# Terrorism And Trans-Border Migration in North East Nigeria: An Assessment of Boko Haram Activities

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| Article History | Abstract |
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| <br><br> | *This research examines the complex nexus between terrorism and trans-border migration in North-East Nigeria, with specific attention to the operations of Boko Haram. The study analyzes how porous borders, weak institutional control, and long-established cross-border migration networks linking Nigeria with neighboring countries have been exploited by the insurgent group to facilitate recruitment, movement of fighters, arms smuggling, and logistical coordination. These dynamics have contributed significantly to Boko Haram's resilience and territorial expansion within the Lake Chad Basin region. The insurgency has severely destabilized local communities, resulting in widespread violence, economic disruption, and the collapse of livelihoods. As a consequence, millions of people have been forcibly displaced, either as internally displaced persons or as refugees seeking safety across international borders. This large-scale displacement has deepened the humanitarian crisis and heightened the vulnerability of affected populations, particularly women and youth, to exploitation and radicalization. The study argues that addressing the interlinked challenges of terrorism and trans-border migration demands a holistic and coordinated response. Beyond conventional military and security measures, effective solutions must incorporate strengthened border governance, regional cooperation, targeted humanitarian assistance, and inclusive long-term development initiatives. Addressing underlying drivers such as poverty, marginalization, and weak governance is essential for mitigating forced migration, undermining extremist recruitment, and promoting sustainable peace and stability in North-East Nigeria.*<br><br>***Keywords:*** *Terrorism, Trans-border Migration and Boko haram.* |

## Introduction

The intersection of terrorism and trans-border migration has emerged as a critical concern in global security, particularly in regions affected by violent extremist groups. North East Nigeria, plagued by the activities of Boko Haram, serves as a stark example of how terrorism can exploit porous borders, creating multifaceted challenges for regional stability. Boko Haram, which has waged an insurgency since 2009, has leveraged the complex dynamics of migration and border management to expand its operations and intensify its impact (Omar et al., 2025a). This paper seeks to examine the interplay between terrorism and trans-border migration in the context of Boko Haram's activities in North East Nigeria (Adesoji, A 2011).

The porous borders between Nigeria and its neighbors, including Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, have facilitated the movement of people, goods, and illicit weapons, creating an environment conducive to Boko Haram's operations. These borders, characterized by limited state presence and inadequate security infrastructure, have become channels for the group's recruitment, training, and logistical support. Trans-border migration, often driven by economic hardship and conflict, has also created displaced populations vulnerable to radicalization and exploitation by extremist groups. As a result, Boko Haram has effectively utilized these migration dynamics to sustain and expand its influence in the region (International Organization for Migration, 2022; Omar et al., 2025b).

Furthermore, the activities of Boko Haram have exacerbated the humanitarian crisis in North East Nigeria, leading to mass displacement of people both internally and across international borders (Onuoha, 2013; Magaji et al., 2025a). The group's attacks on villages, schools, and infrastructure have forced millions to flee their homes, resulting in one of the world's most severe displacement crises. The influx of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) has placed immense strain on host communities and neighboring countries, further complicating efforts to address the underlying causes of insecurity in the region (Adekoya et al., 2025). This phenomenon highlights the intricate connection between terrorism, migration, and regional stability (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2021).

The relationship between Boko Haram's terrorism and trans-border migration also underscores the challenges faced by regional and international actors in addressing this complex issue. Efforts by the Nigerian government, the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), and international partners to combat Boko Haram have been hindered by the difficulty of securing borders and managing migration flows. While military operations have achieved some success in weakening the group, the lack of a comprehensive approach to addressing the socio-economic drivers of migration and radicalization continues to fuel insecurity (Zenn, 2020; Ahmed et al., 2025; Magaji et al., 2025b).

This assessment highlights the urgent need for a multifaceted approach to counter the interrelated threats of terrorism and trans-border migration in North East Nigeria. A holistic strategy that integrates border security, humanitarian assistance, and development programs is essential to address the root causes of these challenges. By understanding the dynamics of Boko Haram's activities and their connection to migration patterns, policymakers and stakeholders can develop more effective responses to promote stability and security in the region.

## Literature Review and Theoretical Framework
### Conceptual Review
### Terrorism

Terrorism is the deliberate use of violence or the threat thereof to instill fear and achieve political, ideological, or religious objectives, often targeting civilians or non-combatants. It is a global issue that transcends national boundaries, undermining security and disrupting societal order. Terrorist groups utilize asymmetrical tactics such as bombings, cyberattacks, and kidnappings to challenge state power and advance their agendas. The United Nations defines terrorism as acts intended to provoke terror for political purposes and stresses the need for international

cooperation to combat its effects (United Nations, 2021). The phenomenon is further exacerbated by globalization, as advances in technology and communication have facilitated the coordination and dissemination of extremist ideologies across borders.

### Trans-border migration

Trans-border migration refers to the movement of individuals or groups across international boundaries for various reasons, including economic opportunities, political instability, conflict, or environmental challenges. This type of migration often involves the pursuit of better living conditions, access to resources, or escape from adverse circumstances in the country of origin (Abeke et al., 2025). Migration generally can have significant social, economic, and political impacts on both the origin and destination countries, such as workforce changes, cultural exchanges, and policy challenges related to immigration and integration (Oyinloye et al., 2025). Additionally, it raises issues regarding human rights, legal status, and the enforcement of international migration agreements (Castles, de Haas, & Miller, 2020). Understanding trans-border migration requires a multidisciplinary approach, combining insights from sociology, political science, economics, and international relations.

## Theoretical Framework
### Conflict Theory

Conflict theory, developed by Karl Marx and expanded by other sociologists, posits that society is characterized by perpetual conflict due to competition for limited resources. This theory emphasizes the power dynamics and inequalities between different social groups, particularly focusing on the struggles between the ruling class (bourgeoisie) and the working class (proletariat). Conflict theory argues that social structures and institutions are designed to maintain the dominance of those in power while marginalizing others. It highlights issues such as economic inequality, class struggles, and social injustice, serving as a lens for analyzing systemic disparities in areas like education, law, and labor (Marx & Engels, 1848/1998; Collins, 1975). The theory remains influential in understanding societal changes and movements advocating for equity and justice (Zailani et al., 2025).

### Empirical Review

UNICEF (2023) titled: " The Economic Cost of Conflict in North East Nigeria", the study reveals that as of 2021, the Nigerian economy was 2.5% smaller than it would have been without the conflict, equating to a cumulative loss of approximately $100 billion over the last ten years. Furthermore, over 2 million people currently remain displaced, and around 1 million children have missed school due to the armed conflict. Speaking on the report,

the UNICEF Representative in Nigeria, Ms Cristian, stated: "The data collected brings a harrowing reality into sharp focus. This is not merely a localised issue; the economic and social repercussions of this conflict are felt nationwide and beyond". Ms Cristian further highlighted the potential long-term consequences of the ongoing conflict: "Even if we anticipate a reduction in conflict effects over the next ten years, the Nigerian economy still faces profound cumulative losses. The 'scarring' effect of this drawn-out conflict may inhibit the economy from achieving its full potential, jeopardising the nation's future prosperity." Calling for swift and unified action to end the conflict, Ms Cristian emphasised, "The time to act is now. The future of our children and our nation's economic growth is at stake. We must prioritise peace and protecting children's rights to ensure a brighter future for Nigeria. The stakes are too high". Cristian added. The study primarily emphasises the significance of protecting individuals' rights, focusing on their rights. While this focus is undoubtedly valuable and necessary, the research tends to overlook other critical factors that play a vital role in addressing the issues of insecurity and insurgency within the country. By concentrating predominantly on human rights protection, the study may inadvertently neglect several key elements essential for a comprehensive understanding of insecurity and insurgency dynamics. For instance, socio-economic conditions, including poverty, unemployment, and lack of access to education, significantly contribute to the root causes of these challenges. Political instability, governance issues, and corruption are substantial factors that can escalate tensions and lead to violent conflict. Moreover, the study may not adequately address the significance of community engagement and local perspectives in developing effective solutions. Understanding the experiences and grievances of the communities affected by insecurity and insurgency is crucial for formulating interventions that resonate with the needs of those most impacted. By overlooking these broader contextual elements, the research risks presenting an incomplete analysis that could hinder the development of effective strategies to combat insecurity and insurgency. Consequently, while important, the focus on protecting people's rights must be integrated with a more holistic approach that considers the diverse, interconnected factors influencing insecurity and insurgency in the country. Addressing these issues comprehensively would enhance the effectiveness of interventions aimed at safeguarding human rights, particularly for vulnerable populations such as children, and contribute meaningfully to the overall stabilisation and security of the nation.

Otu et al. (2022) titled: " Effects of Boko Haram Insurgency on Northeast Nigeria: A Critical Analysis". The study interrogated The effects of Boko Haram insurgency on the

Political Development of North East Nigeria: A Critical Analysis is: to ascertain the effects of Boko haram insurgency on the East geo-political zone in Nigeria political development of North East geopolitical zone of Nigeria. Their studies adopted the applied frustration-aggression theory and adopted qualitative research. The study discovered the following findings: the activities of Boko Haram Insurgents affected the economic development of the East geopolitical zone. Boko Haram insurgents affected the political development of the Northeast geopolitical zone, and the activities of Boko Haram insurgents affected the social development of the Northeast Geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The researcher also made the following recommendations: the federal government should seek external security support to return peace that will enhance the economic growth of the northeast geo-political zone of Nigeria, the sponsors of Boko Haram should be fetched and brought to justice, and the Federal Government should rebuild all that was destroyed in the North zone including markets, industries, houses, churches and mosques. However, the research focuses on the relationship between insurgency and political development in the northeastern region of a country, likely Nigeria, given the context of ongoing insurgencies there. Here are a few key points to consider in understanding this emphasis:

Ezeajughu (2021) titled: "Effects Insecurity on Economic Development in Nigeria ". The paper examined the relevant issue of Nigeria's insecurity and its effects on socioeconomic development. He claimed that Nigeria had witnessed unprecedented security challenges occasioned by the activities of militants in the South-South region, kidnappers in the southeast, violent armed robbery in most parts of the country, political assassination, ritual killings and more recently, activities of Boko Haram in some parts of the northern region predominantly northeast. The study recommends various measures to curb insecurity, including preventive community policing, human development-centred growth perspective, equitable distribution of resources, and channelling resources to frontline sectors of the economy, among others. However, the study fell short of its objective to thoroughly identify and analyse the primary causes of insecurity and insurgency in Nigeria. Despite its importance, the research did not delve deeply enough into the complex and multifaceted factors contributing to these pressing issues. This oversight may stem from various factors, including a lack of accessible data, insufficient engagement with local communities, or an inadequate framework for understanding the socio-political dynamics. As a result, the study could not effectively outline the key drivers of insecurity and insurgency, such as poverty, unemployment, ethnic and religious tensions, historical grievances, and the influence of extremist

ideologies. By not pinpointing these underlying causes, the research risks presenting an incomplete picture of the situation. This gap in analysis limits the ability to develop comprehensive strategies for addressing the root problems and may hinder policy formulation in resolving the ongoing crises.

Nasiru (2020) titled: "Rising Insecurity in Nigeria: Causes and Solution". The study claimed that Nigeria is facing an inflation and insecurity crisis, which has turned into an unending challenge, not only by defying security procedures but also by making scorn of the efforts of the law enforcement agents and the millions of naira annually budgeted by the government as security votes. The study examined the rising insecurity in Nigeria and its causes and solutions. The finding revealed that the causes of insecurity are the menace of unemployment and poverty, elite exploitation of ethnicity and religious differences, corruption, weak security apparatus, porous border, marginalisation and inequality in the country, and bad governance and poor leadership. The solution in this paper ranges from opposing the aforementioned causes of insecurity. However, the paper failed to state the solution to Nigeria's insecurity and insurgency clearly. This points to a significant shortcoming in the study's treatment of a crucial issue. The writer would have considered the following in his paper:

Another investigation on how the Boko Haram (BH) uprising as a terror group has affected the different socio-economic and security activities of Nigeria was conducted by Illugbami & Adeniran (2023), which was founded on The Regional Security Complex Theory (RSCT) and the literature review methodology. They argued that even though sub-regional and regional actors have devised various counter-measures to combat the danger and menace created by the BH group, the existence, manners and deeds of this group have had various dynamics of considerable socioeconomic impacts and have also given birth to calamitous and horrible regional and sub-regional insinuations. They advised stakeholders to engage in sociological, psychological, military, political, economic, environmental, regional and sub-regional efforts to combat the existence of the BH group. The study failed to identify the impacts of insecurity on the northeast region's education and healthcare sector.

Okoye's (2020) work assessed the involvement of international actors such as the African Union, the United States, and the United Nations in Nigeria's counter-insurgency efforts. It concluded that international cooperation has been critical but insufficient. The study centered on the role of international organisations in combatting Boko insurgency in the northeast region of Nigeria.

Usman and Bello (2021) investigated how Boko Haram's use of social media helps spread its propaganda, recruit members, and disseminate its ideology. The study emphasised Nigeria's need for cyber counter-terrorism measures to prevent further insurgency. Ahmed (2020) examined the humanitarian crises triggered by Boko Haram, focusing on internal displacement and refugee flows. It highlights the challenges displaced persons face and humanitarian organisations' response.

**Gap in Research**

The research gap in the existing literature on the impact of insecurity and insurgency in Northeast Nigeria, as illustrated by the provided studies, lies in the lack of a comprehensive, multi-dimensional framework that integrates socio-economic, political, and community-based factors alongside the protection of human rights. While UNICEF (2023) emphasizes the economic and social costs of conflict and the need for safeguarding children's rights, it does not delve deeply into the structural causes of insecurity, such as poverty, unemployment, and political instability. Similarly, studies like Ezeajughu (2021) and Nasiru (2020) highlight the socio-political factors contributing to insecurity but fail to address how these factors interact with local community dynamics and governance frameworks. Furthermore, research by Illugbami & Adeniran (2023) and Okoye (2020) explores regional and international responses but neglects critical sectors like education and healthcare in conflict-affected areas. This gap highlights the need for a holistic study that examines the root causes of insecurity, the socio-economic impact, and the interplay of governance, community engagement, and rights protection. Such an approach would better inform policies and interventions to address insecurity and insurgency in a sustainable manner.

## Methodology
### Research Design

Central to any meaningful academic research is the research design. According to Albert (2014), a research design is a strategy and the basic conceptual framework that provides the necessary guidelines and procedures for how a researcher intends to conduct his study. It is an action plan designed to achieve a specific objective. Mbachu (2011) enunciates that a good research design outlines the population to be studied, the sample size, how the data is to be collected, what tools are to be used and how the data will be collected and analysed. Quoting Selltiz et al., Mbachu submits that a research design "is the planning of the conditions for data collection and analysis in a way that aims to combine relevance for research purposes with economics in the process" (Mbachu, 2011, p. 109). Manu (2020) posits that a research design is a 'master plan that

enables a researcher to systematically tender a solution for a research problem under study or investigation.' For Bless and Higson-Smith (1995), a research design is a programme that serves as a compass to the researcher as it assists in data collection, analysis and interpretation. Similarly, Akpa (2011) explains that a research design is an explicit process and procedure utilised in obtaining data to solve societal problems. As Reynolds (2005) argued, a research design is a detailed sketch that gives an idea of how an investigator plans to undertake a scientific experiment.

Research design is a detailed plan or structure of how the researcher intends to generate relevant data for research. The study adopted a survey research design. According to Obasi (1999), survey research is a means of gathering information on a population under examination using either interviews or questionnaires. The adopted survey approach is Focus Group Discussions (FGD), Key informant interviews (KII) and participant observation.

**Location of the Study**

North-East Nigeria is one of the six geopolitical zones in the country. It is situated in the northeastern part of Nigeria and shares borders with three countries: Niger to the northwest, Chad to the northeast, and Cameroon to the southeast. The zone comprises six States: Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe.

The estimated population of North East Nigeria was around 20 million people. However, population figures can fluctuate due to various factors such as migration, conflict, and natural growth. For the most accurate and up-to-date population statistics (NPC, 2021)

North-East Nigeria is ethnically diverse, with several major tribes and ethnic groups. The significant tribes include:

Kanuri: Predominantly found in Borno State, the Kanuri ethnic group is one of the largest in the region and has a rich cultural heritage. Another tribe commonly found in the zone is the Hausa people, who are influential in trade and commerce and are present across the region, especially in urban areas (Okonkwo, 2015).

Again, the Fulani or Fulbe tribe, often associated with pastoralism, is widespread in the North East and is known for its cattle-rearing practices. They are predominantly found in Adamawa, Taraba, Bauchi, Gombe, and Yobe. Margi are primarily located in Borno State and have distinct language and cultural practices peculiar to their people. Jukun tribe are found mainly in Taraba State; the Jukun people have historical significance and engage in farming and trading (Nwodo, 2014)

The economy of North East Nigeria is mainly agrarian, with agriculture being the primary economic activity. Key economic activities in the region include:

Agriculture: The fertile lands in certain parts of North East Nigeria allow the cultivation of crops such as millet, sorghum, rice, maise, and vegetables. Smallholder farming is prevalent, and communities engage in subsistence farming. Livestock rearing, mainly by the Fulani herders, also contributes significantly to the region's economy. Other livestock, such as goats, sheep, and poultry, are also raised. Trade and commerce are also part of the region's economic activities. Major towns and cities in the region serve as trade hubs, with markets where agricultural products and local crafts are sold. The region's proximity to neighbouring countries facilitates cross-border trade (CBN, 2020)

Again, fishing is an essential livelihood for many communities, particularly in areas like Taraba State, where fisheries provide protein sources for local diets. People in the region also engage in handicrafts activities, crafting goods such as textiles, pottery, and leather products, contributing to the local economy and culture. The region is also rich in natural resources, including minerals such as tin, limestone, and coal, although the mining sector is less developed than agriculture in the region (Okoruwa & Adebayo, 2013).

**Population of the Study**

According to NPC (2020), the North East has a total population of 20,000,000. The issue of insecurity is alarming and disappointing, as the region has recorded a high rate of insecurity as a result of the activities of the Boko Haram insurgency. The study population comprised the residents of the region who have attained the age of eighteen and above.

**Sample Size and Sampling Technique**

A sample is a fraction or representative group from the population, while sampling is the procedure for selecting the sample from the population. Sampling techniques aim to maximise efficiency and validity, whether the methodology employed is quantitative or qualitative. According to Zamboni (cited in Manu, 2020), sample size is practical and stands for the number of each part of data generated in a study. A survey sample size is significant in deciding the accuracy and reliability of a study's results.

In qualitative research, purposive sampling is widely used to identify and select information-rich cases related to the phenomenon of interest. Robinson (2014) states that purposive sampling is 'an intentional selection of informants based on their ability to elucidate a specific theme, concept, or phenomenon.' Furthermore, it is a selection strategy that concentrates on people with particular characteristics who are knowledgeable about the subject matter and will be better able to assist with the relevant research. Concerning Nigeria's population,

estimated to be over 200,000,000, the study employed a sample size of **30.** The respondents will be drawn from the personnel of the Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN), the Nigerian Police Force (NPF), the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), Department of State Services (DSS), Nigerian Customs Service (NCS), Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). The selected key informants and participants in the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) shall consist of academics, security consultants, administrators, and security practitioners who are knowledgeable about issues of national policing, national development, and national and human security.

**Methods of Data Collection**

For this study, both primary and secondary data collection methods will be used. The primary data will be sourced through Key Informant Interviews (KII) and Focus Group Discussions (FGD).

The key informant interviews (KII) will be conducted using a drafted interview guide. An interview is a process in which a trained researcher directly asks questions to any respondent of their choice. Interviews will be conducted in places where the interviewees are located. Most of the interviews will be held in the offices and residents of the respondents. A telephone interview will be utilised when it proves challenging to conduct a face-to-face interview. The interviews and FGDs will be electronically recorded with the permission of the interviewees. When participants do not permit electronic recording devices, notes will be taken.

Furthermore, secondary data will also be sourced through the use of library resources, such as textbooks, journals, magazines, newspapers, and internet materials. These materials will be obtained from the libraries of the Centre for Defence and Documentation, Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA), Kaduna, Armed Forces and Command Staff College, and the libraries of National Defence College, Abuja.

**Methods of Data Analysis and Presentation**

Narratives from the interview and documented materials form the bulk of the analysis. Thematic analysis, a widely used method in qualitative research across the social, behavioural, and applied sciences, will be employed to analyse the collated data for the study. The qualitative data will be translated and transcribed, reported, and discussed under appropriate themes.

**Validity and Reliability**

To obtain qualitative data from the field, the researcher will utilise the services of a few research assistants for data collection. The research assistants will be trained and tutored to ensure that the data collected from the field are reliable and noteworthy. The training will ensure that the research assistants are aware of the key motives of the study. The research assistants will be trained to ensure that the information obtained from the respondents is original. The KII and FGD guide will be validated by my research supervisors and other lecturers in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna and other security specialists, especially from the policing architecture. Furthermore, a letter of introduction will be collected from the Department to mitigate the challenge of suspicion and any other ulterior mistrust respondents may have.

**Ethical Considerations**

Research ethics entails a course or measure researchers are expected to use to gather facts about social problems or phenomena. Considering the subject matter, as well as the research sites and respondents, in the sampled states, there is a need to ensure confidence building among the respondents to obtain reliable data. The respondent's anonymity will be assured throughout the process. More so, the principles of honesty, respect, fidelity, and transparency will be maintained, whereby any information disclosed will be beneficial to the research and not for mischievous purposes. The researcher will be strongly guided by ethics and cultural and religious sensitivities in undertaking the research. The researcher will seek consent and highlight the essence of the research to the KII and FGD respondents before commencement. Also, the respondents will be guaranteed confidentiality of all relevant information, as their feelings and emotions will be adequately considered.

**Data Presentation and Analysis of Results**

*Table 4.1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents*

| Age | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 18-25 | 6 | 20 |
| 26-35 | 8 | 26.67 |
| 36-45 | 12 | 40 |
| 46-55 | 3 | 10 |
| 56- and above | 1 | 3.33 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Total | 30 | 100 |
| Sex | | |
| Male | 23 | 76.67 |
| Female | 7 | 23.33 |
| Total | 30 | 100 |
| Academic Qualification | | |
| NFE | 3 | 10 |
| FSLC | 7 | 23.33 |
| SSCE | 11 | 36.67 |
| ND/NCE | 4 | 13.33 |
| HND/DEGREE | 2 | 6.67 |
| POSTGRADUATE | 3 | 10 |
| Total | 30 | 100 |
| Occupation | | |
| Unemployed | 12 | 40 |
| Students | 5 | 16.67 |
| Business | 3 | 10 |
| Civil Servant | 4 | 13.33 |
| Private Workers/ Farmers | 6 | 20 |
| Total | 30 | 100 |
| Ethnicity | | |
| Hausa | 3 | 10 |
| Kanuri | 7 | 23.33 |
| Margi | 3 | 10 |
| Fulani | 10 | 33.33 |
| Others | 7 | 23.33 |
| | | |
| Total | 30 | 100 |
| Religion | | |
| Islam | 13 | 43.33 |
| Christianity | 12 | 40 |
| Traditional Religion | 5 | 16.67 |
| Total | 30 | 100 |
| Marital Status | | |
| Single | 7 | 23.33 |
| Married | 12 | 40 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Divorced/Separated | | 5 | 16.67 |
| Widow/Widower | | 6 | 20 |
| Total | | 30 | 100 |

*Source: Authors Computation, (2026).*

From the table above, 20% of the respondents were within the age bracket of 18-25 years, 26.67% were within the age limit of 26-35 years, 40% were within the age bracket of 36-45 years, 10% were within the age limit of 46-55, and only 3.33% were within the age of 56 and above during this research.

Again, the table revealed that 76.67% of the respondents were male, and 23.33% of males participated more than females. This directly relates to a male-dominated society.

Furthermore, the table revealed the education level of the participants. It disclosed that 10% of the total population were people with non-formal education, 23.33% of the respondents were people with first school leaving certificate, 36.67% were holders of SSCE, 13.33% were holders of NCE/ND, 6.67% were holders of first degree/ HND, and 10% were those with postgraduate certificates.

The table also showed that 40% of the respondents were unemployed during this research, 16.67% were students, 10% were business people, 13.33% were in public service, and 20% were engaged in other activities such as private work and farming.

Furthermore, the table indicated that the Hausa constituted the majority of the respondents, with 10%, Kanuri, 23.33%; Marghi, 10%; Fulani, 33.33%; and other tribes, 23.33%.

The table revealed that 43.33% of the respondents were Muslim by faith, 40% Christians, and 16.67% traditionalists.

Finally, the table revealed that 23.33% of the respondents were married, 40% were singles, 16.67% were divorcees, and 20% were widows/widowers.

## Question 1: What is the Implication of Boko Haram Terrorism

The implications of multi-dimensional conflicts in Nigeria, as well as the fallout of the Boko Haram insurgence, have left behind inestimable damage to every facet of life in Nigeria.

One of the respondents said that:

"There *is no saying that it has slowed the national economic growth and development since no investors would prefer to invest in a crisis-ridden nation. Due to infrastructural decay, it further compounded the problems associated with relocating multinational companies to safer territories in Africa, such as Ghana. One of the noticeable effects has been the tendency to worsen unemployment and lead to youth restiveness, thereby making crime a profitable venture and attractive. It has also led to the near collapse of the tourism industry as the nation loses huge foreign currency that could have accrued from this sector".*

In addition, another respondent said:

*The scourge of Boko Haram, if not checkmated, might lead to food scarcity in Nigeria in the long run, though a glimpse of such was experienced in July 2012 when the prices of food items and vegetables skyrocketed in the south. This resulted from the inability of traders from the north to transport commodities due to general insecurity in the north. The dangerous aspect that has not caught the government's attention is the nature of migration currently experienced in Nigeria for the first time. In this instance, not only are the Southerners migrating from the North alone, but also the Northerners are migrating because of insecurity. Most of the migrants from the north are of a productive age and are farmers and tradespeople by profession.*

The above responses explain why most of the Okada riders in the Western States are of northern extraction. The danger is that they have abandoned their profession (farming), which will reduce food production and compound the problem of food importation. Okpaga, Chijioke, and Eme (2012) observe that Nigeria spends over 10 billion dollars yearly on importing four food items alone, including sugar, wheat and rice. Though President Jonathan said that the situation was unacceptable, the long-run effects of the insurgence have not been given justifiable attention as governments in Nigeria pay lip services to the agricultural revolution.

Furthermore, there is no doubt that the migrants will put additional pressure on the host communities regarding infrastructure and security challenges. With the banning of Okada on significant roads in places like Lagos, the eastern parts of the nation may not be a viable alternative. There is a tendency that the migrants might be a security threat and take to crime as a means of livelihood. More than that, such frustrated elements might easily be influenced to serve as agents for the Boko Haram in the south. Any successful attack by the sect in the south might lead to reprisal, an effect that might not be predictable concerning the corporate existence of Nigeria.

The insurgence tends to lead more Nigerians into poverty. Subair (2012), relying on National Bureau of Statistics estimates using the relative, absolute and dollar-per-day poverty measures, notes that poverty may have risen slightly to about 71.5 per cent, 61.9 per cent and 62.8 per cent, respectively, in 2011. If the scourge is not addressed, many able hands will be rendered jobless on account of migration, and this will give feedback to the challenges imposed by insecurity. To address insecurity, governments tend to increase their spending on security. At the same time, resources could be diverted from socio-economic development programmes that could transform the nation and provide a conduit pipe for fraud and misappropriation of funds in the name of security coverage.

Another dimension of the Boko Haram insurgence is the effect on the corporate image of Nigeria within the committee of nations. Internationally, the image of the nation is dented. At the same time, prostitution, crime, drug trafficking, fraud and high levels of corruption are the issues that are negatively affecting the reputation of Nigeria and Nigerians anywhere in the World. For a decade, efforts were made without success to rebrand the shattered image of Nigeria. No amount of image laundering can influence the international community's impression if negative news daily emanates from the nation.

The activities of Boko Haram in Nigeria have led to palpable fear among the citizenry and a high sense of insecurity due to regular loss of life and damage to properties and Infrastructures on account of bombings and reported cases of assassination. According to Jimmoh (2011), the death list was 1400 as of 2011, while Igbokwe (2012) put the figure at about 1500 in the last year. Okpaga, Chijioke, and Eme (2012:9-12) gave a summary of terrorist acts perpetrated from July 27, 2009, to February 17, 2012, which is a manifestation of how dangerous the sect is. The implication is that there is a general belief that the government is helpless and incapable of handling the situation, as this has left the populace at the mercy of a thirsty sect and everybody to himself. Recently, the attack by the sect had no regard for any establishment, including security, international agencies, the press, private individuals, emirs, churches and mosques. It has left the impression that nobody is safe while it questioned their avowed commitment to Islamic revival.

Miss Agnes Agwuocha's experience as a seventeen-year student in Kano captures the state of palpable fear she expressed.

*"We are afraid of Boko Haram. Daddy and Mummy keep us awake all night in case the attackers decide to invade our home. They would lock all the doors tightly, pray all Night and ask us to sleep. However, we never can, for we do not know what will happen next... They said we would soon go home, so we are waiting".*

This cannot but worsen the refugee and internally displaced problem in Nigeria.

Moreover, the insecurity also tends to breed religious unrest because of a multitude of attacks on churches and, recently, on Muslim prayer grounds. Miscreants elsewhere can hide under the banner of Boko Haram and use the opportunity to perpetrate havoc further. The government's inability to address the challenges led to the general belief that everybody must provide security coverage. This will further compound the problem associated with the proliferation of light arms (Oche, 2008). This position agrees with Raleigh (2011) that:

*Severe political instability – civil wars, genocides and politicides – leads to increases in international migration and internally displaced persons; those conclusions are further interrogated to find that economic and social vulnerabilities can be equally critical factors in shaping movements from conflict zones.*

This situation informed Eze (2012) to take a hard look at developments in the country and conclude that there is a mixed bag of darkness, insecurity, and a *glimpse of hope for the future of Nigeria,* provided there is an honest commitment to the challenges posed by the sect.

**Question 2:  What is the implication of Boko haram on Economic Development?**

Nigeria is a country endowed with natural and material resources, all completed favourably with one another in securing a big chunk of foreign exchange earnings for the country in the early 60s, the discovery of oil, and the unprecedented wealth accursed from it in the 70s, soon emerged Nigeria as a primary foreign exchange earner. Despite the natural and mineral resources with which the country is endowed, coupled with numerous governmental policies and programs to foster peaceful co-existence among multi-ethnic-religious entities which make up Nigeria, the country has virtually become a battlefield where incessant ethnoreligious and political crises have staged the implication of the crises on economic development, is that the instruments which are supposed to be used for sustainable development are conversely being used for destruction and vandalisation purpose (Muhammed, 2002).

Apart from the fact that many virile men of the nation are seriously affected by the Boko Haram crisis, which consequently led to their deaths, the country's sources of revenues are equally affected. Since no economic development could occur in an atmosphere of fear, anarchy and insecurity become the order of the day. It, therefore,

means that Boko Haram menaces are a bane to economic development. Looking at it internationally, the Boko Haram crisis has added to the fear of foreign investors (foreign) in Nigeria (Abonyi, 2006). Cases of kidnapping of expatriates in Nigeria are no more news. One wonders how foreign investors could decide to establish themselves in the war zone apart from the fact that the image of Nigeria has been dented globally as a country that breeds social miscreants and annuals.

In some parts of the north, the security situation has affected farmland production, leading to increased food prices," Central Bank of Nigeria Deputy Governor Kingsley Maghalu said. According to Nigeria's National Statistics Bureau, food prices rose 9.8 per cent in June 2014, and inflation hit 8.2 per cent, the highest in 10 months. The effects of conflict on the agricultural sector are essentially due to the risk of being attacked by the Boko Haram insurgents; the industries are under a few different strains. Firstly, is the simple problem of human mobility? People across all value chains feared movement outside protected areas because of attacks by insurgents, farm workers, federal attacks while grazing animals, professors lost workers when families left the conflict zone, and traders began limiting their movements. The danger has made other things like transportation riskier and economic output (Kathleen, July 2014).

One of the respondents in Maiduguri, Borno State, where the sect originated, claimed that:

*"Commercial activities in the trade hub are down by half because of the campaign of violence waged by the terrorist group Boko Haram and government effort to curb it seem to yield no positive result".*

Another interviewee, a local fish seller in Baga Market of Maiduguri metropolis, while describing the economic effects caused by Boko Haram, said:

*"Business has been slow in the last year, and it is increasingly difficult to make ends meet sometimes; I spend the whole day in the market without making any sales because traders in neighbouring villages of Gulak, Madagali, Gwaza, Izge, and other areas are no longer coming in due to Boko Haram attacks. I use whatever little sales I make to feed my family. I plan to take my five children to private schools in Mubi and Jimeta Metropolis and put them in a government-owned school in Michika, as I cannot afford the fees".*

Boko Haram insurgencies have gulped the Nigerian government millions of Naira to put in place numerous amenities which are destroyed during the crisis. Resources that could have been used to improve these amenities and embark on other developmental projects would have to be used to restructure and replace what was damaged during the crisis. Apart from the fact that many virile men of the nation are seriously affected by the crisis, which consequently led to their deaths, the country's sources of revenue are equally affected. Since no economic development could occur in an atmosphere of fear, anarchy and insecurity become the order of the day.

The crisis of Boko Haram added to the fear of investors who were "foreign" in Nigeria (Abonyi, 2006). Cases of kidnapping of expatriates in Nigeria are no more news. One wonders how foreign investors could decide to establish in the war zone.

The greatest of the scenarios is the amount of funds being used or diverted to security issues and related matters. The aim is to enable the country to meet the challenges of the present threat. The federal government allocated ₦ 968 billion or one-quarter of its 2014 budget, estimated at N 4.964 trillion, to fight against the Boko Haram insurgency in the country, according to the provision of the budget signed into law by President Jonathan (vanguard May 24, 2014). These funds can be best utilised to provide infrastructures in the country, like good roads, electricity, and other vital amenities that will enhance Nigeria's economic development.

**Question 3: What is the implication of Boko Haram on National Integration?**

Boko Haram insurgency has, over the years, appeared to be negation the principle of harmonious organisation and peaceful co-existence of the country because it appears that the group is trying to succeed in the northern part of the country from its eastern, western and southern counterparts. Respondents said that:

*"The sect has succeeded in instilling fear and hatred among the people who have been living in peace and harmony for decades. For instance, Adamawa state is a heterogeneous society with a high social diffusion of over 70 tribes, ethnic compositions, and languages. However, despite their differences, Adamawa was known to be one of the most peaceful states in the northeast until the rise of the current bombings and attacks, which have brought misery among the people; prior to the present insurgency, Muslims, Christians and other religious believers were living peacefully. However, today, Boko Haram has brought disintegration; Muslims are no longer comfortable discussing family issues with other Christian brothers. This ugly situation is not peculiar to Adamawa state alone but cuts across the northern region. For fear of being attacked, the southern, western and eastern parents are no longer eager to register their children in most schools in the north".*

There is an apparent disparity between the opinions of other ethnic groups. For instance, the Igbo people, who dominate

the western part of the country, have a serious passion and affiliation for education. These people often visit other regions of the country in search of Western education. The aftermath of this dispute will be a conscious strategy by the East to liberate its people from the shackles of the North to have an enabling environment for carrying out educational activities to broaden the horizon of the Easterners. This has automatically divided the society into different blocks seeking to be independent in a democratically dependent nation. This invariably leads to disintegration, making it impossible for national integration to thrive.

Several attacks on churches, among which is the attack on St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Madala, Abuja, on the 25th of December, are often seen as a sign that the northern people uphold Islam ahead of Christianity. In a bid to combat the Muslims, the Christians seek to distinguish themselves and differentiate their religion, thereby officially declaring a state of independence of the Christians from the Muslims.

Therefore, this act divides society into two poles, which are constantly repelling each other, and, of course, national integration is hindered.

## Implications of the Management of Border in Nigeria on the National Security

In assessing the implications of the management of the border in Nigeria on National Security, the focus would be on its implications for the economy, national security, political situation, environment, and public health.

Implication on the Economy

A significant effect of porous borders is that they encourage smuggling, which negatively impacts the local economy and causes government revenue loss. For instance, a World Bank report estimated that goods worth N750 billion are smuggled into Nigeria through the Benin border every year (Ian, 1998)

Smuggling activities at the border make it difficult for the local industry to grow. This causes job losses and attendant social challenges. It is, therefore, imperative that efforts to grow the Nigerian economy give priority to enforcing Nigeria's anti-smuggling laws.

### Security Implications

A significant implication of porous borders is that they negatively impact internal security. The porous border permits criminal lords and individuals with criminal intent to infiltrate the country. For instance, the committee on Boko Haram insurgency in Bauchi, Yobe, and Borno States in 2009 confirmed the involvement of illegal immigrants in the (Col Adeosun).

The NCS seized a total of 91 automatic weapons and 411,471 ammunitions that were destined for use by criminal elements in the country between 1999 and 2008. Nigeria's porous borders have aided the smuggling of arms. Notably, easy access to arms and ammunition has been noted to contribute to the escalation of religious and ethnic riots. It equally emboldened ethnic militia, vigilante groups and terrorist groups to launch attacks on government security against the incidences of arms smuggling into Nigeria that have enabled terrorist groups to attack government security agencies. It would also go a long way to improve human security in Nigeria.

### Political Implications

Nigeria's porous borders have profound political implications. This is because recorded border incursions in the past have been attributed to security agencies pursuing criminals across the lines into Nigeria. Nigeria has always viewed such incursions seriously; for example, in 1984, Nigeria's significant international Joint patrol accord with Chad. This was a sigil to a bloody clash that pitched Chadian soldiers against Nigerian army personnel in the Lake Chad area. The Chadian soldiers were in hot pursuit of rebel soldiers taking advantage of Nigerian porous borders to escape arrest from Chad.

The political instability in Chad has recently led to the influence of displaced persons who eventually find their way into Nigerian border communities. Often among the refugees are criminals and fleeing soldiers who later turn around to common robbery in their host communities. Considering the political implications, it is required that a new approach and methodology be adopted regarding the security arrangement at Nigerian borders. Such a new arrangement would consider global best practices in border security and sophistication and another new dimension in international terrorist activities.

### Environmental and Health Implications

The Nigerian porous border has encouraged the smuggling of outdated electronics and products whose waste products are not friendly to the environment; it has also encouraged the importation of toxic waste products into Nigeria. For instance, in 1987, some Italian businessmen, in collaboration with Nigeria, imported and dumped toxic waste in Koko town near Sapele, resulting in serious health hazards. Equally, the importation of fake and adulterated drugs to Nigeria has profound implications.

Another dimension to the importation of drugs is that most criminals are known to be under the influence of drugs during robbery operations or when they engage security officials. Meanwhile, fake drugs are known to cause health hazards. Therefore, the environmental and health implications of Nigerian porous borders must be seriously

considered. Consequently, health and environmental security officers at the border need to be part of any significant arrangement to reduce the porosity of Nigeria's borders.

## Prospect for Mitigating the Challenges of the Management of Border in Nigeria

There are some prospects to address the challenges of border management in Nigeria. These are leadership commitment, cooperation of neighbouring countries, establishment of a border area development agency and region, and global collaboration.

### Leadership Commitment

Leadership commitment is a major prospect in mitigating the challenges of border management in Nigeria. This could be seen in government-reviewed efforts to eliminate and reduce criminal activities across Nigeria's borders. For instance, the FGN recently instituted a study that identified 1,497 irregular routes being used by illegal immigrants to gain entry into Nigeria.

In order to address these challenges, the FGN approved the procurement of an Aircraft for border patrol at a cost of N141.78 billion.26 Other measures include the introduction of electronic surveillance at the border and the capture of biometric data of persons entering or leaving Nigeria, as well as increased training of border security personnel in the USA and Italy.

### Cooperation of Neighbouring Countries

The renewed cooperation from Nigeria's immediate neighbouring countries constitutes a prospect in addressing the challenges of managing the border in Nigeria. One example of such cooperation is the joint sea and land patrols that are jointly conducted between Nigeria and the Benin Republic.

The joint maritime patrol is codenamed "Operation Prosperity", while the land patrol is tagged "Operation Fire for Fire". These measures are already yielding results as they have significantly reduced criminal activities in Nigeria's Benin maritime border environment. Similar efforts are ongoing to revive the joint border patrol arrangement between the Nigerian and Niger Republics and between Nigeria and the Chad Republics.

### Establishment of Border Community Development Agency

In order to reduce movement across borders on account of social facilities, the FGN established the Border Community Development Agency (BCDA) in 2003. A significant function of the BCDA is to ensure the sustainable social, economic and infrastructural development of border communities in Nigeria. Others include developing and being the vehicle for the provision of people-oriented, sustainable and equitable development projects in the border communities, thereby ensuring their full integration, commitment, patriotism, and loyalty to the Nigerian. Since its establishment in 2003, the agency has been able to stand up to the task of providing social and infrastructural development, which is the function of the Agency to the Border Communities at the Nigerian Borders.

Recently, members of the National Assembly (NASS) called for improved funding of the agency, which has already commenced building health centres and other social amenities. This has the prospect of addressing the challenges of a porous border and terrorism in Nigeria.

### Regional and Global Collaborations against Terrorism

The current regional and global collaboration against terrorism holds prospects for the challenge of porous borders and acts of terrorism in Nigeria. There is the West African Police Chiefs forum, which is focused on fighting trans-border crimes, the ECOWAS inter-government action group against money laundering in West Africa, and the Committee of Chiefs of Security Services.

Equally, there is the African Union Defence and Security Forum. All these institutions, in which Nigeria plays active roles, hold good prospects for mitigating the challenges of porous borders in Nigeria. In addition to ECOWAS small arms, on the global level, there is the US-led Trans-Sahara counter-terrorism partnership. This partnership aims to provide training and technical services for the countries in the subregion to enable them to counter terrorism.

### Strategies to Mitigate the Challenges of the Management of Border in Nigeria

Many strategies exist to mitigate the challenges of border management in Nigeria. They include promulgating a comprehensive policy on border management, adequate funding of NBC, establishing new security arrangements at the borders, and reviewing the ECOWAS protocol on free movement.

### Promulgation of Comprehensive Policy on Border Security and Border Management

The promulgation of a comprehensive policy on border security and border management is imperative to address the challenge of limited border security policy. Such a policy would need to redefine the roles of the various government agencies involved in border security and border management, taking into consideration global best practices and current security challenges at the borders. It would clearly state how the new arrangement would be founded.

This would be achieved through appropriate policy initiation by the NBC through seminars in which all relevant agencies would participate. The outcome of such a seminar could form the basis for a comprehensive draft policy that would be forwarded to the NASS through the Ministry of Interior. All these could be achieved by the third quarter of 2014.

**Adequate Funding of National Boundary Commission**

Adequate funding for NBC would go a long way in addressing the challenges of an ill-defined border. This could equally be followed by the erection of electric fences to complement the efforts of the border security agencies. Through improved funding and by setting targets and timelines, the commission would be able to execute most of its programmes, which have been delayed by funding.

This can be achieved by increasing yearly budgetary allocation to NBC. The FGN could also ensure adequate lobbying of NASS members to approve such budgetary proposals appropriately. By lobbying the NASS members and seeking assistance from international partners, the FGN could raise adequate funds for the border delineation and demarcation programme. Improved funding for the NBC and the erection of electric fences could be achieved in the second quarter of 2013.

**Adoption of National Guard**

Adopting new security arrangements at the borders would go a long way in addressing the challenge of poor coordination between security arrangements at the borders. The new arrangement would involve merging the Civil Defence Corps and the Mobile Police Unit of the Nigerian Police into the National Border Guard (NBG), playing a leading role and serving as the first line of security, while other agencies, such as the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) and the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), functions will be restricted.

To achieve this, the NBG could be mandated to establish forward operation bases close to the Nigerian border, initiating relentless border patrol backed up by helicopter units, intelligence personnel and Security gadgets. Equally, the NIS and the NCS could be restructured to have separate security units dedicated to customs, excise and immigration issues. Retired military personnel could be employed in the new departments to make them more effective. The new security arrangement could be reflected in any new policy on border security and border management. All these could be achieved by the third quarter of 2014.

**Coherent Counter-Terrorism Strategy/Policy**

Rather than our typical haphazard approach, it is high time Nigeria articulated a coherent and unified strategy towards countering terrorism and insurgency. We cannot continue doing the same thing the same way over and over again and expect different results. The United Nations Counterterrorism Committee advocates for countries to have comprehensive national strategies, including countering incitement motivated by extremism and intolerance. Similarly, the United Nations Counterterrorism Implementation Task Force (UN-CTITF) also recommends promoting public-private partnerships. It posits that developing partnerships with the private sector, especially where State resources are limited.

Sequel to the complexity of the Security situation in Nigeria with a mix of economic, political and social strife, the United Nations Counterterrorism Implementation Task Force (CTIF) accentuates the importance of strategy and a collective effort to counterterrorism. Underscoring the importance of Strategy to America's war on terror, President Obama was quoted as saying:

*"Unless we are committed to a better strategy, America may be drawn into more wars she does not need to fight''.*

As a sequel to Nigeria's active membership of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Nigeria must do everything possible to stifle terrorist funding by vigorously carrying out inquiries, freezing assets, impeding suspicious money transfers and money laundering. A programme must also be put in place to compensate victims of terrorism and their families adequately.

## Conclusion and Recommendation

This study has demonstrated the complex interplay between terrorism and trans-border migration in North East Nigeria, with Boko Haram's activities serving as a prime example. The porous borders and complex migration patterns in the region have significantly facilitated the group's recruitment, logistics, and expansion. The findings reveal that Boko Haram's insurgency has exacerbated the humanitarian crisis, leading to mass displacement and creating vulnerabilities for radicalization. The study underscores the challenges faced by regional and international actors in addressing this complex issue, highlighting the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach.

To effectively address the interconnected challenges of terrorism and trans-border migration in North East Nigeria, this research recommends a multi-pronged approach. This includes strengthening border control mechanisms, addressing the root causes of migration through sustainable development programs, improving humanitarian response and addressing the needs of displaced populations, fostering community-based approaches to counter violent extremism, enhancing regional cooperation, developing and implementing effective counter-narrative strategies, and strengthening intelligence and law enforcement capabilities. By implementing these recommendations,

policymakers and stakeholders can work towards lasting peace and stability in the region.

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