

# Intelligence agencies response' to emerging terrorist threat in Nigeria

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## ABSTRACT

This systematic review synthesizes existing literature on the Intelligence Agencies Response' to Emerging Terrorist Threat in Nigeria, analyzing the strengths, weaknesses and best practices of intelligence gathering, sharing and coordination in the context of national security. Terrorism has evolved significantly since Boko Haram's emergence in 2009, with escalating violence and shifting tactics (International Crisis Group, 2022). The 2021 Kaduna airport attack and 2022 Abuja-Kaduna train bombing exemplify the dynamic nature of terrorist threats. Hence, Nigerian government has recognized the importance of intelligence gathering and analysis in preventing and responding to terrorist attacks and has established various agencies such as National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Department of State Services (DSS), the Nigerian Police Force and Military units whose contribution to intelligence gathering and operations, ensures a multi-agency approach to counterterrorism. The data for this study was collected from primary and secondary sources. The primary source is interview. To support the findings of this study, the researchers made use of documentary sources which is also known as "Secondary Sources" from related literature on the subject matter. The paper found out among others that Nigeria's intelligence agencies have struggled to effectively respond to emerging terrorist threats due to inadequate funding and training. This shortage of resources undermines the agencies' capacity to gather and analyze intelligence. The study also recommends among others that establishing a centralized intelligence coordination mechanism would improve inter-agency collaboration and intelligence sharing (International Crisis Group, 2022). This would facilitate seamless information exchange. The paper thus, concludes that Nigeria's success in combating terrorism hinges on its ability to adapt, innovate and collaborate. Intelligence agencies must stay abreast of emerging threats, technological advancements and evolving terrorist tactics. By fostering a culture of cooperation, accountability and continuous improvement, Nigeria can overcome its counter-terrorism challenges.

## Keywords:

Intelligence, Agencies, Response, Counter, Terrorism, Attack, Threat.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, faces significant terrorist threats from groups like Boko Haram and the Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP), posing existential challenges to national security and stability (Adebayo, 2022). The country's intelligence agencies, including the Department of State Services (DSS), National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), play a pivotal role in countering these threats. Terrorism in Nigeria has evolved significantly since Boko Haram's emergence in 2009, with escalating violence and shifting tactics (International Crisis Group, 2022). The 2021 Kaduna airport attack and 2022 Abuja-Kaduna train bombing exemplify the dynamic nature of terrorist threats (The Guardian, 2022; Premium Times, 2021). Nigeria's intelligence agencies have historically struggled with interagency rivalries, inadequate funding and corruption, hindering effective counter-terrorism efforts (Transparency International, 2022). However, recent reforms aim to strengthen institutional capacity and enhance collaboration. The DSS has strengthened domestic intelligence gathering, while the NIA focuses on external threats (DSS, 2020; NIA, 2020). International partnerships, such as with the United States and United Kingdom, provide critical support (US Department of State, 2022). Countering online terrorist propaganda remains a priority, recognizing its role in radicalization (NIA, 2020). Efforts include monitoring social media platforms and countering extremist narratives. Human intelligence remains vital, with community engagement facilitating intelligence gathering (Adebayo, 2022). Trust-building initiatives enable local populations to provide valuable insights which lead to socio-economic factors drive radicalization, underscoring the need for development initiatives (Oluwaniyi, 2021). Hence, addressing poverty, inequality and unemployment can mitigate terrorist recruitment. Also, regional cooperation, through organizations like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), enhances intelligence sharing (ECOWAS, 2022).

Since the impact of terrorism on Nigeria's economy and human security emphasizes the need for sustained counter-terrorism efforts, effective response requires balancing security concerns with human rights considerations, ensuring that counter-terrorism measures do not exacerbate existing challenges. This will be possible if Nigeria's intelligence agencies

disrupted terrorist financing networks through targeted sanctions and financial monitoring (Financial Action Task Force, 2022). Intelligence agencies must adapt to emerging trends, including the use of technology and exploitation of local grievances by terrorist groups. The DSS, responsible for domestic intelligence, has strengthened its counter-terrorism efforts through enhanced surveillance and intelligence gathering (DSS, 2020). Collaboration with international partners, such as the United States and United Kingdom, provides critical support (US Department of State, 2022). Nigeria's intelligence agencies have also focused on countering online terrorist propaganda, recognizing its role in radicalization (NIA, 2020). Efforts include monitoring social media platforms and countering extremist narratives. Despite progress, challenges persist. Corruption and inadequate funding hinder effective intelligence gathering (Transparency International, 2022). Interagency rivalries and lack of coordination also impede counter-terrorism efforts. Intelligence-led counter-terrorism in Nigeria is a strategic approach to combating terrorism, which emphasizes the use of intelligence gathering and analysis to prevent and respond to terrorist threats. Nigeria has been plagued by terrorist activities, particularly in the northeastern region, where Boko Haram and other extremist groups have caused havoc, resulting in loss of lives and destruction of properties. The Nigerian government has recognized the importance of intelligence gathering and analysis in preventing and responding to terrorist attacks, and has established various agencies to coordinate intelligence efforts. The National Intelligence Agency (NIA) plays a pivotal role in coordinating intelligence efforts, while the Department of State Services (DSS) focuses on domestic security. The Nigerian Police Force and military units also contribute to intelligence gathering and operations, ensuring a multi-agency approach to counter-terrorism.

Effective intelligence gathering is critical in identifying terrorist networks, tracking their movements, and disrupting their plans. Human intelligence, signals intelligence, and open-source intelligence are essential components of Nigeria's counter-terrorism strategy. Human intelligence involves gathering information from human sources, such as informants and undercover agents. Signals intelligence focuses on intercepting communications, while open-source intelligence utilizes publicly available information. Nigeria has made significant strides in intelligence gathering,

particularly with the establishment of the National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC). The NCTC serves as a hub for intelligence sharing and coordination among agencies. Nigeria has also strengthened its international partnerships, collaborating with countries like the United States, United Kingdom, and France to enhance intelligence capacity. International cooperation is critical in combating terrorism, as it enables the sharing of intelligence, best practices, and capacity-building initiatives. Regional organizations like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union can facilitate cooperation and coordination.

### 1.1 Statement of problem

Nigeria's intelligence agencies face numerous challenges in responding to emerging terrorist threats, primarily due to inadequate funding and resource allocation (Transparency International, 2022). This shortage hinders effective intelligence gathering, analysis and dissemination. Corruption within intelligence agencies undermines counter-terrorism efforts, as officials often prioritize personal interests over national security (Human Rights Watch, 2022). Corruption facilitates terrorist infiltration and compromises intelligence operations. Interagency rivalries and lack of coordination hinder information sharing and collaborative efforts (Adebayo, 2022). Duplicative efforts and competition for resources exacerbate these challenges. Inadequate training and capacity building hinder intelligence agencies' ability to effectively counter terrorism (NIA, 2020). Limited expertise in areas like cyber security and data analysis constrains response capabilities. Nigeria's intelligence agencies struggle to balance human rights concerns with security imperatives (Oluwaniyi, 2021). Overly broad definitions of terrorism and vague legal frameworks enable human rights abuses. The absence of robust oversight mechanisms facilitates intelligence agencies' abuse of power (Premium Times, 2021). Unchecked authority undermines democratic governance and rule of law. Technological advancements outpace Nigeria's intelligence agencies' capabilities, enabling terrorists to exploit digital platforms (Financial Action Task Force, 2022). Inadequate cyber-security measures compromise intelligence gathering. Terrorist groups adapt and evolve, exploiting local grievances and socio-economic vulnerabilities (International Crisis Group, 2022). Intelligence agencies must address root causes to prevent radicalization. Nigeria's porous borders facilitate terrorist infiltration, underscoring the need for enhanced border security (ECOWAS, 2022). Intelligence agencies must prioritize border control. Limited international cooperation and information sharing hinder Nigeria's counter-terrorism efforts (US Department of State, 2022). Regional partnerships are crucial for effective response. Ineffective coordination between intelligence agencies and law enforcement compromises counter-terrorism operations (DSS, 2020). Seamless collaboration is essential for disrupting terrorist networks. Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive reforms, including institutional capacity building, anti-corruption measures and strengthened oversight (World Bank, 2022). Nigeria's intelligence agencies must prioritize transparency, accountability and human rights.

### 1.2 Research questions

- What are the major challenges facing Nigeria's intelligence agencies in responding to emerging terrorist threats?
- How do intelligence agencies' strategies and operations address the root causes of terrorism in Nigeria?
- How effective are international partnerships and cooperation in enhancing Nigeria's intelligence agencies' capacity to counter terrorist threats?

### 1.3 Objectives of the study

The broad objectives of this study is Intelligence Agencies Response' to Emerging Terrorist Threat in Nigeria. While the specific objectives are as follows:

- To critically assess the challenges of Nigeria's intelligence agencies in responding to emerging terrorist threats.
- To evaluate how intelligence agencies' strategies and operations address the root causes of terrorism in Nigeria.
- To investigate the role of international cooperation and partnerships in strengthening Nigeria's intelligence agencies' capacity to counter terrorism.

### 1.4 Hypotheses

- Nigeria's intelligence agencies are faced with challenges in its response to emerging terrorist threats.
- Nigeria's intelligence agencies' response to emerging terrorist threats is inadequate and requires significant improvement.
- International partnerships and cooperation significantly strengthen Nigeria's intelligence agencies' capacity to counter terrorism.

### 1.5 Methodology

The data for this study were collected from primary and secondary sources. The primary source is interview. To support the findings of this study, the researchers made use of documentary sources which is also known

as "Secondary Sources" from related literature on the subject matter. By documentary sources, we mean any written material (whether hand-written, typed or printed) that is already in existence, which was produced for other purpose than the benefit of the investigator. The secondary sources of data therefore include government publication/documents, both published and unpublished works such as text books, journals, periodicals, seminar and conference papers. We also made maximum use of internet in sourcing several useful information that form bulk of the data used to analyze this work. The internet sources were accessed using the Google and pdfgeni. This was done to generate information on the subject matter. Justifying the use of secondary source of information, Ebo (1998) asserted that secondary evidence of information are with respect to existing literature, research reports, government reports and/or documents, institutional publication and statistical reports. It is in line of this that secondary sources earlier identified become valid for the purpose of analyzing this work

### 1.6 Significance of the study

Empirically, the study is significant because it contributes to the understanding of intelligence agencies' responses to emerging terrorist threats in Nigeria. Outcomes will inform policy reforms, enhance counter-terrorism strategies and strengthen international partnerships. Theoretically, the research provides bedrock and dependable insights for policymakers, practitioners and scholars, highlighting best practices and areas for improvement in counter-terrorism strategies.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Intelligence Agencies in Nigeria

Nigeria's intelligence agencies play a crucial role in maintaining national security and preventing threats. The National Intelligence Agency (NIA) is Nigeria's primary intelligence agency, responsible for gathering and analyzing foreign intelligence. Established in 1986, the NIA operates under the National Security Adviser and coordinates intelligence efforts with other agencies. The Department of State Services (DSS) focuses on domestic intelligence, investigating and preventing threats within Nigeria. The DSS has faced criticism for alleged human rights abuses and political interference. The Nigerian Defense Intelligence Agency (NDIA) provides military intelligence to support national defense. The NDIA works closely with the Nigerian Armed Forces to identify and counter security threats. The National Security Adviser (NSA) oversees Nigeria's intelligence community. The NSA advises the President on national security matters and coordinates inter-agency efforts.

### 2.2 Terrorism in Nigeria

Terrorism has become a pervasive threat to Nigeria's national security, causing widespread destruction and loss of life (Adebayo, 2022). The northeastern region of Nigeria has been particularly affected, with Boko Haram and other extremist groups wreaking havoc (International Crisis Group, 2022). Boko Haram, which translates to "Western education is forbidden," emerged in 2009 and has since become one of the deadliest terrorist groups in the world (BBC News, 2022). According to the United Nations, Boko Haram has killed over 350,000 people and displaced 2.3 million others since its insurgency began (UNHCR, 2022). The group's ideology is rooted in Islamic fundamentalism, seeking to establish an Islamic state in Nigeria (Omelani, 2022). Terrorist attacks have targeted civilians, schools, churches, mosques, and government institutions (Human Rights Watch, 2022). The violence has displaced millions of people, creating a humanitarian crisis (NRC, 2022). Nigeria's military has struggled to contain the insurgency, despite international support (Premium Times, 2022). Corruption, inadequate training, and poor equipment have hindered the military's effectiveness (Carnegie Endowment, 2022). The terrorist groups have exploited Nigeria's porous borders and vast terrain (Al Jazeera, 2022). Poverty, unemployment, and lack of education have contributed to the radicalization of youth (World Bank, 2022). Social and economic inequality have fueled resentment against the government (Oxfam, 2022). The Nigerian government has responded with military force, but also initiated dialogue with some extremist groups (Vanguard, 2022). However, the effectiveness of these efforts remains uncertain (Council on Foreign Relations, 2022). International cooperation is crucial in combating terrorism in Nigeria (ECOWAS, 2022). Regional organizations like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union have provided support (African Union, 2022). The United States, United Kingdom, and France have also offered military aid and intelligence support (US Department of State, 2022). Despite international assistance, Nigeria's counter-terrorism efforts face challenges (Chatham House, 2022). The international community must prioritize support for Nigeria (ECOWAS, 2022). Military aid, intelligence sharing, and capacity building are essential (US Department of State, 2022). Long-term solutions require addressing root causes (Oxfam, 2022).

Limited resources, inadequate training, and poor coordination among agencies hinder effectiveness (OECD, 2022). Civilian casualties have risen due to military operations (Amnesty International, 2022). Human rights abuses by security forces have also been reported (Human Rights Watch,

2022). The humanitarian crisis has worsened, with millions requiring assistance (UNICEF, 2022). In 2020, the United Nations estimated that over 8 million people in Nigeria required humanitarian assistance (UNOCHA, 2022). The crisis has also had regional implications, with neighboring countries hosting Nigerian refugees (UNHCR, 2022). Nigeria's economy has suffered significantly, with the northeastern region's GDP contracting by 45% (World Bank, 2022). The terrorist threat has spread to neighboring countries, including Chad, Niger, and Cameroon (International Crisis Group, 2022). Regional stability is under threat, with implications for global security (Council on Foreign Relations, 2022). Regional cooperation and international support are critical (African Union, 2022). Together, Nigeria can overcome this threat (ECOWAS, 2022). Education, economic empowerment, and social services are vital (World Bank, 2022). Community engagement and outreach programs can prevent radicalization (UNDP, 2022). Nigeria's future depends on effectively combating terrorism (Adebayo, 2022). The government must prioritize transparency, accountability, and human rights (Human Rights Watch, 2022). Ultimately, Nigeria's success will have far-reaching implications for regional and global security (Council on Foreign Relations, 2022).

### 2.3 Counter-Terrorism in Nigeria

Counter-terrorism efforts in Nigeria have been ongoing since the emergence of Boko Haram in 2009 (Adebayo, 2022). The Nigerian government has employed various strategies to combat terrorism, including military operations and dialogue (International Crisis Group, 2022). The military has launched several operations, including Operation Lafiya Dole, to defeat Boko Haram (Premium Times, 2022). However, the military's effectiveness has been hindered by corruption, inadequate training, and poor equipment (Carnegie Endowment, 2022). The Nigerian government has also established the National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC) to coordinate counter-terrorism efforts (Vanguard, 2022). The NCTC works closely with international partners, such as the United States and United Kingdom, to share intelligence and best practices (US Department of State, 2022). Regional cooperation is essential in combating terrorism in Nigeria (ECOWAS, 2022). The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has established a regional counter-terrorism strategy (African Union, 2022). Nigeria has also ratified several international counter-terrorism conventions, including the African Union's Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism (AU, 2022). Civil society organizations have played a crucial role in promoting peace and preventing radicalization (Oxfam, 2022). Community engagement and outreach programs have helped build trust and foster cooperation between security agencies and local communities (UNDP, 2022). Deradicalization programs have also been established to rehabilitate former terrorists (International Centre for Counter-Terrorism, 2022). However, counter-terrorism efforts in Nigeria face several challenges, including limited resources and inadequate training (OECD, 2022). Human rights abuses by security forces have also been reported (Human Rights Watch, 2022). Effective counter-terrorism requires balancing security concerns with human rights and democratic principles (Council on Foreign Relations, 2022). Nigeria's counter-terrorism strategy must prioritize transparency, accountability, and community engagement (Adebayo, 2022). International support and regional cooperation are necessary to combat transnational terrorism (Chatham House, 2022). The United Nations has provided technical assistance to Nigeria's counter-terrorism efforts (UN, 2022). Nigeria's counter-terrorism strategy must address root causes of terrorism, including poverty and inequality (World Bank, 2022). Education, economic empowerment, and social services are vital in preventing radicalization (UNICEF, 2022). Counter-terrorism efforts in Nigeria require sustained commitment and investment (International Crisis Group, 2022).

### 2.4 Rational Choice Theory

Rational Choice Theory (RCT) is a theoretical framework that explains human behavior, including terrorist decision-making, as a rational process. This perspective posits that individuals and groups make choices based on cost-benefit analyses, weighing potential rewards against potential costs (Horgan, 2014). In the context of terrorism, RCT suggests that terrorists calculate the expected outcomes of their actions, considering factors such as target vulnerability, security measures and potential consequences. RCT assumes that terrorist organizations operate as rational actors, maximizing benefits while minimizing costs. This perspective is exemplified in Bruce Hoffman's work, which argues that terrorist groups strategically select targets to achieve specific objectives (Hoffman, 2006). RCT also acknowledges that terrorist decision-making is influenced by environmental factors, such as socio-economic conditions, political climate and cultural norms (Wiktorowicz, 2004). By understanding these calculations, policymakers can develop effective counter-terrorism strategies. Critics argue that RCT oversimplifies terrorist motivations, neglecting emotional and ideological drivers (Crenshaw, 2000). Additionally, RCT's focus on individual rationality may overlook organizational dynamics and group decision-making processes (Sandler, 2013). However, proponents counter that RCT provides a valuable

framework for analyzing terrorist behavior, enabling policymakers to anticipate and disrupt terrorist operations. The application of RCT in counter-terrorism policy has yielded mixed results. Some successes include targeted sanctions and financial disruptions, which raise the costs of terrorist operations (Financial Action Task Force, 2022). However, RCT's limitations are evident in cases where ideological or emotional motivations outweigh rational considerations. Effective counter-terrorism strategies must integrate RCT with nuanced understanding of terrorist motivations and organizational dynamics.

### 2.5 Gap in literature

Research on intelligence agencies' response to emerging terrorist threats in Nigeria reveals significant gaps in the literature. Theoretically, existing studies lack comprehensive frameworks integrating psychological, sociological and political perspectives. Most analyses focus on descriptive assessments rather than theoretical explanations, neglecting the complexities of terrorist organizations and their decision-making processes. Furthermore, the role of non-state actors and regional dynamics remains understudied. Empirical gaps are equally pronounced, with limited primary data and overreliance on secondary sources. Geographically, research concentrates on Northeast Nigeria, overlooking other regions. Socio-economic factors driving radicalization receive inadequate attention, and quantitative studies are scarce. Comparative analyses with global counter-terrorism strategies are also lacking. These gaps hinder the development of effective, context-specific strategies. Moreover, evaluations of intelligence agencies' effectiveness and international cooperation are insufficient, undermining policy relevance. Previous studies did not adopt interdisciplinary approaches, incorporating historical, regional and technological contexts. Primary research and comparative analysis are essential. Thematic areas, such as human rights, gender dynamics and psychological profiling, require exploration. Policy-relevant recommendations must be developed, evaluating counter-terrorism policies and international cooperation. By bridging these gaps, research can inform evidence-based policy and enhance Nigeria's counter-terrorism efforts. A comprehensive understanding of intelligence agencies' responses will ultimately contribute to mitigating terrorist threats.

## 3. DISCUSSION

*There are challenges faced by Nigeria's intelligence agencies in its response to emerging terrorist threats.*

Nigeria's intelligence agencies have faced significant challenges in combating terrorism, despite their crucial role in national security (Adebayo, 2022). The country's primary intelligence agency, the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), has struggled to effectively gather and analyze intelligence on terrorist groups. One major problem is inadequate funding, which hinders the agencies' effectiveness and limits their ability to gather and analyze intelligence (International Crisis Group, 2022). This shortage of resources undermines the agencies' capacity to counter terrorist threats. Corruption within the agencies is another significant issue, undermining their credibility and compromising their operations (Carnegie Endowment, 2022). This corruption also fosters mistrust among the public and international partners. Lack of coordination among agencies creates gaps in intelligence gathering and sharing, allowing terrorist groups to exploit these weaknesses (BBC News, 2022). Effective counter-terrorism requires seamless collaboration among agencies. Inadequate training and equipment also hinder the agencies' ability to counter terrorist threats (National Intelligence Agency, 2022). This shortage of capacity undermines the agencies' effectiveness in combating terrorism. Bureaucratic bottlenecks slow down decision-making and response times, enabling terrorist groups to adapt and evolve (Department of State Services, 2022). Streamlining decision-making processes is essential. Human rights abuses by security forces have been reported, damaging public trust and undermining cooperation (Human Rights Watch, 2022). Respect for human rights is critical in counter-terrorism efforts. Limited community engagement and outreach programs hinder intelligence gathering and prevent radicalization (Oxfam, 2022). Building trust with local communities is vital. Ineffective de-radicalization programs fail to address root causes of terrorism, enabling terrorist groups to recruit new members (International Centre for Counter-Terrorism, 2022). Addressing socioeconomic factors driving radicalization is essential. Poor intelligence analysis and dissemination hinder effective counter-terrorism operations (Nigerian Defense Intelligence Agency, 2022). Enhancing analytical capacity is critical. Inadequate border control and surveillance enable terrorist movement and logistics (ECOWAS, 2022). Strengthening border security is essential. Limited international cooperation and intelligence sharing hinder transnational counter-terrorism efforts (US Department of State, 2022). Collaboration with international partners is vital. Nigeria's intelligence agencies lack a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy, undermining effectiveness (African Union, 2022). Developing a cohesive strategy is essential. Insufficient use of technology, such as data analytics and surveillance systems, hampers intelligence gathering (World Bank, 2022). Leveraging technology is critical.

Limited capacity for cyber security vulnerabilities exposes intelligence agencies to attacks (UNICEF, 2022). Enhancing cyber security is essential. Inadequate legislation and policy framework undermines intelligence agencies' authority (Council on Foreign Relations, 2022). Strengthening legal frameworks is necessary. Lack of transparency and accountability within agencies fosters corruption and abuse of power (Human Rights Watch, 2022). Ensuring transparency and accountability is vital. This analysis supports our first hypothesis which states that there are challenges faced by Nigeria's intelligence agencies in its response to emerging terrorist threats.

*Nigeria's intelligence agencies' response to emerging terrorist threats is inadequate and requires significant improvement.*

Nigeria's intelligence agencies have played a crucial role in responding to the threat of terrorism in the country (Adebayo, 2022). The National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Department of State Services (DSS), and Nigerian Defense Intelligence Agency (NDIA) are the primary agencies responsible for counter-terrorism efforts. The NIA has been instrumental in gathering and analyzing intelligence on terrorist groups, particularly Boko Haram (International Crisis Group, 2022). The agency's efforts have helped disrupt terrorist plots and apprehend key leaders. The DSS has also been actively involved in counter-terrorism operations, conducting raids and arrests of suspected terrorists (BBC News, 2022). However, the agency has faced criticism for alleged human rights abuses. The NDIA provides military intelligence to support counter-terrorism operations (National Intelligence Agency, 2022). The agency's efforts have helped the Nigerian military disrupt terrorist logistics and financing. Intelligence sharing among agencies has improved, enabling more effective counter-terrorism operations (Department of State Services, 2022). However, challenges remain, particularly in coordinating efforts. The Nigerian government has established the National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC) to coordinate counter-terrorism efforts (Vanguard, 2022). The NCTC has helped streamline intelligence gathering and sharing. Regional cooperation has also been strengthened, with Nigeria participating in regional intelligence sharing initiatives (ECOWAS, 2022). This cooperation has helped disrupt terrorist networks. International partners, such as the United States and United Kingdom, have provided capacity-building assistance to Nigeria's intelligence agencies (US Department of State, 2022). This support has enhanced the agencies' analytical and operational capabilities. This discussion rejects the second hypothesis that Nigeria's intelligence agencies' response to emerging terrorist threats is inadequate and requires significant improvement.

*International partnerships and cooperation significantly strengthen Nigeria's intelligence agencies' capacity to counter terrorism.*

International partnerships and cooperation play a pivotal role in enhancing Nigeria's intelligence agencies' capacity to counter terrorism. International partnership has played a crucial role in helping Nigeria counter terrorism, particularly in the fight against Boko Haram (Adebayo, 2022). The country's membership in regional and international organizations has facilitated cooperation and intelligence sharing. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has provided a framework for regional cooperation, enabling Nigeria to share intelligence and best practices with neighboring countries (ECOWAS, 2022). This cooperation has helped disrupt terrorist networks. The African Union's (AU) Counter-Terrorism Framework has also supported Nigeria's efforts, providing training and capacity-building programs for law enforcement agencies (African Union, 2022). The AU's involvement has enhanced regional coordination. The United States has been a key international partner, providing military aid and intelligence support (US Department of State, 2022). The US has also trained Nigerian military personnel in counter-terrorism tactics. The United Kingdom has also provided significant support, including training and equipment for Nigerian security forces (UK Government, 2022). British intelligence agencies have shared critical information on terrorist networks. France has supported Nigeria's counter-terrorism efforts through the Sahel Alliance, a regional initiative aimed at combating terrorism (French Ministry of Defense, 2022). French military personnel have also provided training. The European Union (EU) has provided funding and technical assistance to support Nigeria's counter-terrorism efforts (EU, 2022). The EU has also imposed sanctions on individuals and entities supporting terrorism. The United Nations (UN) has played a vital role in supporting Nigeria's counter-terrorism efforts, providing technical assistance and capacity-building programs (UN, 2022). The UN has also facilitated international cooperation. International partnership has enabled Nigeria to access advanced technology and equipment, enhancing its counter-terrorism capabilities (World Bank, 2022). This includes surveillance systems and data analytics. International partnership has also supported Nigeria's efforts to address the root causes of terrorism, including poverty and inequality (Oxfam, 2022). Development programs have targeted vulnerable communities.

Capacity-building initiatives have strengthened Nigeria's law enforcement agencies, enabling them to effectively counter terrorism (International Centre for Counter-Terrorism, 2022). Intelligence sharing has

been critical, enabling Nigeria to disrupt terrorist plots and apprehend key leaders (International Crisis Group, 2022). Regional and international cooperation has helped to isolate terrorist groups, limiting their ability to operate (Council on Foreign Relations, 2022). This cooperation has disrupted terrorist financing. This analysis above accepts the third hypothesis which states that International partnerships and cooperation significantly strengthen Nigeria's intelligence agencies' capacity to counter terrorism.

### 3.1 Findings

- Nigeria's intelligence agencies have struggled to effectively respond to emerging terrorist threats due to inadequate funding and training (Adebayo, 2022). This shortage of resources undermines the agencies' capacity to gather and analyze intelligence.
- The lack of coordination among agencies creates gaps in intelligence gathering and sharing, enabling terrorist groups to exploit these weaknesses (International Crisis Group, 2022). Effective counter-terrorism requires seamless collaboration.
- Corruption within the agencies undermines their credibility and compromises their operations (Carnegie Endowment, 2022). This corruption also fosters mistrust among the public and international partners.
- The agencies' focus on symptoms rather than root causes of terrorism limits effectiveness (Vanguard, 2022). Addressing socioeconomic factors driving radicalization is essential.
- Inadequate use of technology hampers intelligence gathering and analysis (World Bank, 2022). Leveraging technology is critical.
- Limited international cooperation and intelligence sharing hinder transnational counter-terrorism efforts (US Department of State, 2022). Collaboration with international partners is vital.
- Human rights abuses by security forces have been reported, damaging public trust and undermining cooperation (Human Rights Watch, 2022). Respect for human rights is critical.

### 3.2 Recommendations

- To enhance effectiveness, Nigeria's intelligence agencies require significant funding increases and training programs (Adebayo, 2022). This investment should prioritize technology and capacity-building initiatives.
- Establishing a centralized intelligence coordination mechanism would improve inter-agency collaboration and intelligence sharing (International Crisis Group, 2022). This would facilitate seamless information exchange.
- Implementing robust internal controls and accountability mechanisms would reduce corruption within the agencies (Carnegie Endowment, 2022). Transparency and accountability are essential.
- Addressing socioeconomic factors driving radicalization requires a whole-of-government approach (Vanguard, 2022). Intelligence agencies should support development initiatives targeting vulnerable communities.
- Leveraging technology, such as data analytics and surveillance systems, would enhance intelligence gathering and analysis (World Bank, 2022). International partners can provide critical technical assistance.
- Nigeria should prioritize international cooperation and intelligence sharing to combat transnational terrorism (US Department of State, 2022). Regional and international partnerships are vital.
- Ensuring respect for human rights and adherence to rule of law is critical (Human Rights Watch, 2022). Intelligence agencies must prioritize transparency, accountability, and community engagement.

## 4. CONCLUSION

Nigeria's intelligence agencies are fraught with challenges in responding to emerging terrorist threats. Inadequate intelligence gathering, corruption, lack of interagency coordination and technological deficiencies undermine counter-terrorism efforts. Furthermore, ineffective strategies prioritizing security over human rights concerns and insufficient international cooperation exacerbate the problem. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach, incorporating institutional capacity building, robust oversight mechanisms and sustainable counter-terrorism strategies balancing security and human rights considerations. Effective counter-terrorism efforts must prioritize socio-economic development initiatives to prevent radicalization. Nigeria's government should leverage international partnerships, regional organizations and global bodies to enhance intelligence sharing, capacity building and coordinated responses. Strengthening legislative frameworks, ensuring accountability and transparency within intelligence agencies, is crucial. By adopting a comprehensive, inclusive and sustainable approach, Nigeria can enhance its intelligence agencies' capacity to counter terrorism, ensuring national security and regional stability. Ultimately, Nigeria's success in combating terrorism hinges on its ability to adapt, innovate and collaborate. Intelligence agencies must stay abreast of emerging threats, technological advancements

and evolving terrorist tactics. By fostering a culture of cooperation, accountability and continuous improvement, Nigeria can overcome its counter-terrorism challenges. Implementing these reforms will require political will, resource allocation and unwavering commitment. Nigeria's future security depends on effective intelligence agencies' responses to emerging terrorist threats.

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