



Terrorism: The Leading Cause of Rising Displacement of Persons in Nigeria

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Abstract. The history of terrorism is not new in Nigeria but for the dimension it takes. Today, insurgencies all over the country have taken over especially the north eastern part of Nigeria. The increasing spread of terrorist activities of the Jama'atu Ahlussunnah lid-da 'wati wal jihad popularly referred to as Boko Haram has posed a great social and socio-economic security threat to Nigeria and its citizens. Many surviving Nigerian citizen live in fear because of the terrorist insurgent activities while its members continue to unleash destruction of human lives and communities leading to the victim's dislocation/displacement. Families have been separated through either death or dislocation. Parents have been separated from their loved ones by abduction and children have been left orphans and unaccompanied in the various camps to which they are located. Although both Federal and State governments are making efforts to return victims of terrorism to their homes of origin, the effort has not been without challenges on the entire populace of Nigeria.

Keywords: Displacement, Internally Displaced Persons, Insurgency, Security, Terrorism

1. Introduction

Terrorism in Nigeria is not a social issue that started overnight. This phenomenon has been brewing in the country for a long time until recently when it emanated in full force stretching over a long period of years. Due to the rising rate of terrorist attacks and other related conflicts, there have been losses of thousands of lives and properties worth millions of naira respectively. The resultant fear instilled in the minds of the victims has led to their displacement from their homes. In 2012, Nigeria recorded the highest number of displaced persons in Africa (IDPC, 2012: cited in NOI POLL report 2015). Boko Haram- a terrorist group in Nigeria- took up arms against

Nigeria's government in 2002, with the aim of establishing an independent Islamic state. It initially targeted government and religious facilities in the north-eastern states of Bauchi, Borno, Kano and Yobe, but has since expanded its activities to other areas, carrying out increasingly frequent and sophisticated attacks against the civilian population.

The group's use of suicide attacks, bombings and raids spread to most northern states and south towards Abuja, and its targets became almost exclusively civilians. It looted villages, killed and kidnapped residents, used forced conscription and abducted women and girls. Furthermore, it also tried to establish a transnational presence or to acquire greater international visibility.

Indications include the 2011 attack against the UN Compound in Abuja, cross-border kidnappings, alleged contacts with al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb and al-Shabaab, and its reported presence in Niger, Cameroon, and Mali (Norwegian Refugee Council and Internal Displacement Monitoring Council, 2014). By the end of 2021, IDMC reported that 59.1 million people were internally displaced as a result of conflict, violence and disasters.

2. Conceptual Definitions

2.1 Boko Haram

The phrase Boko Haram is derived from Hausa word Boko, which means "non-Islamic education," and Haram, which is an Arabic word that figuratively implies "sin" but technically means "forbidden." Boko Haram, in other words, suggests that western education is outlawed or it is a sin. Boko Haram is a very contentious Nigerian militant Islamic group that seeks to impose sharia law across the country's northern territories. The group's official name is Jama'atu Ahlis-Sunnah Lidda'awati Wall Jihad, which means "those committed to the spread of

Prophet Muhammad's teachings and jihad" in Arabic. As a result, the group stands for Sunnah Association for the Propagation of Islam and Holy War.

2.2 Displacement

From the context of this write up, to displace means forceful movement of persons from their places of origin to some other places which could be as a result of some factors ranging from natural and or man-made harmful factors (communal crises, inter regional wars, floods, earthquakes, etc). A lot of Nigerian citizens have been displaced from their homes and States of origin because of terrorists' activities. This has led to the establishment of internally displaced camps in order to provided succor to otherwise stranded persons referred to as internally displaced persons (IDPs). In these camps, government and non-governmental organizations as well as philanthropists provide for their care.

Insurgence: An organized revolt or political battle undertaken among a cooperative or compliant population in order for a group of outsiders to overthrow (or at the very least destabilize) the nation's government.

2.3 Islamic Fundamentalism

Islamic Fundamentalism is a phrase used to characterize theological beliefs that advocate a return to Islam's basics, the Qur'an and Sunnah. It is regarded as problematic by some who believe in that all Muslims must be fundamentalists. The invasion of secular and westernizing influences by Islamic fundamentalists is opposed, and they strive to establish Islamic law as a rigid code of behavior (Danjibo, 2010).

2.4 Terrorism

There is no single definition of terrorism because it comprises a wide range of activities aimed at intimidating and instilling fear in people's thoughts. Terrorism can be defined as a politically motivated act of violence conducted against civilians with the intent of causing mass casualties, instilling fear and a sense of insecurity, and influencing the victims' policies and actions.

Although, the word 'terrorism' is not new to our contemporary society's vocabularies, its relative definition by scholars has been elusive because of the different ways it has been viewed at different times and locations (Soyombo, 2017). It is a word that was first used by France to describe a new system of government adopted during the French Revolution of

1789-1799 from which it has decidedly had negative connotations. However, what may be termed as terrorism in one location, may be regarded as liberty in another location (Giddens, 2006 in Soyombo, 2017). The term did not gain wider popularity until September 2011 (popularly known as 9/11) when Osama Bin Laden masterminded a terrorist attack on the United States Twin Towers of World Trade Centre and the Pentagon in which several lives were lost (Dauda and Bello, 2017). Most scholars resort to describing the concept rather than giving a generally accepted definition. Because of its ambivalence, different scholars have given it different definitions. According to Omale (2013) the definition of terrorism (is) given by the United States Department of Defense, (USDD) as the 'calculated use of unlawful violence or threat of unlawful violence to inculcate fear intended to coerce or intimidate Governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious or ideological'. The U. S Department of State (USDS) defines terrorism as 'premeditated politically-motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets (whether on duty or not) by sub-national groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience'. In addition, the FBI describes terrorism as 'the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment therefore, in furtherance of political or social objectives. In another definition, terrorism is defined as 'the use of violence for political ends, and includes any use of violence for the purpose of putting the public, or any section of the public in fear' (United Nations Homeland Office). Okoli & Iortyer, 2014; Isyaku, 2013; Oyenyi, 2010; Lizardo, 2008; Lodge, 1988; and Tilly, 2004 in Nwakeocha (2017) described terrorism as the use of brute force or coercion to achieve selfish particularly political goals, in which Lizardo defined terrorism as 'the premeditated use or threat of use of extra-normal violence or brutality by sub-national groups to obtain a political, religious or ideological objective through intimidation of a huge audience, usually not directly involved with the policy making that the terrorists seek to influence'. However, a widely accepted definition of terrorism comes from the United Nations (1992) which sees it as, 'an anxiety inspiring method of repeated violent action, employed by semi-clandestine individual, group or state actors, for idiosyncratic, criminal or political reasons, whereby- in contrast to assassination – the direct targets of violence are not the main targets.

From all these definitions, it can be argued that terrorism is a violent act and crime perpetuated by a person or group of persons in order to advance their

cause; be it political, religious or ideological. What make it a crime is the fact that most often those who are victims of the violence out leased are unarmed and innocent civilians who at the end of the day are just a means to an end for the terrorists. By so doing the attention of the target audience can be drawn. In line with the above, Omale (2013) agrees with the International Terrorism Science Research's (ITSR) example on how terrorism lies not in the act itself, but in the public or government's reaction to the act. For example, the ITSR argues that in 1972 at the Munich Olympics, the Black September Organization killed 11 Israelis to express their views on the plight of the Palestinian refugees. The Israelis were the immediate victims but the true target was the estimated 1 billion people watching the televised event. Terrorism in its difficulty to be defined, has been described as 'both a tactic and strategy; a crime or a holy duty; a justified reaction to oppression or an inexcusable abomination' (Alex P. Schmid, 2011; terrorist research.com) depending on the point of view of the scholar.

Most terrorist organizations often have no clearly defined group of persons to hold responsible which is why most attempts become difficult for the defending authorities to apprehend the perpetrators and bring an end to their violent actions. These persons are most often evasive. In Nigeria, the group which perfectly fits into this description is the Boko Haram group of the North Eastern Nigeria.

2.5 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

There is no legal definition of who constitutes an 'internally displaced person' in international law. However, the Guiding Principles of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees on Internal Displacement (2014), defines the internally displaced persons as "Persons or group of persons who are forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflicts, situations of generalized violence, violations of human/natural rights, disasters and (those) who have not cross an internationally recognized border, although this notion of IDPs expressed, only draws attentions to the characteristics of IDPs that make them inherently vulnerable. In other words, describing them rather than giving a definition, has gained much authority and is widely being used in the international level.

Hence, people or group of persons is regarded as IDPs when factors such as violence or disasters have propelled them out of their homes and mostly relocated to places such as the neighbouring towns

that are safer. Some secure shelter in temporary camps. Their decision to remain in the nation's borders gives them all the rights of the citizens of that country without discrimination. However, these rights are lost when they cross the international borders and become refugees. The North East region of Nigeria, has had the most hit of armed violence in the country thereby recording a higher number of displaced persons in the country since 2012.

3. Historical Background of Boko Haram Sect as a Terrorist Group in Nigeria

The Northern Nigerian insurgency of Boko Haram has a long history and works in some ways like Maitatsine movement formed by Muhammad Marwa and was popular in the 1980s. Muhammad Marwa, an Islamic common scholar, who couldn't afford basic essentials of life (Danjibo and Odigbo, 2013). Boko Haram also known as "Jama'atui Ahlis Sunnah Lidda'awati Wal-jihad" or "those committed to the propagation of Prophet Muhammad's teachings and Jihad," is a terrorist organization based in Nigeria (Jacob and Akintola, 2012). Boko Haram is the group's common term, which comes from people's impressions of how they operate as well as their deeds. The movement was founded by Muhammad Yusuf, a dropout from secondary school who traveled to Niger and Chad to study the Quran. Yusuf came to Nigeria in 2002 and established a centre (Yusuffiya) in Maiduguri (Jacob and Akintola, 2012). Yusufiyya gave birth to Boko Haram, which has since grown into what it is today (Jacob and Akintola, 2012). Since the civil war, Nigeria has been peaceful with little to worry about as it relates to violence until 2009 when the Boko Haram sect violently hit the nation killing hundreds of people. However, the history of Boko Haram can be better understood when traced back to colonial days (Ford, nationalinterest.org). Before the amalgamation of Nigeria in 1914, the northern region for which the Boko Haram predominantly operates was mainly an Islamic region. Colonization attempts were not so much welcomed in the North until later, which reflects the resentment of western education in the North. This was evident when a young Mohammed Marwa (1927), an Islamic scholar of northern origin later to be known as 'Maitatsine' started the raged advocacy for the rejection of any western education and declaring any book other than the Quran to be sinful to read. This culminated into violent riots that killed over 4000 people from 1980–1982. According to Ford (1989), Maitastine's movement was a sign of greater religious turmoil to come. However, in the view of Wall (2015), the rise of Boko Haram is attributed to the failure of British colonialist to

modernize the Northern Nigeria territories instead of just co-opting ‘the exhausted Islamic Institution left by Sokoto Caliphate with capricious warlords. That notwithstanding, Nigeria has been divided since colonial days across ethnic and religious lines with the Muslims in the North and Christians predominantly in the south, the tension which is often amongst these variant group have been on the subdued level until the emergence of the terrorist group Boko Haram.

‘Boko Haram’ which literarily is translated to mean ‘Education is forbidden’ surface vividly to the awareness of Nigerians. It was formed by Mohammed Yusuf, a fundamentalist whose beliefs were similar to that of Maitatsine in his doctrine of rejection of all forms of western culture and advocating Islamic doctrine on all people of the country. As has been stated by Christopher Wall (2015) in his publication on the Timestream by Netrepid, Boko Haram received its first fund \$3million from Usama Bin Laden to start the group in Nigeria.

The activities of the group became violent with the killing of hundreds of people in July 2009 uprising. However, the resultant killing of Mohammed Shekau, weathered the storm up on till a new leadership in person of Abubakar Shekau took over and the group earned its place among the most ‘vicious terrorists’ group’ operating in North Africa. By the end 2015, the group’s attacks and counter attacks by the Nigeria armed force have resulted in the killing of hundreds of thousands of people while displacing many others especially from Borno. Adamawa and Yobe states in North eastern part of the country. According to the Nigerian Security Tracker (2014) cited in Imasuen (2015).

There have been 64 incidence of terror attacks by the Boko Haram sect in the North East region since 2009 – 2014, with different methods of attacks ranging from Armed attacks, Bombing and Explosions, Midnight/Terror attacks, Mass murder/Suicide raid, Assassination/ Murder and Abductions. These attacks have claimed the lives of not less than two thousand three hundred and twenty people in 2009 and three thousand in 2010. In 2011, not less than three thousand five hundred and sixty lives lost and three thousand seven hundred in 2012. Four thousand four hundred and twenty lives lost in 2013 and 5m in 2014, not less than five thousand lives have been lost.

Till today, no ideological statement has been associated with Boko Haram state the objectives of the group. One cannot clearly state what the group

stands for unlike what it stands against which is purely western education due to the pattern of attacks of the group over the years; which has mainly been Muslims either as individuals or group (David Cook, 2011).

3.1 Patterns and Scale of Internal Displacement associated to Boko Haram

According to NRC and IDMC (2014), the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), NCFR, and international agencies categorized displacement patterns into 3 which are: The first is made up of internally displaced people (IDPs) fleeing to the south of the country in the footsteps of economic migrants. The second is of people fleeing from rural to urban areas within their states, and the third is of the secondary displacement of both IDPs and host communities who move once again when their resources have been depleted.

According to NEMA figures, Boko Haram’s surge in violent attacks in 2012 on civilians and the army’s response forced at least 25,0000 people to flee their homes between May 2013, when the state of emergency was imposed, and March 2014. Borno became the worst-affected state with 111,000 IDPs, followed by Yobe with 76,000 and Adamawa with 67,000.

3.2 Factors Influencing Boko Haram's Insurgency

According to Campbell (2014) in Godabe (2021), poverty, unemployment, corruption, bigotry, and a lack of basic requirements all play a role in influencing the public from joining insurgent groups including Boko Haram or other terrorist groups.

3.2.1 Unemployment and Poverty

According to (Liolio, 2013), the nature of the economy and the level of poverty in a given location influence successful recruitment of people into a group. Insurgents usually recruit members by claiming that their fight is for the people, and that if they are supported, they will give basic necessities to the broader public. As a result of technology and globalization, which artificially impoverishes many developing countries, rebels may thrive if a society is steeped in poverty, illiteracy, ineptitude, corruption, and discrimination. “It's critical to recognize that the root causes of insurgency are generally a long, hazy series of challenges that culminate in uncontrollable frustrations and explosive violence,” (Liolio, 2013) added. These are socio economic and political difficulties, which is why insurgencies are more common in underdeveloped nations or countries with

corrupt governments, ethnicity, social subjectivities, irreligion, and resource distribution disparities, or lack thereof. According to Kukah (2013), poverty and long-standing economic injustices as a result of bad administration and corruption aided by politics in the country has pushed the youth to join terrorist groups. Over 70% of Nigeria's population lives on less than \$1 per day, where schools are unaffordable with low quality of education that graduates are typically unfit for employment. Unemployment has become a major problem for Nigerian youths, posing a serious threat to the country as a whole (Farrell, 2012). In addition, almost 87 million Nigerian youths are unemployed, with another 4.6 million working part-time. Unemployment causes melancholy, frustration, and a reliance on friends and family. This reliance has imprisoned the youth in a vicious cycle of chronic poverty, destroying their hope for a better future on a daily basis. In such a setting, the rebels' main objective is the majority of these jobless teenagers (HNO, 2014).

3.2.2 Low Human Development with Corruption

Sunnah defines corruption as, among other things, dishonesty, profiteering, nepotism, violation of trust, malfeasance, bribery, crookedness, shady deal, and jobbery. People's basic needs, such as motorable roads, reliable electricity and water supply, problematic phone and internet networks, insufficient housing, and avoided natural disasters like erosion and flooding that were not dealt with properly and quickly, have all been blamed for the lack of growth (Olaide, 2013). Corruption has been used to underdevelop Nigeria, paving way for militancy and insurgency by diverting resources that should have been used to empower the people to private use, reducing the resources available for development and social service provision (Ilufoye & Kenga, 2013).

3.2.3 Ignorance and False Information

Fake facts are truths that did not indirectly or physically exist and it can only be proven by using the "faith" instrument, as well as facts that cannot be confirmed directly. The Holy Quran and the Holy Bible, the two Holy Books that dominate religious practice in Nigeria, make numerous statements about "heaven and earth," or, to input it another way, "present and hereafter," which have been interpreted by various religious leaders based on their perceptions with some religious leaders believing that the content of a particular Holy Book cannot be understood. It is regrettable that the majority of Nigerians, both Christian and Muslim, are religious fanatics who are accustomed to displaying their

religious fanaticism through extraordinary preaching and other means without hiding it, and some even refer to other religion devotees as fanatics in defense of their fanaticism. Another factor contributing to Nigeria's theological dilemma is that is the average northerner, who is almost always Muslim, regards all Southerners, particularly Christians, as morally loose, permissive, and spiritually undisciplined, while not considering Southern Muslims to be in the same category. Many statements, omissions, indications have been made based on false facts and erroneous ideas, which have supported militia and people's perceptions of the situation, and have been used to cite religious strife in Nigeria. In fact, media and subjectively, Boko Haram's insurgency has been linked to the islamization of Nigeria rather than the islamization of Nigeria (Beland, 2013).

3.3.4 Management Failure and Good Governance

While excellent leadership has been defined as "patriotism, "honesty," and "doing what is right for Nigerians, "all of which are represented in good governance (Olaide and Ismael, 2012). A detailed investigation of the Nigerian budget, demonstrate that a tiny number of persons in the Nigerian government are allocating significant quantities of money to themselves at the price of the country's underdevelopment, which has worsened since the 4th Republic took office in 1999 (Lamido; Musa, 2015).

3.3.5 Frustration

People's feelings of annoyance and impatience as a result of a large proportion of them believing they have not attained their goals are referred to as "frustration". The economic situation in Nigeria has deteriorated as a result of corruption, "false facts and ignorance," "failure of good governance and good leadership," "social injustice, marginalization, and neglect," and "lack of development," among other factors, causing frustration and militancy among various social groups. It's unsurprising that an author observed widespread ignorance and poverty in Nigeria, a situation that the Nigerian government has repeatedly failed to address. When religious/social intolerance, adolescent restlessness/idleness, and unemployment (as in the Niger Delta) air is added to the mix, frustration issues. "A disgruntled soul will go to any length to let off steam. All of this is input into context by the recent Boko Haram conflict in Northern Nigeria.

4. Effects of Displacement of Persons

The effects of internal displacement on the IDPs themselves and the society at large cannot be over emphasized. In Nigeria, it had resulted to a devastating state. First, the acts of displacement itself have often violated the human rights of those affected. The IDPs lose all that is basic for them to enjoy life to the fullest. These losses include homes, lands, livelihoods, personal documentation and family members. Secondly, the effect of displacement does not only stop on the displaced person but further affects the lives of other individuals especially in the host communities. This is because the IDPs become dependent on others for basic needs of food, water, clothing and shelter. As a result, there might be limited resources to cater for the added number of IDPs in the societies. These limited resources may then result in competition, which will lead many IDPs to look for hostile means of getting their needs for survival especially in communities where they are not homely welcomed. This eventually bring about the breakdown of Socio-economic systems and community structures. Conflict and displacement also spill over into neighboring states, countries, as has been seen in Central America the Balkans and west Africa (<http://www.unhcr.org>). This is because the IDPs having settled in a place for a long will begin to clamor for equal rights like the original landowners.

Displacement breaks up families and severs community ties. It leads to unemployment and limits access to land, education, food and shelter. Moreover, as the displacement of person continues, so does the risk traditional family and social structural break down become greater, leaving IDPs dependent on outside aid and vulnerable to economic and sexual exploitation (Durable Solutions, 2014). The displaced are particularly vulnerable to violence. According to the International Displacement Monitoring Centre (May, 2014) cited in Imasuen (2015), the rise in gender and sexual based violence has been on the increase due to the increased activities of the sect (Boko Haram) since 2009. Gender and sexually based violence are believed to be a widespread phenomenon among female internally displaced persons (IDPs) both at various camps and in host communities. Economically, a number of small and medium-sized enterprises were seriously damaged by the terrorist activities (Abdullah & Gul, 2012; Achumba, Igbomerho, & Akpor 2013; Olabanji & Ese, 2014).

4.1 The Plight of the Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria

The displacement of persons in Nigeria has affected not only the people but also the economy of the country as a whole. According to IRIN cited by John Campbell (2014), An estimated three hundred and fifty thousand (350,000) people have been displaced in Nigeria since 2013 while in another report, the UN Commission for Refugees (UHCR) cited in Imaseun (2015) placed the estimate of the displaced persons at higher number of six hundred thousand (600,000) by December 2014, whereas an unofficial estimate placed the number of the displaced person to be more than a million when combined with both ethnically displaced zones of Jos, Kaduna and the region of the Northeast where Boko Haram violence is active. In other words, the reason for the high number of IDPs might be mainly Boko haram attacks, however, other factors too contributed. These include ethnic clashes and attacks of herdsmen. Despite this high number of IDPs, reports have shown that there are not enough camps to cater for the teeming population. The NOI polls confirm this, in their survey report where it is revealed by the respondents that many of the IDPs are found in neighbouring towns in people's houses or some uncompleted buildings. This is really sad considering the fact that they remain citizens of the country with full right to these basic amenities of shelter. This lack of shelter makes it difficult to actually determine the true number of IDPs in the country. More so, despite the operation of international non-governmental organizations such as the Norwegian Red Cross, the International Committee of Red Cross and the UN Population Fund and the Nigeria Government efforts through the NEMA and SEMA, the IDPs seem to require more as all these efforts are not enough compared to the continuous violence that the IDPs face even after displacement (John Campbell, 2014). This shows that the IDPs have been given less attention by the authorities in charge.

The effects of displacement are immeasurable. People who are often displaced are farmers who after fleeing their lands, end up with no lands to farm thereby decreasing the amount of farm produce in the country which in turn inflates food insecurity. Thus, agriculture has suffered as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency, notably in some of the country's most vital food-growing regions. Yobe, Adamawa and Borno, the worst-affected states for example, are known for their cowpeas, rice, millet, tomatoes, onions, yams, corns, and sorghums, as well as livestock and fish. Farmers are afraid that if they return to their farm, they will be attacked. Boko Haram rebels have displaced millions of people and destroyed economic activity in northern Nigeria, including Nigeria's largest stock fish farm, which is

located in the Lake Chad shore as Baga Local Government (Musa, 2015). Northern Borno, which serves as a major livestock transit point for Cameroon, Chad, Niger Republic, and other West and Central African countries, has been shut down, leaving many of those who rely on the industry jobless. Large pepper is produced in Damasak, Mobbar, Local Government Area, Bama, Kalabalge, Kondiga, Gamboru, Ngala, and other parts of Nigeria. The whole population has been uprooted by insurgents, and farming activities have collapsed, driving many people into destitution.

According to Gambo (2013); UN (2014), fear has made majority of farmers left their homes because of the more than 1.5 million people who are mostly farmers, most have been forced to flee their homes as Boko Haram's insurgency activities progressed in the previous year. In addition, commercial routes between the north and south of Nigeria have been affected, making food distribution and transit extremely difficult of which Emelufela, et al assert that one of the challenges of food delivery in the country induced by the insurgency is the danger of inflation. The flow of beans for example, has been disrupted by Boko Haram. They also claimed that two dietary essentials, pepper and tomatoes, are in short supply because they are mostly transported from the north and used in most families. As a result, food prices have skyrocketed. "A basket of pepper, which used to sell for N4000-N5000 (depending on the grade of the pepper) reached N8000, including transportation expenses, with little or no profit after being sold in retails. To this end, Osagie (2013) averred that if the sect's violent attacks continued, the country would be plunged into a long-term and chronic situation of irreversible food shortages and scarcity. Food prices continue to rise, making it difficult for people and families to purchase enough nutritious food to lead healthy lives. As a result, people are exposed to risk of starvation, famine, malnutrition, and death. Malnutrition is common in areas where there is insurgency or widespread conflict According to the 2015 Humanitarian Needs Overview, "a SMART Survey conducted by the Nigerian government and UNICEF in 2014 found GAM in Yobe and Borno states to be 15.5 percent and 13.6 percent, respectively" (2014: 12). The most serious threats to human security are food and nutrition instability and the necessity of putting an end to this insurgency cannot be overstated. The health of the population is of paramount importance. More than a million people die each year as a result of various forms of violence, according to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Report on Violence and Health (2015), many thousands of people have

been killed and injured as a result of the Boko Haram fighting.

In addition, the report went on to say:

'the sect has demolished health-care centers and services that are essential for citizens' well-being. Employees in the health-care industry, who are also targets, have abandoned their workplaces. Health care services are becoming increasingly difficult to procure for affected populations in the Northeast. Boko Haram insurgents have attacked multiple health facilities and health workers, meaning that the health system in significant sections of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa is hardly functional at all; only 37% of facilities in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe States were operational as of March 2014. Doctors Without Borders treated 4,000 patients when a cholera epidemic broke out in Borno State in September 2014, and as of September 16, 2015, the official count indicated 172 cholera cases with 16 deaths at three camps for individuals internally displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency'.

Also, armed groups damaged health facilities in towns like Chibok, and medical prescription stockpiles in states like Adamawa were either insufficient or unavailable (USAID, 2014) with rising infectious diseases in the region, as well as among the territory's displaced residents in neighboring states and countries (Musa, 2015).

Furthermore, civil workers are rendered jobless reducing the level of productivity in the country. Unemployment increase as youths becomes wanderers in the society. Furthermore, there is increased number of dependents especially amongst the women and children who are rendered widows and orphans respectively. These women and children especially the girl child end up being kidnapped by the insurgents to serve as suicide bombers and/or children making machine as can be seen in the case of the Chibok girls and many others from different communities that were kidnapped. In the aspect of shelter, it is near impossible to estimate how many homes have been destroyed as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency activities. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2015), the Boko Haram insurgency has displaced over 2.1 million people in Nigeria. These internally displaced persons have relocated to host towns and are in serious need of proper shelter for not necessarily long-term resettlement and the number (of IDPs) would continue to rise if the Boko Haram insurgency is not restrained, with shelter and accommodation becoming a critical security issue. According to the HNO, the majority of IDPs are camped in schools, churches, and improvised

lodgings, which are mostly unfinished buildings or decaying residences which are usually improvised, overcrowded and unsuitable for women, particularly in terms of water and sanitation, cooking, and privacy (HNO, 2014). Theft and rape are widespread occurrences, as is infectious illness transmission, and women suffer disproportionately in such situations.

Educationally, Boko Haram insurgency has had a severe impact on the sector. Since the onset of the sect's activities, schools, colleges and universities have been targeted, wounding, killing, or abducting students and staff, and destroying structures. According to HNO (2014), "conflict and insecurity have had a direct and cascading negative impact on children's access to education, the availability of educational avenues and materials, and instructors' liability" (2014). Olukoya (2015), the National President of the Nigerian Union of Teachers, revealed that 600 teachers had died as a result of Boko Haram insurgency (Pulse NG, 2015). As of August 2013, more than 882 classrooms in Borno State had been damaged, while all Yobe State schools were closed down from June to September 2013. (Awortu, 2015). In 2014, girl students from Government Girls Secondary School Chibok, were kidnapped (Hassan, 2014) which subsequently led to low or non-enrolment of children and wards in schools, and those who were already enrolled got withdrawn. Children and wards became more vulnerable to security impasse in the North East Nigeria in particular thereby resulting in an increase in the number of school dropouts, illiterates, and unemployed youths who would be vulnerable to recruitment as suicide bombers and terrorists. To this regard, Awortu, (2015) claimed that there would be the tendency of much more high percentage of illiteracy and school dropouts because of such violence inflicted by Boko haram. Furthermore, it is claimed that "An estimated 2.15 million men, women, girls, and boys were facing physical and psychological damage as a result of insurgency Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO, 2015).

In a similar manner, NRC (2014) averred that property, be it homes, shops, businesses or public infrastructure suffered extensive damage and destruction of which many IDPs did not have a home to go back to, and with host communities hit, spontaneous displacement sites started to spring up in Adamawa and Borno states. NEMA set up 11 camps in southern Benue state. Boko Haram attacks on schools forced the government to close many institutions and has led to significant reductions in enrolment. Few displaced children attend school,

with some being taken out of education to help their families in the struggle to make ends meet.

5. Conclusion

Terrorism attacks from the Boko Haram Sect took over the country in 2009, as a result thousands of civilians have been displaced from their homes due to fear of the terror. This has not only affected the individual victims concerned but has also spilled round the neighbouring environs where these IDPs reside. With the teeming population of the IDPs country now, it has become a priority item for the government to put all hands-on-deck to bring to end the violent insurgency while at the same time attending to the social needs of survival for the IDPs. Neglecting these IDPs can cause devastating social problems for the country as a whole.

6. Recommendations

Before concluding this paper, it has become pertinent to make recommendations as to the way forwards for the IDPs in Nigeria. The following have therefore been outlined:

- The government should recognize that for the fact the IDPs have not crossed the international borders to become refugees, they still remain citizens with full rights to basic facilities of survival. Therefore, the government should give more attention to the IDPs by providing them with not only Camps for shelter but also other infrastructure for their living.
- While it is notable that the government has been putting efforts to end the terrorist violence that often displace people, it nonetheless, needs to double up on this effort at stopping any form of insecurity that will result in further displacement of person while still trying to make sure that those who are already displaced are brought back to their safe communities once more.

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