

The Impact of Human Security and Terrorism on Nigeria Economy: A Case of Insurgency

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Abstract

Globally, terrorism has become a major threat to the national security of many nations as it directly affects economic, political, and social welfare. The recent development in security studies has led to the emergence of a new concept called “human security” which focuses on an individual’s safety in a country. To date, Nigeria still experiences security challenges at the hand of Boko Haram, a terrorist sect with the agenda to impose Sharia law on secular Nigerians. Therefore, this research investigated the impact of the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria on human security. To accomplish this objective, responses were collected through a qualitative approach using in-depth interviews. Findings indicate that the terror activities of Boko Haram have led to the death of thousands of lives, loss of properties, shortage of food supply, and an increase in number of internally displaced people in the affected regions. Also, the study revealed that education has been drastically affected and small businesses have collapsed, thus increasing the poverty level in the country. The paper concluded that the insurgency has an adverse effect on indispensable factors that constitute human security such as health, education, food and nutrition, small business enterprises, and human rights and liberty.

Keywords: Boko Haram, Education, Human Security, Terrorism

JEL classification: I18, I25, I28, I30

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1. Introduction

Terrorism in the 21st century has evolved into a socio-political challenge affecting national and international security. It is considered an instrument used by perpetrators within a society to instigate violence in order to achieve political or ethno-religious objectives. Since the reported attack by Al-Qaeda on the World Trade Centre in 2001, terrorism has gained international attention, and various efforts have been made by governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to contain its persistence. Currently, terrorism threatens all regions of the world, with a higher occurrence in

underdeveloped and developing countries in Asia and Africa. The effects on these regions have been drastic, impacting significant aspects of human well-being, including the economic, social, and political spheres. Bandyopadhyay and Younas (2017) reported that developing countries bear the worst effects of terrorism due to their inability to comprehensively curtail their activities and lack adequate resources, infrastructure, and security.

Undoubtedly, terrorism has become a significant threat to global security. However, despite the challenges posed by terrorism after the end of the Cold War, studies on security have predominantly focused on state-centric approach

to combating terrorism has traditionally focused on military measures, with limited attention given to human security perspectives.

However, the Copenhagen School of Security Studies proposed a broader understanding of security, shifting from a narrow military focus to a human or individual security approach (Floyd, 2007). This new dimension emerged from the recognition that individual vulnerabilities are complex and extend beyond imagination. Today, more individuals suffer from diseases, hunger, environmental degradation, interstate conflicts, and ethnic violence resulting from terrorism. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) states that human security encompasses “safety from chronic threats such as hunger, disease, and repression.” It also includes “protection from sudden and disruptive changes in daily life, whether in terms of jobs, homes, or communities.”

In Nigeria, religion plays a significant role, as it is considered a way of life. Over 50% of the country’s Muslim population prioritizes religion as a more vital ideology than national identity (Faul & Abdulaziz, 2016). Nigeria, as a sovereign country, is not exempt from the threat of terrorism. Throughout its history, the nation has faced various security challenges, such as the Biafran War from 1967 to 1970 and the Maitatsine riots that occurred between 1980 and 1985. However, in the 21st century, the Boko Haram insurgency has emerged as a significant symbol of insecurity in the country and is considered the most severe insurgency witnessed by its citizens. Boko Haram, a religious organization, justifies its actions through its twisted ideology, causing deep concerns within Nigeria and the international community (Idhosa, 2015).

The group began its terrorist operations around 1999 and has become the primary security threat to the nation, particularly in the northern region where their activities are most prevalent. The group’s ongoing attacks and increasing strength pose significant challenges to Nigeria’s national and human security (Akinbi, 2015).

In the same vein, the national election and the new political dispensation of the government in 2015 had the primary agenda of defeating Boko Haram and overcoming the security challenges

under President Mohammed Buhari, who promised to undermine the group’s power. Prior to this administration, Boko Haram controlled over seventeen local government councils. However, the administration has regained control over these areas, making them safe from the insurgency. Places like markets, motor parks, mosques, and churches are now secure. Nevertheless, reports from the Refugee Documentation Centre Ireland (2018) indicate that the group remains active and continues to pose a source of insecurity in the Lake Chad Basin, a region close to the northeastern part of the country, despite the progress that has been made. In December 2018, the United States Institute of Peace reported that “the ongoing eleven-year Boko Haram insurgency is one of the most violent, destructive, and debilitating internal security challenges in the nation’s history since independence.” Additionally, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) conveyed that “the upsurge in violence in the northeast of Nigeria has forced more than 80,000 civilians to seek refuge in an already congested camp in Borno state, a region with harsh living conditions” (UNHCR, 2019).

Based on the discussion above, this paper aims to examine the impacts of terrorism on human security in Nigeria, specifically focusing on the case of the Boko Haram insurgency in the northern part of the country. The terrorist activities of the Boko Haram sect have direct implications for human security in Nigeria. Much of the existing literature on the insurgency emphasizes the socio-economic factors that contributed to the emergence of this menace, including religious tensions and extremism, political sabotage, fundamentalism, poverty, unemployment, economic deprivation, social injustice, and governance failures (Addaney, 2016; Akinbi, 2015; Aliyu et al., 2015; Alozieuwa, 2012; Awoyemi, 2012; Benjamin, 2013; Campbell, 2014; Danbazau et al., 2014; Idahosa, 2015; Muzan, 2014; Ntamu & Ekepenyong, 2014; Obiekwe, 2018; Odidi, 2014; Omede, 2011; Osumah, 2013).

The degree to which this statement holds true remains debatable. However, it clearly highlights a significant literature gap, as scholars have not concentrated their studies on the insurgency

and its impact on human security. Previous studies have primarily focused on social, political, religious, or economic perspectives. Therefore, conducting research on this phenomenon and its impact on human security would contribute to the existing literature on Boko Haram in Nigeria.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Theoretical Background

Boko Haram is an Islamic radical religious group aiming to impose Islamic ideologies and Sharia law in Nigeria. Its origins can be traced back to the early 2000s when a group of radical Islamic youths practising Islam in Maiduguri, a north-eastern capital city in Nigeria, embarked on their mission to establish a corruption-free society through the implementation of true Islamic laws (Sharia) (Walker, 2012). They followed the concept of Hijra, similar to the Prophet Muhammad's withdrawal from Mecca to Medina, and moved from a village in Borno State near Niger's border called Kanama to Maiduguri, where they established a "separatist community" to promote their radical Islamic ideologies. Their leader at the time, Muhammed Ali, encouraged fellow Muslims to join the group and live according to true Islamic principles under Sharia, distancing themselves from the corrupt systems prevalent in the country. The group's first confrontation with authorities occurred in 2003 during a community dispute over fishing rights in local ponds. The members overpowered the police and seized their weapons (Walker, 2012).

However, this led to a military siege of their mosque, resulting in a shootout that claimed the life of Muhammed Ali and seventy other members of the group. The locals in the district began referring to the group as the "Nigerian Taliban." After the brutal confrontation with the police, the surviving members of the "Nigerian Taliban" returned and settled in Maiduguri. Mohammed Yusuf, the leader of the Maiduguri group, then initiated the construction of a new mosque for the group, which was named the "Ibn Taymiyyah Masjid." The authorities deceptively abandoned the group, allowing its members to expand into neighbouring states such as Yobe, Bauchi, and parts of Niger (Walker, 2012).

The name "Boko Haram" in the Hausa language can be translated to "Western education is forbidden," a term given to the group by outsiders and observers to understand its ideology. The group members refer to themselves as Jama'atu Ahl al-Sunnah li Dawah wal-Jihad, which means "People committed to the ways of the Sunnah of the Prophet, proselytization, and struggling or holy war (jihad)." They prefer not to be addressed as Boko Haram due to the misconceptions associated with the term, as it aligns with the Wahhabi School of thought. Their ideology revolves around the creation of an Islamic state, emphasizing an untouched, pure version of Islam without any innovations (Webern, 2016).

According to observers, the group "Boko Haram" established a state within a state in Maiduguri. They had their own large farm, cabinet, and religious police and carried out administrative tasks based on their ideologies. Boko Haram used a distinct recruitment system, targeting civilians by offering healthcare, shelter, and food to attract more members, exploiting the reality of high levels of illiteracy and unemployment, especially in the northern region (Walker, 2012). Boko Haram has had the most significant impact on Nigeria's security and has positioned the country among those with the highest terrorist activities globally (United States Department of State, 2017). When addressing the issues related to Boko Haram, several researchers focus on the causes of the insurgency. Their arguments range from factors such as poverty, unemployment, economic deprivation, and religious misconceptions.

Campbell (2014) argued that the Boko Haram insurgency is a primary response to bad governance and poverty in northern Nigeria, which reflects within radical Islamist view and the breakdown of regional power alternation after examining the political context of the insurgency. Aliyu, Moorthy, and Idris (2015) argue that Boko Haram developed from a religious sect into a terrorist organization due to the Nigerian government's inadequate approach, which ultimately worsened the situation. Benjamin (2013) supports Aliyu et al.'s (2015) claim, attributing the rise of Boko Haram to bad governance in the country.

Furthermore, the author suggests that political patronage and ineffective governance enabled religious and political demagogues to manipulate and misinform the public, contributing to the growth of the insurgency.

Obiekwe (2018) also reports that the insurgency was caused by corruption, misrule, economic marginalization, high unemployment, poverty, and environmental degradation. Idahosa (2015) similarly suggests that cultural ecology and socio-economic factors played a role in the Boko Haram insurgency. The primary sources of the insurgency are attributed to inconsistencies in the national constitution, where the Nigerian state is not clearly defined as either secular or multi-religious. Despite the constitution's indication that no religion is imposed on Nigeria as a state, nine states in the northern region have proclaimed themselves as Islamic by implementing Sharia law within their territory. Additionally, the insurgency can be traced back to misinterpretations of religious teachings by Islamic scholars and Imams derived from the Quran and hadith. The complexity of the insurgency makes it difficult to tackle, as some unscrupulous parties benefit from the chaos. However, Odidi (2014) disagrees with other scholars, suggesting that Boko Haram may not be the central issue of discussion but rather a group that emerged as a result of certain entities feeling marginalized in terms of leadership, especially the presidential position. These entities allegedly sabotaged then-president Goodluck Jonathan and his administration by providing weapons to the public, causing political havoc.

In line with this perspective, Alozieuwa (2012) examined the phenomenon and acknowledged that despite several theories revolving around socio-economic, political, and religious themes, no single phenomenon can exclusively explain the problem. Moreover, there is a need for more attention to the political theme, especially in relation to the presidency of Goodluck Jonathan during the 2011 and 2015 elections concerning the insurgency. Akinbi (2015) studied Boko Haram and identified the organization as the latest manifestation of domestic terrorism

ravaging Nigeria. From a political perspective, the analysis argues that the government must address the issues related to Jonathan's decision to contest the 2011 presidential elections against the power rotation principle designed by his political party, the PDP, and his speculated 2015 presidential ambition.

In addition to the group's objective of imposing Sharia law across the country, the fanaticism of the movement is fueled by the ideology that whoever fights and dies in the midst of establishing a Sharia state, either through suicide bombing or attacks, will be granted Al-Jannah (paradise) on Judgment Day. The acceptance of these beliefs among the youth stems from the lack of employment, education, and poverty in society. Thus, if the government does not urgently curb the insurgency, it poses significant threats not only to the stability, peace, and security of Nigeria but also to the entire sub-region of West Africa.

In furtherance, Ntamu and Ekepenyong (2014) conducted a study on security affairs in Nigeria and recognized Boko Haram as a national threat. The study identified major factors that the Boko Haram insurgency exploits, leading to the growth of social dissatisfaction. According to Omede (2011), the threats posed by Boko Haram are grave and continue to escalate violence in Nigeria. The study highlights the authorities' overwhelming use of force to ensure peace and security, which may not contribute to sustainable development in the country. As a solution, the study suggests that the government should address the primary sources of the menace, such as poverty and unemployment. Additionally, Osumah (2013) reveals that the insurgency has significant implications for internal security.

In addition to the aforementioned impacts, the Boko Haram insurgency has led to health and humanitarian crises, arms proliferation, economic losses, challenges in national integration, and an international image crisis in Nigeria. Osumah (2013) argues that the rise of Boko Haram reflects a failure of the social contract between ordinary citizens and the governing elites, as ordinary citizens suffer from inadequate state security services.

In the study conducted by Addaney (2016) on the Boko Haram insurgency, various approaches were examined, including the human development theory, which focuses on grievances and inequalities between the southern and northern regions of the country. On the other hand, the Islamic states theory posits that Islamic extremists are the underlying cause of the ongoing violence. The study concluded that despite analyzing these theories, the Boko Haram phenomenon remains exceptionally complex, with no specific authoritative way of analyzing its causes.

Similarly, when examining the causes of insurgency in Nigeria, Muzan (2014) concluded that religious and ideological discontent are the driving factors behind the conflict. Overall, the Boko Haram insurgency has had far-reaching consequences for Nigeria, impacting multiple aspects of society and demanding comprehensive approaches to address its underlying causes.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

In order to examine the impacts of the Boko Haram insurgency on human security in Nigeria, this research adopts the structural conflict theory as a framework to understand the causes and impacts of the insurgency. While there are various theories that can be used to explain the phenomenon of Boko Haram, such as the Human Development theory, Theocratic State theory, and the Failed States theory, the study finds the Structural Conflict theory most suitable for examining the root causes of the insurgency and its impacts on human security.

According to Oakland (2005), the structural conflict theory argues that conflict arises due to tension between individuals or groups competing for scarce resources, which is a result of how a particular society is structured or organized. It suggests that the environment and social structure can condition individuals and groups to have conflicts with one another. Factors such as deprivation, inequalities, social exclusion, political marginalization, and economic exploitation often lead to conflict. Florian (2016) adds that conflict can result from the domination of one class over another or from the unjust

nature of human beings. However, the theory has a limitation in that it mainly focuses on the broadest perspective of conflicts and its one-sided nature in examining the causes of conflict. Conflicts arising from such circumstances often culminate in violence, such as revolutions or civil wars aimed at overthrowing exploitative systems or dominant classes. Nevertheless, the theory serves as a significant framework for understanding how the structure of a state can lead to the rise of conflicts, highlighting social issues like exploitation, poverty, disease, political and economic exclusion, injustice, and inequality as root causes.

By employing the structural conflict theory, the researcher can gain a theoretical perspective on the phenomenon of the Boko Haram insurgency. The initial objective of Boko Haram was to challenge the corrupt system of the Nigerian government and establish Sharia law throughout the country, aiming to create a society free from corruption and where justice is served. The sect's origins in Northern Nigeria can be traced back to 2009 when their leader, Yusuf Mohammed, was reportedly killed by police officers in Maiduguri on July 30, 2009. This extrajudicial killing transformed the group from a minor sect to the most violent terrorist organization, targeting security officers and innocent civilians in the country. Consequently, Boko Haram became the most threatening religious sect to the national security of Nigeria. Therefore, the following sections will discuss the variables of the study.

2.2.1 Terrorism

According to the study of Azar (2003), terrorism consists of violent acts intended to frighten people into worrying about potential future attacks by individuals, groups, or governments against civilian targets are often discussed in the context of terrorism. Azar (2003) emphasizes that terrorism involves the use of violence to achieve or maintain power and influence, targeting symbols of power and property. Schmid (2005) suggests that understanding the root causes of terrorism requires understanding the concept itself, which is constructed in political discourse and lacks a universally accepted legal

definition. He describes terrorism as a violent strategy that employs sophisticated tactics with the intention of creating a state of war and committing war crimes, including acts such as kidnapping, deliberate attacks on civilians, and willful murders. Krieger and Meierreks (2010) define terrorism as the intentional use of violence and intimidation against a large group of people to coerce compliance with politically or ideologically driven demands.

Adelaja, Labo, and Penar (2018) define terrorism as the premeditated use of threats or violence by individuals or sub-national groups to achieve political or social objectives through the intimidation of a large audience beyond the immediate victims. The US Department of Defense defines terrorism as the calculated use of unlawful violence or the threat of unlawful violence to instil fear, with the intention of coercing or intimidating governments or societies to pursue generally political, religious, or ideological goals (Bayar & Gavriletea, 2018).

Terrorism is not a new concept and has historical roots dating back to events like the French Revolutionary War's "reign of terror" and the rebellion of the Zealots in Palestine against Roman control (United States Institute of Peace). However, the 9/11 attacks by Al-Qaeda in the 21st century brought a significant transformation in the global response to terrorism. The United States government presented the "war on terror" as its foreign policy strategy to combat terrorism worldwide. The FBI categorizes terrorism into foreign and domestic terrorism, where the former is foreign-based and supported by external organizations or groups, while the latter refers to acts of terrorism targeting facilities or populations without external intervention.

The lack of a consensus on a single definition of terrorism creates ambiguity and dilemmas for scholars trying to understand its meaning. Mohammed and Abdullahi (2007) highlight that the multiplicity of definitions of terrorism has implications for individual and institutional analysis, often leading to imbalances in people's perceptions. Acts of violence, including insurgencies aimed at promoting favourable change or reducing marginalization, may be

mistakenly treated as terrorism. Governments may respond with intolerance and unwarranted force instead of resorting to peaceful dialogue in such cases of tenable insurgency. Schmid (2005) warns about the complexity of understanding the "causes of terrorism," a seemingly straightforward concept that requires careful consideration.

2.2.2 Human Security

The definition of human security has remained debatable since the universal emergence of the concept. The United Nations (UN) adopted its bases of definition in 1945 as "freedom from want" and "freedom from fear" (Brinkestam, 2015). This concept puts scholars in a dilemma when analyzing human security due to its ambiguous definition. However, in 1994, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) put forward a universal definition of "safety from chronic threats such as hunger, disease and repression" and "protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life". From the historical concept, the creation of the Commission on Human Security (CHS) was considered as a significant milestone. The commission's goals were to: (a) rally support for and advance understanding of human security; (b) further, develop the idea as an operational tool, and (c) lay out a specific implementation strategy. In this respect, the objectivity of the concept is the provision of human safety from severe and pervasive threats and situations.

Human security has emerged to be a critical issue in the 21st century within the realm of security studies. The concept is set to posit that the security of human lives should be the core objective of national and international security policy. The development emerges in contrast to the traditional concept of state-centric security. Presently, human vulnerabilities are complex and are threatened not only by the rise of new wars but also by nontraditional security acts such as disease, natural disasters, environmental threats and terrorism.

In line with that, Haq (1995) also pointed out that human security is the new paradigm of security studies, which have shifted security dramatically from security of territory to security

of individuals, security through developments not through arms, and finally security of peoples in their respective homes and environments. The UNDP report in 1994 on human development is where the idea of human security first appeared in history. The report defines the idea, which ranges from personal security to community security and from political security to economic security, food security and environmental security (Acharya, 2007). The end of the Second World War and the transition into the cold war era played a significant role in shaping the concept of human security today; the cold war somehow brought a decline to the significance of interstates war and conflict. As such, global factors like globalization and non-military threats came to light, leading to the historical conditions in which human security attained global acceptance by relevant actors, policymakers and security establishments.

Towards the end of the cold war, international organizations like the United Nations held a meeting in check for global peace and cooperation, deliberating on issues like the Rwandan genocide in 1994. According to Fukuda-Parr and Messineo (2012), the concept of human security was a shift of paradigm from the traditional realist perspective of the states being the referent actors and providers of security to the central idea of the primacy of human life as the referent object. As a result, the idea of human security must take into account a component of human rights, such as the requirement to meet basic necessities and the demands of political and social freedom, including both “freedom from fear” and “freedom from want.”

The 20th-century concept of states-centric approach as the referent strategy for security was not formed until the 18th century. As cited in Macfarlane and Khong (2006), the idea was adopted because of the influence of the Napoleonic wars and the French Revolution and the threats the states faced during that era. Prior to that, the prospect of security was much broadening to both the states and the individuals (Fukuda-Parr & Messineo, 2012). Even though the term ‘human security’ was first coined by the U.N., it was the massive destruction of the Second World War that led the framers to act collectively to protect

the dignity and freedom of individuals, with the recognition of the tension between the states and individuals. Notably, the issues of security for a nation differ from the issue of security for individuals. Given that the Hobbesian model of states includes states’ provision of security of individuals within its borders, it becomes an obligation and duty for any state to do so. However, numerous modern states failed partly to provide this security for its citizens (Bhattarai, 2013). It is statistically indicated that over 170 million people were killed by their own government, while 37 million died in international and civil wars (Thakur, 2000).

2.2.3 Human Security in Practice

Ever since the definition of human security from UNDP, the idea adopted two main aspects within the security dimension, which are ‘freedom from fear’ and ‘freedom from wants. From that point of view, human security in practice leans towards empowerment and practice. According to the core humanitarian standard (CHS), empowerment is defined as the “strategies that the concept of human security aims to enable individuals to develop resilience in the face of difficult situations and emphasizes empowerment and protection. According to the CHS (2003), empowerment involves promoting development at the community and regional levels to enhance human security, while protection entails the implementation of strategies by states, international agencies, NGOs, and the private sector to shield people from threats beyond their control.

However, there are criticisms and debates surrounding the definition of human security. Tamminem (2018) points out the unresolved debate between the broad approach of “freedom from wants” and the narrow approach of “freedom from fear.” The role of states in providing security or threatening the lives of citizens is also unclear. Additionally, there is a lack of analytical purposes or measurement schemes when it comes to human security.

Booth (2007) argues that human security, similar to universal human rights, can lead to false priorities in a nation’s security agenda. On

the other hand, proponents of human security contend that it has shifted the focus of security studies to include individual daily life threats such as hunger, drought, diseases, and crime. This broader perspective has enabled the implementation of additional security measures, such as the prohibition of anti-personal mines. The United Nations and Japan have embraced the broad term, emphasizing non-military dangers. In contrast, Western governments, including many EU countries, prefer the narrower definition, which focuses on shielding people from war and violence (Human Security, 2011). Supporters of the restricted definition believe it can be used more effectively as a foreign policy tool, while the broad definition may risk losing its analytical component by perceiving various health issues as security risks.

3. Research Methodology

According to Kothari (2001), research methodology is a logical problem-solving approach that goes beyond just the collection of data to undertake research. Furthermore, research methods refer to the procedures and techniques adopted in undertaking research. Research methods, as shown in the following subsections, entail detailed procedures and strategies for executing the research design, population and sampling techniques, data collection methods, and the data analysis technique.

3.1 Research Design

Research design aims at establishing the correlation that exists between the data collected and the research questions and arriving at a conclusion (Asika, 2004). It refers to the study's framework or plan, which serves as a direction for data collection and analysis. This study adopts an exploratory research design in order to investigate the impact of the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria on human security. Exploratory research, as its name implies, simply seeks to answer the research questions; it does not seek to offer conclusive solutions to issues that already exist. The goal is to generate convincing evidence that aids in a deeper comprehension of the problem.

3.2 Research Approach

There are several types and approaches in research, but this study adopts the qualitative research method using Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) approach. According to Smith and Osborn (2015), IPA is a qualitative approach with the aim of providing detailed examinations of the past experiences of individuals. They furthermore explained that "it produces an account of lived experience in its own terms rather than one prescribed by pre-existing theoretical preconceptions, and it recognizes that this is an interpretative endeavour as humans are sense-making organisms". The IPA provides researchers the ability to understand the underlying philosophy of a certain phenomenon and help them to solve unanticipated problems. Its importance as a qualitative approach allows researchers to examine and interpret the 'lived experience' of research. This approach supports the objectives of this study as it allows the researcher to explore the phenomenon involved.

3.3 Population of the Study

Population refers to the collection of all objects, subjects, or participants that meet a given set of criteria. A population is a collection of objects and individuals who share a trait that the researcher is interested in analyzing. Also, the validity of the results of a study cannot be assured without choosing the appropriate sample and population for research (Asiamah, Mensah & Oteng-Abayie, 2017). Thus, the targeted populations are academicians (faculties and lecturers) and government officials.

According to Babbie and Mouton (2001), sampling refers to the process of selecting participants from a population. It is a representation of the study's population selected to attain information regarding the research problem. Given the nature of the research, the study adopted purposive sampling, a form of non-probability sampling in which the researcher selects the sample in relation to criteria that are considered important for the study. Based on the population of the study, the sample size of 15 participants comprising 8 lecturers and 7

government officials were selected because of their apparent knowledge of the subject matter. It is, therefore, worth knowing that the 15 participants are representable as the emphasis is not on the generalization but on enriching the data. The limitation of the sample size to

15 is based on the suggestion of Guest, Bunce and Johnson (2006) that 12 interviews are sufficient for studies that seek to examine shared experiences and perceptions of a homogeneous population. The following table 1 presents the list of the informants and their respective affiliations:

Table 1. The informants and their respective affiliations

Respondents	Positions	Affiliations	Countries
Respondent A	Lecturer	Umar Musa Yar' adua University, Katsina State	Nigeria
Respondent B	Lecturer	Umar Musa Yar' adua University, Katsina State	Nigeria
Respondent C	Lecturer	Bayero University, Kano State	Nigeria
Respondent D	Staff	Ministry of Environment, Kano State	Nigeria
Respondent E	Staff	Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Investment, Kano State	Nigeria
Respondent F	Lecturer	Universiti Utara Malaysia	Malaysia
Respondent G	Staff	Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Investment, Kano State	Nigeria
Respondent H	Lecturer	Usman Danfodio University, Sokoto State	Nigeria
Respondent I	Ph.D. Candidate	Universiti Utara Malaysia	Malaysia
Respondent J	Ph.D. Candidate	Universiti Utara Malaysia	Malaysia
Respondent K	Lecturer	Bayero University, Kano State	Nigeria
Respondent L	Staff	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Kano State	Nigeria
Respondent M	Staff	Ministry of Finance, Kebbi State	Nigeria
Respondent N	Security Officer	NA	NA
Respondent O	Security Officer	NA	NA

NA: Not Available for confidential reason

3.4 Data Analysis Technique

This study employed primary data through semi-structured in-depth interviews and through telephone interviews with respect to the cost, time, logistics and availability of the respondents. The semi-structured interview involves numerous planned questions, but the interviewer is free to modify the order and wording of the questions. The objective is to attain as much information from the respondents by getting them to talk on their own terms. As such, questions tend not to be very specific, allowing for a range of possible responses. In addition, the study adopted thematic analysis. Thematic analysis is a widely used method of data analysis that involves identifying and analyzing patterns, themes, and concepts within qualitative data. It allows the researcher to take the data

and group it into themes. The themes enable the researchers to put the interviews in context and derive meaning from them. It is useful for finding out respondents' views, opinions, and perspectives regarding the subject matter.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Health

Health is one of the pillars of human security. Whenever the health of individuals is affected, it directly affects the health security of that individual and poses a danger to continuous survival. The activities of Boko Haram have clearly destructed not only the health of the people in the affected regions but also destroyed their health centres and facilities. In view of the findings from Omole, Welye and Abimbola (2015),

the insurgency has affected health indices such as maternal and child mortality in the northeast region. The substantial progress made by the government in the past years on issues like Polio vaccination were severely affected due to the emergency of the insurgency. Awortu (2015) reported that the insurgency has led to the loss of properties and the death of hundreds of people, for instance, the bomb blast attack on Monday, April 14, 2014, in Nyanya District of Abuja that killed 75 and injured 215 people. The statement of an informant interviewed supported the justification of the above discussion.

Informant (A) stated:

The health effects the Boko Haram insurgency has created in the northern region are unmeasurable. The death tolls and civilian casualties from the attacks of the group have forced away medical professionals to relocate from the region to seek protection for themselves. This has resulted in a lack of adequate medical professionals in hospitals and clinics. To the extent that medical facilities have shut down when their duties are required most. He further stressed that even in the absence of Boko Haram previously, Nigerian medical services were extremely poor, let alone medical services when insurgencies are at high levels. (In-depth interview with informant A, conducted on 30th November 2019)

This assertion correlated with Amalu (2015), who pointed out that the twin bomb blast at Kuje and Nyanya areas in Abuja, which were bombed by the insurgence, led to high scores of casualties resulting in overcrowded healthcare centres and hospitals. Due to the increased pressure, the medical equipment broke down, and the medical staff had to work for longer hours.

In the view of another Informant (B), he stated that:

Not only the physical injuries attained by civilians are critical issues, but also the psychological effects it has on the people. How

do you think a teenage child will feel when he hears his mother or father has died from a bomb blast in a mosque or church while they are praying for his well-being? This will clearly put him in a psychological disorder and will affect his mental health. (In-depth interview with informant B, conducted on 30th December 2019).

Clearly, there were psychological effects that followed up despite the insurgency being occasionally curbed. The acts will have long-lasting memory effects on the victim's life. Based on the report of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA (2014), the sect has attacked several health workers and facilities causing difficulty in accessing health services in the region. According to United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the health facilities of the Chibok community are damaged; moreover, prescribed drugs were either unavailable or inadequate (Amula, 2015).

4.2 Education

Education as the backbone of societal development is a key to human security. Education secures all aspects of human endeavour, be it social, economic or political. Boko Haram is internationally famous for the kidnapping of 300 Chibok girls from a school. This led to an international movement, 'Bring Back Our Girls', which the then first lady of the United States, Michelle Obama, participated. Clearly, the insurgency has affected a great number of educational sectors in the northern region. This includes the killing of innocent teachers, lecturers, and educators in the region. This discussion was reinforced by the expression of a respondent as follows.

The informant (C) highlighted that:

"The insurgency has first chased away most of the prominent lecturers and educators of Maiduguri schools and universities. I am a lecturer back in Nigeria. It is impossible for me to deliver lectures at any university that I heard Boko Haram has attacked or can

potentially attack". (In-depth interview with informant C, conducted on 30th December 2019).

According to Walker (2012), setting fire to schools is one of the antics followed by the sect. Twelve public schools in Maiduguri were burned down at night in March 2012, displacing as many as 10,000 students. According to the Humanitarian Needs Overview (2014:11), "conflict and insecurity have had a direct and compounding negative impact on access to education, the availability of educational spaces and materials and the availability of teachers".

On October 5, 2015, the Teacher's Day, Micheal Olukoya, the national president of the Nigerian Union of Teachers, stated that the Boko Haram insurgency has resulted in the deaths of 600 teachers (Pulse.ng, 2015). These acts have a negative impact on education across the region as parents do not feel comfortable sending their children to school anymore in fear of either attacks or abduction. Amalu (2015) pointed out that these issues all occurred in a region which was already educationally backward. When the rate of illiteracy and school dropout is high, there is a tendency that violence will increase and persist in Nigeria (Awortu, 2015).

4.3 Food and Nutrition

In the case of Boko Haram impacts on food security, Tari, Kibikiwa and Umar (2016) maintain that, the insurgency has undermined food security in the region ever since its escalation in 2012. Due to this insurgency, poor households in northeastern Nigeria have endured severe food insecurity. Informant D stated that:

When asked on the effect of Boko Haram on food and nutrition, he designated that apart from the human loses, the most significant impact is on the agricultural aspect. He indicated that no more farmers in the region at this particular moment. The production of the crops and food materials such as rice, millet, and other such food items have

dropped hugely. The farmers in the region normally farm for their own conventional use and small business, however, from 2011 when the activities of Boko Haram reached a high peak, all the farmers and their small business collapsed. (In-depth interview with informant D, conducted on, November 30, 2019)

Interviewee C, has also stated that:

"Not only the farmers have to relocate for security reasons, but the trade routes to which their products are being transported are dismantled. It is hard for any farmer to transport his products from Maiduguri to Kano with the hope of reaching there safely. The roadblocks by security officers alone have made it difficult for them to move their products. This was as a result of several factors such as: (1) the police and military cannot identify who is or is not a Boko Haram member, so when they see an individual or groups of individuals traveling with a lorry or truck filled with products, they become suspicious of what they are carrying. In such occurrence, the farmers have to upload all their product for clearance which takes the time and energy as there are multiple roads blocks on the road. (In-depth interview with informant C, conducted on December 3, 2019).

In the same view, Amalu (2015) also specified that the insurgency has affected the agricultural production of rice, millet, tomatoes, onions, yams, corns and sorghums, livestock and fish in states such as Yobe, Adamawa, and Borno. Furthermore, farmers are afraid to go and farm because of fear of being attacked. According to a lecturer in University of Maiduguri Abba Gambo, he said that:

"No one can move a kilometer due to fear, most of them have fled their homes" (Amalu, 2015, p. 38).

Accordingly, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has also examined the issue, and reported that the intensity of the sect has caused the largest inflationary risks to the economy. These can be supported with the findings of Osagie (2013) who reported low productions of groceries such as tomatoes, pepper and onions. The prices of such items have shot up gradually and that, a basket of pepper which was sold at the rate of N4000-N5000 (depending on the quality of the pepper) is now being sold for N8000 including transport charges.

Undoubtedly, human security revolves around prevention of hunger and starvation. However, with the halt in production of food substance, the risk of food insecurity becomes high. It will become more challenging for households and people to obtain enough food and nourishment if food costs continue to climb. Individuals will be at risk of hunger, famine, malnutrition, and possibly death as a result. In places mostly affected by the insurgency and wars generally, malnutrition rates are high (Amalu, 2015).

4.4 Small Business and Enterprises

One core aspect of human security is the 'freedom from wants' of individuals such as food, shelter, clothes and daily essential materials. Most of the small businesses in the northern region operate on a substantial level; business owners function to satisfy their daily 'wants'. Today many of these small businesses have closed permanently as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency. Dauda (2014) observed that small shops in the region have closed either as a result of military personnel taking over to establish their base, forcing them to relocate or closed down from fears of attacks by the insurgency itself. These businesses include restaurants, local tea sellers and dried and roasted beef sellers. Also, the responses of an informant A further articulate the discussion above as submitted below:

Individuals have to go out and seek a way to survive and feed themselves. In Nigeria, this can happen either to the person working in the public sector, such as the government

and its institution or to the private sector which is either a company or self-employed. In the aspect of private sectors, most of the businesses have collapsed due to the Boko Haram phenomenon, either through the deaths of the owners or fear of investment. On the self-employed aspect, issues such as the cutting off of all communication lines and electricity by the government have dismantled their ability to function entirely. This type of business includes welding and telecommunication services. (In-depth interview with the Informant A, on 30 November 2019).

According to Bello and Aliyu (2018), the Boko Haram insurgency has not only led to the closure and/or abandonment of peoples' business activities within the affected regions but also forced migration and the reduction of business product patronage in the northern region. This occurred of the rumour that members of the Boko Haram were planning to send poisonous products from their region to other parts of Nigeria. Abbas and Mohammed (2016) also mentioned that the business of using motorcycles as a means of transportation in the region has been banned by the government due to the insurgency. The study further explained that the business was providing many jobless, uneducated citizens with opportunities to survive under the harsh economic condition in Nigeria.

4.5 Human Rights and Liberty

According to Ochab and Zorzi (2016), as part of the Boko Haram effort to build an Islamic state, it has committed and is still committing murder in numerous parts of Nigeria. According to estimates from the Amnesty International, between 2006 and 2014, over 26,000 individuals died as a result of religiously motivated violence, and about 44,000 died from non-natural reasons. A survey on the death tolls caused by the insurgency from June 2015 to September 2015 amounted to over 1600 civilians deaths (Ochab & Zorzi, 2016). From the view of Informant C, he believed that:

There is no single study that can indicate the number of deaths caused by Boko Haram from the bombing and hit-and-run attacks or suicide missions. In Kano state alone, I have witnessed several attacks, such as the one on the Bompai police station. The insurgency has abused the human right to the extreme level. There is no more freedom of speech, especially when the topic is Boko Haram, because they easily send assassins to kill you, especially if you are a prominent or public figure. There are no freedom of movement; you cannot go anywhere either due to fear of attacks or lack of security clearance by the police. The insurgency has made life unbearable in the affected areas. (In-depth interview with informant C, conducted on December 3, 2018).

According to the United States Department of State, the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) in 2015 reported that Boko Haram had abducted over 2,000 individuals from the local government areas. When these victims are captured, they face severe mental and physical pain and suffering from the members of the Group. In some cases, they are sold as slaves to the Boko Haram members for payment. Furthermore, the insurgency affects the right to religious practices in the country. The insurgency has taken the lead in inflicting religiously-related violence and egregious breaches of religious freedom in Nigeria, the United States Commission on International

Religious Freedom said. This was maintained by the stand of Informant (B), who observed that:

Even though human rights are weak in Nigeria overall, the Boko haram insurgency has made it worse. Muslims are afraid to practice their religion peacefully in the country; the Christians are afraid of Muslims due to the misconception that Boko Haram activities represent Islam principles. To an extent, some Islamic clerics shave their beard entirely to disguise their image to look similar as members of the group. Note that keeping a long beard is a good practice in Islam to emulate the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). (In-depth interview with informant B, conducted on December 1, 2019).

Furthermore, the insurgency forced the closure and destruction of nearly 13,000 churches in Northern Nigeria between 2000 and 2014. In Taraba State, 171 Christian-owned churches, 314 homes, 39 businesses, and 15 family complexes were all demolished between December 2013 and July 14, 2015.

As this study tends to examine the impact of the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria on human security, the following Table 2 summarizes the insights from the consequences of the impact of the insurgency on the components of human security in Nigeria (i.e., health, education, food and nutrition, small business enterprises, and human rights and liberty).

Table 2. Consequences of the insurgency on the human security

Human Security	Impact of the Insurgency
Health	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The health of the people in the affected regions have been severely affected by the activities of Boko Haram 2. Health facilities and centers have been destroyed 3. The rate of child and maternal mortality have increased 4. Progress in healthcare programme such as polio vaccination has been truncated
Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the Northern region, attacks by the Boko Haram has disrupted education 2. Many educators and teachers have been forced to flee their schools 3. Students were displaced while schools have been burnt down 4. There is fear to send the children to school among the parents

Human Security	Impact of the Insurgency
Food and Nutrition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The food security in the region have been undermined 2. Farmers have been deserted to abandon their lands 3. Disruption in the trade routes for food transportation 4. food insecurity due to a decline in agricultural production
Small Business and Enterprises	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Due to the insurgency, small businesses have been permanently shut down 2. Due to fear, business owners have either closed down or relocated 3. Self-employed individuals were affected by disruptions in electricity and communication 4. Economic decline due to decrease in business activities
Human Rights and Liberty	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Boko Haram has affected human rights by committing violence and violence 2. Restriction in movement and freedom of speech 3. Occurrence of human right abuses and abductions 4. Both Christians and Muslims were affected from the disruption of their religious practices.

The following section proffers solutions to the adverse effects of the above-mentioned menace caused by the insurgency.

5. Conclusion

This paper objectively puts forward that the Boko Haram insurgency has a significant negative impact on human security in Nigeria. Boko Haram has destroyed not the national security of Nigeria but also the pillars that constitute human security in Nigeria. The findings of the paper showed that when it comes to food and nutrition, the insurgency has destroyed agriculture and food production in the northern region. Farmers are no longer producing crops due to fear of activities of Boko Haram; the markets in the region have shut down, forcing these farmers out of business. Schools in affected areas have shut down due to the series of kidnappings of students by the sect. The health of many were affected as millions were injured and thousands were killed. Finally, small businesses in affected zones have shut down for fear of continuous attacks.

To curb the insurgency and increase human security in Nigeria. This paper advocated that the Nigerian government need to address various issues to effectively combat the Boko Haram insurgency. The first solution was to provide effective governance and leadership. It was identified that one factor that led to the sustainability of the threat was corruption and lack of effective governance by the previous administration of Goodluck Jonathan between

2009 and 2015. As such, providing a good scheme of leadership will help eradicate the corruption issues in the country. Furthermore, good governance means that all the sectors and institutions of the country will start functioning to their potential mandate. Similarly, the government needs to address the social and economic issues in the country. These issues include poverty, unemployment, and illiteracy. These are the factors that support and privilege the Boko Haram sect in recruiting its members to support their objectives.

Developing policies and strategies to reduce and eradicate the social problems will help prevent the sustainability and reoccurrence of the insurgency in the future. In addition, the government needs to adopt new counter-insurgency strategies in fighting Boko Haram. Since it is evident that the coherent strategy used previously was ineffectual to halt the group. The studies propagate that the government should adopt a Hybrid doctrine approach to effectively counter the insurgency. Finally, there is a need for border control to contain the activities of the Boko Haram members within the northeast region. This should be a multilateral approach with the neighbouring countries (Chad, Niger, Cameron) sharing borders with Nigeria.

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