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EFFECTS OF THE BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN RESETTLE COMMUNITIES IN ADAMAWA CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT

ABSTRACT

The paper examined the effects of Boko-Haram insurgency on the socio-economic development of women and children in resettle communities in Adamawa Central Senatorial District. The issue of insurgency has been a significant concern in some part of Adamawa Central such as Hong, Gombi and Garkida. The Boko Haram insurgency has not only disrupted economic activities such as trade but has also significantly impacted social activities and infrastructure. The objectives of the study are to examine the educational effect of insurgency on women and children in resettled communities Adamawa central senatorial District, to assess the effects of insurgency on food and drinking of women and children in resettle communities in Adamawa central senatorial District and to proffer mitigation measures on the socio-economic effect of insurgency on women and children in resettled communities in Adamawa central senatorial District. The study adopts frustration-aggression theory as the theoretical framework. Survey research design was used for the study. The study used simple random sampling for selecting the sample size of the study. 200 respondents were purposively selected in the resettled communities in Adamawa Central. Chi-square analysis was used to test the formulated hypothesis. The study discovered that insurgents destroyed majority of the schools in the resettled communities, there is no access to food for women and children in resettled communities and there is no access to quality drinking water for women and children. The study recommends government should provide safe and well-resourced shelters for resettled displaced women and children, ensuring access to basic necessities and healthcare, implement programs to reunite separated families and support orphans and unaccompanied children and finally increase access to mental health services, including counselling and trauma support, particularly for women and children affected by violence.

Keywords: Boko Haram Insurgency, Socio-Economic Development, Women. Children and Resettle Communities

1.1 Introduction

Terrorism is often considered the most significant threat to global peace and stability in the contemporary era. Since the start of the 21st century, the prevalence of terrorism has escalated markedly. Once regarded as a primarily national or regional issue, terrorism has now evolved in both scale and scope, becoming a global concern. The Boko Haram insurgency, predominantly active in northeastern Nigeria, has wrought significant upheaval across the region, deeply affecting the lives of countless individuals.

In the Adamawa Central Senatorial District, the repercussions of the insurgency are particularly pronounced in resettled communities, where displacement and ongoing insecurity have precipitated extensive socio-economic difficulties. Women and children, being among the most vulnerable members of society, have been disproportionately impacted by the consequences of the conflict.

In these resettled areas, women and children encounter substantial disruptions to their daily lives, including the loss of economic stability, limited access to crucial services, and the psychological impact of displacement. The insurgency has dismantled established economic frameworks, interrupted educational systems, and placed undue strain on healthcare services, forcing women and children into a precarious situation. Analysing these effects is essential for devising effective strategies to facilitate their recovery and foster sustainable socio-economic development in the post-conflict environment.

The return to democracy in May 1999 brought hopes of development and political stability to Nigeria. However, over the past decade, the country has faced increasing violent conflicts and criminal activities such as armed robbery, kidnapping, drug trafficking, arms smuggling, human trafficking, and militancy. Boko Haram in Nigeria, which translates to "Western education is forbidden," traces its roots back to before 2002. According to Mmadike (2011), the group originated in 1995 under the leadership of Lawan Abubakar in Sahaba. Abubakar later handed over leadership to Mohammed Yusuf when he went to study in Saudi Arabia. Boko Haram began as a small Sunni Islamic group officially named Jama'atu Ahlis Suna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad, advocating for a strict interpretation and enforcement of Islamic law in Nigeria. Initially, the group's leadership did not endorse violence; instead, its followers occasionally clashed with security forces during its early years (Blanchard, 2014; Brock, 2012).

There is significant suspicion among Nigerians regarding the true identity and motives of Boko Haram. Many Muslims consider it an extension of the Maitatsine sect, and believed to have been aimed at creating unrest within Islam, as Maitatsine himself was not considered a Muslim until his death. Conversely, many Christians perceive Boko Haram as an effort to Islamize Nigeria, while some people remain indifferent (Shehu, 2014). In 2009, Boko Haram's activities escalated from those of a local militia to a violent group following government attacks on its members in several northern Nigerian cities. This led to five days of violent clashes between Boko Haram and Nigerian forces, resulting in the death of its leader, Mohammed Yusuf, in Maiduguri, along with more than 700 other individuals (Blanchard, 2014). According to Johnson (2007), the initial purpose of founding Boko Haram in 2002 was to establish a Sharia government in Borno State.

In 2010, after initial clashes with security forces during its early years, Boko Haram adopted new tactics including suicide bombings, kidnappings, and attacks on Islamic clerics, mosques, churches, police stations, schools, and other government and privately-owned properties. The group's activities intensified on April 14, 2014, when it kidnapped 250 female students from Government Girls' Secondary School in Chibok, Borno State (Zenn, 2014). This ideology not only hinders development but deprived female child education in most part of north eastern Nigeria affected by Boko-Haram. Therefore, this study aims to examine the threat posed by the Boko Haram insurgency on the socioeconomic development of women and children in resettled communities in Adamawa Central Senatorial District.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The issue of insurgency has been a significant concern in some part of Adamawa Central such as Hong, Gombi and Garkida. The Boko Haram insurgency has not only disrupted economic activities such as trade but has also significantly impacted social activities and infrastructure. The closure of schools and businesses, destruction of residential buildings, bombing of bridges and roads, and the destruction of

communication devices and electricity cables have all contributed to increased unemployment and poverty. The Boko Haram insurgency has had a profound and devastating impact on various regions in Nigeria, particularly in the northeastern states such as Adamawa. This extremist group's violent activities have led to widespread displacement, loss of lives, and destruction of property. The specific effects on resettled communities in Adamawa Central Senatorial District, particularly concerning women and children, are of urgent concern. Women and children, who are often the most vulnerable groups in conflict situations, face numerous challenges that undermine their socio-economic development. The insurgency has disrupted traditional economic activities, leading to loss of livelihoods and economic instability. Additionally, the destruction of infrastructure, including educational and healthcare facilities, has further exacerbated their plight. Resettled communities, often living in makeshift or inadequate conditions, struggle to rebuild their lives amidst ongoing insecurity and limited resources.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The aim of the study is to examine the effects of the Boko haram insurgency on the socio-economic development of resettle communities in Adamawa Central Senatorial District. The specific objectives are to:

- i. Examine the educational effect of insurgency on women and children in resettled communities Adamawa central senatorial District.
- ii. Assess the effects of insurgency on food and drinking water on women and children in resettle communities in Adamawa central senatorial District.
- iii. Proffer mitigation measures on the socio-economic effect of insurgency on women and children in resettled communities in Adamawa central senatorial District.

1.4 Research Ouestions

The following research questions will guide the study thus:

- i. What are the educational effects of insurgency on women and children in resettled communities in Adamawa central senatorial District?
- ii. How does insurgency affect food and drinking water on women and children in resettled communities in Adamawa Central Senatorial District?
- iii. What are the mitigation measures on the socio-economic effect of insurgency on women and children in resettled communities Adamawa central senatorial District?

1.5 Hypothesis

Ho_{1:} Insurgency does not have significant effect on education of Women and Children in resettled communities Adamawa Central Senatorial District.

Ho₂: Insurgency does not have significant impact on food and drinking water for children and women in resettled communities Adamawa Central Senatorial District.

2.1 Theoretical Discourse

This paper employs the frustration-aggression theory originally formulated by Dollard et al. (1939) and later refined by Berkowitz (1962). This theory offers an explanation for violent behaviours resulting from the failure of the government or other societal stakeholders to meet certain needs. According to the frustration-aggression theory, aggression is not merely a natural response or instinct as proposed by realist and biological theorists, but rather a consequence of frustration. When legitimate desires of individuals or groups are thwarted by societal structures, the resulting disappointment may lead them to express their anger through violence targeted at those they perceive as responsible for their situation, either directly or indirectly. The theory suggests that when frustration becomes widespread within the

population or a specific segment of it, political leaders must identify and address the expectations of these individuals and groups.

Although the theory holds true, it is erroneous to equate frustration directly with insurgency. As noted by Ojo (2006) and Aluko (1998), the distinct character of Nigeria's union of separate ethno-cultural units, along with its pluralistic multi-ethnic, linguistic, and religious identity, has fostered significant differences due to the uniqueness of cultures, languages, religions, and value systems. These disparities among various social groups have significantly influenced social relationships. It is important to explicitly acknowledge that interactions among these groups have often been characterized by aggression, discrimination, conflicts, mistrust, prejudice, and insurgency, as exemplified by the situation in the Niger Delta. The failure of the country and successive governments to integrate and accommodate the interests of all divergent groups within its territory has led to various insurgencies, rebellions, and public revolts entrenched in the Nigerian state.

Coser (1967) argued that conflicts often arise from struggles over values, status, power, and resources, but he did not fully acknowledge that insurgency can also result from other factors. It is essential to highlight that the plight of Nigerians is exacerbated by corruption, mass looting of public funds, nepotism, favoritism in employment and promotions, among other issues. These factors contribute to the nation's crisis-ridden state, which not only increases poverty but also drives individuals towards violent extremism. As Olojo (2013) notes, "one significant factor that has stimulated the drive towards violent extremism, terrorism, recruitment and support for many groups (including Boko Haram) is economic deprivation." Many scholars believe that poverty, longstanding economic disparities, and unemployment in the northeast have attracted youths to the sect. While this is true, it should be noted that Boko Haram's recruitment extends beyond Nigeria, drawing members from neighboring countries as well.

Another criticism of the Frustration-Aggression Theory is the politicization of religious traditions and the radicalization of religious communities, especially during periods of economic decline, social disintegration, or state collapse. Hasenclever and Rittberger (2005) argue that individuals who are hopeless, living below the poverty line, marginalized, or facing physical threats often turn to religion in search of an alternative political order that can meet their needs for welfare, recognition, and security. This dynamic helps explain the numerous violent uprisings around the world, some of which have evolved into full-fledged terrorist organizations, such as Boko Haram. This perspective highlights the significant role of socioeconomic factors in the emergence of religious insurgencies like Boko Haram.

2.2 Empirical Studies

Adebisi, Oyedeji, and Azeez (2020) conducted a study on the impact of Boko Haram insurgency activities in Nigeria, specifically focusing on the telecommunication industry. Using a descriptive exploratory research design, they evaluated Boko Haram as a domestic terror group in Nigeria. The study found that the group's activities have severely disrupted socio-economic activities and caused significant damage to telecom hardware in northeastern Nigeria. The research revealed no significant difference in the frequency of Boko Haram attacks and the vandalization of telecom infrastructure in the region. Additionally, it noted that domestic terrorism and economic growth in the affected region are correlated, supporting the first hypothesis. The study concluded that the affected region is unlikely to oppose or have contrary opinions to the heavy presence of Nigerian security forces.

Njoku and Nwachukwu (2015) examined the impact of Boko Haram's insecurity on Nigeria's economy. The study collected data through an online questionnaire and analyzed it using Analysis of Variance. The results indicated that ideology and funding were significant factors that strengthened the Boko

Haram sect in Nigeria. The Boko Haram crisis poses a substantial threat to Nigeria's economy, and the study concluded that the military is the best solution for addressing the Boko Haram menace. The study recommended that the government should declare war on terrorism and seek support from international communities that have successfully dealt with similar challenges. Additionally, it advised empowering the Nigerian military with more arms to combat the insurgency and enhancing security across the country to address the threat of insecurity.

Ugwu and Eme (2019) investigated the socioeconomic impact of insecurity on both the general populace and the nation's economy. They noted that insecurity, manifested through bombings, kidnappings, destruction of life and property, and widespread fear, has become a complex and persistent problem that Nigerian security forces seem unable to fully address. The study found that insecurity significantly harms the well-being of individuals, leading to lower quality of life, population displacement, and even death, as well as the destruction of businesses, property, and equipment, and the relocation or closure of businesses. The study recommended that the Nigerian government and security agencies adopt more proactive measures, improve intelligence gathering techniques, create more employment opportunities for the unemployed, and better equip and motivate security forces. The grievance theory was proposed as the analytical framework, with documentary and content analysis methods used to generate and evaluate data.

Ebi (2018) examined the impact of the Boko Haram terrorist group on the socioeconomic well-being and livelihoods of the population in northeastern Nigeria. Using three research questions and an indepth qualitative methodology, the study assessed the social, economic, religious, and political effects of Boko Haram's attacks, which have led to the displacement of people from their homes to refugee camps in the southern region. The findings revealed that these attacks have had a detrimental impact on the livelihoods of both citizens and displaced persons, as well as on social cohesion and development in northeastern Nigeria. The study recommended implementing conflict resolution and intervention strategies to mitigate the violence and suggested societal transformation for infrastructural development and job creation to address poverty and support educated, unemployed youths who have been recruited by Boko Haram.

3 Methodology

3.1 Research Design

The approach adopted in the execution of this study is a survey design. The researcher chose survey design as it is one method where a group of people is studied by collecting information from them. More so, this type of design specified how the researcher's data is be collected and analysed. The research is done by surveying the socio-economic impact of insurgency on resettled communities Adamawa Central senatorial district.

3.2 Population of the Study

The population of the study comprises of 398 resettled internally displace person in various communities in Adamawa Central Senatorial District.

3.3 Sample Size and Sample Technique

The study used simple random sampling in selecting the sample size of the study. The procedure of random sampling is used to select 200 respondents purposively among resettled internally displaced persons in various communities in Adamawa Central Senatorial District.

3.4 Method of Data Collection

The study used questionnaires as an instrument of data collection for the study. The questionnaire is structured to obtained information from the respondents.

3.5 Administration of the Instrument

The researcher personally administered the questionnaire directly to the resettled communities in Adamawa Central Senatorial District. A total of 200 questionnaire was distributed. The questionnaires have been randomly distributed among the respondents; enable equal chance of being selected.

3.6 Validation and Reliability of the Instrument

Validity as relate to this study is that the extent to which the instrument used is measures while the reliability of the data produced by the instrument. As such, to ensure the validity of the instrument, which the research used was that, the questionnaire constructed was taken to the Department of Political Science Adamawa State University, Mubi for vetting and modification, at the end of which the researcher administer the questionnaire.

3.7 Method of Data Analysis

To evaluate the statistical significance of the formulated hypothesis Chi-square statistical method is adopted using SPSS V23 for testing the hypothesis.

4 Results and Discussions

Table 1

Ho₁: Insurgency does not have significant effect on education of Women and Children in resettled communities Adamawa Central Senatorial District.

Variables	Chi- square	Degree of	Significance (P-values)
	Statistics	freedom	(1 varaes)
	2 101121122	(DF)	
The insurgents destroyed majority of the schools in my community.	623.522	4	0.000
My children stayed out of schools for many years because of the insurgency.	76.542	4	0.000
My children now have access to quality education in my present location.	87.423	4	0.000
My children now have access to more and better educational facilities because of our relocation to this IDP Camp or location due to insurgency	342.672	4	0.000
My children have not been able to continue with their education since the relocation from our homes because of insurgency	423.631	4	0.000
There is no enough money to sponsor the education of my children since the relocation from our hometown because of insurgency.	654.525	4	0.000

Source: Field Survey, 2024. Note that this table provides a summary of the chi-square test result.

The data presented in Table 1 illustrates the significant impact of the insurgency on the education of women and children in resettled communities in Adamawa Central Senatorial District, as evidenced by the results of a chi-square test. The null hypothesis, which posits that the insurgency does not significantly affect education, is decisively rejected for all measured variables, with extremely low p-values of 0.000.

Firstly, the statement that insurgents destroyed the majority of schools in the community is supported by a chi-square statistic of 623.522, indicating a widespread and significant disruption to educational infrastructure. The destruction of schools directly correlates with the large number of children who have been deprived of a stable learning environment, drastically affecting their educational progress.

Secondly, the prolonged absence of children from school due to the insurgency is highlighted by a chisquare statistic of 76.542. This significant value underscores the severe interruption in educational continuity, resulting in many children missing critical years of schooling, which could have long-term negative impacts on their academic and personal development.

Interestingly, there is some positive impact noted regarding access to quality education in current locations, with a chi-square statistic of 87.423. This suggests that despite the initial disruption, relocation to IDP camps or other safer areas has provided some children with better educational opportunities than they previously had. The presence of more and better educational facilities in these new locations, as reflected by a chi-square statistic of 342.672, further supports this observation.

Conversely, the data also shows significant educational challenges post-relocation. The chi-square statistic of 423.631 indicates that many children have not been able to resume their education since leaving their homes. This is a clear sign of the continuing obstacles faced by displaced families in ensuring their children's education.

Furthermore, the financial strain on families since the insurgency is highlighted by a chi-square statistic of 654.525. This suggests that the lack of sufficient funds to sponsor children's education is a prevalent issue, severely hampering their ability to continue schooling. The economic hardships faced by displaced families mean that education often becomes a lower priority as they struggle to meet more immediate needs such as food and shelter.

Overall, the chi-square test results provide compelling evidence of the significant and multifaceted impact of the Boko Haram insurgency on the education of women and children in Adamawa Central Senatorial District. The destruction of schools, prolonged absence from education, mixed experiences of educational quality post-relocation, and significant financial challenges collectively illustrate the severe educational disruption caused by the insurgency.

Table 2

Ho_{2:} Insurgency does not have significant impact on food and drinking water for children and women in resettled communities Adamawa Central Senatorial District.

Variables	Chi-	Degree of	Significance
	square	freedom	(P-values)
	Statistics	(DF)	
The insurgency severely affected access to food for	352.746	4	0.000
women and children			
The insurgency resulted in a reduced number of	635.542	4	0.000
meals per day for women and children.			
The insurgency severely affected access to quality	238.421	4	0.000
drinking water for women and children			

Source: Field Survey, 2024. Note that this table provides a summary of the chi-square test result.

Table 2 presents the results of a chi-square test examining the impact of the insurgency on food and drinking water access for women and children in resettled communities in Adamawa Central Senatorial District. The null hypothesis posited that the insurgency does not significantly impact food and

drinking water availability. However, the data strongly contradicts this hypothesis, as indicated by the highly significant p-values across all tested variables.

Firstly, the insurgency's severe effect on access to food for women and children is reflected by a chi-square statistic of 352.746 and a p-value of 0.000. This high chi-square value and the extremely low p-value (well below the standard threshold of 0.05) indicate a statistically significant impact. The insurgency has drastically disrupted food supply chains and agricultural activities, leading to acute food shortages and heightened food insecurity among vulnerable populations.

Secondly, the reduction in the number of meals per day for women and children is supported by a chi-square statistic of 635.542 and a p-value of 0.000. This further emphasizes the significant extent to which the insurgency has compromised nutritional intake. The high chi-square statistic suggests that the reduction in meal frequency is a widespread and severe issue directly correlated with the ongoing conflict, impacting the daily lives and health of women and children.

Lastly, access to quality drinking water has also been severely affected, with a chi-square statistic of 238.421 and a p-value of 0.000. This demonstrates a significant disruption in the availability of clean and safe drinking water, which is critical for maintaining health and preventing waterborne diseases. The insurgency has likely damaged water infrastructure and restricted access to water sources, further exacerbating the plight of those already struggling with food insecurity.

4.1 Findings

- i. Insurgency destroyed schools in resettled communities in Adamawa Central Senatorial District
- ii. Children stayed out of schools in resettled communities due to destruction by insurgents in resettled communities.
- iii. Insurgency activities in resettled communities affect access to food and water for women and children in Adamawa Central.

5 Conclusion and Recommendations

The socio-economic effects of insurgency on women and children in Adamawa Central Senatorial District are profound and multifaceted, reflecting the deep scars left by prolonged conflict. The insurgency has disrupted the social fabric of the community, leading to significant displacement, loss of livelihoods, and psychological trauma. Women, who are often primary caregivers, face increased vulnerability due to the loss of spouses and support systems, forcing many into roles as sole providers under extremely challenging conditions. Children, who are particularly susceptible to the impacts of conflict, suffer from interrupted education, malnutrition, and exposure to violence.

The study recommends the following thus:

- i. Government should provide safe and well-resourced shelters for resettled displaced women and children, ensuring access to basic necessities and healthcare
- ii. Implement programs to reunite separated families and support orphans and unaccompanied children.
- iii. Increase access to mental health services, including counselling and trauma support, particularly for women and children affected by violence.
- iv. Establish and strengthen community-based support networks to provide peer support, childcare, and communal assistance.

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