



## JOURNALISTS' PERCEPTION OF MEDIA REPORTAGE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PEACE BUILDING IN NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

This piece appraised the effort of Non-Governmental Organizations and Peace Building in Nigeria within the lens of the media. To achieve this, the study adopted descriptive survey. The population of the study comprises of 450 journalists that was derived from NUJ fact sheet of Rivers State. Due to the manageable size of the population the census principle was adopted. The instrument for Data gathering was the questionnaire. The data was presented in frequency tables while analysis was done using simple percentages and the Weighted mean scores with a 2.5 decision rule. The findings revealed that at an average mean of 2.6(N=250) that Non-Governmental Organisations were actually working for the peace of Nigeria and such effort contributes to the growth and development of Nigeria. It was recommended that Government should partner with NGOs in the area of reaching the unreached with their policies and programmes.

**Keywords:** Development, Media, NGOs, Peace-building, Rivers.

## Introduction

Peace is one of the greatest needs of man and indeed, of the world today. Without peace, the life of society will be stalled on all fronts. There will be neither development nor growth because man will be battling to save his life and neglect every other responsibility he owes himself and the society. There is a schizophrenic rise in the rate of crime and insecurity in the world in recent times. This has made the value of man's life on earth to be reduced to something that should be estimated in time based on certain social, economic, political cum religious indices, with each index varying from one society to another; instead of life running its eternal span terminus. Peace is very sacrosanct because it is one of the basic conditions for humanity. Barring any other societal dynamics, peace is one of the determinants of man's stay on earth. Without peace, man cannot move forward or make any meaningful development in any area of life (Uzuegbunam, 2013).

In Africa, the term peace is very relative because of the realities on the ground. No African country can stand tall today to say that all is well with the land or its people in all ramifications. Governments and other relevant agencies have continued to battle that monster of insecurity and other social challenges that plagues the continent. The continent unfortunately, is seen as a theatre of civil wars, lawlessness and dictatorships. To date, the continent is still struggling with sit-tight clueless and visionless ideologues who see the seat of government as their patrimony. There are the oppressed people who have been too weakened to stake a claim to their fundamental human rights but respond obsequiously to the whims and caprices of the territorial hegemons. There are also the ideological rationalists who are constantly at daggers drawn with the complacent ideologues while the bourgeois utopians and tragic visioners watch on. It is a complex war of wits, in a continent divided against itself in every dimension of the word, (Amadi, 2003).

Africa is not alone in the quest for sustainable peace and development. Other continents of the world like Europe and America are still in the fray. They have had to and are still plagued with global terrorism, earthquakes, hurricanes and disasters, insecurity in diverse dimensions, economic instability and political hypnotism. Britain's quest to sever itself from the European Union is a pointer that all is not very well with the European Union. The United Nations have continued to sue for peace among member nations of the world in order to avert a third world war especially in the face of tight internecine nuclear weapons politics currently pervading the global space.

The Asian continent is not left out of the hullabaloo. The technology crazy continent is breaking the limits with a lot of technological inventions. These inventions are clearly seen in the type of wars going on in the region. There is the perpetual war between Israel and Palestinians, the Syria war is still raging, Pakistan and what have you. The point here is that peace is gradually eluding humanity and it is humans that will bring peace to society because insecurity is also caused by humans.

In Nigeria, the crisis level has reached its climax. From pristine times, there has been the argument that the country was a contraption of the British Lords that ruled them colonially without recourse to the wishes and aspirations of the people. After the amalgamation of 1914, the former Southern and Northern protectorates of the country are yet to find a common ground for unity. This is exemplified by the full-blown civil war of 1967-70. After the war, successive military coup de tats in the country shows the continuum of hostilities between the various parts of the country. From 1999 to date, the country has been enmeshed in a voodoo kind of federalism called democracy. A democracy that only the centre is strong whereas the federating units are beggars, with no real power to do anything developmental without being dictated to by the federal government. This has led to a lot of crisis in the system.

As it is today, Nigeria is battling terrorism on a global scale with the Boko Haram and Herdsmen onslaught on various States, killing and maiming unprovoked and unrestrained, holding territories and subtly dictating the direction of state policy. There is the issue of armed banditry and cult killing threatening the very fabric of the country because several communities are currently under siege with several people fleeing their homes for safety. Armed robbery and kidnapping have become normal occurrences that do not stick shock to the mind of residents anymore because of its frequency. Inter and intra communal clashes are rife in the country. There is also politically sponsored and motivated killings and assassinations which has gone unchecked since the beginning of time. Pick pockets, thieves, criminal gangs and mischievous elements all vent their vendetta on the average Nigerian without restraint. All of these culminate in an unsafe and unhealthy society for humans to inhabit. The quest for survival becomes the lot of average Nigerians with no hope in ensuing dilemma.

In Port Harcourt, the capital of Rivers State, for instance, Amannah and Ekwebelem (2018), lamented that its state of morality had in recent times been constantly on the decline. The duo rued that few decades back, Port Harcourt used to know less of stealing, obtaining money under false pretences (OBT), prostitution and gambling. Armed robbery was rare and restricted to the highways, but today, crimes more heinous than these were being contrived and in a higher intensity too. Young people between the ages of thirteen and twenty eight are in notorious cults of murderous nature, where rivalry among them has devastated not only properties but also hundreds of souls. Armed robbery and kidnapping are common practices perpetrated by members of these cult groups, whose targets are banks, bullion vans, filling stations and busy shopping malls. People who withdraw large sums of money from banks are monitored and dispossessed by hoodlums, the presence of security operatives notwithstanding. These hoodlums sometimes dare the devil to rob near police stations and many times with huge successes. Kidnapping of both foreign and local staff of oil companies was once an effective strategy militants of the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria adopted in the nineties and well into the millennium in agitation for development of the area against the Federal Government of Nigeria, but today, criminals have adopted it in Port Harcourt as a means of livelihood when they demand several millions of Naira from relatives of kidnap victims as ransom.

This has led Abdulrahman and Tar (2008), to assert that all over the world, the quest for sustainable peace and security has continued to bug the mind of various stakeholders on how best to achieve peace in the society. These stakeholders include international organisations, governments, security agencies, communities, non-governmental organisations, grassroots organisations among others. This is because peace-building requires the effort and cooperation of everybody in the society.

In the face of various challenges confronting the human race, several persons come together to seek ways of tackling the challenges of a given society. This they do sometimes in the form of an organisation with specific goals and mission. Some of the organisations wear the toga of economy, religion, civilisation, culture or socialisation. Also, some are profit making while others simply give the needed service to the society without recourse to any form of gratifications whatsoever.

The non-profit organisations which are mostly not owned or controlled by the government, design programmes that affect the life of the people in a given society positively. According to Oku (2016), Non-Governmental Organisations are non-profit making in their operations because they are voluntary organizations that engage in activities for the betterment of society. These organizations are not directly affiliated to any national government but often have a significant impact on the social, economic and political activities of the country or region they are involved with. This piece sets out therefore to examine the perception of journalists on media reportage on the peace-building efforts of non-governmental organisations in Nigeria within the lenses of the media.

## Statement of the Problem

In Nigeria, the peoples' standard of living have been consistently dropping drastically despite the huge human and nature resources especially, the oil and gas reserve at the government's disposal. A number of structural deficiencies exist which is fuelled by the unending wave of political uncertainty, inconsistencies in policy formulation and implementation by both national and state governments, loss of faith in the government by the people and the apparent disconnect between the political class and the electorates.

Recent years have witnessed the explosive emergence of Non-governmental organization as a major collective actor in the national development of Nigeria. Some of the large stand most significant non-governmental organizations have relationships and sometimes official associative status with inter-governmental organizations such as the United Nations or the (World Bank, Oku, 2016).

Despite the multiplicity of non-governmental organisations currently operating in the country, (Oku, 2015), there seems to be no end in sight for the debilitating stalemate that has engulfed the country especially in recent times. Media reports have it that insecurity is worsening daily, (This Day, Friday May 3, 2019). The crisis in the entire country in the forms of kidnappings, unwarranted killings, terrorism, armed robbery, armed banditry and other heinous crimes against humanity seems to have overwhelming influence on both the government and non-governmental organisations. From the wave of crime going on in different parts of the country now, it will be easy to conclude that no part of the country is safe to live in at the moment. Records show that between February and April, 2019, over 2000 lives have been lost in the process across the country, (*Vanguard*, Friday May 3, 2019).

According to Olumuyi (2015), Nigeria has in recent years become the breeding ground of violent terrorist and militant attacks. This is because of the incessant terrorist attacks from the extremist group-Boko Haram which has claimed several lives and limbs, and has remained complex threats to peaceful existence in Nigeria. Some of the significant events include the 2011 Abuja bombings, the 2011 Christmas day bombings, and the brazen abduction of over three hundred school girls from the Chibok Government Secondary School which are yet to be fully rescued by the Federal Government, to mention just a few. Nigeria has over the last few years remained a nation under terrorist siege. The episodes of militancy such as the abduction of a bus load of school children in Abia State, and violent attacks on families across Nigeria by armed robbers; have all contributed to the current situation whereby Nigeria has now been classified as a volatile and a terrorist nation, and one of the worst countries on earth for a child to grow up.

In Rivers State, the rate of politically motivated killings by cult groups believed to be loyal to certain political parties and their stalwarts is very alarming. Most of the victims are usually young men that are full of life and the killing is done in a gory manner that leaves the body of the victim dismembered. Some analysts attributed the rise in the cult killings to the 2019 general elections but the elections are over and the killings have continued unabated. Most of the killings are reported in the media while some simply go unnoticed by the media. The atmosphere is generally tense to the extent that residents have become very apprehensive about what will happen next whenever people gather. The people live in fear of the unknown and sleep with their eyes open at night. With the plethora of incidences of insecurity pervading the national space, it therefore behoves the media,

within the fringes of its social responsibility, to seek what has gone wrong in the country especially within the fringes of the non-governmental organisations and her efforts at peace building.

## **Research Questions**

The study was guided by the following questions:

- 1 Are non-governmental organisations are working towards peace-building in Nigeria?
- 2 What is the level of effort put by non-governmental organisations at peace building in Nigeria?
- 3 What are the challenges of non-governmental organisations at peace building in Nigeria?
- 4 What are the possible solutions to achieving sustainable peace in Nigeria?

## **Conceptual Review**

### **The Concept of Non-Governmental Organisations**

According to Uzuegbunam (2013), “a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), an aspect of civil society, is a legally constituted non-state organization created by natural or legal persons. It has no participation or representation of any government. Even in cases where NGOs are funded totally or partially by governments, they still maintain their non-governmental status by excluding government representatives from their membership. Though, NGO is legally constituted and is in general use, no legal definition is assigned to it. In many jurisdictions, NGO is defined as a civil society organization or as any other names like independent sector, social movement organization, private voluntary organization, volunteer sector, self-help organization and non-state actors”, p.208.

According to Oku (2016), Non-Governmental Organizations, NGOs, have been playing vital roles in various sectors of Nigerian society. Oku contends that non-governmental organisations are traditional self-help sector represented by community based organizations and have existed for a long time. They have been very active in complementing government effort to provide basic social infrastructural facilities to communities where they are needed. According to Oku (2016), in the pre-independence era, Non-Governmental Organisations were not known by the name they bare but were often vehicle for the provision of various kinds of advocacy in favour of the populace under colonial rule. Their actions were tailored towards filling the gaps noticed in the area of provision of social amenities by the colonial government and sometimes as supplement to the efforts of colonial authorities.

Oku (2016) further averred that Nigeria had in the past decade witnessed a proliferation of the modern Non-Governmental Organisations which provide more skilled services and who are yet to be known, and hence forth considered as viable and collaborating partners of development agencies with the government. This, Oku (2016), attributed to the failure of officially provided social services and increasing poverty caused by the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) mounted by the defunct military junta led by General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, official corruption and a general loss of faith in the ability of the government to offer successful trust worthy service.

Ukuma (n.d), notes that there is a multiplicity of religious and secular peace movements cum nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that provide linkages among people with common social, economic, political, and cultural interests across the globe. In the words of Ukuma (n.d.), the number

of NGOs actively dedicated to peace building is relatively meagre compared to the majority of NGOs strewn across the length and breadth of the world. This contributes to the development of an international peace culture because their basic concern is human development. Their effect is felt in the society because they provide an interface between local householders and communities with otherwise remote regional and national governmental bodies. They also provide means of communication with United Nations and other inter-governmental agencies to facilitate problem-solving and conflict resolution.

According to Mawlawi (1993), NGOs are private, voluntary, non-profit organizations whose members combine their skills, means and energies in the service of shared ideals and objectives. NGOs vary in scope, resource base and influence as well as in functional and ideological orientation. Their operations may be local, national or international, and include service groups, prominent foundations and professional or other membership organizations. NGOs are generally dependent on private initiatives cum resources, but in several countries they receive government support as well. In some cases, government funding may compromise an NGO's independence.

### **Peace Building as a Concept**

Peace is generally considered as a contractual relationship that implies mutual recognition and agreement between the parties involved. Peace is therefore a creation of man because it is man that either disagrees or agrees to the extent that alters the social, economic, religious and cultural order of a given society. The consequences of war affect man more than any other creature on earth.

Evans (1993), cited in Clements (1997), see peace building as all those processes that seek to address the underlying causes of violent conflicts and crises with a view to either prevent them or if they have occurred, ensure that they will not recur. Peace building have a strong preventive character and is aimed at meeting basic needs of man for security and order, shelter, food and clothing, and for recognition of identity and worth. According to Clements (1997), Peace building is spontaneously done in civilised climes through the development of effective national and international rule making regimes, dispute resolution mechanisms and cooperative arrangements to meet basic economic, social, cultural and humanitarian needs and to facilitate effective global citizenship. Peace building then can only be done by man because the conditions necessary for peace is concomitant with man's attitudes and behaviours. Peace develops when man makes peace a culture by observing certain ordinances and ideals.

The implication of the thesis by Clements (1997), is that crisis results from man's feeling of dissatisfaction, deprivation and disagreement with the things happening around his immediate environment. Disagreement often results from clash of interests, views, intents and purposes among people in the society. This eventually snowballs into full crisis if not properly handled in a way that the parties involved will come to a point of compromise. This requires collective effort to achieve. It is in a bid to achieve collective and sustainable result that warrants men to come together to articulate goals create structures and form organisations that will coordinate the efforts at generating a sustainable peace in the society.

Peace building refers to the identification and support of measures needed for the transformation toward more sustainable, peaceful relationship and structures of governance, so as to avoid a re-lapse into conflict,(UN,2007). Peace building according to Ifesinachi (2009) cited in Uzuegbunam (2013), can be seen as a process initiated by humans in an attempt to conquer the

structural, relational and cultural contradictions hastily causing conflicts, especially in strong support of peace making and peacekeeping. The inspirations of peace building are drawn from developmental imperatives facing mankind and conflict resolution initiatives.

A peace culture helps to maintain balance in bonding, community closeness, and the need for separate spaces. Across the globe, the need for peace has led both religious and secular peace movements to multiply. There is an emergence of multiplicity of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide linkages among organizations with common social, economic, political, and cultural interests. There are now several thousands of such organizations across the globe. While a number of NGOs are actively dedicated to national peace building, the majority of NGOs contribute to the development of international peace because their focus is betterment of the living conditions of humans.

In Nigeria, there is the Society for Peace Studies and Practice; there is also the West African Network for Peace operating at the West African sub-regional level, as well as a host of other efforts. Women's organizations like the Women in Peace-building Network (WIPNET), the Women's Environment and Development Organization, (WEDO) and several others. The United Nations has also through its various women's conferences, created awareness on the need for knowledge, skills, and competence for women in the conflict-ridden arena of public decision-making.

In Rivers State, there is currently the convocation of security meetings with relevant stakeholders at the local government levels on the need to build peace in the various communities that are ridden with crisis. This is at the behest of the government because of unwarranted and random killings going on in the state. Several of the killings and other related high level criminality going on in the state, has been attributed to cultism but cultism alone is not the only reason for insecurity in the state. NGOs and Civil Liberties Organisations, CLOs, are in the midst of the people working to reconcile warring parties in the Rivers State. But it remains to be seen what such effort comes up to in the face of brazen killings going on in the state.

Specifically, the efforts of The International Federation of Women Lawyers, FIDA, in Rivers State, the Gender and Development Action, GADA, and the Stakeholder Democracy Network, SDN, at ensuring the reign of peace in Rivers State and Nigeria at large, shall be the focus of this study. These organisations have a track record of mediating between warring parties on different types of issues affecting the people of the State and their work reaches the grassroots as they are involved in advocacy, mediation, public campaigns, seminars, workshops, and partnership with international organisations, direct interventions, influencing government policies among other things. FIDA focuses on rooting out violence against women and other social injustices in the society; GADA is poised to ensure that there is equality across gender lines while the SDN is bent on installing and instilling the ideals of a democratic society in the State. The job of these non-governmental organisations combined, helps to foster peaceful coexistence among the people of Rivers State. It must be remarked that the road to sustainable peace is long and tortuous. It takes those with a thorough understanding of the word to actually achieve it.

Again, peace is a very relative term with no absolutism. It comes in different shades and requires the cooperation of all to achieve. No human society is immune to the shocks arising from lack of peace in any sphere of human life. Its implication is often felt in the way things will go on in

society. Peace is therefore the dictator of societal direction. It is peace that brings about normalisation of human actions while war breeds abnormality.

### **Non-Governmental Organisations and Peace building**

According to Mawlawi (1997), the activities and programmes of Non-Governmental Organisations has helped to address several issues of economic and social development, peace-making and disarmament, the environment, human rights, education, crime, drug abuse, health, population, youth and families. Non-Governmental Organisations have shown themselves to be powerful advocates of positive change as well as vociferous opponents of restrictive policies of government. As expert groups, they have been increasingly effective at influencing policies and programs of national governments and inter governmental organizations. In his words:

The significant proliferation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in recent years, and their growing contributions to the improvement of the human condition, has led to increased and long overdue recognition of the important role they can and do play in preventing and resolving conflicts. When traditional diplomacy fails, nation-states often resort to using military or economic muscle to achieve their goals. While NGOs lack such leverage, they do possess certain enabling characteristics, particular to their non-governmental nature, which enhance their ability to contribute to a more enduring peace. An examination of the unique nature of NGOs, the strengths they bring to the diplomatic process and present NGO efforts in mediation, humanitarian assistance and peace-building will illustrate the numerous ways in which NGOs can effectively contribute to conflict resolution around the world, p.393.

According to Uzuegbunam (2013), NGOs play a great role in peace-building in any given society. He argued that the inadequacies of first generation approaches to conflict resolution both nationally and globally necessitated for settlements to be based upon just political orders that promote democracy and human rights, new norms, participatory governance structures, civil society, international tribunals and truth commissions. Thus, under the auspices of the United Nation (UN), disarming, repatriating refugees, building a consensus for peace and moderate local political leadership became important issues in building peace. Since this is based on conflict resolution and perspectives of conflict, it requires deep access into local environments and grassroots processes rather than top-down approaches. It is the NGOs that have the structures that can always provide these conditions as a result of their official and human security oriented operations. The NGOs have built trust and confidentiality with the people of their areas of operation over the years and therefore are more trusted with sensitive information from the people instead of government officials who are often accused of insincerity.

Uzuegbunam (2013), contends that Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are doing even more peace building activities than any official governmental agencies. He averred that in many of the areas of the world at large and in Nigeria in particular, NGOs have a long term presence in areas that are afflicted with intractable conflicts. In essence, NGOs are in an excellent position to engage in a wide variety of peace building activities because of their contact and better understanding of the plight of the people.



Oku (2016), notes that nongovernmental organizations are playing vital roles in the development of nations especially in less developed climes. These enterprises for man important sector as they act as a facilitator of development especially in areas where government presence is inadequate or lacking. According to him, the present condition of the country (Nigeria) calls for such an act or to facilitate or complement the efforts of government at creating sustainable peace in order to drive development economically and otherwise.

In all of these roles being played by NGOs in the society, it is the media that helps to inform and indeed educate the people about their activities. According to Sodeinde, Ajaegbu and Ajaegbu, (2015), the underlining function of the media in tracking development of society, should not be overlooked as so much is expected of and could be achieved through the intervention of the fourth estate of the realm. They argued that it could be inferred that the mass media have not done so much regarding the poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria. According to their study, there was the need for the media and that citizens' yearned for its active participation in ensuring that poverty is alleviated in the society. Professionals are available in terms of planning and coordinating poverty alleviation programmes. Strategies should be put in place to monitor the affairs. It might not look like a direct function of the media but we all know that every one fears the media and would do the right thing knowing the public is watching. With a country with massive instruments –media, poverty alleviation programmes, Nongovernmental organisations, natural resources, high human resources-negligence on the part of internal components cannot be afforded. To eradicate poverty, it requires a concerted effort of every one playing their roles faithfully; it is only when people perceive one to be striving for change that help can arise.

### **Theoretical Framework**

This study was anchored on Agenda-Setting theory

The Agenda Setting Theory of the media derives from the power of the media to inform society about the daily happenings. It is the media that is vested with the function of seeking and disseminating information to every segment of society. According to Okunna (2002), the media helps to “put pictures in our heads” through its information role, (p21). This explains the power of the media trying to set the agenda for societal discourses and raise issues that are believed or indeed supposed to be of public importance. The consistently present objects, suggesting what individuals in the society should think about, know about, and indeed talk about in any given society through its content.

The earliest researches in media show that the media may not have the capacity to tell people how to think but may make appreciable progress in telling them what to think about. This means that the amount of media attention given to an issue affects the level of importance the public accords to such an issue. The implication here is that once an issue captures people's attention and becomes major public discourse in the media and among people, it will in turn attract government, politicians, corporate organizations, non-state actors, religious organizations and the general public's attention (Alikor, 2016).

According to Alikor (2016), agenda-setting theory proponents like as (Lippman, 1922; Childs and Reston, 1995; Cohen, 1963; McCombs, 1972; Maxwell & Shaw, 1976; Hiebert & Gibbon, 2006; Ndimele & Innocents, 2006) are in agreement that the theory has the capacity to influence public opinion in favour or against an issue based on the importance the media place on the same issue.

On his part, Ngoa (2006), describes the Agenda-setting is a “theory in progress” (p1). Ngoa argues that opinions, attitudes and behaviours of people may change or even be altered. This is not necessarily because the media have caused an issue to be elevated in importance to the public; but rather, people decide the level of attention to be given to the media, the message or the sources. It can be argued that, people manipulate the media content selectively for a plurality of individual needs and dispositions (Ngoa, 2006). Ngoa’s view is that the media rely on intervening variables from society to influence opinions, attitudes rather than being all powerful independently.

The Agenda Setting Theory and the Social Responsibility Theory shows the workings of the media in the society and its ability to drive issues for the peace and development of society. The social responsibility theory stipulates that freedom enjoyed by the press in a given, must be exercised with utmost sense of responsibility; a sense of responsibility that will engender peace and national development. After all the media have obligations to society; and media ownership is a public trust, (Nwabueze, 2012).

There is no gainsaying that the media play a vital role in society’s development as well as NGOs. All these roles are to the benefit of society.

## Methodology

The study adopted descriptive survey. The researchers using the census principle studied 450 respondents in line with the research objectives. This number represents the total of journalists according to the record of the Rivers State Secretariat of the Nigerian Union of Journalists, (NUJ Fact sheet, 2020). The instrument for Data gathering was the questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed on a four point Likert Scale to cater for the psychographic variables. The data was presented in frequency tables while analysis was done using simple percentages and the Weighted mean scores with a 2.5 decision rule.

## Data Presentation and Analysis

Out of 450 Copies of questionnaire, a total of 250 were successfully retrieved and analysed.

### Research Question 1

Are non-governmental organisations are working towards peace-building in Nigeria?

**Table 1:** Role of NGOs in building peace in Nigeria

S/N	Role of NGOs in building peace in Nigeria	SA	A	D	SD	WMS	DECISION
1	NGOs like FIDA, GADA and SDN are working to ensuring peace in the society	98 (392)	80 (240)	40 (80)	32 (32)	2.98	Agreed
2	NGOs like FIDA, GADA and SDN are working to create division amongst people in the	-	10	100	14	1.48	Disagreed

	society		(30)	(200)	(140)		
3	NGOs like FIDA, GADA and SDN contribute to the development of the society	180 (720)	40 (120)	16 (32)	14 (14)	3.54	Agreed

**Average mean score 2.6**

Analysis of data table 1 revealed that at an average mean of 2.6 that NGOs are working towards building peace in Nigeria and their effort contributes to the development of the society.

### Research Question 2

What is the level of effort put by non-governmental organisations at peace building in Nigeria?

Table 2: Assessment of NGOs' effort at peace building in Nigeria

S/N	Assessment of NGOs' effort at peace building in Nigeria	SA	A	D	SD	WMS	DECISION
1	NGOs like FIDA, GADA and SDN effort at peacebuilding in the society is commendable	50 (200)	118 (354)	42 (84)	40 (40)	2.71	Agreed
2	NGOs like FIDA, GADA and SDN effort at peace building in the society is condemnable	-	50 (150)	54 (108)	146 (146)	1.62	Disagreed
3	The effort of NGOs are crucial to peace building in the society	166 (664)	44 (132)	30 (60)	10 (10)	3.46	Agreed

**Average mean score 2.5**

Analysis of data in table 2 showed that at an average mean of 2.5 that the efforts of NGOs at peace building in the society are commendable by all standards. As a matter of fact, such efforts are very crucial to the peace and development of society.

**Research Question 3**

What are the challenges of non-governmental organisations at peace building in Nigeria?

**Table 3:** Challenges of NGOs in peace building in Nigeria

S/N	Challenges of NGOs in peace building in Nigeria	SA	A	D	SD	WMS	DECISION
1	NGOs are faced with funding gaps in their effort at peace building in Nigeria	182 (728)	46 (138)	22 (44)	-	3.6	Agreed
2	NGOs are faced with differences in indigenous culture in their effort at peace building in Nigeria	88 (352)	52 (156)	15 (30)	95 (95)	2.5	Agreed
3	NGOs are faced with insincerity of leadership at local levels in their effort at peace building in Nigeria	123 (492)	77 (231)	32 (64)	18(1 8)	3.2	Agreed
<b>Average mean 3.1</b>							

Analysis of data from table 3 revealed that at an average of 3.1 respondents are of the view that Some of the challenges facing NGOs in their efforts at peace building include but not limited to funding gaps, insincerity of leadership at the local levels and the cultural differences indigenous to the people.

**Research Question 4**

What are the possible solutions to achieving sustainable peace in Nigeria?

**Table 4:** Tips to achieving sustainable peace in Nigeria

S/N	Tips to achieving sustainable peace in Nigeria	SA	A	D	SD	WMS	DECISION
1	The Government should make education of the people a top priority	150 (600)	45 (135)	25 (50)	30 (30)	3.2	Agreed
2	The Government should punish crimes at all levels of society	160 (640)	52 (156)	38 (76)	-	3.4	Agreed

3	The foundation of the society should be hinged on justice and equity	180 (720)	56 (168)	14 (28)	-	3.6	Agreed
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**Average mean score 3.4**

Analysis of data from table 4 revealed that at an average mean of 3.4 Some of the possible solutions to sustainable peace in the society as pointed out include the punishment of crime at all levels of society, prioritisation of education by the government and the installation of justice and equity in the society.

### **Discussion of Findings**

The first research question sought to whether NGOs were building peace in Nigeria and Table one shows that NGOs are working towards building peace in Nigeria and their effort contributes to the development of the society. This position reinforces the position of Mawlawi (1997), that the activities and programmes of Non-Governmental Organisations has helped to address several issues of economic and social development, peace-making and disarmament, the environment, human rights, education, crime, drug abuse, health, population, youth and families.

In assessing the efforts of NGOs at peace building in Nigeria, Table two, which answers research question two, shows that the efforts of NGOs at peace building in the society are commendable by all standards. As a matter of fact, such efforts are very crucial to the peace and development of society. Again, Uzuegbunam (2013), contends that Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are doing even more peace building activities than any official governmental agencies. He averred that in many of the areas of the world at large and in Nigeria in particular, NGOs have a long term presence in areas that are afflicted with intractable conflicts. This proves how crucial the efforts of NGOs are in building peace in Nigeria.

The third query was on the challenges facing NGOs in their efforts at peace building in Nigeria. Some of the challenges facing NGOs in their efforts at peace building according to the respondents, include but not limited to funding gaps, insincerity of leadership at the local levels and the cultural differences indigenous to the people. This finding slightly varies with the findings of Oku (2016). Oku (2016) found that the dependence of NGOs on project funds for their survival partly explains this situation, the reality being that once the running cost of a project has been exhausted, there is very little else for personnel, administrative and other institutional development costs.

In the words of Oku (2016), the “total lack of funds from donors stalls the implementation of well-articulated projects and programmes that some of these NGOs came up with. A key challenge for NGOs remains how they can effectively operate without a financial fall back plan and a self-promotion strategy. There is no doubt that they need these funds both to ensure their organizations sustenance and autonomy and to educate their various public about their mission. Also managerial and infrastructural problems were identified as some of the other hindrances encountered by these organisations”, p.239.

The fourth query was to look at the possible solutions to the issues facing NGOs in their operations in Nigeria. Table four revealed that some of the possible solutions to sustainable peace in

the society as pointed out include the punishment of crime at all levels of society, prioritisation of education by the government and the installation of justice and equity in the society.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

Non-Governmental Organisations play a lot of roles in the society. This is because they go into the micro units of society to affect lives with their policies and programmes. Their activities sometimes are borne out of the inability of the government to live up to its responsibility to the people. This governmental perceived irresponsibility to the people is made manifest in various infrastructural gaps and inadequate social services to the people. The NGOs emerged as self-help efforts by the people in order to meet up with the challenges of living in the society. Their passion for the betterment of the lives of the people has endeared them to the people to the extent that for government to penetrate some communities, it will need the help of NGOs in order to effectively communicate with the people. NGOs are therefore at the soul of societal growth and development because of its focus on the people. Their activities are very crucial to the correlation of the various parts of society. Base on the findings the following recommendations were made: Government should partner with NGOs in the area of reaching the unreached with their policies and programmes. Government should invest more in the education of the people as a way of empowering them with requisite knowledge to help them with life's challenges. NGOs should device more means of funding to fix the funding gaps in their operations.

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