

EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF THE BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY ON NIGERIA'S HUMAN SECURITY AGENDA: A CASE STUDY OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN BORNO STATE.

By

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Abstract

This study rigorously analyses the impact of internal crises on Nigeria's national security, with a specific focus on the Boko Haram insurgency. Boko Haram, as one of the most catastrophic domestic threats in Nigeria's recent history, has not only destroyed the nation's socio-political fabric but also revealed substantial vulnerabilities in its security system. The study examines the fundamental causes and development of the insurgency, emphasising the interaction between socio-economic marginalisation, governance deficiencies, and extremist beliefs. The study employs the Frustration-Aggression Theory and the Human Security Paradigm to establish a comprehensive theoretical framework for analysing the causes of the insurgency and the wider effects of domestic instability on national security. Data were acquired through a synthesis of primary-source interviews and secondary sources, including scholarly articles, government reports, and credible media stories. Research indicates that Boko Haram has significantly compromised Nigeria's national security by causing widespread displacement, fatalities, infrastructural devastation, educational disruption, and a decline in public confidence in governmental institutions. The conflict has engendered humanitarian crises, drained military resources, and heightened regional insecurity throughout the Lake Chad Basin. The research highlights significant deficiencies in counter-insurgency measures, particularly in intelligence, civil-military relations, and the rehabilitation of affected populations. The study indicates that military interventions alone are inadequate to resolve the intricate structure of domestic issues. It advocates a multifaceted strategy encompassing inclusive government, poverty reduction, youth involvement, deradicalisation initiatives, and improved cooperation between security forces and local communities. These techniques are crucial for reinstating public trust and fostering enduring national resilience.

Keywords: Boko Haram, Humanitarian Crisis, National Security, *Domestic Crises*.

Introduction

Domestic crises have historically posed a significant issue for Nigeria, impacting its political stability, economic development, and social unity. Since achieving independence in 1960, Nigeria has seen several crises, encompassing ethnic and religious conflicts, political instability, economic recessions, and insurgencies. These crises have produced extensive repercussions, undermining national security and obstructing sustainable development. The Boko Haram insurgency has arisen as a profoundly destructive menace, endangering Nigeria's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and human security. The multi-ethnic and multi-religious

nature of Nigeria, along with its historical and structural disparities, has fostered an environment conducive to domestic crises. The colonial heritage of amalgamating many ethnic groups without sufficient integration strategies has led to persistent tensions (Murtala, 2021). Furthermore, governance issues, including corruption, fragile institutions, and economic mismanagement, have exacerbated social unrest and conflict. Subsequent administrations have grappled with these fundamental challenges, allowing crises to persist and evolve into comprehensive security threats.

The Boko Haram insurgency, originating as a limited movement in northeastern Nigeria, has evolved into a protracted conflict with severe humanitarian and economic repercussions. Boko Haram was established by Mohammed Yusuf in the early 2000s, exploiting pervasive socio-economic discontent, especially in the North-East region, characterised by poverty, unemployment, and restricted educational opportunities (Odebiyi, 2020). After the extrajudicial execution of Yusuf in 2009, the organisation evolved into a violent insurgency under Abubakar Shekau's leadership, employing radical methods such as mass abductions, bombings, and territorial seizures (Zenn, 2018). The insurgency has caused the deaths of nearly 35,000 individuals and has resulted in significant internal displacement, with millions compelled to abandon their residences (UNHCR, 2023). The economic consequences have been significant, especially in agriculture and trade, as farmers vacate their lands and firms relocate owing to insecurity (World Bank, 2022).

Notwithstanding governmental initiatives, encompassing military operations and regional partnerships, Boko Haram continues to pose a significant threat. Understanding the underlying causes, ramifications, and possible remedies for this problem is essential to ensuring Nigeria's enduring peace and security. The objective of this study is to examine the impact of internal crises, specifically the Boko Haram insurgency, on Nigeria's national security.

Conceptual Review

Domestic Crises

Domestic crises in Nigeria have consistently posed a significant problem, profoundly entrenched in the nation's socio-political and economic frameworks. These crises manifest in diverse forms, such as ethnic conflicts, religious tensions, political instability, economic downturns, and insurgencies. They pose significant risks to country stability, governance, and public welfare. Academics contend that Nigeria's historical context, originating from its colonial period, significantly influences current crises. The forced integration of several ethnic and religious groups into a single political entity during colonial governance, lacking sufficient measures to promote cohesion, resulted in persistent ethnic conflicts, regional inequalities, and political disunity (Murtala, 2021). The differences have rendered the country susceptible to persistent internal strife, exemplified by the sequence of ethnic and religious confrontations since independence.

Boko Haram and Insurgency

Boko Haram is among the most lethal insurgent organisations in Africa, having undermined Nigeria and its adjacent nations for more than a decade. The group, officially designated as Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad (People Committed to the Propagation of the Prophet's Teachings and Jihad), originated in northeastern Nigeria in the early 2000s and was led by Mohammed Yusuf (Abubakar, 2022). The group's worldview fundamentally rejects Western education, secular government, and contemporary state institutions, viewing them as corrupt and antithetical to Islamic ideals (Adesoji, 2010). The emergence of Boko Haram should be contextualised within the overarching socio-economic and political conditions of

northern Nigeria, which have historically been marked by poverty, ineffective government, and systemic marginalisation (Thurston, 2016).

National Security

National security pertains to safeguarding a nation's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and its populace from both internal and external threats. It encompasses the state's capacity to secure its borders, uphold law and order, thwart terrorism, and confront threats to its stability, including insurgencies, organised crime, and political unrest. In Nigeria, national security has been profoundly compromised by groups such as Boko Haram, whose insurgent actions destabilise the northeastern region and erode governmental authority (Babatunde, 2020).

Humanitarian crisis

A **humanitarian crisis** is a situation in which large groups of people face severe threats to their health, safety, security, or well-being, often due to armed conflict, natural disasters, epidemics, famine, or large-scale displacement. Humanitarian crises typically overwhelm local resources and require urgent international assistance.

Methodology

The methodology used in this paper is qualitative. The study's population includes security officials, displaced persons, and NGO representatives to gather first-hand accounts of Boko Haram's activities and their impact on national security. The paper's qualitative nature derives its claims primarily from secondary sources, such as internet sources, textbooks, and journal articles. The study employed stratified sampling, focusing on Borno State. The study will employ a range of qualitative methods to analyse the data. A major approach will be qualitative descriptive analysis.

Theoretical Review

Understanding the impact of internal crises on national security, particularly in the context of Boko Haram's insurgency in Nigeria, requires a robust theoretical review.

Frustration-Aggression Theory

The Frustration-Aggression Theory, initially formulated by Dollard and colleagues in 1939, posits that persistent barriers to achieving one's goals generate frustration, which can manifest as aggression directed at the source of the blockage or as displaced aggression toward other targets. Berkowitz later refined the theory, arguing that while frustration does not always cause aggression, it increases the likelihood of aggressive behaviour, especially when combined with adverse social, economic, or environmental conditions. The theory is widely applied in conflict analysis to explain how systemic injustice, exclusion, and deprivation can fuel violence, particularly when individuals feel powerless to improve their circumstances through legitimate means.

In the Nigerian context, the Frustration-Aggression theory provides insight into the rise and persistence of Boko Haram. The insurgency has roots in widespread dissatisfaction among marginalised youth in northern Nigeria, exacerbated by poverty, lack of education, high unemployment, and political exclusion. The North-East, where Boko Haram is most active, has the country's highest poverty and illiteracy rates, intensifying economic and social disparities. Boko Haram has effectively exploited these grievances by presenting itself as an alternative to a corrupt and indifferent state, offering both ideological justification and material benefits such

as monetary rewards to attract recruits, many of whom join out of economic necessity rather than religious conviction.

Key events, such as the extrajudicial killing of Boko Haram's founder, Mohammed Yusuf, in 2009, escalated the group's radicalisation and transformed it into a violent insurgency. The Nigerian government's reliance on military force, coupled with human rights abuses, has often deepened local frustrations and alienated communities, sometimes making insurgents appear more appealing. The Frustration-Aggression Theory suggests that to address such conflicts effectively, strategies must go beyond military intervention to tackle the underlying socio-economic grievances. Comprehensive solutions should focus on poverty alleviation, education, employment, political inclusion, and community engagement to break the cycle of frustration and violence.

Human Security Paradigm

The Human Security Paradigm, introduced by the UNDP in 1994, shifts the focus of security from state-centric concerns to the protection of individuals. Unlike traditional security models centred on military defence and territorial integrity, this paradigm emphasises safeguarding people from economic hardship, disease, environmental threats, political repression, and violence. It argues that proper security is possible only when citizens have access to the resources and protections necessary for daily survival, making government security efforts ineffective if basic needs are unmet. This approach is particularly relevant to the Boko Haram crisis in Nigeria's North-East, where longstanding food insecurity, poor healthcare, infrastructure deficits, and government neglect have left many vulnerable to extremist recruitment—not just due to ideology, but out of economic necessity and the search for safety. Boko Haram has exploited these governance failures, providing social services, financial aid, and local governance in the absence of effective state presence, thereby filling critical voids for some communities despite its brutality.

The insurgency has caused massive displacement, disrupted agriculture and trade, and deepened poverty, perpetuating cycles of vulnerability. The Nigerian government's military-focused response has not addressed these root causes. The Human Security Paradigm highlights the need for holistic counter-terrorism strategies that include economic development, education, healthcare, political inclusion, and community rebuilding to address instability and prevent future insurgencies sustainably.

The Frustration-Aggression Theory and Human Security Paradigm together provide valuable insights into the persistence of the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. The Frustration-Aggression Theory explains how systemic economic and political grievances create frustration, driving individuals—especially marginalised youth—toward violent extremism when opportunities are lacking. The Human Security Paradigm highlights how the government's failure to provide essential services, such as education and healthcare, allows Boko Haram to fill governance gaps and gain support. Both frameworks emphasise that military solutions alone are insufficient; effective counter-terrorism must address root socio-economic and political issues to achieve lasting security and stability in Nigeria.

Historical Context of Boko Haram

Boko Haram's origins are deeply intertwined with the religious, socio-economic, and political history of northeastern Nigeria, a region long afflicted by poverty, inadequate education, and government neglect. Founded by Mohammed Yusuf, the group initially rejected Western-style education, viewing it as a symbol of colonial oppression and moral decay (Abubakar, 2022).

"Boko Haram" means "Western education is prohibited," a message that resonated among marginalised, disillusioned youths. Early on, Boko Haram functioned as a religious movement focused on preaching and social services, with its base in Maiduguri. In 2009, a violent confrontation with Nigerian security forces led to the death of Yusuf and hundreds of members, transforming Boko Haram into a militant insurgency under Abubakar Shekau. The group escalated attacks on schools, places of worship, and government sites, including the high-profile abduction of the Chibok schoolgirls in 2014. Boko Haram later aligned with global jihadist movements, notably pledging allegiance to ISIS in 2015. Despite military efforts and regional cooperation, Boko Haram continues to destabilise northeastern Nigeria and its neighbouring countries, exploiting weak governance and border security (Adeleke, 2021).

Nexus between Domestic Crises and National Security

According to Gueye (2023), domestic crises in Nigeria, such as insurgency, ethnic conflict, and political instability, are closely tied to national security by undermining sovereignty, territorial integrity, and societal welfare. The Boko Haram insurgency exemplifies how internal conflict can escalate into a significant national security threat, displacing millions and eroding state control, especially in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa, where the group once declared a "caliphate." High unemployment and economic hardship fuel Boko Haram's recruitment efforts, highlighting how socio-economic instability translates into broader security dangers. Persistent corruption and poor governance have also eroded public trust, creating conditions ripe for unrest. The prolonged conflict strains Nigeria's security forces and exposes other regions to new threats like banditry and kidnapping. Boko Haram's cross-border operations destabilise neighbouring countries, complicating regional security efforts. The humanitarian fallout, with millions of displaced persons, further intensifies socio-economic pressures and the risk of future unrest. Prolonged instability also undermines social cohesion and democratic institutions, perpetuating a cycle of insecurity (Abubakar, 2022).

Impacts of Boko Haram Insurgency on Nigeria

The Boko Haram insurgency ranks among Nigeria's most devastating conflicts, severely affecting human security, economic growth, political stability, and national unity. The violence has caused over 35,000 deaths and displaced more than 2.1 million people, with many seeking refuge in neighbouring countries (International Crisis Group, 2025). The crisis has overwhelmed humanitarian resources, leaving thousands without adequate shelter, food, or healthcare. Social cohesion in communities has been shattered, with villages previously living in harmony now divided along religious and ethnic lines. Boko Haram's tactics, such as mass abductions, child soldier recruitment, forced marriages, and sexual violence, have created a deep humanitarian crisis, with lasting psychological impacts including PTSD, depression, and anxiety among survivors (Murtala, 2021).

Economically, the conflict has devastated agriculture, trade, and industry in northeastern Nigeria, leading to food shortages, massive unemployment, and economic decline. The destruction of businesses and infrastructure has cost Nigeria an estimated \$9 billion, further widening the economic gap between the north and south. The group's hostility toward Western education has resulted in the closure or destruction of 1,400 schools, denying 2.8 million children access to education and increasing their vulnerability to radicalisation (International Crisis Group, 2025).

Boko Haram's control over territory at its height highlighted serious state security failures, worsened by military corruption and underfunded defence efforts. The crisis has strained Nigeria's security forces and deepened ethnic and religious divides, undermining national unity. Addressing these impacts calls for a comprehensive approach that combines military action

with social, economic, and governance reforms—such as rebuilding schools, restoring agriculture, creating jobs, combating corruption, and promoting community reconciliation—to achieve lasting peace and stability in Nigeria (Odebiyi, 2020).

Data Presentation and Discussion

The researchers sought to explore the socio-economic and security experiences of individuals displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. Data were collected directly from the selected individuals and from key informants in Borno State through key informant interviews (KIIs). The semi-structured interview guide was used to conduct interviews with the selected individuals. The respondents include displaced people from Borno, Security officials, and NGO representatives; the researcher will book appointments with the interviewees in advance. The study employed a range of qualitative methods to analyse the data. A major approach used was qualitative descriptive analysis.

Question 1: Why did you leave your state to come to this place?

A respondent (Female, Age 30, Borno State) stated:

"Our house... they burnt it and attacked us. So, we had to run for our lives. We did not have anywhere to go."

(Source: Field Work)

Another respondent (Male, Adamawa State) explained:

"They attacked us and destroyed our home, so we moved to a safer place."

(Source: Field Work)

A third respondent (Female, Widow, Yobe State) added:

"The terrorists attacked our village and killed many of our people, including my husband."

(Source: Field Work)

Discussion of Findings

Across all interviews, it was consistently reported that Boko Haram attacks involved violent assaults, arson, and killings, prompting immediate displacement. Most respondents emphasised the sudden nature of their escape and the lack of preparation or resources during their flight.

Question 2: Were you chased out of your home, and what caused it?

A respondent (Female, Yobe State) stated:

"Yes, they attacked our village and killed many, even my husband. They burnt our houses too."

(Source: Field Work)

Another respondent (Male, Adamawa State) noted:

"Yes, by Boko Haram. They attacked and destroyed everything."

(Source: Field Work)

A third respondent (Female, Borno State) said:

"We were chased out because they attacked and burnt our homes. There was nothing left."

(Source: Field Work)

Discussion of Findings

Respondents reported that their displacement was directly caused by Boko Haram's deliberate destruction of homes and farms. Several female respondents, especially widows, highlighted the personal loss of their husbands and breadwinners. The emotional trauma from witnessing these attacks was a recurring theme.

Question 3: How are you affected by insecurity in the country?

A respondent (Female, Widow, Yobe State) shared:

"They have destroyed my family and chased me out of my home. I have no house to stay in."

(Source: Field Work)

Another respondent (Female, Borno State) commented:

"We do not have a house or a way to survive. There is nothing like farming again; we are just surviving."

(Source: Field Work)

A third respondent (Male, Adamawa State) added:

"We have been displaced from our homes, and we are just struggling to survive day by day."

(Source: Field Work)

Discussion of Findings

The predominant effects of insecurity include homelessness, loss of livelihood, and extreme dependency on government and humanitarian aid. Respondents repeatedly mentioned their inability to engage in farming, which was their primary source of livelihood before displacement. Psychological distress was also evident, though not explicitly mentioned, through their repeated emphasis on survival struggles.

Question 4: How has the government provided for you since you got here?

A respondent (Female, Widow, Borno State) stated:

"They have provided us with food and shelter, and some organisations also give us things we need."

(Source: Field Work)

Another respondent (Male, Adamawa State) noted:

"The government gives us food and water and provides a place to stay."

(Source: Field Work)

A third respondent (Female, Yobe State) said:

"They put us in IDP camps and provide food and some clothes, but it is not always enough."

(Source: Field Work)

Discussion of Findings

Most respondents acknowledged government and NGO assistance primarily through the provision of food, shelter, and necessities. However, many highlighted the inadequacy of these provisions and said they relied on kind-hearted individuals or NGOs to supplement their survival needs.

Question 5: Do you want to return to your hometown?

A respondent (Female, Borno State) expressed:

"Yes, but I cannot because it is too risky. I do not want to risk my life or that of my family."

(Source: Field Work)

Another respondent (Male, Adamawa State) remarked:

"Yes, but it is not safe at all. We fear being attacked again."

(Source: Field Work)

A third respondent (Female, Yobe State) answered:

"Yes, but we cannot because of insecurity."

(Source: Field Work)

Discussion of Findings

There is a strong emotional attachment to returning home, but the overwhelming barrier is insecurity and the fear of renewed attacks. Many respondents, despite their suffering in displacement, prefer the safety of IDP camps over risking their lives back home.

Question 6: How long have you been here?

A respondent (Female, Yobe State) said:

"For years now, I have been in this place."

(Source: Field Work)

Another respondent (Male, Adamawa State) shared:

"More than four years."

(Source: Field Work)

A third respondent (Female, Borno State) stated:

"I have been here for a very long time, more than three years."

(Source: Field Work)

Discussion of Findings

Most respondents have been displaced for several years, indicating a prolonged humanitarian crisis. This long-term displacement has led to reliance on aid and few opportunities to rebuild their livelihoods or achieve stability.

Question 7: How have you been coping?

A respondent (Female, Widow, Yobe State) responded:

"The government helps us sometimes, and some good people provide what we need."

(Source: Field Work)

Another respondent (Male, Adamawa State) noted:

"It has not been easy at all; we are just surviving with the little help we get."

(Source: Field Work)

A third respondent (Female, Borno State) added:

"The government and non-governmental organisations provide for us, but life is very hard."

(Source: Field Work)

Discussion of Findings

Coping mechanisms are primarily external, relying on government interventions and the kindness of NGOs and private individuals. There is a constant struggle to meet basic needs, and many feel helpless and resigned to their current conditions.

Analysis of Findings

The findings from interviews with people displaced by Boko Haram reveal vivid, painful stories of sudden violence, loss, uprooting, and prolonged hardship. These personal narratives confirm and deepen what secondary sources tell us: insurgency in northeastern Nigeria does not just kill and destroy, it also fragments lives, uproots livelihoods, and disrupts the social fabric.

Nature of Displacement

Suddenness and Violence: Many respondents described abrupt attacks — burning of homes, killing of villagers — causing families to flee immediately. There was little time for preparation, and often they left with nothing. This shows Boko Haram's tactics are not incremental or gradual but often involve intense shock events.

Widespread Destruction: The destruction of not just homes but also farms, villages, and the killing of community members (including breadwinners and family leaders) points to a strategy of maximising fear and undermining community stability.

Gendered Impact: Widows and female respondents often emphasised loss of husbands, someone to support and protect the family. That highlights a gendered dimension: women are disproportionately impacted not only by loss of property but also by loss of family members on whom they depend.

Consequences: Livelihood, Insecurity & Trauma

Loss of Livelihoods: Farming, the mainstay in many affected regions, is disrupted or destroyed. Without land, tools, markets or safe access to fields, families are cut off from their traditional means of sustenance. Displacement leads to dependency.

Homelessness & Shelter Insecurity: Many report having no homes and living in camps or with relief agencies. The nature of the shelters is often inadequate, temporary, and unsafe. This physical insecurity is accompanied by psychological distress.

Psychological Injury / Trauma (Implicit but Strong): While many respondents do not use formal psychological terms, frequent references to loss, fear, death, watching violence, uncertainty, insecurity, being chased, forced flight—all point to intense trauma, stress, grief, and anxiety. The findings underscore not just bodily harm but deep emotional and mental wounds.

Coping & Aid Response

Reliance on Government & NGOs: Displaced individuals cite the provision of food, shelter, and basic supplies by the government and NGOs. Nevertheless, these are seen as insufficient and inconsistent. Many say they are "surviving" rather than "living."

Long-Term Displacement and Dependency: Many have been displaced for years—some more than three or four years—and have little chance to rebuild or return because of ongoing insecurity. Extended displacement creates dependency but also erodes skills, hope, and capacity.

Fear of Return: Even when people want to go home, they do not because of fear for their lives, instability, destroyed infrastructure, and lack of basic services. This suggests that displacement might become semi-permanent unless security and reconstruction improve.

Institutional & Systemic Issues

Inadequacies in Aid: Aid is erratic and insufficient. The qualitative data points to gaps in food, shelter, water, and healthcare. Respondents say aid is "not always enough." That suggests the systems set up (by government or NGO) are under-resourced, poorly coordinated, or unable to keep up.

Weak Preparedness & Protracted Response: The fact that many displaced people have been in these situations for years with minimal improvement suggests inadequate long-term planning. Relief efforts seem more reactive than proactive, focusing on immediate survival rather than stability, resilience, or reintegration.

Security as a Precondition: A recurring theme is that insecurity prevents any meaningful return, reconstruction, or restoration of everyday life. Without improved security (local peace, reliable governance, safe infrastructure), other interventions remain limited in effect.

Broader Implications

Social Fabric Disruption: Uprooted people lose not only property, but networks—kinship, community leadership, trust. That undermines collective resilience. Children lose school, adults lose identity and roles. Communities are fractured.

Potential for Longer-Term Instability: The combination of loss, trauma, economic collapse, and prolonged displacement sets the stage for continued cycles of insecurity. Discontent, resentment, and the loss of faith in state authority can feed into radicalisation or support for alternative security providers.

Human Development Impact: The impacts affect children's nutrition, health, and education. Malnutrition, interrupted schooling, and lack of access to health services deepen inequality. The cost in human potential is enormous.

Conclusion

The Boko Haram insurgency represents a profound threat to Nigeria's national security and socio-economic development. This research concludes that the insurgency is not merely a military challenge but a symptom of deeper structural issues, including poverty, unemployment, religious extremism, and governance deficits. These root causes have enabled Boko Haram to recruit vulnerable youths and sustain its violent campaign for over a decade.

The insurgency's impact extends beyond physical violence; it has dismantled communities, disrupted economic activities, and created a humanitarian crisis marked by mass displacement and psychological trauma. The failure to adequately address the needs of internally displaced persons and to secure reclaimed territories highlights significant gaps in government policies and implementation strategies.

Moreover, the research finds that regional and international dimensions of the insurgency complicate efforts to combat it. Boko Haram's cross-border operations necessitate collaborative security arrangements, such as the Multinational Joint Task Force. However, inadequate coordination and resource limitations have hindered the effectiveness of these efforts.

Sustainable peace and security in Nigeria hinge on a multi-dimensional approach that combines military operations with socio-economic development, political inclusion, and human security frameworks. The research affirms that lasting solutions require addressing the grievances that fuel insurgency, promoting equitable resource distribution, and fostering trust between the state and its citizens.

Recommendations

Based on the research findings, several policy and practical recommendations are proposed to address the Boko Haram insurgency and enhance national security in Nigeria.

First, the government should prioritise socio-economic development programs targeting the population, most especially the northeast region. This includes investing in infrastructure, education, vocational training, and job-creation initiatives to tackle unemployment and poverty, key drivers of insurgency. Such investments should be community-driven and culturally sensitive to ensure local ownership and effectiveness.

Second, security operations must be complemented with improved intelligence gathering, professionalisation of security forces, and stronger oversight to reduce corruption and human rights abuses. Building trust between security agencies and local communities is vital for intelligence sharing and effective counter-insurgency.

Third, the government should enhance support for internally displaced persons by developing comprehensive reintegration programs that provide housing, healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities. Coordination with international organisations and NGOs is essential to ensure adequate resources and effective delivery.

Fifth, policy frameworks should incorporate community engagement and counter-radicalisation programs. Empowering local religious and traditional leaders to promote peaceful coexistence and counter extremist ideologies is critical. Educational curricula should be reviewed to include peacebuilding and civic education.

Lastly, good governance reforms are essential to restore public confidence. This entails enhancing transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness in security and development policies. Anti-corruption measures must be rigorously enforced to ensure that resources reach their intended beneficiaries.

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