Rising Insecurity in Nigeria: Threat to Africa Agenda 2063

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Abstract

The increasing insecurity in Nigeria threatens not only the stability of a country but also the wider goals of Africa's Agenda 2063. This article looks into the origins and possible remedies of the rising insecurity in Nigeria characterized by terrorism, insurgency, banditry, and ethnic violence. The security challenges have worsened in the rise of extremist groups such as Boko Haram and an increase in armed bandits' menace. Indeed, because of its importance in West Africa and Africa, instability in Nigeria has wider ramifications for regional stability. The Agenda 2063 intends to achieve integration, shared prosperity, and peace, however, this paper shows that insecurity is a multifaceted problem involving the rising levels of poverty and inequality, religious and ethnic tensions, and political instability in Nigeria and West Africa in general. It concludes that community policing and socioeconomic policy reforms are vital to resolve the issue of insecurity in Nigeria. Moreover, regional cooperation through the AU and the ECOWAS is paramount to combat security challenges across borders, including organized crime and terrorism.

Keywords: Insecurity, Sustainable Development, Economic Integration, Africa, Agenda 2063.

Introduction

African states have been concentrating on security as a means to achieve development goals. This is in line with the strategies of theOrganisation of the African Union (OAU, now AU). that was established in 1963. The group's stated goals include promoting security and stability on the continental level, managing conflicts, and coordinating policies at the regional level. The AU aims to promote prosperity, interstate solidarity, and peace and security, and to amplify African voices within the global system (Tieku, 2019) The sense of insecurity among Nigerians is growing day by day, and that is a problem for the African continent as a whole. The stability of Nigeria, the most populous nation in Africa and one of the key economic and political powers on the continent, is essential for the realization of the Agenda 2063. Within this framework, the African Union envisions attaining a peaceful, wealthy, and integrated continent by 2063. But these shared goals are seriously threatened by the increasing tide of crime, terrorism, and bloodshed in Nigeria.

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Organized crime, ethnic and tribal conflicts, banditry, insurgencies, and other forms of insecurity in Nigeria have retarded the progress of that country and threaten to plunge the entire West African area into chaos. The paper considers security, economic, and political implications for Nigeria and Africa as a whole and reflects how these increasing unstable trends within one nation impact the greater Africa's Agenda 2063.

The insecurity in Nigeria is an outcome of its colonial past. Artificial borders drawn during the British colonial control split a number of ethnic groups and weakened local government institutions (Faleye, 2019). Decades of instability were born out of those parties' fight for political power, extending to the control of enormous Nigerian oil reserves (Adebayo, 2022). Following independence, Nigeria saw a series of military coups and counter-coupsThe worst of these, the Nigerian Civil War-or Biafran War-of 1967–1970, cleaved the country along ethnic and political lines and killed more than a million people. The Igbo separatist movement led to civil war in Nigeria (Obi-Ani, 2024), pointing to the failings of the state itself and the challenges of fostering coherence among the country's diverse ethnic groupings. There were unresolved concerns about the representation of people in public office, the distribution of resources, and ethnic autonomy, meaning instability continued long past the end of the conflict.

Northerners and Southerners, mainly Muslim and Christian respectively, faced increased political and religious tensions during the post years of the Civil War. Military dictators of Nigeria used various techniques of divide and rule, which further solidified existing divisions. The 1970s and 1980s saw numerous insurgencies erupt within the country, fueled by political, religious, and ethnic tensions. In the late 20th century, terrorist organisations in the Niger Delta region sought increased control over oil earnings, which made the region extremely volatile (Akinyemi, 2020). Oil extraction exacerbated these tensions by destroying natural habitats, which only served to increase locals' already high levels of dissatisfaction.

New forms of religious fundamentalism also appeared at the turn of the century, adding another layer of instability. The Islamist militant group Boko Haram initiated its terror campaign against northeastern Nigeria in the early 2000s. This radical ideology calls for an Islamic state governed under strict Sharia law and has led to a brutal insurgency. This has sent millions into displacement and brought enormous destruction into perspective. In that aspect, Nigeria became one of the global hotbeds of terrorism due to its tactics that involved bombings, kidnappings, and even suicide strikes, among other nefarious acts, at the hands of Boko Haram (Akinyemi, 2020). The presence of Boko Haram and its ISWAP faction remains imminent amidst military engagements against the terrorists group.

Besides Boko Haram, banditry and violent crime have surged in the centre and northwest of Nigeria. The so-called "bandits" are armed gangs that target rural areas, kidnap for ransom, extort money, and commit other forms of attacks. Poor state authority in these regions allows such organizations to act without hindrance, based on both ethnic and financial motivations (Olaniyan et al., 2021). It has been difficult for the Nigerian government to combat these criminal forces, who have taken full advantage of the abundance of small arms and light weapons coupled with the weakened governance systems (Kemei et al., 2023).

Human rights abuses and civilian deaths have been common results of heavy-handed military response by the government to growing instability. The inability of the Nigerian state to protect its citizens from worsening violence has resulted in a lack of trust and the rise of vigilante groups and local militias. While these organizations try to provide security

in the absence of the state, they often exacerbate the problem, thereby creating a cycle of insecurity. This is according to Igwe (2024). Much of the country has been left vulnerable to such threats as ethnic violence, insurgency, and organized crime.

By the mid-2010s, instability in Nigeria had over-spilled from those parts of the country which were traditionally affected. Proliferation of terrorism, banditry, and communal conflict had taken away huge swathes of the nation from the government. A very large refugee problem is posed by the displacement of millions, mostly in the northeast, because of the insurgency conducted by Boko Haram. Lack of adequate infrastructure to support IDPs themselves heightens the severity of this issue and further burdens an already overwhelmed system (UNDP, 2022).

Insecurity in Nigeria has also grossly affected the economic situation of the country. Oil is Nigeria's bread and butter, but production has been brought to a standstill due to insurgency in the north and Niger Delta. Attacks on oil infrastructure, such as pipelines and refineries, have led to significant losses in income. On a similar note, millions of citizens depend on farming to get by, but banditry in the north is highly impeding agricultural production (Kemei et al., 2023). All these economic shocks have hindered the ability of the government to curdle some of the developmental issues stated in Agenda 2063.

Existing literatures on Africa's agenda 2063 have tended more toward how it can be achieved, towards answering the questions of: will it be achieved? Which country will or will not achieve it? The economic and international relations implications of achieving or not achieving the agenda have been on the front burner of existing literatures on Africa's agenda 2063. Scarcely is the literature concerned with how the negative reality in one African country can affect the achievement of this agenda not just for the country but for other African countries. This reality reveals a gap in knowledge. This gap in knowledge will be filled by this study which, using the rising insecurity in Nigeria, shows not just how the negative situation in a particular African country can militate against the achievement of Africa's agenda 2063, but also, how community policing and socioeconomic policy reforms are vital in resolving the issue of insecurity in Nigeria.

This paper adopts qualitative techniques to explore in-depth increasing of insecurity in Nigeria. The insecurity issue in Nigeria can be considered to be influenced by cultural, social, political, and economic variables and, therefore, lends itself particularly to a mixed-methods research strategy. Theme analysis was carried out on the qualitative data that was obtained. The process involves identifying categories, topics, and patterns among the responses. It deals with what makes people feel unsafe, the effectiveness of prevailing security measures, and the meaning this problem connotes for national development and Agenda 2063 in Africa.

Conceptual Clarifications

Despite the concept of political instability always hinges on the likelihood of a change in the government's executive branch, be it by constitutional or illegal means (Alesina et al., 1996). Political stability is often threatened during a change in leadership or challenges to the status quo (Morrison & Stevenson, 1971). Political instability occurs when the established order of power collapses and the anticipated submission to political authority is supplanted by violent opposition.

The concept of insecurity could be perceived as a condition of dread, apprehension, or lack of self-assurance. If you are worried about being vulnerable because you feel unsafe, you're

probably insecure (Beland, 2005). People living in fear are not only ill-prepared for potential risks, but they are also unable to anticipate them (Anigbogu & Ndubuisi-Okolo, 2019). Tragically, terrorism, armed banditry, political instability, and conflicts have plagued most African states, leaving their citizens in a constant state of fear. Since many companies and commercial operations are now fraught with uncertainty, this is having a significant impact on the continent's economic growth and development.

The theory of conflict resolution and peacebuilding provides useful insight into the root causes of insecurity and strategies to promote lasting peace in Nigeria. This school of thought argues that it is through talking about disagreements, reconciling parties, and setting up strong institutions that best describes the art of handling disputes. Each of these aspects including terrors, banditry, and ethnic violence-lends to general instability in Nigeria, which indeed calls for comprehensive strategy measures in restoring stability (Akinyemi, 2020).

Conflict resolution theory is based on negotiation and discourse between disputing parties to establish mutually agreeable solutions. The insurgencies and ethnic conflicts that have plagued Nigeria can be analysed in this way. Conflicts in Nigeria require peaceful resolution through communication between the government and communities. Most certainly, in the wake of what happened not so long ago: the Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast and sectarian violence in the Middle Belt. Issues that are big contributors to the violent conflict include unequal resource distribution, political exclusion, and ethnic antagonism; these have to be discussed. Some of the major causes of insecurity in Nigeria may be minimized if the country adopted a conflict resolution strategy that emphasizes mutual understanding and compromise (Adebayo, 2022).

Peacebuilding is an auxiliary conflict resolution approach that aims to create durable peace by finding the root cause of violence and, over time, attempting to eliminate it. Efforts toward peace in Nigeria should focus on strengthening democratic institutions, social cohesion, and ensuring inclusive leadership. For the realization of a society devoid of insecurity, there is a need to take action that reduces economic, social, and political disparities. Obi-Ani (2024) cites transparent resource management, local empowerment, and equal distribution of wealth as solutions to the violence in the Niger Delta, which is fuelled by demands for a larger share of oil earnings. These peacebuilding tactics can help keep Nigeria stable and economically affluent, which will contribute to Africa's Agenda 2063.

The philosophy of conflict resolution and peacebuilding also focuses on the involvement of local communities and civil society organizations in peace initiatives. In this light, community-led programs are necessary to address the root causes of insecurity in Nigeria, with emphasis on justice, reconciliation, and the building of trust. Local players can resolve conflicts and encourage interaction between different religious and ethnic groups, and they include religious leaders, non-governmental organizations, and traditional leaders. Rebuilding a national identity that goes beyond religious and racial divisions requires these kinds of endeavours (Feinstein, 2024). Maintaining peace and avoiding future bloodshed requires active participation at the local level.

International partners' support in conflict resolution and peace establishment is fundamental to Nigeria. The UN, the African Union, and other regional bodies such as ECOWAS can provide political and financial support to the peace efforts of Nigeria. International players can promote communication and provide technical support while mobilizing resources in peacebuilding efforts. To aid Nigeria in tackling its security issues, for instance, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the role of ECOWAS in conflict prevention

may be enhanced (Twagirayezu, 2021). To address the transnational aspects of insecurity, international cooperation is essential, particularly in areas where criminal organisations and insurgent groups operate.

The ultimate goal of Agenda 2063 is to ensure that Nigeria institutes theories of peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Resolving the security situation in Nigeria will have wide effects on the entire African continent because the stability of Nigeria is critical to the prosperity and tranquility of the entire West African area. Economic integration, social progress, and democratic government can only be fully realized in a safe and secure environment. Agenda 2063's larger goals, including the advancement of shared prosperity and sustainable development, are jeopardized in the event that Nigeria does not experience peace and security. What is needed is a holistic approach that encompasses peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and regional cooperation if instability is to be reduced and Africa's goal for 2063 achieved (Igwe, 2024).

The frustration-aggression theory put out by John Dollard et al., (1939) postulates that violent acts are more common among people and organisations whose needs and wants go unfulfilled. Limited prospects for economic advancement, education, and political participation frustrate many groups in Nigeria, particularly young people from marginalised regions. This dissatisfaction often combines with structural inequity to result in acts of violence and insurgency. This perspective is important because it explains the rise of Boko Haram: the violence perpetrated by this group has its genesis in the perception by young people in the northeast of the state's inertia on their economic and educational handicaps. Economic malaise and ineffectual state response are also drivers of banditry in the northwest. This school of thought feels that the rate of violence in Nigeria can only decrease if the social and economic issues that breed discontent-low salaries, high unemployment, and limited education-are addressed (Ezemenaka, 2021)

As observed by Ukaeje (2022), the idea of the transformation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to the African Union (AU) in 1999, by African Heads of State and governments, was to accelerate the processes of regional economic integration in the continent. Thus, the AU came into being to enable the continent to play a significant role in global economic affairs, while addressing other multifaceted social, economic, and political problems that tend to hinder progress in the continent. However, after more than two decades of its transformation, and despite the adoption of Agenda 2063 which aims to accelerate economic progress in Africa, the continent remains at a crossroads in its struggle to grapple with the challenges of achieving its core objectives. Drawing data largely from secondary sources of information, the paper attempted a critical examination of the political instability and insecurity across many African states, especially as the continent strives towards achieving economic progress through the framework of Agenda 2063, and found out that political instability and insecurity are fundamental challenges standing against the actualization of the Agenda's objectives.

Unless these challenges are mitigated, the Agenda 2063 will remain nothing but a document that cannot be actualized because the peace and security required to attend such an enviable feat is seriously in breach in a majority of the states of the Union. Agenda 2063's noble goals and ambitions for Africa's developmental requirements are commendable (Durokifa, 2022). Nonetheless, the growing radical Islamism, xenophobia, violence endangering national sovereignty, local insurgencies, and other security challenges on the African continent could undermine and jeopardise these hopes for the continent's growth. Security

concerns on the continent have grown in importance at the national and regional levels, even if Agenda 2063 doesn't directly deal with them. In light of this context, this article examines the ways Agenda 2063 has helped Africa develop, with a particular emphasis on Goal 4: "a peaceful and secure Africa," and how its goals are inherently contradictory. Indeed, the entrenchment of democratic culture and constitutionalism as well as strengthening of existing institutions of governance is the first step towards achieving the desired peace and security in the region.

The Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria

Political, economic, social, and historical elements are all combined to fuel Nigeria's insecurity. Not less important are the poverty and inequality issues that are greatly contributing to people's unsafeness. About millions of Nigerians live in poverty, placing the country as one of the poorest in the world, says Obi, 2024. In the Niger Delta, local people have been for long marginalized in this oil-rich region, despite the enormous wealth created from their land. This economic disenfranchisement is sometimes compounded by the uneven distribution of resources and income. The rise in inequality and lack of economic opportunities have contributed to the increase in extremist organisations like the Niger Delta Avengers that use violence as a form of protest (Adebayo, 2022).

Another significant contributor to the situation is the long history of religious and ethnic strife in the country. Several times, religious and ethnic differences have brought about disputes in Nigeria, but most recently in the Middle Belt, where herders and farmers are competing for limited resources (Bombom, & Yemisi, (2024). These disputes are often fueled by tensions between Muslim and Christian communities that erupt into violent clashes, further exacerbating the disputes. Violence becomes a legitimate means by which to claim one's place in society, as well as one's share of the country's wealth and power, which adds to the general insecurity caused by these socioeconomic inequalities.

Another important factor in the conflict in northern Nigeria has been the propagation of radical ideology. The violent actions of the Islamic terrorist group Boko Haram have led to the destabilization of the region, including bombings, kidnappings, and mass killings (Ezemenaka, 2021). The rise of these extreme groups can be traced back to the high rate of unemployment among youth, particularly in the northern areas. Most youths have found themselves joining these groups for survival. Most young people in Nigeria, particularly the excluded and the poor, find meaning in the narrative of this group as it reflects the group's defiant stand against government and foreign forces (Eneh, 2024).

The Effectiveness of Existing Security Policies

Against this deteriorating security situation, the Nigerian government has initiated several security policies and programs, whose effectiveness has been highly debated. The establishment of the JTF and the Nigerian Army's counterinsurgency operations in the northeast have achieved little success in curtailing the activities of Boko Haram and other extremist groups (Ezemenaka, 2021). The continuous fatal attacks by the rebels, despite the military's effort, prove the poor capacity of the state to maintain authority over the affected regions. Assisted by regional security formations such as the Multinational Joint Task Force composed of Chad, Niger, and Cameroon, Nigeria has similarly been able to combat insurgency and cross-border terrorism. Teething problems of coordination and political disagreements among the member nations have hampered the MNJTF from effectively stemming the rise of extremist groups despite a number of successes on the ground in this behalf (Obi, 2024). Poverty, inadequate education, and marginalization are the most

significant causes of insecurity in Nigeria, with its government adopting a very military approach that has done little to address these conditions.

There has been a total absence of an integrated approach; hence, all security initiatives taken have been piecemeal. Security services such as police, military, and the intelligence community hardly cooperate while responding to the threats. According to Adebayo (2022), the lack of community policing initiatives has further worsened the security crisis. This is because people in the conflict-prone areas have little faith in the security forces and instead look towards the local militias for protection. Thus, the security responses in Nigeria have been fragmented and could not address the magnitude and breadth of the problems.

The Broader Implications of Insecurity for National Development

The effects of insecurity in Nigeria have wide-reaching impacts that act to stall growth along many critical dimensions, such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure. Due to continuous violence and instability, millions of Nigerians have been displaced from their homes. This is most pronounced in the northeast, where the fight against Boko Haram has provoked a humanitarian disaster of an order of magnitude that hardly exists anywhere else in the world. Basic social services such as health and education are often unavailable to displaced persons, making their economic vulnerability even more precarious (Kemei et al., 2023).

Insecurity has taken a toll on Nigeria's economy in more ways than the human toll. Households have suffered food shortages and increased prices due to the disruption of agricultural output by the protracted insurgency in the northeast and banditry in the northwest. Attacking oil infrastructure by militant groups in Nigeria's Niger Delta region has reduced oil production and money generation for the government (Adebayo, 2022). These kinds of economic disruptions only serve to worsen the situation in countries' achieving development goals, among them economic diversification and the eradication of poverty— both being an integral part of Africa's Agenda 2063.

Foreign investors are wary of regions with a history of violence and instability, and this fear has translated into a lack of investment in Nigeria. The climate of uncertainty brought about by the current security challenges makes Nigeria a less attractive location for FDI. This further exacerbates the economic and social problems that the people of Nigeria are already facing because it inhibits the creation of new jobs (Eneh, 2024).

Insecurity and Its Implications for Africa's Agenda 2063

While Agenda 2063 summation is for sustainable development, integration, and shared prosperity, it is only possible with a peaceful and stable Africa. A far cry from what obtains in Nigeria due to its growing insecurity. Instability in Nigeria (Africa's largest economy and a regional security hub) complicates efforts toward the entrenchment of peace and stability in West Africa and indeed the rest of Africa. An incoherent, unsafe Nigeria is ill-equipped to effectively operationalize African Union initiatives like the African Peer Review Mechanism and the African Standby Force, designed to promote peace and security within the region (Fourchard, 2023).

Agenda 2063 has among its flagship goals the creation of a prosperous and integrated African continent. In this respect, economic cooperation among the African nations, especially the regional trade agreements like AfCFTA, is central to the goal. The success of these projects largely depends on Nigeria, the key economic actor. Attacks on northern areas' roadways, marketplaces, and infrastructure have exacerbated the difficulty of doing business and trading as a result of the growing insecurity (Obi, 2024). Significant capital flight has also occurred due to insecurity, since investors are wary of putting their money into a country with a reputation for instability.

More specifically, all social development goals that included health, education, and the

reduction of poverty are running a huge risk of reversal from humanitarian consequences created by insecurity in Nigeria. Activities of terrorism, banditry, and ethnic conflicts have displaced millions from their homes, placing monumental burdens on governmental services and infrastructural facilities. This single preoccupation with security by the Nigerian government has given little space to address the social demands that are vital for the social and cultural aims of Agenda 2063 (Adebayo, 2022).

More importantly, instability in Nigeria adversely affects West African security in its entirety. The porosity of Nigeria's borders with Chad, Niger, and Cameroon has made the environment very conducive for transnational extremism to flourish in Nigeria. Ezemenaka (2020) observes that the recruitment of fighters by Boko Haram and ISWAP from all parts of the region has further contributed to the destabilization of neighbouring countries and overall security in the Lake Chad Basin area. Because of these various cross-border security problems, ECOWAS has not been able to achieve the objective of advancing regional stability and integration.

Lastly, Nigerians no longer have faith in their government and its institutions because the country has failed to solve the security issues that it has been facing. This result of people's dissatisfaction growing with the government is politically unstable, and people of different ethnic groups are also asking for more independence and self-determination. The possibility of further fragmentation and secessionist movements, particularly in the southwest and southeast, directly threatens the unity of Nigeria and its capacity to make a significant contribution to the agenda of the African Union (Igwe, 2024).

The growing insecurity in the country is one of the major reasons why Africa's Agenda 2063 cannot be realized. The complex character of Nigeria's security dilemma-from terrorism to banditry and ethnic conflict-is a reason the country cannot take the lead in peace initiatives on continental and regional levels. The attainment of sustainable development, prosperity, and integration on the African continent is already a challenge, but all this is exacerbated by insecurity with its social and economic impacts. It is important for Nigeria to get out of the security problem so that the entire larger goals of Agenda 2063 are not defeated; Nigeria is an important country within African politics and the economy. Unless the Nigerian government, with its regional and international partners, firmly moves to bring back stability, development, and peace in the country, Nigeria's crisis has all the dangers of threatening the common destiny in Africa.

Poverty, inequality, and unemployment remain the main causes of instability in Nigeria; for this reason, the government needs to focus on strengthening good governance and addressing these issues. In case the state seeks the confidence of the people for its legitimacy, then the structural reforms regarding governance must be undertaken by it, such as effectiveness in public institutions and transparency of the same (Adebayo, 2022). Additionally, social programs aimed at addressing economic inequalities may weaken the economic grievances that generate extremism and violence by opening up more opportunities in education, healthcare, and employment. Inclusive development will help protect the residents of Nigeria against being enlisted by terrorist groups like Boko Haram and other bandit organisations (Fourchard, 2023).

In view of the fact that regional insecurity is not exclusive to Nigeria, the latter is supposed to work harder in concert with its neighbors and regional groups like ECOWAS and the AU for an effective fight against the common scourge. Since transnational threats such as terrorism, trafficking, and organized crimes always transcend national borders, a regional player must converge and come up with better coordinated responses to these threats, says Pereira & Chukwuma (2022). Intelligence sharing, joint military operations, and solidifying border security should continue to be the priorities of regional security arrangements in trying to prevent the growth of violent extremism. Nigeria, due to its leading position within

ECOWAS and the AU, can also be a driving force behind peacebuilding efforts on the African continent, using that leading position to foster a coherent and proactive approach for security in West Africa.

The changing face of insecurity means that Nigeria's security apparatus needs to be rethought. This transformation will include, but is not limited to, the training, equipment, and intelligence-gathering capacities of law enforcement and military personnel, as averred by Ezemenaka (2020). In addition to facilitating communication between security services and their immediate communities, community policing programs should be encouraged. These include the reduced reliance on militias and vigilantes, and an increase in public confidence in law enforcement agencies as a result of greater citizen involvement in neighborhood security operations. If such changes do take place, the state will become far more effective at maintaining order and protecting its citizens from both external and domestic threats.

Social and economic development, as well as the fostering of societal cohesion, should be Nigeria's last line of defense against instability. For long-term peace and stability, there is a need to address the social and economic issues that exacerbate insecurity. In particular, investments in rural development, job creation, and infrastructure will go a long way in uplifting the most vulnerable populations, especially in violence-prone areas (Obi, 2024). In addition, interfaith and interethnic dialogue programs can help bridge the gap between people and minimize the chances of conflict that is incited by religious and ethnic intolerance. Above all, the implementation of Africa's Agenda 2063 requires a more united society and sound economic growth so as to lay the ground for sustainable peace.

Conclusion

This paper shows that instability in Nigeria, the most populous and economically significant African country, threatens the success of an otherwise peaceful, united, and prosperous Agenda 2063 of Africa. For Agenda 2063 to be a success, it is imperative that Nigeria remains stable. In its own right, a safe Nigeria will ensure economic growth, regional integration, and the realization of African Union objectives of improved governance, increased social inclusion, and increased sustainable development (Obi, 2024). Indeed, the growing insecurity in the region is undermining regional integration and collaboration in West Africa due to the difficult transportation of people, products, and services between Nigeria and other West African nations. Cross-border trade disruption by insurgent groups and criminal organisations has overshadowed the ability of Nigeria to attain the set goals as stated in the AfCFTA agreement. This trade is vital for regional economic integration. Insecurity in Nigeria also denies the country its role as an advocate for peace and a regional power through the reduction of its capacity to send peacekeepers to other African countries (Fourchard, 2023).

Also, migratory problems in the area can worsen as a result of Nigeria's increasing insecurity. The growing violence in conflict-prone areas has forced many people to leave their homes, leading to a surge of Nigerian refugees into neighboring countries. This not only undermines the grand dream of African unity and solidarity as outlined in Agenda 2063 but also poses a threat to the stability of the entire region, as it taxes these nations' already-strained budgets.

What is needed is an integrated and holistic approach to reducing the impact of insecurity on national development and the realization of Agenda 2063. In this regard, we need to contribute to the improvement of governance, reduction of poverty, inequality, and ethnic tensions that breed insecurity. The approach must be holistic, involving military and non-military interventions, including those related to security at the community level. With the security forces of Nigeria being in close coordination and money being invested in social

development projects such as healthcare and education, people in Nigeria would be less likely to become victims of violent extremism (Akinyemi, 2020).

To tackle cross-border insecurity, regional collaboration is equally crucial. The Nigerian government should work more closely with its neighbours and regional groups like ECOWAS to combat transnational security threats like organised crime, terrorism, and trafficking (Kemei et al., 2023). In addition, Nigeria can show leadership by joining the African Union to back peacebuilding initiatives in other African nations. This will help achieve the larger objective of stability and peace on the continent.

The growing instability in Nigeria does indeed pose a grave danger to the nation's security, with far-reaching consequences for Agenda 2063 in Africa. The security situation in Nigeria, one of the biggest and most powerful countries in the continent, jeopardizes the goals of the African Union for a peaceful, wealthy, and integrated Africa. If Nigeria is serious about achieving lasting peace and prosperity, it must tackle its insecurity head-on, which stems from issues like poverty, inequality, and ethnic tensions (Adebayo, 2022). Regional integration, shared prosperity, and sustainable development are some of the overarching objectives of Agenda 2063, but they are all in jeopardy until Nigeria achieves enduring peace and stability.

The insecurity in Nigeria can only be effectively curtailed through a multi-faceted approach. Firstly, according to Twagirayezu (2021), governance institutions have to be empowered and become effective instruments for the improvement of the delivery of public services, combating corruption, and inclusion of all social groups. This is critical toward effective security sector reforms through community policing, sharing information, and responding coherently to military threats emanating both from within and outside. To effectively address the transnational threats that cause instability in Nigeria and the wider West African area, the country needs to work together with its neighbors and multilateral organizations like ECOWAS and the African Union (Kemei et al., 2023).

If Nigeria is to be serious about addressing the root causes of insecurity, it needs to make socioeconomic development a priority. Economic inequality remains one of the primary drivers of radicalization and violence; the government can try to address this through spending on healthcare, education, infrastructure, and job creation. Fairer distribution of resources and opportunities will make the people less vulnerable to criminal groups and extremist ideologies. Additionally, fostering national unity through interfaith and interethnic dialogue is needed for the reduction of religious and ethnic tensions that lead to violence in the country (Obi, 2024).

The resolution of internal security challenges in Nigeria is core to the success of Agenda 2063. For the interest of the well-being of Nigerians and the dream of a peaceful and united Africa, this country must remain peaceful and stable. Implementation in Nigeria of a comprehensive security apparatus prioritizing both hard and soft approaches, including military intervention, community engagement, socio-economic development, and regional cooperation will make the larger goal of Agenda 2063 a reality for the benefit of all nations across the continent (Akinyemi, 2020).

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