any state which became strong felt tempted to use its strength against its neighbours. It has been noted by Boyd that “In these competitions no state has however been able to win a complete victory and wars ended with one state being satisfied with the booty or territory taken from each other (Boyd, 1978).”

The fact that, war and territorial expansion were one of the major strategic policies of defence which define boundary, building a strong formidable and discipline army to defend any ambush or aggressive attacks from the enemies. However, this strategy provides them with impetus to dominate such weaker group or defenseless alien people and reduces them to tributary status, serfdom or slavery, exploiting them arbitrarily ('Yandaki, 2015). This chapter explores the dynamic nature of conflict in Hausaland, examining historical roots, contemporary issues, and future challenges and opportunities.

Historical Overview of Conflict in Hausaland

Pre-Colonial Period

a. Regional Rivalries and Decline of Empires

Regional and inter-regional relation was dynamically shifting a balance completely in Hausaland. Relations with the neighbouring Songhai Empire were not always peaceful, as when - at least according to the historian Leo Africanus (c. 1494 - c. 1554 CE) - the Songhai

king Askia Muhammad (r. 1494-1528 CE), managed to subdue the cities of Katsina, Kano, and Gobir, making them, albeit briefly, tributary states (Smith,1960). It may be that this invasion was carried out by other smaller neighbouring states as the Songhai records and those from Timbuktu for the period are remarkably silent on the matter. Meanwhile, Hausa states made frequent raids to the south in the Benue Valley against various peoples including the Bauchi, Gongola, Jukun, and Yawuri. (Curtin,1995; de Villiers,2007; Hrbek, 1992; Ogot,1999; Oliver1981).

b. Internal Rivalries and City-States

The Hausa city-states, such as Kano, Katsina, and Zaria, frequently engaged in warfare. These conflicts were driven by competition over trade routes, territorial expansion, and political dominance. The historical antecedent revealed that the Hausa city states competed with each other for trade, territory, and prestige. They also faced external threats from the empires of Mali, Songhai, and Bornu, as well as from the nomadic Fulani.

The Kano-Zazzau War (1456-1472)

Kano and Zazzau (Zaria) clashed over the possession of the fertile lands of Zaria. Kano was defeated and lost its supremacy to Zazzau, which became the leading center of Islamic culture and scholarship in the region. Kano and Zazzau were two of the seven major Hausa city-states. These states, which also included Gobir, Katsina, Daura, Rano, and Biram, were centers of trade, culture, and politics. The Hausa city-states were known for their urbanization and were major hubs in the trans-Saharan trade network. Several factors contributed to the outbreak of the Kano-Zazzau War. The territorial Drives was one of the major power struggles among empires and Kingdom not only in horn of Hausaland but also throughout the central Sudan. Both Kano and Zazzau sought to expand their territories and influence. The competition for dominance over strategic trade routes and fertile lands heightened tensions between them. Control over trade routes was crucial for economic prosperity. The city-states vied for control over lucrative trade routes connecting the West African interior to the Mediterranean and beyond.

The Political Rivalry could not be exonerated behind the critical reason for power expansion. Kano, a prosperous state due to its strategic location on trans-Saharan trade routes, sought to expand its influence and control over neighbouring regions, including Zazzau. The rulers of Kano and Zazzau were involved in a power struggle, with each seeking to assert their dominance over the other and to consolidate their rule internally. Kanajeji was a prominent Sarki (king) of Kano during this period. Known for his military prowess and strategic acumen, he led numerous campaigns to assert Kano's dominance. Kanajeji's campaigns included the use of new military technologies such as iron helmets and coats of mail, which he introduced following heavy losses in earlier battles. The war ended in 1472, though the specific terms of the peace settlement are not well-documented. However, several long-term consequences emerged from this protracted conflict. The war likely altered the balance of power among the Hausa states. While neither Kano nor Zazzau emerged as a clear victor, the conflict weakened both, allowing other states like Katsina and Gobir to gain prominence. Prolonged warfare would have disrupted trade routes and economic activities, leading to economic hardships.

The Kebbi-Zaria War (1731-1736)

Kebbi and Zaria fought over the control of the Niger River and the trade with the Hausa states of the east. Kebbi was defeated and lost its independence to Zaria. Kebbi and Zaria were among the original Hausa Bakwai (the seven true Hausa states). The conflict was rooted in territorial disputes and the quest for regional dominance. By the early 18th century, both kingdoms were striving to expand their influence and control over trade routes and agricultural lands, which were crucial for their economic sustenance. Both Kebbi and Zaria sought to expand their territories, which inevitably led to clashes over disputed lands. The control of important trade routes that connected various parts of West Africa was a critical issue. Both kingdoms wanted to dominate these routes to enhance their economic power. Internal political dynamics within both states, including leadership ambitions and alliances with neighbouring states, also fuelled the conflict. The war was marked by several significant battles and strategic manoeuvres. The early years of the war saw a series of skirmishes as both sides tested each

other's strength. As the conflict intensified, major battles occurred, with both sides suffering heavy casualties.

The war saw the use of traditional Hausa military tactics, including cavalry charges and fortified defensive positions. The war eventually ended in 1736 with neither side achieving a decisive victory. However, the prolonged conflict weakened both kingdoms, leading to internal instability and making them more vulnerable to external threats in the following decades (Boyd, 1978). The war had several lasting impacts on trade and agriculture, leading to economic hardships in both kingdoms. The weakening of central authority in both states led to increased political fragmentation and the rise of local warlords. The inter-state struggle of the Hausa city states came to an end in the early 19th century, when they were conquered by the Fulani jihad led by Uthman dan Fodio (Shehu, 2022). The Fulani established the Sokoto Caliphate, which unified the Hausa lands under a theocratic rule.

Gobir against Azbin and Adar

The conflicts between Gobir Kingdom, Azbin and Adar started from the closing decades of the 7th century. According to Augi (1984) the faceoff started when the Sultans of Agades had imposed their power and constituted authority over Adar and then followed by the establishment of Azbin's dynasty over Adar and the settlement of various groups of Azbinawa in the area by the late 17th century. The action was opposed not only by various chiefdoms of Adar but also to Kwanni on the other hand. But the central issues of the conflict were the continuation of the extension of territory so as to dominate and exert control over the trade because the areas were strategic trade routes where goods passed through Adar from Azbin, and Gobir needed to control the route for the purpose of supplies of horses, salt and other valuable commodities like weaponries. This is where the Gobir come to have serious conflict during the period of mid-17th century and whose confluence in Kwanni had been considered before this period. This trade monopolization and ambition to acquire large portion of territories coupled with the shift of capital aggravate the tension as a result Gobir become very

aggressive and furious on several occasion and the consequence of this action led to a besieged on Azbinawa by Gobir with total destruction.

The Sultan Agabba of Agades later retaliated with another offensive causing serious devastation on Gobir Kingdom. The conflict continued to escalate up to the early decades of the 18th century when the Sultan of Agades also launched an enormous campaign against the capital of Gobir at a time Sarkin Gobir Soba was besieging the town of Maradi in Katsina. Following the Azbinawa attack, the Sarkin Gobir Soba launched a reprisal attack against their power in Adar passing through Kwonni and then invaded Adar Dutsi (Augi, 1977). The Sarkin Gobir Soba was remarkably figured out as the famous leader and enormous warriors during his time in the early decades of the 18th century who fought bitter conflicts with Katsina, Adar, Zabarmawa and even Gurma. Soba led siege on Maradi for seven years against Zabarmawa for another three years. The Soba met his death when his own army rebelled against him during the battle against Agades in Adar. His death and that of his immediate family caused a serious tension among the Gobirawa where a number of them began another fresh migration to neighbouring territory of Zamfara to the south (Abdullahi, 2016; Abdullahi, 2005).

The Gobir Kingdom versus Katsina Kingdom

The Katsina-Gobir War (1576-1582) fought over the control of the salt mines of Taghaza and the gold fields of Bambuk. Katsina was victorious and expanded its influence to the west. By the end of the eighteenth century Katsina was at the peak of economic consolidated development and political power control. Hogben and other historian scholar shared similar perspectives view that

Katsina became strategic trade route and commercial center where different caravans coming in from all perspectives. She outshone her rival Kano in both prosperity and learning. The wealth and scholarship found their way to Katsina rather than to Timbuktu, where culture and civilization were in decline under the Moorish Pashas and their Arma. In fact, Katsina remain the central entrance gate to Hausaland (Heaton, 2008; Mahdi, A., 2015; Hogben, 1967).

These potential prospects of trade route, commercial center, wealth and scholarship observed by scholars reminded the impetus for conflict between Gobir and Katsina. Therefore, soon after the fall of Birnin Zamfara to the Gobirawa in 1756, Katsina was drawn into the war. The Sarkin Zamfara, Moraki, took refuge with his vassal Tsaidu in Kiawa, a hill fortress on the Zamfara-Katsina border, which was besieged by the Sarkin Gobir. The Katsinawa in Kiawa appealed to Katsina for help. Katsina records revealed that Sarkin Gobir Babari besieged Kiawa for seven years. In 1795, and bitterly fought battle of Dutsinwake, just outside Kiawa, Bawa's son was killed and he himself died of grief 40 days later (Hogben, 1967; Nadama, 1977; Hogben, 1967).

The Zamfara Struggle Against Gobir Domination

The Gobir Kingdom's attack on Zamfara was expected due to Zamfara's rising commercial significance, which drew attention from Gobir. This economic boom led to the growth of new settlements, especially Birnin Zamfara, during Sarkin Zamfara Abdul dan Suleiman's reign in the early 18th century. Initially, Zamfara and Gobir had friendly relations, with Zamfara supporting Gobir militarily. However, when Gobir moved its capital to Alkalawa under Sarkin Gobir Ibrahim Babari, who had grown up in the Zamfara royal family, tensions rose. Babari exploited Zamfara's internal conflicts and attacked, destroying Birnin Zamfara in 1762 (Nadama, 1977). Despite this, Gobir could not fully control Zamfara due to strong resistance from Zamfara exiles and local leaders who refused to recognize Gobir's rule. Resistance to Gobir continued, with revolts led by Makauru of Fakai and other warriors (Onwubiko, 1985; Mahdi, 2010; Abdullahi, 1998). Although Gobir won some battles and established Alkalawa as its capital, it faced significant challenges and began to weaken by the late 18th century, especially due to the Fulani Jihad. At the same time, the Bornu Empire's power declined in the early 19th century due to weak leadership and Tuareg invasions, eventually falling to Fulani forces. Other regional kingdoms, such as Mossi, Jukun, and Nupe, also faced challenges but remained independent until later conquests (Heaton, 2008).

The Sokoto Jihad of the 19th century

At the beginning of 18th century, the Fulani moved into Hausa Kingdoms more especially the ‘Gobir’ Kingdom for Islamic propagation. Later the Fulani become the political rulers as a result of revolution which took place in 1804 which transformed the entire socio-political class of the Hausa Kingdoms to Caliphate federal system. Such historical reform movement that altered the whole course of history in western Sudan as early as 1776 was under the leadership of a scholar and reformer known as Shehu Usmanu Danfodiyo, 1754-1817. He was supported principally by the masses in the region due to the social dimension of the movement, later scholars and a few middle- and upper-class citizens in the area joined his group called, the *Jama’a*. By 1804-1809 the movement had captured power in almost all the ancient prosperous Hausa states that flourished for over five centuries before his reform drive (Mukhtar, 2013). He was popularly known as Shehu which derived from Arabic word ‘*Sheikh*’ and literary means ‘learned person’. Sheikh Usman taught and preached the cardinal principles of Islamic teaching in Gobir, Zamfara and Kebbi empires toward the end of the 18th century. At the beginning, he did not find it very challenging during propagation and for that he gained momentum of followers known as ‘*Jama’a*’. This attractiveness of large gathering of people around Sheikh Usman formulate a conflict, because Sarkin Gobir had a great fear in mind that his throne was in danger. So, for that reason, he issued an order restricting him from further spread of Islamic preaching in Gobir empire.

The conflict worsens to the extend Shehu decided to broke off with the Gobir empire and instead of quitting Hausaland as Jibril did, Shehu and his large followers decided to remain resolute and slug it out with the government of Gobir (Mahdi, 2010). After a series of battles with Gobir led forces, by the end of 1808 all the former Hausa kingdoms in Southern were overthrown and replaced by Fulani emirates which paid allegiance to Sheikh Usman Danfodiyo (Hogben, 1967; Ibrahim, 2013). The core objective of establishing the Caliphate (an Islamic Empire headed by a Caliphate) was to promote and protect Islam in its totality, thereby, resuscitating its cardinal principles of legal system and jurisprudence (Usman, 2015;

Gbadamosi, 2001). In 1809, Muhammadu Bello established Sokoto town to serve as the headquarters of the newly established Caliphate (Mahdi, 2010; Usman, 2004). Of all the pre-19th century kingdoms, such as Bornu become greater loser. This was because the whole of its western flank was lost to the Caliphate. The Caliphate annexed a huge area strengthened to old Gongola and upper Benue valleys were all conquered (Mahdi, 1990). The main legal source of leading administrative system of the Caliphate was Islamic law (Sharia's). (Musa, 1973; Isa, 2015 ; Mahdi, 2010).

Colonial Era of Conflict in Hausaland

British Colonization of Hausaland

The British colonial period in Hausaland, which began in the early 20th century, marked a significant transformation in the region's socio-political and economic landscape. The imposition of British rule introduced new forms of conflict, fundamentally altering the existing order and generating resistance from local populations. The initial phase of British colonization faced considerable resistance from the Hausa-Fulani states (Shehu, 2016). The Sokoto Caliphate, established by Usman dan Fodio in the early 19th century, was a powerful Islamic state that controlled much of northern Nigeria, including Hausaland. British military campaigns aimed at subjugating the caliphate led to significant conflicts. By the beginning of 1903, the British forces were well-equipped and readily to face-off with the Sokoto caliphate because on that occasion all the emirates were conquered. It is evidence that by 15th March 1903, Sokoto caliphate was finally collapsed at the hands of British forces. This marked the end of Islamic government in Hausaland (Mahdi, 2010). The British policy of indirect rule leveraged existing traditional structures but also created new tensions. Favoritism and the restructuring of power dynamics under colonial administration led to localized conflicts. This resistance was rooted in a rejection of foreign domination and the defense of Islamic governance against Christian European rulers (Shehu, 2016; Mahdi, 2010).

Integration into the Colonial Economic System

British colonial administration sought to integrate Hausaland into its broader economic system, which was primarily extractive in nature. The imposition of taxes, forced labour, and the focus on cash crop production (such as groundnuts and cotton) disrupted traditional economic practices and livelihoods. Many Hausa farmers were compelled to grow cash crops for export instead of subsistence farming, leading to economic dislocation and hardship. This economic exploitation fuelled resentment and sporadic uprisings against colonial policies (Shehu, 2016;).

Favoritism and Social Tensions

The British often favored certain ethnic and social groups over others, leading to increased social stratification and conflict. In Hausaland, this meant reinforcing the dominance of the Fulani ruling class over the Hausa majority and other ethnic groups (Abdullahi, 2016). The Fulani, who had established the Sokoto Caliphate, were seen as more aligned with British interests and were therefore maintained in power. This favoritism bred resentment among other groups who felt disenfranchised and oppressed.

Contemporary Conflict Dynamics in Hausaland

Ethno-Religious Tensions

Ethno-religious tensions in contemporary Hausaland have been extensively studied by scholars from various disciplines. Jakob Rosel (1995) describes ethnicity as groups bound by real or imagined ties of common descent, religion, language, culture, and history. Osaghae (1992), cited in Abba (2019) defines it as a social formation based on culturally specific practices and symbols, while Alegbeleye (2014). sees it as a shared affinity distinguishing one group from others. Religion, as Abdul (2002) notes, creates identity, solidarity, and boundaries between believers and non-believers, generating shared sentiments and norms. The study focuses on Christianity and Islam, the dominant religions in Hausaland, whose followers are referred to as Christians and Muslims, respectively. Ethno-religious conflict arises when relationships between different ethnic or religious groups in a multi-ethnic, multi-religious

society are marked by lack of cordiality, mutual suspicion, fear, and a propensity for violent confrontations (Achumba,2013; Salawu,2010). Islam has influenced Hausaland since the 11th century through trade and scholarship, deeply embedding itself in the region's culture and politics. With colonialism, Christianity spread, particularly in southern Hausaland and among non-Hausa ethnic groups.

This has led to conflicts between the predominantly Muslim population and Christian minority communities in mixed regions like Kaduna, Bauchi, and Kano. These tensions are often linked with socio-economic and political issues (Omede, 2011; Alozie, 2018). The British colonial policy of divide and rule is cited as a root cause of current ethno-religious conflicts, as the British were accused of favouring one group over another. Since Nigeria's return to civilian rule in 1999, ethnic and religious violence has surged, with notable conflicts including Tiv-Jukun, Chamba Kuteb-Jukun, Tingo-Wudugus (1989), Tafawa Balewa (1991, 1995), Zangon Kataf (1992), Jos (2001, 2004, 2007, 2010-2012), Kano, and Kaduna. (Suleiman, 2008; James, 2014). Issues often involve indigene-settler dichotomies and the controversial adoption of Sharia law, particularly opposed by non-Muslim communities and secularists, leading to clashes in places like Kaduna, Kano, and Zamfara. The politicization of ethnicity and religion exacerbates these conflicts, as politicians and elites exploit ethnic and religious identities for political gain (Bala,1987).

Farmer-Herder Clashes

Farmer-herder clashes are increasingly violent due to competition for land and water, driven by environmental changes and population growth. Historically, conflicts between farmers and herders have existed but were limited to factors like low population density and the presence of tsetse flies. In West Africa, the introduction of veterinary drugs has increased herd sizes, pushing herders beyond their traditional ranges. Improved human health has also heightened pressure on arable land. Despite coexisting for many years through practices like exchanging crop residues for manure, recent expansions in farming areas, especially near rivers, have intensified competition. Research identifies several causes of these conflicts. Overlapping land

use interests in regions like Nigeria's Kainji Lake Basin have led to disputes among nomadic herders, farmers, and conservation authorities. Changing resource access rights, inadequate grazing resources, and declining social cohesion further contribute to conflicts. Destruction of crops by cattle, burning of rangelands, blocking of stock routes, and cattle theft are specific grievances. Antagonistic perceptions and failing institutions exacerbate these tensions.

By altering weather patterns and reducing resources, climate change has intensified these conflicts, threatening security and food stability in Nigeria's rural areas and beyond. Desertification and reduced arable land in northern Nigeria have driven herders south, increasing competition in fertile areas. Consequently, IRIN (2009) observed that over a third of land that was cultivable 50 years earlier is now desert across 11 of Nigeria's northernmost states: Borno, Bauchi, Gombe, Adamawa, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Yobe, Zamfara, Sokoto and Kebbi, a situation which consequently posed constraints to farmers. In addition, Nigeria officially has 415 grazing reserves, but only one-third are in use, while the remaining 270 have been built on or farmed, and this has aggravated farmers-herdsmen conflicts. Moreover, Adisa, (2011) cited in Nathaniel (2019) attributed such conflicts to inequitable access to land, diminishing land resources, antagonistic values among user groups, policy contradictions, and non-recognition of rights of indigenous people. Conflicts stem from economic tensions over land, policy contradictions, and non-recognition of indigenous rights, all within a broader political economy context of land struggles fueled by a growing population (Nathaniel, 2019).

Kidnapping and Banditry

Historically, Hausaland has experienced various forms of conflict and insecurity, but the recent surge in kidnapping and banditry is a relatively new phenomenon. The region, known for its rich cultural heritage and historical significance, has faced socio-political challenges, which have sometimes created environments conducive to criminal activities. Kidnapping in Hausaland, a region in northern Nigeria, has become a pervasive security issue. This criminal activity involves the abduction of individuals for ransom, a practice that has escalated significantly in recent years. The victims are diverse, including wealthy individuals, ordinary

citizens, and even school children, drawing significant national and international attention. This trend disrupts daily life, instills fear, and hampers economic and social activities in the region (Shehu,2016; Shehu,2022). High-profile kidnappings often target wealthy individuals or their family members, expecting substantial ransoms. Increasingly, kidnappers target middle-class and even poorer individuals, understanding that families might gather resources collectively to pay for their loved ones' release. The abduction of school children has become particularly alarming. Such incidents not only traumatize the children and their families but also disrupt educational processes and deter parents from sending their children to school (Shehu,2016; Shehu,2022).

Causes Of Kidnapping and Banditry in Hausaland

Economic Hardship

Northern Nigeria faces significant economic challenges. High unemployment rates and pervasive poverty drive many individuals toward criminal activities, including kidnapping, as a desperate means of survival. The lack of viable economic opportunities, especially in rural areas, exacerbates the problem. Young people, in particular, find themselves with limited prospects, making criminal activities more appealing (Shehu,2016; Shehu,2022).

Weak Law Enforcement

Law enforcement agencies in Hausaland are often under-resourced and poorly equipped to handle the scale of kidnapping and banditry. There are not enough officers, and those who are present often lack the necessary training and resources. Corruption within the police and judicial systems further compounds the problem. Bribes and a lack of accountability mean that many criminals operate with impunity, knowing that the risk of apprehension and prosecution is low (Shehu,2016; Shehu,2022).

Political Instability

Political instability and weak governance create environments where law and order are difficult to maintain. Power struggles and a lack of cohesive leadership result in vacuums of authority, which are readily exploited by criminals (Shehu,2016; Okoli, 2023). Regional

conflicts, such as those involving Boko Haram, contribute to the overall instability. These conflicts displace people and create chaotic conditions that facilitate criminal enterprises.

Consequences of Kidnapping and Banditry in Hausaland

The surge in kidnapping and Banditry in Hausaland has profound consequences, affecting not only the direct victims but also the broader socio-economic landscape of the region. Here is an in-depth look at some of these impacts.

a. Psychological Trauma

Kidnapping induces severe psychological trauma in both victims and their families. The experience of being abducted, often under violent circumstances, leaves lasting mental scars. Kidnapped individuals often endure physical and psychological abuse, leading to conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, and a constant fear of recurrence. The uncertainty and harsh treatment during captivity exacerbate these conditions. The families of kidnapped individuals suffer immense stress and anxiety. The uncertainty regarding their loved ones' safety, coupled with the financial strain of raising ransom money, leads to significant emotional distress (Shehu,2022: Okoli, 2023). The trauma can also cause long-term psychological issues such as chronic anxiety and depression.

b. Economic Disruption

The pervasive threat of kidnapping significantly disrupts economic activities in affected areas. Potential investors are often deterred from putting money into regions plagued by insecurity. Businesses face increased operational risks, higher insurance premiums, and the need for enhanced security measures, all of which increase costs and reduce profitability. Frequent kidnappings disrupt local economies by impeding trade, agriculture, and other economic activities. Farmers, for instance, may avoid working in their fields due to fear of abduction, leading to decreased agricultural productivity and food insecurity. Additionally, markets and trading activities suffer as people become too afraid to travel or conduct business freely. Families forced to pay ransoms can deplete their savings, sell off assets, or incur debts, leading to long-term financial instability (Shehu,2016; Shehu,2022: Okoli, 2023). This financial

burden affects not only individual families but also the broader economy as resources is diverted from productive uses to meet ransom demands.

c. Social Unrest

Government and Community Responses to Banditry and Kidnapping in Hausaland

a. Government Measures

Military Operations: The Nigerian government has frequently deployed military forces to combat banditry and kidnapping. These operations involve deploying troops to affected areas, conducting raids on bandit camps, and engaging in firefights with bandit groups. While military operations can disrupt bandit activities temporarily, they often face significant challenges. These include difficult terrain, the mobility and adaptability of bandit groups, and sometimes, the collateral damage that affects civilians. Additionally, there are reports of insufficient logistical support and morale issues among the troops. The success of these operations has been mixed. While they have led to the capture or killing of some bandits, the overall impact on reducing banditry has been limited, with bandits often regrouping and resuming activities after military withdrawals (Shehu,2016; Shehu,2022: Okoli,2023).

Negotiations: In some instances, the government has engaged in negotiations with bandit leaders, offering amnesty and other incentives in exchange for laying down arms. This approach aims to integrate bandits back into society and reduce violence. Negotiations are highly controversial. Critics argue that negotiating with criminals undermines the rule of law and may encourage further banditry by setting a precedent that crime can be rewarded. Additionally, not all bandits adhere to agreements, leading to temporary reductions in violence rather than long-term solutions (Shehu,2016; Shehu,2022: Okoli, 2023).

Policy Initiatives: Efforts to enhance the capabilities of the police and other security agencies include better training, improved equipment, and increased funding. There are also initiatives to combat corruption within these forces to ensure more effective law enforcement. By developing rural areas through infrastructure projects such as roads, schools, and hospitals, the government aims to reduce the economic incentives for banditry. Better infrastructure can

also improve security forces' mobility and response times. Investing in intelligence gathering and surveillance technologies helps preempt bandit attacks. (Shehu,2016; Shehu,2022: Okoli, 2023). This includes the use of drones, better information networks, and community-based intelligence operations.

b. Community Efforts

Vigilante Groups: In response to inadequate security from the state, many communities have formed vigilante groups. These groups often consist of local volunteers who take on the responsibility of protecting their communities from bandit attacks. Vigilante groups patrol villages, respond to threats, and sometimes engage directly with bandits (Shehu,2016; Shehu,2022: Okoli,2023). They often have intimate knowledge of the local terrain and social networks, which can be advantageous in identifying and combating bandits. While providing immediate security, vigilante groups can operate outside the law, leading to potential human rights abuses. There is also the risk of escalating violence and creating cycles of revenge between communities and bandits.

c. Traditional Leaders

Conflict Mediation: Traditional leaders, including village chiefs and religious figures, play a crucial role in mediating conflicts and negotiating peace. Their authority and respect within communities enable them to facilitate dialogue between conflicting parties. These leaders often work to foster community resilience by promoting social cohesion, traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, and collective action against banditry. Their involvement can help in reintegrating former bandits and preventing young people from joining criminal groups (Shehu,2022: Okoli, 2023).

Public Awareness: Increasing public awareness about the risks and preventive measures against kidnapping and banditry is crucial. These campaigns educate communities on how to protect themselves, report suspicious activities, and support law enforcement efforts. Programs aimed at building trust between communities and security forces, and promoting community policing, help in creating a more secure environment (Shehu,2016; Shehu,2022:

Okoli,2023). Public awareness initiatives also focus on addressing the root causes of banditry, such as poverty and lack of education, by encouraging economic development and vocational training.

Challenges in Combating Kidnapping and Banditry in Hausaland

Corruption: Corruption within security forces and government institutions significantly undermines efforts to combat kidnapping and banditry. Corrupt officials may accept bribes to overlook crimes, release arrested bandits, or divert funds meant for security operation. Corruption leads to the misallocation of resources, where funds intended for security improvements and development projects are embezzled or misused. This not only weakens the operational capacity of security agencies but also exacerbates the socio-economic conditions that contribute to crime (Shehu,2016; Shehu,2022: Okoli ,2023).

Coordination: The lack of coordination among various security agencies hinders effective responses to kidnapping and banditry. Different agencies, including the police, military, and local vigilante groups, often operate independently without a unified strategy. This fragmentation can lead to duplicated efforts, gaps in coverage, and sometimes even inter-agency conflict. Poor communication and information sharing between agencies result in delayed or ineffective responses to criminal activities. Without a coordinated approach, efforts to gather intelligence, conduct operations, and follow up on incidents are less efficient and often fail to produce lasting result (Shehu,2016; Shehu,2022: Okoli,2023).

Socio-economic Factors: Addressing the underlying socio-economic issues, such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of education, is essential for a long-term solution to kidnapping and banditry. However, these issues require sustained effort and significant investment over time (Shehu,2016; Shehu,2022: Okoli, 2023). There is often a tension between addressing immediate security needs and investing in long-term socio-economic development. Short-term security measures are necessary to provide immediate relief, but without concurrent efforts to improve economic and social conditions, the root causes of crime remain unaddressed.

Criticisms: Military operations aimed at curbing banditry and kidnapping have sometimes been criticized for human rights violations. Reports of extrajudicial killings, torture, and other abuses during these operations have been documented, leading to public outcry and further eroding trust in the government. Operations like Sharan-Daji, targeting bandits result in colossal damage, affecting innocent civilians and causing displacement. Such incidents undermine the legitimacy of government actions and fueled further resentment and unrest. Some government strategies are seen as ineffective or short-sighted, focusing on immediate military responses without addressing the underlying causes of banditry (Shehu,2016; Shehu,2022: Okoli, 2023).

Critics argue that without a comprehensive approach that includes economic development, education, and social services, these measures only provide temporary relief. Policies and initiatives aimed at combating banditry are often inconsistently implemented. Changes in government, shifts in priorities, and lack of follow-through mean that many initiatives fail to achieve their intended outcomes. In some instances, security issues are politicized, affecting the consistency and effectiveness of responses. Politicians may use the insecurity for political gain, either by exaggerating the threat to justify certain policies or by undermining efforts to address it to discredit opponents. The use of divisive rhetoric by political leaders exacerbates tensions and hinder efforts to build a unified response to banditry and kidnapping (Shehu,2016; Shehu,2022: Okoli, 2023). This politicization can also distract the necessary collaborative and coordinated efforts needed to effectively address the issues.

Mitigating Conflict and its Dynamics in Hausaland

a. Policy and Governance

Addressing the root causes of conflict in Hausaland requires governance structures that are inclusive and considerate of the diverse needs and rights of all ethnic and religious groups. Policies must ensure fair distribution of resources and opportunities. This includes equitable access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities for all communities, irrespective of their ethnic or religious affiliations. Ensuring that all groups are adequately represented in

local and regional governments is crucial. This involves creating platforms for minority voices and establishing mechanisms to incorporate their concerns into decision-making processes. Implementing legal reforms that protect minority rights and address grievances related to land ownership, resource allocation, and political representation is essential for building trust and fostering sustainable peace. for instance, the establishment of bodies like the Kaduna Peace Commission can serve as a model for other states. This commission works towards mediating conflicts and fostering dialogue between different communities in Kaduna, a state known for its ethno-religious diversity and conflict (International Crisis Group,2018; UNDP,2017; Blench, 2010).

b. Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

Strengthening conflict resolution mechanisms is vital for managing and resolving disputes in culturally relevant and effective ways. This involves the leveraging on traditional conflict resolution methods that are well-respected and trusted within local communities. These methods often involve mediation by elders or local leaders who understand the cultural context. Combining traditional mechanisms with modern judicial systems to create a hybrid approach that can address contemporary issues while respecting cultural practices. Training and capacity building for local leaders and community-based organizations in conflict resolution and peacebuilding techniques (International Crisis Group,2018; UNDP,2017; Blench, 2010).

c. Economic Development

Investing in economic development initiatives that create jobs and empower the youth is critical for reducing the appeal of militant groups and criminal activities. Strategies include: Implementing vocational training and skill development programs tailored to market needs can help equip young people with the skills necessary for gainful employment. Providing financial and technical support to young entrepreneurs would stimulate local economies and create job opportunities. Encouraging partnerships between the government and private sector

to create sustainable job opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, and services. For Examples, Nigeria's Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO). This program aims to increase access to youth employment opportunities and social services, providing a model for similar initiatives in Hausaland (International Crisis Group,2018; UNDP, 2017; Blench, 2010).

d. Agricultural Reforms

Implementing sustainable agricultural practices and resolving land ownership issues are crucial for mitigating farmer-herder conflicts. Promoting practices such as crop rotation, agroforestry, and water conservation to enhance agricultural productivity while preserving the environment. Addressing land tenure issues to provide clear and secure land rights for farmers and herders. This can reduce disputes over land use and improve resource management. Providing access to agricultural extension services, credit facilities, and market information to support farmers and herders. A typical example is Establishing designated grazing reserves can help manage herder movements and reduce conflicts with farmers. Successful implementation of such reserves requires adequate resources and community engagement (International Crisis Group,2018; UNDP,2017; Blench, 2010).

e. Peace Education and Social Integration

Promoting education, particularly among young people, can foster understanding and tolerance between different communities. Effective strategies include incorporating peace education into school curricula to teach young people about conflict resolution, tolerance, and the importance of diversity. Ensuring that all children, regardless of their ethnic or religious background, have access to quality education. Engaging communities in educational initiatives to build support and address local educational needs. The rightful example is the UNICEF's programs focus on providing education to marginalized communities and promoting peace education, which can serve as a model for similar efforts in Hausaland (International Crisis Group, 2018; UNDP, 2017; Blench, 2010).

There should be social programs aimed at integrating different ethnic and religious communities can help build social cohesion and reduce prejudices that fuel conflicts. Key initiatives involve facilitating regular dialogues between different communities to promote mutual understanding and address grievances. Encouraging joint economic ventures that bring together people from different communities to work towards common economic goals. For instance, the Interfaith Mediation Centre in Kaduna. This center works to bridge divides between Muslim and Christian communities through dialogue and joint initiatives, providing a model for similar efforts across Hausaland (International Crisis Group,2018; UNDP,2017; Blench, 2010).

Conclusion

The history of conflict in Hausaland is complex and multifaceted, shaped by a myriad of social, economic, and political factors. Understanding these conflicts' past and present contexts is crucial for developing strategies to address them effectively. By focusing on inclusive governance, economic development, and social integration, there is potential to foster a more peaceful and prosperous future for the region. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach that combines policy reform, economic initiatives, and community engagement to build a more inclusive and resilient society.

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CHAPTER 15

THE RISE OF TERRORISM IN NIGERIA: THE WAY FORWARD

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INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is faced with an unprecedented wave of different but overlapping of terrorism related security crises - from kidnapping to extremist insurgencies among others. Nigeria has one of the highest terrorism threat levels in the world. Despite a general decrease in terror-related deaths, the country recently recorded the eight highest number of people who died in terrorist attacks worldwide, after Myanmar. Several militant groups are active in Nigeria, leading to attacks on both civilian and military targets. Boko Haram is by far the deadliest, mostly active in the north of the country.

According to Bassey (2004), the number of Boko Haram (a jihadist fundamentalist group, aiming to free the country from Western education and to establish an Islamic state in Nigeria) attacks has increased recently. Boko Haram is responsible for thousands of deaths not only in Nigeria but also in Cameroon, Chad and Niger. Between 2011 and 2023, Boko Haram was responsible for thousands of deaths in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. Nigeria is the country most affected by the terrorist group's attacks. States in the North-East register the highest number of deaths. Borno is by far the most threatened state, in that, Boko Haram has caused over 38,000 deaths in this area. Among the news on attacks mostly present in the media (which received global attention), the kidnapping of 276 female students from a secondary school in Borno in 2014 received a global response. As of April 2021, over 100 girls were still missing, while six students were believed to have died. In 2016, Boko Haram

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split into two groups. Both groups see themselves as affiliates of ISIL, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, also known as ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria).

Certain deaths have also been attributed to Fulani extremists, while further violent outcomes have been characterizing conflicts among other herdsmen, farmers and ethnic groups. For instance, in 2019, Fulani extremists were responsible for about one quarter of all terror-related deaths nationwide. Fulani extremists do not constitute a single terrorist group. In fact, several deaths have been attributed to terrorist attacks used as a tactic in ongoing conflicts between pastoralists and the nomadic Fulani. Jihadist Fulani herdsmen have also been killing thousands of Christians in recent years (Okorie, 2011). In total, over 10 thousand Christians were murdered in Nigeria by Boko Haram, Jihadist Fulani herdsmen, and bandits or highway kidnappers in Nigeria. Political, economic and social instability is also resulting in severe confrontations between terrorist groups and the State. From 2011 to 2023, such conflicts with Boko Haram caused over 22 thousand deaths.

One factor to take into consideration is the massive economic cost of terrorism. In Nigeria, it makes up 2.4 percent of the country's GDP, only about one percentage point less than government expenditure on health. In Africa, it is the largest economic impact registered in one single country, resulting in an expense of 142 billion U.S. dollars reached between 2007 and 2019. Recently, some militant groups emerged in the Niger Delta region, with the declared aim to address social and political injustice. Various kidnappings and attacks were carried out by these groups, mostly against oil facilities, such as pipelines, and workers in the region, leading to a loss in oil prices. This area is extremely poor, despite oil resources, as the wealth generated by production barely reaches the Nigerian population. All these showcases the rise of terrorism in Nigeria. Therefore, this chapter will examine the meaning and feature(s) of terrorism; the different terrorism threats in Nigeria; factors promoting the rise of terrorism in Nigeria; the adverse effect of the rise of terrorism in Nigeria; theoretical explanations of terrorism in Nigeria; and the way forward.

Understanding Terrorism

The term “terrorism” has no universal definition, but various aspects are emphasized across different definitions. Terrorism simply put is the calculated use of violence to create fear and achieve political goals (Britannica, 2020). Terrorism refers to the use of violence against non-combatants with the aim of achieving political or ideological goals. It typically involves intentional violence during peacetime or in the context of war, targeting civilians and neutral military personnel. Terrorism involves deliberate acts of violence, often carried out by non-state actors (individuals or organizations not part of the government). These acts can take various forms, such as bombings, armed assaults, hijackings, or hostage-taking.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the United States of America (2020) defines international terrorism as "Violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups to further ideological goals stemming from domestic influences, such as those of a political, religious, social, racial, or environmental nature." The primary goal of terrorism is to create fear, not only among the immediate victims but also within a wider audience. By targeting densely populated public areas like transportation hubs, shopping centers, and tourist attractions, terrorists aim to instill widespread insecurity. This fear can influence decision-makers and prompt policy changes. In summary, terrorism is a complex phenomenon with varying definitions, but its common thread lies in the use of violence to achieve specific objectives through fear and intimidation.

Elements of Terrorism

Even if the meaning of terrorism has changed over time, some of the fundamental conceptualizations of terrorism have remained remarkably consistent or constant over the decades.

1. Terrorism implies violence or the use of force: It is terrorists' didactic intention or didactic value. That is the use of violence to educate or to rally the masses. The use of violence by terrorists to attract attention to themselves and their cause and therefore, to generate publicity that they hope they then can manipulate to extract concessions from government, to

intimidate or coerce governments into granting political rights that they might not otherwise have done had they not been confronted by this violence. Or simply to thrust their cause onto the world's agenda. And that's why people often talk about terrorism being symbolic.

2. Terrorism quite deliberate and it's quite specific: But this gets to the heart of understanding what terrorism is in that even though it may appear to be irrational, in fact, it's quite deliberate and it's quite specific. It's premeditated in fact. It's the use of violence directed against symbolic targets. In other words, targets that symbolize for the terrorists their enmity towards a government or their hatred of another people or another rival ethnic group. In other words, for them it's not so much the victim that's important as much as, or even the target, as much as the target audience.

3. Terrorism is directed against innocent civilians: Really in many persons' definitions at the heart of terrorism is the fact that it's directed against innocent civilians. In other words, it's this feeling of vicariousness that almost anyone who happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time can become a victim of terrorism. And that's how terrorists seek to spread their fear. And it's also how they seek to intimidate governments into acceding to their wishes. In other words, if you don't agree to what the terrorists want, the violence will continue and more innocent lives will be lost.

4. Terrorism is inherently political: It is about achieving fundamental political aim. And that has been a constant ever since terrorism was first used in its very early origins with the French Revolution in a very different context.

5. Terrorism induces fear or terror: The anxiety, the concern that this violence generates and that terrorist feel that they're able to manipulate. And then fourth is the threat of still more violence. In other words, the psychological effects or the psychological repercussions of terrorism where terrorism becomes very much these vicarious phenomena where someone reads about a terrorist act even on the other side of the globe. But nonetheless, themselves becomes afraid, becomes concerned, becomes worried.

Terrorism Threats in Nigeria

Nigeria is a country that is affected by a high rate of terrorism/insecurity such as the Boko-Haram insurgency, kidnapping, militancy, banditry and herder-farmer conflicts, among others (Nwambuko, Nnaeto & Nwobi, 2023). In fact, the country is faced with an unprecedented wave of different but overlapping terrorism crises - from kidnapping to extremist insurgencies - almost every corner of the country has been hit by violence and crime. The scale of the terrorism threatens the very fabric of Nigerian society: With every attack, human lives are lost or permanently damaged and faith in democracy and the country is diminishing according to Aliyu (2021). The recent surge of insecurity can be linked to the staggering poverty across the country. Youth unemployment currently stands at 32.5% and the country is in the middle of one of the worst economic downturns in 27 years. He went further to identify the five biggest security threats in Nigeria as follow:

According to Njoku (2019) and Aliyu (2021), these terrorism threats include:

- 1) **Boko Haram:** Boko Haram, a militant Islamist group, has persistently continued to destabilize the national security of Nigeria, especially in the North-East part of the country. Since 2009 till date the group has killed tens of thousands of people and displaced millions more. About 2.5 million people have fled their homes, towns and villages, and the resultant effect of the violence and crime was that the North-East was plunged into a severe humanitarian crisis. For instance, in 2018, the atrocities of Boko Haram in the North-East region of Nigeria is one of the worst in the world - which has left about 7.7 million people in need of humanitarian aid. The current president of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, in his first tenure claimed that his government would bring an end to the national suffering inflicted by Boko Haram. The government made significant military gains, reducing the number of Boko Haram attributed deaths from more than 5,000 in 2015 to less than 1,000 in the past couple of years; however, the crisis is not yet over, and it would be a grave mistake for the president to disregard the continued importance of the detrimental effect of the violent crimes and dehumanizing activities of this religious sect. Suicide attacks and kidnappings have been

carried out by the group this year. If these are allowed to continue at this pace, the country may reflect the mirror image of Libya, Rwanda etc (Adagba, Ugwu & Eme, 2012).

2) Farmer – Cattle herder clashes: The Middle Belt region of Nigeria is mostly known for farmer-herder clashes or conflict. There have been prolonged violent clashes between the predominantly Christian farmers and the mostly Muslim cattle herders resulting mostly via disputes over access and rights to land and water resources and rapid desertification which has changed the grazing patterns of cattle. These clashes are not necessarily new. The clashes have existed since 2015, and have become more frequent and violent. In 2018 alone, for instance, more than 2,000 people were killed in such clashes. This figure was more than the number killed in the past two years combined. In fact, the farmer-cattle herder clashes and their destructive activities is estimated to be six times more than the Boko Haram crisis. According to David (2011), currently, the dispute is being politicized and is stirring ethnic and religious tensions. This is very dangerous in a deeply divided country like Nigeria. The government must find inclusive and creative ways of addressing and deescalating this complex conflict.

3) The Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN): The Iranian backed Shia group in Nigeria, the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) is another national security threat in the country. The leader of the group is Ibraheem Zakzaky. The Movement is opposed to secular governments and the federal structure of government in Nigeria and called for an Iranian-style revolution in the country. The group's strong position on these issues and their regular protesting has resulted in clashes with security forces. However, recently these clashes have become more frequent and more violent. In 2015, the leader of the sect was arrested, and in 2016 a judicial inquiry revealed that the army had unlawfully killed 347 members of the group in Zaria state. For instance, in 2019, the security forces arrested 400 IMN members and allegedly killed dozens of civilians in the capital city Abuja and surrounding areas. According to Amnesty International, the security forces' use of automatic weapons was an excessive and horrific use of force. This escalating violence, the emergence and excessive use of force by the Nigerian military are reminiscent of the rise of Boko Haram and other security challenges.

4) Niger-Delta: The Niger Delta is the oil-producing center of Nigeria, and the bulk of the country's fund/wealth comes from the region. However, the area has been neglected by the federal government, and for decades the region has suffered from oil pollution, oil spillage, and its environmental related health hazards which has led to the loss of livelihoods and sources of food for locals. Also, in the last decade, clashes between armed groups in the area and the security forces reached an all-time high; kidnappings were rife, and oil infrastructure destroyed at a phenomenal rate. For instance, in 2016, one of the most prominent armed groups in the region, the Niger Delta Avengers (and other smaller groups), destroyed oil production infrastructure reducing production from 2.2 million barrels per day to the two decades low of 1.4 million barrels a day. The infrastructure vandalism contributed to the onset of one of Nigeria's worst economic recessions on record. Therefore, there is every reason for the government to make efforts to better foster peace and development in the region especially given the havoc the Avengers (and other similar groups) have already brought to the region/country and are still planning to do in the near future.

5) Cameroon: Neighbouring country Cameroon is on the brink of civil war. The Anglophone minority - 20% of the total population - has felt marginalized since independence. In 2016, what started as a series of protests by the Anglophone community against the increasing use of French in their region, eventually turned into a full-blown deadly crisis. The Anglophones are now calling for the secession of their territory which they call Ambazonia. In the past year alone, this intensifying conflict has led to the deaths of about 420 civilians, 175 military and police officers and hundreds of secessionist fighters. As a consequence, over 437,000 people have been displaced from their homes, and about 32,000 people have fled to Nigeria. The increasing influx of refugees into the already fragile Niger Delta region will have untold consequences on local host communities and Nigeria as a whole (Imobighe, 1990). Where these refugees are unable to secure good jobs, live in decent and affordable accommodation, and take care of their dependents, most of them may engage in violent crimes against their host communities individually or in groups. The government needs to be

proactive in its response to the conflict through helping to mediate and deescalate the conflict and also through making proper arrangements for incoming refugees.

6) Banditry and kidnapping: One of the scariest threats for families in Nigeria is the frequent kidnapping of schoolchildren from their classrooms and boarding houses. More than 1,000 students have been abducted from their schools since December 2020, many only released after thousands of dollars are paid as ransom. Some of the kidnappers are commonly referred to as "bandits" in Nigeria. These criminals raid villages, kidnap civilians and burn down houses. Attacks by bandits have forced thousands of people to flee their homes and seek shelter in other parts of the country. The north-west is the epicentre of these attacks. In Zamfara state alone, over 3,000 people have been killed since 2012 and the attacks are still going on. Hundreds of schools were closed following abductions at schools in Zamfara and Niger state, where children as young as three years old were seized. By every indication, Nigeria's lucrative kidnapping industry is thriving - expanding into previously safe areas - and seemingly beyond the control of the country's army. It poses a real threat to trade and education, as well as the country's farming communities.

7) Separatist insurgency: A separatist group called the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) has been clashing with Nigeria's security agencies. IPOB wants a group of states in the south-east, mainly made up of people from the Igbo ethnic group, to break away and form the independent nation of Biafra. The group was founded in 2014 by Nnamdi Kanu, who was recently arrested and is set to face trial on terrorism and treason charges. His arrest has been a major blow to the movement. The idea of Biafra is not new. In 1967, regional leaders declared an independent state, which led to a brutal civil war and the death of up to a million people. Supporters of Nnamdi Kanu's movement have been accused of launching deadly attacks on government offices, prisons and the homes of politicians and community leaders. President Buhari has vowed to crush IPOB. Last month he tweeted that "those misbehaving today" would be dealt with in "the language they will understand". The post was removed by

Twitter for violating its rules after Mr Buhari faced a backlash online. The incident led to the suspension of Twitter in Nigeria.

Factors Promoting the Rise of Terrorism in Nigeria

The constant rise of terrorism and their nefarious inhuman activities in Nigeria could be attributed to the gross failure of the Nigerian government to adequately manage the high level of insecurity brought to bare in the country. The failure could be attributed to many inexhaustible factors like:

Lack of Professional Values and Ethics among Security Agencies

Central to any state's security is its armed forces. The strength or weakness of the armed forces. The professional values that characterize Nigeria's security agencies have been nearly eroded with corruption, indiscipline, division, internal fragmentation among the rank and file, lack of necessary security equipment and lack of proper training of our officers among other issues. These have destroyed the country's hard earned security outfit status, most especially, the military status in Africa and around the globe today (Abolurin, 2011). Even the Nigeria Police Force, which is the principal law enforcement and the lead security agency in Nigeria has not fared well. Experience over the years has shown that the force has lived below expectation in the fight against terrorist related crimes especially in the urban areas. Some of the reasons explaining this failure include corruption, delayed justice, impartiality among others (Nwambuko & Nnaeto, 2024).

The continuous existence and persistence of non-professional values and ethics among the country's armed forces and Para-military outfits (the police, the State Security Service, the Civil Defense Corps, Vigilante groups among other) remains catastrophic, devastating, and a threat to the country's national security. Most at times, the country's security outfits are poorly equipped and trained. In addition, there is poor attitudinal and behavioural disposition of some security personnel. In many cases, security personnel assigned to deal with given security situations lack the expertise and equipment to handle the situations in a way to prevent them from occurring. And even when these exist, some

personnel get influenced by ethnic, religious or communal sentiment and are easily swallowed by their personal interest to serve their people, rather than the nation. Thus, instead of being national watch dogs and defending national interest and values, and protecting people from harm by criminals, they soon become saboteurs of government effort by supporting and fuelling insecurity through either leaking vital security information or aiding and abetting criminals to acquire weapons or to escape the long arm of the law (Ubong, 2016).

Lack of Institutional Capacity

The lack of institutional capacity resulting in government failure described as the corrosion or breakdown of institutional infrastructures. The foundations of institutional framework in Nigeria are very shaky and have provoked deterioration of state governance and democratic accountability, thus, paralyzing the existing set of constraints including the formal and legitimate rules nested in the hierarchy of social order. The state of insecurity in Nigeria is greatly a function of government failure, or can be linked to government failure. This is manifested by the incapacity of government to deliver public services and to provide basic needs for the masses. The lack of basic necessities by the people in Nigeria has created a pool of frustrated people who are ignited easily by any event to be violent (Bodunde, Ola & Afolabi, 2014).

Poor Formal Education Standard

The existence, promotion and sustenance of formal educational standard determine the pace at which a country could be said to develop. Countries like Japan, China, Russia, USA, the Great Britain, Germany, North and South Korea among others and the level of their developmental status is often attributed to the existence, promotion and sustenance of high formal educational standards. Equally, where the majority of the citizens of any country are well educated, and the government provides a conducive socio-economic and political environment for the people to put into practice acquired skills and knowledge to better themselves and contribute meaningfully to the development of the country, there would be a drastic reduction of violence and crimes in such a country (Abul, Emily & Heidi, 2018).

Ethno-Religious Conflicts

Ethno-religious conflict is also a major setback to the development of Nigeria, leading to an increase in the poverty level of the country. The consistent destruction of properties and killing of lives as a result of ethno-religious clashes has seriously affected the economic growth and development of the country (Nwambuko, Nnaeto & Nwobi, 2023). This has arisen from distrust among various ethnic groups and among the major religions in the country. He identified ethno-religious conflict as a major source of insecurity in Nigeria. Ethno-religious conflict was defined as a situation in which the relationship between members of one ethnic or religious group and another of such group in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society is characterized by lack of cordiality, mutual suspicion and fear, and a tendency towards violent confrontation. Frequent and persistent ethnic conflicts and religious clashes between the two dominant religions (Islam and Christianity), present the country with a major security challenge. In all parts of Nigeria, there exist ethno-religious conflicts and these according to him, have emerged as a result of new and particularistic forms of political consciousness and identity often structured around ethno-religious identities (Ngbale, 2011).

The claim over scarce resources, power, land, chieftaincy, local government, councils, control of markets and sharia among other trivial issues have resulted in large scale killings and violence among groups in Nigeria. However, in Nigeria, the case is entirely different. Majority of citizens, most especially in the north, are relatively illiterate and most of them live in abject poverty. Zabadi (2005) argued that the standard of the country's formal education is low resulting in the out scourge of half-baked graduates and unskilled labour force that loiter the streets and corners of the Nigerian polity. This group of people, in order to eke out a living and remain relevance in the society, engages in insecurity activities. Majority of the crop of people that make up secret cult, Boko Haram sect, Banditry, Fulani-herdsmen, Niger Delta Militants, Kidnappers among others are illiterate. They see their belonging or associating with any of these agents of insecurity as profitable, lucrative and an adventure neglecting the devastating effects of their evil atrocities on their victims and the country as a whole.

Pervasive Material Inequalities and Unfairness

Greater awareness of disparities in life is a major root cause of insecurity in Nigeria. This is a rooted general perception of inequality and unfairness which has resulted in grievance by a large number of people. This perception stems from the perception of marginalization by a section of the people, government development policies and political offices and this has become a primary source of disaffection and resentment. According to Onuoha (2011), a large number of the Nigerian people have become frustrated and lost hope, particularly the youths who have taken to violence, and have now emerged to express their disillusion about the pervasive state of inequality. For example, the case in the Niger Delta where the Avengers, Niger Delta Revolutionary Crusaders have been blowing up installations thereby reducing the exploration and production of oil to the abysmal level. The activities of the avengers were responsible for the epileptic power supply in the country as well as the inability of state governors to pay workers' salaries due to the low revenue generated in the oil sector as a result of the attack on pipelines (Ani & Ohagwu, 2013).

High Level of Unemployment and Poverty

Education promotes human development both at individual and collective levels and this enhances better employment and a possible exit from the world of poverty. A formal standard education system leads to employment and promotes gradual exit from poverty. However, corruption, lack of and decayed educational facilities, professional teachers and funds hamper learning in the country. Obviously, when people are not properly trained to acquired requisite knowledge for good employment, unemployment results and poverty deepens. As a result of the high level of unemployment and poverty among Nigerians, especially the youths, they are adversely attracted to violent crime. Failure of successive administrations in Nigeria to address challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities is one of the major causes of insecurity in the country (Ezekiel, 2009). Worst still, in recent times, education in Nigeria has become so expensive that it is unaffordable to the majority of the poor in Nigeria. It only appears that education is for the rich alone.

Consequently, this has forced a lot of people out of school since they cannot afford it. The young men tend towards crime while the young girls are forced into marriages at tender ages and when not, go into prostitution and usually end up having unwanted pregnancies and even effected with HIV/AIDS and other deadly diseases.

Lack of Good Governance

Good governance is the foundation upon which a formidable economy and sustainable national security is built. Unfortunately, in Nigeria the idea of good governance is a mirage. Indeed, there cannot be found in the continent of Africa any single government that can boast of living up to the global standards, expectations and core values of governance. All African leaders are guilty of subverting the expectations of their people. As a result of this, Africa and indeed Nigeria suffers a drastic decrease in standard of living of citizens who are either low income earners or unemployed and poor. Bad governance in Nigeria over the years has immensely succeeded in killing developmental process and weakening security policies. The political, economic and social well-being of Nigerian people is often largely compromised by corrupt politicians precipitating the abuse of economic and political power has tremendously enhanced human insecurity, especially in the face of the criminal loot and excessive financial allowances that the governing political elite allocate to themselves. In fact, in Nigeria, bad governance flourish in different parts of the country and at the federal level, otherwise creating the obvious insidious high insecurity situation facing the country today.

Porous Borders

One major immediate factor which has enhanced insecurity in Nigeria is the porous frontiers of the country, where individual movements are largely untracked. The porosity of Nigeria's borders has serious security implications for the country. Given the porous borders as well as the weak and security system, weapons come easily into Nigeria from other countries. Small Arms and Light Weapons proliferation and the availability of these weapons have enabled militant groups and criminal groups to have easy access to arms (Hazen & Horner, 2007). According to Edeko (2011), Nigeria is estimated to host over 70 percent of about 8 million

illegal weapons in West Africa. Also, the porosity of the Nigerian borders has made it possible for unwarranted influx of migrants from neighbouring countries such as Republic of Niger, Chad and Republic of Benin. These migrants which are mostly young men are some of the perpetrators of crime in the country (Adeola & Oluyemi, 2012).

Lack of Political will

Lack of Political will is another major cause of the rise of terrorism in Nigeria. The reality is that the increasing poverty in Nigeria has gone beyond mere examining the causes and proffering solutions to them. In other words, there is a need for a sincere commitment to adopting strategies and taking measures in reducing poverty in Nigeria. This is only possible when there is political will which is lacking among Nigerian leaders (Nwambuko, Nnaeto & Nwobi, 2023). Lack of political will is a major obstacle to development, peace and stability. This is because poverty, to a large extent, breeds terrorism tendencies in Nigeria. For example, if the fund budgeted for development is embezzled by leaders; it will affect the whole development goal.

Effect of the Rise of Terrorism in Nigeria

According to Orwa (1984), the rise of terrorism in Nigeria, as evidenced via the factual figures from the National Bureau of Statistics on the level of insecurity in Nigeria, to a large extent, has continued to retard socio-economic development in the country in many ways. As opined by Sasu (2023), states most affected by Boko Haram's deadly attacks in Nigeria from 2011 to 2023 include: Borno with 38255 deaths, Zamfara with 6803 deaths, Kaduna with 6195 deaths, Benue with 4391 deaths, Adamawa with 4127 deaths, Plateau with 3768 deaths and Yobe with 3229 deaths

Olukayode and Urhie (2014) identified some of the adverse effects of insecurity on the socio-economic development in the country as follow:

1. Social dislocation and population displacement
2. Social tensions and new pattern of settlements which encourages Muslims/Christians or members of an ethnic group moving to Muslim/Christian dominated enclaves.

3. Heightens citizenship question which encourages hostility between “indigenes” and “settlers”.
 4. Dislocation and disruption of family and communal life.
 5. General atmosphere of mistrust, fear, anxiety and frenzy
 6. Dehumanization of women, children, and men especially in areas where rape, child abuse and neglect are used as instruments of war.
 7. Deepening of hunger and poverty in the polity.
 8. Discourages local and foreign investment as it makes investment unattractive to business people.
 9. Halts business operations during period of violence and outright closure of many enterprises in the areas or zones where incidence of insecurity is rife and are on daily occurrence.
 10. Increases security spending by business organizations and governments.
 11. Migration of people from area or region where there is prevalence of insecurity
- This has made national security threat to be a major issue for the government in particular, stakeholders, the ordinary citizens in the country, and international organizations among others.

Theoretical Explanations of Terrorism in Nigeria

There are numerous theoretical explanations of terrorism as regard Nigeria and with reference to Boko Haram in particular. One school of thought argues that the will and dynamic approach in the fight against Boko Haram were short-lived, which wasted the success achieved in two years. When the government sought dialogue and negotiation and paid ransoms, it re-energized the terror group.

Another view is that the current administration was weakened when it began considering amnesty for repentant members of the group and swapping their prisoners for release of innocent Nigerian and foreign captives. Yet another view is that the group’s breakup into factions fueled internal competition, with the groups’ targets on the receiving end.

However, in line with this book chapter, Sikhakhane (2020) used two theories to explain the protracted crisis perpetrated by terrorism in Nigeria. They also amplify the other perspectives. The first theory explained the protracted crisis perpetrated by terrorism in Nigeria on the bases of certain factors at play. The theory argued that there are people in government who lack the will to fight because of religious and ethnic affiliations or connections. Some in government consider Boko Haram members as northerners or Muslims who should therefore be dealt with cautiously. Some military leaders have been accused of nepotism and of giving away vital details to compromise the onslaught against the terror gangs. The Borno State governor recently accused the military of sabotage in an attack on his convoy.

The second theoretical explanation is corruption. Since 2014 to date, some senior soldiers and their civilian counterparts directing the war have come to see the war budget as an endless means to draw money for personal enrichment. There are examples of counter-terrorism or so-called counter-insurgency funds stolen by the national security adviser and dozens of others as well as some isolated cases of stolen war money by some security or service chiefs. While some opted for plea bargains, others are still undergoing trial. In the same vein, there are still imprints of corruption in the Nigerian public sector despite the introduction of the TSA (Treasury Single Account). For example, the then-Secretary to the Federal Government of Nigeria, Babachir Lawal, was indicted in a N200 million contract controversy in 2016 for eradicating invasive plant species in IDP camps in Yobe State, Nigeria's NorthEastern state; the Director-General of Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mustapha Maihaja, was indicted in 2018 for mismanaging a N5.8 billion intervention fund allocated for interventions in the country's northeastern region (Iroegbu, 2018). Although these cases and more were investigated and appropriate actions were taken, the fact remains that public sector organizations in Nigeria are still plagued by issues of lack of accountability, gross misappropriation of public funds corruption among others. This has invariably influenced the perceptions of the public of the effectiveness of government anti-corruption strategies, one of which is the TSA (Nwambuko & Nnaeto, 2023).

The recent rise in banditry and demonstrations against it show that the people can no longer accept the circumstances. Boko Haram, Islamic State, bandits and kidnap gangs are threats to Nigeria's peace, stability, security and economic prosperity. Everyone wants a stop to it. What do we do?

Mitigating Terrorism in Nigeria

- i. There should be an increased involvement of the military, foreign partners and counter-terrorism measures as was in the case from 2011 to 2015. this would enable the government to get a grip of the terrorism situational threats in the country and prevent Boko Haram from growing strong, expanding its operations and defunct the declared Islamic Caliphate in Maiduguri (which is the heart of the crisis).
- ii. In order to curb the menace of terrorism in Nigeria, as advocated by Muhammad (2009), military force and aggression should be intensified to have complete control of the situation. Instances of compromised military intelligence remains a big problem the military high command must stop by itself
- iii. Corruption must be fought and conquered. The Borno governor once accused soldiers of extorting money from motorists where Boko Haram has a strong presence. Such practices must equally be stopped by the military high command itself.
- iv. The federal government should desist from engaging in dialogue, negotiation, ransom payments, amnesty and integration of repentant terrorists/insurgents into the army and society should as the solution. They will only serve as the internal seeds of destruction of the army and its efforts against terrorism. And any attempt to integrate "repentant" terrorists in the army will expose the military and security architecture to intelligence and operational compromises.
- v. The Inter-agencies collaboration of security and intelligence agencies has to be further encouraged such as National Intelligence Agency (NIA), State Security Services (SSS), Directorate of Military Intelligence (DMI), Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) and such others should be equipped in all ramifications to be able to cope with contemporary security challenges currently striving in the country (Nwambuko, Eleagu & Godwin, 2021)

vi. There is the urgent need to develop and have visionary leadership in Nigeria. That is, a leadership that would be detribalized. It is imperative that we have leaders who are focused on deeds and pronouncements which convincingly and positively impact on the entire citizenry of the country, not limited to championing the causes of their home state, tribe or religious groups. However, the process of developing visionary leadership can be challenging, but it can be overcome by using institutions of the Nigerian constitution as a nursery ground to produce leaders with national outlook and with a missionary zeal to transform the country for the better (Nwambuko, Eleagu & Godwin, 2021).

vii. There is also need to investigate or identify the kind of misery, grievances, misgiving, deprivations and despair that cause some people to take pleasure in terminating human lives, including their own sometimes. Basically, the investigation should be done with the view to effecting radical change in society and channel such deadly instincts towards peaceful ends based on dialogue, negotiation, resolution of conflict and mutual healing (Abisoye, 2012).

ix. There should be a complete overhaul of the security institutions in the country to reflect international standards of best practices so as to pre-empt these security breaches. Good incentives, good conditions of service and social security should be ensured. In fact, the failure of the intelligence services to contain the recurring security breaches, as an abnormality, should not be allowed to continue in the country.

Conclusion

National development is the primary goal of every well-meaning government, and it is essentially dependent on the level of socio-economic and political activities in a country; the level of these activities is in turn enhanced by peaceful co-existence by people. In the absence of adequate security management in any country, national development in that country cannot be sustained. The bane of Nigeria's national development is insecurity caused by terrorism. Thus, if we should allow the rise of terrorism to continue in the country, the already threatened national security cum national development will deepen and the consequence would be more devastating.

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CHAPTER 16

THE USE OF LINGUISTICS AS A STRATEGIES FOR FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN NIGERIA

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INTRODUCTION

Language is not innate or inborn. That is, no human being is born with a language but every living human being has an innate tendency for acquiring a language. Language is therefore a phenomenon whose learning is facilitated by contact with a sociolinguistic situation. Human development as individuals or groups is said to be impossible without the use of natural language and remains “the principal signaling system used by humans for the transmission of information since it is the most communicative of all semiotic systems (Osakwe, 2006). It occupies an important position in human life. It is very important because it is the means through which concepts, ideas, thoughts and facts can be conveyed. Language is indispensable to man because it helps man to give expression and fully explore his environment to his advantage (Kolawole, 2016).

Language occupies a very strategic position in human affairs. It is very strategic in the sense that language is the vehicle through which concepts, ideas, thoughts, facts and a host of others can be conveyed. According to Wardlaugh (1977), language is the “the cement of society”. It allows people “to tell the truth but also to tell lie or lies”. Without language, it would be impossible for human beings to live together in an organised society. Whatever scientific and technological breakthrough achieved by man is attributed to the existence of language. In fact, one wonders if there can be any breakthrough in the society without the existence and the appropriate use of language

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Langacker (1973) observes that language permeates our thoughts, mediates our relations with others and even creeps into dreams. Most human knowledge and culture are stored and also transmitted in language. Language is a carrier of culture as well as the vehicle for conveying thought as such it would be impossible to have or appreciate culture without this system of vocal symbols called language. Without any contradiction, we can say that all spheres of human life are pivoted on language. It serves as an anchor, a promoter and in fact, a prime mover of the society.

Language is culturally transmitted. It is the integral part of culture, a reflection of many features of a given culture. Like culture, it is learned behaviour which can be enhanced through direct or indirect context. No human being is born with a language. Learning is therefore a phenomenon whose learning is enhanced by contact with a sociolinguistic situation (Akindele and Adegbite, 2005). Anthony (2015) notes that language is any set of system of linguistic symbols as used in a more or less uniform fashion by a number of people who are enabled to communicate intelligibly with one another

Appreciating the importance of language in the society is also tantamount to understanding the role of language in promoting peace. It would be nauseating for one to begin to scratch from the surface how peace would be impossible if there is no language to serve as a vehicle for maintaining peace. Language is central in any nation if such a nation wants to move forward.

Nigeria Languages

According to Akindele and Adegbite (2005), Nigeria is made up of more than 250 ethnic groups with a conservative estimate of 400 languages. It is therefore, a multilingual and multicultural speech community whereby diverse languages and cultures compete. Apart from the indigenous languages, foreign languages also compete with other languages and cultures. Ethnologue (2019) reports that there are over 520 languages in Nigeria, there are still some major languages. Hausa, Urhobo, Fulfulde, Igbo, Yoruba, Ibibio, Edo and Kanuri have most

of the speakers in the country. Papua New Guinea has the most languages, with 840 living languages. Indonesia has 710 living languages and Nigeria has 515 living languages.

Peace is crucial for Nigeria's success, preserving its environment, cultural heritage, and collective existence as a nation. Johnson and Johnson (2006) opine that peace can be divided into two distinct forms. The first area could be categorized as violence, strife, and war. The second dimension could also be defined as the opposite of the first such as having common understanding, agreement and resolution that put an end to violence, war, and strife. The absence of strife, violence as well as war is referred to as period of peace. On one side there is discord, strife, uncommon ground, disagreement, and the winner or loser attitude which indicates social injustice while other side embraces a common goal, mutual understanding and benefits and this signifies social justice. Based on these viewpoints, when there are positive beneficial human relationships then there is presence of peace. Once there is mutual understanding by individual, nations or groups of people, then there is peace (Johnson and Johnson, 2006).

On the basis of all these propositions, Bar-Tal (2002) affirms that every society likes a peaceful environment and that every member of any society must be educated on how to sustain a peaceful living with oneself and others within the society. This act of education about peace is only possible through education in which school is the vehicle through which it can be achieved. Society recognizes that education of the younger generation, as regards peaceful living, can be possible through schools. The agencies of education such as the Ministry of Education and other bodies of education can design the required educational curriculum to train the younger generation peaceful lives.

Language and Politics in Nigeria

In a country as diverse as Nigeria, language has always played a significant role in shaping political outcomes and fostering peace among its various ethnic groups. With over 500 languages spoken across the nation, the ability to communicate effectively and understand one another is crucial for building a united and cohesive society. One of the key challenges in

Nigerian politics is the frequent use of language to incite violence and division among different ethnic groups. “Language use in Nigerian political campaigns and rallies can either enhance or destroy peace, security, and the electoral process” (Abubakar, 2023). Language, culture, and effective communication are better instruments for settling disputes than force in resolving conflicts in Nigeria (Ojoo, 2023). Politicians often exploit linguistic differences to rally support from their ethnic base, leading to conflict and unrest. This has been particularly evident in the run-up to elections, where inflammatory language is used to manipulate voters and stoke ethnic tensions.

However, language can also be a powerful tool for peacebuilding and reconciliation in Nigerian politics. By promoting inclusive and respectful communication, political leaders can bridge the gap between different ethnic groups and foster a sense of national unity. This was evident in the 2015 and 2023 presidential elections, where the use of language that emphasized unity and solidarity helped to reduce ethnic tensions and promote a peaceful transition of power. Peace is crucial for Nigeria's success, preserving its environment, cultural heritage, and collective existence as a nation (Nwanaju, 2015). In recent years, there have been efforts to promote multilingualism and cultural diversity in Nigerian politics. The National Institute for Nigerian Languages (NINLAN) has been established to promote the study and preservation of Nigeria's linguistic heritage, while the Language Policy of Nigeria seeks to promote the use of indigenous languages in education and governance.

Furthermore, the Nigerian Government has made efforts to promote peace through language policies, such as the National Language Policy which encourages the use of indigenous languages in education and official communication. By recognizing the importance of linguistic diversity and promoting language rights, the government can help to reduce ethnic tensions and promote peace among its diverse population. Qualitative language education in Nigeria can enhance national integration, peace, and security by promoting effective communication among citizens Omachonu, C. (2017).

In sum, language plays a crucial role in shaping political outcomes and fostering peace in Nigerian politics. By promoting inclusive communication and respecting linguistic diversity, political leaders can bridge the gap between different ethnic groups and promote national unity. With the right language policies and initiatives in place, Nigeria can harness the power of language to build a more peaceful and cohesive society.

Language and Religion in Nigeria

Ajibade, Komolafe-Johnson, & Issah (2023) mentioned that Language, religion, and culture can help promote peaceful co-existence among the people of southwestern Nigeria, but the intended peak of conflict resolution remains unattained. Language and religion play crucial roles in the diversity and unity of Nigeria, a country rich in culture and tradition. With over 250 ethnic groups and over 500 languages spoken, Nigeria is a melting pot of different beliefs, customs, and practices. Jacob (2016) in his work, “Religion, Peace and Security in Nigeria” stated that religion holds a significant place in the hearts of Nigerians, with the majority of the population being either Christian or Muslim. Both religions coexist peacefully, and the government guarantees freedom of worship to all citizens. However, there have been occasional tensions and conflicts between different religious groups, leading to violence and bloodshed.

Religion's involvement in politics can bring political security and blessings of God, improving the conduct and behavior of individuals in society. “Language plays a crucial role in shaping identity, linking individuals to specific communities and influencing their social status, religion, and age”. Ibrahim I (2022)

Language, serves as a powerful tool of communication and connection among the diverse ethnic groups in Nigeria. Each ethnic group has its language, which is an essential part of its identity and culture. The multitude of languages spoken in Nigeria can be both a source of strength and a challenge, as it can sometimes lead to miscommunication and misunderstanding.

Despite the diversity in language and religion, Nigerians have found ways to bridge the gaps and foster unity among themselves. One common thread that binds the different ethnic groups is the use of peace terms in resolving conflicts and promoting harmony. Peace terms are words or phrases that are used to express goodwill, reconciliation, and forgiveness in various languages spoken in Nigeria. These peace terms transcend language and religion, serving as a universal language of peace and understanding. They promote unity and solidarity among Nigerians, regardless of their differences. Through the use of peace terms, Nigerians can navigate the complexities of their diverse society and build a more inclusive and harmonious nation. Language and religion are prominent aspects of Nigerian society, influencing the way people communicate and interact with each other. Peace terms serve as a powerful tool in promoting unity and understanding among the diverse ethnic groups in Nigeria. By embracing these peace terms and fostering dialogue and reconciliation, Nigerians can overcome their differences and build a more peaceful and prosperous nation.

Language and Education in Nigeria

A uniformly implemented education policy in all schools can restore the use of Nigeria's indigenous languages as media of instruction in primary schools (Igboanusi, & Peter, 2016). Language and education are intricately linked in Nigeria, a country with numerous numbers of ethnic groups and languages. The diverse linguistic landscape of Nigeria poses various challenges and opportunities for the Education system in the country. Nigeria has an official language English, inherited from its colonial past under British rule. English is the language of instruction in schools and universities, and proficiency in English is seen as necessary for academic and professional success. However, English is not the first language for many Nigerians, and this of course poses significant barriers to learning for students whose mother tongue is not English.

In addition to English, Nigeria embraces three major indigenous languages as national languages: Yoruba, Hausa, and Igbo. These languages are taught in schools as part of the curriculum, but the quality and availability of teaching materials and trained teachers vary

widely in our country. As a result, many students do not have the opportunity to develop to the fullest, proficiency in their mother tongue, which may affect their overall academic performance and sense of cultural identity. The Nigerian Government has implemented various policies aimed at promoting the use of indigenous languages in education, such as the introduction of mother tongue-based multilingual education programs in some regions. These programs are designed to improve learning outcomes by allowing students to learn in their first language while gradually transitioning to English as a medium of instruction.

Language education in Nigeria faces challenges like negative perception, inadequate teaching staff, and lack of funds, but implementing trilingual education, compulsory and free basic education, and establishing quality assurance committees can improve outcomes (Iwuchukwu, 2021). Despite these efforts, challenges remain in bridging the gap between language diversity and educational success in Nigeria. The lack of resources, infrastructure, and trained teachers in many regions hinders the implementation of language policies, leaving many students at a disadvantage. Furthermore, the dominance of English in the education system has been criticized for perpetuating a colonial mindset and marginalizing indigenous languages and cultures. Some educators and activists argue that a more inclusive approach to language education is needed to promote cultural diversity and empower students to embrace their linguistic heritage “The use of mother tongue in Nigerian education is beneficial for cognitive, cultural, and national development, but challenges must be addressed to overcome these obstacles” Akinsanya, P., & Tella, D. (2019). Tongue in education in Nigeria. *International Journal of Educational Research*, 6, 1-14.

language and education in Nigeria are intertwined in a complex relationship that reflects the country's rich cultural diversity and historical legacy. Addressing the linguistic challenges facing the education system will require a concerted effort from policymakers, educators, and communities to ensure that all students have access to quality education that is inclusive of their linguistic and cultural diversity.

Language and Conflict in Nigeria

Peace is crucial for Nigeria's success, preserving its environment, cultural heritage, and collective existence as a nation. Johnson and Johnson (2006) opine that peace can be divided into two distinct forms. The first area could be categorized as violence, strife, and war. The second dimension could also be defined as the opposite of the first such as having common understanding, agreement and resolution that put an end to violence, war, and strife. The absence of strife, violence as well as war is referred to as period of peace. On one side there is discord, strife, uncommon ground, disagreement, and the winner or loser attitude which indicates social injustice while other side embraces a common goal, mutual understanding and benefits and this signifies social justice. Based on these viewpoints, when there are positive beneficial human relationships then there is presence of peace. Once there is mutual understanding by individual, nations or groups of people, then there is peace (Johnson and Johnson, 2006).

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Language is a powerful tool that can shape relationships, convey emotions, and facilitate communication. In the context of Nigeria, a country known for its diversity in language and culture, the role of language in conflicts cannot be understated. One of the key factors contributing to language-based conflicts in Nigeria is the country's rich linguistic diversity. With the languages so far spoken across the country, communication barriers often arise, leading to misunderstandings and tensions between different ethnic groups. For

example, the Hausa-Fulani, Yoruba, and Igbo are three of the largest ethnic groups in Nigeria, each with their own distinct language and cultural practices. When communication breaks down between these groups, it can escalate into violent conflicts fueled by language differences.

In a study by Abdul Aziz (2014), he explores how language differences have contributed to conflicts in Nigeria. He found that the use of derogatory language by one group towards another can provoke feelings of resentment and hostility, ultimately leading to violent confrontations. For instance, the use of derogatory terms like "foreigner" or "outsider" by one ethnic group towards another can fuel inter-ethnic tensions and conflict. Furthermore, language can also be used as a weapon in conflicts to dehumanize the opposing group. In a study by Omojola (2012), he discusses how hate speech and propaganda disseminated through language can incite violence and perpetuate discriminatory attitudes towards certain ethnic groups. For example, during the Biafran war in the late 1960s, derogatory language was used by both sides to dehumanize the opposing group, escalating the conflict and resulting in widespread violence and bloodshed.

On the other hand, language can also be a tool for reconciliation and peacebuilding in conflicts. In a study by Lebamoff (2016), she explores how language can be used to foster dialogue and understanding between conflicting parties. By promoting multilingualism and encouraging the use of common languages like English as a means of communication, conflicts can be mitigated and tensions diffused. The relationship between language and conflict in Nigeria is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires careful examination. While language differences can fuel tensions and violence, language can also be a powerful tool for reconciliation and peacebuilding. By understanding the role of language in conflicts and promoting intercultural dialogue and understanding, Nigeria can move towards a more peaceful and harmonious society.

Sustainable Peace in Nigeria Through Nigeria Languages

The role of language in promoting peace cannot be overemphasized. According to Prah (1995), language is a fund to which all human beings contribute and is generationally transferred in various contexts. Peace is crucial for Nigeria's success, preserving its environment, cultural heritage, and collective existence (Ojoo, 2023). In one form or the other, whether spoken or written, language involves humanity in its entirety, in much the same way that it voices the existence of specific groups. It is the basis of all cooperative forms of socialization. All records of humanity spoken and written are stored through the agency of language. Language is what has made the development and growth of culture possible.

Stork and Widdowson (1974) view language to be a creation of man's social needs to communicate, interact, socialize, love and be loved, educate their young ones, and develop. Language is the key instrument of communication and it is the principal means of establishing and sustaining social relations. It is closely tied to social structure and the value system of society (Trudgil, 1986). Chumbow (1983) said that language(s), in particular the indigenous languages must be treated as integral elements of any national (economic, social, and cultural) development plan. In his words: the language of a nation is its natural resources on the same level as its natural resources on the same level as its petroleum, minerals, and other natural resources.

These languages can therefore be harnessed and developed, if carefully planned, for the overall interest of the nation. However, if care is not taken and appropriate planning undertaken, multilingualism, like its twin sister, multi-ethnicism can be a source of strife in the body politic of the nation. It is evident in the quotation above that languages that can serve to promote national development are indigenous languages in Nigeria. However, the Nigerian elites have not really seen the need to disentangle themselves from the imperialists as evident in the fact that the educational policy of Nigeria is still the reflection of the colonial policy. This implies heavy reliance of the ex-colonial language, which as a rule the mother tongue of the students in the colonial motherland, but are foreign language for most Nigerian children.

This in the words of Wolff (2008), clearly shows the language factor as a facilitator in the home context of the European powers but a factor for failure in the colonized territory of Nigeria.

Conclusion

This paper has looked at promoting peace through Indigenous. Indigenous languages is the pathway to peace. Peace cannot be attainable without indigenous languages because progress in politics, economics, and health development are inseparable from indigenous languages. For Nigeria to be peaceful, indigenous languages should be used to promote peace.

For peace to be promoted, the Government must realize that indigenous languages have important roles to play in promoting peace because it is impossible to promote peace without communicating with people in the language they understand. Peace can only be achieved if indigenous languages are used in passing across information to people. Nigeria should embark on effective peace sensitization programs using indigenous languages.

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