

FROM INSURGENTS TO ENTREPRENEURS: BETWEEN STABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN NIGERIA'S OIL REGION

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This article examines the relationship between entrepreneurship and sustainable peace in Nigeria's oil region and asks whether entrepreneurship can directly and tangibly contribute to sustainable peace. The study is based on an explanatory mixed methods design in which I administered a standardized questionnaire to former insurgents. This produced a statistical description of the respondents' opinions concerning entrepreneurship and peace to generate themes for context-sensitive qualitative interviews with purposefully selected participants. The qualitative and quantitative data provided a broad overview of participants' perceptions of the impact of entrepreneurship programs undertaken by the Nigerian government to facilitate the economic reintegration of former insurgents as a strategy of post-conflict peacebuilding. The empirical evidence shows that entrepreneurial solutions have produced mixed results; they are integral to post-conflict stabilization without necessarily contributing to sustainable peace. The article explores the various meanings and approaches to entrepreneurship, and how it is a central plank of post-conflict peacebuilding in Nigeria's oil region.

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