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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF NON-KINETIC APPROACH AS PANACEA TO BORDER INSECURITY IN AFRICA

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Abstract
The porous nature of African borders has overtime, fueled insecurity, thereby hindering regional stability and development in recent times; and this menace has not only affected regional economy but given birth to upsurge of transnational organized crimes in the continent. Arising from the growing menace, African states' actions are geared towards embracing effective community engagement towards solving the problems of border security in numerous community dwellers. Previous scholars majorly focused on border delimitations problems and management in Africa with little attention paid to the efficacy of deploying effective community engagement using non-kinetic approach towards addressing insecurity at African states' borderlands. This paper, therefore, examines role of effective community engagement in attaining border security, the various non-kinetic measures deployed by concerned stakeholders, and implications on regional security. Barry Buzan, et al Securitization Theory served as framework while the exploratory design was adopted for the study. Data were obtained from both primary and secondary sources. The paper reveals that effective border security is realizable through community engagement; the sole deployment of kinetic approach is deficient. It also upholds the need for non-kinetic strategy and it works hand-in-hand in building peace at border communities in Africa and peaceful coexistence, thereby improves the regional security and fosters trust and cooperation among border communities in Africa. The paper, therefore, recommends the need for adopting a holistic approach that integrates the stakeholder efforts towards enhancing regional border security; and there is a need to prioritize effective community engagement for sustainable peace and stability in Africa.

Keywords: Border security, Effective community engagement, Kinetic and non-kinetic approaches, Africa

Introduction

Borders globally, are fundamental elements of human lives and relations between individuals and societies; and for a very long, humanity has been both separated and connected by a network of borders at all territorial levels (Abiodun, 2021). It was further opined that borders characterize the complex social and territorial phenomena with tangible impact on the border studies. However, ensuring effective border security and management is crucial for preventing and countering the movement of trans-border criminals, terrorists and foreign fighters across land, air, and maritime borders. Additionally, robust and effective border security is essential to curb the illicit cross-border trafficking of arms, ammunition, explosives, hazardous materials, and other goods and cargo that could be used for terrorist purposes UN (2017). Also, in an era where states have exposure to the risks of expanding global movement, policymakers are poised to re-evaluate the various ground-breaking approaches to border management and controls. These policies and programmes range from facilitating legitimate mobility of people and trade to thwarting unauthorized movements, the latter becoming a significant focus in the post-9/11 era as public tolerance for unauthorized immigration diminishes. IOM (2019)

In recent times, African states are increasingly bedeviled with complex challenge of managing their borders in a manner that secures their territorial integrity, facilitates cross-border cooperation and regional integration, and prevents illegal entries and exits of people and goods. Wafula (2019); Eselebor & Okunade (2021) opine that border must serve as a bridge rather than barrier, allowing for the easy movement of goods and people while keeping out criminals such as drug and human traffickers, and terrorists. With the advent of globalization, technological advancements and transformation of international relations, have eliminated all forms of traditional borders thereby making it easier for crimes to be committed without physically or illegally crossing borders (Wafula, 2011). The internet services, for instance, have complicated border management enabling imports to bypass customs institutions for adequate checks.

Moreover, the increase in cross-border trade and migration in search of better opportunities has put immense pressure on border control systems. That is the reason Aliome (2019) and Wafula (2019) agreed there is an urgent need for African nations to advance effective border management systems that would minimize tensions, enhance joint enforcement and surveillance of borders, and reduce organized crime activities in the borderlands. Effective border management, therefore, requires a comprehensive approach that includes deployment of community engagement, kinetic and non-kinetic strategies involving joint efforts of concerned stakeholders, community leaders, governmental institutions, policy-makers, and border communities (Abiodun, 2021). This approach, according to Nebeife, et al (2020) and Afolabi (2018) if properly administered, aims at correcting the wrongs of illegality at border posts while securing the legal flow of goods and people, integrate and develop marginalized border areas, and promote a sense of security and well-being among border landers and Africans.

It is further opined that this would also enhance communication and information exchange between neighbouring states, maintain borders in a way that does not obstruct legal cross-border trade and movement, and foster mutual trust and harmony between neighboring states (Abiodun, 2021). This paper is structured into several parts: the first part defines key concepts; the second discuses border security in community engagement, demonstrating how kinetic and non-kinetic capabilities can be networked to tackle insecurity; the third addresses the role of intelligence sharing and joint operations; The Role of Community Engagement and Kinetic-Non-Kinetic Capabilities and the fourth examines the African regional government perspective and activities on border management.

Conceptual Clarifications

Boundary and Border

The term "boundary" lacks a universally

accepted definition, sparking debate among surveyors. However, it generally refers to a line demarcating the limits of two adjacent territories, defining a state's territorial jurisdiction. Boundaries can be classified as fixed or general (Abiodun, 2021). A fixed boundary is precisely surveyed, allowing for accurate replacement of markers, while a general boundary lacks a clearly defined line. International boundaries, mutually agreed upon by neighboring countries, are jointly owned and established through a consensual process called delimitation. This process involves codifying a boundary treaty, which includes survey marks, border maps, and physical markings, such as natural features or beacons (Abiodun, 2021). These markings control the movement of people and goods across borders, defining the physical limits of a state's territory.

The term "border" is often used inter-changeably with "boundary," referring to a region or area adjacent to a boundary, which may not necessarily coincide with the exact boundary location (Alen, 2019). Borders can be defined by various authorities, such as customs officials, who consider any place within the 12 nautical mile limit as a border, or immigration officials, who extend borders to other countries through advanced passenger information systems (Dokubo, 2019). Additionally, countries may have multiple borders, including maritime boundaries, which can vary from 12 to over 200 nautical miles, depending on the continental shelf limit (Abiodun, 2021). Borders play a crucial role in defining a country's sovereignty, territory, administration, and jurisdiction, as well as assigning national identities, lifestyles, culture, language, and privileges, such as the right to vote, welfare benefits, and other rights exclusive to citizens. A nation-state's boundaries unite people under a single entity, shaping their destiny and defining their national identity Dokubo (2019).

Border Security

Border security refers to the measures taken to protect and control the movement of people, goods, and services across international borders, involving surveillance, patrols, intelligence gathering, interdiction, and customs and immigration enforcement. Effective border security is crucial to preventing illegal activities such as human trafficking, drug trafficking, terrorism, and illegal migration, while also maintaining national sovereignty, protecting public safety, and facilitating legitimate trade and travel Dokubo (2019). By securing borders, countries can prevent threats, reduce risks, and ensure the safety and security of their citizens, making border security a critical aspect of national security and a priority for governments around the world.

Community Engagement

The concept of community is inherently social, representing a complex network of interpersonal connections. Community development has been conceptualized and characterized by various authors, each emphasizing unique elements and attributes. The definition of "community" varies depending on the geographical perspective and the specific field of specialization, including a wide range of interests among other factors. According to Wami (2022), a community functions under specific parameters that are collectively established by its members, either through implicit understanding or explicit agreement. Community According to Dokubo (2019), the concept of community can be understood from two perspectives: a collective of individuals residing in a specific geographic region due to shared bonds of "unity, rootedness, closeness, ethnicity, birth, and kingship."

Therefore, community engagement comprises a range of dimensions related to involvement, participation, and interaction of residents in the community across many situations. Active, meaningful, and deliberate interactions or connections between persons, groups, or entities are frequently linked to this phenomenon (Alen, 2019). Community engagement is observed in several contexts, encompassing social, educational, organizational, and digital domains, and it assumes a crucial function in cultivating connections, enhancing productivity, and attaining intended results (Kahn, 1990; Schaufelli, Gonzales-Romá, & Bakker, 2002).

Community engagement is typically influenced by a framework consisting of guiding ideas, methods, and techniques, rather than being solely determined by a specific 'model'.

Kinetic and Non-Kinetic Strategies

In the concept of "kinetic" refers to active, forceful interventions such as military or police actions aimed at managing and resolving conflicts. These actions can include deploying peacekeeping forces to stabilize regions, enforcing peace agreements, combating organized crime, and protecting civilians from violence (Alen, 2019). Kinetic measures are crucial for establishing immediate security and preventing further violence, but they are most effective when combined with non-kinetic strategies like diplomacy, economic support, and reconciliation efforts to address the root causes of conflict and ensure long-term stability (Arquilla and Ronfeldt, 1997).

Non-kinetic measures in border security refer to the use of diplomatic, economic, and social approaches to achieve goals and resolve conflicts without resorting to force or physical action. This includes diplomatic engagement, international cooperation, economic development, cultural exchange, information sharing, border management cooperation, and conflict resolution through mediation (Vego, 2017). By addressing the root causes of instability and insecurity, non-kinetic approaches prioritize building relationships and fostering cooperation to create a more secure and stable border environment, complementing kinetic measures and promoting sustainable peace and security.

Theoretical Framework

The Human Security Framework prioritizes the protection of individuals and communities from threats to their safety, well-being, and dignity. It encompasses physical, economic, environmental, and social aspects of security, recognizing that security is not only the absence of violence but also the presence of opportunities and freedoms. This framework focuses on the most vulnerable populations, acknowledging that security is not a one-size-fits-all concept (UNDP (1994).

The concept of human security, popularized by the UN Development Programme's 1994 Human Development Report, shifts the focus from state security to individual well-being, dignity, and freedom from fear and want. Human security encompasses seven dimensions: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political security (UNDP (1994). This approach prioritizes human life and dignity, aligning with the notion of development as an end in itself. By broadening the definition of security, the report sparked a paradigm shift in the global debate, influencing politics, institutions, and governance over the past decade.

In the context of border security, the Human Security Framework emphasizes the need to address the root causes of insecurity, such as poverty, political oppression, and social marginalization. It highlights the importance of community engagement, social cohesion, and human development in building resilient and secure communities (Jyoti, 2016). He opines that by adopting a human-centered approach to border security, this framework aims to create a more comprehensive and sustainable understanding of security that prioritizes the well-being and dignity of all individuals.

Research Methodology

This study examines the efficacy of community engagement in attaining border security in Africa through the exploration of non-kinetic strategies drawing from secondary sources to understand how border security in Africa could be shaped and attainable. Data were obtained from secondary sources which included: relevant publications or books, texts, the internet, journals and other sources that form the body of scholarly works on the subject matter in the study. Also, the techniques for analyzing these secondary data are textual analysis and explanatory method. Textual analysis implies analyzing the content of books, journal articles, monographs, unpublished theses and internet materials while explanatory method implies interpretation of existing texts on a subject matter.

Literature Review

Overview of Border Security through Community Engagement

In an era marked by unprecedented global challenges and evolving threats, the traditional paradigm of national security has undergone a significant transformation (Uttam, 2024). He believes that the safeguarding of a nation's well-being now increasingly depends on the active involvement of its citizens and communities, rather than solely on the government and intelligence agencies. This paradigm shift underscores the essential role that individuals and grassroots initiatives play in shaping and fortifying the fabric of national security.

The implementation of this initiative holds significant potential in facilitating environmental and behavioral modifications that can effectively enhance the overall well-being of both the community and its individual constituents. Frequently, the process entails the establishment of partnerships and coalitions that facilitate the mobilization of resources and exert influence on systems. Additionally, these partnerships and coalitions play a pivotal role in altering the dynamics among involved parties, acting as catalysts for the trans formation of policies, programs, and practices (CDC, 1997). Community engagement is a deliberate and purposeful approach aimed at collaborating with specific groups of individuals (such as security agencies) who may be linked by geographical proximity, shared interests, or affiliations, to discover and tackle issues that impact their overall welfare (Alen, 2019).

The association between the concept of 'community' and 'engagement' serves to expand the range of inquiry, redirecting attention from the individual to the collective, thereby highlighting the need for inclusivity to acknowledge the various forms of diversity present within any given community. Prior to the implementation of community policing, the Nigeria Police Force functioned under a typical British semi-military policing organization, which emphasized the concentration of authority (Wami,2022). According to Kpae and Adishi (2017), the notion of centralization of authority contradicts the philosophy of community policing, which prioritizes the decentralization of power. While community policing is a relatively recent development in Nigeria, it has already acquired significant traction in the Western world, particularly in the United States, since the late 1970s. The ideology places emphasis on the principles of collaboration, proactive policing, and the decentralization of power (UNDP (1994). Community policing emphasizes the collaborative efforts between law enforcement agencies and the community, highlighting the potential for achieving outcomes that neither party can achieve alone.

Additionally, it was observed that the fundamental principle of community policing revolves around the restoration of a collective approach to ensuring safety and security within a community. This approach entails the active involvement and assumption of responsibility by all members of the community, rather than solely relying on a limited group of individuals such as the local government administration or the safety forces (Wilson & Hash, 2003). The aim is for everyone in the community to contribute towards the overall well-being and protection of the community as a whole. In response to the prevailing lack of public confidence in law enforcement, the former Inspector General of Police (IGP) T.O. Balogun implemented a series of initiatives in 2003 aimed at enhancing the rapport between the police and the citizenry

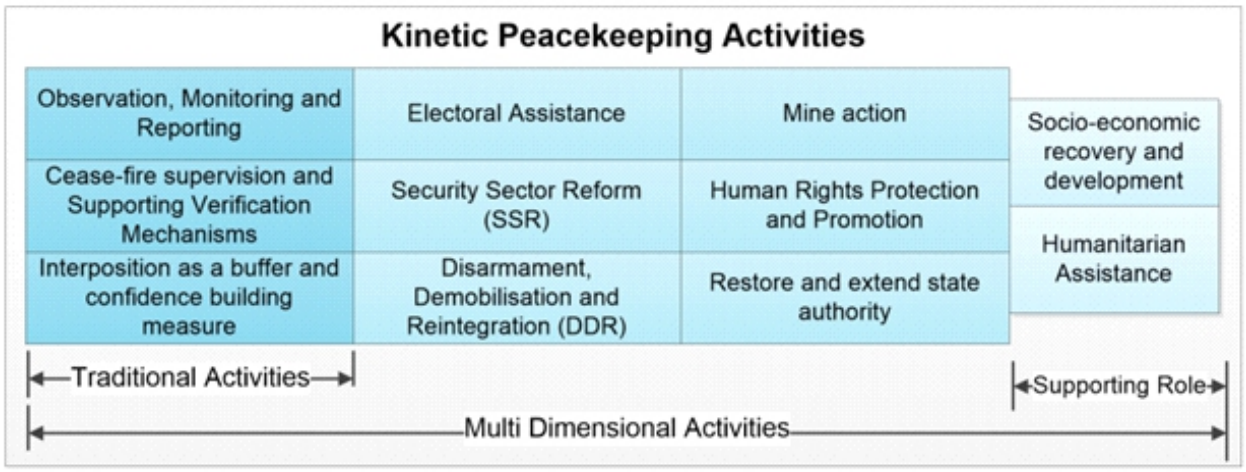
Sensitization, also known as high level awareness, should not be conflated with comprehensive training. The primary objective of awareness presentations is to direct and concentrate attention towards a certain subject, such as security. These presentations aim to help individuals recognize and acknowledge security problems and subsequently take appropriate actions in response (Wilson & Hash, 2003). Security encompasses the measures and strategies implemented to protect individuals and organizations. Sensitization programs play a crucial role in consolidating policy, strategy, and implementation efforts, as

well as disseminating these efforts to particular organizations or groups such as communities. These programs aim to enhance information systems in security by introducing new assets (System Security, 2013).

African Union and United Nations' Peace Initiatives in Africa

Peace and security initiatives preventing conflict and sustaining peace remain key priorities for African governments, institutions, the United Nations, and other partners. Recognizing the strong interdependence between peace and development, there is a clear commitment by both the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN) to addressing the continent's challenges on both fronts. AU report (2021). The Security Council, as the principal organ for maintaining international peace and security, plays a crucial role in the prevention, control, and resolution of conflicts. Through resolution 2282 (2016), the Council acknowledged that development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, emphasizing that sustaining peace involves addressing the root causes of conflict. By collaborating with the AU's Peace and Security Council and strategically focusing on these root causes, the Security Council is well positioned to mobilize international support to tackle instability, prevent violent conflict, and sustain peace in Africa. UN report (2021)

It can also be argued that, the negative attitudes of the governing political elites towards governance to provide for the needs of the people in terms of education and other basic needs have also combined with many other factors to trigger and escalate conflicts between the Tiv and their neighbours. As Aluaigba (2011) rightly captured, members of the political elite in some of the states and local government areas who lost out in the political process especially during electoral competitions usually capitalized on existing ethnic divides in those areas to foment conflicts. The aim is to affect political decisions and, in the end, increase their share of the economic and political benefits. Some of the politically motivated conflicts between the Tiv and their neighbours, according to historical sources, include the Raav (Tiv) - Idoma (1964) in Benue state, Hausa-Fulani - Tiv (1964 - 1965) in Nasarawa state, Tiv -Jukun (1977 - 1978, 1990 - 1993 and 2001 and 2021) in Taraba state, the TivAlago conflicts of 2001 among others. Below is Table 1 showing some of the conflicts between the Tiv and their neighbours.



*Activities undertaken by kinetic UN peacekeeping operations as defined by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) (*Michael, 2018).

The AU and the UN have established mechanisms for collaboration on both peace and security and sustainable development. These joint frameworks have enhanced coordinated action by both organizations to prevent conflict, sustain peace, and strengthen resilience. Since 2007, the Peace and Security Council and the Security Council have met annually to consider issues of peace and security in Africa, enabling joint action and recommendations. Additionally, the Peace and Security Council meets annually with the Peacebuilding Commission to strengthen AU-UN partnerships for peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction in Africa (Michael, 2018). These bodies discuss cooperation in peace and security, development, and human rights, and review progress through the African Union-United Nations annual conference, annual desk-to-desk meetings between the AU Commission and the UN Secretariat, and regular coordination through the UN Office to the AU.

Following an independent assessment of the AU-UN partnership in 2020, the UN is mapping existing cooperation and coordination mechanisms to streamline and simplify efforts. The African Union (AU) plays a central role in promoting peace and security across the continent through its comprehensive Agenda 2063 framework, specifically focusing on Aspiration 4 which aims for "A peaceful and secure Africa." At the heart of this agenda is the flagship initiative known as "Silencing the Guns by 2020," which underscores the AU's commitment to achieving a more peaceful and stable continent (AU Report, 2024). crucial to the AU's peace and security architecture is the Peace & Security Council (PSC), which serves as the principal decision-making body responsible for conflict prevention, management, and resolution. The PSC operates as a collective security and early warning mechanism, designed to facilitate timely and effective responses to conflicts and crises in Africa. It functions within the broader framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), which provides the strategic framework for promoting peace, security, and stability (AU Report, 2024).

The Department of Peace and Security of the African Union Commission (AUC) plays a pivotal role in supporting the PSC. It leads AU activities related to peace, security, and stability, overseeing peace and security offices and missions across the continent (Alen, 2019). Additionally, the Department collaborates with special representatives appointed by the AUC Chairperson to enhance peace and security efforts. Moreover, the Department manages the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, highlighting the AU's commitment to combating terrorism and promoting regional security cooperation (Michael, 2018). It also advocates for AU member states to sign and ratify various treaties related to peace and security, thereby strengthening the legal and institutional framework for collective security in Africa.

By investing in such initiatives, the international community aims to bolster African capacities in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, thereby contributing to stability and development across the region. Independent African continent has confronted numerous crises that have over time metamorphosed into conflicts (Ibeanu, 2013). Historically, the approach to tackling these conflicts has often been affected by Western perspectives, resulting in significant loss of life and widespread destruction of property. Afolabi (2018) However, many African nations have overlooked a crucial element of peacebuilding: ensuring the human security of all their citizens. Addressing human security concerns is paramount in addressing the peace and security challenges faced by the African continent today (Danjibo & Kelvin, 2022). They opine that our world is plagued by various insecurities, threatened by natural disasters, persistent poverty, violent conflicts, prolonged health

crises such as epidemics, and economic downturns on multiple fronts. These challenges not only undermine stability but also hinder progress towards sustainable development and peace. Danjibo & Kelvin (2022) further submitted that in this context, prioritizing human security involves safeguarding individuals from threats to their lives, livelihoods, and dignity. It requires addressing the root causes of conflict, promoting inclusive governance, protecting human rights, ensuring access to basic services such as healthcare and education, and fostering economic opportunities.

By focusing on human security, African nations can build resilience, mitigate risks, and create conditions conducive to sustainable peace and development (Owonikoko & Danjibo, 2019). Efforts to enhance human security must be comprehensive and inclusive, involving collaboration across sectors, communities, and nations. By adopting a holistic approach that empowers individuals and communities to thrive in safety and dignity, Africa can make significant strides towards overcoming its peace and security challenges and realizing its full potential (Alen, 2019).

African Union Fostering Peace and Stability at African Borders

The African Union recognizes the importance of well-defined borders in promoting peace, security, and regional integration. To address this, the AU Border Programme aims to establish clearly defined, internationally recognized, and locally accepted state borders, facilitating viable cross-border cooperation. By doing so, the programme seeks to prevent conflicts, enhance security, stability, and development in border regions, ultimately contributing to peacebuilding and stability in Africa. AUBP Report (2023).

The project supports the AU Border Programme in four key areas. Firstly, it focuses on the delimitation and demarcation of borders, providing technical support and training to AU Member States. Secondly, it enhances policies and institutions, improving the capacities of the AU and regional organizations to develop standards, coordinate processes, and disseminate knowledge (Alen,2019). Thirdly, it fosters dialogue and cooperation at borders, building trust and reducing conflict through cross-border dialogue mechanisms and cooperation with border communities, civil society, and state actors. Lastly, it promotes knowledge transfer and cooperation among border actors to develop expertise in coherent border governance approaches on the African continent (AUBP Report, 2023).

Challenges of African Borders in Perspective

African border security faces significant challenges that hinder the effective management of borders and perpetuate insecurity (Abiodun, 2021). Three key issues contribute to these challenges:

1. Institutional weakness: The lack of strong institutions to manage borders is a pervasive problem in Africa. Many countries lack the necessary infrastructure, personnel, and resources to effectively govern and secure their borders.

2. Lack of cooperation: Border management efforts often suffer from a lack of integration and coordination among local communities, government departments, and regional governments. This leads to a disjointed and ineffective approach to security.

3. Poor demarcation: Many African borders are poorly marked or undefined, making patrolling and control difficult. This leads to territorial violations, disputes, and insecurity.

These challenges contribute to a range of security threats, including cross-border crimes, piracy, illegal fishing, and smuggling. To address these issues, African countries must

prioritize border security, establish effective institutions, foster cooperation among all levels of government and local communities, and clearly demarcate their borders. This requires a sustained effort and commitment to building capacity, improving governance, and enhancing regional cooperation.

Exploring Kinetic and Military Approach to Insecurity in Africa

As a proactive and aggressive approach, kinetic action targets enemy combatants and their supporters to neutralize, capture, or eliminate them (Yakusak & Dewan, 2022). This strategy, termed the targeting strategy, is directed and it relies on the use of force to deter or eliminate perpetrators of insecurity, most especially directed against the transborder criminal elements. Conversely, the non-kinetic approach is indirect and non-aggressive. Between the kinetic and non-kinetic approaches to combating insecurity, the kinetic approach receives greater visibility (Nwauzi. & George-Ibikiri, 2018). The capture of high-value targets attracts headlines and engenders popular support and this has recorded much success at the various borders in some African countries, most especially in East Africa and West African sub-regions.

This also involves the use of 'boots on the ground,' where the military, police, secret services, and all the force apparatus of the government are deployed to forcefully counter or suppress threats to security. The subtlety and long-term duration of the non-kinetic approach, as well as the patience and skill to implement it, receive far less attention (Yakusak & Dewan, 2022). However, according to Yakusak & Dewan (2022), which opines that while experts acknowledge that kinetic action may be “urgent and necessary,” it is believed that it is "not decisive."

In an international police operation coordinated by INTERPOL targeting the movement of illicit firearms in Central and West Africa has led to some 120 arrests and the seizure of firearms, gold, drugs, fake medication, wildlife products and cash. This action involved over 520 law enforcement officials targeting 35 hotspots across the international borders of some African states which include: Niger, Mali, Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Guinea, and Mauritania (Abiodun, 2021). Admittedly, some security challenges are best handled by kinetic approaches, and non-kinetic approaches may not always be suitable, whether as the sole approach or as complementary (Uttam, 2024).

Findings and Analysis

Objective One: *Roles of Community Engagement through Adoption of Non-Kinetic Components of Securing African Borders and Borderlands*

The non-kinetic approach is a less aggressive means to counter insecurity, involving a more subtle and patient application of power by seeking to undermine perpetrators of insecurity with diplomatic and economic tools of national power rather than military force (Abiodun, 2021). Through community engagement, it is most attainable and possible reshaping and improving peace at African states' borders and border communities through the means of cultural consideration and understanding the local dynamics. In understanding the local dynamics, the stakeholders use the key points below to improve the relationship between the stakeholders and the community (Abiodun, 2021)

Objective Two: *The Various Non-Kinetic Measures Deployed by Concerned Stakeholders*

· Identify important people and organizations, such as community leaders, religious leaders, traditional rulers, and civil society organizations, by conducting a stakeholder

analysis on the issues posing threats to borders and borderlands.

· Take part in community outreach: Establish a rapport with the locals, pay attention to their worries, and learn about their needs and viewpoints.

· Gather intelligence reports: Gather and examine information from local authorities, non-governmental organizations, and security reports, among other sources.

· Gather information on the local context through the use of methods such as focus groups, surveys, and needs assessments.

· Work together with regional partners: To obtain understanding of the local context, cooperate with regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, and authorities.

· Examine local news and social media: To learn about trends and popular opinions, keep an eye on local news sources and social media.

· Take part in cultural immersion by hanging out in the neighborhood, going to events there, and picking up tidbits about regional traditions and customs.

· Consult with local specialists: Assist scholars, researchers, and specialists who are knowledgeable about the area.

· Keep an eye on conflict dynamics: To comprehend how the security situation is changing, keep an eye on conflict patterns, occurrences, and actors.

However, in the KIIs held with some respondents, it was revealed that other efforts include institution building, psychological operations, information operations, and rehabilitation:

i. Regularly interface with community leaders in rural communities prior to the execution of intensive non-kinetic strategies across the affected African states.

ii. Strengthen communication channels and partner with relevant stakeholders, including allies, adversaries, and neutral parties.

iii. Re-jigging the specific roles and responsibilities of the security agencies or stakeholders involved in the implementation of non-kinetic strategies.

iv. Use local dialects in the various African communities in teaching and creating awareness as well as establishing a local media out fit for dissemination of stakeholders' efforts in the states.

v. Establish coordination mechanisms at both the strategic and operational levels including regular meetings, joint planning sessions and information-sharing platforms involving all stakeholders.

i. Develop programmes aimed at countering extremist narratives and ideologies through education, media campaigns, and outreach initiatives using local dialects for seamless communication and understanding.

ii. Strengthen the capacity of local government institutions to deliver basic services effectively and fairly, thereby increasing public trust and reducing grievances.

iii. Establish mechanisms for NGOs and IDP to report issues or grievances individuals face to a channel supervised by the governments.

iv. Render assistance to larger resettlement sites in towns outside of the conflict zone to accommodate IDPs.

v. Established coordinated and sustained local and national efforts across multiple fronts with substantial investment in critical infrastructure such as roads, electricity etc and human capital aimed at sustainable economic growth.

Community Engagement by Traditional and Religious leaders (Research Findings, 2024):

i. Continue to engage in cultural exchanges, educational programmes, and other soft power initiatives to build relationships and influence perceptions positively.

ii. Provide counter-narratives to extremist ideologies, offer counseling and rehabilitate former militants through faith-based program.

iii. Leverage the influence of local leaders and elders to promote peace, monitor suspicious activities, and facilitate community-based intelligence sharing (Research Findings, 2024).

Communities on their own were enjoined to:

i. Monitor and report suspicious activities to security agencies, enhancing early warning systems.

ii. Facilitate cooperation between communities and security agencies for coordinated efforts against terrorism.

iii. Conduct campaigns during ceremonial activities such as wedding, birthday, naming ceremony in mosques, churches etc to counter all forms of extremist ideologies and trans border insecurity being promoted in contrary to peaceful coexistence at African borderlands (Research Findings, 2024).

Objective Three: ***Implications of Community Engagement Using Non-Kinetic Approach in Securing African Borders on Security***

Deploying this approach, according to outcome of the study, it would impact positively on African borders' security (Research Findings, 2024):

i. It aids in building trust: Community engagement helps build trust between border communities and state representatives, facilitating cooperation and information sharing in Africa.

ii. Promotes local ownership: Community engagement empowers local communities to take ownership of border security, encouraging them to report suspicious activities and support security efforts among the various African states.

iii. Provides adequate intelligence on border security: Community members can provide valuable intelligence on potential security threats to African borders, helping authorities to anticipate and respond to threats more effectively.

iv. Fosters effective collaboration: Community engagement fosters collaboration among different stakeholders, including border communities, security forces, and local authorities, to address border security challenges in Africa.

v. Addresses grievances: Community engagement helps address grievances and concerns of border communities, reducing the likelihood of tensions and conflicts that could compromise border security.

vi. Enhances legitimacy: Community engagement enhances the legitimacy of border security efforts, ensuring that security measures are perceived as legitimate and effective.

vii. Supporting sustainable economy and political stability: Community engagement supports sustainable economy and political stability among the various African states by building capacity and promoting self-reliance among border communities (Research Findings, 2024).

By engaging with border communities, authorities can create a more effective and sustainable approach to border security, one

that leverages the knowledge, resources, and support of local populations (Research Findings, 2024).

Conclusion

Enhancing border security in Africa requires a people-centered and comprehensive approach that combines kinetic and non-kinetic capabilities with community engagement. By prioritizing trust-building, addressing root causes of instability, and leveraging technology and international cooperation, African countries can create a more secure, stable, and prosperous continent. This approach will not only promote sustainable peace but also support economic development, regional integration, and human well-being, ultimately contributing to a brighter future for Africa. By working together, African countries can create a model for border security that prioritizes human security, dignity, and well-being, and serves as a beacon for global peace and stability.

Recommendations

i. Stakeholders on border security should incorporate development initiatives that address poverty, inequality, and social exclusion, recognizing that security and development are interdependent.

ii. Local communities should be more empowered to take ownership of border security through community-led initiatives, fostering trust and cooperation between border security agencies and local populations.

iii. Government must ensure that border security measures prioritize human rights, dignity, and well-being, avoiding practices that perpetuate violence, discrimination, or marginalization.

iv. Regional cooperation and dialogue must be fostered to address transnational challenges, such as migration, trafficking, and organized crime, through collaborative border security strategies.

v. Border security agencies should be provided with adequate training and capacity-building programs that focus on human security, human rights, and community engagement, ensuring that personnel are equipped to respond effectively to complex border security challenges.

vi. There is need for promotion of human security approach for effective border security by prioritizing the well-being and dignity of individuals and communities while addressing security concerns.

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