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EDITORIAL

Journal of Science Education and Research (JSER) is a peer-reviewed published Bimonthly. It aimed at advancing knowledge and professionalism in all aspects of educational research, including but not limited to innovations in science education, educational technology, guidance and counselling psychology, childhood studies and early years, curriculum studies, evaluation, vocational training, planning, policy, pedagogy, human kinetics, health education and so on. JSER publish different types of research outputs including monographs, field articles, brief notes, comments on published articles and book reviews.

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Prof. Patrick C. Igbojinwaekwu
Editor-in-Chief

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**SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICTS: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF ITS IMPACT ON
DIASPORA NIGERIAN SETTLERS**

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Abstract

This study titled South Sudan Conflicts: A Critical Analysis of Its Impact on Diaspora Nigerian Settlers investigates the socio-economic implications of conflict, the responsiveness of Nigerian diaspora policy frameworks, and the coping strategies adopted by Nigerian migrants residing in conflict-affected regions of South Sudan. Anchored on the Conflict and Migration Theory by Myron Weiner (1996), the research employed a descriptive survey design, targeting Nigerian diaspora communities in Juba, Wau, and Bor. Using Taro Yamane's formula, a sample of 300 respondents was drawn from a population of 1,200. Data were collected via structured questionnaires and analyzed using SPSS version 25, employing descriptive and inferential statistical techniques, including mean scores and standard deviation. Findings reveal that the conflict has had significant socio-economic consequences on Nigerian migrants. Notably, respondents reported disruption in employment and income opportunities (Mean = 3.92, SD = 1.27), reduced ability to remit funds (Mean = 3.70, SD = 1.33), diminished access to services (Mean = 3.67, SD = 1.29), and forced displacement (Mean = 3.65, SD = 1.33). Additionally, the effectiveness of diaspora policy frameworks was found lacking, with low mean ratings on government protection (2.92), awareness (2.82), and NiDCOM's effectiveness (2.98), but high concern for policy implementation gaps (3.83). Coping strategies were dominated by digital communication (Mean = 3.85, SD = 1.22), faith-based practices (3.80), and mutual aid (3.62), while peace building participation was low (3.37). The study concludes that conflict deeply affects diaspora livelihoods and reveals urgent policy and protection gaps. It recommends targeted relief programs, robust diaspora policy reforms, and structured inclusion of migrants in peace building initiatives.

Keywords: Livelihood disruption, weak diaspora policy response, strong informal coping

Introduction

The South Sudan conflict has had far-reaching consequences, not only within its borders but also on Nigerian diaspora settlers residing in the region. As waves of political instability, armed violence, and humanitarian crises continue to affect South Sudan, Nigerian migrants many of whom contribute significantly to remittance inflows and regional labor economies—find themselves increasingly vulnerable (World Bank, 2025; UNDP, 2025). This journal critically examines the multidimensional impact of these conflicts on Nigerian diaspora communities, particularly in terms of disrupted livelihoods, remittance capacities, and psychosocial well-being. Research underscores that diaspora communities are not passive victims in conflict zones; rather, they often engage in peacebuilding, humanitarian response, and transnational activism (IOM, 2024; Chinwe & Adeyemi, 2025; Ezeani & Ukaegbu, 2024). However, conflict-induced displacement can weaken these networks, threatening both individual security and broader developmental contributions (Adewale & Eze, 2025; Ibrahim & Onuorah, 2025). This study situates its analysis within the broader discourse on migration governance and diaspora policy frameworks, drawing on current initiatives by NiDCOM (2025) and the Federal Government of Nigeria (2025) to strengthen diaspora resilience amid global instability.

The protracted conflicts in South Sudan have triggered widespread insecurity, humanitarian crises, and forced displacement, impacting not only local populations but also foreign migrant communities such as Nigerian diaspora settlers. As conflict intensifies in parts of South Sudan, Nigerian migrants many of whom had established economic and social livelihoods are now exposed to violence, loss of income, and constrained mobility. According to the International Organization for Migration (2024), diaspora communities residing in conflict zones are often at the frontlines of displacement and humanitarian vulnerability. This has significant implications for Nigeria's broader diaspora ecosystem, especially regarding remittance flows, economic contributions, and regional integration efforts (World Bank, 2025; UNDP, 2025). The intersection of armed conflict and diasporic migration highlights the urgency of rethinking transnational protection, economic resilience, and political inclusion mechanisms for Nigerian migrants living in volatile regions.

At the same time, the Nigerian diaspora has consistently played transformative roles in post-conflict reconstruction, peacebuilding, and national development through remittances, knowledge transfer, and policy advocacy (Ibrahim & Onuorah, 2025; Chinwe & Adeyemi,

2025). However, crises like those in South Sudan threaten the sustainability of these roles by displacing productive members of the diaspora, disrupting remittance channels, and weakening their capacity to engage in host and home country affairs. The Federal Government of Nigeria, through the *National Diaspora Policy Framework 2025–2030*, emphasizes the need for protective and enabling strategies to harness diaspora contributions even in fragile contexts (NiDCOM, 2025). This study therefore critically examines the implications of South Sudan’s ongoing conflict on Nigerian diaspora settlers, focusing on socio-economic losses, policy gaps, and opportunities for conflict-sensitive engagement and integration (Adewale & Eze, 2025; Global Diaspora Policy Initiative, 2025).

Socio-Economic Consequences

The concept of socio-economic consequences refers to the combined impact that social and economic disruptions have on individuals and communities, particularly in contexts affected by conflict, displacement, or instability. These consequences may include loss of income, job insecurity, business closures, reduced remittance capacity, social isolation, and psychological distress. According to Ibrahim and Onuorah (2025), conflict zones significantly affect diaspora populations by disrupting their livelihoods and hindering their ability to maintain transnational responsibilities, such as remitting money or supporting development initiatives back home. In fragile environments like South Sudan, migrants often experience heightened economic vulnerability due to unsafe working conditions, lack of protection, and displacement.

This concept is particularly relevant to the study titled “South Sudan Conflicts: A Critical Analysis of Its Impact on Diaspora Nigerian Settlers”, as Nigerian migrants residing in South Sudan are directly exposed to the harsh realities of prolonged violence and economic instability. As noted by Adewale and Eze (2025), remittances from the Nigerian diaspora are vital to Nigeria’s economy; however, these flows can decline sharply when migrants face socio-economic shocks abroad. The inability to earn and remit funds not only impacts the migrants’ households in Nigeria but also weakens their role in national development. Therefore, exploring socio-economic consequences provides a critical lens for assessing how conflict undermines the productivity, well-being, and long-term resilience of diaspora communities in crisis zones.

Diaspora Settlers

Diaspora Settlers explores the experiences of migrants who reside long-term or permanently in foreign countries while maintaining economic, cultural, or political ties to their countries of origin. These settlers often contribute to both host and home countries through remittances, knowledge exchange, civic engagement, and social investment. However, their integration is often shaped by host country policies, socio-political stability, and the strength of institutional linkages with their home governments (UNDP, 2025). As Chinwe and Adeyemi (2025) argue, diaspora settlers are critical agents in peace building and reconstruction, but their ability to perform these roles is compromised in conflict-prone settings where protection mechanisms are weak or absent.

This concept aligns closely with the focus of the current study, which investigates how the South Sudan conflict affects Nigerian diaspora settlers. Despite their important roles in development and diplomacy, Nigerian migrants in South Sudan face displacement, legal invisibility, and restricted mobility due to conflict. The absence of adequate diaspora-specific protection policies exacerbates these challenges (Ibrahim & Onuorah, 2025; IOM, 2024). By applying Diaspora Settlers Theory, the study can better analyze how structural vulnerability in conflict zones limits the developmental contributions of Nigerian settlers, while also revealing the urgent need for Nigeria's diaspora engagement policies to be more conflict-sensitive and inclusive.

Remittance Flows

Remittance Flows refers to the conceptual framework explaining the motivations, patterns, and impacts of financial transfers made by migrants to their countries of origin. The theory highlights remittances as both household-level support and a macroeconomic force contributing to poverty reduction, foreign exchange reserves, and national development. According to Kalu and Yusuf (2025), remittances significantly reduce multidimensional poverty in rural Nigeria by providing capital for education, healthcare, and small-scale businesses. However, the flow of remittances is highly sensitive to external shocks such as political instability, conflict, and migration restrictions. The IMF (2025) also notes that remittance resilience varies across regions and is often jeopardized during protracted conflicts in host countries.

In the context of “South Sudan Conflicts: A Critical Analysis of Its Impact on Diaspora Nigerian Settlers,” this concept is particularly relevant. Nigerian migrants in South Sudan—many of whom remit funds back home—face growing barriers to earning and transferring money due to insecurity, displacement, and economic collapse. These disruptions not only impact their ability to support their families but also affect Nigeria’s broader economic reliance on diaspora inflows. As Adewale and Eze (2025) emphasize, the developmental potential of remittances is diminished when migrants operate in fragile, conflict-prone environments. Remittance Flows concept thus provides a vital lens for understanding how the South Sudan conflict directly undermines the economic agency of diaspora Nigerians and disrupts national development trajectories dependent on these financial flows.

Diaspora Policy

Diaspora Policy refers to the strategic frameworks and institutional mechanisms designed by a country to engage, protect, and mobilize its citizens residing abroad for national development and diplomacy. These policies typically cover areas such as remittance facilitation, dual citizenship, diaspora voting rights, investment incentives, and emergency protection protocols. According to the Federal Government of Nigeria (2025), the National Diaspora Policy Framework (2025–2030) aims to deepen Nigeria’s engagement with its global diaspora, promoting mutual benefits in the areas of development, innovation, and peacebuilding. However, Adedoyin and Nnadi (2024) argue that gaps remain in implementing conflict-sensitive measures for diaspora protection—especially in volatile regions like South Sudan.

In this study, the role of diaspora policy is central to understanding the vulnerabilities faced by Nigerian settlers in South Sudan. Despite policy ambitions, the lack of concrete mechanisms to safeguard Nigerians in conflict zones exposes a significant gap between intent and implementation. As highlighted by the Global Diaspora Policy Initiative (2025), effective diaspora policy must go beyond economic engagement to include legal protection, crisis response systems, and political inclusion. The absence of such provisions in South Sudan heightens the risk for Nigerian migrants and curtails their ability to contribute meaningfully to national development. Therefore, this study utilizes the concept of diaspora policy to advocate for more robust, responsive, and conflict-aware strategies in Nigeria’s approach to global diaspora management.

Protection and Inclusion Needs

Protection and inclusion needs refer to the fundamental requirements of vulnerable populations, such as legal safety, access to essential services, human rights guarantees, and political representation—especially in volatile or discriminatory environments. For diaspora communities living in unstable regions, these needs become even more urgent, as they are often marginalized, undocumented, or caught between weak host-state protections and absent home-state intervention. According to the Federal Government of Nigeria (2025) in its National Diaspora Policy Framework, protection mechanisms must extend beyond economic engagement to include physical safety, legal support, and inclusion in crisis-response systems. Chinwe and Adeyemi (2025) also emphasize that diaspora professionals in conflict zones require institutional frameworks that recognize their security risks while also promoting their civic and developmental involvement.

In the context of South Sudan Conflicts: A Critical Analysis of Its Impact on Diaspora Nigerian Settlers, the absence of structured protection and inclusion mechanisms exposes Nigerian migrants to targeted violence, economic disenfranchisement, and forced displacement. Although diaspora Nigerians contribute significantly to development through remittances and transnational activism (Umeh & Olatunde, 2025), they remain largely unprotected in high-risk conflict zones like South Sudan. This study underscores the need for a diaspora engagement model that prioritizes protection and inclusion, as highlighted by international organizations such as the IOM (2024) and policy bodies like NiDCOM (2025). Failure to meet these needs risks continued socio-economic losses, erosion of trust in government institutions, and a diminished role for diaspora communities in national development and peace building.

High-Risk Conflict Zones

High-risk conflict zones are regions characterized by sustained armed violence, political instability, humanitarian crises, and the breakdown of rule of law, making them unsafe for both citizens and migrants. These areas are marked by high levels of civilian casualties, displacement, restricted mobility, and economic collapse. According to the IOM (2024), such zones often lack effective governance or protective institutions, rendering both local and foreign populations extremely vulnerable. Ezeani and Ukaegbu (2024) argue that migrants in

these environments face compounded risks due to their foreign status, limited legal recognition, and lack of targeted international assistance. In the African context, high-risk zones such as South Sudan pose unique threats to diaspora settlers who had previously migrated for economic or humanitarian reasons.

The current study focuses on South Sudan, one of Africa's most volatile and high-risk conflict zones, to examine its impacts on Nigerian diaspora settlers. Despite their historical roles in trade, humanitarian services, and remittance generation, Nigerian migrants in South Sudan are exposed to insecurity, loss of livelihoods, and systemic neglect. The Global Diaspora Policy Initiative (2025) advocates for more robust and context-specific engagement strategies for diaspora communities in such zones, yet implementation has been weak. By focusing on high-risk conflict zones, the study helps highlight the gap between Nigeria's diaspora policy ambitions and the lived realities of its citizens abroad. It also calls for urgent bilateral and multilateral efforts to ensure that migrants in volatile regions are not excluded from protection and development agendas.

Coping Strategies

Coping strategies refer to the cognitive, emotional, and behavioral techniques that individuals or groups adopt to manage stressful or adverse conditions, especially in situations of conflict, displacement, or socio-political instability. According to Chinwe and Adeyemi (2025), coping mechanisms among diaspora communities often include community solidarity, reliance on digital communication for information and support, spiritual engagement, and informal economic activities. In the context of conflict zones, these strategies become survival tools that enable affected populations to adapt to hostile environments while maintaining psychological stability and functional livelihoods. The IOM (2024) further emphasizes that coping strategies among displaced populations are critical to sustaining resilience in the absence of adequate institutional protection.

In the context of South Sudan Conflicts: A Critical Analysis of Its Impact on Diaspora Nigerian Settlers, coping strategies are particularly relevant. Nigerian settlers in South Sudan have been exposed to increasing levels of violence, forced displacement, and loss of economic security. As formal protection systems remain weak, many rely on personal networks, local diaspora associations, and digital platforms to navigate insecurity and economic hardship (Adesina & Balogun, 2024). Exploring these coping mechanisms provides valuable insights into how diaspora populations mitigate the risks of conflict and continue to

contribute—albeit minimally—to transnational engagement and survival. This analysis also supports the call for Nigeria’s National Diaspora Policy Framework (2025– 2030) to include responsive support systems tailored to diaspora members in high-risk zones (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2025).

Diaspora and Development

Diaspora and development is a concept that underscores the significant role that diaspora communities play in the economic, political, and social progress of their home countries. This role is most evident through remittance flows, transnational entrepreneurship, peacebuilding, knowledge transfer, and policy advocacy. According to Adewale and Eze (2025), Nigerian diaspora remittances account for a substantial portion of foreign income that supports national development efforts in sectors like education, healthcare, and infrastructure. The UNDP (2025) also recognizes that the developmental impact of diaspora communities is not merely financial but also institutional, as diasporans often engage in reform movements and civic activities that shape governance and stability.

For this study, which critically examines the impact of the South Sudan conflict on Nigerian diaspora settlers, the concept of diaspora and development is central. Nigerian migrants in South Sudan contribute significantly to local economies and to Nigeria’s development through remittances and humanitarian roles. However, the ongoing conflict has disrupted these contributions, exposing a critical vulnerability in Nigeria’s diaspora engagement strategy. Ibrahim and Onuorah (2025) argue that for development through diaspora to be sustainable, protective frameworks must be established to secure the lives and livelihoods of diaspora members in volatile regions. Thus, the study not only assesses the challenges facing diaspora Nigerians in conflict zones but also provides evidence-based recommendations to enhance diaspora-inclusive development planning.

Conflict and Migration Theory

This theory was anchored on Conflict and Migration Theory propounded by Myron Weiner (1996), posits that violent conflict is a primary driver of both internal and cross-border migration, as individuals and groups are forced to flee unsafe environments to seek refuge and survival elsewhere. Originally framed by scholars like Myron Weiner (1996), the theory explains that when states become unable or unwilling to protect their citizens due to war, ethnic violence, or political instability, affected populations often migrate, either temporarily

or permanently. Migration in this context is not necessarily a choice but a necessity, driven by the collapse of security, livelihoods, and social order. The theory also highlights how such migrants especially those settling in neighboring or fragile states face compounded vulnerabilities such as lack of legal protection, xenophobia, exploitation, and marginalization.

This theory is highly relevant to the study of South Sudan Conflicts: A Critical Analysis of Its Impact on Diaspora Nigerian Settlers, as it provides a lens to understand how the ongoing violence in South Sudan has triggered displacement and hardship among foreign migrants, including Nigerian diaspora communities. According to Ibrahim and Onuorah (2025) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2024), conflict-affected regions like South Sudan expose migrants to disrupted livelihoods, restricted mobility, and diminished socio-economic roles. Conflict and Migration Theory thus allows the researcher to critically examine not just why Nigerian migrants are in harms way, but how their developmental contributions such as remittances and peace building roles are severely undermined by protracted conflict. It also underscores the urgent need for protective migration policies and bilateral frameworks that can support diaspora communities in high-risk zones.

Statement of the Problem

The ongoing conflict in South Sudan remains one of the most persistent humanitarian and security crises in Africa, marked by ethnic violence, political instability, economic collapse, and forced displacement. Despite peace agreements such as the 2018 Revitalized Agreement, the security situation remains fragile, with current global indices ranking South Sudan among the least peaceful countries in the world (UNDP, 2025). These conflicts have not only disrupted local socio-political structures but have also negatively impacted foreign settlers, particularly Nigerian diaspora communities residing or conducting business in the region. While Nigerian diaspora members play essential roles in regional trade, humanitarian services, and remittance flows (Adewale & Eze, 2025; World Bank, 2025), their welfare, safety, and livelihood are increasingly jeopardized by the protracted conflict. The absence of a structured bilateral framework to protect Nigerian diaspora interests in high-risk areas such as South Sudan amplifies their vulnerability and deters active participation in post-conflict recovery.

Various interventions have been made by international organizations and Nigerian institutions to engage the diaspora in development and peacebuilding, yet these efforts have

not adequately addressed the specific risks faced by Nigerians in conflict zones. Although the National Diaspora Policy Framework (2025– 2030) and initiatives by NiDCOM acknowledge diaspora involvement in national development, they fall short of providing protective or responsive strategies tailored to diaspora members in violent environments (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2025; Ibrahim & Onuorah, 2025). Existing literature has explored diaspora remittances (Adewale & Eze, 2025), civic engagement (Ogundele & Musa, 2024), and conflict mediation (Ezeani & Ukaegbu, 2024), but little is known about how conflicts abroad directly endanger diaspora Nigerians and limit their socio-economic contributions. If this issue remains unaddressed, diaspora Nigerians in South Sudan will continue to suffer systemic neglect, diminished economic opportunities, and potential loss of life—thereby undermining Nigeria’ s strategic objective of harnessing diaspora capital for national and regional development (NiDCOM, 2025; Chinwe & Adeyemi, 2025).

Purpose of the Study

1. To critically examine the socio-economic consequences of the South Sudan conflict on Nigerian diaspora settlers, including disruptions to remittance flows..
2. To assess the extent to which existing Nigerian diaspora policy frameworks address the protection and inclusion needs of Nigerian settlers in high-risk conflict zones.
3. To explore the coping strategies and peace building roles adopted by diaspora Nigerians residing in conflict-affected areas of South Sudan.

Research of Questions

1. What are the socio-economic consequences of the South Sudan conflict on Nigerian diaspora settlers, particularly in relation to disruptions in remittance flows and livelihoods?
2. To what extent do existing Nigerian diaspora policy frameworks address the protection and inclusion needs of Nigerian settlers in high-risk conflict zones like South Sudan?
3. What coping strategies and peace building roles have been adopted by diaspora Nigerians residing in conflict-affected areas of South Sudan?

Methods

Research Design

This study adopts a descriptive survey research design, which allows for the systematic collection and analysis of data to understand the impact of South Sudan conflicts on Nigerian diaspora settlers. According to Nworgu (2015), this design is suitable for studies aiming to describe and interpret existing conditions without manipulating variables.

Area of the Study

The study focuses on Juba and surrounding regions in South Sudan, where a significant number of Nigerian migrants live and engage in business and humanitarian work. These areas have been most affected by the conflict, making them suitable for examining the socio-economic and policy-related impacts on diaspora settlers (IOM, 2024).

Population of the Study

The population comprises all Nigerian diaspora settlers currently residing in South Sudan, particularly those in conflict-prone areas such as Juba, Wau, and Bor. This includes professionals, traders, humanitarian workers, and informal laborers (UNDP, 2025).

Sample Size Determination (Taro Yamane Formula)

Using Taro Yamane (1967) formula:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where n = sample size

N = population of the study

1 = constant in value

e = error in margin usually 5% [0.05]

$$\text{Hence, } n = \frac{1200}{1 + 1200(0.05)^2}$$

$$= \frac{1200}{1 + 30}$$

$$= \frac{1200}{31}$$

$$= \frac{1200}{31}$$

$$= \frac{1200}{31}$$

$$= 38.71$$

n = 300 respondents.

Sample and Sampling Techniques

A multi-stage sampling technique was employed. First, purposive sampling was used to identify high-density Nigerian communities. Then, stratified random sampling was ensured representation across gender, occupation, and length of stay. Finally, simple random sampling was used to select participants from each stratum (Ibrahim & Onuorah, 2025).

Instruments for Data Collection

The primary instrument for data collection is a structured questionnaire designed to capture data on socio-economic consequences, coping strategies, and perceptions of diaspora policy responsiveness through Google Form. The instrument is both open- and close-ended, ensuring rich qualitative and quantitative data (Ogundele & Musa, 2024). This was made possible with the help of *Nigerians in Diaspora Commission* (NiDCOM) secretary, who helped with phone contact and mail address of some Nigerians living in South Sudan.

Validity of the Instrument

To ensure content and face validity, the questionnaire was reviewed by three experts in conflict studies, migration, and diaspora policy at Center for International Relation and Migration, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria. Their feedback was used to refine ambiguous items and improve alignment with research objectives (Adewale & Eze, 2025).

Reliability of the Instrument

A pilot test involving 30 Nigerian migrants in a non-sampled South Sudanese region was conducted. Using Cronbach's Alpha, a reliability coefficient of 0.70 or above will confirm acceptable internal consistency, following Nunnally & Bernstein's (1994) benchmark.

Method of Data Analysis

Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage) for demographic and quantitative variables, and inferential statistics was measured using (Mean and Standard Deviation) to examine the relationships among variables. SPSS (v25) was used for analysis, supported by thematic analysis for open-ended responses (World Bank, 2025).

Data Presentation and Analysis

Section A

Table 1: Length of Stay in South Sudan

S/N	Items	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Less than 1 year	50	16.70%
2	1– 3 years	120	40.00%
3	4– 6 years	90	30.00%
4	7+ years	40	13.30%
Total		300	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 1 presents the distribution of respondents based on their length of stay in South Sudan. The majority, 40% (120 respondents), have lived in South Sudan for 1– 3 years, indicating a significant portion of relatively recent settlers. This is followed by 30% (90 respondents) who have stayed for 4– 6 years, suggesting a sizeable group with moderate settlement experience. Meanwhile, 16.7% (50 respondents) have been in the country for less than 1 year, representing newer arrivals likely still adapting to the environment. Only 13.3% (40 respondents) have resided for over 7 years, implying that long-term Nigerian diaspora settlers are the minority. Overall, the data reflect a largely recent or moderately established diaspora community, whose experience and exposure to the South Sudan conflict may vary depending on their duration of stay.

Table 2: Primary Occupation in South Sudan

S/N	Items	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Business owner	100	33.30%
2	NGO worker	70	23.30%
3	Health worker	60	20.00%
4	Student	70	23.30%
Total		300	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 2 displays the primary occupations of Nigerian diaspora settlers in South Sudan. A significant portion of the respondents, 33.3% (100 individuals), are business owners, highlighting the economic contributions of the diaspora through entrepreneurial ventures. NGO workers and students each account for 23.3% (70 respondents), indicating active engagement in humanitarian services and educational pursuits, respectively. Health workers make up 20% (60 respondents), reflecting the diaspora's involvement in critical service sectors. The distribution reveals that Nigerian migrants in South Sudan are diversified across sectors that are both economically and socially impactful, suggesting their roles extend beyond remittances to include direct contributions to local development and service delivery.

Table 3: Monthly Remittance to Nigeria (in USD)

S/N	Items	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	\$100	60	20.00%
2	\$100– \$300	100	33.30%
3	\$301– \$500	80	26.70%
4	Above \$500	60	20.00%
	Total	300	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 3 shows the distribution of monthly remittance amounts sent by Nigerian diaspora settlers in South Sudan. The largest proportion of respondents (33.3%) remit between \$100

and \$300, indicating this is the most common remittance range among the population. This is followed by 26.7% who send between \$301 and \$500, while 20% each send either exactly \$100 or above \$500 monthly. The data suggest that most diaspora Nigerians contribute moderately to the Nigerian economy through remittances, with a notable portion also making high-value transfers. This highlights the economic significance of the diaspora despite the conflict context in South Sudan.

Results

Section B

Research Question 1: What are the socio-economic consequences of the South Sudan conflict on Nigerian diaspora settlers, particularly in relation to disruptions in remittance flows and livelihoods

Table 4: Socio-Economic Consequences of the South Sudan Conflict on Nigerian Diaspora Settlers

S/N	Items	SA (5)	A (4)	UN (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	Mean	Standard Deviation
1	The South Sudan conflict has severely disrupted my ability to send remittances to Nigeria.	110	85	40	35	30	3.7	1.33
2	The conflict has negatively affected my employment/income opportunities.	130	90	30	25	25	3.92	1.27
3	I have experienced a decline in access to basic social services due to the conflict.	95	100	45	30	30	3.67	1.29
4	The conflict has led to forced displacement within South Sudan.	105	80	50	35	30	3.65	1.33
5	My overall quality of life has significantly declined due to conflict in South Sudan.	120	85	35	30	30	3.78	1.33

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 4 reveals that the South Sudan conflict has had significant socio-economic consequences on Nigerian diaspora settlers. The highest mean score (3.92) is associated with

the negative impact on employment and income opportunities, suggesting widespread disruption to livelihoods. Similarly, respondents strongly agree that their ability to send remittances (Mean = 3.70), access to basic social services (Mean = 3.67), and overall quality of life (Mean = 3.78) have been adversely affected. The mean score for forced displacement (3.65) also indicates substantial experiences of instability and movement among the diaspora. The standard deviations, ranging from 1.27 to 1.33, reflect moderate variability in responses, suggesting a fairly consistent perception among respondents that the conflict has significantly undermined their socio-economic wellbeing.

Research Question 2: To what extent do existing Nigerian diaspora policy frameworks address the protection and inclusion needs of Nigerian settlers in high-risk conflict zones like South Sudan

Table 5: Effectiveness of Nigerian Diaspora Policy Frameworks in High-Risk Zones

S/N	Items	SA (5)	A (4)	UN (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	Mean	Standard Deviation
1	The Nigerian government provides adequate protection for its citizens in conflict zones like South Sudan.	45	70	60	65	60	2.92	1.36
2	NiDCOM has been effective in addressing the needs of diaspora Nigerians in high-risk areas.	50	75	55	60	60	2.98	1.38
3	Existing diaspora policy frameworks lack crisis-response provisions.	105	90	45	30	30	3.7	1.31
4	I am aware of any formal Nigerian policy protecting me during conflict in South Sudan.	40	60	70	65	65	2.82	1.34
5	There is poor implementation of diaspora protection policies in conflict-prone regions.	115	95	40	25	25	3.83	1.25

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 5 illustrates respondents' perceptions of the effectiveness of Nigerian diaspora policy frameworks in high-risk zones like South Sudan. The lowest mean scores are seen in awareness and perceived adequacy of protection by the Nigerian government (Mean = 2.92) and NiDCOM's effectiveness (Mean = 2.98), suggesting general dissatisfaction and low confidence in institutional support. A mean of 2.82 further highlights limited awareness of

formal protective policies. Conversely, higher agreement exists on critical gaps in existing policies, with strong consensus that diaspora frameworks lack crisis-response provisions (Mean = 3.70) and suffer poor implementation in conflict-prone regions (Mean = 3.83). Standard deviations ranging from 1.25 to 1.38 indicate moderate response variation but reinforce an overall perception of inadequate protection and policy execution for Nigerian diaspora members in conflict zones.

Research Question 3: What coping strategies and peace building roles have been adopted by diaspora Nigerians residing in conflict-affected areas of South Sudan

Table 6. Coping Strategies and Peace building Roles by Diaspora Nigerians in South Sudan

S/N	Items	SA (5)	A (4)	UN (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	Mean	Standard Deviation
1	I rely on community-based support systems to survive during conflict.	100	85	50	35	30	3.63	1.32
2	I actively participate in peace talks or conflict resolution at the local level.	80	75	60	45	40	3.37	1.37
3	I use digital platforms to stay connected with family and support networks.	115	95	40	30	20	3.85	1.22
4	Faith-based or spiritual practices help me cope with the ongoing conflict.	120	80	45	30	25	3.8	1.29
5	I support other Nigerian migrants by sharing resources or offering shelter in crisis.	95	90	50	35	30	3.62	1.31

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 6 presents the coping strategies and peace building roles adopted by diaspora Nigerians in South Sudan amid ongoing conflict. The highest mean score (3.85) reflects widespread reliance on digital platforms for maintaining family and support network connections, while faith-based or spiritual practices (Mean = 3.80) also emerged as significant coping mechanisms. Community-based support systems (Mean = 3.63) and mutual aid, such as sharing resources and offering shelter (Mean = 3.62), further illustrate strong communal resilience. However, participation in peace talks or conflict resolution scored relatively lower (Mean = 3.37), indicating less frequent engagement in direct peace building efforts. The standard deviations (ranging from 1.22 to 1.37) show moderate response variability,

suggesting that while most respondents adopt similar coping methods, involvement in formal peace processes may be more individualized or limited.

Discussion

The demographic data indicate that the majority of Nigerian diaspora settlers in South Sudan (70%) have resided in the country for between 1 to 6 years, with 40% living for 1– 3 years and 30% for 4– 6 years. This reflects a population with relatively recent or intermediate settlement experience, which may affect their exposure to local conflict dynamics and ability to adapt. Moreover, the occupational distribution reveals that 33.3% are business owners, followed by NGO workers and students (each at 23.3%), and 20% as health workers. This diversity highlights the diaspora' s integration into critical sectors of South Sudan' s socio-economic structure. Furthermore, 33.3% remit between \$100– \$300 monthly, while 26.7% send between \$301– \$500. These findings affirm the economic relevance of Nigerian migrants, aligning with the World Bank (2025), which emphasized diaspora remittances as critical financial lifelines for home-country development, even during crises.

Regarding purpose 1, which examined the socio-economic consequences of the conflict, findings revealed high mean responses for conflict-related disruptions: employment/income opportunities ($M = 3.92$, $SD = 1.27$), remittances ($M = 3.70$, $SD = 1.33$), quality of life ($M = 3.78$, $SD = 1.33$), access to social services ($M = 3.67$, $SD = 1.29$), and forced displacement ($M = 3.65$, $SD = 1.33$). These results suggest that a substantial proportion of Nigerian migrants face multidimensional economic vulnerabilities due to the South Sudan conflict. This supports Adewale and Eze (2025), who emphasized that armed conflict in host countries significantly hampers remittance flows and diaspora livelihoods. Similarly, Ibrahim and Onuorah (2025) argue that diaspora communities in conflict zones face compounded challenges that threaten their developmental roles and personal well-being.

Concerning purpose 2, which assessed the effectiveness of Nigerian diaspora policy frameworks, respondents reported low confidence in government protection ($M = 2.92$, $SD = 1.36$), NiDCOM' s performance ($M = 2.98$, $SD = 1.38$), and awareness of protective policies ($M = 2.82$, $SD = 1.34$). However, they strongly agreed that current diaspora policies lack crisis-response mechanisms ($M = 3.70$, $SD = 1.31$) and are poorly implemented ($M = 3.83$,

SD = 1.25). These findings indicate institutional gaps in safeguarding diaspora Nigerians in volatile regions. Ibrahim and Onuorah (2025) corroborate this by noting that despite existing diaspora engagement efforts, strategic protection of citizens abroad remains underdeveloped. Likewise, the UNDP (2025) underscores the need for adaptable policy frameworks to enhance diaspora resilience and integration during international crises.

Finally, purpose 3 investigated coping strategies and peace building roles. Respondents reported high engagement with digital platforms for connection ($M = 3.85$, $SD = 1.22$), reliance on faith-based practices ($M = 3.80$, $SD = 1.29$), and community-based survival systems ($M = 3.63$, $SD = 1.32$). Mutual aid—such as sharing resources ($M = 3.62$, $SD = 1.31$)—was also widely adopted, while participation in peace talks scored the lowest ($M = 3.37$, $SD = 1.37$). These findings indicate that while informal and spiritual coping mechanisms are strong, formal peace building involvement is less common. This is consistent with Chinwe and Adeyemi (2025), who reported that diaspora members are more active in digital engagement and informal networks than structured diplomacy. The IOM (2024) similarly affirms that migrant resilience is often rooted in local adaptation strategies, which may not always translate into institutional peace building roles. These insights suggest the need to institutionalize diaspora inclusion in formal conflict resolution platforms.

Conclusion

This study critically examined the impact of the South Sudan conflict on Nigerian diaspora settlers, focusing on socio-economic consequences, the effectiveness of diaspora policy frameworks, and coping strategies adopted by the migrants. The findings reveal that the conflict has significantly disrupted the livelihoods of Nigerian settlers, reduced their access to basic services, and constrained their ability to send remittances home, thereby exacerbating their vulnerabilities. Furthermore, the study highlighted institutional gaps in Nigeria's diaspora policy frameworks, showing limited protection and weak crisis-response mechanisms for citizens in high-risk zones. Despite these challenges, the resilience of diaspora Nigerians is evident in their reliance on digital platforms, spiritual practices, and community-based mutual aid, although formal peace building participation remains limited.

Recommendations

The study recommends that;

1. The Nigerian government, in collaboration with international partners, should establish targeted economic relief and livelihood restoration programs for diaspora Nigerians affected by the South Sudan conflict, with a focus on supporting remittance continuity and access to essential services.
2. There is a need to revise and strengthen Nigerian diaspora policy frameworks by incorporating clear crisis-response mechanisms, increasing policy awareness among diaspora members, and ensuring effective implementation through institutions like NiDCOM and Nigeria' s foreign missions.
3. Nigerian authorities and development partners should create structured platforms that integrate diaspora communities into formal peace building processes while enhancing their informal coping systems through community-based training, digital inclusion, and psychosocial support initiatives.

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