The Role of International Organisations in Mediating Conflicts in Northeast Nigeria

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Abstract

The paper examines international organisations' roles, like the UN and African Union, in mediating the Boko Haram conflict in Northeast Nigeria since 2009. It discusses the shift from emergency aid to broader diplomatic mediation and security coordination, emphasizing a comprehensive approach that includes governance reforms and socio-economic development to address root causes such as poverty and marginalization. Despite achieving some success, including aid delivery to millions of displaced persons, challenges like bureaucratic delays and mismatches between Western peace models and local contexts hinder effectiveness. Using Lederach's Conflict Transformation Theory, it advocates for transformative strategies, local mechanisms, civil–military coordination, and political pressure on Nigeria to achieve sustainable peace.

Keywords: International organisations, peacebuilding, mediation, conflict resolution, insecurity

1ntroduction

Nigeria, a distinguished nation in Africa, has contended with various conflicts both before and after its independence in 1960. These challenges include governmental instability, ethno-religious conflicts, a civil war, and persistent disputes between indigenous populations and settlers. Additionally, there have been secessionist threats from several regions, coupled with the recent Boko Haram insurgency that has devastated much of Northern Nigeria, particularly in the Northeast, resulting in a tragic loss of life. North East Nigeria, including the

states of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, has been embroiled in violent conflicts since 2009, predominantly due to the Boko Haram insurgency and its affiliate, the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP). The ongoing conflicts have led to the deaths of over 35,000 individuals and the displacement of more than 2.4 million people within the country, triggering a significant humanitarian crisis marked by food scarcity and communal strife over dwindling resources (The New Humanitarian, 2025).

International organisations have engaged to mediate these conflicts, evolving from only offering emergency aid to actively participating in diplomatic, stabilisation, and peacebuilding initiatives. Their endeavours highlight the imperative for a holistic strategy that amalgamates security, governance, and development to tackle core challenges such as poverty, inadequate governance, and environmental degradation in the Lake Chad Basin region. Nonetheless, issues like bureaucratic impediments, opposition from local authorities, and continuous insecurity continually hinder their efficacy. The persistent violence has exacerbated pre-existing difficulties, including poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation. This has become it one of the most intricate humanitarian problems we confront today (UNICEF, 2023). Notwithstanding the initiatives undertaken by the Nigerian government and the international community to address the problem, the conflict persists, and its consequences are becoming increasingly dire. The humanitarian response has focused on providing immediate assistance, including food, shelter, and healthcare; yet, attaining enduring peace and development remains a problem (OCHA, 2022). Nigeria is placed sixth worldwide on the 2025 Global Terrorism Index (GTI). This rating represents an improvement from its prior standings, having been ranked ninth in both 2023 and 2024. This is a notable accomplishment given that over 11,000 individuals have perished and millions have been displaced due to terrorism in Nigeria. These dynamics indicate that international organisations play a significant role in moderating various stages of conflict due to their strong association with violent contestation and displacement. Consequently, this paper critically analyses the role of international institutions in mediating the contentious dispute in the Northeast.

Statement of the Problem

The situation in northeastern Nigeria has persisted for fifteen years, exacerbated by armed warfare. Assaults on civilians, military personnel, and critical infrastructure have rendered individuals increasingly susceptible and obstructed their access to needed life-saving assistance. The ongoing insecurity has resulted in more over 2 million individuals being internally displaced, hindering their return home. The necessity for protection is especially urgent for women and girls, who encounter increased threats of violence, kidnapping, rape, and many types of gender-based violence. Children, particularly those who are unaccompanied or separated from their families, face the danger of forced recruitment. The persistent conflict and instability have hindered agricultural output, resulting in food scarcity. Furthermore, climate change is intensifying the humanitarian requirements in Nigeria at an alarming rate. It is essential to analyse the functions of international bodies in conflict mediation and their efforts to reduce disputes to the lowest possible level.

This study aims to investigate the effective roles and tactics employed by international organisations to promote positive mediation, resolve disputes, and establish peace in Northeastern Nigeria. This emphasis arises from the recognition that previous conflict resolution strategies have inadequately addressed and resolved the persistent conflicts and crises afflicting the region for more than a decade.

The repercussions of societal conflict can be catastrophic. Consequently, the parties concerned and the pertinent authorities frequently utilise diverse techniques to settle disputes. A significant consequence of prolonged conflicts, if untreated, is the hunger resulting from insecurity (Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, 2024). Furthermore, we observe property destruction, fatalities (Biekpe, 2024), and an overall deterioration of the political, economic, and social structures in the impacted nations (Nkabane, 2022). The various aspects of conflict's consequences underscore the importance of avoiding confrontation whenever feasible. In the event of disputes, the foremost objective should be to seek amicable resolutions by transparent discourse and communication. In Nigeria, displacement statistics are notably severe. By the conclusion of 2024, the United

Nations (2024) announced that more than 500,000 individuals had been slain by militants in the Northeast.

Aims and Objectives

The study sought to examine the function of international organisations in conflict mediation in Northeast Nigeria. The explicit aims are as follows:
1. To examine the particular mediation and dialogue facilitation tactics utilised by international institutions.
2. To evaluate the influence and efficacy of these interventions on conflict dynamics.
3. To Examine the Obstacles and Constraints Encountered by International Organisations in the Context of Northeast Nigeria.

Methodology

This work employed a systematic methodology to identify, integrate, and critically evaluate secondary data sources, encompassing published research and reputable reports pertinent to the function of international organisations and their implementation in the northeastern region of Nigeria.

Conceptual Clarification

This paper clarifies the subsequent fundamental concepts:

Conflict Resolution

Conflict resolution entails identifying methods to rectify misunderstandings among the parties engaged in a dispute. Lederach (2018) emphasises the significance of cultural context in the peacemaking process. He proposes the integration of traditional customs with contemporary diplomatic techniques to establish enduring agreements. Zartman (2019) introduces the concept of "hurting stalemates," indicating that parties tend to be more amenable to peacemaking when the costs of war surpass any prospective advantages. Conflict resolution is a deliberate endeavour to unite opposing parties, be they individuals, communities, or nations, to cultivate a mutual feeling of harmony and peaceful coexistence. The primary objective is to inspire participants to set aside their divergences and collaborate towards the attainment of shared life goals.

Mediation

Mediation is a dispute resolution technique that is expedited, more effective, and offers greater accessibility for conflicting parties to achieve a fair and agreeable agreement (Melenko, 2020). A mediator, or facilitator, is a neutral entity that assists individuals in conflict to navigate their disputes without possessing the authority to make judgements on their behalf. In contrast to courts or arbitrators, a mediator lacks the authority to render a decision on the issue (Ojo, 2023). The parties concerned empower the mediator to facilitate a resolution to their disputes. Mediation is predicated on the concept of constructive trust, wherein the parties convey their proposals via the mediator due to their inability to resolve the conflict independently (Shafqat et al., 2022)

International Organisation

The USIP (2023) characterises nations as "international organisations formed by treaties that confer legal status" and function as "subjects of international law," with the ability to own property and enter into agreements. An international organisation is a formal institution established through treaties, agreements, or other international papers. It generally comprises representatives from a minimum of three sovereign governments and occasionally non-governmental groups. The primary objective of these organisations is to foster collaboration on global matters such as peace, security, trade, human rights, environmental conservation, and economic advancement. They possess international legal status, enabling them to enter into agreements, hold property, and autonomously engage in legal affairs separate from their member states. Typically, they operate via decision-making entities such as assemblies or councils and execute activities across multiple nations.

Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding is a multifaceted concept including various actions and processes aimed at cultivating and sustaining a peaceful society. It emphasises addressing the root causes of conflict, fostering social cohesion, and assisting communities in reconstruction. The United Nations defines peacebuilding as "a process that seeks to establish enduring peace and avert a resurgence of conflict by tackling the fundamental causes of violence and fostering social, economic, and political development" (UN, 2018b). Peacebuilding functions as a mechanism for conflict

prevention and resolution. This preventive strategy entails implementing measures to tackle entrenched societal concerns that may incite conflicts. Conversely, as a post-conflict approach, it seeks to address the root causes of conflict and endeavours to reconstruct society, including its political, economic, security, and social structures. This not only aids in averting a return into conflict but also fosters development and enduring peace.

Northeast Nigeria

'North-Eastern Nigeria' denotes a particular region inside Nigeria. This region includes Bauchi, Gombe, Yobe, Maiduguri, Adamawa, and Taraba. Historically, it was included in a regional organisation, and presently, it is situated within one of Nigeria's six geopolitical zones.

Historical Context of Nigeria's North East Conflict.

The area currently known as Northeast Nigeria possesses a substantial pre-colonial history, characterised by formidable empires and a variety of ethnic groupings. The Kanem-Bornu Empire, which thrived from the 9th to the 19th century, was a prominent state of this period. It emerged as a hub for Islamic learning and commerce, featuring broad networks that spanned the Sahara (Last, 2008). The Sokoto Caliphate gained significance in the early 1800s following Usman dan Fodio's leadership of the Fulani Jihad. This caliphate significantly influenced the region's social and political dynamics, promoting Islamic law and education that indelibly shaped the area's cultural and religious traditions (Hogben & Kirk-Greene, 1966). The establishment of British colonial power in the early 20th century undermined traditional administration and introduced novel administrative structures.

The colonial economy prioritised cash crops and resource extraction, resulting in substantial socio-economic transformations and establishing the foundation for future conflicts. Nigeria attained independence in 1960, signifying the commencement of a multifaceted journey of political and economic transformation. During those formative years, regionalism and struggle among diverse ethnic and religious groups were predominant. The discovery of oil in the Niger Delta significantly transformed the economic landscape, resulting in considerable regional inequities. Regrettably, Northern Nigeria, particularly the

Northeast, has experienced deficiencies in development and infrastructure (Falola & Heaton, 2008). The military coups and civil war of the late 1960s exacerbated the situation. The Northeast faced marginalisation and underdevelopment, resulting in pervasive poverty and unemployment. The challenging socio-economic conditions fostered the emergence of radical ideas and militant activities (Paden, 2005).

The Conflict in Northeast Nigeria

The conflict in Northeast Nigeria has been a significant worry, marked by persistent bloodshed and instability, especially since 2009, when the Islamist group Boko Haram initiated its campaign. This turmoil has led to extensive displacement, significant human rights abuses, and a critical humanitarian crisis. The International Crisis Group's research, "Beyond Conflict: Reconciliation and Rehabilitation, a Prerequisite for Peace Building" (2020), delineates the conflict into three key components:

1. The insurgency of Boko Haram: The group's violent assaults on the government and innocent civilians have resulted in substantial displacement and numerous human rights violations.

2. Counter-insurgency operations: The Nigerian military's efforts to combat Boko Haram have faced criticism for human rights abuses and disproportionate use of force.

3. Intercommunal violence: Escalating tensions among many ethnic and religious groups have provoked confrontations between farmers and herders, leading to increased displacement and violence (International Crisis Group, 2020).

The protracted conflict has engendered a devastating humanitarian crisis, impacting millions of individuals. Over 2.5 million individuals have been compelled to abandon their residences, with numerous currently residing in camps or relying on local communities for assistance (UNHCR, 2020). Disturbing reports indicate human rights breaches, including sexual violence and the recruitment of children into armed groups (Amnesty International, 2020). Access to humanitarian aid has been significantly curtailed, aggravating the situation

(OCHA, 2020). The United Nations emphasises that addressing the consequences of violence necessitates a holistic approach that considers political, economic, social, and psychological dimensions (UN, 2018b). The post-conflict period is essential and encompasses various crucial steps necessary for attaining enduring peace and averting a recurrence of violence. These procedures encompass peacebuilding initiatives aimed at establishing a stable government, reforming the security sector, and fostering community cohesion.

The role of International Organisations.

International groups and foreign governments have been instrumental in handling conflicts in Nigeria, especially in managing humanitarian crises and enhancing peace-building efforts. Organisations such as the United Nations, the African Union, and regional bodies like ECOWAS have intensified their efforts in mediation, peacekeeping, and capacity-building support. Although their endeavours have undeniably alleviated certain tensions, substantial problems persist, including concerns regarding sovereignty and the divergent interests of many groups. Despite the partial success of these state-led techniques for conflict resolution in mitigating violence and fostering reconciliation in Nigeria, other challenges persist. These encompass deep-rooted socio-economic inequalities, political marginalisation, corruption, ineffective government, and persistent inter-communal strife. Effective foreign diplomacy is crucial for mitigating the effects of conflict by mobilising resources, promoting regional cooperation, and facilitating sustainable development. It also offers a venue for the international community to apply pressure on warring parties to enter negotiations and seek peaceful outcomes (International Crisis Group, 2020).

Despite the protracted nature of the conflict in the Northeast, there are ongoing, committed initiatives focused on establishing a sustainable peace through the development and reinforcement of a stable, tranquil environment. This encompasses a variety of acts and objectives. The roles of international organisations (IOs) and their local partners (NGOs) are particularly significant in this setting. They commence with essential programs like as demobilisation, disarmament, and reintegration (DDR), in addition to reconstructing critical infrastructure including hospitals, schools, roads, and electricity. Their initiatives encompass the establishment of the rule of law, the promotion of social justice, the

encouragement of political involvement, the cultivation of a culture of constructive, non-violent conflict resolution, and the advancement of economic empowerment. Individuals broadly recognise the significance and influence of international organisations in peacebuilding efforts inside post-conflict countries and communities. Nonetheless, several researchers contest the genuine efficacy of these organisations, asserting that their influence is frequently overstated or misconstrued (McMahon: 2017). In addition to debates on their efficacy, international organisations have been criticised for promoting liberal peace philosophies that may neglect local contexts (Paris: 2004). Nonetheless, there is a distinct transformation in the methods employed by international organisations to foster peace in communities emerging from conflict, particularly in Africa. International organisations, including the United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU), have been significantly engaged. The UN, via agencies such as UNICEF and the World Food Program, has played a crucial role in delivering humanitarian aid, education, and healthcare services to individuals impacted by the violence (UNICEF, 2020). The African Union has endorsed regional collaboration and the coordination of the Multinational Joint Task Force to bolster collective security initiatives (African Union, 2020).

International and regional groups excel in their functions related to humanitarian assistance, security support, and grassroots peacebuilding.

1. The most significant and influential effort is the life-saving humanitarian aid sent to millions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and their host communities. Assistance Provision: Entities such as the United Nations (UN), notably its agencies including UNHCR, WFP, and OCHA, in conjunction with international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), are in the forefront of supplying food, shelter, healthcare, and other vital services. The UN Protection Sector and its collaborators address essential protection concerns, such as gender-based violence (GBV) and conflicts about housing, land, and property (HLP), which are particularly significant for at-risk populations, including women and children.

2. Security and Regional Cooperation (Mixed Impact) Regional organisations have been instrumental in transforming the war into a regional security concern, thereby facilitating the mobilisation of military support. The Economic

Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU) support the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), comprising military personnel from Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. This partnership has been essential in regaining land and mitigating the insurgency's expansion throughout the Lake Chad Basin. Capacity Building: Entities such as the EU and USAID have provided financial assistance and training to enhance the competencies of regional and Nigerian security forces.

3. Peacebuilding and Stabilisation (Emerging Impact) There is an increasing emphasis on addressing the fundamental causes of conflict and promoting enduring stability. Community Resilience: Global entities are aiding local initiatives to combat violent extremism (CVE), establish early warning systems, and mediate conflicts within communities. Post-Conflict Recovery: Initiatives focus on economic revitalisation, re-establishing essential services, and facilitating the reintegration of ex-combatants and internally displaced persons, all of which are crucial for attaining enduring peace and stability.

Ios encountered numerous obstacles in attempting to negotiate or facilitate peace in Northeastern Nigeria, with various critical concerns at stake. Securing optimal collaboration from the local populace was imperative. The UN frequently faced challenges in its operations, such as insufficient authority and constrained finances. The political landscape was intricate, complicating conflict mediation due to the obstinacy of the parties concerned. The UN and other international bodies are essential in settling global crises by mediating, utilising their power and authority to facilitate negotiations and pursue compromise solutions.

Empirical Review

Abeeb (2020) indicated in his research that since 2009, there has been a concerning increase in violent conflicts in Nigeria's Northeastern area. He observed that these problems have presented considerable obstacles to several resolution efforts, necessitating immediate attention from all stakeholders to achieve a sustainable solution. Various forms of warfare, including as the Boko Haram insurgency and the persistent confrontations between Fulani herders and farmers, have resulted in a humanitarian crisis that has resulted in over 20,000 fatalities. Approximately 2.6 million individuals have been displaced, and numerous properties valued in

the millions of Naira have been obliterated. The repercussions of these problems are already extending to other regions of Nigeria, and the West African subregion must address this matter with the gravity it warrants before it escalates uncontrollably. He emphasised various actions undertaken to tackle these issues, including military intervention, legal actions, the establishment of discussion committees, legislative initiatives, and the suggested amnesty for rebels and terrorist organisations.

Adewale and Adelekun (2022) emphasised the imperative for sustainable development in society, particularly in post-authoritarian countries such as Nigeria. They emphasised the importance of efficient peacebuilding and conflict resolution tactics in addressing the fundamental causes of conflicts and promoting dialogue and reconciliation between opposing groups. These measures can effectively tackle urgent concerns such as economic disparity, social injustice, and political corruption, while promoting educational access and fostering the involvement of marginalised groups in the decision-making process.

In a further research, Famewo et al. (2024) underscore many diplomatic and mediation initiatives, encompassing those by the United Nations, regional entities such as ECOWAS and the African Union, along with significant international actors like the United States and the European Union. Despite substantial interventions, problems persist, including inefficiencies, political and economic interests, sovereignty issues, and sustainability concerns that continue to impede the efficacy of international diplomacy. The discourse over possibilities for peace and stability underscores the importance of holistic and inclusive strategies that include governance changes, socio-economic advancement, and enhanced regional collaboration.

Theoretical Framework

This study is based on conflict transformation theory, which developed from prior notions of conflict management and resolution, influenced by scholars such as Azar (1990), Vayrynen (1991), Galtung (1996), Rupesinghe (1995), and Lederach (1997; 2003), among others (Miall, 2004). The essence of conflict transformation theory is to meticulously examine the root causes of disputes and creatively endeavour to modify those causes (Nicolaides, 2008). Lederach (1997) underscores

the necessity of perceiving conflict transformation as a peacebuilding process that prioritises the relationships and subsystems associated with the conflict over time. He delineates four fundamental components of conflict transformation: personal, relational, structural, and cultural, each signifying distinct levels that influence conflict. Personal change refers to individual transformations in emotional, perceptual, and spiritual aspects. Relational change, conversely, impacts aspects of life that are interrelated with others, largely through alterations in communication and interaction within relationships.

This paper examines the principal methodologies of conflict transformation in depth and interrogates their coherence as a theoretical framework. It subsequently promotes a shift from conventional conflict theories to those that contextualise conflict, asserting that in our globalised society, it is essential to understand the social, regional, and international variables involved. We must examine both the elements that facilitate peacebuilding and those that intensify conflict at multiple levels, from the lead-up to violent conflict to the extended aftermath of its resolution. This section seeks to expand upon Galtung's and Azar's theories of conflict generation, transitioning into the domain of conflict transformation. Furthermore, it presents a paradigm comprising five categories of conflict transformation, which may provide a significant basis for strategising and assessing interventions in conflicts.

The Boko Haram insurgency in Northeast Nigeria has been a critical concern since 2009, seeing a comeback in 2025 characterised by heightened assaults in Borno and Yobe. Lederach's theory provides an essential framework for international organisations, including the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to shift from a military containment focus, exemplified by the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), to a more holistic approach addressing fundamental issues such as poverty, marginalisation, ideological radicalisation, and ethnic-religious conflicts. By 2025, the lamentable loss of over 35,000 lives and the displacement of 2 million individuals underscore the inadequacies of just military solutions, emphasising the necessity for transformation-oriented approaches to achieve effective deradicalisation and reintegration.

This theory excels in elucidating multi-actor complexity. It transcends the conventional state-centric viewpoint by providing a framework to examine the interactions among international organisations (IOs), international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), local NGOs, the media, and governmental agencies. This knowledge is essential for explaining the complex situation in Nigeria. It effectively considers non-military power. It underscores the significance of international organisations, which, despite lacking military power, exert considerable influence through their financial assistance, technical expertise, information control, and agenda-setting capabilities. These issues are highly pertinent to the humanitarian situation occurring in Northeast Nigeria. Nonetheless, there are certain weaknesses to contemplate. The hypothesis may be excessively optimistic and lacks universal applicability. It was designed with Western, economically linked nations in consideration, such as the relationship between the United States and Canada. It is inadequate in scenarios when entities such as Boko Haram or ISWAP prioritise military might and categorically dismiss the regulations of the interdependent system. In such instances, military strength often assumes priority. Furthermore, it inadequately theorises power asymmetry. Although it acknowledges several channels, it occasionally neglects the substantial power disparities involved. The Nigerian state's military security strategy frequently deliberately eclipses or diminishes the humanitarian initiatives of the IO. The theory effectively delineates the diversity of actors but fails to elucidate why one objective supersedes others. Ultimately, it lacks clarity on causation. Although it effectively demonstrates intricate relationships, it may falter in pinpointing the precise causal mechanisms involved. It can indicate that several channels are not interconnected, although it may not consistently elucidate the reasons for this phenomenon.

Discussions

The essay examines the pivotal role of international organisations (IOs) in mediating the protracted and complex conflict in northeast Nigeria, primarily driven by the Boko Haram insurgency and ISWAP. This conflict is shown as a multifaceted crisis involving an insurgency, a rigorous counter-insurgency, and intercommunal violence. It transcends basic security issues, transforming into a substantial humanitarian crisis that results in extensive displacement, food

scarcity, and infringements of human rights. This scenario underscores the significance of humanitarian diplomacy as a crucial approach for interacting with communities and enabling missions. Assistance is not merely an end in itself; it is also an essential instrument for attaining greater strategic aims. It is a form of diplomacy that utilises resources and presence rather than depending exclusively on conventional political discussions to cultivate access, trust, and stability.

A crucial factor in effective mediation is the legitimacy and credibility of all parties engaged in the conflict (Menkel-Meadow, Porter, Schneider, 2020). Furthermore, mediation must conform to principles such as neutrality, impartiality, secrecy, and integrity. The efficacy of mediation may also fluctuate based on the nature of the conflict involved. In circumstances characterised by profound political divisions or religious strife, mediation may prove less effective. In such instances, further effort may be required to facilitate discussion between the parties and cultivate trust.

The roles and impacts of key stakeholders in the war, including the Nigerian government, local communities, foreign organisations, and insurgent groups, have been analysed to understand their contributions to the crisis. The function of international diplomacy, involving the UN, regional organisations such as ECOWAS, and prominent nations, was assessed, emphasising both successes and deficiencies (Zenn, 2021; Felbab-Brown, 2020).

Various researchers present diverse opinions on mediation. The humanitarian consequences, encompassing displacement, human rights violations, and the interruption of socio-economic activity, have raised concerns for the Nigerian State, since the conflict in the Northeast appears interminable despite numerous interventions. A vital factor for effective mediation is the legitimacy and credibility of all parties engaged in the conflict (Menkel-Meadow, Porter, Schneider, 2020). Furthermore, mediation must conform to principles such as neutrality, impartiality, secrecy, and integrity. The efficacy of mediation may also depend on the characteristics of the conflict. In circumstances characterised by substantial political divisions or religious strife, mediation may prove less effective. In such instances, more efforts may be required to facilitate communication between the parties and nurture trust.

Conclusion

This study's conclusion synthesises empirical and theoretical insights to underscore the essential yet constrained role of international organisations (IOs) in tackling the intricate Boko Haram/ISWAP insurgency in Northeast Nigeria. The report depicts this conflict as a prolonged humanitarian crisis, closely associated with insurgency, counter-insurgency efforts, and intercommunal violence. Utilising Lederach's Conflict Transformation theory, the analysis demonstrates that organisations such as the UN (via UNHCR, WFP, and OCHA), AU, ECOWAS, and the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) have achieved considerable progress in humanitarian initiatives, delivering assistance, safeguarding against gender-based violence, and mobilising resources for over 2.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). Nonetheless, their influence on security and regional collaboration has been ambivalent; although there have been certain territorial advancements, insurgents persist in their adaptability, and initiatives in peacebuilding, including the enhancement of community resilience, deradicalisation, and socioeconomic recovery, remain nascent. This program seeks to address fundamental challenges such as poverty, marginalisation, and environmental deterioration in the Lake Chad Basin. Notwithstanding these favourable advancements, the conclusion highlights some structural impediments that obstruct successful mediation. This encompasses bureaucratic inefficiencies, conflicts with the Nigerian state (which often prioritises military intervention over humanitarian initiatives), power disparities favouring intransigent factions such as Boko Haram, and a disjunction between liberal peacebuilding strategies and the local ethnoreligious milieu.

Recommendation

1. International organisations (IOs) ought to utilise their diplomatic clout to advocate for a more integrated policy that connects military counterinsurgency initiatives, such as the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), with non-military rebuilding endeavours. This entails the creation of institutional communication channels between security forces and humanitarian or development agencies to prevent operational conflicts and promote a unified objective of enduring peace.
2. To mitigate allegations of endorsing a "liberal peace," international organisations must deliberately integrate local expertise and traditional conflict

resolution techniques into their initiatives. This entails establishing equitable collaborations with local NGOs and community organisations.

3. While honoring national sovereignty, IOs should consistently use their collective power to advocate with the Nigerian government for a thorough political solution that tackles the fundamental issues of political exclusion, economic disparity, and social injustice in the North-East issues that go far beyond what humanitarian aid can address.

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