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An Assessment of Post-Insurgency Peacebuilding and Reconstruction in North-eastern Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper examines the peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts in Northeast Nigeria, a region severely affected by the Boko Haram insurgency. It provides an overview of existing initiatives, evaluates their effectiveness, identifies gaps and challenges, and assesses the impact on communities and individuals. The study employs a qualitative review approach, drawing on government reports, NGO publications, academic articles, and interviews with stakeholders. Key findings emphasize the importance of inclusive approaches, particularly the involvement of women and local communities in peacebuilding activities. The analysis of initiatives such as the Multi-Sectoral Recovery Project (MCRP) and Operation Safe Corridor reveals both successes and areas needing improvement. The paper offers policy recommendations for enhancing transparency, accountability, and community engagement in reintegration programs. It concludes by suggesting future research directions to evaluate the long-term outcomes of these efforts and to explore innovative strategies for sustainable peace and development.

Keywords: Peacebuilding, Northeast Nigeria, Boko Haram, Reconstruction, Qualitative Review

Introduction

The conflict in northeastern Nigeria, particularly in the states of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (the BAY states), has had a profound and enduring impact on the region's development and humanitarian landscape. Since its

inception in 2009, the conflict involving Boko Haram and other Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) has inflicted widespread violence, resulting in significant casualties and displacements (UNDP, 2020; ACAPS, 2024). This conflict has intensified over the years, with NSAGs carrying out attacks, kidnappings, and extortion, causing immense suffering among civilians (UNDP, 2020; ACAPS, 2024).

The humanitarian consequences of the conflict are staggering, with millions of people in the BAY states requiring urgent assistance (UNDP, 2020). Displacement has been a particularly acute issue, with millions of individuals forced to flee their homes due to insecurity and violence (UNDP, 2020; ACAPS, 2024). The resulting internally displaced persons (IDPs) face dire living conditions, including overcrowding, lack of access to clean water and sanitation, and limited access to food and healthcare (UNDP, 2020). Despite these challenges, the rehabilitation of repentant Boko Haram members has received significant attention, raising concerns about the prioritization of resources while victims remain displaced with little to no efforts at recovery (Alfred, 2023).

The importance of peacebuilding and reconstruction in post-insurgency recovery cannot be overstated. These efforts are crucial in restoring stability, rebuilding trust within communities, and facilitating sustainable development (Lederach, 1997). Effective peacebuilding involves addressing the root causes of conflict, fostering reconciliation, and ensuring inclusive participation in the rebuilding process (United Nations, 2000).

Globally, post-conflict peacebuilding assessments have highlighted several challenges, including inadequate resources, lack of coordination among stakeholders, and the complexity of rebuilding social cohesion. For instance, in Asia, Sri Lanka has struggled with reintegrating former combatants and addressing ethnic tensions after its civil war (Höglund & Orjuela, 2011). In the Middle East, Iraq's reconstruction efforts have been hindered by ongoing violence and political instability (Dodge, 2013). Europe's experience in the Balkans, particularly Bosnia and Herzegovina, illustrates the difficulties in establishing functional governance and achieving ethnic reconciliation (Chandler, 2000). In North America, the rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Katrina in the United States faced significant challenges related to social inequality and inadequate disaster response (Lipsitz, 2006). South America's Colombia has encountered obstacles in implementing peace agreements and reintegrating former FARC rebels into society (Arnson & Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 2016). In Africa, countries such as Sierra Leone and Rwanda have faced similar hurdles in their peacebuilding efforts, emphasizing the importance of context-specific strategies and sustained international support (Curtis, 2013; Clark, 2010). These challenges underscore the need for thorough assessments to evaluate the effectiveness of peacebuilding and reconstruction initiatives, identify gaps, and propose areas for improvement (Chopra, 2009).

The Nigerian case study is particularly significant due to the scale and impact of the Boko Haram insurgency, which has caused widespread displacement, loss of lives, and destruction of property. Understanding the unique challenges and successes in North-Eastern Nigeria can provide valuable insights for other regions experiencing similar conflicts. The insurgency, which began in 2009, has led to the displacement of over two million people and has severely affected infrastructure, including schools, healthcare facilities, and roads (International Crisis Group, 2016). The prolonged conflict has not only devastated the economy but also fractured community relations and trust, making the peacebuilding process more complex and urgent (Agbiboa, 2013).

In this context, it is essential to assess the current state of peacebuilding and reconstruction in North-Eastern Nigeria to determine what has been achieved, identify persistent challenges, and propose practical recommendations for moving forward.

Theoretical Framework

Concepts and Theories

Peacebuilding encompasses a wide array of activities aimed at addressing the root causes of conflict and laying the groundwork for sustainable peace. According to Lederach (1997), peacebuilding involves comprehensive efforts to build relationships, institutions, and societal structures that can sustain peace. The United Nations (2000) defines peacebuilding as a process that includes "measures aimed at reducing the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities at all levels for conflict management, and to lay the foundation for sustainable peace and development."

Key components of peacebuilding include security, justice and reconciliation, governance, and socioeconomic development (United Nations, 2000). Security measures focus on demobilizing combatants, disarming armed groups, and ensuring the protection of civilians. Justice and reconciliation involve addressing past injustices, promoting legal reforms, and facilitating processes such as truth commissions to foster healing. Governance encompasses efforts to build effective and accountable institutions, promote the rule of law, and ensure inclusive political processes. Socioeconomic development aims to rebuild infrastructure, create economic opportunities, and address the social needs of affected populations (Barnett et al., 2007).

Jeroen de Zeeuw's work at the Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael emphasizes the conceptual evolution of peacebuilding and its strategic implications in war-torn societies. De Zeeuw argues that effective peacebuilding must link security and development, addressing both immediate and long-term needs. This perspective aligns with Nicla Tschirgi's analysis in "Peacebuilding as the Link between

Security and Development," which underscores the importance of strengthening the security-development nexus to create sustainable peace. Both authors advocate for a comprehensive strategy that integrates security, governance, and socio-economic development. De Zeeuw highlights the necessity of engaging local communities and building on existing social capital, while Tschirgi points to the potential closing of the "window of opportunity" for effective peacebuilding if these elements are not adequately addressed (de Zeeuw, 2001; Tschirgi, 2003).

Peacebuilding typically unfolds in three interrelated stages: stabilization, restoration, and development. Stabilization is the initial phase, focused on establishing security, halting violence, and providing immediate humanitarian aid (Call & Cousens, 2008). This stage is critical for creating a safe environment that allows for subsequent peacebuilding efforts. Restoration follows stabilization and involves rebuilding infrastructure, restoring basic services, and beginning the process of reconciliation and justice (Lederach, 1997). The final stage, development, aims at long-term socioeconomic development, institutional capacity building, and the establishment of resilient and inclusive governance systems (Barnett et al., 2007). These stages are not strictly linear and often overlap, requiring a flexible and adaptive approach to peacebuilding.

Reconstruction in post-conflict settings is guided by various theoretical frameworks that provide insights into effective strategies for rebuilding societies. Four key theories relevant to this context are the Theory of Peace, the Theory of Justice, the Theory of Peacebuilding, and Conflict Transformation Theory.

The Theory of Peace emphasizes the establishment and maintenance of conditions that prevent the outbreak or recurrence of conflict. It underscores the importance of creating a stable and secure environment where individuals and communities can coexist peacefully (Galtung, 1969). In the context of North-Eastern Nigeria, this theory suggests that reconstruction efforts should focus on building a secure environment that prevents further violence and promotes coexistence among different groups affected by the Boko Haram insurgency.

The Theory of Justice focuses on addressing past wrongs and ensuring fairness and equity in the reconstruction process. It emphasizes the importance of legal and institutional reforms that promote accountability, reparations, and the rule of law (Rawls, 1971). Applying this theory to North-Eastern Nigeria involves addressing the grievances of victims, holding perpetrators accountable, and implementing justice mechanisms that restore trust in legal and governance systems (Agbiboa, 2013).

The Theory of Peacebuilding integrates elements of both peace and justice theories but places a stronger emphasis on the processes and practices that build and sustain peace over the long term. It involves comprehensive efforts to rebuild relationships, institutions, and societal structures that can sustain peace (Lederach, 1997). In North-

Eastern Nigeria, this theory advocates for inclusive dialogue, community reconciliation processes, and the rebuilding of social capital as essential components of the reconstruction efforts.

Conflict Transformation Theory focuses on addressing the underlying causes of conflict and transforming the relationships and structures that support violence (Lederach, 2003). This theory highlights the need for systemic change that not only resolves immediate conflicts but also transforms the social, economic, and political conditions that perpetuate them. In the context of North-Eastern Nigeria, conflict transformation involves addressing issues such as poverty, marginalization, and governance deficiencies that have contributed to the insurgency, thereby creating conditions for sustainable peace.

Applying these theories to the context of North-Eastern Nigeria involves a multifaceted approach to reconstruction. The Theory of Peace suggests prioritizing the establishment of security and the cessation of violence. The Theory of Justice calls for legal reforms, accountability, and reparations for victims. The Theory of Peacebuilding emphasizes inclusive dialogue and community reconciliation. Conflict Transformation Theory advocates for systemic changes to address the root causes of conflict, such as poverty and governance issues.

In summary, the application of the Theory of Peace, the Theory of Justice, the Theory of Peacebuilding, and Conflict Transformation Theory to North-Eastern Nigeria highlights the need for an integrated approach to reconstruction. This approach should address immediate security needs, promote justice and accountability, foster inclusive dialogue and reconciliation, and transform the underlying conditions that contribute to conflict. By doing so, reconstruction efforts can lay the foundation for sustainable peace and development in the region.

How Theoretical Frameworks Inform Practical Approaches to Peacebuilding and Reconstruction

The theoretical frameworks of peace, justice, peacebuilding, and conflict transformation provide essential guidance for practical approaches to post-conflict reconstruction. These theories offer a foundation for understanding the complexities of rebuilding societies after conflict and provide a blueprint for effective intervention strategies.

The Theory of Peace informs practical approaches by emphasizing the creation of secure environments where violence is minimized, and peaceful coexistence is promoted. This theory underlines the importance of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) programs, which aim to disarm combatants, disband armed groups, and reintegrate former fighters into society (Galtung, 1969). For example, in Sierra Leone, successful DDR programs were instrumental in stabilizing the country

after its civil war, reducing the likelihood of a return to conflict (Humphreys & Weinstein, 2007).

The Theory of Justice emphasizes accountability and the rule of law, guiding practical measures such as legal reforms, the establishment of truth commissions, and reparations for victims. In Rwanda, the Gacaca courts were established to address the crimes of the 1994 genocide, promoting justice and reconciliation at the community level (Clark, 2010). This approach helped rebuild trust in the legal system and provided a platform for addressing grievances.

The Theory of Peacebuilding integrates the principles of peace and justice with a focus on long-term processes that build and sustain peace. Practical approaches informed by this theory include community reconciliation programs, capacity building for local institutions, and inclusive political dialogues (Lederach, 1997). In Bosnia and Herzegovina, peacebuilding efforts included the establishment of multi-ethnic institutions and the promotion of dialogue between different ethnic groups, contributing to the country's stabilization (Chandler, 2000).

Conflict Transformation Theory highlights the importance of addressing the root causes of conflict and transforming the structures that perpetuate violence. This theory guides practical interventions aimed at systemic change, such as economic development programs, governance reforms, and efforts to reduce social inequality (Lederach, 2003). In Colombia, the peace agreement with the FARC included provisions for rural development and political participation, addressing some of the structural issues that fueled the conflict (Arnson & Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 2016).

Case Studies from Other Regions

The application of these theoretical frameworks can be seen in various regions around the world, offering valuable lessons for North-Eastern Nigeria.

In Asia, Sri Lanka's post-conflict reconstruction involved significant efforts in demobilizing former combatants and rebuilding infrastructure, guided by the Theory of Peace and the Theory of Peacebuilding (Höglund & Orjuela, 2011). The country's experience highlights the importance of integrating security measures with community reconciliation processes. In the Middle East, Iraq's reconstruction has been challenging due to ongoing violence and political instability. However, efforts guided by the Theory of Justice and Conflict Transformation Theory have focused on establishing accountable governance structures and promoting economic development to address underlying grievances (Dodge, 2013). In Europe, the Balkans, particularly Bosnia and Herzegovina, provide a case study of applying the Theory of Peacebuilding. The establishment of multi-ethnic institutions and inclusive political processes were crucial in stabilizing the region and promoting long-term peace

(Chandler, 2000). In North America, the reconstruction efforts following Hurricane Katrina in the United States involved significant challenges related to social inequality and inadequate disaster response. The Theory of Justice and Conflict Transformation Theory guided efforts to address these issues, emphasizing the need for systemic change to prevent future disasters (Lipsitz, 2006). In South America, Colombia's peace process with the FARC demonstrates the application of Conflict Transformation Theory. The peace agreement included measures for rural development and political participation, addressing structural issues that contributed to the conflict (Arnson & Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 2016). In Africa, Rwanda's use of the Gacaca courts illustrates the application of the Theory of Justice, emphasizing community-based justice and reconciliation (Clark, 2010). Sierra Leone's DDR programs, informed by the Theory of Peace, were crucial in stabilizing the country after its civil war (Humphreys & Weinstein, 2007).

These examples highlight how theoretical frameworks can inform practical approaches to peacebuilding and reconstruction, offering valuable insights for the efforts in North-Eastern Nigeria.

Literature Review

The complex nature of post-insurgency peacebuilding and reconstruction necessitates a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted challenges and strategic approaches employed globally. Recent works have highlighted the importance of innovative strategies and inclusive frameworks to address the socio-economic and political repercussions of conflicts.

Tigran Hasic's doctoral dissertation, "Reconstruction Planning in Post-Conflict Zones: Bosnia and Herzegovina and the International Community," explores the role of international organizations in post-conflict reconstruction. Hasic emphasizes the importance of international cooperation and local involvement in the planning and implementation of reconstruction efforts. The dissertation highlights the successes and challenges faced in Bosnia and Herzegovina, underscoring the need for a tailored approach that considers the unique socio-political context of each conflict zone (Hasic, 2004). Hasic's research shows that effective reconstruction requires not only financial investment but also the rebuilding of trust and social cohesion within communities. The involvement of local populations in decision-making processes is crucial for the sustainability of reconstruction efforts. This approach is particularly relevant to the context of North-Eastern Nigeria, where similar dynamics of international and local cooperation are essential for successful peacebuilding and reconstruction.

The World Bank and the German Development Cooperation's collaborative report, "Building for Peace: Reconstruction for Security, Sustainable Peace, and Equity in the Middle East and North Africa" (2020), underscores the unprecedented challenges

posed by protracted conflicts in Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Yemen. These conflicts have led to mass displacement, disrupted social cohesion, and reconfigured the political economies in these war-torn societies, fostering illicit economic activities and war economies. The report advocates for a fresh approach to reconstruction, emphasizing the need for a holistic and multi-sectoral strategy that leverages existing local assets and promotes inclusive engagement. To break the cycles of violence, the report suggests supporting legitimate and inclusive institutions at all levels, creating sustainable economic opportunities, and building on resilient social and economic assets. It also highlights the importance of a comprehensive understanding of the situation on the ground, engaging flexibly with diverse actors, and developing a long-term strategy that addresses the root causes of conflict. This approach combines recent development thinking with original research, involving input from over 15 think tanks, policy institutions, academic researchers, policymakers, and international organizations (World Bank, 2020).

The Netherlands' approach to post-conflict reconstruction emphasizes the importance of initiatives driven by the local population. Effective reconstruction can only succeed with significant input from local communities on funding allocation. The Netherlands also stresses the need for coordinated efforts between donor countries and aid organizations, with a regional focus to address not only the conflict zones but also the surrounding areas. Reducing poverty is a critical aspect of post-conflict reconstruction, as poverty is often a contributing factor to conflicts. The Netherlands supports projects that reduce social inequality and improve security in former conflict zones. For example, in Guatemala, the Netherlands facilitated the establishment of land registries to secure land rights for indigenous people and farmers as part of the peace agreement. The approach also includes boosting security in poor countries by addressing problems within national institutions responsible for security, such as the army, police, and judiciary. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael have developed a model to enhance democratic governance of the security sector, aiding in reforms to ensure these institutions act in the interests of the citizens (Government of the Netherlands, 2024).

Olawale Ismail's discussion paper, "The Dynamics of Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Peacebuilding in West Africa: Between Change and Stability," provides a comprehensive analysis of post-conflict reconstruction efforts in West Africa. Ismail examines the balance between fostering change and maintaining stability in post-conflict societies, highlighting the complexities of rebuilding war-torn communities. The paper emphasizes the need for a nuanced understanding of local contexts and the importance of addressing underlying socio-economic issues to achieve lasting peace (Ismail, 2008). Ismail's findings are particularly relevant to the Nigerian context, where the interplay between change and stability is crucial for effective peacebuilding.

The paper suggests that a combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches is necessary to address the diverse needs of affected populations and to ensure the sustainability of reconstruction efforts.

Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Efforts in Northeast Nigeria

Recovery initiatives

The Boko Haram insurgency has profoundly impacted Nigeria's Northeast, resulting in extensive loss of life, displacement, and destruction of infrastructure. An estimated 20,000 people have died, and 2.2 million have been forcibly displaced, with the majority seeking refuge in the states of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (International Crisis Group, 2016). In his work, Amsami (2019) highlights the multi-faceted challenges faced by the region, noting that "the North East region Nigeria was among the poorest in the country, with high demographic growth and vulnerability to extreme weather and climate change." The insurgency has further compounded these issues, leading to widespread disruption of livelihoods, destruction of homes, and contamination of agricultural lands with landmines and remnants of war (Amsami, 2019).

The initial government response relied heavily on military force, but the evolving tactics and increased ferocity of the insurgents necessitated broader international support and collaboration with various stakeholders (Blanchard, 2014). The establishment of internally displaced persons (IDP) camps was a crucial step in addressing the immediate humanitarian needs of survivors. However, these camps have faced significant challenges, including corruption, sexual exploitation, and inadequate resource distribution (Zenn, 2014). Efforts to rebuild and recover have been multifaceted, involving various governmental and international organizations. Initiatives like the Multi-Sectoral Recovery Project (MCRP) have provided essential livelihood support, rehabilitated infrastructure, and offered psychosocial services to those affected (Buchanan-Smith et al., 2020).

A critical aspect of the recovery process has been the involvement of women in peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts. Historically marginalized in political decision-making, women have taken on new roles, often spearheading informal peacebuilding activities. Despite their increased visibility and contributions, they continue to face significant challenges, including sexual violence and exploitation within IDP camps (Afolayan & Ajayi, 2018). Women's organizations have played a pivotal role in advocating for the rights and needs of women and girls affected by the insurgency. They have organized protests, marches, and campaigns, such as the Bring Back Our Girls movement, to draw attention to abuses and demand action. These organizations also work across religious divides to promote interfaith dialogue and

cooperation, which are crucial for sustaining long-term peace (Ngari & Tofghian, 2019).

The economic recovery of the region is another critical focus. The North East was already one of Nigeria's poorest regions before the insurgency, with high demographic growth and vulnerability to climate change exacerbating its fragility. Post-conflict efforts have thus aimed not only at immediate relief but also at fostering long-term economic stability through investments in agriculture, infrastructure, and basic services (Hassan & Ahmed, 2023). Despite these efforts, the region's recovery remains a monumental task, requiring sustained commitment from both local and international actors. The Nigerian government, supported by various international organizations and donors, continues to strive towards rebuilding the Northeast, with a shift from early recovery to long-term development and resilience building (International Crisis Group, 2016). Ensuring transparency, accountability, and effective monitoring of these initiatives is essential for achieving lasting peace and development in the region (Hassan & Ahmed, 2023).

Effectiveness of Existing Initiatives in Northeast Nigeria

In response to the devastating impact of the Boko Haram insurgency, numerous initiatives have been launched to foster peace and facilitate reconstruction in Northeast Nigeria. Key among these efforts is the Multi-Sectoral Recovery Project (MCRP), which provides essential livelihood support, rehabilitates infrastructure, and offers psychosocial services to those affected (Buchanan-Smith et al., 2020). Additionally, the North East Development Commission (NEDC) has been pivotal in coordinating efforts to restore normalcy and spur development in the region (Hassan & Ahmed, 2023). International organizations, including the United Nations and various non-governmental organizations (NGOs), have also been instrumental in delivering humanitarian aid, supporting IDPs, and implementing peacebuilding programs (International Crisis Group, 2016).

Evaluating the effectiveness of these initiatives reveals mixed outcomes. The MCRP has been lauded for its comprehensive approach, addressing both immediate needs and long-term development (Buchanan-Smith et al., 2020). However, challenges persist, particularly in ensuring equitable distribution of resources and services. The involvement of women in peacebuilding efforts has shown positive results, enhancing community resilience and fostering social cohesion (Afolayan & Ajayi, 2018). Despite these successes, issues such as corruption and inadequate resource allocation in IDP camps have hampered overall effectiveness (Zenn, 2014).

Several gaps and challenges continue to impede peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts in Northeast Nigeria. Corruption remains a significant issue, affecting the distribution of aid and the implementation of projects (Zenn, 2014). Additionally, the

volatile security situation poses ongoing risks, hindering access to affected areas and complicating the delivery of services (Blanchard, 2014). There is also a notable gap in addressing the specific needs of women and children, who are often disproportionately affected by the conflict (Afolayan & Ajayi, 2018).

Assessment of the Impact of Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Efforts on Communities and Individuals

Peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts have had varying impacts on communities and individuals in Northeast Nigeria. Initiatives like the MCRP have provided critical support, helping communities rebuild their lives and livelihoods (Buchanan-Smith et al., 2020). However, the benefits have not been evenly distributed, with some communities experiencing greater recovery than others. Women's increased participation in peacebuilding has positively influenced community dynamics, though they still face significant barriers and risks (Ngari & Tofighian, 2019).

The Nigerian government's Operation Safe Corridor (OSC) program, aimed at deradicalizing and reintegrating repentant Boko Haram terrorists, has generated mixed reactions. While the program offers psychological counseling, vocational training, and religious reorientation, its implementation has faced criticism due to fears and resistance from host communities (International Crisis Group, 2016). Many community members are apprehensive about the reintegration of former insurgents, fearing potential security risks and questioning the genuineness of their repentance (Hassan & Ahmed, 2023).

Short-term outcomes of the peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts include improved access to basic services, restoration of infrastructure, and enhanced community cohesion (Hassan & Ahmed, 2023). In the long term, sustained efforts are necessary to ensure economic stability, address deep-rooted social issues, and build resilient communities (International Crisis Group, 2016). The transition from immediate relief to long-term development remains a critical challenge that requires ongoing commitment and coordination.

Lessons Learned from Past Experiences

Past experiences highlight the importance of inclusive approaches that engage all community members, particularly women, in peacebuilding processes (Afolayan & Ajayi, 2018). Effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are crucial for identifying and addressing challenges promptly. Transparency and accountability in resource allocation are essential to prevent corruption and ensure that aid reaches those in need (Zenn, 2014). Furthermore, the OSC program underscores the need for comprehensive community engagement and sensitization to mitigate fears and facilitate successful reintegration (Hassan & Ahmed, 2023).

Implications for Policymakers and Practitioners

Policymakers and practitioners must prioritize transparency, accountability, and community engagement in their efforts. Effective coordination among various stakeholders, including government agencies, international organizations, and local communities, is vital for the success of peacebuilding initiatives (Hassan & Ahmed, 2023). Policies should be informed by the specific needs and contexts of the affected populations, with a focus on long-term sustainability and resilience building (International Crisis Group, 2016). Addressing community fears regarding programs like OSC is crucial for fostering trust and ensuring successful reintegration of former insurgents (Hassan & Ahmed, 2023).

The experiences in Northeast Nigeria offer valuable insights for other conflict-affected regions. Policies should emphasize inclusive peacebuilding processes, address the root causes of conflict, and ensure the equitable distribution of resources (Blanchard, 2014). The involvement of women and marginalized groups in decision-making is crucial for fostering durable peace and development (Afolayan & Ajayi, 2018). Furthermore, programs similar to OSC should incorporate community sensitization and engagement to build trust and facilitate effective reintegration (Hassan & Ahmed, 2023).

Conclusion

The review highlights the multifaceted challenges and varied impacts of peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts in Northeast Nigeria. Key findings emphasize the importance of inclusive approaches, addressing corruption, and enhancing coordination among stakeholders. Notable contributions to the existing literature include the detailed examination of the MCRP and the critical role of women's participation in peacebuilding. Recommendations stress the need for transparency and accountability, engagement of all community members, and comprehensive community sensitization in reintegration programs like Operation Safe Corridor. The Nigerian government should lead in policy implementation and coordination, international organizations should provide sustained support and resources, and local communities must be actively involved in the decision-making processes. In conclusion, successful peacebuilding in Northeast Nigeria requires a holistic, inclusive, and transparent approach. Future research should focus on longitudinal studies to assess the long-term outcomes of current initiatives and explore innovative strategies for fostering sustainable peace and development.

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