The Nexus Between Security, Human Development, and Economic Stability: Addressing Insecurity as a Threat to National Growth in Nigeria

Charles Berebon

Abstract— Community insecurity in Nigeria raises critical human, economic, and political security concerns that demand attention from scholars and policymakers on a global scale. The complexity of these issues has led to the adoption of various security strategies, ranging from localized self-help security arrangements and community policing initiatives to joint security task forces at state and federal levels. Despite these efforts, the root causes of insecurity—such as social inequality, marginalization, weak institutions, human rights abuses, bad governance, poverty, globalization, militarization of migration, constitutional violations, and pervasive corruption—continue to exacerbate the situation. This study seeks to explore the emerging threats posed by community insecurity to human, economic, and political stability in Nigeria. The research employs a qualitative approach, utilizing library-based techniques to gather data and analyze the multifaceted dimensions of the problem. The findings emphasize that security and development are not mutually exclusive but are instead deeply interdependent. Addressing one without the other risks perpetuating the cycle of insecurity and underdevelopment. To tackle these issues effectively, the study suggests that a more robust and inclusive approach is necessary. A stronger engagement between security providers and local communities is paramount. This engagement must foster trust and cooperation, ensuring that security measures align with the unique needs and dynamics of individual communities. Furthermore, the study highlights the importance of addressing the systemic issues that fuel insecurity. This includes reforming institutions to strengthen governance, promoting social and economic inclusion, upholding human rights, and combating corruption at all levels. Addressing Nigeria's insecurity challenges requires a holistic strategy that goes beyond immediate responses to crises. It demands a long-term commitment to building resilient communities through sustainable development and effective governance. Collaborative efforts involving state actors, local communities, and international partners are essential to creating a secure and stable environment conducive to economic growth and social cohesion.

Keywords: Security; Human Development; Economic Stability; Insecurity; Nigeria.

1, Department of Philosophy Rivers State University, Nigeria, charles.berebon@ust.edu.ng.

INTRODUCTION

Community security has increasingly become a critical issue for scholars, the political class, and citizens across the global environment. It refers to the state of being free from threats, danger, or harm within one's immediate environment or society. Community insecurity, on the other hand, is the anxiety and vulnerability experienced when individuals feel unsafe due to attacks or threats from terrorist agents or groups. Traditionally, modern states define security through military and policy mechanisms. In Africa, security has largely been conceptualized as the protection of state boundaries, institutions, regimes, and the safety of lives and property.

West African nations, including Nigeria, aspire to foster peaceful environments that promote mutual relationships between governments and citizens. However, this goal is undermined by the region's lack of capacity for peace and stability, exacerbated by the erosion of public confidence in government. In Nigeria, the primary objective of the government is to maintain a society where citizens can pursue their political, economic, and social aspirations within the confines of the law. It is the government's responsibility to safeguard its citizens from both external aggression and internal violence, achieved through the establishment of robust military and police institutions.

Effective protection of citizens by the government, alongside appropriate conduct by individuals, is essential for national development. In Nigeria, however, community violence and insecurity have persistently undermined progress. These insecurities have driven away foreign investors, further impairing development, and are compounded by inadequate social amenities. For over a decade, the northeastern region of Nigeria has been plagued by Boko Haram, a militant group that has destabilized border communities, resulting in loss of lives, destruction of property and farmlands, and widespread displacement.

The return to democratic rule in 1999 marked a significant turning point in Nigeria's security challenges, with an upsurge in ethno-religious conflicts, mass abductions, hostage-taking, arson, cattle rustling, and terrorism. Initially concentrated in the North, these issues have since spread to other regions. Over two decades, the rise of militant groups has posed significant threats to the survival of governments, citizens, and foreign interests alike. The federal government has responded by labeling these acts as terrorism, leading to the enactment of the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2011. Despite these measures, Nigeria continues to rank poorly on global peace indices, placing 146th and as the 8th least peaceful country in Africa (Olaiya, 2021; IEP, 2021). The nation is categorized alongside countries like Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, and Iraq (The Sun, 2021).

Existing studies suggest that violence in Nigeria, including Niger Delta militancy, Boko Haram terrorism, and herdsmen attacks, is driven by a combination of economic and political factors such as poverty, unemployment, inequality, corruption, and poor governance (Olawale, 2003; Ikelegbe, 2006). Experts argue that violent extremism stems from decades of pervasive

corruption and governance neglect (Evans & Kelikume, 2019). For instance, Osagie, Fred, and Samuel (2010) highlighted that the deprivation of oil proceeds in the Niger Delta significantly fueled conflict in the region.

Community insecurity is not only a state of fear and vulnerability but also encompasses the existence of threats and actual harm within a collective social environment. These insecurities often arise from pervasive inequalities, ethno-religious conflicts, weak security systems, and a loss of communal values, leading to destructive activities such as terrorism and violent crimes.

The Federal Government of Nigeria, under the Buhari administration, introduced several policy measures to address these issues. For example, the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons Bill 2021 aimed to regulate the proliferation of arms. However, this policy has faced challenges such as poor security networks, corruption, porous borders, and political interference. Similarly, the Rural Grazing Area (RUGA) settlement initiative, designed to address herdsmen-farmer clashes, was suspended due to opposition from state governors and its inconsistency with the National Livestock Transformation Plan (National Network, 2019; Fowowe, 2019). Mediation, as employed by the National Boundary Commission to resolve boundary disputes, has also been ineffective, hindered by issues like over-politicization, tribalism, lack of expertise, favoritism, and corruption.

This study aims to explore how community insecurity threatens human, economic, and political survival in Nigeria. Its objectives include identifying the root causes of community insecurity, presenting empirical evidence of its existence, evaluating government policy options, and offering recommendations for effective solutions.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher employed a qualitative methodology, specifically a library-based technique. This approach relied on secondary data, including published and unpublished materials such as annual reports on security from government institutions, scholarly research reports, books by various authors, newspaper articles, internet resources, and historical documents related to community security in Nigeria. This method provided a comprehensive foundation for analyzing the multifaceted nature of community insecurity.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

In this section, attempts are made for the clarity of some concepts that are germane or integral to this study to create proper understanding in the contexts they are used. However, the context of the discussion is value laden and consists of subjective conditions rather than objective historical factors. All the definitions characterize political violence. According to Unal (2008), 'no agreement as to how to operationalize each of these terms according to a solid typology (prospective) and taxonomy (retrospective) based on clear and definitive criteria'.

Security is increasingly viewed as an all-encompassing condition in which people and communities live in freedom, peace and safety, participate fully in the governance of their countries, enjoy the protection of fundamental rights, have access to resources and basic necessities of life, and inhabit an environment which is not detrimental to their health and well-being. Here, the security of people and the security of the state are mutually reinforcing (OECD, Development Assistance Committee, 2000, Hussein, Gnisci and Wanjiru, 2004). However, Zedner (2000:201) argued that "the pursuit of security appears to require not merely an absence of threats but the positive reinforcement of public perceptions of their safety". The UNDP identified a number of threats on human life such as economic insecurity, food insecurity, personal insecurity, community insecurity and environmental insecurity (UNDP, 1994).

Security embraces all aspects of the society including economic, political and social dimensions of individual, family, community, local and national life. The security of a nation must be constructed in terms of the security of the individual citizen to live in peace with access to basic necessities of life while fully participating in the affairs of his/her society in freedom and enjoy all fundamental human rights (OAU Kampala Document, 1991).

Security is a dynamic condition which involves the relative ability of a state to counter threats to its core values and interests (Omede, 2012). Security of a nation hangs on two important pillars which are (1) the maintenance and protection of the socio-economic order in the face of internal and external threat and (2) the promotion of a preferred international order, which minimizes the threat to core values and interests, as well as to the domestic order (Mcgrew, 1998).

Community is assessed based on criteria like territory shared history, a common culture, or an established relationship among families living together interdependently (Mawby, 1990; Ekong, 2003). According to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), community safety or community security seeks to operationalize human security, human development and state building paradigms at the local level …The approach centres on ensuring that communities and members are "free from fear". It aims to protect people from the loss of traditional relationships and values and from sectarian and ethnic violence. Community security is realized through constant connection with community people by the state representatives such as security providers and local authorities.

Community Security is a process that focuses on promoting a community driven approach to understanding and providing security. It has a clear focus on improving the relationships between behaviours of communities, authorities and institutions. The process involves participatory or inclusion in democratic governances, interactions between social groups and better service delivery (Bennet, 2014). Insecurity in any context arises mostly from common sources (structural factors) and thrives where it finds enabling conditions (accelerators), though it manifests in various forms which may interact with one another (Uzoechina, 2017).

HUMAN SECURITY

Human Security is required following the recent challenges posed by both old and new security threats emanating from consistent poverty, domestic and international terrorism, ethnic conflict and financial stress. Human security is also needed to enable policy makers to adopt comprehensive approach to address threats created by aggression- and violent-prone elements. Human security implies the protection of major freedoms on which life depends. It means preventing people from experiencing severe and pervasive threats by creating enabling political, social, environment, economic, military and cultural systems that grant people opportunity for survival, livelihood and dignity (Commission for Human Security, 2003:4).

Human Security displays the following characteristics: People-Centred (individual is the focus of analysis); Multi-Sectoral (focuses on causes of threat like persistent poverty, unemployment, hunger, famine, unsafe food, malnutrition, environmental degradation, physical violence, child labour, interethnic and religious tensions, political repression and human rights abuses (UNDP Human Development Report, 1994 and HSU-OCHA); Comprehensive approach (integration of all the elements of threats by policy-makers for the purpose of tackling insecurity in a nation-state); Context-Specific Concept (insecurities vary across different regions different regions and demand that solutions be based on contextualization); Prevention-Oriented (centres on protection and empowerment). Human Security is not meant to displace state security but to co-exist with it in a mutually interrelated manner. Human Security reflects the wide scope of threats experienced by individuals within the state.

Human security is value-driven relating to security, stability, and sustainability of development gains. Secondly, human security makes no distribution between different kinds of human rights, be it political, economic, social, cultural, and legal. Human Security approach requires assessment of vulnerabilities and the capacities of the affected communities. It involves an assessment of the strategies needed to help prevent and mitigate the recurrence of insecurities. This will enable threats, vulnerabilities, capacities and strategies to be effectively examined (United Nations office for the Coordination of |Humanitarian Affairs (n.d.).

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Economic security implies the condition of having stable income or other resources to support a standard of living regularly. It includes: a) consistent solvency b) prediction of the future cash flow to a country or individual c) available of job and employment security. It also involves the financial support to those that are jobless, based on the level of production in a society. Economic security includes basic social security, which is defined as access to basic needs infrastructure in the areas of health, education, housing, information, and social protection, as well as work-related security (Gandhi, 2022; ILO). Tamošiūnienė and Munteanu (2015) provide a broader definition of economic security in their joint research. In their opinion, economic security is a priority element of modern national security, which can arise in any modern society,

because safety of energy, transport, communications, army, food, etc. that cannot exist outside the national economic.

The overall objective of economic security is to ensure sustained economic growth and development. It also ensures economic and financial well-being of people. Deficit in economic security will be felt seriously by the people, disturb governance and deracinate governments (Paler, 2022). Economic security" has emerged as a key aspect of national strategy to ensure the safety of citizens and preserve the value of the nation (Kazuto, n.d.).

Persistent community insecurity affects a nation's economy when government fails to curb various groups responsible for it. The work of Adagbami (2013) opined that insecurity is detrimental to general well-being of the people and has led to destruction of business and properties and relocation of industries. Okereke (2012) stated that human capital investment collapsed and become a threat against the economy due to the attacks on banks, market, parks and government department in northern Nigeria leading to economic backwardness in Nigeria, causing the increase in poverty, unemployment and failure in sustainable human development that is not only prevalent in the northern part but the entire country as well as neighbouring countries like chad, Cameroon, Niger and Benin republic.

Political Security

Political security is the prevention of government act of repression, gradual violation of citizens' fundamental rights and the use of military to suppress opposition. It was defined as the prevention of government repression, systematic violation of human rights and threats from militarization. This established an agenda that would protect people against states that continued to practice political repression, systematic torture, ill treatment and disappearance (Hassan, 2015). The political insecurity arises when the collective coexistence is affected by changes in the systems of government or by state decrees that alter a more or less established order. The term political insecurity is measured using five indicators: killing/assassination, enforced disappearance, torture, arbitrary imprisonment and lack of press freedom (Usman, 2012). The basic assumption of this study is that political insecurity leads to human insecurity in Nigeria. Political insecurity emanates from political ideology, leadership exposure, nature of political culture and socialization process of citizens.

ELEMENTS OF COMMUNITY INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

The elements of community insecurity in Nigeria include insurgency and terrorism, sucessionist movements, inter-community conflicts, urban crimes, ethnic violence, banditry, abduction, mass killings, suicide bombing, rape, disruption of properties, herdsmen and anti-democratic activities. Insurgency represents an intermediate step in the spectrum of conflict, which ranges from stable peace to general war (U.S. Army, Field Mnual, 2008). The principal strategy for insurgencies is the use of violence within the context of direct, armed struggle in asymmetric modes of warfare

for political claim making (Kiras, 2007). According to Tanko (2021), Nigeria is faced with an unprecedented wave of different but overlapping security crises - from kidnapping to extremist insurgencies - almost every corner of the country has been hit by violence and crime.

Community Insecurity and Insurgency

Causes of Community Insecurity

on causes of violence in Nigeria identify many factors like corruption, injustice, hunger, poverty and despondency in the midst of plenty cornered and monopolized by the leaders who use instruments of coercion to suppress the masses in their agitations (Hendrix, 2016; Okoli and Nachanaa, 2016; Oladipo 2013; Olu-Adeyemi, 2017).

Unemployment

The degree of participation in local violence is tantamount to the level of unemployment in a country. The rate at which unemployment has increased in Nigeria is alarming since the 90s with a huge number of graduates roaming the streets. With the daily collapse of industries and departure of foreign investor, the certainty of not securing jobs is high. Youth unemployment as at 2020 was 21.7% (Nairametrics, 2020). The figure however rose to 32.5% and the country is in the middle of one of the worst economic downturns in 27 years (Tanko, 2021).

Internal and External influence

The activities of sponsors of community insecurity within and outside the state have impacts on the success of agents of terrorism. The wealthy citizens use their resources to promote violence in order to disorganize the peaceful environment. Survey showed that 6 Nigerians were among those 38 people prosecuted by UAE for sponsoring terrorism (Sahara Reporters, 2021). The supply of ammunitions by the rich to the agents of violence increases the outright disregard for laws regulating citizens' conduct. Secondly, influence from other members of terrorist groups outside the country has further polarized violence in communities.

Ungoverned spaces

The vulnerability of communities in Nigeria to attack by the various violent groups resulted from the government failure to provide for security in those remote area. This development has provided opportunity for arbitrary penetration in those communities without fear of reprisal. The vulnerability of a human settlement is affected due to its location and inability for physical resistance (Brauch, 2011). Individuals not empowered to develop resilience to difficult situations in their communities (CHS, 2003). To avert incessant attack, government should aim at the identification and promotion of, and support for, existing coping mechanisms at community level (ICRC, 2012). There is a

profound lack of police presence in the rural areas than the urban centers (Lindström, 2015).

Porosity of institutional capacity

The extent of overcoming the vulnerability of agents of community violence is determined by the institutional capacity puts in place by the government. The security institutions have to improve on their performance to enable them to overcome the onslaught of the militant groups. Improvement will be attained when adequate security budget is granted to military institutions, well-sophisticated ammunitions are purchased, regularly military training is put in place, and capacity, effective military surveillance, security intelligence and military reforms exist. The foundations of the institutional framework in Nigeria are very shaky and have provoked deterioration of state governance and democratic accountability (NSACC, 2021).

Existence of marginalisation of minority groups

Nigeria is a country with different ethnic groups with each trying to have dominance over the economic, political and social system. While it is true that Nigeria is a federation, it is equally true right that the federation is created out of circumstances through emergency of states which coexisted in coercive unity. The agitation for recognition by those in the minority at the federal level for even development resulted to the establishment of different insurgent groups to distabilise the society by unleashing terror on innocent citizens.

The violence in Nigeria can be said to be as a result of the prevailing political marginalization (Okoli & Nachanaa, 2016). Without a doubt, the citizens feel excluded, marginalized, victimized, abused, and frustrated (Evans & Ikechukwu, 2019)

Judicial manipulation of justice and inequality

The struggle for justice by citizens in the face of corrupt and disrepute judicial system has led some citizens to create a state of terror and violence when justice is denied by the court, particularly on issues affecting their community, individuals and the government authority. The scarcity of equity and justice in Nigeria that has essentially increased the threat and danger of crime and violence. This stark and pervasive inequality has led to acts of social disorder, otherwise called insecurity. The neglect of social justice by the government has made violent-ridden individuals to justify the act of terrorism in affected communities. According to Onuegbu (2021), the Coalition of South East Youth Leaders (COSEYL), an apex socio-political front for all youth groups in the Southeast region, identified the lopsided appointments into federal government owned institutions against the principle of federal character as factor responsible for alarming insecurity in the country. According to The Sun (2021), since the abduction and consequent incarceration of Mazi Nnamdi Kalu by the government, the rate of community security has increased tremendously.

Ethic crisis

Community clashes usually emanate from lack of tolerance, attempt to usurp the rights of members of other communities, and expansionist tendency. Ethnic crisis is so rampart and often generate destruction of properties, economic activities, political instability, maiming and killing of people. According to Stremlau (1999), "polarisation between ethnic groups and resulting conflict between them as they compete for resources, political and economic power and other goals, has spawned negative consequences of tremendous proportions, of which genocide, ethnic cleansing and civil war are but a few examples, have caused several losses of lives, livelihoods, displacements as well as properties".

Poverty growth

The level of growth in different communities in Nigeria increased to the extent that individuals considered a suicidal act to mitigate their suffering. The more poverty increases the higher the level of aggression. The inability of citizens to have access to food, shelters, clothes, good health care facility, and education due to lack of money prompt them to take harm, particularly, when certain groups assured them of such provisions. The struggle for survival, therefore, is the reason for the series of violence, including the constant, oil theft/bunkering, piracy, and kidnapping in the Niger Delta, asymmetrical bombings and attacks across the northern half of the country by Boko Harram, and the attacks, kidnappings and killings by herdsmen (Evans and Kelikume, 2018; Hendrix, 2016; Okoli and Nachanaa, 2016; Oladipo 2013; Olu-Adeyemi, 2017).

Agitation for development

Development in every society should spread to every community without any preferential for one at the detriment of another. In some of the communities in Nigeria, the non-provision of resources for development due to vagaries of reasons has resulted to violent demonstrations among the indigenes to compel those in authority to reckon with their interests. Failure of government to provide adequate security attracts criminals who exploit the poor infrastructure to terrorize innocent rural dwellers (Ceccato, 2016).

Environmental pollution and non-compensation

Environmental pollution in the southern part of Nigeria, especially in the Niger Delta, and the noncompensation of affected communities by the multinational companies are some of the fundamental factors for the consistent attack of oil ridge, abduction and killing of expatriates as well as unending bombing of government institutions. For instance, the indigenes of oil-rich Niger Delta regions of Nigeria resisted the operation of oil firms in their communities by establishing different militant groups such as Niger Delta Volunteer Force (NPVF), Movement for the Survival of Ogoni (MOSOP), Ijaw Youth Council (IYC), Movement for the Emancipation of the

Niger Delta (MEND) among others to create a state of terror in that environment (Ukeje, 2001; Okonofia, 2016; Miapyen & Bozkurt, 2020).

Secessionist bid

The attempt by the three major ethnic groups in Nigeria to secure self-independent through their various militant groups often result to community insecurity. There are Oodua group seeking for Oduduwa Republic and Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB), Niger Delta Republic, Arewa Republic which considered their existence in Nigeria as an error created by the British Colonial administrators who never took into cognizance cultural and historical differences in the course of fussing the various geographical regions together. Secondly, the insistence of the North to hold on to power is another reason for secessionist movement. According to Adibe (2017), there is a big disparity in geographic size and population among the various ethnic, religious, and cultural groups in Nigeria, which makes notions like "fairness" and "justice" relative and contentious when it comes to access to power and the allocation of investments by the federal government.

Religious superiority, imposition, and dominance

Since independence, the danger posed by religion in Nigeria has astronomical destruction to the peaceful co-existence of individuals within and without communities. The major reasons are the rivalry among religions, attempt to impose one particular religion on others through violence. Hazen and Horner, (2007), Salawu (2010) and Igbuzor, (2011) considered community insecurity in Nigeria to have been influenced by religious rivalry.

Non-sanction of crime offenders

The failure of the government to impose death penalty on insurgents, terrorists and other violent-minded groups have made it terribly difficult to control the surge of community insecurity that ravaged the Nigerian nation over the years. Those arrested by the government and found guilty by the court are usually freed. For instance, the Boko Haram, Herdsmen, Bandits, and Secessionist groups are usually granted amnesty and shielded by the government. The action of Nigeria government contravenes UNGA's recommendation of 2015. According to recommendation by United Nations General Assembly (2015), Boko Haram terrorists should be punished and that no amnesty should be granted to them for abusing and violating international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

Outright disregard for social and cultural values

The disregard for human lives by abductors, terrorists and militant groups is responsible for persistent insecurity in the various communities in Nigeria. Our value system places high premium on human life and despises greed, oppression and exploitation of the weak. Due to the unnecessary abdication of these values, killings,

kidnapping and ritual murder are what we hear almost every now and then. Onifade, Imhonopi & Urim (2000) contends that the youth have fast abandoned our value system and imbibe the western values.

CATALOGUE OF COMMUNITY INSECURITY

Nigeria in recent times has witnessed an unprecedented level of insecurity such as Boko Haram activities, banditry, kidnapping, Fulani-Herders-Farmers clashes, Niger Delta militants and regional secessionist groups such as Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and its militia wing, Eastern Security Network (ESN) in the name of nationalism. The total deaths recorded between 2011 and 2022 was 41, 659 according to data compiled by Gavin (2022) in the Nigeria Security Tracker, 2022. The increasing bifurcation of Nigeria emanated from the events that took place in May 29, 2011, during the inauguration of President Ebele Jonathan which was based on religious and regional lines mixed with political, economic, or social grievances (Gavin, 2022). In 2011, Zamfara witnessed a spate of armed attacks and rapidly intensified violence (Egbejule, 2022).

According to Global Conflict Tracker (2022), since 2011, attacks were made by Boko Haram, one of the largest Islamist militant groups in Africa, has conducted terrorist attacks on religious and political groups, military, as well as civilians in busy markets and villages. In April 2014, over 200 girls were abducted. Between January and June 2021 alone, over 2,943 abduction cases and 5,800 death cases were reported by Nigeria Security Tracker, 2021 (Ayodele, 2021). According to SBM Intelligence, kidnappings in the country have increased. Between June 2011 and the end of March 2020, at least $18 million was paid to kidnappers as ransom (Nigeria Country Commercial Guide, International Trade Administartion,2021). Between December 11, 2020 and February 26, 2021, 730 secondary school students in Katsina, Niger and Zamfara States were abducted (WANEP, 2021). 1,181 people (including 362 children and 103 females) kidnapped in Nigeria between January and February 2021 (WANEP, 2021).

The drivers of displacement in Nigeria are multi-faceted, complex, and often overlapping. Boko Haram and other Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) are major agents behind displacement in the Northern Region since 2014. Crime, cattle rustling, land disputes, armed violence and tensions between pastoralists and farmers escalated in the central, north central, and north-west regions in 2020, following the trend of the past three years conflict and violence led to <u>169,000 new displacements in 2020</u> and about 2.7 million people were living in displacement as of the end of the year, an increase from 2019. (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, IDMC, 2020).
In order to subdue this menace from Boko Haram, Nigeria formed a joint task force with Benin, Cameroun, Chad, and Niger.

INSECURITY AND ITS THREATS TO ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

Nigeria is faced with an unprecedented wave of different but overlapping security crises - from kidnapping to extremist insurgencies - almost every corner of the country has been hit by violence and crime. The increasing rate of threats emanating from insecurity has discouraged domestic and foreign business investors from participating effectively in the growth and development of the economy because it has assumed a dangerous dimension from simple protest to violent-ridden, bombing, abducting and killing. The consistent and persistent rate of insecurity has fuelled anti-social acts such as armed robbery, ethnic crisis, assassination, militancy, banditry, abduction, and illegal killing. Insecurity does not only affect the corporate existence of Nigeria but also have a devastating impact on economic development. The most challenging insecurity is Boko Haram insurgency, which has hindered peace in the northern part of Nigeria among ethnic communities.

In every society, economic security is intricately linked to national security. Hence, the epidemic proportion of criminality in Nigeria has ramifications for its economy. Insecurity has resulted to   disruption of economic activities, decimation of consumer confidence,   decrease in foreign direct investment (FDI),disproportionate defence spending vis-à-vis other economic sectors, the struggle for personal survival undermines innovation, increase in brain drain, perverse incentives, decline in productivity, possible national isolation, and deepening corruption at all levels (Financial Nigeria, 2020). Available data on the economic impact of violence on countries' Gross Domestic Product (GDP) according to the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP) in its 2021 report on the economic value of peace, showed that as much as eight per cent of Nigeria's GDP or $132.59 billion (N50.38 trillion at N380/$1) is being impacted economically by growing violence around the country (Adekoya, 2021).

The scale of insecurity has not only threatened the human lives, but also, the survival of Nigeria democracy. Political struggles among the political class, politics of rancour and bitterness, ethnic based politics and intimidation of opposition groups, the use of state apparatus to undermine others are the major sources of insecurity in Nigerian state. Public participation in politics is impaired by consistent political violence which has led to loss of life and property. More than anything else, the greatest obstacle to the country's democracy is the pervasive insecurity of lives and property, as evidenced by the spate of armed robbery attacks, assassinations, kidnappings, armed banditry, ethnic and religious conflicts, coupled with the seeming helplessness of security agencies to handle criminal acts (Mallam & Mijah, 2018; Jae, 2018).There are roadblocks to a strong democracy in Nigeria at all levels of government. Conflict—triggered by political competition and communal, ethnic, religious or resource allocation rivalries—poses a major threat to democracy.

The election of 2019 was marked with persistent attacks by factions of the insurgent group Boko Haram in the northeast; increased communal violence between nomadic

herdsmen and farmers spreading southward from north-central states; and a dramatic uptick in banditry, kidnapping, and killings in the northwestern states of Kaduna, Katsina, and Zamfara of voters as some had to stay away from polling booths because of threats on their lives (Human Rights Watch, 2019).

CONCLUSION

Insecurity in Nigeria is not a national problem as most people think but rather trans-national. Nigeria need to look beyond its borders for insurgents, as well as overhauling its economic plan to totally eliminate this visible and invisible enemy. The existence of threat due to menace posed by agents of conflict and violence in any nation has a great bearing on its human, economic, political, and social survival. Over the years, Nigeria as a nation has been battling with threat of insecurity following the activities of Boko Haram, bandits, abductors, Fulani-Herdsmen, and other militias. The implication of this development on the economy is devastating as huge amount of money is being allocated to security in the national budget.

In order to curb this menace, there is need to adopt new approach such as: consistent training of security men with modern equipment to meet global best practice standard, acquisition of sophisticated ammunition, employing intelligence services to contain the recurring security breaches, addressing the root causes of insecurity in the country, formulating and implementing stringent laws, and criminalizing terrorism.

WAY FORWARD

To address the challenges posed by community insecurity in Nigeria, the following recommendations should be considered:

1. Need for Police Reforms

Police reforms are critical to addressing the systemic challenges faced by Nigeria's law enforcement institutions. These challenges include widespread disregard for the rule of law, lack of operational autonomy due to political interference, citizen distrust of law enforcement agents, inadequate resources and facilities to combat crime and violence, corruption, recruitment of unqualified personnel, poor remuneration and denial of pension allowances, weak institutional leadership, and lack of consistent training or technological exposure in handling modern weapons (Alemjka & Rutere, 2018).

Reforms should focus on decentralizing the police force to allow states to implement security measures tailored to their communities. For example, a bill should be passed enabling states to establish their security frameworks. Initiatives such as *Amotekun* in Western Nigeria should receive federal backing to operate effectively. Ibrahim and Bala (2018) note the significant contributions of vigilante groups like the Civilian Joint Task Force and organized hunters in reducing the threats posed by Boko Haram.

2. Good Governance

The prevalence of violence in Nigerian communities is closely linked to bad leadership. Since independence, both democratic and military regimes have often failed to prioritize good governance, which is vital for addressing societal dissatisfaction. Good governance involves adherence to the rule of law, constitutional sovereignty, respect for human rights, equitable distribution of resources, economic stability, and the creation of a peaceful environment through mediation and reconciliation.

As Oluwa (2012) highlights, good governance requires effective, visionary, transparent, trustworthy, and credible political leadership. Leaders should prioritize the collective well-being of citizens through well-conceived policies and human development programs that address issues such as unemployment, social justice, and equitable resource distribution.

3. Raising Peacekeeping Groups

Conflicts are inevitable in any society due to diverse human interests. However, effective conflict management distinguishes developed nations. Establishing peacekeeping groups as mediators, reconciliatory agents, and conflict managers can mitigate conflicts before they escalate. Government efforts should include initiating dialogue mechanisms and forming peace clubs involving local actors such as LGA officials, religious leaders, traditional authorities, community members, and security forces (NSRP, 2017).

4. Discouragement of Illegal Importation of Ammunition

The influx of illegal ammunition into Nigeria exacerbates insecurity. Insurgents, herdsmen, kidnappers, Boko Haram members, and secessionist groups access weapons through porous borders and corrupt channels. Companies and individuals facilitating this trade should face severe penalties, and the government must enhance border security to block illicit arms trafficking. The Nigerian borders, especially those shared with the Republic of Niger, Chad, and Benin, require constant surveillance. Adeola and Oluyemi (2012) note that the accessibility of small arms and light weapons contributes significantly to the rise of militant and criminal activities.

5. Adopting Security Measures

The government should adopt robust security measures to address community insecurity. These measures include:
Conducting constant surveillance of national borders to prevent terrorist infiltration and the illicit importation of small arms and light weapons (SALW).
Identifying and dismantling terrorist financing networks.
Enhancing domestic inter-agency cooperation and promoting information sharing among ECOWAS member states (FATF, 2013).

6. Identifying Groups and Institutions Sponsoring Violence

The government must identify and prosecute individuals and institutions financing insurgencies and terrorism. These sponsors provide weapons, funds, and strategic information to criminal groups. Measures to curb their influence include:
Preventing money laundering techniques that enable terrorist funding.
Imposing sanctions on sponsored groups, freezing their financial accounts, and dismantling their investment networks.

7. Combating Corruption

Corruption within public institutions hampers security efforts. High-profile cases, such as the diversion of $2 billion meant for ammunition procurement by Sambo Dasuki (O'Grady, 2015; Reuters, 2016), illustrate the detrimental impact of corruption. Similarly, Onuoha (2021) estimates that Nigeria loses over $15 billion annually to illicit financial flows.
Anti-corruption measures should include:
Enforcing a strict code of conduct for public officials.
Requiring asset declarations for public servants.
Increasing transparency in the allocation and expenditure of security funds.
Regularly auditing government departments involved in procurement.
Ensuring merit-based appointments to public offices.

8. Equipping Security Agencies

The inadequacy of modern equipment among Nigeria's security agencies undermines their ability to combat crime and insurgency effectively. Increasing the security budget to procure sophisticated equipment and modernize crime-fighting tools should be a government priority. Phenson (2014) observes that the Nigerian police lack firepower, forensic laboratories, and modern communication systems, essential for professional law enforcement. The Guardian (2021) emphasizes the government's acknowledgment of the need for increased security personnel to address rising insecurity effectively.

9. Creating an Environment of Peace

Nigeria's ethnic diversity and history of military interruptions make governance challenging. Promoting peace requires adopting a constitutional framework that upholds the rule of law, protects human rights, and fosters accountability. Electoral reforms, anti-corruption measures, and strengthened security institutions are crucial to creating a stable environment. The failure of political leaders to meet citizens' expectations often fuels resistance and unrest.

10. Implementing Punitive Measures

To deter criminal activities, strict punitive measures must be enforced. Kidnappers, insurgents, and other perpetrators of violence should face swift trials and appropriate punishments, including capital punishment where applicable. Enforcing these measures will discourage further acts of violence.

11. Blocking Sources of Funding

Identifying and intercepting financial channels used by terrorist groups is crucial. Thorough investigations should determine whether funding originates domestically or internationally. Partnerships with foreign nations can help intercept external financial support. Domestically, the government must monitor and block local supply channels.

12. Multi-Stakeholder Approach

A collaborative approach involving traditional and community leaders, pressure groups, civil society organizations, academics, media personnel, and security experts can strengthen intelligence gathering and information sharing. Public sensitization campaigns through print and digital media, conferences, and seminars should promote peaceful coexistence regardless of religious, political, or ethnic differences. By adopting these measures, Nigeria can address the root causes of community insecurity and work towards sustainable peace and development.

REFERENCES

Adegbami, A. (2013). Insecurity: A Threat to Human Existence and Economic Development in Nigeria‟ www.liste.org

Adekoya F. (2021). *Nigerians pay more for insecurity as economic impact hits N50tr. The Guardian*. https://guardian.ng/news/nigerians-pay-more-for-insecurity-as-economic-impact-hitsn50tr/ Adeola, G. & Oluyemi, F. (2012). The Political and Security Implications of Cross Border Migration between Nigeria and Her Francophone Neighbours, *International Journal of Social Science Tomorrow.* 1 (3), 1-9.

Adibe, J. (2017). *Separatist agitations in Nigeria: Causes and trajectories*. Brookings. https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2017/07/12/separatist-agitations-in-nigeriacauses-and-trajectories/

Bennet, W. (2014). *Community Security Handbook*. London: Safeworld.

Ceccato, V. (2016). *Rural Crime and Community Safety*. Routledge, Abingdon, Oxon.

Centre for Prevent Action (May 4, 2022). Conflict with Boko Haram in Nigeria. *Global Conflict Tracker*. Commission on Human Secusrity. (CHS, 2003). *Human Security Now:* Final Report, New York: CHS.

Evans, O. & Kelikume, I. (2018). The effects of foreign direct investment, trade, aid, remittances and tourism on welfare under terrorism and militancy. *International Journal of Management, Economics and Social Sciences.*7 (3), 206-232.

Evans, O. & Kelikume, I. (2019). The impact of poverty, unemployment, inequality, corruption and poor governance on Niger Delta militancy, Boko Haram terrorism and Fulani herdsmen attacks in Nigeria, *International Journal of Management, Economics and Social Sciences (IJMESS)*, ISSN 2304-1366, IJMESS International Publishers, Jersey

City, NJ, 8 (2), 58-80, http://dx.doi.org/10.32327/IJMESS/ 8.2.2019.5

Financial Action Task Force (FATF, 2013). *Terrorist Financing in West Africa. FATF Report,* Paris,France.https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/TF-in-West-Africa.pdf Financial Nigeria (2020). Ten economic consequences of growing insecurity in Nigeria. https://www.financialnigeria.com/ten-economic-consequences-of-growing-insecurity-in nigeria-blog-512.html

Fowowe, S. (July 3, 2019). FG Suspends RUGA. *The Guardian.*

Gandhi, Y. (2022). Economic Security: Meaning Importance and Types. *Analyticssteps.* Economic

Security: Meaning, Importance and Types | Analytics Steps

Gavin, M. (2022): https://www.cfr.org/nigeria/nigeria-security-tracker/p29483).

Hassan, O. (2015) "Political security: from the 1990s to the Arab Spring", Contemporary Politics, 21:1, pp.86-99 https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/ 13569775 .2014.993907

Hazen, J. & Horner, J (2007). *Small Arms, Armed Violence, and Insecurity in Nigeria: The Niger Delta in Perspective*, Switzerland: Small Arms Survey.

Hendrix, S. (2016). Combating terrorism and violent extremism in Nigeria: Defining a new approach to winning modern Jihadist conflict. *The International Lawyer*. 49(3), 427-450.

Human Rights Watch (2019). *Nigeria Widespread Violence Ushers in President's New Term: Investigate Attacks, Ensure Justice.* https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/06/10/nigeria widespread-violence-ushers-presidents-new-term

Igbuzor, O. (2011). Peace and Security Education: A Critical Factor for Sustainable Peace and National Development, *International Journal of Peace and Development Studies.* 2(1), 1-7, January.

Ikelegbe, A. (2006). Beyond the threshold of civil struggle: youth militancy and the militarization of the resource conflicts in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. *African Study Monographs.* 27(3), 87-122

Imhonopi, D. & Urim, U. (2013). The Development of Labor Movements and State Interference. The Nigerian Experience. *The Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa (JSDA).* Clarion University Pennsylvania USA. 12 (2), 236-252.

Institute for Economics and Peace (n.d) Retreived from: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, IDMC, (2020). https://www.internal-displacement.org /countries/nigeria

International Committee of Red Cross, ICRC (2012). *Enhancing Protection for Civilians in Armed Conflict and other situations of violence*, Geneva, Switzerland. https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/assets/files/other/icrc-002-0956.pdf International

Labour Organisation (n.d.). *What we mean when we say "Economic Security".* Definitions final_1.PDF (ilo.org)

Jae, Y. (2018). Restructuring Insecurity and Religious Extremism in Africa. Kaduna Journal of Political Science. Vol. 5, No. 1 June 2018, pp 195-216.

Kazuto, S. (n.d.). *Modern Economic Security: Definition and Arguments*. Discuss Japan, Japan Foreign Policy Forum. DJweb_66_dip_04.pdf (japanpolicyforum.jp)

Kiras, J. (2007). Irregular warfare: Terrorism and insurgency. *Understanding Modern Warfare*, 224.

Lindström, P. (2015). Police and crime in rural and small Swedish municipalities. *J. Rural Stud.,* 39, 271-277

McGrew, T. (1988). "Security and Order" in Smith, M., Smith, S. & White, B. (eds.), *British Foreign Policy Tradition, Change and Transformation.* London: Allen and Unwin Ltd.

Miapyen, B. &, Bozkurt, U. (2020) Capital, the State, and Environmental Pollution in Nigeria. *SAGE Open.* https://doi.org/10.1177/2158244020975018

Mustafa C. (2016). Terrorism versus insurgency: a conceptual analysis. *Crime Law Soc Change.* DOI 10.1007/s10611-015-9601-7, Springer.

Nairametrics (2020, August 14) *13.9 million Nigerian youth are unemployed – NBS.*

https://nairametrics.com/2020/08/14/13-9-million-nigerian-youth-are-unemployed-as-at-q22020- nbs/

National Network (July 3, 2019). Why RUGA Settlement was Suspended- President. Nigeria Country Commercial Guide, International Trade Administration, (2021). https://www .trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/nigeria-safety-and-security

NSRP (2017). *Lessons Learned: State-Citizen Platforms.* December 2017, http://www.nsrpnigeria.org/wpcontent/uploads/2017/12/Lessons-Learned-Addressing-Grievance-through- StateCitizen-Platforms.pdf.

OAU Kampala Document (1991). *Towards a Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Co-operation in Africa.*

OECD, Development Assistance Committee Guidelines (2000). *Helping Prevent Violent Conflict*, OECD, Paris.

O'Grady, S. (2015, November 18). In Nigeria, $2 Billion in Stolen Funds Is Just a Drop in the Corruption Bucket. *FP News.* https://foreignpolicy.com/2015/ 11/18/in-nigeria-2-billion-in-stolen-funds-isjust-a-drop-in-the-corruption-bucket/

Okereke, N.C. (2012) Implementing the Nigeria defence policy: reflection and the Boko Haram crisis, Nigeria Defence and Security: Policies and Strategies. Medusa Academic Publisher Ltd

Okoli, A. & Nachanaa, A. (2016). Militancy and the dilemma of Petro rentier criminality in the Niger Delta. *Online Journal of Arts, Management & Social Sciences*, 1(1), 219-237.

Okonofua, B. (2016). *The Niger-Delta amnesty program: The challenges of transitioning from peace settlement to long term peace* (pp.1–16). SAGE Open.

Oladipo, S.B. (2013). *Vision 20-20-20 and the menace of vandalism*: Xlibris Corporation.

Olaiya, T. (2021, June 18). Nigeria ranks 146th on Global Peace Index, 8th least peaceful in Africa. *The Guardian.*

Olu-Adeyemi, L. (2017). Deprivation, frustration and aggression: an interrogation of Fulani herdsmen terror in Nigeria. *Advances in Social Sciences Research Journal,* 4(15), 1-13. Olaiya, T. (2021, June 18). Nigeria ranks 146th on Global Peace Index, 8th least peaceful in Africa. *The Guardian.*

Olawale, I. (2003). *Youth, culture, state collapse and nation building in West Africa: The nexus revisited.* Paper presented at the Council for the Development Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), West Africa Sub-Regional Conference, 6-7 September. Cotonou, Benin.

Oluwa, K. (2012). *Fixing Nigeria: Good Governance as the Missing Link*. Retrieve from:http:newsbreaknigeria.com/.../Fixing+ Nigeria%3 A+Good+gove rna

Omede, A. J. (2012). Nigeria: Analysing the Security challenges of the Goodluck Jonathan Administration. *Canadian Social Science,* 7(5), 90-102.

Onuegbu, O. (2021, September 26). Revealed! Real Cause of Insecurity in South East. *Blueprint* https://www.blueprint.ng/revealed-real-cause-of-insecurity-in-south-east/

Onuoha, C. (2021, April 26). Corruption: Nigeria loses over $15 billion to illicit financial flow annually- HEDA. *Vanguard.* https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/04/corruption-nigeria- loses over15-billion-to-illicit-financial-flow-annually-heda/

Reuters (2016, Jan. 22). Nigeria's former security adviser in first high-profile graft trial. https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-nigeria-corruption-idUKKCN0V018T

Sahara Reporters (2021, September 23). *Names of 45 out of 400 suspected Boko Haram Sponsors Buhari Government is Hiding from Nigerians.* New York. saharareporters.com/2021/09/23/ exclusive-names-45-out-400-suspected-boko-haram-sponsors-buhari-government-hiding

Salawu, B. (2010). Ethno-Religious Conflicts in Nigeria: Causal Analysis and Proposals for New Management Strategies, *European Journal of Social Sciences,* 13(3), 345-353.

Stremlau, J. (1999). *The evils of ethnic politics. This Day.* https://www.thisdaylive.com/index. php/2021/04/21/analysing-ethnicity-ethnic-crises-in-nigeria-and-its-management/ Accessed: 2021-1-26.

Tanko, A. (2021, July 19). Nigeria's security crises - five different threats. BBC.

The Nigeria-South Africa Chamber of Commerce (2021, *April 8). Security Challenges in Nigeria and the implications.* Annualbusinessconferenceeconomicsforumgeneral news

https://nsacc.org.ng/event/nsacc-october-2021-webinar-breakfast-meeting- thursday-28thoctober-2021/

The Punch (2021, September 29). *FG Plans re-equipping, Increasing Security Personnel to Tackle Rising Insecurity.* https://guardian.ng/news/fg-plans-re-equipping-increasing-security personnel-to-tackle-rising-insecurity/

The Sun (2021). *Addressing the insecurity in the South East.* https://www.sunnewsonline.com /addressing-the-insecurity-in-the-south-east/

The Sun (2021, July 2). *Nigeria's abysmal ranking in Global Peace Index*. In Editorial.

Tamošiūnienė, R., & Munteanu, C. (2015). Modern Approaches in Quantifying Economic Security. Case Sudy of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Republic of Moldova. Journal of

Security and Sustainability Issues: International Entrepreneurial Perspectives and Innovative. Outcomes 4.4, p. 596 - 610

UNDP (1994). *Human Development Report*. New York: Oxford University Press.

United Nations office for the Coordination of |Humanitarian Affairs (n.d.). *Human Security in Theory and Practice: Application of the Human Security Concept and the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security.*

U.S. Army, Field Manual FM-3.0 (Operations) (2008) at 2-1.

Usman, A. A. (2012). *Political Insecurity in Nigeria: A Human Security Approach* (1999-2007). Kulliyyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences, Internayional Islamic University, Malaysia. Ufot, A., Phenson, U., Ojie, Esin, J. & Atai, A. (2014). Essential Elements of Security and their Applications in Ensuring Stability and Integration of Nigeria. *International Journal of Politics and Good Governance,* 5 (5.3) Quarter III 2014 ISSN: 0976 – 1195 1

Ukeje, C. (2001). Oil communities and political violence: The case of ethnic Ijaws in Nigeria's delta region. *Terrorism and Political Violence,* 13(4), 15–36.

United Nations Assembly (2015).

Uzoechina, L. (2017). Connected Security: The Missing Links in the Evolving Regional Approach to countering violent extremism in West Africa. *African Policy Journal,* Cambridge, 13
 (54-75).

Violations and abuses committed by Boko Haram and the impact on human rights in the countries affected, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. A/HRC 30/67, GE 15-21666 (E).

Zedner, L. (2000). The pursuit of security. In T. Hope and R. Sparks (eds) *Crime, Risk and Insecurity,* Routledge.