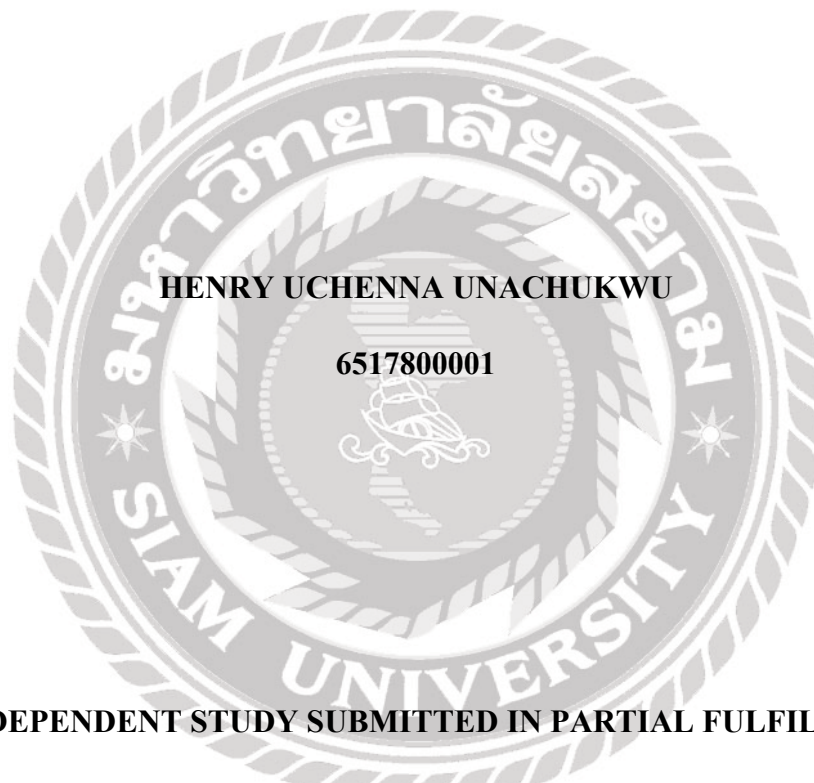




**ASSESSING THE ROLE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN PROMOTING PEACE
AND STABILITY IN NIGERIA**



HENRY UCHENNA UNACHUKWU

6517800001

**AN INDEPENDENT STUDY SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS IN PEACE STUDIES AND DIPLOMACY**

SIAM UNIVERSITY

BANGKOK, THAILAND

2025



Approval Page

IS Title: Assessing the Role of Economic Development in Promoting Peace and Stability in Nigeria

Author: Henry Uchenna Unachukwu

Student ID: 6517800001

This Independent Study (IS) has been approved as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Peace Studies and Diplomacy

Approval by

Advisor.....

Dr. Emmanuel Nweke Okafor

.....

Dr. Cheol Je Cho

Director of Master of Arts Program in Peace Studies and Diplomacy

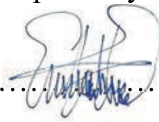
Research Title: Assessing the Role of Economic Development in Promoting Peace and Stability
in Nigeria:

Researcher: Mr. Henry Uchenna Unachukwu

Degree: Master of Arts

Major: Peace Studies And Diplomacy

Advisor:



(Dr. Emmanuel Nweke Okafor)

ABSTRACT

Nigeria's journey towards economic development, peace, and stability is intertwined and linked together. Despite positive economic growth and development in the country, Nigeria is faced with persistent conflicts and instabilities. This research investigated complexities in the relationships between economic development and peace stability achievement in Nigeria, while examining perspectives of policymakers, different economists, conflict resolution experts, community leaders, and individuals. Applying a mixed-methods research design that included semi-structured interviews and survey, the research identified major themes in economic development and peace and stability in Nigeria. In the survey of the research, a questionnaire was distributed online via Microsoft to a sample of 384 participants. It was revealed that Nigeria's economic development have witnessed both the positive and negative impacts on peace and stability and as such it is imperative that the government and other related bodes both international and domestic stands up in addressing the issues that cripple the stability and peace of the country. The research results indicate the need for Nigeria government and major stakeholders to prioritize education, healthcare, and infrastructure development as these are key contributors to a peaceful and growing society.

Keywords: economic development, stability, peace, regional challenges, crises.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to begin by expressing my profound gratitude to God Almighty for His unwavering love, guidance, wisdom, and knowledge, which have been invaluable in seeing me through this work.

My sincere appreciation goes to my supervisor, Dr. Emmanuel Nweke Okafor, whose expert guidance and encouragement have been instrumental in the successful completion of this work. I am also deeply grateful to my parents, Mr. Ernest Chukwudi Unachukwu and Mrs. Rosemary Chinwe Unachukwu, for their unwavering support, care, and prayers.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to my uncle, Mr. Augustus Nchekwube Okeke, for his moral and financial support, which has greatly contributed to my academic journey. Additionally, I am sincerely grateful to Mrs. Olivia Okeke, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Udengwu, the family of Mrs. Theresa Okeke, and Mrs. Agnes Unachukwu, whose kindness and generosity have made a significant impact on my life. I hold you all in the highest regard.

Finally, I wish to express my deep appreciation to Dr. Pornchai Mongkonvanit, President of Siam University, for the invaluable education and opportunities provided by the institution. My sincere gratitude also goes to my esteemed professors, Dr. Cheol Je Cho, Director of the Master of Arts Program in Peace Studies and Diplomacy, Asst. Dr. Suraphol Srivthaya, Dr. Kenneth Houston, and Dr. Chitphol Kanchanakit. Their insightful lectures and contributions have greatly influenced my academic growth. I also extend my thanks to the dedicated staff of the MAPD Office for their unwavering administrative support throughout my studies. May you all be blessed.

CHUKWU HENRY
UCHENNA

DEDICATION

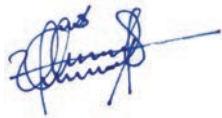
This Independent Study is dedicated to the family of Ernest Unachukwu and Augustus Okeke



DECLARATION

I, Mr. Henry Uchenna Unachukwu, with ID number 6517800001, hereby declare that this research is entirely my original work and that it is original unless specific acknowledgments state otherwise. I have done this Independent Study by myself, under the supervision of an advisor.

Signature:



(Mr. Henry Uchenna Unachukwu)

Date: 19 / June / 2026

Advisor.....



(Dr. Emmanuel Nweke Okafor)

Date: 19 / June / 2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract.....	i
Acknowledgements.....	ii
Dedication.....	iii
Declaration.....	iv
Table of Contents.....	v
List of Figures.....	vii
List of Tables.....	viii
Chapter 1: Introduction.....	1
1.1 Background and Significance of Research.....	1
1.2 Research Questions.....	2
1.3 Research Objectives.....	3
1.4 Research Statement.....	3
1.5 Scope of Research.....	4
1.6 Limitations of Research.....	4
1.7 Definition of Terms.....	5
1.8 Expected Benefits of Research.....	7
Chapter 2: Literature Review.....	9
2.1 Introduction.....	9
2.2 Johan Galtung's Theory.....	9
2.3 Economic Development and Peace.....	10
2.4 Economic Factors Influencing Peace.....	13
2.5 Summary of Chapter 2.....	16
Chapter 3: Research Methodology.....	18
3.1 Introduction.....	18
3.2 Research Design.....	18

3.3 Area of Research.....	18
3.4 Population of Research.....	18
3.5 Sample Size Determination.....	19
3.6 Sampling Techniques.....	20
3.7 Interview Participants.....	26
3.8 Validity of Research Instrument.....	26
3.9 Data Collection Methods.....	27
3.10 Data Analysis.....	27
3.11 Summary of Chapter 3.....	27
Chapter 4: Data Presentation and Analysis.....	29
4.1 Thematic Analysis.....	29
4.2 Quantitative Analysis.....	33
4.3 Responses to Questionnaire.....	36
4.4 Summary of Research Results.....	43
4.5 Summary of Chapter 4.....	43
Chapter 5: Conclusion and Recommendations.....	44
5.1 Conclusion.....	44
5.2 Recommendations	48
References.....	50
Annex: Questionnaire.....	54
Student’s Biography.....	59

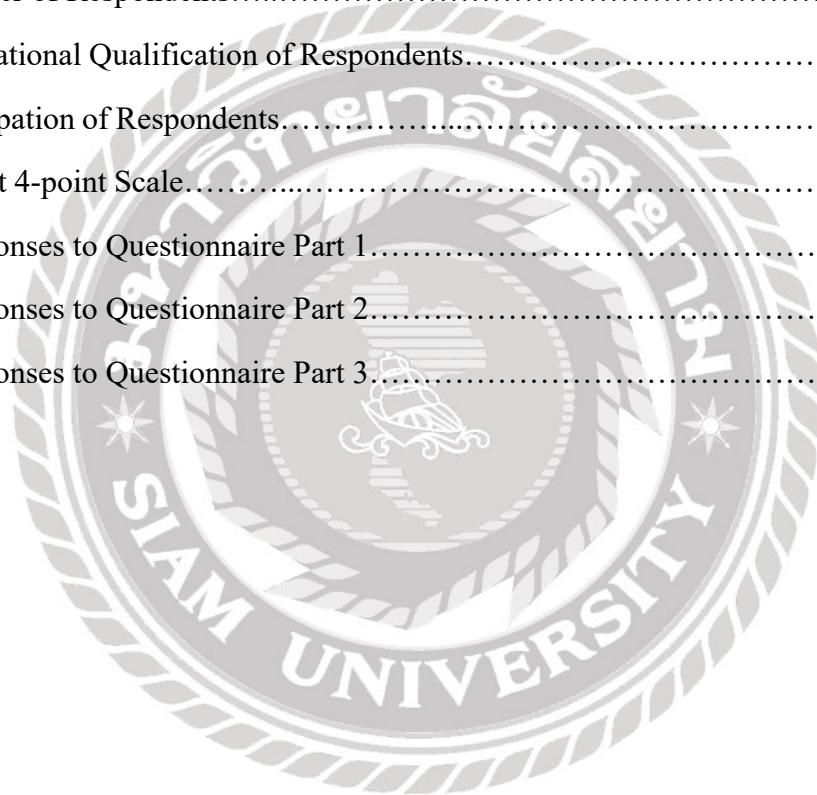
List of Figures

Figure 4.1: Chart of Responses to Research Question 1.....	37
Figure 4.2: Chart of Responses to Research Question 2.....	39
Figure 4.3: Chart of Responses to Research Question 3.....	41



List of Tables

Table 3.1: Stage 1 of Selection of Geopolitical Zones.....	20
Table 3.2: Stage 2 of Selection of States Within Each Zone.....	21
Table 3.3: Stage 3 of Selection of Local Government Areas (LGAs) Per Selected State.....	21
Table 3.4: Stage 4 of Selection of Two Wards Per LGA.....	22
Table 3.5 Stage 5 of Selection of Two Communities/Towns Per Wards.....	24
Table 4.1: Age Distribution of Respondents.....	34
Table 4.2: Gender of Respondents.....	34
Table 4.3: Educational Qualification of Respondents.....	35
Table 4.4: Occupation of Respondents.....	35
Table 4.5: Likert 4-point Scale.....	36
Table 4.6: Responses to Questionnaire Part 1.....	36
Table 4.7: Responses to Questionnaire Part 2.....	38
Table 4.8: Responses to Questionnaire Part 3.....	41



CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.1 Background and Significance of Research

As one of the biggest African economies, Nigeria has been facing a number of domestic and international dynamics, along with insecurities, which pose a great risk to the nation's economic development and development of humanity in general. Domestic and international dynamics are strongly linked to Nigeria's security situation, and these factors not only lead to destabilization of Nigeria and rule of law, but also have an adverse effect on economic activities and prices, productivity, employment, balance of trade, poverty, inequality, expenditure deficit, budget, and socio-political environment. It can be said that economic risks and issues of human development are increasingly influenced by security concerns of the nation.

From the statement provided by Ibukunolu (2024), the Nigerian nation faces many security issues that affect the country's economy, from insurgency, conflict among farmers and herdsmen, organized crime, plundering, and kidnapping for ransom. These issues lead to institutional weaknesses and the disruption of productive activities. Consequently, they lead to economic weaknesses. This brings about the realization of the importance of economic development in ensuring peace in a country. In line with these, Lawal & Oluwatoyin (2011) observed:

“The connection between economic development and national peace, as well as the challenges and prospects, points out that economically related developments often contribute positively to peaceful coexistence amongst people in a country by the reduction of poverty, inequality, and unemployment, while promoting peaceful social cohesion and general stability.” (Lawal & Oluwatoyin, 2011, p.237).

Despite the global adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Nigeria has made little progress on development when compared to other countries. Specifically, in terms of socioeconomic and political development. The adoption of some global goals, like SDGs,

has helped many countries to improve people's living conditions, strengthen institutions, and promote consistent equality. Nigeria, with its vast natural resources and a booming economy, yet it continues to experience persistent instability and conflict. According to Oyewole & Omotola (2021):

“The resource wealth, particularly oil revenues, have sometimes fuelled rent-seeking behaviour and intra-community rivalries, challenging simplistic narratives of resource-driven peacebuilding, failure of economic development to consistently promote peace in Nigeria is also attributed to the country's over-centralized planning structures and weak federalism, which impede responsive governance and worsen regional disparities without transparent resource management and equitable governance structures, economic gains can intensify conflicts.”(Oyewole & Omotola, 2021, p.2393).

This conundrum brings to light important issues pertaining to the actual contribution of economic development in Nigeria to peace architecture. This makes it important to examine the contribution of economic development in promoting peace and stability in Nigeria. This will help one understand the nature of challenges facing Nigeria in its effort to achieve development and promote peace. It is in this regard that this research examines how economic development has helped to foster peace. The research will add to literature on peace and development studies with particular focus on how economic development contributes to peace and stability in Nigeria.

Hence, this research aimed to investigate the level of contribution of economic development towards achieving peace and stability in Nigeria, highlight the key economic variables affecting peace and stability in Nigeria, and explore the impact of regional problems and economic development crises on peace and stability in Nigeria.

1.2 Research Questions

1. To what extent does economic development contribute positively to peace and stability in Nigeria?

2. What are the major economic factors that influence peace and stability in Nigeria?
3. How do regional challenges and crises in economic development affect peace and stability in Nigeria?

1.3 Research Objectives

1. To examine the extent to which economic development contributes positively to peace and stability in Nigeria.
2. To identify major economic factors that influence peace and stability in Nigeria.
3. To investigate ways in which regional challenges and crises in economic development affect peace and stability in Nigeria.

1.4 Research Statement

This research delved critically into the contribution and factors influencing economic development in promoting peace and stability. It also pointed to the need to utilize effective and efficient leadership and excellent administration as major actors in ensuring a well-coordinated economic development in promoting peace. The series of insecurity in Nigeria continues to threaten economic development and peace. This phenomenon has caused the country's social, political, religious, and economic spheres to collapse drastically. Any nation that aims to grow and develop should have a safe environment that allows businesses and economic activities to thrive.

Despite the variance suggests that growth alone is not sufficient to promote peace if it does not translate into equitable improvements in the living standards of the citizens, hence, corruption, weak institutions, and lack of accountability in governance undermine the trust between citizens and the state.

1.5 Scope of Research

The scope of this research was confined to analyzing the connection between economic development and peace and stability in Nigeria. The research aimed at establishing whether economic development, equal resource distribution, poverty alleviation, creation of jobs and infrastructural development help contribute to peace and stability in Nigeria. The research focused mainly on the federal government while making observations on selected geopolitical zones characterized by huge economic disparity and varied incidences of conflict including the North East, Niger Delta and South-East regions of Nigeria. The purpose of this choice of geopolitical zones was that it would help gain insight on the impact of various stages of economic development in achieving peace through comparative analysis. The research considered important indicators including as unemployment rate, income inequality, GDP growth, corruption index, infrastructural development and security budget.

1.6 Limitations of Research

There are some limitations associated with each empirical research, which may impact the intensity and coverage of the results obtained herein. First of all, the limitation of this research concerns data access and accuracy. In the case of Nigeria, statistical reports on the state of the economy, unemployment, poverty levels, and internal conflicts may not be consistently recorded, whereas secondary sources like those of the World Bank, United Nations Development Program, and Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) provide additional information on Nigeria's situation. However, these sources might not cover the specific conditions prevailing in the country and informal economic operations.

Secondly, although it has been noted that the use of the mixed-methods methodology for purposes of ensuring representation and balance, the diversity of the local reality will necessarily constrain the generalizability of the conclusions on a national scale. On the other

hand, although the mixed-methods methodology allowed this study to combine the quantitative approach with the qualitative one, it has also generated some difficulties in interpreting the results in a proper manner.

1.7 Definition of Terms

To make this research easy to comprehend, some keywords that are employed within this research are provided so as to avoid any form of misunderstanding in relation to the use of some terms.

Development: Development in this study refers to the potential ability for the state of the economy in Nigeria and the lives of the people to improve and progress to a higher level. Development in Nigeria goes beyond economic growth but includes political, human, and social development as well. It entails developing good institutions, eliminating corruption, and equitable distribution of resources.

Economic Development: Economic development is defined as sustained growth in the standard of living, economic opportunity, and general well-being of a community through structural changes and institutional progress. In addition to economic growth, economic development involves income equality, job creation, poverty alleviation, and improvement of people's capabilities (Todaro & Smith, 2020). With respect to this research, economic development entails efforts to promote economic diversification, cut back the economy's reliance on oil revenues, develop the industry, and enhance the provision of social amenities like health care and educational facilities.

Peace: Peace is defined as the state of social justice, political participation, and freedom from structural and physical violence in the society. As such, peace not only represents the absence of open hostilities but also the existence of positive circumstances conducive for harmony,

human dignity, and collaboration (Galtung, 1969; Lederach & Hampson, 1998). Peace, as conceptualized in this research, denotes the state of social order, coexistence between different segments of the community, and effective institutions of governance.

Conflict: Conflict in this research comes about as a result of ethno-religious distinctions, resource disputes, governance challenges, and regional disparities, which are essentially the opposite of peace and stability. In Burton's opinion, conflict is a dynamic process that results from the incompatibility between the interests, values, or resource availability of certain parties.

Giant of Africa: Giant of Africa used in this research implies that Nigeria, due to its massive population of over 230 million, abundant natural resources, and significant economic potential driven by oil, agriculture, and technology, and its cultural influence through Nollywood, music, and literature. It holds a political sway in African diplomacy and peacekeeping, with a strong military. However, this title is increasingly seen as symbolic rather than fully realized, as poverty, unemployment, insecurity, and governance failures hinder progress.

Stability: Stability denotes a condition of predictable order in political, economic, and social systems where institutions perform their roles effectively and social conflict is managed without widespread disruption (Hegre, 2014). In this research, stability captures the degree to which Nigeria maintains internal cohesion, effective governance, and the absence of large-scale civil unrest or economic collapse. It also refers to citizens' confidence in institutions and the sustainability of national policies.

Human Security: Human security refers to the protection of individuals from chronic threats such as poverty, disease, and repression, as well as from disruptions in daily life (UNDP, 1994). It is people-centred rather than state-centred, focusing on economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political security. The relevance of human security

to this research lies in its linkage with both peace and economic development. Sustainable economic policies contribute to human security, which in turn strengthens peace and national stability.

1.8 Expected Benefits of Research

This research stands to make significant theoretical, empirical, and policy contributions to the understanding of the relationship between economic development, peace, and stability in Nigeria. Through analyzing the ways economic processes impact peace conditions, this research generates practical findings that could be used not only for theoretical considerations but also for policy-making and long-term planning in the fields of governance and sustainable development. Among the theoretical contributions generated through this research, the contribution made to the current discourse is that it develops the existing knowledge concerning the multifaceted connection between economic development and peacebuilding processes. Most existing literature related to development and security in Nigeria has been concerned with the origins of conflict as well as the economic development agenda. Through its unique focus on economic factors together with social and political aspects of peace and stability, the research fills in the research gaps in the area of peacebuilding processes in Nigeria. Furthermore, the research enhances the current theoretical knowledge about human security, sustainable development, and structural peace by proving the empirical relationship between economic potential and social stability. By using a mixed-methods approach, the research also provides a good example of methodology for studying socio-economic problems in Africa.

Additionally, this research provides information about the contribution of economic development towards peace and stability within Nigeria. This is achieved through the utilization of economic data and peace statistics at the state level over a period exceeding ten years. This is further achieved by establishing relationships between development factors like

income inequality, employment, and poverty alleviation and measures of peace and stability, such as crime levels and conflicts. Lastly, this research presents robust ground for future scholars and research institutions interested in learning more about the economics of peace in Nigeria.



CHAPTER 2

Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

Literature on economic development and peace has attracted substantial scholarly attention, particularly in countries experiencing persistent insecurity; and economic and social difficulties. In Nigerian context, researchers have examined how factors, particularly poverty, unemployment, inequality, weak governance, and resource mismanagement influence peace and stability. Existing studies stress that economic development and peace are closely interconnected, as sustainable development cannot prosper in an environment of conflict and instability. This chapter focuses on a brief exploration of Johan Galtung's theory on positive peace and some other views in the area where their thoughts and those of Johan Galtung are synonymous with one another. These views give credence to the fact that positive peace eliminates structural and cultural forms of violence within society and makes way for economic development and stability.

2.2 Johan Galtung's Theory

The theory of positive peace was developed primarily by Johan Galtung in 1969. According to Galtung, the positive peace theory is hinged on the presence of social justice, equality, and harmonious relationships that eliminate structural and cultural forms of violence within society, the assumptions that sustainable peace often requires an address of structural violence, which is rooted in certain economic inequalities and injustices in the society (Galtung, 1969). He said:

“The absence of personal violence does not lead to a positively defined condition, whereas the absence of structural violence is what we have referred to as social justice, which is a positively defined condition (egalitarian distribution of power and resources). Thus, peace conceived this way is not only a matter of control and reduction of the overt use of violence, but of what we have elsewhere referred to

as vertical development. And this means that peace theory is intimately connected not only with conflict theory, but equally with development” (Galtung, 1969, p.167).

This theory is relevant in the context of Nigeria due to its continued battles with insecurity, poverty, unemployment and a fragile governance structure that hinders economic advancement and national stability, as it posits that sustainable peace cannot exist without addressing the structural roots of violence, such as economic deprivation, social injustice, and political exclusion, all of which are prevalent in Nigeria’s socio-economic landscape. Policies that encourage equitable economic growth, job creation, poverty alleviation, and good governance make significant contributions toward creating positive peace.

Accordingly, when considering this theory in relation to Nigeria, then economic development becomes not only a factor for peace but also a prerequisite. Consequently, societies that provide opportunity, education, health care, and livelihood to their members will experience fewer grievances, which result in conflicts. On the other hand, lack of development and inequality can escalate tension, encourage social unrest and erode people’s confidence in the state apparatus. Therefore, in this way, the theory reveals the interconnectedness of development and peace since Galtung’s theory of positive peace can be used as an appropriate theoretical framework for analysis, which shows that achieving peace in Nigeria is associated with the creation of socio-economic structures ensuring human well-being, justice and equality. Nevertheless, societies that are marked by poverty and marginalization experience increased conflict potential and instability.

2.3 Economic Development and Peace

It is also worth noting that economic development and peace go hand in hand according to Collier (2007). Where on one side, economic development creates opportunities and diminishes the structural roots of conflicts, peace acts as an enabling factor for achieving

sustainable development. The population of Nigeria, which is the largest in Africa, stands at over 200 million, and the country has faced a number of hurdles over the decades when it comes to achieving peace and stability within the nation. Although Nigeria is quite prosperous in Africa since the country gained independence from British colonialism in 1960, the country is constantly plagued by insurgency and food security challenges that have had negative consequences on the economy of the nation.

The cycle of persistent insecurity has significantly undermined the developmental trajectory of Nigeria and has discouraged both local and foreign investment in the country, disrupting agricultural production and diverting public resources from the essential social and economic sectors toward security expenditures. Anikwudike & Agabi said:

“The prevailing insecurity, as observed, discourages both domestic and foreign investments, and the lack of a secure environment undermines the implementation of developmental projects that could otherwise contribute to the rural economic upliftment. The government, on its own, has also allocated huge resources toward attending to victims of Insecurity. Consequently, funds that could have been utilised for developmental projects, infrastructure, and poverty alleviation are redirected towards security threats, and their attendant consequences”(Anikwudike & Agabi, 2024, p.156).

Aja (2024) observed that the proliferation of violent conflict and the spread of insurgent activities in different parts of the country, particularly in the North-East, North-West, and Niger Delta regions which have eroded state capacity and weakened the foundations necessary for sustainable economic progress. In Nigeria, persistent insecurity has emerged as a major barrier to economic development and human development, as repeated episodes of violence deepen poverty and restrict opportunities for youth development (World Bank, 2023). However, the linkage between economic development and peace in Nigeria is not just theoretical, but also substantive in practical terms since peace itself is both a condition before but also an output of growth and stability.

Exploring the dynamic relationship between economic development and peace in Nigeria, many have revealed that there is a significant positive relationship between economic development and peace in Nigeria. According to Martins:

“There is a long-run equilibrium relationship between conflict, inflation, poverty, economic growth, and unemployment. There is evidence in support of a direct relationship between conflicts and Nigeria’s economic growth, in that the incidents of violent conflicts are partly due to the drive for control of national wealth.” (Martins, 2014, p.116)

It is, therefore, imperative to move beyond mere statistical analysis to identify the fundamental elements involved in this intricate relationship. This includes the management of natural resources, distribution of economic benefits, and governance. Through these elements, it will be determined if economic development brings about peace in the Nigerian scenario or acts as a source of conflicts. One such paradox that exists within the realm of this relationship is the case of Niger Delta, where there is evident existence of the resource curse syndrome. (Sachs and Warner, 2001) Despite providing the biggest chunk of the nation's economy, the Niger Delta region has remained plagued by the issues of poverty, environmental damage, and militancy. As per the study by Obi (2010), these conditions are not coincidences, but an outcome of an economic regime focused only on resource exploitation without much regard for sustainable development.

These grievances caused by the loss of livelihoods due to political marginalization have led to violent conflicts, revealing how economic growth, especially if it happens in a very focused manner, may lead to conflict and lack of stability. The example proves that the assumed connection between the two variables, namely, the relationship between the distribution of economic benefits, one of the determinants of peace, is not so simple. In any case, the management of natural resources is still crucial in the context of Nigeria and especially Niger Delta, as shown by Ibekwe and Chidiobi (2022), who argued that the focus on oil, pollution

caused by oil drilling, mismanagement of revenue, and corruption prevent economic benefits from bringing about development and cohesion.

In this way, some oil-producing communities find themselves caught in a vicious circle of grievances, militancy, and crime related not only to poverty but also to the lack of access to economic gains.

2.4 Economic Factors Influencing Peace

Globally, there has been a growing body of research that highlights the connection between economic development and peace, which is mediated by specific economic factors. In the Nigerian context, several economic factors play an important role in shaping peace and stability. These include youth unemployment, poverty and income inequality, inadequate infrastructure and weak industrial development, poor resource management and corruption, as well as rising inflation and the declining standard of living. The World Bank's recent poverty assessment for Nigeria underlines that poverty and inequality remain concentrated and that fragility interacts with these deprivations to entrench insecurity, thus arguing that poverty reduction in Nigeria requires regionally targeted interventions that consider the country's uneven development patterns (World Bank, 2022). This framing has been influential in subsequent empirical and policy work that links regionally concentrated poverty to vulnerability to violence and criminal recruitment.

According to NBS (2024), unemployment rates fell under the NBS's revised methodology, yet underemployment and informal, low-quality work remain extensive, with youth unemployment and time-related underemployment particularly acute in certain quarters and subnational zones. Thus, Egunjobi, cited by Adebayo (2013), noted:

Unemployment is adjudged as the reason why many have engaged in activities that threaten a nation's security, especially by the unemployed graduates. According to him, high poverty and unemployment rates are inevitable and sneaks

into the system when those who are given the role of administering the affairs of a country become materialistic and self-centred, in a situation where money budgeted for development purposes are embezzled by a few people, and a majority of the citizens are short-changed in terms of opportunities (Egunjobi, 2021, p.120).

Similarly, Enofe et al. (2016) discovered the existence of an insignificant direct relationship between corruption, unemployment, and poverty in Nigeria, recommending that the government must take urgent steps to reduce unemployment and poverty if corruption is reduced to its barest minimum in the public sector. This hidden unemployment and the predominance of informal survival livelihoods substantially lower the opportunity cost of participation in armed groups or banditry, particularly where non-state actors offer steady income or subsistence alternatives. Income distribution and multidimensional poverty are linked to one core line of evidence linking economic conditions to instability. Empirical analysis of Nigeria's growth episodes shows that the increase in GDP has frequently coincided with worsening inequality in many regions, and this has added to national growth, which often masks different local experiences. Thus, Onohworemu & Egbadju stated:

“Violence in Nigeria largely stems from harsh socio-economic realities, ranging from economic deprivation, inequality, and corruption to environmental degradation and governance failures. Despite being resource-rich, Nigeria's poor management of wealth, coupled with deep inequality and opportunities for illicit enrichment, provides fertile ground for violent agitations. Grievances over resource distribution often escalate into conflict and terrorism” (Onohworemu & Egbadju, 2025, p. 73)

In addition to this, scholars such as Mustapha (2006) and Okafor(2016) expressed that high inequality and persistent multidimensional deprivation increase perceived injustice and decrease trust in state institutions, thereby producing fertile ground for grievance-based mobilization in communities that feel excluded from national wealth.

Infrastructure and regional economic exclusion are recurring themes when it comes to the nexus of Nigeria's peace and development. According to scholars such as Daramola and

Olulope (2018), weak transport networks, unreliable power supply, poor rural connectivity, and limited access to markets concentrate deprivation in particular states and local government areas, increasing the relative appeal of non-state actors that offer economic functions. In support of this, John & Mercy stated:

“In many parts of rural Nigeria, social services, which form the central catalyst for population agglomeration and growth, and the basic footing on which development activities gravitate, are poorly developed. The inadequate provision of essential services such as electricity, pipe-borne water, healthcare services, and more easily available modes of transport and communication in rural areas has militated against prospects for better living standards and employment generation as well as other forms of economic activities in the Nigerian rural communities” (John & Mercy, 2024, p.2).

They further pointed out that fragility in Nigeria varies among regions. National averages for GDP and employment can conceal large regional imbalances, especially regarding access to public goods and essential infrastructure needed for economic productivity. Hence, investments which are aimed at promoting peace must be spatially differentiated through prioritizing the infrastructure deficits of regions that display the highest combinations of poverty, youth vulnerability, and weak state presence.

Underpinning all the aforementioned is the critical, cross-cutting variable of governance, which is the quality of the institutions in the country and its impact on the economy and relative stability. According to Gboyega (2011):

“The relatively slow pace of Nigeria's development has often been attributed to the phenomenon of the resource curse, whereby the nature of the state as a rentier dilutes accountability for development, and political actors are able to manipulate institutions to sustain poor governance. The impact of the political elite's resource-control and allocation of revenues on core democratic mechanisms is central to understanding the obstacles to development and governance failure.” (Gboyega, 2011, p.1)

Weak governance, which is characterized by rampant corruption, lack of transparency, and ineffective institutions, acts as a negative catalyst. It ensures that oil revenues are syphoned

by the few elite rather than invested in the development of the country and thus increasing the resource curse. It increases poverty and unemployment through a failure to implement effective job-creation programs and deliver public services, thus entrenching horizontal inequalities by facilitating the partisan allocation of resources. According to International, Nigeria ranks poorly, which reveals a complete indicator of governance deficit (Transparency International, 2024). Consequently, strong and inclusive economic development is impossible without good governance, as it is the essential factor that determines whether economic resources become a blessing that promotes peace or a curse that propagates the spiral of violence and instability.

2.5 Summary of Chapter 2

The concept of positive peace formulated by Johan Galtung in 1969 is not only concerned with the cessation of negative peace but entails the removal of structural and cultural violence by ensuring social justice and equality in the equitable distribution of resources and power. Galtung was of the opinion that peace and development go hand in hand, and this approach seems especially applicable in Nigeria.

Nevertheless, development will help alleviate tensions, whereas peace will provide the environment required for investments and development. In the case of Nigeria, the challenges of insurgency in the northeast, banditry in the northwest, and militancy in the Niger Delta region have reversed all the developments made, resulting in driving away investors, spending money on security purposes, and causing poverty cycles. Despite all these problems, Nigeria can still be reformed if the following economic sources of instability, which include youth unemployment reducing the costs of recruitment by criminal gangs, poverty and inequality undermining confidence in the state, underdeveloped infrastructure making rural areas lag behind, corruption draining public resources, and poor governance making resource endowments a curse and not a blessing, are effectively addressed.

Finally, economic development can actually promote peace if done right, that is, inclusively and equitably, but structural problems and poor management in Nigeria have ensured that this capacity of economic development to promote peace has been reversed, resulting in an unfortunate cycle of instability and underdevelopment. Scholars' review sets a solid foundation for the current study, emphasizing that building genuine positive peace requires tackling the root economic and social injustices that still plague the nation.



CHAPTER 3

Research Methodology

3.1 Introduction

In order to comprehend the validity of the effort put into the course of this research, this chapter presents the research methodology adopted to reach the objectives.

3.2 Research Design

This research utilized a mixed-methods research design. In-depth interview was done with a cross-section of twelve different government officials, and a questionnaire survey was conducted within Nigeria's six geopolitical zones, namely North-Central, North-East, North-West, South-East, South-South, and South-West.

3.3 Areas of Research

The purpose of this research was to assess the role of economic development in promoting peace in Nigeria. The research was based on Nigeria's six geopolitical zones: North-Central, North-East, North-West, South-East, South-South, and South-West. In these zones, two states were selected for each zone, and within these states, two local government areas and two wards were selected.

3.4 Population of Research

The intended target population for the research was adult Nigerians, 18 years old and above, selected from the six geopolitical regions in Nigeria, which included North Central, North East, North West, South East, South South, and South West. Nigeria is a country with a population of over 220 million people, as stated by the World Bank (2023). As a result, Nigeria is a country characterized by socio-economic, ethno-cultural, and geographical diversities. In light of this, there was need to employ a sampling technique to ensure representation of the

views held by the various communities within the country. Thus, this research analyzed the perceptions held by the participants on the link between economic development and peace.

3.5 Sample Size Determination

Considering the size of Nigeria's population and the multistage sampling approach, the determination of sample size considered the effect of design and confidence levels.

Formula for Sample Size

The research used the Cochran (1977) formula for sample size for large populations.

$$N_0 = \frac{Z^2 PQ}{E^2}$$

Where: N_0 = minimum sample size

Z-Value (Standard score) corresponding to confidence level (1.96 for 95%)

P = estimated proportion for the population with the attribute of interest (if unknown, 0.5 is used for maximum variability)

Q = 1 minus p

E = Margin of error (acceptable sampling error, typically 0.05)

Z = 1.96 (95% confidence)

P = 0.5 (maximum variability)

E = 0.05 (5% margin of error)

$$\begin{aligned} N_0 &= \frac{(1.96)^2 \times 0.5 \times 0.5}{(0.05)^2} \\ &= \frac{3.8416 \times 0.25}{0.0025} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{0.9604}{0.0025}$$

$$= 384.16$$

Thus, approximately 384 respondents stood as the sample of the research. The 384 participants were randomly selected and distributed proportionately among the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria according to population using the Microsoft online survey questionnaire. (National Population Commission, 2023).

3.6 Sampling Techniques

Table 3.1: Stage 1 of Selection of Geopolitical Zones

S/N	Geopolitical Zone
1	North Central
2	North East
3	North West
4	South East
5	South South
6	South West

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

There are six geopolitical regions within Nigeria which represent the diversity of the regions and also ensure fairness in conducting national studies. These regions include: North Central, North East, North West, South East, South South, and South West. This research took all the above six geopolitical regions as the research population.

Table 3.2: Stage 2 of Selection of Two States Within Each Zone

S/N	Geopolitical Zone	State 1	State 2
1	North Central	Benue	Niger
2	North East	Borno	Adamawa
3	North West	Kano	Kaduna
4	South East	Anambra	Enugu
5	South South	Rivers	Bayelsa
6	South West	Lagos	Oyo

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Two states were randomly selected from each geopolitical zone in Nigeria. These were the North Central, consisting of Benue and Niger; North East, which included Borno and Adamawa; North West, including of Kano and Kaduna; South East, comprising Anambra and Enugu; South South, comprising Rivers and Bayelsa; and lastly South West, comprising Lagos and Oyo.

Table 3.3: Stage 3 of Selection of Local Government Areas (LGAs) Per Selected State

S/N	Geopolitical Zone	State 1	LGA	State 2	LGA
1	North Central	Benue	Makurdi	Niger	Minna
			Gboko		Bida
2	North East	Borno	Maiduguri	Adamawa	Yola North

			Jere		Numan
3	North West	Kano	Nassarawa	Kaduna	Kaduna North
			Dala		Zaria
4	South East	Anambra	Awka South	Enugu	Enugu North
			Onitsha North		Udi
5	South South	Rivers	Port Harcourt	Bayelsa	Yenagoa
			Obio-Akpor		Sagbama
6	South West	Lagos	Ikeja	Oyo	Ibadan North
			Surulere		Ona Ara

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

In the third stage, two LGAs from each state identified during Stage 2 were purposively selected based on their respective states appropriately and the variations across the economic and peace indicators within each state.

Table 3.4: Stage 4 of Selection of Two Wards Per LGA

S/N	State 1	LGA	Ward	State 2	LGA	Ward
1	Benue	Makurdi	Wailomayo	Niger	Minna	Tudun wada
			North Bank I			Sabon Gari
		Gboko	Gboko East		Bida	Bariki
			Mbadam			Wadata
2	Borno	Maiduguri	Bolori I	Adamawa	Yola North	Luggere

			Bolori II			Ajiya
		Jere	Old Maiduguri		Numan	Numan I
			Shuwa			Numan II
3	Kano	Nassarawa	Dakata	Kaduna	Kaduna North	Badarawa
			Gama			Sabon Gari
		Dala	Dala		Zaria	Kaura
			Zango			Tudun Wada
4	Anambra	Awka South	Amawbia I	Enugu	Enugu North	Ogbete East
			Nibo I			GRA
		Onitsha North	GRA		Udi	Umuaga
			Trans Nkisi			Umuabi
5	Rivers	Port Harcourt	Borokiri	Bayelsa	Yenagoa	Zarama
			Diobu			Ikarama
		Obio-Akpor	Rumuokoro		Sagbama	Ofofi
			Woji			Ogobiri
6	Lagos	Ikeja	GRA	Oyo	Ibadan North	Ward I
			Alausa			Ward II
		Surulere	Aguda		Ona Ara	Akanran
			Mushin			olorunsogo

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

For the fourth stage, two wards were chosen for each LGA (as identified in Stage 3). The rationale for this is to understand variations within these LGAs in terms of the issue under study, and hence, two wards were purposively selected in each to achieve that purpose. In doing this, the research ensured that it was representative.

Table 3.5: Stage 5 of Selection of Two Communities/Towns Per Ward

S/N	State	LGA	Ward	Community 1	Community 2
1	Benue State	Makurdi	Wailomayo	Wadata	Ankpa Ward Area
		Makurdi	North Bank I	North Bank Market Area	Abinsi Road
		Gboko	Gboko East	Adekaa	Mkar
		Gboko	Mbadam	Mbatyough	Mbatse
2	Niger State	Minna	Tudun Wada	Bosso Estate	Tunga
		Minna	Sabon Gari	Kpakungu	Maitumbi
		Bida	Bariki	Dokodza	Kyari
		Bida	Wadata	Banwuya	Masaga
3	Borno State	Maiduguri	Bolori I	Bolori Layout	Bulumkutu
		Maiduguri	Bolori II	Gwange	Limanti
		Jere	Old Maiduguri	Hausari	Mafoni
		Jere	Shuwa	Shuwari	Shuwari South
4	Adamawa State	Yola North	Luggere	Jambutu	Karewa
		Yola North	Ajjiya	Jimeta	Karewa Market
		Numan	Numan I	Sabon Pegi	Gamadio
		Numan	Numan II	Imburu	Vulpi
5	Kano State	Nassarawa	Dakata	Kwarin Gogau	Yan Awaki
		Nassarawa	Gama	Gama Tudu	Tudun Nupawa

		Dala	Dala	Kofar Mazugal	Kofar Ruwa
		Dala	Zango I	Zango Quarters	Kurna
6	Kaduna State	Kaduna North	Badarawa	Unguan Dosa	Unguan Shanu
		Kaduna North	Sabon Gari	Tudun Wada	Unguan Rimi
		Zaria	Kaura	Sabon Gari Zaria	Samaru
		Zaria	Tudun Wada	Kwangila	Hayin Dogo
7	Anambra State	Awka South	Amawbia I	Umukabia	Umueze
		Awka South	Nibo I	Ifite Nibo	Ezi Nibo
		Onitsha North	GRA	Government Reserved Area	New GRA
		Onitsha North	Trans Nkisi	Nkisi Layout	Inland Town
8	Enugu State	Enugu North	Ogbete East	Coal Camp	Ogui
		Enugu North	GRA	Independence Layout	New Haven
		Udi	Umuaga	Umuaga Town	Umuaga East
		Udi	Umuabi	Umuabi Village	Umuabi West
5	Rivers State	Port Harcourt	Borokiri	Marine Base	Creek Road
		Port Harcourt	Diobu	Mile 1	Mile 2
		Obio-Akpor	Rumuokoro	Rumuola	Rumuigbo
		Obio-Akpor	Woji	Woji Town	Elelenwo
11	Bayelsa State	Yenagoa	Zarama	Zarama Town	Okaka
		Yenagoa	Ikarama	Ikarama Centre	Ikarama Waterfront
		Sagbama	Ofofi	Ofofi Town	Ofofi Creek
		Sagbama	Ogobiri	Ogobiri Main	Ogobiri Waterside
12	Oyo State	Ibadan North	Ward I	Bodija	Agodi

		Ibadan North	Ward II	Sango	Mokola
		Ona Ara	Akanran	Akanran Town	Olorunsogo
		Ona Ara	Olorunsogo	Olorunsogo Village	Amuloko

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

In this stage, the respondents were carefully selected using purposive sampling from the wards that were identified in the first stage to allow for socio-economic and demographic diversity. The individuals who were selected included community leaders, businessmen, youth leaders, government officials, women leaders, and civil society organizations who had some knowledge about economic development and peacebuilding in their communities. A total of 384 respondents were sampled across six geopolitical regions.

3.7 Interview Participants

Combinations of oral and digital interviews were duly conducted with 14 individuals, mostly lecturers, government officials, public servants, business owners, and community leaders, across six geopolitical regions in Nigeria, to obtain in-depth and contextualized insights into the relationship between economic development and peace and stability in Nigeria.

3.8 Validity of Research Instrument

For the purpose of ensuring the validity and reliability of the research instruments, the questionnaire and the interview questions were well-formulated in accordance with the research objectives, as well as evaluated by social science academicians. A pilot test was carried out using 10 respondents (Not part of the research respondents) to determine if there were any ambiguities in the research tool. A test-retest method was conducted to ascertain the reliability of the questionnaire. The reliability was ascertained using Cronbach's Alpha. Composite reliability and convergent validity were tested using the Average Variance

Extracted (AVE). The analysis of the pilot test made use of the Likert scale, which yielded the average score of zero-point-ninety (>0.90), very much above the minimum threshold of zero-point-seventy (>0.70) (Hair et al, 2019). This validates the high consistency of the research instruments.

3.9 Data Collection Methods

Questionnaires that contained 4 options: strongly agree, agree, disagree, and strongly disagree, were disseminated to 370 respondents, and duly retrieved at a commonly agreed time with the respondents who had earlier been deemed fit to participate in the survey. The respondents were duly assured of the privacy of their information and responses. The data collection process was done through online means in the course of six weeks. The interview process took place through phone calls, video calls, and was recorded for 10-20 minutes with consent obtained.

3.10 Data Analysis

The survey data were analyzed through descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, mean values, and percentages, which enabled the identification of key demographic characteristics of respondents as well as the distribution of responses. The statistical software SPSS was employed for the processing of data, while the interview data were thematically analyzed based on Braun and Clarke's (2008) six stages procedure. The coding process was done both manually and through the use of NVivo.

3.11 Summary of Chapter 3

The research methodology used in this research tackled the research problem and its objectives. The research employed a mixed-methods research design which combined the qualitative method of informants' interviews and the quantitative questionnaire survey. The research aimed at obtaining both objective measures and perceptions from the subjects

involved. A total of 384 respondents were sampled from all the six geopolitical zones within Nigeria. Two states were sampled from each of the zones to ensure that the research was done in an equitable manner. Multi stage sampling techniques were further applied to identify the local governments and the wards which formed the sample for the survey. Structured questionnaires that contained both demographic data and Likert Scale statements on economic development and peace were administered among the respondents. Additional data were obtained through key informant's interviews through phone and video calls. Consent was sought from the participants before carrying out the interviews. Analysis was done using qualitative and quantitative analysis methods.



CHAPTER 4

Data Presentation and Analysis

4.1 Thematic Analysis

All the interview transcripts were subjected to thematic analysis following Braun and Clarke's (2008) six-step approach. The analysis centered on three main themes.

Theme 1: Economic Development Contributions to Peace and Stability in Nigeria.

Economic development in Nigeria has shared its ups and downs from the era of farming to the era of the oil boom, which seems to be the architect of Nigeria's economic failure, as resources for many are gotten from a few and shared amongst fewer. This theme, therefore, seeks to understand how, down the years, from independence till date, economic development has contributed to peace and stability in Nigeria, some respondents said:

“Nigeria's economic development from the days of independence has been a roller coaster of emotions as few are benefiting from the exploits of the country, many are starved of the basic human resources to meet one's primary needs.” (Male economics lecturer, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka)

“I think that economic development contributes positively to the growth of any country. Take China and the USA as an example, as they are not among the world powers because they are a country, but the level of power wielded by them is based on the country's economic and innovative growth level.” (Female Public relations expert, Lagos State University)

“A third world country like Nigeria, which was once the giant of Africa, allowed itself to be a chronic debtor and loan service agency, and this has affected the growth of the country and its citizenry drastically.” (Economist, Port Harcourt)

“In a country where basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing are now luxuries, how then can the economy of such a country grow and compete with the first world countries.” (Trade Union Leader, Trade Fair Lagos)

“I believe that economic development contributes immensely to the presence or absence of peace and stability in Nigeria, as the case may be, as angry and deprived citizens' equals chaos, which is the opposite of peace and stability.” (Policy Analyst, Kaduna)

From an analysis of the respondents' take on the place of economic development contributions to peace and stability in Nigeria, it is clear to say that from Nigeria's independence to the present day, economic development has shaped conditions of peace and stability in the country. The various regional participants agreed on an extensive consensus regarding the nature of Nigeria's economic development path since its independence, noting that it has been disappointingly poor and marked by the existence of a small privileged minority that controls all the wealth, leaving out the large number of Nigerians from its dividends. Such inequality, the participants noted, has gradually undermined peace and created circumstances that have led to repeated social disturbances. It can be observed that there is a common understanding among the various participants in different regions that the reason why Nigeria lacks peace is mainly due to its inability to attain economic development that benefits everyone, which is in agreement with Galtung's (1969) theory of structural violence.

Theme 2: Economic Factors Influencing Peace and Stability in Nigeria.

Several factors contribute to the GDP performance of countries globally. According to Mazher et al. (2025), Investment, measured through Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF), has been identified as a key driver of growth as it enhances productive capacity and infrastructure, thereby raising national output. Many economic factors have influenced peace and stability in Nigeria negatively and positively, as the case may be, but with recent data on Nigerian economic growth, it can be said to be majorly negative, with few factors working in favour of the citizenry.

Some respondents had this to say:

“The every growing poverty rate amongst the citizenry with no middle class anymore, a current situation in country were you are either rich to meet the basic human needs and attain some luxurious lifestyle or you are poor and human needs are now major priorities.” (Agribusiness Expert, Borno)

“Also the high level of unemployment and unemployability of some Nigerian youths leaves a lot of question for higher institutions in the country although we still have so many exceptional youths but the bad eggs keep spoiling the country’s image and employers can do better in themes of salary remunerations and government needs to step up her game in the market world.” (Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission Official)

“The Nigerian governance over the years seem to be on the mantra that the past will be better than the present as each administration seem to continue plunge the country further into chaos, debts and instability hence leaving the country in constant state of panics and dread for the new administration and also the power rotation mantra and godfatherism syndrome in the country is the bedrock of chaos and failure of governance in the country” (Male Policy Analyst, Kaduna)

“Nigerians were once called the fantastically corrupt people by the British Prime Minister David Cameron and believe me he is not far from the truth as the high rate of corruption and disdain for the rule of law from both the government and the governed over the years matches this description perfectly” (Female Accountant, Lagos)

“Resource competition and entitlement mentality of many regions where the different mineral and natural resources are located in Nigeria is alarming and the amount of blood shed that have been witnessed in the issue of resources discoveries and allocation of funds leaves a question mark to the humanity of Nigerians” (Government official, Oya)

Exploring the specific economic factors that respondents considered to have the most substantial impact on peace and stability in Nigeria, the interviews reveal a complex and interlocking set of structural conditions, including poverty, unemployment, corruption, governance failure, and resource competition, that collectively constitute what Galtung would recognize as systemic structural violence embedded in Nigeria's political economy. It can be said that other factors such as ethnic fractionalization, foreign exchange rate volatility, inflation and productivity rate affects the peace and stability of any country of the world which includes Nigeria and with the decline of the standard of living and steady but progressive trip down the path of bankruptcy and high poverty rate, the country is definitely on its way to disintegration if productive and progressive actions are not taken, more actions and less policies.

Theme 3: Effects of Regional Challenges and Crises on Peace and Stability in Nigeria.

Nigeria, just like many African countries, has its own fair share of regional challenges and crises, which have claimed the lives of its citizens and led to a high level of disintegration. Historically, from independence till date, every political administration has had its own share of regional challenges and crises from the Nigerian Civil War, the Niger Delta crises, the Boko Haram terrorism crises, and the Herdsmen insurgency. It has been on the level of regional challenges and crises after another, and each has left its horrific marks in the sands of time. Some of the participants believed that regional challenges and crises over the years have negatively affected economic development, peace, and stability in Nigeria. They thus said:

“A country without investors and business partners is as good as dead even in a monopoly economic situations, there is room for partners and investment with total control by one body, in the case of Nigeria situation with an increased regional challenges and crises, there have been a high rate of dry out investments and many companies leaving the shores abounding businesses and investments for the fear of their lives and as such, the peace and stability in Nigeria is at great risk because an economy which is not growing cannot meet the needs of the citizenry.” (Tax and Financial Auditor, Port Harcourt)

“In places where there is peace, you often see development happening. But where there is conflict, everything slows down, schools close, businesses suffer, and people are forced to leave their homes.” (Government Teacher, Bayelsa)

“The biggest challenge we face across different regions in Nigeria is that development is not evenly spread. Some areas still struggle with poor infrastructure and lack of jobs, and this creates frustration among young people, which can easily lead to unrest.” (Nigerian Institute of Social And Economic Research Member, Lagos)

“The ever present regional challenges and crises in the country can be said to have contributed immensely to the increased unemployment rate, as job opportunities are based on tribalism and ethnicity, as well as fear for individual lives, for instance the North East region is a no go for most tribes, especially Igbos, no matter the pay offered.” (Nigerian Institute of Social And Economic Research Member, Lagos)

“In a society with increased regional challenges and crises, as the case of Nigeria from independence till date, from the Biafra civil war to the Niger delta crises, Boko Haram, Fulani herdsmen, and so on, the increased regional challenges and

crises mean dwindling of government revenue as only productivity generates revenues”. (Philosophy lecturer, Bayero University Kano)

The statement from a psychology lecturer, Bayero University, Kano, offers a macro-economic perspective that traces Nigeria’s chronic revenue problems directly to its history of persistent internal conflicts. In terms of the historical background, the participants traced back the causes of such problems to different conflicts ranging “from the Biafra civil war to other insurgences such as Niger Delta crises, Boko Haram, and herder insurgencies,” which shows that the country experienced such crises not occasionally, but rather repeatedly ever since its independence. In order to highlight the main point of their answer, one needs to note that the respondent uses an interesting and fairly straightforward economic theory, namely that “only productivity produces revenues.” The correlation between “increasing regional challenges and crisis” and the “decline in government revenues” proves the fact that conflicts reduce the country’s productivity by destroying agricultural, oil production, and other sectors. As a result, less taxes and revenues mean less money for providing the necessary protection.

4.2 Quantitative Data Analysis

The following is a quantitative analysis of the socioeconomic determinants affecting peace and stability of Nigeria communities based on data collected from 370 respondents in the survey. The analysis was carried out using biodata including age, gender, level of education and occupation. Additionally, the analysis was done using psychological analysis of the responses provided. The demographic characteristics are presented in Table 4.1 – 4.4, while Tables 4.5 – 4.8 present perspectives on the effects of economic growth, income, unemployment, poverty, inflation, wealth distribution, governance, negligence of infrastructure and control of resources on peace.

Table 4.1: Age Distribution of Respondents

Age Group (Years)	Frequency (n)	Percentage %
18 – 25	75	20.3
26 – 35	120	32.4
36 – 45	85	23.0
46 and over	90	24.3
Total	370	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

The findings indicate that the research sample consists mostly of younger individuals, as 52.7% of the respondents were between 18 – 35 years old, reflecting the youthful nature of Nigeria’s populace. The views of younger individuals may be crucial because younger people are more prone to unemployment and social instability issues. The considerable presence of individuals in the 36 – 45 year age bracket suggests that mature people, probably those who have families and careers, were also involved in the research. The small number of older respondents (46 and over) is significant enough to provide an extensive age range among the sample participants.

Table 4.2: Gender of Respondents

Gender	Frequency (n)	Percentage %
Male	180	48.6
Female	185	50.0
Prefer not to say	5	1.4
Total	370	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

The representation of males (48.6%) and females (50.0%) is fairly distributed, which is important for conducting a holistic study because males and females tend to view economic development and peace in different ways. The small percentage of respondents who did not specify their gender identity implied that the survey took into account privacy issues.

Table 4.3: Educational Qualifications of Respondents

Educational Qualification	Frequency (n)	Percentage %
Primary school	20	5.4
Secondary school	70	18.9
Diploma/NCE	60	16.2
Bachelor's Degree	140	37.8
Master's Degree and Above	80	21.6
Total	370	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Analysis of the educational qualifications of the respondents in the research reveals that the respondents are well-educated, with close to 75.6% of them being university graduates, meaning that the respondents are aware of and able to analyze the economic and peace problems, while those who are educated at the primary level and secondary level make up small proportions of the respondents, indicating that the respondents' answers are significantly influenced by their educational level, and that they provide insightful opinions about economic policies and governance.

Table 4.4 : Occupation of Respondents

Occupation	Frequency (n)	Percentage %
Student	65	17.6
Public Servant	90	24.3
Business Owner	75	20.3
Community Leader	40	10.8
Others	100	27.0
Total	370	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Occupational diversity is well-represented with public servants and businessmen as important groups among others. While students (17.6%) are instrumental in giving their view

regarding youth issues, community leaders (10.8%) give their perspective as stakeholders influencing the affairs of the community for peaceful existence. This is because the “others” category is composed of various occupations ranging from traders and workmen, people without jobs, and those in the informal sector. Consequently, occupational diversity helps in the achievement of the objectives of this research.

4.3 Responses to Questionnaire

Table 4.5: Likert 4-point Scale

Scale Point	Response Option	Mean Range
4	Strongly Agree (SA)	3.50 – 4.00
3	Agree (A)	2.50 – 3.49
2	Disagree (D)	1.50 – 2.49
1	Strongly Disagree (SD)	1.00 – 1.49

Source: Likert-type scale response anchors, 2006

The assessment rule was based on a Likert 4-point scale which entailed that any mean score of 2.50 and above was accepted, while any mean score below 2.50 was rejected. A criterion mean of 2.50 was therefore used as the benchmark for all items in the questionnaire.

Research Question 1: To what extent does economic development contribute positively to peace and stability in Nigeria?

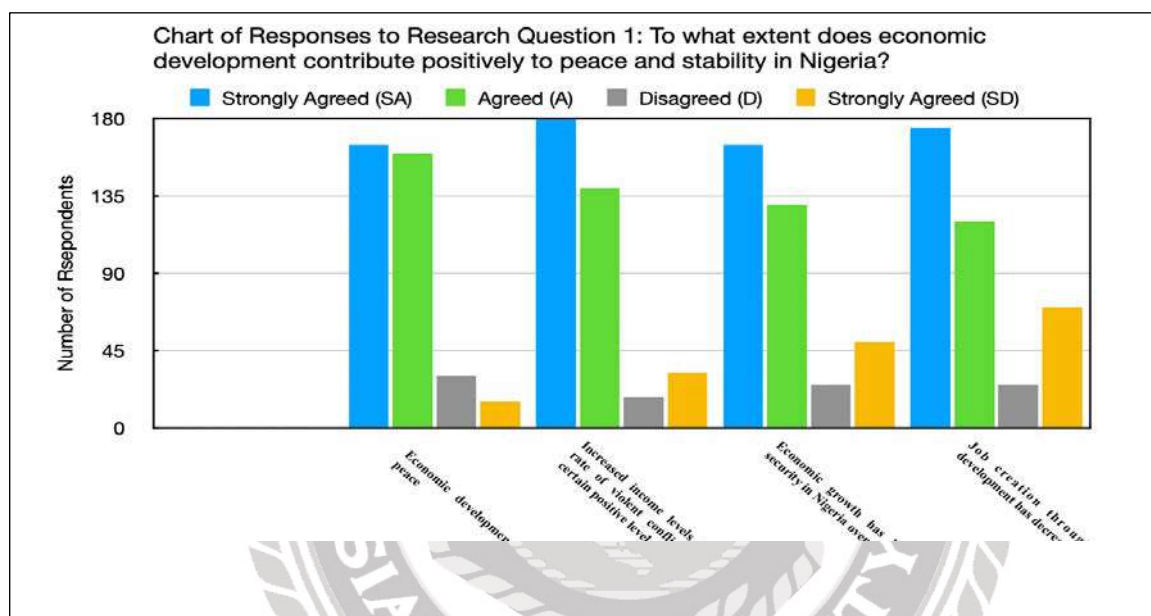
Table 4.6: Responses to Questionnaire Part 1

Question	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Decision
1	Economic development has improved peace	165	160	30	15	3.28	Accepted
2	Increased income levels have reduced rate of violent conflicts locally to a certain positive level	180	140	18	32	3.26	Accepted

3	Economic growth has led to better security in Nigeria overall		130		50	3.11	
Average Mean						3.21	

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Figure 4.1: Chart of Responses to Research Question 1



Peace in the communities has been enhanced by economic development, with 165 people strongly agreeing, and 160 agreeing, for a total of 325 people who agree on this matter out of 370, which is 87.8%, leaving only 45 people who disagreed. With a mean score of 3.28, which is the highest score in this portion, the research indicates that there is general acceptance that economic development has played a significant role in bringing peace in the communities. As a result of increased levels of income, the incidences of violence among communities have significantly been curtailed; 180 strongly agreed and 140 agreed to this effect, giving a total of 320 people who agreed (86.5%), while only 50 disagreed. A mean score of 3.26 implies that there is general agreement that economic empowerment in the form of higher income is a way

by which economic empowerment can be used in solving issues arising from poverty which could easily escalate into violence. However, those who disagreed bring into consideration the fact that even though increased incomes are good, they cannot be used effectively on their own without additional measures. Economic development in Nigeria has enhanced security; this had a low mean score in the category of statements with 295 agreeable answers (79.7%), and 25 disagreed with 50 strongly disagreeing with it. Finally, for the fourth proposition that job creation via economic development has helped reduce the crime rate, 175 agreed strongly, while 120 agreed, resulting in a total of 295 affirmative answers (79.7%). In contrast, the strongly disagree responses stood at 70, indicating the highest number of strong disagrees for the entire proposition. This suggests that, in areas where job creation is either non-existent or not properly utilized, its ability to impact crime rate cannot be significantly realized. However, the mean value of 3.19 demonstrates general approval of the proposition. On the whole, the mean value for Research Question 1 stood at 3.21, indicating “accepted”.

Research Question 2: What are the major economic factors that influence peace and stability in Nigeria?

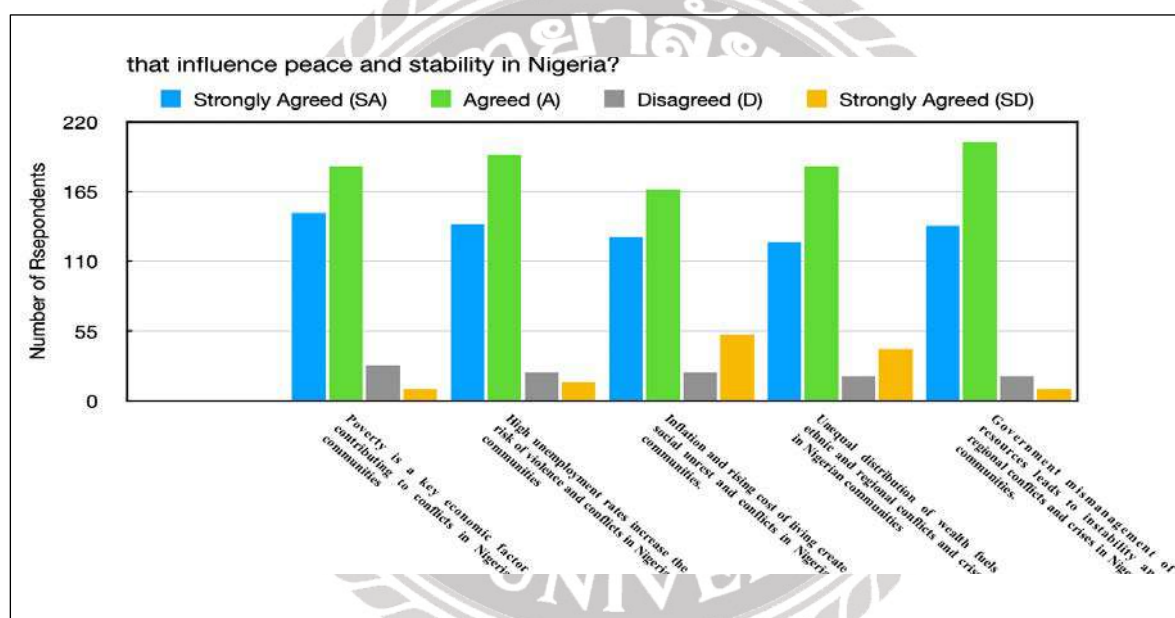
Table 4.7: Responses to Questionnaire Part 2

Question	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Decision
1	Poverty is a key economic factor contributing to conflicts in Nigerian communities	148	185	28	9	3.22	Accepted
2	High unemployment rates increase the risk of violence and conflicts in Nigerian communities	139	194	22	15	3.23	Accepted
3	Inflation and rising cost of living create social unrest and conflicts in Nigerian communities	129	167	22	52	3.00	Accepted

4	Unequal distribution of wealth fuels ethnic and regional conflicts and crises in Nigerian communities	125		19		3.06	Accepted
5	Government mismanagement of resources leads to instability and regional conflicts and crises in Nigerian communities	130		17		3.21	Accepted

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Figure 4.2: Chart of Responses to Research Question 2



Five questions were developed regarding Research Question 2, which investigates the major economic factors responsible for maintaining peace and stability in Nigeria. The poverty question that explains the role of poverty in conflict has an average score of 3.22, where 148 people strongly agreed and 185 people agreed, summing up to a total of 333 responses out of 370 participants (90%). It clearly supports the idea that poverty is perceived as a major structure that drives conflicts and instability in Nigeria. High unemployment as a risk factor for violence and conflict was given a mean score of 3.23, out of which 139 respondents strongly agreed,

while 194 agreed, making the total number of positive responses equal to 333 (90%). This was the statement that scored the highest number of positive responses out of all statements in the part. As such, it was perceived as the riskiest situation for violence and conflict to happen because unemployment causes frustration, boredom, and economic depression, leading people to engage in illegal activities. The statement with the lowest mean score of 3.00 was Inflation and rising cost of living contributes to social unrest, with 129 strongly agreeing and 167 agreeing, the total being 296 positive responses (80%). The importance of this result lies in the fact that it proves that inequality in Nigeria is viewed not only as a purely economic issue but also as an identity-based concern linked to ethnicity and region, leading to horizontal inequalities that Stewart (2008) considered especially likely to lead to collective violence. Regarding the unequal distribution of wealth as a driver of ethnic and regional conflicts, this statement recorded a mean score of 3.06, with 125 respondents strongly agreeing and 185 agreeing, yielding a combined total of 310 positive responses, representing 84% of all participants. This indicates a broadly held perception among respondents that the inequitable concentration of wealth across social, ethnic, and regional lines deepens divisions and fuels grievances that manifest in conflict and crisis within Nigerian communities.

Finally, on government mismanagement of resources as a factor causing instability and regional conflicts, this variable recorded the highest average mean score at 3.27 in this part of the survey, with 138 individuals strongly agreeing and 204 individuals agreeing, giving a total of 342 (92.4%) who responded positively, making it the statement receiving the highest level of agreement from all questions in the research. This result is of great analytical significance because it shows that in the view of people in Nigeria, governance failure, in the form of corruption and unfair distribution of public resources, is the strongest structural cause of conflict and instability in the country. The average mean score of 3.15 indicated “accepted”.

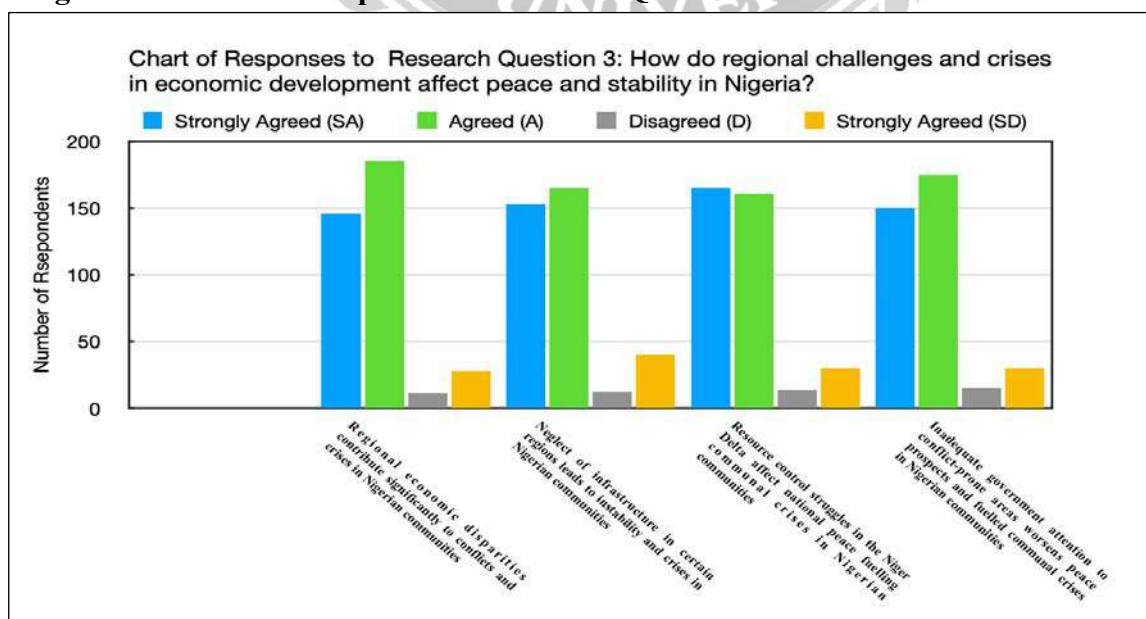
Research Question 3: How do regional challenges and crises in economic development affect peace and stability in Nigeria?

Table 4.8: Responses to Questionnaire Part 3

Question	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Mean
1	Regional economic disparities contribute significantly to conflicts and crises in Nigerian communities	146	188	12	28	3.21
2	Neglect of infrastructure in certain regions leads to instability and crises in Nigerian communities	153	167	12	28	3.19
3	Resource control struggles in the Niger Delta affect national peace and fuel communal crises in Nigerian communities	165	161	12	28	3.23
4	Inadequate government attention to conflict-prone areas worsens peace prospects and fuelled communal crises in Nigerian communities	150	176	12	28	3.18

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Figure 4.3: Chart of Responses to Research Question 3



Research Question 3 considers the effect of regional issues and economic development crises on peace and stability in Nigeria, which is answered by four essential elements. First, the assertion that regional economic differences are responsible for conflicts and crises in Nigeria received a mean value of 3.21, where 146 respondents strongly agreed and 185 agreed, resulting in 331 positive answers (89.5%). This indicates the strong realization by Nigerians that the disparity in economic opportunities and resource distribution across different geopolitical zones has been a fertile ground for conflicts in the past. Conversely, the claim that the lack of proper development of infrastructure in some parts of the country leads to crises and instability scored an average rating of 3.16, with 153 people agreeing strongly and 165 people agreeing, making up a total of 318 positive ratings (86%). This shows how the failure to develop infrastructural facilities in marginalized areas, such as roads, hospitals, electricity, and educational facilities, creates a sense of deprivation within the community that fosters conflict. Resource control battles in the Niger Delta and their impact on national peace and communal conflicts recorded the highest average rating of 3.24 in this part of the research, with 165 people agreeing strongly and 161 people agreeing, giving a total of 326 positive ratings (88.1%). This is the highest number of strongly agreed statements in the entire analysis, and it clearly demonstrates how intense the issue of the Niger Delta crisis has been viewed in Nigeria as a whole. This statement effectively demonstrates how relevant the discussion of resource governance remains in the Nigerian context of peace discourse, and the phenomenon of the resource curse has indeed been observed in many scholars' works, such as that of Ross (2004). The last statement analyzed states that lack of sufficient governmental attention to potentially conflict-prone zones undermines prospects for peace and exacerbates communal conflicts, with an average of 3.20, 150 strongly agreed, and 175 agreed respondents (325 in total; 87.8%). The average mean score of 3.20 indicated "accepted" as well, and this finding provides evidence of

the multidimensional negative impact of regional challenges and economic development crises on peace in Nigeria.

4.4 Summary of Research Results

The research analysis results shows that questions of peace and stability in Nigeria are directly related to the concept of Positive Peace of Johan Galtung, according to which peace is achievable only through just and equitable relations with a proper institutional framework, but not as a simple lack of violent conflicts. Indeed, Nigeria is mostly characterized by negative peace, as the problems associated with socio-economic inequality persist. In order for Nigeria to ensure its sustainability, it must find solutions to these underlying factors.

4.5 Summary of Chapter 4

In this research, the important economic variables responsible for conflict and instability in Nigeria were identified by conducting interviews involving 14 participants and distributing questionnaires to 370 respondents. The total average mean score of 3.19 was recorded from the average mean of the responses to questionnaires. This clearly shows that sustaining peace in Nigeria does not only involve managing conflicts. It involves making intentional efforts to reduce structural inequities, ensure economic development, distribute resources equally, and improve governance. This means that addressing these economic issues is necessary to increase stability in the country. In other words, addressing these economic issues will help sustain peace in Nigeria.

CHAPTER 5

Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

Nigeria's economic development through time has been one of the central themes of academic and policy discourse as illustrated by the reality that despite having some temporary economic development through the country's oil boom and agricultural wealth discoveries, Nigeria has always had some serious issues such as poverty, unemployment, and inequality which have compromised the country's peace and stability. This research aimed at examining the intricate and multi-dimensional link between economic development and peace and stability in Nigeria, a nation endowed with great economic endowments yet suffering from continuous instability and divisions. This research was conducted using a mixed methods design involving quantitative analysis of questionnaires from a total of 370 participants across Nigeria's six geopolitical regions, and qualitative analysis of fourteen in-depth interviews with key informants. This research has generated important insights that will contribute to theory and practice concerning development and peace-building in Nigeria.

The primary finding emerging from the results of this research shows that there is an inherent conditionality associated with the link between economic development and peace in Nigeria. Although 87.8% of all respondents in the research agreed that economic development had positive impacts on peace within their local communities, results consistently showed that the role played by economic development in the attainment of peace was highly dependent on the manner in which the economic development took place. This included the beneficiaries of economic development and the nature of governance systems that were in place to facilitate development. Economic development based on aggregate measures such as GDP growth did not directly lead to peace and stability.

The results found from this research support the positive peace theory of Galtung in the Nigerian environment where it is seen that sustainable peace does not become possible unless the structural violence that lies in poverty, economic inequalities, and injustice is resolved. If there are developments in terms of economic opportunities that decrease poverty and make services available, they take away certain factors that cause violence because they resolve structural injustices that otherwise cause conflicts to happen. Yet, there are certain shortcomings in the development approach towards achieving peace in a country because in Nigeria, despite development, violence persists because of the issues of corruption and inequalities that have existed in the country for a long time now. Governance quality is found to be the key mediating variable that will enable economic factors to impact peace or war.

Government mismanagement of resources emerges as the major cause of conflict according to the findings of this research, and this factor gets the highest percent among all other causes identified, i.e., 92.4%. This indicates that poor governance is the root cause of all problems associated with the stability of the country, and it has been demonstrated quite well in the research through qualitative data analysis. Poor governance in the form of corruption, policy changes, opacity of governance, and inefficiency in institutions has resulted in inefficient development policies, diversion of developmental benefits from targeted people, loss of state legitimacy, and ultimately economic factors turning out to be the causes of conflicts and not the means of peace. It has been established that there are several economic causes of instability that interact simultaneously to affect peace in Nigeria. While poverty and unemployment are recognized by all the respondents as key sources of conflict and are identified by 90% of them as such, what is important about them is not their existence alone but rather the fact that these are interconnected issues that make people vulnerable to violence and recruitment, especially youth. Another important cause of potential instability in Nigeria is the skills gap between graduates and employers noted in qualitative research. This situation

breeds frustration in exactly those social segments that can effectively mobilize to wage an insurgency against the government. High inflation rates and rising prices of basic commodities noted by 80% of the respondents serve as another source of grievances for the middle class because they undermine their position and turn them into another victimized social group. Income inequality identified by 83.8% as a source of ethnic and regional conflicts is especially destabilizing because it breeds relative rather than absolute deprivation.

Regional economic inequalities are among the results obtained by the research which may arguably be considered the most entrenched threat to Nigeria's national unity. With 89.5% of the respondents considering regional economic inequalities as one of the causes of conflicts and 85.9% listing the lack of infrastructure development in some regions as one of the issues, it is clear that people are aware that the Nigerian peace problem is fundamentally linked to geographical and spatial concerns. While the general economic issues do not necessarily have any specific geographic implications for individuals, the regional problems ensure that deprivation is geographically located. This creates an opportunity for people to mobilize on the basis of territorial and ethnic considerations against the economic issues. This is shown in the Niger Delta case, whereby there is a demonstration of how natural resource abundance may be correlated with local poverty and destruction of the environment, resulting in the emergence of the kind of violent conflicts affecting peace in Nigeria that 88.1% of South-South participants claim. In this regard, the research reveals that the occurrence of an economic crisis at the regional level has led to the transformation of economic conflict into ethno-regional violence as a result of the way inequalities become correlated with ethno-regional identity. Once there is a perception that a community is systematically excluded from the benefits associated with national wealth found within its territory, economic conflicts become framed as cases of collective persecution, which allows them to remain organized and persistent.

This lack of impact of regional development efforts despite the considerable amounts invested in such development is indeed a sobering discovery with significant implications. Regional development commissions set up precisely to overcome marginalization through development efforts have suffered from the same governance issues plaguing other government institutions, with the results being that development funds earmarked for improving life in such regions never reach their intended destinations. The reason why this realization is so important lies precisely in the fact that merely diverting funds towards marginalized parts of the country does not solve anything if the governance framework that perpetuates such marginalization is not changed in any way. In combination, all of these insights point towards a rather unsettling truth about Nigeria, namely that there exist numerous problems both economic and security-related, and that these challenges cannot be overcome through mere partial measures or sector-specific programs. The fact that poverty, unemployment, inequality, and regional disparity issues persist to this day, despite several attempts to overcome them through different development and reform policies since independence, indicates that path dependencies are firmly entrenched, making change very hard to come by without radical shifts in how resources are managed, developed and allocated.

Similarly, economic development plays an equally important role in achieving sustainable peace and stability in Nigeria; however, it must be inclusive, distributive, and effectively governed in order to serve its peace-building goals. From the experience of Nigeria, it is clear that economic development that overlooks the issues of governance, social justice, and equality between regions will neither result in sustainability nor peace. Instead, it will require a complete change of mindset about development to one that is centered around people and their needs as opposed to mere growth figures. This means that there must be governance that is transparent, accountable, and truly devoted to serving the citizens of the country rather than being motivated by vested interests. Finally, it calls for having enough political will to

enact policies that are critical for peace-building even if they pose challenges to some influential elites.

5.2 Recommendations

On the basis of the overall results of this research, the following recommendations are put forward to improve the linkage between economic development and sustainable peace in Nigeria. The recommendations focus on key actors including governmental bodies, development organizations, business sectors, and academia, concentrating on pragmatic engagements that take into account Nigeria's social and political context and can lead to sustainable development and peace.

5.2.1 Recommendation for Government and Policymakers

There is an urgent need for the government of Nigeria to rethink its developmental approach in such a way that there is a paradigmatic shift from development indicators that measure aggregate growth to indicators that emphasize human development and focus on addressing structural violence. There will be a need to adopt a holistic development index that reflects poverty reduction rate, employment quality, income inequality, and basic necessities provision. The government will have to ensure that its national development agenda includes peace and stability indicators, which will be monitored through the National Development and Peace Observatory.

5.2.2 Recommendation for Development Agencies and International Partners

Development agencies operating in Nigeria must integrate ways of addressing conflict into the economic programs by conducting mandatory conflict impact assessments for all major interventions and establishing explicit peace outcomes as performance indicators alongside traditional economic metrics. They should support hybrid development-peacebuilding programs such as agricultural cooperatives bringing together communities

from diverse backgrounds around shared economic interests while providing technical assistance to strengthen subnational and community-level institutional capacity for participatory development planning, transparent procurement, and citizen engagement. Thus, supporting civil society organizations by conducting community-level development monitoring and budget tracking will provide crucial checks on corruption and elite capture.

5.2.3 Recommendations for the Private Sector

Private sector actors should adopt inclusive business models which will implement transparent, merit-based recruitment that actively targets marginalized regions, thereby breaking down the ethnic barriers to employment identified by respondents. They should develop supply chain integration programs which would incorporate Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) from conflict-affected regions into their value chains, while establishing corporate peace funds dedicating a percentage to profits from their operations in conflict-prone areas to community development, which would address education, healthcare, and youth employment. As a sector, the private sector needs to engage in lobbying for professional reforms within the security sector, ensuring community policing and compliance with human rights.

5.2.4 Recommendation for Academic and Research Institutions

The universities of Nigeria should set up research centers which will study the political economy of peace with longitudinal studies being undertaken in order to understand the causality between changes in economics and conflicts. Impact studies should be done by these institutions to determine the effect of government development policies, thereby making objective evaluations. This way, interdisciplinary studies should be introduced to train professionals who are able to design peace-building interventions.

References

- Adebayo, A.A. (2013) The Nexus of Corruption and Poverty in the Quest for Sustainable Development in Nigeria. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*, 15(7).
- Aja, U. A. (2024). Merchants of terror: Proliferation of small arms and light weapons and human security challenges in Nigeria. *African Security Review*, 33(1), 49-63.
- Anikwudike, C. N., & Agabi, P. T. (2024). Effects of Insecurity on the Socio-Political and Economic Development of Nigeria's Rural Environment: An Appraisal. *University of Nigeria Journal of Political Economy*, 14(1).
- Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2008, July 21). Using Thematic Analysis in Psychology. *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 3(2), 77-101.
- Burton, J. W. (1990). *Conflict: Resolution and Prevention*. Macmillan.
- Cochran, W. G. (1977). *Sampling Techniques* (3rd ed.). New York: John Wiley & Sons.
- Collier, P. (2007). *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are failing and what can be done about it*. New York, USA: Oxford University Press.
- Daramola, D. A., & Olulope, P. K. (2018, May 31). Economic Implications of Unreliable Power System in Nigeria: A Case Study of Ota 132/33 Kv Transmission Station. *Current Journal of Applied Science and Technology*, 27(6), 1-8.
- Egunjobi, T. A. (2021). Poverty and unemployment paradox in Nigeria. *Tanzanian Economic* Vol. 11 No. 1, June 2021: 115–136.
- Enofe, A. O., Oriaifoh, C. L., & Omagbon, P. (2016). Poverty and unemployment in Nigeria: An empirical assessment. *International Journal of Economics and Business Management*, 2(2), 1–12.

- Galtung, J. (1969). Violence, Peace, and Peace Research. *Journal of Peace Research*, 6(3), 167-191.
- Gboyega, A. (2011). Governance and leadership in Nigeria: The challenge of democratic consolidation (IDS Working Paper No. 12). Institute for Development Studies, University of Nigeria.
- Hair, J. F., Babin, B. J., Anderson, R.E., & Black, W.C. (2019). *Multivariate Data Analysis* (8th ed.). Cengage.
- Hegre, H. (2014). Democracy and Armed Conflict. *Journal of Peace Research*, 51(2), 159-172.
- Ibekwe, J. C., & Chidiobi, O. C. (2022). Oil Exploitation, Environmental Issues and Resource Curse in a Post-Colonial Niger Delta Region of Nigeria: The Unending Search for Peace, 1960-2009. *Advances in Social Sciences Research Journal*, 9(11), 373-394.
- Ibukunolu, J. (2024). Nigeria's rising insecurity: Implications for the Nigerian economy. BudGIT Foundation. <https://budgit.org/nigerias-rising-insecurity-implications-for-the-nigerian-economy>.
- John, O., & Mercy, A. (2024). Rural development challenges in Nigeria: Infrastructure deficits and socioeconomic implications. *Journal of African Development Studies*, 12(1), 1–15.
- Lawal, T., & Oluwatoyin, A. (2011). National development in Nigeria: Issues, challenges, and prospects. *Journal of Public Administration and Policy Research*, 3(9), 237-241.
- Lederach, J., & Hampson, F. O. (1998). Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies. *International Journal*, 53(4).

- Martins, I. (2014). Economic Growth and Conflicts: Evidence from Nigeria. *Journal of Sustainable Development Studies*, 5(2), 116–144.
- Mazher, M. A., Nizami, M. A., & Tramankuti, Y. N. (2025). Growth Mechanisms: Dissecting the Economic Determinants of Pakistan's GDP. *Open Menu Malaysian Journal of Business, Economics and Management*, 16-22.
- Mustapha, A. R. (2006). Ethnic Structure, Inequality, and Governance of the Public Sector in Nigeria. *Democracy, Governance and Human Rights Program*.
- National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). (2024). Nigeria Labor Force Survey (NLFS) Q2 2024. National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).
- National Population Commission. (2023). Population estimate report. Abuja: NPC.
- Obi, C. I. (2010). Oil Extraction, Dispossession, Resistance, and Conflict in Nigeria's Oil-Rich Niger Delta. *Canadian Journal of Development Studies / Revue canadienne d'études du développement*, 30(1-2), 219-236.
- Okafor, H O. (2016). Economic growth, poverty, and income inequality matrix in Nigeria: a further investigation. *Economic and Financial Review*, 54(1), 2.
- Onohworemu, O. A., & Egbadju, A. O. (2025). Nigeria and the challenges of terrorism in the 21st century. *Qualitative Research of Business and Social Sciences*, 3(1), 67–78.
- Oyewole, S.O., & Omotola, J.S. (2021). Violence in Nigeria's 2019 general elections: trend and geospatial dimensions. *GeoJournal*, 87, 2393-2403.
- Ross, M. L. (2004, May). What Do We Know about Natural Resources and Civil War? *Journal of Peace Research*, 41(3), 337-356.

- Sachs, J. D., & Warner, A. M. (2001). The Curse of Natural Resources. *European Economic Review*, 45(4-6), 827-838.
- Sen, A. (1999). Development as Freedom. In J. T. Roberts, A. B. Hite, & N. Chorev (Eds.), *The Globalization and Development Reader: Perspectives of Development and Global Change* (2nd ed., pp. 526-548). Oxford: Wiley Blackwell.
- Stewart, F. (2008). *Horizontal inequalities and conflict: Understanding group violence in multiethnic societies*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Todaro, M. P., & Smith, S. C. (2020). *Economic Development* (13th ed.). Pearson Education.
- Transparency International. (2024). *Corruption Perceptions Index*. Retrieved October 10, 2025, from <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2024>
- UNDP. (2021). *Human development report: Nigeria briefing note*. New York: United Nations Development Program.
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP). (1994). *Human Development Report 1994: New dimensions of human security*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- World Bank. (2022). *NIGERIA POVERTY ASSESSMENT 2022*. Washington, DC: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank.
- World Bank. (2023). *World development indicators*. Washington, DC: World Bank.

Appendix 1

Inclusion Criteria

Participants must be a part of local communities, civil societies, or Nigerian business owners.

Participants must have prior experience or knowledge about economic development or conflict resolution in the country.

Participants must be willing to engage in interview discussions.

Participants must be 18 years and above

Exclusion Criteria

Participants who are not part of local communities, civil societies, or Nigerian business owners.

Participants who have no prior experience or knowledge about economic development or conflict resolution in the country.

Participants who are not willing to engage in interview discussions.

Participants who are below 18 years.

Appendix II:

Questionnaire

Kindly fill in the blank box indicate your response as shown above

Section A: Biodata of respondents

1. Age: 18 – 25 years 26 – 35 years 36 – 45 years 55 years and above

2. Gender: Male Female Prefer not to say

3. Educational Level: Primary school Secondary school Diploma/NCE
Bachelor's degree Master's degree and above

4. Occupation: Student Public Servant Business owner Community leader
Other (please specify): _____

Section B: Thematic Issues

Strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree to the following item statements. This indicates your acceptance or rejection of the truthfulness of the statement under review here.

Research Question 1: To what extent does economic development contribute positively to peace and stability in Nigeria?

Item 1: Economic development has improved peace in my community.

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Disagree
- d. Strongly Disagree

Item 2: Increased income levels have reduced rate of violent conflicts locally to a certain positive level.

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Disagree
- d. Strongly Disagree

Item 3: Economic growth has led to better security in Nigeria overall.

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Disagree
- d. Strongly Disagree

Item 4: Job creation through economic development has decreased crime rates.

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Disagree
- d. Strongly Disagree

Research Question 2: What are the major economic factors that influence peace and stability in Nigeria?

Item 5: Poverty is a key economic factor contributing to conflicts in Nigerian communities

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Disagree
- d. Strongly Disagree

Item 6: High unemployment rates increase the risk of violence and conflicts in Nigerian communities.

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Disagree
- d. Strongly Disagree

Item 7: Inflation and rising cost of living create social unrest and conflicts in Nigerian communities.

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Disagree
- d. Strongly Disagree

Item 8: Unequal distribution of wealth fuels ethnic and regional conflicts and crises in Nigerian communities.

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Disagree
- d. Strongly Disagree

Item 9: Government mismanagement of resources leads to instability and regional conflicts and crises in Nigerian communities.

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Disagree
- d. Strongly Disagree

Research Question 3: How do regional challenges and crises in economic development affect peace and stability in Nigeria?

Item 10: Regional economic disparities contribute significantly to conflicts and crises in Nigerian communities.

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Disagree
- d. Strongly Disagree

Item 11: Neglect of infrastructure in certain regions leads to instability and crises in Nigerian communities.

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Disagree
- d. Strongly Disagree

Item 12: Resource control struggles in the Niger Delta affect national peace fuelling communal crises in Nigerian communities.

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Disagree
- d. Strongly Disagree

Item 13: Inadequate government attention to conflict-prone areas worsens peace prospects and fuelled communal crises in Nigerian communities.

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Disagree
- d. Strongly Disagree

