

## **Effects of Boko Haram Insurgency on the Socio-Economic Activities of People Living in Northeastern Nigeria.**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Before the commencement of the Boko Haram insurgency in northeastern Nigeria around 2009, there is a high level of peace in the region with an appellation as the home of peace because there was peaceful coexistence during that time. Markets and commercial activities were fully and smoothly going on, farming is in commercial quantity, and all sorts of livelihood (access to health, education, meaningful housing, income affordability, foods, clothing, security of lives and property, social contentment, and so on). From the period 2011 to 2019, the people were made homeless, killed, denied access to farming, lacked sources of income, had no means for commercial activities, and generally took refuge as internally displaced persons both within and outside the country. This study assesses the effect of the Boko Haram Insurgency on the socio-economic activities of the people living in northeastern Nigeria. The study uses qualitative research and a total number of 281 respondents were captured for an interview and focus group discussion in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states respectively. It was found out in the study that the Boko Haram insurgency has negatively affected the farming activities of people of the northeastern Nigeria. Hence, it concluded that the Boko Haram insurgency severely affects the people's socioeconomic activities. The study recommends that Government, Non-governmental organizations, religious leaders, and influential citizens including donor agencies should encourage the people to go back to their farming activities and have more courage to start their farming activities.

**Keywords;** Boko Haram, Insurgency, living, Northeast, Socio-economic.

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Nigeria is a nation comprised of diverse ethnic and religious groups which makes it susceptible to perpetuate clashes. For instance, the quest for dominance between Muslims and Christians is an ever-present reality of the country, and different ethnic, tribal, and intra religious-groups have a quest for superiority over one another. In many instances, it is very difficult to differentiate religious conflicts, from ethnic/tribal conflicts among the various communities in the country. Nigeria is an interesting nation to consider when observing its circumstances, including the combination of its internal security problems; pervasive poverty; underdeveloped infrastructures; history of chronic ethno-religious violence, and military coups amongst others (Kinna, 2011). These ills have provided an impetus for the anger that breeds religious extremism and other social unrest in the country. The emergence of Boko Haram and its attendant security challenges is therefore the direct product of State failure in its responsibility to be sensitive to the plight and predicaments of the citizenry because poverty is unevenly distributed in Nigeria with the north being the worse hit comparably than the south region in Nigeria (Copeland, 2013).

Before 2009, Northeastern states in Nigeria were living in a peaceful manner; thus the region as a whole earned the appellation of the region of peace- fear or uncertainty: farming was also practiced in commercial quantities, and all sorts of conducive livelihoods were enjoyed in the area. However, as time went on from 2009-2019, farmers in the region particularly Borno, Yobe, and the Adamawa States were no longer able to farm because of the devastating nature of the Boko Haram insurgency which cuts across bombing, assassination, sporadic shootings, kidnapping, violent destruction of lives and property, manslaughter, and all

sorts of criminal activities which continue to unleash untold havoc and hardship in the other parts of the country. The severity of the consequences of the Boko Haram insurgency has made life to be very difficult for the people living in the area and mostly made to be homeless taking refuge as internally displaced persons both across states and even in other countries (Tchad, Cameroun, Niger amongst others). It was indicated in the reports of the National Bureau of Statistics NBS (2019) that 70% of people in the Northeastern part of the country (Boko Haram's traditional stronghold) live on less than one dollar a day compared to 50% and 59% in the South-Western and South-Eastern Nigeria respectively. Also, Government's Demographic and Health Survey in 2018 cited in Human Right Watch Report (2019) reported that less than 23% of women and 54% of men in Northeastern Nigeria could read and write compared to more than 79% of women and 90% of men in the South. While chronic malnutrition among children also lags behind in the northeastern states.

Notwithstanding the various efforts made by Federal, state, Local Governments, and Non-Governmental Organizations, resilience by some Community Members, and support from other countries to fight and provide succor for the northeastern states but still the availability of socioeconomic activities and the general being of the people is very low and unbearable, especially in areas such as trade and investment, high level of poverty, high level of unemployment, population displacements, education, trade, farming, rise of social of vices, the rise of destitution, amongst others.

In order to ameliorate the devastating effects caused by the dreaded members of Boko Haram and their activities, the government of Borno established and created the Ministry for Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RRR) with Professor BabaganaUmaraZulum as its pioneer Commissioner to ensure a secured and conducive life for persons internally displaced and returnee refugees by providing facilities to resettle them, and reconstruct the destroyed communities and ensure the safe return of the IDPs into their communities. Subsequently, other northeastern states like Adamawa and Yobe created the same ministry in their respective states, since then, there were gigantic efforts made by the Ministries in terms of Reconstruction, Rehabilitating, and Resettlement of the IDPs back to their communities. This is evident by the declaration made by the Governor of Borno State that all IDPs would be returned back to their communities by the end of 2021 under the aegis of the Kampala convention and currently, more than fifty percent of the IDPs camp were officially closed by the government. Therefore, this study is set to assess the effects of the Boko Haram insurgency on the socioeconomic activities of people living in the northeastern region.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Boko Haram Insurgency is a serious threat to the security and socioeconomic activities, not only in northeastern Nigeria, particularly, Borno state, but a global Problem. It was reported by Yerima (2017) that since the beginning of terrorist activities in late 2009 more than 27,000 people were killed in multiple attacks at one time that consequently leading to the displacement of gender-related victims such as women, girls, and children. Then the issue of internally displaced persons became the forefront of discussion in Borno State and other states of northeast, Nigeria. This has made the governments and all concerned bodies resolve to means by which these vulnerable and displaced persons would be adequately catered for, their destroyed facilities reconstructed and their lost glory to be rehabilitated to restore their minds and faith back to their ancestral homes. This is to enable them to return back to their farming activities, commercial activities, and all the livelihood that they have missed as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency.

There emerged the creation of the Ministry for Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement and the establishment of more than ten (10) officially IDP camps in the metropolis alone. In Yobe the ministry for humanitarian development and in Adamawa the ministry for reconstruction and resettlement were created also. This is in addition to the formation of non-official settlements of IDPs in host communities within the township of the state capitals and some were hosted by their relatives. Similarly, the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) was also established in the states in order to cater to the plight of the IDPs in the state in addition to the efforts made by more than (70) international and national non-governmental organizations and federal government agencies playing a significant role in the process of taking care of the needs of the IDPs. Babagana and Kaur (2022) observed that Public buildings such as schools, government quarters, and estates were the main areas where the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were camped apart from the establishment of official IDPs camps in Northeast, Nigeria and therefore, there supposed to be an ever-growing concern about the socioeconomic status of these displaced people. Therefore, this study will assess the effect of the Boko Haram insurgency on the socioeconomic activities of the people living in the northeastern region of Nigeria.

### **Objectives of the Study;**

- i. to examine Boko Haram insurgency and its effect on the farming activities of the people of Northeastern, Nigeria;
- ii. to examine the Boko Haram insurgency and its effects on the commercial activities of people in northeastern, Nigeria;
- iii. assess Boko Haram insurgency and its effects on the health status of people in northeastern, Nigeria.

## **II. LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **Boko Haram: Evolutionary Trends**

There are different versions concerning the origin and evolution of the Boko Haram sect. Some sources trace the Boko Haram origin to the Maitatsine sect in the 1980s. There are others who relate the origin of the group to its so-called first leader called, Abubakar Lawan who later went to the University of Medina for studies paving way for the group's popular leader - Muhammad Yusuf, to takeover (who was extra-judicially killed by the law enforcement agents). This version dates back to the roots of Boko Haram in 1995. As of then, the group was called Shabaab (Aro, 2013; Agbaje, 2014). The sect's real name is the Sunni Community for the propagation of the Prophet's Teaching and Jihad, i.e. Jama'atu Ahlis-Sunnah Lidda'awati Wal Jihad. Nicknamed Boko Haram (Western education is prohibited); the group was founded around 2002 by Mohammed Yusuf, a radical preacher based in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state, Nigeria.

Originally, the group leader affiliated himself with the moderate mass mobilization for the abolishing of heresy and the launching of a new variance of Sunnah (Izala) which means abolishing which was earlier established by the then leader Abubakar Gumi (late) in 1978. The Izala rejects armed struggle and has the guards that provide them with security cover, called "Yan Agaji" (helpers) and these people protect their religious gatherings where necessary. This school of thought likes collective bargaining than brutal disagreement with the state. While the other school of thought is always in disagreement and confrontational with the state.

According to the Office of the National Security Adviser ONSA (2015), the sect is ideologically linked to another internationally known Jihadist organization - Al-Qaeda (Montclose, 2014). Most writings have indicated the origin of the sect to the period 2002 in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state (Mukhtar, Ishaku, and Sani, (2021). In addition, Patrick and Felix (2013) are also in consensus with this version when they said the group was founded in 2002 in Maiduguri by Ustaz Mohammed Yusuf. There was a tactical movement of the sect to another area around 2004 in Yobe state (Kanamma) where the sect settled and was nicknamed as "Afghanistan" (Abdulrasheed, et'al, 2015). This base was used to attack nearby police outposts, killing police officers, and burning Churches and Schools with a vow that the war will continue as long as the political and educational system was not changed. The Boko Haramist prefer the shari'a law applied all over the country and this will be difficult for the government to comply with. The sect promised to run an independent government under the sharia law system where they can practice the Islamic religion uninterruptedly (Ilechukwu, 2014). The Federal Government of Nigeria saw these demands as treasonable, unreasonable, and unaccepted, and in an attempt to purge the group of its excesses, Mohammad Yusuf the leader was killed in 2009.

This followed the unprecedented rivalry that the sect showed toward government structures and targeted security personnel in 2009 which started in Maiduguri the capital of Borno state. These attacks were covered by all media outlets both within and outside the country. Their main target of attack were the security personnel, government infrastructures, churches and mosques, educational institutions, politicians, religious clerics, barracks, and police stations, and so on. It uses highly sophisticated weapons, sporadic shootings, and bombings, amongst others (CLEEN Foundation, 2014). As a result, a state of emergency was declared by President Jonathan in 15 local government areas in Borno, Plateau, and Yobe states on December 31, 2011, which remained in effect throughout almost up to 2012. At a point in time, more than 20 LGAs were said to be in the hands of the Boko Haram insurgents from 2013-2015 (Zulum, 2021). This was followed by the declaration of a total state of emergency on May 15, 2013, in Borno, Yobe, and the Adamawa State. The President, in his declaration, stated that; already, some northern parts of Borno state have been taken over by groups whose allegiance is to different flags and ideologies, and the terrorists and insurgents seem determined to establish control and authority over parts of our beloved nation and to progressively overwhelm the rest of the country. In many places, they have destroyed the Nigerian flag and other symbols of state authority and their places, hoisted strange flags suggesting the exercise of alternative sovereignty attacking government buildings and facilities.

They have murdered innocent citizens and state officials. They set houses ablaze and took women and children a hostage. These actions amount to a declaration of war and a deliberate attempt to undermine the authority of the Nigerian state and threaten its territorial integrity. As a responsible government, we will not tolerate this (Quoted in Adewumi, 2014). And therefore, these people have no option but to opt to live in their communities and resort to begging in the streets in search of livelihood a situation that is tantamount to the government opening IDP camps and resolving to host them in different locations and cater to their livelihood.

### **Effects of insurgency on Socio-Economic Activities**

Generally speaking, the insurgency has a suppressive effect on the social and economic aspects of a nation and insurgent terrorism has never recorded any good outcome in any part of the world. In Nigeria for instance, it is inadequate to mention insurgency in the country without reference to the activities of Boko Haram. Odo (2015) also noted that the group's insurgent activities have become even more violent and culminated in a lot of destruction when the deputy leader of the group, Shekau, took over the leadership of the group. During Shekau's leadership, Boko Haram organized deadly attacks on the civilian population,

government establishments, military and police installations, schools, churches, and mosques, offices, including United Nations Headquarters in Abuja. These operations expanded Boko Haram's theater of activities from the North-eastern states to other parts of the north such as Kano, Kaduna, Niger, Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina, Jigawa, and Abuja (Odo, 2015). Boko Haram has become a threat to the nation because its activities have crippled the socioeconomic life of the entire citizenry. Awolabi (2018) stated that the activities of the Boko Haram sect have rubbished the image of Nigeria and have hampered the quest of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as well as vision 2020. The Nigerian economy has been crippled by the ranging insurgency of Boko Haram (Hassan, 2014). Banks in the northern parts of Nigeria, especially the affected areas had to review their opening and closing hours as part of efforts by these financial institutions to safeguard their business premises.

This has made bank customers worry about the situation and it has become advantageous to the criminals to succeed in robbing the traders (Dele, 2018). Though, Dauda (2022) observed that these vulnerable traders mostly use their shops to save their monies which are very risky for them. That is why in addition to the frequent suicide bombings, there are growing cases of shop breaking, arm robberies, and burglaries in the affected areas (Ovaga, 2013). Another trend is the massive movement of Southerners from the North to their Southern hometowns, and many of them are small-scale and medium enterprise operators as well as professionals in various areas (Adebayo, 2018). These migrations from the north to the south especially the learned and the intellectuals have greatly affected the health and educational sectors in Northeast, Nigeria.

The growing insecurity in the North, especially that arising from the Boko Haram insurgency, has been the bane of the socio-economic situation that caused the migration of traders to the other regions of the nation in search of a conducive business environment, and rich men are turned to be destitute, brilliant children are turned to be orphans and generally, the security of lives and property cannot be guaranteed in the affected areas. More so, the prices of foodstuffs from the North to the South where they (foodstuffs) are greatly consumed have become exorbitantly high. This is because the traders from the South find it unsafe to travel to the North where products are bought. Consequently, these farm products are stockpiled wasting in the hands of farmers who rely on them as the only source of livelihood (Ovaga, 2013).

Furthermore, other related factors have compounded the situation; fall of the Naira and overreliance and emphasis on oil at the expense of agriculture, terrorism has damaged investors' overconfidence and sent the economy on a downward slide (Edobor, 2014). The impact of terrorist activities on economic development has increased tremendously in Nigeria. Therefore, it becomes an issue of concern to all individuals, governments, and cooperative organizations. According to Edobor (2014), the economic implications of violence and terrorism in Nigeria can be seen from different perspectives. The cost of destruction of lives and property and national productivity is directly affected while there are longer-term indirect costs reducing and curbing the menace, the human cost, and the number of lives wasted in the process. The cost of controlling and managing violent crimes and terrorism in Nigeria has really been very expensive and the worst hit by all these circumstances are the people living in Northeast, Nigeria.

### **Theoretical Framework(Failed State Theory)**

Andrew, Moran, Pilbeam, et'al (2015) argue that the failure of a state is characterized by "the loss of physical control of its territory; its monopoly on the legitimate use of force; the erosion of its legitimate authority to justly enforce decisions; unable to provide basic amenities of life; and disconnect with the international communities". Nigeria is blessed with abundant oil, natural/ mineral, and human resources that are popularly known as the giant of Africa and top 20 economies, was in the 17<sup>th</sup> most likely to fall on the list of 148 countries in the 2007 Failed State Index (Sani, 2007). And subsequently 11<sup>th</sup> in the 2019 index. As a result of its uneven economic and social development, failure to address group grievances, and a perceived lack of government legitimacy. While its oil wealth holds promise for the future of its people. Failed states are by extension the inability of the governments of a state to adequately cater to the yearnings and aspirations of its citizens (Stefan, et al, 2010). However, Roberg (2002) notes that in a failed state there is a tendency for increased criminal violence which further weakens the state's authority. He further notes that failed states are usually associated with tensed deeply conflicted and dangerous warring factions which most times leads to the breakdown of law and order, and increased humanitarian disaster, which concerns not only the people directly affected, but also others in the country as well as people directly in neighboring states

## **III. METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 The Study Area**

Borno, Yobe. and Adamawa was the main focus of this study because these are the states that were severely affected by the insurgency, and a brief profile of these states is provided in this section. Borno state is one of the oldest states not only in the northeastern states but in Nigeria at large. It is predominantly dominated by Kanuri as the major tribe spoken and has an estimated population of more than 6 million people according to the 2016 census projection. It has Twenty-Seven local government Areas and is located in the sub-Saharan

desert of northeastern Nigeria, sharing borders with Niger from the north, Cameroun to the east, and chad to the west. These states in the northeastern part of the country have recorded the highest number of injuries of all degrees from the hands of the Boko Haram Insurgency. While Yobe state was created out of the old Borno state that derived its freedom of existence as a state in August 1991. It shares a semblance of culture, ethnicity, tribal, occupational, and even religious identity with theBorno state. It has 17 LGAs with an estimated population of more than four million populations in the projected census of 2016. While Adamawa state formerly known as Gongola state in 1991, has 20 LGAs, with more than 20 ethnic groups, and is one of the states in northeasternNigeria with a heterogeneous population that has diverse cultures so prone to disunity. These states in the northeastern part of the country have recorded the highest number of injuries of all degrees from the hands of the Boko Haram insurgency and have the highest socio- economic potentials that made up the region’s strength.

**Sources of Data;** Data was sourced from two sources; Primarily from the returned IDPs, governmental officials, and community leaders in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states, and information from government ministries, departments, and agencies were used as Secondary data

**Population for the Study;**The target population for the study consist of all IDPs resettled back to their communities and the traditional rulers and other community leaders present in the three states identified in northeastern, Nigeria. And the population of these categories of people was obtained from the records of the relevant ministry of the respected states and thus;

**Table 1: Detailed Population of the Study**

SN	STATES	CATEGORY	POP.	PERCENTAGE
1.	BORNO	Returned IDPs	245,986	63.21
		Community leaders (present in the community)	1,109	0.28
		Traditional Rulers (Present in the community)	97	0.02
2	YOBE	Returned IDPs	89,468	22.99
		Community Leaders (Present in the community)	658	0.17
		Traditional Leaders (Present in the community)	2,054	0.53
3	Adamawa	Returned IDPs	43,281	11.13
		Community Leaders ( Present in the community)	2,569	0.66
		Traditional Leaders (Present in the community)	3,899	1.00
		TOTAL	389,121	100%

Source, Fieldwork, 2022

**Sample Size and Sampling Technique;**the sample size for this study is 400 respondentsthis was arrived at using Slovens Formula  $n = n=N/1+(e)^2$  to determine the sample size of the study and the sampling frame for the study is provided below;the sampling technique that was used in this study is Multi-Stage Sampling. Conveniently, one local government was selected in each of the three states on the basis of the severity of their experience with the menace of Boko Haram insurgency. Again, stratified sampling was used to categorize the respondents on the basis of similarity as well. Then simple random sampling was applied to select the respondents from the different cells created.

**Table 2: Sampling Frame Showing the Proportionate Sample Size for the Study**

Sn	States	Category	Pop.	Sample Size	Percent.
1	Borno (Bama)	Returned IDPs	245.986	132	33
		Comm. Leaders	1109	35	8.7
		Traditional Leaders	97	08	2.0
2	Yobe (Gujba)	Returned IDPs	89,468	70	17.5
		Comm. Leaders	658	20	5.0
		Traditional Leaders	54	06	1.5
3	Adamawa (Michika)	Returned IDPs	43,281	40	10
		Comm. Leaders	2569	47	11.7
		Traditional Leaders	3,899	42	10.5
		TOTAL	389,121	400	100%

Source, Fieldwork, 2022

**Method of Data Collection;**the study uses Survey Research and the use of available materials. Consequently, instruments of survey research such as interviews and focus group discussions were used in this study. Focus group discussion was administered to the returned IDPs in different cells, and KII was administered to the community leaders and the traditional leaders separately. Furthermore, secondary sources of information such as journals, textbooks, and Reports from relevant agencies such as the ministry for RRR, SEMA, and NEMA, of the respective states.

**Method of Data Analysis;** the result obtained from the focus group discussion and interviews with the respondents was analyzed using detailed descriptive analysis in line with the findings obtained from the study.

#### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

##### Data Presentation

A total number of 400 respondents were outlined for focus group discussions and interviews in this study. However, it is only 281 (70.25%) respondents were successfully captured for the interview and the focus group discussion organized for this study as shown in the table below;

**Table 3: Classification of Respondents according to their States/Local Governments**

States/Local Governments	Respondents	Percentage (%) Administered	% Retrieved	Percentage (%)
Borno(Bama)	175	43.75	120	30
Yobe(Gujba)	96	24.00	60	15
Adamawa(Michika)	129	32.25	101	25.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>70.25%</b>

Source: Fieldwork, 2022

Therefore, data analysis for this study is based on 281 (70.25%) respondents who have validly responded to this study.

##### Data Analysis

In line with the achievement of the specific objectives of this study, the respondents were asked several questions and the analysis of the results obtained from the respondents was presented below;

##### Effects of Boko Haram Insurgency on Farming Activities

During the process of the interview and the focus group discussion with the respondents, the respondents were asked whether the Boko Haram insurgency has affected their farming activities in the northeast region or not. This is to be able to ascertain the level of destruction caused by the Boko Haram insurgents in the area of farming activities in the northeast region.

**Table 4: Does the Boko Haram insurgency affects Farming activities?**

Responses	Borno(Bama)	Yobe(Gujba)	Adamawa(Michika)	Total %
<b>Yes</b>	115(95.8%)	53(88.3%)	83(86.9%)	251(90.6%)
<b>No</b>	5(4.2%)	7(11.7%)	18(13.1%)	30(9.4%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>120(100%)</b>	<b>60(100%)</b>	<b>101(100%)</b>	<b>281(100%)</b>

Source: Fieldwork, 2022

It was revealed in **Table 4** that 115 (95.8%) of the respondents in Borno confirmed that the Boko Haram insurgency have affected farming activities in the northeastern region of Nigeria, while 53(88.3%) of the respondents in Yobe have also maintained the same position that Boko Haram insurgency has affected farming activities in the northeastern region and 83 (86.0%) of Adamawa respondents also confirmed the same statement. Based on the high percentage of agreement among the respondents, the Boko haram insurgency has affected farming activities in northeastern Nigeria. By implication, this will result in the problem of hunger, poverty, malnutrition, and even unemployment in the region.

##### Effects of Boko Haram Insurgency on the Commercial Activities in Northeastern Nigeria

The northeastern region of Nigeria is known for being full of commercial activities that markets in the region are freely accessible even in neighboring countries like Chad, Cameroun, Burkina Faso, Niger, and many other international businesses going in the region. This study intends to know whether the activities of the Boko Haram insurgency have affected the commercial activities in the region or not. This is to determine the level of destruction caused by the Boko Haram insurgency to the socio-economic activities of the people living in the region.

**Table 5**How Does Boko Haram Insurgency Affect Commercial Activities?

Responses	Borno(Bama)	Yobe(Gujba)	Adamawa(Michika)	Total %
Yes	72(60%)	48(80%)	81(85.5%)	238(74.8%)
No	48(40%)	12(20%)	20(14.5%)	80(25.2%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>120(100%)</b>	<b>60(100%)</b>	<b>101(100%)</b>	<b>281(100%)</b>

Source: fieldwork, 2022

It can be seen from the results of **Table 5** that 72 (60%) of the respondents in Borno have positively agreed that Boko Haram activities have affected the commercial activities of the people living in the northeastern region, while 48 (80%) of the respondents in Yobe do also confirmed. While 81 (85.5%) respondents in Adamawa also agreed that the activities of the Boko Haram insurgency have affected commercial activities in the northeastern region of Nigeria. The results obtained from this table clearly indicate that the Boko Haram insurgency has seriously affected commercial activities in the northeastern region of Nigeria. By extension it will equally affect the inflow of traders from the neighboring countries listed above and consequently, it will lead to a high rate of poverty, unemployment, hunger and starvation, and many other calamities in the region.

**Boko Haram Insurgency and its effect on the Health status of the people living in the Northeast**

Health care systems in the northeast have suffered so much in a wide variety of problems that have made the system witness serious setbacks because of the activities of Boko Haram. These negative activities of Boko Haram related to health care include the destruction of health facilities, kidnapping or abduction of health workers, the assassination of health workers, and the resignation of health workers making them flee from the region in the safety of their lives and property. Therefore, this study wants to assess the level at which the Boko Haram insurgency has affected the health care sector in northeastern Nigeria.

**Table 6** To what extent has Boko Haram Insurgency Affected the Health Care Sector in the Northeast?

States	Assassination of Health Workers	Destruction of Health Facilities	Resignation of Health Workers	Abduction/ Kidnapping of Health workers
<b>Borno (Bama)</b>	70(69.3%)	85(73.7%)	45(33.7%)	65(64.3%)
<b>Yobe(Gujba)</b>	40(41%)	50(48.7%)	8(13.3%)	52(49%)
<b>Adamawa(Michika)</b>	49(35.3%)	12(15.7%)	14(16.1%)	26(21.38%)
	<b>159(44.3%)</b>	<b>147(16.9%)</b>	<b>67(09.3%)</b>	<b>143(15.4%)</b>

Source: Fieldwork, 2022

It can be seen from the results of **Table 6** that in Borno state 70 (69.3%) of the respondents testified that more health workers were assassinated in Borno state, and 85 (73.7%), confirmed that there is a lot of destruction of health facilities, 45(33.7%) indicates the high incidence of the resignation of health workers fleeing to other zones for the safety of their life and property while 65(64.3%) confirmed the high level of the kidnapping of health workers in Borno State. This is also the same in Yobe where 40(41%) of the respondents indicate that there are lots of cases of assassination of health workers in Yobe state and 50(48.7%) of the respondents confirmed the cases of massive destruction of health facilities in Yobe state. While the resignation of health workers attracts only 8 (13.3%) of the respondents and 52 (49%) of the respondents confirmed that there is abduction or kidnapping of health workers in Yobe State. Meanwhile, 49 (35.3%) of the respondents agreed that there is the assassination of health workers in Adamawa State and 12 (15.7%) agreed that there is the destruction of health facilities in Adamawa state, and 14 (16.1%) in Adamawa state agreed that there is the resignation of health workers while 26 (21.38%) of the respondents confirmed that there are abductions and kidnapping of health workers in Adamawa State. This shows that the health care system in the northeast is negatively affected by the outright assassination of health workers, rampant destruction of health facilities, and the high incidence of the resignation of health workers in the region fleeing to other places for the safety of their lives and properties and the results also showed the high incidence of the kidnapping of health workers in the region. This is especially very high in Borno state where 70(69.3%), 85 (73.7%), 45(33.7%), and 65 (64.3%) of the respondents have confirmed the cases. But the situation is somewhat less in Yobe and Adamawa in areas of destruction of health facilities in Adamawa 12(15.7%) and the resignation of health workers in Yobe 8 (13.3%).

## V. Discussion of Findings

The discussion of findings in this study is based on the attainment of the specific objectives outlined for this study.

It was found from the study that the insurgency as a result of Boko Haram has affected the farming activities of the people in the northeastern region of Nigeria. This can be seen from the results of **Table 4** where most of the respondents in the three states have indicated a high level of acceptance of the fact that the Boko Haram insurgency has affected the farming activities of the people in Borno (95.8%), Yobe (88.3%), and Adamawa (86.9%) respectively. The serious negative consequences of this are that people are deprived of their access to food, and gainful employment, forced into artificial poverty, malnutrition, and hunger, starvation, and they were made to be destitute and taken hostage as IDPs in neighboring countries. This can further be corroborated by the words of Ovaga (2013) that the activities of the Boko Haram insurgency have crippled the farming activities in Nigeria where farmers and rich men were turned to be destitute begging in the streets and taking refuge as IDPs.

Secondly, the commercial activities of the people are negatively affected by the Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast, and by extension, leading to the commercial activities of the whole country. This is because the findings in **Table 5** (60%), (80%), (85%) in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states respectively, revealed that there are more international countries that are partaking in trading activities in the northeast markets and the major access routes for countries such as Chad, Cameroon, Niger, Burkina Faso, etc. are through the northeast region. The serious negative consequences of the neglect of commercial activities in the northeast have forced most people in the region to also resort to begging because they were forced into artificial poverty, hunger, destitute, unemployed, and underemployed. This situation has further caused the region to witness a high rate of social vices such as theft and robbery, kidnapping of innocent citizens, breaking of traders' shops, prostitution, drug abuse, and so on. This can be supported by the viewpoint of Ovaga (2013) that in spite of the incidence of incessant suicide bombings, there emerge growing cases of shop breaking, arm robberies, and burglaries in the affected areas. By implication, this has further worsened the situation of the people living in the northeast region to have the worst negative consequences in the pursuit of their livelihood and better condition of living.

Finally, it was obtained from this study that the insurgency has severely affected the health care sector in the northeast region, so much so that more health workers were assassinated, more health facilities were destroyed, and lots of health workers resigned and fled to other regions in the safety of their lives and properties, and more health workers were abducted or kidnapped from the region. This is evident from the results of **Table 6** (69.3%), (41%), (35.3%) for the assassination of health workers, (73.7%), (48.7%), (15.7%) for the destruction of health facilities, (33.7%), (13.3%), (16.1%), for the resignation of health workers and (64.3%), (49%), (21.38%) for abduction/ kidnapping of health workers in the three states respectively. However, it was further found in the study that the degree of damage in the health sector in the northeast region is worse affected by the Borno state where the percentage showed that the sector is seriously affected in all the factors compared to the other states. This can be likely attributed to the fact that Borno state is the epicenter of the Boko Haram insurgency where it is said to be originated. This was confirmed by Adebayo (2018) that the migrations of workers from the north to the south especially the learned and the intellectuals have greatly affected the health and educational sectors in Northeast, Nigeria.

## VI. CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this study is based on the discussion of major findings obtained from the study.

This study concludes that the Boko Haram insurgency has seriously affected the farming activities of the people living in northeastern Nigeria. This is evident from the records of relevant ministries of the respective states and the National Emergency Management Agency that the Boko Haram insurgency has negatively affected the farming activities in the northeastern region of Nigeria.

Again, it was concluded in the study that Boko Haram has negatively affected the commercial activities of the people living in the northeast. And by extension, the Boko Haram insurgency has seriously affected the overall commercial activities of the entire nation. Consequently, trading with international countries was also affected as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency. This can be seen in the presentation of reports on Boko Haram insurgency by the government of Borno state that all the routes linking the northeast region with other international countries have now become inaccessible because of the problem of Boko Haram insurgency and this has seriously affected commercial activities in the entire country.

Finally, more health care workers were assassinated, many health facilities were destroyed, more health workers resigned, and fled to other regions while more health workers were kidnapped/abducted. This is evident in the reports of the daily trust newspapers of 2018 that as a result of the violent attack that happened in Rann-Kala Balge Local government of Borno state where more health workers were abducted some were killed and more health facilities were consequently bombed.



## VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of this study were based on the conclusions derived from the study.

Government, Non-governmental organizations, religious leaders, and influential citizens including donor agencies should encourage the people living in the northeast to go back to their farming activities and have more courage to start their farming activities as usual. This can be done by relocating the IDPs back to their ancestral homes, supporting them with food and non-food item, providing them with seedlings, improving agricultural mechanization, giving them agricultural loans, providing them with fertilizers and any other thing necessary for the provision of improved agricultural production in their villages, and then seriously intensify the security situation of the villages. This will go a long way in ensuring poverty reduction, creating employment opportunities, and boosting the socioeconomic condition of the region and the nation at large.

Again, government and security agencies should collaborate to ensure that all roads leading to the international countries are opened, and further nongovernmental organizations and other influential citizens including governments at all levels should try as much as possible to boost the commercial activities in the northeast region. This can be done by distributing micro-credit loans to businessmen and women, protecting the markets with adequate security cover, and enabling a conducive market environment in the marketplaces. This will go a long way in boosting commercial activities not only in the northeast but in Nigeria at large.

Finally, there is a need to reconstruct the destroyed health facilities, employ more healthcare workers, and provide adequate security cover for the healthcare workers in the northeast. Under this government as well as nongovernmental organizations should focus more on rebuilding the destroyed health facilities and providing modern technological machines to the hospitals. Hence, recruiting competent and qualified health workers with motivational packages like housing and other things that attract them to accept and work. This will go a long way in ensuring that the health care sector in the northeast is revived.

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