**Effects of Terrorism in Africa**

Student’s Name

University

Course

Professor

Date

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**Abstract**

Terrorism in Africa has had devastating social, political, and systemic implications, destabilizing communities, weakening governments, and immobilizing essential services like health and education. Socially, it catalyzes fear, ethnic tensions, and displacement, precipitating humanitarian crises. Politically, it destabilizes governments, diverts resources from development to security, and encourages unhealthy rivalries. Health and education systems are impacted as schools are closed, access to healthcare is diminished, and mortality rises. Terrorism ultimately stifles Africa’s progress towards peace, stability, and economic growth, with long-term implications for future generations. It is necessary to combat terrorism in order to restore stability and enable sustainable development on the continent.

Effects of terrorism in Africa has been a menace and has had various devastating effects on various aspects of society. It refers to the use of force or coercion, use of violence and intimidation by intruders to the government and to bring destruction into the continent. This research will show how terrorism in Africa has affected the continent socially, politically and the impacts it has on the health and education systems.

Socially, terrorism breeds fear and division among communities since people start seeing each other in a different manner that suggests rivalry. It drives ethnic and religious tensions, which weakens social interaction amongst each other since people flee to safer regions, (Ahmed, 2017). Families are torn apart in times of attacks and people end up losing their loved ones or becoming displaced. This creates a humanitarian crisis, increasing the number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The government and political state of the continent destabilizes as a result of terrorism and this weakens the national security systems. It often leads to unhealthy politics where people view one another as rivals and often rise against one another in times of elections. Terrorism can destabilize entire regions, contributing to prolonged conflicts, as seen with groups like Boko Haram in West Africa and Al-Shabaab in East Africa, (Schumacher et al., 2021). Governments are often forced to divert resources from development projects to security efforts, which in return suppresses the political and economic growth.

Education and health systems suffer a huge blow from terrorism attacks in Africa since school going children are exposed to risks of attacks and therefore parents prefer keeping their children at home where they are safer. According to a research done in Bukina Faso, terrorism attacks have a huge effect on access to maternal care and ANC visits which in turn leads to an increase in reported infant mortalities. (Druetz et al., 2020). Hospitals are closed due to insecurity, depriving the entire community of medical services which results to increased rates of other mortalities when diseases strike.

Therefore, terrorism slows down social and political progress, increases poverty, and hinders Africa’s pursuit of peace, stability, and economic development. This leaves a long-term impact on the future of the East African countries. Terrorism needs to be curbed in order to see African countries pursue other development strategies and engage in peace treaties with other continents.

**References**

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