

Nigeria - Chad Diplomatic Relations and Economic Development in Nigeria, 2010-2023

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Abstract

Contemporarily, the world is such that nations can hardly do without one another. Nigeria and Chad over the years are connected by historical, social, economic, cultural and other forms of fundamental interests. The relations between Nigeria and Chad predates the coming of the colonial masters; at the end of colonial rule, both states engaged in a form of multi-dimensional bilateral relations. This research adopts qualitative method and is premised on Nigeria-Chad diplomatic relations and economic development from 2010-2023. The study argues that cross-border clashes in the Nigeria and Chad borders impedes economic development as it affects the security of the region. The research adopts the Social Exchange theory postulated by George Homans (1958) which asserts that human behaviors and social interaction is driven by exchange process to pilot the study. Our data was generated using the primary and secondary sources with content analysis as our method of analysis. The study recommends securitization of the borders and good infrastructural development such as accessible roads that would link border communities in the region to pave way for viable trade and interventions by organizations and respective member nations. The study shall be useful in advancing the ethos of diplomatic relations not only between Nigeria and Chad but also with other neighbors in the sub-region.

Keywords: Diplomacy, Diplomatic Relation, Economic Development, Security Cooperation, Bilateral Agreement.

Introduction

The issue of economic development is a contemporary phenomenon that is globally discussed between nations and among policy makers as a new moving force. Nigeria and Chad forged stronger ties since 1980s so as to benefit from each other commercially and diplomatically through expanding cooperation in economic fields to enhance their economic development. The economic partnership between Nigeria and Chad revolves around trade, other investments and cooperation. However, Nigeria and Chad's areas of economic development are centered on exports and imports. Chad exports livestock, dried fish and other chemicals to Nigeria and equally imports Nigerian foodstuffs and manufactured goods such as plastics, pharmaceuticals, building materials and other consumables. In other words, Nigeria's

socio-cultural link with Chad is threatened in the context of security challenges which has further made diplomacy ineffective; Zannou (2022).

Developing nations such as Nigeria and Chad are faced with the challenge of economic stability which affects economic development. It is also evident that economic policies and the macroeconomic condition of any nation often attracts attention and serves as pointer to economic development. In this discourse, it has become sacrosanct to mention Nigeria's commitments to maintain a cordial relation with Chad, even though there are consistent clashes within the border communities that links the two countries. These regular cross border clashes and other forms of armed incursions have propelled Nigeria to take measures by intensifying both military and non-military strategies to enhance territorial integrity in order to contain the security threats that is impeding development in Nigeria. In the light of the foregoing, Dovgoplov (2009 in Aliome (2019) premised that national security encapsulate the protection of the important interest of the citizen, the society and the state in many spheres of internal and external threats.

Within the confines of this study, diplomatic relationship is when two nations have an agreement whereby each nation has a representative in the other nation. This study further move to explain bilateral agreement as an arrangement or contract between two nations to maintain relationships that could boost their policies. The goal of the Nigeria and Chad diplomatic relation to promote commercial links, infrastructural development, and economic integration between the two countries. By utilizing their resources and advantages, deepening these connections may promote more substantial economic growth and development for both countries.

Statement of the problem

The notion of economic development has remained a critical element in politics and formulation of policies at both domestic and international space in recent years. Substantial trade, monetary, and fiscal deficits have been an issue for many developing economies throughout the years including Nigeria and Chad. The nature and amount of public goods, such as utilities and infrastructure, are highly dependent on the pace of government expenditure, which has an impact on the macroeconomic framework's nature and condition as well as the fiscal sustainability of any small open economy, Olufemi, et'al (2021). Though it is highly noted that the dreaded activities of insurgents, bandits and other forms of crimes across Nigeria

and the Chadian border have crippled progressive efforts and made life very difficult for the law-abiding citizens who are continually harassed, intimidated, maimed, brutalized and in some instances killed. Against this backdrop, the continuous threat of these multiple crises has raised deep feelings depicting how the insurgents have taken advantage of poor governance structure both in Nigeria and the Chad. Consequently, there is a persistent increase in military budget within the period of this study to counter problems of insecurity which has failed to yield a positive outcome; but affected all economic development indices in Nigeria. The communities bordering Nigeria and Chad remains a critical example of social, economic and political marginalization with insufficient access to public services such as education and health; deteriorating human relations between local and customary authorities which is playing a key role in governance structure; Venturi, (2021).

It always dawned on criminal gangs and insurgents to pitch their tents within border areas because they believe that almost all police and military forces of recognized governments do respect international boundaries. Consequently, as they take advantage of respect for international boundaries by government forces, they unleash their terrific acts on both innocent civilians and even the forces they know will counter them. However, in some instances, they use the guerilla warfare system where they strike government forces and use the civilians as human shields. It is the exclusive character of these criminal gangs and insurgents that impedes economic development for both Nigeria and Chad which in most cases affects the sustainability of livelihoods as it tempers with all forms of business activities. In other words, the more than twelve years of insurgency have been a burden on the two countries because of porous borders and other fundamental national difficulties. These and other variables strengthen the neighborhood effects on the countries. As a result of this, many impacted countries within the neighborhood barely cope with security and socioeconomic issues on their own (Nextier, SPD 2022). The porosity of their borders has given room to the influx of unwarranted migrants to cross over illegally from other countries in the region. Nigeria and Chad for long maintained a problematic and confrontational border relations due to the rate at which arms are smuggled across the borders with huge arsenals controlled by insurgents and bandits most of which were floated from Libya, Gabriel and Fayomi (2012). Furthermore, this study argued that Nigeria and Chad are both import dependent and crippled with weak government policies which makes economic development to be very slow due to their overlapping challenges.

Numerous scholars such as (Masaeli & Sneller 2020; Ezedani, 2015; Henzt & Hussein 2017 and Anugwom 2018) have identified a variety of factors that impedes economic development in Nigeria as it relates with Chad to be religious, political, economic, social, and environmental drivers; However, our point of argument is hinged on lack of proper securitization of the porous borders and strong early warning reporting which has not only undermines diplomatic relations but also impedes economic development. It is against this backdrop that the study seeks to answer the following research question:

1. How does cross-border clashes between Nigeria and Chad impede economic development in Nigeria?

It is in line with the research question that the objective of the study is to examine how cross-border clashes between Nigeria and Chad undermined economic development in Nigeria.

Theoretical Framework

This study employed the Social Exchange theory postulated by George Homans (1958) which unveils rewards or benefits as compared to invested cost in social relations as a tool for analyzing the Nigeria and Chad diplomatic relations and economic development in Nigeria. The theory is a widely held social construct that sees society as a patchwork of interconnected systems that need to be sustainably interwoven in order to achieve both unity and diversity. The economic, political, and social frameworks that every society has: its laws, rules, and institutions—are the foundation of the Social Exchange hypothesis. But the frameworks that emerge from human political processes are also the ones that ought to be applied for allocating benefits. Political scientists use the term "social functions" to describe how every process, activity, or pattern of conduct contributes to the upkeep of a social structure that primarily depends on mutual efforts to remain cohesive and sustainable. Therefore, in order to apply the social exchange theory, one must recognize that both Nigeria and Chad are seen as a whole system, and the various ethnic groups that make up the each of the country are seen as constituent components that should cooperate to maintain both its unity and the unity of its neighbors.

It is crucial to understand that many of the policies that hinder Nigeria's economic progress do not just happen. Every choice is copied with entrenched interests to safeguard Political, social, economic, religious and ethnic territories.

Methods

The study is qualitative and descriptive in structure and we employed both the primary and secondary sources of data with content analysis approach.

Review of Related Literatures

The central thrust of this study is to interrogate the extent which Nigeria-Chad diplomatic relation impede economic development in Nigeria from 2010 – 2023. The literature review therefore, is aimed at identifying the gap in extant literature using the following sub-themes:

1. The impact of trade policies on economic development in Nigeria-Chad relation

Nigeria and Chad have for long enjoyed a lasting trade relation which has driven economic development to greater heights until trade policies in both Nigeria and Chad started having negative impact on the two nations. Trade is known to be the catalyst of economic development across the world. However, our study argues that when trade policies are not implemented well or they appeared driven by interest, it will impact negatively on the nation. Interestingly, the nexus between trade policies and economic development can be observed through the studies which revealed that any increase in government spending and the level of trade openness and trade decrease in interest rates in Nigeria have not impart on improved economic development. For instance, Kemal et al. (2003) come to the conclusion that a controlled and limited flow of imports increases the country's economic output, while Martes, (2018) noted that trade openness or liberalization has negative effect on the unemployment rate. This study argues that it is also in line with trade policies that the Apex Bank of Nigeria adopts monetary policy as trade booster which also modifies the money supply and interest rate to adjustably boost aggregate demand. The government uses a combination of monetary and fiscal policies to reduce trade/business cycle swings during economic downturns. Similar to this, the government implemented trade policy to strengthen trade ties and create the required safety net against shocks from the outside world in order to maintain a stable currency rate. However, due to overlapping exchange rates, the monetary policy aspect as it relates strongly to trade; ends up crippling economic development due to weak currency strength and outcome of the policy.

The AfCFTA, or African Continental Free Trade Area was the creation of a single continental market for products and services, as well as the expansion of intra-African trade between the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Africa at large, are the primary goals of the Agreement, according to the African Union. Just 27 nations have ratified the Agreement, out of the 54 that have signed it. Though not at the expense of the interests of the state parties, it is evident that the Agreement's provisions are intended to promote intra-African commerce, remove obstacles at borders, and establish the largest free trade area in the world. Nigeria's trade policy history paints an intricate depiction of the country's attempts to promote economic development and improve trade relations, especially with neighboring countries like Chad, as well as its participation in international trade frameworks like the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and bilateral agreements with other countries. Nevertheless, despite these initiatives, academics have expressed doubts about the effectiveness and long-term effects of these regulations. To begin with, Nigeria has demonstrated its commitment to enhancing its economy through trade through the implementation of many trade policies, such as the Export Promotion Strategy in 1981, the Liberalization of trade and exchange rates in 1986, the Nigerian Export and Import Policy in 1991, and its membership in the AfCFTA in 2019. By promoting greater liquidity and cross-border transactions, these policies hope to promote macroeconomic stability, strengthen trade ties with both domestic and international partners, and promote economic growth.

Nwosa et al. (2020) and other critics, however, contend that many of these measures have not produced the anticipated long-term results and have instead slowed Nigeria's progress. They argue that although these policies may have benefited in the short run, their inability to hold up over time points to underlying flaws or difficulties in their execution or design. Furthermore, Emeka et al. (2019) draw attention to worries about the effects of global trade liberalization policies, like those supported by the World Trade Organization (WTO), which might have made problems worse rather than better. These academics specifically draw attention to unfair trade practices like dumping, which have the potential to jeopardize food security in poor nations like Nigeria and Chad. Some of these policies encourage the importation of food from industrialized countries, which is viewed as damaging to these countries' self-sufficiency efforts and exacerbates economic difficulties.

However, despite the reality that Nigeria has pursued many trade initiatives over the years to promote economic growth and strengthen trade ties, academic criticisms of these

initiatives raise questions about their effectiveness and long-term effects. Concerns like unfair trade practices and threats to food security highlight how difficult it is to navigate the dynamics of international commerce and how crucial it is to carefully consider the results and implications of trade policy on national development goals.

According to Aremu, (2004), Nigeria has outlined some objectives and strategies of its trade policy in 2002 to meet up with demand through promoting the production of goods and services to meet both domestic and international markets for the enhancement of economic development. However, despite these strategies and policies, it is glaring that optimum performance has not been achieved as some of the gap constituted bottleneck in economic development. In contrast to this, when a nation is involved in trade across sectors with global value chains and good policies can generate unprecedented prosperity as it can lift a large number of people out of poverty. This study further asserts that understanding the relationship between economic development and poverty could serve some meaningful purposes. First, it will enable the government to determine how their policies are having the desired impact and also how the government will source out some funds to enhance or boost outcomes. In Nigeria, inconsistent data quality on economic development and measures for checkmating poverty affects quality analysis. Furthermore, high unemployment rate, corruption, high tax on imported raw materials, galloping inflation, poor educational and health outcomes explain why economic development has not led to reduced poverty level in Nigeria; but rather pushed teeming youths into criminal activities and can hardly impact on its relation with Chad.

2. The security policies/strategies on economic development in Nigeria

Nigeria a blessed nation but beset by a lot security challenges for more than three decades now. These challenges ranges from militancy, kidnappings, insurgency (Boko Haram), banditry, clashes between farmers and herdsmen, armed robbery and other forms of communal clashes. Issues of kidnappings are prominent in Abia, Ebonyi and Imo in the Eastern states while militancy is well pronounced in Niger Delta states; Boko Haram in North eastern states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa with severe cases of banditry, farmers/herdsmen clashes and armed robbery in both North central and North west Nigeria. All these to a large extent affect economic development as it lowers the inflow and outflow of both goods and services. According to Chris Aluta (2021), the Nigerian government now views the threat to national security as a serious matter, and a significant portion of the national budget has been earmarked for security. The federal government has increased physical security measures across the nation

in an effort to deter or disrupt potential attacks, fundamentally monitor and investigate criminal offenses, strengthened security agencies through the provision of security facilities, and develop a disseminated security tips in the media in an effort to reduce the incidence of crime. This has involved circumventing the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2011 in order to criminalize terrorism. Furthermore, according to the well-known security expert, understanding the root causes of insecurity and looking into their sources of societal unrest and instability should be the government's first steps in combating it. However, our study maintained that to combat insecurity in any nation, the country must maintain good relationship with its neighbors wherein, Nigeria must ensure cordial relation with its neighbors like Chad, Cameroun, Niger and Benin Republic.

Government failure due to a lack of institutional ability is referred to as the deterioration or disintegration of institutional infrastructures. Because of the highly fragile foundations of Nigeria's institutional structure, state governance and democratic accountability have deteriorated, which has paralyzed the current set of restrictions, including the formal and legitimate laws buried in the hierarchy of social order. There is a strong correlation between government failure and the level of insecurity in Nigeria. This is demonstrated by the government's inability to meet the basic requirements of the populace and to provide public services. Nigerians' dearth of access to basic essentials has produced a reservoir of resentment that is readily stoked by any incident to be violent. These deteriorating level of state institutions has made economic development elusive and have designated the nation as a failed state. The level of insurgency such as Boko Haram and Banditry has infiltrated into the neighboring Chad, Niger and Cameroun. However, the most dreaded terrorist group (Boko Haram) is prominent within the borders of Nigeria and Chad thereby crippling almost all economic activities. This study observed that in Nigeria, the reserved congregation of unemployed youths are readily available tools for use by any bidder such as unscrupulous politicians and other bad people who lost integrity but seek relevance by dubious means. Consequently, Chad has a synonymous deteriorating government institution like Nigeria and thus, this has aggravated the problems of economic development in Nigeria.

The Nigeria's National Development Plan 2021 – 2025 centers on macroeconomic framework, agriculture, oil and gas, solid minerals. It equally incorporates infrastructures such as transportation, power and alternative energy, housing and urban development, digital economy, science and technology innovation. It also talks of enhancing defense, peace and

security, foreign policy and international relationships, human capital development and lastly social development. Though a lot of literatures on Nigeria's economic development are replete with systemic and institutional failures, efforts were still made to embark on further development plan/strategy. It is in view of this that Nigeria's National Development Plan (NDP), 2021–2025, is a medium-term plan created by various private sector, sub-national government, and civil society organization (CSO) entities, with support from the Federal Government of Nigeria, aimed at unleashing the nation's potential in all economic sectors for a sustainable, comprehensive, and inclusive national development. This was done on purpose to make sure that no one is left behind and to promote inclusivity, participation, and citizen engagement. The Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP), 2017-2020, which expired in December 2020, was replaced by the current plan. The Nigeria Agenda 2050, which encapsulates Nigeria's long-term development plan is also projected to create sustainable development. It is argued that socioeconomic development, which includes things like employment, income, education, social assistance, and community safety in the context of farming and mining, is closely linked to security. Actually, development is always accompanied by security (Aleyomi, 2020; Nkwede et al., 2015 in Michael & Rich, 2020). The degree of socioeconomic development is directly correlated with the level of insecurity. Democratic systems are thought to foster prosperity and ensure peace and security for its population (Onuoha et al., 2020). However, over two decades of Nigeria's democratic rule which commenced in 1999, issues of insecurity undermine the prospects for peace, stability and sustainable development. This study further argued that the increasing wave of security threats in Nigeria which if uncontrolled could further destroy the nation's economy is evident of a symptomatic abysmal failure of the government institutions constitutionally charged with the duties of protecting the lives and properties of citizens.

Nigeria's large porous borders with neighboring countries such as Chad, Niger and Cameroun pose a major security threat to the nation. Over time, many border towns have unintentionally become dependent on the proceeds of smuggling and have come to view these activities as a way of life. In addition to the money wasted to smuggling, a country's borders must be impenetrable to prevent the large-scale importation of light and small weaponry. As a result, there are now an abundance of firearms throughout the nation that end up in the hands of criminal groups. Thus, this might not be unconnected to the way the security architecture is overstretched in Nigeria. Consequently, the national security crisis in Nigeria has intensified the diversion of scarce capital from the national budget to purchase modern military hardware.

This has resulted in government inability of to execute capital projects that would highlight economic development; and has further altered the actualization of the vision 2020, Chikodiri and Adaeze, (2014). This research argues that, this assertion is overt evidence on how the coercive instrument of the state has failed in many spheres.

Summarily, Nigeria as a sovereign entity faces no threat from its West African neighbors, because her economic and military strength supersedes those of neighboring countries, and it is impossible for her sub-Saharan neighbors to declare war on her; see (Katsina, 2012 in Okonkwo 2018). Furthermore, it would be immoral and difficult to attack or invade any of the sub-Saharan neighbors of Nigeria due to their regard, prestige, and big brother status toward her. Using this logic, it is clear that socioeconomic and political disparity are the primary threats to Nigeria's national security.

3. The impact of fiscal policies on economic development in Nigeria

Fiscal policy can be explained in a nutshell as the use of government spending and tax policy which influence economic conditions by regulating both production and consumption. These includes the demand for both goods produced and services, employment and inflation status of a nation. According to Bredino et'al, (2022), fiscal policy is also the use of taxation and expenditure by the government of any nation to achieve certain macroeconomics objectives which relates to price stabilization, employment opportunities, balance of payment equilibrium on all traded goods for economic development. Like any other nation that depends on mineral resource extraction, Nigeria faces challenges in formulating its fiscal policies over a period of time. First, there is long run need to make sure that fiscal stance is commensurate with the sustainable use of the oil and gas resources which depletes over a period of time. Secondly, the short/medium run which relied on the need to prevent instances that would create loses in the economy.

The nation's unemployment and inflation rates, as well as the external sector disequilibrium, have been periodically increasing due to the cyclical oscillations in the country's economic activity (Gbosi, 2001 in Nathan, 2012). To get stability in macroeconomic activities; the regulation, direction, volume control and funds availability cannot be left to the forces of demand and supply as well as exchange rate measures for external transactions. However, this study argued that in Nigeria, foreign exchange policy is dwindling due to poor policy on FOREX which has given upper hand to black marketers of FOREX to keep

devaluating our currency to their advantage and at the detriment of the larger population. Our weak currency status has impeded economic development as importers are finding it difficult when it comes to foreign exchange.

Nigeria's myriad of challenges to economic development are tied to its weak fiscal policy and employment; so also, fiscal policy and inflation. Since the period of this research, government debt in Nigeria keeps increasing such that its expenditures and level of responsiveness to unemployment ultimately appears insignificant and has a negative bearing on economic development. Furthermore, there is also a negative impact of Nigeria's fiscal policy with attendant inflation in Nigeria where the worse hit is food inflation which stood at 32.84% as at November, 2023 (Adedibe, 2024). This study argued that fiscal policy can be strong whenever the government stabilizes its expenditures and control inflation to avert budget deficit to enhance economic development. Agu, Okwo and Ugwunta (2015) investigated different aspects of Nigerian fiscal policy and how it impacts the economy. Their study however, revealed that total government expenditures have probability to increase just as the government revenue do rise; yet expenditures do out-space the regular revenue with investment expenditures lower than the expected recurrent expenditures. In essence, this portrays poor economic development. Nigeria have also witnessed increasing fiscal deficits due to lower oil production and a fuel subsidy program which appears costly.

4. Cross-border clashes and diplomatic relations between Nigeria and Chad

Nigeria is a nation with overlapping Economic, political, social, and regional divides but gained independence in 1960 and has a land area of 923,769 square kilometers with an estimated 223 million in population according to the elaboration of the United Nations data captured by worldometer as at 2023. The Nigeria- Chad border is about 85 kilometers (53 miles) in length which consists of single diagonal line that runs from North West to North East from the border point with Niger republic in the North. Chad is also a small nation with a population of 18 million people as at 2023; witnessing a 3.13% increase from 2022. However, Nigeria's relationship with Chad cannot be without strains. The beginning of clashes occurred around Lake Chad since 1970s where both nations seek to exploit its God given oil. Since then, both countries sought to defuse confrontations through creating joint patrols while also enabling the established commission to demarcate boundaries across the lake clearly. Nigeria's relationship with Chad was further complicated through the nation's instability in the north-east which is generated by increasing Islamic fundamentalism.

Understanding the nexus between security and violent clashes at the borders of Nigeria-Chad is critical to unpacking some narratives and basic assumptions. Nevertheless, the regular clashes are centered on economic resources which further creates additional pressure on border communities thereby deteriorating social vulnerability which heightened instability. Bernado and Luca, (2021) asserted that conflict (clashes) undermines the ability of the local population to cope in the face of a divided and complex social, political and environmental context. The scholars further maintained that the Chad axis is uniquely affected by multi-layered conflicts (clashes) ranging from extremist groups, insurgency, counter-insurgency and banditry. This scenario has crippled economic development in both Nigeria and Chad. This research argues that handling cross-border clashes between Nigeria and Chad requires diplomatic efforts, open communication and collaboration which must have a clear-cut line of action. Both nations must be able to engage well in peaceful negotiations to address underlying issues which involves territorial disputes, resource management and ethnic tensions. Furthermore, establishing joint border management mechanisms and promoting cooperation can help to contribute to stability to avert future conflicts that would impede economic development.

The dynamics of cross-border clashes might not be unconnected with as many issues like migration, incursions, smuggling, human trafficking and human rights abuse which have all crippled relations and economic development. Reuters in 2021 quoted:

“Nigeria has reinforced its border security to avoid a potential influx of Chadians following the death of Chad’s leader Idriss Deby who was killed in a battle against rebels”

It has been noted by scholars that prior to the death of President Idriss Deby, the Chadian military have been battling rebels most especially at the border frontlines due to porous borders where the criminals take advantage of arms supplies through nations like Niger, Sudan and Cameroun.

Greater security challenges stems from inability of a nation to control its borders but rather allow other nationalities to freely come in and go back at their convenience; and perhaps the nation has many ungoverned spaces which gives criminals advantages to unleash their terror activities, such a nation is bound to face security challenges. Nigeria’s porous borders are large as it cuts across all its neighboring countries of Chad, Niger and Cameroun which appears more dangerous to the security of the nation as bandits, herders and other terrorists may smuggle their arms and ammunitions without hindrance due to weak security architecture.

Gap in Literature

Though there are significant empirical studies on cross border clashes between Nigeria and Chad borders; the role of institutional positive response of the national governments to change policies to enhance economic development has not been given serious attention in recent literatures. Hence, the review of the relevant literatures affirmed the existence of a plethora of scholarly works which have identified a variety of factors that impedes economic development in Nigeria as it relates with Chad to be religious, political, economic, social, and environmental drivers. The literature research unequivocally demonstrates the lack of understanding regarding the interplay between various policies and economic development in Nigeria. The extant literatures consulted investigated the implication of trade, monetary policy and fiscal policies on Nigeria's economic development differently. However, our point of departure is that no prior research has used Nigeria as a case study to investigate the combined effect of trade policy, monetary policy, fiscal policy and security policy/strategy on economic development.

Discussions

The following hypothesis is central to our discussions on the topic: Nigeria-Chad diplomatic relations and economic development from 2010-2013.

Hypothesis: Cross-border clashes between Nigeria and Chad impedes economic development.

The purpose of the empirical verification is to test our hypothesis and validate it using the major indicators of the independent variable which constituted undisputable evidence that insurgency, rural banditry, incursions, migration, human trafficking, rape and human rights abuse has impeded economic development for Nigeria and Chad from 2010 - 2023. Arising from the hypothesis, the independent variable (X) and dependent (Y) variables are “Cross-border clashes” and “Impedes economic development in Nigeria” respectively.

Figure 1: Map of Chad – Nigeria Land Boundary



Source: <https://www.sovereignlimits.com/boundaries/chad-nigeria-land>

The figure 1 above clearly shows the land boundary between Nigeria and Chad which is an 85 kilometer straight road through the Lake Chad which connects today’s tripoint with Niger in the North and Cameroon in the South. The border was established by the French and British colonial administrations in 1906 and further demarcated by them in 1911. However, till today, Nigeria and Chad maintain the border with an active joint demarcation commission known as Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC); an intergovernmental organization created in 1964 to oversee the lake that connects Nigeria, Chad, Niger and Cameroon. However, in 1996 the Central African Republic joined the organization while Libya followed by joining in 2008.

Table 1: Dimensions of insecurity that hinders economic development in Nigeria

Dimensions of Human insecurity in Nigeria	Root causes of the problem
Economic (Trade) insecurity	Inflation, lack of loan facility, unemployment, increased forex, poverty, poor education and deprivation
Political insecurity	Corruption, injustice, weak legislation, violation of human rights, deprivation of voting rights and marginalization.
Environmental insecurity	Pollution, environmental degradation, resource depletion and natural disaster.
Communal insecurity	Clashes based on ethnicity, religion and political affiliation, terrorism, banditry, incursions, increased crime rate, rebellion and identity-based tension.

Food insecurity	Desertification, draught, famine, crop failure and high cost of food stuffs.
Health insecurity	Poor health care services, malnutrition, epidemic, lack of health facilities and poor training of personnel.
Personal insecurity	Forced displacement, physical violence, rape, kidnapping, human trafficking and gender-based violence.

Researcher's compilation

From table 1 above, the indicators/root causes of human insecurity in Nigeria which in contrast are same with that of the Chad and in turn hinders economic development are seen to be interwoven. However, considering our hypothesis which says 'cross-border clashes between Nigeria and Chad impede economic development'; one factor can be traced to have a linkage with other factors as source or cause of the problem(s) that hinders economic development in Nigeria. Going by the dimensions of human insecurity from the table above and from this research latitude, it can be deduced that political insecurity is one of the worst form of insecurity as it easily breeds Corruption, injustice and weak legislation which culminates into other forms of insecurity besides the natural factors.

Cross border clashes as impediments of economic development in Nigeria and Chad

Cross-border clashes in Nigeria and Chad borders which impede economic development is being caused by so many factors which are premised on the following indicators:

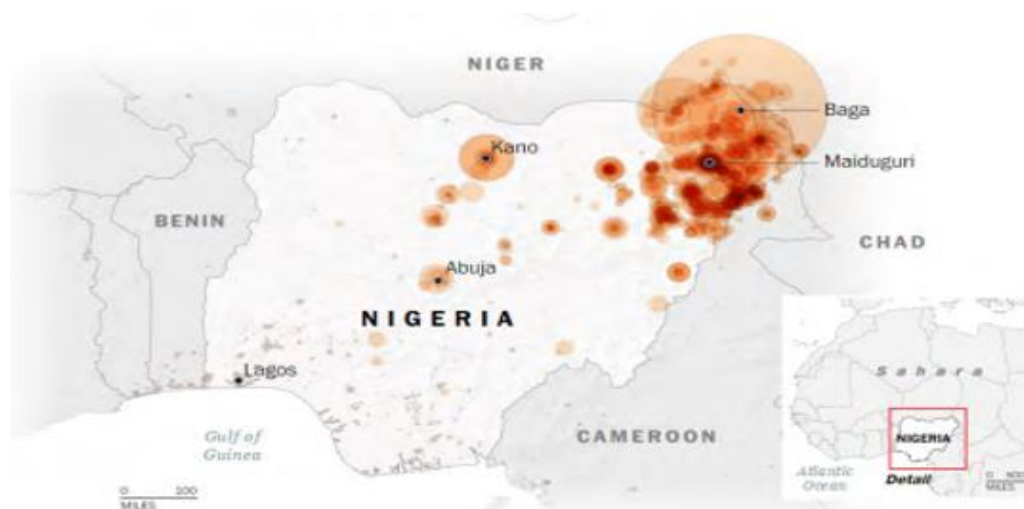
Insurgency:

In 2002 a dreaded Islamist group who detest western education emerged and were tagged (Boko Haram). This group founded by Mohammed Yusuf emerged in Maiduguri Borno state in North-eastern Nigeria with their presence also felt along the Nigeria and Chadian borders. They had serious issues with security personnel when they reared their ugly head as they always kick against laws set by authorities. The activities of Boko Haram impeded economic development in both Nigeria and Chad such that even the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) till today could not contain or clear their presence in the Nigeria and Chad borders. This is because over time, the group become more radicalized and violent, carrying out numerous attacks on civilian population, government institutions and security forces. Boko Haram gained international notoriety when in 2014 they abducts over 200 school girls from Chibok in Borno state. This was one of the factor(s) they were tagged a terrorist group as they

also pledged allegiance to Islamic state (ISIS/ISIL) and operates in Nigeria and neighboring countries such as Chad, Cameroon and Niger where they have strong holds. Their nefarious activities have crippled economic development across the region. The government now views the threat to national security as a serious matter, and a significant portion of the national budget has been earmarked for security.

Thus, the federal government has increased physical security measures across the nation in an effort to deter or disrupt potential attacks, fundamentally monitored and investigate criminal offenses, strengthened security agencies through the provision of security facilities, and developed and disseminated security tips in the media in an effort to reduce the incidence of crime. This has involved circumventing the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2011 in order to criminalize terrorism. There is still a lot of insecurity in the nation despite these efforts. Nigeria has also continuously scored poorly on the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012), indicating a worsened state of insecurity in the nation.

Figure 2: Insurgents attacks on civilians at cross-border communities from 2011 - 2016



Source: United States Institute of Peace

Figure 2 above shows clearly areas that the insurgents' attacks on civilian population is intensified along the Nigeria and Chad border areas. From the figure, there was serious attacks in the Federal capital territory and at point in Kano metropolis. This further revealed how the terrorist group sometimes overran security operatives to unleash their wicked activities on

innocent civilians. After a wave of BH raids and skirmishes in the first few months of 2016, Nigeria launched a second operation to drive out BH strongholds that remained, particularly in the forest, with assistance from the MNJTF. June 2016 saw a rise in violence once more. Humanitarian organizations were allowed into Nigeria's liberated areas when access to BH-controlled area opened up in northeastern Nigeria, (United States Institute of Peace).

Failure of government due to lack of institutional ability is referred to as the deterioration or disintegration of institutional infrastructures. Because of the highly fragile foundations of Nigeria's institutional structure, state governance and democratic accountability have deteriorated, which has paralyzed the current set of restrictions, including the formal and legitimate laws buried in the hierarchy of social order. There is a strong correlation between government failure and the level of insecurity in Nigeria which have given terrorists advantage; Chris, (2021).

Banditry:

Contemporary phenomenon of rural banditry also known as rural banditry emerged in in Nigeria and Chad borders almost same time with the emergence of Boko Haram that is between 2002 and 2009 when they became prominent. This banditry is never a new phenomenon in Nigeria and Chad border areas because it is known over time to be an organized cross-border crime which has succeeded in impeding economic development in both Nigeria and Chad. The movement of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) across the borders has intensified banditry through unlawful routes due to porosity of the borders. Herdsmen of Nigerian origin and their counterparts in Chad used these porous borders to buy and circulate the SALWs. These Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) are conveyed through the unlawful routes and mostly on camels, donkeys, horses and even on cows in pretense as if they are changing location. The activities of these bandits along Nigeria and Chad borders has intense prominence in Borno and Yobe states in the North-east Nigeria. The bandits' activities ranges from cattle rustling, kidnapping, gender based and sexual violence and carting away food items from communities through attacks.

It is imperative to emphasize that the unrestricted mobility of individuals and animals among the members of the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) has not only enabled the transfer of weapons but also allowed livestock to be rustled across borders. Because of security concerns, some of the gun smugglers would rather trade guns for livestock.

After then, it would be simple to transport all of the cattle that had been gathered across Nigerian borders for sale or payment for weaponry. Repentant bandit claims that this is what keeps the business growing and relevant over time, Rufa'i (2021).

Incursions:

Incursion is a term which denote hostile entrance into a territory by invasion or raiding an area. These incursions have resulted in an upsurge in the smuggling of illegal commodities, the trafficking of weapons and people, mercenary activities that are closely associated with acts of religious violence, and the nearly daily flow of people and goods into illegal areas. The state of Nigeria's borders has come under scrutiny due to the intrusion, which has put the country under significant threat from trans-border crimes and criminal activity, Omodele (2021). This scholar further maintained that; given the aforementioned problems, it is incomprehensible that the federal government has been slack on border concerns. On August 19, 2019, Nigeria's government issued an order that immediately stopped the flow of goods and services over its land borders. This action, which has been widely referred to as "land border closure," was made on the grounds that the country's economy needed to be safeguarded. Nigeria claimed that the closure of its land borders was necessary for security reasons, and the WTO's GATT gave the Nigerian government permission for the closure. However, our study argued that border closure has implications on economic activities and this alone stalls economic development not only in Nigeria but it also affects the neighboring countries like Chad, Niger and Cameroun amongst others.

Migration:

Human migration have both social and economic implications; it facilitates cross-border crimes such as illegal movement of arms, human trafficking and armed banditry with colossal implications on security. Migration at the cross-border between Nigeria and Chad faces several major issues which include the following:

Conflict and insecurity: It is evident that both Nigeria and Chad have experienced and are still experiencing internal conflicts and instability leading to displacement through the cross-border movement of people both from Nigeria and Chad seeking for places of safety. The regular conflicts which comes in different form have forced people to migrate. This conflict succeeded in tempering with sustainable economic development in both Nigeria and Chad.

Economic Challenges: A lot of economic disparities which exist between the two countries are enough to drive migration; with people seeking better means of livelihood opportunities in Nigeria or people fleeing economic hardships in Chad.

Border Control and Security: Weak border control and management at the Nigeria and Chad border areas can help facilitate irregular migration, smuggling of goods and services, human trafficking and exacerbating security problem for both countries.

Environmental Factors: When the environment faces degradation such as desertification and drought, it forces people to migrate in search of habitable areas and other resources particularly in the Chad's Sahel region.

Ethnic and Cultural Tensions: Ethnic and cultural differences between communities living along the border areas can sometimes lead to tensions and conflicts which often influence migration patterns besides other social ills.

Health Challenges: Health crises, such as epidemics or outbreaks of diseases can impact migration dynamics, especially if border controls are tightened in response to public health concerns. This study argues that addressing these issues to pave way for economic development, requires a comprehensive strategies that focuses on conflict resolution, environmental sustainability, border management, intercultural dialogue and health management.

Human Trafficking:

Human trafficking is pronounced as a modern form of slavery and also an illegal business with social implications. According to Okeshola and Adenuga, (2018) in Obikaeze et'al (2021), human trafficking is a form of organized crime which involve many people; with each person assigned a specific task to perform. These scholars further maintained that in this form of crime, there are recruiters who are people assigned to go to villages to lure young boys and girls through their parents with the promise of assisting them get a better future through good education and employment opportunities. Most often these children and their parents are ignorant of what awaits them. The trafficking in persons (Prohibition) Act, 2003 asserts that trafficking is an attempted acts through recruitment, transportation either within or across Nigeria borders involving the receipt, sale, transfer, and harboring of person(s) through deception, coercion or debt bondage with the intention of holding the person for voluntary or

involuntary servitude in a slavery like manner. The cases of human trafficking is rampant due to the porosity of our borders which creates an easy exit for the perpetrators of this crime. Human trafficking impedes economic development in many ways; some of the children that would be useful to Nigeria through their talents or skilled ability will be trafficked to other nations for labor and sexual exploitation. Contemporarily, exploitation is the sole aim of trafficking in persons (TIP); also, the knowledge of the victim of trafficking (VOT) is mostly not relevant whenever any of the protocol against TIP is used.

Table 2: Nigeria's Cases of Human Trafficking Reported to NAPTIP in 2013

Cases	Reported		Investigated	
	No.	%	No.	%
External trafficking for sexual exploitation	96	23.6	75	78.1
Internal trafficking for sexual exploitation	17	4.2	5	29.4
External trafficking for labour exploitation	18	4.4	8	44.4
Internal trafficking for labour exploitation	37	9.1	15	40.5
Nigerians Deported as illegal Migrants	5	1.2	2	40.0
Child labour	54	13.3	41	75.9
Child abuse	78	19.2	54	69.2
Child abduction from guardianship	38	9.3	32	84.2
Forced marriage	3	0.7	1	33.3
Rape/sexual abuse	14	3.4	9	64.3
Others	47	11.5	24	51.1
TOTAL	407	100.0	266	65.4

Source: National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons-NAPTIP in Obikaeze et'al, (2021).

Going by the data presented in table 2 above, the number as well as percentage of external trafficking solely for sexual exploitation is higher than the internal number and percentage for the same sexual exploitation. For those promised better opportunities outside

Nigeria, discovering they are meant for sex workers dehumanizes them psychologically and render them to various forms of psychological traumas. Despite the legal framework against human trafficking in Nigeria, many forms of trafficking have continued to surface through porous borders in the West African sub region. A good example of human trafficking in the region is tagged “triangle of Shame” which represents Niger/Chad/Nigeria borders. (cf: Black, 2004, Adepoju, 2005, Yaro, 2008, Sofie & Olsen, 2011 in Obikaeze et’al 2021); where Edo state is topping other states with highest number of prostitutes (sex workers) outside Nigeria. Black, 2004 in Obikaeze et’al 2021 further maintained that more than 10,000 Nigerian prostitutes (sex workers) are working in over 300 brothels in Europe and South America. The number keeps increasing while it undermines economic development in Nigeria.

Human Rights Abuse:

Human rights abuses include arbitrary arrest and detention of a person, torture and ill treatment, unnecessary use of force, extra-judicial killing/execution, enforced disappearances and forced eviction. Besides the terrorists, bandits and armed criminals committing human rights abuses in Nigeria, it is also evident that the security forces and other para-military also participate in these form of unlawful means of dehumanization. Though it occurs but very uncommon to see civilian committing acts that goes against human right; in Nigeria it is commonly the security forces who abuse the privilege of using fire arm to threaten people and even dehumanize them in the pretense and context of military operation and go scot-free due to weak judicial processes. However, Nigerian authorities have consistently failed to hold security officials responsible for crimes committed against civilians, (Human Rights Watch).

At the Nigerian and Chad borders, cases of human rights abuses are uncountable due to the menace of Boko Haram fighters and banditry. In most instances, women and girls suffer from sexual violence and other form of dehumanization.

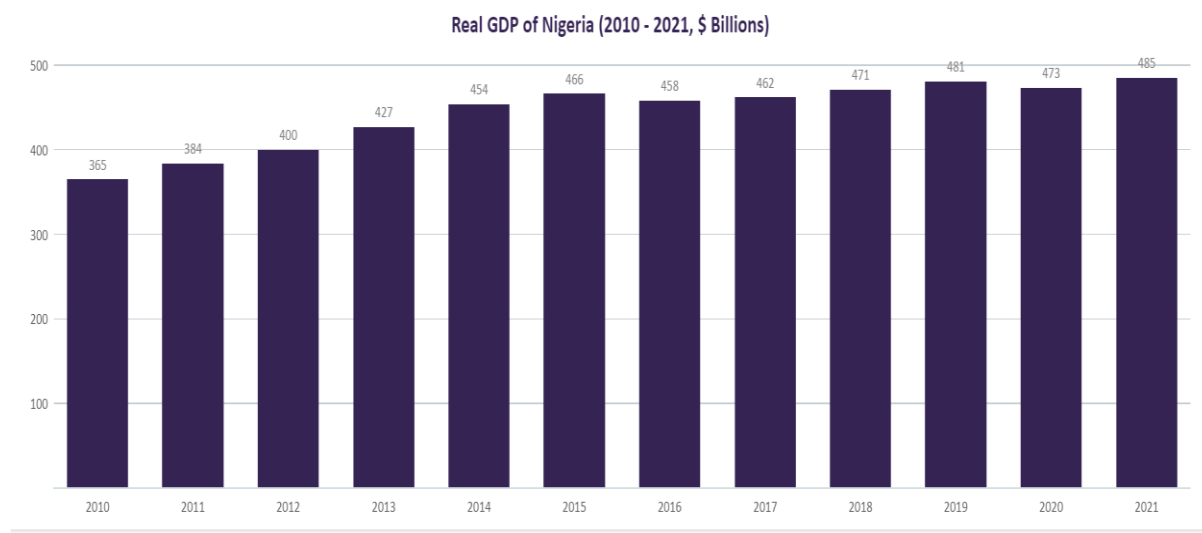
Rape:

At a point in 2020, CLEEN Foundation identified gaps in its findings on rape in some parts of Nigeria. North-East Boko Haram attacks caused many cases of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) in the North-east borders of Nigeria and Chad. It was however discovered to be the same situation in North-West where rape was perpetrated by the bandits in the region. There exist tales of woes due to uncountable number of victims of rape who are violated regularly in Nigeria. Within the Nigerian terrain, in 2014 it was the Chibok girls in Borno state;

later it was Dapchi Girls in Yobe state in the year 2018. It all became women lived reality especially in conflict environment like the North-east state of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa where they felt the grip of Islamic militants. Reports across Nigeria indicates there is no much free space for women and girls due to regular cases of rape.

A survey carried out across Nigeria by CLEEN Foundation National Crime and Safety in 2012 revealed that only 23% of rape incidents are often reported in Nigeria. Sadly, about 77% of rape cases remain unreported, those who manage to report had no better treatment from the police and other actors which includes the health care providers. From the study carried out, reasons for not reporting rape incidents are tightened to police insensitivity and fear of stigmatization. Furthermore, thisdaylive.com submits that since societal norms and media portrayals that culturally treat women as sex objects, discourage open sexuality discussions, and stigmatize women who dare to speak out about their victimization, Nigeria has had a longstanding and tolerated culture of rape that is frequently shrouded in secrecy. These factors have contributed to the structural and systemic oppression women experience. There's no denying that the culture of quiet needs to change, especially as more and more women are starting to voice their opinions.

Figure 3: Nigeria’s GDP growth from 2010 – 2021



Source: <https://www.global data.com>

From figure 3 above, it is evident that only in 2021 Nigeria witnessed one of its highest GDP which reached \$485.3billion with a slight rise of 2.7% from previous years. It is noted that the sudden rise is connected to the spike in oil and gas prices following the invasion of

Ukraine by Russian early 2022. This sudden rise in prices of oil and gas products has both advantages and disadvantages for the development of the Nigeria economy. Positively, the rise in oil prices increased the government’s revenue as producer and exporter of crude oil and gas. Consequently, since the country does not have a facility for refining the crude products, it has to sell and import the refined products at exorbitant price on the government’s side; impacting negatively. From 2015 – 2022, growth rates for Nigeria’s GDP per capita decreased as it became flattened and driven by the country’s monetary and exchange rate distortions, increase in fiscal deficit due to the lower oil production accompanied by costly fuel subsidy program. Though from the figure above, it shows the GDP growth is not quite significant; yet the government could not balance up its spending to align with its revenue to reduce borrowing from international monetary bodies. Thus this has impeded economic development for Nigeria.

In recent years, the volume of trade which constitute exports of Nigeria to Chad have decreased from \$23.2m in 1995 to \$6m in 2022. This sharp decreased might not be unconnected with the insurgency and other security issues that is very prominent in the North-east which is the route for Nigeria-Chad trade. According to Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC) world, in 2022 Nigeria did not export any service to Chad; while Chad’s export to Nigeria stood at \$321k.

Figure 4: Chad’s Oil Revenues, Expenditures and real GDP from 2012-2020



Source: Chad Economic Update, 2021

Figure 4 above clearly outlined Chad’s oil revenues, expenditures and real GDP from 2012 to 2020. The analysis on the figure shows how oil revenues for Chad is lower than its expenditures which gives a glaring over-dependence on borrowing from international monetary

bodies. The GDP is also not appreciative as it appears lower than expenditures in some years like 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2020. This scenario does not give room for sustainable economic development. However, Chad was once an agrarian economy but join the ranks of oil producing nations in 2003 where they heavily relied on oil export and its agriculture to drive the economy. The table above shows the economic crisis of 2015-2017 which reduced investment. The 2020 COVID 19 have also not only impeded trade growth for Chad and Nigeria but also within the regional block.

Summary and Conclusion

This study is able to investigate the impact of cross border clashes between Nigeria and Chad from 2010 to 2023 which was precipitated by insecurity thereby reducing trade volume as it impedes economic development for both Nigeria and Chad. The study showed unprecedented evidence of availability of qualitative body of knowledge where the principle of diplomatic relations has been thrown aside due to unresolved security threats in the border areas. Empirical evidence proved we had no sustainable diplomatic relation between Nigeria and Chad due to lack of security at the border areas. The study is also able to look at Nigeria's trade policy, fiscal and monetary policy and lastly security policy in contrast to the Chadian policies. It is observed that these policies most often were mere rhetoric due to weak security, political interest, social and religious interface which impede economic development.

The study is hinged on the theory of Social Exchange postulated by George Homans (1958) as its frame work of analysis which unveils rewards or benefits as compared to invested cost in social relations to midwife and pilot the study. However, the theory draws conclusion to the social implications of cross border clashes on economic development in Nigeria.

Recommendations

In today's contentious diplomatic scene where the challenges are enormous and hence crippling every effort to enhance diplomatic relation, the study gave the following recommendations:

1. Strong intervention in the securitization of the borders by forming a strong and well equipped military and para-military forces like customs and immigration services to checkmate both legitimate and illegitimate people coming into the country and going out which also includes movement of goods.

2. Enhance or formulate good policies that would be driven by decisive action plans for implementation.
3. Good infrastructural development such as accessible roads that would link border communities in the region to pave way for other possible interventions by organizations and respective member nations.

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