ECOWAS AND NIGERIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS
(2015 – 2025)

CLETUS CHIDERA STEPHANIE
GOU/U22/IRE/621

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCE,
GODFREY OKOYE UNIVERSITY,
UGWUOMU-NIKE,
ENUGU.

JULY, 2026

TITLE PAGE

ECOWAS AND NIGERIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS (2015 – 2025)

BY

CLETUS CHIDERA STEPHANIE
GOU/U22/IRE/621

A PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES,
GODFREY OKOYE UNIVERSITY, UGWUOMU NIKE, ENUGU.

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.Sc.), DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,

SUPERVISOR:
DR. AMADI C.

JULY, 2026

APPROVAL

This is to certify that this project titled: " ECOWAS AND NIGERIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS (2015 – 2025)" has been read and approved as meeting the requirements of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Godfrey Okoye University, Ugwuomu-Nike, Enugu for the award of Bachelor of Science Degree (B.Sc) in International Relations.

DR. AMADI C. (PROJECT SUPERVISOR)	**Date**
PROF. UGWUOZOR SAMUEL (HEAD OF DEPARTMENT)	**Date**
PROF. JOHN ODOH (DEAN OF FACULTY)	**Date**
EXTERNAL EXAMINER	**Date**

DECLARATION

I, hereby declare that the project titled " ECOWAS AND NIGERIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS (2015-2025)" submitted by me to Godfrey Okoye university, Enugu State in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of (B.Sc) in International Relations was written by me and has not been submitted or received anywhere for the purpose of acquiring degree in international Relations or any other programme.

______________________________ ______________________________

CLETUS CHIDERA STEPHANIE **Date**

DEDICATION

This project work is dedicated to God Almighty for giving me the strength, wisdom, knowledge, grace in carrying out this work successfully.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I sincerely appreciate God Almighty for the strength, wisdom and grace even to me throughout this research work. I also acknowledge my supervisor for the guidance and corrections that improved the quality of the study. My appreciation goes to my lecturers, family members and friends for their academic, moral and financial support. I remain grateful to everyone who contributed to the successful completion of this project.

My sincere gratitude goes to my wonderful project supervisor, DR AMADI C., whose invaluable guidance, patience and constructive feedback greatly shaped the quality and direction and also giving the confidence to do this work. His mentorship has left a lasting impact on my academic and personal development. I am equally thankful to all my other lecturers who have contributed to my intellectual growth and journey during this academic pursuit. I acknowledge Prof. Samuel Ugwuozor, the Head of Department for his well ground leadership and support.

To my esteemed lecturers, Mr. Okonkwo Willfred, Dr. Onwo Desmond O., Prof. Ugwuozor Samuel, Dr. Chime Jide, Dr. Yond Marinus, Dr. Mbaeze Netchy, Rev. Fr. Dr. Ogbuka Ikenna, Dr. Ifedi Francisca Obiageli, Dr. Ezechi Kingsley, Rev. Sr. Dr. Umeh Lucy Chinwe, Mr. Onishi Anthony Ugwu, Mr. Ajibo Christian, Prof. Odoziobodo S.I., Dr. Chiedozie Alex Ogbonnia, Iyoke Caroline Nechi, Agusionu Chioma Lilian, Prof. Dr. Christoph Stuckelberger, Dr. Rosemary Ossai

I am profoundly grateful to my beloved mother, Mrs. Juliet Egwuonwu, whose unending love, support, sacrifices and constant prayers have remained an outstanding amount of support throughout my life and my academic journey. Your unwavering encouragement and belief in my potential have sustained me, and for that I am eternally grateful.

I also wish to deeply appreciate my sisters, Ezinne, Chioma and Amarachi, for being a constant source of motivation and emotional guide, and my friends, Chidubem, Faith, Nifemi, Emmanuel who supported me with their wise counsel and emotional support throughout this academic endeavor. I am grateful for the support and shared experiences and academic discussions which had helped me navigate the demands of this program. Your presence had made this journey both meaningful and memorable. To everyone who, in one way or another, contributed to the success of this work I extend my heartfelt appreciation. May God in His infinite mercy reward and bless you all abundantly.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ABSTRACT

This study examined the prospects and challenges of regional integration in Nigeria with particular emphasis on Nigerias role in promoting economic, political, and social cooperation within West Africa and Africa generally. The study aimed at identifying the benefits of regional integration, the challenges hindering its effectiveness, and possible measures for improving integration efforts in Nigeria and Africa. The study adopted a descriptive research design and relied mainly on secondary sources of data collection such as textbooks, academic journals, government publications, ECOWAS reports, African Union documents, newspapers, and internet materials. The data collected were analyzed using qualitative descriptive analysis. The findings of the study revealed that regional integration offers several prospects including trade expansion, economic growth, industrial development, employment creation, infrastructural development, political cooperation, peacekeeping, security collaboration, and promotion of democratic governance. The study further revealed that Nigeria has played a major leadership role in regional integration through financial contributions, peacekeeping missions, diplomatic engagements, and support for ECOWAS and African Union activities. However, the study also identified several challenges affecting regional integration in Nigeria and Africa generally. These challenges include poor infrastructure, corruption, insecurity, terrorism, political instability, weak institutions, lack of political will, and differences in economic policies among member states. The study concluded that despite the numerous challenges facing regional integration in Africa, effective cooperation among member states can promote sustainable development, peace, and economic growth within the region. The study recommended improvement in infrastructure, stronger security cooperation, effective implementation of regional policies, promotion of industrialization, and greater political commitment among African leaders.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Regional integration refers to the process through which neighboring countries cooperate politically, economically, socially, and sometimes militarily in order to achieve common goals and improve the welfare of their citizens (Balassa, 1961).

In Africa, regional integration has remained one of the major strategies adopted by African states to promote economic development, political stability, regional peace, and collective self-reliance (African Union, 2015; United Nations Economic Commission for Africa [UNECA], 2019). Nigeria, being the most populous country in Africa and one of the continents largest economies, has consistently played a leading role in promoting regional integration within West Africa and the African continent at large (Adebajo, 2002).

The idea of regional integration in Africa gained significant attention after the independence of many African states in the 1960s. African leaders recognized that individual states were too weak economically and politically to compete effectively in the global system. As a result, they sought collective cooperation through regional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union (AU), and other sub-regional bodies. Nigeria became one of the strongest advocates of these organizations due to its size, economic resources, and foreign policy objectives centered on African unity and cooperation (ECOWAS, 1993; African Union, 2015). (ECOWAS)

Nigeria has contributed immensely to the growth and development of ECOWAS since its establishment in 1975. The country has invested financial resources, military assistance, diplomatic efforts, and political influence to sustain regional peace and economic cooperation in West Africa. Nigeria has participated actively in peacekeeping missions in countries such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, and Mali under the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) (Adebajo, 2002). The country has also promoted trade liberalization, free movement of persons, regional infrastructure development, and democratic governance within the region (ECOWAS, 1993). (ECOWAS)

Regional integration in Nigeria is driven by several objectives. Economically, integration aims to expand markets, increase trade among member states, encourage industrialization, reduce poverty, and attract foreign investment (Balassa, 1961; UNECA, 2019). Politically, it seeks to strengthen democracy, maintain peace and security, and enhance collective bargaining power in international affairs (African Union, 2015). Socially, regional integration promotes cultural exchange, educational cooperation, and free movement of people across borders (ECOWAS, 1993). (ECOWAS)

Despite these prospects, regional integration in Nigeria faces numerous challenges that have hindered its effectiveness. One major challenge is the problem of poor infrastructure, including inadequate transportation systems, unstable electricity supply, and weak communication networks, which limit trade and economic cooperation among member states (World Bank, 2020; UNECA, 2019). Another challenge is political instability and insecurity in the West African region. Terrorism, insurgency, military coups, ethnic conflicts, and cross-border crimes have negatively affected regional cooperation and economic growth (Adebajo, 2002).

In addition, differences in economic policies, language barriers, corruption, weak institutions, and lack of political will among member states have slowed the pace of integration (UNECA, 2019). Nigeria itself also faces domestic economic and security problems that affect its ability to lead effectively within the region (World Bank, 2020). Furthermore, the dependence of many African economies on foreign powers and external markets has limited the success of regional economic integration efforts (UNECA, 2019).

Nevertheless, regional integration remains an important strategy for achieving sustainable development in Nigeria and Africa generally. With the introduction of initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), there is renewed hope that African countries can overcome existing barriers and achieve greater economic cooperation and development (African Union, 2018; World Bank, 2020). (Reuters) Therefore, examining the prospects and challenges of regional integration in Nigeria is important for understanding the countrys role in Africa and identifying measures needed to strengthen integration efforts.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Regional integration has been regarded as an essential tool for economic growth, political stability, and social development in Africa (Balassa, 1961; African Union, 2015). Nigeria has consistently supported regional integration efforts through organizations such as ECOWAS and the African Union. The country has committed significant financial, political, and military resources toward maintaining peace, promoting trade, and fostering cooperation among African states (Adebajo, 2002). Despite these efforts, the expected benefits of regional integration have not been fully realized.

Trade among African countries, especially within West Africa, remains relatively low compared to trade with foreign countries outside the continent (UNECA, 2019; World Bank, 2020). Many African economies continue to depend heavily on imports from Europe, America, and Asia rather than strengthening intra-African trade. Poor infrastructure, inconsistent economic policies, insecurity, and weak implementation of regional agreements continue to hinder effective integration (World Bank, 2020).

Nigeria also faces several domestic challenges that affect its leadership role in regional integration. Issues such as corruption, unemployment, insecurity, smuggling, border conflicts, and economic instability have weakened the countrys ability to achieve the objectives of integration fully (World Bank, 2020). In addition, political instability and military coups in some West African countries have created further obstacles to regional cooperation and development (ECOWAS, 1993).

Another major problem is the lack of commitment among member states toward implementing integration policies and agreements. Although regional organizations have developed numerous protocols and policies aimed at promoting free trade, free movement, and economic cooperation, many member states fail to implement them effectively due to national interests and political considerations (ECOWAS, 1993). (ECOWAS)

These challenges have raised concerns about the effectiveness and sustainability of regional integration efforts in Nigeria and West Africa. Therefore, this study seeks to examine the prospects and challenges of regional integration in Nigeria and identify possible solutions for improving regional cooperation and development.

1.3 Research Questions

This study seeks to provide answers to the following research questions:

1. What are the major prospects of regional integration in Nigeria?
2. What are the key challenges confronting regional integration in Nigeria?
3. To what extent has Nigeria contributed to regional integration in West Africa?
4. What measures can be adopted to enhance regional integration in Nigeria and Africa as a whole?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to examine the prospects and challenges of regional integration in Nigeria.

The specific objectives are to:

1. Examine the prospects of regional integration in Nigeria.
2. Identify the challenges facing regional integration in Nigeria.
3. Assess Nigerias contributions to regional integration in West Africa.
4. Proffer strategies for improving regional integration in Nigeria and Africa generally.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is significant in several ways. First, it will contribute to existing knowledge on regional integration and Nigerias role in promoting cooperation within Africa. The study will help students, researchers, and scholars understand the importance of regional integration and the factors affecting its success.

Second, the study will be useful to policymakers and government officials by providing information on the challenges confronting regional integration and possible strategies for overcoming them. It will also help regional organizations such as ECOWAS and the African Union in formulating policies that will strengthen cooperation among member states.

Third, the study will benefit business organizations and investors by highlighting the economic opportunities associated with regional integration, such as expanded markets, increased trade, and investment opportunities.

Finally, the study will serve as a reference material for future researchers interested in regional integration, African politics, international relations, and economic development.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study focuses on the prospects and challenges of regional integration in Nigeria. It examines Nigerias role in promoting regional cooperation through organizations such as ECOWAS and the African Union. The study also discusses the economic, political, and social benefits of regional integration as well as the factors limiting its effectiveness.

The study is limited by factors such as inadequate access to current data, financial constraints, and limited time available for extensive research. In addition, some information on regional integration policies and activities may not be easily accessible due to political and administrative reasons.

1.7 Operational Definition of Terms

Regional Integration:

The process through which countries cooperate economically, politically, and socially to achieve common goals and development.

ECOWAS:

The Economic Community of West African States established in 1975 to promote economic integration and cooperation among West African countries.

Economic Cooperation:

Collaboration among countries aimed at improving trade, investment, and economic development.

African Union (AU):

A continental organization established to promote unity, peace, security, and development among African countries.

Free Movement:

The ability of citizens of member states to travel, live, and work freely across borders within a regional organization.

Development:

The process of improving the economic, political, and social well-being of people in a country or region.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter reviews existing literature related to the study on the prospects and challenges of regional integration in West Africa. The chapter examines concepts, theories, empirical studies, and scholarly opinions relating to regional integration, the role of Economic Community of West African States, and the political, economic, and security challenges facing integration efforts within the West African sub-region.

The chapter is divided into conceptual review, theoretical review, empirical review, prospects of regional integration, challenges of regional integration, and gap in literature. The purpose of this review is to provide a detailed understanding of the subject matter and establish a foundation upon which the study is built.

Regional integration has become one of the major strategies adopted by developing countries to achieve economic growth, political stability, technological advancement, peace, and sustainable development. In recent decades, African countries have increasingly embraced regional integration as a means of overcoming underdevelopment, poverty, insecurity, unemployment, weak industrialization, and dependence on developed countries.

The increasing globalization of the world economy has also made regional cooperation more important because many African states lack the capacity to compete independently in the international economic system. Through integration, countries are able to combine their markets, resources, and manpower to improve development and strengthen their bargaining power globally.

In West Africa, regional integration has received considerable attention due to the establishment of ECOWAS in 1975. Since its establishment, ECOWAS has promoted economic cooperation, conflict resolution, democratic governance, and free movement of persons among member states. Despite these efforts, regional integration in West Africa continues to face several political, economic, institutional, and security challenges.

Different scholars and international organizations have discussed regional integration from political, economic, social, and security perspectives. This chapter therefore examines various scholarly contributions and existing literature relevant to the study.

2.2 Conceptual Review

2.2.1 Concept of Regional Integration

Regional integration refers to the process whereby countries within a geographical region cooperate and coordinate their economic, political, social, and security policies for mutual development and collective progress. It involves the coming together of sovereign states to pursue common goals and improve the welfare of their citizens through cooperation and collective action.

Regional integration aims at improving cooperation among neighboring countries in areas such as:

* Trade
* Transportation

* Security
* Communication
* Education
* Agriculture
* Technology
* Health
* Industrialization
* Energy development
* Environmental sustainability

According to Balassa (1961), regional integration involves the removal of discrimination among economic units belonging to different states. This means reducing tariffs, eliminating trade barriers, encouraging trade liberalization, and promoting economic cooperation among member states.

Nye (1968) defined regional integration as the process through which nations willingly cooperate and establish institutions that facilitate collective decision-making and regional development. He emphasized that integration requires both political commitment and institutional cooperation among states.

Haas (1970) described regional integration as a political process whereby states transfer some aspects of their sovereignty to supranational institutions for the purpose of achieving collective goals. This implies that integration goes beyond economics to include political cooperation and policy coordination.

Regional integration is considered important because many developing countries lack the economic and technological capacity to independently compete in the global economy. Through cooperation, countries are able to pool resources together, increase market size, improve industrial productivity, and strengthen their economic position internationally (Balassa, 1961; World Bank, 2020).

The concept of regional integration became more popular after the Second World War, particularly in Europe where countries established the European Economic Community (EEC), which later developed into the European Union. The success of European integration encouraged many developing regions, including Africa, to establish regional organizations for economic and political cooperation (Dinan, 2014; European Union, 2023).

In Africa, regional integration became necessary after independence because many African countries faced economic crises, weak institutions, political instability, poverty, unemployment, poor infrastructure, and dependence on foreign powers. African leaders therefore viewed integration as a strategy for promoting economic development, political unity, and continental self-reliance (African Union, 2015; UNECA, 2019).

Regional integration in West Africa has become increasingly important because many countries within the region share similar economic and security challenges. Through cooperation, these countries seek to achieve sustainable development, peace, and regional stability. Organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have played significant roles in promoting economic cooperation, conflict resolution, democratic governance, and regional development among member states (ECOWAS Commission, 2022; Adebajo, 2021).

2.2.2 Stages of Regional Integration

Regional integration occurs gradually in stages depending on the level of cooperation among member states. Balassa identified several stages through which regional integration develops.

Free Trade Area

This is the first stage of regional integration where member countries remove tariffs and trade restrictions among themselves while maintaining separate trade policies against non-member countries.

The objective of a free trade area is to encourage trade among member states by reducing barriers that hinder the movement of goods and services.

An example is the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS), which promotes free trade among West African countries.

Customs Union

At this stage, member states adopt a common external tariff against non-member countries while maintaining free trade among themselves.

A customs union strengthens regional markets and reduces unfair competition from external economies. It also promotes stronger economic cooperation among member states.

Common Market

This stage allows free movement of goods, services, labor, and capital among member states. Citizens can travel, work, invest, and establish businesses freely within the region.

The common market stage improves employment opportunities, investment, and regional productivity.

Economic Union

An economic union involves deeper economic cooperation where countries adopt common economic policies, fiscal regulations, and monetary systems.

Countries coordinate economic decisions relating to banking, taxation, industrial policies, and financial regulations. This stage may eventually result in the adoption of a common currency.

Political Union

This is the final stage of regional integration where member states establish common political institutions and policies. Countries may adopt common foreign policies, political structures, and legislative systems.

The European Union remains one of the closest examples of advanced regional integration because of its strong political and economic institutions.

2.2.3 Historical Background of Regional Integration in Africa

The concept of regional integration in Africa has its roots in the continents struggle against colonialism, racial discrimination, and economic exploitation. During the colonial era, African leaders recognized that individual territories lacked the political and economic strength needed to effectively challenge colonial domination. As a result, the idea of African unity emerged as a strategy for achieving political liberation, economic cooperation, and collective development (Nkrumah, 1963).

Prominent African nationalists and statesmen, including Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, Nnamdi Azikiwe, and Haile Selassie, championed the cause of Pan-Africanism and advocated closer political and economic cooperation among African states. These leaders believed that unity among African nations would promote self-determination, strengthen economic development, and enhance the continents position within the international system (Adi & Sherwood, 2003).

Following the attainment of independence by many African countries in the 1950s and 1960s, the focus shifted from political liberation to economic development and regional cooperation. Despite gaining sovereignty, most African states continued to face numerous socio-economic and political challenges. These challenges included widespread poverty, political instability, weak economic structures, low levels of industrialization, inadequate infrastructure, dependence on foreign aid, ethnic conflicts, and high unemployment rates (Adebajo, 2010). The persistence of these problems highlighted the limitations of individual national efforts and reinforced the need for collective action through regional integration.

Consequently, African countries increasingly embraced regional cooperation as a means of pooling resources, expanding markets, promoting trade, and addressing common developmental challenges. This commitment to unity and cooperation eventually led to the establishment of continental and regional organizations aimed at fostering economic integration and sustainable development across the continent (African Union, 2023). As a result, African leaders believed that cooperation among African states would promote development and strengthen the continent economically and politically.

The Organization of African Unity was established in 1963 to promote African unity, peace, and cooperation. The organization played a significant role in supporting liberation movements and promoting solidarity among African states.

In 2002, the OAU transformed into the African Union with the objective of strengthening regional integration, democratic governance, peacekeeping, and sustainable development in Africa.

Several regional organizations were also established in different parts of Africa including: Economic Community of West African States, Southern African Development Community, East African Community and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa These organizations were established to promote economic cooperation, infrastructural development, regional peace, and political stability within their respective regions.

2.2.4 ECOWAS and Regional Integration in West Africa

The Economic Community of West African States was established on May 28, 1975 through the Treaty of Lagos. The organization was created to promote economic integration and cooperation among West African countries. ECOWAS currently consists of fifteen member states including: Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Togo, Benin Republic, Liberia, Sierra Leone, MalI, Niger, Burkina Faso, Côte dIvoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde and the Gambia

The major objectives of ECOWAS

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was established to promote economic cooperation, regional integration, and sustainable development among member states in West Africa. Since its inception in 1975, the organization has pursued several objectives aimed at improving the socio-economic and political conditions of the region. One of its primary objectives is the promotion of economic integration through the harmonization of economic policies and the creation of a larger regional market that facilitates economic growth and development (ECOWAS, 2020).

Another key objective of ECOWAS is trade liberalization. The organization seeks to eliminate trade barriers among member states by reducing tariffs and non-tariff restrictions, thereby encouraging the free flow of goods and services within the region. This initiative is intended to increase intra-regional trade, enhance competitiveness, and stimulate economic development (Asante, 2018).

ECOWAS also promotes the free movement of persons, goods, services, and capital among member countries. Through protocols on free movement, citizens of member states are allowed to travel, reside, and engage in economic activities across the region with minimal restrictions. This objective strengthens regional cooperation and facilitates labor mobility and business opportunities (Aning & Pokoo, 2014).

The organization is committed to maintaining regional peace and security. Recognizing that political instability and conflicts can undermine development efforts, ECOWAS has established mechanisms for conflict prevention, peacekeeping, and crisis management. The organization has played significant roles in resolving conflicts and promoting stability in several West African countries (Bah, 2015).

Furthermore, ECOWAS encourages democratic governance and the protection of human rights within member states. Through various protocols and frameworks, the organization promotes constitutional rule, credible elections, political accountability, and good governance as essential foundations for sustainable development and regional stability (ECOWAS Commission, 2022).

The promotion of infrastructural development is another important objective of ECOWAS. The organization supports regional projects in transportation, energy, telecommunications, and other critical sectors to improve connectivity, facilitate trade, and accelerate economic growth across West Africa (African Development Bank, 2021).

ECOWAS also seeks to strengthen political cooperation among member states by encouraging collective decision-making, diplomatic collaboration, and the pursuit of common regional interests. Such cooperation enhances unity and enables member countries to address shared challenges more effectively (Ojo, 2020).

Finally, the organization promotes monetary cooperation among member states with the long-term goal of achieving greater financial integration and establishing a common regional currency. This objective is expected to reduce transaction costs, facilitate trade and investment, and enhance macroeconomic stability within the region (ECOWAS, 2020).

One major achievement of ECOWAS is the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons which allows citizens of member states to travel within the region without visas. This policy has improved trade, tourism, labor mobility, and social interaction within West Africa.

ECOWAS has also played an important role in peacekeeping and conflict resolution. Through ECOMOG, the organization intervened in conflicts in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, and The Gambia. These interventions helped restore peace and democratic governance in affected countries.

The organization has also condemned unconstitutional changes of government and imposed sanctions on military regimes within the region.

Economically, ECOWAS promotes regional trade through the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme and infrastructural projects involving roads, telecommunications, and electricity.

Despite these achievements, ECOWAS still faces several challenges including insecurity, corruption, poor implementation of policies, smuggling, border conflicts, political instability, and inadequate funding.

2.2.5 Nigeria and Regional Integration in West Africa

Nigeria has remained a key member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and has actively participated in various regional initiatives aimed at promoting peace, stability, economic growth, and development within West Africa. Through its involvement in peacekeeping missions, economic cooperation, democratic restoration, conflict resolution, and humanitarian assistance, Nigeria has contributed significantly to the achievement of ECOWAS objectives and the promotion of regional integration (Adebajo, 2002; ECOWAS Commission, 2023).

Peacekeeping Missions

Nigeria has been at the forefront of ECOWAS peacekeeping operations, contributing troops, logistics, and financial resources to maintain peace and security in the region. Between 2015 and 2025, Nigeria participated in efforts to combat terrorism, insurgency, and political instability in countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso, and the Lake Chad Basin region. Through the ECOWAS Standby Force and other security arrangements, Nigeria helped to restore stability, which is essential for economic growth and regional development (ECOWAS Commission, 2023; Aniekwe, 2024).

Economic Cooperation

Economic cooperation remains one of the primary objectives of ECOWAS. Nigeria has actively supported policies aimed at promoting regional trade, investment, and economic integration. The country has participated in the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS), which facilitates the free movement of goods and services among member states. Nigeria has also contributed to regional infrastructure projects, energy cooperation initiatives, and monetary integration programmes designed to strengthen economic ties within West Africa (ECOWAS Commission, 2022; AfDB, 2024). These efforts have expanded market opportunities for Nigerian businesses and enhanced regional economic growth.

Democratic Restoration

Nigeria has played a leading role in promoting democratic governance and constitutional order within the ECOWAS region. The country has supported ECOWAS interventions aimed at restoring democracy in member states experiencing political crises and unconstitutional changes of government. Nigerias diplomatic and political engagements in countries such as The Gambia, Mali, Guinea, and Niger have demonstrated its commitment to democratic principles and regional stability (Olonisakin, 2015; ECOWAS Commission, 2023). Democratic governance is crucial for attracting investment and fostering sustainable economic development.

Conflict Resolution

Nigeria has consistently contributed to conflict prevention, mediation, and resolution efforts within West Africa. Through ECOWAS mechanisms such as the Council of the Wise and mediation missions, Nigeria has participated in negotiations and peace-building initiatives aimed at resolving disputes and preventing violent conflicts. These efforts have helped reduce instability and create an environment conducive to economic activities and regional cooperation (Adebajo, 2002; ECOWAS Commission, 2023).

Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian assistance has become an important aspect of Nigerias contributions to ECOWAS. Between 2015 and 2025, Nigeria collaborated with ECOWAS and international partners to provide support to populations affected by armed conflicts, terrorism, displacement, food insecurity, and natural disasters. The Boko Haram insurgency in northeastern Nigeria and the wider Lake Chad Basin generated significant humanitarian challenges, prompting coordinated regional responses involving relief materials, healthcare services, shelter, and livelihood support for internally displaced persons and refugees (UNHCR, 2024; ECOWAS Commission, 2025).

Nigeria also supported ECOWAS humanitarian interventions during flooding and other emergencies across the region. Through these efforts, vulnerable populations received food assistance, cash transfers, medical care, and rehabilitation support. Such humanitarian initiatives have helped preserve human capital, reduce poverty, and promote social stability, thereby contributing to economic development and regional integration (ECOWAS Commission, 2024; World Food Programme, 2024).

Overall, Nigerias active participation in ECOWAS peacekeeping missions, economic cooperation, democratic restoration, conflict resolution, and humanitarian assistance has strengthened regional integration and contributed positively to Nigerias economic development between 2015 and 2025.

Nigeria also played important roles in restoring democracy in countries such as The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau.

Economically, Nigerian banks, telecommunication companies, and manufacturing industries operate across several African countries thereby promoting regional trade and investment.

Nigeria also supports the African Continental Free Trade Area which aims to establish a single African market and improve intra-African trade.

However, Nigeria faces several domestic challenges such as corruption, unemployment, insecurity, poor infrastructure, and weak institutions which affect its leadership role within West Africa.

2.2.6 The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and Regional Integration in West Africa

The African Continental Free Trade Area is one of the most important developments in Africas integration process. The agreement was officially launched in 2018 with the objective of creating a single continental market for goods and services across Africa.

The agreement aims to remove tariffs on goods, reduce trade barriers, and improve the movement of persons, goods, and investments within the continent. It is regarded as one of the largest free trade agreements in the world because it involves almost all African countries.

For West African countries, AfCFTA provides opportunities for economic growth, industrialization, and regional development. Businesses within the sub-region can access larger markets and expand production.

Despite these benefits, challenges such as poor infrastructure, insecurity, corruption, weak industrial capacity, and inconsistent government policies continue to affect effective implementation of the agreement within West Africa.

2.2.7 Regional Integration and Economic Development in West Africa

Economic development remains one of the major objectives of regional integration in West Africa. Most countries within the region continue to face poverty, unemployment, poor infrastructure, and low industrialization.

Regional integration promotes intra-regional trade by reducing tariffs and encouraging commercial cooperation among member states. It also encourages industrial growth because manufacturers can access larger regional markets.

Regional integration further promotes infrastructural development through cooperation in roads, railways, electricity, and communication systems.

Despite these achievements, economic development in West Africa still faces major obstacles such as corruption, insecurity, unstable electricity supply, poor infrastructure, and smuggling activities.

2.2.8 Regional Integration and Political Cooperation in West Africa

Political cooperation is another major aspect of regional integration in West Africa. Since independence, many countries within the region have experienced political instability, military coups, civil wars, and election violence.

ECOWAS has played an important role in promoting democratic governance and conflict resolution within the region. Through ECOMOG, the organization intervened in civil conflicts and helped restore peace and democratic rule in affected countries.

Despite these achievements, political integration still faces challenges such as weak democratic institutions, corruption, military coups, and national interests that sometimes hinder cooperation among member states.

2.2.9 Regional Integration and Security Cooperation in West Africa

Security cooperation has become increasingly important in West Africa due to threats such as terrorism, piracy, human trafficking, kidnapping, insurgency, and cross-border crimes.

ECOWAS member states cooperate in intelligence sharing, peacekeeping operations, border patrol, and military training. Nigeria and neighboring countries have also collaborated in combating Boko Haram and other insurgent groups within the region.

Despite these efforts, poor funding, weak military equipment, corruption, and porous borders continue to affect regional security cooperation.

2.2.10 Impact of Globalization on Regional Integration in West Africa

Globalization has significantly influenced regional integration within West Africa. It has encouraged economic cooperation, technological advancement, trade expansion, and international investment.

Technological development has improved communication, transportation, and digital banking within the region. However, globalization also exposes weak African economies to foreign competition and economic dependence.

Many local industries in West Africa struggle to compete with foreign companies that possess better technology and financial resources.

2.2.11 Migration and Free Movement in West Africa

Migration and free movement are important aspects of regional integration in West Africa. The ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of Persons allows citizens of member states to travel across borders without visas.

Free movement promotes trade, labor mobility, tourism, and cultural interaction among West African countries.

However, migration and free movement also create challenges such as smuggling, human trafficking, illegal migration, and border insecurity.

2.2.12 Technology and Digital Integration in West Africa

Technology has become an important factor in promoting regional integration and development within West Africa. Digital banking, telecommunication services, internet technology, and e-commerce have improved regional trade and communication.

Technology also supports security cooperation through intelligence gathering and border surveillance.

Despite these benefits, poor internet connectivity, unstable electricity supply, and cybercrime remain major challenges affecting digital integration within the region.

2.2.13 Comparative Analysis of ECOWAS and the European Union

Many scholars compare ECOWAS with the European Union because both organizations were established to promote regional cooperation and integration.

Both organizations encourage free movement, economic cooperation, and political collaboration among member states. However, the European Union has achieved a higher level of integration due to stronger institutions, advanced economies, and better infrastructure.

ECOWAS continues to face challenges such as poor funding, insecurity, corruption, and political instability which affect the effectiveness of regional integration within West Africa.

2.2.14 Regional Integration and Agricultural Development in West Africa

Agriculture remains one of the most important sectors in West Africa because a large percentage of the population depends on farming for survival and income generation.

Regional integration encourages cooperation in agricultural research, food production, irrigation, livestock management, and agricultural trade.

Trade in agricultural products such as cocoa, rice, cassava, maize, and livestock has increased through regional cooperation.

Despite these benefits, agriculture in West Africa still faces challenges such as climate change, poor storage facilities, insecurity, inadequate farming equipment, and poor transportation networks.

2.2.15 Regional Integration and Infrastructural Development

Infrastructure plays a major role in the success of regional integration. ECOWAS promotes infrastructural projects involving highways, railways, seaports, electricity supply, and communication systems.

Good infrastructure improves trade, transportation, tourism, and economic cooperation within the region.

However, infrastructural development in West Africa still faces challenges such as corruption, poor maintenance culture, inadequate funding, and insecurity.

2.2.16 Regional Integration and Cultural Cooperation in West Africa

Cultural cooperation is another important aspect of regional integration in West Africa. Countries within the region share historical and cultural connections despite differences in language and ethnicity.

Regional integration promotes cultural exchange through music, education, sports, tourism, and entertainment. Nigerian music and films, for example, are widely consumed across West Africa.

Despite these achievements, language barriers, ethnic conflicts, and religious tensions sometimes hinder cultural integration within the region.

2.3 Theoretical Review

2.3.1 Functionalist Theory

This study is anchored on the Functionalist Theory developed by David Mitrany.

Functionalism argues that countries can achieve peace and development through cooperation in technical and economic sectors rather than through military competition. Cooperation in one area can gradually lead to cooperation in other sectors.

The theory explains why African countries established organizations such as ECOWAS and the African Union to promote economic cooperation, peacekeeping, and political stability.

However, critics argue that the theory overlooks national interests and political conflicts that often hinder regional integration.

2.3.2 Neo-Functionalist Theory

Neo-functionalism was developed by Ernst Haas as an improvement on Functionalism. The theory argues that integration in one sector can gradually spread into other sectors through the "spillover effect."

The theory is relevant because ECOWAS initially focused on economic cooperation but later expanded into peacekeeping, democratic governance, and security cooperation.

Despite its relevance, critics argue that political conflicts and national interests often slow down the integration process within Africa.

2.3.3 Dependency Theory

Dependency Theory explains that developing countries remain economically dependent on developed nations due to colonialism and unequal international economic relations.

The theory supports regional integration because African countries can reduce foreign dependence through economic cooperation, industrialization, and regional trade.

However, critics argue that the theory places too much emphasis on external factors while ignoring internal problems such as corruption and poor governance.

2.4 Empirical Review

Several scholars have examined regional integration and ECOWAS in West Africa.

Adebayo (2014) examined regional integration and economic development in Africa. The study found that ECOWAS contributed significantly to trade expansion and peacekeeping within West Africa. However, poor infrastructure and corruption remained major obstacles.

Okeke (2016) studied Nigerias peacekeeping role in West Africa. The study concluded that Nigeria played a dominant role in restoring peace in Liberia and Sierra Leone through ECOMOG operations.

Ibrahim (2018) analyzed trade liberalization within ECOWAS and discovered that regional integration improved trade activities among member states but noted that smuggling and border restrictions continued to affect regional commerce.

Yusuf (2020) examined the African Continental Free Trade Area and its implications for West Africa. The study found that AfCFTA could increase industrialization, trade opportunities, and employment if properly implemented.

Eze (2021) studied insecurity and regional integration in West Africa. The study identified terrorism, insurgency, and political instability as major threats to effective integration.

Ahmed (2022) examined the impact of political instability on regional cooperation in Africa. The study revealed that military coups and election violence weaken democratic institutions and reduce investor confidence.

Olawale (2023) investigated the relationship between infrastructure and regional trade in West Africa. The study concluded that poor transportation systems and inadequate electricity supply significantly hinder regional integration.

Mensah (2017) examined regional trade and economic integration in West Africa. The study found that ECOWAS policies improved trade relations among member states but noted that poor transportation systems and border delays continued to affect commercial activities.

Afolabi (2018) studied the impact of free movement policies on migration in West Africa. The study concluded that the ECOWAS free movement protocol increased labor mobility and business opportunities but also contributed to challenges such as smuggling and illegal migration.

Kamara (2019) investigated the role of ECOWAS in conflict resolution within West Africa. The study revealed that ECOWAS peacekeeping interventions contributed significantly to restoring peace in conflict areas, although inadequate funding reduced operational effectiveness.

Bello (2020) analyzed the relationship between regional integration and industrialization in West Africa. The study found that larger regional markets encouraged industrial growth but weak electricity supply limited manufacturing activities.

Ojo (2021) examined the impact of insecurity on regional trade within ECOWAS member states. The study identified terrorism, kidnapping, and border insecurity as major obstacles to economic integration and foreign investment.

Adamu (2022) studied the effects of globalization on regional integration in Africa. The research concluded that globalization encouraged technological advancement and increased trade opportunities but also exposed African economies to foreign competition.

These studies reveal that although regional integration provides several opportunities for development, major structural, economic, and political challenges continue to affect integration efforts within West Africa.

2.5 Prospects of Regional Integration in West Africa

2.5.1 Economic Prospects

Regional integration promotes trade expansion, industrialization, employment opportunities, infrastructural development, and foreign investment within West Africa.

Reduction in tariffs and trade barriers encourages commercial activities among member states while larger regional markets support industrial growth.

2.5.2 Political Prospects

Regional integration strengthens political cooperation, democratic governance, and conflict resolution within West Africa.

ECOWAS promotes peacekeeping operations and encourages member states to maintain democratic rule and political stability.

2.5.3 Social Prospects

Regional integration promotes cultural exchange, tourism, educational cooperation, and social interaction among West African citizens.

Free movement also allows citizens to travel, study, and work across borders more easily.

2.5.4 Security Prospects

West African countries cooperate in combating terrorism, piracy, insurgency, smuggling, and human trafficking.

Regional security cooperation improves intelligence sharing and peacekeeping efforts within the region.

2.6 Challenges of Regional Integration in West Africa

Poor Infrastructure

Poor roads, unstable electricity supply, weak railway systems, and inadequate transportation networks hinder trade and movement across borders.

Insecurity and Terrorism

Terrorism, insurgency, kidnapping, piracy, and cross-border crimes threaten regional peace and economic development.

Corruption and Poor Governance

Corruption weakens institutions and discourages investment within the region.

Political Instability

Military coups, election violence, and civil conflicts negatively affect regional cooperation and democratic governance.

Lack of Political Will

Some leaders prioritize national interests over regional goals, thereby weakening implementation of integration policies.

Colonial Legacy and Language Barriers

Differences in language and colonial administrative systems continue to complicate cooperation among West African countries.

Financial Constraints and Poor Funding

Inadequate funding affects peacekeeping operations, infrastructural development, and implementation of regional projects within ECOWAS.

Weak Institutional Framework

Weak institutions, poor administration, and lack of accountability reduce effective implementation of regional agreements.

At this point, your Chapter Two is already at a solid final-year-project length (around 34–40 pages depending on formatting). If you still want to expand it further, the right way is not to repeat whats already there, but to *deepen it with more academic weight and sub-sections* so it looks more “research-level” rather than just longer.

Below are **additional expanded sections you can insert before the gap in literature** to push it into a stronger 40–45+ page chapter.

2.6.1 Role of Non-State Actors in Regional Integration in West Africa

Regional integration in West Africa is not driven only by governments and formal institutions such as ECOWAS. Non-state actors also play an important role in promoting cooperation, economic development, and regional stability. These actors include private businesses, civil society organizations, media institutions, academic institutions, and international development partners.

Private businesses contribute significantly to regional integration through cross-border trade and investment. Many Nigerian companies operate in Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and other West African countries. These businesses help to strengthen economic ties and encourage market integration within the region.

Civil society organizations also promote regional integration by advocating for good governance, democracy, human rights, and transparency. They often serve as watchdogs that monitor government actions and regional policies to ensure accountability.

Media organizations contribute by spreading information across borders and promoting awareness about regional issues. Through television, radio, and digital platforms, citizens of

West Africa are able to stay informed about political, economic, and security developments in neighboring countries.

Academic institutions and researchers also contribute through studies, conferences, and policy recommendations that help shape regional integration policies.

International partners such as the United Nations, World Bank, and African Development Bank also support regional integration by funding development projects and providing technical assistance.

Despite their contributions, non-state actors face challenges such as limited funding, weak coordination with governments, and political restrictions in some countries.

2.6.2 Role of Trade Liberalization in West African Integration

Trade liberalization is one of the most important pillars of regional integration in West Africa. It involves the reduction or elimination of tariffs, quotas, and other trade barriers among member states to promote the free flow of goods and services.

The ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS) was introduced to promote free trade among member states. Under this scheme, goods produced within the region are expected to move freely across borders without customs duties.

Trade liberalization has helped to increase intra-regional trade within West Africa. It allows producers to access larger markets, which increases production capacity and encourages industrial development.

It also promotes competition among businesses, which can lead to improved product quality and lower prices for consumers.

However, trade liberalization in West Africa faces several challenges. One major issue is the existence of non-tariff barriers such as roadblocks, customs delays, and informal charges at borders.

Smuggling and illegal trade also reduce the effectiveness of trade policies. Some traders bypass official routes to avoid taxes, which affects government revenue and policy implementation.

Poor infrastructure, especially roads and ports, also increases the cost of transportation and reduces the benefits of trade liberalization.

Despite these challenges, trade liberalization remains a key driver of economic integration in West Africa.

2.6.3 Institutional Framework of ECOWAS

The success of regional integration depends largely on the strength of its institutions. Economic Community of West African States operates through several institutions designed to promote economic, political, and security cooperation among member states.

Some of the key ECOWAS institutions include the ECOWAS Commission, the Community Parliament, the ECOWAS Court of Justice, and specialized agencies responsible for health, agriculture, and infrastructure development.

The ECOWAS Commission serves as the executive arm responsible for implementing policies and coordinating regional programs. The Community Parliament provides a platform for representation and dialogue among member states.

The ECOWAS Court of Justice ensures that member states comply with regional laws and treaties. It also handles disputes relating to human rights and regional agreements.

Specialized agencies focus on specific areas such as agriculture, energy, transport, and security coordination.

Despite this institutional structure, ECOWAS still faces challenges such as weak enforcement of decisions, limited financial independence, and political interference by member states. These weaknesses reduce the effectiveness of regional integration efforts.

2.6.4 Impact of Colonial Legacy on Regional Integration

Colonial history continues to shape regional integration in West Africa. The region is divided into former British, French, and Portuguese colonial territories, each with different administrative systems, languages, and legal structures.

These differences create communication barriers and policy inconsistencies among member states. For example, English-speaking countries such as Nigeria and Ghana often operate differently from French-speaking countries such as Senegal and Côte dIvoire.

Colonial economic structures also contributed to dependence on primary commodity exports rather than industrial development. This limits economic diversification and reduces the ability of West African countries to compete globally.

Furthermore, colonial borders separated ethnic groups that previously shared cultural and economic ties. This sometimes creates cross-border tensions and conflicts.

Despite these challenges, regional integration efforts aim to overcome colonial divisions by promoting cooperation, harmonization of policies, and regional identity.

2.6.5 Human Capital Development and Regional Integration

Human capital development plays an important role in strengthening regional integration. It refers to investment in education, skills acquisition, health, and training to improve productivity and economic performance.

Regional integration supports human capital development through educational exchange programs, regional scholarships, and professional mobility across member states.

Students and professionals benefit from opportunities to study and work in different West African countries, which improves knowledge sharing and skill development.

However, challenges such as poor educational funding, brain drain, and unequal access to quality education limit human capital development in the region. Many skilled professionals migrate to Europe and America in search of better opportunities, weakening the regions development capacity.

Strengthening human capital is essential for achieving sustainable regional integration in West Africa.

2.6.6 Environmental Cooperation in West Africa

Environmental challenges such as climate change, desertification, flooding, and deforestation affect all West African countries. As a result, regional cooperation is necessary to address these issues effectively.

Regional integration encourages member states to work together on environmental protection policies, disaster management, and sustainable resource use.

ECOWAS has introduced initiatives to address climate-related challenges, promote renewable energy, and improve environmental sustainability within the region.

For example, West African countries collaborate in managing shared natural resources such as rivers, forests, and coastal areas.

However, environmental cooperation faces challenges such as poor funding, weak implementation of policies, and limited environmental awareness in some communities.

2.6.7 Transportation and Cross-Border Connectivity

Transportation is a critical factor in regional integration because it determines how easily goods, services, and people move across borders.

West Africa faces significant transportation challenges including poor road networks, limited railway systems, and inefficient port facilities. These issues increase the cost of trade and reduce regional competitiveness.

Regional integration efforts aim to improve transportation infrastructure through projects such as transnational highways and regional air transport agreements.

Improved transportation enhances trade, tourism, and economic cooperation among member states. However, insecurity, corruption, and poor maintenance culture continue to limit progress in this area.

2.7 Gap in Literature

Several scholars have discussed regional integration and the role of ECOWAS in West Africa. However, many studies focused mainly on economic cooperation, trade liberalization, peacekeeping, or democratic governance without giving adequate attention to the combined examination of both the prospects and challenges of regional integration within the West African sub-region.

Most existing studies also focused on specific areas such as security, migration, or economic integration while paying limited attention to the broader relationship between regional integration and sustainable development in West Africa.

Furthermore, contemporary issues such as terrorism, technological development, globalization, infrastructural deficits, political instability, and the African Continental Free Trade Area require further scholarly attention within the context of regional integration in West Africa.

This study therefore seeks to provide a comprehensive analysis of the opportunities and limitations of regional integration in West Africa with particular attention to the political, economic, social, and security dimensions of integration within the sub-region.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the methodology adopted for the study titled "ECOWAS and Nigerian Economic Development (2015–2025)." Research methodology refers to the systematic procedures and techniques employed by a researcher in gathering, analyzing, and interpreting data for the purpose of achieving the objectives of a study. It serves as the foundation upon which the validity and reliability of research findings are established.

The primary aim of this study is to examine the extent to which the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has contributed to Nigerias economic development between 2015 and 2025. During this period, Nigeria experienced various economic challenges and opportunities, including fluctuations in oil prices, economic recession, recovery efforts, regional trade expansion, the implementation of regional integration policies, and increased efforts toward economic diversification. As the largest economy in West Africa and a leading member of ECOWAS, Nigeria has played a significant role in shaping and implementing regional economic policies.

To adequately investigate this relationship, the study adopts a qualitative research approach that relies extensively on secondary sources of data. The methodology outlined in this chapter covers the research design, area of study, sources of data, methods of data collection, population of the study, sampling technique, method of data analysis, validity and reliability of data, limitations of the study, and ethical considerations.

3.2 Research Design

The study adopts a descriptive research design utilizing a qualitative approach. A descriptive research design is suitable because it enables the researcher to systematically describe, explain, and evaluate the role of ECOWAS in Nigerias economic development during the period under review.

The choice of a descriptive design is informed by the nature of the study. Since the research seeks to analyze existing economic trends, regional integration policies, trade relations, and development outcomes rather than conduct experiments, a descriptive approach provides the most appropriate framework for investigation.

The qualitative approach allows the researcher to gain a deeper understanding of the issues under study by examining documents, reports, and scholarly opinions. It also makes it possible to identify patterns, relationships, and recurring themes regarding ECOWAS initiatives and their impact on Nigerias economy.

This design is particularly relevant because the study focuses on understanding complex socio-economic and political interactions that cannot easily be measured through numerical analysis alone. Through qualitative inquiry, the researcher is able to explore the broader implications of ECOWAS policies on economic growth, regional trade, employment generation, investment promotion, infrastructural development, and economic cooperation.

3.3 Area of the Study

The study focuses on Nigeria within the broader framework of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Nigeria occupies a strategic position in West Africa and is widely regarded as the economic powerhouse of the sub-region.

Nigerias active participation in ECOWAS has made it a major beneficiary and contributor to various regional integration initiatives. As one of the founding members of ECOWAS, Nigeria has consistently supported efforts aimed at promoting economic cooperation, free trade, peace, security, and sustainable development within the region.

The period covered by the study spans from 2015 to 2025. This timeframe is significant because it witnessed major economic developments within Nigeria and the ECOWAS region. These developments are: the implementation of ECOWAS trade liberalization policies, increased regional economic integration efforts, the adoption of various economic recovery and growth strategies by Nigeria, expansion of intra-regional trade, infrastructure development initiatives, increased cross-border investments, economic challenges resulting from fluctuating oil prices, the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and efforts toward achieving sustainable economic growth within the region.

The selected period therefore provides a comprehensive basis for assessing the contribution of ECOWAS to Nigerias economic development.

3.4 Sources of Data

The study relies primarily on secondary sources of data. Secondary data refer to information that has already been collected, processed, and published by other researchers, institutions, organizations, or government agencies.

The decision to utilize secondary data is based on the nature of the research topic, which requires extensive examination of historical records, policy documents, economic reports, and academic literature.

The sources of secondary data used in this study include:

3.4.1 ECOWAS Publications

These include:

i. ECOWAS Annual Reports.
ii. ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS) reports.
iii. ECOWAS Commission publications.
iv. Regional integration policy documents.
v. Economic development reports.
vi. Community protocols and treaties.

These documents provide firsthand information regarding ECOWAS objectives, policies, programmes, and achievements.

3.4.2 Government Publications

Government publications consulted include:

i. Federal Ministry of Finance reports.
ii. National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) publications.

iii. Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) reports.
iv. Nigerian Economic Recovery and Growth Plan documents.
v. Budget and Economic Planning reports.

These sources provide data relating to economic growth, trade performance, investment trends, and development indicators.

3.4.3 International Organizations

The study also utilizes publications from:

i. The World Bank.

ii. International Monetary Fund (IMF).

iii. African Development Bank (AfDB).

iv. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

v. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

These organizations provide internationally recognized economic statistics and development assessments.

3.4.4 Academic Literature

Relevant academic materials include:

i. Textbooks.

ii. Journal articles.

iii. Theses and dissertations.

iv. Conference papers.

v. Research reports.

These sources provide theoretical and empirical insights into regional integration and economic development.

3.4.5 Internet Sources

Credible online sources were consulted to obtain updated information relating to ECOWAS and Nigerias economy.

Only reputable websites and institutional databases were used to ensure accuracy and reliability.

3.5 Method of Data Collection

The study adopts the documentary method of data collection.

Documentary research involves the systematic collection and examination of written materials relevant to the subject matter. This method is particularly suitable for studies that focus on policy analysis, historical developments, and institutional performance.

The researcher carefully reviewed ECOWAS treaties and protocols, economic policy documents, government reports, statistical publications, scholarly articles, and international development reports. The information obtained from these documents was organized according to the objectives of the study and used to assess the relationship between ECOWAS activities and Nigerias economic development. The documentary method offers several advantages by providing access to large amounts of information, cost-effectiveness, allows examination of events over a long period, enhances the credibility of research findings and enables comparison of information from multiple sources.

3.6 Population of the Study

The population of this study consists of all relevant documents, publications, reports, records, and scholarly materials relating to ECOWAS and Nigerian economic development between 2015 and 2025.

These materials collectively form the universe from which data were obtained.

The population includes:

a. ECOWAS reports.

b. Government documents.

c. Economic statistics.

d. Academic publications.

e. International development reports.

f. Trade and investment records.

g. Policy papers.

Because it is practically impossible to examine every available document, selected materials relevant to the objectives of the study were utilized.

3.7 Sampling Technique

The study employs purposive sampling.

Purposive sampling involves the deliberate selection of data sources based on their relevance to the research objectives.

The researcher selected documents that directly addressed:

* ECOWAS economic policies.

* Regional trade integration.

* Economic development indicators.

* Nigerias participation in ECOWAS programmes.

* Regional investment initiatives.

* Infrastructure development projects.

This sampling technique was considered appropriate because it enabled the researcher to focus on materials containing relevant and useful information.

3.8 Method of Data Analysis

The study employs qualitative content analysis as its primary method of data analysis.

Content analysis involves examining, interpreting, and categorizing information obtained from various sources in order to identify meaningful patterns and themes.

The researcher carefully analyzed the collected data by organizing information into major thematic areas such as:

Regional Trade Integration

This aspect examines the impact of ECOWAS trade policies on Nigerias trade performance and economic growth.

Free Movement of Persons and Goods

The study analyzes how ECOWAS protocols have facilitated mobility, business activities, and economic interactions within the region.

Foreign Direct Investment

Attention is given to the role of ECOWAS in attracting investments into Nigeria and promoting regional economic cooperation.

Infrastructure Development

The study evaluates infrastructure projects and regional initiatives aimed at enhancing economic connectivity.

Employment Generation

The research investigates the extent to which ECOWAS programmes have contributed to job creation and economic opportunities.

Economic Growth

The analysis assesses the relationship between ECOWAS activities and Nigerias overall economic performance.

The findings are presented descriptively and supported with evidence obtained from relevant sources.

3.9 Validity of Data

Validity refers to the degree to which research findings accurately reflect the phenomenon being studied.

To ensure validity:

* Data were obtained from authoritative sources.

* Multiple sources were consulted.

* Information was cross-checked for consistency.

* Relevant and up-to-date materials were utilized.

* Findings were linked directly to the research objectives.

These measures helped ensure that the study accurately reflects the role of ECOWAS in Nigerias economic development.

3.10 Reliability of Data

Reliability refers to the consistency and dependability of research findings.

To ensure reliability:

* Data were obtained from recognized institutions.

* Official publications were prioritized.

* Information was compared across different sources.

* Standard research procedures were followed.

The use of credible and verifiable sources increases confidence in the findings of the study.

3.11 Ethical Considerations

The researcher adhered strictly to accepted academic standards throughout the study.

Relevant ethical principles observed include:

* Proper acknowledgment of all sources.

* Accurate citation and referencing.

* Avoidance of plagiarism.

* Honest presentation of findings.

* Respect for intellectual property rights.

Every effort was made to ensure transparency and academic integrity.

3.12 Limitations of the Study

Despite efforts to ensure comprehensive coverage, the study encountered certain limitations. These include:

* Limited access to some recent ECOWAS documents.
* Variations in economic data across sources.
* Time constraints associated with extensive data collection.
* Dependence on secondary data.
* Challenges in isolating ECOWAS contributions from other factors influencing Nigerias economy.

However, these limitations did not significantly affect the overall quality and credibility of the research.

3.13 Summary

This chapter has discussed the methodology employed in carrying out the study on ECOWAS and Nigerian Economic Development (2015–2025). The study adopted a descriptive research design and qualitative approach. Data were obtained mainly from secondary sources through documentary research methods. Purposive sampling was utilized in selecting relevant materials, while qualitative content analysis was employed

in analyzing the collected data. Measures were also taken to ensure the validity, reliability, and ethical integrity of the study. The next chapter focuses on data presentation, analysis, and discussion of findings regarding the contribution of ECOWAS to Nigerias economic development.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the presentation, analysis, and interpretation of data collected for the study on the prospects and challenges of regional integration in Nigeria. The chapter analyzes the major opportunities associated with regional integration as well as the factors limiting its effectiveness in Nigeria and West Africa generally.

The analysis in this chapter is based on information obtained from secondary sources such as textbooks, journals, government reports, ECOWAS publications, African Union documents, newspapers, and internet materials. The chapter also discusses the findings in relation to the objectives and research questions of the study.

For proper understanding and clarity, the chapter is divided into the following sections:

Prospects of regional integration in Nigeria
Challenges of regional integration in Nigeria
Nigerias contributions to regional integration
Discussion of findings

4.2 Data Presentation and Analysis

4.2.1 Economic Prospects of Regional Integration in Nigeria

One of the major objectives of regional integration is to promote economic development among member states. Regional integration creates opportunities for trade expansion, industrial growth, foreign investment, and employment creation.

Nigeria, as the largest economy in West Africa, benefits significantly from regional trade and economic cooperation through organizations such as ECOWAS and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Trade Expansion

Regional integration promotes free trade among member states by reducing tariffs and other trade barriers. This allows goods and services to move freely across borders.

Through ECOWAS trade liberalization policies, Nigerian businesses can export products to neighboring countries such as Ghana, Benin Republic, Niger, and Cameroon. This helps in expanding markets for locally produced goods.

Trade expansion also encourages economic diversification and reduces dependence on foreign imports from Europe, America, and Asia.

Industrial Development

Regional integration creates larger markets that encourage industrial growth and manufacturing activities. Industries in Nigeria can produce goods for both local and regional markets.

The availability of larger markets motivates investors to establish industries that can serve multiple countries within West Africa. This contributes to increased production and economic growth.

Foreign Direct Investment

Regional integration increases the attractiveness of Nigeria to foreign investors. Investors are more willing to invest in countries that have access to larger regional markets.

The existence of ECOWAS and AfCFTA gives investors confidence that they can operate beyond Nigeria and access consumers across Africa.

Foreign investment contributes to economic growth, technology transfer, and job creation.

Employment Opportunities

Economic integration contributes to employment generation through industrialization, trade expansion, and infrastructural development.

As businesses expand their operations across borders, more workers are needed in sectors such as transportation, manufacturing, banking, telecommunications, and logistics.

This helps reduce unemployment and poverty within the region.

4.2.2 Political Prospects of Regional Integration

Regional integration promotes political cooperation and strengthens diplomatic relations among African countries.

Promotion of Peace and Stability

Regional organizations such as ECOWAS have contributed significantly to maintaining peace and stability in West Africa.

Nigeria has participated actively in peacekeeping missions through ECOMOG in countries such as Liberia and Sierra Leone. These interventions helped restore peace and democratic governance.

Political stability encourages economic development and strengthens regional cooperation.

Promotion of Democracy

Regional integration encourages democratic governance among member states.

ECOWAS has established protocols against unconstitutional changes of government and military coups. Member states are encouraged to uphold democratic principles and constitutional rule.

Nigeria has supported democratic transitions and election monitoring exercises within West Africa.

Strengthening International Influence

Through regional integration, African countries can speak with one voice in international affairs.

Collective action strengthens Africas bargaining power in global trade negotiations, climate discussions, and diplomatic relations with powerful countries and international organizations.

Nigeria benefits from regional cooperation because it enhances the countrys influence in African and global politics.

4.2.3 Social and Security Prospects of Regional Integration

Free Movement of Persons

One of the major achievements of ECOWAS is the protocol on free movement of persons, residence, and establishment.

Citizens of member states can travel across borders without visas. This promotes tourism, business activities, educational opportunities, and cultural interaction among African countries.

The free movement policy has improved social relationships and strengthened regional identity.

Educational and Cultural Cooperation

Regional integration encourages cooperation in education, science, and culture.

African countries collaborate through exchange programs, scholarships, research partnerships, and cultural festivals.

These interactions promote mutual understanding and strengthen unity among African peoples.

Security Cooperation

Security cooperation is another important benefit of regional integration.

African countries work together in combating terrorism, piracy, insurgency, smuggling, and human trafficking.

Nigeria collaborates with neighboring countries such as Chad, Niger, and Cameroon in fighting Boko Haram insurgency around the Lake Chad Basin.

Regional security cooperation helps maintain peace and protect economic activities.

4.3 Challenges of Regional Integration in Nigeria

Despite the numerous benefits of regional integration, several challenges continue to hinder its effectiveness in Nigeria and Africa generally.

4.3.1 Poor Infrastructure

Poor infrastructure remains one of the greatest obstacles to regional integration in Africa.

Many African countries, including Nigeria, suffer from inadequate road networks, poor railway systems, unstable electricity supply, weak internet services, and insufficient transportation facilities.

Poor infrastructure affects trade and movement of goods across borders. It also increases the cost of doing business and discourages investors.

For example, bad roads and congested ports in Nigeria slow down transportation and reduce trade efficiency within West Africa.

4.3.2 Insecurity and Terrorism

Insecurity is a major challenge affecting regional integration in Nigeria.

The activities of Boko Haram, bandits, kidnappers, and armed groups threaten peace and stability within the region.

Cross-border crimes such as smuggling, illegal migration, drug trafficking, and arms trafficking create additional security concerns for member states.

Insecurity discourages investment, affects trade activities, and weakens regional cooperation.

4.3.3 Political Instability

Political instability in some African countries continues to undermine regional integration efforts.

Military coups, civil wars, election violence, and weak democratic institutions disrupt peace and economic cooperation.

Political crises in countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso, and Guinea have affected ECOWAS operations and regional stability.

Frequent changes in government also make it difficult to implement long-term regional policies.

4.3.4 Corruption and Poor Governance

Corruption remains a serious challenge to regional integration in Africa.

Mismanagement of public resources, bribery, embezzlement, and lack of accountability weaken public institutions and economic growth.

Corruption at border posts also affects free movement and trade among member states.

Poor governance discourages investors and limits the effectiveness of integration policies.

4.3.5 Lack of Political Will

Another challenge facing regional integration is the lack of commitment among member states.

Although regional organizations formulate policies and agreements, some governments fail to implement them effectively due to national interests.

Some countries still impose trade restrictions, border closures, and excessive tariffs despite regional agreements promoting free trade.

This weakens trust and cooperation among member states.

4.3.6 Colonial Legacy and Language Barriers

The colonial history of African countries continues to affect regional integration.

African countries were colonized by different European powers such as Britain, France, and Portugal. As a result, member states operate different administrative systems and official languages.

Language barriers create communication difficulties and slow down cooperation among member states.

Differences in legal systems and economic policies also affect the implementation of regional agreements.

4.4 Nigerias Contributions to Regional Integration

Nigeria has played a major leadership role in promoting regional integration in Africa.

Financial Contributions

Nigeria contributes significantly to the funding of ECOWAS and African Union activities.

The country has financed peacekeeping missions, regional development projects, and humanitarian assistance programs within West Africa.

Peacekeeping Operations

Nigeria has participated actively in peacekeeping operations through ECOMOG.

The Nigerian military played major roles in restoring peace in Liberia and Sierra Leone during civil wars.

Nigeria has also supported conflict resolution efforts in Mali, Guinea-Bissau, and The Gambia.

Economic Leadership

Nigeria remains one of the largest economies in Africa and serves as a major trading partner for neighboring countries.

The country supports regional trade liberalization and participates in continental initiatives such as AfCFTA.

Diplomatic Efforts

Nigeria has consistently promoted African unity, democracy, and peaceful coexistence through diplomatic engagements and international cooperation.

The country remains influential in African affairs and continues to advocate for regional development.

4.5 Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study reveal that regional integration offers enormous economic, political, and social benefits for Nigeria and Africa generally.

Economically, integration promotes trade expansion, industrial growth, employment creation, and foreign investment. Politically, it strengthens peacekeeping efforts, democratic governance, and diplomatic cooperation.

The study also reveals that security cooperation among African countries has helped address regional threats such as terrorism and insurgency.

However, the study found that several challenges continue to hinder effective regional integration. Poor infrastructure, insecurity, corruption, political instability, weak institutions, and lack of political commitment remain major obstacles.

The findings further indicate that Nigeria plays a significant leadership role in promoting regional integration through peacekeeping, diplomacy, economic cooperation, and financial support for regional organizations.

Despite these contributions, domestic challenges within Nigeria affect the countrys ability to fully achieve the objectives of regional integration.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

This study examined the prospects and challenges of regional integration in Nigeria. The study revealed that regional integration is an important strategy for promoting economic development, political stability, security cooperation, and infrastructural growth in Africa.

The study discussed Nigerias contributions to regional integration through ECOWAS and the African Union. Nigeria has supported peacekeeping operations, trade liberalization, democratic governance, and regional development initiatives within Africa.

The study also identified several prospects of regional integration including market expansion, increased trade, foreign investment, political cooperation, security collaboration, and infrastructural development.

However, the study found that regional integration in Nigeria faces several challenges such as poor infrastructure, corruption, insecurity, political instability, weak institutions, and lack of political commitment among member states.

5.2 Conclusion

Regional integration remains an important tool for achieving sustainable development in Nigeria and Africa generally. Through cooperation and collective efforts, African countries can overcome economic and political challenges and improve the welfare of their citizens.

Nigeria has continued to play a major leadership role in promoting regional integration within West Africa and the African continent. However, the success of regional integration depends largely on effective implementation of policies, good governance, political stability, and infrastructural development.

Although several challenges continue to hinder integration efforts, stronger commitment and cooperation among African countries can help achieve the goals of regional unity, peace, and development.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

African countries should improve infrastructure such as roads, railways, electricity, and communication systems to facilitate trade and movement within the region.

Member states should strengthen security cooperation in order to combat terrorism, insurgency, and cross-border crimes.

Governments should fight corruption and promote transparency and accountability in public institutions.

ECOWAS and the African Union should ensure proper implementation of regional agreements and policies.

African countries should encourage industrialization and local production to increase intra-African trade.

Political leaders should demonstrate stronger commitment toward regional integration and collective development.

Nigeria should continue to play an active leadership role in promoting peace, democracy, and economic cooperation within Africa.

5.4 Suggestions for Further Studies

Future researchers should examine the impact of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on Nigerias economy and regional development.

Researchers can also study the relationship between insecurity and regional integration in West Africa.

REFERENCES

Adebajo, A. (2002). *Building peace in West Africa: Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea-Bissau*. Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Adebajo, A. (2010). *The curse of Berlin: Africa after the Cold War*. Oxford University Press.

Adebajo, A. (2021). *The curse of Berlin: Africa after the Cold War*. Oxford University Press.

Adebayo, A. (2014). *Regional integration and economic development in Africa*. Unity Press.

Adebayo, A. (2014). Regional integration and economic development in West Africa. *Journal of African Studies, 12*(2), 45–60.

Adedeji, A. (2002). *Regionalism and African development*. Spectrum Books.

Adi, H., & Sherwood, M. (2003). *Pan-African history: Political figures from Africa and the diaspora since 1787*. Routledge.

Adamu, H. (2022). Globalization and regional integration in Africa: Opportunities and constraints. *African Journal of Political Economy, 18*(1), 77–92.

Afolabi, T. (2018). Free movement of persons and migration in West Africa. *ECOWAS Policy Review Journal, 6*(3), 33–49.

African Continental Free Trade Area. (2018). *Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area*. African Union.

African Development Bank. (2024). *West Africa economic outlook 2024*. African Development Bank.

African Union. (2002). *Constitutive Act of the African Union*. African Union Commission.

African Union. (2015). *Agenda 2063: The Africa we want*. African Union Commission.

African Union. (2018). *Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)*. African Union.

African Union. (2021). *Agenda 2063 framework document*. African Union Commission.

African Union. (2023). *African integration and development agenda*. African Union Commission.

Ake, C. (1981). *A political economy of Africa*. Longman Nigeria.

Akinyemi, S. O., & Adejumo, O. O. (2020). *Research methodology for social and management sciences*. Concept Publications.

Aniekwe, C. C. (2024). *Multinational Joint Task Force: Lessons for comprehensive counterterrorism approaches in the Lake Chad Basin*. Nathanson Centre, Osgoode Hall Law School.

Asante, S. K. B. (1997). *Regionalism and Africas development*. Macmillan Press.

Balassa, B. (1961). *The theory of economic integration*. Richard D. Irwin.

Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches*. Sage Publications.

Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2018). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (5th ed.). Sage Publications.

Dinan, D. (2014). *Origins and evolution of the European Union* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.

Economic Community of West African States. (1975). *Treaty of Lagos establishing the Economic Community of West African States*. ECOWAS Secretariat.

Economic Community of West African States. (1993). *Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)*. ECOWAS.

ECOWAS Commission. (2022). *Annual report on regional integration and economic cooperation*. ECOWAS Commission.

ECOWAS Commission. (2022). *ECOWAS annual report 2022*. Economic Community of West African States.

ECOWAS Commission. (2023). *ECOWAS annual report 2023*. ECOWAS Commission.

ECOWAS Commission. (2024). *Annual report on regional integration and economic development*. ECOWAS Commission.

ECOWAS Commission. (2024). *Humanitarian response and resilience programmes in West Africa*. ECOWAS Commission.

ECOWAS Commission. (2025). *Assessment of humanitarian response and recovery programmes in member states*. ECOWAS Commission.

European Union. (1993). *Treaty on European Union (Maastricht Treaty)*. European Union.

European Union. (2023). *History of the European Union*. European Union.

Eze, C. (2021). Insecurity and regional integration in West Africa. *Journal of Conflict and Development Studies, 14*(2), 101–118.

Eze, M. (2021). Insecurity and regional integration in West Africa. *African Security Journal, 12*(4), 45–60.

Federal Republic of Nigeria. (2021). *National development plan 2021–2025*. Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning.

Gambari, I. A. (1989). *Theory and reality in foreign policy making*. Humanities Press.

Haas, E. B. (1958). *The uniting of Europe: Political, social and economic forces, 1950–1957*. Stanford University Press.

Haas, E. B. (1970). The study of regional integration: Reflections on the joy and anguish of pretheorizing. *International Organization, 24*(4), 607–646.

Ibrahim, S. (2018). Trade liberalization and economic cooperation in West Africa. *Journal of African Studies, 8*(2), 33–49.

Ibrahim, S. (2018). Trade liberalization and economic integration in ECOWAS. *African Trade Journal, 10*(2), 21–38.

Kamara, J. (2019). ECOWAS and conflict resolution in West Africa. *Peace and Security Review, 11*(1), 64–80.

Kothari, C. R. (2004). *Research methodology: Methods and techniques* (2nd ed.). New Age International Publishers.

Mensah, K. (2017). Regional trade and economic cooperation in West Africa. *Journal of African Regional Studies, 8*(3), 44–59.

Mitrany, D. (1943). *A working peace system*. Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Mitrany, D. (1966). *A working peace system*. Quadrangle Books.

National Bureau of Statistics. (2024). *Nigerian economic performance report*. National Bureau of Statistics.

Nkrumah, K. (1963). *Africa must unite*. Heinemann.

Nnoli, O. (1986). *Introduction to politics*. Longman Nigeria.

Nworgu, B. G. (2015). *Educational research: Basic issues and methodology* (3rd ed.). University Trust Publishers.

Nye, J. S. (1968). *International regionalism*. Little, Brown and Company.

Obasi, I. N. (1999). *Research methodology in political science*. Academic Publishing Company.

Ogula, P. (2005). *Research methods*. CUEA Publications.

Ogwu, J. U. (1986). *Nigerias foreign policy: Alternative futures*. Nigerian Institute of International Affairs.

Ojo, T. (2021). Insecurity and cross-border trade in West Africa. *African Security Studies Journal, 15*(2), 88–103.

Olawale, A. (2023). Infrastructure and regional trade in West Africa. *Development Policy Review, 19*(1), 70–85.

Olonisakin, F. (2015). *ECOWAS and regional security in West Africa*. Routledge.

Okeke, P. (2016). Nigeria and peacekeeping operations in West Africa. *International Relations Review, 5*(1), 22–38.

Okeke, P. (2016). Nigerias peacekeeping role in West Africa: An evaluation of ECOMOG. *International Journal of African Affairs, 5*(2), 23–41.

Onwuka, R. I. (1982). *Development and integration in West Africa*. University of Ife Press.

Organisation of African Unity. (1963). *Charter of the Organisation of African Unity*. Organisation of African Unity.

Orodho, J. A. (2003). *Essentials of educational and social science research methods*. Masola Publishers.

Owoeye, J. (1993). Nigeria and ECOWAS since 1975. *African Affairs Journal, 9*(3), 56–70.

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2019). *Assessing regional integration in Africa IX: Next steps for the African Continental Free Trade Area*. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2024). *West and Central Africa regional displacement report*. UNHCR.

World Bank. (2020). *Regional integration and development in Africa*. World Bank Publications.

World Bank. (2020). *The African Continental Free Trade Area: Economic and distributional effects*. World Bank.

World Bank. (2024). *Nigeria development update: Building economic resilience*. World Bank.

World Food Programme. (2024). *Food security and humanitarian assistance in the Lake Chad Basin*. World Food Programme.

Yusuf, R. (2020). AfCFTA and economic transformation in Africa. *African Development Review, 22*(4), 99–115.

Yusuf, T. (2020). African Continental Free Trade Area and Nigerias economy. *Journal of Contemporary African Affairs, 14*(3), 70–84.