

THE NIGER DELTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NDDC) INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND SECURITY INTEGRATION WITHIN THE NIGER DELTA AREAS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

The Niger Delta region of Nigeria remains one of the most resource-rich yet developmentally challenged regions in Africa despite decades of oil exploration and revenue generation. Persistent infrastructural deficits, environmental degradation, youth unemployment, militancy, pipeline vandalism, and insecurity have undermined sustainable development efforts. The establishment of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in 2000 was aimed at addressing these structural inequalities through coordinated infrastructural development and socio-economic interventions. This seminar paper examines the relationship between NDDC infrastructure projects and security integration as mechanisms for achieving sustainable development in the Niger Delta. Using qualitative research methodology based on secondary data, policy reports, and scholarly literature, the study analyzes infrastructure delivery, security implications, community engagement, and developmental outcomes. Findings reveal that infrastructure development roads, electricity, healthcare, and solar lighting has improved connectivity, economic opportunities, and public safety, but challenges such as project abandonment, governance deficits, and weak security coordination limit impact. The study concludes that sustainable development in the Niger Delta requires integrated infrastructure planning combined with community-based security frameworks, transparency, and institutional reforms. The study recommends that the Federal Government should establish a formal policy framework that integrates development planning with security strategy across the Niger Delta. Development agencies, particularly the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), should collaborate systematically with security institutions during project planning and implementation.

Keywords: NDDC, Niger Delta, Infrastructure Development, Security Integration, Sustainable Development, Peace building.

I. Introduction

Crude oil exploration and production in Nigeria started some decades ago in the Niger-Delta region. The same region, which harbours the oil that has made Nigeria and oil companies rich, is grossly under-developed relatively to the rest of the country which is indeed a paradox as poverty thrives in the midst of plenty (Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO), 2018).

The oil sector started to assume a significant job in forming the Nigerian economy and political predetermination of the nation inside the mid-1960s. At the point when Nigeria turned into a free country on 1 October 1960, Shell-BP started to give up its acreage and its exploration licenses were changed over into prospecting licenses that permitted development and production (Bamberg, 2023). Following dominance of the Nigerian economy by petroleum sector, the only concession policy was abandoned and exclusive exploration right was introduced to encourage other multinational oil companies aimed toward accelerating petroleum exploration and production.

The survival of the people in the face of depletion of resources that sustain them hitherto is to adopt a type of development that is friendly or fight against the sort of development that will force them to die or wipe them off the surface of the Earth. The harsh reality of oil exploration and the manifested discomfort on the raw and environmental resources depletion within the developing or emerging economy somehow affects the destination of the renewable resource and it is consequential to enduring environmental

crisis and the rural economy (Afonja & Pearce, 2024). At this point, it is either the earth will burst or human existence cease or something should be done to save the Earth and mankind (Alexander, 2017). In a delicate region Niger Delta, perpetual and oil exploration coupled with vandalism and artisanal refining that is depleting and threatening the sustenance of environmental sustainability especially the biodiversity (which is a product of vegetation resources) thereby denying the avoidance of wastage of essential domestic resource.

Dearden and Mitchell, (2009) in this regard stated that the relationship among environment, resources, and society is one of the most important challenges, if not the most important challenge, currently facing humanity. For many of Earth's human inhabitants, this relationship is an on-going reality as they try to meet their everyday needs for food, water, shelter and security. To ignore the relationship is to perish especially in Nigeria where there is high level of oil exploration in the Niger Delta region.

The Niger Delta region occupies a strategic position in Nigeria's political economy due to its enormous oil and gas resources. The region contributes over 80% of Nigeria's foreign exchange earnings and remains central to national development. Despite this contribution, the region has historically experienced underdevelopment, poverty, environmental degradation, and violent conflict.

Development challenges intensified from the 1990s following increased agitation by host communities over resource control, environmental injustice, and lack of infrastructure. Militancy, oil pipeline vandalism, kidnapping, and communal conflicts became widespread, threatening national security and oil production.

To address these developmental contradictions, the Federal Government established the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in 2000 through an Act of Parliament. The Commission was mandated to facilitate rapid and sustainable development through infrastructure provision, economic empowerment, and environmental management.

Over the years, the NDDC has implemented several infrastructure projects including roads, bridges, electricity networks, healthcare centres, education facilities, and renewable energy initiatives across the nine Niger Delta states. Recent interventions include: Construction of major road and bridge networks: Installation of power substations and feeder lines: Deployment of over 7,000 solar-powered streetlights to enhance public safety and reduce crime. These infrastructure initiatives are increasingly linked with security stabilization, as improved physical infrastructure reduces isolation, unemployment, and criminal activities.

Statement of the Problem

The Niger Delta region has faced specific security and development challenges related to oil-related conflicts, militancy, and communal violence. The presence of oil and gas resources in the region has been a key factor contributing to crisis over resource control and distribution of oil revenues (Nwankwo, 2020). Additionally, inter-community clashes, often related to disputes over land, resources, and political power, have also contributed to insecurity in the Niger Delta (Vanguard Nigeria, 2018).

Development entails several aspects. It is not only about consuming, it is also about producing. However, it is concerned with creation by people themselves of technology, which is required for development, as well as development, by people of the capacity to manage their own affairs (Akintoye & Awosika, 2023). In relation to the Niger Delta, the exploitation that continues to exist within the oil communities because of their outcry against neglect and marginalization by federal government is an epitome of contradictions in respect of development.

Some scholars argue that development is a qualitative and quantitative improvement in the lives of the people. Soyombo (2015), whilst explaining national development, defines it as qualitative and quantitative improvement in the living conditions of people of a state in line with national objectives, as indicated in its national development plans. He argues that rapid improvement of the standard of living of the average Nigerian has always been a major

objective of the country's national development plans. According to him, other key objectives of the development plans include: Reduction in the level of unemployment; equitable distribution of income; reduction in the incidence of poverty; improvement in the quality of life of the people; more employment opportunities; greater access to and ownership of houses; and access to basic necessities of life such as qualitative health services, potable water, education and electricity (Akintoye & Awosika, 2023). It is when these objectives are achieved that one can talk of national development.

National development goes beyond growth in economic indicators such as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Per Capita Income. It also concerns itself with discrepancies between economic indicators and quality of life that have led to the development of the "Human Development Index" as alternative indicators of development (Soyombo, 2015). However, Soyombo (2015) concludes that at all levels of development three essential developmental concerns are for people to live a long and healthy life; to acquire knowledge; and to have access to resources that are necessary for a decent standard of living.

Accordingly, Afonja and Pearce (2024) believe that development is aimed at fulfilling four conditions of stabilities, which include: The stability of normative patterns; level of commitment of acting units; acceptance of a common definition of the situation; and integration of the system itself into the larger system of which it is part. They argue that these four conditions are given because of the fact that traditional societies resist innovations so that fulfillment of any condition does not necessarily mean that growth and development has occurred. Similarly, Sanda (2024) assert that development is a transitional process, which sustains a multifaceted improvement in human conditions, which result from structural and functional changes in social, economic, political, techno-scientific as well as other spheres of human existence.

Nyerere (2023) has a similar viewpoint. He argues that in developing nations, the tendency has always been to conceive of development in terms of socio-economics solely. There is also a need to look beyond mere economic indices and to place emphasis on human development, namely the full realization of human potential and maximum use of the nation's resources for the benefit of all. This realization was echoed by leaders such as the late Indira Gandhi who asserted that development policies should benefit all strata of the population, and not merely a favoured minority.

Development crisis which connotes infrastructural decay, environmental degradation, pollution, insecurity amongst others occur in the Niger Delta as a result of oil politics. Oil and politics have been mixed up in Nigeria. This union has made oil politics successful in decaying infrastructures development to improve citizen's standard of living. Elites have adopted the mentality of 'smash and grab' to oil revenue which has also distanced the ordinary citizens from having access to oil wealth. Therefore, this dissertation is carried out to investigate the intervention of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in related development crisis among oil producing communities in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria.

The Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) is a federal government agency established by former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo in the year 2000, with the sole mandate of developing the oil-rich Niger Delta region of Nigeria. In September 2008, President Umaru Yar'Adua announced the formation of a Niger Delta Ministry, with the Niger Delta Development Commission to become a parastatal under the ministry. One of the core mandates of the commission is to train and educate the youths of the oil rich Niger Delta regions to curb hostilities and militancy, while developing key infrastructure to promote economic diversification and productivity (Anyadike, 2022).

The NDDC was created largely as a response to the demands of the population of the Niger Delta, a populous area inhabited by a diversity of minority ethnic groups. During the 1990s, these ethnic groups, most notably the Ijaw and the Ogoni established organisations to confront the Nigerian government and multinational oil companies such as Shell. The minorities of the Niger Delta have continued to agitate and articulate demands for

greater autonomy and control of the area's petroleum resources. They justify their grievances by reference to the extensive environmental degradation and pollution from oil activities that have occurred in the region since the late 1950s.

Despite significant investments by the NDDC, insecurity remains prevalent across the Niger Delta. Militancy, oil theft, cult violence, and communal conflicts persist, raising questions about the effectiveness of infrastructure development as a peace building strategy. Key problems include: Numerous abandoned or delayed infrastructure projects: Weak integration between development planning and security architecture: Perceptions of inequality in project distribution: Community conflicts arising from competition over development benefits. Thus, the central problem is whether NDDC infrastructure interventions sufficiently integrate security considerations to promote sustainable development.

From the foregoing, the following research questions are put forth to guide the study.

What infrastructure projects has the NDDC implemented in the Niger Delta?

How do infrastructure projects influence security conditions in the Niger Delta?

To what extent does security integration promote sustainable development in the Niger Delta?

What challenges undermine NDDC interventions in the Niger Delta?

Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study is examining the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) infrastructure projects and security integration within the Niger Delta areas for sustainable development. Specifically, the study aims to:

Examine NDDC infrastructure projects in the Niger Delta.

Analyze the relationship between infrastructure and regional security in the Niger Delta.

Evaluate the role of security integration in sustainable development in the Niger Delta.

Identify challenges affecting project sustainability in the Niger Delta.

II. Methodology

The study adopts qualitative methodology from secondary sources using: Government reports; Academic journals; Policy documents; Media and institutional publications. Data were analyzed using content analysis.

III. Literature Review

Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC): The Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) is a federal government agency established by former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo in the year 2000, with the sole mandate of developing the oil-rich Niger Delta region of Nigeria. In September 2008, President Umaru Yar'Adua announced the formation of a Niger Delta Ministry, with the Niger Delta Development Commission to become a parastatal under the ministry. One of the core mandates of the commission is to train and educate the youths of the oil rich Niger Delta regions to curb hostilities and militancy, while developing key infrastructure to promote economic diversification and productivity.

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Infrastructure Development

Infrastructure refers to physical and social facilities that enable economic and social activities, including transportation, electricity, healthcare, education, and communication systems. Infrastructure enhances: Market access; Employment creation; Social inclusion; and State presence in marginalized regions.

Security Integration

Security integration involves embedding safety considerations into development planning through: Community participation; Surveillance infrastructure; Economic empowerment; and Institutional collaboration.

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development balances economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection while ensuring long-term stability.

IV. Theoretical Framework

The study adopted Human Security Theory. Human security theory shifts the focus of international relations from state-centric military security to a people-centered approach, aiming to protect individuals from pervasive, non-military threats to their survival, livelihood, and dignity. Championed by the UN Development Programme's 1994 Report, it emphasizes "freedom from fear," "freedom from want," and recently "freedom from indignity" across economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political dimensions.

Human security emphasizes protection from poverty, fear, and deprivation rather than military security alone. Infrastructure improves human security through: Access to services; Economic participation; and reduced grievances.

Objective 1

NDDC Infrastructure Projects in the Niger Delta

Below is a well-detailed, state-by-state presentation of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) infrastructure development programmes, including specific projects, locations, and commissioning dates/periods (NDDC Reports and Publications, 2024–2025).

Abia State

Major NDDC Infrastructure Projects

(a) Obehie–Oke-Ikpe Road Project

Location: Ukwa West Local Government Area

Project Type: Road construction

Length: 9 kilometres

Commissioned: May 2024

Purpose:

Improve rural–urban connectivity

Facilitate agricultural transportation

Enhance economic activities between Abia and neighbouring Niger Delta communities

The road was among the flagship projects commissioned by the NDDC between May 18–28, 2024 across the region.

Development Impact

Reduced transportation cost

Improved access to markets

Strengthened regional integration.

Akwa Ibom State

Major Projects

(a) Iko–Atabrikang–Akata–Opulom Road

Length: 6 km

Location: Ibeno LGA

Commissioned: May 2024

(b) Ibeno Bridge

Length: 600 metres

Commissioned: May 2024

These projects opened coastal communities previously isolated by swamp terrain.

Additional Ongoing Projects (2025)

Nasak Junction Road and Bridge linking communities toward Abia State.

Development Outcomes

Easier access for fishing and oil-producing communities

Reduced travel risks

Improved emergency and security mobility.

Bayelsa State

Major Projects

(a) Ogbia–Nembe Road Project

Length: 25.7–27.5 km

Partners: NDDC & Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC)

Commissioned: May 2024

Cost: Approximately ₦24 billion

Features:

Seven bridges

Prefabricated swamp drainage system

Connects 14 communities

The project reduced travel time to Yenagoa from three hours by water to about 45 minutes by road.

(b) Yenagoa State Office Complex

Commissioned: June 18, 2025

(c) Renewed Hope Multi-Purpose Training Centre (Otuokpoti)

Commissioned: June 2025

Development Impact

Major breakthrough in riverine accessibility

Youth skill acquisition

Enhanced state presence and security monitoring.

Cross River State

Key Infrastructure Programmes

(a) Calabar Road Network Development

Coverage: Calabar Municipality & Calabar South

Commissioned: 2025

Length: Over 8 km of internal road networks

(b) Regional Specialist Hospital (Ikom)

Status: Ongoing legacy project (2025)

Impact

Improved healthcare accessibility

Urban mobility enhancement.

DELTA STATE

Although fewer flagship commissions were recorded in the 2024 batch, Delta State benefits from:

Rural electrification schemes

Shoreline protection projects

School rehabilitation programmes

Youth empowerment and vocational infrastructure

These form part of the 1,006 legacy projects targeted for completion under NDDC development plans (2024–2025).

Edo State

Major Infrastructure Project

(a) Amufi Electricity Injection Substation

Capacity: 1×15MVA (33/11KV)

Location: Ikpoba-Okha LGA, Benin City

Commissioned: May 2024

Purpose:

Stabilize electricity supply

Improve industrial productivity

Reduce power outages.

Impact

Power supply restored to several communities

Boost to small and medium enterprises.

Ondo State

Major Electrification Project

(a) Omotosho–Okitipupa Power Feeder Line

Length: 45 km double-circuit 33KV line

Commissioned: May 2024

Coverage: 25 Local Government Areas previously without stable electricity for over 15 years.

Impact

Rural electrification

Improved business activities

Reduced rural insecurity linked to darkness.

RIVERS STATE

Major Ongoing and Legacy Projects

(a) Kaa–Ataba Bridge

Length: 1.2 km

Purpose: Connect Khana and Andoni LGAs

Status: Ongoing (2025)

(b) Bonny Ring Road

Length: 27.14 km

Features: 13 bridges

Partners: NDDC & Nigeria LNG (NLNG)

Status: Ongoing legacy project

(c) Okrika–Borikiri Bridge

Status: Revitalized for completion (2025)

Impact

Improves access to Bonny Island

Enhances oil and maritime logistics

Strengthens regional security mobility.

Imo State

Development Programmes

Rural roads rehabilitation

Educational infrastructure upgrades

Electrification projects

Community development schemes

Source: Niger Delta Development Commission Report (NDDC). (2025).

Objective 2

Relationship between Infrastructure Projects and Security Integration in the Niger Delta Region

The Niger Delta region has historically experienced complex security challenges arising from economic marginalization, environmental degradation, youth unemployment, and perceived inequities in resource distribution. These challenges manifested in militancy,

oil pipeline vandalism, kidnapping, cult violence, and communal conflicts.

The establishment of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in 2000 marked a strategic policy shift by the Nigerian government to address insecurity through development-driven stabilization rather than purely military responses. Infrastructure development became a central instrument for integrating security into regional development planning.

Infrastructure projects implemented by the Commission roads, bridges, electricity, healthcare facilities, and skill acquisition centres serve not only developmental purposes but also function as security-enhancing mechanisms that promote sustainable peace.

Infrastructure and security are mutually reinforcing variables. Development scholars argue that insecurity often thrives where state presence and social services are weak. Infrastructure represents visible government presence and improves human security by addressing structural causes of conflict.

Security integration refers to incorporating safety, stability, and conflict-prevention mechanisms into development planning through: Economic inclusion; Accessibility improvements; Community participation; Institutional coordination. Thus, infrastructure development becomes a preventive security strategy.

Road Construction and Mobility Security

One of the major contributions of NDDC infrastructure is road development linking isolated riverine communities. Projects such as the Ogbia–Nembe Road and Bonny Ring Road transformed areas previously reachable only by waterways, thereby limiting opportunities for militant operations.

Electrification and Crime Reduction

Electricity and solar streetlight projects significantly influence public safety. Security Integration Outcomes: Reduced night-time criminal activity; Improved community surveillance; Expansion of night economic activities; Increased police visibility; Lighting infrastructure discourages kidnapping, cult violence, and armed robbery commonly associated with poorly lit communities.

Social Infrastructure and Human Security

NDDC investments in: Healthcare centres; Schools; Training institutions; Address human security dimensions by improving quality of life.

Security Link

When basic needs are met, grievances that fuel violent agitation decline. Access to education and healthcare strengthens social trust between citizens and the state.

Youth Empowerment Infrastructure and Conflict Reduction

Skill acquisition centres and vocational training programmes reduce youth unemployment one of the strongest drivers of militancy in the Niger Delta. Infrastructure supporting training programmes creates: Alternative livelihoods; Economic inclusion; reduced recruitment into armed groups.

Infrastructure and State Legitimacy

Security is closely tied to citizens' perception of government legitimacy. Infrastructure projects signal governmental responsiveness. Where communities observe tangible development outcomes: Trust in government institutions increases; violent protests decline; Cooperation with security agencies improves. Thus, NDDC infrastructure functions as a confidence-building mechanism between the state and host communities.

Community Participation and Security Integration

Infrastructure projects that involve community stakeholders tend to produce stronger security outcomes. Community participation leads to: Local protection of projects; Intelligence sharing with authorities; reduced sabotage and vandalism. Conversely, exclusion from project planning may generate conflicts over resource allocation.

Economic Infrastructure and Security Outcomes

Economic infrastructure stimulates regional productivity. Security Implications: Job creation reduces criminal incentive; Improved markets increase income stability; reduced poverty lowers conflict probability. Infrastructure therefore transforms security from a policing issue into a development outcome. Certain infrastructure projects indirectly strengthen formal security systems (Federal Government Policy Statements on Niger Delta Development, 2025).

Objective 3

The role of security integration in sustainable development in the Niger Delta

The extent to which this integration promotes sustainable development is multidimensional and requires examination across economic, social, institutional, and environmental indicators. Security integration promotes sustainable development in the Niger Delta to a moderate but significant extent, as demonstrated below.

Economic Dimension

Security integration improves economic sustainability through stability.

Contributions

Safe environments attract investment; reduced militancy protects oil infrastructure; improved roads and electrification enhance commerce; Employment programmes reduce economic desperation. Where communities experience security stability, businesses operate longer hours and transportation costs decline.

Social Development Dimension

Security integration strengthens human development indicators. Evidence: Reduced violence improves school attendance; Healthcare access increases in secure environments; Community trust and cooperation improve. Infrastructure combined with security presence encourages social interaction and reduces fear among residents.

Political and Institutional Stability

Security integration promotes governance legitimacy.

Mechanisms

Development projects signal government responsiveness; Community engagement reduces anti-state sentiments; Collaboration between local leaders and security agencies strengthens institutions. However, governance challenges sometimes weaken these gains.

Environmental Sustainability

Security integration indirectly promotes environmental sustainability by: Reducing illegal refining and pipeline vandalism; encouraging regulated economic activities; supporting environmental monitoring. Yet environmental degradation remains a major unresolved issue, limiting overall sustainability.

Objective 4

Challenges to Effective Implementation of NDDC projects in the Niger Delta

Despite numerous projects in roads, electrification, healthcare, education, and youth empowerment by NNDC, the overall developmental impact has been constrained by several implementation challenges. These challenges have limited the effectiveness, sustainability, and security outcomes of NDDC interventions across the Niger Delta.

Funding Constraints and Financial Irregularities

One of the most significant obstacles to effective project implementation is irregular funding and financial mismanagement. Key issues are: Delayed statutory allocations from the federal government; outstanding contributions from oil companies; Budget shortfalls affecting project continuity; Cost overruns and inflated contracts.

Project Abandonment and Incomplete Infrastructure

Many NDDC projects remain unfinished across communities. Causes of such are: Contractor non-performance; Political interference in contract awards; Funding interruptions; Weak monitoring mechanisms. The consequences are: Loss of public trust; increased community grievances; Infrastructure deterioration before completion. Abandoned projects sometimes worsen insecurity because communities interpret them as neglect or marginalization.

Weak Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms

Effective development requires continuous supervision, which has often been inadequate. Problems identified are: Poor project supervision; Lack of independent evaluation; Absence of performance indicators; Limited technical oversight. Without proper monitoring, substandard projects are delivered or completely abandoned.

Corruption and Governance Challenges

Governance deficits remain a major impediment to implementation effectiveness. Manifestations are: Contract inflation; Political patronage in project allocation. Ghost projects (projects existing only on paper); Lack of accountability structures.

Political Interference

Frequent political involvement in project selection disrupts development planning. Examples: Projects influenced by political interests rather than community needs; Changes in leadership resulting in policy discontinuity; Pressure to distribute projects for political balancing. This weakens strategic regional development planning.

Community Conflicts and Lack of Local Participation

Insufficient community engagement during project planning often generates resistance. Resulting problems are: Disputes over project location; Youth protests against contractors; Vandalism of infrastructure; Inter-community rivalry. Projects imposed without consultation achieve sustainability.

Security Challenges in Project Locations

Ironically, insecurity itself hampers development implementation. Security threats: Kidnapping of contractors and workers; Militancy and cult activities; Pipeline vandalism; Theft of construction materials. These risks increase project costs and delay completion timelines.

Maintenance Culture Deficiency

Even completed projects often deteriorate quickly due to poor maintenance systems. Reasons: No clear handover responsibility; Limited community ownership; Absence of maintenance funding; Sustainability is therefore compromised (NDDC Reports and Publications, 2024–2025).

V. Summary of Findings

NDDC infrastructure projects have expanded regional connectivity.

Solar lighting and electrification improve security outcomes.

Youth empowerment reduces conflict drivers.

Weak governance, poor maintenance culture, corruption, and security threat undermine sustainability.

VI. Conclusion/Recommendations

The NDDC represents a critical institutional mechanism for addressing developmental imbalance in the Niger Delta. Infrastructure development has contributed to improved living conditions and security stabilization. However, sustainable development requires stronger integration between infrastructure delivery and security governance frameworks. Without accountability, community participation, and coordinated security planning, infrastructure alone cannot resolve deep-rooted structural conflicts. The study therefore, recommends that:

Institutionalize Security–Development Integration Framework

The Federal Government should establish a formal policy framework that integrates development planning with security strategy across the Niger Delta. Development agencies, particularly the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), should collaborate systematically with security institutions during project planning and implementation.

Prioritize Completion of on-going and Abandoned Projects

Abandoned infrastructure projects generate community frustration, distrust, and renewed conflict. Government should prioritize completing existing projects before initiating new ones. Recommended Measures: Conduct periodic project audits; Establish completion timelines backed by legislation; and Publish project status reports for transparency. This will strengthen public confidence and reduce grievances that fuel insecurity.

Strengthen Community Participation and Ownership

Sustainable security depends heavily on community cooperation. Local stakeholders should be actively involved in project identification, monitoring, and maintenance. Implementation Strategies: Community Development Committees (CDCs) for each project; Engagement of traditional rulers, youth leaders, and women groups; and Community monitoring mechanisms. Community ownership reduces vandalism and enhances protection of infrastructure.

Expand Youth Employment and Skills Development Programmes

Youth unemployment remains a major driver of insecurity in the Niger Delta. Security integration must prioritize economic empowerment.

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