



Boko Haram Terrorism and Socio-Economic Development in Borno State, Nigeria

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Abstract. The violent extremist group, Boko Haram, operating in Northeast Nigeria has severely damaged the region's infrastructures and left thousands of people displaced. The incessant violent attacks had caused serious disruption and decline in economic activities, investment and education. This would have substantial implication for the socioeconomic development of the North-East generally, and Borno state particularly. Borno state is the epicenter of Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria's least developed geo-political zone. Terrorist activities over the years have further worsened the people's already difficult socioeconomic conditions. Thus, the study adopted qualitative methodology to examine the effect of terrorism on Borno state's socio-economic development. Hinged on state fragility theory, the study argued that whereas several efforts have been made to combat terrorism, Nigeria's fragile and weak system greatly hampered these efforts. Considering the essentiality of education for long-term development, incessant abductions of pupils and disruptions of educational activities have further jeopardized the state's chances of development. The study found that terrorism has dealt a terrible blow on business activities, mobility, investment and educational opportunities in Borno state. In order to engender sustainable development, it is imperative that the Nigerian government, domestic stakeholders and international development partners intensify collaboration to address the menace of terrorism in Nigeria.

Keywords: Boko-Haram, Displacement, fragility, Socio-economic development, Terrorism

1. Introduction

The threat of terrorism has persisted throughout history. Attacks on the United States and other nations on September 11, 2001, quickened the pace of insurgency in the region known as the Arc of Instability, which stretches from the Middle East to

North Africa. This has made it possible for terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda, Al-Shabab, ISIS and the Taliban to carry out heinous crimes including hostages, suicide bombings, shooting victims at close range and nocturnal assaults. Supposedly sacred places like schools, markets and places of worship have been subject of indiscriminate attacks (Bamidele, 2016; Amalu, 2016). The majority of victims are the often described vulnerables of the society, namely women and children (Edem, 2017). These present a serious obstacle to socioeconomic development because they result in the loss of a population's means of subsistence as well as the destruction of educational institutions, structures and facilities. Activities of insurgent organizations such as Al-Qaeda, Al-Shabab, the Islamic Salvation Front, the Seleka coalition of the Central African Republic, Tuareg rebels in Mali, Somali pirates, the National Liberation Force in Burundi, the Congolese Revolutionary Forces (DR Congo) and the Lord's Resistance Army (Uganda) (Sarki, Solomon & Kaka, 2021) has resulted in untold hardship, injury and death of a number of persons. In fact, thousands of people have become permanently disabled and displaced (Aminu, 2015).

The terrorist groups are mostly motivated by ethnic, religious and political ideologies. As a result, homes, community buildings, wells, food production/crops, livestock and personal assets are destroyed; access to humanitarian aid is impeded, thousands of people die and lose their homes, people are internally displaced and many are forced to flee for refuge in neighbouring territories (Jelilov, Ayinde, Tetik, Celik & Olali, 2018). But history shows that insurgency is not entirely a recent phenomenon in Nigeria. Major Isaac Jasper Adako Boro, an Ijaw from the nation's Niger Delta region, led the fight to free the Niger Delta people, which is where the insurgency's roots can be found. He was the first to form the Niger Delta Republic (Kangdim, Yorgancioglu, Bulus, Muazu & Danladi, 2022). The Maitatsine sects led by

Sheikh Muhammadu Maruwa engaged in an intrareligious conflict in northern Nigeria in the late 1970s and early 1980s. It is not inconceivable that Boko Haram's root is traceable to this Maitatsine insurrection.

The dangerous nature of terrorist attacks has gravely impacted student education. Some pupils actually quit going to school while the school calendar becomes unstable. Mobility and access to basic infrastructures have been denied. Farming and animal rearing, the mainstay of the people's livelihood has been damaged by incessant attacks, stealing and destruction.

More importantly, the attempts by government to discourage violence and attacks through public reorientation have yielded only a little result. Similarly, the deployment of men of the armed forces and joint task force to the impacted areas, and promised amnesty offered to those who willingly lay down their weapons do not seem to be making a difference as the terrorist group appear buoyed by foreign support. The Boko Haram terrorism has had a significant negative influence on socioeconomic activities in Borno state by making it more difficult to live or earn a living, get quality education or access transportation. This study, therefore, is an assessment of Boko Haram terrorism and socio-economic development in Borno State.

2. Conceptual Review

2.1 Boko Haram Terrorism in Nigeria

Terrorism is the systematic use of force, violence and intimidation usually to serve political goals. Terrorism, though irrational conduct, is a rational act that exploits violence or the threat of violence in pursuit of religious, political, or other objective. "Rational act" is used here to refer to the careful planning and execution process of a terrorist act. Terrorism is often difficult to define as "freedom fighters" and "separatist agitators" are often labeled rebels and terrorists by the government of the state they reside. Terrorism is a major national security threat in Nigeria. Despite an overall drop in terrorism-related fatalities, the 2023 global terrorism index puts Nigeria in the 8th position in the list of countries with worst terrorism impact. Both military and civilian targets are frequently attacked by the numerous militant groups having headquarters in Nigeria. The deadly terrorist group, Boko Haram, and its rival group, Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), are primarily active in the north, and particularly the north-east. In a twist of event, various

degrees of terrorist activities are being perpetrated by the armed herdsmen across the states in the north-west and north central; and unknown gunmen who enforce "sit-at-home" order in the south east.

Due to the frequency of terrorist operations carried out by the Boko Haram sect, Nigeria was ranked third among the 162 nations in the world that have been most severely affected by terrorist activities in the 2015 Global Terrorism Index. According to the ranking, only the top two nations with an Islamic majority – Iraq and Afghanistan – were worse than Nigeria. Nigeria ranked worse than Somalia and Libya in Africa. There are a number of social problems, including widespread poverty despite affluence, stark income inequality, high rates of youth unemployment, low industrial output, high rates of inflation, deteriorating infrastructure and shaky GDP growth which daily fueled terrorism in Nigeria (Gray & Adeakin, 2015; Eze & Eze, 2020).

According to the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs in Nigeria (SCIAN), the name Boko Haram is a combination of Hausa and Arabic words that means "Western education is wicked" and "defines a fundamentalist society with a strong desire to affect sociopolitical change in Nigeria" (Abdulkabir, 2017). The religious justifications of the Boko Haram group were not mentioned in this description. To encourage a proper understanding of the phrase, an accurate definition of a fundamentalist group of this kind should have underlined its philosophy. According to a BBC report, Boko Haram is a local Salafist Jihadist organization and an Al-Qaeda affiliate in northeastern Nigeria with a violent philosophy based on conventional Sharia law. (BBC, 2020). Although the sect is an organization linked to terrorist action, the above descriptions differ in that neither has emphasized its violent nature. Thus, the Council of Muslim Clerics (CMC) in Nigeria described Boko Haram as a jihadist group that uses violence to force governments and the people to adhere to religion, but with mainly political goals (Bonditti, Opitz & Zebrowski, 2015). The religion and ideological leaning of Boko Haram remains a subject of controversy, especially from the perspectives of those who will not want their religion associated or equated with terrorism.

The Boko Haram insurgency continues to pose a serious threat to the nation's security and corporate political structure (Zenn, 2014; Igboin, 2022). When Boko Haram violence resumed in 2009, the group's assaults and suicide bombings have soared beyond state control, as it intensified attacks on targeted churches, mosques, schools, prisons, police stations

and military barracks in order to achieve their terrorist objectives. Some of the estimated 250 schoolgirls reportedly abducted by the group in Chibok, Borno state in 2014 still languish away in captivity till now. Anyadike (2014) noted that civilians, non-governmental targets and the entire Nigerian population are now included in the violence campaign that was first directed against security forces and the organizations that support them.

Regardless of the form of uprising Boko Haram engages in or what drives them to do it, the results can be psychological and financial terrible. Age, race, social status, educational attainment and place of birth are all variables among insurgency casualties. While everybody feels the impact of insurgency, some groups are deemed more vulnerable to this type of persecution (Bonditti, Opitz & Zebrowski, 2015). The long disconnection between many parents and their children, like the Chibok or Dapchi girls in captivity was one common consequence of insurgency, which appeared extraordinarily traumatic to individuals concerned.

The Boko Haram attacks frequently leave significant economic and financial repercussions in addition to psychological and physical effects on victims and their families. According to Dambazau (2014), ransom payments may cost millions of naira yearly, although it is impossible to actually estimate the exact amount because the amount and frequency of such payment remain unknown; more so as many cases are unreported. Edem (2017) asserted that many parents at such time became severely violent and some turned to religion for solace. Some became constantly unpleasant and ill, unable to sleep since they knew their children were elsewhere.

In Nigeria's northern region, violent attacks involving Boko Haram terrorists resulted in the deaths of civilians, displacement of many and destruction of properties. Boko Haram, translates as "Western education is forbidden" in Hausa, constitutes the philosophy behind incessant attacks on schools. This cult gained notoriety in 2009 after engaging in attacks against the government in numerous locations in Northern Nigeria that resulted in at least 800 fatalities (Oyewole, 2016). They want the ideology and law of Sharia, with the establishment of Islamic caliphate in Northern Nigeria, be strictly applied. A series of attacks by the cult in December 2011 resulted in the deaths of over 100 people and the displacement of over 90,000 more (Ngwama, 2014).

2.2 Concept of National Security

The phrase "national security" is imprecise and sometimes used incorrectly (Wolfer, 1962). (Oyewole, 2016) posited that it is an odd phenomenon that is subjective and so relational and relative as opposed to being a distinct, objective concept. Yet, preserving national security necessitates the use of economic force, diplomacy, power projection, and political authority in order to preserve the existence of the state. Originally emphasizing military capability, it now includes a wide range of elements that all affect the nation's non-military or economic security as well as the values upheld by its society (Zeman, Bren & Urban, 2018). As a result, for a nation to have national security, it must also have economic security, energy security and environmental security. A nation's "defense against all sorts of external attack, espionage, hostile reconnaissance, sabotage, subversion, annoyance, and other unfavorable effect" is national security (Shinkaiye, 2014). This notion is influenced by the traditional idea of state survival and protection against foreign invasion through the deployment of the military to ensure its full ability as a sovereign nation to endure.

Security and safety are created by the state. The state must provide its citizens this right because it is a crucial and required service (Ntamu, 2014). It may be argued that an unstable state loses legitimacy in the eyes of its citizens and the international world. In international relations, terms like failed states, failing states and fragile or collapsed states are a result of a society's loss of security. The term "security" is broad and has various elements, such as personal security, international security, and many more. Ibrahim and Bala (2018) took another step toward distancing the idea from the normative and empirical challenges by putting the core of the debate about what protection is, who it should be for, and how it should be used. After giving a brief description of security, Barry Buzan posited that security at the level of the individual is connected to security at the level of the state and the international system (Buzan, 2007). The provision of state security is a requirement for personal security because it conflicts with Boko haram in Nigeria.

Nigerians in diaspora are worried about their security risk since individuals who perpetrate this crime believe people in diaspora are successful and wealthy. Boko Haram may go after them for a ransom, cutting them off from their towns and loved ones or kidnap their relatives for ransom. Foreign nationals are also often kidnapped and eventually

freed after their employers might have paid a ransom. According to Zeman et al (2018), economic inequality is one important factor that has encouraged violent extremism, recruitment, and support for Boko Haram. A report from the National Bureau of Statistics (2020) also detailed the level of poverty in Nigeria. According to the survey, 77.7% of people are relatively poor, with the percentage being higher in the northeast of the nation where Boko Haram is active. By making personal appeals to themes like poverty, unemployment and illiteracy, the group developed mechanisms for fundraising and recruiting for terrorist operations.

3. State Fragility Theoretical Framework

A political entity has the status of a state when it has a populace, a territorially distinct government and ability to interact with other states. These characteristics give a state sovereignty. There is, however, little agreement on the characteristics of a fragile state. This is due to the fact that fragility's degree is still a relative concept. There is consensus regarding the obligations of sovereign governments to carry out fundamental security duties, ensure the socioeconomic welfare of their populations and play regulatory and diplomatic roles. A state can track its performance in fulfilling its obligations as either success or failure. Fragility is characterized by a situation of declining capability to perform these functions.

When a state cannot provide fundamental human security or establish the conditions and public goods required for advancements in human development, it is considered to be fragile. A state may not always be unable to carry out its obligations, but it may lack the ability or skill to do so most of the times. This effectively explains why Adishi & Oluka (2018) hypothesized that state fragility includes the government's weakness in providing the core of governmental tasks to its citizens and people. State fragility has both causes and effects, and both are not mutually exclusive since they create a vicious cycle. The repercussions of the state's fragility are also variables that contribute to it. Fragile governance, economic inequality, poverty, violence, political instability, the permeability of borders and weak state institutions are some of the indices of state fragility (Omilusi, 2016). Effective state institutions are essential for addressing these causes and consequences of state fragility. In order to keep state fragility and intrastate conflicts under control, state institutions must be consistent. Institutions of the state include the executive branches, the judiciary,

parliament, non-governmental organizations and their personnel.

According to the state fragility hypothesis, a state can be either fragile or resilient depending on how weak or powerful its institutions are. The inability of Nigeria to curtail the menace of terrorism, particularly in the North East, can be attributed to the weakness of the state apparatuses including the security forces and local stakeholders to confront the terrorists. Widespread corruption and deliberate sabotage has deprived the security forces of the necessary equipment and zeal to combat terrorism. This has also affected the intelligence gathering efforts required to either nip crimes in the bud or unravel the mystery surrounding violent terrorist attacks. No wonder the same pattern of terrorist attacks are found recurrent in different part of the North East states. Weak security and justice system that allows the captured terrorists to either escape or regain freedom without thorough investigations and prosecution is symptomatic of a fragile state.

4. Socio-Economic Effect of Boko Haram Terrorism in Borno State

4.1 Effects on Agriculture and Means of Livelihood

Boko Haram's violent activities have significantly impacted how people live in the state. Borno state is an agrarian society where local economy depends on farming and rearing of animals. More than 70% of the people are employed in agriculture (FAO, 2021). Maize, rice, sorghum and millet are among the agricultural products the state is renowned for (Abbas & Fatima, 2017; Izge, 2019). This agricultural activity has been crippled by the Boko Haram insurgency. Many farmers have been abducted or threatened, many farmers have been killed or forced to abandon their crops (Okorie, 2015). The UNHCR (2021) estimated that about 2 million people, many of them farmers, have been displaced by the insurgency in Nigeria. A report from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimated that during the last ten years, Boko Haram attacks have caused a 40% decline in agricultural production in Borno State (OCHA, 2019). Consequently, agricultural productivity has decreased, leading to food scarcity, shortages and starvation (Odeyemi, Onasoga & Okereke, 2019). Borno State is a significant economic centre with a booming grain, cattle and other commercial activity. This has been greatly disrupted. According to UNICEF (2020), about 1,200 farms have been destroyed by Boko Haram in Nigeria since 2014.

Boko Haram insurgents have stormed market places, causing casualties and damage to properties. Due to the concerns for their safety, it becomes challenging for traders to conduct their legitimate businesses in the state. As a result, numerous enterprises have either shut down or relocated to neighboring states (Nwanna, Ugmioko & Okeke, 2018; Brechenmacher, 2019). The Nigerian agriculture industry's supply chain has been hampered by Boko Haram's attacks, as the farmers are unable to get their product to market because of the crisis. Many people simply lost their means of subsistence. Several schools have been burnt or destroyed and numerous teachers and students have been killed or abducted. Because of this, many kids have been compelled to leave school, which lowers the standard of education in the state. The means of sustenance in Borno State have been severely impacted by the extremism of Boko Haram. The insurgency has disrupted agriculture, trade, education, tourism, healthcare, and all socio-economic lives of the people. This also means rapid increment in the country's humanitarian crisis and the region's poverty level occasioned by the loss of livelihoods. The World Food Program estimated that over 4.5 million people in Nigeria required food assistance (World Food Program, 2020). Malnutrition rates have increased as a result of the humanitarian situation.

4.2 Effects on Trade and Commerce

Boko Haram has inflicted havoc on the local economy and businesses in the Northeast. The terrorist group's violent actions have significantly disrupted the economy and decreased trade and commerce (Olaseni & Aluko, 2018). The economy of Borno State is reliant on commerce and business. Sadly, many enterprises have been significantly impacted by the terrorism of Boko Haram. The group has attacked markets, traders, and transporters, leading to the closure of markets and a decline in commercial activity. Trading and transportation businesses suffer severe financial losses as a result, and Borno State residents have less access to goods and services. According to World Bank study, Borno State has lost more than \$1 billion in economic activity as a result of market closures and a decline in trade activities (World Bank, 2016). Boko Haram's attacks in Nigeria have hampered commercial lines, making it difficult to transport goods from one area to another. Major thoroughfares and roadways have been targeted by the terrorist group, making it challenging for trucks and other vehicles to convey cargoes between cities.

The attacks by Boko Haram activities have forced Nigerian traders to relocate. To avoid violence, many traders were compelled to leave their homes and places of business. Due to the inability of traders to conduct business in the area, trade and commerce have decreased. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Center said that the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria has resulted in the displacement of over 2.5 million people (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2021). The attacks by Boko Haram have also significantly raised the cost of food in Nigeria. There is a lack of food in some areas as a result of the interruption of trade routes and market closures, which has raised prices. According to a United Nations assessment, the cost of basic staples like corn and beans has jumped by as much as 50% in some regions of Nigeria (UNICEF, 2020). Due to this, many Nigerians now find it impossible to buy basic essentials. Likewise, this has caused a decreased foreign direct investment in Nigeria. Due to the volatility of the region, it has become more challenging for foreign businesses to operate in Nigeria, particularly Borno state.

4.3 Effects on Health

In the same vein, Boko Haram terrorism has had manifest impact on healthcare in Borno state. Hospitals and health facilities have been serially assaulted by the outlawed group, which has resulted in the permanent or temporary closure of these institutions and a decreased access to healthcare services. A rise in avoidable fatalities and the spread of illnesses including cholera, measles and meningitis have been reported as a result of the Boko Haram assaults, according to a report by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF, 2018). This was recurrent in the overcrowded IDP Camps. The health and well-being of the inhabitants of Borno State have been significantly impacted by this. Abdulkabir (2017) revealed that among those who have been impacted by Boko Haram terrorism, the prevalence of mental health issues such depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is significant. Many locals have to endure unending psychological anguish as a result of the instability and terror brought on them by Boko Haram assaults, especially those who have personally experienced the carnage (Izge, 2019).

It is natural that individuals who experience violence (and terrorist violence in this case) are prone to depression and anxiety. The intensity of exposure to Boko Haram violence, therefore, correlates with increased anxiety of the victims. The terror committed by Boko Haram in Borno state has also

had a significant impact on the people's physical health. The devastation of hospitals and clinics as a result of the violence has made it difficult for many individuals to get healthcare services (UNICEF, 2019). Overcrowding in camps as a result of population relocation has raised the danger of infectious illnesses. Internally displaced people (IDPs) in Borno state had greater malaria prevalence than non-IDPs (Odeyemi, Onasoga & Okereke, 2019). This is because there are no healthcare facilities or good living circumstances in the camps. In the IDP camps, there have also been epidemics of cholera and measles in addition to malaria (UNICEF, 2019). The insecurity created by Boko Haram terrorists has also restricted access to hospitals. The gang has targeted health personnel, killing or kidnapping several of them (Abdulkabir, 2017). This has led to acute shortage of medical personnel in the state, further decreasing people's access to healthcare services.

4.4 Effects on Education

Another sector in Borno State that has been significantly impacted by the Boko Haram conflict is education. The group has attacked schools, murdered teachers, and abducted children, leading to the shutdown of schools and a decline in educational activities. In northeastern Nigeria, particularly Borno State, the Boko Haram insurgency has harmed over 2.8 million children and damaged over 1,400 schools, according to a study by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF, 2018). As a result, there are much fewer schools now available to kids, who dread to attend, especially in rural areas where security presence is near absent. Both students and teachers have had to move or be moved. Several schools were compelled to close and many students and teachers ran away from their homes to escape the violence. UNICEF (2020) reported that many of these displaced students and pupils are unable to attend school thereafter. Such violent and fearful atmosphere is certainly not conducive for teaching and or learning. The number of students attending school has significantly decreased, especially among girls. According to Amnesty International (2018), women are disproportionately affected by the violence and are more likely to abandon their studies due to worries about their safety.

Sadly, in order to address the security situation, the government is forced to divert resources away from education. With an estimated 10.5 million children not attending school, Nigeria has one of the highest percentages of out-of-school children in the world (UNESCO, 2021). The attacks by Boko Haram have

worsened the situation and made it more challenging for the government to provide education to the locals. Sadly still, the students (and parents) in the violence-prone areas have lost the zeal for schooling. One would recall the terrorists' express threat to recapture the Dapchi victims should they return to school.

4.5 Effects on Transportation

With incessant attacks on public transportation, roads and highways, Borno State has been particularly hard hit. The state's transportation business has seen a significant slump as a result of interruptions in the road and highway network, decreased mobility, rising costs, a decline in tourism, and damage to the transportation infrastructure. The road and highway networks are frequent targets of attacks by Boko Haram through detonating explosives and ambushing travelers to obstruct the passage of people and goods. Important roads frequently targeted for attacks include the Maiduguri-Damaturu road, a vital thoroughfare between the cities of Maiduguri and Damaturu. At least 30 persons were killed and the road was severely damaged when Boko Haram assaulted a convoy of trucks in February 2020 (BBC News, 2020).

The daily lives of the people in Borno State have also been significantly impacted by the attacks on the road and highway networks. Transit interruptions and fear of attack have made it challenging for many people to go to work, market, school and other important activities. Several individuals are forced to stay at home. This has reduced social and economic activities. Economic activities decline when people are unable to travel for business purposes. In addition to making it more difficult for aid organizations to provide assistance to individuals in need, the disruption of road and highway networks has also reduced the availability of essential services. According to a study by the International Crisis Group (2020), Boko Haram's control of key roads made it difficult for people and products to move across the area. In the same vein, Amnesty International (2021) alluded that Boko Haram claimed responsibility for a number of attacks against tourists, including the kidnapping of women and girls.

In addition to causing people to evacuate their homes, Boko Haram's attacks have severely restricted their movement. Businesses have found it difficult to transfer goods and supplies as a result of the shutdown of major routes and checkpoints. According to a United Nations (2021) report, the attacks by Boko Haram have cost the area's economy

an estimated \$9 billion. Transportation costs have skyrocketed as a result of this ugly situation. As other routes must be used, which are occasionally longer and riskier, the cost of delivering goods has skyrocketed. These series of attacks have also affected Borno State's tourism industry. The state is home to a number of historical and cultural landmarks, including the Sambisa Forest Reserve and the ancient city of Kanem-Bornu. However, the security situation has prevented visitors from visiting these locations, which has reduced revenues accruable from tourism (Ojekunle & Ajiboye, 2018). Two of the area's tourism destinations are the Mandara Mountains and the Chad Basin National Park. Unfortunately, the security situation would make it almost a misadventure for any would-be visitors. Businesses that depend on tourism, such hotels, parks and restaurants, have been severely impacted by the decline in tourism.

5. Counter-Terrorism Strategies to Address the Menace of Boko Haram in Borno State

Throughout these years, the sect has been unrelenting and merciless in attacking their targets. The Nigerian government has in place a variety of countermeasures to address the danger presented by Boko Haram in Borno state:

Military Operations: The Nigerian government has dispatched military personnel to Borno state to fight Boko Haram. To reduce the group's ability to operate, the military has started ground and air operations as well as information gathering. For instance, Operation Lafiya Dole was launched in 2015 to address the insurgency of Boko Haram in Northeast Nigeria (Council on Foreign Relations, 2020). The operation was effective in retaking some of the areas that the group had previously held.

Community Policing: Community policing is another counterterrorism strategy used in Borno state. A component of the strategy is collaborating with the local populace and vigilantes to spot and alert security officers to any suspicious activity. Attacks by Boko Haram have been detected and prevented through this tactic. For instance, the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), a community policing organization, has played a critical role in identifying and reporting suspicious behavior in Borno state (Council on Foreign Relations, 2020).

Rehabilitation and Reintegration: For former Boko Haram members and those impacted by the insurgency, the Nigerian government has also put in

place rehabilitation and reintegration programs. To help those impacted by the insurgency, the initiative offers education, job training, and psychosocial assistance. Several former terrorists who willingly surrendered their weapons have been successfully de-radicalized and reintegrated into society through the program (Council on Foreign Relations, 2020).

Diplomatic Efforts: Nigeria has sought international security assistance and partnership to combat the Boko Haram insurgency in Borno state. For instance, to improve regional collaboration in combating Boko Haram, the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) was founded in 2015 (Council on Foreign Relations, 2020).

Development initiatives: These initiatives aim to provide basic necessities including water, healthcare and education for communities devastated by the insurgency. The programs aim to improve the socioeconomic conditions that make people more susceptible to the group's efforts (Council on Foreign Relations, 2020). This also manifests in the modest and commendable efforts of the incumbent Governor Zulum to rebuild the waste places and resettle the displaced people.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

Terrorism constitutes a critical challenge to Nigeria's drive to development. Boko Haram terrorism has had substantial influence on Borno state's socioeconomic development. The group's operations have impacted the state's means of livelihood, education, and transportation, causing monumental death, displacement, infrastructural deficit and loss of properties. Boko Haram's attacks on livelihoods, including farming and fishing, result in food insecurity, famine and malnutrition in the state. The demolition of schools and the relocation of instructors and students have disturbed the education system, resulting in a drop in educational quality, loss of human capital and increased out of school children. The transportation assaults and fear of being ambushed have made the mobility of people and commodities difficult.

It is soothing to note that successive military operations have been successful in recapturing most of the territories previously controlled by the group, while community policing and intelligence has been effective in identifying and foiling Boko Haram assaults. Various development programs, including rehabilitation and rebuilding of the waste places, have also been implemented to address the socio-economic conditions that make communities in the

state vulnerable to the group's activities. Thus, the following recommendations are made base on the findings of the study:

The government at all levels and non-governmental agencies in the state should encourage job creation and economic empowerment for the teeming youth population who are ready made instrument for terrorist activities. As part of the government's stabilizing efforts to resettle the distressed people, increasing work opportunities and economic empowerment towards poverty alleviation should be prioritized. This can be accomplished by implementing targeted development initiatives such as microfinance, vocational training and entrepreneurial assistance. This should be administered in a way that will reflect social and economic justice.

The central government should partner the state to rebuild damaged schools and guarantee a secure learning environment. There is an urgent need to rebuild and provide access to quality education for children of school age and young people in the state. This can be achieved through the provision of adequate funding, improved teacher training and motivation, physical presence of security men in the schools and the implementation of educational policies that promote inclusivity and equity across the state. Attempt to focus on only the few urban centers will leave the rural areas vulnerable to, and breeding site for, terrorism.

Interfaith and interethnic conversations and reconciliation should be promoted by religious organizations and individuals. The religious leaders, in particular, have a huge role to play in properly reorienting their followers to appreciate the importance of peace and tolerance. Promoting interfaith and interethnic communication and reconciliation is critical for addressing the underlying causes of the Boko Haram crises. This will also promote social cohesiveness and build better understanding and tolerance among different religious and ethnic inclinations. Moreover, community leaders and civil society organizations must be involved in peacebuilding and conflict resolution projects to assist develop trust and foster better collaboration among diverse groups in the state.

Finally, there is the need now to refocus the country's security architecture. While it is important to keep and improve the federal security apparatuses like the police and armed forces, the idea of community policing should be encouraged to allow state

government deploy armed men to combat peculiar criminalities in their domain. This recommendation is made on the understanding that the federal security forces are becoming overstretched for the enormous security challenges facing the country, and that the natives will better understand themselves in crime prevention or conflict resolution. For instance, we believe that the long held Sambisa forest abode of Boko Haram can be better combed with the assistance of the natives' intelligence gathering.

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