

Research Article

Peace And Conflict Resolution In The Lake Chad Basin: Assessment Of Nigeria's Role From 2015 To 2023

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Abstract: This study examines Nigeria's role in peace and conflict resolution in the Lake Chad Basin between 2015 and 2023, focusing on the strategies employed, the challenges encountered, and recommendations for sustainable peacebuilding. The research evaluates the effectiveness of Nigeria's interventions and their alignment with regional and international peace efforts. The study adopts a descriptive research design, integrating empirical and historical approaches to provide a comprehensive analysis. Primary data were collected through structured questionnaires administered to key stakeholders, including diplomats, military personnel, victims, and delegates from Lake Chad Basin countries. Secondary data were obtained from policy reports, academic literature, and government publications. Data analysis involved descriptive statistics and thematic interpretation. The theoretical framework is anchored on Realist Theory, Human Security Theory, and Dependency Theory, which provide insights into Nigeria's security policies, regional cooperation, and external influences. Findings reveal that while Nigeria has made progress through military, diplomatic, and humanitarian efforts, significant challenges persist, including resource constraints, geopolitical rivalries, and the limited effectiveness of kinetic approaches. The study highlights the need for greater regional collaboration, sustainable funding mechanisms, and a balanced integration of kinetic and non-kinetic strategies to foster long-term peace and stability in the region.

Keywords: Conflict resolution, Lake Chad Basin, Peacebuilding, Regional cooperation, Sustainable peace.

I. INTRODUCTION

Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria are the four countries that make up the Lake Chad Basin (LCB), which is ideally situated in Northern Central Africa. The basin was once a vast and important aquatic treasure that supported millions of lives throughout history. However, it is no longer the case; the lake has seen significant desiccation over the last few decades. Wide-ranging negative effects on the environment, socio-economic circumstances, and security have resulted from Lake Chad's decline.

In the early 2000s, the Lake Chad Basin, which had a surface area of about 26,000 km², was one of Africa's largest inland lakes. For riparian nations, the lake was crucial for drinking water, fishing, and agriculture. The lake's surrounding large wetlands supported a variety of species and were crucial to the local climatic system. This lake has drastically decreased in size over the past few decades, becoming less than one-fifth of its former size. This significant decrease has been caused by a number of variables, including climate change and unsustainable water management techniques, including excessive irrigation and water extraction. (Dumont, 1992; Jauro, 1998).

The lives of those who live in the basin are more severely impacted by the environmental deterioration. Lower water levels, declining fish stocks, and competition for limited resources all contribute to lower agricultural production. The region's poverty and food insecurity are exacerbated by this environmental stress, which feeds a vicious cycle of hardship and violence. In addition to increasing desertification and uprooting local inhabitants, ecological deterioration overstretched the region's finite resources (Sarch & Birkett, 2000).

The rise in violent extremism and insurgency has exacerbated the socio-economic effects of the lake's decline. Banditry, kidnapping, highway robbery, and livestock rustling are just a few of the various forms of instability that have occurred in the Lake Chad Basin region. The most important and devastating of these was the Boko Haram insurgency (Thurston, 2017). It is, in fact, one of many transnational jihadist militant groups that originated in Nigeria but have since expanded throughout the Lake Chad Basin, targeting societies in Cameroon, Nigeria, Niger, and Chad.

Mohammed Yusuf, the insurgency's main figure, began to expand in the 2000s. His sole responsibility was to discourage the Western experience and spread a view of Islam that was limited to conventional religion (Thurston, 2017). Following Yusuf's 2009 police killing, there was a dramatic rise in violence, including mass kidnappings, bombings, and killings. The



most well-known incident involving that cohort was the 2014 kidnapping of 276 Chibok schoolgirls, which led to international sanctions and highlighted the severity of the nation's humanitarian problems (Zenn, 2018).

Millions of people were displaced as a result of the Boko Haram crisis, which is thought to have resulted in over 30,000 deaths and one of the worst humanitarian crises in history. The local economy suffered greatly as a result of the insurgency's disruption of trade, agriculture, and other sources of income. Infrastructure was also destroyed as a result of the conflict. Schools and health facilities were among them, adding to the many difficulties already faced by the impacted populations (Walker, 2012).

Regional and international actors have been forced to take more action in response to the increasing security and humanitarian issues in the Lake Chad Basin as a result of the aforementioned crisis intensification. The Lake Chad Basin Commission was first created in 1964, and it was the primary responsibility of managing the basin's water resources and environmental concerns (Dumont, 1992). Only recently has the LCBC's purview expanded to include cross-border coordination of efforts to combat all types of crime and insecurity. The Commission will be increasingly, not less, involved in addressing the very complex connections between environmental degradation and security risks in this region as its duties for such coordination at the regional level increase (Jauro, 1998).

In order to combat transnational organized crime and banditry, the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) was established in 1994 as a regional security arrangement. By 1998, it was fully operating, and in 2015, the African Union Peace and Security Council extended its authority to specifically address the Boko Haram insurgency. Involving the armed forces of the impacted nations, MNJTF has carried out several operations to combat insurgent activity and bring stability back to the area. 2020's International Crisis Group.

In addition to regional initiatives, the United Nations, the African Union, and ECOWAS have all been involved in the crisis's resolution. The African Union and ECOWAS can guarantee peacekeeping operations and initiate the stabilization process, while the United Nations provides humanitarian relief and engages in support for those displaced (International Crisis Group, 2020). The 2018 program, Combating the Boko Haram Insurgency in the Lake Chad Basin: A Regional Strategic Response, was modeled after the Regional Stabilization Facility, a UNDP effort. It lays forth a long-term, coordinated plan to address the region's various degrees of fragility (African Union, 2018).

Despite these expenditures, the Lake Chad Basin remains one of the world's most crisis-affected regions, marked by environmental degradation, socio-economic instability, and insecurity. A varied and flexible approach to stabilization and recovery is required due to the persistent nature of violent extremism and the intersection of environmental and security dynamics (Leon, 2019).

Some serious issues in that area have been brought to light by the ongoing war. The security dynamics are constantly changing as a result of the many insurgency organizations breaking apart and the rise of the Islamic State West Africa Province. The battle was made more complex by factional infighting and the death of Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau in May 2021 (Thurston, 2017). Extremist organizations have been able to thrive and take advantage of vulnerability because state processes have failed to address the underlying causes of poverty, marginalization, and political instability, among other issues (Nagarajan et al., 2018).

To address the issues, security, development, and humanitarian aspects must be combined. Long-term approaches to stability and the well-being of those communities include addressing socio-economic complaints, strengthening state capacity, and promoting inclusive governance. To attain long-term peace and resilience in the Lake Chad Basin, those initiatives ought to be synchronized via recognized regional and global avenues (International Crisis Group, 2020).

With its vast strategic and humanitarian potential, the Lake Chad Basin presents a number of difficulties that call for suitable, coordinated, and flexible solutions. A thorough and multifaceted approach to stabilization and recovery is required due to the delicate interactions between environmental degradation, insurgency, and socio-economic factors. In order to determine what may be done to address the Lake Chad Basin situation, the research will therefore examine dynamics, including insecurities and efficacy in responding both regionally and globally. Therefore, this research aims to inform policy for more effective ways of promoting peace and resilience in one of the most problematic sections of Africa by examining the complexity of the conflict and its effects on the region.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A) Conflict Resolution

Conflict resolution involves peaceful strategies, such as negotiation, mediation, and arbitration, aimed at addressing violence's root causes and creating lasting peace (Burton, 1990). Effective approaches tackle socio-economic inequalities,

political exclusion, and resource competition. In the Lake Chad Basin, Nigeria's military-led Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) has weakened Boko Haram but failed to address underlying drivers like poverty and environmental degradation (Ewi & Salifu, 2017). Diplomatic efforts and local peacebuilding initiatives, including reconciliation by civil society and traditional leaders, have complemented national efforts, fostering trust and sustainable peace (Onuoha, 2012).

B) Peace and Conflict Resolution

Peacebuilding goes beyond ending violence by addressing structural causes of conflict to establish justice, equality, and social harmony (Galtung, 1969). In the Lake Chad Basin, conflict is fueled by poverty, environmental degradation, and political exclusion (Okoli & Lenshie, 2018). Nigeria's leadership in regional organizations, like the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), and partnerships with international actors have been pivotal. However, challenges such as corruption and weak infrastructure hinder progress (Mustapha, 2015). A multidimensional approach integrating security, governance, and development interventions is vital to achieving sustainable peace (Francis, 2006).

C) Counterterrorism and Counterinsurgency

Counterterrorism focuses on immediate threats like intelligence gathering and tactical strikes, while counterinsurgency addresses root causes of rebellion through governance reforms and socio-economic initiatives (Kilcullen, 2006). Nigeria's counterterrorism efforts, including "Operation Lafiya Dole," target Boko Haram's networks but often displace communities, risking resentment (Akanji, 2019). A holistic counterinsurgency strategy incorporating military action, community engagement, and development is necessary to disrupt insurgent activities and rebuild trust. Collaboration with international partners and addressing socio-political drivers, such as poverty and marginalization, remain critical (Ewi & Salifu, 2017).

D) Boko Haram

Boko Haram emerged in 2002 with an ideology opposing Western education and governance, later escalating violence under Abubakar Shekau (Walker, 2012). Its activities have caused over 30,000 deaths and widespread displacement (UNDP, 2021). The group's resilience stems from exploiting local grievances, governance gaps, and economic challenges (Onuoha, 2012). Nigeria's military campaigns have reclaimed territories but often lead to collateral damage and displacement, fueling insurgent propaganda (Akanji, 2019). Addressing Boko Haram's ideological and socio-economic roots, alongside initiatives like the Safe Schools Program, is essential for sustainable counterinsurgency (UNICEF, 2022).

E) Kinetic and Non-Kinetic Strategies

Kinetic strategies involve military force to neutralize insurgent threats, such as "Operation Lafiya Dole" and MNJTF operations (Ewi & Salifu, 2017). Non-kinetic strategies focus on socio-economic development, humanitarian efforts, and reconciliation (Francis, 2006). Effective counterinsurgency in the Lake Chad Basin requires balancing kinetic and non-kinetic approaches to address immediate threats while resolving structural conflict drivers. Addressing governance, resource competition, and socio-political inequities is essential to prevent insurgency recurrence and achieve long-term stability (Okoli & Lenshie, 2018).

This conceptual framework highlights Nigeria's pivotal role in the Lake Chad Basin conflict and emphasizes the need for integrated, multidimensional strategies for sustainable peace.

F) Realist Theory of International Relations

The Realist Theory posits that the state is the primary actor in international relations, operating within an anarchic global system where power politics and self-interest dominate (Waltz, 1979). This theory emphasizes the state's reliance on military and economic power to ensure security and achieve national objectives (Mearsheimer, 2001). In the Lake Chad Basin—encompassing Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, and Niger—the geopolitical competition over resources and influence, coupled with threats like Boko Haram and ISWAP, underscores realism's relevance (Snyder, 2002).

Under President Muhammadu Buhari's administration (2015–2023), Nigeria adopted realist principles, prioritizing state security and influence in the region. The country launched military campaigns, such as "Operation Lafiya Dole," to counter insurgents and restore territorial control (Johnson & Thayer, 2016). It also engaged in regional security partnerships through the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) with Chad, Cameroon, and Niger, reflecting a balance-of-power approach (Badie & Schlosser, 2011). Diplomatic efforts to address humanitarian crises and resource conflicts, such as those stemming from the shrinking Lake Chad, further illustrate Nigeria's realist focus on protecting national security through both military and strategic engagements (Chatterjee, 2011).

G) Human Security Theory

Human Security Theory shifts the focus from state security to the protection of individuals, emphasizing economic, environmental, and social stability as critical to achieving lasting peace (UNDP, 1994). This perspective is particularly relevant in the Lake Chad Basin, where poverty, resource scarcity, and displacement fuel instability.

Nigeria has addressed economic insecurity by initiating poverty alleviation and employment programs targeted at vulnerable populations, such as displaced persons and youth, to counter recruitment into insurgent groups (Kaldor, 2007). Efforts to combat environmental degradation, including participation in the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) for water resource management, align with human security's emphasis on sustainability (Okpara et al., 2015). Additionally, providing healthcare, sanitation, and education to internally displaced persons (IDPs) through international collaboration reflects Nigeria's focus on human-centered development (Adebanwi, 2017).

H) Dependency Theory

Dependency Theory argues that underdeveloped countries are constrained by economic and political dependence on advanced nations, limiting their development and autonomy (Dos Santos, 1970; Frank, 1967). This perspective is crucial for understanding external influences on the Lake Chad Basin conflict.

Nigeria's reliance on foreign aid and military assistance, as well as external geopolitical interests in the region, exemplifies the constraints described by dependency theorists (Galtung, 1971). For instance, international actors often prioritize their strategic interests—such as counterterrorism and securing resources—over regional stability, sometimes undermining Nigeria's efforts (Peet, 2009). Dependency Theory highlights how these external pressures shape Nigeria's policies and limit its ability to independently resolve conflicts in the Lake Chad Basin (Amin, 1976).

I) Central Framework: Human Security Theory

By emphasizing the protection of individuals and communities, Human Security Theory serves as the cornerstone of Nigeria's counterterrorism and counterinsurgency strategies. This approach allows for a comprehensive understanding of how socio-economic interventions, community resilience, and environmental sustainability contribute to mitigating the threats posed by insurgent groups like Boko Haram and ISWAP.

While Realist Theory provides context for state-centric actions and Dependency Theory highlights external influences, Human Security Theory aligns most closely with the ultimate goal of achieving lasting peace and stability in the Lake Chad Basin. It focuses on addressing the root causes of insecurity, fostering resilience, and ensuring that counterterrorism efforts prioritize the well-being of affected populations.

J) Research Methodology

This chapter outlines the methodology used to investigate Nigeria's role in peace and conflict resolution in the Lake Chad Basin (2015–2023). It details the research philosophy, design, area of study, population, sampling techniques, data collection instruments, analysis methods, validity, reliability, and ethical considerations.

K) Research Philosophy

The study adopts a pragmatic philosophy, integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches. This dual approach allows for the analysis of numerical data alongside subjective insights, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of Nigeria's interventions.

L) Research Design

A descriptive research design is employed, complemented by empirical and historical elements. This enables a systematic observation of Nigeria's strategies while providing contextual depth.

M) Area of Study

The focus is on the Lake Chad Basin, with an emphasis on Northeast Nigeria, where Nigeria's military, diplomatic, and humanitarian interventions have been most prominent.

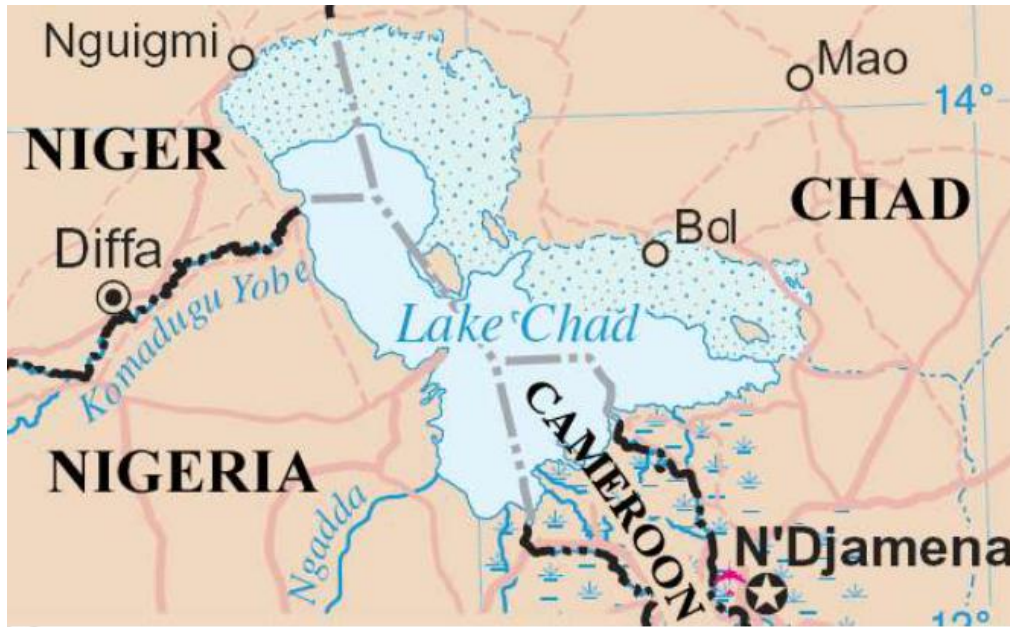


Figure 1: Map Showing Lake Chad with surrounding countries that have access to it directly.

N) Population of Study

The population comprises key stakeholders from Northeast Nigeria, including diplomats, soldiers, victims, local leaders, humanitarian workers, and delegates from neighboring Lake Chad Basin countries.

O) Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The sample size of 109 participants was determined using Slovin's formula, ensuring representativeness without overburdening resources. A purposive sampling technique was employed to select participants directly relevant to the study's objectives.

P) Types and Sources of Data

Data were collected from both primary (interviews and surveys) and secondary (literature, reports, and policy documents) sources, ensuring a comprehensive analysis.

Q) Instrument of Data Collection

A structured questionnaire was the primary instrument, designed to collect quantitative data on variables related to Nigeria's conflict resolution interventions, such as military, diplomatic, and humanitarian efforts.

R) Method of Data Analysis

Quantitative techniques were used, with descriptive and inferential statistics employed to summarize and analyze the data, enabling a rigorous exploration of Nigeria's interventions.

S) Validity and Reliability

Validity was ensured through pilot testing of the questionnaire, while reliability was maintained via standardized data collection procedures and consistent methodologies.

T) Ethical Considerations

Ethical guidelines were strictly adhered to, including informed consent, confidentiality, and secure data storage, ensuring the protection and rights of all participants. This methodological approach ensures the study's credibility and provides a robust framework for analyzing Nigeria's role in peace and conflict resolution in the Lake Chad Basin.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A) Effectiveness of Nigeria's Strategies

The study found that Nigeria's military strategies were rated as moderately effective by 41.3% of respondents, while diplomatic efforts with neighboring countries were rated as moderately effective by 48.6%. Humanitarian interventions were also rated as moderately effective by 39.4%, reflecting challenges in achieving full impact due to limited resources and access to affected areas.

Table 1: Assessment of Nigeria's Strategic Approaches in the Lake Chad Basin

Key Factors/Questions	Most Significant Findings	Comments/Observations
Effectiveness of Nigeria's military strategies in countering Boko Haram	41.3% rated as 3 (Moderately Effective)	Military strategies show moderate effectiveness with room for improvement.
Effectiveness of Nigeria's diplomatic efforts with neighboring countries	48.6% rated as 3 (Moderately Effective)	Diplomatic engagements are yielding moderate results but could be intensified.
Impact of Nigeria's humanitarian interventions	39.4% rated as 3 (Moderately Effective)	Humanitarian interventions address needs but face challenges in reaching full impact.
Effectiveness of partnerships with international organizations	37.6% rated as 4 (Effective)	Strong partnerships, particularly with organizations like the UN and AU, show effectiveness.
Facilitation of dialogue among conflicting parties	34.9% rated as 3 (Moderately Effective)	Efforts to facilitate dialogue are moderately successful but require deeper engagement.
Addressing the root causes of the conflict	50.5% rated as 1 (Not Effective)	Nigeria struggles significantly to tackle root causes like poverty and unemployment.
Contribution to reducing the influence of violent extremist ideologies	56.0% rated as 3 (Moderately Effective)	Efforts to counter violent ideologies are making progress but are not yet comprehensive.
Promotion of reintegration of former insurgents	45.0% rated as 3 (Moderately Effective)	Rehabilitation and vocational training programs show promise but need scaling up.
Achieving a sustained reduction in violence and long-term stability	57.8% rated as 3 (Moderately Effective)	Stability measures are progressing, though more sustained efforts are required.

(Source: Questionnaire, 2024)

B) Challenges Faced by Nigeria

Challenges in coordinating with international actors were noted by 54.1% of respondents, while regional tensions between Francophone and Anglophone countries were identified as a significant obstacle by 39.4%. Logistical and financial constraints were rated as moderately significant by 29.4%, highlighting their impact on Nigeria's capacity to implement effective interventions.

Table 2: Challenges Faced by Nigeria in Conflict Resolution in the Lake Chad Basin

Key Factors/Questions	Most Significant Findings	Comments/Observations
Challenges in coordinating with international actors (e.g., UN, AU)	54.1% rated as 3 (Moderately Significant)	Coordination with international actors poses moderate challenges requiring better alignment.
Challenges due to regional tensions (Francophone vs. Anglophone)	39.4% rated as 3 (Moderately Significant)	Regional tensions are a considerable obstacle to effective strategies.
Logistical and financial constraints	29.4% rated as 3 (Moderately Significant)	Logistical and financial issues significantly limit Nigeria's intervention capacity.
Impact of geopolitical factors (e.g., oil competition)	41.3% rated as 3 (Moderately Significant)	Geopolitical factors, particularly competition over resources, hinder resolution efforts.
Obstacles from external powers (e.g., France's influence)	41.3% rated as 3 (Moderately Significant)	External powers influence peacebuilding efforts, creating moderate challenges.

Source: Questionnaire, 2024

C) Overall Effectiveness and Future Prospects

The study also assessed the overall effectiveness and future prospects of Nigeria's conflict resolution efforts.

Table 3: Overall Effectiveness and Future Prospects of Nigeria's Conflict Resolution Efforts

Key Factors/Questions	Most Significant Findings	Comments/Observations
Overall effectiveness of Nigeria's role (2015–2023)	57.8% rated as 3 (Moderately Effective)	Nigeria's efforts are moderately effective but require improvement.
Sustainability of peace and conflict resolution efforts	51.4% rated as 3 (Moderately Sustainable)	Sustainability is achievable but hinges on addressing systemic issues.
Future impact of Nigeria's conflict resolution strategies	38.5% rated as 3 (Moderate Impact)	The current climate suggests moderate potential for impactful strategies.

Source: Questionnaire, 2024

D) Strategies for Improvement

The study identified key strategies for improving Nigeria's conflict resolution efforts.

Table 4: Strategies for Improvement in Nigeria's Conflict Resolution Efforts

Key Factors/Questions	Most Significant Findings	Comments/Observations
Recommendations for improvement	16.5% emphasized enhancing collaboration among regional stakeholders.	Collaboration among regional stakeholders is a recurring theme for effective conflict resolution.
	14.7% supported increasing funding and integrating R2P doctrine.	Funding and adherence to R2P principles are critical for sustainable strategies.
	9.2% recommended improving community engagement.	Community engagement is vital for grassroots support and conflict de-escalation.
Integration of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine	46.8% rated R2P as "Important," and 24.8% as "Very Important."	The R2P doctrine is widely recognized as a critical component of conflict resolution strategies.

Source: Questionnaire, 2024

The study's findings shed light on Nigeria's multifaceted successes and failings in managing conflicts in the Lake Chad Basin from 2015 to 2023. The biggest obstacle, as reported by 54.1% of respondents, was the difficulty in coordinating with foreign actors. Nigeria has collaborated with the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN), among other institutions, but the benefits of these alliances are undermined by structural inefficiencies. The likelihood of successfully collaborating with these additional overseas partners would increase with better diplomatic ties and established engagement protocols.

Regional rivalries and geopolitical considerations were also identified as major barriers to Nigeria's efforts to settle disputes. Approximately 39.4% of respondents recognized the detrimental consequences of long-standing conflicts between Francophone and Anglophone nations. In addition, 41.3% of responders mentioned geopolitical factors like oil competitiveness and outside pressures, especially from France, as obstacles to peacebuilding. Nigeria must navigate these challenges by pursuing focused diplomatic measures and encouraging cooperation through cooperative dispute-resolution forums, which may lessen political tensions and enhance regional cooperation.

Another significant barrier that 29.4% of respondents mentioned was the influence of logistical and budgetary limitations on Nigeria's ability to carry out successful military and humanitarian actions. The extent and efficacy of Nigeria's tactics have been severely limited by a lack of resources. Nigeria's operational capacity must be strengthened in order to support comprehensive conflict resolution efforts, which calls for more financing and more effective resource allocation.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, the study discovered that 57.8% of participants had a favorable opinion of Nigeria's overall attempts at conflict resolution. This shows that Nigeria's dedication to regional peacebuilding is acknowledged. With 51.4% of respondents highlighting the necessity of long-term planning, strategic resource mobilization, and ongoing review to guarantee that these efforts stay effective over time, concerns regarding sustainability were apparent.

This necessitates that Nigeria take a multifaceted strategy for conflict resolution, enhancing coordination with foreign parties, encouraging regional cooperation, and resolving financial and logistical limitations. In order to provide a pathway for addressing both short-term and long-term issues, it is also recommended that the nation include specific frameworks, like the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) philosophy, in its plans. With better diplomatic ties, appropriate resource distribution, and flexible tactics, Nigeria will be better equipped to handle the evolving nature of the conflicts occurring in the Lake Chad Basin.

Even though Nigeria's peacebuilding initiatives have made tremendous strides, there are still many obstacles to overcome. To guarantee that Nigeria's initiatives result in enduring peace and stability in the Lake Chad Basin, a persistent emphasis on cooperation, resource mobilization, and adaptable tactics is necessary.

IV. CONCLUSION

The results demonstrate that Nigeria has implemented a variety of tactics, such as humanitarian assistance, diplomatic efforts, and military interventions. This study emphasizes that, in order to establish lasting peace, military measures need to be combined with diplomatic and humanitarian strategies, even though they were thought to be the most efficient and quick way to combat Boko Haram and other extremist organizations. To address the underlying causes of conflict, promote long-term stability, and rebuild confidence in communities that were directly impacted, diplomatic operations and public diplomacy must be effective.

However, the report also identified a number of obstacles that Nigeria has faced in its efforts to resolve its conflicts. The interventions are less successful due to a lack of funding, a lack of alignment among various parties, and outside geopolitics. A more comprehensive and integrated approach to conflict resolution with community involvement and regional cooperation is often suggested by the perception of the sustainable dimension in initiatives. In summary, there are significant gaps in the efforts to resolve the problem of conflicts in the Lake Chad Basin, notwithstanding considerable progress. Future attempts to

simplify a comprehensive military, diplomatic, and humanitarian strategy for community ownership and regional collaboration are necessary, according to the study's results.

Interest Conflicts

The author(s) affirm that there are no conflicts of interest related to the authorship, research, or publication of this paper. The study was conducted independently, and no personal, financial, or institutional interests influenced the findings or conclusions presented in this work.

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