Effects of terrorism in Africa

Imagine a once vibrant marketplace, the air thick with the scent of spices and the chatter of vendors, suddenly silenced by a deafening blast. The colorful fabrics lie scattered amidst the dust, a stark testament to the brutal intrusion of terror into the everyday rhythm of life in Africa. Effects of terrorism in Africa encompass the wide-ranging and often devastating consequences of terrorist acts and the broader environment of fear and instability they create across the continent. Some of the effects are economic growth, tourism demand, and trade.

Economic Growth

The two governance institution indicators employed in the study shows a significant negative impact on economic growth in the zone, while credit to the private sector and human capital had performed poorly in the zones’ growth trajectory. According to a study done in 38 countries between 2010-2020, showed that “The results show that terrorism has had a significant negative impact on economic growth in SSA.” (Agu & Mbah, 2023). While economic growth is negatively impacted by many factors, terrorism is by far the most obvious factor.

Tourism Demand

Tourism benefits African countries on many ways. However, terrorists target the influx of tourists that visit African countries. According to a study done across Africa, showed that “The general conclusion is that, with some exceptions, terrorism negatively affects tourism demand.” (Krajnak,2021). While tourism brings many positive aspects, it can be argued that tourists are targeted by terrorists.

Trade

Both domestic and transnational terrorism have a detrimental effect on manufactured imports. According to a study done, showed that “Domestic terrorism reduces manufactured exports and increases primary exports, while transnational terrorism reduces primary exports.” (Bandyopadhyay & Sandler,2018). While domestic and transnational terrorism have no marginal influence on overall trade, both types of terrorism reduce the overall trade.

In conclusion, terrorism in Africa negatively impacts economic growth, tourism demand and trade. Addressing this challenge requires a comprehensive approach that includes not only counter-terrorism but also addressing the underlying causes of extremism and investing in sustainable development.