

Fostering Human Security

Analyzing the EU's Approach to Human Security in Nigeria.



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Abstract

This paper examines the European Union's strategy for addressing and approaching human security in Nigeria, a nation grappling with diverse challenges spanning governance, peace, migration, and human rights. This paper aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how the EU navigates the intricate landscape of human security challenges in Nigeria. A qualitative document analysis, including a case study of the EU-Nigeria Multi-Annual Indicative Programme 2021–2027 along with annual reports and action plans, was conducted. Five overarching themes emerge within the framework of the chosen human security approach: diversity of threats and crises, people-centered approach, prevention strategies, institutional coherence, and local ownership and participation. Moreover, this paper analyzes the various threats and risks impacting human security, the EU's humanitarian-development partnership with Nigeria, EU initiatives in conflict prevention strategies, and addressing root causes of inequality. Furthermore, the paper examines the alignment with existing institutions and mechanisms promoting human security and investigates the tangible impacts of EU interventions on local communities in Nigeria. The findings show the EU's approach to engaging with Nigeria demonstrates a comprehensive effort to address a wide range of issues that impact human well-being and security. However, despite recognizing the EU's efforts, this paper underscores the need for ongoing adaptation and engagement to effectively address Nigeria's dynamic security landscape. By integrating principles of human rights, governance, and social justice into its actions, the EU aims to contribute to the promotion of human security in Nigeria and the broader West African region.

Key words: European Union (EU), Nigeria, Human Security, Development Aid, Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP), Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN)

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1. Introduction

Understanding the core linkage between human security and development aid in Nigeria is crucial, as it affects the country's stability and the larger region. Nigeria, as Africa's most populous country and a significant economic player on the continent, grapples with various security challenges that impact its socio-economic landscape. Challenges such as terrorism, communal conflicts, and organized crime hinder its development and human security efforts (European Union External Action Service, 2021). To address these issues effectively, it's essential to tackle security problems while also promoting stability and peace. By effectively addressing security challenges and promoting stability, Nigeria can unlock its vast developmental potential across key sectors.

The European Union (EU) plays a significant role in supporting Nigeria's efforts for development and stability through development aid programs and their Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027, which is the main focus of this thesis. Initiatives like the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN) provide important support to address security challenges in Nigeria (European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, n.d.; European Union External Action Service, 2021). The HDPN approach is a collective effort of the EU, its Member States, and its partners to address protracted and predictable crises to help people recover and avoid suffering (European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, 2021). The EU Trust Fund for Africa is dedicated to fostering stability and addressing insecurity in Nigeria and neighboring countries. With €1001.8 million allocated to 12 nations, including Nigeria, the EU underscores its commitment to promoting human security and development by tackling the root causes of conflict and instability.

The drive for the intersection of security, development aid, and peace in Nigeria stems from recognizing their intertwined nature as pivotal for unlocking the nation's substantial developmental capacity and attracting increased investments. Understanding how human security and development aid intertwine in Nigeria is essential for devising effective strategies to surmount obstacles and foster enduring peace and prosperity in the area. This will involve scrutinizing the HDPN within the EU-Nigeria MIP 2021-2027. Additionally, nurturing peace and

development not only facilitates human progress but also alleviates humanitarian crises, fostering an environment conducive to sustainable advancement and well-being.

In this thesis, human security is defined based on the UNDP HDR's seven dimensions: personal, environmental, economic, political, community, health, and food security (UNDP, 1994, pp. 24–25). It emphasizes the protection of individuals from a variety of risks, such as disease, malnutrition, unemployment, political repression, and environmental damage, which are typically overlooked by traditional security frameworks (UNDP, 1994, pp. 24-25). The definition of security encompasses national security, which has been defined as safeguarding individuals from threats such as illness, famine, joblessness, political suppression, and environmental degradation (Tsai, 2009, p. 22). Peace is defined in this thesis as a state of harmony characterized by the absence of conflict or violence, both on an individual and societal level. It encompasses the promotion of mutual understanding, cooperation, and the resolution of disputes through non-violent means, fostering stability and well-being within communities and among nations. Development in this thesis is defined as the continuous improvement and progress of societies, encompassing economic, social, and political advancement. It involves the enhancement of living standards, access to education, healthcare, and infrastructure, and the promotion of human rights, ultimately striving for the betterment of individuals and communities.

1.1 Research Question

The EU has developed various aid partnerships with Nigeria aimed at addressing security challenges within the country. These encompass a multifaceted approach, including capacity building for security forces, community development initiatives, conflict resolution efforts, and tackling root causes of insecurity such as poverty and lack of opportunities. It is important to consider the various dimensions of human security and how the EU's aid partnership contributes to addressing them in Nigeria. The research question goes as follows:

- How does the EU's development aid partnership with Nigeria address the country's human security challenges?

1.2 Aim, Relevance, Scope, and Research Gap

The aim of this thesis is to analyze how the EU's development aid partnership with Nigeria addresses the country's human security challenges. It seeks to understand how the EU's aid initiatives contribute to enhancing human security and mitigating threats such as poverty, lack of opportunities, terrorism, and kidnapping.

The relevance of this topic is due to the significant security challenges faced by Nigeria, including terrorism, communal conflicts, and socioeconomic disparities. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and has a diversified economy, particularly in the oil and gas sectors. This topic is of the utmost importance and relevance. The EU's involvement in addressing these issues through aid partnerships reflects its commitment to promoting stability and development in Nigeria and the wider region. Understanding the efficacy of these aid efforts is crucial for policymakers, development practitioners, and stakeholders involved in security and development initiatives in Nigeria.

The thesis will focus on analyzing the specific mechanisms and interventions employed by the EU's human development aid partnership with Nigeria. It will examine the diversity of threats and crises, a people-centered approach, prevention strategies, institutional coherence, and local ownership and participation. The research will explore the impact of these interventions on enhancing human security outcomes in Nigeria.

Furthermore, the research focuses on analyzing the European Union's humanitarian development partnership with Nigeria, particularly through the MIP 2021–2027. The goal is to evaluate how the EU's actions outlined in these agreements contribute to fostering human security in Nigeria. There is a current research gap in the limited examination of EU-Nigeria agreements with a specific focus on human security. Existing studies explore EU aid and development policies in the broader African region but lack a specific focus on human security within the temporal scope of the MIP 2021–2027 agreement and its annual action plans with Nigeria. This research aims to address this gap by focusing on how the EU addresses human security, document analysis, and the temporal scope of the EU's humanitarian development partnership with Nigeria.

2. Background

2.1 The Evolution of the EU Development Policy

In response to increasing criticism during the 1990s, the EU established a new development policy, the European Consensus on Development, in 2005. (Carbone, 2010, pp. 13 & 483). The consensus outlined a new approach to development, emphasizing a needs- and performance-based, transparent, and objective approach aimed at targeting the countries that need it the most. This approach to development was introduced into the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union and further developed with the signing of the Treaty of Lisbon in 2007 (European Union, 2012, Article 208, p. 326; European Union, 2007, p. 206). The EU's official position towards development is outlined in Article 2(5) of the Treaty of Lisbon, emphasizing its promotion of value, security, and sustainable development, including the protection of human rights and poverty eradication (European Union, 2007, p. 11). The protection of human rights and the eradication of poverty under international law are further highlighted as essential objectives in Article 10A (European Union, 2007, p. 23). Norms regarding democracy, the rule of law, and human rights are some examples of the principles the EU's development policy aims to spread (European Union, 2007, p. 23). The eradication of poverty was further reaffirmed in the *Agenda for Change in 2011*, the EU's next substantial development policy document. The 2011 Agenda restates the needs-based distribution of aid and firmly states that resources are to be used where they are most needed in order to eradicate poverty and where they could have the most significant impact (European Commission, 2011, pp. 3–12). The development policy, being a part of the EU's foreign policy, mirrors the EU's self-image of being a normative power (Orbie et al., 2017, pp. 499–500).

Over the past fifty years, EU member states have increasingly coordinated bilateral aid and delegated a significant portion of foreign aid distribution to the European Commission (EC), making the EU the world's largest multilateral aid donor. Despite the EC's development-based approach, empirical studies (Tsoutsoplides, 1991; Zanger, 2000) reveal that government interests often influence aid allocation. This influence persists even with the EC overseeing one-fifth of

total European aid, as powerful member states and coalitions divert aid towards their interests, impacting the EU's development goals (Schneider & Tobin, 2013; Kim & Jensen, 2018).

2.2 The EU's Development Aid Agenda in Africa

The EU's relationship to Africa is central to their development policy agenda. Their development aid agenda has been highly debated and evolved into political literature and political standpoints. In 2001, the African Union launched the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to promote development and growth in Africa (Taylor, 2010, p. 51). The EU established a foundation between Africa and the EU regarding governance and development issues through NEPAD (Taylor, 2010, p. 51). However, NEPAD has not been sufficient to promote growth. This is evident in Sub-Saharan Africa, where aid has not promoted any growth within recipient countries, as NEPAD has been faced with difficulties as the existing political economy and political cultures across Africa do not align with the EU's notion of "good governance" (Taylor, 2010, p. 57). However, the EU's attempt to promote "good governance" through a one-size-fits-all model, advocating for democratic norms, human rights, and political and economic development, faces criticism for its application of European-centric perspectives and experiences. The EU's portrayal of itself as an equal partner in development agreements has been met with skepticism, with recipient nations viewing the EU's actions as patronizing and driven primarily by financial interests (Bengtsson and Elgström, 2012, pp. 103–105). This perception undermines the notion of a genuine partnership, as recipients view the EU as a dominant actor seeking to safeguard its own interests. The NEPAD partnership, combined with unequal power dynamics between the EU and Africa, demonstrates the European member states undermining efforts to eliminate colonial legacies by maintaining economic ties and geopolitical interests (Bengtsson and Elgström, 2012, p. 103). This paradigm of governance undermines efforts at cooperation and is inimical to the stability and long-term growth that the EU seeks. The power asymmetry between the EU and Africa impedes efforts to create true partnerships and successfully tackle development concerns. Additionally, the EU's long-standing hegemony in development cooperation is under threat from the rise of new global players, which calls for a reassessment of the EU's strategy and level of influence in the area. The EU's development agenda in Africa grapples with multifaceted challenges and aspirations. Central is the promotion of human development, with a focus on improving education, healthcare, and gender equality as

pillars of sustainable progress. Yet, the effect of EU aid in these areas remains a subject of debate, underscoring the complexities of development cooperation. Internally, the EU faces the task of defining its role and approach to development aid amidst ongoing discussions and shifts in priorities. As it seeks to uphold its commitment to fostering sustainable development in Africa, the EU must grapple with internal challenges while adapting to external dynamics, all in the pursuit of a more equitable and prosperous future for the continent.

2.3 Nigeria's Security Environment

Nigeria, located in West Africa, is the continent's most populous country, exceeding 200 million in population (Utrikespolitiska institutet, n.d.). Throughout its history, Nigeria has grappled with tensions between its predominantly Muslim north and largely Christian south. The Christian Igbo people's quest for independence through the Biafra War (1967–1971) resulted in over a million casualties recorded and heavily affected the country (Utrikespolitiska institutet, n.d.).

Since their transition from military to civilian rule in 1999, religious and ethnic divisions have periodically resurfaced, contributing to socio-political instability. Boko Haram, founded in 2002 by Mohammed Yusuf, a Salafist scholar, gained prominence by advocating a return to what he saw as true Islam and opposing Western influences (Ahmed, 2019). His message struck a chord with marginalized communities in the Northeast, which had long endured political and socioeconomic neglect. In 2009, a confrontation between Yusuf's followers and security forces erupted, leading to the death of Yusuf and resulting in a competition for new leadership (Ahmed, 2019). The competition narrowed down to Mamman Nur and Abu-Bakr Shekau, ending with the latter's victory. Shekau envisioned regrouping Yusuf's followers into an insurgent organization; shortly after, Jamatu Ahli AlSunna lil Da'wa Wal Jihad (JAS) emerged and became the deadliest terrorist group in the world between 2010 and 2015 (Ahmed, 2019). In 2011, the JAS Council, under the leadership of Mamman Nur, sent letters to the leaders of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), criticizing Shekau's leadership (Ahmed, 2019). Differences grew between Shekau and his commanders, which led AQIM to distance itself from JAS. This evolved into Shekau finding it necessary to reorient the group towards Al-Qaeda's rival, the Islamic State (IS). In March of 2015, Shekau pledged allegiance to IS and was named the leader of the Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) (Ahmed, 2019). JAS resorted to suicide attacks targeting

civilian gatherings and engaged in indiscriminate killings and village raids, often involving the abduction of women and children, while ISWAP executed more sophisticated and organized attacks on military camps and oil exploration sites. As of March 2024, both groups are still active terrorist organizations targeting civilians and each other. The activities of these extremist groups have had far-reaching consequences, exacerbating existing socio-economic challenges and undermining the stability of the region. Despite efforts by the Nigerian government and international partners to combat terrorism, the threat persists, posing significant security concerns for Nigeria and the broader West African region.

Furthermore, Nigeria confronts a multitude of security and governance hurdles, despite making strides in democratic consolidation through successive elections (European Commission, 8/3/2022, p. 2). The North East, North West, Niger Delta, and Middle Belt are only a few of the areas where there are ongoing, violent conflicts and generalized insecurity that pose a persistent threat to the maintenance and consolidation of democratic administration (European Commission, 8/3/2022.). The EU-Nigeria-UNODC-CTED Partnership Project III marks the end (as of 2022) of a significant international effort to support Nigerian law enforcement in combating conflicts (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2022). The project aimed to enhance the capacity of Nigerian officials to investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate terrorism cases while upholding human rights and the rule of law. Through extensive training and strategic support, the project facilitated the processing of over 3,000 terrorism cases, resulting in 650 convictions, while also establishing new law enforcement infrastructure and developing practical manuals tailored to Nigeria's context (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2022). Nigeria's security status is complex, with a multitude of official and informal players and a widespread lack of confidence resulting from the failure to maintain minimum standards for human security (European Commission, 8/3/2022, p. 9).

3. Theoretical Framework

This chapter begins by addressing the HDPN, a significant influence on the EU's approach to human security. Understanding the nexus is crucial for grasping the concept of human security as a theoretical framework. For the purpose of this thesis, I have chosen to apply the theoretical

framework of the Human Security Approach. Document analysis is conducted through five criteria based on the human security framework: diversity of threats and crises, people-centered approach, prevention strategies, institutional coherence, and local ownership and participation. By applying this framework, I aim to gain a deeper understanding of how the EU's humanitarian development partnership with Nigeria addresses human security and the impact it has on long-term sustainability and stability, as well as the dynamics between human security and development aid in the region.

3.1 The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN)

At the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, member states and members of the international community pledged to strengthen humanitarian development by pooling resources and capabilities towards achieving common goals of reducing needs, risks, and vulnerabilities. Existing approaches addressing such multi-faceted crises have proven ineffective and have brought about a recognition of the need for a multi-sector and multi-agency approach that tackles short-term needs while providing long-term solutions (International Cooperation and Development, 2022, p. 9). Following the adoption of the 2016 summit, in 2018, the Council extended the Humanitarian-Development Nexus by adding the peace dimension to become the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN) (International Cooperation and Development, 2022, p. 18). Thereafter, the EU began enhancing the capacity of EU staff to address the HDPN in 6 countries, including Nigeria (International Cooperation and Development, 2022, p. 19).

The HDPN is a collective effort by the EU, Member States, and partners to address protracted and predictable crises to help people recover and avoid suffering (European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, 2021). The HDPN approach is a shared vision in the EU that involves members of the humanitarian, development, and peace communities. The approach ensures that humanitarians can focus on acute needs, while those in development can focus on long-term resilience and promoting peaceful and robust communities (European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, 2021). Human security and development aid fulfill humanitarian needs and cannot be achieved without one another.

3.2 The Human Security Approach

The concept of the Human Security Approach gained recognition when it was publicized as the topic of the UN's Human Development Report in 1994 and has since attracted increasing attention among theorists and policymakers (Lautensach & Lautensach, 2020, ch. 1, section 1.1; UNDP, 1994, p. 24–25). The UNDP's Human Security Framework (Jolly & Ray, 2006) and a report for the UN Centre for Regional Development (Mani, 2002) state the influence of human security. This influence took three forms: the idea that prioritizing citizens' human rights obliges the state to protect them, and sometimes to protect them from the state itself; the idea that the severe conditions faced by many people worldwide require urgent and robust development efforts from states (Thakur, 2010); and the realization that human security is too important and too complex of an obligation to be left to national governments without support (Lautensach & Lautensach, 2020, ch. 1, section 1.1). The UN's multiple definitions since 1994 revolve around three principles: freedom from fear, freedom from want, and freedom to live in dignity (United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, 2016, p. 18). The concept of the Human Security Approach deliberately encompasses various dimensions, including social, psychological, political, and economic factors that contribute to and safeguard human well-being over time. Human security is defined in this thesis based on the UNDP HDR's seven dimensions: personal, environmental, economic, political, community, health, and food security (UNDP, 1994, pp. 24–25). It emphasizes protecting individuals from various risks like disease, malnutrition, unemployment, political repression, and environmental damage, which traditional security frameworks often overlook (UNDP, 1994, pp. 24–25).

The emergence of the Human Security Approach reflects and emphasizes the departure from conventional national security concerns towards the individual's rights and interests (Lautensach & Lautensach, 2020, ch. 1, section 1.1). The international community frequently overlooked these interests, signaling shifts in international relations and identities. National security entails the protection of individuals from such threats as disease, hunger, unemployment, political oppression, and environmental degradation (Tsai, 2009, p. 22). The Human Security Approach aims to address the root causes of insecurity, underdevelopment, and poverty. As a theory, human security stems from the criticism of realism and liberalism in the 1990s, which prompted a reevaluation of security theories to include subjective and human elements (Tsai, 2009, p. 24).

This challenged traditional views and offered insights into human security, broadening the understanding of security beyond military force and national interests. Human security as a concept has influenced UN policy by emphasizing citizens' human rights, the need for development efforts, and the importance of civil society involvement. What distinguishes human security is its shift in perspective from the state as the primary focus of security policy to the human individual as the central consideration. This transition signifies a move from state-centric security to a more people-centered approach (Tsai, 2009, p. 23).

By applying the Human Security Approach, I systematically explore different aspects of human security in Nigeria, such as conflicts, poverty, inequality, and access to basic services. This approach will enable an assessment of how well the EU's partnership with Nigeria places people at the center of security strategies and aid efforts. Additionally, it will help evaluate whether the efforts take into account the specific needs and priorities of the affected populations. Through the Human Security Approach, an evaluation of the EU's efforts focused on preventing and addressing conflicts of the underlying causes of insecurity, such as inequality, poverty, and a lack of access to justice and fairness, is analyzed. Further, the approach will allow me to critically analyze how well the EU's development efforts align with existing institutions and mechanisms in Nigeria. The Human Security Approach will help me assess the degree of local ownership and participation in the EU's initiatives. Meaningful engagement with local communities and civil society organizations is crucial for fostering empowerment and building local capacities to address security challenges effectively. By drawing upon the Human Security Approach, I can effectively analyze how the EU's humanitarian development partnership with Nigeria addresses human security. This theoretical framework will enable me to critically evaluate and analyze the initiatives, identify their strengths and weaknesses, and make a nuanced assessment of their impact on human security. Drawing from the principles of the Human Security Approach outlined in the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security's Handbook, I have established five criteria for the analysis of the EU documents. The criteria established are based on the handbook's definition of the human security approach, emphasizing the principles of being people-centered, comprehensive, context-specific, prevention-oriented, and focused on protection and empowerment (United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, 2016, pp. 7–10, 17–18). The principles are fundamental to ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of the

HDPN. Through my interpretation of these principles, I have established the following five criteria for analysis: diversity of threats and crises, people-centered approach, prevention strategies, institutional coherence, and local ownership and participation.

4. Methodology

4.1 Research Design

The research design is a qualitative method of document analysis and case study, aiming to describe and understand how the EU approaches human security, evaluate how the EU addresses these approaches, and contribute to improving humanitarian, development, and peace efforts. Further sections describe the processes of material sampling and delimitations and discuss ethical considerations and limitations of the study. The analytical aim of the thesis is to dissect EU policies and documents related to the HDPN using qualitative methods of case study and document analysis.

4.1.1 The Case

Choosing Nigeria for this case study was based on multiple reasons. Firstly, Nigeria is one of the most populous countries in Africa and plays a significant role in the region's stability and development. Therefore, understanding the dynamics of the EU-Nigeria relationship through development aid can provide valuable insights into broader patterns of international assistance in the region. Secondly, Nigeria faces a range of humanitarian challenges, including terrorism and socio-economic inequalities. By focusing on Nigeria, there can be a light shed on how the EU navigates these challenges and contributes to addressing them through its aid programs. This can inspire future policy discussions within the EU and among international actors in development aid. Thirdly, Nigeria's strategic reach extends beyond its borders, with implications for regional stability and global security. Internal instability in Nigeria can have damaging effects on West Africa and beyond, affecting migration patterns, trade routes, and security dynamics. Therefore, examining the EU's approach to development aid in Nigeria is not only relevant for understanding local dynamics but also for the broader geopolitical context. Lastly, Nigeria's

cultural diversity and history of governance challenges offer abundant ground for studying development interventions.

4.1.2 Qualitative Document Analysis

This research utilized qualitative research with an emphasis on document analysis. The document analysis involved examining official European Union documents by the European Commission, specifically the MIP 2021–2027 agreement and annual agreements. Like other analytical methods in qualitative research, document analysis requires that data be examined and interpreted in order to elicit meaning, gain understanding, and develop empirical knowledge (Bowen, 2009). I aim to analyze the documents within the theoretical framework of human security through the five criteria: diversity of threats and crises, people-centered approach, prevention strategies, institutional coherence, and local ownership and participation. By applying this framework, I will gain a deeper understanding of how the EU's humanitarian development partnership with Nigeria addresses human security and the impact it has on long-term sustainability and stability in the region.

The method of qualitative document analysis was chosen as it allows for a systematic analysis of textual information. As a research method, document analysis is particularly applicable to qualitative case studies (Bowen, 2009). The method enables a structured analysis of policy documents, particularly when the focus is on the extraction and analysis of latent documents. To understand the meanings, motives, normative values, and purposes contained within a governing body (Halperin & Heath, 2012, pp. 318–319). This study explicitly seeks to identify how the EU's humanitarian development partnership with Nigeria impacts human security from a human security perspective and which factors within this partnership are most significant for promoting long-term sustainability and stability in the region. The document analysis focuses on the latent communications of how the EU seeks to tackle the issue, how it seeks to achieve it, and how it integrates its own interests into the pursuit. Likewise, this method enables an identification of what strategic communications lack in terms of policy goals explicitly targeted towards humanitarian development goals through the HDPN.

4.2 Data Collection

The unit of analysis for this study comprises the EU-Nigeria MIP document for the period 2021-2027, along with the annual agreements for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023, including Part 1 and Part 2 of the European Commission's reports. These documents were selected based on their relevance to EU-Nigeria collaboration and the discussions surrounding pertinent issues. The decision to focus on these documents stemmed from previous research indicating that analyzing agreements between the EU and Nigeria provides valuable insights into how human security issues are addressed. They were retrieved from the official website of the European Commission, where they are annually published. The MIP agreement 2021–2027 was located through a targeted search using keywords such as 'European Commission' and 'Nigerian development aid agreement.' Similarly, the annual agreements were sourced directly from the European Commission's database, and being collected from the European Commission's database insured the reliability and validity of the data. Given the comprehensive nature of these documents, which cover various topics and issues, it is essential to apply a focused analysis specifically on human security issues. Therefore, the examination will involve extracting and scrutinizing relevant sections that pertain to human security within these documents.

4.3 Data Analysis: Human Security Approach Framework Analysis

Qualitative data was gathered through the case and document analysis. The data was analyzed through the Human Security Approach through the five criteria: diversity of threats and crises, a people-centered approach, prevention strategies, institutional coherence, and local ownership and participation.

The first criteria was to examine the diversity of threats and risks affecting human security in Nigeria. This encompasses a wide array of challenges, including conflicts, poverty, inequality, limited access to essential services, environmental degradation, and more. Understanding the breadth and depth of these challenges is crucial for crafting effective strategies to address them. The second criterion was assessing the extent to which the EU's partnership with Nigeria adopts a people-centered approach. This involves evaluating whether the strategies and interventions prioritize the needs and priorities of the affected populations. Further, the third criterion was to

delve into the preventive measures employed by the EU in Nigeria. Beyond responding to crises, are there initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of insecurity, such as inequality, poverty, and injustice? Preventive approaches are vital for fostering long-term stability and resilience. The fourth criterion was based on institutional coherence. How well do the EU's development efforts align with existing institutions and mechanisms in Nigeria? Collaboration and coordination among various stakeholders are essential for maximizing the impact of interventions and ensuring sustainability. Lastly, the fifth criterion was to examine the degree of local ownership and participation in the EU's initiatives. Meaningful engagement with local communities and civil society organizations is crucial for fostering empowerment and building local capacities to address security challenges effectively.

The data analysis process entailed connecting each human security criteria to the documents that I have analyzed and used throughout the thesis. Through this, I analyze the documents to gather an overview of how the EU approaches Nigeria's human security issues. By applying the Human Security Approach, I gain a comprehensive understanding of how the EU's humanitarian development partnership with Nigeria contributes to enhancing human security and promoting sustainable development in the region. This holistic analysis enables me to identify strengths, weaknesses, similarities, differences, and opportunities for improvement, ultimately guiding more effective and impactful interventions.

4.4 Ethical Considerations

The choice of case study through a qualitative document analysis is geared toward understanding how the EU aims to address and manage human security issues in Nigeria. Aligning this methodology with the Human Security Approach and the five established criteria allows the information extraction process to focus on factors that address the issue at large. Hence, while striving for objectivity, fair representation, and transparency, this thesis acknowledges the normative power that the EU possesses as well as the theoretical approach to human security, which may vary. However, each definition of terms such as peace, human security, security, and development for this thesis is explained in the introduction to ensure understanding. This thesis strives for transparency and has sought to substantiate its analytical conclusions with previous literature. Furthermore, discussing human security is a sensitive subject with its correlations to

kidnapping, terror, and, in the worst case, death. As this topic is to be considered sensitive, there are countermeasures to ensure neutrality and sensitivity in language and writing. One has to consider the sensitiveness of the subject and the language and approach when addressing the subject. I aim to ensure that I acknowledge these considerations appropriately, especially when analyzing sensitive documents or data. This is how, throughout the thesis, human security is not met in an extremely critical manner but rather in an objective manner. To not come across as insensitive, I strive to be objective yet sensitive to the subject, as it has affected humans and their sense of security on various levels.

4.5 Limitations

This study acknowledges the intricacies of the EU-Nigerian partnership and its limitations in comprehensively covering aspects of the EU's development aid policy regarding human security. The availability and reliability of existing data and literature on this partnership and security dynamics may vary, potentially impacting the research's completeness (Bowen, 2009, p. 31). External events or developments during the research period are excluded to prevent incomplete capture or evolution before study completion. While the study's timeline imposes limitations on its adaptability, the primary focus remains understanding the EU's involvement through the HDPN approach in Nigeria. However, focusing solely on the HDPN narrows the scope of considered development aid, making it challenging to grasp a broader view within the time constraint. Document analysis offers an unobtrusive and non-reactive approach, providing stable and repeatable data. Nonetheless, limitations such as insufficient detail in non-research documents and biased selectivity exist. Despite these drawbacks, the efficiency of document analysis outweighs its limitations (Bowen, 2009, p. 31). In the case of case studies, while they offer detailed insights into specific instances, their findings may not always be generalizable to broader contexts. Researcher bias can influence the interpretation of findings, potentially compromising the objectivity of the analysis. Reliance on retrospective data in case studies may introduce recall bias or result in incomplete information. Similarly, the document analysis of EU documents is subject to certain constraints. The availability and accessibility of relevant documents may be limited or biased, affecting the comprehensiveness of the analysis. Furthermore, the quality and reliability of EU documents may vary, posing challenges to the accuracy and validity of the document analysis. Additionally, document analysis may overlook

nuanced or implicit meanings within EU documents, leading to potential misinterpretations of the data. By recognizing and addressing these specific limitations associated with case studies and document analysis of EU documents, this study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the complexities of researching the EU-Nigerian partnership and its development aid policies concerning human security issues in Nigeria.

5. Analysis and Discussion

This section contains an analysis of how the EU addresses human security issues. The analysis is structured based on the five criteria: diversity of threats and crises, people-centered approach, prevention strategies, institutional coherence, and local ownership and participation. Lastly, there is a reflection and discussion of similarities and differences, connected to EU politics, between the five criteria.

5.1 Diversity of Threats and Crises

The analysis of the diversity of threats and crises explores the different threats and risks impacting human security in Nigeria, such as conflicts, poverty, inequality, and a lack of access to basic services.

The EU seeks to strengthen its partnership with Nigeria by recognizing its geopolitical importance and the challenges it faces (European Commission, Annex 3, 16/12/2022, p. 5). Through collaboration with Nigerian authorities, the private sector, and civil society, the EU aims to promote economic cooperation, peacebuilding, and empowerment initiatives for youth and women, aligning with Nigeria's development plans and human security approach, and contributing to regional stability and European interests. The EU adopts a strategic approach to address human security challenges in conflict-affected states by tackling the protracted crisis and violent extremism in Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, and Gombe States, aiming to advance its partnership with Nigeria (European Commission, 8/3/2022, p. 16). The EU assumes a crucial role in responding to security crises, extending lifesaving aid to populations affected by conflict and natural disasters, and supporting Nigeria's democratic and economic development (European Commission, 8/3/2022, p. 3.). The EU's backing of the Multinational Joint Task Force,

comprising Niger, Chad, and Cameroon, in countering Boko Haram, exemplifies its commitment (European Union External Action Service, 2018). Amid security concerns and human rights issues, the EU intensifies engagements with Nigerian authorities to support democratic governance and peacebuilding efforts (European Commission, Annex 3, 16/12/2022, p. 5). The support is grounded in a conflict-sensitive analysis and a do-no-harm approach. The priority is to increase assistance in conflict-prone areas like the North-West, particularly Zamfara and Katsina states (European Commission, Annex 3, 16/12/2022, pp. 4-5). This will extend to facilitating the full implementation of government policies aimed at resolving and preventing conflicts related to land and natural resource access, particularly those between herders and farmers. These efforts will span both federal-level initiatives and targeted interventions in selected pilot states. Coordination with existing humanitarian interventions is applicable and ensures a comprehensive response to human security, humanitarian, and development challenges in Nigeria (European Commission, Annex 3, 16/12/2022, p. 8).

When analyzing the documents, the EU addresses Nigeria's diverse array of threats and crises through a comprehensive approach. This approach underscores the interconnectedness between humanitarian aid, development cooperation, and peacebuilding, emphasizing the necessity of tackling both security concerns and the underlying causes. However, notably absent from the discussion is any explicit mention of economic incentives or trade agreements between the EU and Nigeria, potentially indicating a prioritization of humanitarian and security issues over economic considerations. Further, the EU's strategy for addressing Nigeria's crises can be critiqued. Firstly, while the strategy acknowledges the importance of local engagement, there is insufficient emphasis on involving local communities and civil society organizations in planning, implementation, and monitoring efforts. Secondly, the strategy tends to prioritize immediate humanitarian and security concerns without adequate attention to long-term sustainability. Moreover, there is often a lack of detailed consideration of cultural contexts and sensitivities within the EU's strategies, essential for the success of development and peacebuilding endeavors. Additionally, while the strategy mentions climate change initiatives, a more robust integration of environmental sustainability practices is needed to ensure that development efforts do not harm the environment. Furthermore, the documents could enhance clarity on transparency and accountability mechanisms in aid allocation and utilization, fostering trust and effectiveness.

Overall, the EU's strategy in regards to threats and crises could benefit from better coordination with other international actors, a more comprehensive plan for economic development, and a deeper focus on addressing the needs of vulnerable groups. While the EU's strategy is robust in addressing humanitarian and security issues, the EU can develop a more holistic and effective approach to aiding Nigeria, laying the groundwork for long-term peace and development in the country.

5.2 People-Centered Approach

The analysis of the people-centered approach examines how the EU's humanitarian development partnership with Nigeria places people at the center of security strategies and aid efforts, assessing whether these efforts address the specific needs and priorities of the affected population.

The main aims are through the EU's investments in education, particularly in girls and youth, to foster human capital and reduce poverty (European Commission, Annex 5, 29/6/2023, p. 4). This includes strengthening Nigeria's education system and providing a secure environment for teaching (European Commission, Annex 5, 29/6/2023, pp. 7-8). Through the action of human capital, the provision of safety in schools, and a secure environment for teaching, the EU aims to contribute to human development and human security (European Commission, Annex 5, 29/6/2023, p. 4). By integrating social protection, education, and reproductive health services, Nigeria can unlock the potential of women and youth and address population growth coherently (European Commission, 8/3/2022, pp. 5 & 30). The overall objective of this action is to contribute to human development and human security by innovatively strengthening the education system, as quality education is a fundamental human right (European Commission, Annex 5, 29/6/2023, pp. 7-8).

Further, the EU adopts a comprehensive approach to the human security issues in Nigeria, focusing on governance, peace, migration, and human development. Through initiatives like the Team Europe initiative (TEIs), the EU strengthens peace-building efforts and promotes regional stability, economic growth, and human rights protections in Nigeria (European Commission, 8/3/2022, pp. 5, 9, and 15). The TEIs approach focuses on identifying critical priorities that

constrain development in Nigeria and aims to create jobs, enhance democracy and participatory governance, and improve human security and human rights (European Commission, 8/3/2022, pp. 5, 11, and 30). EU's indicative contribution, with significant funding for the TEI and humanitarian crisis totaling more than 155 million euros and another 50 million euros set aside for development in northeastern Nigeria (European Commission, 8/3/2022, p. 13; European Union External Action Service, 2019). Through addressing security challenges, the EU emphasizes the principles of the HDPN by addressing conflict-affected regions such as the North-East (European Commission, 8/3/2022, p. 5). Efforts are directed towards supporting state institutions, civil society, and youth engagement to prevent violence and address the root causes of conflicts and crime. Additionally, the EU collaborates with Nigerian authorities to address climate change, sustainable development, create jobs, enhance agricultural productivity, and improve access to renewable energy (European Commission, 8/3/2022, p. 11; European Commission, Annex 2, 29/6/2023, p. 12). These efforts align with EU strategies like the European Green Deal and Circular Economy Action Plan, contributing to human security through environmental sustainability and economic development (European Commission, Annex 2, 29/6/2023, p. 4). Overall, the EU's approach to human security in Nigeria involves a holistic strategy encompassing governance, peacebuilding, migration management, human development, and environmental sustainability, aimed at promoting stability, prosperity, and respect for human rights in the region.

When analyzing the EU's people-centered approach, there is a recurrent emphasis on human security issues in relation to governance, peace, migration, and human development, reflecting the interconnected factors crucial for stability and prosperity. However, the strategy notably lacks detailed discussions on the role of economic incentives or trade agreements in Nigeria. Despite mentions of investments in education and sustainable development, the economic aspect receives less attention. While initiatives like Team Europe prioritize peacebuilding and human development, the documents could enhance their intersection with economic factors. Additionally, while the focus on education and climate change highlights the EU's recognition of human capital and environmental sustainability, a more nuanced discussion could examine how these initiatives intersect with governance and peacebuilding efforts. Further, there's a lack of involvement by local communities and civil society organizations in planning, implementation,

and monitoring. Moreover, the strategy prioritizes immediate humanitarian and security concerns over long-term sustainability. Furthermore, transparency and accountability mechanisms for aid allocation and utilization, coordination with international organizations and actors, addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, and a comprehensive plan for economic and infrastructure development are lacking. Addressing these gaps could help the EU develop a more effective strategy for aiding Nigeria, focusing not only on immediate crises but also on long-term peace and development.

5.3 Prevention Strategies

The analysis evaluates the extent to which the EU's efforts are focused on preventing and addressing conflicts and the underlying causes of inequality, such as discrimination and poverty, and if there is a lack of access to justice.

The EU aims to reinforce Nigeria's agricultural sector through climate-smart practices and sustainable value chains, aiming to create job opportunities, reduce inequalities, and enhance food security while mitigating climate vulnerability (European Commission, Annex 1, 12/12/2022, pp. 1-2). This initiative addresses challenges faced by Nigeria's agriculture sector, including low productivity, conflicts, and climate change impacts, by fostering agri-business development and promoting inclusive agricultural value chains.

The 2023 Part 1 annual report Annex 3 targets priority area 2, which focuses on human security by preventing armed conflict, protecting civilians, and combating maritime insecurity and terrorism (European Commission, Annex 3, 25/4/2023, p. 3). It aims to strengthen conflict prevention strategies by reintegrating former Non-State Armed Group (NSAG) members through gender-responsive support, providing sustainable alternatives to violence, and enhancing civilian protection mechanisms. The focus is on safeguarding the rights of women and children in conflict-affected areas (European Commission, Annex 3, 25/4/2023, pp. 11 & 27). Additionally, the action will reinforce prevention strategies and suppression measures against maritime insecurity, transnational organized crime, and terrorism, utilizing a combination of local, national, and regional actions to ensure comprehensive responses to these security challenges. Furthermore, the action addresses human security through the issues of terrorism,

counter-terrorism, criminal justice, and forced displacement (European Commission, Annex 3, 25/4/2023, pp. 6-7). Conflicts in northeast Nigeria have led to a militarized response from the government, resulting in human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law. (European Commission, Annex 3, 25/4/2023, p. 9). Reports indicate indefinite detentions without trial and other violations such as sexual violence and forced marriage. These actions contradict constitutional protections of citizens' fundamental rights. As a duty-bearer, the Nigerian government must take measures to prevent, investigate, and prosecute these abuses. Building long-term peace requires robust prevention strategies and efforts to address the root causes of conflict and promote reconciliation. Efforts to prevent further violence must involve community-based initiatives aimed at building confidence and fostering trust among former associates of NSAGs (European Commission, Annex 3, 25/4/2023, p. 11). Challenges persist in effectively managing caseloads exiting the conflict and in the investigation and prosecution of terrorism cases, highlighting the need for improved coordination and clarity in roles among criminal justice entities. Additionally, it is clearly stated that social protection is a human right that tends to address the issue of poverty reduction by supporting the poor and vulnerable (European Commission, Annex 4, 29/6/2023, p. 9). The action overall prioritizes a human rights-based approach, emphasizing the application of all human rights and promoting inclusiveness and participation of stakeholders, including Nigerian institutions and diverse populations. It aligns with the Human Rights Strategy for Nigeria and the EU Action Plan, ensuring compliance with international human rights standards throughout its implementation (European Commission, Annex 3, 25/4/2023, p. 19).

When analyzing the EU's interventions in Nigeria, it is evident that they strategically aim to prevent and address conflicts while tackling underlying inequalities like discrimination and poverty. However, the lack of detailed discussion on promoting access to justice and fairness is notable. While efforts are made to combat injustices and enhance human security, the document fails to outline concrete actions to improve judicial access. This gap suggests that while the EU addresses broad issues of inequality and human security, specific aspects like judicial access receive insufficient attention. Reflecting on the criteria, it is crucial to note that a strategy aimed at preventing conflicts and promoting human security requires a balanced approach, including efforts to strengthen institutional capacity and socioeconomic development while directly

addressing the root causes of conflict and inequality. Moreover, the EU's interventions could benefit from further attention in other areas. Firstly, more specific and targeted measures to comprehensively address discrimination and poverty as underlying causes of inequality could be addressed. Empowering local institutions and communities, addressing challenges faced by marginalized groups, and emphasizing accountability and transparency in implementation are crucial aspects that require more focus. By addressing these areas, the EU can develop a more comprehensive strategy.

5.4 Institutional Coherence

The analysis examines the alignment and strengthening of the EU's development efforts with existing institutions to promote human security in Nigeria, investigating the cooperation and coordination among different actors to maximize impact.

Human security is a key focus area within the EU's cooperation objectives, particularly under specific objectives 2.2.1 in the governance, peace, and migration priority area (European Commission, 8/3/2022, pp. 17–19 & 31–34). Further actions align by supporting the strengthening of the rule of law, fighting corruption, reducing gender-based violence, promoting respect for human rights, and ensuring inclusivity for all Nigerians. (European Commission, Annex 1, 25/4/2023, p. 14). The implemented human rights-based approach aims to strengthen and enhance accountability, capacity, transparency, and access to justice. It supports locally-driven solutions, facilitates access to justice for vulnerable groups, and promotes institutional coherence (European Commission, Annex 1, 25/4/2023, p. 15). The 2021 annual report delves into human development and examines the primary stakeholders and the institutional or organizational challenges pertinent to advancing human development, aiming to enhance its role as a strategic partner in Nigeria's national and international affairs (European Commission, Annex 3, 16/12/2022, p. 6-7). The EU places emphasis on engaging key stakeholders involved in significant institutional transformations in Nigeria, including the federal, state, and local governments, alongside the targeted populace, civil society groups, academic institutions, and private sector entities. This involves strengthening policy dialogue, strategic communication, and alignment with EU-Nigeria ministerial objectives (European Commission, Annex 3, 16/12/2022, p. 6-7). Through targeted support for institutions, civil

society, and vulnerable populations, the EU seeks to promote inclusive development and sustainable growth in Nigeria. The EU's engagement with Nigeria is strategically geared towards addressing peace and security challenges to unlock the country's development potential across various sectors, as highlighted in the MIP (European Commission, 8/3/2022, p. 5). By prioritizing human development and reducing humanitarian needs, the EU aims to foster sustainable development and promote peace and stability in the region, aligning its cooperation with Nigeria's national development plan and the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (European Commission, 8/3/2022, p. 11).

When analyzing the EU's cooperation objectives in Nigeria, it is evident that human security, governance, and human development are prioritized areas. Actions aimed at strengthening the rule of law, combating corruption, reducing gender-based violence, and ensuring inclusivity demonstrate a human rights-based approach. However, there is a lack of explicit discussion on the effectiveness of implemented actions and the need for more robust measures to address systemic issues. Moreover, a more critical examination of power dynamics and inequalities within Nigeria is necessary, along with targeted actions to address these structural challenges. While the report outlines commendable objectives, greater scrutiny and refinement are needed to ensure interventions are truly effective and inclusive. Furthermore, the discussion lacks depth in addressing the root causes of conflicts and insecurity, requiring more nuanced analysis and targeted interventions to tackle the underlying socio-economic factors driving instability. There is a need for an improved focus on conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts, prioritizing dialogue and reconciliation among conflicting parties. Addressing humanitarian access and assistance in conflict zones and integrating human rights are essential steps for enhancing the effectiveness and impact of EU interventions. Promoting peace, stability, and development in Nigeria requires greater depth, specificity, and coherence in approach.

5.5 Local Ownership and Participation

The analysis evaluates the extent of local ownership and participation in planning, implementing, and monitoring aid efforts, as well as assessing whether these efforts promote empowerment and capacity-building among local communities and civil society organizations.

The EU's interventions in Nigeria are closely aligned with its multilateral commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in health and education, which are considered fundamental rights (European Commission, 8/3/2022, p. 5; European Commission, Annex 2, 12/12/2022, p. 13). Collaborative efforts with regional and bilateral programs, as well as humanitarian interventions, prioritize addressing social protection, education, and health needs, ensuring synergy between regional and national initiatives (European Commission, 8/3/2022, p. 5). Recognizing the importance of supporting local governance systems and addressing the root causes of conflicts and violence, the EU emphasizes the necessity of these interventions in its best interests (European Commission, 8/3/2022, p. 8). Human development is specifically targeted through priority area 3, focusing on an integrated approach to address social challenges such as education, health, and poverty reduction (European Commission, 8/3/2022, p. 19–20). By collaborating with state governments, civil societies, and other stakeholders, the EU aims to strengthen social protection systems, improve access to education and family planning, and address malnutrition (European Commission, 8/3/2022, p. 19–20; European Commission, Annex 3, 16/12/2022, p. 6-7). These efforts aim to target out-of-school children and promote inclusive, quality education, with a particular focus on girls. Additionally, collaboration with civil society and the private sector supports sustainable development initiatives, aligning with Nigeria's goals for achieving various SDGs (European Commission, 8/3/2022, pp. 19–20). Further, the EU emphasizes its stance on rule of law and anti-corruption in Nigeria; efforts include enhancing democratic governance by increasing accountability, transparency, human rights, and inclusivity, with a focus on empowering youth, women, and people with disabilities (European Commission, Annex 1, 25/4/2023, pp. 4 & 14). Additionally, the action seeks to strengthen the rule of law, combat impunity, and ensure access to justice through an independent, effective, and transparent justice sector through a gender-sensitive approach (European Commission, Annex 1, 25/4/2023, p. 6). Prioritizing the protection of rights, especially for women and vulnerable groups, involves promoting legislation and enforcing measures to prevent and address various forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence. Civil society organizations play a vital role in driving locally-driven solutions and advocating for public involvement with justice and anti-corruption bodies (European Commission, Annex 1, 25/4/2023, p. 15). This approach underscores the importance of grassroots involvement in promoting accountability, human rights, and transparency.

When analyzing the EU's interventions in Nigeria, it's evident that they are deeply intertwined with the commitment to achieving the SDGs, particularly in areas of health and education. Collaborative efforts with regional and bilateral programs, along with humanitarian interventions, aim to address social protection, education, and health needs, aligning with Nigeria's SDG goals. However, criticisms can be directed towards the lack of emphasis on accountability and transparency in implementation, risking mismanagement and corruption. Moreover, while the EU acknowledges the importance of addressing conflicts' root causes, more focus on conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives in connection with local ownership and participation is needed. Additionally, partnerships with civil society and the private sector could be more inclusive, ensuring meaningful participation from marginalized groups. Furthermore, greater attention to environmental sustainability within development interventions is necessary for long-term gains. Addressing these criticisms would enhance the effectiveness of EU interventions in promoting sustainable development and addressing poverty and inequality in Nigeria.

5.6 Similarities and Differences

One similarity among these criteria lies in their shared commitment to advancing sustainable development in Nigeria. Whether addressing conflicts, prioritizing people's needs, or fostering institutional coherence, the underlying goal remains the same: to contribute to sustainable progress that enhances the well-being of Nigerian communities. Moreover, there's a profound recognition across all criteria of the interconnectedness of challenges and solutions. From mitigating conflicts to promoting local participation, the acknowledgment of the intricate interplay between various factors underscores a holistic approach essential for meaningful impact. The emphasis on human rights and empowerment underscores the EU's commitment to inclusive and rights-based approaches to address Nigeria's human security challenges.

However, despite these overarching similarities, each criterion presents a distinct lens through which to understand and address the complexities of Nigeria's context. The diversity of threats and crises casts a wide net, encompassing a range of challenges from conflict to poverty, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive solutions. In contrast, the people-centered

approach foregrounds individuals' agency and needs, recognizing them as central actors in shaping security and development outcomes. Prevention and institutional coherence introduce a temporal dimension to EU policy, with a focus on long-term strategies and structural changes. Prevention strategies, in particular, emphasize anticipatory measures and early interventions to avert conflicts, while institutional coherence seeks to align EU efforts with existing frameworks for sustained impact. On the other hand, local ownership and participation emphasize the importance of grassroots engagement and community-led initiatives, signaling a bottom-up approach to sustainable development and governance. These differences extend to the levels and nature of engagement involved. While prevention strategies may entail diplomatic efforts and policy dialogue, local ownership and participation necessitate meaningful engagement with communities and civil society organizations. This diversity in approaches reflects the complexity of Nigeria's context and underscores the importance of tailoring interventions to local realities. Furthermore, each criterion is discussed in connection with human security.

While each criterion is effectively discussed throughout the documents, there are variations in emphasis. The EU places a strong emphasis on prevention strategies and methods, considering them the most prominent and extensively detailed proactive strategies to avert conflicts and promote stability. The prevention strategy approach highlights the interconnected nature of Nigeria's challenges and the need for holistic solutions. Institutional coherence is another prominently featured criterion in the EU's approach, with much detail. The focus on long-term strategies to avert conflicts and align development efforts with existing Nigerian frameworks reflects a commitment to sustainable solutions and institutional strengthening. While the people-centered approach receives less attention in the documents compared to prevention and institutional coherence, it underscores the importance of empowering individuals and communities. Local ownership and participation are given substantial attention, highlighting the transformative potential of grassroots engagement by involving local communities and civil society organizations in planning, implementation, and monitoring efforts. However, there's criticism regarding insufficient emphasis on this aspect, suggesting a need for greater inclusion of local voices. The diversity of threats and crises in Nigeria is acknowledged as the basis for underscoring the interconnected nature of challenges. However, this criterion receives comparatively less discussion, indicating room for more detailed analysis in future policy

documents. While the EU's policy towards Nigeria addresses various criteria, there are areas where certain aspects are emphasized more prominently than others. By balancing these criteria more effectively and ensuring a comprehensive approach, the EU can develop a more solid policy for promoting human security, peace, stability, and development in Nigeria.

In EU politics, these criteria hold significant importance, shaping the trajectory of the EU's engagement in Nigeria. They form the bedrock of a comprehensive approach that acknowledges the multifaceted nature of challenges and the diversity of solutions needed. By integrating these criteria into policy frameworks, the EU demonstrates adaptability and flexibility in responding to evolving circumstances in Nigeria. Moreover, synergizing these criteria ensures a coherent and impactful EU policy response that maximizes effectiveness and sustainability. These criteria offer a nuanced and holistic perspective on EU policy towards Nigeria, reflecting a commitment to fostering sustainable development, promoting human rights, and empowering local communities. It is through this integrated approach that the EU seeks to address the complex challenges facing Nigeria and contribute to positive and lasting change in the region.

6. Conclusion

The EU's approach to Nigeria encompasses various dimensions and is multifaceted, addressing diverse threats and crises through a people-centered approach, prevention strategies, institutional coherence, and fostering local ownership and participation. These efforts aim to enhance stability, prosperity, and respect for human rights in the region. While the term "human security" may not always be explicitly addressed in EU documents, its principles are integrated throughout. This prompted the question: How can the EU's approach to human security in Nigeria be explained?

The EU's multifaceted approach reflects its commitment to promoting development, peace, and security in Nigeria and the broader West African region. This includes addressing governance, peace, migration, and human rights, which, without always mentioning human security, aim to contribute to the overall well-being and security of individuals and communities. For example, the 2021 annual report prioritizes governance, peace, and migration, with a focus on

strengthening democracy and participatory governance, indicating a holistic approach to promoting human security through governance institutions. Furthermore, human rights considerations are prevalent throughout the EU's actions, even if not explicitly stated as targets. The EU emphasizes the importance of a human rights-based approach in various documents, including annual reports and annexes. For instance, discussions on climate change highlight human rights implications, emphasizing the need to prioritize human rights in the EU's approach. Even in actions where human security is not the primary focus, the EU acknowledges its importance and addresses it indirectly through policies and interventions aimed at promoting human rights, good governance, and social justice.

Research supports the perspective that the EU's integrated approach aligns with human security principles, even without explicit labeling (Martin & Kaldor, 2009, pp. 1–3). Scholars argue that the EU effectively implements human security principles, addressing urgent threats to individuals and communities while emphasizing justice and sustainability over mere political stability (Martin & Kaldor, 2009, p. 5). Moreover, the EU's strategies in Nigeria demonstrate a comprehensive engagement, tackling governance, human rights, and peacebuilding with a strong focus on prevention strategies. This multidimensional framework underscores the EU's role in fostering stability and development, indirectly promoting human security. However, scholars also note that EU interventions have yielded mixed results, often depending on local leadership (Martin & Kaldor, 2009, p. 10). Reflecting on previous research helps contextualize the EU's approach to engaging with Nigeria and promoting human security. By revisiting studies like Martin & Kaldor's *The European Union and Human Security: External Interventions and Missions* (2009), one gains insights into how the EU's multifaceted strategies align with broader human security principles. This allows the interpretation of current findings within existing frameworks, identifies shifts in priorities or strategies over time, and enhances our understanding of the dynamics shaping EU interventions in Nigeria. Future research in this area would explore comparative analyses with other regions, longitudinal studies tracking the evolution of policies, incorporating local perspectives, evaluating specific policies' effectiveness, integrating gender analysis, examining economic dimensions, and investigating cross-sectoral approaches. These avenues promise to deepen understanding and inform more effective policies and interventions in the future.

In conclusion, while the term "human security" may not always be explicitly stated, the EU's approach to engaging with Nigeria demonstrates a comprehensive effort to address a wide range of issues that impact human well-being and security. By integrating principles of human rights, governance, and social justice into its actions, the EU aims to contribute to the promotion of human security in Nigeria and the broader West African region. This multi-layered approach aims to create a stable, prosperous, and resilient Nigeria, contributing to both regional stability and European interests.

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