

INSECURITY, GOVERNANCE, AND SOCIAL COHESION IN FRAGILE STATES:

A Focus on Nigeria

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Abstract: A state is generally considered to be fragile when it is no longer able to consistently and legitimately enforce its laws or provide its citizens with basic goods and services. The major questions this paper answered are: Is Nigeria a fragile state? What are the psychosocial issues that characterised the Nigeria state? And, what are the implications of the identified psychosocial issues for governance, leadership and management of the state? To answer these questions, this paper examines some of the occurrences such as insecurity, youth restiveness, mass unemployment and mental threats that characterised Nigeria as a state, and address the psychosocial issues such as mental health issues, youth antisocial behaviour, stress, suicides, crime to mention just a few most of which resulted from the occurrences. Finally, the paper examined the effects of these psychosocial issues on governance, leadership and management and therefore makes recommendations from the findings.

INTRODUCTION

Over the past few decades, the world has witnessed a sudden increase in the number of fragile states grappling with multifaceted challenges, ranging from political instability and economic underdevelopment to security threats. (Dunne, 2017; Grotenhuis, 2016). A fragile society is a society where injustice reigns and where violence, bad governance and humanitarian crises such as diseases and an unjust system. Onwuzurumba (2008:166) emphasized that a society is premised on its compliance to shared norms and self-sufficiency. He further analyzed that

a society must be able to give allegiance to existing norms. The only distinctive identity of a given society which distinguishes it from others is keeping tenaciously to the acceptable norms of the society. Norms are those acceptable ways of behaviour which make for societal cohesion and existence. Sweileh (2020) compares Nigeria's fragile state with countries such as Pakistan, Afghanistan, Uganda, Congo and Cameroon among others. Although blessed with abundant resources and diverse cultures, Nigeria has faced persistent governance challenges, including corruption, ethno-religious conflicts, and political instability. These issues have far-reaching consequences for the psychosocial well-being of its population, affecting trust in institutions, social capital and the overall quality of life.

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

This paper adopts a failed state theory to explain the subtleties of government. The theory was primarily propounded in the 1990s by Gerald Helman and Steven Ratner and Robert Jackson in their work, "Quasi-States: Sovereignty" (1991). Rotberg (2024, p.5) defines a failed state as those where institutions collapse and authority disintegrates creating ungoverned spaces". However, successful and stable states obviously perform well across all government system and each citizen feel the impact. Weak states show a mixed profile, fulfilling expectations in some areas and performing poorly in others. The more poorly weak states perform, criterion by criterion, the weaker they become, and the more that weakness tends to edge toward failure, hence the subcategory of weakness that is termed failing. Failed states are tense, deeply conflicted, dangerous, and contested bitterly by warring factions. In most failed states, government troops battle armed revolts led by one or more rivals. Weak states are often ruled by despots, elected or not. Occasionally, the official authorities in a failed state face civil unrest, different degrees of communal discontent, and a plethora of dissent directed at the state and at groups within the state, hence, the adoption of failed state theory for this paper.

METHODOLOGY

The study employs a qualitative descriptive design using secondary data to examine the interplay between governance, insecurity and social cohesion in Nigeria. The research predominantly utilizes secondary data sources, policy reports, and reputable institutional documents and journals. The study further highlights how weak governments, violence and insecurity collectively undermines development and can push a state towards fragility. Thematic analysis focuses on governance, legitimacy and good governance.



Fragile State

Fragility stems from weak governance, limited capacity, chronic humanitarian crises, persistent social tensions, and conflict legacies. Among the

multifaceted issues that contribute to fragility, psychosocial factors have gained increasing recognition for their crucial role in shaping a nation's trajectory. A state that is fragile has several attributes, and such fragility may manifest itself in various ways. Nevertheless, some of the most common attributes of state fragility may include: the loss of physical control of its territory or a monopoly on the legitimate use of force; the erosion of legitimate authority to make collective decisions; and an inability to provide reasonable public services.

A fragile state lacks effective control of its territory, legitimate authority and adequate service delivery. According to the 2024 fragile state index, Nigeria ranks 15th globally (score 96.6) reflecting persistent vulnerability despite year on year improvement (fund for peace 2025) Nigeria: Fragile state index

Rank	Country	2024 score	Change from 2023	Change from 2022	Change from 2021	Change from 2020	Change from 2019	Change from 2018
1	 Somalia	111.3	▼ 0.6	▲ 0.8	▲ 0.4	▲ 0.4	▼ 1.0	▼ 1.9
2	 Sudan	109.3	▲ 3.1	▲ 2.2	▲ 4.1	▲ 4.5	▲ 1.3	▲ 0.6
3	 South Sudan	109.0	▲ 0.5	▲ 0.6	▼ 0.4	▼ 1.8	▼ 3.2	▼ 4.4
4	 Syria	108.1	▲ 1.0	▼ 0.3	▼ 2.6	▼ 2.6	▼ 3.4	▼ 3.3
5	 Congo-Kinshasa	106.7	▼ 0.5	▼ 0.6	▼ 1.7	▼ 2.7	▼ 3.5	▼ 4.0
6	 Yemen	106.6	▼ 2.3	▼ 5.1	▼ 5.1	▼ 5.8	▼ 6.9	▼ 6.1
7	 Afghanistan	103.9	▼ 2.7	▼ 2.0	▲ 1.8	▲ 1.0	▼ 1.1	▼ 2.7
	 Central African Republic	103.9	▼ 1.8	▼ 4.2	▼ 3.1	▼ 3.6	▼ 5.0	▼ 7.2
9	 Haiti	103.5	▲ 0.6	▲ 3.8	▲ 6.0	▲ 5.8	▲ 4.2	▲ 1.5
10	 Chad	102.7	▼ 1.9	▼ 3.0	▼ 3.1	▼ 3.7	▼ 5.8	▼ 5.6
11	 Myanmar	100.0	▼ 0.2	—	▲ 6.2	▲ 6.0	▲ 5.7	▲ 3.9
12	 Ethiopia	98.1	▼ 2.3	▼ 1.2	▼ 0.9	▲ 3.5	▲ 3.9	▼ 1.5
13	 Palestine ^[a]	97.8	▲ 9.9	▲ 12.2	▲ 11.8	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
14	 Mali	97.3	▼ 2.2	▼ 1.3	▲ 0.7	▲ 1.3	▲ 2.8	▲ 3.7

Rank	Country	2024 score	Change from 2023	Change from 2022	Change from 2021	Change from 2020	Change from 2019	Change from 2018
15	 Nigeria	96.6	▼ 1.4	▼ 0.6	▼ 1.4	▼ 0.7	▼ 1.9	▼ 3.3
16	 Libya	96.5	▲ 0.4	▲ 2.2	▼ 0.5	▲ 1.3	▲ 4.3	▲ 1.9

The table above shows the FSI for 2024, with comparisons of each country's current score to previous years' indices. A higher score (with a maximum of 120) indicates a weaker, more vulnerable, or more fragile situation in the country."Global Data | Fragile States Index".

Nigeria's Security Index

Nigeria's security landscape is marred by persistent violence and socio-economic instability that undermine governance and development''. Recent studies by Akindoyin and Obafemi (2025), Onunwa (2025), Sekore and Olarenwaju (2024), Eneh (2025) unswervingly find that terrorism, banditry, and armed conflict disrupt productivity, investment, and national revenue exuberating poverty and unemployment''. Conclusively, Nigeria's security challenges are not standalone issues; rather, they are deeply intertwined with the country's socio-economic structure. Addressing these anomalies requires a comprehensive approach that combines robust security measures with socio-economic reforms, institutional strengthening, and regional cooperation, only through such integrated strategies can Nigeria hope to overcome its security challenges and pave the way for sustainable development.

Is Nigeria a Fragile State?

Nigeria has faced persistent governance challenges, including corruption, ethno-religious conflicts, and political instability. As earlier pointed by Sweileh (2020), these issues have far-reaching consequences for the psychosocial well-being of its population, affecting trust in institutions, social capital and the overall quality of life. Myriads of psychosocial factors have been found to intertwine with governance to affect the state's ability to provide effective leadership, deliver public services and maintain social cohesion.

According to this day live (2021) Nigerian government has lost effective control over several regions due to armed non state actors, with the Boko Haram devastation of the North-east, wanton kidnapping and armed robbery, violent herdsmen and separatist agitations in some parts of the country, Nigeria has fallen short of the standards set for the various political indicators. It also shows that Nigerian state is losing to non-state actors. The failure to protect the people is put squarely at the doorsteps of the federal government that has lost the capacity to restrain the various cartels of gunmen who now terrorize several communities across the country, particularly in the North. The prevailing

maladministration and economic downturn have constrained the capacity of both the state and individuals.

Issues that Characterized Nigeria as a Fragile State

A perusal of the prevailing situation in Nigeria reveals some common issues affecting governance, leadership and management. The presence of deep-seated divisions along ethnic and religious lines, coupled with pervasive corruption and insecurity that play pivotal roles in hampering effective governance are likely to erode trust in government institutions, impede policy implementation and foster an environment of instability and mistrust. Also, ethnic and religious divisions, corruption, youth unemployment, insecurity, political polarization, external debts, poor leadership, poor funding of education, lack of food security & hunger are identified as significant contributors to the challenges faced by political leaders in the country. This finding implies that political leaders in Nigeria operate within a complex and demanding socio-political environment. Hence, this paper discussed briefly each of the identified issues.

Ethnicity and Religious Division

Osaghae (2006) argues that Nigeria's ethnic and religious divisions have generated tensions which has led to identity-based alliance thereby undermining integration. One thing that is clear then about the African condition today is the conviction that triumphant anti-colonialism would eclipse culture pluralism has collapsed. This is because in the contest for political and economic power that ensued after political independence, the dialectic of conflict placed ethnic identity on a dominant pedestal. Adesina (2020) also, opined that these had implications on African states. Firstly, the fear of "domination" became the beginning of wisdom. Secondly, the general perception of "progress" became rooted in ethnocentric prejudices as expressed in cultural arrogance; thirdly, successive governments in Sub-Saharan Africa have by their actions imposed a new perception or re-definition of inter-ethnic relations. The political bourgeoisie took over public offices that have become a major source of wealth and prestige. The competition for power as a means of resource allocation therefore meant that the ethnic elites have had to fall back on what can, and will, enhance their prospects of capturing and retaining power for their immediate environment or constituency. This prevailing situation has invariably brought into what Adesina (2020) proposed as 'National Question' - that is, the matter of the appropriate political framework to take account of the needs and fears of the different ethnic and racial groups within the same country

Corruption

The concept of corruption is widely seen as the use of public office for private gains. Myint (2000) submitted that, it is the use of official position, rank or status by an office bearer for his own personal benefit. She observed that there is a growing worldwide concern over corruption; and thus enumerated three factors that could be responsible as; firstly, "the universality of corruption,

which exists in all countries, both developed and developing, in the public and private sectors, as well as in non-profit and charitable organizations.” And, the allegations of its involvement and the role it plays in politics in recent times, making organizations and business firms tarnished on account of corruption. Lastly, she opined that corruption can be a major obstacle in the process of economic development and in modernizing a country. Hence, the urgent need if a country’s development will bring sustainable peace.

In his contribution, Vinto (1998) sees corruption as the intentional noncompliance with arm’s length relationship aimed by deriving some advantages from this behaviour for oneself or for related individuals. For instance, it includes police collecting bribes on highway, parents manipulating to secure admission from their children in schools, ghost workers on pay-rolls etc. corruption is inclusive at all levels, sectors, communities and even in religious settings. Oloyede, Adesiyan and Osundina (2021) opined that when systemic corruption takes hold of a country, the institutions, rules and peoples’ behaviour and attitudes become adapted to the corrupt way of doing things, and corruption becomes a way of life. Systemic corruption is very difficult to overcome and it can have a devastating effect on the economy. The end show of corruption is that it creates a wide gap between the privilege and less privilege and reduces economic growth. Corruption is arguably the most serious issue hindering the development of Nigeria. It destroys trust in governance and impedes the efficiency and effectiveness of government institutions and operations. Political office holders and leaders in Nigeria are perceived as corrupt and this undermines their ability to provide effective and selfless leadership (Transparency International, 2020).

Youth Unemployment

Youth unemployment in Nigeria ranks among the highest World Bank, (2019); Adeiye, (2023). fuelling insecurity and social unrest. Adeiye (2023) noted from the global youth unemployment index that 53% of Nigerian has the second highest number of unemployed youths in the world. Consequently, to survive, the unemployed youth engage themselves in various activities such as cybercrime, kidnapping, drug abuse, drug trafficking, robbery, and migration (‘Japa’).

Poor Security and Activities of Non-State Actors in Nigeria

The present security challenges in different parts of Nigeria, such as kidnapping, insurgency, farmer-herder clashes and communal conflicts have destroyed lives and property. Insecurity affects the ability to manage resources and be productive, particularly in highly fragile areas (Human Rights Watch, 2021). Non-state actors in Nigeria, including insurgent and armed groups like Boko Haram, IPOB. Ansaru, has been a noteworthy challenge to the country’s national security over the years. The violence committed by these groups has subverted the country, significantly challenging governance structures, and impeding economic development.

Boko Haram remains the most prominent and consistent non-state actor in Nigeria, operating in the north eastern region. As of 2025, the group, along with its splinter faction ISWAP (Islamic State West Africa Province), pose a serious threat to Nigeria's security. Ibrahim et al. (2024) asserted that Boko Haram's insurgency threat expanded beyond the borders of Nigeria, affecting neighbouring countries such as Chad, Cameroon, and Niger. Irrespective of efforts by the Nigerian government through its military and other regional forces to contain the group.

Boko Haram's financial sources include extortion, kidnapping for ransom, and the illegal trade of natural resources, all these have enabled the group to sustain its operations. According to a report by the International Crisis Group (2025), Boko Haram financed its acts through the control of local economies, specifically in the Lake Chad region. These activities have led to significant economic losses and further exacerbated Nigeria's economic volatility (International Crisis Group, 2025). IPOB (Indigenous People of Biafra), which advocates for secession from the Nigerian state, have been involved in ferocious clashes with the Nigerian Military forces. The group's actions, predominantly in South Eastern States like Imo and Anambra, have increased since 2023, leading to destruction of properties and bloodshed between civilians and the military. Nwogu (2025) describes how IPOB has progressed from a peaceful advocacy assemblage into a militant organization, alluding it to increasing dissatisfaction with the Nigerian state's treatment of ethnic minorities. IPOB employed various methods, including the enforcement of sit-at-home orders, protests, and armed resistance.

Armed banditry, which primarily affects the northwestern and northcentral regions, has also become a perilous concern. Bello et al (2024), reveals that banditry in these regions have operated through kidnapping, cattle rustling, and violent attacks on communities. The study notes that the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) has become key factor contributing to the spread of banditry in these areas. These groups often exploit Nigeria's porous borders to smuggle weapons and sustain their operations. The Nigerian government's response to armed banditry has been largely ineffective, with military actions often failing to address the root causes of the violence, such as poverty and unemployment. In conclusion, the activities of non-state actors like Boko Haram, IPOB, and armed bandits remain a significant threat to Nigeria's stability and governance. Addressing the challenges posed by these groups requires a multi-pronged approach that includes military action, socio-economic development, and a renewed focus on political reconciliation. Scholars like Ibrahim et al. (2024) and Bello et al. (2024) are that for Nigeria to succeed in this fight there must be security sector reforms, intelligence gathering, border control, and community-based interventions to effectively combat the threats posed by non-state actors.

Political Polarization in Nigeria

Nigeria's political landscape remains polarized, with a prevailing winner-takes-all mentality that undermines compromise and cooperation among parties (Nnoli, 2019). Partisan interests often override national unity, heightening tensions. Recent years have seen this polarization deepen.

Demarest (2025) links ethnic diversity exposure in Lagos to complex intergroup trust issues among adolescents. The Wilson Centre (2022) attributes conflicts to distorted perceptions of diversity. Both emphasize that genuine national integration must confront these underlying ethnic and religious divisions. In another view, Jalo (2025) asserted that platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, and Twitter played a key role in mobilizing voters and engaging citizens politically during the 2023 elections. He concludes that while social media has enhanced political participation, it has also facilitated the spread of half-truths or misinformation, particularly on WhatsApp, which influenced voter behaviour. In a similar vein, Maduka, Ngene, and Wellington (2024) explore the influence of social media misinformation on political polarization in Southwest Nigeria. Their findings specify that political misinformation on social media connects with heightened political polarization, leading to conflicts between major religious groups. Ologunbe and Taiwo (2025) explore the impact of digital communication on governance and political dynamics in Nigeria. Their research highlights that while digital platforms have enhanced transparency and accountability, they have also contributed to political polarization through the spread of disinformation and the amplification of divisive rhetoric.

The formation of political alliances in response to perceived threats of one-party dominance reflects the deepening political polarization. In July 2025, key opposition leaders, including Atiku Abubakar and Peter Obi, formed the Africa Democratic Congress. This coalition aims to prevent Nigeria from becoming a one-party state, amid allegations that the ruling party is using state mechanisms to sway politicians from opposition ranks. Conclusively, political polarization in Nigeria is a multi-layered issue influenced by ethnic and religious identities, the dynamics of social media, socioeconomic disparities, and institutional responses. Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive strategies that promote inclusive governance, enhance media literacy, and foster national integration.

External Debts

The external debt of sub-Saharan African countries is large and oppressive. Its debilitating effects have been a central element of Africa's critical economic situation. The pressure of external debt on sub-Saharan African economies is not a novelty. Within a few years of their independence, Ghana, Mali, and Sierra Leone fell into heavy debt from unchecked supplier credits and domestic inflation, forcing them to seek debt rescheduling. Nigeria was on a similar path but was saved by its rapidly growing oil revenues; however, the Nigerian economy's situation today is at a fragile state that calls for concerns of all and sundry. Nigeria's external debt stands at \$ 113.42bn (N87.38trn) as of June 30, 2023. Cable Nigeria (2025), Nigeria's debt profile has been germane to the country's fiscal policy and economic sustainability. By the first quarter of 2025,

Nigeria's public debt reached ₦149.39 trillion (approximately \$97.32 billion), marking a 22.8% increase from ₦121.67 trillion in the same period (Punch Newspaper, 2025). The World Bank (2024) asserted that Nigeria's external debt stood at US\$45.1 billion in 2024, reflecting an increase from preceding years. The country's total public debt as of the second quarter of 2025 reached approximately ₦127 trillion (US\$93 billion), representing a rise from ₦121 trillion in 2024. The debt-to-GDP ratio has been rising, prompting concerns about the sustainability of the country's fiscal policies (World Bank, 2024).

The external debt component is estimated at ₦70.63 trillion (about \$45.98 billion), accounting for approximately 47.28% of the total public debt. This represents a 26.07% increase from ₦56.02 trillion in Q1 2024. In terms of debt sustainability, Nigeria's debt-to-GDP ratio has improved to 39.4% in Q1 2025, down from 41.5% in the previous quarter. This decline is partly due to the rebasing of the country's GDP, which expanded the economic base and improved the debt-to-GDP ratio. This growth is attributed to both domestic and external borrowing, reflecting the government's efforts to finance infrastructure projects and address fiscal deficits. However, in the first quarter of 2025, Nigeria's external debt service payments amounted to \$2.01 billion, which represented 77% of the country's foreign exchange payments during that period. This high debt servicing burden underscores the challenges Nigeria faces in balancing debt obligations with developmental needs. To tackle these fiscal challenges, the Nigerian government sought to raise additional funds through external borrowing. In July 2025, the Senate approved a \$21 billion external borrowing plan to finance critical infrastructure projects, including a \$3 billion allocation for the redevelopment of a 2,044 km narrow-gauge railway along the eastern corridor (The Times Nigeria, 2025). In summary, while Nigeria's debt-to-GDP ratio has improved due to GDP rebasing, the country continues to grapple with rising debt levels and high servicing costs. The government's strategy includes seeking additional external financing to support infrastructure development, but this approach raises concerns about long-term fiscal sustainability.

Despite its significant natural resource wealth, Nigeria's economy remains highly vulnerable to external shocks due to its heavy reliance on oil revenues. This over-reliance has compounded the government's debt burden, as fluctuations in global oil prices force Nigeria to seek loans to cover budget deficits. In response to these challenges, the Nigerian government has turned to international financial institutions, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), for loans to finance infrastructure projects and address fiscal gaps (International Monetary Fund, 2024). Additionally, the Transparency International (2024) report on Nigeria's debt states that the country's debt sustainability is further undermined by a lack of transparency in debt management practices. The report stresses the need for stronger legislative oversight and public scrutiny of debt accumulation processes. Recent data shows that a significant portion of Nigeria's debt is tied to unfavourable loan terms, including high-interest rates and short repayment periods. This has placed additional pressure on the country's fiscal position. Okunlola (2025) highlights

the growing concern over Nigeria's rising debt-to-revenue ratio, which has surpassed 80%, significantly higher than the international benchmark of 30%. This suggests that a substantial portion of Nigeria's revenue is being directed toward debt servicing, leaving limited resources for investment in critical sectors such as healthcare, education, and security. He further suggests that Nigeria must focus on diversifying its economy, improving domestic tax collection, and reducing non-essential spending to mitigate the risks associated with its mounting debt obligations. Nigeria's debt profile is a complex issue requiring careful management. The country must prioritize reforms in public finance, enhance domestic revenue mobilization, and reduce reliance on external borrowing. These measures are essential to ensure the long-term sustainability of Nigeria's public debt and support the country's economic growth and development.

Poor Education Funding

Friday (2023) asserts that national development hinges on prioritizing education, yet Nigeria continues to underfund the sector. Okunlola (2025) notes that the 2023 allocation—only 8.2% of the national budget—falls below global benchmarks for developing nations. This chronic underinvestment reflects the nation's undervaluing of education. Consequently, Nigeria faces a severe literacy crisis, with millions of children excluded from schooling.

UNESCO data confirm that the country has one of the world's highest numbers of out-of-school youth, signaling deep systemic neglect. Also, the National Bureau of Statistics (2023) also reported that Nigeria literacy rate is very low that is only 59% of Nigerian adults can read and write. Another problem associated with poor educational funding are: low salaries for teacher which made them not to be committed to teaching thereby engaged in moonlighting that adversely affect academic performance of the students. Also, inadequate school facilities such as classroom facilities which bring about overcrowding thereby affect the learning effectiveness of students.

Food Crisis/Hunger

Many African countries face a deepening food crisis that threatens both development and political stability. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the epicenter of chronic hunger, with 282 million people undernourished, largely due to poverty, conflict, and poor governance. Land degradation and declining crop yields per hectare have further worsened food insecurity across the continent. In Nigeria, rising public agitation underscores how food scarcity is becoming a matter of regime survival, even though it rarely features as a serious political or electoral issue.

The extent of global land degradation and corresponding food security is alarming. The Nigerian picture in this regard, is quite frightening; record has it that Nigeria and Ghana have the lowest yield per hectare. The context in which land degradation is used here includes soil loss, breakdown in soil structure, salinization, water-logging etc. Population explosion, over-use of agricultural land, poor land tenure system, and fragile nature of the tropical soils and high

intensity of tropical rainfall added more pain to Nigeria's fragility. Using the Nigerian example, the observable trend over the years shows that the country is neither food sufficient nor food secured. This is attributable to the supply curves of food in the country is often lower than the demand curves. This situation is exacerbated by the increasing trend and over reliance on food importation. Going by population growth and agricultural production and increasing trend of food importation relative to access to food in the country, Nigeria is not food secure. Many Nigerian families are finding it difficult to meet their food needs. Many families rely heavily on carbohydrate intensive food to the appalling neglect of other dietary nutrients; because they simply cannot afford it as many Nigerian lived below an estimation of \$1 per day.

Hunger has a destabilizing influence in most of Nigerian states. It increases rural-urban migration; hence the increasing social disintegration and crime. Adesola (2015) submits that hunger-stricken children have been willing tools as child soldiers in many African wars, like Liberia, Sierra-Leone and northern Uganda. Consequently, there is an aggravation of the extant internal political and social tensions. The urban social and political space has been crammed by sunny ethnic groups and people who have compelled by circumstances to share the same space. African nomadic population and pastoral agricultural farmers have been forced to compete with food and crop growing farmers. Conflict, however, arises once the herds of the pastoralists violate the farmland of their hosts. This seems a recurrent decimal in Nigeria and few other West African countries. This kind of situation has generated a swarm of refugees and the recurrent threat of hunger has done a lot of damage to the prospects of resettling these refugees. Underlining this phenomenon, however, is the fact that refugees are a threat to both political and economic stability Nigeria inclusive. No refugee would be willing to return to a home that is not hunger-free.

Implications for Governance and National Security

National security is a major indicator and matrix for governance, leadership, and management. While insurgency of any sort and whatever its motive, goal and purpose constitute serious challenges to national security. Kolawole in Adesola Funso et al (2015) listed some implications of these psychosocial issues for Governance and National Security as the following:

- Insurgency and terrorism retard and constraints the environment for meaningful planning as it brings uncertainty to governance.
- Insurgency and terrorism constitute a serious threat to the safety of lives and property,
- Insurgency and terrorism bring uncertainty to the lives of people (Sunday Tribune, 18 May 2014:4)
- Terrorism retards economic growth and development.
- Terrorism engenders Foreign Direct Investment (DFI), because no foreign investors will feel safe to invest in an environment that cannot guarantee good returns on investment.

- The problem of dwindling national revenue and the sources of national revenue accruable become reduced by effects of terrorism.
- The problem of collateral crimes that terrorism generates is quite alarming, resulting in increase in kidnapping, bank robbery and other violent means of guaranteeing the economic survival of the terrorists.
- Terrorism brings shame and disrespect to the affected nation. It compromises global positioning of nation and subjects it to negative global profiling with attendant effect on its citizenry.
- Terrorism undermines national cohesion and unity. It constrains free movement of people and goods, making national interaction that should propel national unity difficult if not totally impossible.
- Insecurity is capable of breeding discontentment and social disobedience if citizens feel that government is abdicating the basic necessity of providing security.
- Insecurity can also breed mutiny within the military by providing excuses for ambitious officers to seize the reins of government for selfish purposes. The argument generally is that any form of terrorism would always have negative implications for nation.

CONCLUSION

To exit this fragility, countries affected and mostly Nigeria need to improve and empower its institutions and enhance political and social inclusion. Improvement in government effectiveness would help prevent countries from falling back into fragility at a wide range of growth. Determined to spend more on health and education than those countries that do not escape, protecting social spending helps enhance political and social inclusion <https://www.imf.org/en/Blogs/Articles/>. This, in turn, puts pressure on the government to enhance its effectiveness through a steady build-up of fiscal, legal, and civil service capacities. Effective institutions must be put in place as suggested by former US President Barrack Obama in June 2009 that “what African needs is strong institutions, and not strong men”. Provision of a strong foundation for a strong economy, strong security, and improved political stability must be put in place as the basis for passing reforms to strengthen economic institutions and policies, which will help to build resilience and increase social inclusion. Finally, Nigeria and African countries can escape from fragility by seizing a pivotal moment, a rare opportunity for change (change of idea, change of mindset, change in implementation of policies, change from foreign ideas that are not profiting to African culture etc). It has been established that countries with a pivotal moment are more likely to exit from fragility, implement critical reforms to strengthen their institutions and policy framework, and enjoy more economic resilience after their exit. Where governments do not function well, peace, stability, and prosperity are rare, with an increased focus on some key actions and measures, Nigeria can pull out of his fragility trap.

THE WAY FORWARD

The socio-political challenges in Nigeria have complex and interconnected impacts on governance, leadership and management. Addressing the aforementioned challenges requires comprehensive strategies that promote social cohesion, transparency and inclusivity in both the public and private sectors. It also calls for strong policy implementation and leadership will that can navigate the challenges while working towards national stability and development. Addressing Nigeria's socio-political issues requires a holistic approach that promotes social cohesion, access to services, conflict resolution, youth employment, good leadership and capacity building. Effective leadership and management practices are essential to navigate the complex challenges that fragile states face and to foster positive socio-political outcomes. Finding solution to the problems of corruption and unemployment in particular may rescue Nigeria from fragility and enhance governance, leadership and management of organizations. Understanding the dynamics of Socio-political factors within Nigeria's fragile context is critical not only for the country's future but also for informing global efforts in addressing fragility. Nigeria's experiences and lessons learned can inform policies and strategies in similar contexts globally. By investigating the intricate relationship between the socio-political factors and governance, political leadership and organizational management, the study arrived at a deeper understanding of fragility's roots and potential pathways towards resilience and sustainable development.

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