



Title: The Impact of Climate Change on Nigeria's Fragile State

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ABSTRACT

The cumulative threat of climate fragility in Nigeria is among the highest in the world. Its ongoing instability and violence significantly limit the state's ability to deal with the country's serious climatic concerns. The first step in this study is to pinpoint the areas and Nigerian populations that are most at risk for climate exposure hazards, as well as the precise threats they face. Secondly, it discusses existing delicate aspects, the state's ability to respond to public demands and delicate components that pose the greatest threats to strength. It significantly acknowledges the fundamental drivers of fragility poor state capability and interactions between the state and society, both of which can fuel instability, and therefore, become a barrier to the attainment of SDGs and peace in Nigeria. Based on an alarming score of 97.2 in the Fragile States Index (FSI), Nigeria is currently the 16th most fragile state in the world. The study conclusion portrays how state's fragile environment gambles uplift uncertainty in Nigeria. Emphasizing that climate change is not just about the environment, but a wide-range of issues, particularly if viewed from the context of state fragility. The study relied on secondary data recommends that Nigeria's government at federal, state and local levels of governance should focus on the twelve conflicts risk indicators as earlier enumerated.

Keywords: Fragile State, Fragility, Climate Change, Environmental degradation, vulnerable persons.

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria, a West African country, is facing the combined issue of being categorised as a fragile state while also grappling with the effects of climate change. Fragile nations are defined by poor governance, political instability, economic weakness, and social discontent. These variables can worsen the consequences of climate change, increasing the population's risks and vulnerabilities. Environmental stress may be making land conflicts and food shortages worse at the same time. Understanding the intricate interplay between fragility and climate threats is essential given the seriousness of Nigeria's problems. Nigeria has the seventh-largest population in the world and is the most densely populated country in Africa, according to World Meter's analysis of the most recent United Nations data. Its population is estimated to be 218.5 million, spread across an area of 923,768 km² (356,669 sq. mi). Nigeria has a population equal to 2.64 per cent of all people worldwide (Worldometer, 2022). According to the United Nations, Nigeria's population is projected to increase even more during the following three decades, from over 218 million this year to 375 million, making it the fourth most populated nation in the world, behind only India, China, and the United States. Nigeria, like many other nations, is confronted with the issues of being a fragile state as well as the effects of climate change. Fragile nations have poor governance, political instability, insecurity,

and a limited capability to deliver critical services to their citizens. Climate change exacerbates these issues and increases the threats to the social, economic, and environmental stability of fragile governments such as Nigeria (IPCC, 2022).

There is no universally accepted definition of a fragile state, but there are characteristics that can be used as a benchmark to conclude that a state is fragile. These include but are not limited to; institutions of the state are frail or lack stability, there is obvious extreme poverty, frequent violence, and unpredictability politically. According to World Bank Report, (2014),

A fragile state is a low-income country characterized by weak state capacity and/or weak state legitimacy leaving citizens vulnerable to a range of shocks. The World Bank, for example, deems a country to be 'fragile' if it (a) is eligible for assistance (i.e., a grant) from the International Development Association (IDA) (b) has had a UN peacekeeping mission in the last three years, and (c) has received a 'governance' score of less than 3.2 (as per the Country Performance and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) index of The World Bank).

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) sees fragile state as the mixture of exposure to risk and inadequate coping ability of the states, and communities to manage, absorb or mitigate those threats. Fragility can lead to negative outcomes such as violence, the breakdown of institutions, displacement, humanitarian crises or other emergencies, (OECD 2018). Climate change not equally having a universally accepted definition, has a scientifically accepted barometer determine what climate change is all about, climate change or global warming, means the rise in average surface temperature on Earth, which is due primarily to the human use of fossil fuels, which releases carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the air. The gases trap heat within the atmosphere, which can have a variety of effects on ecosystems, as well as rising sea levels, severe weather events, and droughts that render landscapes more vulnerable to wildfires.

The understanding of climate change shows a nexus between fragile state and climate change, which is that climate change impinges on the environment by increasingly placing strains on the essential resources that underpin human, national and international security, such as food, water and other basic necessities of life that its absence will upscale political turmoil. In fragile and conflict-affected contexts, a just transition to low-carbon pathways and ambitious, inclusive mitigation must be the initial steps in tackling the security challenges associated with climate change (UNDP, 2022). The 60 fragile contexts listed in the 2022 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report are being disproportionately impacted by numerous, concurrent crises, according to the OECD (2022) the most significant of these crises are COVID-19, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and climate change, with their scope and intensity greatly influenced by the core causes of multidimensional fragility. People, the environment, and wealth are all at risk from fragility. For sustainable development Goals (SDGs) and peace in a linked world, addressing the underlying causes of multidimensional fragility is crucial.

Literature Review

Nigeria is one of several states, according to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), that are susceptible to the dual burden of State fragility and climatic risk. State fragility is a reflection of weak state capabilities and weak state-society ties, both of which can lead to instability. Nigeria has some of the biggest worldwide climate-fragility threats. It is plagued by persistent instability and violence, which significantly restrict the state's capacity to address the country's significant climate concerns. Environmental stress may also be making land conflicts and food shortages more severe, climate exposure is a reflection of the dangers climate hazards like cyclones, floods, droughts, coastal flooding, and wildfires pose to a state's people and land (USAID, 2019).

According to Okali and Eleri, (2004), “climate change is the synthesis of weather in a given place for at least 30 years” He named the constituent of weather to include; temperature, rainfall, dew, humidity, sunshine, mist haze and clouds. It is the combined manifestation of these elements over time that becomes the climate of a place. To this end, climate change is a change in the combined pattern of expression not just one element of weather. The opposite of a "fragile state" is a "stable state" one where dominant or statutory institutional arrangements appear able to withstand internal and external shocks. Countries such as Mozambique and Burundi have so far demonstrated a remarkable turn-around within the boundaries of reigning institutional arrangements (CPIA, 2014). With the right conditions like prudent management of available resources some of the challenges of these countries falling behind can be managed to growth, international spotlight must be kept on countries where the Millennium Development Goals are hardest to achieve, using common principles for action; making the international aid architecture more rational; improving the organisational response of the wide range of actors involved, including the “3Ds” diplomacy, defence and development; and measuring results. (CPIA, 2014). The threat of conflict and famine in the North, the escalating violence between farmers and herders in the Middle Belt, and the simmering tensions over the management of natural resources in the Niger Delta are three distinct dynamics that serve as important illustrations of the challenges to stability posed by the country's increasing fragility and climate risks. Given that environmental stress and poor resource management by the government lead to instability in some areas of Nigeria, which presently suffers food shortages and land conflicts, understanding the relationship between fragility and climate threats is fundamental to the attainment of the SDGs (USAID, 2019).

Features of a Fragile State (Fragility)

Fragility refers to feeble or deteriorating structures and to situations where the social bond is fragmented as a result of the state’s inability or unwillingness to deal with basic functions of the state, meet its responsibilities regarding service delivery, management of resources, rule of law, impartial access to power, security and safety of the populace and protection and promotion of citizens' rights and freedoms (CPIA Report, 2017). The CPIA Report emphasized that many countries are making headway in the direction of achieving the Millennium Development Goals; “a group of 35 to 50 countries (depending on the measure used) are falling behind. It is estimated that out of the world's seven billion people, 26% live in fragile states, and this is where one-third of all people surviving on less than US\$1.25 per day live, half of the world's children who die before the age of five, and one-third of maternal deaths occur” (CPIA Report, 2017). Since 2000, Nigeria's fragility score has significantly increased, making it one of the most fragile nations in sub-Saharan Africa and the most fragile of all West African nations. State capacity and societal resilience have a significant role in the ability to address extensive, diverse climatic hazards, such as those that Nigeria faces (USAID, 2019).

Predictions show that fragile states will constitute an even larger share of low-income countries in the future given that many better-performing low-income countries graduate to middle-income status. This is a major challenge for development efforts and it has been argued according to CPIA, (2017) by the Overseas Development Institute that fragile states require essentially different methods from the development models exercised in more resilient countries, because of the different perspectives of threat that confront them. The impact and effect of climate change are on land, air and water and these are the sum total of our environment, which is defined as the aggregate of land, water and air, their relationship among themselves and also with human beings and other living organism and properties (CPIA, 2017). Nigeria's fragility risks are getting worse as a result of the effects of climate change on the country's social and environmental systems. The difficulties that local communities face are being made worse by extreme weather patterns that have shorter, more intense rainy seasons and longer, more intense dry seasons. Desertification has exacerbated extensive cultivation and overgrazing, rendering large swaths of land in northern Nigeria unusable for agriculture. Key examples of the challenges to stability posed by the country's

compounding fragility and climate risks include the conflict and famine risk in the North, rising violence between herders and farmers in the Middle Belt, and rumbling tensions over the management of natural resources in the Niger Delta (USAID, 2019; Nwankpa, 2022).

Nexus between Fragile State and Climate Change

The link between state fragility and climate change is intrinsically complicated. The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) has stressed how closely development, resource consumption, health, livelihoods, and economies are related to climate change. It can also be a "threat multiplier" and a stressor for communities, states, and conflict dynamics already in place (IISD, 2015). In Nigeria, land conflicts and food shortages may be getting worse as a result of environmental stress. Understanding the intricate interplay between fragility and climate threats is essential given the seriousness of Nigeria's problems (USAID, 2019). Despite efforts to lessen the hazards, human-induced climate change is disrupting nature in a harmful way and harming the lives of billions of people worldwide. The most recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) from 2022 concludes that the effects of climate change are already evident and expected to worsen over time, with developing nations like Nigeria, bearing the brunt of the effects on people and ecosystems that are least able to adapt (IPCC, 2022). Mercy Corps study carried out by Beza Tesfaye with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in five sub-Saharan countries (Kenya, Nigeria, Mali, Zimbabwe, and Uganda) using large conflict, governance, and environmental datasets, tested the hypothesis; that effective governance and political institutions can play a mediating role, in that they may be able to interrupt the link between climate variability and conflict by providing forums for conflict resolution, found that while temperature variability is associated with an increased risk of conflict. The study suggests that a significant factor in determining whether underlying conflict drivers lead to violence is a state's ability to prevent, alleviate, and successfully address the social and economic issues brought on by climate change (Tsfaye, 2022).

Risks associated with Nigeria's fragility are being exacerbated by the effects of climate change on the nation's socioeconomic and environmental systems. Extreme weather patterns that produce shorter, more intense rainy seasons and fiercer, longer dry seasons are making problems for local populations worse. Large tracts of land in northern Nigeria are now becoming unproductive due to desertification, which has exacerbated overgrazing and intensive farming. In southern Nigeria, unpredictable rainfall of greater severity is destroying crops and uprooting populations. With a fast-expanding population, the country's depleting environmental resources provide a severe threat to food security. In reality, Nigeria is ranked as the 6th least prepared country in the world to adapt to climate change by the 2021 Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index (ND-GAIN), placing it as the 53rd most vulnerable nation regarding climate change globally (IISD, 2015; ND-GAIN, 2022).

National Policy on Climate Change

All facets of Nigeria's development are susceptible to stressors associated with the climate, according to the Federal Ministry of Environment Department of Climate Change (FMEDCC). Both its physical and natural capital, including its cities, infrastructure, and other forms of created capital, as well as its human capital, are extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Natural capital includes things like land, forests, landscapes, water, and fisheries. The economy of Nigeria and other development sectors are both extremely vulnerable to climate change. Natural capital, the primary source of income and livelihood for the majority of Nigerians, is impacted by climate change in terms of its capacity to provide a wide range of goods and services (including food, fodder, timber, and the regulation of water cycles), some of which are essential (FMEDCC, 2021).

In recognition of the impact and effect of climate change on the life, property and economy of the Nation, The Federal Government of Nigeria created a Department of Climate Change at the Federal Ministry of Environment Abuja. According to Yerimah Peter Tarfa, The Director Department of Climate Change; "Nigeria became a Party to

the UNFCCC in 1992 and ratified the Convention in 1994, it also became a Party to the Kyoto Protocol in 2004. Nigeria ratified the Paris Agreement (PA) in March 2017, which was approved by the UNFCCC on the 16th of May 2017 and entered into force on the 15th of June 2017.” He added that his department was established to serve as a National driving force for climate change effects and actions, and acknowledge that the issue of climate change is not only a global challenge but much more fundamental in the threats it poses to Nigeria and his people, hence the desire of the federal Government through his department in providing National policy direction toward combatting the challenges of climate change and at the same time “moving the country to a low-carbon development trajectory.”

Perhaps the greatest threat to humanity is climate change. To effectively address it, a dynamic policy framework with dimensional and multi-sectorial mitigation and adaptation activities is needed. The government is aware of this and committed to addressing any alleged threat to the sustainability of its national growth, hence the National Climate Change Policy. According to FMEDCC (2021), the vision of the National Policy on Climate Change is A low-carbon, climate-resilient Nigeria. The Mission is to ensure sustainable development and a climate-proofed economy through multi-stakeholder engagement. The overall goal is to: Promote a low-carbon, climate-resilient and gender-responsive sustainable socio-economic development. Some of the expected outcomes of the policy’s goal include i. Reduced vulnerability to climate change impacts across all sectors. ii. Improved social, cultural, economic and ecological resilience. iii. Reduced greenhouse gas emissions. iv. Increased awareness of climate change impacts and adaptation and mitigation measures. v. Enhanced and strengthened research, innovation and technology development and transfer and systematic observations. vi. Enhanced capacity to implement climate change-related interventions at national, state and community levels. vii. Climate change and its cross-cutting issues are mainstreamed in development (FMEDCC, 2021).

Statistics of Fragile States

The Fund for Peace's Fragile States Index (FSI) is a crucial tool for highlighting not only the normal pressures that all states face, but also when those pressures are pushing a state closer to failure. It is based on the strength and power of a state's institutions and apparatuses to create the social good for its citizens, such as safety, well-being, and happiness. States are frequently referred to as functional, failed, or fragile. When a state is no longer able to consistently and legitimately enforce its laws or provide its citizens with basic goods and services, it is generally regarded as failing. A fragile state is one whose central government is weak or ineffective that it has little practical control over a large portion of its territory. These states are characterized by poor or nonexistent public services, pervasive crime and corruption, refugees and forced population movements, and rapid economic decline (Fund for Peace, 2022). Fund for Peace relied on these twelve conflict risk indicators; security apparatus, factionalized elites, group grievances, economic decline, uneven economic growth, brain drain, human flight, public service, human rights and rule of law, demographic pressures, refugees and IDPs, as well as external interventions within countries to measure a state's current situation resulting in the fragile state index (Ismail, 2022).

According to the 2022 FSI report Yemen and Somalia are on very high alert; Yemen ranks highest on the fragile index with a score of 111.7, followed by Somalia with a score of 110.5, Syria with a score of 108.4, South Sudan with a score of 108.4, and the Central African Republic with a score of 108.4. With a score of 15.1 out of 100, Finland is the least fragile nation in the world. Norway comes in at 15.6, Iceland at 17.1, New Zealand at 17.5, and Denmark at 17.5. With a score of 46.6, the United States ranks 140th, Ukraine ranks 92nd, and Russia ranks 75th. The index has been published annually by the Fund for Peace and the magazine foreign policy since 2005 and includes all UN member states. The countries are ranked on a scale of one to twelve, with one being the most fragile and the other the least fragile.

With a score of 97.2, Nigeria is currently the 16th most fragile state in the world, improving slightly from a score of 98 in 2021, according to the FSI report. Nigeria has remained in the top decile of fragile states worldwide ever since 2007, shifting between the alert zone (90-100) and the high alert zone (100-110). The very high alert zone, which runs from 111 to 120, is the worst. Ismail, (2022) emphasized that the unique internal pattern of a state's fragility and its intensity over time are frequently overlooked because the FSI is based on the global ranking. For instance, Nigeria's FSI score of 97.2 in 2022 indicates that the country has experienced a greater economic shock than in previous decades. The country recorded its all-time highest annual inflation rate in June 2022, with a month-over-month increase of 18.6 per cent. This rate is expected to continue rising through the fourth quarter, while the inflation rate was 8.48 per cent in 2013 when the FSI score was 100.7. The country's inflation rate was 15.68 per cent even in 2016 when the highest FSI score was 103.5. The country experienced the greatest exodus of people and brains from the country between 2020 and 2022. Between 2010 and 2020, more than \$US39 billion was spent on education and international health care, according to a report from the Nigerian Central Bank. In addition, it was reported that \$220.86 million was spent on international education between December 2021 and February 2022 (Fund for Peace, 2022; Ismail, 2022)

Impact of Climate Change

The effects of climate change on Nigeria's weak status are numerous. Environmental deterioration can cause food hunger, water shortages, community dislocation, livelihood loss, and increased competition for resources. These implications exacerbate the already unstable structures in existence, making it difficult for the government to respond effectively to emergencies. Food production and human health can be harmed by drought. Flooding has the potential to spread illness and harm infrastructure and ecosystems. Health problems can reduce worker productivity, raise mortality, and have an impact on the availability of food. The impacts of climate change can be seen in every area of the world we live in. However, the effects of climate change vary across the nation and the globe. Even within a single city, different neighbourhoods or people may experience different effects of climate change. (Gomez-Zavaglia, et al., 2020; Oladipo, 2010; Ugwuanyi, 2014; Van Susteren, & Al-Delaimy, 2020).

According to The World Bank Group Report (2018), “climate change is an acute threat to global development and efforts to end poverty. Without urgent action, climate impacts could push an additional 100 million people into poverty by 2030”. Stressing further they emphasized that fragility, conflict, and violence (FCV) is a critical development that threatens efforts to end extreme poverty, affecting both low- and middle-income countries. “The share of the extremely poor living in conflict-affected situations is also expected to rise to more than 60% by 2030. And Conflict is also a motivating factor to about 80% of all humanitarian needs, while they reduce gross domestic product (GDP) growth by two per cent per year.” Addressing FCV is a strategic priority to achieve the twin goals of ending life-threatening poverty and promoting shared prosperity. And in achieving these goals we are collaborating with the global community towards the Sustainable Development Goals in specific, Goal 16 for peace, justice and strong institutions. (The World Bank Group Report, 2018)

The predictions of a future influenced by climate change are not inevitable. Offsite link issues have been studied extensively, and new ones are constantly being discovered. According to experts, there is still time to prevent the worst results by lowering emissions to zero as quickly as feasible and controlling the warming offsite link (IPCC, 2022). New technology and infrastructure investments will be needed to cut greenhouse gas emissions, which will boost job growth. Additionally, by reducing emissions, harmful effects on human health will be reduced, saving numerous lives and billions of dollars in health-related costs. The climate and the weather affect how much food we can eat. Although ranchers and analysts might have the option to adjust a few horticultural procedures and innovations or foster new ones, a few changes will be hard to make due. The farmers and ranchers who provide our food face challenges from rising temperatures, drought and water stress, diseases, and extreme weather. Heat-

related health issues, such as exhaustion, heatstroke, and heart attacks, can affect human farm workers. Animals can also suffer harm from heat stress and rising temperatures (Daniels, 2022 Gomez-Zavaglia, et al., 2020; Van Susteren, & Al-Delaimy, 2020)

Poverty, Violence, Fragility – A Vicious Circle

According to World Bank (2020) “Global Economic Prospects Report” fragile states are twice as likely to be affected by malnutrition and infant mortality as other developing countries. Moreover, it is three times more likely that children in these countries will be unable to attend school and twice as likely that the population will have no access to clean drinking water. Fragility, poverty and violence thus form a vicious circle, when state structures are weak and it is no longer likely to guarantee basic social, economic and legal services or security, conflicts often intensify. Nevertheless, this vicious circle can be broken through the development of legitimate institutions and active civil society. Climate change manifests through increased temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, sea-level rise, and life-threatening weather events, which can have severe consequences on livelihoods, food security, water availability, and natural resources (World Bank, 2020; Kurath, et al., 2022).

Nigeria's frail status puts it vulnerable to the negative consequences of climate change. Climate change is a severe danger to Nigeria's environment, economy, and society. Flooding, droughts, deserts, and increasing sea levels are some of the climatic threats that the country faces. These occurrences not only have an influence on the natural environment, but they also exacerbate existing population vulnerabilities, particularly in fragile states such as Nigeria (IPCC, 2022; UNDP, 2022). Displacement and migration motivated by climate-related factors can strain resources and lead to competition and tensions among communities. Climate-related disasters can also create conditions conducive to conflicts, as they disrupt social systems, exacerbate poverty, and amplify grievances within fragile states (Kurath, et al., 2022).

Theoretical Framework

A fragile state categorized by weak state capacity and legitimacy to perform its responsibility of meeting the needs and aspirations of the citizenry thereby leaving them vulnerable to a wide range of shock and climate change which impact is on the environment; land, air and water, as a result of human activities against nature over some time, are capable of generating into conflict domestically and internationally. Therefore, this study “The Impact of Climate Change on Nigeria’s Fragile State” was interrogated from the perspective of human needs theory. This theory maintains that all humans have certain universal needs and failure to meet these needs makes conflict an inevitability that is, humans will result in conflict since their needs have not been met. The hierarchy of needs according to Abraham Maslow begins with the need for food water and shelter, followed by the need for safety and security, and then belonging or love, self-esteem and finally personal fulfilment and self-actualization.

Looking at these hierarchies of needs and the possibility of meeting them in a fragile and climate-change environment is impossibility. Apart from Abraham Maslow in his motivation and personality of needs theory, John Burton also notes that human needs such as recognition, identity, security, autonomy and bonding among others are not easily surrendered and an attempt from the political or social system to suppress them will either fail or cause more damage in the final analysis, so the best bet from needs theory perspective is to solve a conflict situation caused by the denial of basic needs or make sure that the denial does not occur, is to provide these human needs which are necessities of life.

Methodology

The methodology which is mainly qualitative adopted for this study included data collection from secondary sources like books, articles from libraries and online source which helps in the explanation of concept such as

climate change and state fragility. These works were analysed to extract points made by different authors that argue for or against state fragility and climate change

Discussion

Late Gorbachev the former President of the USSR at the United Nations General Assembly in 1990 stressed that the relationship between man and the environment has become menacing and noted that the threat from the sky is no longer missiles but global warming which is a result of climate change (Myer, 1993). The earth summit held in June 1992, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil generally brought countries of the world together basically to address two issues; the common crisis of global warming and the belief that it is in the interest of every stakeholder to join hands together and combat the crisis and other form of environmental degradation. The environment which is governed by natural laws cannot be controlled by any one state or individual and since these environmental challenges are caused by our collective actions, it is obvious that our collective joint effort as stakeholders can equally help solve the problems associated with climate change.

At this juncture, it is pertinent to agree with the reviewed works of literature that a fragile state is one whose central government is so weak or ineffective that it has little practical control over a large portion of its territory. These states are characterized by poor or nonexistent public services, pervasive crime and corruption, refugees and forced population movements, and rapid economic decline. All of these seem to have aptly captured the current pathetic narratives of the Nigerian state. Nigeria is prone to the impacts of climate change due to its geographical location, various ecosystems, and reliance on climate-sensitive industries such as oil, agriculture, water resources, and coastal areas. Climate change presents itself in the form of rising temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, sea-level rise, and extreme weather events, all of which may have serious effects on livelihoods, food security, water availability, and natural resources. Climate change can worsen already-existing socioeconomic issues in fragile states. For example, altering rainfall patterns and extended droughts can cause crop failures, livestock losses, and food insecurity, hurting vulnerable groups' livelihoods and potentially leading to conflicts over scarce resources. Furthermore, climate-related calamities like floods and storms can create relocation, destroy infrastructure, and disrupt economic activity, putting further strain on weak state institutions. Climate change impacts might worsen current security difficulties and lead to humanitarian disasters. Climate-related displacement and migration can strain resources and lead to competitiveness and conflicts among communities. Climate-related disasters can also foster conflict by disrupting social structures, exacerbating poverty, and amplifying grievances within fragile governments.

Conclusion

To conclusion, Nigeria's fragile state status exacerbates the dangers connected with climate change, generating a complicated collection of issues for the country. Addressing these concerns necessitates concerted actions at the local, national, and international levels to increase resilience, promote sustainable development, and reduce the effects of climate change on vulnerable people. Climate change is real. It is already here with us. As we have said, it will affect everyone the rich and the poor, even the homeless and those that have magnificent mansions. Fragile states are real and the numbers of fragile states are increasing as a result of the increasing level of corruption across these weak states. These problems are obvious, the lack of data on these issues is not tenable, it is either that these data are deliberately being ignored or that there is a lack of understanding of these data on the part of those who ought to know. Climate change is not just about the environment, but a wide-range of issues, are particularly viewed from the context of state fragility more work needed to be done on the part of all concerned to ensure that these issues are incorporated into policy-making and planning with all types of aid and development organizations.

Recommendations

Addressing the issues posed by climate change in a vulnerable country like Nigeria need a comprehensive approach that includes both mitigation and adaptation measures. Mitigation strategies seek to minimise greenhouse gas emissions while limiting future environmental deterioration. Adaptation techniques focus on increasing community resilience to the effects of climate change and catastrophe preparedness. It is therefore, recommended that; the necessary proactive measures such as strong democratic institutions like political parties, the National Assembly; the Judiciary; the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Civil Society; anti-graft agencies such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), in the case of Nigeria. These institutions which must be allowed to operate freely and effectively to ensure the growth and sustenance of democracy and good governance; should be put in place by all stakeholders to proffer solutions to these emerging global challenges. For example, once an elected official knows that the electoral body of their various states cannot be manipulated during an election because it is well institutionalized. The tendency that they will govern well is obvious so that they can seek re-election.

Nigeria's government at federal, state and local levels of government should as a matter of priority focus on the twelve conflict risk indicators as earlier enumerated. There is also a need for peer review among states so that the states that are not doing well can learn and copy from states that are progressing economically so they can begin to improve their economy for the good of their citizens.

In addition, a coordinated effort should be made by all stakeholders to effectively and consciously foster the needed resistance to checkmate the challenges which are associated with climate change and state fragility. For instance, if the executive, the legislators and the judiciary honestly come together to fight corruption, the issue of corruption would have been frontally dealt with. The political leadership in those fragile and climate change-prone states must imbibe the culture of leadership by example fastened on selfless service to the people with total commitment and sacrifice. They should not see political office as a means of self-enrichment and personal aggrandizement; finally the donor agencies or organisations, like The World Bank should step-up their monitoring mechanism of a given aid to include measures that will help navigate fragile states from fragility to stable states.

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