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Human Security: A Solution to Nigeria Present and Future Security Challenge

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Abstract:

Currently, Nigeria is facing different types of security threats ranging from Boko Haram insurgency, cattle rustling, herdsman/farmers clashes, kidnapping, arm robbery, human trafficking etc. to HIV/AIDS, malaria, lassa fever, among others. The part of causes of these security threats are: unemployment, hunger, poverty, lack of access to good health services etc. And most of these security threats have been persisted for more than a decade now, and their persistency shows that the Nigeria traditional strategy of security management (AK-47 Coercion, and deterrence) is outdated to address the present insecurity situation in Nigeria. Therefore, the focus must be shifted to the new method that will address the causes of these security threats like: provision of employment, access to the basic nutrition and food supply, protection of human rights, living in a safe environment, etc. As alternative strategy to the security management in Nigeria.

Keywords: Security: It is an all-encompassing condition in which individual citizens live in freedom, peace and safety; to participate fully in the process of governance; enjoy the protection of fundamental rights; have access to resources and the basic necessities of life and inhabit an environment which is not detrimental to their health and well-being.

Economy: an effective management of the resource of a community or system

Food: any substance that is or can be consumed by living organisms, especially by eating, in order to sustain life.

Health: the state of being free from physical or psychological disease, illness, or malfunction, wellness,

Environment: is the total surrounding or external conditions within which an organism or a community exists

1. Introduction

Traditionally, the concept of National security has for too long been interpreted narrowly: as Security of territory from external aggression, or as protection of national interests in foreign policy. Thinking that when the state is secured, the citizens are also secured which is not true considered what has been happening in Nigeria for about a decade now in which the security challenge is internal rather than external.

Nigeria Traditional system of security management of AK-47, coercion and deference has been related more to nation-state than people --- forgotten were the legitimate concerns of ordinary people --- for many of them, security symbolized protection from the threat of disease, hunger, unemployment, crime, social conflict, political repression, and environmental hazards (UNDP Human development report 19 94: 22)

There is no doubt, that traditional approach to security management cannot guarantee effective security for the people, and it has failed to prevent the Nigeria increasing contemporary security threats. For example, the threat from: HIV-AIDS, Ebola, Lassa fever, Malaria, religious insurgency (BokoHaram), hunger, herdsman / farmers clashes, cattle rustling, kidnapping sectionist agitator, oil pipeline vandals and inter-communal clashes to mention but a view. Since Nigeria present security approach failed to prevent and address its security challenges, therefore, there must be a shift in the Nigeria security management as it was done in many countries of the world.

The attention of the world population since 1990s has shifted to redefining security and look for the best approach that can guarantee effective security management different from the traditional one of AK-47, coercion and deterrence which has failed to address the world increasing security threats. The search for the best approach led to the emergence of the term human security.

2. Definition of Human Security

Human security can be defined according to south Africa white paper on defense as an all-encompassing condition in which individual citizens live in freedom, peace, and safety; to participate fully in the process of governance, enjoy the protection of fundamental rights; have access to resources and the basic necessities of life; and inhabit an environment which is not detrimental to their health and well-being (south Africa Department of defence, 1996). Also, Canada gave the similar

definition of the concept as "a situation which guarantees safety for people from both violent and non-violent threats characterized by freedom from pervasive threats to people's rights, their safety, or even their lives" (Department of foreign Affairs, Canada, 1999:5).

This approach advocates for paradigm shift. Rather than allowing the state to continue to define security, people who make up the state should be the one to define their own security. Therefore, it is not the function of the state or government to determine security imperative for the people; it is the people who decide their own security.

Policy-makers in several countries have adopted this approach as the guiding principle of their security laws, e.g. South Africa, Canada etc. and this approach has been working for them in preventing and solving their domestic security challenges. Hence, country like Canada has even made it as part of its foreign policy.

This approach has not only become the priciest bride among the state actors but several non-state actors including the non-Governmental organizations (NGOS) that have acted Spontaneously in the popularization of human security as an approach to security e.g. Human security Network. The organization has been championing the need to energies political process aimed at preventing or solving conflicts and promoting peace and development (see human security network. org network-e.php).

Therefore, Nigeria too need to gear up to adopt this security approach as its security policy because it equates security with development rather than arms. lack or inadequate development caused most of the Nigeria insecurity, since the nation can never be at peace unless people have security in their daily lives. Spending on procurement of arms to fight internal crises is even more costly compared to the money spent on development. Maybe if the money spent on arms in Nigeria was spent on development may be the crisis may not have occurred e.g. war against insurgency (BokoHaram) in the North East. Although, giving preference for arms acquisition over development is not only affecting Nigeria but many other countries of the world. For instance, the world leaders at the UN millennium summit in 2000 pledged to cut poverty by half by 2015. The UN requested \$50 billion per year to achieve the set goals. Most governments cried of not having the resources and pledge less than a quarter of this amount. It is astonishing, however, to note that despite the above stated inability to pay for development, governments have spent more than \$10 trillion on arm armament since 1990. (Roche,2003). The security strategy that will solve current Nigeria security challenge must have the following elements:

3. Elements of Human Security

Elements of human security are:

- Economic security
- Food security
- Health security
- Environmental security
- Personal security
- Community security and
- Political security

3.1. Economic Security

This can be described according to monsuru (2008) as a way of putting in place measures and strategies that will ensure that every individual in the state is not only entitled to employment but also has right to a living wage i.e. every matured individual must have basic income and employment, and access to such social safety net.

Employment is very vital to economic security of individual because it is the way in which individual can meet his/her basic needs but if the person is not employed economically is not secured and society too is not secured. There are many researches that linked unemployment to different types of social disorganization like violent conflict, armed robbery, kidnapping, terrorism prostitution, human trafficking etc.

According to research carried out by Yekeen (2017) on correlation between conflict and youth unemployment in Nigeria using Katsina city as a case study, the result shows that there is strong correlation between conflict and youth unemployment in Nigeria. Also, by going with frustration aggression theory propounded by Dollard and Doob, at al (1939), and further developed by Miller (1948) and Berkowitz (1969). The theory says that aggression is the result of blocking or frustrating persons efforts to attain a goal. This frustration is unemployment to jobless people in Nigeria and the aggression is the different forms of social disorganizations like crime, insurgency, kidnapping oil pipeline bunkering etc.

(Amarasuriya, canan G. and Markus 2009) claimed that the presences of especially, unemployed male youths often get portrayed as a conflict risk that makes the instigation and perpetration of violent more likely. Furthermore, Econometric research into causes and drivers of conflict has posited that presence of uneducated and unemployed mostly male youths present a variable that heightens conflict risk.

Even some youth bulge theories predicting that countries with a percentage of 40% or more young unemployed people of the population combined with other factors cross a danger threshold that makes it 2.5 times more likely that these societies will tip over into violence.

In addition, if we considered a lot of issues that posed security threats to Nigerians today are usually perpetrated by unemployed, especially unemployed male youth. BokoHaram insurgents, are mostly unemployed male youths, Niger Delta

militant, cattle rustlers, kidnappers etc. are mostly unemployed male youths. In Akwara et al (2013) it was observed that the collapse of social institution and of economics system to generate sufficient means of livelihood for people is an explanation for youth increasing innovation in conflict and war situation all over Africa. At the very least, there is a correlation between economic hardship (occasioned by unemployment) and those accused of taking part in the orgy of violence or violent disorder taking place in this country (Akwara et al 2013) It is because of the insecurity posed by unemployment that makes advanced countries to be paying social security payment to the unemployed, so that it will keep them off the street until they get jobs. This has helped to make their nations safer than country like Nigeria where no forms of assistance are given to the unemployed.

Therefore, for Nigeria to overcome this present and security threats individual must be economically secured, i.e. unemployment must be reduced to the barest minimum. This can be done making agriculture more lucrative to youth inform of giving non-interest loan to youth for farming purposes by government and non-governmental organizations. Also, government should make huge investment on irrigation farming so that farming can be a Whole year profession not part time during only the rainy season and Nigeria education curriculum should more practical than theory. Also, Government should be ready to giving monthly stipend to the unemployed until they get job.

3.2. Food Security

Food security can be defined according to the united Nations committee on world food security as the condition in which all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient needs and food preference for an active and health life (FAO 1996). For any country to meet up with above definition, that country must be able to produce larger percent of its needed food locally. Because this will remove the limitations on availability, accessibility, and price avoidability that maybe put as a result of importations. Therefore, Nigerians must not depend on the importation of food items.

This underscores the strategic importance that self-sustenance in local food production has on the Nigeria security. Though, the interdependence that dominates relations among nations also covers food. This is because there are particular types of agricultural items that cannot be acculturated in one nation Notwithstanding, some normal food items like rice, maize, beans, millets and others need to be made available to the people in adequate quantity at all times in affordable price because food is not a luxury but a necessity. And a hungry man can do whatever possible to create food for himself, the absence of food creates hunger and hunger has link to vices. Therefore, for Nigeria to get out of this present security challenge it must get out of hunger. And for each and every individual Nigerians to get out of hunger, there must be availability, accessibility, stability, in utilized food at cheaper price which can be achieved if government can make agriculture to be lucrative to Nigerian youths.

Moreover, The UN recognized the Right to food in 1948 and has since noted that it is vital for the enjoyment of other rights, that is the reason why it declared August 16 as world food Day.

The absence of food or its inadequate constitute a great threat to the security of the nation. His Eminence, Anthony, cardinal okogie as reported by John identified hunger as the major cause of hate speech and agitation in Nigeria (Vanguard Oct 15, 2017). According to him, "Deprivation has turned into agitation Nigerians are hungry and angry in their anger, they turn against each other on the social media, using unprintable language, threats and violence to sort out their differences" and he added that, "the young people are the worst hit and the government didn't assist them and they are even looking for a way to wipe out our hungry and angry youth and some of them have even labeled as terrorists." this shows that hunger is linked to the Nigeria insecurity situation which can only be solved by food available at affordable price for individuals.

3.3. Health Security

Health security can be defined according to Bilal Khan/ Quaid-i-Azam university, Islamabad, Pakistan as the polices, strategies, agendas, and activities which health threats such as pandemics, emerging infectious diseases, bioterrorism, disease outbreaks, malnutrition, and dual use research accessed on (<http://healthsecuritypartners.org/2016-futures-fellows-pakistan-perspectives1>).

Nigeria is constantly under the threat of emerging and reemerging of disease e.g. the outbreak of Ebola disease Lassa fever, HIV/AIDS, Polio, Malaria, meningitis, Malnutrition etc. All the above-mentioned diseases have responsible for the death of many Nigerians.

Because of lack of good health programs and, the only health insurance scheme provided by the government covers a very few Nigerians this was established by Prof.Usman Yusuf, the Executive secretary of the National Health insurance scheme (NHIS) in Nigeria health watch February 16, 2018 he said Over 90% of Nigerians eligible for the scheme have not been covered i.e. 90% of Nigerian have no health security which is directly posed a threat to the National security. A Nation will not stable politically. Economically and socially when its people are not healthy, because Health is wealth. To have health security government and non-governmental organizations should try to improve on the following: awareness and orientation program about danger of the outbreak of some diseases particularly those that are infectious like HIV/AIDS, TB, lassa fever among others; enlightenment to guide people against reckless lifestyles that can aid pandemics; NIHS should be extend to cover all Nigerians; free health care services; and government should make going on strike by health workers illegal.

4. Environmental Security

Environmental security is the protection of people Against The environmental problem arises whenever there is a change in the quality or quality of any environmental factor directly or indirectly or indirectly affects the health and well-being of people in an adverse manner.

The following are the common environmental problems in Nigeria and their link to present insecurity.

4.1. Urbanization

This cause by high population growth rate and rural-urban migration. In Nigeria, urbanization is characterized by growth of city slum with serious environmental implications which demonstrate the inability of development keeping pace with population growth. Problems of sewage and refuse deposal and serious due to high rate of generation of non-biodegradable materials such as pure water nylon and plastic. High population has made people to overstretched available social services and infrastructure therefore, they cannot cope with the rate of growth. Inadequate storm drains, dumping of refuse into drainage lines and construction of houses on water channels, have led to increase case of flooding in the urban Centre's. Recently, case of flooding has been reported in some states in Nigeria (Lagos, Oyo, Kaduna, Bororo, Adamawa) This has resulted to the loss of lives, properties and farmlands which in my turn has created the problem of internally Displaced people (IDPS).

4.2. Over Population

This has caused stress on the environment Nigeria is the most populous African nation with population of over 140million people (censure 2006). This high population is contributing to environmental degradation in the country.

For instance, The Federal Government of Nigeria (1988) National policy on pollution for development did observe that the present high rate of the country's population growth already contributing significantly to the degradation of the Ecology and that land fragmentation over-farming and over-grazing, have led to soil erosion and desertification which could be exacerbated if the present population growth continues NEST, 1992 in (Chinasa2014).

4.3. Deforestation

This is a process whereby trees felled for several purpose without replanting to replace the felled ones (Chinasa2014). This process is dangerous to man, animals and properties because it leads to erosion of the soil and storm which can cause destruction of properties crops and animals, recently now in Nigeria it has become like tradition that at every beginning of rainy season windstorm use to destroyed many houses in different states in Nigeria because trees that supposed to protect those houses have been cutting away which use to lead to destruction of lives and properties

4.4. Desertification

Desserts are barren lands, waterless and treeless and often said covered such as the Sahara Desert which spread across African continent, also in other words are the encroachment of the desert on land that was once fertile this can be as a result of action of man or natural process, this common in the Northern part of Nigeria.

Desertification is dangerous to man because it leads to famine, diseases, and destruction of crop, livestock and man. It further contributes to the incident of diseases like heat stroke, cerebro-spinal meningitis, severe Acute Respiratory syndrome (SARS) and avian flu

(Aliyu, 1997) in (Chinasa 2014)

4.5. Pollution

This can be classified into three groups (i) air pollution (ii) water pollution and land pollution.

Air pollution is the contamination of the air by the discharge of harmful substances that can endanger mankind. People's activities on the surface of the earth have serious degraded the quality of the air because of the excess carbon monoxide produced by combustion and other human activities presently in Nigeria, several rural towns that had in the past eroded fresh and dry air are experiencing air pollution problems (Obajimi, 1998).

Water pollution is the discharge of unwanted biological, chemical and physical materials in to water bodies from man's environment that affect the natural condition of water this responsible for the wide spread water contamination in most Nigeria cities. Land pollution is the occurrence of unwanted materials or waste on land. The commonest pollutant on land is the waste products that are often scattered on land area in the city. Most environment problems are due to the pollution or conscription of goods whose waste products transforms easily in to pollutant (Onwioduokit, 1998).

Apart from the common environmental problems mention above, that occurs as a result of actions of individual in Nigeria the others ones are climate change ozone layer depletion, these two problems posed a great threat to Nigeria security although, they may not be cause by Nigerian only but their effect have implication on Nigerian security. These threats climes are transboundary in nature but differs from tradition external security threat because they are uncontrolled and unintended this is what print (1993) called "threat without enemy". For stability, peace and security to come to any nation all the above environmental threat must be addressed.

5. Personal Security, Community Security and Political Security

Community security according to human development report (1994) covers conservation of traditional and cultures, language and common held values. It also includes abolishment of ethnic discrimination, prevention of ethnic conflicts, and protection of indigenous people. And also, political security is concerned with protection of human rights and well-being of all people it also includes protection against people from state repression such as freedom of press, freedom of speech, and freedom of voting. Abolishment of political detentions, imprisonment, systematic ill-treatment, and disappearance are also covered under political security.

Finally, personal security is a general condition that occurs after adequate efforts are taken to delay deter, and provide warning before possible crime, if such warning occurs to summon assistance, and prepare for the possibility of crime in a constructive manner. Personal security aims to protect people from physical violence, domestic abuses, or from predatory adults (uslegal.com) available on [https://definitious.uslegal.com /p/personal security/](https://definitious.uslegal.com/p/personal-security/) also, the issue of injustice, ethnic discrimination and lack of good governance if they are not properly address use to cause security threats for instance, Oakland, (2005) in Yekeen (2017) claimed that conditions like social exclusion, deprivation, class inequalities, injustices political marginalization, gender imbalances, racial segregate, economic exploitation and likes all of these often lead to conflict.

Therefore, for Nigeria to overcome both present and future security threat all the above issues must be looked into in our security polices and decisions.

6. Conclusion

Nigeria security challenge has been traced to its domestic domain rather than external, meanwhile the government has been tried to overcome this challenge but the traditional strategy adopted has not yield good result because is an outdated method, For instance, to solve the problem of insecurity, Nigeria has spent a lot of resources on arms and being fighting majorly, with hungry and angry youths many have been killed and many are in the prisons, but the problem of insecurity still persist, therefore, the question to ask now is

How many hungry and angry youths will be killed to solve the problem of insecurity? By the way, will the death of these angry youths solve insecurity problem in Nigeria?

Therefore, to solve the problem of insecurity in Nigeria, our angry youths must be provided with food and job because the only language the hungry man understand is food. If the food is available at affordable price and job for the youth Nigeria insecurity problem will disappear. Also, the issues of poverty, proliferative of weapons, environmental pollution and degradation, social injustice, political exclusion, crime, human rights abuse, illiteracy, economic deprivation, militarism maladministration which human security seeks to solve be critically addressed in making security decisions in Nigeria.

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