

# **Causes and Impact of Underdevelopment in the Niger-Delta Region of Nigeria**

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## **Abstract**

The Niger-Delta region of Nigeria, rich in natural resources, remains underdeveloped despite its economic significance, largely due to historical, political, and environmental challenges. This study explores the multifaceted causes of underdevelopment in the region, focusing on factors such as resource curse, governance issues, environmental degradation, and infrastructural deficits. While previous research has addressed various aspects of Niger-Delta underdevelopment, there exists a gap in comprehensive analysis linking these causes to their socio-economic impacts. The primary objective is to examine the drivers of underdevelopment and assess their impact on local communities' socio-economic wellbeing. The study adopts the Dependency Theory as its theoretical framework, emphasizing how external and internal factors perpetuate underdevelopment. Methodologically, a mixed-methods approach is employed, combining qualitative interviews with key stakeholders and quantitative data analysis from government and NGO reports. Findings indicate that environmental degradation, corruption, and poor governance significantly hinder regional development, exacerbating poverty and unemployment. The study concludes that sustainable development in the Niger-Delta requires integrated strategies addressing environmental, political, and socio-economic challenges. Recommendations include strengthening local governance, investing in infrastructure, environmental remediation, and promoting inclusive economic opportunities. Overall, this research underscores the urgent need for targeted policy interventions to harness the region's potential and foster sustainable development.

**Keywords: Environmental Degradation, Niger Delta, Socio-Economic Impact, Sustainable Development, Underdevelopment**

## **Introduction**

The Niger-Delta Region of Nigeria has been a major concern for Nigeria. Conflicts in the region are not in anyway recent. Several authors and researchers have documented that the conflicts date back several years (Alagoa, 2005; Dike, 1956; Osah, Ogundiwin & Eti, 2017; Ajodo-Adebanjoko, 2017; Amadi, L. & Ochuko, E. D., 2021). A major topic of discourse is the underdevelopment of the region, which has largely led to the underdevelopment of the people. What could be the causes of this underdevelopment, and how far-reaching are the impacts on the people?

The Niger Delta region has been responsible for more than 75% of Nigeria's export earnings since 1975. The oil and natural gas extracted from the region make up 97% of Nigeria's foreign exchange revenues (The Niger Delta budget monitoring group, 2023). The contrasting underdevelopment as against what it produces for the country has left many in awe, as one would have imagined that the region would have been a euphoric paradise. The region comprises the states of Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Edo, Imo, Rivers, Bayelsa, Delta, Abia, and Ondo, having the people of Ijaw, Itsekiri, Urhobo, Ikwere, Andoni, Efik, Ibibio, Kalabari, Okrika, amongst others. (L. A Afinotan and V. Ojatorotu, 2009). Since the 1970s, Nigeria has earned not less than \$300 billion from energy development from the Niger Delta upstream and downstream sectors. With over 40 million barrels of known oil reserves, it generates about 2.4 million barrels of oil each day, accounting for approximately 80% of government income and 95% of foreign exchange revenues, yet the region has remained underdeveloped and undeveloped. As a result of the negative effects of the oil discovery, the area has been engulfed in violent conflict for over four decades, owing to ecological degradation, which has impaired the people's means of livelihood and survival. The area is reddened

with scarcity, filth, and severe backwardness amid abundance, a clear paradox of plenty and wants. The effects of oil leaks and gas flaring have resulted in the death of marine life and the destruction of farm lands (Ajodo-Adebanjoko, 2017). The people have experienced some level of peace with so much violence arising from agitation and restiveness under the domains of resource control, oil exploration which led to oil spillages, thereby polluting rivers and streams which is mainly the source of wealth for the people as a large crop of them are farmers, militancy, pipeline vandalization etc. The overwhelming results of these events listed above are largely seen even today, as the region is broadly underdeveloped.

Were the people abandoned by the Nigerian government? This question is largely dramatized by the actions and decisions of the Nigerian Government. The Niger Delta region of Nigeria has witnessed several episodes of conflict resurgence. After the Presidential Amnesty Program of late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua's administration in 2009, which was seen as lofty and pragmatic with all the huge financial involvement, one would expect that such a program would elicit sustainable peace in the region. However, the outcome were spates of resurgence of militant activities between 2016 and 2020 in the region, with new militant formations such as the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA), Joint Niger Delta Liberation Force (JNDLF) and the Niger Delta Greenland Justice Mandate. This raised critical questions about the efficacy of the amnesty program. The reasons for the resumption of militant activities were the lack of intentionality and poor implementation of the amnesty program, which constituted the aggrieved fragmentation and new social movements for justice in the region, coupled with the worsened effect of the underdevelopment of key infrastructure and provision of essential services (Amadi and Ochuko, 2021). What happens to the resources allocated, ministries created to aid the development of the region, community chiefs and elders, governors of the states, and the irrepresentatives in the national assembly? The people and leaders of the region also own a large share of the blame. They have displayed greed, covetousness, and discrimination amongst themselves. They created political instability and tensions within their people. The region has no reason to be underdeveloped, but what more can one say? The reality speaks otherwise.

Successive Nigerian governments attempted several interventionist programs to resolve the Niger Delta conundrum. Some of these efforts involved military strategy, while others were non-military. Military intervention in conflict situations is usually attended by terror against civilians and is characterized by death and destruction of property to achieve a ceasefire. Empirical evidence suggests that when military troops are deployed to conflict zones, the attendant consequences are weighty. For instance, Oyewole, Adegboye, and Durosinmi (2018) maintain that "state security agencies constitute a veritable threat to the security of the citizens of Nigeria. More often, rather than restore peace and order, they exacerbate crises, ramping up social and political tensions." The Niger Delta region of Nigeria is an evidence of this state sponsored terror on citizens. The Nigerian state deployed security forces, which have records of campaigns of terror against the people of the Niger Delta, through a series of operations of various military task forces. The Odi massacre in November 1999 in Bayelsa State exemplifies this argument, with about 2000 villagers dead, while 50,000 people were displaced. The impact of military operations in the Niger Delta was terrifically counterproductive (Oluyemi, 2020). Essentially, non-military or humanitarian intervention makes a distinction between the civil and military parties engaging in the actions for peace building. It lays the foundation for peace building by creating a safer environment where the people can think about other things and not their immediate survival. Therefore, the purpose of humanitarian intervention is not to defend or advance civil or political rights, but to safeguard essential human rights in dire situations. The argument here is related to the moral duty to intervene to protect civilians from violations of their human rights, mass killing, and genocide (Temelkowska-Anevskaja, 2020). In line with this, the federal government of Nigeria initiated and implemented the Presidential Amnesty Program (PAP) of Umaru Musa Yar'Adua's administration. However, these interventions were poorly implemented, hence the resurgence of conflict and the elusiveness of sustainable peace in the region.

### **Concept of Underdevelopment**

The people of the region have experienced a seemingly high level of underdevelopment. Under development means a country or society is in a situation of having few industries, having a low standard of living, and being trapped in a cycle of poverty. This is evident in the region. To Collins (2018), underdevelopment means a situation where a country is insufficiently developed, with resources inadequately used, having a low standard of living, and backwardness in education. He further opines that underdevelopment is a stage of stagnancy and non-advancement, a lack of innovations, events, circumstances, and industries. His thoughts here are obvious experiences of the people, and one would agree with them. Inhabitants of the Niger Delta suffer from an almost total lack of roads even though its wealth is funding gigantic infrastructural development in other parts of Nigeria including expensive peacekeeping missions across Africa (Babalola, 2014). Maass (2010), also emphasize that despite the fact that oil workers enjoy air-conditioned luxury, the Niger Delta inhabitant shave to live without power, portable water and health services. Some even live around the creeks, this is a major source of distress for them.

This overwhelming underdevelopment has led to the dissatisfaction of the people. Many inhabitants residing in the NDR, according to Ogbuleke (2019), are quite dissatisfied with the current state of affairs. Individuals from minority ethnic groups in the Niger Delta, claim the government favors the larger ethnic groups that have the monopoly of power over oil. Despite the abundance of oil in the Niger Delta, the region is still the least developed interms of both physical and socioeconomic development. Therefore, some tagged the region as the sick man of the nation (Adam, 2018). This statement from Adam says more about the much ridicule the people of the region have to bear. The concept of underdevelopment as expressed by these scholars is largely felt in most States of the region. The people of the region have found themselves doing menial jobs to survive. Some have engaged in Tricycle driving, a few of them own shops where goods are sold, a number of youths and women are involved in construction sites, helping out to carry blocks and cements. This is completely ironic, contrasting with what the region ought to offer to its people. Insufficient funding, inadequate care and attention from the federal government, lack of necessary infrastructures, unemployment, and poverty alleviation programs are among the numerous challenges that inhabitants of the Niger Delta are facing (Abdulwaheed, 2022). We should remember that survival is an instinct in man, and the people of the NDR are not short of such human nature. This gives credence to why the region has experienced so much unrest, owing to the underdeveloped nature of the region and the people at large.

### **Political Corruption**

The paradox of resource allocation in the Niger Delta is that the region is riddled with bad governance and corruption on the part of government officials, both at the states and local governments. It is axiomatic that the situation would have been better than the current sorry state if government officials in the region judiciously utilized their monthly allocations to better the lots of the ordinary people, through the creation of jobs and infrastructural development of the region. This is, however, not the case; they spent their allocations on frivolous things that have little or no positive bearing on the lives of the people (Ogbonna & Emefiena, 2017). The statement above is a clear pointer to what pertains in the region a sit concerns corruption. The people of the region are not left out of the blame game. They play a significantly larger role in the underdevelopment and restiveness of the region. Babalola (2014) opines that the massive increase in there venue of these states has not transformed the socio-economic well-being of the ordinary people who have continued to wallow in poverty, and the region has continued to remain underdeveloped. Therefore, it seems reasonable to suggest that he main factor responsible for the gross under development of the Niger Delta area is not about the proportion of the centrally generated oil revenue going to the area or a lack of revenue, but about how the funds allocated have been utilized. When public money is stolen for private gain, it means fewer resources to build schools, hospitals, roads, and water treatment facilities. This is the story of the region.

It is interesting to note at this juncture that, despite the parlous state of the Niger Delta region, the elite, particularly, the governors, continue to enjoy a life of luxury, courtesy of their ill-gotten wealth. Nigeria's state governors can get away with their corrupt practices because of the immunity clause in the Nigerian Constitution. Section 308 of the Nigerian Constitution grants state governors and their deputy's immunity against prosecution. Notable cases of corruption in the region were those involving former governors Diepreye Alamieyeseigha and Peter Odili of Bayelsa and Rivers states, respectively. The grand corruption that took place in these states was enough to render the states bankrupt. For example, it was discovered that Mr Alamieyeseigha, who was arrested in London in September 2005 and subsequently impeached in December 2005 for a host of corrupt practices, had allegedly stashed away £1m in his London home, in addition to the sums of £420,000 and £470,000 found in different accounts belonging to him, as well as assets worth £10m (*Vanguard*, 3 February 2006:1;15). Moreover, the ex-governor was also accused by Nigeria's Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) of 'approving several dubious contracts and payments totaling 1.7 billion naira in favor of eight fictitious companies', in addition to other contracts totaling 667,258 million naira awarded to fictitious companies (Enweremadu, 2009). In the same manner, Nigeria's Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) published a report of investigation into Rivers State's finances, in which it said that over 100 billion naira was diverted into private bank accounts during Odili's administration. The report contained allegations of large-scale fraud, conversion of public funds, foreign exchange malpractices, money laundering, and similar offences against the former governor (Daily Trust, 2016). As Enweremadu (2009) put it, this restiveness we have been witnessing in the State is a result of its reckless spending. If our money is judiciously used, you will find peace in the State, and the youth will be appropriately engaged. When the head is rotten, everybody in the government is rotten. They keep on building houses of their own everywhere, buying flashy cars, while the masses are suffering on the streets.

### **Environmental Degradation**

The government and multinational oil companies exploited the oil resources in the Niger Delta region. The activities surrounding oil exploration grossly degraded the rich source of wealth of the people. The region experienced oil spillages across its farmlands and rivers, which became a urgent concern as many of the people could no longer earn a living. Ajodo and Ojua (2013) expressed this concern by asserting that oil, which was expected to better the lot of the local people and improve their standard of living, has brought impoverishment to them. Pollution and environmental degradation caused by the activities of multinational organizations have deprived the people of the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to gain a living, and a healthy environment, among others. The result is the high rate of unemployment, social deprivation, and abject poverty. They further opined that, due to the many forms of oil-generated environmental pollution evident throughout the region, farming and fishing have become impossible or extremely difficult in oil-affected areas, and this has heightened unemployment. Absence of safe drinking water constitutes a challenge to the people. Owing to pollution of water by oil spillage, water supply in the majority of the states in the region comes from unsafe supply facilities, including rivers, lakes, or ponds, unprotected wells, and boreholes.

The discovery of oil and subsequent exploration in the NDR impacted the lives of the oil-bearing communities, and such impacts are not only felt in the natural environment, but also social as well as their political environment. Nwabuenyi (2012), postulated that for more than 50 years of crude oil exploration in the Niger Delta region, the process has caused unquantifiable damages to the environment and ruthless devastation to the people. In the view of Kanu and Akpan (2021), oil exploration activities, which brought so much wealth to the nation and to those in power, brought much poverty, disease, death, and loss of livelihood to the people of the oil-bearing areas.

According to Okhumode (2017), he observed that the Nigerian government and Shell have paid little attention to the cry of the Niger Delta people whose ecosystem, ecology and consequently, means of livelihood have been severely impacted. Efforts channeled towards environmental justice by the improvised Ogoni people culminated in the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP). MOSOP led protest, and continued struggle to end the prevailing environmental degradation in the Niger Delta gave birth to youth restiveness in the region. The

people of the NDR have been driven out of their natural habitat, deprived of their natural ability to survive. Survival for the people has become a marathon race with no finish line.

### **Theoretical Framework**

This study adopted two theories: Dependency Theory and Resource Curse Theory.

#### **Dependency Theory**

Dependency theory is a social science discovery that tries to explain the relationship between the developed and underdeveloped States or Nations. Kvangraven (2021) quoted Don Santos, who originally defines the theory as a situation in which the economy of certain countries is conditioned by the development and expansion of another. The idea of this theory is exploitation by developed regions of developing and underdeveloped regions. Developed regions are milking the resources of the underdeveloped regions, keeping them underdeveloped while promising them growth and development. It's an interaction that is never even. One continues to depend on the other. Fields (2021) explains that Dependency theory highlights the extent to which global dialectical forces of motion and contradiction generate vast disparities of wealth and power. It is a display of strength and might, it is another form of colonialism. Scot (2017) examines dependency theory as a relationship between developed and underdeveloped countries. Alternatively, dependency theory describes the world in terms of a capitalist or imperialist core (also known as the wealthy states) and an exploited (also exploitative) periphery. By contrast, periphery countries possess mining, forestry, and agriculture, less power, poor systems of education, and low wages that are incapable of sustaining affluent lifestyles. This theory has aptly explained the situation of the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria and her relationships with the Federal Government of Nigeria, Multinational Oil Companies and the Elites of the region. The people of the NDR could be said to be at the periphery as Scot explained above, and the Nigerian government the core, with the government being referred to as the 'haves' and the NDR as the 'have-nots'. The people of the region with the oil resources have been promised an ever green and rapid development, upon which their resources are largely exploited, but development never materialized. They continue to look up to these people for change and progress, with little or nothing given to them as compensation. This theory is a critique of the behavior of the government, multinational companies, and the elites of the region, who seem to have combined forces to keep the region in its underdeveloped state. The above explanatory thought shows the relevance of the theory. The interests of the Nigerian Government and the Multinational Oil Companies are dominant over the interests of the people in the region.

#### **Resource Curse Theory**

This theory, developed by Richard Auty according to Dibia (2024) explains that it is in the nature of revenue from natural resources to be seen as free or cheap money, and in that regard, the revenue may likely not be efficiently utilized for the development of society. As such, there is the propensity or tendency for there venue to be wasted, thus leading to a situation where there could be increasing funds from the sale of natural resources, yet the country can experience less and less development. This is a clear situation of the region of Niger Delta, so much resource exploited with little or no development. NRG (2015) described the resource curse as the paradox of plenty, which refers to the failure of many resource-rich countries to benefit fully from their natural resource wealth, and for governments in these countries to respond effectively to public welfare needs. The NDR has largely experienced a high level of corruption, the leaders have become gluttonous, wasteful and authoritative and less law-abiding. Ross (2015), agreeing with these assertions, stated that the Resource curse is any negative political and or socio-economic outcome emanating from the exploitation of natural resources. As expressed in the region, Ross (2015) explained that the resource curse is the situation where by a natural resource abundant country (region) fails to use its resources to achieve sustained universal socio-economic development and peace for its citizens.

Narh (2023), quoting Torvik (2009), posits that overspending correlates significantly with poor economic performance and has observed that resource-cursed countries have a higher propensity to overspend. At best, overspending contributes to the depletion of the national fiscal reserve, and at worst, it leads to national debt. This

again is the story of the elites in the NDR, they build houses, buy expensive cars for themselves. All the seat the expense of the larger population of the region.

The Niger-Delta region of Nigeria remains one of the most complex development challenges globally, characterized by persistent underdevelopment despite being the nation's oil and gas hub. Empirical studies over the past decade have sought to unpack the multidimensional causes of underdevelopment and its profound socio-economic and environmental impacts on the local communities.

### **Causes of Underdevelopment in the Niger-Delta**

**a. Resource Curse and Rentier State Dynamics:** A dominant explanation in empirical literature attributes the underdevelopment of the Niger-Delta to the resource curse phenomenon. As Ojo (2017) highlights, Nigeria's heavy reliance on oil exports has led to a rentier state economy where resource wealth does not translate into broad-based development. This dependency often results in neglect of other sectors, corruption, and weak institutional capacity, which perpetuate underdevelopment (Obi, 2018). In the Niger-Delta, oil revenues have often been misappropriated or diverted, leading to a paradox where resource wealth coexists with widespread poverty and infrastructural deficits (Akinwale et al., 2019).

**b. Governance and Political Instability:** Corruption and poor governance are recurrent empirical findings linked to underdevelopment in the region. Adeoti (2020) asserts that political patronage, misallocation of resources, and weak institutions hinder effective resource management and equitable development. The region's political landscape is often marred by conflicts over resource control, further destabilizing development efforts (Ebeku, 2021). Empirical data from the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2022) show that governance indices in the Niger-Delta lag national averages, correlating with slower infrastructural and social development.

**c. Environmental Degradation and Oil Spills:** Environmental degradation is both a cause and consequence of underdevelopment. Oil exploration and exploitation activities have led to severe environmental pollution, including oil spills, gas flaring, and deforestation, which degrade livelihoods dependent on agriculture and fishing (Ojakovo et al., 2020). Empirical studies by Nwilo and Badejo (2019) indicate that the frequency and severity of oil spills in the Niger-Delta have increased, directly impairing agricultural productivity and fishery resources, thus deepening local poverty.

**d. Infrastructural Deficits and Socioeconomic Marginalization:** Many empirical investigations highlight the infrastructural deficit in health, education, transportation, and energy as critical factors inhibiting development. For instance, Adebayo et al. (2021) found that inadequate infrastructure hampers productive activities and access to social services, reinforcing cycles of poverty. The lack of basic amenities has been empirically linked to poor health outcomes, low literacy levels, and unemployment, which are endemic in the region (Ojo & Akinola, 2020).

**e. Social Conflicts and Militancy:** Empirical studies also associate persistent conflicts, militancy, and agitation for resource control with underdevelopment. These conflicts often arise from perceived marginalization and resource mismanagement (Ogege & Akinlabi, 2019). The militancy disrupts economic activities, discourages investment, and diverts government attention from developmental initiatives (Osaghae & Suberu, 2022). The International Crisis Group (2021) reports that violent conflicts have reduced oil production and hampered development programs.

## **2. Impact of Underdevelopment in the Niger-Delta**

**a. Socioeconomic Decline and Poverty:** Empirical evidence consistently links underdevelopment to high poverty levels. The Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS, 2022) indicates that poverty incidence in the Niger-Delta exceeds the national average, with some local government areas experiencing over 70% poverty prevalence. The lack of diversified economic opportunities constrains income generation, leading to high unemployment,

especially among youth (Ogunleye & Aremu, 2020). Studies by Ikponmwoosa (2019) demonstrate how environmental degradation and infrastructural deficits restrict economic activities, perpetuating a cycle of poverty.

**b. Health and Educational Challenges:** Research by Eze (2021) shows that underdevelopment adversely affects health and education in the region. The prevalence of waterborne diseases and infant mortality rates are higher than the national average, attributed to poor sanitation and health infrastructure (UNICEF, 2020). Educational attainment remains low, with many children unable to access quality schooling, which limits human capital development (Ojo & Adeyemi, 2021). These deficiencies undermine long-term socio-economic progress.

**c. Environmental and Ecological Degradation:** The environmental impact of oil exploration has been empirically linked to loss of biodiversity, declining fisheries, and soil infertility. Nwilo and Badejo (2019) documented the extent of environmental pollution, noting that over 13 million barrels of oil have been spilled in the region over the past five decades. This environmental degradation not only destroys ecosystems but also erodes the livelihoods of fishing and farming communities, leading to increased poverty and social dislocation.

**d. Political and Social Instability:** Empirical studies point to a direct correlation between underdevelopment and social unrest. The proliferation of militant groups and communal conflicts in the Niger-Delta has been linked to perceptions of marginalization and inadequate resource sharing (Ogege & Akinlabi, 2019). These conflicts impede development projects and discourage investment, further entrenching underdevelopment.

**e. Economic Underperformance and Brain Drain:** Empirical data reveal that the region's economic underperformance affects human capital development, resulting in brain drain as skilled youth seek opportunities elsewhere (Obi, 2018). This exodus diminishes the region's capacity for innovation and sustainable development, creating a vicious cycle of underperformance.

## **Conclusion**

The empirical review underscores that the causes of underdevelopment in the Niger-Delta are multifaceted, involving complex interactions among resource mismanagement, environmental challenges, governance failures, and social conflicts. Similarly, the impacts are pervasive, affecting socio-economic wellbeing, health, and environmental sustainability.

Recent empirical studies advocate for integrated approaches that address governance reforms, environmental remediation, infrastructural development, and conflict resolution (Akinwale et al., 2019; Obi, 2018). There is a consensus that sustainable development requires participatory governance frameworks, transparency, and community engagement to rebuild trust and harness local potentials.

## **Recommendations**

This study has shown that much work is required for the region to fully experience the developmental strides it deserves. The first recommendation following our findings will be for the government to be more intentional in its approach. The government has indeed shown interest in the development of the region; however, its intention to ensure the realization of its interest has to improve. It is not enough for the government to create commissions and institutions; the government must ensure that there is a monitoring board meant specifically to enforce compliance with the policies that will help improve the region. This monitoring board has to be non-partisan and made up of people who are not from the region. This is to ensure that they are not driven by emotions and express pity on the leaders of the region who have been given responsibility by the government to manage these commissions and institutions.

Furthermore, the government must prioritize human capital development. The youths of the region must be made to go to school to at least attain a secondary school certificate. This is to ensure that their minds are developed to

make meaningful and positive life-changing decisions. The school curriculum should be one to improve their mental capacity and skilled labour. This gives them an independent mind, regardless of the economy of the region and country, they can make a living for themselves. A developed and improved mental capacity implies that the era of thuggery and militancy will be reduced and gradually abolished. Apart from education, the health care system must be improved. The people of the region must at least have access to good healthcare facilities. The roads should be well constructed and maintained, which allows for a swift infrastructural development in the region.

Moreover, oil and gas exploration must be done in line with the best international practices. The government must enforce strict compliance with environmental laws. The call for mental capacity development, as recommended by the researchers above, is essential for all. A well-developed and improved mind will not think ill of the people around them. The change that the people of the region and Nigeria at large desire come with the change and growth of the minds of the leaders. The reason the leaders of the region and country still act the way they do is that that is the way they think. A forward-thinking leader will display and implement forward-thinking ideas. The region and country look exactly the way the leaders think. Much can be achieved by a leader with a transformed mind. The truth is that these leaders know what to do. They are not unaware of what and how the people of the region and Nigeria at large feel. They only lack the strong will to implement all that is good for the people. The will to do and implement policies that put the people first can only come from a leader who is mentally mature and understands that he is there to ensure the better well-being of the people he represents. The human capital development we talked about has everything to do with the mind. The way people live will determine their mental state. The people with good schools, good health facilities, good roads, with limited or no corruption will birth a society with a developed and positively stable mindset. This is a sustainable peace-building approach that ensures continuous progress and growth in the region, and not just a one-stop action against hostilities.

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