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PEACEBUILDING AND POST-CONFLICT CONSTRUCTION IN NIGERIA

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Dedication

I dedicate this thesis to my beloved late mother Atinukemi, whose memory remains a constant source of inspiration and strength. Her unwavering support and love have shaped me into who I am today. I often wish she were here to witness this achievement and to celebrate the milestones I've reached. Her legacy continues to guide me, and I am forever grateful for the blessings she bestowed upon me.

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Extra gratitude is owed to my family and friends, whose support and tolerance have served as a continual inspiration. Their resolute faith in me and their nurturing atmosphere enabled me to concentrate on my academics, for which I am thankful.

ABSTRACT

Purpose: This study examines how Nigerian insurgencies and violent conflicts can be resolved or prevented. It assesses peacebuilding and PCR strategies and identifies gaps. To achieve the above-stated aim, the following specific objectives were considered; assess peacebuilding initiatives in Nigeria, focusing on factors contributing to success or failure, identify key challenges and barriers hindering effective post-conflict reconstruction efforts in Nigeria, with a particular emphasis on socio-economic, political, and institutional factors, assess the role of international interventions and local community engagement strategies in promoting sustainable peace and development in post-conflict Nigerian contexts.

Methodology: The study employs a qualitative approach and analyses secondary data from scholarly articles, governmental and NGO reports, and publications from international organizations such as the UN, World Bank, and African Union. Data were analysed in themes in line with the research questions

Findings: The findings reveal that peacebuilding requires local involvement, economic development, and stakeholder coordination, according to key studies. The Niger Delta Amnesty Program shows how economic opportunity and community engagement reduce violence. Lack of political will, cultural insensitivity, and DDR initiatives have hampered various peace efforts. Political support and community ownership are needed after the Middle Belt deal failed. International initiatives are valuable, but corruption, finance, and coordination concerns have hampered them. UN, World Bank, and African Union involvement has been significant yet inconsistent. Reconciliation and development have been promoted via community-led initiatives and traditional conflict resolution.

Conclusion and Recommendation: In conclusion, Nigeria must address immediate and core causes of violence through comprehensive, inclusive methods to create enduring peace. Therefore, the research recommends increasing local involvement, political commitment, coordination, comprehensive DDR initiatives, and a holistic strategy to sustain peace in

Nigeria. Nigeria can improve its future by solving these issues.

List of Acronyms

GTI - Global Terrorism Index

PCR - Post-Conflict Reconstruction

UN - United Nations

NGO - Non-Governmental Organization

AU - African Union

FCT - Federal Capital Territory

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The growth of disputes and violence in developed and developing countries, particularly in the Middle East (Iraq, Iran, Israel, Palestine, and Turkey) and Africa (Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Nigeria, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Uganda, Niger, Algeria, and others), endangers global peace. Violent conflict is common, and everyone desires peace, but democratic systems and their institutions' inability to contain rising violence and conflicts, despite their acclaimed internal conflict resolution mechanism (Aristotle, John Stuart Mill, Rousseau, Alexis de Tocqueville, and Schumpeter), calls the system into question. "What's gone wrong with our democracy"? Democracy was the most successful political doctrine in the twentieth century. Why did it fail, and how might it be revived? As a result, Flinders (2012) argues that the system and its solutions must be reconsidered. The world needs more than discussion, mediation, and arbitration to address disputes (Sharma, 2010) because conflicts and crises resurface after they are supposed to have been resolved. Conflicts and violence harm lives, property, and society, thus preventing them is more vital than ever. Conflict resolution is constantly changing. The 2011 Arab Spring seemed promising, but it triggered a series of events that impacted the Middle East, bordering regions, and major power relations (Wallensteen, 2018).

Similarly, to how peacefully integrating Ukraine into the EU set in motion processes that led to war in the country and worry for all Russian neighbors, the use of force or military strategy (coercive instruments like machine guns and jet aircraft) has not resulted in peaceful conflict resolution. Conflict resolution rests on the assumption that conflict is an inevitable aspect of life, manifesting in various interactions across all levels of society (Paffenholz, 2014). How conflicts are managed determines whether they contribute constructively or harmfully to societal dynamics. As Paffenholz (2014) argues, 'conflict is dealt with constructively due to its beneficial creative role' (2014, pp.11-27). Nigeria's democratic framework necessitates a thorough exploration of conflict, conflict resolution strategies, and peacebuilding efforts."

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, and it has been a source of conflict because of its mix of different racial and religious groups and its unstable government and economy. From

1967 to 1970, the Nigerian Civil War killed many people and destroyed the economy. Since 2009, Boko Haram has caused humanitarian tragedies that have forced millions of people to leave their homes and shaken up social and economic systems (Campbell, 2018). For decades, Nigeria has been plagued by inequality, corruption, kidnapping, oil pipeline vandalism, ethnoreligious disputes, the Boko Haram insurgency/terrorist activities in the North-East, and, most recently, Fulani herdsmen (nomadic pastoralists) and farmer clashes. According to Abbass (2012), two Fulani pastoralists are suspected of trespassing on farmlands, escalating tensions with farmers. Farmers encroaching on grazing pastures and roads sparked furious violence and a massive humanitarian crisis, killing hundreds of people and destroying millions of naira in property (Bello, 2013a; Chinwokwu, 2013). According to some estimates, the death toll is around 20,000, with 2.6 million people displaced. Boko Haram, an Islamic extremist group, operates mostly in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states (Sodipo, 2013). This geopolitical zone faced the most economic disruptions, social instability, and property and life loss (Faluyi, Khan, & Akinola, 2019).

The Federal Government revitalized military command and control to halt the rampaging militants and retake portions of Nigeria, but the situation still requires more attention to resolve the war and establish peace (Faluyi et al., 2019). According to Abdulkarim, Abeeb Mohammed, and Idriss (2018), the Boko Haram insurgency and terrorist organization operations have been ongoing for more than a decade. They massacre people indiscriminately, which is horrific. They also kidnapped women, teens, and children. The Chibok and Dapchi girls were abducted on April 14, 2014 (Olojo, 2015) and 2018, respectively. These two incidents, which provoked national and international outrage, demonstrate the insurgency's violence and crisis complexity. The organization took communities and local administrations in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states, declaring Gwoza, a Borno suburb, as their caliphate. Life is harsh in this part of the country due to village looting, displacement, and loss of life and property. The dreadful situation seemed to have no end in sight. According to the 2014 Global Terrorism Index (GTI), Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Syria accounted for 82% of all terrorist attacks globally. Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, and Uganda were all in danger of rising terrorism owing to extrajudicial killing, a lack of women's political rights, a lack of intergroup cooperation, and political instability (Global Terrorism Index, 2014:2). Current conflict resolution systems have failed to end Nigerian wars (Olojo, 2015). Thus, innovative and effective conflict resolution

solutions are urgently required. Peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts have been used to deal with these conflicts and bring back security and growth.

Literature on peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction in Nigeria or within the Nigerian context suggests numerous key issues. There is consensus that inclusive political procedures and governance changes are necessary for lasting peace (Albert, 2001). Studies have also shown that community-based and civil society projects help bring people together and build peace (Omeje& Hepner, 2013). For long-term security, economic recovery, which includes fixing up infrastructure and finding new ways to make a living, is a must (Mac Ginty, 2008). These attempts have been helped by international and regional groups through dialogue, technical help, and money (Oludoyi, 2015).

Previous research has provided some insights into this study. For instance, Johnson (2023) presents a broad overview of peacebuilding strategies but lacks empirical data on their effectiveness in specific communities. Rosenje and Ogundele (2020) describe Boko Haram's impact without examining reconstruction outcomes, leaving real reconstruction attempts unexplored. Gamawa (2017) focuses on economic recovery but not community cohesiveness or psychological rehabilitation after a conflict. Nwaka (2020) emphasises faith-based peacebuilding but does not combine government efforts, missing a holistic strategy. While criticising the Niger Delta amnesty, Aghedo (2013) lacks longitudinal analysis to measure peace sustainability. Johnson (2023) and Nwaka (2020) emphasize stakeholders but do not address how they might collaborate, unlike Aghedo (2013), who emphasises integrated approaches. Future studies should examine sustainable peace measures that combine governmental, economic, social, and grassroots efforts.

From the foregoing, it is clear that many gaps exist in the literature despite the substantial work. Peacebuilding measures' long-term social and economic effects on local communities are unclear. In modern Nigeria, local peace committees and customary law are understudied for conflict settlement (Adetula, 2015). Even though women and children play a big part in building peace at the community level, not many in-depth studies have been done on them (Sampson, 2016). More study needs to be done on how national policies and local programs affect rebuilding after a conflict.

This research is important for several reasons. First, it addresses the literature gaps to provide a more holistic view of Nigerian peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. The report examines successful and unsuccessful projects to identify best practices and hazards for

future policy and programming efforts. The research emphasizes local agency and community participation, calling for context-specific and inclusive peacebuilding. The findings aim to improve peace and development efforts in Nigeria and other post-conflict countries.

1.2 Problem Statement

Nigeria's troubles and disputes threaten its cohesion and business survival (Prof. Benjamin Osisioma, 2016). It has the potential to engulf Nigerians, the West African sub-region, and possibly the entire African continent, leaving destruction behind (Chukwuma and George Atelhe, 2014). Nigeria has faced ethnic-tribal conflicts, religious extremism, Niger Delta militants, the Boko Haram insurgency, and terrorist activities in the northeast for over a decade (Usoro et al., 2014). The organization caused unprecedented carnage in Nigeria since 2009 (Akinola, 2015). Nigeria has become a war zone due to various factors, including the ongoing Fulani herdsmen-farmers tragedy. This has resulted in thousands of deaths, over 2 million people being displaced, hundreds being held captive, and the kidnapping of several individuals, including some of the 2014 Chibok Girls.

Nigeria's response to the Boko Haram crisis has been inadequate compared to international standards, particularly the Kampala Convention. The Kampala Convention, formally known as the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, mandates comprehensive measures for the prevention of displacement and protection of displaced persons (African Union, 2009). Nigeria's response to the Boko Haram crisis falls short, particularly in providing adequate protection, assistance, and durable solutions for internally displaced persons, failing to meet the standards set by the Convention (Eze, 2017). The Nigerian anti-Boko Haram campaign is politicized and has an insufficient response. The Nigerian Federal Government had intelligence on Boko Haram 14 years before its birth. Efforts by the government, international organizations, and NGOs to contain the situation have persisted (Faluyi et al., 2019). The situation in northeastern Nigeria, linked to international terrorist groups, is not just an internal conflict but a global concern. This research will engage with how insurgencies and armed conflicts can be comprehensively resolved or prevented. Additionally, it will examine peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction (PCR) efforts undertaken so far and their effectiveness in addressing ongoing tensions and mitigating the risk of conflict recurrence, the focus will be on analyzing the strategies used for conflict resolution, evaluating their success, and identifying gaps that may contribute to continued instability. This approach will highlight the need for more effective and sustainable peacebuilding measures to prevent future conflicts.

1.3 Research Aim and Objectives

This study examines how Nigerian insurgencies and violent conflicts can be resolved or prevented. It assesses peacebuilding and PCR strategies and identifies gaps.

To achieve the above-stated aim, the following specific objectives will be considered;

1. To assess peacebuilding initiatives in Nigeria, focusing on factors contributing to success or failure.
2. To identify key challenges and barriers hindering effective post-conflict reconstruction efforts in Nigeria, with a particular emphasis on socio-economic, political, and institutional factors.
3. To critically assess the role of international interventions and local community engagement strategies in promoting sustainable peace and development in post-conflict Nigerian contexts.

1.4 Research Questions

1. What are the factors contributing to the success or failure of peacebuilding initiatives in Nigeria?
2. What are the key socio-economic, political, and institutional challenges and barriers hindering effective post-conflict reconstruction efforts in Nigeria?
3. How do international interventions and local community engagement strategies contribute to promoting sustainable peace and development in post-conflict Nigerian contexts?

1.5 Significance of the Study

Nigeria has had major internal conflicts, such as the Biafra War and the current insurgency by Boko Haram amongst others. This shows how important it is to build peace quickly (Campbell, 2018). Even though there have been many efforts, the country is still having trouble achieving lasting peace and growth. For example, empirical studies show how challenging it is to achieve inclusive government and fix long-lasting socioeconomic inequality as necessary for peace to last (Albert, 2001; Mac Ginty, 2008).Also, the war in Nigeria has a big effect on the economy. According to the Africa Development Bank (n, d), the total cost of civil war is calculated at almost $3 billion a year. So, effective rebuilding after a conflict is needed not only to fix infrastructure and restore jobs but also to keep the economy stable and stop future conflicts (Oludoyi, 2015).

International actions are very important in Nigeria's efforts to build peace. Peace efforts need a lot of money, technical help, and diplomatic backing from groups like the United Nations and regional bodies (Omeje& Hepner, 2013). However, the effectiveness of these interventions varies, and there is a need to critically assess their impact on local communities and their alignment with national priorities (Sampson, 2016).

This research will advance knowledge by examining conflict resolution and peacebuilding strategies, as well as the contributing factors that hamper their effectiveness. A lot of literature has been written about different aspects of building peace and rebuilding; it is not yet known how these efforts will affect Nigerian society in the long run. The study aims to fill this gap by promoting more context-specific strategies that include local views and putting sustainable development goals at the top of the list (Adetula, 2015).

Finally, this study's results will add to the global conversation about how to end conflicts and build peace. They will also teach other places that are facing similar problems how to deal with them. The study aims to support more effective and inclusive ways to achieve lasting peace and development by helping people learn more about the complicated situations that arise after a conflict.

1.6 Theoretical Underpinning

Conflict Transformation Theory will serve as the theoretical basis for this research. Conflict Transformation Theory (Lederach, 2012) provides a strong foundation. This theory calls for the reformation of institutions and relationships to reduce societal violence and injustice (Lederach 1995). It emphasizes the importance of empowering local communities and taking cultural assets into account to achieve long-term peace (Lederach 2012). Given Nigeria's history of complex conflicts with political, ethnic, and religious components, this strategy is ideal for addressing deep social divisions and institutional issues (Galtung, Fischer, & Fischer, 2013). Conflict Transformation Theory's emphasis on comprehensive change is consistent with the necessity to reform underlying societal norms and institutions to promote long-term peace (Wallensteen, 2018).

Furthermore, this research employs a qualitative approach. The analysis utilizes secondary data sources such as academic literature, reports from international organizations like the United Nations and NGOs, government publications, and statistical data from sources like the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics amongst others.

1.7 Structure of the Dissertation

There are five chapters in the dissertation. Chapter 1 introduces the research topic, objectives, and significance. In Chapter 2, relevant literature on building peace and rebuilding after a war in Nigeria is looked at. Chapter 3 outlines the research methodology. Findings and research are shown in Chapter 4. Chapter 5 concludes with implications, recommendations, and suggestions for future research.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Reconstruction

2.1.1 Peacebuilding

Muriithi (2007) defines peacebuilding as the process of tackling several difficulties. The objective is to reduce the impact of structural, social, and cultural elements that contribute to conflict, and to promote the processes of peacemaking and peacekeeping. Peacebuilding addresses the underlying cause of 30 conflicts by facilitating discussions and mediations between opposing parties (Murtin&Wacziarg, 2014). Peacebuilding includes the processes of Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) as well as security sector reform (SSR) after large-scale military conflict. These processes aim to advance social and economic equity, establish or adapt political structures, and uphold the principles of legal governance. These programs aim to restore communities affected by war by promoting reconciliation, mobilizing resources, implementing socio-economic rebuilding, and fostering development (Murtin and Wacziarg, 2014). Peacebuilding, peacemaking, peacekeeping, and conflict prevention are distinct concepts and should not be used interchangeably.

Peacebuilding promotes societal transformation and facilitates the process of reconciliation. This approach aims to reduce the occurrence of violent incidents while simultaneously advocating for fairness and equality in society (Sodipo, 2013). It effectively mitigates and manages instances of violence by engaging in lobbying efforts, raising awareness, and conducting campaigns. It involves instructing individuals on how to address and resolve local causes of conflict and hostility (Onigu-Otite& Albert, 1999). Peace cannot be sustained by using force; hence the process of peacebuilding is crucial. Comprehension is the key factor that can bring about the desired outcome (Ofuoku&Evwierhurhoma, 2018). Peacebuilding aims to reinstate the political, security, social, and economic aspects of a society that has experienced strife. Sawyer, Reychler (2006), argue that the most pressing challenge faced by the world community is the pursuit of peace. It is an issue of utmost importance, requiring thorough deliberation and examination. The contemporary practice of peacebuilding is motivated by the acknowledgment that violence possesses inherent constraints. Unless we undertake significant measures to avert violence and foster peace, the prospect of long-term

growth may elude us. While winning a conflict may be relatively easy and fast, achieving peace can be far more challenging and time-consuming (Reychler, 2006).

Enhancing collaboration across all sectors and levels of engagement is crucial for resolving conflicts, promoting peacebuilding, and achieving sustainable development. Consequently, peacebuilding goes beyond the UN's definition of "taking action to strengthen peace and prevent a return to the conflict". Peacebuilding is defined in this 31-page research paper as the combination of conflict prevention and post-conflict measures that are implemented to maintain peace and promote development. Peacebuilding encompasses both structural and cultural dimensions. Structure pertains to the outward objectives and circumstances of a social system, while cultural demission pertains to the subjective circumstances of collectives. It includes all the tools, procedures, and stages necessary to construct stronger, more balanced relationships, governance, and institutions. The process involves the establishment of legal and human rights institutions, equitable governance, and efficient dispute resolution. Efficient peacekeeping necessitates comprehensive and inclusive strategizing, synchronization, and enduring obligations from both local and donor entities (Mitchell, 2007). Peacebuilding involves fostering societal change, reducing conflict, and fostering harmony. Occasionally, the terms awareness, enlightenment, education, advocacy, and sensitization are employed. Conventions, rituals, folklore, beliefs, and taboos are integral components of the African cultural milieu. Political and economic strategies can be employed to foster peace by providing essential resources such as food, water, clothing, and social infrastructure to reduce poverty and enhance development capabilities. (Uwazie, 2014).

Several strategies encompass youth empowerment, gender equality, support for community and social movements, and training in conflict resolution. (Sodipo, 2013). Peacebuilding in Nigeria is interconnected with effective governance, conflict resolution, and addressing development deficiencies resulting from marginalization, mismanagement of public resources, and social exclusion. Peace-building encompasses international interventions aimed at averting armed conflict in a nation. It commonly denotes the process of rebuilding communities that have been devastated by war. Boutros BoutrosGhali, the former Secretary General of the United Nations, described it as the acknowledgment and endorsement of systems that uphold and strengthen peace to avoid a recurrence. Peacebuilding is the process that takes place after a war, as outlined in the UN Agenda for Peace in 1992.

Barnett, Kim, Donnell, and Sitea (2007) state that agencies frequently employ numerous nonsynonymous technical words. Various individuals choose diverse approaches to peacebuilding. The 2000 Brahimi Committee Report emphasized peacebuilding as a comprehensive approach to preventing conflicts and promoting stability and peace in the aftermath of war. The committee, predominantly founded by the United Nations, asserts that enhancing institutional capacity is necessary for the successful implementation of peacekeeping missions. The paper emphasizes that successful peace building requires thorough and inclusive planning, coordination, and sustained dedication from both local and donor parties. In his book "The Building State to Build Peace" (2008), Call argues that peacebuilding involves more than simply ending armed conflicts. He suggests that stability can also be attained by establishing a balance of power or by using threats. Instead, it involves constructing a constructive peace by eliminating the underlying factors that lead to conflict, thereby rendering violence unnecessary for conflict resolution. The very technology that was employed to establish peace following a fight might now be harnessed to avert warfare. Peacebuilding refers to the process of preventing conflicts, and the term "post-conflict" is used to differentiate it from other stages of conflict. Peacebuilding involves establishing the necessary socioeconomic structures and reducing the probability of combatants resuming hostilities shortly after a peace agreement has been achieved.

Positive peacebuilding encompasses four sectors: security and military, social, economic, developmental, humanitarian, political, diplomatic, justice, and reconciliation. Conflict arises from the interaction of multiple variables. The term "peacebuilding" can be used to describe any international aid that effectively addresses a grievance. Those who analyze the factors contributing to violent conflict may identify numerous post-conflict concerns, including but not limited to income distribution, land reform, democracy, the rule of law, human security, corruption, gender equality, refugee reintegration, economic development, ethno-national divisions, environmental degradation, and transitional justice. Countries that have a democratic political system and a high wealth per person are less prone to participate in armed conflicts. However, it is worth noting that countries with authoritarian governments and low economic development have still been involved in wars.

2.1.2 Post-Conflict Reconstruction

Conflicts result in extensive destruction of infrastructure and livelihoods, as well as substantial loss of life. Consequently, conflicts have enduring ramifications for social, economic, and political frameworks, posing challenges for countries to achieve recovery.

After a conflict, communities, and governments must reconstruct economic and social frameworks while prioritizing security and peace. To facilitate the process of recovery, it is imperative for both the government and foreign entities to actively engage in post-conflict reconstruction (PCR).

These interventions generally consist of both intangible and tangible infrastructure.

Disasters, as stated by the United Nations (UNISDR, 2009), result in substantial socioeconomic disruption. Wars and conflicts are intricate issues. Anthropogenic disasters result in extensive loss of life, forced displacement, infringements on human rights, and lack of food (Robinson, 2003). Angstrom (2001) defines war as a state of escalated and widespread violence that occurs during a conflict involving armed forces. War significantly affects socioeconomic systems due to its devastating impact on infrastructure. Occasionally, the extent of damage to infrastructure is employed as a measure to assess the severity of a conflict. Infrastructure damage of a significant magnitude hampers productivity and hinders the pace of development (Smith, Houser, and Leeson, 2014; Oji, Eme, and Nwoba, 2015). Conflict hinders the development of new infrastructure investments, worsening the existing shortage (Merrouche, 2011). Consequently, communities are rendered susceptible and face difficulties in their recovery (Zabyelina 2013). These civilizations experience the detrimental effects of corruption and economic conflicts (Cramer and Goodhand, 2002; Earnest, 2015). Consequently, significant rehabilitation is necessary to mend the deteriorated and disregarded physical infrastructure, aiming to enhance productivity and stimulate trade.

The primary objective of PCR activities is to restore and enhance individuals' means of subsistence while simultaneously decreasing the probability of conflict. The intervention should seek to reinstate the social, political, economic, and cultural elements of the failed state (Jabareen, 2013). Reconstruction during a war involves the task of reconstructing and addressing development requirements while considering political economy, security, gender, and justice (Brun and Lun 2008). According to Schwartz and Halkyard (2006), participation in PCR might mitigate political and economic risks, hence attracting fresh investors and promoting economic expansion. PCR can enhance social cohesion, specifically in communityled rebuilding initiatives (Vervisch et al., 2013). It effectively tackles development difficulties (Brun and Lund, 2006) and reduces conflict (Jabareen, 2013). PCR projects often involve a combination of intangible and tangible infrastructure. Countries that have been severely affected by war receive minimal private investment. According to Schwartz and

Halkyard (2006), investing in infrastructure can draw in private investors and support the ongoing expansion of the economy. MacDonald (2005) states that foreign investment in infrastructure can yield both beneficial and detrimental outcomes. Infrastructure, although facilitating advancements, can also lead to disparities in employment, income, and benefits. Anand (2006) states that after a conflict, individuals tend to prioritize the development of tangible infrastructure rather than intangible institutions. Handrahan (2004) and MacDonald (2005) contend that the restoration of physical infrastructure is necessary for both the functioning of the market economy and the strengthening of community cohesion. MacDonald (2005) states that it facilitates present development and reduces discord. The complexities and unique aspects of PCR have been extensively researched, but the effects of reconstruction have not been properly examined. The subsequent section provides a concise overview of the research on the effects of PCR interventions.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

2.2.1 Social Identity Theory

Social Identity Theory (SIT) is an important way to look at the complicated processes of building peace in Nigeria. SIT is based on the work of Tajfel and Turner (1985) and looks at how people describe themselves based on their ties to groups like religion, race, or work. This idea says that group identity affects how people think, feel, and act, which in turn affects how people from different groups interact and fight with each other.

In Nigeria, it is very important to understand the role of identity. The country has a lot of different social identities that are often mixed with political and economic differences, which makes it harder to build peace. It has been pointed out in the past that these complicated intersections need to be better understood, especially how socio-economic and political factors affect identity-based disputes. One example of how identity-based complaints can lead to an uprising is Boko Haram, whose story of religious and social purity is very different from what they see as state corruption and marginalisation. This shows how important it is to include identity dynamics in tactics for building peace.

Peacebuilders can better understand how identities add to conflicts getting worse and happening again by using SIT. SIT focuses on how in-groups and out-groups are formed, how stereotypes work, and how group behaviours strengthen group identities. This knowledge helps people come up with solutions that support peace, lessen identity-based complaints, and make political processes more open to everyone.

Additionally, SIT sheds light on the reasons behind conflicts like Boko Haram, but it can also be used to help make policies and programs that deal with deeper identity-based issues. Including SIT in frameworks for building peace allows for a more nuanced approach that takes into account how identity, socioeconomic conditions, and political structures all interact with each other. This is necessary for Nigeria to have lasting peace and growth.

2.2.2 Conflict Transformation Theory

Conflict transformation, as articulated by Lederach (2012), involves a holistic effort to reshape institutions, structures, and relationships that perpetuate violence and injustice within societies. This method is based on recognising and empowering local cultural and human assets. It goes against the common belief that only outside help can settle internal problems (Lederach, 1995). This change in viewpoint shows how important it is to recognise and support the changemakers in society.

Conflict transformation is a multifaceted process that tries to change relationships, attitudes, behaviours, and social rules for the better in violent situations. It's necessary to deal with the underlying structures and organisational processes that keep social and political tensions alive (Galtung, Fischer, Fischer, 2013; Wallensteen, 2018).

In Nigeria, going from widespread bloodshed to lasting peace means navigating complicated social and political landscapes. The writings of Björkdahl, Höglund, Millar, Van Der Lijn, and Verk, along with Burton's Theory of Change, show the steps that need to be taken to build peace. These frameworks stress how economic conditions and peace processes are linked, emphasising how important they are for promoting long-term security. To support these efforts, these works need to be looked into and talked about in more depth. They fit in with and add to theories and methods we've already talked about, like the Social Identity Theory (SIT), by showing how local abilities and economic factors affect how conflicts happen and efforts to build peace.

2.3 Overview of Peacebuilding and Post-conflict Construction in Nigeria

Nigeria's past is full of wars and other conflicts, including the civil war, fights between different groups of people, and, more recently, the uprising of extremist groups like Boko Haram. The Nigerian Civil War (1967–1970), which was also called the Biafran War, was a major early war that killed many people and did a lot of damage to the economy (Achebe, 2012). In the years that followed, Nigeria had a series of military coups and political battles. These were made more difficult by differences in race, religion, and geography (Falola and

Heaton, 2008). The proliferation of extremist groups in the Niger Delta during the early 2000s and the subsequent development of Boko Haram in the late 2000s exacerbated the nation's instability, resulting in loss of life, widespread displacement, and violation of human rights (Ukiwo, 2007; Adesoji, 2010).

Following these conflicts, the imperative of peacebuilding and reconstruction was what led the Nigerian government to institute several peacebuilding policies considered essential for Nigeria's stability and growth. For instance, immediately after the civil war that lasted almost 3 years, the government established the National Youth Service Corps to foster national unity, eliminate ignorance, confirm firsthand the many similarities among Nigerians of all ethnic groups, and develop a sense of corporate existence and a common destiny for the people of Nigeria. Similarly, as a result of the Niger Delta militants wrecking havoc in the oil-producing region in Nigeria, the government established the Niger Delta Development Commission was established to address the challenges facing the region and reconstruct the region from the destruction experienced as a result of the militancy activities.

Furthermore, like the civil war, ethnoreligious crisis, and the Niger Delta crisis, Boko-Haram insurgents in the North-Eastern parts of the country also led to the destruction of properties, loss of lives and livelihood, forced migration and displacement, wanton destruction of critical infrastructure, social fragmentation, tension, and several other humanitarian crises. The implication of this crisis made the government understand that reconstruction plays a crucial role in the restoration of infrastructure, provision of necessary services, and revitalization of the economy, all of which are needed for ensuring long-term peace and stability (Adesoji, 2010). Hence, the establishment of the North East Development Commission (NEDC) to rehabilitate, resettle, reconcile, reconstruct, and promote sustainable development in the North East Zone.

However, despite the establishment of several peacebuilding institutions and post-conflict construction efforts, in Nigeria, there are still cases of crisis and tensions in the country, thus questioning the effectiveness of the peacebuilding efforts post-conflict construction in Nigeria. While there is a significant number of literature available on the dynamics of conflict and peacekeeping in Nigeria, there is a lack of study specifically addressing the long-term processes of peacebuilding and reconstruction. Specifically, there is a need for studies that critically analyze the effectiveness of existing peacebuilding initiatives and explore innovative approaches to post-conflict reconstruction. Hence, this study aims to address these

gaps by providing a comprehensive review of peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts in Nigeria, evaluating their success, challenges, and lessons learned.

2.4 Review of Literature

Nigerian studies have examined its conflicts and peace efforts. The paper "Memory, Reconciliation, and Peacebuilding in Post-Civil War Southeastern Nigeria" by Onuoha (2018) critically examines Nigeria's post-civil war peace dynamics since the 1970 Nigeria-Biafra War. The paper examines the revival of neo-Biafran parties fighting for Igbo secession in Southeastern Nigeria decades after Biafra's defeat. Onuoha analyses the failure of post-war reconciliation, rehabilitation, and reconstruction strategies to integrate Igbos into a single Federal Republic of Nigeria. The research shows how battle memories of hurt, injustice, and exclusion have spurred neo-Biafran attitudes in some communities.

The paper uses a qualitative approach but does not specify research methodology or data sources. It sheds light on post-civil war peace and the rise of secessionist movements, but it does not evaluate peace infrastructure organizations like the National Youth Service Corps or the Niger Delta Development Commission on post-conflict construction. This research evaluates peace infrastructure's efficiency in post-conflict construction in Nigeria, unlike the paper's extensive investigation of post-war memories and their ramifications. Thus, while Onuoha's study provides context, it may not directly answer this proposed study's research topic.

Johnson (2023) uses human need theory to examine "Exploring the Elements and Phases of Peacebuilding in Post-Conflict Communities in Nigeria" and other aspects of peacebuilding.

Johnson uses secondary materials including textbooks, internet resources, and journals and purposeful sampling of Nigerian and African events in his qualitative study. However, using secondary sources raises questions about data quality and trustworthiness.

Post-conflict peacebuilding requires excellent governance, security, reconciliation, and stakeholder engagement from companies, media, religions, and civil society, according to the report. It also considers conflict management, transformation, and resolution peacebuilding phases. The methodology is qualitative, however, the lack of details on primary data gathering and story analysis raises doubts regarding rigor and depth. The study's comprehensive coverage of peacebuilding elements and phases lacks local or contextual specificity, suggesting it may not apply to all Nigerian locations. The study provides insights

into peacebuilding principles, but it does not directly address the impact of peace infrastructure organizations on post-conflict construction, the dissertation's main topic. This planned study appears to focus on a different subject from Johnson's investigation.

In "The Dynamics of Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Peace Building in West Africa" (20080), Olawale Ismail critically analysed peacebuilding in West Africa after violence. Ismail criticizes the rationale, genesis, ideology, and implementation of post-conflict peacebuilding. The author examines the effectiveness of peacebuilding efforts in achieving negative peace— the cessation of direct and physical violence—and positive peace—the transformation of society's conflictual relationships, structures, practices, and interactions. Ismail claims that West African peacebuilding strategies prioritize negative peace over underlying social issues. Ismail (2008) also notes that external actors, mainly Western nations, dominate regional peacebuilding strategy. Ismail claims that these external actors generally prioritize global issues over local ones, creating a peacebuilding gap.

In Ismail's article, various limitations are evident. The author provides significant insights into West African peacebuilding; however, it does not focus on Nigeria, the key geographical context of this suggested dissertation. Thus, the article may not directly address peace infrastructure organizations' post-conflict construction effectiveness in Nigeria. While the author criticizes the prevalence of negative peace in peacebuilding, he does not examine Nigeria's post-conflict methods or institutions. His ideas may not apply to Nigeria, where the dissertation evaluates the National Youth Service Corps and the Niger Delta Development Commission, due to his lack of clarity. Ismail (2008) argues a lot about how outside players, mostly Western countries, affect plans to build peace in West Africa, but he doesn't talk much about the role of local stakeholders and institutions. Because of local goals and dissertation involvement, this oversight stands out.

Because of these limits, more research needs to be done on Nigeria's efforts to build peace and recover from war. By looking at how well peace infrastructure organizations in Nigeria are doing, this suggested study would give useful information about that country.

The study's in-depth look at Nigeria's problems and opportunities in rebuilding after a war will also add to discussions about building peace in West Africa. The study will look at the pros and cons of groups such as the National Youth Service Corps, the North East Development Commission, and the Niger Delta Development Commission. The goal is to

come up with ways for Nigeria to build peace, and it could also help other countries in the region that are having the same problems.

A paper by Musharafa and Ogundele (2020) called "Post-Conflict Peace Building and Reconstruction in Nigeria's Northeast: An Appraisal" uses secondary sources and a descriptive method to look at how the Boko Haram insurgency caused a lot of damage, deaths, family separations, and the creation of camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs). The writers acknowledge that the government used force at first to fight the rebellion, but they also say that it had its limits as attacks grew. The government asked for help from outside sources, such as the international community and neighboring countries.

To help make peace and recover from war, the government set up the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the Presidential Committee on the Northeast Initiative (PCNI), and the Presidential Initiative on the Northeast. Survivors, especially women and children, got help from these groups to get better. The study discovers that for the Northeast government to reach its peacebuilding and rebuilding goals, programs must be closely watched and carried out openly and responsibly.

Musharafa and Ogundele's (2020) study of the Boko Haram uprising in Northeast Nigeria is very thorough, but it doesn't look at efforts to build peace across the whole country. The study might only look at the dissertation topic and not fully look at the success of peace building groups in other parts of Nigeria, like the Niger Delta and the Middle Belt.

The book also talks about how the Nigerian government set up committees and bodies to help build peace and recover from war, but it doesn't say how well they work. People don't fully understand how the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Presidential Committee on the Northeast Initiative (PCNI) helped build up Nigeria after the war because there hasn't been enough research done on their results and problems.

The authors stress the importance of good monitoring and open execution, but they don't offer specific answers to the problems they see. Nigerian policymakers and practitioners of peacebuilding may not be able to use the paper's data because it doesn't give them any useful insights. Because of these problems, more study needs to be done on how different peace infrastructure organizations build after a conflict, including the problems they face and the solutions they find.

The literature talks about certain areas and parts of Nigeria's conflicts and efforts to build peace, but it doesn't look at how well peace infrastructure groups like the National Youth Service Corps and the Niger Delta Development Commission do at rebuilding after a conflict and building peace over the long term.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter explores the notions of ontology and epistemology, together with the philosophical assumptions that guide contemporary research and methodological decisions. The concept of the "Research Onion" illustrates the utilization of research methodologies and designs to address research inquiries and accomplish research objectives.

3.1 Research Philosophy

Comprehending the epistemological and ontological viewpoints on knowledge and the world is crucial for research philosophy (Saunders et al., 2023). The statement establishes your perspective on the world and the underlying principles that support the plan, determining the approach to be used in conducting the research. This encompasses techniques for gathering and examining data. Research philosophy guides research by integrating the author's beliefs about the nature of reality, the nature of knowledge, and their philosophical viewpoints.

3.1.1 Ontology

Ontology is a philosophical inquiry that pertains to the nature of the world and social beings (Bell, Bryman, & Harley, 2022). Social reality is defined by assumptions as either objective or subjective. Objectivism posits that social phenomena have an existence that is apart from the actions of individuals, while subjectivism, also referred to as constructionism, argues that social phenomena are constructed by society and that each person generates their subjective reality (Bryman et al., 2022). Based on constructivist ontology, this study claims reality is subjective and socially constructed. Sociocultural and political aspects affect Nigeria's peacebuilding and post-war reconstruction. Constructivism allows extensive examination of multiple opinions and experiences in Nigeria's post-conflict settings due to their complexity.

3.1.2 Epistemology

Epistemology studies knowledge and its acquisition and transmission (Bryman, 2016). Three epistemic viewpoints are positivism, realism, and interpretivism. Positivist philosophy promotes natural science and an objective view of reality. Positivism improves knowledge by objectively observing and studying external reality and drawing statistical generalizations (Saunders et al., 2019). Science benefits from realism because it states that objects exist

independently of society (Saunders et al., 2019). Interpretivism views people as "social actors" and views reality as subjective and socially constructed (Saunders et al., 2019).

This interpretivist study examines how people and groups interpret their experiences. To understand peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction in Nigeria, this study uses qualitative literature analysis to review and contextualize previous studies.

3.2 Research Approach

Research approaches are crucial, alongside philosophical opinions. The literature suggests three research methodologies: deductive, inductive, and abductive (Bryman 2016; Saunders et al. 2019). The process of theory testing entails the application of deductive reasoning. Hypothesis testing aims to either refute or validate a theory (Saunders et al., 2019). The study is organized systematically, relies on numerical data, and requires a large sample size to make generalizations. Inductive thinking, unlike deduction, commences with specific facts and advances toward generalizations. Saunders et al. (2023) demonstrate that inductive theory is constructed through the observation, quantification, and identification of patterns in social processes. This strategy is adaptable since it utilizes qualitative data collection, which enables modifications to the study approach during its implementation. Abduction is a research style that combines both inductive and deductive approaches, as described by Saunders et al. (2023). The process involves gathering data to investigate a phenomenon, uncover themes, and analyze patterns to develop a new theory or change an existing one. This theory is then tested by more data collection, as stated by Saunders and colleagues (2023).

This study uses an inductive approach. Inductive reasoning facilitates qualitative literature studies by helping to find patterns, themes, and connections in data, which ultimately leads to the development of new ideas and frameworks. This study integrates the fields of peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction in Nigeria to assess existing knowledge and provide potential areas for future research (Thomas, 2006).

3.3 Research Design

A researcher's study design guides data collection and analysis (Saunders et al., 2023). The most common study designs are quantitative and qualitative (Bell et al., 2022; Saunders, 2023). The need for ontological and epistemological consistency affects study design (Bryman 2016). Quantitative data is usually numerical or from surveys while Qualitative research analyzes nonnumerical observation and interview data to study behavioral patterns (Saunders et al., 2023). Mixed-method research combines qualitative and quantitative

methods (Bell et al., 2022). The subject cannot be studied quantitatively because there is no numerical data or statistical analysis of factors.

This study uses qualitative methods. Due to its depth and intricacy, this narrative review is best for a qualitative design. Peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction are complex, and qualitative research can capture stakeholders' subjective experiences and perspectives. This research approach examines literature material to thoroughly and insightfully study the phenomenon (Creswell, 2013).

3.4 Research Strategy

Study plans describe how the researcher will collect and evaluate data to answer their questions (Saunders et al., 2023). Time, information, and researchers' philosophical views affect the study approach. Experimental, survey, case study, action, grounded theory, ethnography, and archival research are valid (Saunders et al., 2023). Three methods for exploratory research exist. Start with expert interviews, then research relevant literature, and end with focus group discussions (Saunders et al., 2023). This study will extensively search for appropriate material to meet its goals.

Scholarly resources including JSTOR, PubMed, Google Scholar, and library catalogues are searched for relevant material. We shall use "peacebuilding," "post-war reconstruction," "Nigeria," "conflict resolution," and related words. We will only use peer-reviewed research, books, and respectable publications from the past two decades to ensure data accuracy and timeliness. Backward and forward citation tracking will identify key papers and current research (Booth, Sutton, &Papaioannou, 2016).

3.5 Data collection

Gathering of data Bell et al. (2022) say that data can be put into two groups: main and secondary. According to Saunders et al. (2023), primary data comes from the main source for a study, while secondary data comes from a different study. Secondary data from available literature sources are used in this study. These include books, reports from international groups, government papers, academic articles, and other useful sources. Secondary data is good for story literature reviews because it lets you combine different points of view and findings from earlier research, giving you a full picture (Bowen, 2009).

3.6 Data Analysis

When examining qualitative data, it is important to recognize its unique characteristics in contrast to quantitative data. Qualitative data refers to information that is not expressed in numerical form and has not been measured. It encompasses all types of data that have not been quantified and can be obtained through various research methods. This investigation employed a frequently utilized qualitative analysis method known as theme analysis. A theme refers to the main finding of data analysis, specifically related to the research issue, and it yields a tangible outcome of the study (Vaismoradi et al., 2016, p. 101). Thematic analysis is a systematic procedure for detecting, assessing, and documenting patterns or themes within a set of data. The year 2006. Refer to page 6 of Braun & Clarke. Vaismoradi et al. (2016) outlined a systematic approach and stages for the development of themes and the analysis of qualitative data. Table 1 outlines the sequential procedures employed by the researchers to systematically examine qualitative data thematically.

This review uses a qualitative approach to analyze data thematically. This technique will identify, assess, and disseminate data patterns and themes. Thematic analysis involves becoming acquainted with the data, assigning codes, searching for subjects, evaluating themes, defining and naming themes, and writing up the findings. This literature study provides a thorough and detailed examination of Nigerian peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction research, highlighting important findings and areas that require further investigation (Braun and Clarke, 2006).

Phases	Stages
Initialization	Reading transcriptions and highlighting meaning units; Coding and looking for abstractions in participants' accounts; Writing reflective notes.
Construction	Classifying; Comparing; Labelling; Translating & transliterating; Defining & describing.
Rectification	Immersion and distancing; Relating themes to established knowledge; Stabilizing.
Finalization	Developing the story line

Table 1: . Phases and stages of theme development in qualitative content and thematic analysis.

Source: Vaismoradi et al. (2016).

3.7 Ethical Consideration

Even though this study does not involve collection of primary data but secondary data, ethical considerations remain important. To avoid plagiarism and maintain academic integrity, it is important to make sure that original authors are properly cited and acknowledged. The researcher must also carefully evaluate the sources to make sure that the information being put together is accurate and trustworthy. Ethical rules will be followed by honoring the intellectual property rights of original writers and telling the truth about the results. Any private data discovered in the literature will be treated carefully to protect the rights and experiences of people and groups who have been touched by conflict (Resnik, 2018).

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND RESULT

4.1 Introduction

This chapter analyses Nigeria's peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction efforts. This analysis will critically examine the success or failure of these initiatives, identify the main obstacles to post-conflict reconstruction, and evaluate international interventions and local community engagement strategies. This chapter explores these topics to provide a full picture of Nigerian peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction.

This chapter details the analysis of the main research questions in this study: identifying factors influencing the success or failure of peacebuilding in Nigeria, examining socio-economic and political barriers to post-conflict reconstruction, and assessing the impact of international interventions and local engagement strategies on promoting sustainable peace in Nigeria. This will be analysed in the subsequent sessions.

4.2 Overview of Peacebuilding Initiatives in Nigeria

Nigeria's history of building peace is strongly connected to the problems the country has faced since it became independent, such as civil war, military coups, and conflicts in other countries. Nigeria has been through many violent wars since it became independent in 1960. The worst was the Nigerian Civil War (1967–1970), which destroyed the country (Paden, 2008). When the Civil War ended, many healing efforts began with the goal of bringing the country back together and rebuilding it. Early efforts were mostly about healing the wounds of the civil war through policies of rehabilitation, reintegration, and rebuilding. These policies laid the groundwork for later efforts to build peace (Osaghae, 2002).

In the last few decades, Nigeria has run several large-scale projects to promote peace, often with the help of international groups. The United Nations has been very involved in helping to build peace in Nigeria, especially through its Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), whose main goal is to make it easier for countries to avoid and solve conflicts (United Nations, 2019). The World Bank has also been very important. It has given money to projects like the Multi-Sectoral Crisis Recovery Project for North Eastern Nigeria (World Bank, 2018) that try to solve the social and economic problems that cause violence.

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The African Union has helped build peace by setting up frameworks and giving support for stability in the region. The African Union Mission in Nigeria (AUMN) is a well-known project that works to prevent and solve conflicts in places that are likely to have them (African Union, 2020). The Nigerian government has also started some national programs through its Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Interior to help reduce violence and promote peace. Some of these are the Presidential Committee on the North East Initiative (PCNI) and the Victims Support Fund. They help communities that have been damaged by insurgency by giving them humanitarian aid and building them back up (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2016). Many Nigerian peacebuilding projects have gotten a lot of attention for their creative methods and effects. For example, the Niger Delta Amnesty Program, which began in 2009, tried to get rebels in the Niger Delta area to give up their weapons, stop fighting, and join society again. This program made a big difference in lowering bloodshed and helped thousands of former militants get back into society (Agbiboa, 2013).

The Northeast Nigeria Transition to Development Program is another important project. It is backed by the UN Development Programme (UNDP). The main goals of this project are to rebuild infrastructure, bring back jobs, and improve local government in areas that have been impacted by the Boko Haram insurgency (UNDP, 2020). The International Crisis Group (ICG) has also written about community dialogue forums and interfaith programs, among other grassroots efforts to build peace, that have helped conflicting groups get along and understand each other better (International Crisis Group, 2019). In summary, these efforts to build peace show that Nigeria's complicated war situation needs a multifaceted approach. International groups, the Nigerian government, and local communities working together show how important it is to have an inclusive plan for long-term peace.

Even though these efforts to build peace have had some notable successes, they have not had the same level of coverage or impact across Nigeria's vast regions. For example, the Niger Delta Amnesty Program and the Northeast Nigeria Transition to Development Program have not stopped insurgencies like Boko Haram from causing instability in some parts of the country, which suggests that these efforts may not have been able to last or reach all areas as planned (Agbiboa, 2013; UNDP, 2020). The fact that conflict still exists in some areas also suggests that these programs may not have been able to deal with underlying socio-economic and political problems on a national level (International Crisis Group, 2019).

4.3 Factors Contributing to the Success or Failure of Peacebuilding Initiatives

Successful peacebuilding initiatives in Nigeria have been characterized by several key factors. Getting local groups involved in the process of building peace is very important. Some experts say that groups that are affected by conflict can only have lasting peace if they are involved in planning and carrying out peace initiatives (Lederach, 1997; Mac Ginty, 2010). For example, the Niger Delta Amnesty Program was successful in part because it involved local partners in planning and carrying out the program. This helped to ensure support and legitimacy among the community (Aghedo, 2013).

Including socioeconomic growth in strategies for building peace is another important factor. The 2018 Multi-Sectoral Crisis Recovery Project in Northeast Nigeria by the World Bank shows how combining efforts to build peace with those to rebuild infrastructure and create jobs can help solve the problems that lead to conflict and promote long-term security. Collier and Hoeffler (2004) say that economic growth is important for lowering the risk of conflict because it reduces poverty and gives former combatants new ways to make a living.

Having good guidance and getting everyone involved to work together is also very important for building peace. The UNDP (2020) stresses how important it is for foreign organisations, national governments, and local actors to work together and have strategies that make sense. Northeast Nigeria's Transition to Development Program's collaborative efforts show how coordinated actions can make peacebuilding efforts more effective by using the skills and resources of different partners (UNDP, 2020).

Even with these wins, many efforts to build peace in Nigeria have had big problems and failed. One big reason why things didn't work out is that the government didn't have enough political will and dedication. Some researchers, like Francis (2006), say that Nigeria's attempts to build peace have been harmed by political instability and corruption. For example, the National Peace Accord has been hard to put into action because of patchy political support and a lack of money, which has led to random and ineffective measures (Ejiogu, 2013). Another important problem is that cultural and social factors are not properly included in programs that aim to build peace. Mac Ginty (2008) says that peacebuilding efforts that come from outside the country often don't take local customs and social structures into account, which leads to solutions that aren't culturally appropriate or accepted. Some peacebuilding projects in Nigeria have been criticised for using Western models of conflict

resolution without changing them to fit the local situation. This makes the projects less successful (Onuoha, 2016).

A big problem with building peace has also been the lack of thorough disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration (DDR) programs. Knight and Özerdem (2004) say that successful DDR is key to stopping the return of violence by making sure that former combatants are properly reintegrated into society. But in Nigeria, many DDR programs have been badly planned and not given enough money, leaving many former rebels without the help they need and raising the risk of them getting involved in violence again (Olojo, 2020).

Examining Nigeria's peacebuilding initiatives. The Niger Delta Amnesty Program is frequently cited as a successful model because to its comprehensive scope and extensive participation. Upon its inception in 2009, the program granted unconditional amnesty to militants who surrendered their firearms. Subsequently, they received vocational training and assistance in securing employment. This project significantly reduced violence in the region and facilitated the reintegration of several former militants into society (Aghedo, 2013).

On the other hand, the failure of the peace agreement in the Middle Belt region from 2015 to 2016 shows what happens when people in the area do not get enough political support and involvement (Baca, 2015). The goal of this deal, which was made possible by foreign groups, was to end the fighting between farmers and herders. However, it did not deal with the problems that led to the conflict, like land rights and sharing resources, and it did not get enough feedback from the people who lived there. So, the deal fell apart quickly, which led to more fighting (Baca, 2015). The Northeast Nigeria Transition to Development Program, which is backed by the UNDP, is an example of a mixed case. It has had some success in rebuilding facilities and getting people back to work, but it has also had problems because of poor coordination and safety issues (Baca, 2015). According to the UNDP report, the program's focus is on local government and community resilience, but continuing insurgent attacks have made it harder to fully implement (UNDP, 2020).

4.4 Challenges and Barriers to Effective Post-Conflict Reconstruction

4.4.1 Contemporary Challenges

Global conflict dynamics have experienced both continuity and change in the 25 years since the Cold War ended, with new and emerging causes of violence supplanting long-standing ones (The United Nations, 2015). This revelation highlights that Nigeria is not an island, but

rather a part of the world, thus, external factors influence Nigeria's post-conflict management issues.

4.4.2 The challenge of proliferation of light and small arms

Osisioma (2020) describes modern globalisation as having become the biggest source of violence in Africa during the last two decades. According to Osisioma (2020), Nigeria has experienced conflicts between different ethnic groups and states following the Cold War. This allows weapons to enter the country, jeopardising post-conflict rehabilitation efforts in volatile regions such as the Northeast, North Central Nigeria, and the Niger Delta (Nwosumba et al., 2020). Globalisation raises the possibility that more people will obtain light and small weapons, making post-conflict administration more challenging.

Globalisation has reduced institutional control over small arms and light weapons (SALWS), contributing to an increase in African violence. Of the 500-650 million illegal guns in circulation worldwide, around 100 million were discovered in Africa, with 8-10 million in the West African subregion (Musa et al., 2023). The proliferation of small and light weaponry in Nigeria has increased pipeline destruction, oil theft, armed robbery, and kidnapping of both foreigners and Nigerians, complicating post-conflict management protocols (Musa et al., 2023). Nigeria's post-conflict management faces challenges from globalisation, as seen by the creation of new conflicts. For instance, the Niger Delta. In 1992, the government intervened to address underdevelopment, which was a major factor in violence in the area, by establishing the Oil Minerals Producing Area Development Commission (OMPADEC). This occurred amid the region's violent ethnic nationalist uprisings (Musa et al., 2024). If the Niger Deltans had not had easy access to light and other weapons, they might not have gone violent for as long and earned a government amnesty in 2009, even though OMPADEC's goals were not met due to the region's ongoing development problems (Okpo, 2023). The difficulty is that the amnesty program has resulted in armed militant breakaway organisations while failing to build longterm peace in the region. The current military attack in the region is the outcome of a fresh series of conflicts that have tested the post-amnesty program, often known as a post-conflict management policy.

Because they provide terrorists and their supporters with weapons and other essentials, splinter groups, kidnapping, oil theft, and other crimes have increased since the amnesty programme. Weapons and weaponry encourage the use of force and intimidation to obtain food, cash, and other resources by instilling fear and insecurity (Bala& Tar, 2023). Beyond

the Niger Delta, the widespread availability of illegal weapons has jeopardised numerous parts of Nigeria's postconflict government. Boko Haram has used small guns and light weaponry to threaten peace, unity, territorial integrity, and development in Northern Nigeria, notably the Northeast. Even worse, insurgency activity, particularly bombings, continues irregularly in the post-Boko Haram era, although the destroyed Northeast has returned to some degree of peace, which poses a significant risk to the largely established tranquillity (Bala& Tar, 2023). The region's postconflict management plan is complicated by the reality that many internally displaced people would rather stay in camps than return to their homes, places of business, or farms. The reality that "thousands of lives have been cut short through the activities of Boko Haram" (Moses 2016:378) remains vivid in everyone's consciousness, even if many IDPs may opt not to leave the camps for other reasons (Nwosumba, 2016a).

The preceding examples demonstrate the substantial challenges that Nigeria's post-conflict management faces in terms of small arms and light weapons. The comptroller general of customs expressed concern about the interception of 66 Chinese pump action rifles on Monday, January 30, 2017 (Anumihe, 2017). These fatal weapons arrived in a "1 x 40 feet container with number: PoNU/825914/3 via a MACK truck with registration number: BDG 265 XG," according to Anumihe (2017:27). On October 26, 2010, a joint team of security agents confiscated 13 containers filled with weapons and ammunition, including hand grenades, rocket launchers, and cartridges, at the AP Moller Terminals in Apapa. In January 2017, Nigerian security agents discovered a weapon stash containing artillery rockets. The most important conclusion from these revelations—among many others—is that Nigeria and her people were spared the devastation that these weapons could have caused. Given the country's tremendous corruption, several identical weapons may enter without being reported. This also shows the magnitude of people, groups, and organisations' desperation to obtain weapons. This begs the question: what function do firearms serve if not for armed robberies, kidnappings, insurgencies, pipeline damage, oil bunkering, secession, cult activities, ethno-religious conflicts, and other similar activities? More than 70% of West Africa's nearly eight million illicit firearms are situated in Nigeria (Okonkwo, 2015), demonstrating that the abundance of guns and ammunition in the country is a substantial barrier to post-conflict management.

4.4.3 The Challenge of Terrorism and Migration

The era of modernization forces has broken down previous barriers of time, location, and distance, allowing people, ideas, and things to move freely around the world. Migration is encouraged by globalization in many forms and is also fostered by it, which is another element linking it to post-conflict management in Nigeria. As a result, just as good and evil follow them, so does the proliferation of small arms and ammunition. The other aspect is that globalisation encourages terrorist migration, which serves as a channel for drug transportation in the same way that humans do. Because of the world's interconnectedness, criminal groups can be easily formed and maintained (Nnani, 2023). These evils are more likely to thrive in environments with flexible governance systems and weak enforcement of laws forbidding them. Private individuals and groups frequently earn wealth similar to or greater than that of the state through these techniques. These are all present risks to Nigeria's national security, development efforts, and, as a result, post-conflict rehabilitation. However, it is sufficient to point out that national security problems exist whenever there is a cause to illegally cross a country's borders maintained (Nnani, 2023). Common criminals exacerbating violence is the infiltration of armed groups such as Boko Haram and Fulani herdsmen, who have been linked to widespread violence, including terrorism, kidnappings, and communal clashes who enter Nigeria illegally and create a breeding ground for violence are an evident threat. Because these criminals hurt the quality of life for thousands of Nigerians, their very existence poses a minor threat to national security (Nwosumba, Ngwube&Abah, 2016).

For example, Boko Haram insurgents have been linked to two international terrorist organisations: Al Qaeda and the Islamic State (IS). As a result, the Emir of Kano believes it is terrifying for anyone to associate with ISIS or Boko Haram (CNN, 2015). Now that the federal government and its military establishment are commemorating Boko Haram's defeat, the crucial question is if this also implies that the government has severed relations with them globally. The question seems enormous because it is known that the same Northeast continues to experience random bomb blasts and attacks, that some hostages—including the Chibok girls—have not been released, that some Boko Haram members are still at large in the region, and that the group is still very active in several neighbouring countries. The Emir's concern is legitimate considering Boko Haram's proclivity to reemerge as a threat if its overseas links, particularly those involving money, are not broken, and eventually severed. This is a challenge for the zone's post-conflict management, and thus for Nigeria as a whole. The fact that Boko Haram renamed itself as the "Islamic State in West African Peninsula

(ISWAP)" at some point (Abubakar, 2016) and that the group smuggles weapons into Nigeria due to border porosity (Onuoha, 2013; Nwosumba et al., 2020) adds to the group's linkages to foreign entities and the environment. These considerations alone give grounds to conclude that the battle will never end. Given the tremendous influence of globalisation on the African environment, as well as the notion that a conflict never truly ends, Alli (2012) concluded that conflict would remain until African states could give appropriate remedies to globalisation's destructive repercussions. A fundamental component of these solutions should be improving the quality of social services given to the public and enacting additional policies aimed at reducing poverty and unemployment. Unfortunately, since this argument was raised, rather than the federal government's post-conflict management strategies, or certain warring or competing interests helping to the diminution of conflicts in the country, there has been an escalation of abated hostilities and the formation of new ones. Nigeria has a quandary because it is the state's primary responsibility to ensure the maximum level of security for all citizens of its territories, including individuals.

While amnesty schemes confront challenges such as corruption, the emergence of splinter groups, the marginalisation of some groups, and other social, political, and cultural issues, other post-conflict initiatives and methodologies face similar and additional challenges.

4.4.4 Multinational Corporations as a Challenge to Post-Conflict Management in Nigeria

Multinational corporations, or MNCs, are mostly the products of the post-World War II era, and their ascent has been extraordinary since then. They are not a post-Cold War phenomenon (Phillips, 2022). There is no single definition for this phenomenon, although the Wall Street Journal offers a more frequently accepted explanation, describing it as enterprises with production facilities in various countries, global financial access, and a management team with a broad view. However, one of the most significant barriers to post-conflict management in Nigeria is the presence of multinational corporations (MNCs), whose authority has largely shifted away from nation-states as a result of the current globalisation process's increasing economic interconnection. According to Justice, Development, and Peace (2003), multinational corporations (MNCs) influence numerous influential policymakers in Nigeria due to the country's excessive reliance on oil money and the erosion of sovereignty by foreign players such as oil companies as a result of globalisation.

According to Berebon(2024), although oil and gas in the Niger Delta provide for 95% of Nigeria's national budget, the region remains economically underdeveloped, with populations

suffering from abject poverty, hunger, and bad health. The oil firms continue to exploit the region's resources and people, even repatriating their riches to their home countries. More troubling is the fact that the federal government did not intend to adopt a program that would have benefited indigenous people in the oil business while weakening their former source of income. Instead, the terrible impression about Indigenous people is that they are unmotivated, unproductive, and unfriendly, which is why the region has been overly and unjustifiably militarised (Macaulay, 2008; Musa et al., 2023). This is where the major challenge lies: how can a long-term peace be achieved in the Niger Delta region if the federal government collaborates with MNCs to exploit its inhabitants and resources? The fact that this injustice remains even now, despite the federal government's use of military force to keep the area peaceful, demonstrates that the present post-conflict management method, known as the amnesty program, is unlikely to be successful. Even after eight years, the amnesty program has failed to dramatically improve the lives of Niger Delta locals. Thus, it is clear that the Nigerian State poses a substantial modern challenge to the country's post-conflict management, owing to its incapacity to properly address the root causes of the majority of conflicts. In light of this, Nwosumba et al., (2020) quote Adams Oshiomole as stating that peace cannot exist in a climate of injustice.

4.4.5 The Challenge of Corruption and Injustice

Even though injustice is a global issue, it is a common practice in Nigeria. In addition to partnering with multinational corporations (MNCs) to exploit the population and its resources, the government falls short in other parts of its post-conflict management plans. Similarly, corruption is a common practice in Nigeria. Both vices make it difficult to manage the country's post-conflict growth. Furthermore, they may lead to disagreements between parties with opposing interests. Globalisation and the state are currently using these vices for political and power purposes. Individuals and groups can make use of them. Using non-governmental organisations as an example, Nwosumba (2016b) and Obananya (2022) argue that corruption within NGOs is a byproduct of Nigeria's unfair socioeconomic relations, which prioritise wealth accumulation through any means necessary. There is no denying the Nigerian state's rampant corruption, and to make matters worse, it exploits vice for political benefit. For example, this argument was used when NGOs were viewed as development agents in Nigeria despite charges that some of their members had engaged in some level of corruption and injustice while participating in post-conflict government. The sample below is an excellent illustration. In support of this corruption, the Daily Sun (2007) reports that

UNICEF expressed displeasure about the diversion of relief supplies intended for the IDPS in various Plateau State Local Government Areas during that time. The use of this example simply implies that corruption is an injustice in and of itself since it impedes efforts to manage post-conflict situations, which, if not handled correctly, can jeopardise the peace-building process and trigger new hostilities.

Similarly, the federal government's committees entrusted with reconstructing and rehabilitating the Northeast and reintegrating IDPs, as well as the Niger Delta's amnesty program, have been linked to several concerns, including cash embezzlement, some unjust and immoral behaviour, and so on. All of this complicates the areas' ability to successfully address post-conflict challenges. Ering, Bassey, and Odike (2013) provide additional evidence to support their position, claiming that the amnesty provided to Niger Delta rebels appears to be a ruse devised by the federal government and oil companies to maintain oil production and earn profits for themselves. Furthermore, they reveal that cash intended for the amnesty program ended up in the coffers of the political elite, with some ending up in private pockets, allowing corruption to continue on an upscale and outscale level. As a result, the initiative has mostly failed to establish long-term peace in the region. If the circumstances are not adjusted to fit all parties, cases of corruption and injustice may result in parties feeling unfairly treated throughout the dispute resolution process and mobilising for further confrontation. Furthermore, corruption has contributed to the country's arms proliferation by putting many weapons—including illegal ones—in the hands of insurgents, ranchers, armed robbers, kidnappers, and even cult members (Anumihe, 2017). According to Anumihe, the urgent desire to smuggle guns stems from the fact that there is a ready market for them in Nigeria, especially given the country's porous borders. The most disturbing feature of this situation is that these weapons and ammunition are properly cleared at land borders and seaports by Customs and other security agencies. The argument is that because the Customs Service is an instrument of the federal government, its failure to discharge its duties represents the failure of the entire government because, in a just and equitable world, the fight against corruption should have included all forms of corruption. The fundamental cause of this abuse of public office for personal gain is corruption. This complicates Nigeria's post-conflict management efforts.

4.6 Role of International Interventions

Nigeria's reconstruction after the war has had a lot of help from around the world. Many organisations from around the world have helped build peace. The United Nations (UN), the World Bank, and the African Union (AU) have all been very important in dealing with the effects of war, especially in the Niger Delta and northeastern regions where Boko Haram is active. Through its many agencies, the UN has helped people in need, facilitated peace talks, and backed capacity-building efforts that aim to restore security and boost development (United Nations, 2015). In the same way, the World Bank has put money into projects that aim to rebuild infrastructure, improve economic chances, and back up reforms to government (World Bank, 2018).

Nigeria's recovery from the conflict has been helped by a number of international projects. The UNDP's Integrated Approach to Building Peace in Nigeria, for example, aims to improve community resilience and boost local government (UNDP, 2019). The Nigeria Multi-Sectoral Crisis Recovery Project (MCRP) from the World Bank wants to rebuild communities that have been damaged by conflict by putting money into social services, healthcare, and education (World Bank, 2018). These programs have made a difference, leading to better living conditions and stronger social bonds in the places they've touched. But problems like fraud, not enough money, and trouble coordinating have sometimes kept these programs from reaching their full potential (Human Rights Watch, 2017).

There have been big successes for international efforts in Nigeria, especially when it comes to giving immediate relief and starting long-term development projects. In unstable areas, for example, the AU's role in military operations has helped to keep things calm, and the UN's support for elections has made democracy stronger (African Union, 2020). That being said, these solutions are not perfect. Reports from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) like Amnesty International show that some peacekeeping operations violate human rights and don't protect vulnerable groups well enough (Amnesty International, 2019). Also, these interventions often only last as long as foreign donors keep giving money and the Nigerian government stays committed to reform measures (foreign Crisis Group, 2019).

4.7 Local Community Engagement Strategies

In Nigeria, building peace and rebuilding after a conflict depends on the input of the local community. Getting local communities involved makes sure that interventions are culturally appropriate, last, and are owned by the people who are directly touched by the conflict. It is

important for long-term peace and development that community-based methods use local knowledge, build trust, and encourage involvement by everyone (Nigerian Ministry of Defence, 2018).Nigerian communities have used a variety of methods to deal with problems that have arisen after a war. Some examples are traditional ways to settle disagreements, group dialogues, and projects where people work together to make things better. For instance, community talks led by local leaders and civil society groups have helped bring together warring groups and improve understanding between them (International Crisis Group, 2018). Community-driven development projects, which are backed by NGOs, also work to fix infrastructure, provide education, and make money-making chances. This gets to the root causes of conflict (Nigerian Ministry of Interior, 2017). Case studies from different parts of Nigeria show how useful it is to work with the local community. With help from locals and international partners, the Ogoni Clean-Up Project in the Niger Delta has made a lot of work in restoring the environment and getting the economy back on track (Human Rights Watch, 2018). Community-based programs in the northeast have successfully reintegrated former Boko Haram fighters back into society by giving them job training and emotional support, which makes it less likely that they will commit crimes again (Amnesty International, 2019). These examples show how important it is to give local communities the power to lead their own peacebuilding and development projects, making sure that actions last and fit the situation (International Crisis Group, 2019).

4.8 Summary of Findings

The research reveals that Nigeria's efforts to build peace have been quite challenging and complicated, influenced by a range of factors. Strong local involvement, integrated socioeconomic growth, and good coordination between stakeholders have all been key to successful projects. The Niger Delta Amnesty Program is a good example of this because it uses economic possibilities and community involvement to lower violence. On the other hand, mistakes are often blamed on a lack of political will, not taking cultural factors into account, and not having enough disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration (DDR) programs. The failure of the Middle Belt peace agreement shows what can happen when there isn't enough political backing and community ownership.

International efforts have been very helpful, but problems like corruption, a lack of money, and problems with coordination have made them less effective. The UN, the World Bank, and

the African Union have all been very important in providing humanitarian help, building up infrastructure, and keeping the peace.

The findings also show that getting the local people involved is very important for building lasting peace. Community-led projects, traditional ways of resolving conflicts, and group projects have all been shown to help with growth and reconciliation. The Ogoni Clean-Up Project and programs to help former Boko Haram fighters get back into society are good examples of how getting involved in your community can make a difference.

Lastly, Nigeria needs a comprehensive plan that tackles both the immediate and underlying causes of conflict in order to achieve lasting peace. To get past the problems and build a better, more stable future, we need strong political commitment, peacebuilding processes that include everyone, and ongoing foreign support.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

This study shows that Nigeria's attempts to build peace have been both successful and hard. Peace efforts have been shaped by local, national, and foreign factors, so it's important to use strategies that include everyone. It also shows that building peace needs people from the area to be involved. The Niger Delta Amnesty Program shows how economic chances and getting involved in the community can help heal and lower violence. The program works because it focuses on economic and social growth in the area and sees them as tools for building peace. Furthermore, the research reveals that Nigeria has some challenges that need to be fixed to build peace. Failures have often been caused by a lack of political will. The Middle Belt peace deal didn't have enough political backing or community ownership, so it didn't work out. It's clear from these failures that peacebuilding processes need political commitment and support from the government and local stakeholders. The study also shows that efforts to build peace have been harmed by cultural insensitivity and poor DDR programs. Peace projects that work must take into account the cultural background of the areas they work in and offer thorough DDR programs to assist former combatants in reintegrating into society. Without these things, work is usually imperfect and does not work. Moreover, it is important to note that peace has been built in Nigeria with help from other countries. The UN, the World Bank, and the African Union have all provided important relief aid, built new infrastructure, and helped keep the peace. Corruption, limited funds, and problems with coordination have made these efforts harder to carry out. These issues show that we need better and more open international support systems to make foreign help and projects work better.

Community-led efforts to build peace are also emphasised in the study. Community involvement projects have helped bring people together and spur development. Local projects like the Ogoni Clean-Up Project and Boko Haram rehabilitation programs show that getting people in the area involved can help make peace. Lastly, Nigeria's efforts to build peace must deal with both the current and long-term causes of conflict. For a complete plan to work, it needs political support, peacebuilding that includes everyone, and support from around the world. By learning from its past successes and failures, Nigeria may be able to build a

stronger peace strategy that takes into account local views, cultural concerns, and long-term growth.

This study shows that for Nigeria to have a more safe and peaceful future, it needs to keep working with other countries and the community.

5.2 Recommendation

First, Nigeria should boost local peacebuilding. Successful projects like the Niger Delta Amnesty Program and the community-led Ogoni Clean-Up Project demonstrate the value of local perspectives and resources. Involving community leaders and members in peacebuilding program design, implementation, and assessment can achieve this. Thus, programs are more likely to meet local needs and cultural contexts, boosting ownership and sustainability. Second, political will and support must be addressed. Middle Belt peace deal failure shows the dangers of weak political support. We must work to ensure political leaders are dedicated to peacebuilding to overcome this. This commitment should be shown by vocal endorsements and concrete actions, such as allocating money and creating effective frameworks for governmentcommunity partnerships.

Thirdly, international and local stakeholders must work together better. The UN, World Bank, and African Union have been important, but corruption and poor coordination have hampered them. Establishing robust monitoring and evaluation procedures for foreign aid and intervention can address these difficulties. Resource efficiency should be ensured via clear reporting and regular audits. Complete disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration (DDR) initiatives are needed. Poor DDR initiatives perpetuate violence, according to the research. Long-term peace and stability require comprehensive DDR initiatives that engage former combatants and affected populations. Psychological support, vocational training, and community reintegration should help civilians shift from conflict to peace.

Finally, Nigeria should address acute and underlying conflict causes holistically. This includes merging socioeconomic development with peacebuilding to address poverty and injustice, which generate conflict. A multifaceted strategy that combines urgent alleviation with longterm development will help strengthen society

5.3. Future Research / Recommendation

In re-evaluating this project, several adjustments could enhance its scope and impact. To begin, it would be better to collect data more thoroughly. Expanding the research to include a

wider array of case studies and incorporating longitudinal data could provide deeper insights into the long-term success of peacebuilding efforts. Also, including a wider range of stakeholders, such as local grassroots organisations and affected groups, would make the analysis more complete and make sure that the results are truer to life in Nigeria as a whole.

The methods used in this study should also be improved in future work. Mixed-methods techniques, which use both quantitative and qualitative data, might help us get a better sense of how things work. For instance, polls and in-depth interviews with important people, like community leaders, policymakers, and international actors, could show more layers of complexity and give a more accurate picture of efforts to build peace. Adding geospatial analysis could also help people see better how conflicts are spread out in space and how different actions affect them.

Findings are useful in real life because they can help shape policy and practice in building peace. The study shows how important it is for people in the area to be involved, politicians to be committed, and foreign support to be there. This helps us make peace initiatives that work better and last longer. Future studies should try to close the gap between theoretical insights and real-world applications by giving policymakers, practitioners, and community leaders suggestions they can follow. Making sure that these parties can access and use the results will make them more useful and significant.

Even though this study makes some useful contributions, some problems need to be thought about. One big problem is that it relies on secondary data sources, which might not fully show the details of recent events or all the important players' points of view. The study also only looked at a few specific case studies, which means it might not have fully considered differences between regions or the bigger picture of violence in Nigeria. To get around these problems in future work, the study might need to cover more areas and topics and use more first-hand data collection methods.

To get around these problems and make future research better, it is suggested that a more open and flexible study design be used. This could include working together with local researchers and other important people, as well as using advanced analysis tools to check how well peacebuilding efforts are working. It's also important to keep evaluating and changing tactics for building peace, with a focus on getting feedback in real-time and always getting better.

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