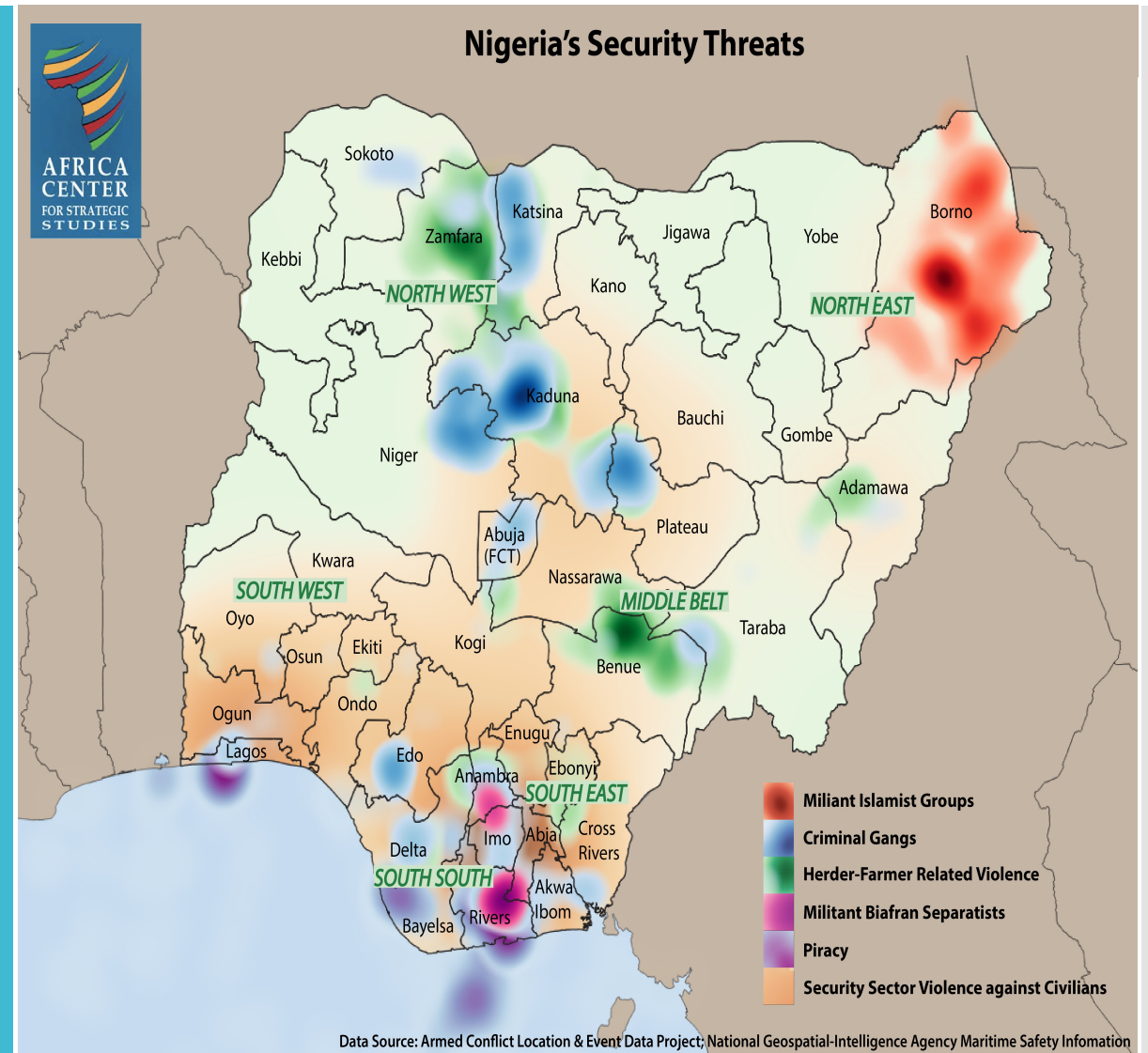


# NIGERIA AND HER SECURITY CHALLENGES: REVISITED

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Guest Speaker, University Lecture on Security, Federal  
University Lokoja,

4th November 2021





# Introduction

The Title for this conversation is adopted from a piece of article I wrote in the Harvard International Review, Vol. 35, No. 4 (SPRING 2014), pp. 65-70

Security challenges in Nigeria are multi-dimensional, complex, uncertain and in many instances, volatile

While some of the challenges are as old as Nigeria itself, others are emerging security challenges

There are existential threats to Nigeria's National Security. What are they? And what are the causes?

What are the possible solutions to Nigeria's security challenges?

Due to the complex nature of threats, tackling them would require holistic approach



# Scope of Conversation

Highlights of the 2014 HIR Article: "Nigeria and Her Security Challenges"

Defining National Security

National Security Strategy (2019)

Nigeria's National Security Categorization

Existential threats to Nigeria's National Security

Triggers & Drivers of Insecurity in Nigeria

Pressures from the Sahel & Lake Chad Regions on Nigeria's Security Environment

Effects of Insecurity on Nigeria

Holistic Approach to Tackling Insecurity in Nigeria

Challenges of Tackling Insecurity in Nigeria

## Highlights of the 2014 HIR Article: "Nigeria and Her Security Challenges"

Discussions on the Genesis of Boko Haram; other sources of insecurity

The drivers of insecurity and the impact of poor human development

How insecurity thrives in a corrupt and badly governed environment (TI ranking scored Nigeria 144th out of 177 countries in 2013; and poor human development (UN HDI rankings of 2013: Nigeria was 152nd out of 185 countries) – long & healthy life; being knowledgeable; and decent standard of living

Mo Ibrahim Index of African Development (IIAG) governance framework: Safety & Rule of Law; Participation & Human Rights; Sustainable Economic Opportunity; and Human Management

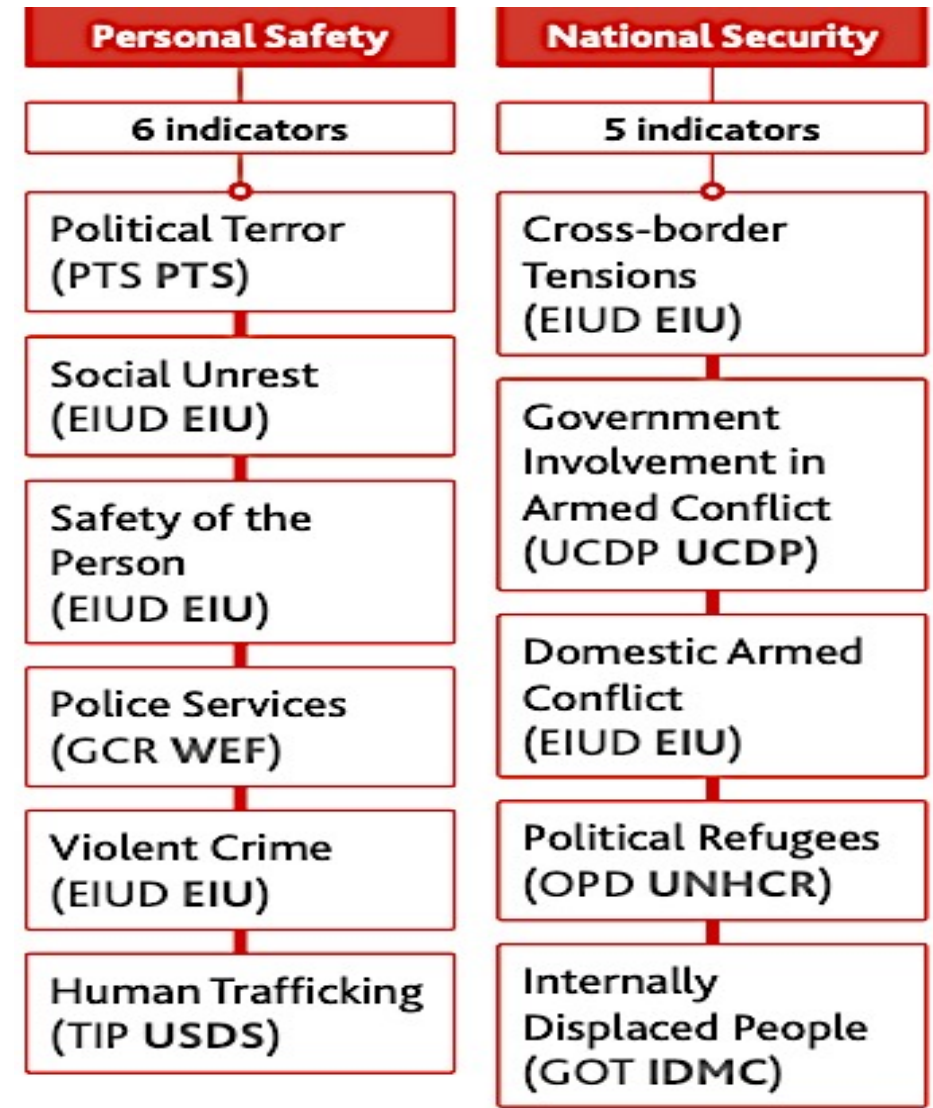
Personal Safety Assessment Scores of Nigeria's 37th out of 52 African Countries in 2014; and 34th out 54 countries in 2019

That the Police institution is very weak: public distrust; poor and unprofessional attitude; poorly equipped & trained

That Good Governance in democracy starts with conduct of free, fair and credible elections; and

That KEY to tackling insecurity rests on the right leadership at all levels...

## Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance (Safety & National Security)\*\*\*



It is all about **LEADERSHIP** at all levels...

## Conclusion of the 2014 Article on “Nigeria and Her Security Challenges”

- Tackle corruption;
- Transparent and accountable;
- Ensure inclusive and participatory governance;
- Strengthen the key institutions of governance;
- Improve the socio-economic well-being;
- Reinvigorate Nigeria’s foreign policy focus;
- Find solutions to the current insurgency, militancy, cross-border trafficking in arms, drugs and humans, maritime insecurity in the GoG, and violent crimes;
- Develop Nigeria’s critical infrastructures;
- Develop the non-oil sector;
- Tackle environmental issues;
- Protect fundamental human rights

# Defining National Security

Traditional concept of national security: defending sovereignty and territorial integrity of a nation, in most cases using the armed forces; **State-centric approach**



There is little or no external threats from Nigeria's immediate neighbors, aside the disputes on Lake Chad Islands with Chad and the Bakassi issue with Cameroon in the 1980s/1990s



Most conflicts are asymmetric and intra-state, involving non-state actors that pose serious threats to national security



National security redefined to mean Human security that is all-encompassing – “freedom from fear” and “freedom from want”. **People-centric approach**... (see also Chap II of the 1999 Constitution)



Security and Development nexus: Security guarantees peace, and without peace there can't be development



# National Security Strategy (2019)

## OBJECTIVES:

- To protect Nigerian people and territory;
- To promote prosperity and development;
- To promote national unity and peaceful co-existence; and
- To promote Nigeria's regional and international interests

## THREATS:

That Nigeria faces diverse range of threats that are "multifaceted and less predictable with blurred boundaries between external and internal risk factors."

## THREAT FACTORS:

- That these threat factors manifest at the domestic, regional and global levels;
- Are mutually reinforcing; and
- Require an integrative national strategy and cooperation within the framework of regional and international organizations, as well as institutions



# Nigeria's National Security Threats Categorization





# Existential and Emerging threats to Nigeria's National Security

States affected by clashes between herders and farmers

Source: ACLED. BBC Research



Boko Haram/ISWAP  
Insurgency,  
Terrorism &  
Religious Extremism

IPOB and Yoruba-  
Nation Separatist  
Agenda & Ethnic  
Extremism

Rural Banditry  
(Kidnapping, Rape &  
Cattle Rustling)

Niger Delta  
Militancy

Piracy in the Gulf of  
Guinea

Religious Intolerance

Ethno-religious  
conflicts

Climate Change

Herders-Farmers  
Conflicts

Inter & Intra-  
communal Conflicts

Criminal Violence

Corruption

Cross-borders  
Crimes (Trafficking in  
firearms, drugs and  
persons)

Cyber Crimes

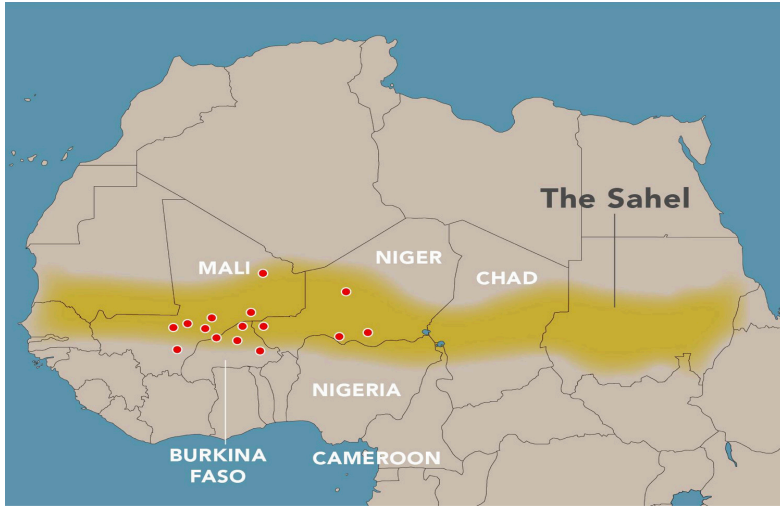
Election-related  
Violence

# Triggers & Drivers of Insecurity in Nigeria



- Rapid Population Growth & Youth Bulge
- Environmental Degradation
- Poverty
- Unemployment/Underemployment
- Religious and Ethnic Intolerance
- Media Abuse and Hate Speeches (Soc mdia)
- Ignorance and Illiteracy
- Poor Parental Upbringing
- Perceived Exclusion or Marginalization or Injustice
- Firearms Proliferation
- Drug Trafficking and Abuse
- Mental Disorder (eg. Obsessions or Addictions or Stress or Nature)
- Poor Governance and Corruption

# The Pressure from the Sahel & Lake Chad Basin Regions on Nigeria's Security Environment



Armed conflict in the central Sahel



# Climate Change: A Major Culprit of Insecurity

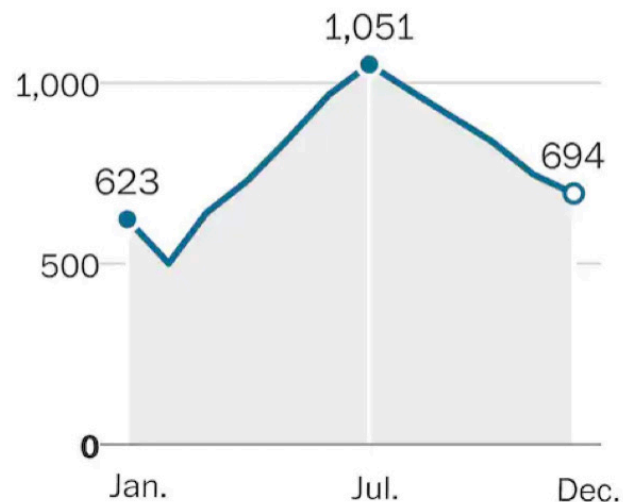
- UN estimates that 80% of Sahel's farmland is degraded, while land available for pastoralists is shrinking, and the situation is aggravated by surging population growth resulting in forced migration
- The surface area of Lake Chad has shrunk from 26,000 sq km in 1960s to now 1,500 sq km, while the population has increased from 17 million in 2005 to the current 40 million
- The 50 million Sahelian nomads have less access to grass for their cattle, a situation triggering violent conflicts between sedentary farmers and pastoralists in countries such as Nigeria, Mali and Chad
- The intractable herders-farmers conflicts in Nigeria are largely over depleting land and water resources, in the face of population growth and youth bulge
- Climate Change has increased levels of poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, and exacerbate violent conflicts (According to UN FAO, there is less food in the Sahel, one of the regions with the fastest growing population in the world [**population will increase 330 million by 2050 from 150m**], and it declared that 33 million in the region are food insecure).
- Temperature will increase by at least 3°C by 2050 to make it one of the hottest areas in the world. Research has shown correlation between high temperature and violence

# Climate Change, Rising Temperature and Insecurity

## Temperature and violence

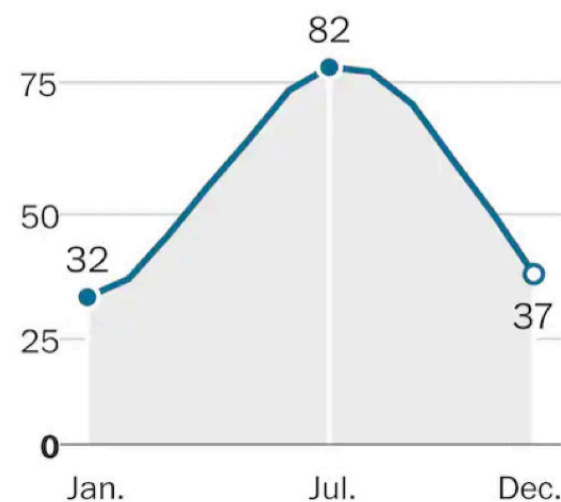
Total homicides in Chicago, by month, 2001 – 2018, with average daily high temperature by month

### HOMICIDES



Sources: City of Chicago, NOAA

### AVERAGE HIGH TEMP



The Washington Post

While conflicts and violence are a mix of political, economic, social, and environmental factors, that increased human conflicts represent a “large and critical impact” of climate change ...

Various researches underscore how rising temperatures are likely to increase aggression and violent behaviour

Two studies arrive at a similar conclusion using different data sets: crime in LA and terrorist attacks around the world

The LA research examined temp & incidents of violent crimes 2010-2017 and found temp above 29.4°C increased violent crime by 5.7%. The second studies found that global terror attacks increased by 14% during hotter days, covering 159 countries between 1970-2015. (Craig, C.M, et.al., 2019)

Climate change has a “threat multiplier” effect.

(See also Simon Fields, 1992; Hsiang and Burks, 2014...)

# Effects of Insecurity in Nigeria

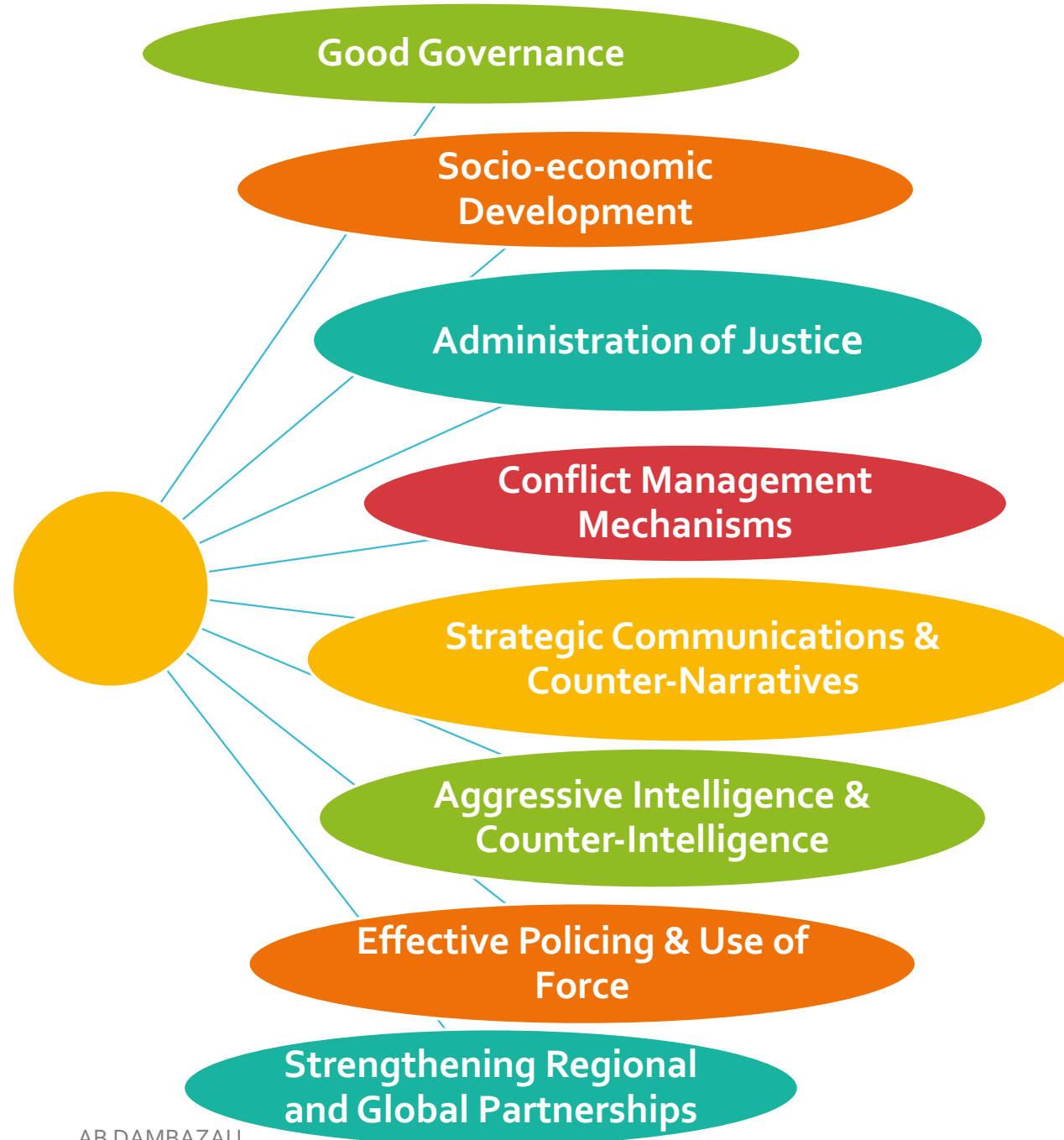
- Insecurity creates fear and put pressure or stress on the people, and such situation could lead to psychological disorder on some (???PTSD)
- Denies people pursuing their daily livelihood
- Put stress on scarce resources by increasing spendings on defence and security matters
- Discourages both domestic and foreign investors from investing their wealth in a high risk unsecure environment
- Increases the chances of humanitarian crisis through forced displacemnts or migration, while it increases the population of orphans and widows
- Raises suspicion and distrust among ethnic and religious communities due to incessant inter-communal violence
- Attacks on schools have increased the population of out-of-school children, especailly in the north
- Climate change, herders-farmers conflicts, cattle rustling, and banditry have threatened food security

# Effects of Insecurity

- Increased the levels of firearms proliferation and drug abuse by attracting arms dealers and drug traffickers looking for ready market
- With every violence, the statistics of deaths or injuries increase, which also means more spendings in the health sector
- Insecurity impact on children and youth in various ways, such as child soldier or negative effect on children emotional, social and physical development (*e.g. End of Childhood Index 2020* scored Nigeria among the bottom 10 where childhood is most threatened).
- Governance becomes increasingly more difficult, thereby jeopardizing accountability, transparency, rule of law, and human rights
- Increases the chances of losing both “freedom from fear” and “freedom from want”
- Poor global ratings on security issues such as Corruption (CPI rank 149 of 179, with 25 score), Terrorism (GTI Rank 3rd in the world, with 8.314 score), Insurgency, Violent Crimes or Conflicts affects Nigeria’s international image, and this is exacerbated by media amplification
- Insecurity affects economic, social and political stability, and where there is no peace and security, there is no development; and where there is no development, there is no peace and security



# Holistic Approach to Tackling Insecurity in Nigeria



# Challenges of Tackling Insecurity in Nigeria



# Conclusion

**I will conclude with a single sentence, that:**

**The Challenges of Insecurity in Nigeria are multidimensional and complex, requiring a holistic, comprehensive and all-encompassing strategy to deal with.**

**THANK YOU**