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EFFECT OF POST INSURGENCY ACTIVITIES ON LIVELIHOOD OF VICTIMS IN NORTH EAST NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The aftermath of insurgency in North East Nigeria poses a significant and complex challenge to the livelihoods of its victims. The post-insurgency resulted in numerous factors that directly impact the economic stability and overall well-being of the affected individuals. The extent to which post-insurgency activities contribute to the disruption of livelihoods, encompassing issues such as income generation, asset loss, employment opportunities, and access to basic amenities, remains a critical and underexplored problem. Understanding the extent at which the insurgency affects the victims is imperative for developing targeted strategies and interventions aimed at fostering recovery, resilience, and sustainable rehabilitation in the region. This research work is aimed at determining the effect of post-insurgency activities on livelihood of victims in North East Nigeria. The study adopted a survey design. The study sampled 386 IDPs from different camps in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states using simple random sampling technique. Data collected were analyzed using frequency counts, percentages, independent sample t-test and one way analysis of variance. Results revealed that, the activities of the insurgents greatly affect livelihood of the IDPs, majority of the respondents have no access to skills development programs, there is significant gender difference on the impact of post-insurgency on the livelihood of IDPs and also there is significant differences in perceived impacts across different age groups. The study therefore, recommended enhancing livelihood support programs, tailoring income-generating activities (IGAs) to local preferences, and establishing diverse training sources.

Keywords: Post-Insurgency, Livelihood, Income Generating Activities, Internally Displaced Persons

Introduction

Nigeria's North East region is affected by several challenges ranging from instability associated with the prolonged Boko Haram conflict in some parts of the region; floods, dry-spells and droughts occasioned by climate change; incidences of crops and livestock diseases (Gado & Wasiu, 2019). The brutal massacre of humans and the destruction of properties has unleashed untold hardship on individuals and communities in the Northeast Nigeria (Muhammad & Hussain, 2021). The vicious attacks by the Boko Haram sect, brings about the internal displacement of persons within the Nigerian polity. The distorted livelihood of internally displaced persons makes humanitarian assistance an inevitable ameliorating factor for their survival (Ekpa, 2016). The torrent of attacks rained on the people in the North Eastern part of Nigeria, pulled national and international attention and response to mitigate the debilitating conditions that affected persons grapple within their various wrecked communities, especially in the area of providing shelter that

led to the building of camps for the internally displaced persons in the Northern Nigeria (Sowale *et al.*, 2022).

Boko Haram insurgency, which has tremendously affected the country's socio-economic and political sanity, is the foremost devil the Nigerian government battles in the history of Nigeria's democratic installation of 1999 (Orogun, 2021). The nature of the Boko Haram violent attacks renders it a threat to national and international environment as their actions devastate the peace of the neighbouring countries of the West Africa region (Hassan, 2014). Vicious assault of the insurgents on the military personnel, religious outfits (Churches and mosques) schools, media, markets, farms, and international agencies further complicate the nature of national woes the Nigerian government has to combat particularly in the northeast Nigeria (Murtala, 2020). The view of the impact of the insurgency transcends the national security lens to human security as the destruction of lives and properties characterized the damages caused by the insurgents (Ojochenemi, 2019).

Historically, North East Nigeria especially Borno State is known as a trade hub given its strategic location on the country's important borders (Ifeanyi, 2023). In this regard, the geographical position of Borno State in the North-East offers a great advantage to trading activities which is a key success factor (Yalmi, 2020). However, as the returnees begin a new life in their resettled places in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe state as their journey to gain a secure livelihood changed direction on account of the new socio-economic and political realities. Although most of the returnees depended largely on donor support when they were IDPs, some of them adapted and adopted new means of livelihood to survive in the new environment. According to Ivlevs and Veliziotis (2018) and Alexion (2021), the displacement and return of the IDPs has led to underemployment of majority of the population. As a result, they were forced to adapt and find means of livelihood to survive in their new environment.

Statement of the Problem

The terrorist organization Boko Haram activities in the Northern parts of Nigeria, Cameroon and Lake Chad basin have resulted to refugee and Internally Displaced Persons debacle which has resulted to a dire humanitarian crisis in the region. Since 2001, Boko Haram has been perpetrating deadly terrorist attacks in the Northern parts of Nigeria. In 2013, the group successively expanded its terror attacks and bombings into Cameroon. Until then Cameroon had been a safe haven for refugees and displaced persons from Nigeria. The attacks in Cameroon have resulted in the huge movement of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDP) into both Nigeria and Cameroon respectively.

Millions of people in Northeast of Nigeria had been forced out of their homes as a result of Boko Haram Insurgency or human rights abuses. The scale and scope of the task of responding to the security and assistance needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has grown as the displacement continues over time. Long displacement cycles, often for more than a decade, have a devastating effect on the lives of populations of concern and result in significant human potential losses. Many people lost their jobs and sources of

their livelihoods. As of early May 2020, the effects of the pandemic on agriculture and food systems in North East Nigeria had become evident, specifically in relation to food supply chains and interstate movements of agricultural produce, including both commodities and animal feed. It is against this background that this research work intends to determine the effect of post insurgency and Covid-19 on livelihood of victims in North East Nigeria specifically Borno, Adamawa and Yobe State.

Aim and Objectives

The aim of this study is to investigate the effect of post insurgency activities on livelihood of victims in North East Nigeria while the specific objectives are to:

1) Determine the effect of insurgency on the livelihood of IDPs in North East Nigeria.
2) Identify the most favourable income generating activities (IGA) for IDPs in North East Nigeria.
3) Identify training sources for the IDPs which will provide needed skills to engage in the identified income generating activities (IGA) in North East Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions were answered:

1) What is the effect of insurgency on the livelihood of IDPs in North East Nigeria?
2) What are the most favourable income generating activities (IGA) for IDPs in North East Nigeria?
3) What are the sources of training which will provide needed skills to engage in the identified income generating activities in North East Nigeria?

Research Hypotheses

H_{01}: Boko Haram Insurgency has no significant impact on the livelihood of IDPs in North East Nigeria by Gender.

H_{02}: Boko Haram Insurgency has no significant impact on the livelihood of IDPs in North East Nigeria by Age Group.

Research Method

The design of the study was based on descriptive survey. The population of the study comprised of seven million and one hundred thousand internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe State. While a sample of three hundred and eighty six (386) IDPs was selected using simple random sampling technique. The sample size was determined using Taro Yamane (1967) table of sample size determination. The research instruments used in this study was a self-developed questionnaire tagged Effect of Post Insurgency on Livelihood of Internally Displaced Persons. Data collected from the questionnaire was analyzed charts, frequency counts, percentages, independent sample t-test and One Way Analysis of Variance.

Presentation of Results

Table 1: Effect of Insurgency on Livelihood of Internally Displaced Persons' in North East Nigeria

S/N	Items	RESPONSES			
		SA	A	DA	SD
1.	Insurgency has significantly disrupted my source of income	154 (39.9%)	211 (54.7%)	13 (3.4%)	8 (2.1%)
2.	I have lost valuable assets (e.g., property, business) due to the effects of insurgency	133 (34.5%)	232 (60.1%)	17 (4.4%)	4 (1.0%)
3.	Finding employment opportunities is extremely challenging in the current situation	197 (51.0%)	183 (47.4%)	5 (1.3%)	1 (0.3%)
4.	Insurgency has hindered my ability to access basic services such as healthcare and education	163 (42.2%)	187 (48.5%)	21 (5.4%)	15 (3.9%)
5.	The uncertainty caused by insurgency has negatively impacted my overall economic stability	208 (53.9%)	156 (40.4%)	17 (4.4%)	5 (1.3%)

Table 1 provides insights into the profound impact of insurgency on the livelihood of internally displaced persons (IDPs). A substantial majority of respondents indicated that insurgency significantly disrupted their source of income, with 54.7% agreeing and 39.9% strongly agreeing. Similarly, a significant proportion, 60.1%, reported the loss of valuable assets such as property and business due to insurgency. The challenges extend to employment opportunities, as 51.0% find it extremely challenging to secure employment in the current situation. Access to basic services like healthcare and education is hindered for a notable portion of respondents (42.2% agree, 48.5% strongly agree). Additionally, the uncertainty caused by insurgency has a pervasive negative impact on the overall economic stability of IDPs, with 53.9% expressing agreement and 40.4% expressing strong agreement. These findings highlighted the challenges faced by IDPs due to insurgency, emphasizing the urgent need for comprehensive support and intervention to restore and improve their livelihoods.

Table 2: The Most Favourable Income-Generating Activities for the Internally Displaced Persons'

S/N	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGES
1.	Agriculture and Farming	132	34.2%
2.	Livestock Farming	105	27.2%
3.	Handicraft and artisanal skills	50	13.0%
4.	Small scale retail business	43	11.1%
5.	Food processing and catering	22	5.7%
6.	Community based initiatives	19	4.9%
7.	Technological and digital skills	15	3.9%
	TOTAL	**386**	**100%**

The detailed interpretation of table 2 illuminates the nuanced preferences of internally displaced persons (IDPs) concerning income-generating activities. Agriculture and farming emerged as the most favored choice, with a substantial 34.2% of respondents expressing interest, underscoring the significance of cultivating crops and engaging in farming practices for livelihoods. Livestock farming closely followed, selected by 27.2% of participants, indicating a noteworthy preference for animal husbandry as a viable income source. The considerable interest in handicraft and artisanal skills, chosen by 13.0%, emphasizes the importance of preserving and utilizing traditional craftsmanship. Small-scale retail businesses garnered 11.1% of responses, illustrating the entrepreneurial inclination within the IDP community. Food processing and catering, community-based initiatives, and technological and digital skills, though with smaller percentages (5.7%, 4.9%, and 3.9% respectively), reflect a recognition of diverse income avenues, including modern and collaborative approaches. This comprehensive view underscores the multifaceted economic aspirations of IDPs, highlighting the need for a flexible and inclusive approach to income-generating initiatives.

Table 3: Training Received by the IDPs in North East Nigeria

S/N	Variables	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Have you received any training or skills development programs to help with your income-generating activities?	No	331	85.8%
		Yes	55	14.2%
2.	What is the source of the training	NGO	54	98.2%
		Government	1	1.8%
3.	Were the training programs effective in improving your skills for income-generating activities?	Not Effective	2	3.6%
		Effective	24	43.6%
		Very Effective	29	52.7%
4.	How satisfied are you with the training received? (Choose one)	Dissatisfied	2	3.6%
		Satisfied	22	40.0%
		Very satisfied	31	56.4%

The data on training received by internally displaced persons (IDPs) indicates that a majority of participants, 85.8%, have not received any training or skills development programs to enhance their income-generating activities. Of those who did receive training (14.2%), the majority obtained it from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), accounting for 98.2% of the cases, while only a small percentage received training from the government (1.8%). Regarding the effectiveness of the training, the majority of respondents found the programs beneficial, with 52.7% rating them as "Very Effective" and 43.6% as "Effective." Additionally, satisfaction levels with the received training were generally high, as 56.4% expressed being "Very Satisfied" and 40.0% were "Satisfied," indicating a positive perception of the training programs among those who had the opportunity to participate. These findings suggest that while a portion of IDPs has received valuable training, there is a significant proportion without access to such

programs, highlighting a potential area for intervention and support to enhance skills and income opportunities among this population.

Table 4: Independent Sample T-Test on the gender difference on the impact of insurgency on livelihood of IDPs in North East Nigeria

Gender	Mean	SD	df	T	p-value	Remark
Male	107	6.59				
			384	9.01	0.000	Reject H_{01}
Female	279	5.38				

In Table 4, an Independent Sample T-Test was conducted to examine gender differences in the impact of insurgency on the livelihood of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in North East Nigeria. The mean score for males was 107 (SD = 6.59), while for females, it was 279 (SD = 5.38). The analysis revealed a significant difference in the mean scores between genders, with a t-value of 9.01 and a p-value of 0.000. Consequently, the null hypothesis (H_{01}) suggesting no gender difference in the impact of insurgency on livelihood is rejected. This statistical outcome indicates that there is a statistically significant gender disparity in how individuals perceive the impact of insurgency on their livelihoods, with females reporting higher mean scores compared to males.

Hypothesis Two: Boko Haram Insurgency has no significant impact on the livelihood of IDPs in North East Nigeria by Age Group.

Table 5: One Way Analysis of Variance on the Impact of Boko Haram Insurgency on Livelihood of IDPs in North East Nigeria

Sources of Variation	Sum of Square	df	Mean Square	F	p-value	Remark
Between Groups	1664.193	3	554.731	42.159	0.000	Reject H_{02}
Within Groups	5000.054	380	13.158			
Total	6664.247	383				

Table 5 presents the results of a One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) examining the impact of Boko Haram insurgency on the livelihood of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in North East Nigeria. The analysis indicates significant variation between groups, with a sum of squares of 1664.193, a degree of freedom of 3, a mean square of 554.731, an F-value of 42.159, and a p-value of 0.000. Consequently, the null hypothesis (H_{02}) suggesting no significant difference in the impact of insurgency on livelihood among different groups is rejected. This statistical outcome demonstrates that there are statistically significant differences in the perceived impact of Boko Haram insurgency on the livelihoods of IDPs in North East Nigeria across the groups examined.

Table 6: Descriptive Statistics

Age Group	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
18-24 years	102	18.97	3.908	5	23
25-34 years	140	17.41	4.733	11	25
35-44 years	106	20.64	1.774	17	23
45 and above	36	24.47	0.609	23	25
Total	**384**	**19.38**	**4.171**	**5**	**25**

Table 6 presents descriptive statistics on the age distribution of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in North East Nigeria and their perceived impact of Boko Haram insurgency on livelihoods. The mean age for the overall sample is 19.38, with a standard deviation of 4.171, indicating a relatively diverse age range. The age groups (18-24 years, 25-34 years, 35-44 years, and 45 and above) exhibit varying mean ages, reflecting differences in the demographic composition of the surveyed population. For instance, the 45 and above age group has a higher mean age of 24.47, while the 25-34 years age group has a slightly lower mean age of 17.41. These statistics offer valuable insights into the age-related variations in how IDPs perceive the impact of insurgency on their livelihoods in the North East region.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that, the insurgents have led to disruptions, with a majority of participants experiencing setbacks in income, loss of assets, difficulties in finding employment, and restricted access to basic amenities. Also, the most favourable income generating activities identified include: engaging in agricultural activities, livestock rearing, handicraft skills, and small-scale retail businesses.

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